

Redstone Rocket

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Fifty years of caring through CFC

Charity drive marks golden anniversary

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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This is a milestone year for the Combined Federal Campaign.

The year 2011 represents CFC's golden 50th anniversary. The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign opened with a kickoff Sept. 14 in Bob Jones Auditorium.

Since 1961, federal employees at Redstone Arsenal and throughout a six-county area have had the opportunity to give to the charities of their choice through CFC.

"This year is special because we're celebrating our 50th anniversary – 50 years of caring," Donna Johnson, chairperson of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee, said.

Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and senior commander of Redstone Arsenal, is the honorary chairman of the 2011 campaign.

His remarks were featured on a video about CFC's 50-year history. "Let's continue to work together to make a lasting difference in people's lives," he said.

Addressing the audience, Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton said this community has always given and will continue to do so.

"Give, give till it hurts," Hamilton said. "And know that it makes a huge difference in the lives of this country and around the world."

John Nerger, executive deputy to the commander of Army Materiel Command, said AMC wants to make a difference as a new member of this community.

"Thanks to CFC for 50 years of providing incredible service to our country and to our globe," Nerger said.

Eighty charitable agencies set up booths in the Sparkman Parade Field as participants in the agency fair which followed the kickoff.

The Combined Federal Campaign was born March 18, 1961 when President John F. Kennedy signed an executive order forming a charitable donation system that

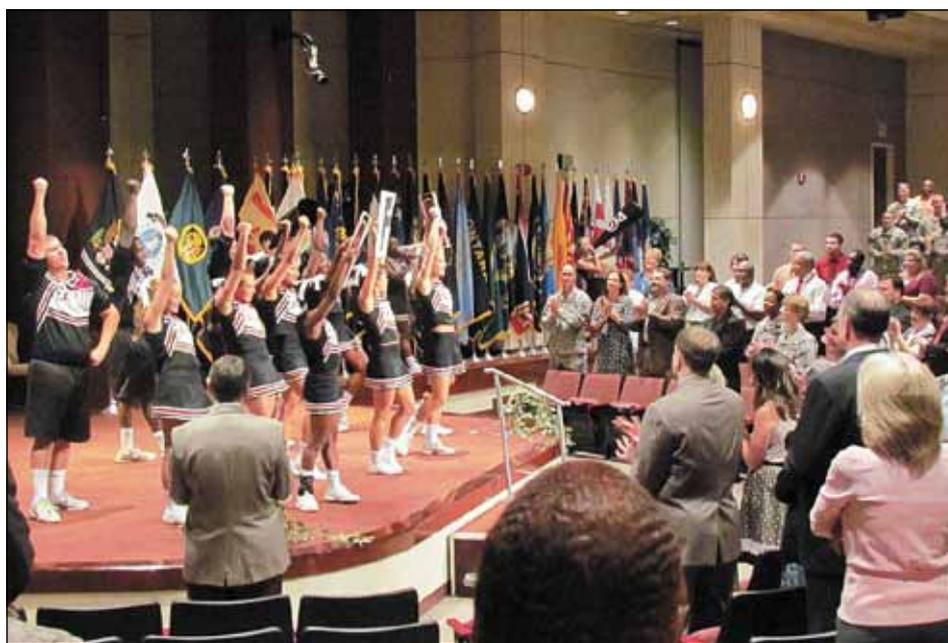


Photo by Skip Vaughn

The Sparkman High School Varsity Cheerleaders pump up the crowd during the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign kickoff Sept. 14 in Bob Jones Auditorium.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Spc. Walter Russ plays the clarinet during a rousing rendition of "When the Saints Go Marching In." He is a member of the Tennessee River Ramblers, part of the AMC Band.

allows federal employees to make payroll deductions and/or one-time voluntary contributions to their favorite charities. In the 50 years that followed, the Combined Federal Campaign has raised more than \$6.8 billion for charitable organizations. Also during this time, the campaign has grown to be the most inclusive workplace giving campaign in the world. Today, there are 203 Combined Federal Campaigns and more than 20,000 charities worldwide participate in those campaigns.

The Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign has grown with the national program, making it number 20 on the list of campaigns that have raised the most funds for charity. There are 65 federal agencies in the six-county area, represent-



ing 18,400 federal employees.

The 2011 goal is to raise \$2.4 million in the Tennessee Valley campaign. Normally, about half of the money raised is designated to local charities with the other 50 percent designated to national and international charities, all of which are chosen by the federal employee donor.

See Campaign on page 8

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club opens its new year.

PAGE 4



CULTURE CLOTH

A Redstone program celebrates Hispanic heritage.

PAGE 11

AVIATION UPDATE

An exercise at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, tests manned-unmanned teaming.

PAGES 16-19



WIN OR LOSE

Meet the members of Redstone's Ten-Miler Team.

PAGE 24

RocketViews

What do you think of the Combined Federal Campaign?

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
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Danny Shrider
 Logistics Support Activity
 "I think that's a great thing. They have a lot of fund-raisers out here and I partake because I enjoy the food."



Latoya Ragan
 Civilian Personnel Advisory Center
 "Given the state of emergency our country has been in lately in regards with natural disasters, I think it's going to help out greatly. So I think everyone should donate. I plan on doing so."



Col. Tim Baxter
 Unmanned Aircraft Systems project manager
 "I support it every year. I'm a big supporter of the Special Operations Wounded Warrior Project, so specifically that's been the charity that I've given to. CFC's a great opportunity for Soldiers to make a contribution."



Sandra Patrick
 AMCOM G-8 (Resource Management)
 "I think it's great, because it provides services to Soldiers and civilians to the charity of their choice."

Quote of the Week

'In charity there is no excess.'
 — Sir Francis Bacon
 English author, courtier and philosopher (1561-1626)

RedstoneRocket

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Letters to the editor

We can finish strong in life's emotional journey

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."
 — Helen Keller

Suicide is connected to loss. Failed relationships, loss of loved ones, loss of stature, finances, prestige or job can result in the psychological pain of grief and sadness. Prolonged pain can lead to self-medication which includes drugs and alcohol. In fact, the word "Suicide" comes from two Latin roots, "sui" (of oneself) and "cidium" (a killing or slaying).

The deliberate killing of oneself is actually an attempt to relieve unbearable pain. Pain overwhelms coping skills and leads to hopelessness and helplessness. "I give up, I'm a failure, I might as well end it all" are some of the phrases in a suicidal mind. To complicate matters, anxiety, sleeplessness, fatigue, depression and anger set in. This creates more suffering and drives pain. If there is no relief, death is seen as the only option.

Suicide is the 13th leading cause of death. Nearly 815,000 people commit suicide each year around the world, representing one death every 40 seconds. Some who attempt suicide are fortunate enough to receive a second chance at life. Take for example Kevin Hines' story. He is a survivor who jumped off the Golden Gate Bridge.

"I got off the bus at the bridge, and stood there crying. I went onto the span very slowly, almost reluctantly ... There were tons of people, it was 10 in the morning, bikers, joggers, tourists, workers, cops biking around. I found my spot. And I said to myself, if just one person, just one, comes up to me and asks me if I need help, I'll tell (them) everything. And this beautiful woman walked up to me, and she goes, 'Will

you take my picture?' And I thought, 'What? Lady, I'm going to kill myself, are you crazy?' But she had sunglasses on, her hair blowing in the wind, she was a tourist, all she could see was this guy standing right where she wanted her picture taken. I must have taken five pictures of this lady. She had no clue. I thought at that moment, nobody cares. Nobody cares. So I handed her the camera. She walked away.

"I walked as far back to the railing closest to the traffic as I could, I ran, and I catapulted myself over the bridge. I didn't get on the ledge to have people talk me down. I just jumped. I remember every second of it. When my hands left that rail — and my legs curled over — as soon as I left the bridge, I thought, 'I don't want to die.' It's a four-second fall, and in those four seconds I said, 'God, please save me.' I had no idea that you could jump off the Golden Gate Bridge and live ... So I was in the air, I threw my head back, my feet came around, and I landed at a 45-degree angle. The doctors said if I had landed 1 centimeter to the left or right, I would have severed my spinal cord and drowned. What I did do was shatter two vertebrae in the middle of my back, and they shattered into tiny little pieces. I felt the explosion in my stomach, the vertebrae shot right into my organs. I went under. I didn't know I was alive. I was all turned around. I couldn't see. It was all dark, very scary. Then I said, 'Wait a minute — I'm alive, I can move.' But I couldn't move my legs. I swam with my arms to the surface. I got to the surface, took a big gasp of air, and begged God to save me. I couldn't yell, I couldn't scream for help. Then the Coast Guard came ... Two men jumped in the water, two more pulled me up with their hands."

See Journey on page 3

In tribute to the late Maj. Gen. Means

I read with some sadness of the passing of retired Maj. Gen. Charles F. Means (*Redstone Rocket*, Sept. 7). Former command historian of the Aviation and Missile Command, Michael E. Baker, and I conducted an extensive interview with Maj. Gen. Means on Feb. 4, 2005.

In the interview, Maj. Gen. Means outlined the sequence of events that ultimately led to the successful fielding of the Patriot air defense system. It was Maj. Gen. Means who pushed for the name of Patriot (formerly named the very unsexy name of Surface-to-Air Missile, Development or SAM-D). Under his leadership, the Patriot's full-scale development began in 1976 and it was deployed in 1984. Later in 1988, it was upgraded to provide limited capability against tactical ballistic missiles as

PAC-1 (Patriot Advanced Capability-1). This advanced version of the Patriot was successfully deployed during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and was nicknamed "The Scud Buster" for successfully intercepting Iraqi Scud missiles.

It's also interesting to note that Maj. Gen. Means began his association with the Army Ordnance Missile Command in 1959 right across the street from where we sit at the Army Materiel Command headquarters on Martin Road.

When we talk about people who made a difference in Army history and Redstone Arsenal's history and subsequent growth, Maj. Gen. Means belongs in the conversation.

Claus R. Martel
 AMC deputy command historian

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Name: Patricia Wilson

Job: Logistics management specialist,
Lead AMC Integration Support Office

Where do you call home?
Berea, Ky.

What do you like about your job?
The pay (laugh). The job gives me a lot of independence. I could pretty well call my own shots and run my own program. Of course I have periodic meetings with management, but I have my own thing I get to work. Some days I don't even have to talk to my boss, I get to do my own stuff. It gives me a chance to take my own actions and move out on things. And it gives me some travel but not too much, just enough to be interesting.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
I like to work in my yard and decorate my house (in Madison). I walk and do stair climbing.

What are your goals?
It's to retire. I'm retiring at the end of



September with 41 years and three months. I'm going to have my first grandbaby at the end of November so instead of working on a computer I'll be changing diapers. My daughter (Tonya Crowe) is having a baby.

What's at the top of your "bucket list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?
A trip to Alaska, because I've just heard about it being so beautiful.

Journey

continued from page 2

The words of Kevin Hines' story are very telling, "And I said to myself, if just one person, just one, comes up to me and asks me if I need help, I'll tell them everything." Suicide prevention is about caring for people. Are you willing to notice and lend a helping hand?

The music of Switchfoot puts it this way: "Walk through fear to taste of courage. Reject isolation to embrace community. Discover confidence in the nature of my creation. Live with expectancy rather than expectation. Love every person I meet with the passion of Christ. I want to wake up kicking and screaming. I want a heart that I know is beating. It's beating, I'm bleeding."

Do you remember the story of Derek Redmond and the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona? Derek was in the best shape of his life. His father Jim was sitting in the stands that day, they were very close. Derek started the 400 meter race strong. He came around the first turn and tragedy struck. Derek's hamstring tore. The pain was so great his leg would not function. The Guar-

dian newspaper quoted Derek as saying, "Everything I had worked for was finished. I hated everybody. I hated the world. I hated hamstrings. I hated it all. I felt so bitter that I was injured again. I told myself I had to finish. I kept hopping round. Then, with 100 meters to go, I felt a hand on my shoulder. It was my old man."

Together Derek and his father finished the race to a standing ovation. Not many remember who actually won the race but the inspiring story of resiliency and the determination is hard to forget.

Chaplains provide confidential counseling services 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They are always ready and willing to listen. Suicide Prevention Month is a good time to focus on resiliency. Make contact, get help, find peace/emotional health and finish strong.

"God shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.)
Timothy E. Sowers**
Deputy AMC chaplain

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Sept. 8-14:

Sept. 8: A Soldier entered the Gate 9 Visitor Center and surrendered as a deserter. He was processed by Redstone Police to the PCF at Fort Knox, Ky.

Sept. 8: A contractor reported that his wallet containing \$135 was stolen from his workplace.

Sept. 8: An Army civilian reported that his private vehicle was damaged while parked at building 3623.

Sept. 9: A small amount of marijuana was found outside the Pagano Gym.

Sept. 9: When a military member failed to stop for a stop sign, a traffic stop was conducted. He was found to be driving while under the influence of alcohol. He was detained in the detention cell until his blood alcohol content reached an acceptable level. He was later issued violation notices and released.

Sept. 10: When a contractor was

observed speeding on Patton Road, he was found to have a suspended license. Further checks revealed active arrest warrants issued by the Madison County Sheriff's Department. He was issued a violation notice and released to Madison County deputies.

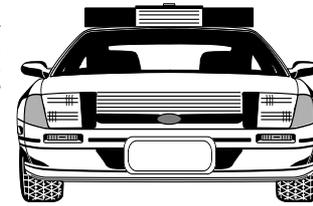
Sept. 12: A civilian who approached Gate 9 lost received a violation notice for driving with a suspended license.

Sept. 12: Redstone firefighters responded to a private vehicle fire on Walnut Circle. The fire was quickly extinguished.

Sept. 13: When a contractor approached Gate 9 to obtain a visitor pass, he received a violation notice for driving with a suspended license.

Traffic accidents reported: Three without injury.

Violation notices issued: 31 speeding, 2 no driver's license, 10 no proof of insurance, 1 no tag, 3 suspended driver's license, 1 driving under the influence, 4 failures to obey traffic control device.



Courtesy photo

Deployment honorees

The Defense Contract Management Agency held an awards ceremony Sept. 9 in recognition of three Army Reserve members who recently returned from deployments supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. From left are presiding officer Col. Alan Statham, DCMA CMO; Lt. Col. Lee Whalen, who received the Bronze Star Medal, DCMA Field Grade Officer of the Quarter for October through December 2008, DCMA Field Grade of the Year 2009, and DCAA recognition award 2010; Lt. Col. Kenneth Merwin, who received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and DCMA Field Grade Officer of the Quarter for October through December 2011; and Maj. Renie Bright, who received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and Field Grade Officer of the Month for April 2011.

CommunityNews

Fun and friendship with a community focus

Redstone women's club launches its new year

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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In the ultimate of welcome luncheons, the Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club kicked off its board year 2011-12.

The club gathered Sept. 13 at the Officers and Civilians Club to shop, socialize, introduce board members and listen to upcoming plans for the year, including the Feb. 24 benefit, an "Evening of Southern Elegance."

"We're going to do everything we can this year to have fun," president Tonya Daniels said. "We're going to have a ball."

Fun and friendship is what draws the ladies to the club of 143 members, which is open to all women that have independent access to Redstone Arsenal. In addition to the general membership luncheons held monthly from September to May, members may also get in-

involved in other activities such as golfing, bowling, book club, Bunco, a gourmet cooking club or crafts with a purpose. The organization is also involved in giving back to the community through raising funds to distribute as grants to local non-profits and military service organizations.

"The ladies are so sweet and welcoming," Lauri Sherrell said. "I had been here for two months, joined, and had an instant group of friends. Most of my best friends are in this group."

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton was the special guest speaker for the event and spoke to the group about the transformations under way on the Arsenal, those upcoming, including the widening of



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Karen Church explains Hot Chocolatier products to Community Women's Club member Kate Pokemire at the September general membership luncheon.

Martin Road to four lanes, plans to change the former Dining Facility to a Welcome Center that will include Army Community Service and the Java Café, and addressing the way traffic flows from Goss Road to Rideout Road. He also addressed concerns and reinforced their importance in the community.

"You are absolutely a part of Team



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Twyla Brammell triumphantly presents a piece of candy she found in her purse while playing a game at the Community Women's Club welcome luncheon.

Redstone, both as individuals and collectively as an organization," Hamilton said. "All of us have to work to make this place work. Huntsville would not be where it is without Redstone Arsenal, and Redstone Arsenal would not be where it is without Huntsville and the surrounding community."

Research center teams help community recovery

Directorate sends volunteers to assist with tornado relief

By **RANDY SINIARD**

AMRDEC Public Affairs

April 27 started out like almost every other day. No one could've ever imagined how it would end.

That day turned out to be a weather history-maker, but not one that any of us wish that we were a part of – especially not those who lost their houses or a loved one.

The days that immediately followed were chaotic because of massive power outages and all the volunteers rushing into the area to help.

The hardest hit areas had hundreds of volunteers searching for the destroyed houses and debris-strewn fields for precious memories. They removed trash, cut splintered trees and removed pieces of what was once someone's property.

As the days turned to weeks and people returned to work and universities began again, the hundreds of volunteers dwindled to a few.

The Engineering Directorate of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center

AMRDEC tornado relief efforts
Part 2 of series



was scheduling its biannual Team Building exercise; so deputy director Stan Sherrod contacted local emergency management offices in surrounding counties.

“This provided a great opportunity for us to combine a day of organization team-building while giving back to the community,” Danny Featherston, chief of the Prototype Integration Facility within the directorate, said.

It was perfect timing and a great fit.

“It’s always rewarding to participate in activities that

Courtesy photo

Engineering Directorate team member Jeff Carr wields the chainsaw while other volunteers remove tree limbs.

help others in the communities where we live,” PIF project manager Kimberly Cockrell said. “The families were so grateful.”

Normally the teams would do a Habitat for Humanity build. But what better way to build team values than to help local families recover.

“Throughout the day, leadership roles were often reversed and seeing smiles on the team truly made the day worthwhile for me,” Featherston said.

The Engineering Directorate is spread across the AMRDEC, so it is important that they can work with each other and be good citizens not just inside the gates, Sherrod said. It was important that they do every task as a team.

The team members helped out their neighbors in Marshall County clearing their storm damaged property with their sweat, strength, values and caring.

“The people we helped were very thankful for our efforts and of course that made the day even better,” Featherston said.

Teams from the directorate go out Tuesdays and Thursdays to do whatever they are asked to do. The Engineering Directorate has volunteered more than six weeks and sent out 120 people on 12 teams.

Intelligence officer earns kudos as fiction author

By **RANDY SINIARD**

AMRDEC Public Affairs

Jamie Dodson, a technology protection engineer and officer by day and author by night, has published two books in a series.

His first book, "Flying Boats & Spies – A Nick Grant Adventure," tells the story of a teenager caught in an adventure during the 1930s just as flying boats were coming into the forefront of aviation. Dodson received The Eric Hoffer Book Award-Legacy Fiction Category for 2011 for this work.

According to a letter from Christopher Klim, chairman of The Eric Hoffer Award, Dodson's book "Flying Boats & Spies" surpassed dozens of titles within its category. It was determined to be unique, worthy and well-produced in all aspects of writing and publishing.

Dodson had scored a great achievement in the realm of writing.

He reminisced on how he began writing the series. One day shortly after arriving in Hawaii for his duty assignment as an intelligence officer, Dodson took his 2-year-old son on a bike ride and they stopped in a park near Pearl City to play hide-and-seek on the insistence

of his son.

While playing hide-and-seek, Ian asked "Daddy why is there an airplane in the bushes?"

Upon investigation "I found a plaque commemorating the first China Clipper airmail flight on Nov. 23, 1935 with a graphic of the Martin M-130 flying boat engraved in bronze set in marble," Dodson said. "We left and headed home."

The rain caught them, so a stop at the library was a good option.

"After looking through the books I had the fortune of finding a book by Carol Nay written in 1939 'Timmy Rides the China Clipper,'" Dodson said. "It definitely was a find!"

As soon as the rain ended Dodson went to check out the book.

"A woman of Japanese descent was the librarian and she recalled the book as one of her favorites," Dodson said. "She explained that when the Clipper landed kids got school holidays, bands played, dignitaries spoke and she compared it to the 1970s Apollo Moon shots.

"That's what hooked me on the flying boats and Pan American Airlines," he said. "I had never been aware that they had been so instrumental in aviation progress."

Pan American Airlines continued to use the Clipper designation on the aircraft.

"My family flew on Pan Am Airlines from the mainland to Hawaii and we flew on a Pan Am 747 Clipper," Dodson said.

While discussing what he had discovered about the Clipper and Pan American Airlines with colleagues, the Hawaiians that had been there awhile knew a little more to add to what he'd learned.

"They spoke about an intense cold war between the Japanese and the U.S. Pacific effort," Dodson said. "Often, the incidents went unreported and surrounded the arrival and departure of the clippers.

"That's when it hit me. Why not a 16-year-old teen aboard the supply ship, the SS North Haven, and have him pursued by a Japanese intelligence officer and his family.

"Of course my career, my own family, and amateur athletics left me very little time to write. It wasn't until I retired in 2001 that I could devote the time I



Photo by Nick Spark/Nick Spark Productions LLC

Jamie Dodson, technology protection engineer and officer, Security and Intelligence Office, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, shows his newest book "China Clipper" at the Airventure 2010 Show.

needed to bring Nick Grant's adventure to fruition. All my own experiences, my knowledge of the intelligence world, and all the people that I could contact helped me write," Dodson said. "The people I met in my intelligence careers and my travels have added immeasurably to the veracity of the story."

Athens State deemed military friendly

ATHENS — *G.I. Jobs*, the premier magazine for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, has awarded Athens State University the designation of Military Friendly School for the third year. The 2012 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America's military servicemembers and veterans as students.

In its effort to help student veterans find the right school, *G.I. Jobs* incorporated a survey of student veterans for the first time. This feedback provides prospective military students with insight into the student veteran experience at a particular institution based on peer reviews from

current students. Michael Dakduk, executive director for the Student Veterans of America, agrees. "The Military Friendly Schools list is the go-to resource for prospective student veterans searching for schools that provide the right overall experience. Nothing is more compelling than actual feedback from current student veterans," he said.

"We are honored to once again be included in *G.I. Jobs* listing of Military Friendly School," Athens State's director of Transfer Center and Veterans Affairs Lisa Payne said. "This is an excellent resource for veterans who are looking to further their education as so many do here at Athens State." (*Athens State University release*)

Campaign

continued from page 1

For this 50th anniversary, Johnson has issued what she calls her 50/50 Challenge: If you've never contributed, make a \$50 voluntary contribution to a campaign that helps this community. And if you are a loyal donor who contributes to this worthy cause, give an extra \$50 more in honor of the 50th anniversary.

"We want this year to be the greatest year ever," Johnson said.

In this year's booklet that federal employees will receive during the Tennessee Valley campaign, there are 198 local charity organizations in the listing of 2,200 national and international charities from which federal employees can choose for their donations.

Combined Federal Campaign materials will be distributed by Arsenal organizations to their employees. In addition, all other federal employees throughout Madi-



son, Morgan, Marshall, Limestone, Lawrence and Cullman counties will receive the materials. Those charities listed in the campaign's booklet have been approved by the Tennessee Valley Local Eligibility Committee.

The 2010 CFC exceeded its \$2.1 million goal with \$2,793,477 in contributions.

Some 197 local charities participated in the 2010 campaign; and they were among approximately 2,800 local, national and international charities.

Program manager at home with international sales



Photo by Paul Stevenson

USASAC's Elsa Stuart uses a customer-focused approach to building relationships with her international customers. She is a country program manager who supports clients in the United Arab Emirates.

By **PAUL STEVENSON**
USASAC Public Affairs

Security Assistance Command logistics management specialist Elsa Stuart is passionate about two things. She loves anything that has to do with logistics, and she enjoys taking care of people.

As a country program manager in the Central Command regional directorate, it is a combination of these two loves that drive her on a daily basis to ensure the successful planning, development and implementation of customer service functions for end users as a result of approved military sales to foreign countries.

A country program manager since 1994, Stuart's logistical and customer service background goes back to 1976 when she enlisted in the Army Reserves as a material control and accounting specialist. Over the years, both in and out of uniform, she has worked in the logistics field supporting international partners in Germany, Bosnia, Qatar and Afghanistan.

technology between the vendor and customer can add additional problems. Stuart said whatever problems or issues arise in completing a transaction, she prides herself in being able to work with both vendors and buyers to ensure the products make it to the customers in a timely manner.

"Once I worked with a country that had to complete an order manually because it lacked the IT infrastructure to input supply requests electronically," Stuart said. "And since the chosen vendor worked strictly through an automated system, it took teamwork, creativity and hard work to get this order filled. We worked with the vendor, and technical experts were eventually able to tweak the automated system enough that it would accept paper requisition forms. It was a challenge, but everybody worked together to help them get their stuff."

On active duty from 2007-09, Stuart worked in Afghanistan supporting the Security Assistance Office. So when she returned to civilian life and was offered the opportunity to become a country program manager for the United Arab Emirates, she felt she was the perfect fit for the job.

"This is the first time I've had to work with Middle Eastern clients in this capacity as a civilian," Stuart said. "But my past experience working in the Middle East, and culturally, being exposed (to Middle Eastern customs) in previous jobs have prepared me to comfortably interact with UAE customers."

Working with a clear understanding of the differences in culture and business practices, Stuart has developed a strong relationship with her UAE counterparts. And as "the Army's face to the world," it's not just the USASAC leadership that deals with the general public and international customers on a daily basis. Every program manager has some kind of end user. As a program manager working with the UAE, Stuart uses her love of logistics and a customer-focused approach to make a lasting impression on her clients while developing successful relationships.

Photo by Michelle Harlan

Security assistance class

Robert Moore, deputy commander of the Security Assistance Command, met with students attending the Security Assistance Management for CONUS programs course Sept. 12-16. USASAC hosted the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Defense Exports and Cooperation-sponsored course, which is taught by the Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management. The class provided an overview of security assistance (selling of and training on equipment) and had 79 participants from USASAC, Corps of Engineers, AMCOM, CECOM, TACOM, PEO Aviation, PEO Missiles and Space, PEO Ground Combat Systems, MDA and the Air Force. Space, PEO Ground Combat Systems, MDA and the Air Force.



"I like this job because it's diverse," Stuart said. "Interacting with people from other cultures, and the idea of helping other countries get the right equipment and logistical service at the right place and time is a great feeling of accomplishment to me."

Even after the U.S. government approves the sale of equipment and material to foreign countries, facilitating the actual transaction can pose its own challenges. Along with the more common issues to work through, such as linguistic and cultural differences, different levels or

Worker takes engineering, technology skills to Afghanistan

By DAVID McNALLY
RDECOM Public Affairs

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – When Soldiers need a fix to a nagging problem in the field, they may pull a “MacGyver” to come up with unconventional solutions. But now the Army has a team of specialists to rapidly develop and deliver technology and engineering solutions located front and center with troops in Afghanistan.

In January the Research Development and Engineering Command, with its headquarters here, fielded a “technology village” of forward-deployed engineers, technologists and specialists who listen to problems and brainstorm solutions. The Army organized and setup the first ever RDECOM Field Assistance in Science and Technology Center at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Fielding this team meant finding, preparing and deploying civilian specialists to the other side of the world under often austere conditions.

“When we are able to bring the full capacity of the RFAST-C on line, we should be able to make a major contribution to the war effort by shortening the time it takes to develop and then deliver innovations and equipment upgrades,” Marty Eaton, the center’s executive officer, said. “Our proximity to the war fighter, the ultimate customer, will speed the development process.”

Eaton said being stationed in Afghanistan streamlines the process and makes it much quicker to gain clarification of needs and requirements.

“We get user feedback as innovations are being developed and confirmation from Soldiers that any prototypes developed accurately meet their requirement,” he said. “If we can put improved tools in the war fighter’s hands sooner, we enhance the force and speed their success.”

As the RFAST-C executive officer, Eaton assists and supports the center’s military director, a lieutenant colonel, tasked with leading the organization.

“I direct the team in his absence, and focus on the daily operations,” Eaton said.

Eaton’s duties require him to coordinate and interact with the other units on the ground in Afghanistan. As executive officer, Eaton gives the director “mobility and visibility over the operation so he can engage where he can make the maximum impact,” he explained.

As a former Army officer, Eaton understands the nuances of many situations. In his stateside life, Eaton is an aviation and missile systems engineer at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center at Red-

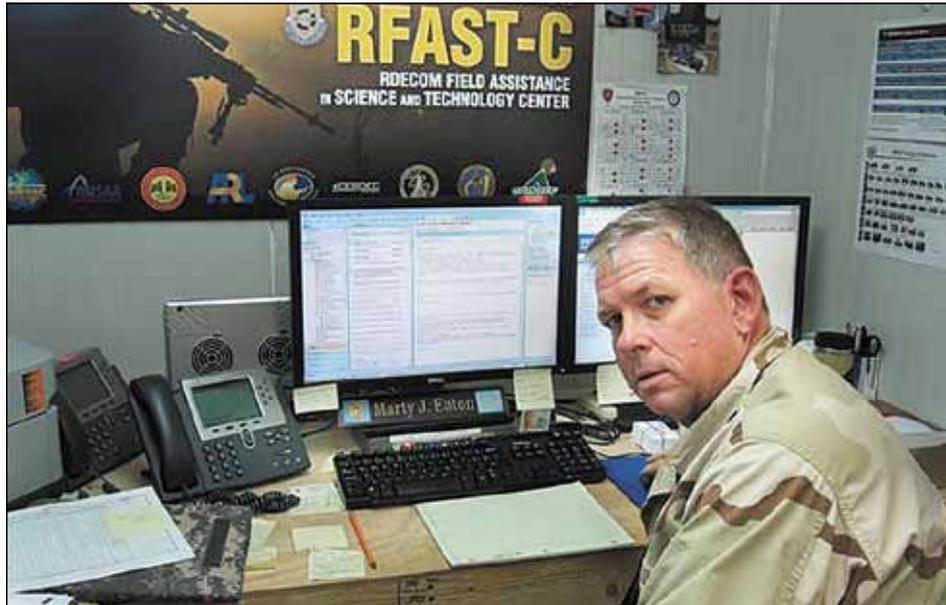


Photo Sgt. Maj. Matthew De Lay (RDECOM)

AMRDEC civilian Marty Eaton serves as executive officer for a science and technology team deployed to Afghanistan.

stone Arsenal.

“I work with the Fires Center of Excellence at Fort Sill, Okla., to coordinate development of several projects between them, our center, and the Program Executive Office for Missile and Space,” he said. “I may no longer be a Soldier, but I can still do my best to see that our war fighters have the best tools possible to do their job. If I can make even a modest contribution to that effort it is a good thing.”

Eaton earned a bachelor’s degree in applied science and engineering from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1980, and a master’s in management from Florida Institute of Technology in 1990. He said he was looking for a challenge when he volunteered for a similar position last year. But it wasn’t until May 2011 that RDECOM asked him to step into the executive officer position.

“I was willing, my family and chain of command supported that, and I began to prep for deployment,” he said.

Since deploying civilian scientists, engineers and technologists is a new concept for the Army, the center has

met with many challenges.

“RDECOM undertook a massive planning effort to provide a quality path forward for us, but as with any complex operation, flexibility, adaptability and renewed effort is always needed,” Eaton said. “Stepping in suddenly to execute a plan that I didn’t help develop while joining a team that had already formed, has proven to be quite a professional and personal challenge.”

Army officials said the center’s initial focus was clear: To establish an engineering cell and build collaboration with other deployed elements, and to establish an effective engineering cell and build collaboration with other deployed elements.

“I’ve learned to celebrate small victories and take great pride in being able to help us take one small step after another towards our eventual success,” Eaton said. “Without a doubt, the most common feedback is that this effort is a great idea and we wish you were fully set up and functional already.”

Eaton said his experience as a Soldier and a civilian who supports Soldiers has helped immensely.

“This is something I’ve done virtually all my adult life,” he said. “Several close friends and many of my friends’ adult children are currently serving here, so the opportunity to directly support the war fighter while supporting my team at AMRDEC and RDECOM is an opportunity I couldn’t ignore. I’m proud of what we are doing and proud to be part of the effort.”



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Carlos Conejo, author and multicultural management consultant, enlightens his audience in Bob Jones Auditorium.

Hispanic heritage speaker says make a difference

Redstone program supports diversity

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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The keynote speaker took his 400-member audience on an energetic, sometimes amusing ride Thursday at Team Redstone's Hispanic Heritage Month Program.

But when Carlos Conejo neared the end of his talk, the crowd listened quietly as he made a serious point about living for a purpose, making a difference and helping others. That was the moral of his story about when he was selling books door-to-door to make money for college. A family whose house he approached, a family he assumed was too poor to buy his books from him, surprised him by buying all the books he had for sale.

"I talk about them all the time because they made a difference in my life," said Conejo, president of Multicultural Associates which is a consulting firm based in Thousand Oaks, Calif. He is

past president of the Pepperdine University Alumni Association for Ventura County.

Hispanic Americans represent the fastest-growing minority group in the United States. By 2040 America's Hispanic population will rise from the current 50 million to 120 million. One-out-of-four Americans will be Hispanic.

But Conejo said there needs to be a mindset change because only 40 percent of the 50 million Hispanic Americans have a high school degree. "We have to think differently," he said.

Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and senior commander of Redstone Arsenal, welcomed the program's attendees in Bob Jones Auditorium.

"It's always good to recognize the diversity we have in our great nation," Rogers said.

This was the last ethnic observance/special commemoration emceed by Sgt. 1st Class Lance Green, the installation's equal opportunity program manager, who is retiring. He will start out-processing Oct. 17 and have his retirement ceremony Nov. 3 at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones

Auditorium.

Green gave others the credit for the success of these programs. "It's through support of leadership," he said.

"Many Backgrounds, Many Stories" is this year's theme for Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

The essay contest winners were: first place, Maureen Trainor of AMCOM G-8; second, Madeline Hereford of Marshall Space Flight Center; and third, Elia Ordonez of Marshall Space Flight Center.

Display winners were: first place, Garrison; second, Marshall Space Flight Center; and third, Army Materiel Command's Equal Employment Opportunity Office.

The Outreach Program's art display winners were: from Johnson High School, Jonathan Escobedo; from Butler Terrace Boys and Girls Club, first place Gabrielle Casey; from Westlawn Middle School, second place Angelina Espinoza; from Westlawn Middle School, third place Ashleigh Mahan; from Horizon Elementary School, first place Megan Lamps, second place Austin Dabbs and third place Caitlin Jordan.

Athens State, DAU partner for career training program

ATHENS – Athens State University and the Defense Acquisition University have entered a strategic partnership for offering professional development programs and curriculum targeting the Department of Defense Acquisition work force and potential future members of that work force.

Athens State president Dr. Bob Glenn and DAU dean of South Region campus James McCullough signed the agreement Sept. 14 at Athens State's main campus.

Athens State University serves as the bachelor's degree granting institution of the Alabama Community College system. The Defense Acquisition University is the Department of Defense's corporate university that trains and enables military and civilian personnel in the fields of acquisition, federal contracting, technology, and logistics, including Senior Service leadership and program management. This is the initial collaboration between the two universities to create educational professional development opportunities for current and future members of the acquisition work force.

"Essentially, this will be a strategic alliance that benefits both our students and the Department of Defense,"

vice president for academic affairs Denver Betts said. "We will be producing graduates who are career-ready for immediate integration into the defense industry. The programs we will put into place will streamline the employee training process and therefore provide a seamless transition from school desk to work desk."

A memorandum of understanding was first developed to define the structure through which programs can be supported, and is specifically designed to allow a maximum transfer of credit and an easy transition for students. The memorandum will be reviewed annually, and both institutions will designate individuals to serve as a liaison for the purposes of monitoring the agreement.

The Strategic Partnership defined under the memorandum of understanding is scheduled to begin with the spring semester 2012. More information about the programs can be found by visiting www.athens.edu/DAU. (Athens State University release)



Courtesy photo

Athens State president Bob Glenn and DAU dean James McCullough sign the agreement.

Missile defense exercise spans globe, military services



By Sgt. BENJAMIN CRANE
100th Missile Defense Brigade Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – When it comes to defending the country from foreign missiles falling from the sky, the units associated with the Ground-based Midcourse Defense do a great job of being at the ready and making sure that no missile ever gets in range to harm the citizens of the United States.

One of the ways the 100th Missile Defense Brigade ensures its readiness is to take part in a monthly Ballistic Missile Defense Exercise, which involves

several entities that stretch from here to Alaska and even the Asian-Pacific region.

"The BMDX is a Navy specific exercise that we support them in doing," Warrant Officer 2 Kale Murray, a C2 systems integrator for the 100th MDB, said. "It is a chance to exercise our real-world communications with the Long Range Surveillance and Tracking ships."

Within the realm of Ballistic Missile Defense there are typically two types of ships used: the shooter ships and the tracking ships. Communication between the fire operators in Colorado, Fort Greely in Alaska, and these ships is a key

element to keeping the skies safe.

To ensure that both the Navy and Army troops work together seamlessly and effectively, there has to be a clear and open line of communication between the two. Since Naval personnel in the Pacific Command and Army personnel in Alaska are so far apart, finding ways to talk to each other is sometimes a challenge. So not only does the language that is used between the two military components need to be the same, a dependable means in which to get that communication across is necessary as well.

"It's not just a luxury, it's a requirement for the mission," Murray said.

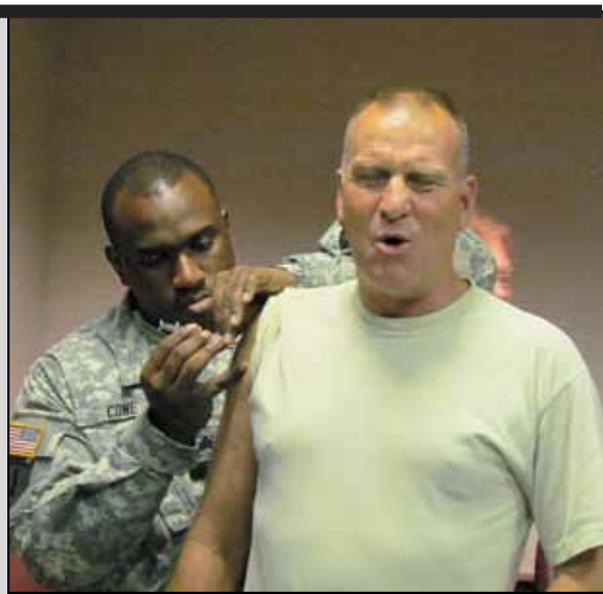
Courtesy photo

An Aegis system launches during the Ballistic Missile Defense Exercise between Army and Navy personnel.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Flu shot

AMCOM's Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates receives his flu shot Thursday at the Sparkman Center from Sgt. Jerome Cone, a medic at Fox Army Health Center.



Raytheon gives recognition for Six Sigma work

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Thanks to Six Sigma and the hard work of Aviation Missile Equipment Office employees, Soldiers across the world can be assured that their communications will be sent and received.

Raytheon honored Rich Seboldt and Dave Byrge from the Program Executive Office for Aviation's Aviation Mission Equipment Office for working together to make system improvements using Six Sigma in a recognition ceremony Thursday at Raytheon's Huntsville office.

"At Raytheon, Six Sigma has become a way of life, where all employees are engaged with process improvement," Dave Patton, senior program manager at Raytheon, said. "Furthermore, Raytheon encourages our suppliers and our customers to participate in the Six Sigma activities."

Seboldt and Byrge used the Six Sigma methodology to improve shipping processes associated with Raytheon's ARC-231, a multi-mode radio that goes into all Army aircraft that provides both line of sight and non-line of sight communications. Raytheon's Largo, Fla., facility handles thousands of radios with multiple



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Col. Tony Potts, project manager for Aviation Systems, PEO Aviation, speaks to the hard work of his employees Rich Seboldt and Dave Byrge in a recognition ceremony Thursday at Raytheon in Huntsville.

configurations, presenting the challenge of making sure that the proper part is sent out to Soldiers when it is needed. Part of the improvements made using the Six Sigma method included putting in place color-coding and a checks and balances system to ensure the right

part is sent to the right location.

"This is not a small thing to make sure that we are sending exactly the right product to our Soldiers at the right time and place," Col. Tony Potts, project manager for Aviation Systems, PEO Aviation, said. "The success comes in the details and that's where it happens. It's the details that make a difference and this is about the details."

Potts knows this firsthand as both a Soldier, and the father of a Soldier. Conversations with his 19-year-old son remind him on a regular basis how important the work is that people like Seboldt and Byrge do day in and day out.

"His whole world and his whole focus is on his equipment," Potts said of his son. "It's what keeps him alive in battle."

On behalf of Raytheon, Patton presented Seboldt and Byrge with a certificate and challenge coin for their work. Harkening back to a World War I tradition, the challenge coin is used today to recognize contributions to a team, Patton said. Raytheon has minted coins to be given to individuals in recognition of exemplary service to a Six Sigma team.

"These are in recognition of their Six Sigma team efforts to address proper equipment shipping techniques with regard to equipment configurations," Patton said.

Command's top warriors practice combatives skills

SMDC/ARSTRAT Soldiers prepare for competition

By **RACHEL GRIFFITH**

SMDC/ARSTRAT

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The average duty day usually does not consist of being pinned to a mat or put into a headlock. For the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command noncommissioned officer and Soldier of the year, however, it does.

Spc. Brandon Kitchen, 53rd Signal Battalion, and Staff Sgt. Andrew Brown, 1st Space Battalion, started their training program to prepare for the upcoming Department of the Army Best Warrior competition in Washington, D.C., by spending eight days practicing Modern Army Combatives. The intense course aimed to further their hand-to-hand combat skills.

Their training program was designed with heavy input from past competitors, who

said they would like to have had more combatives training before facing off against the other Best Warrior candidates.

Staff Sgt. Justin Hamric, 53rd Signal Battalion, a combatives instructor, came in from Fort Detrick, Md., to run the eight-day Level 2 combatives class, instructing a group of six soldiers, including Brown, on some of the more advanced techniques of the program. Kitchen attended a Level 1 course on Fort Carson before joining the tail end of the Level 2 class.

"It's a lot to cram into only eight days, but I'm really proud of these guys. They worked hard," Hamrick said.

Hamrick certified five additional members of the command in their Level 2 training during his time in Colorado Springs.

"Our brigade commander is always saying that we're Soldiers and warriors first, and I couldn't agree more. Combatives training is definitely right in there with the warrior tasks we need to be doing," said Lt. Col. Benjamin Jones, 53rd Signal Battalion commander, who presented the class with their Level 2 certificates.

Brown and Kitchen will continue to improve their performance on Army warrior tasks and drills until the competition in October.

Top-tapping fun during 16th annual Oktoberfest



Photo by Ellen Hudson

On the Frog Hopper are 4-year-old Kendall Young, her father Tommy Young, and his sister, 12-year-old Mackenzie Young, all of New Market.

Good weather draws crowds for German festival weekend

By ELLEN HUDSON
Staff photographer

It's about the family fun. It's about a carnival atmosphere mixed with German culture and traditions.

The 16th annual Oktoberfest delivered music, dancing, food and rides to the Redstone Activity Field from Thursday through Sunday.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

AMCOM's Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates taps the first keg at Friday's traditional opening ceremony for Oktoberfest weekend at the Redstone Activity Field.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Festival-goers enjoy the Yoyo ride, among the Oktoberfest attractions.

Terry Cavanagh and the Alpine Express performed in the Feshhalle Tent the first three nights and on Sunday afternoon, as toes tapped or danced to the festive German beat.

On Friday evening the annual keg tapping ceremony took place with all of the

sponsors of Oktoberfest, hosted by Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, senior commander of Redstone Arsenal. Also on hand to lead the ceremony were Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton and AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates, who tapped the first keg.

Federal population impacts money for schools

Parents should fill out forms brought home by children

By KARA WALL
For the Rocket

If you work on Redstone Arsenal, you can directly influence funding for your child's school. All you have to do is fill out the Federal Impact Aid form and send it back to school with your children.

Barbara Williams, director of youth education support services, works closely with local schools to ensure that all parents, including civilians and contractors, employed at Redstone Arsenal send in their forms.

"In today's economy, schools need money. Impact Aid is a way for schools to generate additional funding for programs that could be cut," Williams said. "By filling out Impact Aid forms, parents can directly influence funding for their schools and gain reassurance that

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton explains the importance of Federal Impact Aid during Thursday's kickoff at the Goldsmith-Schiffman Elementary School. The school officials include, from left, Scott McClain, chairman of the Schools Foundation, which includes Madison County, Madison and Huntsville schools; Patrick Crowder, Arab special education coordinator; Huntsville superintendent Dr. Casey Wardynski, Madison superintendent Dr. Dee Fowler, Madison County superintendent Terry Davis and Scottsboro community education coordinator Betsy Pitchford.

additional funding will help provide their children with a quality education."

Federal Impact Aid is an annual education grant program that provides funds to school systems that are financially burdened or impacted by federal activity populations.

Local school systems are entitled to certain federal monies if either a parent



Photo by Ellen Hudson

or guardian of a student works or lives on certain federal properties. Local areas eligible include not only Redstone Arsenal, but also Tennessee Valley Authority properties such as Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant and Guntersville Dam and Reservoir, Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, and the Air Traffic Control Tower at Huntsville International Airport.

Schools are required to meet a certain threshold of federally connected students in order to qualify, making it critical for every parent to submit their form correctly and quickly.

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton visited the Goldsmith-Schiffman Elementary School in Huntsville for Thursday's

See Impact on page 21

Battlefield vision brings together Army aircraft

Desert demonstration leads to big moves toward aviation teaming on battlefield

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

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DUGWAY PROVING GROUND, Utah – In the desert far from the offices of the Program Executive Office for Aviation at Redstone Arsenal, a vision of the future of Army aviation became reality.

The vision – manned-unmanned teaming of aviation systems – solidified in the airways above Dugway Proving Ground as the Army's Apache and Kiowa helicopters teamed with Raven, Puma, Shadow, Hunter and Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft systems to complete three demonstration missions.

The stage for the demonstrations was the tarmac at the Michael Army Airfield at Dugway, where each aviation system took off and landed during the Manned Unmanned System Integration Capability activities Thursday for national media and Friday for invited guests from across the military and the Team Redstone community.

During the demonstrations, three scenarios were played out: a surveillance mission involving the Raven, Shadow, Gray Eagle, Hunter and Apache; a second surveillance mission involving Gray Eagle and Puma, and a reconnaissance and attack mission involving Hunter and Kiowa. All three scenarios relied on the Universal Ground Control Station and the One System Remote Video Terminal to integrate the systems together.

"As we move towards interoperability we've been doing these exercises in the labs, in simulations," Ed Gozdur, deputy product manager for common systems integration, said.

"Here, we get to fly. These are a few historic moments. For the first time a week ago (in demonstration run-throughs) the Universal Ground Control Station flew Shadow, Hunter and Gray Eagle from the same cockpit with the same hardware."

Besides demonstrating manned-unmanned teaming and the effectiveness of the Universal Ground Control Station during the four weeks of rehearsals at Dugway preceding the demonstrations and during the demonstrations themselves, two other accomplishments were achieved. One was to demonstrate that one universal operator can fly three unmanned aircraft simultaneously. The other demonstrated how the One System

Remote Video Terminal can be used to provide commanders at the tactical edge with video information they need to make quick decisions.

"From platform to platform, we are increasing flexibility and information to allow commanders to make tactical decisions like they never could before," Gozdur said.

Col. Tim Baxter, the recently appointed project manager for Unmanned Aircraft Systems, commended the team of contractors and government employees who have spent the last 1 1/2 years planning for the Manned Unmanned System Integration Capability demonstration, popularly known as MUSIC.

"What you are seeing here is the result of unprecedented cooperation" that Baxter said he has never seen before in his 27 years of service.

Although planning for MUSIC began in the spring of 2010, Tim Owings, deputy project manager for Unmanned Aircraft Systems, said the organization's employees set out more than five years ago to "provide seamless integration with manned and unmanned teaming like it's never been done before. The vision in 2005 was for unmanned aircraft systems to be influential on the Army."

That vision would require common systems integration, known as horizontal integration of all unmanned aircraft systems.

"We started the drumbeat of success set on the vision and began working the issues," Owings said.

New technologies were introduced both for unmanned systems and manned systems that allowed them to communicate, including the One System Remote Video Terminal that allows operators and pilots to view video from multiple platforms, the Apache manned-unmanned capability to receive full motion video, the addition of a digital data link on Raven, the Gray Eagle's capability growth from one to three sensors, and the development of the Universal Ground Control Station and its mini-version for the Raven and Puma. Along the way, the cultural thinking of manned versus unmanned on the battlefield became manned and unmanned working together. In 2008, Dugway was chosen as a testing site for these system capabilities, and the rest is history.

"All these things together complete the package of interoperability," Owings said. "The products that led to it didn't happen on their own. It took people being involved. We had multiple contractors who worked together and cooper-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

An Apache helicopter takes off at Dugway's Michael Army Airfield as the Shadow unmanned aircraft is readied for its flight onto the battlefield. The two aircraft were involved in a manned-unmanned teaming demonstration known as the Manned Unmanned System Integration Capability exercise.

Photo by Kari Hawkins
Maj. Jeff Poquette, the assistant product manager for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems, looks over the condition of the Puma held by contractor Mike Reagan after a landing where the unmanned aircraft seemingly crashes and falls apart. In actuality, it was designed for a sudden vertical drop with parts that are easily put back together.



ated and trusted each other in ways they never did before.

"This demonstration is a culmination of the vision and the cultural shift that allowed this vision to take place. ... This is going to shape the Army for a long while."

Even so, the demonstration may not have even happened if Owings and others on the Unmanned Aircraft Systems team hadn't chosen a date for MUSIC some 1 1/2 years ago.

"We were doing a lot of stuff in the lab," he said. "But the last tactical mile from lab to field can seem insurmountable. We drew a line in the sand and said this is the date when we're going to show it all, whether it impresses or embarrass-

es. It forced everyone on the team to have some skin in the fight. Setting the date easily knocked two years off the time of development."

Demonstrating the manned-unmanned interoperability is not only good for the future value of aviation systems but also for the influence that the demonstration brings to the war fight.

"There are interoperability issues within the Army and on the battlefield," Baxter said. "Unmanned Aircraft Systems have become the intersection or the critical link to bringing together the aviation community, intelligence community, forces, maneuvers and communications community."

Redstone organization reaches out for airspace

By KARI HAWKINS

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DUGWAY PROVING GROUND, Utah – There's plenty of airspace at Dugway Proving Ground.

And that's exactly what Redstone Arsenal needed when it came knocking two years ago.

Yes, it's a very remote location – about 85 miles southwest of Salt Lake City and about 4 1/2 hours flight from Huntsville. The size of Rhode Island, Dugway's 801,505 acres are home to just more than 2,000 people. The installation, which when combined with the nearby Utah Test and Training Range forms the largest military space in the U.S., is surrounded on three sides by mountain ranges and located at the end of a two-lane road that features long stretches of uninhabited desert land.

It's that remoteness from everyday life that made Dugway a good place for flying unmanned aircraft systems.

"In 2008, we had 15 different training and integration sites, and that doesn't make sense for an organization that lives interoperability," Tim Owings, deputy project manager for Unmanned Aircraft Systems, said. "We realized we needed to centralize and co-locate all of our systems for operational capability.

"So, in 2009, we moved our testing and training here. We have a 13,000-foot runway and no native aircraft here other than ours. We plan a complete complex here that will be big. It will fundamentally change to become a single place for manned-unmanned interoperability."

About 140 employees – the majority

contractors – work at the Rapid Integration and Acceptance Center. The three prime contractors located at the Dugway location include AAI, General Atomics and Northrop Grumman.

"This location has allowed us to co-locate training for contractors working on Shadow, Gray Eagle and Hunter," center director Marvin Nichols said.

"We needed a place to bring these contractors together. Our needs also include a place for Shadow acceptance testing, and for testing upgrades to all our aircraft."

With the Unmanned Aircraft Systems' family of aircraft getting upgrades, new payloads, and software and security improvements, a place to test those kinds of changes was required.

"We also had a vision for consolidated logistics, inventory control and depot level maintenance in support of Army UAS," Nichols said. "We needed a place for depot repairs and roll outs for flight testing."

Dugway provided space both on land and in the ground.

"This was a unique opportunity to take advantage of airspace," Nichols said.

Two years ago, Unmanned Aircraft Systems arrived at Dugway and took over its Michael Army Airfield. A hangar was already in place as were a few other smaller buildings. Since then, Unmanned Aircraft Systems has built facilities such as the 10,000-square-foot Shadow facility and an 8,000-square-foot Hunter facility. A new facility is also being planned for Gray Eagle.

Besides facilities, the newest neighbor to the Dugway neighborhood also



Photo by Kari Hawkins

The Hunter unmanned aircraft system flies high overhead during the Manned Unmanned Systems Integration Capability demonstration. There is plenty of airspace at Dugway Proving Ground for aircraft testing and training.

required an increase in support from the installation's Garrison.

"Employees here support the chemical and biological mission with ground movement," Nichols said. "When we got here, we stretched out the number of personnel we needed support from and we had to ask them to beef up their staff to support our operations. We had to build relationships with all the support activities here because we are a tenant of Dugway. There was a lot of groundwork we needed to do here to get this operational."

More unmanned systems testing will move to Dugway during the next six months and plans are to move Gray Eagle testing to Dugway in early 2013. Nichols also hopes to move the Shadow's logistics storage facility, now at Tooele Army Depot in Utah, to Dugway.

"We still have some separate locations.

Testing is going on at Fort Huachuca (Ariz.) for Shadow, training flights for Hunter are at Fort Huachuca and training flights for Gray Eagle are in California. We hope to consolidate those in facilities here," Nichols said.

"This location is great because we have the ability to come out here and do what we are doing with the Manned Unmanned Systems Integration Capability demonstration and we have all the airspace we want."

Before choosing Dugway, Unmanned Aircraft Systems also considered Fort Huachuca, Yuma (Ariz.) and White Sands (N.M.). But Dugway was united in three areas that were essential to the site – ground space, airspace and radio spectrum availability.

"This was one of the last few places that had a lot of restricted airspace that we could fly in," Nichols said. "That really made it attractive because the FAA is not designating any more restricted airspace."

Owings said Dugway provided flexibility in flying plans "because they don't have a tremendous amount of base aircraft. ... We thought we could be the primary mission here from an aircraft standpoint."

Nichols, who is among about four Unmanned Aircraft Systems employees who are based in Huntsville and travel to Dugway about once a month, said growth is in the air for aviation at Dugway.

"We're very committed to Dugway. We've made quite an investment. We have many commitments here and many facilities here and our people are here," he said.

Gray Eagle takes off with new capabilities

By KARI HAWKINS

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DUGWAY PROVING GROUND, Utah – For Capt. Travis Blaschke, the mission has shifted.

Deployed three times – as a Black Hawk helicopter pilot in both Afghanistan and Iraq, and as the commander of the first Quick Reaction Capability 1 team with the Gray Eagle in Iraq – Blaschke knows how well unmanned aircraft systems augment the Army's manned aircraft on the battlefield.

And now he is putting his battle experience to work as the assistant product manager for Gray Eagle, supporting improvements and added capabilities as this medium-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aircraft speeds toward achieving top performance.

"This is a different mission. One is operational and 100 percent focused on completing the tactical mission,"

Blaschke said. "I've been in the military eight years and during seven of those years I deployed for 30 months. Now my mission is focused on supporting those who are going to fight the war.

"We are evolving our product to better support the war fighter. Gray Eagle is continuing to be deployed. Reliability continues to get better. The system's development is now closer to 95 percent and will get to 100 percent in the near future."

Blaschke and Gray Eagle were at Dugway Proving Ground the week of Sept. 12 to participate in the Manned Unmanned Systems Integration Capability exercise demonstrating the benefits of manned-unmanned teaming. Those benefits include increased situational awareness for both ground and air crews, better reconnaissance of targets and situations, and improved combat information provided in real time.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Following a demonstration flight, Gray Eagle sits on the tarmac as two of its teammates – Apache and Kiowa – land at Dugway Proving Ground.

See Eagle on page 22

Kiowa flies high with unmanned aircraft

New technologies fielded this year will give helicopter better views

By KARI HAWKINS

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DUGWAY PROVING GROUND, Utah – Kiowa helicopter units deploying to theater will soon have another combat tool that will up their battle game.

Technology developed through the Program Executive Office for Aviation will allow Kiowa helicopters to get another view of the battlefield through the lens of unmanned aircraft systems. That technology – known as Manned-to-Unmanned Teaming – was on display last week at the Manned Unmanned System Integration Capability exercise as Kiowa helicopters and their pilots went through a series of demonstrations with unmanned aircraft in the airspace above Dugway Proving Ground.

“Using unmanned aircraft is like having an extra tool in the tool box,” said one of those pilots, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jim Wright.

Since the late 1990s, the Army has been looking at ways to team manned and unmanned systems.

“At that time, it was all still in the conceptual phase,” Lt. Col. Kirk McCauley, product director for Armed Scout Fielded Systems, said.

“We were looking at controlling UAVs from the cockpit. But the technology wasn’t there yet. There wasn’t the technology to support the vision.”

Size, weight and the slower speed of computer processing systems at the time made the technology cumbersome in a helicopter’s cockpit.

“Technology over the past 10 years has grown by leaps and bounds,” McCauley said. “Systems are lighter weight. Commercial technology can be adapted to our uses. Computer chips are miniature in size. Now we can build a system of technology that meets the vision the Army has had for years.”

There are numerous benefits to pursuing manned-unmanned teaming between Army aircraft and unmanned aircraft systems, including better situational awareness, greater flexibility and responsiveness on the battlefield, continuance persistence on a target and improved surveillance capabilities.

But there’s one benefit that speaks directly to the concerns of the Army’s helicopter pilots.

“The number of rotary wing aircraft is limited. The footprint we are able to cover in any area is limited by those numbers,” Wright said.

Those numbers are especially limited for the Kiowa. The last of the 2,200 Kiowa helicopters manufactured came off the Bell production line in 1989. Today’s Army fleet includes only 330 Kiowa helicopters, which will be taken up to 368 through the Army’s wartime replacement aircraft program. Since the Vietnam War, Kiowa helicopters have been upgraded with technologies that have kept them in the fight, and that have allowed the helicopters to excel most recently as combat changers in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Unmanned aircraft provide an element on the battlefield that can grow the Kiowa helicopter’s effective-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

The Shadow unmanned aircraft system shares the spotlight with the OH-48D Kiowa Warrior helicopter at Dugway Proving Ground. The two systems teamed together during the Manned Unmanned System Integration Capability exercise and will deploy together soon with the first full spectrum combat aviation brigade.

ness larger than its own shadow.

“Our utilization is potentially more effective with the use of unmanned aircraft,” Wright said. “They can help ensure that we are not sent into a situation where we are not needed. And, when we are sent in, they can provide situational awareness that allows us to formulate our course of attack before we get to the location. With the unmanned sending its image into our cockpit, we have better situational awareness instead of stumbling into the situation.”

While deployed in Iraq, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Charlie Parker flew Kiowa helicopters with unmanned aircraft. At the time, though, the technology only allowed him to communicate with ground crews who would convey to him the images generated by the unmanned aircraft.

“We call them talk ons. The ground operator would talk us onto the target. We were verbalizing verification that we were seeing the same thing as the unmanned aircraft once we got to a location,” Parker said.

That situation – known as level one interoperability – caused the Kiowa pilots to rely on ground station operators for descriptions of the unmanned aircraft’s images. At Dugway, Parker and Wright operated at level two, which utilized the manned-to-unmanned teaming technology to transmit the unmanned aircraft’s images directly to the cockpit.

“Level two provides a down-link video,” Wright said. “Level three allows the crew to take command of the sensor payload of the UAS. Level four allows the crew to take control of the vehicle. At this level, the crew can actually fire a weaponized UAS using its laser designator. And at level 5 the crew has full control of the UAS, including takeoff and landing.”

There is no comparison between level one and level two interoperability, Parker said.

“A picture is worth a thousand words. At level one, the operator is trying to verbally describe for us what

the situation is,” Parker said. “Now we can visually see what the ground operator is talking about. Our visual verification reduces transmit time and makes us more aware of what’s going on.”

The Kiowa helicopter updated with the MUM-T technology will be unveiled at the Association of the U.S. Army conference in Washington, D.C. in October. It will be part of the Army’s first full spectrum combat aviation brigade that is in training now at Fort Campbell, Ky., and will soon be fielded and deployed, McCauley said.

“The Army’s new full spectrum combat aviation brigade will have less Kiowa helicopters because of the number of manned aircraft that will deploy with it. The number of Kiowas will go to 21 versus 30, and the brigade will have eight UAVs,” McCauley said.

“This CAB will show us if we have the balance right with the technologies, equipment and force structure as we put manned and unmanned systems in the same brigade. The unmanned system doing the training with the Kiowa is the Shadow.”

One benefit of having manned and unmanned in the same brigade is that they are operating under the same commander. Different commanders managing different assets can lead to difficulties in getting assets assigned and to prioritizing requests.

“The commander owns the assets and decides what the priorities are so that assets are available for missions and aren’t pulled off missions at the last minute for another priority,” McCauley said. “You also have both (manned and unmanned) Soldiers working together on the same team. They eat together, live together, spend time together. This makes the team more proficient and effective because they know each other. They perform at a much higher level because they are in a habitual training relationship.”

The capabilities of manned and unmanned systems provide a “unique set of capabilities. Unmanned systems bring persistence. They can fly at a higher altitude that provides a broader view of the situation,” McCauley said.

“At the same time, the Kiowa scout pilot brings tactical curiosity to the team. And the Kiowa provides a closer view of situations and threats hidden in trees or palm groves. The UAV sees things the pilot can’t see and the pilot sees things the UAV can’t see. Together they work much more effectively.”

Unmanned aircraft adds to the security for the Kiowa itself. Besides providing situational awareness before the Kiowa enters the area, unmanned aircraft can also provide additional security while the Kiowa is operating in the area.

“The unmanned aircraft is another big brother in the sky that’s looking down on the situation and providing information,” McCauley said. “It’s like having a third person view of yourself. The unmanned aircraft provides a different perspective of the situation.”

Even as Kiowa pilots gain benefits in the field from level two interoperability with unmanned systems, Wright said flight testing on a Kiowa prototype at level three will begin next year at the Redstone Test Center.

Real-time exercise shows power of teaming

Leaders praise efforts to elevate manned-unmanned aircraft

By KARI HAWKINS
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DUGWAY PROVING GROUND, Utah – North Alabama made a special visit to Utah last week to see some real-time aviation exercises that will not only affect the unmanned aircraft mission of the Program Executive Office for Aviation but will also change how the Army operates on the battlefield.

About 200 employees from the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office, along with another 400 community, government and business leaders from North Alabama or with interests at Redstone Arsenal, converged Friday on Dugway Proving Ground to see the first demonstration of interoperability between Army helicopters and its fleet of unmanned aircraft systems.

Though the real action at the Manned Unmanned System Integration Capability exercise happened in the sky, it's the ground forces that are the most affected by the improved capabilities of Army aircraft, said Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, the program executive officer for aviation.

"This is a change in focus. Program managers traditionally focus on their programs and platforms. This isn't about their programs. This is about who our customer is, and our customers are the ground commanders on the battlefield," he said. "We are going across program lines to integrate and make this force interoperable so that the Soldier has the situational awareness needed to make the best decisions."

While unmanned aircraft systems can work alongside manned aircraft to complete missions in support of war fighters, unmanned aircraft also provide information to Soldiers on the ground for better situational awareness, target identification and recon-

naissance.

Exclaiming that he had a bounce in his step because of the "huge success" of the day's exercise, Crosby said it demonstrated in real-time through real-world scenarios "how this can work in support of the combat brigade on the ground." He described manned-unmanned teaming as a "force multiplier" on the battlefield.

The day's visitors included several stakeholders in Army aviation and throughout the Army. Crosby said he is hoping they will help get the positive message out about the success of manned-unmanned teaming with aircraft.

"This is not a marketing pitch," he said. "We've built a capability. The challenge now is to integrate the capability across program platforms. I hope that today gave leadership a heightened understanding of what this could mean for the Army and for Soldiers."

Besides what it can do on the battlefield, unmanned aircraft systems should also be able to stretch Army resources by being a force multiplier that is "more effective and more efficient so that you have economy of force," he said. "They are a critical enabler on the battlefield. ... Aviation grows because of what Soldiers have done in the field."

Crosby thanked Army leadership who had the vision and who enabled the Program Executive Office for Aviation to make it a reality. He also thanked industry partners for coming together with the Army on unmanned aircraft systems development.

"This is just the beginning of great things that we will continue," he said.

Among those in the audience who were part of that early vision was retired Gen. Dick Cody, whose last assignment was as the Army's 31st vice chief of staff.

"This is dynamite," Cody told the audience when asked to say a few words. "My hats off to all the product managers of Unmanned Aircraft Systems ... and to all the industry partners behind the systems who made this work by taking risks with the Army."

The idea for unmanned aircraft systems started well before the Gulf War, he said, when the Army was determined to be the force that can "see first, understand first, act first."

After years of stops and starts with unmanned aircraft, and stovepiping of the systems, "you all took this thing and really gave our war fighters unbelievable capability," Cody said.

He recalled the Iraq war in 2004-05 when heli-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Lt. Col. Nick Kioutas, who works with unmanned ground vehicles at Redstone Arsenal, talks with Mike Mushovic of Auroenvironment about the operation of the new Mini-Universal Ground Control System during MUSIC's VIP day on Friday. The system, which combines the control station, remote video terminal and battery of today's Universal Ground Control System into one system, is still under development.

icopters were getting shot down every three days as they searched for improvised explosive devices along travel routes.

Now unmanned aircraft systems can search out the targets and then manned aircraft can go in for the attack once they have been located, he said, introducing an "aircraft survivability quotient" that no words can explain.

The retired general believes further development in manned-unmanned teaming of aircraft "will change command and control relationships. ... They will speed up what happens on the battlefield. This is wonderful technology in America made by Americans. ... We never envisioned you would go this far and do so much with this capability."

Among the contractor representatives in the audience was Vance King, who has worked with unmanned aircraft systems for several years and is now a vice president with AAI of Maryland.

"Today was phenomenal," King said. "It's historic. It's a culmination of a lot of years of thinking about the Soldiers and how we can help them. This is all about data, all about getting information into the war fighters' hands."

For Soldiers, civilians and contractors involved in the development of unmanned aircraft systems, the Manned Unmanned System Integration Capability exercise showed a lot of promise for the future of unmanned aircraft systems in its support of Soldiers on the battlefield, said Lt. Col. Matthew Munster, product manager for unmanned aircraft systems modernization.

"This is a big milestone in support of UAS," he said. "We've achieved the objectives we wanted and now we have this demonstration to build on."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

About 400 community, government and business leaders with interest in Unmanned Aircraft Systems, many of which were from North Alabama, watch video that shows the capabilities of manned-unmanned teaming and real-time video feeds from unmanned aircraft systems participating in the Manned Unmanned Systems Integration Capability exercise at Dugway Proving Ground.

Chinook helicopter takes heavy load with blessing

Aviation regiment Soldiers equipped with new aircraft

By **SOFIA BLEDSOE**
PEO Aviation Public Affairs

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii – Against the backdrop of the beautiful mountains in Oahu, the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade and the Hawaii National Guard commemorated the induction and blessing of 14 new CH-47F Chinook helicopters during an Equipping Ceremony Sept. 8 at the Pacific Aviation Museum hangar on Ford Island.

Soldiers, NCOs and officers of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment and Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment, lined both sides of the stage with the CH-47F Chinook helicopter behind them.

Each of these units will be in receipt of 12 CH-47F Chinook helicopters for a total of 24 in Hawaii after fielding is complete.

Lt. Gen. Frank Wiercinski, U.S. Army Pacific commander and host of the ceremony, said he had a personal affinity for the aircraft because it saved his life, having served in three conflicts including Panama, Iraq and Afghanistan.

“And in each one of those conflicts,” he added, “the CH-47 has been a vital and instrumental part of our success. It’s vital to our national security. Our Army and our industry partners got this thing right.”

The CH-47F Chinook, the Army’s only heavy lift helicopter, is a critical asset for transporting troops, supplies and providing various combat support and combat service support operations. The Cargo Helicopters Project Office will celebrate the Chinook’s 50th anniversary today, 50 years since the Chinook’s first flight.

“That man right there just gave me the best metric he can give me,” Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, said referring to Wiercinski’s comments. “He is an advocate for us. There is no other better metric than war fighters like Lt. Gen. Wiercinski and the young Soldiers you see out here who say that this is what we want, and they want it now.”

The ceremony was complete with Hawaiian traditions including a blessing of the aircraft which was performed by Kahu Kordell Kekoa. He blessed the aircraft using Hawaiian rain water that was collected 25 years ago and three tea leaves to symbolize creation, healing and for keeping away the bad spirits. Kekoa then removed the Hawaiian lei which had been placed at the doorway to the cockpit and gave it to Wiercinski and Crosby who placed the lei



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Kahu Kordell Kekoa blesses the CH-47F Chinook helicopter during the Equipping Ceremony to the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade and the Hawaii National Guard Sept. 8 at the Pacific Aviation Museum in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

inside the aircraft. Kekoa said this is to remind everyone of this beautiful event and called for its protection, blessing and maintenance.

“Today we celebrate a piece of machinery,” Kekoa said. Although machines are put together by many different hands, he said, it is everyone coming together that make things work. “It does its duty, and it takes this kind of equipment to make sure you can do the job that you have been commissioned to do.”

Pat Donnelly from the Boeing Corporation presented the CH-47F posters to the acting commander of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, Capt. James Isakson and the commander of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment, Capt. Johnny Wandasan.

Sgt. Justin Suina, a flight engineer on the CH-47F with B Co. 325th Aviation, said the best thing about changing from the D to the F model is the rapid mobility that the aircraft allows crew members. “Some of the structural components reinforcements like the transportability kit that allows more ease in movement and quick disconnect that allows for easier removal of these components gives us a lot more mobility with this aircraft,” he said. “Rapid mobility is one of the biggest things for us the maintainers, and the F models allows for easy access.”

The CH-47F’s secondary missions include MEDEVAC, aircraft recovery, disaster relief, and search and res-

cue. The CH-47F incorporates key reliability and maintainability improvement modifications and other key improvements such as a new machined airframe, vibration reduction, corrosion protection, digital source collectors, T55-GA-714A engine, Common Avionics Architecture System, Air Warrior, Common Missile Warning System, Infrared Suppression System, enhanced air transportability, Digital Automatic Flight Control System, an Extended Range Fuel System II, and is compatible with joint digital connectivity requirements.

“With the movements that we do, this aircraft is very versatile because we can do troop movements, external movements, moving patients if we need to – it has a lot of configurations that we can modify,” Suina said. “We can quickly reconfigure depending on the missions, which is one excellent thing about this aircraft.”

The biggest changes, Suina noted, are in the avionics and components. “Everything is integrated now. The flight plans, radio communications, moving maps – all this creates great situational awareness for us.”

Since the CH-47F’s initial fielding in July 2007, six units have been fielded and deployed in theater logging more than 49,000 hours. Much of the aircraft’s success is due to the CAAS and the DAFCS, which helps crewmembers to navigate in reduced visibility environments and “brown out” conditions, stabilize flight, and even helps the aircraft to fly a given route by itself, successfully completing complex missions.

“It definitely cuts down on manpower,” Suina said. “We have five guys working on something versus before it may take 15 guys. The F models significantly cuts down on the work hours and the man hours to get these aircraft ready for deployment.

“Our job here and out there is heavy lift. So the importance of this aircraft is movement of personnel, equipment, supplies, ammunition – and rapid movement over obstacles that help us help the ground units much better.”

The Army plans to field at least 440 CH-47Fs by 2018. Modernization efforts continue to be integrated into the Chinook fleet such a new blade configuration to add approximately 2,000 pounds of lift capability in high/hot conditions and the implementation of the Garmin 696 to meet the need for terrain awareness and collision warning capability. A ramp gunner’s seat, on/off loading system, an integrated platform health environment, and an upgraded radio suite are other key improvements ongoing within the CH-47 program.

In order to streamline the modernization process, the Cargo Helicopters Project Office activated the CH-47 Modernization Product Office on Aug. 30. The office is charged with managing modernization efforts for the Chinook helicopter fleet.

Teledyne wins \$595M contract for missile defense

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. – Teledyne Technologies Incorporated has announced that its subsidiary, Teledyne Brown Engineering Inc., was awarded by the Missile Defense Agency its Objective Simulation Framework, a contract with a potential value of \$595 million over five years beginning Sept. 1.

Under the contract, Teledyne will design, develop, test, implement and maintain the OSF. It will be the centerpiece test

and simulation framework for all elements of the missile defense system. The OSF will be capable of supporting full scale simulations, ground tests and live fire events. For the first time, it will tie together the Digital Simulation Architecture with the Single Stimulation Framework.

“Winning this significant contract reflects well on our capabilities for designing and developing test systems for complex applications such as missile defense,” Rob-

ert Mehrabian, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Teledyne Technologies, said. “We expect similar test technologies will have use in other markets we serve including energy, marine, aviation, space and environmental applications.”

Teledyne Brown developed the first digital and Hardware-in-the-Loop test and assessment capabilities for missile defense. Through the years, Teledyne Brown developed and supported

advancements in test frameworks that established ground test standards for missile defense systems. The company also developed an OSF prototype that incorporates legacy digital and HWIL capabilities to support Ballistic Missile Defense System test and assessment activities. Teledyne Brown has executed BMDS tests and assessments at its headquarters in Huntsville and at other locations. (*Teledyne release*)

Black Hawk helicopter helps reinforce borders

Modified aircraft goes to homeland security

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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The United States and its borders are safer today thanks to the hard work of the Utility Helicopters Project Office.

The UHPO delivered the first of four modified UH-60M helicopters to the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection in a transfer of ownership ceremony Sept. 14. Patricia Martin, director of engineering directorate for AMRDEC, presented the Black Hawk's keys and logbook to Michael Kostelnik, retired Air Force major general, and assistant commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Air and Marine, at the Prototype Integration Facility, where the four helicopters are receiving the modifications.

"The U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency and the Army have a lot in common – defense and protection of our nation for today and tomorrow," Martin said. "So it is no coincidence that our men and women in uniform need similar capabilities to best perform their mission. ... That's what this project is all about, working together across services and branches, across government and industry, working together in our country's best interest to rapidly and efficiently deliver the best products for the protection and defense of our citizens."

The first delivery marks a team effort that has been three years in the making. The four helicopters will be sent to Miami Air Branch, where they will be used for support operations in Florida, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, and wherever else they may be needed over the course of their years of service, whether it's extra security at the Super Bowl or Olympics, natu-

ral disasters like floods or fires in the Southeast, or protecting the border from drug cartels in the Southwest region.

"The world continues to be a dangerous place," Kostelnik said.

The four aircraft, have or are in the process of receiving, more than 19 modifications at the PIF tailored to the mission of CBP, including communications equipment that allow real-time coordination of activity and situational awareness, including the ability to communicate with law enforcement and medical personnel on the ground, sensors which allow high fidelity resolution to provide CBP with the best ability to deter, detect and prevent threats, and navigation equipment that will allow CBP to operate in all weather conditions and all airspaces, Martin said. The PIF led project management, design, fabrication, integration, logistics and training efforts.

"It's built to Army combat standards so it includes armor and protections that we might need," Kostelnik said. "It brings the unique war-fighting capabilities that the military deploys in high-threat areas overseas to similar high-threat areas in the homeland should those types of activities materialize."

"We just experienced the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks," Martin said. "Much has occurred during those 10 years – the intensity of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency mission increased exponentially and more. As the largest law enforcement organization in the nation, Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection is charged with the crucial role of securing the U.S. from terrorists and other threats while facilitating legitimate safe trade and travel."

The helicopters and their specially tailored modifications will not only aid in protecting the United States from the threats it faces now, but those that are yet to come.

"It's not just about the missions we have today, but about preparing for the



Photo by Ellen Hudson

AMRDEC engineering director Patricia Martin talks with Michael Kostelnik, assistant commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Air and Marine.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Here's an aerial view of Redstone Arsenal taken during the first flight of the modified UH-60M.



missions of the future," Kostelnik said.

The work is also good preparation for the PIF should the Army ever decide that they want their Soldiers to have the same modifications as those Homeland Security's four Black Hawks will receive. Having already worked through the modification process for CBP, it "makes it faster, more efficient and can very quickly assist the

war fighter in the fight," Lt. Col. Heyward Wright, UH-60 A/L/M product manager, said. The remaining aircraft will be delivered in October, November and January.

Impact

continued from page 14

press conference to announce the kickoff of Impact Aid along with representatives from Madison City, Madison County, Huntsville City, Scottsboro City and Arab City school systems.

Hamilton spoke to April Clark's first-grade class about their role in the Impact Aid program and how providing children with books, teachers and buildings costs money.

"You (students) get to play a really important part in that (Impact Aid). In this case, all you have to do is take this piece of paper and give it to your mother or your father or your guardian and tell them they've got to fill it out," Hamilton said. "And, in fact, you have my permission to pester them and pester them until they get it filled out and give it back to you. Then all you have to do is give it back to your teacher."

"For example, just right here in the Madison County area in the last 10 years, (Impact Aid) has resulted in over \$11 million coming in to your schools to

buy you more books, more chairs and tables, has helped fix buildings and all the things that you need to learn. And so, it's extremely important that we get these (forms) filled out and back in because that's a lot of money."

Hamilton explained to the first-graders that filling out an Impact Aid form is easier than doing traditional fund-raisers like a car wash.

"It would take us washing a lot of cars to make up that amount of money," he said. "So this is easier. It's easier for you."

"I'm not putting it just on you. I am

also going to spend a lot of time talking to your parents about making sure they've asked you for this form, and they fill it out and send it back because a lot of your parents work on Redstone Arsenal or in other places that are government facilities."

On Thursday, students from participating schools began receiving forms to bring home for their parents to fill out. Parents can also print their forms online.

For more information about Impact Aid, or to print out your local school's form, visit the Schools Foundation website at www.theschoolsfoundation.org.

Eagle

continued from page 17

During 2009-10, Blaschke commanded a quick reaction capability team in Iraq of 16 Soldiers and 24 civilians that flew 4,000 accident-free flight hours to conduct long-dwell, wide-area reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition, communications relay and attack missions.

“Since we were the first ones to ever field, train and fly this system in wartime we did really well,” he said. “Soldiers did all the flying. The team did an extremely good job in supporting the war fighter.”

During the first Gray Eagle deployment, Iraqi residents were going to the polls to vote. Gray Eagle was used to provide “a lot of persistence in viewing polling sites and in watching trucks of ballots moving from polling sites,” Blaschke said. “We also supported tactically by providing convoy security. We were able to provide full motion video of locations, vehicles and routes. We were used the vast majority of the time for reconnaissance, and for cordon and search of high volume targets and individuals.”

As the unit’s commander, Blaschke was involved in planning the Gray Eagle’s missions based on requests from the division, brigade and company levels.

“We had the opportunity to state how we would support the mission,” he said. “We would develop how we were going to execute in coordination with the unit we were supporting. We would ask: How can we support you the best?”

Gray Eagle is one of several unmanned aircraft systems that are making a difference on the battlefield.

“The unmanned aircraft system is revolutionizing the way we fight wars today,” Tim Owings, deputy project manager for Unmanned Aircraft Systems, said. “Vietnam and Korea were known as helicopter wars. Wars in this decade are unmanned aircraft wars. These systems are adding tremendous value on the battlefield every day and they are saving Soldier lives.”

Gray Eagle can fly both line of sight involving distances of 200 to 300 kilometers and beyond the line of sight with the help of satellites that can extend its visual capabilities thousands of kilometers from the ground station. It uses electro-optic and infrared systems for target detection and acquisition.

“The system is capable of day and night vision, and it is capable of providing tremendously high fidelity images,” Owings explained. “It has a synthetic aperture radar to find moving targets.”

Besides running its own missions, the exercise at Dugway Proving Ground demonstrated Gray Eagle’s interoperabil-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

As a war-tested Black Hawk pilot and commander of the first Gray Eagle unit in theater, Capt. Travis Blaschke is convinced that manned-unmanned teaming offers the best in situational awareness, reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition on the battlefield. Blaschke and the Gray Eagle both participated in the Manned Unmanned Systems Integration Capability exercise last week at Dugway Proving Ground.

ity with the Apache helicopter. The addition of new sensors under each wing to go with the sensor located underneath its fuselage gives Gray Eagle a triple-effect capability, known as triclops. With the currently fielded Block 2 Apache, which was demonstrated at Dugway, these sensors provide added opportunities to view the battlefield. But with the Block 3 Apache, which will be fielded later this year, teaming with a triclops Gray Eagle means on the battlefield that one sensor can be controlled by a crew member aboard an Apache helicopter, a second can transmit video data to a terminal on the ground and the third can be controlled by the Gray Eagle’s ground operator.

“The Apache helicopter flies very low, very fast, and has a frontal view of the target,” Owings said. “With Gray Eagle, the Apache can also look down. Putting these two systems together is like putting hunting dogs in front of the hunter.”

Or, in another battlefield scenario, different sensors can focus on different targets, allowing, for example, a Gray Eagle to track multiple people and vehicles as they scatter after placing an improvised explosive device.

The new sensors give Gray Eagle a “very unique and very powerful capability,” Owings said. “This capability is now being tested and will be in theater later this year. Having three sensors on a single aircraft makes it highly capable. The system also can put a laser beacon on a target and then let its missiles fly to that target, which increases its lethality aspect.”

Gray Eagle requires two operators. One is the air vehicle operator who flies the vehicle from a ground station. The other is the payload operator who controls the camera and any payloads – such as four Hellfire missiles – carried by Gray Eagle.

“We take 18- and 19-year-olds from high school to flight school, and give them the capability to fly this highly automated system,” Owings said.

One Gray Eagle unit is still deployed in Iraq. Another one – Quick Reaction Capability 2 – is in Afghanistan. A third unit – QRC 3 – is getting ready to deploy out of Fort Hood, Texas. It will be the first full size company to deploy with Gray Eagle.

Gray Eagle’s effectiveness continues to increase, with improvements still being made in a system that was only 85 percent ready for deployment when Blaschke led the first quick reaction team into combat.

“We were deployed earlier than the original timeline,” he said. “So there were growing pains and learning that needed to occur along with more development of the aircraft and the system.”

“We all went into it knowing there would be hiccups along the way, and some additional challenges we would have to go through. But it was more important to give the capability to the war fighter at 85 percent solution than to wait through two more years of development to a 100 percent solution. It was a time when we were transitioning from the surge, and war fighters were asking desperately for more unmanned aircraft

vehicles and reconnaissance-type platforms. We had the call to quickly deploy.”

Blaschke’s work with Gray Eagle in theater further showed him the complimentary roles that unmanned systems and manned systems have on the battlefield.

“There’s really no replacement for having two pilots with four eyes and four ears. There’s no substitute for Soldiers in the cockpit working in support of Soldiers on the ground,” he said. “But unmanned systems can augment the work of pilots. They can provide additional sensor capabilities for better situational awareness and longer endurance times.”

While an unmanned aircraft vehicle can remain in the air on a mission for 24-plus hours, a helicopter working that length of time would require three refuels that, in turn, require three rotations of helicopters to continue around-the-clock surveillance of a target or situation.

“In a team of manned and unmanned systems, the manned system can continue surveillance while a helicopter goes to refuel or as the helicopters are changed out,” Blaschke said. “The UAV can continue to keep the positive identification throughout the mission, and that is really important in an urban situation where you can easily lose a moving vehicle or people if they are not kept under constant surveillance.”

With Gray Eagle, as with all unmanned aircraft systems, there still remains a Soldier in the loop who manages the system and runs safety checks. But once hooked on a target, there is a lot of autonomous control of an unmanned system.

During the MUSIC demonstration at Dugway, Gray Eagle interface with the Apache helicopter showed improvements in a manned-unmanned teaming connection that furthers Gray Eagle’s “game changing capability for the United States Army,” Owings said. “Persistence in the key to what we’re trying to achieve.”

Apache pilot Maj. Ryan Atkins of the 21st Air Cavalry Brigade at Fort Hood agreed that manned-unmanned teaming is the future of air combat.

“This is another way to provide better situational awareness for the attack team and the team on the ground,” said the Iraq and Afghanistan combat veteran. “Unmanned aircraft provide a different angle, a different view of the threat, and better protection for ground forces.”

As a veteran aviator, Blaschke is looking forward to the additional capabilities that will be added to Gray Eagle during his time on the system’s development team.

“As the first commander, I was on the receiving end of all the good of this system. We received the property, training, support and sustainment. Now, I am on the giving end,” he said.

'This ordinary man did an extraordinary thing'

Hometown recognizes World War II POW

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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He had no food to eat and no promise of tomorrow, but for the five months George Mills spent as a German prisoner of war in WWII, he had his love for his country.

"I wouldn't take nothing for the experience I had," Mills, a Decatur native, said. "I wouldn't want to do it again, but for my country I would."

When Mills enlisted in the Army in May 1942, he was only 21, a single piano salesman from Decatur. The Army didn't just make him a man, it made him a Soldier, assigned to Company E, 109th Infantry, 28th Division under Gen. Omar Bradley, making him a member of one of the best trained divisions that ever fought in World War II. For Mills, fighting for his country wasn't a choice, but rather a requirement as an American.

"Our country was attacked," Mills said. "They bombed Pearl Harbor. They destroyed everything we had. It wasn't a matter of if you wanted to go, it was a matter of everybody was going to have to. You were expected to go. We were in bad shape – we didn't have anything, everything was in Pearl Harbor and they knocked all that out. We had no guns, we had no ships, we had no airplanes, no nothing. Everybody in America went to work making guns, making ammunition, and they were interested in defeating those enemies. That was the desire of the whole United States."

After 26 months of training, Sgt. Mills arrived on Omaha Beach 25 days after D-Day. For seven months he was in combat, engaged in four major battles, including the Battle of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge. Fighting for his life and for his country, he let his survival instincts take over.

"You lose so many men that I guess in a certain length of time you kind of get hardened to the point where you feel like maybe it's going to be me next, so you just don't worry about it," Mills said. "You do what you have to."

Mills was unaware, however, just what he would have to do to survive when he became a prisoner of war in the Battle of the Bulge in December 1944.

After the Battle of the Hürtgen Forest, Mills and his company were sent to the German-Luxembourg border. Two miles in front of any other company in hilly terrain, the Allied forces enjoyed peace and quiet until they were awakened one morn-

ing by rockets and artillery at 5.

"I knew that we were going to get hit," Mills said.

Mills' company was surrounded by 15,000 forces, vulnerable as the only company out there, but able to hold their ground Dec. 16 and 17. Holed up in a house with artillery 15 miles behind them and only six rounds of ammunition for the whole company, the options were few for Mills and his comrades.

"No one could get to us," he said. "No one could get us ammunition or anything."

Axis forces blew a hole in the north end of the house with a bazooka and flamethrowers followed, setting the entire house on fire. Mills sustained injuries by shrapnel when he went to see what the noise was after the initial bazooka blast. Artillery was instructed to flatten the town in 30 minutes; the company would be surrendered. Local civilians seeking refuge in the home's basement were released to the Germans; the mayor of the town was shot instantaneously.

"We thought they'd shoot all of them," Mills said. "We thought they'd shoot us because they had no use for us."

On Dec. 18, 1944, Mills and those of his company that were still alive were captured by the Germans.

"There's no way that you could explain the life of a prisoner of war," Mills said. "You think combat's bad, and when you become a prisoner you say, 'Well, I'm at ease now I'm not going to get killed, I'll be able to get home.' The danger is just starting."

The Germans interviewed each Soldier to try and get any information out of them they could before taking them to Stalag II-A, a German POW camp in Neubrandenburg, where they were fingerprinted, photographed, given a dog tag and registered as a prisoner of war. They remained there for two days before the Germans segregated the Soldiers, sending officers into concentration camps, forcing privates into work, and sending NCOs, including Mills, on a five-month walk that would break their souls and their bodies, across Europe.

"The only way you survived was steal what you could get – rutabagas, sugar beets, potatoes," said Mills, who recalls only being offered one meal in the time he was held prisoner by the Germans, grass mixed with boiled water.

Their bodies ridden with lice and whittled away from extreme hunger, as they walked, men fell from starvation, dysentery, American bombers, and the freezing cold. Mills lost 70 pounds over the course of five months, while more than 1,200 Soldiers lost their lives, an astounding drop



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

George Mills speaks about his experience as a WWII prisoner of war at the POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremony in Decatur Friday.

from around 1,500 POWs to a mere 250.

"It's quite a challenge for your life, when you're thrown to another nation and depend on them for life," Mills said. "We're the only nation out there that really abides by the Geneva Convention when it comes to prisoners of war."

Finally liberated on April 13, 1945, Mills began the long journey home, gaining back 60 pounds in 30 days as he ate six meals a day to feed his appetite.

"When you're that hungry, it's just hard to get satisfied," Mills said. "I don't know whether it's in your mind that you're not going to get that food and you don't want to let it pass you, but you just don't let any food get by for a long time."

When he returned home to Decatur, Mills made the final 15-block walk home. Taking in the scenery of his peaceful Alabama town, his sister was so excited to see his face that she forgot to unlatch the screen door to let him in. But his faithful bulldog, upon hearing a voice he hadn't heard in four years, nearly broke down the door trying to get to his master.

"It was a joyful day," Mills said.

For more than two decades Mills didn't talk to anyone about what he had experienced in the war, save a few words for his father who never asked any questions, but listened when his son wanted to share. Instead, Mills threw himself into his work as a piano salesman in Decatur.

"I just put myself into work like I did in the service," Mills said. "I never thought about it or dwelled on it or anything. I don't think I had anybody to even talk to me or ask me if I was a veteran for 20 to 30 years. I never talked to nobody about it."

"I just got involved in trying to get back to work and forget all about that. When you come out of combat you've got grenades in your pocket, an M-1 in your hand and you're authorized to shoot anybody

you see, or throw a grenade and kill them if you want to. When you come home it's a different life when you step out of that back into here with you folks. You've got to forget about all that. These boys coming home from combat, sometimes they go to alcohol or something to get that off their mind instead of really getting involved in work or something. That's what I did. I just got involved in work."

A perk of keeping the morning report for his company meant he knew all their names and where they lived, enabling him to keep in touch with 35 to 40 Soldiers since his discharge from the Army in 1946. Traveling the country and Canada in an RV with his

wife and another couple in the years that followed, whenever they neared a spot where he knew a fellow Soldier lived, he made it a point to stop by. As time has marched on, Christmas cards now accompany sad tidings that a fellow comrade has passed away, pieces of living history gone forever. Only one from his company he believes to still be alive today; this year's Christmas card will tell.

Mills was honored at the POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony Friday at the Morgan County Courthouse, where he served as guest speaker. Started nearly 20 years ago by the commander and officers of the American Legion 15 in Decatur, the ceremony honors and recognizes those who have served the United States and those who remain missing, in observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day, declared this year as Sept. 16 by President Obama. In addition to words from Mills, a candle lighting ceremony, 21-gun salute, empty chair ceremony and roll call of Gold Star mothers, wives and sisters, as well as ex-POWs was performed.

"This ordinary man did an extraordinary thing," said Theresa Groves, commander of the Combined Patriotic Organizations of Morgan County, who introduced Mills at the event. "He survived. And he will be the first to tell you this – he would never want to relive the time he spent in combat and as a prisoner of war, but he would take nothing for the experiences he has had. He learned his own limitations and strengths. He learned discipline and gained self-confidence. He's not scared of anything anymore, but most importantly, he learned that you can survive. By doing what you've got to do, you can survive."

"It's awful, war is," Mills said. "I just hope nobody ever has to go through it."

Win or Lose

Meet the Redstone Arsenal Ten-Miler team runners

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Here are individual profiles of the runners who will represent Redstone Arsenal at the 27th annual Army Ten-Miler on Oct. 9 in Washington, D.C.



York

Name: Brandon York**Job:** Mechanical engineer, Northrop Grumman

Highlights: A newcomer to this year's team, York, 26, from Tuscaloosa, ran track and cross country for the University of Alabama-Huntsville from 2003-08. ... He has done two 15Ks (9.3-milers), including Monte Sano and Sheffield, with a personal best time of 50:05.

Quote: Here's a quote from one of my favorite books: "Running to him was real, the way he did it the realist thing he knew. It was all joy and woe, hard as diamond; it made him weary beyond comprehension. But it also made him free." – John L. Parker, *Once a Runner*



Hobbs

Name: Harry Hobbs**Job:** Communications relations officer for Huntsville Police Department

Highlights: Hobbs, a retired chief warrant officer 5, coaches Redstone's team. ... He was 1999 coach/runner for Fort Rucker's active duty open mixed champions at the Army Ten-Miler, 2003 coach/runner for the Fort Sill (Okla.) civilian open mixed champions, and coach/runner of Redstone's four-time defending government agency division champions and two-time defending all-comers division champions. ... His goal for the team this year is to defend both championships. ... His personal goal is to run under 85 minutes. He is 51 years old and has had more than 15 surgical operations due to his military career. ... His best time was 1:02:37 in 2000. ... He finished a 5K at Fort Rucker in 17:39 in 1999.

Running tip: Drink a gallon of water a day, stay positive, stretch and keep running.



McFarland

Name: Randy McFarland**Job:** Materials engineer, AMRDEC

Highlights: McFarland has run for Team Redstone every year since 2002. ... His fastest Army Ten-Miler time was 1:01:16 in 2002. ... His best finish place was 164th male in 2006 in 1:01:36. ... McFarland's goal this year is to run under 1:05. ... His personal best 10K time is 34:54 from 1995 in Decatur. ... McFarland did a 2:47 marathon in 1997 in Huntsville. ... He began running in junior high school and has run every year since – with the exception of a four-year break.

Quote: Successive surgeries seldom succeed in sustaining someone's swiftness.



Heeschen

Name: George Heeschen**Job:** Traffic management specialist, AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center

Highlights: Started running in high school and ran Division III cross country for Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia from 2005-09. ... Currently races for the Fleet Feet Racing team in Huntsville. ... This will be his first year running the Army Ten-Miler, but he has raced the 10-mile distance several times before with a current personal best 57:14. ... He enjoys racing all distances up to the marathon; and his best times include 16:32 for the 5K, 1:14:08 for 13.1 and 2:39:59 for the marathon.

Running tip: Two principles I try to apply to running as well as life are "Run hard and never look back" and "Attitude is everything; by thinking and acting positively you can control any curveball that life may throw you."



Schroeder

Name: Brad Schroeder**Job:** Systems engineer, Joint Attack Munitions Systems (JAMS) System Engineering

Highlights: This is Schroeder's fourth year running the Army Ten-Miler; and he has been named this year's team captain. ... Schroeder is part of the Fleet Feet Racing Team. ... He enjoys trail runs and local 5K and 10K races.

Quote: Once you get the shoes tied up and out the door, you're already halfway done!



DeBolt

Name: Erik DeBolt**Job:** Logistics Support Activity, SYSPARS project lead

Highlights: DeBolt started running seriously four years ago after running in a local 5K race and hasn't stopped since. ... This is his second year with Redstone's Ten-Miler Team. ... He has run in race distances all the way up to 50K. ... His goal is to finish the Ten-Miler in under 59 minutes.

Quote: Work hard and don't be content with past successes.

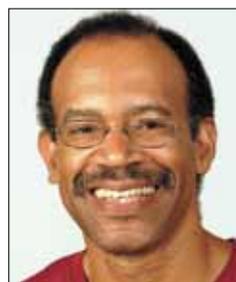


Robenson

Name: Joseph Robenson**Job:** Test engineer, PMO Aircraft Survivability Equipment

Highlights: Robenson ran with Team Redstone in 2008 and 2010. ... Before moving to Redstone Arsenal, he ran Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Gate-to-Gate (4.4 miles) annually during the Memorial Day weekend in May to honor our military past, present and future.

Quote: I am running for the success and survivability for our Soldiers.



Vaughn

Name: Skip Vaughn**Job:** Public affairs specialist, Garrison

Highlights: Vaughn has completed more than 30 marathons, with a personal best 3:28. ... He has run with Redstone's Ten-Miler Team for at least 16 years, the past several years as assistant coach. ... He completed the 2009 race despite major knee surgery.

Running tip: Always finish the race.



Wilks

Name: Brett Wilks**Job:** Aerospace engineer, System Simulation and Development Directorate

Highlights: This is Wilks' third year with Team Redstone. ... His personal best times include 18:44 for 5K, 1:04:47 for 10 miles, 3:04:07 for the marathon and 4:23:59 for 50K.

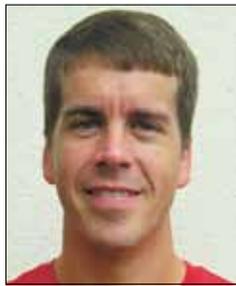
Running tip: Listen to your body. Be consistent and persistent. Keep a running journal.

Runners

continued from page 24

Highlights: This is Pitt's first year on Redstone's Ten-Miler Team. ... He ran the event last year with a time of 1:05:39. ... He hopes to beat that time this year.

Running tip: Be patient with yourself and persistent.



Pitt

Name: Timothy Pitt
Job: EO/IR engineer, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center

Name: Rob Youngren
Job: Computer scientist, Simulation Technologies Inc.
Highlights: Completed the Badwater Ultramarathon (135 miles), across Death Valley, Calif., in 31 hours and 13 minutes, and finished 12th overall in July ... Has finished more than 150 ultramarathons and marathons ... Best finish times include 2:50 for marathon, 35:19 for 10K and 16:49 for 5K.

Quote: I'm injured right now. I just hope to make it to the starting line of this race. I'm definitely supporting the team, I'll do whatever I can, but I'd really like to make my contribution by racing.



Youngren

Name: Sgt. Maj. Corey Smallwood
Job: Senior enlisted aide to the AMC commander
Highlights: This is Smallwood's first year on Redstone's team. ... He finished his first JFK 50-Miler. ... Was a member of the Fort Myer (Va.) team which had back-to-back wins at the Army Ten-Miler in the sergeant major of the Army challenge category.

Running tip: Use running as a stress reducer.



Smallwood

Editor's note: The other members of Redstone's team include Col. John Hamilton, retiring Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Cooper, Derrick Gould (injured) and Lt. Col. Morris Bodrick (injured).

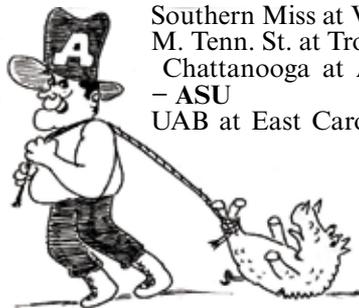
Crimson Tide should roast Arkansas Razorbacks

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Skip's Picks went 95-21 for the first two weeks of the college football season. Here are my predictions on this week's games:

Arkansas at Alabama – **Bama**
N. Carolina St. at Cincinnati – **Cincy**
UCF at BYU – **BYU**
Florida St. at Clemson – **FSU**
North Carolina at Georgia Tech – **UNC**
Kansas St. at Miami (Fla.) – **Miami**
UTEP at South Florida – **SF**
LSU at West Virginia – **LSU**
UCLA at Oregon St. – **UCLA**
San Diego St. at Michigan – **Michigan**
C. Michigan at Michigan St. – **MSU**
E. Michigan at Penn St. – **Penn St.**
La.-Monroe at Iowa – **Iowa**
Toledo at Syracuse – **Syracuse**
Notre Dame at Pittsburgh – **ND**
SMU at Memphis – **SMU**
Temple at Maryland – **Maryland**
Massachusetts at Boston College – **BC**
Presbyterian at Furman – **Furman**
The Citadel at Elon – **The Citadel**
Portland State at TCU – **TCU**
Army at Ball St. – **Army**
Ohio at Rutgers – **Rutgers**
Tennessee State at Air Force – **AF**
South Dakota at Wisconsin – **UW**
California at Washington – **Cal**
Tulane at Duke – **Tulane**
Colorado at Ohio St. – **OSU**



Southern Miss at Virginia – **Virginia**
M. Tenn. St. at Troy – **Troy**
Chattanooga at Appalachian State – **ASU**
UAB at East Carolina – **East Carolina**

Virginia Tech at Marshall – **Tech**
Florida A&M at Southern – **Southern**
Fresno St. at Idaho – **Fresno**

St.
Alabama State at Jackson State – **Jackson St.**

Connecticut at Buffalo – **UConn**
Alabama A&M at Grambling – **Grambling**
Louisiana Tech at Mississippi St. – **Miss St.**

Florida at Kentucky – **Florida**
Vanderbilt at South Carolina – **SC**
Fla. Atlantic at Auburn – **Auburn**
Oklahoma St. at Texas A&M – **Texas A&M**

Indiana at North Texas – **Indiana**
Rice at Baylor – **Baylor**
Samford at Wofford – **Wofford**
Nevada at Texas Tech – **Texas Tech**
Nebraska at Wyoming – **Nebraska**
Missouri at Oklahoma – **Oklahoma**
Tulsa at Boise St. – **Boise St.**
Colorado St. at Utah St. – **Utah St.**
Georgia State at Houston – **Houston**
Montana at Sacramento State – **Montana**
Oregon at Arizona – **Oregon**
USC at Arizona St. – **ASU**
Georgia at Mississippi – **Georgia**

Wanted: Volunteers for Special Olympics

Soldiers' departure leaves void for help

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

The annual Madison County Special Olympics are back in action and looking for volunteers to help make this year's events a success.

In years past, the volunteers have been Soldiers from the Ordnance school. But with the school's move to Fort Lee, Va., as a part of BRAC 2005, the Special Olympics needs other helpers.

"Without the Soldiers we have a huge void of volunteers to fill," Natalie Taylor of Army Community Service said.

They desperately need volunteers to take their place as escorts for more than 330 Special Olympics athletes. Taylor said about 800 volunteers needed.

The games will be held Oct. 25, with a rain date Oct. 27, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Milton Frank Stadium. Organizers seek groups of volunteers from various commands on Redstone to help fill the Soldiers' void.

"It takes a ton of people to make the Special Olympics happen and we're hoping that Team Redstone can step up and help," Taylor said.

The escorts will be paired with an athlete as they get off the buses from their school or agency and stay with



File photo

Special Olympics 2010 volunteer Matt Scott of Boeing gives athlete Anna Chilton some last-minute advice before her race.

them throughout the day. The escorts will accompany the athletes to their events and cheer them on. There will be activities for the volunteers and athletes to do together in between the events.

"It is a really special time for both the volunteers and athletes," Taylor said. "It is a memorable experience to be a part of."

"These games are a real competition that they practice for, and if they win they get to go onto the next level. It's just like our own Olympics."

Any interested organization, with permission from their supervisor, should have a representative call volunteer event chairman Gloria Bink at 881-7919 or email gbink@knology.net. Volunteers should plan to stay all day.

Rocket Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Youth soccer

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

UAH hockey night

The Association of the U.S. Army is sponsoring Military Appreciation Night for the University of Alabama-Huntsville hockey game against the Air Force Academy. The game is Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center. Free tickets will be available Sept. 23 at the Community Activity Center for all military ID and CAC card holders. Tickets will be provided on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Golf tournament

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association will

have a golf tournament Oct. 14 at the Links at Redstone. More details for registration information and sponsorship opportunities will be provided soon.

Boating safety

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

Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

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

Protestant women

Beginning Thursday, you are invited to join the Protestant Women of the Chapel on Thursdays at Bicentennial Chapel as they meet for friendship, fellowship and Bible study. Choose from three sessions: morning from 9:30-11:30, lunch time from

11:30-12:30 and evening at 6. Some child care is available at the morning session, upon registration with Youth Services.

Sergeants major

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

Federally employed women

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

Small business workshop

The U.S. Army Contracting Command's Office of Small Business Programs is conducting a "Small Business 101" workshop Sept. 28 and Oct. 26 for local small business owners interested in learning how to contract with the Army. Registration and more information are available at www.facebook.com/USArmyContractingCommand.

Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sentar offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Valerie Cortez 313-9753. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 4488, room B-306. For information call Claudinette Purifoy 955-9422. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 8721 Madison Boulevard in Madison. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359.

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. Bre-

akfast 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.

Women's connection

Huntsville Christian Women's Connection will meet Oct. 6 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Huntsville Country Club, 2601 Oakwood Ave., northwest. Cost is \$15. The feature is "October Fair and Auction." Music will be provided by the Classical-Country Connection, Bob and Leo Larkin. The speaker Marie Carroll will answer the question: "Is Change Really Necessary?" Free childcare is provided for 6 and younger off-site. Reservations for lunch or child care are due by Oct. 3. Call Betty 837-8286 or Nancy 883-1339. HCWC is an affiliate of Stonecroft Ministries, a support ministry for all community women and military wives.

Civil War round table

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

Battlefield tour

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

Democratic women

The Madison County Democratic Women will meet Oct. 6 at the downtown

See Announcements on page 27



Rocket Announcements

Holiday Inn, 301 Williams Ave. Program to be announced. Social begins at 11:30 a.m., and the meeting and lunch at noon. Lunch reservations, \$20, to marilyn.robertson@knology.net or 536-2701 by noon Oct. 3. Limited non-eating reservations available.

Air defenders

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

Small business conference

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

Reliability engineers

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

Defense women

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

University women

The American Association of university Women will meet Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 301 Drake Ave. Carol Madry Bell of Committee of 100 and Audrey Salgado of Birmingham and AAUW will speak on effective political campaigns. Reservations required for dinner - \$16, or \$15 vegetarian - due Sept. 30. RSVP and information at 880-8643 or herb.guendel@knology.net.

Disabilities forum

Alabama A&M University will host its rescheduled third annual Dr. William T. Fennessee symposium focusing on current and relevant issues related to persons living with disabilities on Sept. 23 from 1-3 p.m.

in the Clyde Foster Multi-purpose Room (in the New School of Business). The theme is "Wounded Warriors and Disabled Citizens: Job Ready & Available!" This event is free to the public. Refreshments will be provided at the end of the program. For more information or to register, call Dr. George Mamboleo 372-8002 or email george.mamboleo@aamu.edu.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

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

Fraud hotline

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

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.

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.

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.

Senior volunteers

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

Fox pharmacy hours

Effective Oct. 3, Fox Army Health Center Pharmacy's new hours will be Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Note: For the first 30 minutes, active duty have priority. The health center is closed on the first Thursday afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal

See Announcements on page 28



Photo by Dan O'Boyle

Veterans tour

Maj. Chris Reid, left, and Maj. Marc Dalziel, both of the Redstone Test Center, deliver aircraft highlights to veterans of the "Black Lions" 28th Infantry who visited the area last week. The veterans received an Arsenal tour, including a performance by the Tennessee River Ramblers of the AMC Band.

Rocket Announcements

holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

Military personnel office

The MILPO buildings located on Roadrunner Road, which includes the ID Card Section, will move during the week of Sept. 26-30 to a temporary location while the buildings get renovated. The ID Card section will be closed Sept. 27-28 to enable the transfer of the RAPIDS computer systems to the new location. One workstation will be available both days for emergency situations only (lost ID cards and pin resets) on a walk-in basis. No appointments will be available on those days. Please make necessary arrangements to visit prior or after those dates. The ID Card section should be operational Sept. 29 at its new location which will be in the large trailer located in the parking lot behind building 3493. Luis Ortega, chief of the Military Personnel Office, Directorate of Human Resource, can be reached at 842-2418.

Vehicles recall

On Oct. 13, 2009, Ford Motor Company expanded its largest-ever recall by about 4.5 million vehicles equipped with a faulty cruise-control switch linked to at least 550 vehicle fires nationwide, and the destruction of many homes

and other properties. Ford has now recalled more than 14 million vehicles in eight separate recalls over a 10-year period because of the problem. Listed are the Ford, Lincoln and Mercury vehicles that have been recalled; the Ford Motor Company has issued several recalls and only 40 percent of the vehicles have been repaired. These vehicles can catch fire even when parked and not running; there has been instances where the vehicle was setting for days and caught fire. The brake fluid seeps out of the vehicle's master cylinder and into the cruise control disconnect switch, shorts out the switch and catches the brake fluid on fire. For more information, visit <http://www.switchfires.com/>. Redstone fire inspector Robert Johnson provided the following possible warning signs before a fire: Cruise control system will not activate or stops working; brake lights stop working; low brake fluid; ABS and brake warning lights illuminated on dash and the inability to get the vehicle out of park. Here are the recalled vehicles: cars – 1992-98 Ford Crown Victoria, 1992-98 Lincoln Town Car, 1992-98 Mercury Grand Marquis, 1993-95 Ford Taurus SHO, 1993-98 Lincoln Mark VIII, 1994 Mercury Capri; SUVs – 1993-96 Ford Bronco, 1997-2002 Ford Expedition, 1998-2001 Ford Explorer, 1998-2001 Mercury Mountaineer, 1998-2002 Lincoln Navigator, 2000-03 Ford Excursion, 2001-02 Ford Explorer Sport, 2001-02 Ford Explorer Sport Trac; pickup trucks – 1993-2004 Ford F-150, 1993-2003 Ford F-250, 1993-99

Ford F-250 gas engine, 1993-2003 Ford F-350, 1993-2003 Ford F-450, 1993-2003 Ford F-550, 1993-2002 F series Super Duty, 1998-2002 Ford Ranger, 2001 F-Series Super Crew, 2002-03 Lincoln Blackwood, 2003-04 Ford F-150 Lightning; vans – 1992-93, 1997-2003 E150-350, 1994-96 Ford Econoline, 1996-2003 Ford E-450 gas or natural gas, 2002 Ford E-550 gas, RVs and Motorhomes.

Moms in touch

Moms in Touch of Madison County has several groups representing schools of all grades to include college and career. To find out if there is a group already praying for your child's school, call area coordinator Marilyn Merkel 679-7912 or email mmerkel@knology.net.

Employment overview

Need help understanding how to apply for federal jobs? Reserve a seat for the Federal Employment Process overview on Oct. 6 from 9-11 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. A representative from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will provide information on various recruitment sources, application procedures, how candidates are evaluated and the referral process. There will also be a presentation on the "Ten Steps to a Federal Job." This session will cover how to analyze vacancy announcements on USAJOBS, write your resume in outline format, address KSAs and assessment questionnaires. All military ID and Common Access Card holders and their spouses are invited. To reserve a seat, call ACS at 876-5397 or email debra.d.jefferson@us.army.mil.

Thrift shop

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

Family concert

Grace Lutheran Church & School, 3321 South Memorial Parkway, will offer a free concert and picnic lunch for all to enjoy Saturday from 1-3 p.m. Nashville based recording artist Jennie Williams will perform.

USASAC ceremony

The Security Assistance Command will hold a change of command and retirement ceremony Sept. 30 at 10 a.m. at the AMC/USASAC headquarters. Brig. Gen. Chris Tucker will relinquish command to Maj. Gen. Frank D. Turner III.

Organization day

AMRDEC Organization Day is Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at building 3328. Lunch tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-10, and children 5 and under eat for free. Purchase tickets by Oct. 12. For more information call Pat Hooper 876-4273, Vanessa Cosper 842-1950 or John Joseph 842-4219.



Photo by Carrie E. David

Kwajalein ferry

This is the completed first of four ferries expected by late spring or early summer for the Kwajalein Atoll, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. The vehicle seats 149, or 24 more than current vessels.



Courtesy photo

Outreach effort

Russell Dunford of the Program Executive Office for Aviation, Aviation Ground Support Equipment, presented "What They Did Not Teach Me in College" at the honors program at University of Alabama-Huntsville. Dunford emphasized the idea that you are always interviewing for a position even before you sit down in the office. This is another example of communication through AMCOM's Army Education Outreach Program.