

Redstone Rocket

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Cluster finds new energy sources



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Jeff Carvel of Carvel Concrete grinds and flattens the top of a column that will hold a stationary solar panel displayed at the Redstone Park and Energy Demonstration Center.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Small Business Administrator Karen Mills communicates by computer with the help of the GATR satellite antenna system operated by Roy Priest of GATR Technologies. GATR developed portable satellite technologies, such as the one behind Mills, for use by Soldiers in theater. They are now finding commercial applications for the technology. The company has been able to grow with the assistance of SBA loans.

Small businesses use SBA loans to develop power for the future

By KARI HAWKINS
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Huntsville's reputation as a leader in defense technology has gained the attention of the Small Business Administration.

And that attention brought its leader – administrator Karen Mills – to Huntsville on April 18 to view what the area's small business defense contractors have been able to do with the support of SBA loans.

"You are poster children for what can happen when small business partners on government contracts," Mills said. "The Department of Defense and all the primes have figured it out and they are partnering with small business. They have learned that working with small, innovative companies is a win-win situation."

Mills' visit to Huntsville took her to the corner of South Memorial Parkway and Airport Road, where a unique public-private arrangement known as the Redstone Park and Energy Demonstration Center is bringing solar energy to the Huntsville power grid and, specifically, to defense contractors in Cummings Research Park.

Recently, the SBA awarded the Huntsville Advanced Defense Technology Cluster Initiative a two-year, \$600,000 grant to support existing and new small businesses with business support and technology integration services to meet defense priorities in six key areas: small spacecraft, environmental monitoring, intel-surveillance-recon, robotics-interoperable systems, innovative energy applications and cybersecurity.

The initiative team consists of the Von Braun Center for Science and Innovation, the University of Alabama-Huntsville, Alabama A&M University, BizTech, the Women's Business Center of North Alabama, the Defense Acquisition University, the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Strategic Solutions Inc., Plosila Consulting, and Southern Aerospace Company with support from the Redstone Arsenal's Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center and Marshall Space Flight Center.

The Redstone Park and Energy Demonstration Center is a result of work the initiative team has done with the Redstone Energy Group, a company led by retired Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury to provide renewable energy systems for municipalities, businesses and the military, and Outpost Solar, a Tennessee-based solar-energy manufacturing company owned by Marine wounded war veteran Wilson Stevenson, to support defense priorities in the area of innovative energy applications.

"This new endeavor will not only bring renewable energy to this city, it will also create jobs and small businesses," Cole Walker of the Redstone Energy Group told Mills during her visit.

The demonstration center, which will be open to the public in June and be the first of many sites in Madison County,

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Redstone recognizes its volunteer corps.

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Gold bar presentation honors future officers.

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PEOPLE PROFILE

Retirement the next item on logistician's agenda.

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WIN OR LOSE

Jacobs softball team takes season opener.

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RocketViews

How were you affected by the tornadoes of April 27, 2011?

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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Taula Patrick

Program Executive Office for Aviation

"We were lucky in the fact that no one was hurt but we needed a new roof and two new windows (in Madison). But just blessed to be here."



Maria Henson

Civilian Human Resources Agency

"My lights were off for about five days. Food spoiling. Not having means for cooking for four days. And the first day especially, being cut off from family and friends because of telephones

being out. So you're worrying about your family and wondering how they came through the storms. I think the third day the cell phones started working and I was able to contact my family."



Ken Arrington

Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office

"It had to be more of being out helping friends. A lot of it was going out and helping friends recover because I had no damage. I was out clearing people's property of downed trees, pulling stuff out of their homes. We had people coming over to our house and taking baths. In general, providing assistance. For me more than anything it helped bring the community closer together. Being out and being a Christian and helping people out."



Richard Fee

Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office

"Loss of power. Loss of food. It helped me prepare for this year's tornado season. To be more aware of actual damage that can be produced by such a system."

Letters to the editor

Help keep children safe and healthy

The Army Family Advocacy Program preventive education initiatives provide Soldiers, DA civilians and family members information about child abuse and its harmful effects on Army families and the Army mission.

The theme for Army Child Abuse Prevention Month is "It's no secret . . . everyone can help. Keep Army children safe and healthy." As commander of this installation, it is my goal to

ensure that happens. April is also designated as the Month of the Military Child and what better way to honor children in military families than to keep them safe and provide for their health and well-being.

While the Army continues to be dedicated to prevention, the truth of child abuse remains the same. It happens. It has a

See Prevention on page 3

In defense of beautiful trees on Redstone

Why can we not save the trees on the Arsenal? I notice now on my way to work that more trees are being destroyed at the intersection of Mills and Neal roads, most likely to make room for more cement parking spaces. What happens to the habitat of the birds and other animals when we wholesale strip the landscape this way? Who made the decision to chop down all the trees and make way for "progress"? Is this progress? This is

a shame and we should all be upset at this effort; you don't have to be a tree hugger to be upset. Cutting down the beautiful trees to make way for more cement will eventually create a pseudo-landscape of parked cars, and while we need a place to park our cars, why can we not preserve the trees also? Do we want a world like that depicted in an old "Twilight Zone" episode

See Trees on page 10

Farmers Market back in business in NASA area

Any idea when the Farmers Market opens this year and where it will be? My friend over at the NASA headquarters or whatever those buildings are called, that are where the market has been held the last few years, says the area is being made into a parking lot.

Would appreciate knowing as I love going over there to see what they have and buy when they have something I want.

Angel Lucke

Editor's note: The Farmers Market opened April 17 in the same location as last year – on the south side of NASA's 4200 complex. It's open every Tuesday, weather permitting, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., according to NASA Exchange business manager Michele Davis. Interested vendors can call NASA Exchange business manager Bill Mayo at 544-7564.

Poem about power outage: 'Blackout in Alabama'

As the thunderstorm roar,
The tornadoes soar;
One by one and more.
Sirens alarming the city of danger.
People rushing home with anger.
Not knowing how badly it would be.
Waking up to darkness, not being able

to see.
Listening to portable radios and seeing
by candlelight.
Thinking how we're going to handle
the sight.
Waking up to hear of life lost.
Not worrying about the cost.

Gas lines, grocery lines, batteries lines,
Is this the sign of the times?
No working street lights, closed restaurants,
grocery stores, movie theaters,
or shopping at the mall.
Oh! How we take things for granted;
by all.

See Poem on page 3

Quote of the week

It is appropriate that we pray for those we lost, for those who loved them, and for those still suffering. We all need divine guidance and providence in the days ahead as we seek not only to rebuild, but to heal.

— Gov. Robert Bentley
April 29, 2011

Correction on last name's spelling

Maj. Richard Bratt is commander of the Aviation Flight Test Directorate at the Redstone Test Center.

To make a correction in the *Redstone Rocket*, call 876-1500 or email skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com.

RedstoneRocket

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Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for April 12-18:

April 16: A contractor, who had been working at several construction sites on Redstone, was arrested by the Huntsville Police Department at an off-post business trying to sell scrap metal. He was brought to Redstone where he was interviewed and admitted to committing the recent thefts from construction sites on Redstone. He was then released to the Madison County Sheriff's Department for an active parole and probation warrant.

April 17: Police responded to building 1500 for a report of suspicious activity. They found a civilian in possession of an unauthorized Department of the Army Civilian identification card that was given to him by his ex-wife who works at Redstone. He was issued a violation notice and escorted off post.

April 17: A 17-year-old civilian approached Gate 9 lost. She was found to be operating her vehicle while under the influence. While she was in the patrol vehicle, she began kicking the window. When an officer tried to stop her, she began kicking the officer in the chest and neck. She was transported to the police station where she was administered a Draeger test with a result of .09 percent blood alcohol content. She was detained until her BAC reached zero. She was released to the Huntsville Police Department on a misdemeanor warrant. She was also cited for driving her vehicle with a suspended license.

April 17: Redstone police initiated a

traffic stop on a contractor at the Gate 9 visitor center. A check through NCIC revealed him to be a registered criminal sex offender in California. He also has an active warrant out of LaGrange, Ga., for failure to register as a sex offender. They declined to extradite. He was issued a citation for criminal trespass and escorted off post.

April 17: Four undocumented persons approached Gate 9 lost. They could not produce valid identification. A check through NCIC and ICE revealed no information or warrants on the individuals. The driver received a citation for driving without a license. They were released and escorted off post.

April 18: Two civilians arrived at the Gate 1 truck lane for processing to pick up equipment on the Arsenal. A check of their identification revealed the male to have an active warrant for probation violation out of Birmingham for failure to register as a sex offender. He was cited for trespassing and transported to Birmingham and released to local police. The female had two warrants for failure to appear out of Russellville. They declined to extradite. She was issued a citation for trespassing and ejected from the installation.

Traffic accidents reported: Four without injury.

Violation notices issued: 20 speeding, 1 driving while license suspended, 3 failure to obey a traffic control device, 2 no proof of insurance, 4 trespassing, 1 failure to signal intent, 1 following too close, 1 driving with no license, 1 DUI, 1 assault on a law enforcement official.

Courses build education foundation

The Civilian Education System or CES is a progressive and sequential leader development program that provides enhanced educational opportunities for Army civilians throughout their careers. CES is not the Defense Acquisition University nor is it under the guidance of the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act certification process. CES is provided and managed by the Army Management Staff College.

CES provides eight levels of civilian development courses and are applicable to respective civilian grade levels. The training requirements reflect the progressive nature of the professional training relative to one's career level.

Commentary

The Civilian Leader Development Program is the civilian team member equivalent of the Army officer or enlisted career path for professional development but defined for one's civilian career and based on one's status within their career.

If you are prior service and have completed Army officer or NCO advance leader training, to include but not limited to Command and General Staff College or NCO equivalent, you may submit training certification via the Army Management Staff College webpage. In doing so, one may receive equivalent credit for the Basic, Intermediate and/or Advance Course.

One must register via the Civilian Human Resource Training Application System to complete any required CES training.

Yes, regardless of the amount of time you had in uniform, regardless if you are given "credit" for all CES courses up to and including the Advance Course, you must take the Foundation Course which is a distance learn-

ing format before you can enroll in the Civilian Education for Senior Leaders resident training.

Most, if you are retired military will find yourself initially perturbed to think you are now required to have to take the Foundation Course. Really, you are going to say to yourself: "Are you kidding me? I was a steely-eyed killer, flew Army aircraft, jumped from airplanes... without a parachute. I had so many ribbons on my chest when I retired I had one that read "To be continued." Then you will begin taking the Foundation Course and be prepared to have yourself a big ol' helping of "humble pie." Quickly you will realize, to your chagrin if your experience echoes mine, that you are indeed somewhat ignorant of the civilian personnel side of the house.

The Foundation Course does for the civilian work force what basic training does for the new Soldier recruit - it strives to instill not only an understanding of the civilian "task, conditions and standards" but the Foundation Course also serves as a means to introduce the civilian work force to the Army structure and provide a history of "The Army."

Yes, any retired military member will quickly "click" through the Army structure courses within the Foundation Course, but I encourage one to take the time and review the info, for this is the very information the new work force is getting as their basis of knowledge of "The Army." We, the Soldier have had the Army history, force structure pounded into us for 20-plus years. The new engineer intern or employee has not. Help them help you and get them enrolled in the Foundation Course. Once they are educated, they will better understand and execution for mission success is second nature.

After Foundation, Basic, Intermediate and Advance Course completion, one may attend

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Prevention

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profound effect on the child victims. It takes place in a family context where other problems exist that degrade family functioning.

We need to build and maintain awareness. When homes and communities take care of their children, the whole community becomes a healthier place. To have a successful prevention campaign, FAP asks that everyone:

- "Recognize" signs of distress that can

lead to abuse and take action.

- "Rethink" wellness and ways to stay healthy.
- "Reach Out" for professional help.
- "Report" child abuse and neglect.

The safety and health of Army children rests in all of our hands. To get more information on preventing child abuse, call Redstone Arsenal Army Community Service, Family Advocacy Program at 876-5397. To report child abuse, dial 911 for the Redstone Arsenal Police.

Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers
AMCOM commander

Poem

continued from page 2

I've never experienced a city blackout.
What a terrible feeling, as I move about.

Looking at destroyed homes, life dreams and land.

Thanking city officials, media, volunteers, neighbors and friends for lifting a hand.

A day of horror that we'll all remember in every way.

Let us all take time to reflect and pray.

Trying to pick up the pieces and not mope.
Thanking God for tears of relief and life of hope.

Rosie Douglas
Redstone employee

Editor's note: This letter is reprinted from the May 11, 2011 issue.

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Name: Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glide-well

Job: AMCOM command sergeant major

Where do you call home?

Originally I was from north central Pennsylvania. The Little League World Series is played in Williamsport, Pa. I lived about an hour from there. I call home here now. I own a house in Lacey's Spring.

What do you like about your job?

I can continue to make a difference in Soldiers' and civilians' lives by pro-

viding them the sustainment items or working to improve the items they currently have.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Hunting and fishing and sports.

What are your goals?

To make AMCOM and Redstone a place where everyone wants to serve.

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

For my children and grandchildren to be successful. My wife (Toni) and I have three daughters (Amber, 28, April, 26, and Ashlee, 22). And I've got three grandchildren.



Redstone recognizes voluntary helping hands

Organizations value volunteers' service

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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Some members of Team Redstone serve just for the satisfaction of helping others.

They don't receive a paycheck but they keep working anyway. In their view, a smile or a letter of thanks is reward enough.

They are the post volunteers.

"This community would not be able to run without the volunteers we have across Team Redstone," Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and senior commander of Redstone Arsenal, said.

He spoke during the 27th annual Team Redstone Installation Volunteer Luncheon on April 18 at The Summit. He and his wife, Reba, presented 24 certificates of recognition to Helping Hand honorees and the Emma Beard Award.

Holmes Seamen, a retired chief war-

rant officer 4, was among the Helping Hand honorees. Nominated by the Warrant Officers Association, he helps build wheelchair ramps, Salvation Army bell-ringing, Operation Christmas Bear and other activities in the community. He also makes wood-crafted writing pens for Soldiers through the Arts and Crafts Shop's Freedom Pens project. He and his wife, Carolina, reside in Lester, Ala.; and she also volunteers.

"When you see somebody (in a wheelchair) getting out of their house under their own power for the first time in two or three years, it makes everything worthwhile," Seamen said of his volunteer work. He said he also appreciates getting thanks from Soldiers who received one of his Freedom Pens.

Seamen retired in 1992 and moved here in 2000 from Coral Springs, Fla. He has been volunteering about eight years.

"We love it," Carolina Seamen said of the couple's volunteer work. "It's fun and we love it, doing things for other people."

Thrift Shop volunteer Ruth Soracco of Huntsville was also among the luncheon's 212 attendees. This is her fourth year of volunteering at the consignment store. She and her husband, retired Air Force Maj. Paul Soracco, had lived here from 1964-72 and then moved to St. Louis. They retired and returned in 2006. She retired from the health care field in St. Louis. They have two grown children and five grandchildren.

"I love it," she said of her reason for volunteering. "I retired and then I volunteer."

Luncheon emcee Lance Green told the volunteers, "You are truly one of our greatest assets."

"You make a huge impact on the community," Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton said. "You make a huge difference on hundreds of peoples' lives every



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Attendees applaud the honored volunteers during the April 18 appreciation luncheon at The Summit.

single day."

The Helping Hands honorees included: Frank Barthold, Thrift Shop; Kathryn Barthold, Thrift Shop; Elise Becton, Army Community Service; Demetria Cruz, Army Community Service; Kara Carter-Price, Army Community Service; Edna Cole, Redstone Arsenal

Community Women's Club; retired Sgt. Maj. Deitra Floyd, Sergeants Major Association; retired Sgt. Maj. Eugene Folks, Sergeants Major Association; Carrie Hightower, Military Officers Association of America; retired Lt. Col. Arno Hoerle, Military Officers Association of America; Kamardi Humphreys, School Aged Center; Gary Hunter, Outdoor Recreation; Tiffany Kraus, Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club; Leilani Lacen, School Age Services; Ann Moore, Redstone Arsenal Military Retiree Council; Ervin Moore, Redstone Arsenal Military Retiree Council; Ashley Patterson, Youth Center; Cynthia Reiman, Post Library; Holmes Seamen, Warrant Officers Association; Robert Sullivan, the Links; Frank Thonus, the Links; Linda Vergara, the Links; Malicia Walters, Army Community Service; and Wayne Weis, Thrift Shop.

Kim Anton of Army Community Service received the Emma Beard Award.

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:

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 Recreation. 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.

Camper rental

Travel in style to the Talladega race with Outdoor Recreation pop-up campers and hard side travel trailers. Campers can be rented for \$55 per night. Prices include: weekly pop-up \$330, daily rate \$55; weekly travel trailer \$450, daily rate \$75. Reservations can be made up to 90 days in advance. For more information, call 876-4868.

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.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Holmes Seamen, with his wife Carolina, was among the Helping Hand honorees.

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Flying Activity invites you to friendly skies

May 5 brings open house

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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When it comes to recreation on the Arsenal, the sky is the limit – literally.

Escape the traffic and the hectic highways and catch a ride in the sky for your next trip. Whether you've got a baseball game to catch in Atlanta, family to visit in Tennessee or just want "to punch holes in the clouds and go out and joy fly," in the words of Tim Thompson, FMWR's Flying Activity will give you the wings to get you there.

"Flying gets you there much quicker, you don't have to deal with all the traffic, so if you want to make a long trip short that's a good way to do it," said Thompson, business manager for the Flying Activity.

Members of the Redstone Arsenal community will be able to experience that freedom firsthand at the Flying Activity's open house Saturday, May 5, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Flying Activity, building 4828 on Hale Road. From Gate 9, take Rideout Road south to Hale Road, take a right and follow the signs to the Flying Activity. For more information, call 880-9495.

"We really try to grab those people that are interested in learning to fly and those individuals that already have the license but weren't aware that we're around," Thompson said.

In addition to free food and fellowship with current members of the Flying Activity, the highlight for many attendees of the open house is the opportunity to explore the Arsenal from above with one of the club's own flight instructors. For 20 to 30 minutes, flying fans and their families will get to ride in one of the club's 12 aircraft, whether they be Cessna or Piper Arrow, where they'll be able to get a whole new view of places like Bridge Street, the U.S. Space & Rocket Center and Alabama A&M University. Cost of the introductory ride is \$30, \$25 for children 12 and under.

The fun doesn't have to end when you land, however. For those that wish to join the Flying Activity, whether they be experienced pilots or have never



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Tim Thompson, Mildred Lancaster and Derek Romine, flying activity staff, stand with one of the 12 aircraft that are part of the club's fleet.

taken a lesson in their life, the \$30 initiation fee is waived for those that join during May. Cost of membership for the Flying Activity is \$35 per month. Low-cost flying lessons with certified flight instructors are available throughout the club.

Pilots that want to take to the skies can do so any time, day or night, as members of the Flying Activity. While the office may only be open from Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., pilots can check the status of aircraft or reserve them at any time online, 24/7.

"We have a great location. A majority of people that fly with us work right here on the installation. They have the ability when they get off work, they can just come straight here, they don't have to deal with outside traffic, and go fly," Thompson said. "Or during lunchtime, they can just come out here and go fly."

In addition to flying, members hold cookouts every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., where the pilots can come by and cook their own lunch. Hamburgers, hot dogs, buns and condiments are provided.

"The camaraderie is great," Thompson said. "Pilots are very unique individuals, a lot like golfers. They have their own wants, needs and desires and we meet or exceed a majority of those expectations."

For more information about the Flying Activity, call the office, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 880-9495.

Youngsters gain employment experience as apprentices

Fifteen-week term teaches job skills

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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This youth development program delivers a message to its participants: Do the right things, and you're hired!

The "Hired!" program, offered through Child Youth and School Services, is a 15-week apprentice term. Participants must be 15 years old and go through rigorous work force preparation before their apprentice job. They learn resume writing, have mock job interviews and take a budgeting class. They are placed in apprentice positions on post and receive a stipend for their services.

An end-of-term recognition reception for nine participants was held April 18 with guest speaker Rachel Simpson, from the Alabama Cooperative Extension System based at Auburn University. She is the Operation Military Kids coordinator and the state 4-H military liaison.

"I'm going to talk about setting goals for the future," Simpson said of her message to the youngsters.

James King, 17, of Redstone Arsenal, had his 15-week term from September until just before spring break. He is a junior and JROTC cadet at Columbia High.

"The program was actually trying to help kids understand what it's like to have a job," King said. "I worked at the (Goss Road) day care center with the preschoolers.

"It was actually a nice experience. I was able to open up more and able to socialize more and able to communicate with others."

His mother, Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Austin, the chief medical NCO at Fox Army Health Center, saw how the program helped him.

"I thought it was very, very beneficial for my son," Austin said. "He learned how to write a resume, about

keeping hours, accountability of work hours. And of course after he earned his check, he had the opportunity to open a checking account."

Samantha Funk, 15, a ninth-grader at Sparkman Ninth Grade Academy, started in March with the program's third term. She works at the Youth Center.

"It's a good opportunity to learn how to work in a business type setting and it gives you experience working," Funk said.

Andrea Perrin, 15, a sophomore at Sparkman High, has completed two terms with the program and plans to start her third term May 21. She spent her first term with Outdoor Recreation at the swimming pools and her second term with Youth Sports.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Some of the participants in the Hired! program include, from left, Caleb Doss, James King, Roosevelt Thurman, Andrea Perrin, James Stallworth and Miya Smith.

"It's beneficial to teenagers because it gives them a work experience and teaches them to be independent and balance their time schedule," Perrin said.

With a 3.98 grade point average at Sparkman, she was accepted to Alabama's early college program for high school students. She earned a partial tuition scholarship and can get up to 30 credit hours.

"She's also the Youth of the Year for Redstone Arsenal," said her mother, Michelle Perrin, a retired sergeant first class who works at the Logistics Support Activity as a logistics management specialist.

Ex-NFL player passes advice to youngsters

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Former professional football player Tim Worley doesn't want today's youth to make the same mistakes he did.

"I had to learn the hard way, went through a lot and I made some horrible choices and I paid for it," Worley said while visiting the Youth Center on April 18.

A Huntsville resident, he serves as mentoring coordinator for the Boys & Girls Clubs of North Alabama. He has the opportunity to work with hundreds of youngsters at the 11 clubs in Limestone and Madison counties and share his message.

"Just teaching kids basically about choices, getting them started at an early age. Things I had to learn the hard way later on in life," Worley, 45, said.

He played in the National Football League for the Pittsburgh Steelers from 1989-93 and for the Chicago Bears from 1993-95. He was selected in the first round (seventh overall) of the 1989 NFL draft by the Steelers after starring at running back for the University of Georgia 1985-88.

But he was injured for most of the 1991 NFL season and was suspended the following year from the NFL due to missing two mandatory drug tests. The Steelers traded Worley to the Bears in 1993 for a fifth-round draft pick. Fail-

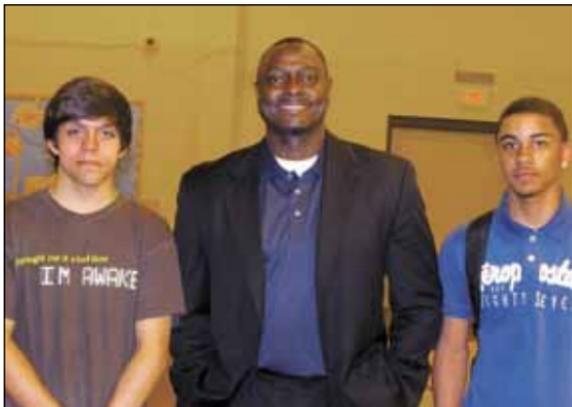


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Former professional football player Tim Worley, center, meets 17-year-old Merritt Dykstra, left, and Jeffery Freeman, 15, while visiting the Youth Center on April 18.

ure to produce on the field and a series of arrests off the field plagued him. After appearing in only five games during the 1994 NFL season, the Bears released him and he chose to retire from the league.

The Lumberton, N.C., native learned from his mistakes and now he advises youth to make the right choices in life. He and his wife, Dee, a Huntsville native, have been married for a year and a half. She was an All-American gymnast at the University of Alabama and was the first black gymnast to compete at Alabama from 1989-93.

"The choice you make today will determine your tomorrow," he said of his message to youth. "So let that be a wise choice."



Photo by Bianca Martin

Stephen Ministers

Nine members of the Bicentennial Chapel's Protestant congregation have been commissioned as Stephen Ministers, lay caregivers who help pastors provide confidential, one-on-one Christian care to individuals who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. From left are Patricia Mathison, Michelle Perrin, Sharon Olshefski, Stephen Ministry leader Judy Strange, Charlotte Rose, Soran Thrasher, Ray Thrasher, Colleen Mills, Kim Shuffler, Scott Shuffler, religious education coordinator Rad Reavis and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie.



Courtesy photo

History lesson

AMCOM command historian Russell Rodgers speaks to social studies and JROTC students at Hazel Green High School on how wars have related to each other throughout history. He spoke as part of the AMCOM Education Outreach Program.

Photo by Melody Sandlin

International sales day

More than 160 industry representatives attended an industry day featuring discussions of foreign military sales in CENTCOM area of operations. Col. Sammie Hargrove, director of the Security Assistance Command's CENTCOM regional operations, provided CENTCOM information during the event held at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce April 16. Presentations were also given by USASAC commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Defense Exports and Cooperation and CENTCOM J5.



Trees

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in which a young boy asks his grandfather to please show him again the picture of the thing called a "tree." In the episode, the boy's world is devoid of trees because we have destroyed them all in the name of industrialization, and trees exist only in old photographs or paintings. An oversimplification perhaps, but when we save a tree, we not only save a thing of beauty but also a generation of birds, animals and insects. And remember that trees provide oxygen for our very breaths. In an online article by Steve Nix, he writes: "A mature leafy tree produces as much oxygen in a season as 10 people inhale in a year. What many people don't realize is the forest also acts as a giant filter that cleans the air we breathe."

In a famous poem by Joyce Kilmer, a Soldier who died in service to America in WWI, he praises trees in this way:

"I think that I shall never see
"A poem lovely as a tree..."

To whoever made this decision to kill trees and pave a parking lot, I appeal to your sense of universal ethics when I sincerely ask you to save the trees.

Vera Bachtel

Editor's note: The Garrison provided the following response. "Thank you for your questions/concerns about preserving the trees on Redstone Arsenal. The area of trees at the intersection of Neal Road and Mills

Road was removed to improve the Neal-Mills Road intersection. The Base Realignment and Closure initiatives relocated 4,700 new jobs to Redstone Arsenal. Many of these jobs were located in the Von Braun Complex area. This coupled with the number or personnel in the Sparkman Center Complex have significantly impacted the traffic patterns between this area and Gate 9.

"The Neal-Mills intersection required upgrading to realign/widen the roads to better facilitate the safe movement of traffic through this busy intersection. The trees had to be removed as part of this realignment.

"Redstone Arsenal has a very proactive forestry program managed by the Directorate of Public Works within the Garrison. The amount of forested acres is tracked to ensure that a healthy forest population exists while accomplishing the missions of the Arsenal. Aerial photos indicate that in 1937 there were 9,885 acres of trees on the Arsenal. Today, despite significant growth in our facilities and work force, we have 16,557 acres of trees. In the past three years, the forestry program has increased the acres of trees by 360 acres. We all understand that trees are an important natural resource and we strive to ensure a balance between the Arsenal's natural resources and the missions that must be accomplished.

"If you should have any additional questions or concerns, please call the director of public works, Joe Davis, 876-3516. Again, thank you for your concerns."

Senior leaders enjoy quarterly social at The Summit



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Fox Army Health Center commander Col. Elizabeth Johnson dines with Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Austin, chief medical NCO.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

From left are TMDE Activity director James Johnson, Garrison deputy commander Curtis Clark, Louise Merriweather and Abner Merriweather, president of AFGE Local 1858.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Among the attendees at Friday's senior leaders social are, from left, Melinda Hamilton, Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton, Sharee Miller, Brent Grove and Lindy Stuart.

Try to be an energy star when buying appliances

By **PATRICK HOLMES**

DPW Energy Office

Energy Star-labeled office equipment is widely available. It can provide dramatic energy savings – as much as 90 percent savings for some products. Overall, Energy Star-labeled office products use about half the electricity as standard office equipment.

Find Energy Star products and standards at energystar.gov. Army Regulation 420-1 requires that purchased office equipment and appliances meet the Energy Star requirements.

Office tips

Selecting energy-efficient office equipment and turning off machines when they are not in use can result in significant energy savings.

Using an Energy Star-labeled computer can save 30-65 percent energy than computers without this designation, depending on usage.

Spending a large portion of time in low-power mode not only saves energy but helps equipment run cooler and last longer.

Putting your laptop AC adapter on a power strip that can be turned off (or will turn off automatically) can maximize savings; the transformer in the AC adapter draws power continuously, even when the laptop is not plugged into the adapter.

Using the power management settings on computers and monitors can cause significant savings.

It is a common misperception that screen savers reduce a monitor's energy use. Use automatic switching to sleep mode or simply turn it off.

Another misperception, carried over from the days of older mainframe computers, is that equipment lasts longer if it is never turned off.

Consider buying a laptop for your next



computer upgrade; laptops use much less energy than desktop computers.

Home electronics tips

Look for energy-saving Energy Star home electronics.

Unplug appliances when not in use, or use a power strip and use the switch on the power strip to cut all power to the appliance, to avoid “vampire” loads. Many appliances continue to draw a small amount of power when they are switched off. These vampire loads occur in most appliances that use electricity, such as DVD players, televisions, stereos, computers and kitchen appliances.

Unplug battery chargers when the batteries are fully charged or the chargers are not in use.

Use rechargeable batteries for products like cordless phones and digital cameras. Studies have shown they are more cost effective than disposable batteries. If you must use disposables, check with your trash removal company about safe disposal options.

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

Don't let ticks bug you this season

By **CHERIE MILLER**

Fox Army Health Center

With the arrival of warmer weather, Tennessee Valley residents should be prepared for the annual onslaught of insect pests – including ticks. These pests can carry diseases which are harmful to both humans and animals. Ticks are already prevalent and are of major concern due to the numerous diseases they can transmit.

Ticks are blood-feeding pests of birds, animals and humans. There are more than 850 species of ticks of two distinct types: hard ticks and soft ticks. Soft ticks have tough, leathery, pitted skin with no distinct head. They are uncommon but may be found in caves and on birds. Hard ticks have a hard smooth skin and an apparent head. These ticks are found in the forest and on humans and animals. Hard ticks are associated with most tick-borne diseases in the United States. Common hard ticks in the Tennessee Valley are the dog tick, black-legged tick, lone star tick and the brown tick.

Ticks can carry disease germs in their bodies which they transmit to humans and animals when they bite. Ticks stay attached to the host by using a dart-like anchor with backward curving teeth which grip into the skin. They also secrete a cement that hardens and helps hold the tick on the host. The tick slices open the skin with the anchor, inserts the head under the skin and engorge themselves on the blood. Some hard ticks are slow feeders and can take several days to finish a blood meal. They can extract up to 8 milliliters of blood during a feeding and can take up to 100 times their body weight in blood. They concentrate the blood during feeding and return much of the water back to the host. Disease can also be transmitted by body fluids when the ticks are crushed.

Not all ticks carry disease organisms, so getting a tick bite does not mean that disease will follow. However, you should look for signs and symptoms of tick borne diseases following any tick bite. The common tick borne diseases include Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, and Human Erlichiosis.

Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne disease in the U.S. It has spread rapidly with an increased number of cases in the Southeast where it is usually transmitted by the black-legged tick and the lone star tick. The common symptom of Lyme disease is a "bull's-eye" rash around the site of the bite which appears three days to three weeks following the bite. The rash will have a clear center with a red ring outside that. Other symptoms include fever, chills, headache and fatigue. Rarely fatal, Lyme disease can

cause significant pain and discomfort if allowed to progress.

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, despite the name that describes its origin, is now abundant in the Southeast where the main vector is the dog tick. RMSF symptoms include fever, chills, muscle aches, bloodshot eyes and headaches with onset about 3-14 days after the tick bite. A spotty rash may occur on the feet and hands in 2-3 days. RMSF can be treated with antibiotics, but can be fatal when left untreated.

Human Erlichiosis was identified in 1986 and has been found predominantly in the Southeast where its vector, the lone star tick, is prevalent. Symptoms appear in 1-21 days (average seven) and resemble RMSF without a rash. Symptoms can be mild to severe and several deaths have been reported.

Prevention is the key to avoid tick bites. Ticks like long grass and brush where they can attach to humans and pets as they walk by. Keep lawns mowed and remove brush and other vegetation near your home. Discourage wild animals from coming on your property as they are often vectors for ticks. If you must be out in forested areas, use a commercial insect repellent effective against ticks. In addition, wear long pants with the legs tucked into socks or boots and a long sleeve shirt tucked in. Light colored clothing will allow you to spot ticks more easily. Check every few hours for ticks if you are in the forest for a long time. After returning, remove all clothing and launder immediately, and check your body carefully, paying special attention to hairy or warm, moist parts of the body.

If you do find a tick, remove it by using tweezers to grasp the tick's head and pull back slowly and steadily. Avoid pulling the tick out sharply as this may tear off the body parts and leave them imbedded in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouthparts like you would remove a splinter.

After removing the tick, wash the wound site with soap and water and apply an antiseptic. Avoid crushing the tick with your fingers as this will transmit any disease organisms to your hands. Also, wash your hands with soap and water after removing the tick and clean the tweezers with alcohol.

Ticks unfortunately are here to stay. But by following these preventive measures, you can make sure that ticks are one thing that won't be bugging you this season.

Editor's note: Cherie Miller is the safety and environmental health coordinator at Fox Army Health Center. For more information on ticks and tick borne diseases, call Preventive Medicine, Fox Army Health Center, at 955-8888, ext 1026.

Education

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the resident Civilian Education Senior Leaders Course, or CESL. And yes, the courses are sequential in nature. CESL is a Leader Development Program within the Civilian Education System taught by the Army Management Staff College of which I attended in April.

I encourage leaders at every level to add, at a minimum, the completion of the Foundation Course to the goals list for employees, interns, summer hires, et al. For those remaining within our Army Strong work force, I certainly advocate attending CESL. Like myself, most will not be thrilled to complete the Foundation Course, but in the end, you will walk away with an appreciation and better understanding of the “new training” being required of our civilian team members.

So you have completed all the prerequisites and desire to attend the resident phase of training or the CESL resident phase but we all know many organizations face financial challenges. Who is going to fund the training to attend a one-week resident course in a temporary duty or TDY status?

It is often said, if you want to know what one values, take a look at their check book. In this case, the secretary of the Army has endorsed and voiced commitment to training the civilian work force and provided earmarked funding for Civilian Leader Development Training. The lead for this action is the Civilian Training and Leader Development Division

of the G-3/7 which will centrally fund your temporary duty for the resident CESL course. Once you are approved to attend CESL, you will receive an email from the course registrar with info on how to file your TDY in the Defense Travel System. And when you enter DTS, to file your TDY request, there you will find the specified “funding code” for the CESL TDY. The entire bloody system worked well.

Why was central funding established?

Because leadership is realistic and knows the financial constraints units face, but leadership also knows that we must maintain a trained civilian work force, but without funding the training requirement nothing will happen as other priorities are apt to consume resources. It happens – we are all mission focused. Therefore, other than you being absent from the office, CESL is “centrally funded” and the cost to your command is zero for you to participate in this training opportunity.

What did our class gain from CESL? In one week our class was hosted by more senior-level headquarters Army personnel than we could have experienced if we worked at the Pentagon. Our guest speakers included senior Army leadership that one would never get an official call with if they tried on their own accord and included, but not limited to the following: Vicki Brown, chief, civilian training and leader development. Dynamic speaker who is responsible for not only the CES courses but for the “Army Career Tracker” that is being implemented. And yes, Army Career Tracker very

much parallels the Acquisition Corps Record Brief. ACT calls it the Civilian Record Brief and has an Individual Development Planning tool as well as highlighted what training is needed for one to be “current and qualified” in their respective career field. And yes, it is Ms. Brown’s intent that the Acquisition Corps ACRB, IDP and other data will automatically merge into ACT. In fact, the Acquisition Corps career management tools were analyzed and used as a base line to build ACT.

So you are now saying, why do we have ACT and a separate Acquisition Corps online career management tool? Why do we not have one system? Easy, the Acquisition Corps is mandated by Congress to develop and track their work force career development per the Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act or DAWIA certification process. Will we get to one system? I certainly believe so. Right now “Big Army” has 300,000 members of the civilian work force to absorb into Army Career tracker by Sept. 30. We shall eat the elephant one bite at a time. And keep in mind: While we in the Acquisition Corps are familiar with a “defined” career path for our career fields, many of our civilian counterparts simply have not had any career path mapped out for them . . . until now.

Where is the Army headed with the Army 2020 concept? The director for Army capabilities and integration briefed “the plan,” complete with challenges, concerns and courses of actions being considered.

Want a copy of the most current headquarters, Department of the Army Organization chart? Contact the administrative assistance to the secretary of the Army at (703) 695-2442 or www.oaa.army.mil. But this office is far more than about keeping up with “The Army” organizational chart.

Where are the Army and the civilian work force headed? Want to know about Senior Leader Management? Mr. Tony Stamilio, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and Reserve affairs,

provided the path ahead.

Every senior leader briefing never examined their watch as if to say “I have more important places to go and bigger people to see.” All were genuine, candid in their comments and welcomed the same from the students. For example, Mr. Stamilio understands the challenge must be addressed that if we invest the time, energy and effort of sponsoring one to attend a fellowship, or any developmental assignment, then we owe it to this individual to aid in their follow-on assignment and not merely leave it to them to “float their resume” to secure a follow-on position once they finish their education, or complete a developmental assignment.

In summary, CESL was well-worth the investment. The lessons learned, contacts made and collaboration achieved would never have occurred had I not attended this course. The “right cargo pocket” now has more info nuggets and resources for making things happen.

Again, I recommend leadership require any new team member, civilian, contractor support, intern or summer hire to complete the online CES courses – at a minimum the Foundation course. I think we will all be surprised in the return on this small investment – and it costs nothing to complete the distance learning courses and they are solely individually paced.

Additional courses offered by the Army Management Staff College include: Action Officers Development Course, Supervisors Development Course, and Managers Development Course. The method of delivery is distributed learning, resident instruction or blended learning, a mixture of both distributed learning and resident instruction.

Interested? Get more information or register for any Army Management Staff College Course at <http://www.amscl.belvoir.army.mil/academic/ces/>.

Russ Dunford

Program integrator, Aviation Systems, Program Executive Office for Aviation

Redstone's 17th annual Earth Day event teaches youth

More than 200 fifth-grade students from Madison elementary schools Thursday celebrated Earth Day at the Path to Nature.

The children had an afternoon full of educational activities that allowed them to learn more about the environment and why it is important to Redstone Arsenal and the surrounding community.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Members of teacher Mia Reed's fifth-grade class at West Madison Elementary School walk along the nature trail.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

The Native American mud hut draws a crowd of curious students.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Fifth-graders from Wendy Tibbs' class at West Madison Elementary School examine items from the Mountain Lakes Chapter of the Society of American Foresters.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Joining students to plant a tree, from left, are Madison city schools superintendent Dr. Dee Fowler, Madison Mayor Paul Finley, Alabama Board of Education representative Mary Scott Hunter; Betina Johnson, environmental protection and utility branch chief, Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville; and Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Youngsters pet a possum brought by North Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitation.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Kim Robinson, vice president of North Alabama Wildlife Rehabilitation, holds a young sparrow named "Chirp" which is being rehabilitated.



Post restaurants receive rave reviews from patrons

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

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If customer satisfaction is an indication of a restaurant's success, then the restaurants at Redstone are doing very well.

Yolande Lewis, work force preparation specialist and Hired! coordinator for Child Youth and School Services, is one of many who gave the restaurants rave reviews.

"I enjoy eating at The Summit, especially on Fridays. I've eaten breakfast at Java Cafe and lunch at the Firehouse Pub and at the bowling center and the golf center. I am very pleased with the food at all the restaurants," she said.

FMWR focus Part 12 and last of series

Lewis has been so impressed with the customer service, especially when coordinating receptions at The Summit for the Hired! program, that she had her daughter's wedding at The Overlook and the

reception at The Summit in December.

"I just never thought about going anywhere else. It wasn't an option," she said. "I would definitely recommend The Summit for any reception. I was very impressed and very pleased with everything that happened."

If she were asked to rank The Summit on a scale of 1-10, Lewis said she would give it an 11.

"And I'm not just saying that, I really would. For the service I got and the price I got, you just can't beat it. It was just so personable. Robert Schumann, the club manager, and Paula (Garrett), the caterer, were there and made sure we had everything we needed. We had no worries," she said. "I had several of my guests and my family from out of town. They all raved about the food and said it was just absolutely wonderful."

Thanks to Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, the Redstone community has several top-notch dining locations



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Karen Scott, left, and Lauri Bodkin have lunch Friday at The Summit.

to choose from including Brooklyns Sports Bar (at the bowling center), the Firehouse Pub, Java Cafe (at the Community Activity Center), the German restaurant Soldatenstube (at The Summit), Strike Zone (at the bowling center), The Summit (formerly the Officers and Civilians Club), and Weeden Mountain Grill (at the golf course). The Overlook also is available as a location for receptions, conferences or events.

Anyone with access to the Arsenal can

eat at any of the FMWR restaurants, including Soldatenstube in the evenings. However, an FMWR membership for The Summit is required to eat in the dining room in the evenings and to attend members-only events.

Retired Maj. Edward Morfenski is yet another satisfied customer. He has been a member of the The Summit for the past 28 years. He has supported officers clubs and MWR facilities since he was commissioned as an Air Force second lieutenant in 1963.

"The Redstone Club/Summit is the best club that I have been to in the Army," he said. "The credit is to be given to Mr. Robert Schumann for his outstanding leadership, guidance and supervision of The Summit as well as The Overlook, the Firehouse Pub, and the Java Cafe. He is innovative, creative and very imaginative in creating an outstanding club menu and environment for its members."

Schumann manages all of the FMWR restaurants except for those at the bowling center and at the golf course. John Howard, bowling center manager, is in charge of Brooklyns Sports Bar and Strike Zone. Jon Samuelson, golf course

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Restaurants

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manager, is in charge of Weeden Mountain Grill. The cafeterias at the Sparkman Center and buildings 5250, 6263 and 5400 also are under FMWR, but the post restaurant fund manager Jeff Leedy is in charge of them.

"Jeff Leedy is an outstanding manager. He's done great things for us over there," Mark Germonprez, FMWR business operations division chief, said.

Morfenski and his wife, Barbara, enjoy eating at the Java Cafe and entertaining in the informal atmosphere of the Firehouse Pub. They frequent all of the restaurants managed by Schumann, but they dine at The Summit the most — at least three or four times a week.

"We choose to bring visitors and entertain at The Summit instead of going downtown to commercial restaurants and clubs. We feel that we want to support the club/Summit and MWR facilities as best we can," Morfenski said.

As an active member of the Military Officers Association of America and the Polish American community, he also has attended or coordinated several parties, luncheons and receptions at The Summit. He said he has always had superb food and the attention to detail and the environment has always been outstanding, whether he is attending a volunteer luncheon or a Christmas party.

"Again, the credit goes to Mr. Robert Schumann and his staff. He is such a great leader and gives individual attention to each club member and detailed assistance and supervision for each event. My wife and I and our family members and friends really enjoy these outstanding facilities for the food, the entertainment, and the environment, but most of all for the people," he said.

Germonprez is another satisfied customer, but he is somewhat biased because he is with FMWR and the restaurants.

"The menu at the Strikezone is awesome. The pizza buffet is probably one of the most popular places to go for

lunch, as well as the German menu at The Summit's Soldatenstube. It amazes me, not that people like German food, but the number of times you'll see people in there eating week after week after week," he said. "And the golf course has a great short order menu and they've got some new salads on the menu for some healthier options that they didn't have before. ... The Firehouse Pub does wings and fries at lunch and has a loyal following. Java Cafe has some of the best sandwiches on the installation."

The restaurants are a valuable benefit to Team Redstone, as well as a way to give back to the military community by supporting FMWR facilities. They go right along with the Arsenal's mission.

"I think it was (retired Col. John) Olshefski that said, when he was Garrison commander, 'We're here to take care of Soldiers and the people that take care of Soldiers.' That's what those restaurants do. We don't have a lot of Soldiers on Redstone Arsenal anymore, but we take care of those people that are taking care of our Soldiers," Germonprez said. "We'd love it if we could feed everybody on the installation so nobody would have to go off the installation for lunch."

All of the restaurants undergo inspection just like the restaurants off post. Inspections are two-fold here, he said, because the vets inspect the food and Fox Army Health Center inspects the sanitation.

Like Lewis and Morfenski, Germonprez is impressed with Schumann's management of The Summit and other clubs at Redstone.

"We're just extremely happy with Robert. We think he's the best club manager there is," he said.

Schumann explained that he started working at The Summit as a bartender in 1995. His part-time job turned into a full-time position when he was given the opportunity to manage Soldatenstube. His father had been a member of the then Redstone Officers Club, so he had attended its grand opening with him in 1982.

"It was definitely a Soldiers' club back then," he said.

Now the Arsenal has less young Soldiers, but many senior officers, military retirees, and active protocol offices on the installation.

"We definitely serve the Army as much as we ever have, even though the majority of our guests are civilian," Schumann said.

He explained that during the week and during the day they usually work with protocol offices taking care of official functions. In the evenings, they have more intimate dinners and even travel outside the club to members' houses. On the weekends, the club is catering to members of the club and doing weddings.

"That's where Paula comes into it. She has transformed our wedding business. We had four or five a year, and by the time she's done I think we will have every bit of 30 in here," he said.

The increase in business can be attributed not only to her rave reviews from customers for outstanding, individualized customer service and attention to detail, but also for her active use of social

media such as Facebook and Pinterest.

Overall, the FMWR restaurants offer excellent customer service and good food to the Redstone community. The people who work together to make this happen genuinely care about the customers, the military community and its mission. Schumann, in particular, feels fortunate to be serving in this way.

"Many days I wake up and I can't believe I get paid to do this job. It is a lot of fun," he said.

Upcoming events at The Summit include a Mother's Day brunch May 6 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and a new event called Dueling Pianos on May 25 with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and the fun, energetic show at 7 p.m. Both events are open to the entire Redstone community.

For more information about the FMWR restaurants and dining facilities including their operating hours, visit the website at www.redstonemwr.com/clubs_&_dining/. To find out more about catering for wedding receptions or other events, call Paula Garrett at 830-9227.

Photo by Gary Jones

Job well done

From left are Col. Thomas Todd, Utility Helicopters project manager; Julian Smith, UH-60 A/L/M assistant product manager and master black belt in Lean Six Sigma; Lt. Col. Heyward Wright, UH-60 A/L/M product manager; and Gregory Gore, deputy project manager.

Todd presents a certificate of commendation to Smith for his efforts from October 2010 to September 2011 for detailed analysis of the Corpus Christi Army Depot (Texas) production facility to recapitalize 48 UH-60 Black Hawk A-A-L model aircraft.



Panoply arts showcase returns downtown

Offers free admission to military, many activities during 30th event

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

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Come this weekend, all roads will lead to Panoply.

Organizers of the 30th celebration of the Panoply Arts Festival, which draws about 75,000 visitors, are glad to once again be opening festival gates in downtown Huntsville's Big Spring International Park. After a forced hiatus last year due to the tragic April 27 tornadoes, the city's No. 1 arts extravaganza is ready to celebrate in a big way.

"This year we are really looking forward to bringing the community back to the festival," said Allison Dillon-Jauken, executive director of The Arts Council, which hosts Panoply.

"We have so many wonderful arts organizations in this community. With more than 80 local performance groups scheduled on our stages, Panoply really celebrates our arts, entertainment and culture. Throughout the weekend, Panoply celebrates who we are as a community."

While Panoply draws in performers and visitors from all walks of life and from throughout North Alabama, this year's celebration will pay a special tribute to those who serve to protect the community and the nation – first responders and the military – by offering them free admission on specific festival days.

"We wanted to honor first responders because we will open on the one-year



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Holding artwork for both Panoply 2011 and Panoply 2012 are The Arts Council's Julie Hornstein, at left, and Allison Dillon-Jauken. When placed together, the two pieces of artwork give a full depiction of the red Japanese bridge in Big Spring International Park. Created by artist Rickie Higgins of Decatur, they are companion pieces that will be sold as posters at Panoply 2012. The 2011 posters were not sold last year due to the cancellation of Panoply after the tragic tornadoes of a year ago.

anniversary of the April 27th tornadoes. Our first responders sacrificed a lot for us during those difficult days," Dillon-Jauken said.

"We also wanted to honor our military because they are such an important part of our community. We are so grateful for all they do, and their service and sacrifice. They defend the freedom that enables us to celebrate the arts. We want to thank them for all they do."

First responders will be invited to enjoy free admission on Friday night, with gates opening at 5 p.m. They are asked to wear their uniform or a T-shirt identifying their agency so the community can tell them "thank you." They are also invited to participate in a tree-planting

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FREEDOM FOUNDATION BRINGING LONESTAR TO TOWN
EVENT RAISES MONEY FOR KOREAN WAR VETERANS
EDUCATION LUNCHEON CALLS COMMUNITY TO ACTION

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Garrison worker on winning moonbuggy team for UAH



Photo by Dr. Christina Carmen

Standing, from left, are Norman Nelson, Julie Bartle, Josh Dobson, Alex Estwick, UAH team lead Wesley Anderson, Mitsu Patel and Cole Barron. The riders are Justin Youngblood and Lauren Pegeus.

University of Alabama-Huntsville takes first in annual competition

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The Garrison's Josh Dobson was a member of UAH's winning team at the 19th annual NASA Great Moonbuggy Competition.

Dobson, of the Directorate of Public Works' Engineering Directorate, was on the first-place team in the race held April 12-14 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. The competition drew 88 teams this year, including several international entries from Germany, Russia, Italy, France and India. The opening ceremony was April 12 and the actual race took place April 13-14.

Dobson is majoring in mechanical engineering at the University of Alabama-Huntsville and will graduate in May. He works at DPW as a co-op doing fire protection engineering. He arrived at Redstone in 2008 as a temporary student employee.

UAH's winning nine-member moon-

buggy team included team lead Wesley Anderson, Cole Barron, Julie Bartle, Dobson, Alex Estwick, Norman Nelson, Mitsu Patel, Lauren Pegeus and Justin Youngblood. Seven, including Dobson, are seniors slated to receive their undergraduate degrees in mechanical and aerospace engineering either this spring or by fall.

"I thought it was an excellent accomplishment," Dobson said of the team's win. "I was really proud our team was able to come together and put in this hard work and come out with this great victory."

The UAH Team 1 Buggy design was originally built in 2009 but has been improved each year to achieve this year's victory. Youngblood and Pegeus drove the buggy which finished the grueling seven-tenths-of-a-mile course in four minutes and three seconds. The University of Puerto Rico at Humacao was second in 4:12.

Not only did the UAH team win the moonbuggy race for the college division, it also won the NASA Great Moonbuggy Competition's Best Design Report.

Dobson, 24, graduated from Sparkman High School in 2006. He and his wife, Jennifer, have an 8-month-old son, Connor.

Freedom foundation bringing Lonestar to town

Renowned country band doing benefit concert

By JASON CUTSHAW

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

When the band Lonestar comes to Huntsville to support veterans, the band plans to leave the audience "Amazed."

The American Freedom Foundation announces its first American Freedom Festival in Huntsville set for May 5 at 7:30 p.m. at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall featuring country band Lonestar, better known for its smash hit "Amazed." This benefit concert for veterans and men and women of America's armed forces will benefit Still Serving Veterans and other Huntsville-area veteran organizations.

"The mission of American Freedom Foundation is to help active duty military members with whatever their needs are, whether it is a disability, a health care issue or helping their spouses and children," retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley, American Freedom Foundation co-founder, said. "It is important for people to come out and support the concert because this is our way to make money to give to veterans in need. We give about 92 cents on every dollar to the veterans."

As sergeant major of the Army, Tilley sat on a wide variety of councils and boards that made decisions affecting Soldiers and their families. After retiring in 2004, Tilley has continued his advocacy for the men and women in uniform. In addition to co-chairing the American Freedom Festival organizing committee, he also gives speeches around the country to help raise the public consciousness in support of the military.

Tilley began American Freedom Foundation Inc. to honor the men and women of America's armed forces, raise awareness for their service and sacrifice, and raise money for organizations that serve and support veterans, active duty military and their families. Special emphasis is directed to the welfare of those wounded in action, those disabled and the family members of those

killed in action.

"We have been able to give more than \$1 million in the past eight years to veterans' organizations that help our servicemembers," Tilley said. "This year, we are going to give away \$1.5 million in military scholarships and we hope to be able to give away another \$500,000 to organizations that help our military families.

"We are currently teamed up with Kaplan University to give away \$1.5 million in scholarships for military spouses and dependents. So all someone has to do is go online to the American Freedom Foundation and click on the flag that says Kaplan University and fill out the application.

"The deadline for scholarship applications is June 1. We are hoping some people down in the Huntsville area will apply and qualify for the scholarships. Nothing would make me prouder."

Founded in 2005, Still Serving Veterans has helped more than 5,000 veterans and their families connect with the services they need to deal with life-changing injuries while reintegrating into civilian lives and careers.

Based in Huntsville, Still Serving Veterans has become a nationally-recognized center of excellence as a grassroots-level reintegration orchestrator for veterans including wounded warriors and their families. The organization bridges the gaps, helping veterans assess their vocational and counseling needs and then connecting those veterans with existing federal, state and local support services.

"This year we are doing three shows; Huntsville, San Diego and Washington, D.C., along with three job fairs in Washington, D.C., San Diego and Chicago," Tilley said. "We are hoping people will come out and support us, but more importantly support those who continue to serve their country."

The American Freedom Foundation has made grants of approximately \$1 million to more than 30 military organizations. The American Freedom Festivals is a series of concert events that take place across the

country featuring music performers, actors, athletes, dignitaries and other supporters, joining together to help support and fulfill the mission of the American Freedom Foundation.

Lonestar was founded in 1992. The band has released eight studio albums and one greatest hits album. They have sold more than 10 million albums worldwide and nine of their 28 singles have reached No. 1 on the Billboard country singles charts.

"2012 marks the 20th anniversary for Lonestar and that means we have been around for a long time," said Dean Sams, Lonestar co-founder and keyboardist. "Just the fact that it has been quite a while since we have played in Alabama will make this special for us. And the fact that we are going to have a lot of military folks there and to be able to meet some of them backstage is just going to make this an awesome event.

"Our big thing is that we pride ourselves on our live shows. We love writing and recording songs, but truly what drives us is doing the live shows and seeing the fans' reactions to our songs and hearing them sing them back to us. That is what we look forward to the most.

"These days, with the economy and a lot of our men and women still overseas, there are a lot of heavy hearts out there," Sams added. "We hope this show will give people at least 90 minutes to just forget about their troubles for a little while and have a good time with a band that is totally digging what they do."

In addition to garnering music accolades, Lonestar has been oft-lauded for their continuous outreach in the arena of humanitarian goodwill winning The Academy of Country Music's coveted Home Depot Humanitarian Award in 2003 for their work in the tornado-ravaged Jackson, Tenn. America's military forces have been a major focus for concert and fund-raising efforts by the band, as has St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

"Ever since our song, 'I'm Already There,' made it up the charts, we've been heavily involved with anything dealing with



Courtesy photo

Members of the band Lonestar are coming to Huntsville on May 5 to support the American Freedom Foundation. From left are Michael Britt, lead guitar; Richie McDonald, lead vocals; Dean Sams, keyboards; and Keech Rainwater, drums.

the military," Sams said. "The song was obviously written out of a personal experience with us being away from our families a lot. But once we had to start sending our men and women overseas to fight for us, we received so many letters from families saying what the song meant to them and how it made them feel closer to their loved ones who were so far away from them. It really became an anthem for the military and forever tying us to them. It has been such an amazing experience to make a difference in their lives."

Tickets for the American Freedom Festival are \$74.50 for the Gold Circle, which will include preferred seating and a Lonestar CD and poster; \$39.50 for orchestra level; and \$24.50 for balcony seats. Special military rates are from \$21.75 to \$32.75.

Tickets are available through the Von Braun Center box office, online at www.ticketmaster.com or at www.americanfreedomfoundation.org or by calling (800) 745-3000. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities.

Tickets for active duty military members are available at the Information Tickets and Reservation office at building 3711 on Patton Road, or by calling 876-4531.

Event raises money for Korean War veterans

By **DOTTIE WHITE**

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

The Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation held a fundraiser – a wine and whiskey tasting, which included live and silent auctions – on April 13 at The Summit.

The \$12,000 raised at the event will support the sixth annual Korean War Veterans luncheon, Revisit Korea Project 2012, and other veteran organizations in the Tennessee Valley.

KC Bertling, of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, founded L4KWVF. The foundation's mission is to involve and inform today's generation of the sacrifices, dedication, honor and character of Korean War veterans, and thank them by providing an opportunity to revisit Korea in September and by supporting other non-profit organizations that assist military members and their families.

Bertling, a native of Korea, said this was a childhood ambition.



Photo by Dottie White

Retired Maj. Gen. Grayson Tate, former SMDC commander and Korean War veteran, looks over the program after checking in at the Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation fund-raiser event April 13 at The Summit.

"I wanted to show Korean War veterans modern day South Korea, so they could see that their sacrifices were not in vain," she said.

"I want everyone to know that South Korea stands strong on the world stage economically, technologically and aca-

demically because of the sacrifices of veterans through the years."

The estimated cost of the Revisit Korea trip is \$2,500 per veteran.

Bertling said L4KWVF will continue to accept donations for the Revisit Korea Project. More information can be found at www.legacy4koreanwarveterans.org.



Photo by Gary Jones

Green belt certificate

From left are John Smith, Lean Six Sigma master black belt; Timothy Franklin, LSS deployment director; Chad Zolynsky, systems engineer in the Utility Modernization Product Office; Col. Thomas Todd, Utility Helicopters project manager; and Greg Gore, deputy project manager. Zolynsky received a Lean Six Sigma green belt certificate from Todd after completing an airworthiness review process which resulted in cost avoidance of about \$58,000.

Education luncheon calls community to action

Leaders see need for united efforts

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

The end of the school year is a time to look back at what all students have learned and accomplished during the year. This is no different for Team Redstone and its partnership with the Tennessee Valley education systems.

The Tennessee Valley Education Appreciation Luncheon held Thursday brought together members from the local school districts to discuss the successes of the past year and to look toward the next one. The Garrison hosted the final quarterly luncheon for the school year at the EarlyWorks Museum.

The event featured artwork from Huntsville, Madison and Madison County students. The Liberty Middle School Saxophone Quartet preformed, as well did the Lee High School Trouveres Chorus. Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton, AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers and his wife Reba spoke at the event thanking the community and urging the importance of continuance improvements in the school systems.

"We're here because you believe all of

our children deserve a great education, not a good one, a great education," Reba Rogers said. "We do a great job with our partnership but we can do a better job to bring equality to all of our schools."

She issued a challenge to the three school systems and Team Redstone leadership.

"I suggest we bring all the superintendents, key people from the local schools and Redstone education representatives together in a room and let you all brainstorm your needs and wants and what we can do to help them," she said, adding that she would like to see the meeting take place before her husband retires this summer.

Maj. Gen. Rogers spoke about the work he wants done in the future to continue improving the Tennessee Valley schools.

"Our kids are our legacy, it's important that we build all the schools up and make them all great," he said. "We should have the best schools in the country. That's what our superintendents are trying to do every day with the cuts they keep getting."

The schools budgets have been reduced by 22 percent over the last two years.

"That's not the right approach to take care of our children," Maj. Gen. Rogers said.

victims.

"We were ready to go for Panoply when the tornadoes hit," Dillon-Jauken said. "While it was sad to lose the festival, there was only one right thing to do."

Besides honoring first responders, Friday night's activities will remember those who suffered losses in the 2011 storms, and celebrate the community's year of recovery. Opening night performances will feature 17 different acts, including Huntsville's hometown music heroes Microwave Dave, Ken Watters, Phil Weaver and Ingrid Von Spakovsky. Festivalgoers will also enjoy free children's arts activities, international exhibits and hands-on crafts in Panoply's Global Village, and 21 food vendors.

On Saturday, when the gates open at 10, Panoply will invite all military and their families, including Gold Star families, active duty and Reserves, and retirees, to enjoy the day's arts and entertainment for free. All these families have to do is show their military identification cards or a Gold Star registry. The military and their families will be recognized throughout the day by emcees at the various stages.

"We want to honor their sacrifice and service," Dillon-Jauken said.

"This is the second time we've done



Photo by Megan Cotton

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton thanks the Lee High School Trouveres Chorus for their performance at Thursday's luncheon. Each member received a coin.

Programs like Mathematics Integration through Systematic Strategies and Interactive Learning Environments (MISSILE) and Math Achievement Rocketing Skyward (MARS) give Army grant money to local schools to improve math and science education. Team Red-

stone offers a variety of grants, programs and outreach to improve the local schools but Maj. Gen. Rogers wants to see more.

"Wouldn't it be more powerful if we had all of our programs together?" he asked while echoing his wife's call to action for a community-wide meeting.

Panoply

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ceremony at 6:15 with Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle in an area just west of Panoply's Global Village and alongside Big Spring Park's lagoon.

"We thought of a tree-planting because even today you can so clearly see the lines of the April 27th storms across the tree lines of North Alabama," Dillon-Jauken said. "Trees are a symbol of strength and life. This tree will be a living memorial to those who suffered loss."

Panoply itself was one of the heroes of last year's tornadoes. Without a festival to run, organizers found themselves with several rented generators and light towers that were no longer needed. The equipment was loaned to emergency officials to be used at emergency centers during the early days after the tornadoes when all of North Alabama was without electricity.

Panoply also donated its identification wrist bands normally worn by children at the festival. They were used by first responders to verify identification of residents moving in and out of the tornado-ravaged areas. In addition, many Panoply vendors donated food to tornado

this, and we are hoping that promoting it will get more and more military families to join us for a day of fun in the park. We have a lot of wonderful performances that day. There are four dozen performances that will happen in the park that day. There really is something for everyone to enjoy."

Saturday's events include the Huntsville Youth Orchestra, Dance Trance Fitness, Rocket City Barbershop Chorus, Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theatre, Magic of Josh Hosmer and bluegrass artist Marcia Ball. The Showcase Stage will feature the official Alabama State Fiddling Championships.

Besides the day's activities on six stages and throughout the park, the Army Materiel Command's Jazz Orchestra will perform on Saturday beginning at 8 p.m. on the Valley Jubilee Stage.

"We are so fortunate to have the AMC Band. They are just remarkable musicians," Dillon-Jauken said.

"They bring a high level of talent and artistry with them. We are so lucky of have a military band in this community."

There are also free hands-on make-and-take projects for the kids, an art marketplace showcasing the work of more than 60 professional artisans and 21 food vendors.

Panoply's invitation to a free day at the festival for military families mirrors the commitment of its more than 170 members to support military families with free or discounted tickets to local art and entertainment events throughout the year.

"This community is really good about recognizing and honoring its military," Dillon-Jauken said. "We really want our military families to know how much they are appreciated."

On Sunday, the festival begins at noon, and will feature 30 final acts in the Homegrown Talent Showcase as well as The Aeolians from Oakwood University, and American Idol star and local native Taylor Hicks. In addition, the Panoply act that has been with the festival all 30 years – the Junior League Rainbow Rhythm Band – will perform.

Each evening, Panoply ends at 9 p.m. with a fireworks show over the park.

Editor's note: Advance tickets for the general public to the Panoply Arts Festival are available at North Alabama Regions Bank branches. Daily admission to Panoply is \$5 and weekend Panoply passes are \$10 for admission to activities all weekend. Children under 12 are admitted free of charge. More information about The Arts Council programs and 2012 Panoply is available at www.artshuntsville.org.

Future Army officers hear from two-star general

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Bryant Adams never would've thought years ago that he'd be where he was Thursday.

The Alabama A&M University senior was among six graduating ROTC cadets honored during a gold bar presentation ceremony at The Summit. About 40 people attended the luncheon event for the Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America.

"As anyone I'm excited about it, anxious. But a bit nervous on how the outcome will be," Adams, 24, from New Market, said of becoming an Army officer. "I'm going to take my job seriously and give it 120 percent definitely."

Adams, a 2006 Buckhorn High graduate, will enter the armor branch. He and the others will be commissioned as second lieutenants May 3 in a ceremony at Alabama A&M. He will graduate May 5 with a degree in electrical engineering.

The other graduating cadets include

William Battle of the University of Alabama-Huntsville, entering military intelligence; Jasmine Clay, military intelligence; Jared Jones, Ordnance; Dumars Franklin, engineers; and Lloyd Bonner, Ordnance.

A seventh graduating cadet, Lance McLaughlin from Athens State, was unable to attend the gold bar ceremony because of work commitments. He will enter field artillery.

"We have over 100 cadets in the program," retired Lt. Col. Richard Ruffin, executive officer for the A&M ROTC Bulldog Battalion, said. Sixteen are graduating this year, including these seven cadets and nine others who have already been commissioned.

Air Force Maj. Gen. Terry Feehan, program executive for programs and integration at the Missile Defense Agency, was guest speaker for the gold bar ceremony.

"You're ready for this," Feehan told the new officers. "It's an awesome responsibility. It's a tremendous challenge."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Air Force Lt. Gen. Terry Feehan, of the Missile Defense Agency, addresses ROTC cadets who will receive their commissions May 3 from Alabama A&M University.

Senior enlisted leaders conference focuses on future

By DOTTIE WHITE

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – The annual Senior Enlisted Leaders Training Conference for the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command took place April 1-4 at Peterson Air Force Base.

This year's conference theme was "America's Army – Decisive Force: Space and Missile Noncommissioned Officers Teaching Our Warriors."

Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner, the command's highest ranking NCO, kicked off the conference with opening remarks and a command video.

"The purpose of this conference is to provide a forum for us as senior enlisted leaders and senior noncommissioned officers to interact and share our experience, exchange ideas, and discuss lessons learned throughout our careers," Turner said.

"I'm sure each of you will find this conference productive, beneficial and educational," he said. "I can't stress



Photo by Rachel Griffith

Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, gives opening remarks during the command's Senior Enlisted Leaders Training Conference that took place April 1-4 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

enough the fact that success depends on you. Your input and expertise are absolutely essential for this conference to be successful.

"This conference gives us an opportunity to address many key issues that impact our mission with our space and

missile defense senior enlisted leaders. We wanted to focus our NCOs on not only today, but tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. Our theme this year took us in the direction that the commanding general wants us to focus on – space and missile defense Soldiers continuing their contribution to the Army's decisive force as we go into the future. I think it is important for us to know the direction the nation and Department of Defense are going in order to work through our future challenges to national security. This gives us the chance to consider the impact to what we do and find ways to make things work smoothly."

After Turner's remarks, presenters from various areas of professional development provided overview briefs on topics such as U.S. Strategic Command, Air Force Space Command, U.S. Northern Command, Army Cyber Command, Department of the Army-level promotion boards, career counseling, war fighters, and media and social networking.

Other highlights of the week includ-

ed a video presentation from an Army astronaut, Col. Mark Vande Hei, who spoke about his journey as a Soldier and becoming an astronaut and answered questions. Following Vande Hei's remarks, Soldiers had an opportunity to speak with him and get autographed photos.

There also was a discussion panel with former command sergeants major. Sgt. Maj. John Mattie, of the USASMD/ARSTRAT operations branch, moderated the distinguished panel that included Sgt. Maj. of the Army (retired) Jack Tilley and retired Command Sgts. Maj. Ralph Borja, Frank Mantia, Tommy Williams, Al Hobbs and Carl Christian. The retired sergeants major provided opening remarks followed by questions from the NCOs in attendance.

Turner said he was very pleased with so many outstanding briefs and the success of the event.

"This year, we brought the conference to where the bulk of our NCOs live and work," he said. "This not only allowed us to bring the cost down by reducing the travel requirement, but it also gave us the opportunity to show key senior enlisted leaders, who we invited to the conference, some of our key capabilities in space and missile defense."

Times are a changing through AMCOM transformation

Teams present ideas to generate savings

By KIM HENRY

AMCOM/Garrison Public Affairs
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The Transforming AMCOM Guiding Coalition, a group of experienced leaders from across the command, met April 16 to hear updates from six of the 30-plus Leading Change Teams within the command.

These teams presented topics within the command that are considered quick wins for change. A “quick win” is defined as an idea that can easily be implemented, already fits within existing policies and regulatory guidelines, and can provide some immediate dividends to the command. Topics included reducing printing costs, adding a G-6 employee capability matrix and tracking command blackberry usage (with the

goal of reducing it).

The teams were formed out of suggestions for change submitted to the Transforming AMCOM site, <http://transformingamcom.redstone.army.mil>. Currently there are 112 change ideas submitted to the site. These employee ideas address possible improvements in areas as diverse as saving energy, to changing the way we repair helicopters in the reset process.

The Transforming AMCOM initiative started in November as a way for the command to focus on becoming more efficient through the participation of employees at all levels. Since approximately 84 percent of AMCOM’s total budget consists of costs related to sustaining our aviation and missile fleets, while only 16 percent of the budget involves personnel costs, AMCOM has made it a priority to become more cost efficient by transforming our business processes.

AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim



Photo by Grant Thompson

Bettye Lee Long-Walden briefs her team’s change idea of reducing printing, ultimately creating a cost avoidance of \$400,000 annually for the command.

Rogers will hold a town hall May 10 at 1 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium to update the command on progress made through this initiative.

“I believe that the work force holds the answers to these very complex issues because they are the people doing the work every day,” Rogers said. “Great ideas aren’t delegated to a particular pay grade. So, it doesn’t matter if you’re a GS-5 or a GS-15,

a logistician or a human resource specialist, a permanent employee or a contractor. If you have an innovative idea for how AMCOM can generate fiscal savings by transforming its business processes, then the command wants to hear about it.”

The Guiding Coalition is a group of experienced employees from across the command committed to “guiding” the Leading Change teams’ ideas to fruition. Their role is to communicate the vision widely, empower employees to take action, ensure credibility, build short-term wins, manage numerous change projects and anchor the new approaches into the organization’s culture. One simple way they assist leading change teams is by helping change team members identify other personnel and agencies with whom to coordinate their actions. The goal is to help the change teams turn their good ideas into actions that benefit the Aviation and Missile Command.

Because major change cannot be accomplished in a vacuum, Rogers is encouraging all employees to be a part of the solution, by not only embracing change, but also by leading change.

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AMCOM TEAM PURSUES METRICS FOR SUPPLY MANAGEMENT PAGE 32

AMCOM team pursues metrics for supply management

By DAN O'BOYLE

For the Rocket

"All we want are the facts, ma'am," said police Sgt. Joe Friday during the classic "Dragnet" television series. Gathering the facts is also a first step for supply chain managers.

The classic process for supply chain management is: Find out the facts, come up with the plan, execute the plan and evaluate the results.

AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center's Tiffany Johnson and her 22-member team are using that formula to help improve the supply chain.

"The Metrics Integrated Process Team is responsible for generating metric requirements in a dashboard, or automated analysis tool, that will improve situational awareness and empower decision making at differing levels of management," Johnson said. "The Metrics Integrated Process Team wants to ensure that we identify leading indicators that will produce a healthy supply chain.

"We have been benchmarking with other commands and the private sector to examine their metrics and auto-

ated solutions so that we will be able to identify key requirements needed to achieve a successful AMCOM solution. This dashboard should provide an end-to-end view of the command's total supply chain with metrics focusing on cost, efficiency and effectiveness."

Identifying the appropriate metrics to accompany future state business processes will leverage the Logistics Modernization Program as the data source, and also align the command's supply chain metrics with those of the Army Materiel Command.

The development of enterprise-level supply chain metrics will also answer the following questions:

- Who is this metric helping?
- Who does this metric affect?
- What does this metric tell us?
- When does this metric need to be run?

- Where will we house this metric?
- How can we drill down to identify the root cause of trends?

The answers to those questions, in turn, will identify and define the functional metrics for the 17 Supply Chain Management Enterprise Teams as well as develop end-to-end supply chain metrics, and a path forward for the sustainment metrics to support the AMCOM dashboard.

"It's similar to what a project manager does every day, in terms of focusing on the key factors of cost schedule and performance to make informed decisions at the strategic level," IMMC's Brian Wood said. "With the establishment of a centralized and clearly defined set of drill-

down capable, strategic enterprise level metrics, we envision enabling effective, efficient and proactive management of the AMCOM supply chain.

"What's more, our metrics will improve situational awareness and empower decision making at differing levels of management and business areas, including, importantly, item management."

Members of the metrics team include Johnson, Jennifer Vogeltanz, Chris Ricketts, Chad Reaves, Mark Pearsall, Olivia Cowart, Roger Gray, John Keck, Tara Holman, Kenya Rucker, Lori Harting, Jana Childers, Karen Balch, Eric Moton, Dennis Sturdivant, Carolyn Vaughn, Narda Johnson, Belinda Leak, Louise Carter, Willie Gaddis, Terry Green, John Haley and Tom Ray.

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

coming commander who is onboard with the Transforming AMCOM initiative.

An issue of this magnitude cannot be solved by one person, one directorate, or even one command. Only through our ability to innovate, collaborate and rapidly adapt, will we achieve our vision and ensure that America's Army forever remains the strength of the nation.

For more information on Transforming AMCOM, visit the website at <http://transformingamcom.redstone.army.mil>.



AMCOM

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"I want every AMCOM employee to ask themselves two questions on a daily basis: 'What can I improve today?' and 'How can I help my organization achieve its ideal future ready state that best meets the needs of our Soldiers?'" he said.

Rogers noted that while he will be retiring in June, he has spoken with the in-

Energy

continued from page 1

will generate 173,127 kilowatt hours in its first year of operation and more than 5 million kilowatt hours during the next 30 years. The electrical power generated will be sold to TVA and then used by Huntsville Utilities.

During the life of the demonstration center, the site will generate enough electricity to power 487 homes and cut more than 163,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions from the environment.

"We are planning 150 of these in the local community, with many placed in Cummings Research Park," Walker said. "We are working with the SBA to make this possible."

The solar-energy system being demonstrated consists of parking area solar assemblies that feature a canopy with solar panels on its roof to provide both shade for parking areas and electric vehicle charging stations; and tracker systems that capture the energy of the sun as it tracks its movement through daylight hours. Ground- and roof-mounted systems also will be installed at the center.

"One of these panels will provide energy for one electric car for a year," Walker told Mills. "They will get smaller and smaller, and it won't be long before we will be putting one in our backyards, and never buying foreign oil again."

Pillsbury said solar energy also provides a resource during times of natural disasters, such as the April 27, 2011 tornadoes that hit North Alabama.

"We were fighting two wars at the time and we had no power," said Pillsbury, referring to the five-plus days that Redstone Arsenal was without power. Solar energy can help prevent catastrophic power losses in the future, he said.

The solar-energy system featured at the demonstration center was developed by Stevenson's company for use at forward operating bases in theater.

"Redstone Energy Group is taking that underlying Department of Defense capability, and expanding it and using it to create renewable energy for this community," said Marty Kress, who leads the Huntsville Advanced Defense Technology Cluster Initiative.

Kress said that through other public-private partnerships like the one on display at the solar-energy demonstration center, the cluster initiative hopes to stimulate the economy through new advanced defense technology contracts, create new companies and new jobs in advanced defense technology, reduce the time to deliver technology to the war fighter, encourage a new wave of regional technological innovation, and increase collaborations among government, industry, and academia to strengthen and diversify the local economy.

The cluster initiative helps small busi-

nesses identify and understand Department of Defense customer requirements, provides intelligence on opportunities or procurements from the government that could benefit from technology, facilitates teaming with prime contractors, assists with contract vehicles to sell the solution to a federal customer and develops a community of technology companies that can work together to provide system solutions to the federal customer.

Mills applauded the collaboration and partnership behind the demonstration center, saying "we've got to go where great ideas are and great ideas are with entrepreneurs. ... We need to take the model you are living and find ways every small business development center can bring partnerships like this together."

The SBA offers support to small business across the nation through a network of 900 small business development centers.

Last year alone, SBA-backed lending to small businesses reached a record \$30 billion, Mills said, and about \$20 million went to businesses in Huntsville. The SBA's 8(a) program, which helps small companies secure government contracts, provides business development support including mentoring, business counseling, training and financial assistance. SBA has nearly \$90 billion in loan guarantees to small businesses, making it one of the biggest financiers of small business.

The federal government awarded nearly \$100 billion in contracts to small businesses in fiscal 2010, according to the SBA, representing 23 percent of all government contracts. Those contracts not only provide more revenue for small firms to grow and create jobs, Mills said, they allow the Army, Navy and other agencies to take advantage of businesses technology and innovation clusters, such as one she helped develop in Maine that teamed boat builders with composite products for faster and lighter hulls for incorporation in Navy Seal boats.

"We are going to lead economic development in regions like this," Mills said.

"Cluster initiatives work, but we are still getting push back on clusters on the Hill. We have to get your story demonstrated. I was sold with the boat builds in Maine, but this (energy initiative) is a whole other level. We can use what you are doing here to solve some of the nation's energy challenges. Having the success you all have had through your cluster makes our job much easier."

Mills said defense secretary Leon Panetta is committed to small business.

"He absolutely supports these (small business) programs in a way that didn't exist before," she said. "You are showing us how it works right here by demonstrating your capabilities."

Also during her time in Huntsville, Mills viewed the communication capabilities of the GATR Technologies satellite antenna that has supported both the war fighter in theater and the local community during the



Photo by Ellen Hudson

The Redstone Park and Energy Demonstration Center, at the corner of South Memorial Parkway and Airport Road, is the first of many centers that will bring solar energy to the Huntsville power grid and, specifically, to defense contractors in Cummings Research Park. It was made possible with the assistance of SBA loans and the Huntsville Advanced Defense Technology Cluster Initiative.

April 27 tornado tragedy; and toured TecMasters' creative multimedia facility, which performs video production, script writing, animation and training for customers

including the Corps of Engineers, Army, Navy and Marine Corps. Both small businesses have grown their defense contractor base through the assistance of SBA loans.

Photo by Dottie White

Sgt. Audie Murphy club

Six noncommissioned officers were inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club during the 2012 Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic

Command Senior Enlisted Leaders Training Conference at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., on April 4. From left are Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Griffin, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, SMDC/ARSTRAT; Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Wright, Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, Fort Detrick, Md.; Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of SMDC/ARSTRAT; Staff Sgt. Jose Brito, HHC, 53rd Signal Battalion, Peterson Air Force Base; Al Hobbs of Pioneer Services; Staff Sgt. Justin Hamic, Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, Fort Detrick; Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner, SMDC/ARSTRAT; Staff Sgt. Sherome Snell, HHC, 53rd Signal Battalion, Peterson Air Force Base; and Sgt. Daniel Reynolds, Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, Fort Detrick.



Photo by Megan Cotton

Under construction

Mills Road is under construction to widen the road to include a turn lane into the Von Braun Complex. The goal is to realign and reconfigure the intersection to improve traffic flow. The work will also include the realignment of Marshall Road.



PeopleProfile

Longtime logistician served as Soldier and civilian

Retirement next item on Young's agenda

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

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Serving his country and its Soldiers is a passion for Thomas Young, one that will continue long after he retires from civil service this month.

Although Young will retire as a logistics management specialist in the Army Materiel Command's Logistic Support Activity on April 30, he still expects to serve Soldiers.

"I plan to work with senior citizens and support them in their helps and their needs, to get where they need to go and do what they need to do. I also plan to help some of the disabled veterans. Right now we have a lot of Soldiers going through a lot of combat stress syndrome situations, so I plan to go more into that when I get out," he said.

Young served his country as a Soldier for 30 years before retiring from the military. He worked in the private sector for a few years before deciding to become a civil servant and serve Soldiers around the world for more than 20 years.

"When you have Soldiers in combat, they have a need. I have a desire to provide that

need, whether it's just a piece of information they want or something they need to help with their systems reporting their data or status. That's what I enjoy doing," he said.

"Sometimes it's challenging because of the different hours you have to work. You might end up having to come in early or you might end up having to stay late in order to meet the needs of that Soldier in the field. That is the thing that I understand even as a civilian because it started with me in the military."

Young was born in Mississippi but grew up in Detroit. He joined the Army in 1958 after graduating from Northern High School. While in the Army, he was stationed at various places including Niagara Falls, N.Y.; Fort Bliss, Texas; Gross-Sachsenheim, Lich and Datteln in Germany; Detroit; Okinawa, Japan; and Redstone Arsenal.

He retired as a sergeant major Dec. 31, 1988. He had come to Redstone in February 1986 and was a commandant at the NCO Academy. After that he worked for a few civilian government contracting companies before deciding to go into civil service.

He attended the School of Engineering and Logistics at Red River Army Depot and completed his training at the Aviation

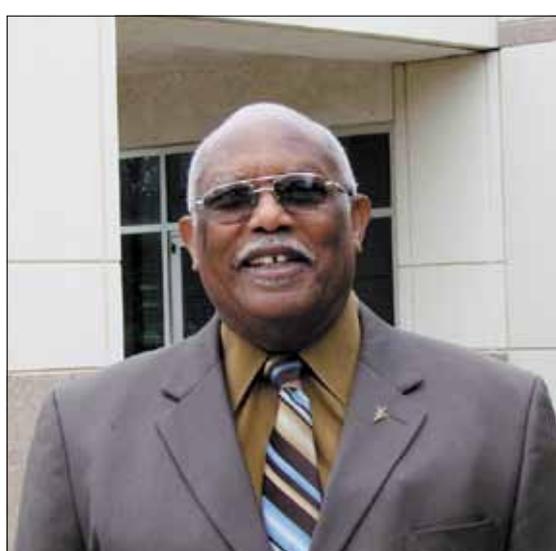


Photo by Beth Skarupa

Thomas Young has served his country both as a Soldier and as a civilian for more than 50 years.

and Missile Command before being assigned to the Logistics Support Activity.

"I'm proud to have gone through the logistics school and the support I've been able to provide to different organizations throughout. As a logistician, we maintain logistics data for the Army," he said. "It has been enjoyable. It's great to maintain our contact with Soldiers throughout the world. Sitting here this morning, you might get a call from Afghanistan, Iraq or wherever. That's just the way the Army works. That's being a logistician."

He and his wife, Vivian, were married in 1960. They have four grown children: Melvin lives in New Orleans, Thomas A. lives in Atlanta, and Delores and Jessica live in the Huntsville-Madison area. Although both his military career and his civil service career were demanding, Young said his family did well.

"It was good. It worked well for me and my family never had a problem with it. We

were blessed to be able to end up together on all the assignments except the last one," he said. "The last tour was the one my kids enjoyed the most because they liked attending the British schools (in the British section of Germany)."

Over the years, Young's wife worked at different places. She had a job with AAFES in Lich, Germany. She worked as a nurse in downtown Huntsville as well as with Fox Army Health Center. She also worked in computer science at the Research Development and Engineering Center. Now retired, she is a coordinator for the North Alabama Medical Reserve Corps.

"The point of it all was, this was good for me to be able to provide for and support my family and give them a meaningful life. They got to experience foreign countries, too. For a while, when my kids were small, they thought everyone got to do that," Young said.

He is actively involved with Progressive Union Church on Brandontown Road. He plans to work with disabled veterans through the church. Once he retires, he also plans to travel and visit family and friends across the country.

"What I'd really like to do is go spend some time with my brothers and sisters in Detroit," he said. "Then I'll probably travel some and see friends in Texas and North and South Carolina."

He has been happy with his career and all that it has given him.

"First and foremost I want to thank God for being in my life even before I knew him," he said. "I have supported the Soldier and civilians throughout my government career. They are who I worked for. And I have enjoyed working with my co-workers, both the military and the civilians. I think they've done a terrific job. I appreciate the job they've done and the efforts we've put forth as a team."

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

Brigade visitors

Cadre from the 405th Army Field Support Brigade, Daerner Kaserne, Kaiserslautern, Germany, visited April 17-18. From left are the brigade's incoming commander Col. Christopher Roscoe, incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Bryan Kroontje, outgoing commander Col. Ronald Green and outgoing Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Sharpe Jr. The AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center's Readiness Directorate invited them for visit to the Aviation and Missile Command, the Logistics Support Activity and facilities.



Photo by Patrick Sheahan

Retirement hug

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Michael Weist stands with his wife, Kathryn, after his retirement ceremony April 13 culminating 31 years of service. He served at the Utility Helicopters Project Office as product coordinator for common engines.



Information systems worker cited for his work ethic

By DONALD NAPHY
For the Rocket

Dennis Fitzgerald of Huntsville has received the Defense Information Systems Agency, Enterprise Services Directorate, Director's Award.

ESD director Alfred Rivera presented Fitzgerald the award March 27 in recognition of his outstanding performance as the DISA Defense Enterprise Computing Center-Huntsville's facility manager and data call manager.

Fitzgerald has repeatedly demonstrated his outstanding organizational support through his dedication to the customer, organization and mission. His personal attention to detail, performance of extensive coordination, timely execution of preventative maintenance and thorough system testing has allowed DECC-Huntsville to go more than 13 years without an unscheduled electrical outage in the data center.

One example of Fitzgerald's dedication was during the April 27, 2011 tornado outbreak. Prior to the tornadoes, Fitzgerald was TDY in Denver, Colo. Upon learning of the tornado damage and the loss of power in North Alabama, he immediately returned to Huntsville on the next available flight. He was able to ensure DECC-Huntsville's generator was performing correctly and to work any outstanding facilities issues.

Due to his efforts, and in conjunction with the excellent support received from Base Operations providing fuel and maintenance, DECC-Huntsville's generator sustained all operations for five days with no power loss to the DISA information systems. This enabled Redstone



Courtesy photo

Dennis Fitzgerald, left, receives the DISA Enterprise Services Directorate, Director's Award, from ESD director Alfred Rivera.

Arsenal, Huntsville and the surrounding area to maintain critical communications and data processing capabilities.

DISA, DECC-Huntsville serves the local DoD community by providing a Defense Information Service Network service delivery point for NIPRNET, SIPRNET, DSN, and global data, audio and video services. Additionally, DECC-Huntsville provides data processing, and remote scheduling and monitoring of Army mainframe applications. This 10,000-square-foot, modern, newly refurbished data center, is poised to be a premier data center for years to come. Although a very small organization staffed by 13 personnel, DECC-Huntsville maintains these operations 24/7 year-round.

DECC-Huntsville would like to show its appreciation to Fitzgerald and wish him congratulations in his award. His efforts are greatly appreciated and his dedication and work ethic is an excellent example for all.



Photo by Larry McCaskill

ECC change of command

Army Contracting Command executive director Carol Lowman, Brig. Gen. Joe Bass, outgoing Expeditionary Contracting Command commander, and Brig. Gen. Ted Harrison, incoming ECC commander, make their entrance during Friday's ceremony at the activity field.

Building bridges with government agencies

SBA's national ombudsman encourages entrepreneurs

By KARI HAWKINS

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A NASA contract opened a door for Esther Vassar in 1994 that set her on a path to become a leader in the competitive arena of small business government contracting.

Today, Vassar helps other small businesses succeed in the world of federal government contracting. As the Small Business Administration's national ombudsman and assistant administrator for regulatory enforcement fairness, she and her staff of seven assist small businesses when they experience excessive or unfair federal regulatory enforcement actions, such as repetitive audits or investigations, excessive fines and penalties, and threats, retaliation or other unfair enforcement action by a federal agency.

Vassar spoke about the hurdles small businesses face in government contracting during a small business forum sponsored by the National Defense Industrial Association's Tennessee Valley Chapter Small Business Council on Thursday at the Boeing facility in Cummings Research Park.

"When I was appointed to this position (in 2009), I immediately began to assess how I can be successful in helping small businesses, and how I could assist small businesses when they feel they have experienced unnecessary or unfair federal regulation," Vassar said. "As a former business owner, I certainly understand regulatory challenges facing any small business."

Vassar opened an imports business 25 years ago and, in 1994, she opened a consulting business, specializing in political consulting, fund-raising, event planning and corporate training.

In 2002, she became the commissioner of the Virginia Department of Alcoholic

Beverage Control, a regulatory agency with more than 2,500 employees and 344 retail liquor stores. As alcohol commissioner, Vassar served as an administrative law judge, led underage drinking and driving public service campaigns and the alcohol education programs, and established partnerships with the Army and the Norfolk Naval Base to develop programs and provide information to military personnel about the prevention of alcohol abuse and drunk driving. Vassar's leadership created partnerships among the military, state agencies and the alcohol industry that produced two programs that won national recognition and awards: "The Safe Ride Home" program for the military and the "Alcohol and Aging: The Best Is Yet To Come" program.

Her firsthand experiences as a business owner as well as her work in state government gave her the insight and skills to serve as the SBA's national ombudsman.

"I wanted to use my experience to help other small business owners. Developing and encouraging these kind of businesses simply made good sense," she said.

"Over the years, the opinions about small business have changed. Now, it is acknowledged that small business drives the economy."

There are 27 million small businesses in the U.S., manufacturing just over 50 percent of the nation's non-farm gross product. Small business makes up 97 percent of the nation's exporters.

"I want to increase awareness of the opportunities for small business," Vassar said. "I want to help them access the defense environment and help fulfill the defense needs of this country. It is a prominent role small business plays and will play in the economic recovery of our nation."

Everywhere in the U.S., the fruits of entrepreneurial small businesses are testimony to the ingenuity and determination of business owners. Vassar talked about her feelings on April 19 when she saw for the first time the Saturn rocket at the U.S.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Esther Vassar, the Small Business Administration's national ombudsman, wants to help small businesses build relationships with federal agencies. She spoke during a small business forum hosted by the National Defense Industrial Association's Tennessee Valley Chapter Small Business Council.

Space & Rocket Center, saying it "symbolizes strength, power and national pride, and a dream that became a reality because of entrepreneurs."

Yet, small businesses continue to face challenges when competing for federal contracts.

Through her own NASA contract as a consultant, Vassar learned about other contractor opportunities and went on to win several other government contracts for her company. In return, NASA benefited from working with a small business that had a chief executive officer with a "hands-on approach in managing the contract."

"I had a contract with NASA. All I needed was a chance," she said.

Vassar wants to ensure that other small businesses have those same opportunities. As the "voice of small business," she said it is "necessary for every federal agency to use the services of small businesses, especially when it comes to providing services in the defense industry."

Besides speaking for small businesses and

the burdens of unfair regulatory enforcement, Vassar also wants to raise issues and awareness that pertain to small businesses. This year, she will participate in 55 events in 20 states to tell the story of small business contracting success. Her office, which consists of seven employees, has seen an increase from 250 to 364 small business complaints or comments between 2010 and 2011, and an increase from 1,000 to 2,800 responses from federal agencies to public and customer service actions. In addition, 50 board members of the Small Business Administration serve as volunteer ombudsman liaisons in the five regions of the Small Business Administration.

"I want to work against things that offer inhibitions and barriers to the development of small business. I want to ensure that federal regulators assist business owners with compliance rather than go straight to the penalty stage," she said. "Most federal agencies will work with us in a collaborative matter on regulatory enforcement."

As the national ombudsman for small business, Vassar acts as a troubleshooter between small business and federal agencies. She wants to eliminate unfair or excessive regulatory enforcement actions taken by federal agencies, waive or reduce civil penalties against small businesses, increase federal compliance assistance, and save small businesses time and money.

Unfair or excessive regulatory enforcement actions may consist of audits, fines or penalties, confusing or unfair paperwork, non-responsive federal employees, and threats, retaliation and unprofessional behavior by federal employees. The national ombudsman's office rates federal agencies on timeliness and quality of response, non-retaliation policy, compliance assistance, written notification and amount of participation.

"The federal government is the biggest buyer of goods and services in the world," Vassar said. "The work I am doing is about building relationships between small businesses and the federal government."



Photo by Melody Sandlin

GFEBs update

The Security Assistance Command held a General Fund Enterprise Business System meeting with representatives from the security assistance enterprise at the command's headquarters April 16-20. John Sanders, USA-SAC's GFEBs program manager,

and Robert Richard (seated), USASAC's GFEBs systems analyst, covered critical issues and challenges for foreign military sales case and FMS administration in GFEBs before USASAC begins using the new Army financial management system in July.



Courtesy photo

Aviation tour

Students from Spring Hill High School JROTC visited Redstone Test Center's Aviation Flight Test Directorate and toured the Rotary Wing Center on Friday. They learned about AFTD's flight testing mission from Staff Sgt. Frank Bagley and Staff Sgt. Michael Boyd and explored the CH-47F Chinook static display. Also on display were two unmanned aircraft systems.

Providing good leadership for the mission

Senior AMC Reserve officer grateful for 35-year career

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
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As he prepares to retire, the Army Materiel Command's senior Reserve officer is grateful for the opportunities the Army has given him to make a logistical difference in the lives of Soldiers.

Maj. Gen. Harold "Gary" Bunch, AMC's assistant deputy commander for Reserve affairs, has spent his career addressing logistics issues in supplying Soldiers with the equipment they need to get the mission done. At AMC, where he has been on active duty orders for the past 2 1/2 years, he has assisted with the drawdown and movement of equipment out of Iraq while also leading the command's 300 to 400 Reserve Soldiers located in 19 different locations.

"AMC is where career logisticians need to be," he said. "It's just a great place for logisticians at the strategic, operational and tactical levels."

Bunch is retiring after 35 years of service, going on to a position as a defense contractor in support of Fort Lee, Va.

"I've always been a quartermaster officer," he said. "I've really enjoyed serving. I hope I've provided good leadership for my units. We've always been able to accomplish whatever mission we've been assigned. It's also about mentoring the folks that come behind you. I hope I've helped grow a few who can replace me."

Although his last assignment has been at Redstone Arsenal, Bunch will retire on May 4 out of Fort Hood, Texas, where he spent most of his Reserve career and where members of both his Army family and personal family are located. He and his wife raised three children in Texas, with one son growing up to serve in the Reserves and deploy to Iraq, and their only daughter, 1st Lt. Alicia Bunch, currently serving with the Reserves as a medical service corps officer who works in the combat support hospital at San Antonio.

Lt. Gen. Dennis Via, AMC's deputy commander, will be the officiating officer.

At the beginning of his career, Bunch didn't choose the quartermaster (logistics) corps. Rather, it chose him.

As a top ROTC graduate at Texas A&M University, he expected to get assigned to one of his three top choices — field artillery, armor or military police. When he found out he was assigned to quartermaster, he went to his counselor to complain.

"As I was telling him I didn't want quartermaster, I looked at his collar and saw the quartermaster insignia and realized who I was talking to. He told me 'The Army has done you a favor. Take two weeks to think about it and then come back to me.' As I left his office, I saw the shadow box on his wall that contained a Ranger tab, Silver Star and Purple Heart. I didn't go back two weeks later," he said.

After serving as an active duty officer primarily with the 1st Armored Division of Fort Hood from 1976 until 1982, Bunch went into the Reserves, pursuing a master's of science in accounting and working as a mortgage banker in Dallas. He spent his Reserve weekends taking on new assignments and additional responsibilities in quartermaster units in the Dallas area, working his way into command positions. As command responsibilities grew, so, too, did his time commitment to the Reserves.

"It takes a lot of your time when you are working at the company command, battalion command and brigade command levels," he said. "Even before 9/11, I was working two or three weekends a month. The battalion I commanded was 1 1/2 hours away from where I lived. You had to be willing to travel to be a Reserve commander. It was commitment and anyone who was at a higher command had to make that commitment."

"I was fortunate to always have the support of my wife and children. You can't do the work of a Reserve officer unless your family is onboard with you."

During his Reserve career, he was assigned to maintenance and logistics support units in Dallas, San Marcos and San Antonio. Bunch deployed in the early 1990s to Belize, Guatemala and Honduras as commander of the Logistics Support Group, Joint Task Force Jaguar, Fort Sam Houston. He deployed again in 2003-04 as commander of the 172nd Corps Support Group, 13th Corps Support Command, Multi-National Corps to Balad, Iraq.

"The brigade that I took to Iraq included aviation maintenance, combat support and transportation," Bunch said. "When supplies came into Balad, we would distribute them. We had 1,600 truck drivers in 10 companies distributing supplies throughout the country. We were self secured with helicopters that protected our convoys. We ran over 100 convoys in 12 months."

Even with aviation protection and ground security, Bunch's unit earned more than 90 Purple Hearts and lost 10 Soldiers to improvised explosive devices. He himself earned a Legion of Merit and Bronze Star.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Maj. Gen. Harold "Gary" Bunch is retiring after a 35-year career with the active Army and the Reserve Army. He will retire as the senior Reserve officer at the Army Materiel Command on May 4.

"You can't send your Soldiers out there in the field and not go out there with them," Bunch said. "I did travel in a security vehicle in the convoys, but that was before we had MRAPs (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles). We did add some M1114s (high mobility, multi-purpose wheeled vehicles) with armored doors. In 2004, we still had Humvees with canvas doors and canvas tops."

When he returned from deployment, Bunch went on to serve as the commander of the Logistics Civilian Augmentation Program Support Unit at Fort Belvoir, Va., and then as the deputy commander for Mobilization and Operations, Army Sustainment Command, at Rock Island, Ill. While with the Army Sustainment Command, Bunch was involved in establishment of the Army Field Support Brigades in 2006.

"The brigades became so important to the Army in such a short period of time," Bunch said. "They evolved through the Army Sustainment Command (a subordinate command to AMC) and look how integral they are now. From concept to unit to deployment to acceptance has just been phenomenal. That's been the highlight of my career, to be involved in those brigades from concept to fruition to implementation."

The Army Field Support Brigades — with the 402nd in Iraq and the 401st now in Afghanistan — serve as AMC's primary interface with Army forces and as a bridge between the generating and operating forces. The brigades, consisting primarily of Reservists, provide support in the field to war fighter units in relation to acquisition, logistics and technology.

"They bring a lot of flexibility to the field because they can be expanded and contracted to meet the mission," Bunch said.

In the summer of 2009, AMC formed its Responsible Reset Task Force to draw-

down the more than 173,000 pieces of equipment in Iraq worth about \$16.5 billion. Soon, Bunch was tapped for a two-year assignment in Kuwait as the deputy commanding general of the 1st Sustainment Command. During his assignment, equipment from Iraq was sent to Kuwait for reset and then redistributed to units in Afghanistan or back to the states to units that needed additional equipment.

During the drawdown, the imperatives of the reset task force in Kuwait included equipment accountability, visibility, disposition and velocity.

"Responsible reset reached out across all life cycle management commands," Bunch said. "We looked at processes to see how equipment was flowing. We wanted to lean out and maintain velocity so that theater-provided equipment stayed in constant motion. We projected to depots what to expect so they could have everything ready for repairs and return the equipment to force as quickly as possible."

Thirty to 40 percent of the equipment from the surge in Iraq was sent to Afghanistan. The rest came back to the U.S.

"We've closed out the equipment coming out of Iraq," Bunch said. "The last vehicle arrived back to the states two weeks ago."

After his assignment in Kuwait, Bunch also returned to the U.S., and has worked at AMC headquarters for the past year.

He has enjoyed leading the Reserve Soldiers who report to AMC. "Of the 65,000-plus AMC employees, about 2,000 are in uniform. Our 300 to 400 Reservists on active duty are either mobilized to an Army Field Support Brigade or they support headquarters here in the states," Bunch said. "A significant percentage of the Soldiers in AMC are Reservists."

The major general is grateful that he has been able to serve as a Soldier both on and off active duty during his 35-year career.

"I have always loved to serve. That's it," he said. "I would not have been around for 35 years if it wasn't for the young Soldiers of our Army. I know what kind of risks these young Soldiers take every day when they get in their truck and travel the roads in theater. They still sign up and go out there, even though they understand those risks."

While he sees the active duty Army drawing down as defense budgets tighten, Bunch does not expect Reserve numbers to fall. But he does expect there will be more competition between the Army and the Army Reserve for missions, equipment and training.

"We have a different Reserve today

See Reservist on page 38

Coleman has smooth transition to general's office

Serves as executive assistant to the AMCOM commander

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

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Whether it's planning a Junior Civitan convention or organizing the schedule for the Aviation and Missile Command's commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, Bonnie Coleman does the job right.

As executive assistant to AMCOM's commander, she spends countless hours taking care of details and ensuring that both Rogers and the Army mission are supported. In her spare time, she serves as the Junior Civitan chair and plans successful events such as the upcoming district convention April 28 at Quail Creek Golf Resort. Whether it's for work or play, she gives it her all and takes care of every detail for a successful outcome.

"I'm one where I want to get the job done if I'm in charge of it, whatever it is. That's just the way I am," she said.

Coleman has been working for Rogers since February and said she likes it. She is looking forward to working for Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar, who will take over as the commander in June, as well.

"General Rogers is great to work for and everyone has been so welcoming," she said. "I like to do different things and it's never boring. You know there's

always something different to do here. I really like it."

Originally from St. Louis, she moved here in 1997 when her husband was transferred to the Arsenal. She had worked for the government after graduating from high school in St. Louis, starting out in a temporary position and working her way up. But thanks to the Base Realignment and Closure Act, jobs were scarce and she stayed home with her children and worked in retail for a while.

Coleman and her husband Nelson, a logistics management specialist who works on the Apache helicopter, have four grown children and three grandchildren. All of their children are adopted. Their oldest, Kassie, stayed in St. Louis when they moved here, but Linda, Jeff and Dennis moved with them.

"We did foster care before we adopted, so I'm sure we had 100 or more in and out of our house in St. Louis. We did that for about six years. We were married 20 years before we got the kids. We couldn't have any, so we wanted to adopt," she said.

At times as many as 12 foster children stayed in the Coleman house at one time. They were foster parents until six months before moving here.

"We ended up getting into it because they said it would be easier to adopt if you were in the foster care," she said. "It's hard, especially when you get attached to them. And they tell you that you can't

get attached. You've got to know that the final thing they're wanting to do is get them back with their families."

Although she said she may think about foster parenting again one day, she will wait until after she retires. Right now she is enjoying her new job and her work with Junior Civitan.

Coleman has been involved with Junior Civitan for seven years. She has served in several positions including president, area director and secretary for the district. Her position as chair this year is a step back that she took to have more time to concentrate on her duties as the commander's executive assistant.

Junior Civitan is a community service organization for students in grades 7-12. Most recently, Coleman's district raised the funds to build a Special Needs Accessible Playground in Hartselle.

"Our club started out buying single swings, the kind you can put wheelchairs under. Then the Kiwanis Club came to our Christmas function and said they wanted to help out with our fund-raising efforts. Now it's turned into something really big with three phases. It has buckets that drop water down on the kids and my grandkids really like it. Walmart was a big contributor, too," she said.



Photo by Beth Skarupa

Bonnie Coleman is the new executive assistant for AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers.

Coleman and her husband lived in Decatur for their first five years here, then moved to Hartselle. Prior to taking the job with Rogers, Coleman worked as an executive assistant to Brig. Gen. Ole Knudson, the program executive officer for missiles and space.

When she is not busy with her new job or Junior Civitan, which does not happen often, she enjoys sewing and bowling. She also likes to visit her grandchildren and Nelson's many siblings in St. Louis. Vacations at their timeshare in Hawaii are also a favorite every two years.

AMRDEC scientists, engineers earn patents



Photo by Merv Brokke

From left are Daniel Shumate, Dr. Paul Ruffin, Prabhakar Rao, Patrick Jungwirth, Dr. Brian Smith and Dr. Kevin Kennedy.

Eric Edwards, director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, has honored AMRDEC scientists and engineers who received U.S. patents.

The patents awarded represented a wide range of technologies and showed the breadth of the AMRDEC workforce's knowledge and innovation. The inventions all have the potential for commercial application.

"AMRDEC's inventions not only help

drive economic development today, they build the backbone of the future in fields such as technology, medical care, farming, ecology and energy," Cindy Wallace, deputy chief of AMRDEC's Office of Research and Technology Applications Office, said.

The center's newest patent holders include Daniel Shumate, Dr. Paul Ruffin, Prabhakar Rao, Patrick Jungwirth, Dr. Brian Smith and Dr. Kevin Kennedy. (AMRDEC release)

Reservist

continued from page 37

than we had 10 years ago," he said. "A year or two after 9/11, a lot of Soldiers left the Reserves and our end strength dropped. But, then we started getting a new kind of Reservist who understood the new paradigm and enlisted anyway. Now we are above our end strength, and we've retained that for the last six or seven years."

Reservists are willing to deploy, Bunch said, but they do want predictability in their deployments so that families and employers know what to expect and have the time to plan around a deployment.

"We've gone from a strategic Reserve to an operational Reserve with units that are trained and ready to deploy," Bunch said.

"The goal is to maintain that operational Reserve. But the number of missions available will become more competitive, and the theater security cooperation missions that are good missions for the Reserve component to

keep them trained and ready may become something that active duty Army wants to participate in for the same reasons. This is not unique to an active duty force coming into a peace-time situation."

Some of that will be seen at AMC. Bunch said, as fewer Reservists will be assigned to the command's mission.

"There is an expectation that there will be some reduction in the number of folks needed to run the mission," he said. "Until then, though, we are a critical augmentation to AMC because we allow the command to maintain skills and levels of support that couldn't otherwise be maintained on a daily basis."

Bunch is confident that active duty and Reserve Soldiers who want a role in the leaner Army of the future will always have a place if they are committed to hard work and leadership.

"Seek out the good jobs, the hard jobs, and do a good job at the hard jobs and good things will happen," he said. "Stay committed to the Army values, to selfless service and to education. The link between all good Soldiers is the Army values."

Mental, physical pain doesn't stop marathon man

Soldier conquers Boston on sweltering hot day

By **LARRY McCASKILL**

Army Contracting Command Public Affairs

One of more than 266,600 participants in this year's Boston Marathon, Col. Jeff Gabbert maintained one simple thought throughout the 26.2-mile trek through the historic Massachusetts city – finish the race.

No stranger to running marathons, the Army Contracting Command chief of staff ran his first marathon because of some in-house ribbing.

In 2008, while serving as the Defense Contract Management Agency Iraq/Afghanistan commander at Camp Victory, Iraq, word came down about the first Camp Victory marathon and his lack of participation.

"I told everyone I was going to run the half-marathon," he said before discovering a petition was circulating throughout his command addressing his effort.

"It read, 'we the undersigned believe that if you only do half the marathon, then perhaps, you are only half a commander.' Needless to say it was game on from there," said Gabbert, whose longest run up to that



Photo by Boston Athletic Association

Col. Jeff Gabbert, Army Contracting Command chief of staff, finishes this year's Boston Marathon in 4:44:05.

time was 10 miles.

With only three weeks to train, he began his regimen and soon competed in his first marathon, finishing in 3:40.

Since then, he's run in the Rocket City Marathon in 2009, putting in his fastest time of 3:28, and in the 2010 Boston Marathon, finishing in 3:31.

"Running a marathon is not a race, but a long and hard journey of commitment," said Gabbert, whose competitiveness is

both internal and external. "From the moment you make the decision to run a marathon, there is no doubt you will face adversity and factors out of your control."

Gabbert said his marathon training regimen is 18 weeks long and includes running more than 750 miles as well as lifting plenty of weights. "Pumping your arms for three and a half hours straight is a tough task," he explained.

Gabbert said competing in a marathon takes one part perseverance, one part commitment and one part dedication.

"There is a pattern to what goes through my mind during a marathon. I start off with talking to myself about things like monitoring my pace and sometimes slowing myself down," he said. "Then, I try to think through the challenges currently confronting me in life. When I reach hills, I tend to think of the technique involved to continue with a steady effort head and shoulders up. During the rough periods, I think of those that I have dedicated the run to and repeat the mantra – this is not about you. When it gets really tough, I think of my dad who taught me to slow down, but never quit."

Because of the 84.8 degree temperatures, marathon officials extended a never before option of allowing participants to sit out

this year's marathon and run next year instead. More than 5,000 runners accepted the offer. More than 2,000 runners didn't make it to the finish line this year. Suffering from piriformis syndrome, a neuromuscular disorder that causes pain, tingling and numbness in the buttocks and descending down the lower thigh and into the leg, no one would have faulted Gabbert for pulling out of this year's Boston Marathon.

So when the starting pistol for the 116th Boston Marathon exploded, wearing number 12156, Gabbert began this year's 26.2-mile adventure.

Crossing the finish line at 3:06 p.m., his time of 4:44:05 was more than an hour off his desired time, but quite an accomplishment considering the pain and sweltering heat.

"I run them simply because I can. The day is quickly approaching when these knees will no longer take the long-distance road runs. Again, I started because of the challenge of my troops. Then, I caught the bug and began to chase entrance into Boston," he said. "I have dedicated each marathon to someone close to me or a cause. Due to several injuries I have sustained as I have trained for this marathon, I dedicated this run to all the wounded warriors who can no longer run."

Adventures in AMCOM changes student's course

She attends program after 2011 tornadoes

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Out of the rubble of the April 27 tornadoes, Nicole Martin has emerged stronger, smarter and ready to face the future.

It has been nearly a year ago to the day that Martin, 17, a junior at Sparkman High School, found herself taking cover in the basement of her Anderson Hills home with her mother and father, listening as the whistling of Mother Nature grew louder and louder, until a large boom and down-pour of rain through a gaping hole where their roof once was proclaimed their house a loss.

"It was tough," Martin said. "For the first time in my life I was homeless. Everything changed. I didn't have the simple things. I always looked to my parents for what to do, but for the first time, they didn't know what to do."

Within a matter of weeks Martin's life went from being turned upside down, to a new promise of hope and renewed sense of passion for the future that she never anticipated, until she attended Adventures in

AMCOM, an educational outreach which provides local students the opportunity to learn more about careers on the Arsenal and what it takes to become Army civilians. But it was a chance she almost didn't allow herself to take. As a victim of the tornado she considered not going, until her parents pushed her to take advantage of the learning experience.

"It was the best decision that I made," Martin said. "It was a sigh of relief. It made everything better to go for those six days, to get my mind off of it and allowed me to focus on something else."

The impact of the six days she spent learning how missiles and chemicals are tested, listening to Army success stories and doing simulations in Army hardware, has lasted much longer than the teen had ever anticipated. Since Adventures in AMCOM, Martin has participated in the National Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. this past February, and has been selected as a 2013 High School Inaugural Scholar to attend the inaugura-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Nicole Martin, 17, a junior at Sparkman High School attended last year's Adventures in AMCOM, which catapulted her to other opportunities.

tion of the next president come January.

"They have really catapulted me to a higher level," Martin said. "I have such a better understanding of what it is all about, and I know for sure that I want to serve my country, whether it's joining the Army or working for the government."

"Nicole's Adventures in AMCOM experience was a life-changing event," said Nicole's mom, Jacqueline Martin, who works for MDA. "For

the first time, Nicole understands the 'big picture' in serving the Army and the endless opportunities presented as a civilian in Redstone's future work force. I think one of the greatest lessons learned by Nicole is that everything is about supporting the mission and the war fighter as a team."

It was actually Martin's participation during team activities during Adventures in AMCOM that set her apart from the rest of the students, said John Pearson with the Army Education Outreach Program.

As the high schoolers worked together to solve real life problems, Nicole would quietly listen to what each student had to say and then offer her own brainstorm of how to blend their ideas together to create the best solution.

"Out of nowhere she would just bring perspective," Pearson said.

"It was really fun working with other people you didn't know," Martin said.

The fact that she wants to pursue a career in service to her country means mission accomplished for Adventures in AMCOM organizers, whose aim is to introduce students to the wide variety of opportunities available as part of the installation's work force.

"It's a lot of introducing the concept that it's not just rocket scientists and Soldiers, just about any career you're interested in is at the Arsenal," Pearson said.

What's next for Nicole, other than another trip to Washington, D.C. for the inauguration? While the soon to be senior isn't quite sure, she does know she wants to pursue one of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) fields, particularly engineering, possibly at Auburn, Alabama or Tuskegee University.

"I really want to work for the government to serve my country in some kind of way," Martin said.

Win or Lose

Jacobs engineers victory in softball season opener

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Overcast skies provided the backdrop for opening night in the NASA/Army softball league April 16.

ESTS Jacobite Rising outslugged the Misfits 16-11 in the first game of the season at the NASA field. They compete in Division C for coed beginner teams.

"We came together as a team, had some good hitting," Jacobite Rising player/coach Robert Smith said. The mixed team generally represents Jacobs Engineering Sciences and Technical Services Group.

Left center Matt Mansell had three hits with a double, three RBIs and three runs scored. Dennis Gallagher was the winning pitcher.

"We had a phenomenal start," Mansell said. "We toughed it out the middle couple of innings, finished strong. I thought overall it was a terrific start to the season."

The score was tied 11-all after three innings and Jacobite Rising erupted for five runs in the top of the fourth. They held the Misfits scoreless in the fourth and the fifth, which was the final inning.

League president Jim Lomas served as a pickup player for the Misfits, filling in at various positions including pitcher, shortstop and first baseman. Pickup players are allowed throughout the regular season until tournament time when team members must have appeared in 40 percent of the games in order to be eligible.

"They (the Jacobs team) brought several new players, good strong hitters, this year," Lomas said. "So they look a lot different than last year's team. But it was a good close game, I'm real happy with that."

Lomas said he's also happy with the newly merged league which has drawn 25 teams, including 12 from the Army and 13 from NASA. The Marshall Athletic Recreational Services Softball Club partnered this year with FMWR's Sports and Fitness to open the league to Department of Defense/Redstone employees and their family members.

Games are played on the NASA field Monday through Thursday and at the Army's Linton Field on Tuesday and Thursday at 5 and 6 p.m. The season will end in August with a double-elimination tournament. The club will also sponsor a yearly Charity Softball Tournament during the two-week break for the Fourth of July.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

ESTS Jacobite Rising pitcher Dennis Gallagher got the win against the Misfits on April 16 along with first baseman Penny Pettigrew.

Redstone youngsters take run for Month of Military Child

Redstone went the extra mile for its military youngsters April 14.

The annual Fun Run for the Month of the Military Child was blessed with a sunny spring day for its 12 participants.

"Weather was great and I think everyone had a good time," Mike Gates, sports and fitness director for Child Youth and School Services, said. "Runners all received a race T-shirt and refreshments. CYSS Youth Sports hopes to offer some more running activities for kids in the future."

Here are the results:

Ages 4-7 (one-half mile) – 1. Joseph Lorenzo (4:52), 2. Javon Jennings (4:58), 3. Tatum Causey (5:03).

Ages 8-10 (one mile) – 1. Noah Terry (9:28), 2. Joshua Drauch (10:02), 3. Emily Bethea (11:33).

Ages 11-13 (one and one-half mile) – 1. Michael Terry (18:12), 2. Brandon Kelly (20:40).



Courtesy photo

The Fun Run for the Month of the Military Child drew 12 runners April 14.

Ages 14-17 (two miles) – 1. Bethany Mades (25:30), 2. Elise Mades (25:49).



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Misfits left fielder Chris Strickland bats during the first inning with teammate Wyatt Brown filling in at catcher. Opposing teams try to help each other when short-handed.

Sports & Recreation

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 or 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.

Wounded Warrior project

The Wounded Warrior Project golf tournament and fund-raiser is May 25 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Links. The best-ball scramble has a shotgun start. Cost is \$300 for four-person teams or \$75 per person. To register call 527-4031.

Walk at lunch

Today is National Walk at Lunch Day. PD TMDE will hold a one-mile walk starting at 11:30 at Vincent Park. FMWR Sports and Fitness will kick off the event with a five-minute presentation on the benefits of walking and how it helps promote better health.

AMC golf tournament

A golf tournament will be held May 4 at the Links in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Army Materiel Command. Registration is from 6:30-7:30 a.m., the AMC Rock Band performs 7:30-8:30 and the opening ceremony is 8-8:15. The shotgun start is 8:15. All proceeds benefit the Chaplains' disaster relief fund, Operation Helping Hands. For more information, email Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Sowers at timothy.sowers@us.army.mil.

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 week-night 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.

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 or www.militarybassanglers.com.

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 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.

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 Carabba's Italian Grill, is noon to 1 p.m. for all participants. For more information, call 535-1090.

Hazel Green golf tourney

The Hazel Green High School Touchdown Club will hold a golf tournament May 12 at 1:30 p.m. at the Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville. This four-man scramble will benefit the Hazel Green Trojans football program. Cost is \$80 per person, \$320 per team. Entry deadline is May 8. If paying with checks, make checks payable to HGHS TDC. For more information, call Beler Watts 509-2219.

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.

Rocket Announcements

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.

University women

The Huntsville Branch of the American Association of University Women will hold its dinner meeting May 1 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Covenant Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, 301 Drake Ave. Dr. Delois Smith, vice president for diversity at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, will speak on "Understanding Intergenerational Dynamics." Deadline to reserve meals is Sunday at noon. Cost is \$16 (\$15 vegetarian). For reservations and information, call 880-8643 or email herb.guendel@knology.net.

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.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet May 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. The speaker Dr. Kenneth Noe, alumni professor and Draughton professor of Southern history at Auburn University, will discuss "Reluctant Rebels: The Confederates Who Joined the Army after 1861." Optional chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$8.95. Visitors are welcome. For information call 539-5287.

Engineer section

The ASME North Alabama Section will meet May 2 at 11:30 a.m. on the University of Alabama-Huntsville campus at the Von Braun Research Hall, room M-50. Members of the UAH Moonbuggy Team 1 will talk about how they won the college division championship at the 2012 NASA Great Moonbuggy Race. For more information and reservations, visit <http://sections.asme.org/NorthAlabama> or email rpgetman@asme.org.

Holocaust remembrance

Team Redstone's "Holocaust Days of Remembrance Commemoration Program" is May 3 at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. The theme is "Choosing to Act: Stories of Rescue." The guest speaker is Alex Grobman, a historian from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

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.

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.

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.

Lunch and learn

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Blacks In Government and the North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed

Rocket Announcements

Women will hold a luncheon program Thursday 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 or Mary Peoples for FEW at 955-4275 email mary.d.peoples@us.army.mil.

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. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, operations, logistics and automation, among others. The new personnel deployment website is at the AMCOM homepage or <https://apdw.redstone.army.mil>. 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 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 non-profit 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 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 through Friday 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.

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, 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 Sunday. For details, eligibility and an application form, visit www.redstonewarrants.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.

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 program manager, 876-5397 or email 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. Stop by Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road, from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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.

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.

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 pre-register.

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.

Autism workshop

The third annual Summer Help Autism/ASD Workshop is Friday 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 pre-register call 1-877-4AUTISM, ext. 2, or visit www.autism-alabama.org.

Procurement course

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

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. For more information about AOD, visit www.aod-alabama.org.

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.

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

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is presented by Free the Hops. Visit www.rocketcitybrewfest.com.

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.

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 Saturday. 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.org-sites.com/allymariness/>.

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.

Financial class

Financial Matters 2012, a lunch-and-learn session, will be presented May 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. May's

topics are identity theft, and Housing Service Office Support presented by Kathleen Carter. Bring your own lunch to this free event. To register call Kathleen Riester 876-5397 or email kathleen.riester@us.army.mil.

Community youth event

The second annual Community Awareness For Youth event is Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jaycees Building and Fairgrounds, 2180 Airport Road. Its goal is to inform youth in Huntsville, Madison and Madison County about various career opportunities and four "Pillars of Success," which include health, physical fitness, careers and education. There will be free food and entertainment, with inflatable games for the youngsters. The first 1,000 kids will receive a free backpack with school supplies. For more information, call Dr. Harry Hobbs 425-5307.

Exchange holiday hours

The Redstone Exchange will have the following schedule for Memorial Day, Monday, May 28: Main Store open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Concessions: Alteration Shop, closed; Barber Shop, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Barber Shop at VBC, closed; Flower Shop, closed; GNC, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Laundry, closed; Nail Shop, closed; Firestone, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Express, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Optical Store, closed; optometrist Dr. Van Hartman, closed; Beauty Shop, closed. ... Food Court: Anthony's Pizza/Sub, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Charley's, closed; Cinnabon, closed; American Eatery, closed; Burger King, closed; Café (Fox), closed; and HR, closed.

Base supply store

Redstone Base Supply Store, building 3775 on Maintenance Row, will have "Customer Appreciation Day" today from 10 to 2. "To thank the GPC cardholders, billing officials and authorizing officers for supporting the AbilityOne program by purchasing their office supplies through our store, please join us," a prepared release said. "Vendors will be there

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with their latest products, door prizes, refreshments, food and fun!"

Garden tour

The Hidden Gardens of Old Town Tour is June 3 from 1-5 p.m. in Huntsville. The rain date is June 10. Tickets are \$10 and will be available the day of the tour on Walker Avenue, Holmes Avenue, Clinton Avenue, White Street and Steel Street. Advance tickets may be purchased at In Bloom, Harrison Brothers Hardware, and Brooks and Collier. There will be free parking at Holmes Street Methodist Church. This garden tour is a walking friendly tour. Water, lemonade and snacks will be available. The Hidden Gardens of Old Town Tour is sponsored by the Old Town Historic District Association. For more information, call 534-7083.

Auction benefit

The Grace Lutheran School charitable auction is May 5 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. For reservations call 881-0553.

JROTC fundraiser

The Sparkman High School JROTC will hold a Yard Sale and Car Wash on Saturday at Sparkman High. The yard sale will be from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the car wash from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The yard sale will be in the school cafeteria and the car wash will be in the south parking lot. All proceeds will support the 2012-13 JROTC program. For more information, call Mike Lombardo 313-0555 or email michael.lombardo@us.army.mil.

Children-be-ready camp

Summit your fifth-grader's application for Be Ready Camp 2012. "This is a awesome opportunity for children going into sixth-grade next school year," a prepared release said. Be Ready Camp promotes citizen preparedness using multiple approaches to learning. It is a five-day full immersion residential camp during National Preparedness Month in September. The BRC curriculum includes: emergency preparedness, intro to survival and first aid, water survival and more. The students will apply their new skills in a mock disaster exercise at the conclusion of the camp. The camp is conducted at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. The application deadline is April 30. For more information, visit <https://www.madison.k12.al.us/Schools/sms/PublishingImages/BRC%20Brochure%202012.pdf>.

Engineer scholarships

The Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers, is accepting applications for its \$1,500 (two), \$2,000, \$3,000, \$4,000 and \$5,000 scholarships for school year 2012-13. The two \$1,500 scholarships are designated for a UAH student and an Alabama A&M University student. For more information, visit the Huntsville Post SAME website at www.samehsvpost.org, call the scholarship

chairman at 450-5332 or email cajoynerjr@aol.com.

Commissary case lot sale

Commissary shoppers can get "bargains by the case" on May 3-5 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be savings up to 50 percent on popular items. Visit the webpage at www.commissaries.com under the "locations" link.

Fox health center

Fox Army Health Center has 1,329 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.

A&M logistics registration

Alabama A&M University will conduct onsite registration Thursday for its sought-after logistics degree program, which has doubled its students in the last two years. Registration will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Redstone Education Center, building 3222 on Snooper Road. For more information, call Samuel Scruggs 372-8216 or Bonnie Banks 372-4777/4781.

Space Camp for special kids

A "Special Needs" Space Camp will be held Aug. 24-29 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. It is for individuals or groups. The camp will be similar in nature to the regular Space Camp, but some activities may be modified, depending on the specific needs of the individual child. Since every child has different needs, organizers encourage parents to call and speak with them directly. The camp is \$749, which includes meals and lodging. Lodging is on-site in the Space Camp habitat. If a child normally has a full-time aide, he or she may attend as an aide at no additional cost. For more information, call 1-800-637-7223.

Thrift shop

Mother's Day is right around the corner, and the Thrift Shop has plants and other gifts for mom. Need a little something for your favorite graduate? Check out the Thrift Shop, which is accepting summer clothing and seasonal items. Consignments are taken at the shop from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the NO-LIST number 881-6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each week. The shop's hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9 to 5, and the first Saturday of the month from 10 to 2. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome and tax deductible. Remember, if you have access to the Arsenal, you can shop at the Thrift Shop.

