

# Redstone Rocket

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## Army aviation the first in, last out



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**A Fort Campbell, Ky., color guard stands at attention during the singing of the national anthem at the 2012 Army Aviation Association of America annual Professional Forum and Exposition in Nashville April 1-4. Association president retired Lt. Gen. Dan Petrosky is on stage behind the color guard.**

### *Fighting plans shared during annual forum*

**By KARI HAWKINS**  
Assistant editor  
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NASHVILLE – It may have been an Army aviation event. But that didn't keep officials from other services and countries from experiencing the aviation technology that makes the Army's Kiowa, Apache, Black Hawk, Chinook and unmanned aircraft fly high above the rest.

In the past 10 years, Army aircraft has made a name for itself as it has become the "must-have game changer" in the Global War on Terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq.

That success was much celebrated during the Army Aviation

Association of America (known popularly as Quad A) annual Professional Forum and Exposition April 1-4 at the Opryland Convention Center.

"This is your opportunity to see, touch and feel the aviation products of our industry," Quad A president retired Lt. Gen. Dan Petrosky said at the opening ceremony April 2.

"This is a big, huge event every year. As always, other branches are here, too. The Army does it so much better than the other services. Our leaders make themselves absolutely available during this forum and they are working openly with industry."

The forum's theme – "Army Aviation: Professional, Strong and Committed, Today and Tomorrow" – set the focus for the week's events and exhibition, with about 320 exhibitors covering more than 300,000 square feet of exhibit space.

"I think this theme is fitting," Maj. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield,

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### COMMUNITY NEWS

Ticket office visit saves you money.

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Admin professional cited for work ethic.

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Veterans Memorial attracting attention.

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Aviation leaders update programs.

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### WIN OR LOSE

Youth swim team registers members.

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# RocketViews

What is Wernher von Braun's legacy?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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**Dr. Kaylene Hughes**  
AMCOM Historical Office  
"I think he had a comprehensive vision of the future of missiles and rockets and space. And I think he had the knowhow and management skills to accomplish some of those visions. And I think he passed that knowledge onto the following generations."

County, are largely the result of the leadership he provided when he lived here. He was a very positive force on the economic and cultural development in this whole region."



**Todd Cannon**  
Marshall Space Flight Center, Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications  
"The scope and scale of the community in north Alabama, including Huntsville and Madison

County, are largely the result of the leadership he provided when he lived here. He was a very positive force on the economic and cultural development in this whole region."



**Chief Warrant Officer 5 Craig Shaw**  
Army Materiel Command G-4 (Logistics)  
"He is the father of space exploration. The impact that he's made in the Huntsville, Ala., area, the impacts that he's had, continues

now and will continue in the future."



**Kevin Moore**  
Army Materiel Command G-6 (Information Technology)  
"He founded a culture of excellence in the Huntsville area that continues today in the development of technologies that support

the war fighter."

## Letters to the editor

# Military family shares autism challenge

We are an active duty military family, residing on Redstone Arsenal with our four children. My husband is an Army officer and I am a former active duty Army officer. This is our 20th year with the military and we truly enjoy it; however, it can pose some genuinely difficult challenges for families – especially for families with children that have exceptional needs.

A year ago, our 4-year-old daughter was diagnosed as a child on the autism spectrum. You can imagine the daunting task of trying to provide her with the best possible services that Tricare will cover. We researched, visited and interviewed several providers in the area that would accept our insurance and give our daughter necessary, quality therapy and services.

We were fortunate to find a provider that has truly become a part of our family, as she does with each of her clients. Carol Vancil is a board-certified behavior analyst with more than 20 years experience in

the field of autism. She saw a need in Huntsville and created Applied Behavioral Concepts, a school that accepts children with exceptionalities (children that either aren't being challenged enough in the public school system or children that have social and academic needs that are not being met).

Our daughter has received services from Carol Vancil and her school for 10 months and the progress she has made has been extraordinary. We have enjoyed the program so much that each of our four children has participated in the school's academic program.

We have also been very impressed by the dedication that Carol and her school has for military and government employed families. Many of these families entrust the school with the care and education of their children. In addition, several employees of the school, teachers, staff and therapists are active duty or

retired military spouses. The therapy staff also employs an Army reservist. These staff members and teachers understand firsthand the challenges and demands that are placed on the military family. Their knowledge, care and concern on these matters are truly beneficial to the children in their charge.

The positive impact that this school has had on our family has been tremendous. There are many military and government families at the school that will attest to the same experience.

As April is Autism Awareness Month, I really felt compelled to share our story and the story of Carol Vancil and her school with the families employed on Redstone Arsenal. I believe that it would be of great interest to this community (especially during this month) and a great way to highlight the exceptional children of our military and government families.

Peggy Lee Wright

## Imagine your thoughts while being followed

I don't know about anyone else but I remember what it was like when I was 17 years old. My parents were pretty protective and strict when it came to my brother and me. For the most part, they would not allow us to go in our neighbors' homes without asking their permission first and most of the time the answer was "No!" They were concerned that we would somehow get into trouble, be the trouble, or be in trouble.

Growing up, my father was a police officer with an intimidating frame. In other words, he was "scary big." I say this because, as a police officer, he taught us to always be aware of our surround-

ings and what was going on. He also taught us to fight back if our safety was ever threatened. He felt so strong about our safety that he once told me to pick up a brick and smash a person in the head if that was the only thing I could do to protect myself from harm. I guess I should mention that I was pretty skinny as a kid. Needless to say, my father was concerned...

So, I can only imagine how it must feel to be walking home from a store with a bag of Skittles and a can of ice tea in hand and suddenly realize that someone I don't know is following me.

See Letter on page 3

## Quote of the week

'I have learned to use the word 'impossible' with the greatest caution.'

— Wernher von Braun  
Legendary rocket engineer (1912-77)

## Kudos to resource transition team

On behalf of the GFEBs Training Team, permit me to send special thanks to the Redstone Arsenal GFEBs transition team for all their hard work and progress toward a successful Wave 8a deployment. Heartfelt recognition to each end user who performed countless hours of computer-based training within the ALMS (some days more friendly

than others), and sat through the GFEBs instructor-led classes. We look forward to seeing great things out of Redstone and remain ready to support the mission through Wave 8b, now just about 92 days away!

**Jonathan Case**  
GFEBs training lead,  
Kingstowne, Va.

## RedstoneRocket

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# Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for March 29 through April 4:

**March 29:** A civilian approached Gate 9 lost. He was found to be operating his vehicle with a suspended license. He was issued a violation notice and released.

**March 30:** A Soldier was arrested by the Union County (Tenn.) Sheriff's Department for desertion. He was later released to Redstone Police and then transferred to Fort Knox, Ky.

**March 31:** A vehicle, driven by an unknown person, left the roadway at Goss and Rideout roads, striking a power pole guy wire, which in turn caused a large power outage. The driv-

er left the scene without reporting the accident. Power was later restored to the area.

**April 3:** A contractor reported that someone cut the lock on a box truck located at building 3303 and removed construction equipment valued at \$939.

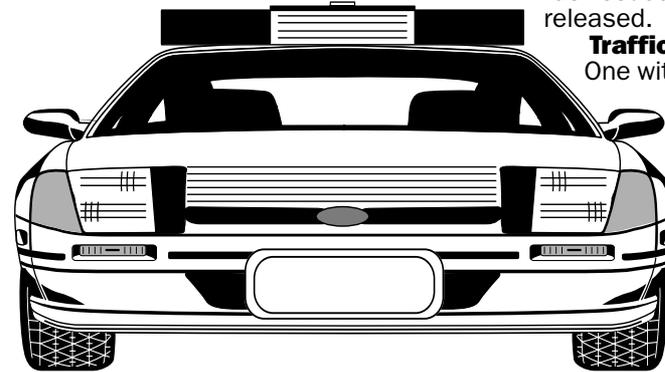
**April 3:** A contractor reported that someone removed scrap aluminum valued at \$1,200 from a demolition site at building 7288.

**April 4:** A contractor reported that someone removed cat 6 data communication wire valued at \$12,200 from a work site in building 5250.

**April 4:** A contractor entered Gate 9 going to work at a construction site on post. He was found to be operating his vehicle with a revoked license. He was issued a violation notice and released.

**Traffic accidents reported:** One with injury, one deer strike.

**Violation notices issued:** 9 speeding, 2 driving while license suspended or revoked, 2 failure to obey a traffic control device, 2 failure to stop at a red light, 1 failure to stop at a stop sign, 1 no proof of insurance.



Courtesy photo

## AER donation

Army Emergency Relief campaign chairman Capt. Alyssa Wood and AER officer Kerrie Branson accept a \$500 donation to Army Emergency Relief from officers of the National Special Forces Association North Alabama Chapter 92. Presenting the check are chapter treasurer John Gissell, at left, and chapter president Carl Riester. The AER campaign continues through May 15.

## Von Braun mementos fly into space

The global space community will continue the celebration of Dr. Wernher von Braun's 100th birthday as astronauts aboard the International Space Station leave their own personal congratulations with documents flown in space in his honor.

On von Braun's birthday, March 23, the European Space Agency launched the Ariane 5 Automated Transfer Vehicle, which carried supplies to be sent to the International Space Station. Among these supplies includes a digital reproduction of von Braun's early childhood designs for a future spacecraft. The original documents are on display at the U.S.

Space & Rocket Center as part of the exhibition, 100 Years of von Braun: His American Journey.

Von Braun, known as the father of America's space program, served as head of the Marshall Space Flight Center from 1960-70.

"He was a true visionary and this tribute is only fitting for the man who was preeminently in our aerospace achievements," Dr. Deborah Barnhart, CEO and executive director of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, said. "The legacy of Dr. Wernher von Braun lives on with the transport of these documents into space." (U.S. Space & Rocket Center release)

## Letter

continued from page 2

Initially, I probably would think that it is just my imagination. Who would want to follow me? I don't have anything. I'm just a kid. It might then dawn on me that since I am a kid I am probably easy prey to the person following me.

At this point, I'm probably torn: Do I run? Do I walk? or Do I walk really fast? Needless to say, I'm probably pretty scared right about now! However, since my police officer father instructed me to remain calm and think, I decide to attempt to lose the person that is following me.

Hmmm...

I can only imagine the shock and horror of realizing that the person I thought I lost

has now found me! Oh God... What do I do?

I can only imagine how I would feel once I realized that this person is a man and not someone my age.

I can only imagine the natural instinct to protect myself fostered by my father's guidance to survive.

But, what I didn't imagine is that, while trying to survive, the person who followed me from the start would pull out a handgun and end my life...

Wow! This could have been me...

**Kevin Moore**

Army Materiel Command

*Editor's note: Kevin Moore is also a public speaker and published author on diversity.*

*The views expressed in this letter are his own and do not represent the position of the Army Materiel Command.*

## Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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**Name:** Sharonda Pearson

**Job:** Public affairs specialist, AM-COM/Garrison Public Affairs Office

**Where do you call home?**  
Toledo, Ohio

**What do you like about your job?**

I love my job. I love everything about my job and I couldn't think of another career field that I'd rather work in in support of the Army.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

I volunteer, read and work out.

**What are your goals?**

To advance my career, and eventually open a nonprofit organization helping troubled teens.



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

To be CEO of a nonprofit and helping as many people as possible.

# Save money by going to ticket and travel offices

By BETH SKARUPA

Staff writer

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Tickets to Disney World may be one of its biggest sellers, but Ivan James likes to stop by the ITR ticket office to find out about places to go and things to do closer to home.

"They've provided me with a lot of information on products and services in the local area. I like hiking and they've provided me with information about hiking trails," James, who works in the NAF human resource office, said. The staff at the ticket office is happy to help.

Whether customers are looking for tickets to theme parks, dinner theatres, museums, and special events, or just wanting to learn about area attractions, the ticket office is a one-stop shop for anyone with access to the Arsenal. Its counterpart and next-door-neighbor, the leisure travel office, will step in to help coordinate activities and travel.

"The ticket office and leisure travel are a hand-in-hand operation," Brian Marbre, ticket office assistant manager, said. "The services and discounts we offer here are a lot greater than you can get outside the gates."

Located in the lobby of the Diane

Campbell Community Activity Center, adjacent to the Java Cafe, the ticket and travel offices are good places to start planning weekend or vacation activities. Both are in the business of saving their customers money.

"We want the customer to make us their first choice in any ticket purchases or travel that they do," Marbre said. "We do encourage everyone to save money. Even if we don't have what they're looking for here, we'll ask leisure travel to look something up online. We'll even call the attraction and ask if they offer a discount. We want them to come to us first and see what we can offer them."

## FMWR focus Part 10 of series

The ticket office offers four categories of tickets: Disney tickets, local tickets, consignment tickets, and Military Travel Vouchers. Discounts of 10-45 percent off the gate price are offered in all four categories.

In 2011, the office conducted more than \$1 million in ticket sales. About 75 percent of sales were Disney tickets, with Six Flags tickets as the next biggest seller.

Disney World tickets are pre-purchased through the Commander Navy Region through the Military Ticket Program. Because Disney prices rise annually, Disney tickets are bulk purchased through the year to help save the customer money. Prices are matched to the Shades of Green's military office in Orlando. Shades of Green is a resort hotel on the Disney property reserved exclusively for the military and Department of Defense community. Disneyland tickets also are available through the ticket office, but must be special ordered. Special orders take up to seven days and incur a \$15 FedEx fee.

Currently, Disney has a special deal for military members. Active and retired servicemembers, including Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserves, can purchase up to 12 Disney World four-day park hopper tickets for \$138 per person. Tickets can be purchased for friends and family, but the servicemember must be present to activate the ticket at the gate. Only six tickets per week can be activated upon gate entry.

Local consignment tickets give customers an opportunity to visit local museums and theme parks at a reduced rate offered only through the ITR ticket office. Local tickets include Six Flags, Dollywood, Point Mallard, and Alabama

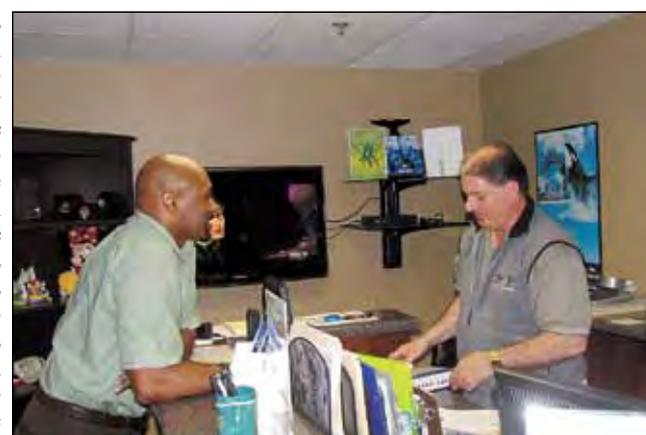


Photo by Beth Skarupa

**Customer Ivan James talks to recreation assistant Larry Keel about area attractions and events at the ITR ticket office in the Diane Campbell Community Activity Center.**

Adventure. Tickets to community events such as the upcoming Whistle Stop Festival May 4-5 (\$30 for a weekend pass) and the annual Brewfest in downtown Huntsville also are available.

Consignment tickets include attractions such as Sea World, Universal Studios, and Busch Gardens. City passes for Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco and Seattle are also available.

The Military Travel Voucher program is one of the best ticketing programs at the ITR ticket office, according to Marbre. Contracts are handled annually by the Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation command, with prices negotiated at an extreme discount. Multiple attractions.

**See Tickets on page 10**

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## Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events

The Garrison's Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation provided the following list of upcoming events:

### Desserts and jazz

The Sights and Sounds of Redstone present "A Sweet Affair" on Friday from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, building 3711. Come out and sample a variety of desserts featuring some of the Tennessee Valley's hottest bakers and cookie and cake makers while listening to smooth jazz by Rick Ward and Company. Also featuring coffee, teas and sandwiches from FMWR's Java Café. Tickets are

\$10 and available at the Community Activity Center. There will be free hors d'oeuvres and drink specials. For more information, call 842-3070.

### Summer camp

CYSS Summer Camp will be held June 4 through Aug. 3 at the School Age Center, building 3155, for grades 1-5 and at the Youth Center, building 3148, for grades 6-12. Registration is now open. For more information, call 876-3704.

### Turkey season

Turkey season is through April 30 from dawn to noon at Outdoor Rec-

reation. Turkey season is open to all Redstone Arsenal hunters with a permit. For more information, call 876-4868.

### Youth flag football

Registration continues until April 30 for Child Youth and School Services flag football. Cost is \$40, which includes uniform. This is open to boys and girls ages 5-17. Please bring current sports physical before the first practice. Practices take place in May and games will be played in June and July. Practices and games are played at the CYSS multipurpose fields. Call 876-3704 for registration information

or 313-3699 for program information.

### Fun run

The Month of the Military Child 2012 Fun Run is Saturday at the jogging path at the intersection of Goss and Hughes roads. Parking is available at Bicentennial Chapel, CYSS sports field or the Goss Road Child Development Center. The \$3 fee includes T-shirt. Pre-race check-in begins at 12:30 p.m., and the race starts at 1. Ages 7 and under run a half-mile, ages 10 and under run one mile, ages 13 and under run 1.5 miles and ages 17 and under run two miles. Call 876-3704 for registration information or 313-3699 for program information.

# Month focuses on abuse prevention issues

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

[skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com)

For a month with only 30 days, April has a big responsibility for spreading awareness about areas of concern.

This is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month and Autism Awareness Month.

All three subjects were highlighted in an information booth last week at various locations on post. The table was at Redstone Lanes on April 3, the Sparkman Cafeteria on April 4 and the Exchange on April 5.

“We want people to be aware of resources and information and that they can come to us for help,” Virginia Dempsey, family advocacy program manager at Army Community Service, said.

She was joined by Perrar Joseph, who on April 2 became ACS’ victim advocate program manager; Charlene Cox, the New Parent Support program manager; and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Cundiff, the installation equal opportunity adviser and Sexual Harassment Assault



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Providing awareness information April 4 at the Sparkman Cafeteria are, from left, Virginia Dempsey, Perrar Joseph, Charlene Cox and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Cundiff.**

Response and Prevention program manager.

Natalie Taylor serves as the Exceptional Family Member Program manager at ACS. For more information about these programs, call Army Community Service at 876-5397.

# Scenes from Easter Eggstravaganza



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Kids in the 4- to 6-year-old group search for Easter eggs at the Child Youth and School Service's annual Easter Eggstravaganza on Saturday. The event, for infants to 10-year-olds, was held at the Community Activity Field.**

*Saturday's egg hunt hatches family fun*



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Jamey Ford of the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works and his wife, Robin, help their 11-month-old son, Drew, to his basket of eggs.**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Maj. Shonnel Makwakwa of the Command and General Staff School helps her 2-year-old daughter, Sydnee, sit on the Easter bunny's lap.**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Friends, from left, Kyle Geitgey, Quincy Campbell and Jordan Brown take a break to talk hunting strategy.**

# Youngsters parade into Month of Military Child

*Scenes from kickoffs at children's centers*



**Goss Road Child Development Center kickoff parade participants proceed around the block April 2.**

Photo by Ellen Hudson  
**Christian Irby and Adriana Gadomski hold hands in the Goss Road CDC parade.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson  
**This is the start of the Mills Road CDC parade.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson  
**Alyssa De la Rosa and Tamea Edwards are greeted by Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton during the Goss Road CDC parade.**

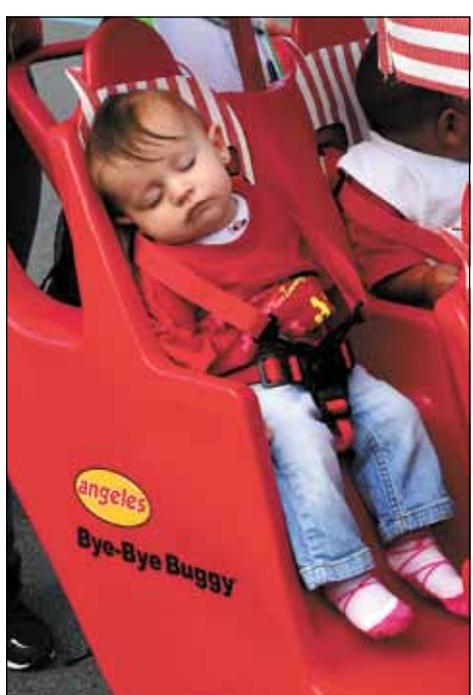


Photo by Ellen Hudson  
**Daisy Bray sleeps through the Mills Road CDC parade.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson  
**Youngsters lead the pledge of allegiance before the kickoff parade April 2 at the Mills Road Child Development Center.**

# Consumers have options for lighter utility bills

By PATRICK HOLMES

DPW Energy Office

An average household dedicates about 6 percent of its energy budget to lighting. Switching to energy-efficient lighting is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bills. Timers and motion sensors save you even more money by reducing the amount of time lights are on but not being used.

## Indoor lighting

You have many choices in energy-efficient lighting. The most popular light bulbs available are halogen incandescents, compact fluorescent lamps and light-emitting diodes. Although these types can initially cost more than traditional incandescent bulbs, over their lifetime they save you money because they use less electricity.

Halogen incandescent light bulbs are simply energy-efficient incandescent bulbs and can last up to three times longer than traditional incandescent light bulbs. Halogen incandescents come in a wide range of shapes and colors and can be used with dimmers. Halogen bulbs also give off more heat than other types which must be removed by the AC system.

CFL bulbs last about 10 times longer and use about one-fourth the energy of traditional incandescent bulbs. A typical CFL can pay for itself in energy savings in less than nine months and continue to save you money each month.

You can buy CFLs that offer the same brightness and colors as traditional incandescent bulbs. Some CFLs are encased in a cover to further diffuse the light and provide a similar shape to traditional incandescent bulbs.

CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury and require special handling if they are broken. On average, CFLs contain about four milligrams of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. By comparison, older glass thermometers contain about 500 milligrams of mercury – an amount equal to the mercury in more than 100 CFLs. CFLs should be recycled at the end of their lifespan. Many retailers recycle CFLs for free. Visit [epa.gov/cfl](http://epa.gov/cfl) for cleanup and safe disposal steps.

LED bulbs are rapidly expanding in household use. Energy Star-qualified LEDs use only about 20-25 percent of the energy and last up to 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs. They come in a variety of colors, and some are dimmable or offer convenient features such as daylight and motion sensors.

In addition to standard screw-in bulbs, you'll find LEDs in desk lamps, kitchen under-cabinet lighting, and even holiday light strings.

## Indoor lighting tips

Replacing 15 inefficient incandescent bulbs in your home with energy-saving bulbs could save you about \$50 per year. Replace your old incandescent bulbs with Energy Star-qualified bulbs for the best quality in savings.

Visit [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) to find the right light bulbs for your fixtures. They are available in sizes and shapes to fit in almost any fixture and provide the greatest savings in fixtures that are on for a long time each day.

When remodeling, look for recessed light fixtures or "cans" which are rated for contact with insulation and are air tight (ICAT rated).

When replacing incandescent bulbs from recessed light fixtures, use energy-efficient bulbs that are rated for that purpose. For example, the heat buildup in downlights will significantly shorten the life of spiral CFLs.

Consider purchasing Energy Star-qualified fixtures. They are available in many styles, distribute light more efficiently and evenly than standard fixtures, and some offer convenient features such as dimming.

Controls such as timers and photocells save electricity by turning lights off when not in use. Dimmers save electricity when used to lower light levels. Be sure to select products that are compatible with the energy-efficient bulbs you want to use.

Keep your curtains or shades open to use day lighting instead of turning on lights. For more privacy, use light-colored, loose-weave curtains to allow daylight into the room. Also, decorate with lighter colors that reflect daylight.



## Outdoor lighting

Many homeowners use outdoor lighting for decoration and security. A variety of products are available from low-voltage pathway lighting to motion-detector floodlights.

LEDs work well indoors and outdoors because of their durability and performance in cold environments. Look for LED products such as pathway lights, step lights and porch lights for outdoor use. You can also find solar powered outdoor lighting. Because outdoor lights are usually left on a long time, using CFLs or LEDs in these fixtures will save a lot of energy. Most bare spiral CFLs can be used in enclosed fixtures that protect them from the weather.

CFLs and LEDs are available as flood lights. These models have been tested to withstand the rain and snow so they can be used in exposed fixtures. Look for Energy Star-qualified fixtures that are designed for outdoor use and come with features like automatic daylight shutoff and motion sensors.

## Lighting facts label

You'll find a new label on light bulb packages starting in 2012: the lighting facts label. The Federal Trade Commission is requiring the label on all light bulb packages to help consumers easily compare energy-efficient light bulbs. The label includes:

- Brightness, measured in lumens
- Estimated yearly energy cost (similar to the EnergyGuide label)
- Lifespan
- Light appearance (from warm to cool)
- Energy used, measured in watts.

Like the helpful nutrition label on food products, the lighting facts label will help you to understand exactly what you are buying and to buy the light bulbs that are right for you. In the past, we bought light bulbs based on how much energy, or watts, they use. Wouldn't it make more sense to buy lights based on how much light they provide?

When you're shopping for light bulbs, you can choose your next light bulb for the brightness you want by comparing lumens instead of watts. A lumen is a measure of the amount of brightness of a light bulb – the higher the number of lumens, the brighter the light bulb.

If you're replacing an inefficient 100-watt bulb, look for an energy-saving bulb that puts out about 1600 lumens. To replace a 60 W equivalent, look for a bulb with about 800 lumens.

So when you're looking for a new bulb, look for lumens – or how bright the bulb is.

Also beginning in 2012, the common light bulbs we use will be required to be about 25 percent more energy efficient to meet the new efficiency standards of the bipartisan Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.

As of Jan. 1, 2012, traditional 100 W incandescent light bulbs will not meet the standards and will no longer be available. Similar standards will take effect for traditional 75 W incandescent bulbs as of Jan. 1, 2013, and traditional 40 W and 60 W incandescent bulbs as of Jan. 1, 2014. However, you have many lighting options that are EISA-compliant and will save you money.

*Editor's note: Patrick Holmes is the quality assurance and engineering contractor in the Directorate of Public Works' Energy Office.*

# Volunteer care givers ready to serve at chapel

## Ceremony slated for new ministry

By BETH SKARUPA  
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After more than a year of extensive training, nine members of the Bicentennial Chapel's Protestant congregation will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers at a ceremony during the 11 a.m. service Sunday. Then they hope to get to work doing God's work.

Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers who help pastors provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in the congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. Once they are commissioned, Michelle Perrin, Kim and Scott Schuffler, Charlotte Rose, Colleen Mills, Soran and Ray Thrasher, Patricia Mathison and Sharon Olshefski will be ready to be assigned care receivers by the Garrison chaplain.

"It's not something I'm going to take lightly, it's a privilege and a responsibility," Olshefski said. "I'm very much looking forward to being a caregiver and helping a sister in Christ."

Stephen Ministry is an outreach program that thousands of congregations across the world have adopted. Volunteers complete an initial 50 hours of training which focuses on the importance of prayer and listening, support and encouragement, and how to keep from being an adviser or problem-solver.

"For me, this was an opportunity to be the heart of Jesus and a tool to minister to others. We're not counselors, we're not doctors, but we can just point to them," Olshefski said. "I think it makes me a better minister of the word of God to my fellow Christians."

Rad Reavis, the chapel's religious edu-



Courtesy photo

**Nine members of the Bicentennial Chapel's Protestant congregation will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers at the 11 a.m. Sunday service. From left are Judy Strange, a Stephen Ministry leader, with candidates Patricia Mathison, Ray Thrasher, Colleen Mills, Sharon Olshefski, and Soran Thrasher with Rad Reavis, a Stephen Ministry leader and religious education director at the chapel. Not pictured are Michelle Perrin, Scott and Kim Schuffler and Charlotte Rose.**

cation coordinator, and Judy Strange became Stephen Ministry leaders, trained leaders in the congregation who oversee and direct the Stephen Ministry. They first attended a training session in Orlando, Fla., in January 2010 after Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie asked the parish council to consider it. Then they came back to the chapel to ask for volunteers.

"We were wondering if we could get anyone to do that much training," Strange said. "And then of course, after the training, then you are assigned your care receiver and that commitment can last as long as a year."

Stephen Ministers usually serve for at least two years. Active Stephen Ministers participate in twice-monthly supervision

and continuing education sessions as well.

Ray Thrasher decided to sign up for the Stephen Ministry training after thinking about it for a long time and doing a lot of meditation and praying about it.

"I wanted to do something as an outreach program and I wanted to serve the Lord. I wanted to be beneficial to my care receiver and bring honor and glory to my Lord Jesus Christ," Thrasher said.

The Stephen Ministry training included hours and hours of skill practice, where the volunteers took turns role playing. They would use prompts from the training materials and act out being the care givers and care receivers in hypothetical situations.

"The thing that struck me about it is

I have to bear in mind that I am the care giver but God is the cure giver," Thrasher said. "I'm really looking forward to it. It's an opportunity to be of service to others and more importantly to God, and that He would be glorified in the process."

Thrasher's wife, Soran, also signed up for the training and will be commissioned as a Stephen Minister with him. It is important that men as well as women signed up for the program, since only male care givers will be assigned to male care receivers and females to females.

"Basically, the framework of the Stephen Ministry is that it's care giving, it's not solving someone's problem for them," Strange said. "Mainly you are to come alongside someone who would make it on their own, not someone who would need professional help, and give them support."

As Stephen leaders, Reavis and Strange observed the skill practice and gave comments and feedback afterward.

"We have been amazed at how creative these people have been in their skill practice," Reavis said. "Everybody has done just an exceptional job."

"I just really feel like God sent us the best people because they're very, very good at what they're able to do," Strange added.

The Stephen Ministry is expected to be a multiplier of the Garrison chaplain's time because a military chaplain does not always have enough time to spend with each of his individual members as he would like to spend with them. Now if he knows about someone that has a need, he can assign one of the Stephen Ministers to help.

"And these people can follow up for several months if it takes that long for a person to get through the crisis, or it can be as much as a year or longer," Strange said.

For more information about the chapel's Stephen Ministry, call Reavis at 876-6874.

## Tickets

continued from page 4

are available for all 50 states. These tickets are typically 40 percent or higher off the gate price.

"We realize that there are competitive offers out there and you might find a better rate online, but with us there are no hidden fees or taxes and we operate under set Army standards," Marbrey said. "We're really giving the Redstone community the opportunity to buy tickets and travel at a greatly reduced rate in these hard economic times. And we're the best in the business at what we do."

The ticket office also sells tickets for

the Army Concert Tour that comes to the Arsenal annually. This tour is a public venue, so patrons outside of the Arsenal can purchase tickets from the ticket office by phone. All other types of tickets sold at the ticket office must be purchased in person.

As an added benefit to the Redstone community, the ticket office also operates and controls rental spaces at the Commissary Resale Lot. A permit is issued and a space in the lot is assigned for 30 days. Customers can sell automobiles, boats, campers and RVs there for a nominal fee.

The leisure travel office offers a wide range of discounts on cruises, vacation packages, airline tickets, trips, and tours, saving the customer an average of

8-40 percent on destinations around the world. Grace Bennett, the travel agent, spends an average of 1-2 hours per customer helping to plan vacations and activities.

"One of the best things to do is to call Grace and make an appointment. Especially if you're booking a cruise, you need to sit down and go over everything. It's a very personable experience," Marbrey said.

Hours of operation for the ticket office are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The leisure travel office is open Monday through Friday from 9-5. Both are open during lunch, but are closed on weekends and holidays.

More information about both the ticket and travel offices, as well as a link to the ticket office's price sheet that is up-

dated monthly, can be found online at [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com) under lodging & leisure. Although the ticket office lists attractions primarily in the Southeast region on its price sheet, Marbrey encourages customers to inquire about any other attractions.

"We can get tickets for a lot of attractions that are not listed, although obviously not everything," Marbrey said. "There's not anything that we won't try to do for the customer."

To that end, Marbrey is currently working on deals with Regal Cinemas and the Atlanta Falcons. He will start selling Regal Supersaver tickets in the next month and he said he will have more information about the Atlanta Falcons game tickets in May.

## PeopleProfile

# Worker has passion for administrative profession

*Earns local recognition as professional of year*

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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When Christina McClain comes to work at PEO Aviation every day, she doesn't just do her job – she does whatever the mission requires of her.

“Do your job. Do what you're hired to do, and don't just say, ‘well that's not in my job description and that's not what I'm supposed to do,’” advised McClain, administrative assistant to Lt. Col Steven Van Riper and Wayne Hudry in the Apache Sensors Product Office. “On a daily basis I do a lot of

things that are not in my job description, but I do it to assist people. You should always go above and beyond your job description and not because of the position or the title you hold, but because you're going to get the satisfaction at the end of the day that you've done your job well and you've helped others.”

Thanks to heeding her own advice, McClain was named the International Association of Administrative Professionals-Redstone Chapter's Administrative Professional of the Year March 22.

“I try not to focus on myself, but what is best, efficient and proficient for the organization,” McClain said of her work ethic. “It should always be about

what is best for the group or organization.”

As a member of the International Association of Administrative Professionals, Redstone Chapter, McClain was nominated, and with her fellow nominees was required to explain why she believes she has the qualifications and personal characteristics to succeed in her career. A result of her heartfelt answer, McClain was chosen for the honor and will compete at the division level in June.

“I believe that as an administrative assistant, we are to assist, to assist in any way possible and to help others in achieving the task at hand,” she said. “I believe in walking in integrity. My faith is in God, and I believe in walking in godly character daily. I always go above and beyond the call of duty, and I think everyone should do that regardless of their position or title. You should be passionate about your job. I truly love my job. I love assisting people, helping people.”

**See Admin on page 15**



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

**Christina McClain, administrative assistant to Lt. Col. Steven Van Riper and Wayne Hudry in PEO Aviation's Apache Sensors Product Office, was named Redstone Arsenal's Administrative Professional of the Year March 22.**

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# SMDC accounting division chief named Army's best

By **JASON CUTSHAW**

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

To be the best leader, it helps to have the best team. Donna Bowden, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command G-8 Accounting Division chief, has been selected as the fiscal 2011 Army Accounting (above Army Command) Award winner.

This marks the second consecutive year SMDC/ARSTRAT won in the category. Last year, Irene Lloyd was named the FY 2010 winner.

"I am just overwhelmed," Bowden said. "This is very exciting to know that out of all of the Army resource managers, that not only did I get nominated, but I actually won. But I have to say that this is not just my award. This is the SMDC G-8 award, and I am proud to represent each and every member, who all work so hard for the command and the war fighters."

Bowden was recognized for her services as the accounting division chief for SMDC. In this capacity, she served as the first line supervisor responsible for management, supervision and technical direction of nine assigned personnel. She also has the responsibility for all current and future accounting systems used to control financial resources for the command.

"I found out about winning the award on a Friday afternoon, a little after 4 o'clock," Bowden said. "Col. Karl Kraus (SMDC deputy chief of staff, G-8) sent out an 'all-hands' message to come to the front of the office. I went there not knowing what to expect, and to receive this was a surprise.

"It is incredible that they thought enough of me to nominate me for this award," she added.



**Donna Bowden**

SMDC's most senior leader thanked Bowden for her hard work and said the award was earned by a professional leading a professional team.

"The Army selected Donna for her outstanding leadership and tireless effort in support of our command and the Army accounting professionals," SMDC commander Lt. Gen. Richard Formica said. "Of her many accomplishments noted in the nomination, she selflessly volunteered to manage two divisions and 25 people for a nine-month period while the command sought to fill the vacancy. This award recognizes Donna's accomplishments as well as her dedication to public service.

"We are proud of Donna and the professional G-8 team we have in this command," he added. "We are pleased to see the Army recognize what we see every day here at SMDC/ARSTRAT."

Concurring on what the general said about her team, Bowden praised her team and emphasized that she wants to develop a capable, highly-motivated customer service-focused team. Bowden also said she wants to help guide her team to be the best and become the next generation of senior level accounting professionals.

"Without my accounting division, there would be no award," Bowden said. "My accounting division is the best in the Army, and probably the best in the Department of Defense. I have a

great team. I am very blessed."

Bowden will be recognized in late spring, during Army Day at the American Society of Military Comptrollers Professional Development Institute in Anaheim, Calif. She will also be recognized as an award winner in an upcoming issue of the Army Resource Management magazine.

"The best part of my job is knowing that I come to work every day and what we do is meaningful to the war fighters," Bowden said.

# Fitness trainer advocates investing time in self

By **BETH SKARUPA**

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Victor Terrell can inspire even the most sedentary person to get up and get moving. His enthusiasm for fitness is so infectious that it's no surprise he was able to use his passion to create a successful small business.

"Within 21 days of retiring from the U.S. Army, I started Jumpstart Fitness. My background was in logistics, but logistics wasn't really my passion. I wanted to pursue my passion," he said.

Originally from Gadsden, Terrell joined the Army after graduating high school in 1977. His initial duty station was in Hanau, Germany. He graduated from the Master Fitness Training program while he was still stationed in Germany.

"It's a very selective program in the Army. To graduate from the program you really have to be physically fit. It's something that I really enjoyed," he said.

After 21 years of service, and being stationed at Redstone Arsenal, he retired as a master sergeant in 1998. He has been inspiring others to get fit ever since.

As a personal trainer and fitness coach, he sees his responsibility to his clients as helping them to become healthy and fit. He does this by not only motivating them, but educating them in the areas of health and fitness as well. He encourages his clients to change their lifestyle and eating habits instead of focusing on losing weight.

"Oftentimes people come to me thinking that if they lose weight, it will change their life. That it will make them happier. It would give them more energy, but what I try to teach them is this, what changes your life is you changing your lifestyle," he said.

That involves changing the way they eat, changing what they drink, and changing the amount of rest that they receive.

"And bottom line, start pursuing your passions. If your passion is dancing, work out to dance harder. If your passion is hiking, work out so that you can hike farther. Roller skating, cycling, whatever it is that you have a passion for, let exercise give you the energy and the strength to enjoy your lifestyle," he said. "By doing that, the weight comes off naturally. But if you focus on weight loss thinking that you will be happy, you've got it wrong. Start enjoying your life. The weight will come off and you will enjoy your life even more."

In his business he offers two differ-



Photo by Beth Skarupa

**Victor Terrell started his own business, Jumpstart Fitness, when he retired from the Army in 1998.**

ent fitness programs: a personal one-on-one fitness program and a group fitness program called boot camp. The one-on-one program is designed to address the concerns a client might have about exercise. He trains the client at an intensity that complements the client's fitness level.

"If you are presently at a level one, I train you at a level one until I graduate you up to a level two. It's your program. As a personal trainer, my responsibility is to guide you through your program," he said.

He described the boot camp program as a group formatted program. He becomes each person's drill sergeant and fitness coach.

"I become that person that you have to answer to. I take it very seriously," he said. "I think that as a boot camp fitness instructor, my responsibility to you is to challenge you physically, mentally and spiritually."

He does that by having the group do different exercises that he said might appear to be difficult in the beginning, but the group gets stronger and healthier as they continue to do them. He calls it his "no nonsense" approach to the Jumpstart Fitness boot camp program.

On average, 10-12 people sign up for his boot camps. He offers two different sessions: one in the mornings, 5:30-6:30 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday; the other in the evenings, 6-7 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. He also schedules monthly hikes at nearby attractions such as the Walls of Jericho for those participating in his boot camp.

"My clients understand that when they come to my program it's about work. It's

**See Trainer on page 1B**

# What a personal trainer can do for you

By BETH SKARUPA

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I first met personal fitness trainer Victor Terrell when I was writing an article for the *Redstone Rocket* about Marilyn Truesdale's weight loss success story that was published in January. She is the Commissary teller who went from a size 22 to a size 8 in just over a year. She posed for the picture I took of her in a pair of jeans that looked huge on her newly tiny body. But what struck me about Marilyn was not how thin she had become, but how enthusiastic she was about fitness. She attributed some of her success to Terrell. He is the one she called when she decided it was finally time to take care of herself again. She urged me to call him about her training.

I called Terrell to ask him a few questions for the article. He was so enthusiastic

and inspirational that when I got off the phone, I decided I was going to change my lifestyle. That very day I made time for me. I went for a walk and vowed to exercise more often. Terrell also had surprised me by offering to help me reach my personal fitness goals. He said he wanted to train me free of charge at his business, Jumpstart Fitness, so I could see what personal training was all about. All I had to do was think about it.

With my boss' blessing, I decided to take Terrell up on his offer. I, like Truesdale, am a busy wife and mother who usually did not make time for exercise. So many other things, things that I thought were more important, would get in the way. I needed to lose about 10 pounds, but more importantly I needed to get stronger, eat right, exercise and take care of myself.

I started working out with Terrell the second week of January. We tried to meet twice a week, but my work and family

commitments often got in the way. Still, running on the treadmill, working out with weights, and doing pushups and crunches at Jumpstart Fitness always made me feel like I had accomplished something. The adrenalin was good for me and so was the fact that I was getting healthier.

The best thing about committing to these personal training sessions is that I didn't want to cancel them if I could help it. Even if I didn't feel like working out, I had to because Terrell was there waiting for me. Once I was there, the workout was hard but I ended up being happy that I did it. It also, surprisingly, built confidence because I knew I was getting stronger every day.

Now I am enthusiastic about fitness, too. I encourage my husband and children to get moving. I have lost body fat and gained muscle. I have changed my eating habits. I am close to reaching my goal of losing 10 pounds.

## Trainer

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about me challenging your body so you can become healthy and strong and fit. My responsibility to my clients is to help them achieve their fitness goals by decreasing the probability of injury," he said.

As for advising his clients what to eat and drink, he said he does not advocate a diet program because diets do not work. First he tells his clients to take away sweets.

"I tell you this. We're going to assume we live in the caveman era where there is no cake, candy, cookies and ice cream. When you're thirsty, you drink water. When you're hungry, you consume berries, nuts and grains," he said. "Your protein source is fish, birds. Things that you want to be more like in the animal world are the foods that we consume. For example, pigs are fat. Why consume a lot of pig when you're trying to decrease your

body fat?"

While having a personal trainer helps people get fit because they have someone to answer to, friends can motivate each other in the same way. Terrell encourages having a fitness buddy who can serve the same purpose as a trainer, someone that you have to meet at the gym on days that you really don't feel like working out.

"Oftentimes people put themselves second, third or fourth. You have to make your life a priority. You have to make your life as important to you as your job is to your employer. Oftentimes by the time we get off work, take care of the kids, run errands, we're too tired to give ourselves the time we need to take care of ourselves. And over a period of months and years we run ourselves ragged because we don't take the time to invest in ourselves," he said.

Terrell enjoys motivating people and helping them discover their passion. He wants them to remember what is important to them and not only try to make other people happy. He often speaks

about fitness to groups both on and off the Arsenal. He offered words of advice to anyone reading this article.

"I challenge you for the next two weeks, make yourself more important than everything else in your life. Take your time back. For the next two weeks, use the word selfish," he said. "Selfish is not a bad word if you're taking the time to rejuvenate. Give yourself time. It's yours. Take it back. Go on a walk, go dancing, smell the flowers. Do something that keeps your body in motion.

"Bottom line, if you don't use it you lose it. So start enjoying your life. Oftentimes we get so caught up in the technical aspect of weight loss that we lose the importance of just having fun and enjoying your life, of doing those things that you used to do when you were a child. Just do those things, have fun and the weight will come off. And if you're doing an exercise that is not fun, it wasn't meant for you. Find something else."

Terrell is constantly challenging himself as well. He believes in training for

Terrell also inspired me to do things that I enjoy, like hiking or simply walking my dog, more often. In this world of computer, telephone, and television screens, we all need to get out and get moving more often. We need to take time for ourselves. We need to sign up for dance classes or find a friend who will commit to be a fitness partner who makes us show up at the gym. But most of all, we need to remember to take time to enjoy life and take care of ourselves so we can do it.

A personal trainer can help you get on the road to fitness, but so can classes, friends and teams. Some people, like me, can benefit from having someone who will hold them accountable if they don't show up. Some can benefit from doing something they always enjoyed, like playing softball or dancing. What's important is deciding to get fit and then finding ways to do it.

a purpose, to reach a goal. In September 2011 he hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. It took him five hours to hike down. He spent the night at Phantom Ranch, then hiked back up in the morning. It took him eight hours and one minute to get to the top.

"I thank God every day that I did it because it reminded me of who I really am. And it reminded me of what I learned of myself while a member of the 82nd Airborne Division. It reminded me to seek out challenges in my life and conquer those challenges," he said.

His next challenge is to accomplish something on his bucket list: to go skydiving on April 28. After that he plans to focus his training on hiking the Appalachian Trail this summer. And he and his wife, Paulette, are starting a new adventure together. They recently purchased a farm in Tennessee where they plan to raise animals.

"I know if I'm 53 years old and I'm living this lifestyle, anyone can do it," he said.

## Admin

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One of 10 children, McClain was born and raised in New London, Conn. Upon graduating from high school McClain was working two jobs, as a grocery store cashier during the day and stuffing Sunday ads in newspapers at night, when she realized there had to be something more to life.

"It just hit me one day. I couldn't do this forever," she said. "All I would do

was work, sleep, work sleep. I said to myself, 'Surely there's got to be something else.'"

And so she turned to the Army for a purpose, having no idea that her career would one day come full circle. Today, she attributes her six years on active duty as one of the reasons why she has such a passion for her job.

"I served in the Army, not knowing years later I would support the Army," McClain said. "I think that's why I have a greater passion. It just gives you a sense of importance. Serving in it helps you to

have a greater understanding of the importance of assisting. With the Apache program that I'm on, what we do is vital, because it supports the war fighter in the field. We have to make sure our product is sustainable and working properly for the safety and the return of the Soldiers. What you do does matter and makes a difference to whether the Soldiers will return home alive."

Prior to accepting her civilian job at PEO Aviation's Apache Product Sensors Product Office in 2009, she worked for SMDC and MDA as a contractor, as well

as Raytheon and Northrop Grumman. No matter where she has spent her days however, her work ethic has remained the same. She believes in career advancement, training and education and advocates open communication in the workplace. And having spent her teenage days working at Dunkin' Donuts where she learned the customer is always right, customer service is key to her professional outlook.

"Always think of your job as providing a service and be the best customer service representative for you and your organization," McClain said.

## AroundTown

## Veterans memorial attracts attention downtown

*Brick pavers, other plans continue to grow tribute*

By KARI HAWKINS  
Assistant editor  
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Since it was dedicated on Nov. 11, 2011, the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial in downtown Huntsville has stood as a testament to the local community's support of its military.

From the black granite markers defining the nation's wars to the Sacrifice statue giving a glimpse of war's struggles to the bricks forming a circumference around the memorial, each element of the stately monument has been paid for through funds raised within the community.

And that's saying a lot when the price tag has reached beyond the \$3 million mark.

"This community is amazing," said Vietnam veteran and retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet, who leads the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial Foundation.

"We've been able to raise this money during a time when we've been in somewhat of a recession. And what we've gotten for that money is awesome. The beauty of this place is awesome. I did not even expect how this place would become. There is nothing else like this memorial anywhere else but in Washington, D.C."

Much of the memorial, located in Veterans Park and bordered by Monroe, Jefferson and Washington streets as well as I-565, has been built with corporate support, with thousands of dollars donated for freedom fountain, the Sacrifice and upcoming Courage statues, the American flag and several other features. But a grassroots campaign also brought in funds from local schools and organizations, and from individuals who purchased a \$100 engraved brick paver to honor a veteran or veterans group.

"We raised \$3.2 million during a nine to 10 year campaign," Drolet said.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Vietnam veteran and retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet points out the brick pavers that define the circumference of the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial.**

"The response to this memorial has been tremendous. The community support has just been fantastic and overwhelming. And the city commitment to maintaining the park (which now falls under the city's parks program) at such a high standard is unbelievable."

But soon after the unveiling of the memorial, it became apparent that some orders for engraved bricks are missing or that some of the bricks have been engraved incorrectly. The memorial's foundation has taken steps to correct those omissions and errors.

"We understand the anxiety that folks had," Drolet said. "They spent money for a brick and then they came down here to look and couldn't find it."

"Over 3,400 bricks have been installed. We've pinpointed about 100 misspellings that we will fix at our own expense because we made those errors. If an error was made by a donor, they can have it fixed if they purchase a replacement brick at the \$30 cost."

Engraving for another 400 bricks left from phase 1 is ongoing and these bricks will be installed soon. Another 600 bricks will be ordered soon, with



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Brick pavers for Army Materiel Command's Gen. Ann Dunwoody and her husband, retired Air Force Col. Craig Brotschie, are now part of the permanent brick display at the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial.**

those bricks installed by the end of the summer.

"Those orders came in after the deadline for phase 1 and will be installed in phase 2," Drolet said.

There are still just over 5,000 brick pavers available for purchase. When complete, 10,000 bricks will be engraved in honor of the local community's veterans.

A map of the brick paver layout around the memorial has been built online. Each brick has been identified based on which section it is located in, which row and which number in that row. A searchable database has been built at a new Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial website at <http://huntsvilleveteransmemorial.org/>.

To locate a brick paver, website visitors need to put in at least three letters from their brick. A list of bricks that match those letters will be called up on the computer screen. Visitors can view the results of their brick search to find their brick. A location number is listed with each brick. The letter in the location number (E or W) denotes that the brick is on the east or west side of the park. The first number denotes the section where that brick is located beginning with section one just in front of each side of the memorial. The second and third numbers denote the row and location within that row.

If the brick paver search does not bring up any results that match a visitor's donation or if there is an error in a brick paver, then the visitor should fill out a form as directed at the website. There is also an online ordering form for those who would like to pur-

chase a brick paver.

"We realize that some people may not have access to a computer," Drolet said. "To help those people, we will have a permanent map of all the brick pavers installed at the memorial."

A few other errors in the memorial's initial engraving – a misspelled word on the Medal of Honor tribute and the misspelled name of a fallen Soldier on a granite marker – will be repaired soon.

"Getting the Soldier's name wrong breaks our heart," Drolet said. "He deserves the best. His family deserves the best. This one is local and this one hurts. But we will get it replaced by

the summer."

Other plans for the memorial are still in the works. Besides the additions of more brick pavers, the next step will be the placement of the Courage statue, which is a companion piece to the Sacrifice statue that now graces the east side of the memorial. The Sacrifice statue depicts two war fighters carrying a wounded warrior from the battlefield. The Courage statue will depict three World War I fighters crawling out of a foxhole.

"Having to leave the safety of a foxhole or a trench, that takes a lot of courage to get out of that foxhole," Drolet said.

Another addition will be an eternal flame that will be installed in the port-hole under the MIA/POW flag, and a time capsule that will be placed in a vault under the Alabama flag.

"In the next 60 days, we will start a campaign in the community where veterans can submit things to the foundation board that they would like to recommend to be included in the time capsule," Drolet said. "Those things selected will be placed in a waterproof capsule and buried for another 50 years."

The foundation is also working with the EarlyWorks Museum to establish an educational walkway that will include six to eight kiosks depicting what a Soldier's life was like during particular time frames.

"We do have the funds for the Courage statue, and the eternal flame and time capsule. Boeing has given us a significant donation for the educational

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## In this section...

**SO FAR, SO GOOD WITH JOINT 911 DISPATCH CENTER  
WIVES ENSURE FALLEN SOLDIERS ARE REMEMBERED  
CORPS WORKERS EXPLORE SCIENTIFIC PROCESS**

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# So far, so good with Joint 911 Dispatch Center

*Army and NASA  
both get service*

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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It has been four months since the Army and Marshall Space Flight Center entered a partnership for 911 emergency calls.

The Joint 911 Dispatch Center opened Jan. 1, had its grand opening ceremony Jan. 26 and serves both the Army and NASA customers of Team Redstone.

“So far I believe we’re meeting our goals,” Dennis Wooten, manager of the Joint 911 Dispatch Center, said.

The respective dispatch centers for the Army and NASA merged in January as a cost-cutting initiative. The joint dispatch center takes 911 calls for police, fire and ambulance and provides firefighters and police officers for both the Army and Marshall at Redstone Arsenal.

If cell phone calls for a Redstone emergency go to the Madison County 911 center, the county center will transfer that call to Redstone and vice versa. “So don’t panic, they’ll do it very quickly,” Wooten said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Dennis Wooten, manager of the Joint 911 Dispatch Center, conducts a tour of the facility in building 4312 during January's grand opening.**

The joint center is in building 4312, the NASA protective services headquarters, on Digney Road. The center is operated by contractor Excalibur, based in Arlington, Va.

“We operate 24/7 in three shifts,” Wooten said.

Its 15-member staff includes 12 dispatchers and three supervisors, who also do dispatch. The dispatch/supervisors are Chris Thigpen, first shift; Al Newsome, second shift; and Carmen Hall, third shift.

“During the month of March we took

in a total number of 5,356 incoming calls,” Wooten said. “And as far as 911 calls for the month of March, we were averaging about 110 911 calls a week.”

The non-emergency number for Directorate of Emergency Services dispatch is 313-6422; and the non-emergency number for NASA calls is 544-4753.

“In my opinion it’s going well,” Richard Wall, operations officer for the Directorate of Emergency Services, said of the joint center. “It’s running good. We haven’t had any major glitches at all. It’s been smooth sailing. We turned it over first of January and it’s been running quite well.”

There have been two training exercises so far using the joint center in which DES fire, police and guards had to respond. The first was held Jan. 6 and the other was March 28. “We had two exercises and they did OK,” Wall said. An exercise is also planned April 18 and for sometime in May.

Last April 27 brought Alabama’s deadly tornadoes which devastated much of the community. The then-Army center’s nine dispatchers were all affected in one way or another by the storms, which created power outages lasting several days. Two had damage to their homes.

## Chapter appreciation

Courtesy photo

**The Tennessee Valley Chapter of SOLE, the International Society of Logistics, held a luncheon March 27 at The Summit with guest speaker Eric Edwards, director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center. He receives a token of appreciation from Deborah McLemore-Baugh, SOLE chapter chair.**



# Wives ensure fallen Soldiers are always remembered

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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They will never forget their Soldier, and the Army will never forget them.

April 5 was officially declared Gold Star Wives Day, a time set aside to pay special tribute to the resilient women that stood bravely beside their Soldiers and servicemembers and remain to honor their memory today. Army Community Service's Survivor Outreach Services program honored the women at a luncheon in their honor April 4.

"These women are amazing and strong as they recover from such tragedy in their lives," Kerrie Branson, SOS program manager, said. "The luncheon was a very small token of appreciation to our Gold Star wives to let them know we support them, embrace them and encourage them in their recovery process."

Held in conjunction with their regularly scheduled support group, held the first Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., the luncheon was a chance not only for the Army and Arsenal to honor the wives and their sacrifice, but for the wives to recognize their loved ones as well.

"It's easy to forget," said Tiffany Little, whose husband Spc. Kyle Little was killed in Iraq in May 2007. "Even for some widows, it's easy to forget. They like to push it to the back of their mind. It's important for the Army, it's important for society not to forget those who have sacrificed so much. It's important for us because if we don't participate in these things they'll fade away. We have to stand for what we believe in and push for it. It's up to us to make sure our Soldiers are not forgotten. It is a part of our everyday life but this is a way for us to come together and celebrate."

For two hours each month at support group, the women are able to shed the widow stigma and whatever other roles they may have, and honor and remember their fallen Soldier, as they share their struggles, joys and triumphs in their lives as Gold Star wives.

"You know you're not the only one - it's a way to vent, a therapy session with a lot of people who understand



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Jennifer Brock, Emily McFall, Theresa Chandler and Barbara Roberts enjoy a lunch in their honor at Survivor Outreach Services to honor Gold Star Wives Day.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**April 5 was officially declared Gold Star Wives Day.**

perfectly," said Crystal Thomas, who started attending the support group in 2010 after her husband Staff Sgt. Kenneth Thomas was killed May 12, 2007. "You never know what's bottled up that you may want to get out, or just knowing someone else has a situation to take yourself from yourself, to be compassionate for them as well."

When Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Sowers asks the group what they want to talk about each month, he is always amazed and inspired by how the conversation takes shape and transforms the group, as the women take care of their own, ready to listen and respond to whatever is on their minds.

"What it does is it helps them to see that there's hope and there's light at the end of the tunnel, because it can take years to work through some of the challenges and the difficulties, and just building that confidence and seeing other ladies in their successes, it's a tremendous support group that says, 'We

**See Wives on page 21**



Photo by Melody Sandlin

## Meritorious career

**Col. Frederick Heaggans, director of the Intensive Management Office at the Security Assistance Command, receives the Legion of Merit from USASAC commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner during his retirement ceremony April 2 at Heiser Hall. Heaggans previously served as USASAC's liaison officer to the Multi-National Security Transition Command in Baghdad, chief of staff (forward) and director of CENTCOM regional operations. Heaggans leaves the Army with 28 years of service.**

# Bricks

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walkway. But we may have to do some fund-raising for the rest,” Drolet said.

Still being considered is the placement of ground-mounted plaques throughout the memorial that explain its history and features to visitors.

“We want the park to become self-descriptive so that visitors from anywhere in the world can come here and understand what this park means to us,” Drolet said.

There is also the future possibility of the addition of a Duty statue that will depict a saluting Soldier surrounded by their family. To make this statue possible, Drolet said a major donor is needed.

“Each statute represents something that is important to the memorial,” he said. “The Sacrifice statue symbolizes the vow to never leave a fallen comrade behind. The Courage statue depicts what it takes for comrades to fight together in war. And the Duty statue will show that the entire family serves, not just one man or woman.”

The first major community event held at the memorial since Veterans Day was

a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day program on March 29. Other community events will be planned at the memorial, including the dedication of the Courage statue sometime this fall, and the eternal flame and time capsule on Pearl Harbor Day, Dec. 7.

The memorial is also available for family celebrations and reunions. Area tour buses have been seen making stops at the memorial and, on a daily basis, it stands as an attraction for passersby in downtown Huntsville.

“It’s like a magnet, especially for those of us who have worked on it,” Drolet said. “We’ve spent so much time on it that we are compelled to come down here and check it out.

“The memorial just seems to attract people. It says ‘look at me.’ It’s now an impressive part of our skyline. Everyone should come down here and visit it. This belongs to our community and is a testament of what this community will do for its veterans.”

*Editor’s note: Besides visiting the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial website at <http://huntsvilleveteransmemorial.org/>, information about the memorial’s foundation and donors can also be found at <http://www.madisoncountyveteransmemorial.org/>.*

# Wives

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can do this. We can get through this,” Sowers said.

For the group, it doesn’t matter how long someone was married or how long their servicemember has been gone, it’s about being there for each other and understanding what each one is going through, offering advice when it’s needed, tears and a listening ear.

“There’s no other place that you can really go to just be yourself, there’s nobody here that will judge you, it’s just open honesty and acceptance,” Little said.

“I love these girls,” said Judy Finch,

who was married to her husband Butch for 44 years when he died in September 2010. “There’s things that I can help them with, and there’s things that they can share with me. We give each other a neat and good perspective, and sometimes help to clear our thinking.”

And while their official meeting time is once a month, the support never really ends as they reach out to each other through Facebook and other means throughout the month, making sure that they are there for one another whenever the time of need arises.

“The grieving process is a difficult ugly beast,” Little said. “You can move up and down all those steps and years later find out that you’ve slid all the way back to the first step again.”

# Corps workers explore scientific process with students

*Huntsville Center sends judges for science fair*

By JO ANITA MILEY

*Huntsville Center Public Affairs*

The Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville employs professionals of various disciplines, and many of those professionals perform community outreach as a part of their mission. So, when a local school asked for assistance with an educational outreach event, the center's Speakers Bureau, in conjunction with the Corps of Engineers STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Awareness Program, enhanced participation at the center.

Six Huntsville Center employees joined more than 200 students at the First Missionary Baptist Child Development Center and Academy to help celebrate Science Week March 12-16.

Judging were, April Rafael-Adams, Lynn Helms, Jelani Ingram, Xavier Thigpen, Jacqueline White, all of Engineering Directorate, and Atidya Williams, Business Management Directorate.

Pamela Jones, second-grade teacher at First Missionary Baptist Child Devel-

opment Center and Academy, who also organized the event, said the event was a huge success. National Science Week is designed to help students open their minds to finding out about careers in science, technology, engineering and math, and to gain a better understanding of how the scientific process works with science fair projects.

"We are very pleased with Huntsville Center's participation in today's (March 15) event. We are grateful that your organization took part in the science fair today – this was definitely a plus for our school," Jones said. "The judges did an excellent job examining the science projects, and the students were given a chance to interact with the engineers to discuss their projects during the judging process. They really enjoyed showcasing their efforts to everyone."

The main goal of the Corps' STEM outreach program is to connect with kids and promote careers that fall under the science, technology, engineering and math fields. The judges said this was a unique way to expose students to STEM careers.

Members of the judging team said participating as judges for local science fairs is a unique way to promote STEM



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

**Lynn Helms talks with second-grade students at the First Missionary Baptist Church Child Development Center and Academy during the science fair. Helms was lead on the team that judged more than 75 group and individual projects during National Science Week.**

awareness for younger kids.

"I really enjoyed being able to inspire potential scientists and engineers," said Helms, who judged second-grade projects at the science fair. "I especially liked how these elementary school students took a simple hypothesis (educated guess) about something and proved why it would (or would not) work. We (judges) learned a lot about science from each

science project – they made science come alive today."

Center employees also participated March 8 as judges for the North Alabama Science and Engineering Fair hosted by the Huntsville Post of the Society of American Military Engineers at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, and returned April 6 to judge the Alabama Science and Engineering Fair.

# New military medical system expedites process

*VA, Defense collaborate on disability evaluation*

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

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When Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Baugh's medical issues began to interfere with his mission, he turned to IDES to help him transition to civilian life and receive the benefits he rightly deserved.

As a Tricare Prime remote beneficiary, Fox Army Health Center referred him to IDES, the Integrated Disability Evaluation System, a partnership program between the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs used to evaluate wounded, ill or injured service-

members to determine whether they are fit for duty, and if not, what disability rating and benefits they will receive, prior to their separation from service.

"Decisions made through the IDES process have a significant effect on the Soldier, his family and their futures," Vera Shorter, physical evaluation board evaluation liaison officer, said.

While it's a position many Soldiers do not want to find themselves in, the new IDES program simplifies the process to cut through the red tape and get the servicemember what they need faster.

"The biggest thing about this program is that when they walk in to see me, for the most part, they're not very happy they've been referred to the IDES program because they want to remain on active duty, and this is determining their fate in the

service," Robert Flemming, VA military services coordinator, said. "After they realize that the DoD and the VA are working hand-in-hand, they know that we're here to help."

"I think the process was excellent," said Baugh, who served 14 years active duty. "I'm happy with the outcome. I didn't run into any kind of issues during the process."

Baugh will be the first IDES case to be completed at Fox Army Health Center. His last day of active duty will be April 16, 252 days after he began the IDES process. The IDES standard is 295. While the process may at times seem lengthy, compared to the old way of doing things, which took 500-plus days for a servicemember to receive their VA benefits, the IDES program allows those benefits to start the month after separation.

"Financially, that's the biggest concern," Flemming said. "They're making \$50,000 a year and now they may be making \$1,300 a month. Knowing that the VA benefits are there the next month



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

**Jerome Jones, Robert Flemming, Marshall Brown, Capt. Larry Brown, Vera Shorter and Dr. Monica Gorbandt meet to discuss how the implementation of the Integrated Disability Evaluation System is going at Fox Army Health Center.**

helps ease that transition."

While under the old program servicemembers may undergo several health examinations for DoD purposes, only

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**LAST IRAQ MRAP LOADED FOR TRANSPORT TO MUSEUM PAGE 27**

# AMCOM item managers value inventory forecasts

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

As Alabama residents know, weather forecasts are essential. And as item managers and logistics management specialists know, supply forecasts are essential, too.

The Aviation and Missile Command manages an inventory valued at more than \$12 billion. This means accuracy is vital at AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center. Over-forecasting contributes to excess inventory and under-forecasting contributes to inadequate Soldier support.

Data must be accurate in all systems and the Logistics Management Program so that projected needs truly reflect requirements.

Logistics management specialist Cindy Stevens and her 19-member team are pursuing several actions to improve the command's Supply Chain Management forecasting accuracy.

Using value stream mapping, they are developing metrics, tolerances and the means to track metrics, as well as identifying and implementing actions and processes to result in more accurate supply recom-

mendations and actions.

"Essentially, we are the item managers' help line," Stevens said. "We want to project what the future state will look like by designating opportunities for improvement, such as measuring demands that are forecasted against the actual demands."

Validating forecasted requirements will avoid potentially inappropriate supply actions. The team's goal is to derive proactive Enterprise Resource Planning processes to manage material, resource planning and acquisition efforts.

The team's initiative takes on added significance as optimizing inventory positions are constantly challenged by global demand changes.

"Increasing our ability to predict demands will result in more accurate forecasts and more confidence in supply recommendations," IMMC's Artro Whitman said. "Increased accuracy in forecasts will also provide 'right-sized,' that is lower inventory levels, while improving efficiencies – that is reducing costs."

The team's system recommendations for "buy, repair, reschedule out and reschedule in" will be more accurate, allowing the item

managers to take actions as recommended.

Members of the forecasting team include Jessica Coleman, Josh Jones, Laura Sitko, Rob Bray, Olivia Cowart, Dru Jackson, Bud Pope, Jennifer Vogeltanz, Willie Gaddis, Roger Gray, John Haley, Jennifer Helton, Brian King, Jamie Miller, Tom Ray,

Chad Reaves, Nelda Smith, Scott Valent and Ben White.

All members of the AMCOM work force are encouraged to visit the Supply Chain Management Enterprise "War Room" on the second floor of building 5301 as well as visit <http://tinyorl.com/TransformingAMCOM>.



## Retirement honors

**Security Assistance Command's Sgt. Maj. William Kaundart receives a folded U.S. flag from USA-SAC commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner during an April 5 retirement ceremony recognizing Kaundart's 29 years of service. Kaundart served as the command's sergeant major during its BRAC mandated move from Fort Belvoir, Va., to Redstone Arsenal. He also saw the command add the Security Assistance Training Management Organization, which includes more than 130 enlisted military personnel located at Fort Bragg, N.C., as a subordinate command in 2010. Kaundart was awarded the Legion of Merit and presented certificates of appreciation from the U.S. president, the chief of staff of the Army and the Army Materiel Command at the ceremony. His wife, Jill, was also recognized with an Outstanding Civilian Service Award.**



Photo by Melody Sandlin

# Last Iraq MRAP loaded for transport to museum



Photo by David Ruderman

**The last mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle to depart Iraq is lifted aboard the freighter Ocean Crescent at the Port of Ash Shuaiba, Kuwait, March 24 for transport to the United States, where it will be preserved and displayed at the 1st Cavalry Brigade Division Museum at Fort Hood, Texas.**

By DAVID RUDERMAN

402nd Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

PORT OF ASH SHUAIBA, Kuwait – More than 30 Soldiers, sailors and civilians gathered at the Port of Ash Shuaiba on March 24 to observe the last mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle, or MRAP, to exit Iraq being loaded aboard a ship for transport back to the United States.

The Caiman Plus MRAP vehicle, which exited Iraq at Khabari Crossing, Dec. 18, 2011, with Company C, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, is being shipped to Beaumont, Texas, where it will be transported to the 1st Cavalry Brigade Division Museum at Fort Hood, Texas, for preservation and display.

“I think the MRAP is an icon as to just how quick and how adaptable our Army is,” Col. John Laskodi, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade commander, said.

While processing thousands of vehicles and tons of equipment withdrawn from Iraq as part of Operation New Dawn, the brigade took the initiative to preserve the vehicle.

“Just a few short years ago we hadn’t even dreamed of MRAPs,” Laskodi said. “We saw an emerging threat. We were able to quickly counter that threat, and then produce these in tens of thousands in a short period of time and get them forward onto the battlefield. I think it’s an amazing testament to the agility of our Army.”

The vehicle was loaded aboard the freighter Ocean Crescent for the journey to the United States. It is scheduled to arrive in Texas in about a month, said Capt. Joseph Wanat, operations officer with the 1173rd Deployment Distribution Support Battalion, which has overseen the marshaling and loading of thousands of vehicles and hundreds of tons of non-rolling stock at the port as it exits the region through Kuwait.

## Fox

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to have to repeat them for the VA, under IDES a servicemember undergoes one examination and receives one disability rating. After meeting with a physical evaluation liaison board of officer at Fox, the servicemember meets with Flemming next door immediately afterward, who will schedule an exam with QTC, a contracted network of doctors used exclusively for the IDES program, who are trained and certified in completing VA examinations. IDES team member Dr. Monica Gorbandt assists servicemembers in determining when it may be time to go through the program.

“As the MEB (medical evaluation board) physician at FAHC, an important part of my actions in this new system is identifying and evaluating

medical conditions that a servicemember acquired during their service that may impact their ability to fully execute their military duty,” Gorbandt said. “Also, I work as part of the team ensuring that attention is given to Soldier medical conditions for both current care and ongoing treatment as many of these individuals transition from their military duty to veteran status.”

With the DoD and VA collocated and working hand-in-hand at Fox, questions are easily answered and the overall process sped up, a goal for the Army and VA when they piloted the program in November 2007, and saw its implementation in 2010 and 2011.

“Capt. Larry Brown, chief, patient administration for Fox Army Health Center, was the lead for IDES implementation at Redstone and did a great job making sure we were on time with implementation,” Fox commander Col. Elizabeth Johnson said. “The fact that

the first servicemember going through the IDES process at Redstone Arsenal was able to exceed the IDES timeline is a testimony to the collaborative work with the VA.”

Said Flemming, “The collaboration is perfect. It reduces any confusion for the person, expedites the process and saves the servicemember a lot of time.”

## Bring these items to disability appointment

To help expedite the process, IDES participants are asked to bring the following with them to their appointment at Fox Army Health Center to ensure they receive the maximum Veterans Affairs benefits possible:

- Marriage certificates
- Birth certificates
- Social Security cards
- VA Form 21-686C (for dependents under 18)
- VA Form 21-674 (for dependents 18 or older)

# Unified front drives on with future focus

*Army aviation leaders view technology, sustainment*

By **KARI HAWKINS**  
Assistant editor  
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NASHVILLE – Call them the Fab 5 or the Five Horsemen. Or, even the Aviation Six-Pack.

But whatever you call them, know they are presenting a unified front for Army aviation as they work with the Pentagon, congressional leaders and industry to ensure that Soldier aviators have the best equipment and training to do the job.

Led by Maj. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield, commander of the Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, the Fab 5 group at the Army Aviation Association of America annual professional forum and exposition – Quad A – included Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command; Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation; Brig. Gen. Kevin Mangum, commander of the Special Operations Aviation Command; and Col. Pat Tierney, director of Army aviation at the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff at the Pentagon. It becomes an Aviation Six-Pack when another member – the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate – joins in the discussions.

The group's leadership has worked together to develop the aviation enterprise campaign plan for the future of Army aviation. During Quad A, the group met with national media to discuss issues pertaining to Army aviation. This year, the focus was on an Army aviation modernization strategy.

"The challenge we're having is what are our alternatives. We have a need for manned reconnaissance and a need for an armed aerial scout (to replace the Kiowa)," Crosby told the media. "Instead, we are looking at an entire modernization strategy for Army aviation."

Because of budget constraints and the high price tag of new aviation systems, Crosby said Army aviation has to take "appetite suppressants."

"It is a risk strategy that I think is achievable," the general said.

The aviation leaders believe the future vertical-lift – a helicopter that has longer range, is faster, can carry a bigger payload, is more survivable, uses less fuel and has a reduced logistical footprint – should be the target for the future of Army aviation.

"We are focused on the medium variant. Why? Seventy-five percent of our fleet is medium variant," Crosby said. "So, we decided we needed to accept risk with the Kiowa variant" by not pursuing a new armed scout helicopter and instead going after funding for a vertical-lift helicopter.

Crosby said plans call for the Army to release a request for information for the vertical-lift helicopter on April 23. He anticipates five vendors participating in this non-competitive stage, which will also include an industry day and lead to a plan for execution.

Besides looking at new helicopter technologies, Army leadership will also be asking "Is the improvement worth the investment? The contract will include the cost to buy it, the sustainment and maintenance system, and the training system. Then, the Army will make a decision whether to invest," Crosby said.

Crutchfield stressed that tightening budgets are forcing Army aviators to look at exactly what is needed to maintain the relevance of the aviation fleet.

"We cannot afford everything," he said. "As the user, I've got to tell them (Department of the Army) what I need, what I'll accept."

"The campaign plan is not all about materiel. It's also about sustainment, training. It's about how to maintain a professional force and leader development. We want to produce the most qualified aviator professional with the



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**The Fab 5 media panel at the Army Aviation Association of America annual professional forum and exposition includes Brig. Gen. Kevin Mangum, commander of the Special Operations Aviation Command; Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command; Maj. Gen. Tony Crutchfield, commander of the Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker; Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation; and Col. Pat Tierney, director of Army aviation at the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff at the Pentagon.**

best equipment possible that's affordable, that can be sustained and that the Army will support."

Today's austere budget environment is not the first time funds have been tight for Army aviation. Crosby said the key to surviving is to promote balance in all programs.

"We need to keep some investment, maintain the fleet and modernize," he said.

The reset and modernization programs that the Aviation and Missile Command coordinates through the Corpus Christi and Letterkenny depots have made a significant difference in the ability to sustain the Army aviation fleet, Rogers said. That effort will be augmented by the newly developed Airframe Inspection Maintenance Program.

"AIM will start with the 500-plus aircraft that makes up the training fleet at Fort Rucker," Rogers said. "We are looking at what needs to be done to our airframes to extend their life and we need an integrated approach to do that. This is important because we're going to be in sustainment for quite

awhile."

The program involves stripping helicopters down to the airframe, and then analyzing those airframes for wear and tear.

AIM is essential to sustainment, Crosby said, "because we are dealing with cracks and corrosion of a hostile environment. We have lessons learned every time we bring a helicopter back. When you are flying at this optempo, reset and AIM are not service lengthening programs. There's wear and tear on systems that reset doesn't fix. So, we also need to stay with a depot maintenance program."

In today's environment in Afghanistan, helicopters are flying higher and heavier, which affects the life of the aircraft.

"This puts more wear on the airframe than we ever planned," Crosby said. "We're doing things that we've never done before."

Fort Rucker is looking to AMCOM to reset, repair and modernize the 641 helicopters that make up the training fleet, Crutchfield said.

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# Scenes from exhibits at Quad A



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Vietnam veteran Lee Oxford of Fort Rucker talks about the operations of a UH-72 Lakota engine with Mike Iven of Safran Turbomeca. Oxford, a retired Black Hawk helicopter pilot and a retired civil servant, has 43 years experience flying military hardware.**

More than 320 exhibitors were in attendances at the Army Aviation Association of American annual professional forum and exposition – Quad A – in Nashville April 1-4.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**A Night Stalker Soldier shows Mark Morris, in helicopter at left, and Vance Brown the features of a MH-6 Little Bird, used by the Army's Special Operations. Morris and Brown are family members of Capt. J. David Horman, a Night Stalker who was killed on Aug. 8, 2011, when his Little Bird helicopter crashed during a routine military training exercise at Fort Benning, Ga.**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Dan Castle of Advance Torque Products demonstrates for Colin McInerney a digital controlled torque wrench used to tighten or loosen the transmission of a CH-47 Chinook. The torque wrench is sitting on a calibration system. In the background is Sarah Weston, also of Advance Torque Products.**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Connie Poulsen of PPG Aerospace (at top of Apache) talks with Capt. Alan Overmyer, commander of Alpha Company, 3-101, Fort Campbell, Ky., about the performance of the Apache Longbow. The helicopter was part of a large exhibit held by the Aviation and Missile Command. In the front pilot's seat is Preston Nesselrotte of PPG, who is talking with the 3-101's Chief Warrant Officer 2 Marc Johnson (both partially obscured).**

# View of unmanned aircraft changes with flight

*Soldier operators share stories of lives saved*

By KARI HAWKINS  
Assistant editor  
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NASHVILLE – Time and time again, the Army's unmanned aircraft systems know how to make a good impression.

From the Soldier operator on console to the commander in the field, one display of the capabilities of an unmanned aircraft system as it performs reconnaissance or surveillance for an advancing unit or for an Army helicopter is enough to convince users of its value on the battlefield.

"The capabilities of unmanned aircraft systems are so huge," Warrant Officer Michael Gray said.

"People make assumptions. They think size matters. They think because these systems are small that they can't be that sophisticated. But once they see what they can do, that opinion changes."

Gray was among a group of National Guard and active duty Soldiers who were on hand at the Army Aviation Association of America annual Professional Forum and Exposition in Nashville April 1-4 to talk about their experiences as operators of unmanned aircraft systems with forum attendees and the media, and also during a Bloggers Roundtable Discussion.

Gray and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Derek Kozielski fly the Shadow UAS, which requires a five to seven-member crew to launch it from a trailer-mounted pneumatic catapult and then is flown from a ground control station, for the Louisiana National Guard while Staff Sgt. Catalina Avalos flies Shadow for the Washington State National Guard.

Sgt. Christopher Harris and Spc. Kyle Jongsma, both in the active Army infantry and stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Washington, fly Puma and Raven, both small, hand-launched remote-controlled unmanned aircraft systems, as an additional responsibility.

Unmanned aircraft systems technology emerged in the mid-1990s. Hunter was the first unmanned aircraft system fielded by the Army, and was followed by a family of systems that quickly became weapons of choice for Army commanders engaged in contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan who valued the systems for intelligence, surveillance and recon-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**A team of Soldier operators for the Army's unmanned aircraft systems share their battlefield experiences with Raven, Puma and Shadow during the Army Aviation Association of America annual professional forum and exposition in Nashville. The Soldiers are, from left, active duty infantrymen Spc. Kyle Jongsma and Sgt. Christopher Harris, and National Guard Soldiers Staff Sgt. Catalina Avalos, Warrant Officer Michael Gray and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Derek Kozielski. Behind them is the Puma UAS.**

naissance missions. Today, the Army's UAS fleet – consisting of Gray Eagle, Hunter, Shadow, Puma and Raven – is managed by a project manager's office that is part of the Program Executive Office for Aviation, headquartered at Redstone Arsenal. Together, the systems have flown more than 1.37 million flight hours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Yet, for all their success, there are many who are not familiar with the Army's UAS fleet. The five Soldiers attending Quad A see themselves as ambassadors for the systems and are undeterred by the initial reactions they receive from other Soldiers who do not know about the capabilities of unmanned aircraft systems.

"We can get heckled about the size, definitely," Jongsma said.

"Soldiers will look at it and think 'It's so cute.' It reminds them of a paper airplane or the little airplanes we flew through the air as kids," Harris said.

"Puma and Raven can be taken along on missions at the platoon or company level. They are quickly and easily deployable by a two-man team. I've had close to 500 hours of flight time. These systems let us see what's up the road or what's around the corner. They give us situational aware-

ness that can save lives."

Shadow, which is operated at the brigade level by a six-Soldier team, gets similar reactions from Soldiers. That is, until it flies.

"Every time you push the button, you are showing off this system," Gray said. "This is still kind of a new system and people don't understand its capabilities."

"I love teaching about what Shadow can do," Avalos added. "I like showing them the video feedback of what's happening on the ground."

When commanders see that video feedback, they realize the game-changing technology they have with unmanned aircraft systems.

"For a commander, it opens up a lot of doors for opportunities of things they can do in the field," Kozielski said. "There's a level of security that commanders feel when they see the video they can get from a Shadow. Their confidence level goes up and they get to where they depend on the Shadow's capabilities."

The Soldiers all admitted to a bit of their own apprehension about serving as operators of unmanned aircraft systems. But, true to form, once they saw the systems in flight and understood the level of situational awareness they gave Soldiers in the field,

they were impressed.

"This was a different challenge for me," said Kozielski, who, along with Gray, has also served as a crew chief for Black Hawk, Huey and Kiowa helicopters.

"It was something our state Guard had picked up. I was looking for a new challenge and this new technology presented that challenge. I definitely appreciate the value it offers on the battlefield."

Avalos happened to fall into an assignment with Shadow. At the time, she didn't realize a new position she assumed in her National Guard unit also included duties as a Shadow UAS operator. But it didn't take her long to realize the opportunity it presented.

"I read up on the Shadow and I was very much amazed at what I had gotten myself into," she said. "Then, I went to school to learn how to operate Shadow. I've been to many Army schools, but this was the most challenging one I had ever gone to."

Both Harris and Jongsma were assigned to UAS as an additional duty as infantrymen. But, Harris said, being a UAS operator in the field puts them in leadership positions within their platoon and company.

Gray, who is now developing the UAS Support Facility and Training Site at Fort Polk, La., and Kozielski deployed in 2010 to Iraq with the 256th Tactical Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and supported more than 2,000 hours of combat flight hours. Avalos deployed to Iraq in 2008, where she helped to provide security with Shadow during the country's first democratic vote. Harris flew 70 hours of combat flight with Puma during a 2009-10 deployment with Bravo Company, 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. He and Jongsma will deploy to Afghanistan soon as a two-man Puma/Raven team.

"We used Shadow to prevent the planting of improvised explosive devices and to catch the bad guys," Gray said of his deployment. "We were able to counter indirect fire and prevent the firing of mortars into forward operating bases."

Shadow UAS was used to locate thieves breaking into forward operating bases, with an Apache helicopter coming on the scene once the thieves were located. The UAS was used to go into situations and make assessments before ground forces or Apache helicopters were brought in for attack.

"It was a mission changer every day," Kozielski said.

# Forget the museum, first Chinook still flying

*Helicopter from 1961 stays relevant to fleet*

By **KARI HAWKINS**  
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NASHVILLE – The first CH-47 Chinook, a heavy-lift helicopter used for troop movement, artillery emplacement and battlefield resupply, took flight in 1961.

The Army's first delivery of the A model Chinook was made in August 1962.

So, where do you think that Chinook is just shy of 50 years later?

Recently, Col. Robert Marion, the Cargo helicopters project manager, tried to find that first Chinook. His search led to some unexpected news.

It was still flying.

"I thought I would find that A model in a museum. I was surprised to find out that A model was in Afghanistan," he said. "Since then, it's been reset at Fort Lewis, Wash., and now belongs to the Washington National Guard. It is now a D model."

Marion told the story of the first Chinook during a media panel at the Army Aviation Association of America annual professional forum and exposition April 1-4.

More than 1,169 Chinooks have been built since 1961. Today, the Army is still accepting deliveries of Chinooks, only it's the F model that is coming off the production line at Boeing. The Army has 169 F-model Chinooks and plans to have a "pure" fleet of 440 F-model

Chinooks by 2018. Plans are to sign a multi-year contract in early 2013 for 155 Chinooks, 121 of those renewable and 34 new builds.

"The F model is about improving situational awareness, reducing the maintenance workload and improving flight safety," Marion said.

Although there are vast differences in the Chinook cockpit between the A model and the F model, the Chinook's reputation as an Army workhorse has continued since its first use during the Vietnam War.

"We have a great history and a great legacy, and that is that Chinook is a great representation for the Army and the nation," Marion said. "We also have a great responsibility as a medium and heavy-lift solution. We have a responsibility to keep this aircraft flying and relevant for the next two generations of aviators."

Marion considers that first Chinook as a motivator for the aircraft's future. The project office has stood up its first Chinook Modernization Program under Lt. Col. Joe Hoecherl to pursue future modifications for the aircraft, including a rotor blade, and transmission and engine enhancements that will provide additional lift capability and reduce operational support costs, and a reconfigurable floor upgrade.

Chinook has been named as one of the top five best programs within the Department of Defense. It is considered a valuable military asset all over the world, with 15 foreign countries among its customers. It is also a big contributor to the U.S. national defense.

"When you talk about our system, it's

"After that, I don't know what mission we'll be given to stay in Afghanistan. I don't know what our footprint will be in Afghanistan. But I don't think it will be zero. Army aviation will be supporting the mission. The Army is coming out of Afghanistan. But it's not so fast for Army aviation."

The U.S. has nearly 90,000 troops in Afghanistan. Of those, 22,000 are due home in September. President Barack Obama has said the drawdown will continue until the U.S. hands over security to Afghan forces in 2014.

"When we go down in forces, we will put in more aviation because you need quick reaction and quick movement when you have less Soldiers there," Rogers said. "As the capabilities of Afghan forces rise, our capabilities drop off. But helicopters will still be needed to reinforce, resupply and move. You can't take what we've done for decades and suddenly transfer that to the Afghan corps."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Waiting to begin a media panel inside the CH-47 Chinook are, from left, Lt. Col. Joe Hoecherl, product manager for the Modernization Program and foreign sales; Lt. Col. Brad Killen, product manager for the Chinook F-Model; and Col. Robert Marion, project manager for the Cargo Helicopters Project Office.**

about relevance and the benefit that we bring, and certainly about aircraft working as an enabler for ground forces,"

Marion said.

Besides Boeing, the Team Chinook family includes more than 400 suppliers.

## Front

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"It is more costly to buy a new training aircraft than to repair the ones we have," he said. "AMCOM has come to the plate to make repairs to sustain the fleet and the helicopters will be modernized along with the Army's fleet so that we can continue to sustain the training base and so that our students can train on equipment they are going to have when they get in the field."

How the Army goes about sustaining and maintaining its aviation fleet is crucial to the nation's strategy in Afghanistan and throughout the world.

"The Army is going to be in Afghanistan for the foreseeable future," Crutchfield said. "I don't know how long, but Army aviation is engaged in Afghanistan until at least 2014."

# Apache helicopter flies on target with stealth

*New variant adds more capability to already lethal attack aircraft*

By KARI HAWKINS

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NASHVILLE – Army aviation has faced the test and passed with flying colors, with the Apache helicopter leading the winning pack.

And there is nothing more challenging than taking the fight to Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

“It is the toughest environment in any regard for aviation aircraft,” Lt. Col. Christopher Downey, commander of the Army’s Task Force Six Shooters 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, said.

“The threat, the terrain, the weather all conspire against you. It’s remote and there is always bad night vision.”

It’s even tougher for the Soldiers on the ground, who have come to rely on Army aviation for protection, security and attack.

“You just don’t go unless you have an Apache or Kiowa with you,” Downey said.

Sitting in front of an AH-64D Apache Longbow at a press conference during the Army Aviation Association of American annual professional forum and exposition in Nashville April 1-4, Downey was far from the fight. But the aviators supporting military actions in Afghanistan are very much close to his heart.

“Because of the Apache, we can see and paint the picture and make aviation decisions,” he said. “This platform is amazing.

It’s relevant, responsive and grows with the needs. Pilots get the mission done in the Apache. They are dedicated to supporting the men on the ground.”

The legacy of the Apache Longbow was highlighted during the press conference by Apache project manager Col. Shane Openshaw and a panel of Army and industry leaders from its prime contractor, Boeing. The Apache team includes Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, General Electric and hundreds of suppliers.

The Apache A model, which came off the production line in the late 1980s, went through remanufacturing 15 years later that “upgraded it with major new components that turned it into the best attack helicopter in the world,” the colonel said.

Today, the Apache Longbow D model “offers tremendous combat capability to keep the aircraft ready and relevant for today and the future,” he said.

There are 721 Apache helicopters in the Army aviation fleet. All but 51 started as Apache A models and only eight are still waiting for upgrades to the D model. Those additional 51 Apaches are the first new AH-64Ds Apaches known as the Block III variant. The Army hopes to have a combination of 690 new and upgraded Block III variants to keep the Apache fleet flying until 2040.

With the Block III contract, more than 1,000 Apache helicopters will be in the fleet of the Army and 11 international customers.

The Block III variant “continues to address sustainment challenges that will keep Apache relevant today, ready for tomorrow and prepared for the future,” Openshaw said. It flies higher and faster, has new combat systems and fuselage, and can operate unmanned aircraft from



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Apache project manager Col. Shane Openshaw talks about the success of the Apache Longbow fleet during a press conference in front of an Apache helicopter at the Army Aviation Association of America annual professional forum and exposition.**

its cockpit. It has improved target acquisition and engagement capabilities.

“It will eliminate all the wear and tear since the aircraft was first delivered in the 1980s,” he said. “It incorporates open system architecture, which really sets the backbone of what aircraft is going to be in the future. ... It’s not what we advertised. It’s significantly more.”

Apache helicopters have flown more

than 3.5 million flight hours with almost 1 million of those hours in combat.

Openshaw said the new Apache continues its legacy.

“It was a game changer when it first came out as Apache. Then, it was a more of a game changer with the D model. Block III will be another game changer,” he said.

## Soldiers

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Shadow, Raven and Puma can all go on missions with Soldiers, yet they take a slightly different path.

Shadow requires an area that can

serve as a temporary airfield and takes about an hour to set up. It needs a five to seven-member team for set up. With a battalion, a Shadow UAS unit consists of 27 Soldiers that provide 24-hour capabilities. The Shadow can fly missions up to nine hours long.

“As the brigade moves, Shadow moves with it,” Gray said. “Shadow is an integrated piece of the mission. It does require some advanced planning for operating in a tactical environment.”

Raven, carried in a Soldier’s rucksack, and Puma, usually carried in a vehicle within a convoy, are easily assembled and then hand-launched in the field as the need arises. Raven can fly for 70 to 90 minutes and Puma can fly for up to two hours. Raven and Puma are valued because “they go on patrol with the rest of the platoon and they provide a real-time feed to

the commander,” Harris said. “These smaller systems can be deployed on the fly, in an instant in real-time. With the bigger systems – Shadow, Hunter and Gray Eagle – you have more planning involved.”

The Soldiers think unmanned aircraft systems will continue to grow their profile on the battlefield as the systems get smaller, more sophisticated and easier to use, and teaming with manned aircraft expands.

“Our primary job in UAS is to support the Soldier with real-time situational analysis. These systems are force multipliers. They bring a lot of combat power with them and allow you to be persistent in your coverage of the battlefield,” Gray said. “When you see how one of these systems can save someone’s life, they take on instant relevance.”

# Unmanned aircraft shoots missile at test target

The Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, in cooperation with the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office, successfully demonstrated the Shadow Hawk's small precision-guided weapon release from a Shadow 200 tactical UAS, RQ-7, resulting in a direct hit on the ground target March 28.

Under AMRDEC's Aviation Multi-Platform Munition Program Science and Technology Program, a Shadow Hawk missile (developed by Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control) was commanded and released using AMRDEC's Universal Test Pod and impacted the designated ground target. The UTP employed a General Dynamics advanced information systems' universal armaments controller which provides universal armaments interface message protocol in achieving a universal, open-architecture weapon interface.

The objective of the AMPM S&T test program was to reduce integration risks and advance technologies for future UAS weapon integration activities being planned and executed by the Army in cooperation with the Marine Corps. Risk reduction is achieved by demonstrating the utility of an open-architecture weapon interface which promises to reduce both integration cost and schedule for programs that follow.

This test event was the first-time demonstration of a precision-guided weapon released from a RQ-7 Shadow 200 UAS. It also marks the first-time that UAI protocol and standards were used in commanding a small precision-guided weapon from a UAS platform. The UTP data link interface provides the foundation and proof-of-concept in building the OSD UAS Task Force Unmanned Sys-

tems Interoperability Profile for weapons, which is currently in staffing to the services for comment.

The Shadow Hawk weapon demonstrated was an 11-pound, 2.75-inch diameter, drop-glide weapon, which was terminally-guided with a semi-active laser seeker and carried an inert warhead. For this initial demonstration, the target was designated with a ground location laser designator. Fielded upgrades to the Shadow UAS include the integration of a POP300D sensor package, which will contain a laser designator on-board the UAS.

As a "drop-glide" weapon, the Shadow Hawk missile precisely delivers an anti-personnel warhead within the smallest payload weight possible. Lighter weight weapons offer greater weapon load-outs, while preserving critical time-on-station of UAS aircraft in performing reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition operations.

AMRDEC's universal test pod, developed in partnership with Dynetics Inc., GDAIS, and Torch Technologies Inc., demonstrates a universal, open-architecture attributes of UAI standards and protocol. An open-architecture approach offers quicker and less-expensive adaptation of new weapons and instills greater competition by publishing weapon interface requirements, without the constraints of proprietary interfaces and restrictions.



The Shadow RQ-7 unmanned aircraft system files over the Rapid Integration and Acceptance Center, at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, during a weapon demonstration.

Army photo

The Shadow Tactical UAS is approximately a 400-pound unmanned aircraft with a 14-foot wingspan, and is active in current Afghanistan operations with the Army and Marines. In response to an in-theater Marines urgent operational need statement, AAI Unmanned Aircraft Systems received a contract in December from Army UAS PMO to conduct a weaponization feasibility study and demonstration using Shadow UAS.

Arming UAS with precision weapons offers effective means to quickly react to fleeting, time-sensitive terrorist threats on the ground. Over-flight of UAS, equipped with electro-optical and infrared cameras, offers first dictation of terrorist activities, and equipping UAS with weapons, offers quick-strike reaction to those threats.

Steven Low, program manager for

AMPM, said "outfitting UAS with small, right-sized munitions provides most-effective means for attacking terrorist threats in remote, hard-to-reach areas. Our technology pursuit under the AMPM program is to design small weapons and adaptable weapon interfaces to outfit both UAS and manned aircraft. This successful weapon demonstration was achieved through the cooperative work and relentless dedication of AMRDEC's government and contractor teams."

This flight test demonstration of the Shadow Hawk weapon from the Shadow UAS was performed at the UAS PMO's Rapid Integration and Acceptance Center, Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. Shadow UAS crew operations were provided by AAI, prime contractor for the Shadow UAS. (AMRDEC release)

Photo by Kari Hawkins

## Civilian award

Andrew Ksepka of Redstone Arsenal, holding statue at right, is named the Joseph P. Cribbins Department of the Army Civilian of the Year at the Army Aviation Association of America annual professional forum and exposition in Nashville on April 2. Ksepka, assistant project manager for modifications in the Utility Helicopter Project Office, is known as "The Godfather of Aircraft Modifications" in Army aviation circles. In the past year alone, he had oversight of modifications for more than 430 Blacks Hawks used by the Army, Air Force, foreign military sales and other government agencies. Ksepka shared this year's award with William Braddy, deputy commander for production at Corpus Christi Army Depot, holding statue at left.



Courtesy photo

## Test center's video

Attendees at last week's Army Aviation Association of America exposition view a video highlighting Redstone Test Center's capabilities. Aviation Flight Test Directorate personnel staffed RTC's exhibit booth during the AAAA annual Professional Forum and Exposition held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville.

# Forum

continued from page 1

commander of the Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, said.

"I think it represents both things. We have to fight today and we have to win today. But we have to keep an eye on the future."

During the opening ceremony, Quad A awards were presented, the new Army Aviation Congressional Caucus was introduced, Army spouses were recognized and the challenges facing Army aviation were addressed.

Petrosky talked about the legacy of Army aviation, with 2012 being the 70th anniversary of the creation of organic Army aviation. Modern Army aviation was born June 1942, a few months after the U.S. entered World War II. It was referred to as "organic" to distinguish it from the Army Air Force and because its aircraft and personnel were organic — or a new and evolving development — for battalions, brigades and divisions of Army ground forces that used them initially for assistance in adjusting artillery fire. That role grew to include command and control, medical evacuation, wire laying, courier service, aerial photography, reconnaissance and other purposes.

In the 1950s, Army aviation transitioned to the next phase as Army leaders called for the use of helicopters in new tactical missions. During the Korean conflict and the Vietnam War,

Army aviation established the "greatest generation, also called the originals," Petrosky said, including Black Hawk, Huey and Chinook, and their pilots, crews and maintenance personnel.

Quad A formed in 1957 in support of Army aviation. Today it has more than 18,000 members, more than 200 corporate industry partners and 71 chapters. The organization gave out \$310,000 in scholarships in 2011.

Quad A continues to support Army aviation by promoting its accomplishments, opportunities and challenges through several conferences each year, including the annual forum in Nashville. It has been instrumental in assisting with the establishment of the Army Aviation Congressional Caucus in Congress.

"We now have 40 bipartisan members," U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks, who introduced the caucus to Quad A's membership, said. "This is a defining moment in Army aviation. ... A strong aviation core is invaluable to our war fighting effort. Army aviation is the first in and the last out, and critical to the success of boots on the ground. We want to use this caucus to raise awareness of issues on Capitol Hill, and to raise awareness amongst members of the U.S. Congress and private industry."

The caucus, established in late 2011 through a suggestion by a member of Quad A's Tennessee Valley chapter, serves as a forum for Congress and industry to discuss Army aviation, and to effect public policy regarding Army aviation.

Today, Army aviation is strong because of the bonds that have been built over multiple deployments, said Maj. Gen. Jim McConville, commander of the 101st Airborne Division Air Assault and Fort Campbell, Ky. The 30,000 soldiers, 8,000 civilians and 5,300 family members of the 101st Airborne are testament to the special bonds built within units that face challenges together.

"Our branch is stronger. Our branch is respected. Our branch is needed and depended upon by those who measure our success — our ground forces," he said. "We're continuing to make Army aviation better every single day. Our aviators are what a Soldier should be — someone who leads from the front, and who is highly trained, disciplined and fit."

Crutchfield, who is both Fort Rucker's commander and the lead spokesman for the Army aviation enterprise — or aviation "six-pack" — consisting of the Aviation Center of Excellence, the Program Executive Office for Aviation, the Aviation and Missile Command, Special Operations Aviation, the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate and Army Aviation at the Pentagon, said Army aviation must face change



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Gary Nenninger, right, president of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America, accepts an award for Super Chapter of the Year from Quad A president retired Lt. Gen. Dan Petrosky.**

yet again as the Army changes and adapts to address budget constraints and a smaller footprint.

"How do we keep our combat edge? How do we continue to the 2030 point where we have to produce strong capable aviation systems? We need new helicopters that are faster, that are more lethal and that reduce the logistical blueprint," he said.

"2030 is the aim point. If we don't start now thinking about the future, we'll be behind the change."

The Army aviation enterprise campaign plan must consider training, sustainment and modernization with every aviation system.

"All tasks are rooted in those three things," Crutchfield said. "The key is sustaining what we have today, but also modernizing our future vertical-lift capabilities for tomorrow. No matter what we do, the helicopters of today will eventually be obsolete."

The campaign plan will promote the development of a joint vertical-lift aircraft. Performance specifications for the aircraft will be released this summer.

Crutchfield said Army aviation will continue to succeed if "we sustain and expand the enterprise's culture of collaboration, ensure unity of effort and speak with one voice, embrace a cost culture approach that identifies what we need and, once we define our need, lock down on the plan and execute."

"We can't get everything we want. But we must get everything that we need. That's how we sustain the sharp edge we have today."

Army aviation will continue as a lead-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Maj. Gen. Anthony Crutchfield of Fort Rucker holds his wife Kim's hand as the two express their appreciation for Army aviation families during the Quad A forum in Nashville. "Army families have endured long separations, but they do it with pride and determination," Kim Crutchfield said. "The strength of our Soldiers is the family."**

er as long as Soldier aviators have the equipment they need to deploy, fight and return to their families, he said.

"This is about doing what's right for our nation, for our Army, for our branch, for our Soldiers and for our families," Crutchfield said.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Maj. Gen. Jim McConville, commander of the 101st Airborne Division Air Assault and Fort Campbell, Ky., talks about the strong bonds of Soldier aviators and their families.**

**Win or Lose**

# Launchers swim team moving up this year

*To compete in B division in the rocket city league*

By **SKIP VAUGHN**  
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They won a championship in their second year, and time will tell what their third year brings.

Registration is under way through May 14 for the Redstone Arsenal Launchers swim team for ages 5-17. To sign up call Mike Gates, sports and fitness director for Child Youth and School Services, at 313-3699.

Cost is \$145, \$125 for active-duty Soldier family members. Practice starts May 29 and will be held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at pool 2 on Weeden Mountain Road. The seniors (ages 13 and over) will practice 9:30-11:30 a.m., the juniors (ages 9-12) go from 9:30-11 a.m. and the mighty mites (ages 8 and under) from 11:15 to noon. There will be some Saturday practices to be announced. Meets are Wednesdays in June and the first half of July.

The Launchers won the C division at the 2011 Rocket City Swim League championships held July 9-10 at the Brahan Spring Park Natatorium.

Jones Valley Recreation Association captured the overall championship with 1,493 points. They were followed by Piedmont (1,471.5), Greenwyche (1,447.5), Monte Sano (1,369.5) and Blossomwood (1,022). Byrd Spring (948) won the B division, followed by Whitesburg (839), Sherwood (826) and Hampton Cove (781). Redstone Arsenal (730) won the C division, followed by Mountain Springs (701.5), Camelot (694), Sharon Johnston (557), Lily Flagg (533), Mt. Carmel (291), YMCA (187) and Valley Hill (144).

“There are A, B and C divisions in the Rocket City Swim League,” Launchers coach Colette Miglioizzi said. “And we won the C division so we got moved up into the B division (this year). It’s going to be more competitive so my goal is to finish in the middle of the pack in the B division this year and just improve and get better.”

The team will register up to 110 youngsters, including up to 80 who are ages 9 and



Courtesy photo

**Launchers swimmers accepting their trophy at the 2011 city meet as the 13-14 girls high point winners are, from left, Ellen Haapoja, Logan Maddox, Erin Paul and Claire Munster.**

over. Last year the Launchers grew to 86 members, up from 48 in 2010 which was its first year.

“Stay tuned for a (scheduled) date to meet and have questions with the coach,” Miglioizzi said.

# Top military anglers sail to Jasper for annual tournament

*Two from Redstone among participants*

By **DEBRA TALLEY**  
American Bass Anglers

ATHENS – The best military anglers in the country will gather at Lewis Smith Lake in Jasper on April 29 through May 4 to fish for bragging rights and a trip to fish the legendary lakes with owner and fishing icon Ray Scott during the 22nd annual American Bass Anglers Military Team Bass Championship.

Any active duty military or Coast Guard member, Department of Defense civilian, retired military member, honorably discharged veteran, military family members at least 16 years old and DoD contractors can participate. Angling teams of two people pay \$150 per team to enter, if

the team registers by April 19. After that, the entry fee rises to \$175. Anglers can also enter an optional big bass pot for \$30 per team with the hope of collecting cash rewards for landing lunkers. Each team may weigh in up to five bass per day.

After three days, the team with the largest bag will win a three-night/four-day fishing adventure to Ray Scott’s Trophy Bass Retreat. The legendary trophy bass lakes will offer two lucky anglers the opportunity to fish in the wake of presidents, first ladies and fishing superstars like Kevin Van Dam, Rick Clunn, Roland Martin and Bill Dance – all amidst 200 acres of live oaks, Spanish moss and whitetail deer, all courtesy of Early Times Kentucky Whisky.

In addition, one lucky person will win a seven-day vacation to any destination in the world served by the Armed Forces Vacation

Club in a drawing. Other high tournament finishers will receive cash prizes, based upon the total number of entries.

The public is invited to attend the free weigh-ins, which begin at 3 p.m. each tournament day at the Smith Lake Dam Launch Area. In addition, the Bama Girls will entertain during a free USO show, slated for 7 p.m. April 30 at the Community Health Systems Building in Jasper. The public is invited to attend this patriotic event, as long as seats are available.

Fishing in his 14th Military Bass Anglers



**Timothy Walters**

Tournament is retired Air Force Master Sgt. Timothy Walters who since 2004 worked at Redstone as a contractor and now an Army civilian working in DES, training the civilian security guard force.

“I guess my first real fishing trip was with the entire family when I was about 8 or 9 years old,” Walters said. “My aunt had a houseboat on Cumberland Lake in Kentucky, and the entire family went up and spent a few days on the boat with her. But I didn’t start truly bass

**See Anglers on page 39**



**Patrick Anderson**

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# Corps engineer finds her niche as brawler

*'Pretty Girl Swag'*  
fights in MMA

By JO ANITA MILEY  
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

By day, the Army Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center's Molly Richardson is a mild-mannered structural engineer in the center's Engineering Directorate.

By night she is Molly "Pretty Girl Swag" Richardson, the tenacious brawler – a mixed-martial arts fighter.

For the past eight months, the 5-foot-3, 115-pound engineer has trained to compete as an amateur mixed-martial arts fighter.

MMA is a full-contact, combat sport that allows the use of both striking and grappling techniques, both standing and on the ground, including boxing, wrestling, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, muay Thai, kickboxing, taekwondo, karate, judo and other styles. Fighters must be trained heavily in striking and grappling in order to succeed in the cage.

Richardson said she has played sports her entire life – soccer, softball, basketball, tennis and even football. She is also a wide receiver and kicker for a semi-professional all women's football team called the Huntsville Tigers.

Participating in sports usually reserved for male athletes has always been an interest for her. However, she said it wasn't until June when she landed a permanent job at the center that she realized she had found her ultimate sport.

"I played soccer all the way through college and wanted a good workout when I moved here," Richardson said. "One of my friends was training in MMA, and told me it was a killer workout (which it definitely is) and it turned out that I really liked the combat side of the sport."

There is also a huge mental aspect of the sport. Richardson said training as an MMA athlete is almost like chess.

"You have to try to read ahead on what your opponent's game plan is and what their next move might be," she said. "Except you only have a split second to change your next move and plan to counteract theirs."

Richardson said she also loves the excitement that comes with combat sports like MMA. Because of this passion, she decided to begin competing in the sport and officially launched her fighting career March 24 in a faceoff with another amateur MMA fighter, Anna Smith, at the Von Braun Center's Propst Arena.

"It was a good fight, with some intense moments," Richardson said. "During the last part of the match, my opponent was able to pin my arm behind my back in a way that I couldn't get it loose, which gave her the win by arm submission. I learned a lot in the octagon that I will use as I train for my next competition."

Although Richardson didn't prevail, fighting in this match was the first step on the path to launching her career into the MMA world.

She said the fight was a testament to the effort she has put into the sport so far and gave her a glimpse of what she needs to do in order to succeed in future bouts.

Because athletes normally only plan one fight ahead, Richardson said she doesn't know when she will compete again, but she is very eager for this opportunity. She will work closely with her trainer, Jason Carley of Riviera Fitness, to train for her next fight.

"I love competing and I can't wait to get back into the cage again," Richardson said.

Preparing for a match is a huge effort that requires lots of preparation inside and outside of the ring.

Richardson said each fighter needs a great trainer and good sponsors to get some visibility within the MMA world.

"As a fighter, I focus on improving my fighting skills through strength and conditioning training. Outside of the gym, I am looking for sponsors willing to support my efforts and accomplishments," she said. "Several sponsors supported me in my first fight – Knuckleheads Sports Pub and Restaurant, Partners Bar and Grille, XtremeX-ile and the Huntsville Tigers."

When asked how a person can begin MMA fighting, Richardson said finding a local gym or training facility that offers MMA classes is the first step.

In addition to training, participating in local amateur MMA fights is extremely important for visibility and experience. Huntsville was a great place for her to do both.

Richardson said her initial goals with MMA were to learn self-defense and to keep in shape. However, she has gained a lot more than she bargained for, and anticipates



Courtesy photo

**Molly Richardson, left, and opponent Anna Smith put up their dukes before their mixed martial arts bout March 24 at the Von Braun Center's Propst Arena. Richardson's first fight was a loss but ignited a passion and has her training for more.**

a great future competing in the sport.

Now she would really like to continue to compete and maybe even go into higher levels of competition within MMA.

Richardson said she'd like to explore other combat sports. But for now, MMA is her passion.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

## Gone fishing

**Retired Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mark Mulder and his wife, Rachel, fish at the Col. Carroll Hudson Recreation Area.**

# Army baseball team falls to Manhattan

WEST POINT, N.Y. – Ramon Ortega and Matt Troisi combined to go 8-for-10 with eight runs batted and five runs scored as Manhattan overcame an early 10-5 deficit to defeat Army 18-11 in a non-league baseball game on a windy afternoon April 4 at Doubleday Field.

“It was a tough day for us,” Army coach Joe Sottolano said. “It was a disappointing day in some ways, but I still thought we did a lot of good things. We swung the bats well, we hit the ball hard and we had consistent at-bats throughout the ballgame. But pitching and defense win championships, and our pitching just didn’t compete in the zone today.”

Nick Camastro went 3-for-5 with four runs scored and one RBI to help Manhattan (9-17) to its fifth straight victory. Kyle Murphy was 3-for-6 with two runs scored and two RBI for the Jaspers, who scored six runs during a decisive seventh inning rally.

Kevin McKague went 4-for-5 with four runs batted in to pace Army (19-8) offensively. The senior from Fayetteville,

N.C., blasted a two-run homer during the Black Knights’ six-run uprising in the first inning and capped Army’s four-run third inning with a two-run double. He added a pair of singles later in the contest and finished a triple shy of the cycle.

“Kevin swung the bat well today,” Sottolano said. “He got us going early, which we really needed after falling behind 2-0. Kevin has been hitting the ball to all fields, which is great for us. He’s certainly getting hot at the right time with J.T. (Watkins) being down.”

Zach Price posted three hits on the afternoon, going 3-for-6 with two runs scored and one RBI. Matthew Carter was 3-for-5 with two runs scored and one run batted. Patrick Mescher, Cody Murtle and Connor Love each went 2-for-4 to help spark Army’s 19-hit attack.

Manhattan took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning on Murphy’s RBI single and Ortega’s solo home run.

Army answered quickly in the home half of the first as the Black Knights sent

10 men to the plate and scored six runs on seven hits. Price tripled to left center field leading off the inning and he scored when Daniel Cortes grounded a base hit through the left side of the infield. McKague followed by smashing his third home run of the season. The two-run shot, which just stayed fair inside the left field line, gave Army a 3-2 lead. Mescher and Murtle then hit consecutive singles to put runners on first and second. Carter and Love followed with back-to-back RBI singles to extend the Black Knights’ advantage to 5-2. Carter, who moved to third base on Love’s run-scoring base hit, scored the sixth run of the frame when he scampered home on a wild pitch.

“I thought we had steady approaches and hit the ball hard during the first inning,” Sottolano said. “We did that throughout the day. Of our 19 hits, I don’t know that we had any cheap ones. I was pleased with the way we put together consistent at-bats today.”

Army fell to 32-18-2 all-time versus Manhattan. (*goARMYsports.com website*)



Photo from *goARMYsports.com* website

**Army’s Kevin McKague went 4-for-5 with four RBIs against Manhattan.**

## Anglers

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fishing until 1994 while stationed in Delaware, and have been hooked ever since.

“I’ve never fished Smith Lake so I’m excited to go to a new fishery. But to be honest with you, I use these tournaments as an opportunity to spend a week with my best friend, who is also retired Air Force. We met in 1977 just after basic training, went through the Security Police Academy together and then to our first duty station together. We’ve stayed in constant contact ever since. I speak to him at least once a week and sometimes more. I’m probably closer to him than my own brother.

“Probably my most memorable time at one of these events was in 1998 when I fished the event on Lake Sam Rayburn in Texas. I had just bought a brand new 17-foot Triton bass boat from the Boat House in Athens, and we actually had to finish the break-in period during practice while there. On the last day of the tourney we had severe storms roll through the area. Long story short, I thought I was going to leave my brand new boat on the bottom of Sam Rayburn. There were times when we’d go up a wave and see land, but when we went back down the wave, all you could see was water. Very scary! I don’t anticipate waves like that at Smith Lake!”

Walters and his wife, Tammy, have two grown children, Stacy and Steve. Although

originally from Mississippi, they have resided in Harvest since 1997.

**J**oining him from Redstone where he works as a civilian contractor is retired Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Anderson, who hails from Ardmore.

“I’ve been fishing since I was able to hold a cane pole, when my father put it in my hand probably around 1 ½ years old,” Anderson said. “I’ve fished in two of the military tournaments before, finishing second and third respectively. I’m looking forward to this event for the fellowship with the other guys and a good showing for the Army.

“I’ve been fishing in tournaments since I won my first event at age 13. I’ve been very fortunate throughout my life to be able to draw from the skills of many expert anglers, and applied those skills towards numerous tournament victories. My most notable victories being the American Bass Anglers 2007 Grand Slam Pro-Series ‘Angler of the Year’ and the 2004 American Fishing Tour ‘Angler of the Year’ and ‘National Champion.’

“My most memorable story that sticks out in my mind was related to the last Military Tournament that my partner and I fished on Lake Guntersville,” Anderson continued. “On the final day, we were within ounces of the leaders, we just needed to come in with a respectable limit of five bass and we could win this thing. The day started out with a good bite, three good fish early, and then the struggle to close a limit began. My partner and I started running all over the lake to find two more fish, that’s

all we needed, just two more bass! So now the pressure is on and what do you think happened? Well, to quote the opening from the TV series Gilligan’s Island, ‘the weather started getting rough,’ and I mean really rough, but we were determined to catch those green fish.

“So we fished on, and with just under two hours remaining I hooked up with about a 3 pounder. The winds were 30 mph plus and the rain was coming down so hard we could barely see from the front of the boat to the back. As I fought this fish, I was yelling to my partner to get the net, for which he yelled back, ‘I can’t find it, it must have blown off the deck.’ Anxious at the thought of losing this bass, I started looking for the net too (while still engaged in the battle). At that moment I looked down to discover that my partner was standing on the net, like I said the weather was rough, really rough! So we finally landed the fish, one down and one to go! Just about an hour left and I had a spot I really wanted to fish, and only 10 minutes from our current location, but my partner had another spot in mind. With only enough time to fish one of the spots, I lost the coin toss. So off we went to my partner’s spot, and we proceeded to catch nothing! So time ran out and off to the weigh-in we went one fish short of a limit. When it was all over, we ended up in second place (definitely not bad), with less than a pound from victory (ouch!). But it doesn’t quite end there – well the tournament did – but curiosity got the better of

me on the way home and I talked my partner into stopping at the ramp next to the spot I wanted to fish. Just wanted to see if it would have been any better choice – my gut certainly thought so. Anyway, to end an already long story, we fished that spot for 30 minutes and caught two limits of keeper bass, averaging 3-4 pounds apiece. I just looked at my partner and shook my head; ‘shoulda, coulda, woulda,’ oh well. But I’m really pumped about this upcoming tournament with other military anglers from all across the U.S. I’m looking forward to a great time. And it’s certainly not too late for others to enter. It would be great to have several anglers from right here at Redstone to help us bring the title to Alabama.”

**A**nderson and his wife, Peggy, have two daughters and a son. Sponsors for the event include the Walker County Chamber of Commerce, Jasper, Triton Boats, Early Times Kentucky Whisky, Royal Purple Synthetic Motor Oil, Anheuser Busch, Anglers Advantage Insurance, Carlisle Tire & Wheel, The Armed Forces Vacation Club, Moon Pie, Rejuvenade, Innovative Outdoors-Moss Hawg, Lucky Craft Lures, US Reel, and Odyssey Batteries.

For more information on the Military Bass Anglers and to enter, call (888) 203-6222 or visit [www.americanbassanglers.com](http://www.americanbassanglers.com).

*Editor’s note: Debra Talley is the national marketing director for American Bass Anglers, which offers more than 1,000 tournaments per year in 40 states that are designed for the weekend angler.*

# Athens State students assist local pro football team

ATHENS – A simple definition of the term logistics is “the science of planning, organizing and managing activities that provide goods or services.” Those familiar with logistics are likely to be many of the Army professionals ensuring our Soldiers have everything needed, as they defend our freedoms in some of the most hostile regions of the world. The Aviation and Missile Command and their parent headquarters, the Army Materiel Command, have set the standard for exceptional logistics programs and they have the distinction of providing the highest levels of readiness and operational support to our armed forces. Now enterprises outside the military recognize that logistics can be a key element of their success and if administered correctly, offer opportunities to both improve their performance while also reducing costs. Therefore, logistics is fostering



**John Springer**

some unique and creative relationships here in the Tennessee Valley.

The Alabama Hammers is Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley’s locally owned professional football team in the Professional Indoor Football League, and “Hammer Time” at the Von Braun Center’s Propst Arena has become one of the hottest tickets in north Alabama. What many don’t know is the part logistics is playing in the Hammer’s success and how this is being facilitated by a group of talented students from Athens State University. In 2010, Athens State launched three new business majors in acquisition and contract management, enterprise systems management, and logistics and supply chain management. These programs were initiated to assist the efforts of the Tennessee Valley BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) Committee, and to

ultimately aid the long-term needs of the work force that will be employed on Redstone Arsenal and throughout the north Alabama and south Tennessee region. As businesses across the world are discovering, logistics is a lynchpin to success outside traditional military enterprises.

“From day one, we considered it a privilege to provide Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley what it richly deserves to have and that is a locally owned professional football team that is exceptional in every respect,” Joe Stroud, team president, said. “And obviously, a fantastic football team starts with talent on the field and in the coaching staff. Our fans are absolutely the best and we wanted every aspect of our operations to provide a total entertainment experience that we believe they deserve. So we worked with Athens State and established several logistics internships and today, these students are playing key roles in our operations.”

“The phrase ‘win-win’ is a perfect description of the program we have with the Alabama Hammers,” Dr. Linda Shonesy, dean of the College of Business, said. “Our students now have unparalleled opportunities to work with some world-class professionals with the Hammers and see logistics principles put into operation. As for the Alabama Hammers, they are tapping into a renowned faculty and student population that bring cutting edge skills and techniques to the table.”

John Springer, one of the Athens State interns with the Hammers, said: “When I entered Athens State, I never envisioned having an opportunity to work with a professional football team. However, in the course of my studies, I’ve discovered logistics is involved in almost everything we do. I’ve discovered that a logistician is similar to the conductor of an orchestra, because it doesn’t matter how well individual musicians may play, their talents must be brought together in a cohesive manner to make music. This opportunity with the Alabama Hammers has afforded me an opportunity not only to learn how logistics operates in the real-world, but also it has also shown me what it means to be a professional.”

Said Shonesy, “We are finding a growing demand for our students and the talents they bring to the marketplace. With organizations like the Alabama Hammers and many other businesses, who have established similar internships for our students, they are realizing opportunities to apply their skills in a laboratory-type setting, so that when they graduate, they can hit the ground running. If current demand is any indication, we’re just seeing the tip of the iceberg in terms of what we can offer the business community. At the end of the day, everyone at Athens State is here to do one thing and that is to build success stories for our students. Needless to say, we are all excited.” (*Athens State release*)



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

## Wellness winners

During the SMDC Presidential Wellness Program Challenge, the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command recognized, from left, Theresa Morris, SMDC/ARSTRAT Contracting and Acquisition Management Office; Cecil Longino, SMDC Strategic Initiatives Group; David Crouch, SMDC Business Initiatives Office; and Phillis Reid, SMDC Inspector General Office. The command presented the challenge’s winners with parking spaces, FMWR dollars and free entry ticket to the Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation event.

## Sports & Recreation

### AER 5K run

AMRDEC's AER 5K run and fun walk, benefiting Army Emergency Relief, is April 19 at 8:30 a.m. Registration deadline to receive a T-shirt is today. Plaques will be awarded to male and female age category winners and division/group winners. Entry fee is \$20. Cost for a T-shirt only (not running or walking) is \$15. Military, civilian or contractor employees and their family members are welcome. To register call the following people at building 5400: Mary Gail Fairchild 842-2775, Mary Ann Brothers 876-1216, Deadra Hereford 876-3289 or Jessica Glover 876-2781.

### Post golf championship

The annual Felix Milar Active Duty Post Golf Championship is April 28-29 at the Links. Tee times are 8 a.m. each day. This two-day tournament is open to active duty military only. To register, call Gaylene Wilson at 842-2574 or Joe Reed at 876-2943 or email [gaylene.wilson@us.army.mil](mailto:gaylene.wilson@us.army.mil) or [joe.a.reed@conus.army.mil](mailto:joe.a.reed@conus.army.mil).

### Bass tournament

The third annual Homeland Security Bass Tournament is May 18-19 at Ingalls Harbor, Decatur. The entry form is available at <http://www.the-boat-house.com/>. For more information, call David Whitman 652-3446 or Ed Whitman 337-0909.

### Buckhorn benefit tourney

The Buckhorn High School Quarterback Club will hold a golf tournament May 5 at 1:30 p.m. at the Colonial Hills Golf Course, Meridianville. This four-man scramble will benefit the Buckhorn Bucks. Cost is \$75 per player, \$300 per team. Entry deadline is April 20. If paying with checks, make checks payable to Buckhorn High football. For more information, call Jay Wilson 520-7927.

### Arc benefit

Volunteers, local communities and businesses will tee off April 20 at the Links at Redstone for The Arc of Madison County's annual golf benefit. The funds will support programs for children and adults with intellectual disabilities and benefit the environment. CSC, a founding sponsor, is one of several businesses that uses The Arc's recycling program. These services give The Arc's clients job training and improve the community. To learn more about The Arc and the fund-raiser, visit <http://www.hsvarc.org/> or email Amy Dilocker at [adilocker@csc.com](mailto:adilocker@csc.com).

### Run to remember

A Redstone Arsenal chapter of Run to Remember is meeting every Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Vincent Park walking trail. The group is walking and running a 5K (3.1 miles) together as a living memorial to fallen Soldiers. The Redstone chapter will participate together in the Cotton Row Run on

Memorial Day and continue their activities with other area running events. Members are encouraged to wear royal blue T-shirts or the Run to Remember T-shirt that can be ordered from <http://www.wearblueruntoremember.org>.

### Senior baseball

The local Huntsville/Decatur men's recreational baseball organization, the Southern Senior Baseball League, is looking for new players to participate in its upcoming season. The SSBL has two age divisions: Veteran's Division, with players from age 25 to early 40s, and Master's Division, with players from age mid-40s through 60s. Its weekly spring training practices are being held each Sunday afternoon at Butler High through late May (start times vary). The league plays a 20-game season from late-May through August, normally with two games played per week (one weeknight and one Sunday afternoon or evening game). Games are played in the Huntsville/Decatur area. For more information, call Bill McArdle 876-9867 or email [joinsbl@comcast.net](mailto:joinsbl@comcast.net).

### Military bass tournament

Lewis Smith Lake, in Jasper, has been selected as the host city for the 22nd annual Military Team Bass Tournament. The week-long event is scheduled April 29 through May 4. "We are very excited to host the American Bass Anglers Military Team Bass Championship and to invite the country's most avid military bass anglers and their families to our community," Linda Lewis, executive director of the Walker County Chamber of Commerce, said. For more information on American Bass Anglers and the Military Tournament, visit [www.americanbassanglers.com](http://www.americanbassanglers.com) or [www.militarybassanglers.com](http://www.militarybassanglers.com).

### Golf benefit

Delta Zeta Sorority seventh annual "Tee Off With Delta Zeta," benefiting speech and hearing impaired, will be held April 21 at the Becky Pierce Municipal Golf Course. Morning and afternoon tee times are available. For more information, email Shelby Lindley, Delta Zeta annual philanthropy chairwoman, at [Shlooo2@uah.edu](mailto:Shlooo2@uah.edu).

### Ladies golf tourney

Still Serving Veterans will host its first Ladies Golf Tournament to honor women warriors April 23 at the Huntsville Country Club. The tournament will be a four-women scramble with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. To register or be a sponsor of this event, call Lupi Rodriguez 883-7035 or email [Irodri-guez@stillservingveterans.org](mailto:Irodri-guez@stillservingveterans.org).

### 3-on-3 tournament

The Jack's Rick and Bubba 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament and Family Fun Zone is May 5 at the Madison Square Mall. "While it is a day of basketball, it is also a day where families can enjoy a day of fun activities in the Family Fun Zone," a prepared release said. "So whether you are looking to play basketball or looking for something

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fun to do with your family, this event is for you." The event includes \$2,000 cash prize, Win Jack's Meals for a Year, \$10,000 Hot Shot Contest and more. Register today at [www.rickandbubba3on3.com](http://www.rickandbubba3on3.com).

### County golf championship

The American Cancer Society 2012 Madison County Golf Championship is July 9 at the Valley Hill Country Club with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Lunch, provided by Carrabba's Italian Grill, is noon to 1 p.m. for all participants. For more information, call 535-1090.

### Valor Flight benefit

The Valor Flight Golf Classic will raise money to fly local Korean War veterans to see their memorial in Washington, D.C. The golf tournament is June 1 with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. at RTJ Hampton Cove (Highlands Course). This is an 18-hole, four-person scramble. For more information, call Tony Thomas 466-2959 or email [Valor1@ValorFlight.com](mailto:Valor1@ValorFlight.com).

### Beginning bicyclists

The Spring City Cycling Club will kick off its ninth annual Ride A Metric training series May 5. This training series will help participants progress from neighborhood or casual riders to cyclists who are confident about riding on the road. This program is intended to prepare riders for the SCCC All You Can Eat Metric Century (100 kilometers) on Sept. 15, but is also an excellent development program for those who wish to ride shorter distances on the road. The RAM series is a collection of weekly rides that help cyclists advance their skills and ride longer distances as the weeks go by. Two organization meetings will be held. The first will be April 18 at 6:30 p.m. at Bicycles ETC., 611-A Meridian St. The second will be April 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Hogan Family YMCA, 130 Park Lane, Madison. For more information, contact Geanine Lehmann 655-6385, [gean31356@aol.com](mailto:gean31356@aol.com), Don Watt 690-2210 or visit the club website <http://www.springcity.org/ram>.

### Boating safety

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 082-24-06 will offer the Boating Skills and Seamanship class April 12 through May 24. Classes will meet Thursdays from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Garrison Safety Office, building 3687 on Neal Road. There is a \$25 charge for the course textbook. For information call Tom Kunhart, flotilla public education staff officer, at 830-6621 (home) or 527-4475 (cell) or email [tkunhart@knology.net](mailto:tkunhart@knology.net).

## Conferences & Meetings

### Weekly worship

The Contemporary Christian Worship

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

### Protestant women

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.

### Catholic mass

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Community at Bicentennial Chapel invites the Redstone community to its mass services, set for noon Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday. For baptisms, weddings or any questions, call 842-2175.

### Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at The Summit. 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.

### 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 Marva Morse 430-0860. 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.

### Small business workshops

The Army Contracting Command's Office of Small Business Programs has two workshops scheduled: Market Research April 25 and Contracting 101 June 21. Registration and more information are available at [www.armycontracting.eventbrite.com](http://www.armycontracting.eventbrite.com).

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# Rocket Announcements

## Engineer society

The Huntsville Post of the Society of American Military Engineers will hold its monthly meeting April 19 at 11:30 a.m. in the Madison Square Holiday Inn. The cost of the meal is \$15 payable at the door. Check in begins at 11. This month's spotlight firm is B.L. Harbert International. The keynote speaker will be Stephanie Woods, speaking on "BIM Templates – Essential Communication for Medical Military Community." Those interested in Building Information Modeling as both a design and a communication tool should find the presentation informative. Make reservations by April 16 at <http://samehsvpost.org/>.

## Men's ministry

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

## 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.

## Space society

Huntsville Ala. L5 Society (HAL5) will have a free program on "Solar Effects on Space and Terrestrial Systems" with Dr. Qiang Hu, University of Alabama-Huntsville. This public event is May 3 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Main Public Library. For more information, visit the website [www.HAL5.org](http://www.HAL5.org).

## Unmanned aircraft systems

The 2012 UAS Symposium, "Breaking Through the Barriers of Fielding the Technology," will be held May 14-16 at Mississippi State University. Symposium topics include "Policies and regulations of operations" and "Flight demonstrations." For more information, email Jo McKenzie at [mckenzie@raspet.msstate.edu](mailto:mckenzie@raspet.msstate.edu).

## Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. "West Point on the Eve of the Civil War" will be presented by Richard Barlow Adams, West Point Class of 1967 and author of "The Parting: A Story of West Point on the Eve of the Civil War." Optional chicken buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$8.95. Visitors are welcome. Call 541-2483 for more information.

## Simulation conference

Retired Rear Adm. Fred Lewis will headline the AlaSim International 2012 Modeling and Simulation Conference and Exhibition, May 1-3 at the Von Braun Center. Pre-registration is encouraged with low rates available through April 20. Visit [www.AlaSim.org](http://www.AlaSim.org).

## Federal employees

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Saturday at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. This will be a membership breakfast. Breakfast by Creative Catering will be served at 9 a.m. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance by calling Kay Lindsay 880-7721. Invite a prospective member who will receive a free breakfast. If you do not reserve breakfast, come for the business meeting at 10. There will be no refreshments. Angela Rawls, director of Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program, will speak. Guests are always welcome – active or retired. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

## Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter, will hold its monthly luncheon Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. Steve Celuch, president of Huntsville/Madison County Valor Flight, will be guest speaker. For ticket information, call Audrea Edwards 313-2382 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

## Lunch and learn

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Blacks In Government and the North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will hold a luncheon program April 26 at 11:30 a.m. in the Loft Room at The Summit. Federal benefits counselors Sherman Ware and Daryl Blackmon will provide information to help individuals take full advantage of their federal employee benefits. The public is invited. For those eating lunch, you should arrive early and go through the lunch line and return to the meeting room for lunch. To RSVP or for more information, call Ronnie Hawkins for BIG at 886-6001, email [programs@hsvbig.org](mailto:programs@hsvbig.org) or Mary Peoples for FEW at 955-4275 email [mary.d.peoples@us.army.mil](mailto:mary.d.peoples@us.army.mil).

## Security seminar

The 13th annual security training seminar, sponsored by the Mid-South Chapter, NCMS, the Society of Industrial Security Professionals, is Thursday in the Von Braun Center's North Hall. The program includes speakers from the National Security Agency, the Defense Security Service, the Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals and the Information Security Oversight Office.

Also featured is retired Maj. Gen. Vinny Boles. The program includes more than 20 vendor exhibits, handouts, continental breakfast, lunch, door prizes, and a certificate of completion, including CEU credits. For registration information, email Stan Miller at [stanta.miller@gmail.com](mailto:stanta.miller@gmail.com) or visit <http://ncmsmidouthchapterannualseminar2012.eventbrite.com>.

## Missiles conference

Under the theme "Maximizing Capabilities and Targets of Opportunities in Austere Times," the 14th annual Missiles Conference is April 23-24 in Von Braun Center's North Hall. The conference provides an open forum for the presentation of current and future Army tactical missile programs in a collaborative government and industry environment. It also provides senior government and industry project managers, and their staffs, opportunities to meet and interact with their counterparts. Register online at <http://www.ausaredstone.org>.

## Foreign military sales day

The Security Assistance Command will hold its first Foreign Military Sales Relationships Day for industry and business representatives April 16 from 1:15-5 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County. The meetings, to be held quarterly, will focus on facilitating interaction between the military and industry, and the benefits of developing relationships with foreign countries. The April 16 meeting will also highlight foreign military sales cases being conducted in the geographic area of U.S. Forces Central Command. Subsequent meetings will focus on other geographic combatant commands and their respective sales cases. There is no cost to attend the meeting, but advanced reservations are requested as spaces are limited to no more than two representatives from each business, company or corporation. Reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis. The cutoff is Thursday. Reservations can be made by visiting <http://www.naita.org>.

## Small business forum

The Small Business Regulatory Fairness Forum, featuring Esther Vassar, national ombudsman and assistant administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration, will be held April 19 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Boeing Auditorium, 950 Explorer Boulevard. Members of the small business community, trade organizations and media are encouraged to attend this free event. Seating is limited to the first 150 registrants. For more information, call Sharon Adams 533-5789, ext. 271. RSVP by emailing [sadams@LogiCorehsv.com](mailto:sadams@LogiCorehsv.com).

## Miscellaneous Items

### Civilian deployment

Army civilian volunteers are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command

missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Skills needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, operations, logistics and automation, among others. The new personnel deployment website is at the AMCOM homepage or <https://apdw.redstone.army.mil>. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM or AMC. Contractors or military personnel cannot be considered. Army civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and visit the deployment website or call Cindy Gordon 313-0369 or Nicole Massey 313-0365. Contractors and others interested can access [www.cpol.army.mil](http://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

Thinking of changing your military occupational specialty or entering a commissioning program and need to take an Army Personnel Testing examination? If so, call the Army Education Center Testing Office 876-9764. Tests offered include the Armed Forces Classification Test, Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test and the Defense Language Aptitude Battery test. If you speak a language and want it annotated on your records, call and make an appointment to take the Defense Language Proficiency Test. All Soldiers and qualified DA civilians are eligible to take the DLPT. In addition to APT exams, the Education Center offers the ACT, SAT, Test of Adult Basic Education and GT Improvement exams. If you are taking college classes and need a proctor, proctoring services are free and available to the Redstone Arsenal community (military/government ID card holders). Call 876-9764 to see if you are eligible to test and to schedule an appointment.

## 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 community service needs. For more information about R.S.V.P. or volunteer opportunities, call

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R.S.V.P. director Pamela Donald 513-8290 or email pdonald@seniorview.com.

### AER book sale

The AMCOM G-3/Command Analysis Directorate's annual book sale for Army Emergency Relief will be held April 16-27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Sparkman Center's building 5300 on the first floor, in the corridor between 5303 and 5304. They are accepting donations of books, books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and videotapes until April 25. If you have items to donate, call Brian Barry 876-8563.

### Korea veterans fund-raiser

Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation, 501 (c) (3), will hold their inaugural fund-raiser event with a MASH theme Friday from 5:30-9 p.m. at The Summit. The Wine and Whiskey tasting event will feature live and silent auctions. Live auction items are: a complete package of traveler guitar signed by country music legend Loretta Lynn along with her signed photo and old-time favorite CDs, Jack Daniels golf bag with putter and driver, one of a kind patriotic quilt donated by ladies of New York quilters guild, signed MASH star photos, signed footballs by LSU coaching staff and Alabama's 2009 Heisman trophy winner Mark Ingram, and more to be added. They will also have gift baskets you'd not want to miss out on winning. Proceeds from this fund-raiser will support the sixth annual luncheon honoring the Korean War Veterans, "Revisit Korea Project 2012" and will support other veterans organizations within the Tennessee Valley. Tickets are available by calling The Summit 830-2582, Still Serving Veterans 883-7054 or KC Bertling 541-0450. For more information, visit [www.legacy4koreanwarveterans.org](http://www.legacy4koreanwarveterans.org).

### NASA surplus

NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales website. Go to [www.gsaauctions.gov](http://www.gsaauctions.gov), search by state of Alabama, and there you will find items located at MSFC and other federal agencies in Alabama to bid on. For more information, call 544-1774.

### Association scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the Army Warrant Officers Association will present two \$1,000 scholarships in 2012. The application deadline is April 29. For details, eligibility and an application form, visit [www.redstonewarrants.com](http://www.redstonewarrants.com).

### Symphony auction

The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild's 39th annual Crescen-Dough Auction is Friday from 5:30-11:30 p.m. in the Von Braun Center's South Hall. More than 500 items will be yours for the bidding, including fine jewelry, one-of-a-kind parties, vacations and local merchandise. The event's theme is "Under the Big Top." Tickets are \$60 per person.

### JROTC awards dinner

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its first Gary L. Littrell JROTC Leadership Award Dinner on Thursday at 6 p.m. at The Summit. Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Littrell, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam era, will present an award in his name to 13 top cadets from local high schools. For more information, email Michael McSwain at [mikemcswainsr@us.army.mil](mailto:mikemcswainsr@us.army.mil) or Deitra Floyd at [msstang92@hotmail.com](mailto:msstang92@hotmail.com).

### Ride wanted

Curtis Tucker and his dog guide are looking for someone to ride with to and from work. His hours at building 5304 are 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and he resides at Whitesburg Estates in southwest Huntsville. If interested call 842-9289 or email [curtis.tucker@us.army.mil](mailto:curtis.tucker@us.army.mil).

### IAAP scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals, will award two scholarships of \$500 each, one to a graduating high school senior and one to a college student majoring in business. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. The deadline for applications is Friday. For more information or a scholarship application, call Elise McWilliams 313-1709, email [elise.mcwilliams@us.army.mil](mailto:elise.mcwilliams@us.army.mil), or call Ellen Mahathey 842-9888, email [ellen.mahathey@us.army.mil](mailto:ellen.mahathey@us.army.mil), or visit the Redstone Arsenal Chapter website <http://www.iaaprsa.org>.

### Omega cruise

The Omega Q-Rooze with the Ques was established in 1998 as an excursion for the members and their guests to have a weekend getaway. Since its inception it has always been held in downtown Chattanooga during the local venue called Riverfest. Traditionally, attendees stay at the Marriott Chattanooga Hotel and Conference center.

This year's event is June 9-10. Cost is \$80 per person and the hotel cost is \$109 plus tax. It includes transportation to and from Chattanooga, food and drinks en route, a 2.5-hour midnight cruise, heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks during the hotel hospitality hour and light hors d'oeuvres during the cruise. For more information, call Mike Sims 599-6612 or Gerald Vines 682-1071.

### Re-entry information

Just back from an overseas assignment and new to the Redstone Arsenal community? Feeling like a stranger in your own homeland? Contact the Relocation Readiness Program, Army Community Service, for a re-entry briefing to learn about community programs and services. All newly assigned/attached military personnel, appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian personnel, contractors and spouses, as well as retirees are welcome to call Mary Breeden, relocation readiness

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program manager, 876-5397 or email [mary.breeden@conus.army.mil](mailto:mary.breeden@conus.army.mil).

### Lending closet

The lending closet is stocked with basic household items to use before your household goods arrive or after you have been packed for your new assignment. Items may be borrowed for 30 days. ID cards and a copy of your PCS orders are required. All newly assigned/attached military personnel, appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian personnel, contractors and spouses, as well as retirees are welcome to call Mary Breeden 876-5397 or email [mary.breeden@conus.army.mil](mailto:mary.breeden@conus.army.mil). Stop by Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road, from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### Car show benefit

The Vets with Vettes and Corvette Owners Car Club will hold the eighth annual Charity Car Show on April 21 at the Bridge Street Town Centre. All proceeds from this event go to benefit the Wounded Warriors program, Survivor Outreach Services, and Toys for Tots. The entry fee is \$20 and is open to all makes of cars, trucks and motorcycles with the first 200 entries receiving a T-shirt and dash plaque. For more information, visit the club's website at [www.vetswithvettes.us](http://www.vetswithvettes.us).

### Operation smile

A lunch to raise money for Operation Smile, an effort to repair the facial deformities of children, will be held May 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Beverly Marchelos' rose garden, 3818 Holmes Ave. Cost is \$10, which is tax deductible. The menu features peanut butter sandwiches with a choice of 15 jellies, drink and dessert. RSVP by calling 534-3639 or email [bevandgeo@knology.net](mailto:bevandgeo@knology.net).

### Signal battalion reunion

The next Triennial 279th Signal Battalion Reunion Dinner is April 20 from 6-9 p.m. at Logan's Restaurant, 4249 Balmoral Drive. All members of the 279th Signal Battalion to include spouses are welcome to attend. Prospective attendees should call Robin Grubis 313-1501 or email [robin.k.grubis.civ@mail.mil](mailto:robin.k.grubis.civ@mail.mil).

### Big giveaway

The Gethsemane House of Prayer of Meridianville will hold a Big Give Away Event on May 12 for needy families. The church is gathering donated clothing, appliances and household goods to give to these families. Donations of items will be accepted. For more information, call 450-7082.

### Parent workshop

Huntsville City Schools will present a

parent workshop on "Parenting with a Plan: Behavior Strategies" April 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the executive dining room at the Annie C. Merts Center. For more information, call Greg Graham 428-6872 or email [ggraham@hsv.k12.al.us](mailto:ggraham@hsv.k12.al.us).

### Parenting classes

"Parenting 101," free classes presented by the National Children's Advocacy Center, will be held on the second Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. upstairs in the ChildWise Building, 1413 Nike St. Topics include Just for Dads (fathers only), May 8; Keeping Your Kids Safe, June 12; and Positive Discipline, July 10. Space is limited; child care is provided with reservations. To preregister call Army Community Service 876-5397. This is sponsored by the New Parent Support Program, for birth through age 3.

### Computer classes

Free self-paced computer classes are offered at Army Community Service from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Classes are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, QuickBooks and SharePoint. Each class has about three levels and will take about three hours to complete each, but you can work at your own pace. Certificates of completion are issued after you successfully complete each course. Call 876-5397 to preregister.

### Federal contractors

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs will hold a free event for federal contractors in Huntsville on May 10 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. David White, Montgomery's employment services program services manager, will present this seminar. Space is limited. For more information, call OFCCP compliance officer John Ambrose (205) 731-0820 or email [ambrose.john@dol.gov](mailto:ambrose.john@dol.gov).

### Autism workshop

The third annual Summer Help Autism/ASD Workshop is April 27 from 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Whitesburg Center, 7300 Whitesburg Drive. The workshop is provided free for parents, teachers and professionals dealing with ASD. Bring a sack lunch. The church will provide water, drinks, coffee and snacks. To preregister call 1-877-4AUTISM, ext. 2, or visit [www.autism-alabama.org](http://www.autism-alabama.org).

### Procurement course

The University of Alabama-Huntsville's Procurement Technical Assistance Center will present "AS9100 Executive Overview" on April 27 from 8 a.m. to noon at the UAH Wilson Hall, room 168. The speaker

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is Michael Shelton, president of CI Concepts. Cost is \$129 payable at the door by cash, check or credit card. For directions call 824-6422 or visit [www.sbd.edu](http://www.sbd.edu).

## Business workshops

"Practical Cash Flow Management," presented by the UAH Small Business Development Center and Procurement Technical Assistance Center, is scheduled April 24 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce auditorium, 225 Church St. The guest speaker is Jeff Thompson, director of the Center for Management and Economic Research at UAH. Cost is \$20 per person. Call 824-6422 or email [sbdc@uah.edu](mailto:sbdc@uah.edu). ... "Business Strategies - Going Green - Saving Money" will be presented April 25 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce briefing room. Guest speaker is Kay Detter, founder of HSVGREEN LLC. Cost is \$20. ... A Federal Proposal Development Workshop will be held May 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the UAH Salmon Library, room LIB-111. Registration fee is \$20, which includes lunch. For more information or to register, call Cathy Nix 824-6422 or email [sbdc@uah.edu](mailto:sbdc@uah.edu).

## Spring musical

Huntsville High School's spring musical "Oklahoma!" will be presented April 12-14 and April 19-21 at 7:30 p.m., and April 15 and 21 at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale at [www.hspanthertheater.com](http://www.hspanthertheater.com). They are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, military and

seniors. Tickets for military are \$5 for the April 19 show at 7:30 p.m. and the matinee show on April 21 at 2 p.m.

## New employee orientation

New Employee Orientation will be held April 24 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The Summit. All new employees and Soldiers are welcome. For more information, call Latoya Ragan 313-0667.

## Alliance fund-raiser

The Alliance for Opportunity and Development is a new 501(c)(3) non-profit in the Huntsville area. AOD is raising scholarship funds to send low-income adults to J.F. Drake State Technical College to obtain technical training that will lift them out of poverty. AOD's reception and fund-raiser is May 18 from 7-9 p.m. at Cooper House of Central Presbyterian Church, 405 Randolph Ave. southeast. There will be refreshments, presentations and a silent auction. Attendance is free. RSVP to [staff@aod-alabama.org](mailto:staff@aod-alabama.org). For more information about AOD, visit [www.aod-alabama.org](http://www.aod-alabama.org).

## Scholarship competition

LogiCore invites students to win a free scholarship and laptop. They can compete for \$1,500 in cash and a new Dell laptop for college. For rules and an application, visit [www.logicorehsv.com](http://www.logicorehsv.com).

## Earth Day event

Celebrate the 42nd anniversary of Earth Day with the Operation Green Team on April 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hays Na-

ture Preserve. "It's a perfect day to relax and enjoy the wildlife and sounds of the Flint River," a prepared release said. More than 70 earth-friendly exhibitors/vendors will have exhibits and demonstrations throughout the day. Trees will be given to the first 1,000 (one tree per family). For more information, call 532-5326 or visit [huntsvilleal.gov/greenteam](http://huntsvilleal.gov/greenteam).

## Ballroom dance classes

Fox Trot and Merengue for adult couples will be taught six Thursdays, April 26 through May 31 at the Redstone Fitness Center from 8-9 p.m. Tuition is \$66 per couple. No experience necessary. Class size is limited to 25 couples. You may call the Community Activity Center 876-4531 and register using your credit card or stop by the CAC, building 3711 at the intersection of Patton and Aerobee roads. You can also get information on this and other dance classes offered by FMWR this year at the CAC.

## Autism benefit walk

Walk for Autism, benefiting the Autism Society of Alabama, will be held Saturday at Hampton Cove Middle School. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and the walk at 9:30. This includes a two-mile self-paced walk, resource fair, food and family fun. Cost is \$25 in advance or \$30 on walk day. Small children can walk for free with a paying adult. For more information, call 877-4AUTISM. To register, visit [walkforautismAL.com](http://walkforautismAL.com) or [autism-alabama.org](http://autism-alabama.org).

## Flying open house

Do you want to learn how to fly? The free FMWR Flying Activity Open House is May 5 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Flying Activity. Adults can take an introductory ride for \$30 each, and children 12 and under can fly for \$25. Certified flight instructors will be on hand to answer questions on becoming a pilot. There will be free food and drinks while supplies last. The Flying Activity is located off Rideout Road south after entering Gate 9. Turn right at Hale Road and follow it to the Flying Activity. For more information, call 880-9495.

## Brewfest

The fourth annual Brewfest is May 11-12 at the Historic Depot Roundhouse, 320 Church St. There will be hundreds of craft beers, fine local foods and live entertainment. This event is presented by Free the Hops. Visit [www.rocketcitybrewfest.com](http://www.rocketcitybrewfest.com).

## Conference fund-raiser

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women Inc., Greater Huntsville Area Chapter, will hold a fund-raiser April 21 at the Von Braun Center, East Hall. Registration is 8-9 a.m., and the conference from 9 until noon. Breakfast will be served. The public is invited. Tickets are \$40 per person and a reserved table is \$350. The proceeds will be used as an addition to the NCBW Scholarship

Fund which provides scholarships to high school students in the greater Huntsville area. The theme this year is "Networking in the Community to Build Health Awareness." The scheduled speaker is Lt. Jamila Davis, regional coordinator for the Region IV Office on Women's Health in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For tickets and more information, call Alice Sams 658-0313. For a scholarship application form, call Josephine Horn 684-6364.

## Spring musical

Arab High School Musical Theatre will present "How to Succeed In Business Without Really Trying" Thursday through Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Arab High School Auditorium. Tickets are on sale at [www.amtshows.org](http://www.amtshows.org).

## Fellowship graduation

The Senior Service College Fellowship graduation and reception is May 23 at 1:45 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. The keynote speaker is Lt. Gen. Bill Phillips, principal military deputy to the ASA(ALT). Formal invitations will be sent in April; dress is business formal. RSVP to [Ann.Lee@dau.mil](mailto:Ann.Lee@dau.mil).

## Young Marines

The Madison Alabama Young Marines, a non-profit organization for boys and girls ages 8 to 18, is now taking applications for boot camp scheduled April 28. The organization promotes a healthy, drug-free lifestyle while focusing on character-building and leadership skills. For an enlistment application and more information, call Staff Sgt. Mitchell C. Stease 797-3676 or 316-2902 or visit <http://www.orgsites.com/al/ymarines/>.

## Tricare Prime openings

Fox Army Health Center currently has more than 2,000 open enrollment slots for Tricare Prime. Priority will be given to active duty and active duty family members, but retiree and retiree family members are welcome as well. Any beneficiaries over age 65 will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Become a member of the Fox family. For more information, call 1-800-444-5445.

## Volunteers wanted

The Redstone/Huntsville Chapter of American Society of Comptrollers' Community Projects Committee plans to support the EarlyWorks Museum again this year by providing volunteers to help with the 2012 Whistle Stop Barbecue Festival which is scheduled May 4-5 at the Historical Depot downtown at Church and Monroe streets. Volunteers are needed to help in the Coke or beer stations, entrance gates, volunteer check-in and volunteer hospitality (assist with snacks). The shifts are three hours, starting at 3:30 p.m. that Friday or starting 9:30 a.m. Saturday. If interested in volunteering, call Eura Reaves 842-7093 or email [aura.reaves@us.army.mil](mailto:aura.reaves@us.army.mil).

