

# Redstone Rocket

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PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

## There's spring in your step

Emily Shoupe, left, and Stephanie Brown eat lunch Thursday in front of the Java Cafe during their break from work at the Army Corps of Engineers. Redstone workers are enjoying the early spring weather of sunshine and short-sleeve temperatures.

Photo by Ellen Hudson



### COMMUNITY NEWS

Outdoor Recreation your one-stop shop.

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Tax Assistance Center busy with customers.

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Army laboratory developing gas 'plume' detection system.

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# RocketViews

*How have the rising gasoline prices affected your life?*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com



**Bobby Coney**  
AMCOM Equal Employment Opportunity Office  
“Personally, I pay more. That’s all. Travel is about the same, I just pay more. I haven’t curtailed any travels. At work, I ensure that I cut my computer off and ensure I cut my lights off when I leave the office. And I ask my staff to do the same.”



**Dottie White**  
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs  
“They really haven’t affected my life. Of course, I don’t like the rising gas prices but it doesn’t stop me from doing things.”



**Command Sgt. Maj. Victor Blade**  
SMDC/ARSTRAT G-3 (Mission Support)  
“I would say this: I’ve got three in college and they all drive. And they all go different ways. So that’s four cars in my family that are

on the road during the day. So, what we spend on gas has almost doubled. This has got to get better. The (Military) Star Card helps a lot. With five cents off of every gallon, we strictly use our Star Card for gasoline, which helps tremendously in these times. Thanks.”



**Marleea Howze**  
Mills Road Child Development Center  
“The gas prices determine how far I go. So we’ve cut down on a lot of unnecessary trips. We tend to stay on post more.”

## Letters to the editor

# Thanks from family of George W. Snyder

There are no words to adequately thank you, Team Redstone, for your loving kindness and the expressions of sympathy shown to us during our loss of George. We are truly blessed to have friends like you and are thankful for all you’ve done. We will be forever grate-

ful. Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers in the weeks and months ahead. Thank you again for being there for us.

**Teresa, Walker and Hunter Snyder**

# Scientific thinker poses question on theory

I have written a very short summary of a Nobel Prize in Physics winner, Richard Feynman, lecture on the nature of science and scientific thinking. I provided the title. “Education in America: Teaching How to Think”

Imagine two scientists, Alpha and Beta, in the same field at different institutions. Each in the same 24-month period produces six theories.

Scientist Alpha has one theory which experiment confirms and

five theories wrong. (16 percent confirmed)

Scientist Beta has six theories which experience confirms and none unconfirmed. (100 percent confirmed)

(Note that in science, “confirmed” means agrees with the natural results of the theory.)

Who is the better scientist: Alpha or Beta?

Name withheld by request

# Construction closes road for two months

The Garrison’s Directorate of Public Works has announced plans to close Mills Road from its intersection at Neal Road to its intersection at Martin Road beginning today.

As a result of the Mills Road closure, the two west-side entrances to the Wernher von Braun Complex will also be closed.

Neal Road will remain open.

Closure of the 3,140 foot or little more than half-mile section is expected to last two months, with construction completion weather dependent.

The north end of Mills Road will be widened with an additional turn lane into the von Braun complex in a \$695,000 contract to Huntsville’s SJ&L General Contractor LLC.



## Gas prices in Alabama

According to AAA, Friday’s averages for gasoline prices in Alabama were \$3.771 for regular, \$3.903 for mid, \$4.039 for premium and \$4.048 for diesel.

## Quote of the week

“Gasoline prices are soaring through the stratosphere, and the Federal Trade Commission, which is supposed to be standing up for the consumer, ought to stop playing footsie with the oil companies and take steps to protect the American people.”

— Ron Wyden

# RedstoneRocket

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# Soldiers, civilians welcome to find housing online

By **MINNIE RHODEN**  
Housing management specialist

It's convenient and can be viewed 24/7 from anywhere in the world by all branches of the military and any civilians who are looking for a place to live. Search for apartments or homes for rent in the local area around their new duty station. Prices, locations and photos are available on the website, as is contact information. Once you locate a property that you have interest in, you can immediately view it using MapQuest and Google.

Properties on the Automated Housing Referral Network site – [www.ahrn.com](http://www.ahrn.com) – undergo the same kind of scrutiny they would undergo if they were to be referred to by housing office personnel during an office visit.

There's a good response from property managers – they know this is a DoD website for Soldiers and civilians to go look for rentals and/or temporary lodging.

Again, AHRN is free for all parties.



Anyone can look for a good place to live, and for landlords who want to rent their properties to the military and/or civilians.

Anyone interested in beginning the process of finding housing before leaving their current duty station can start their search by logging into the AHRN website.

## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for March 22-28:

**March 23:** A family member was apprehended at the Redstone Exchange for shoplifting a box of hair coloring valued at \$9.95. She was issued a violation notice and released to her sponsor.

**March 26:** A government contractor was stopped by police for failing to obey a traffic control device. She was found to be operating her vehicle with a suspended license. She was issued a violation notice and released.

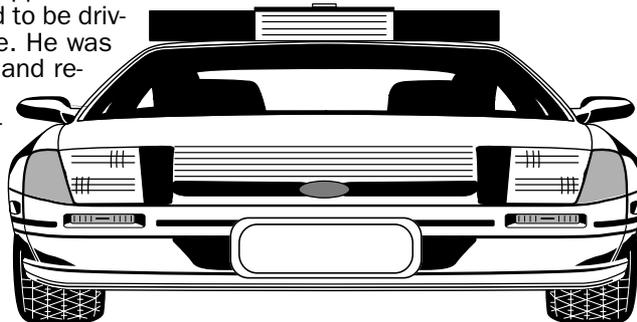
**March 26:** A civilian approached Gate 9 lost. He was found to be driving with a revoked license. He was issued a violation notice and released.

**March 28:** A family member was walking her dogs (leashed) when they were attacked by two dogs that were unleashed (later found to have broken away from their restraints). She pepper sprayed the dogs

and it stopped the attack. The dogs were secured by police and later released to their owner. None of the dogs were injured and the family member sustained a scratch to her leg but refused medical treatment.

**Traffic accidents reported:** Six without injury, none with injury, one deer strike.

**Violation notices issued:** 17 speeding, 2 driving while license suspended or revoked, 5 failure to obey a traffic control device, 2 improper backing, 5 failure to stop at a red light, 1 improper display of license plate.



## Getting to know you

By **SKIP VAUGHN**  
Rocket editor  
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**Name:** Capt. David Coates

**Job:** Attorney, General Law Division, AMCOM

**Where do you call home?**  
Clearwater, Fla.

**What do you like about your job?**  
I like being able to interact with the different organizations here on post. And I like being able to help out my clients with their legal issues.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**  
I like to hike. I like to play guitar. And I like to sing karaoke.

**What are your goals?**  
I'd like to continue to serve in the Army. And get just as much legal experience here at Redstone Arsenal as I can.



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

I would like to do a tour of Africa, like Kenya, like going down to South Africa, Morocco, the whole continent. I like to travel and Africa is the last continent I haven't visited.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

## Kickoff parade

Youngsters participate in Monday's kickoff parade for the Month of the Military Child at the Goss Road Child Development Center.

# Great outdoors opportunities abound on post

## Outdoor Recreation your one-stop shop

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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When life gets hectic, don't look for T.J. Lapointe on the ground.

"I tell my friends and co-workers that my therapist has a couch 30 feet up in a tree," said Lapointe, who works at AMRDEC's Prototype Integration Facility. "I feel that everything is OK, or in balance with the world around us when you're camo from head to toe calling up a wise old gobbler (Redstone Arsenal wild turkey). I also talk to the duck, rabbit, quail and small game

## FMWR focus Part 9 of series

hunters on Redstone Arsenal and they feel the same way. You're close to God and Mother Nature's unique creations in the great outdoors."

And for Lapointe, there's no greater place to be outside than on Redstone Ar-

senal itself. A self-described Army brat, Lapointe grew up on the installation, learning to hunt side-by-side with his father. While today he may be older and wiser, his love for the outdoors, and all the offerings that are provided to enjoy it through FMWR's Outdoor Recreation have remained the same. Together with family, friends and co-workers, he participates in turkey shoots as well as other hunting opportunities, rents boats, campers and barbecue grills, shops the General Store for equipment, practices his skills at the trap and skeet range, and volunteers for the hunting program, helping to mark areas, check in deer and sign up hunters. Rest and relaxation for Lapointe and his circle of friends starts and ends at Outdoor Rec.

"In today's environment of high stress, optempo of supporting troops in multiple theaters of operation, and lots of interesting challenges facing Redstone Arsenal employees, the downtime that helps us all reset is very therapeutic in nature when you get to spend time in the great outdoors," Lapointe said.

It's hard to capture everything Outdoor



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Business manager Tom Pyburn puts away a pontoon boat at Outdoor Recreation.**

Recreation offers because Outdoor Rec does almost exactly that – everything. From disc golf to hunting, fishing to swimming, picnicking to running trails, and renting campers to boats, Outdoor Rec can get you out of the office and reconnected with Mother Nature in no time at all. Open daily seven days a week, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., at building 5139 on Sportsman Drive, anyone with access to the Arsenal is eligible to use Outdoor Rec's services.

"We have all the resources right here on post to accommodate a wide range of activities," Tom Pyburn, business manager for Outdoor Rec, said. "We live in a gorgeous area; it's really a beautiful part of the country."

Enjoy the Tennessee River without ever having to leave the Arsenal at the Col. Carroll Hudson Recreation Area, located on

the south end of post at the end of Patton Road. Here you can picnic at a pavilion, listen to the birds, search for wildlife on the Path to Nature Trail, drop a line to see if the fish are biting, or launch your boat – and that's only a few of the ways to unwind by the river. Basketball, softball, sand volleyball and a playground are also available, in addition to The Cliffs, formerly known as the Rustic Lodge, which will reopen later this year.

"It's wonderful. Take the family outdoors to have your picnics and relax," Outdoor Recreation manager Bill Moreland said. "There's something about sitting on the river, whether you're reading a book or just watching the children play."

"It centers you," Pyburn said. "It's sort of spiritual."

For a full night of fun, spend the night at the Easter Posey Recreation Area on the river, off of Shields Road near the Wheeler Wildlife Refuge, where in addition to fishing, softball, basketball, a playground and picnicking, you can not only launch your boat, but camp as well, with water, electricity and a bathroom all on site.

An RV Park is also available just off Goss Road for those looking for a less rustic experience, with a laundromat, dog park, bathroom, pavilion, Wi-Fi and cable television.

Don't have a boat or a camper? Don't let that stop you. If you've always dreamed of floating down the Tennessee River, make those dreams a reality and rent one from Outdoor Rec. From bass boats, pontoons,

**See Outdoor on page 8**

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## Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events

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

### Desserts and jazz

The Sights and Sounds of Redstone present "A Sweet Affair" on April 13 from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, building 3711. Come out and sample a variety of desserts featuring some of the Tennessee Valley's hottest bakers and cookie and cake makers while listening to smooth jazz by Rick Ward and Company. Also featuring coffee, teas and sandwiches from FMWR's Java Café. Tickets are \$10 and available at the Community Activity Center. There will be free hors

d'oeuvres and drink specials. For more information, call 842-3070.

### Easter egg hunt

The CYSS Easter Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Activity Field, off Aerobee Road, behind the Community Activity Center. This is open to the Redstone community. Please bring your own basket; it's for ages 10 and under. Visit the USAA booth to register for a door prize. There will be free food, prizes and the Easter Bunny available for pictures. For more information, call 955-6114.

### 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.

### Easter brunch

Easter Sunday Brunch will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday at The Summit. Costs are \$12 for children ages 7-11, \$22 for club-member

adults and ages 12 and over, and \$30 for non-member adults and ages 12 and over. Children under 6 eat free. When tickets are purchased, the patron must give the cashier the time they plan to eat. Buffet will contain breakfast and lunch items. For more information, call 830-2582.

### Golf tournament

The Maj. Gen. James E. Rogers Spring Kickoff Golf Tournament, four person scramble, is Saturday at 8 a.m. at the Links. Cost is \$50 per person plus greens fees if applicable. Breakfast will be provided by the Weeden Mountain Grill, and lunch provided by Carrabba's. For more information, call 883-7977.

# Sights and sounds of spring at Sparkman Center

*AMC Jazz Band serenades season*



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**The Sparkman Cafeteria offered a lunch special with a choice of either a half chicken or ribs plate with potato salad, coleslaw, bread and drink.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**AMCOM Chaplain Leon Kircher organized the event held on a sunny spring day.**

Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Listeners enjoy their meal and the great outdoors at lunchtime.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**The AMC Jazz Band performs a "Welcome to Spring Concert" March 27 in the Sparkman Center quad.**



# Grow energy savings through smart landscaping

By **PATRICK HOLMES**

*DPW Energy Office*

The climate immediately surrounding your home is called its microclimate. When landscaping for energy efficiency, it's important to consider your microclimate along with your regional climate.

Your home's microclimate may receive more sun, shade, wind, rain, snow, moisture, and/or dryness than average local conditions. If your home is located on a sunny southern slope, it may have a warm microclimate, even if you live in a cool region. Or, even though you live in a hot-humid region, your home may be situated in a comfortable microclimate because of abundant shade and dry breezes. Nearby bodies of water may increase your site's humidity or decrease its air temperature.

Microclimatic factors also help determine what plants may or may not grow in your landscape.

## Landscaping shading

Solar heat absorbed through windows and roofs can increase your air conditioner use. Incorporating shading concepts into your landscape design can help reduce this solar heat gain, reducing your cooling costs.

Shading and evapotranspiration (the process by which a plant actively moves and releases water vapor) from trees can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 9 degrees Fahrenheit. Because cool air settles near the ground, air temperatures directly under trees can be as much as 25 degrees F cooler than air temperatures above nearby blacktop.

Using shade effectively requires you to know the size, shape and location of the moving shadow that your shading device casts. Also, homes in cool regions may never overheat and may not require shading. Therefore, you need to know what landscape shading strategies will work best in your regional climate and your microclimate.

Trees can be selected with appropriate sizes, densities and shapes for almost any shading application. To block solar heat in the summer but let much of it in during the winter, use deciduous trees. To provide continuous shade or to block heavy winds, use dense evergreen trees or shrubs.

Deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns (i.e., leaves and branches) can be planted to the south of your home to provide maximum summertime roof



Courtesy graphic

**Deciduous trees planted on the south and west sides will help keep your house cool in the summer and allow sun to shine through the windows in the winter.**

shading. Trees with crowns lower to the ground are more appropriate to the west, where shade is needed from lower afternoon sun angles. Trees should not be planted on the southern sides of solar-heated homes in cold climates because the branches of these deciduous trees will block some winter sun.

Although a slow-growing tree may require many years of growth before it

shades your roof, it will generally live longer than a fast-growing tree. Also, because slow-growing trees often have deeper roots and stronger branches, they are less prone to breakage by windstorms or heavy snow loads. Slow-growing trees can also be more drought resistant than fast-growing trees.

A 6-foot to 8-foot deciduous tree planted near your home will begin shading windows the first year. Depending on the species and the home, the tree will shade the roof in 5-10 years.

Trees, shrubs and groundcover plants can also shade the ground and pavement around the home. This reduces heat radiation and cools the air before it reaches your home's walls and windows. Use a large bush or row of shrubs to shade a patio or driveway. Plant a hedge to shade a sidewalk. Build a trellis for climbing vines to shade a patio area.

Vines can also shade walls during their first growing season. A lattice or trellis with climbing vines, or a planter box with trailing vines, shades the home's perimeter while admitting cooling breezes to the shaded area.

Shrubs planted close to the house will

**See Landscaping on page 10**

# Outdoor

continued from page 4

canoes, trailers, campers, generators, and smokers, equipment to deepen and enrich your relationship with the outdoors is available for rent at an affordable price. All items must be reserved in person and may be requested up to 90 days in advance. Walk-ins are accepted upon equipment availability. Rentals are from 9:30 a.m. to the following day at 9:30 a.m. Items are held for one hour on the day of reservation; after 10:30 a.m. they may be released to the next person requesting the rental. Riverside pavilions are also available at no charge, but must be reserved in person and may be requested up to 90 days in advance.

“We’re the best deal around. There’s just not many people that even rent boats or campers, and our rates are fantastic. You’re going to get quality and safe equipment,” said Moreland, whose friendly staff will make sure you and your family know how to operate the equipment safely before checkout.

Indoor and outdoor boat and RV storage is also available, in addition to mini storage units and moving truck rentals. To inquire about storage prices, call 842-7540.

Pass along a family tradition and

teach your children how to live off the land, whether it be hunting or fishing, in the installation’s expansive woods and waters. To hunt on post, hunters must have an Alabama state hunting license, a state-approved hunter education certificate, have attended orientation on the Arsenal, and obtained an Arsenal hunting permit. April is turkey season. To fish on post, you must have a state fishing permit; no Outdoor Recreation permit is required. Fishing is allowed at Col. Carroll Hudson and Easter Posey recreation areas seven days of the week. To fish at the Bradford Sinks, you must sign out through Outdoor Rec on open weekends. A trap and skeet range, as well as archery, is also available at Outdoor Rec.

“It’s something that you as a parent, you can’t wait to get your son or daughter out here. It’s so important that we pass this on, especially hunting,” Moreland said. “If we don’t teach our children, the outdoor sports will die, especially hunting and youth hunts. We’re really trying to ensure that the sport continues, that it thrives, and that we pass along the respect for the land and the game to our children.”

If time is of the essence, there’s still plenty of opportunities available to get

you away from your desk and into the outdoors. To get your blood pumping and some fresh air in your lungs on your lunch break, grab your running shoes and hit the trails. Whether it’s one mile, five, or even 10, you can explore the Arsenal as far as your feet will take you, from Martin Road to Goss. A one-way trip from The Links to the jogging track near Toftoy and Digney is 6.2 miles.

If pounding the pavement isn’t your strong suit, challenge your co-workers or the family to a round of disc golf at Outdoor Rec’s challenging 18-hole course, located off Vincent Drive and Phoenix (the first hole is near the basketball court). Or start a game of sand volleyball, softball, horseshoes or basketball. All are available at nearby Vincent Park with equipment available for rent or purchase at Outdoor Recreation.

While you’re renting some equipment, be sure to stop by the General Store next door at building 5138. With an inventory of rods and reels, coolers, live bait – including crickets, red worms and night crawlers – ammunition, bug repellent, ice and a propane exchange, the store is a one-stop shop for all your outdoors needs. If they don’t have what you’re looking for, you can request it.

“We really need that information to know what to put in the store,” Moreland said. For more information about Outdoor Recreation and its services, stop by or call 876-4868.

“We’re proud of what we have here,” Pyburn said. “Just come out and explore the yard and what equipment we offer. We’ll be more than happy to answer any questions you may have.”



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**FMWR employee Christian Tully stands in front of the archery range tower at Outdoor Recreation.**

# Landscaping

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fill in rapidly and begin shading walls and windows within a few years. However, avoid allowing dense foliage to grow immediately next to a home where wetness or continual humidity are problems. Well-landscaped homes in wet areas allow winds to flow around the home, keeping the home and its surrounding soil reasonably dry.

## Landscape windbreaks

Properly selected and placed landscaping can provide excellent wind protection, or windbreaks, which will reduce heating costs considerably. Furthermore, the benefits from these windbreaks will increase as the trees and shrubs mature.

To use a windbreak effectively, you need to know what landscape strategies will work best in your regional climate and your microclimate.

Basically, a windbreak can lower the wind chill near your home. Wind chill occurs when wind speed lowers the outside temperature. For example, if the outside temperature is 10 degrees F and the wind speed is 20 mph, the wind chill is minus-24 degrees F. A windbreak will reduce wind speed for a distance of as much as 30 times the windbreak's height. But for maximum protection, plant your windbreak at a distance from your home of two to five times the mature height of the trees.

The best windbreaks block wind close to the ground by using trees and shrubs that have low crowns. Dense evergreen trees and shrubs planted to the north and northwest of the home are the most common type of windbreak. Trees, bushes and shrubs are often planted together to block or impede wind from ground level to the treetops. Evergreen trees combined with a wall, fence or earth berm (natural or man-made walls or raised areas of soil) can deflect or lift the wind over the home. Be careful not to plant evergreens too close to your home's south side if you are counting on warmth from the winter sun.

If snow tends to drift in your area, plant low growing shrubs on the windward side of your windbreak. The shrubs will trap snow before it blows next to your home.

In addition to more distant windbreaks, planting shrubs, bushes and vines next to your house creates dead air spaces that insulate your home in both winter and summer. Plant so there will be at least 1 foot of space between full-grown plants and your home's wall.

Summer winds, especially at night, can have a cooling effect if used for

home ventilation. However, if winds are hot and your home is air conditioned all summer, you may want to keep summer winds from circulating near your home.

## Water conservation

You can design a landscape that not only conserves energy but also water. Here is a brief overview of some water-conserving landscaping strategies.

Xeriscaping is a systematic method of promoting water conservation in landscaped areas. It's based on seven principles:

- Planning and design provides direction and guidance, mapping your water and energy conservation strategies, both of which will be dependent upon your regional climate and microclimate.

- Selecting and zoning plants appropriately bases your plant selections and locations on those that will flourish in your regional climate and microclimate.

- Limiting turf areas reduces the use of bluegrass turf, which usually requires a lot of supplemental watering.

- Improving the soil enables soil to better absorb water and to encourage deeper roots.

- Irrigating efficiently encourages using the irrigation method that waters plants in each area most efficiently.

- Using mulches keeps plant roots cool, minimizes evaporation, prevents soil from crusting and reduces weed growth.

- Maintaining the landscape keeps plants healthy through weeding, pruning, fertilizing and controlling pests.

Xeriscaping is mostly used in arid regions, but its principles can be used in any region to help conserve water.

If you can determine how much water your plants actually need, then you won't overwater them and waste water. It is important to not only understand a plant's particular watering requirements, but also evapotranspiration.

Evapotranspiration is the amount of water that is evaporated from the soil and transpired through the plant's leaves. This amount of water needs to be replaced through watering. If you know your area's Et rate, you can plan the amount of water to be replaced through irrigation. Call your local water district or cooperative extension service and ask about your Et rate. However, your particular microclimate will also affect evapotranspiration in different areas of your yard.

Also, it's best to water or irrigate your plants in the early morning when evaporation rates are low. This also provides plants with water before mid-day when the evaporation rate is the highest.

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

# U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary keeps boater safety afloat



Photo by Beth Skarupa

**U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary members Joseph Kleri, Redstone Flotilla commander, and Larry McFall, flotilla public relations manager, are proud of the flotilla's communications trailer that is parked at the Garrison Safety Office.**

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

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Despite being an inland Coast Guard Auxiliary, the Redstone Flotilla plays an integral part in keeping Team Redstone and surrounding communities safe on the water.

“We’re in partnership with Redstone Arsenal for boating safety,” Larry McFall, public relations manager for the Redstone Flotilla, said.

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary was established by Congress in 1939 as a volunteer organization to perform specific duties required by the Coast Guard such as surface and air patrols or courtesy vessel safety examinations.

“Back in ‘39 the Coast Guard didn’t have enough boats, so they had to rely on the auxiliary to bring boats to do the jobs they needed to do,” McFall said.

The auxiliary has more than 39,000 members across the nation and in areas such as the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, Guam and American Samoa. Members provide, at their own expense, the following major equipment: 210 aircraft, 3,070 boats, 2,237 radios and 229 vehicles. All equipment must be inspected and certified to become a Coast Guard asset.

All auxiliary members undergo a rigorous training program to ensure that they have first been taught and then maintain

necessary skills.

“When a private person volunteers for the auxiliary, he has to be certified by the Coast Guard,” Joseph Kleri, Redstone Flotilla commander, said. “The crew training has the same standards as a Coast Guard member.”

A flotilla is the smallest unit of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Five flotillas in northern Alabama provide a wide range of support for the promotion of recreational boating safety. Each flotilla performs specific duties requested by the Coast Guard including surface and air patrols, vessel safety examinations, courtesy visitations of boating facilities, performing and enhancing safety stand-downs or events and providing assorted boating safety classes.

“We get volunteers from all walks of life. In this flotilla alone, we have one practicing physician, one practicing lawyer, one retired full colonel and one retired full Navy captain,” McFall said. “The flotilla takes in a lot of professional and knowledgeable people.”

The Redstone Flotilla members completed 416 training hours in 2011. Other mission activities – including marine patrols, vessel safety checks, marine visitation and public affairs, public education, and general support of recreational boating safety – resulted in a total of more than 6,410 mission hours.

“As you can see from the amount of

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# Auxiliary

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hours last year, the members of the auxiliary are very busy people and it's a very functional organization," McFall said. "Of course here we try to do things in relation to the Coast Guard but we also help our partner Redstone Arsenal. We try to get out to other activities to train the employees to help them understand the hazards on the river. ... We try to prevent the work force from being injured on the water. Redstone Arsenal treats us well. The Army provides resources we normally couldn't."

Those resources include use of the Garrison Safety Office's conference room and audiovisual equipment in building 3687 to conduct boating safety classes on a constant, recurring basis, support when needed, and storage of the flotilla's communications trailer in the parking lot.

"Just the friendship of the organizations, the Army and the Coast Guard, is worth a mint," McFall said. "One of our primary jobs is to provide communication during storms or other events. Our communications trailer has weather equipment and can serve as a command center. We also have the capability to take care of someone who is injured until emergency services arrive."

The courtesy vessel safety examinations performed by flotilla members in-

volve ensuring that a boat meets all federal and Alabama requirements.

Different states have different requirements, so a safety check often involves informing boaters of Alabama laws. For example, Alabama requires that children age 8 and younger wear life jackets if in an open boat, while Tennessee requires the same of children 12 and younger.

"We also recommend items that are not required such as a marine radio, a first aid kit, and an anchor," Kleri said. "If you lose engine power, your boat can drift and you don't want to drift into a bridge or another boat, so it's a good idea to have an anchor and some line."

If a courtesy inspection is passed, a sticker is issued and the boater is given a copy of the flotilla member's report. If the inspection is failed, no fine is incurred and nothing is reported. The flotilla member simply tells the boater what to do to correct what was wrong.

The Redstone Flotilla also is involved with reviving "America's Waterway Watch," a campaign developed by the Coast Guard after the Sept. 11th attacks. Kleri said the flotilla plans to post signs near area waterways to encourage the reporting of suspicious activity by calling the national response center at 877-249-2824 to initiate an investigation.

Anyone interested in information on the flotilla's boating safety courses can call Tom Kunhart at 830-6621 or email [tkunhart@knology.net](mailto:tkunhart@knology.net).



Photo by Ray Downward

## Band of honorees

Marshall Space Flight Center presented a Group Achievement Award to seven members of the AMC Band on March 19 for performing at lunchtime in the building 4203 cafeteria during the holiday season. Associate center director (technical) Dale Thomas gave the award to, from left, Russell Bundy, Ashley Allison, Peter Allison, Josh Coutts and Ben Melvin. Not pictured are Elmer Castillo and Cary MacCartney. Led by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Peter Gillies, the Army band has 40 members and performs 25-30 times a month. For more information and to view its performance schedule, visit <http://www.amc.army.mil/amc/band.html>.

## Business booming at Tax Assistance Center



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Retired Sgt. 1st Class James Wingfield of Huntsville talks with Lisa McCrary, a tax volunteer for 15 years.**

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

*Rocket editor*

*skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com*

The Tax Assistance Center is very busy these days. Just ask the manager, Rachael Yeoman, how's business going.

"It's booming," she said. "We are fast filling up.

"The end date is April 17th so if people want to get their tax returns e-filed, definitely call and make an appointment. We do have walk-ins. They're more than welcome to come in, they may have to wait. And I know our phone is ringing off the hook so there's a ton of people that haven't done it yet."

Some appointments are available April 11-17. Those who walk in without an appointment should expect to wait.

The center is a free service helping servicemembers on active duty, military retirees and their dependents pre-

pare and file federal and state tax returns each year.

By March 28, the center had prepared 2,392 federal and state returns, producing \$1,579,417 in total federal refunds. The value of its services – fees that would have been charged by a paid preparer – amounted to \$313,030.

Last year the center and its mostly-volunteer staff prepared about 4,000 tax returns – the most prepared in more than 10 years – and provided a value to the Redstone community of more than \$3.7 million on a budget of \$3,000.

It is considered the largest and most efficient military Tax Assistance Center in the Southern region. The IRS has designated Redstone's TAC as a "model tax center for all military installations to follow."

The center, in building 3489 on the corner of Ajax and Zeus roads, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To make an appointment or get more information, call 842-1040.

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**TAXPAYER ADVOCACY PANEL SEEKING APPLICANTS** PAGE 17

**NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS GET TRAINING TIME AT SMDC** PAGE 18

# Soldiers get real with Hazel Green JROTC students



Photo by John Pearson

**Lt. Col. Dan Arzonico, of AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center, speaks to JROTC students at Hazel Green High.**

*Special Ops videogames paint unrealistic picture*

By **JOHN PEARSON**

*For the Rocket*

HAZEL GREEN – “You are on a mission. You just don’t know it!”

With those words Lt. Col. Dan Arzonico turned a discussion called “Special Ops: Not Just a Video Game” into a guide on the path to a student’s future.

Arzonico, executive officer in the AMCOM IMMC Readiness Directorate, aided Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Thompson and Master Sgt. Robert Cornett in the program set up for the JROTC program at Hazel Green High School. Thompson and Cornett are Special Forces Soldiers assigned to the Alabama Army National Guard.

This all started when Cmdr. Paul Matheny, who runs the Navy JROTC at Hazel Green, pointed out that he had some students who had an interest in Special Ops because of a videogame by the same name. Getting a realistic view is not designed to scare them off. It is there to open their eyes to the special type of human being it takes to be effective in that role.

“Speaking from my operational experience only,” said Thompson, “I can say that while ‘Special Ops’ videogames are cool, they paint a very unrealistic picture of what is endured on the battlefield.”

Thompson was a battalion intelligence asset in Afghanistan and worked with SEALs, CIA, CAG and other government agencies.

Thompson seemed to have the outlook that he did not want to scare off the kids who had the interest in Special Ops but, if that happens, the person probably is not cut out for it anyway.

“The decision to potentially commit to Special Operations is long and drawn out usually requiring one to research and train for months prior to getting his mind right,” he said. “Painting an upfront realistic idea is critical to assisting the potential operator in making his decision.”

Arzonico’s main messages involved his immense respect for the people who are a part of Special Ops and also letting the kids know that the decisions they make now are all in preparation for their future.

“They must have a plan,” Arzonico explained. “They are nervous about the future and what it holds. Of course there are three things that I always stress as part of that plan: education, education, education! It is the only surefire way for anyone to bridge the chasm of instability and become a productive and responsible citizen.”

Arzonico acknowledged that he is probably not the first to try to give the students this message. “I know these kids hear this or should hear it from their parents or guardians but I think at times it has more impact coming from outside their support chain in a face-to-face environment,” he said.

Thompson agreed and said the goal is not to reach every student but to find outstanding people and bring out their best.

“As always we intend to reach the lower percentage of those present but one eye opened is worth sharing the story,” Thompson said.

# Taxpayer Advocacy Panel seeking applicants

The IRS is inviting civic-minded individuals to help improve the nation's tax agency by applying to become members of the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel.

Alabama TAP member Herb Hayes, an operations research analyst at the Lower Tier Project Office, is finishing his three-year tenure and TAP is looking for his replacement.

This year's application deadline is April 27.

Current IRS employees cannot serve on the panel, but your assistance in helping to recruit good candidates is appreciated. The TAP is a federal advisory committee, established under the authority of the Department of the Treasury, to allow citizens the opportunity to participate in improving America's tax administration system by providing direct input to the IRS. The panel is comprised of approximately 80 ethnically diverse citizens from all walks of life, with balanced representation from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens, current with all federal tax obligations, able to pass an FBI criminal background check, not a registered lobbyist and willing to commit 300 to 500 hours during the year to the panel.



**Herb Hayes**

Applicants should complete and submit an application online at [www.improveirs.org](http://www.improveirs.org). For more information about TAP or the application process, candidates should call 1-888-912-1227.

The TAP program is supported by the IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service and works with the national taxpayer advocate and the IRS operating divisions to identify issues that will benefit from citizen input. The operating

divisions use the TAP to obtain input and recommendations regarding tax products and services or program changes that affect taxpayers.

"In trying to comply with an increasingly complex tax system, taxpayers may find they need different services than the IRS is currently providing," Nina Olson, national taxpayer advocate, said. "The TAP is vital because it provides the IRS with the taxpayer's perspective as well as recommendations for improvement. This will help the IRS deliver the best possible service to assist taxpayers in meeting their tax obligations."

Established in 2002 under the authority of the Department of the Treasury, the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel is a federal advisory committee made up of citizen volunteers. (*Taxpayer Advocacy Panel release*)

# National Guard Soldiers get training time at SMDC

By JASON CUTSHAW

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

National Guard Soldiers of the 263rd Army Air Missile Defense Command based out of Anderson, S.C., have visited Redstone Arsenal to become certified on the Joint Air Defense Operations Center by members of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

“The JADOC mobile system is a lot faster to set up than other systems we have worked with in the past,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Parrish, 263rd AAMDC G-3 Plans non-commissioned officer in charge. “Once we get it on location, we can have it set up and running within four hours and once we get everything in place and are ready to start utilizing the systems, then we can start paying attention to what is happening in the air.

“Looking back 5-to-10 years, this system is night and day. It is a whole other world without a doubt from back then. It takes two Soldiers four hours to set this up and have it ready versus having 12 Soldiers and anywhere between eight to 16 hours. And then to tear this all down takes about 30 minutes. If you are looking at the old tents we deployed with, you are looking at 12 Soldiers and approximately about six hours. So, this system is far less time consuming and gives us more time doing what we are supposed to be doing.”

The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command serves as a supporting command to Army North for all Army air defense artillery missions as required to detect,

deter, divert, and if necessary defeat air and cruise missile threats to the continental United States to include National Capital Region Integrated Air Defense System.

Units in the command are equipped with the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System, known as NA-SAMS, along with the Avenger weapon system and the Stinger man-portable air defense system.

The 263rd serves as Theater Army Air and Missile Defense Coordinator to ARNORTH Joint Forces Land Component Commander for planning, coordination, integration and execution to defeat or destroy short and medium range ballistic missile threats to the U.S. Northern Command combatant commander’s designated priorities.

They also execute functional coordination with the Space and Missile Defense Command to include new technology insertion and testing for Homeland Defense Army ADA missions.

“The purpose of what we are doing here at SMDC is for us to go through Army evaluation training,” Maj. Chris Williams, 263rd AAMDC G-3 plans, said. “We are getting validated so we can be ready for whatever situation may arise. SMDC has been outstanding. They have been great people to work with. We have a very mature relationship with the organization and everyone has been helpful with whatever we have needed.

“SMDC continues to develop great systems and as technology develops they ensure we get the newest and greatest things. Our goal is to be anywhere in the United States within 96 hours. JADOC gives us this capability. In the past we had to pack up tents and everything else that



Photo by Dottie White, SMDC/ARSTRAT

**Soldiers of the 263rd Army Air Missile Defense Command based out of Anderson, S.C., visit the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.**

was going to go, and then once we arrived we had to erect everything. Everything with JADOC is self-contained so all we have to do is find a level piece of ground and we are in business.

“We are very appreciative of the hospitality,” Williams added. “It has been great being able to come here and get tested and have the access that has been granted to us. The command greeted us with open arms and everyone here has done a remarkable job helping us.”

## AroundTown

# 'It was wonderful to see my brothers'

*Vietnam veterans enjoy warm welcome home*

By **KARI HAWKINS**  
Assistant editor  
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Max Bennett was just 10 when he saw his older brother William break down in tears over the spit that had ruined his Air Force uniform.

On leave from duty to attend an awards program for their mother, 22-year-old William arrived at the Indianapolis airport in uniform, only to be greeted by angry strangers who spit on him as he walked through the airport.

That was in 1974. Today, the public's attitude toward servicemembers – and especially those who served during the Vietnam era – has changed. The new attitude of appreciation has been built on a wave of patriotism blanketing the nation in recent years, said Bennett, a retired Army chief warrant officer 4 and current president of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition.

"I think this is catching on. We've been patriotic for the last 10 to 15 years. During the Vietnam War, this country wasn't patriotic. Then, we went through a time when we were sort of ambivalent," he said. "But now we are patriotic and it's

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Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Vietnam War veteran Michael Sullivan Sr. waves a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag during the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans ceremony Thursday at the Veterans Memorial in downtown Huntsville.**

# Vietnam War medals recognize radio operator

*Ceremony honors his past heroism*

By **KARI HAWKINS**  
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History has a way of finding us. And so it was for Cleveland King Jr. on Saturday when history came calling, leaving behind a Silver Star, Bronze Star with Combat "V," Purple Heart with two Gold Stars and Combat Action Ribbon for actions this Marine took in combat during the Vietnam War.

The medals were presented by retired Marine Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti during a ceremony hosted by Kilo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines at the Marine Corps Reserve Center in Huntsville.

Describing it as a "show of love" from friends who cared enough to track down the medals he had never received, King said he was grateful that family, friends, local community and military leaders, and retired and active duty Marines would come together to see him receive his medals.

"You've come together to tell me 'thanks,' a radio operator who was only doing his job," King said.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Cleveland King Jr. expresses his gratitude as he addresses the crowd of family, friends and community supporters who attended an awards ceremony in his honor Saturday at the Marine Corps Reserve Center.**

"I was doing my job because I took the Marine Corps seriously. When they trained me, they trained me well. Thank God we made it through."

King was accompanied at the ceremony by his wife, Libby Ann, and a large group of family members from Ohio, Chicago and Oregon. The ceremony was also attended by 11 members of King's platoon, including two of his platoon commanders;

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle; Redstone Arsenal's Lt. Gen. Richard Formica and his wife Diane, and Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers; and several leaders in the local military community. Several times during the ceremony, the crowd gave standing ovations for the heroic efforts of King and others in attendance.

"We've stood together before and there's no finer man to stand next to," said King's platoon commander Karl Marlante, who is the author of "Matterhorn: A Novel of the Vietnam War." "Sometimes you have no choice when you are one foot away from where another Marine is killed. We had no choice but to be born in the United States in a certain time, and then end up in the Marine Corps and in North Vietnam. You have no choice of where you're standing when the bullet comes by. But you can fulfill what's happening to you with a noble heart."

King's medals awarded actions taken in March 1969 when the Marine corporal served with Company C, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division near Khe Sanh, Vietnam.

The Silver Star was awarded in recognition of actions King took on March 1, 1969, when, as his unit was advancing toward the enemy-held hilltop objective, both his platoon commander and platoon sergeant were wounded.

King, a radio operator, took command, directing his fellow Marines toward the hilltop objective, which was needed as a landing zone to extract Marine casualties. King was exposed to hostile fire as he encouraged his platoon forward to secure the

landing zone. Prior to the landing of medical evacuation helicopters, King rushed out into the open landing zone to release a smoke grenade that would visually mark the area for the helicopter pilots. As he rushed into the open, an enemy mortar round exploded near him, knocking him to the ground and wounding his hand. He went on to direct the helicopter pilot by radio until the aircraft safely landed.

After the first helicopter departed with several injured Marines, King exposed himself again to hostile fire as he directed the second helicopter into the zone and aided with loading Marine casualties onto the helicopter.

The Bronze Star was awarded in recognition of actions King took on March 3, 1969, when Company C's second platoon came under attack by the North Vietnamese army in the early morning hours and several Marines were wounded. King joined the company commander to the point of heaviest contact, and assisted in reorganizing and encouraging the men in the fire-swept terrain. After learning that four seriously wounded Marines were dangerously exposed to enemy fire near the company's perimeter, King rushed forward and assisted in moving them to a safer location.

When King returned from his tour and to a civilian life in Youngstown, Ohio, he received several military awards, including the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal and Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze campaign stars. But he didn't know he was awarded a Silver Star until recently when, now living

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# Space Camp scholarships now available through association

By JASON CUTSHAW

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

This summer, some lucky students will get to a chance to camp among the stars.

The Air, Space and Missile Defense Association is offering 16 scholarships for selected children to attend a one week Space Camp at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

These scholarships are open to any military or civilian children, ages 9-11, of a parent or guardian currently assigned to the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command; Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense; Aviation and Missile Command; Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space; Missile and Space Intelligence Center; NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center; Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center; Missile Defense Agency; and those that are contractors working for corporate members of ASMDA.

"We are very excited about the opportunity we are offering the Soldiers and employees of the ASMDA community," ASMDA president David Diaddario said. "The ability to provide this wonderful experience to 16 young children who probably would not otherwise have an opportunity to attend is very rewarding."

The ASMDA scholarship includes one week at Space Camp, July 1-6, roundtrip airfare to and from parent's work location, Space Camp flight suit, Space Camp clothing package, a phone card, a small amount of spending cash and any unaccompanied minor travel fees.

"Space Camp is a wonderful opportunity for any child interested in math and science," said Stacey McSweeney, an SMDC/ARSTRAT employee who has been in-



NASA photo

**Members of the Air, Space, and Missile Defense Association pose with the 16 recipients of the ASMDA Space Camp Scholarship in 2011. Since 1996, ASMDA has sent 173 students to Space Camp.**

volved with the program for five years. "They will have the opportunity to learn hands-on details of manned missions into space as well as challenges that are faced by our astronauts.

"Participants will discover the importance of teamwork and hopefully come away with a deeper interest in space that will affect their educational choices in the future," she added.

As the timeline for receiving applications and awarding the scholarships is very tight, ASMDA will not accept applications after the deadline on May 2. The goal is to notify the winners starting on May 23.

Immediately following selection and acceptance, ASMDA will send an information package and begin making flight reservations, if applicable.

Once selected by ASMDA, winners will be required to provide an attendance application, including a camp physical, to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Scholarship application forms are available at [www.asmda.us](http://www.asmda.us).

## Medals

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in Huntsville, he was contacted by Byron Moore of North Carolina, the son of one of King's fellow Marines.

"I was putting some old pictures from Vietnam together for my dad, and I discovered 20 to 25 different men he served with," Moore said. "I also discovered that

Mr. King got a Silver Star. So, I called him to congratulate him about the Silver Star and he didn't know about it."

Once the proper officials were notified, the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps moved quickly to rectify the situation.

"There's always something that you were put on this earth to do," King said. "Sometimes that comes later. But be patient. It's coming because this took a long time."

# Homecoming

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something that you especially feel in this community.”

Appreciation certainly ran deep at a ceremony honoring the area's Vietnam veterans on March 29, a date now known as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day in Alabama and some 25 other states. Through a proclamation signed by Gov. Robert Bentley, March 29 – the day in 1973 when the U.S. completed withdrawal of all combat troops from Vietnam – will remain on the state's calendar as an annual recognition of the sacrifices Vietnam veterans and their families have made for the country. Also, on Thursday, President Barack Obama signed a national proclamation recognizing March 29, 2012, as Vietnam Veterans Day.

About 1,000 veterans and community representatives attended the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in downtown Huntsville on a warm and sunny day meant for ceremony. It was hoped by organizers, who are members of the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Steering Committee, that the event would help erase – or maybe just ease – the emotional scars caused by the anger and hatred many U.S. citizens showed Vietnam veterans when they returned home from an unpopular war.

“Who would not welcome home their own sons and daughters?” Bennett said, referring back to his brother's ordeal in 1974 as he spoke during the ceremony. “Today we are here to right a wrong.”

The U.S. completed withdrawal of all combat troops from Vietnam on March 29, 1973, ending America's longest war. During 15 years of military involvement, more than 2 million Americans served in Vietnam with 500,000 seeing actual combat. A total of 47,244 were killed in action and there were 10,446 non-combat deaths. Another 304,000 were wounded, including 10,000 amputees. More than 2,400 American servicemembers who were either prisoners of war or missing in action were unaccounted for as of 1973.

“We were all touched by the Vietnam War,” Bennett said. “We all knew someone who served.”

The ceremony included patriotic music performed by the Army Materiel Command Band; posting of the colors by Kilo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines; singing of the national anthem; laying of a wreath accompanied by the performance of “Amazing Grace” by bagpipe musician and Redstone Arsenal employee Joe Ausfahl; and a ceremonial firing and the playing of “Taps” by the AMC Band. State Rep. Howard Sander-

ford and State Sen. Bill Holtzclaw each read legislative resolutions for Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day, and Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and Madison Mayor Paul Finley shared city proclamations for the day's recognition.

Holtzclaw, a retired Marine and chairman of the state senate's Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, said he was only in the third grade when the Vietnam War ended in 1973. And yet, the war affected his life in a very real way.

“My first experience with a Vietnam veteran came at the age of 18 when I was at boot camp. That veteran scared the hell out of me. He made me a good Marine and I appreciate that,” Holtzclaw said.

“When my battalion came back from the Pershing Gulf War it was Vietnam veterans who welcomed me home. I am indebted for that welcome. They knew how they should have been welcomed home and that's how I was welcomed home.”

Retired Marine Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti, who received three Purple Hearts and a Silver Star for his service during the war's Operation Buffalo in July 1967, described Vietnam as the “longest and costliest war under difficult conditions.” He said the 1960s was an era when there was confusion in the government and highest level of the military, when there was a lack of congressional and public support for the war, when the media was biased and inaccurate in its reporting of the war and when political leadership lacked a coherent war strategy.

The end result was a demoralizing environment for U.S. servicemembers fighting for freedom and democracy in a country halfway around the world.

“Yet you continued to execute your mission,” he told the veterans in the crowd. “Your actions were characterized by honor, courage, commitment, loyalty and selfless service. No one did it better than you did.”

And when those veterans returned home, they went on to live successful lives, contribute to society, and become the coaches, mentors and heroes for the next generations. He noted that only a small number of Vietnam veterans came home to deal with war-related injuries.

“Your nation and your community now welcomes you home,” Libutti said. “And the message is profound, albeit simple. Thank you for your extraordinary service and sacrifices, including the sacrifices of your families.”

During his comments, Libutti ceremo-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**The color guard from Huntsville's Kilo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines stands at attention during the rendition of the national anthem by local singer Beverly Lipscomb.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Vietnam veterans Pete Fast, Richard Knight and William Randell participate along with hundreds of other Vietnam veterans in Thursday's welcome home ceremony.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Laying the wreath at the Veterans Memorial in honor of Vietnam veterans are, from left, State Sen. Bill Holtzclaw, retired Marine Lt. Gen. Frank Libutti, State Rep. Howard Sanderford and Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle (with hand over heart).**

niously welcomed home an Army veteran from Scottsboro, a Navy veteran from Owens Cross Roads, a Marine veteran from Section, a Coast Guard veteran from Athens and an Army nurse veteran from Madison.

Looking out on the hundreds of Vietnam veterans in the crowd, he said “It

has been far too long since you all were properly welcomed home. Your contribution was a significant one and truly made a difference.”

It was unknown how many other Alabama cities planned Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans ceremonies. The Athens city council held a short ceremony for Vietnam veterans during their meeting on March 29 and Cottondale's VFW Post 6022 and its ladies auxiliary hosted an open house in honor of Vietnam veterans on March 31.

“This was incredible,” Holtzclaw said of the ceremony at the Veterans Memorial. “It was just wow across the board. It was great to be a part of it. Humbling.”

Other local veterans agreed.

“It was excellent and a long overdue program,” said Vietnam veteran Michael Sullivan Sr. “I learned about this event from a brochure I got from the VA clinic in town, and I had to come. This was not only a ceremony for us, but it also gave us a chance to meet other Vietnam vets.”

With most Vietnam veterans in their 60s and 70s, veteran Nicholas Jones said he was “glad to see all these Vietnam veterans come out for this and enjoy it. We are all getting up in age. It's important that we come together at an event like this.

“Vietnam veterans are a close network in this community. Whenever something patriotic happens, they all come out. If you are a Vietnam veteran, then you came out here if you are able.”

Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient James Draper, who works at the Commissary, said the ceremony gave him “chills up and down my spine. To be recognized 40 years later and to see so many Vietnam veterans come out here made me feel good. It was wonderful to see my brothers.”

The Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans ceremony was the first official event at the Veterans Memorial since it opened to the public on Veterans Day 2011.

“It was only fitting that the first Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event was held here,” said retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet, who led the fund-raising effort for the memorial and who is also a highly decorated Vietnam veteran.

“The foundation that has been working on this memorial for 10 years, this is what they wanted. They wanted this to be a place where veterans could come together, where they would be respected and where they could hold veteran ceremonies with dignity. Look at those flags flying overhead. Look at this memorial. It is just truly amazing.”

# Signs dedicated in fallen servicemembers' honor

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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HARTSELLE – One of the hardest things Darlene Rath has ever had to do was pick out a headstone for her son, Staff Sgt. Joshua Rath.

Walking through the cemetery, Rath noted Alabama fans who had A's or elephants at their gravesites, outdoorsmen with fishing poles, cars lovers with their favorite make and model, and yet others with a picture to immortalize their smile. But how do you sum up 22 years of life lived so fully but cut so short? In the end, the grieving mother chose the one thing that symbolized all facets of Josh's life – his name.

"His name is him," Rath said. "When Jesus was on earth, he said 'if you pray in my name' – his name is so important, a name is really something," Rath said. "His name goes with him. He's someone else to everybody, but he's Josh to everybody. Their version of Josh is who he was to them."

Rath, along with the families of Cpl. Jon-Erik Loney and Lance Cpl. Jonathan Smith, celebrated the placement of Josh's, Jon-Erik's and Jonathan's names, as they dedicated two memorial bridges' signs March 24 on Highway U.S. 31 between Hartselle and Decatur, erected

in their fallen servicemembers' honor. Rath, 22, of Decatur, was killed by a roadside bomb in Afghanistan Jan. 8, 2009. Loney, 21, a Hartselle native, was killed in an IED attack in Iraq Nov. 28, 2006. Smith, 22, from Eva, was killed by a roadside bomb near Fallujah June 6, 2005.

"The perfect symbol of Josh was his name," Rath said. "Seeing his name on this big sign along with Jonathan Smith and Jon-Erik Loney is the perfect tribute to their service."

Sponsored by the Blue Star Mothers of Morgan County, the event included a ceremonial wreath laying by the servicemembers' mothers and unveiling of the sign by their fathers. In a tightly knit community, the sign is an ever present reminder of what the community has lost and gained from boys who sacrificed their lives not only for Morgan County, but their country.

"Our boys are not just indiscriminate or obscure numbers out there listed as war casualties. They have names. They'll see that Jon-Erik Loney, Jonathan Smith and Joshua Rath were local boys who chose to serve their country and died defending it," Rath said of those who pass by the sign. "Whether they knew these boys in life or not, they will be reminded of the high cost of freedom and reflect on their own lives and what they are do-

ing to make the world a better place, as these young men did."

"It's absolutely wonderful, it's something that we've worked so hard to have done," Donna Smith, Jonathan's mother, said. "More people will see this, more people will think. They'll look at it and know what it means."

"It makes everybody think," said Violet Kaylor, Jon-Erik's mom.

Originally placed in 2010, the signs did not include Loney, Rath and Smith's names, but rather just said "Memorial Bridges." After much fighting, and through the help of Sen. Arthur Orr, the signs were replaced to include the three servicemembers' names in December. Rath found the placement of the signs to be particularly appropriate.

"A bridge makes the way for the traveler to cross over obstacles, and as with these small bridges, we rarely pay attention or even notice we are going over a bridge," Rath said. "We are unaware of the obstacles we are crossing. We do not know all of what went on into building a bridge, and we do not realize all of the cement and steel used in the construction of it and what continues to hold up the road we so easily travel over. This is what our military does. They make it possible for us to live our daily lives and go on our way without any disruption. There are real and terrible evils and regimes



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**The fathers of Cpl. Jon-Erik Loney, Staff Sgt. Joshua Rath and Lance Cpl. Jonathan Smith unveil the memorial sign erected in their sons' honor.**

in this world. But here in America, we barely suffer any inconveniences other than security checks at the airport. Our military is doing the work to support our going along with our daily lives, going to work, school, shopping, in peace without having to live in terror."

# Morgan County Veterans Memorial under way

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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PRICEVILLE – Morgan County will never forget.

For the men and women that have left the confines of the county to fight for their country, a simple thank you is not enough. In honor of their service, and in memory of those that lost their lives fighting for freedom, construction is under way for a Morgan County Veterans Memorial.

"We had 249 Morgan County residents that have died in the wars, it's important that they be recognized and their names put on these monuments," Priceville mayor Melvin Duran said. "There's some really decorated veterans in Morgan County."

Located conveniently off Highway 67 in Priceville at Veterans Park, groundbreaking for the memorial took place July 4, with the memorial slated for completion in time for its dedication Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

"As a combat veteran, it's going to mean a lot to me to see that out there," Bob Stricklin, commander of American Legion Post 15 in Decatur, said. "As a



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Construction has begun for the Morgan County Veterans Memorial in Priceville, located off Highway 67. The memorial will be dedicated Veterans Day.**

Vietnam veteran, when I came home we were treated very poor. Bad. Now, to see something that people are willing to work at and do something like this for veterans, that means a whole lot to me."

The project is estimated to cost \$600,000 and will include a Fallen Soldier statue, memorials for each branch of service, Purple Heart, POW/MIA, Blue Star and Gold Star memorials, picnic pavilions, memory trees, park benches and commemorative brick pavers. Individuals may purchase a

brick paver to be displayed inside the memorial; cost is \$75 for a 4-by-8-foot, \$125 for an 8-by-8. To purchase, visit [townofpriceville.com](http://townofpriceville.com). High on organizers wish list for the memorial is a piece of military equipment from each branch of service; they have already obtained a tank and are searching for other items to symbolize each branch.

"It means a lot to me that we recognize these people, not just the ones from World War I, but the ones today that are losing their lives," Duran said. "We're sitting here today because of them."

Created in response to Sen. Arthur Orr and community leaders' and veterans' desire for a place to honor Morgan County citizens who have served, the memorial is a collaboration between the town of Priceville and the Morgan County Combined Patriotic Organizations, which includes the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Purple Heart and Blue Star Mothers, whose members are constantly in motion promoting the memorial, raising funds and assisting in portions of the physical labor.

"We just can't thank our veterans enough for what they've done," said Tom-

my Perry, mayor pro-tem and Priceville councilman, who has spearheaded much of the efforts. "The sacrifices they and their families have given for us to be able to do a project like this, it's just a blessing that I am able to do this."

While the memorial will be physically located in Priceville, it will be a place for all of Morgan County to celebrate and remember. Once completed, organizations from across the county will finally have a place to call their own to hold their ceremonies and commemorate Morgan County veterans.

"Just because it's located in Priceville, it doesn't mean that it's a Priceville memorial," Duran said. "It is Morgan County. It'll be something that everyone will be proud to bring their kids to."

To help raise funds for the memorial, a Veterans Memorial Team Bass Tournament will be held June 16 at Ingalls Harbor on Wheeler Lake in Decatur, sponsored by the American Bass Anglers. Registration is \$100 per team. There will be a guaranteed \$1,000 payout with 50 boat minimum. For more information call 353-5501 or 565-2652. For more information about the memorial, visit [townofpriceville.com](http://townofpriceville.com).

## Youth football coach hammers home life lessons to players

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

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For Jim Stutts, coaching football is not just about winning or losing – it's about teaching life lessons.

So when his good friend Larry Crocker asked him to be one of the head coaches for a youth arena football team, he didn't say no. His son Cameron wanted to play and his friend needed him, so he stepped up and volunteered.

He is now the head coach for the Hammers Youth Indoor Football League's 12U Navy team. His assistant coaches are Crocker, Scott Pell, Joey Lauderdale and Darryl Rawlings.

"The men that are coaching with me on the 12U Navy team are a great group of guys. Some I've been coaching with for several years. Some know a lot about football and have played from youth up to college and beyond," he said. "The rest of us know more about boys than football. Boys need to learn how to be men. We all take this responsibility seriously. We think football has the potential to teach a lot of the same valuable lessons you'll need when entering the work force and the world."

Stutts first started playing football at age 5. His love for football runs in the family. Both his father and his uncle, Jesse Stutts, played football at Lauderdale County High School. His uncle went on to become a youth football coach and later a referee.

After playing football at Lexington High School his first two years of high school, Stutts and his family moved to Decatur. He gave up playing the sport only because his new high school, Grace Baptist, did not have a football team.

"Cameron is the youngest of our five children. I started assisting with coaching about 17 years ago when my oldest started playing peewee football in East Limestone. I've been coaching or assistant coaching since that time," he said.

Stutts and Crocker have been coaching together for the last four years with the Westminster Christian Academy youth football program.

"Arena football is new to all of us coaches. None of us have ever played or coached arena football, so it's just as much of a learning curve for us as it is for the boys," Stutts said.



Photo by Beth Skarupa

**Coach Jim Stutts rallies his players during a game March 24 at the Von Braun Center.**



Photo by Beth Skarupa

**Jim Stutts, second from the left, coaches the 12U Navy team for the Alabama Hammers Youth Indoor Football League's inaugural season.**

When he is not busy coaching football, he is president and general manager of Stutts Corporation Inc. His father James Stutts started the business, a general and electrical contractor specializing in commercial and industrial construction, in 1967. They began working contracts on Redstone Arsenal in the late 1960s and have continued to have contracts on the installation ever since. They have an IDIQ contract with Marshall Space Flight Center.

This is the inaugural season of the Hammers Youth Indoor Football League. The HYIFL offers youngsters ages 9-10 and 11-12 the opportunity to play arena football. The professional rules have been adapted to meet youth abilities, resulting in a game focused on having fun and developing skills.

The teams for both 10U and 12U are Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. All players participated in a skills camp in

**See Coach on page 28**

## In this section...

# Lean Army times make for challenges

*Top Arsenal civilian encourages graduates to use leadership skills*

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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The Army's human resources professionals are working in an environment today that can be described as a dichotomy.

On one hand, they are struggling with civilian employee cutbacks, a reduction in job positions due to a shrinking military budget. Yet on the other hand, they are in need of hiring well-qualified employees to fill specific mission requirements.

At the Army Materiel Command, the Army's largest civilian employer, that dichotomy is a situation its human resources professionals struggle to address every day. And that's where good leadership comes in.

Speaking on Friday to a graduating class of 34 Redstone Arsenal employees who completed the requirements for the basic leadership class offered by the Army Management Staff College, William Marriott, a senior executive service officer and deputy chief of staff of personnel for the Army Materiel Command, described the current Army budget situation, saying it will take good leaders to manage and communicate change during leaner times.

Marriott quoted Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, who said "Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."

To that, Marriott added: "Leadership is motivation and communication."

The basic course, normally offered at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., as part of the Army's Civilian Education System Leader Development Program, is now being offered at Redstone Arsenal through a partnership with the Army Materiel Command, Installation Management Command and the Army Management Staff

College. The basic class is part of a progressive leader development program designed to transform Army civilians into multi-skilled, agile leaders of the 21st century who personify the Warrior Ethos in all aspects, from war-fighting support to statesmanship to enterprise management. The basic course will be offered at Redstone several times in 2012. Registration is through the Civilian Human Resources Training System website.

Before presenting the students with their graduation certificates, Marriott shared with them the three top issues he is confronting daily as a leader with the Army Materiel Command.

The first of those issues is responsible reduction, dealing with the need for reducing the civilian work force without losing capabilities.

"Over the past year, we have had to reduce civilians by nearly 10,000," he said, referring to the overall Army budget. "Budgets will be lower than in the past, maybe lower than fiscal 2010 levels.

"But at the same time, we have increased requests for civilians with specific skills."

The Army still needs to make 4,000 personnel cuts by the end of fiscal 2012, and it is hoped that goal will be reached through early retirement offers, buyouts and attrition. The cuts are being made in 37 states at 70 different locations across eight commands and agencies, with nearly 90 percent of the cuts occurring in the Installation Management Command, Army Materiel Command, and Training and Doctrine Command.

Yet, in fiscal 2013, the Army has 7,300 new personnel requests.

The key to fulfilling those requests is hiring employees with the right skills.

"We will need every tool in our tool kit to keep the best and the brightest," Marriott said. "Leadership is about managing scarce resources. And there's only one way to do this and that's through having motivated leaders who can understand the strategic implications and communicate that."

Of the Army's leaders, only 14 percent

are in supervisory roles. At AMC, only 10 percent of its leaders are in supervisory roles.

"All of you have the potential to become a leader in your areas of expertise," Marriott told the graduating class. "You have a tool kit now. Think in strategic terms. This is a very stressful time of reduction. Leaders need to know how to move the Army forward."

The second issue Marriott works to address is the need for work force development. In this area, too, there are drastic cuts across the Army.

"How do we train people to have the right skills the Army needs?" he said. "Almost 100 percent of all Army civilians are in a career program. Some 20,000 blue collar workers at AMC are in a career program. How do we train and develop that work force? How are we going to continue in a time of dwindling resources to develop our employees?"

Marriott's third issue is the well-being and health of the work force, both civilian and military.

Describing the Army and its employees as being under enormous stress, he said the Army must work to build resiliency in both the military and civilian work force. The suicide rate for civilians is high both at the Army level and the AMC level.

"We're looking for every way we can to relieve some of that stress," Marriott said, mentioning incorporating the idea of telework into the traditional work environment by allowing 20 percent of the Army Materiel Command, Security Assistance Command and Army Contracting Command to work eight days of every pay period from home. If such an idea was incorporated into the work environment, it would improve employee well-being while also affecting the Army bottom line by allowing the three organizations to save money on space requirements for these employees.

"Ideas like this become more than ideas. They become transformation," Marriott said.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**William Marriott, left, deputy chief of staff of personnel at the Army Materiel Command, congratulates Clint Howard of the Garrison during a basic leadership graduation ceremony at Heiser Hall. In the background is Buddy Wooten, an instructor with the Army Management Staff College.**

Ideas like teleworking can transform the Army and its organizations in many positive ways. But to incorporate such ideas would mean also transforming management styles, communications and other aspects of the work environment.

"I don't have the answers. But the solution is leadership. ... Leadership is understanding the vision. It's communicating to your people. It's communicating up and down the channels," Marriott said.

"Take what you learned and apply it and be persistent. Communicate."

Col. Stevenson Reed, commandant of the Army Management Staff College, also spoke to the students, telling them they are among a "great population of talent."

"Today is not the end of the course. It's the beginning of the course," he said. "You've learned about high performance teams, about how to communicate, about how to deal with difficult people. When you go back to your workplace, your leadership will measure you. Are you different? Are you better? You need to show that you have the tools to become better leaders."

Courtesy photo

## Certified protocol

**Rose Wiley, center, the Security Assistance Command's protocol officer, receives a certificate from Heidi Hulst, director of Army Protocol, and Pamela Eyring, president of the Protocol School of Washington. Wiley attended training in McLean, Va., and was certified as a protocol officer in March.**



## Coach

continued from page 27

February and then began practicing regularly with their teams. The season started with the first games at the Von Braun Center on March 24.

"All the games are played in the VBC in the same arena that the Hammers play in, so that's really exciting. And all the boys get season tickets to the Hammers games," Stutts said. "They will get to play at least one game during the halftime of a Hammers game, so they get to be there when the

crowd's there too."

The players on Stutts' 12U Navy team include Trenton Allen, Owen Blevins, William Crocker, Nile Foss, Cameron Stutts, Keontre Hughes, Jay Lauderdale, Alexander Matthews, Taylor Pell, Bryce Quick, Duke Rawlings, Jordan Seymour, Nick Skarupa, Cameron Stutts and Parker Uselton.

Five more games are scheduled at the VBC on April 21, May 19, June 2, June 9, and one to be determined. Select teams will travel to Knoxville and Columbus to play extra games against area youth leagues. The exhibition games at halftime are only scheduled for select Alabama Hammers games.

# Army lab developing gas 'plume' detection mode

*System devised to protect Soldiers, first responders*

By JOHN ANDREW HAMILTON

Army Test and Evaluation Command

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. – A wind monitoring and modeling system being developed by the Army Research Laboratory's White Sands Missile Range division could one day protect Soldiers and civilians alike from weapons of mass destruction.

The Local-Rapid Evaluation of Atmospheric Conditions system is a computerized weather sensor system under development at ARL intended to help predict the flow of gasses and fumes, or "plumes," produced by things such as gas leaks and chemical weapons.

Being able to identify how an airborne hazard will behave is a vital ability for first responders to have in order for them to know how to approach or evacuate an affected area.

"If you are a dispatch person and you have to direct first responders to the site, you can look at the wind field and see what the safest approach would be," Gail Vaucher, a research meteorologist with ARL at White Sands, said.

There are other systems available that can predict the plume with some accuracy. Such systems use things like wind speed, air pressure, temperature and humidity in their calculations. But L-REAC system adds a new layer that previous systems

didn't have. Using terrain data, building plans and dimensions, L-REAC can model and display not only the plume, but the actual airflow around buildings and terrain features.

"We decided to utilize the 3D wind field model developed by Doctor Yansen Wang at ARL Headquarters in Adelphi (Md.) because it had the capability to not only render very quickly, but it can look at many different scales," Donald Hoock, chief of the Atmospheric Dynamics Branch of ARL at White Sands, said.

Thanks to this wind flow model, L-REAC can model how wind will flow when it encounters everything from trees and boulders, to buildings and other structures. While not real-time, the model will update regularly depending on the size of the area being observed.

As air flows around things like buildings, pockets of slower moving or even circular flowing air can be generated on the downwind side, while other formations like alleyways can form wind tunnels. Using L-REAC's modeling capability, a first responder can predict how these wind effects will alter a plume.

Additionally, L-REAC is a scalable system. The system allows a first responder to monitor large areas, or focus in on a specific incident site. The system uses infor-



Photo by John Andrew Hamilton, ATEC

**Gail Vaucher, a research meteorologist with Army Research Laboratory at White Sands Missile Range, shows off the interface of the Local-Rapid Evaluation of Atmospheric Conditions system. L-REAC is a weather monitoring system that uses special terrain models to determine airflow around terrain and buildings to determine how an airborne threat like a gas leak will spread and disperse.**

mation about weather and terrain to help build its model.

"The models themselves, in order to be appropriate for an area, need to know about the area, what is the terrain and what is the morphology," Vaucher said.

For urban areas, Vaucher said, this also includes the shape and size of buildings. In the case of established areas, exact data can be input for detailed results. If detailed information isn't available, the system will accept less-detailed information if the operator is willing to accept less-detailed results.

"The more details you have, the better the results," Vaucher said. "If you have a generic description, you'll get a generic result."

The L-REAC system collects data from a series of weather monitoring stations that evaluate things like air pressure, temperature, humidity, wind speed and wind direction. These stations can be the transportable kind like several that ARL has placed around White Sands, or they can be permanent stations like those found at

airports or similar facilities.

Since the weather stations and computer systems are largely autonomous, ARL sees military installations and similar facilities as prime examples of where L-REAC could be implemented as part of a force protection plan. On an installation, L-REAC could be installed as a continuously running system, ready for use at a moment's notice by operation center operators or dispatchers.

"We want to have the capability for them to immediately pull up on their computer screen a picture of what the wind fields are across the post without having to go in and physically start anything running. It would always be running 24-hours a day," Hoock said.

L-REAC, while still in development, has already seen real-world action. It was used to track and predict smoke and airflow during the Abrams wildfire that threatened White Sands last year.

Ultimately, ARL hopes to have the system integrated with compact mobile weather monitoring

systems so first responders and service-members can always have a weather station as close to an area of interest as possible.

"The current Army is focusing on short, quick missions, so we want to build a tool that they can use," Vaucher said.

To make this final mobile component of L-REAC a reality, ARL will need the help of new partners to help fund the integration of mobile sensors into the system. ARL is hoping for partners within the Army and the Department of Defense for integration into force protection plans.

"I think our ultimate goal is to team first on the Army side, and then more on the DoD side, looking for putting L-REAC in at installation levels to begin with," Hoock said.

Other government organizations and agencies could also easily become partners on the program. Commercial partners would be welcome as well, though the process of establishing a commercial partnership would be more complex.



Photo by Joyce O'Donnell

## USASAC town hall

Maj. Gen. Del Turner, commander of the Security Assistance Command, recognized several employees during a quarterly employee recognition ceremony March 28 at USASAC's New Cumberland, Pa., office. In addition to the ceremony, Turner held a town hall to give an update on the security assistance enterprise and USASAC's portfolio of initiatives.

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# AMCOM team leads quest to cut inventory costs

By MIKE TRENT  
For the Rocket

Production Lead Time reduction is another one of the 17 supply chain management value stream action teams at AMCOM that is focused on lowering costs and increasing efficiency of the supply chain. PLT is defined as the time from award of a contract until the first significant delivery.

This action team is taking the opportunity to apply measurements and to implement better control mechanisms that will aid in improving the effectiveness and ef-



iciency of managing the supply chain for Class IX secondary items.

The importance of focusing on reductions in PLT is to reduce the amount of investment in inventory needed to cover the leadtime. In essence, the shorter the PLT, the less amount of inventory needed to cover that leadtime. The PLT action team is working hard to ensure the AMCOM Enterprise Resource Planning tool, the Logistics Modernization Program, includes the most accurate PLT data.

Additionally, this cross functional team will select high-value parts with

long PLTs and will work with industry to focus on identifying opportunities, developing and implementing mitigation strategies to reduce the PLTs and costs without degradation in the quality of these parts.

The team has established a baseline for PLT and will define and collect PLT data, perform analysis and stratify data, and will use continuous improvement events and projects to identify and implement tactical PLT improvements as well as develop strategic solutions for sustainability of the PLT reductions. Currently, the team has reduced the PLTs on several items in LMP which has resulted in a potential cost avoidance/savings of \$66 million.

Leading this initiative are team members Ray Forrester, Roberta Bodine, Michele Andrews, Theresa Dougherty, Michelle Dunning, Roger Gray, Janet Guyette, Regina Hill, Adam Hudson, Jennifer Jackson, Justin Kelso, Brian King, Rodney Lee, Vanessa Lee, George McAmis, Jeni Moreno, Steve Morgan, Eric Moton, Bob Olson, Doris Peoples, David Phillips, Kenya Rucker, Andrew Santana, Gail Spearman, Joe Paxton and Brian Tucker.

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>.

# Vertical-lift aircraft design expected soon

By GARY SHEFTICK  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The military services expect to unveil performance specifications this summer for a new joint vertical-lift aircraft, Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby told congressmen.

Crosby, the program executive officer for aviation, testified March 27 to the House Armed Services Committee, subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces at a hearing on rotorcraft modernization programs. His counterparts from the Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force also testified.

Crosby said a consortium, which includes industry partners, has been working with the military on ideas for a joint vertical-lift aircraft. Two demonstrator aircraft have been developed, wind-tunnel tests have been conducted and other studies completed.

A joint attack-utility variant is the first aircraft the military will invest in under the program, Crosby said.

"Some people are saying it's going to be rotary-wing. We don't know that," he said. "It may be a tilt-rotor of some sort that we're going to go to. But based on the wind-tunnel studies and the demonstrators that we've done and the input of this team, including the consortium, we hope to have a deliverable this summer of a specification that will guide us toward what the next step will be that we're going after."

The effort to design a next-generation aircraft has been called the Joint Multi-Role program. This Army-led program has included input from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, all military services, including the Coast Guard, Special

Operations Command, NASA and others.

Those involved envision the aircraft having vastly improved avionics, electronics, range, speed, propulsion, survivability, altitudes and payload capacity. Some have said it should be able to sustain speeds in excess of 170 knots, have an overall combat range greater than 800 kilometers and be able to hover with a full combat load at altitudes of 6,000 feet in 95-degree heat.

Under questions about industry reps being included in the consortium planning the aircraft, Crosby defended this partnership, stating the consortium has been primarily a technology advisory panel.

"There was no commitment to award contracts of scope or anything like that," Crosby said. "What we were trying to preclude is duplication, where we had a bunch of people going after the same technologies."

"The other thing is, we in the government, we don't do a lot of development, cutting-edge development. Our partners in industry, that's what they do. So we wanted to bring them on to look at these enabling technologies we needed to go to the future, to prevent us from going down a 'rat hole' and getting after something that really wasn't achievable."

Modernization is more of a challenge today because technology is turning over so fast, Crosby said. As science and technology dollars become tighter, the Army may rely more on consortiums to help develop new technologies for its future aircraft, he said.

A future vertical-lift study will soon be released to provide a way ahead for aviation modernization, Crosby said.



Arnews graphic

**Three different concepts for the next-generation vertical-lift aircraft are among those being developed under the Joint Multi-Role program.**

"It lays out a road map for all of us services together looking forward. It identifies kind of a scalable architecture of rotary-wing or future vertical lift platforms."

Another program Crosby cited as showing a lot of potential is the Improved Turbine Engine Program. This program's objective is to develop technologies for a 3,000-horsepower engine that reduces fuel consumption for the AH-64 Apache and UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters.

"What a great capability," Crosby said of the ITEP tech demonstrators. He said they were demonstrating "all of the im-

provements that we're asking for," including a 30 percent increase in power and a 25 percent decrease in fuel.

The ITEP is expected to come out of its science and technology phase this summer, Crosby said, adding that the Army intends to continue carrying two vendors for the program if budget realities permit.

*Editor's note: Information on the vision for the next-generation helicopter was obtained from Kris Osborn, an adviser to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology.*

# Huntsville Center project earns environmental award

By JAMES CAMPBELL

Engineering and Support Center-  
Huntsville Public Affairs

A Facilities Reduction Program project managed by the Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville shared the spotlight with Boston-based contractor Charter Environmental Inc. and the Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth District Quality Assurance for the project in receiving the 2012 National Demolition Association Environmental Excellence Award on March 13 in San Antonio.

The project involved abatement and demolition of the 60-year-old Prichard Stadium Sports Complex to make room for a new hospital at Fort Hood, Texas.

A significant accomplishment is the recycling and reuse of 99.56 percent of the debris, said Thad Stripling, Huntsville Center's FRP manager during this project.

"The demolition of the Prichard Stadium Sports Complex at Fort Hood, Texas, is one of our most successful FRP projects," Bob Delhorne, president of Charter Environmental Inc., said. "The sports complex sat on a 60-acre site and included a 5,500 seat stadium with concrete bleachers, running track, parking lots, site and stadium lighting, utilities, fencing, a baseball complex and underground utilities."

When work was complete in October 2010, a flat, graded site was ready for Fort Hood officials to hold a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new \$534 million



Courtesy photo

**Contractors demolish a stadium at Fort Hood, Texas. The Prichard Sports Complex was dedicated July 5, 1951 and named for Maj. Gen. Vernon Prichard, a former World War II commander of the 1st and 14th Armored Divisions, and quarterback and team captain for the U.S. Military Academy's undefeated 1914 season.**

Carl R. Darnell Army Medical Center just two months later.

It may be hard to imagine how a collection of recovered debris from demolition of an old sports complex could be reused, but the site was ripe for recovery due to the durable nature of the materials, Stripling said.

The innovative reuse of materials cited in the award included stockpiling crushed concrete on site for future construction, salvaging lighting fixtures for use in the new stadium, reusing telephone poles on a firing range, saving chain link fence for

future use, using revenue from recycled metals to fund community events for Army families, and saving plaques and memorials for placement at a new sports venue.

"The Army standard is 50 percent landfill reduction by weight, and the program average is 72 percent – this project is an example of finding ways to go well above that average," Stripling said. "It's also good to see recognition from outside organizations for this project."

The National Demolition Association that recognized the sports complex proj-



Photo by Chuck Venard

**Receiving the 2012 Environmental Excellence Award March 13 in San Antonio are, from left, Thad Stripling, former Facilities Reduction Program manager; Bernard "Bud" Stevens, National Demolition Association board of directors member; Stan Carter, Charter Environmental; and Joe Latour, Fort Worth District, Quality Assurance.**

ect with the Environmental Excellence Award represents more than 1,000 U.S. and Canadian companies that offer standard and full-range demolition-related services and products. The association also promotes environmental education and stewardship.

The Huntsville Center's FRP eliminates excess facilities and structures to reduce fixed installation costs and achieve energy savings. The program has eliminated more than 15 million square feet of excess facility inventory for various government customers since 2004. Charter Environmental has worked on FRP projects with the center since 2006.

# Sappers practice explosive tricks of trade

By Sgt. STEVEN PETERSON

Army News Service

FORT DRUM, N.Y. – Soldiers from 693rd Engineer Company, 7th Engineer Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, conducted a series of Sapper training events in March to teach new Soldiers tricks of the trade.

The training began with veteran Soldiers of the company teaching new engineers how to build different explosives for door breaching. The squads were given the supplies to construct the different breach explosives they had learned over the training period.

"This was a big mission, and I am very glad to get these younger Soldiers the training that they need for future operations," Sgt. David McCoy, a squad leader in 693rd Engineer Company, said. "It is important that we see how the different types of items we use can help you in our job."

Once all of the types of explosives were constructed, the squads moved to the range, where they would see how effective these charges would be. Each squad

moved through the lane to expend their explosives, and they learned which type would be the best depending on the make and type of door that needed to be breached.

All of the events covered over the course of past few weeks were put to test on the last day of the field exercise. Soldiers loaded onto a UH-60 Black Hawk as a squad-sized element and moved to a drop area. Once the squad arrived, they were briefed, given explosives and time to plan out how they would breach a shoot house to which they then navigated.

"Five out of the seven Soldiers that are in my squad have never flown on a UH-60 before today," McCoy said. "It is always good to see the Soldiers have a good time doing something they want to do for the Army."

The different squads breached the shoot house and performed room clearing to make sure the house was clear of all enemies. The events taught the Soldiers skills they would need in a deployed environment.

"I really like all that I have learned during this field exercise," Pvt. Tyler Martin, a Soldier in 693rd Engineer Company, said. "It was good for the sergeants to teach



Photo by Sgt. Steven Peterson

**Soldiers from 693rd Engineer Company, 7th Engineer Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, conducted a series of Sapper training events in March.**

us what we would need to know for these different types of events."

## Win or Lose

# NASA/Army softball league ready to get rolling

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

NASA softball representatives officially voted last week to open their league to Army teams.

Opening day for the 24-team league is April 16. Six of the teams are from the Army.

"We have three weeks, guys, until the season starts," league president Jim Lomas told the 30 attendees at the team signup meeting March 27. "So there's not much time for practice."

The Marshall Athletic Recreational Services Softball Club partnered with FMWR's Sports and Fitness to allow Department of Defense/Redstone employees and family members to join in the fun. The league's three divisions include Division A for intermediate/competitive, mixture of skilled/intermediate players; Division B for coed intermediate skilled, minimum of two females on the field; and Division C for coed beginner

league, minimum of two females on the field.

The 2nd Recruiting Brigade will compete in the C division. About half of the brigade team's players are military and about half are female.

"We voted to get a team together for some unit camaraderie and get to know each other off duty, get out of the work environment a little bit," Sgt. Maj. Nevin Salada, the team's organizer, said.

They planned to start practicing this week, probably Tuesday at 5 p.m. "If we win, great. If we don't, no big deal," Salada said.

Fun is a priority for this recreational league. Games will be 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. Each team typically plays one game per week. The season will end in



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**League president Jim Lomas conducts last week's team signup meeting held at NASA's building 4601.**

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.

Last week's meeting included the

team signups and proposed rule changes. Head umpire Leroy Jefferson delivered remarks and invited questions.

"The umpires are out there to make sure you guys have fun and stay safe," Jefferson said.

All Marshall Space Flight Center civil servants, Redstone civilians, on-site contractors, approved off-site contractors, military and family members are eligible to participate. The team fee for Redstone teams (non-NASA) is \$300 per team.

"We have about two weeks to still add some more teams in," Lomas said. "The 9th of April is about the cutoff date for any new teams being added."

If interested in playing or for more information, call Lomas at 544-8305, email jim.lomas@nasa.gov or call vice president Victor Pritchett at 544-5771, email victor.e.pritchett@nasa.gov.

# Swim team registration launches today

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Registration for the Redstone Arsenal Launchers swim team for ages 5-17 is under way today through May 14.

To sign up call Mike Gates, sports and fitness director for Child Youth and School Services, at 313-3699.

Cost is \$145, \$125 for active-duty Soldier family members. Practice starts May 29 and will be held on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday at pool 2 on Weeden Mountain Road. The seniors (ages 13 and over) will practice 9:30-11:30 a.m., the juniors (ages 9-12) go

from 9:30-11 a.m. and the mighty mites (ages 8 and under) from 11:15 to noon. There will be some Saturday practices to be announced. Meets are Wednesdays in June and the first half of July.

Last year the team grew to 86 members, up from 48 in 2010 which was its first year. The Launchers compete in the Rocket City Swim League.

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

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

"Stay tuned for a (scheduled) date to meet and have questions with the coach," Migliozi said.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Members of last year's Launchers team gather in front of a HIMARS Launcher.**



# Military golfers to compete for post title

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.

In last year's tournament, Blake Tyson birdied the final hole to finish at 76-75-151 and win by one stroke over Narendra Prasad who shot 76-76-152. Tyson made a birdie on the 552-yard, par-5 18th hole.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

# Remembrance run

Participants in the first local Run to Remember start Saturday's walk/run in Vincent Park. The weekly events serve as a living memorial for fallen service-members and their families.

## Sports & Recreation

### AER 5K run

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

### Run to remember

A Redstone Arsenal chapter of Run to Remember is meeting every Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Vincent Park walking trail. The group is walking and running a 5K (3.1 miles) together as a living memorial to fallen Soldiers. The Redstone chapter will participate together in the Cotton Row Run on Memorial Day and continue their activities with other area running events. Members are encouraged to wear royal blue T-shirts or the Run to Remember T-shirt that can be ordered from <http://www.wearblueruntoremember.org>.

### Senior baseball

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

### Senior softball

This is an opportunity for men 55 and over, of all skill levels, to participate in slow pitch softball. Practices are 10 a.m. Monday, Thursday and Saturday and 5:30 p.m. Monday at field 4, Brahan Spring Park. The regular season starts April 7 with games being played Monday and Thursday at 6 and 7:30 p.m. For more information, call David Camp 468-2913 or Gary Wilkison 880-9663.

### Military bass tournament

Lewis Smith Lake, in Jasper, has been selected as the host city for the 22nd annual Military Team Bass Tournament. The weeklong event is scheduled April 29

through May 4. "We are very excited to host the American Bass Anglers Military Team Bass Championship and to invite the country's most avid military bass anglers and their families to our community," Linda Lewis, executive director of the Walker County Chamber of Commerce, said. For more information on American Bass Anglers and the Military Tournament, visit [www.americanbassanglers.com](http://www.americanbassanglers.com) or [www.militarybassanglers.com](http://www.militarybassanglers.com).

### Golf benefit

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

### Bowling benefit

AMRDEC's Industrial Operations is holding a Singles "No Tap" Bowling Tournament at Redstone Lanes at 1 p.m. April 12. Cost is \$15 for three games of bowling. There will be trophies and medals for the top three male and female High Series and High Game. To register call Paul Sieja 842-9408, email [paul.sieja@us.army.mil](mailto:paul.sieja@us.army.mil), by April 10. There will also be some door prizes so come on out and support Army Emergency Relief.

### Girls junior golf

The LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of Huntsville is holding registration for its eighth annual season Sunday from 2-5 p.m. at Richland Golf Center, 10028 North Memorial Parkway. LPGA-USGA Girls Golf is a developmental junior golf program, for girls ages 7-17. The clinics begin April 16 and end June 25; they are held at Richland Golf Center on Mondays from 6-8 p.m. and on six scheduled Sundays from 2-4 p.m. The clinics include the basics of the golf swing, on course instruction and rules of the game. Registration fee is \$85 and it covers all clinics and a LPGA-USGA Girls Golf membership kit. For more information, call site director Marie Maksimowski 881-2924 or visit [www.girlsgolfhuntsville.org](http://www.girlsgolfhuntsville.org).

### Ladies golf tourney

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

### Basketball bus trip

Bus trips are planned to the Atlanta Hawks games. Games included are April 20 vs. Boston Celtics, April 22 vs. NY Knicks, April 24 vs. LA Clippers and April 26 vs. Dallas Mavericks. Price is \$155 per person which includes roundtrip transportation to the game and ticket into the

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game. Total cost needs to be paid as soon as possible. First come, first serve. For group rates or more information, call 693-2004.

### Boating safety

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

## Conferences & Meetings

### Weekly worship

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

### Protestant women

You are invited to join the Protestant Women of the Chapel on Thursdays at Bicentennial Chapel as they meet for friendship, fellowship and Bible study. Choose from three sessions: morning from 9:30-11:30, lunch time from 11:30-12:30 and evening at 6. Some child care is available at the morning session, upon registration with Youth Services.

### Catholic mass

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Community at Bicentennial Chapel invites the Redstone community to its mass services, set for noon Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday. For baptisms, weddings or any questions, call 842-2175. Here is the Holy Week and Easter Schedule: Youth Presentation of the Living Stations of the Cross; April 5, 6 p.m. Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper; April 6, 5 p.m. Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord; April 7, 8 p.m. Easter Vigil Mass; and April 8, 9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass.

### Good Friday observance

The Military Council of Catholic Women invites all ladies able to access Redstone Arsenal to its Good Friday spiritual retreat April 6 at 9:30 a.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. For more information, call Phyllis Gibat 842-2175 or Beverly Thetford (254) 371-2265.

### 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 meet-

ings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. "Let's try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area." For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 955-0727.

### Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sentar offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Marva Morse 430-0860. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 4488, room B-306. For information call Claudinette Purifoy 955-9422. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 8721 Madison Boulevard in Madison. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359.

### Union meeting

AFGE Local 1858's next membership meeting is April 9 at 5 p.m. in building 3202 on Mauler Road. Delegates will be selected to attend the AFGE Fifth District Convention in Daytona Beach, Fla., May 21-25, 2012. All members please plan to attend.

### 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.

### Space society

Huntsville Ala. L5 Society (HAL5) will have a free program Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Main Library downtown. Richard B. Hoover, of the University of Buckingham, United Kingdom, will speak on "Microfossils, Biomolecules and Biomarkers in Carbonaceous Meteorites: Evidence for the Existence of Extraterrestrial Life." For more information, visit [www.HAL5.org](http://www.HAL5.org).

### Tricare briefings

Humana Military Healthcare Services, the Tricare managed care support contractor for the South Region, holds

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informational briefings on Tricare every Monday at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Tricare Service Center, Fox Army Health Center, second floor.

## Unmanned aircraft systems

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

## Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet April 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. "West Point on the Eve of the Civil War" will be presented by Richard Barlow Adams, West Point Class of 1967 and author of "The Parting: A Story of West Point on the Eve of the Civil War." Optional chicken buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$8.95. Visitors are welcome. Call 541-2483 for more information.

## Simulation conference

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

## Federal employees

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet April 14 at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. This will be a membership breakfast. Breakfast by Creative Catering will be served at 9 a.m. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance by calling Kay Lindsay 880-7721. Invite a prospective member who will receive a free breakfast. If you do not reserve breakfast, come for the business meeting at 10. There will be no refreshments. Angela Rawls, director of Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program, will speak. Guests are always welcome - active or retired. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

## Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter, will hold its monthly luncheon April 12 at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. Steve Celuch, president of Huntsville/Madison County Valor Flight, will be guest speaker. For ticket information, call Audrea Edwards

313-2382 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

## Foreign military sales day

The Security Assistance Command will hold its first Foreign Military Sales Relationships Day for industry and business representatives April 16 from 1:15-5 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County. The meetings, to be held quarterly, will focus on facilitating interaction between the military and industry, and the benefits of developing relationships with foreign countries. The April 16 meeting will also highlight foreign military sales cases being conducted in the geographic area of U.S. Forces Central Command. Subsequent meetings will focus on other geographic combatant commands and their respective sales cases. There is no cost to attend the meeting, but advanced reservations are requested as spaces are limited to no more than two representatives from each business, company or corporation. Reservations will be made on a first come, first served basis. The cutoff is April 12. Reservations can be made by visiting <http://www.naita.org>.

## Small business forum

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

## Miscellaneous Items

### Civilian deployment

Army civilian volunteers are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. 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](http://www.cpol).

[army.mil](http://army.mil) for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

## Fraud hotline

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

## Education test center

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

## Senior volunteers

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

## AER book sale

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

## Korea veterans fund-raiser

Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation, 501 (c) (3), will hold their inaugural fund-raiser event with a MASH theme April 13 from 5:30-9 p.m. at The Summit. The Wine and Whiskey tasting event will feature live and silent auctions. Live auction items are: a complete package of traveler guitar signed by country music legend Loretta Lynn along with her signed photo and old-time favorite CDs, Jack Daniels golf bag with putter and driver, one of a kind patriotic quilt donated by ladies of New York quilters guild, signed MASH star photos, signed footballs by LSU coaching staff and Alabama's 2009 Heisman trophy winner Mark Ingram, and more to be added. They will also have gift baskets you'd not want to miss out on winning. Proceeds from this fund-raiser will support the sixth annual luncheon honoring the Korean War Veterans, "Revisit Korea Project 2012" and will support other veterans organizations within the Tennessee Valley. Tickets are available by calling The Summit 830-2582, Still Serving Veterans 883-7054 or KC Bertling 541-0450. For more information, visit [www.legacy4koreanwarveterans.org](http://www.legacy4koreanwarveterans.org).

## Program manager course

PMT401 Program Manager's Course is designed to improve DoD acquisition outcomes by strengthening the analytical, critical thinking and decision-making skills of potential leaders of major defense acquisition programs and program support organizations. Students come from all services, DoD agencies and industry. Class will be conducted in Huntsville April 16 through June 22. For more information, email Ann. Lee@dau.mil or apply at [www.dau.mil](http://www.dau.mil).

## NASA surplus

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

## Association scholarships

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

## Symphony auction

The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild's 39th annual Crescen-Dough Auction is April 13 from 5:30-11:30 p.m. in the Von Braun Center's South Hall. More than 500 items will be yours for the bidding, including fine jewelry, one-of-a-kind

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parties, vacations and local merchandise. The event's theme is "Under the Big Top." Tickets are \$60 per person.

## JROTC awards dinner

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its first Gary L. Littrell JROTC Leadership Award Dinner on April 12 at 6 p.m. at The Summit. Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Littrell, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam era, will present an award in his name to 13 top cadets from local high schools. For more information, email Michael McSwain at [mike.mcswainsr@us.army.mil](mailto:mike.mcswainsr@us.army.mil) or Deitra Floyd at [msstang92@hotmail.com](mailto:msstang92@hotmail.com).

## IAAP scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals, will award two scholarships of \$500 each, one to a graduating high school senior and one to a college student majoring in business. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. The deadline for applications is April 13. For more information or a scholarship application, call Elise McWilliams 313-1709, email [elise.mcwilliams@us.army.mil](mailto:elise.mcwilliams@us.army.mil), or call Ellen Mahathey 842-9888, email [ellen.mahathey@us.army.mil](mailto:ellen.mahathey@us.army.mil), or visit the Redstone Arsenal Chapter website <http://www.iaaprsa.org>.

## Omega cruise

The Omega Q-Rooze with the Ques was established in 1998 as an excursion for the members and their guests to have a weekend getaway. Since its inception it has always been held in downtown Chattanooga during the local venue called Riverfest. Traditionally, attendees stay at the Marriott Chattanooga Hotel and Conference center. This year's event is June 9-10. Cost is \$80 per person and the hotel cost is \$109 plus tax. It includes transportation to and from Chattanooga, food and drinks en route, a 2.5-hour midnight cruise, heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks during the hotel hospitality hour and light hors d'oeuvres during the cruise. For more information, call Mike Sims 599-6612 or Gerald Vines 682-1071.

## Ride wanted

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

## 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](mailto:mary.breeden@conus.army.mil).

## Lending closet

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

## Car show benefit

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

## Operation smile

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

## Signal battalion reunion

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

## Big giveaway

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

## Parent workshop

Huntsville City Schools will present a

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

## Parenting classes

"Parenting 101," free classes presented by the National Children's Advocacy Center, will be held on the second Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. upstairs in the ChildWise Building, 1413 Nike St. Topics include Positive Discipline, April 10; 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.

## Employment briefing

A representative from the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will conduct a Federal Employment Briefing on Thursday at 9 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. The briefing will help participants understand the federal application process. Topics will include recruitment, resume process, veteran and spouse preference, candidate evaluation and the referral process. This session is open to all who have access to the installation. To reserve a seat, call 876-5397 or email [debra.d.jefferson@us.army.mil](mailto:debra.d.jefferson@us.army.mil).

## 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.

## Commissary news

The Commissary is open Easter Sunday, April 8, from noon until 5 p.m.

## Federal contractors

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

## Autism workshop

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

## Procurement course

The University of Alabama-Huntsville's Procurement Technical Assistance Center will present "AS9100 Executive Overview" on April 27 from 8 a.m. to noon at the UAH Wilson Hall, room 168. The speaker is Michael Shelton, president of CI Concepts. Cost is \$129 payable at the door by cash, check or credit card. For directions call 824-6422 or visit [www.sbd.edu](http://www.sbd.edu).

## Business workshops

"Practical Cash Flow Management," presented by the UAH Small Business

**See Announcements on page 36**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

## Who let the dogs out?

Cindy Vigil walks her dogs Purdita, left, and Rosebud on the walkway crossing the disc golf course at Vincent Park.

# Rocket Announcements

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

## Thrift shop

Fill your Easter basket with items from the Thrift Shop. 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. There will be a plant sale this Saturday just in time for your spring gardening. Consignments are taken from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the NO-LIST number 881-6915 before bringing your consignments; the list changes each week. The shop is now accepting summer clothing. Donations are

always welcome and tax deductible. Remember, if you have access to the Arsenal, you can shop at the Thrift Shop.

## Spring musical

Huntsville High School's spring musical "Oklahoma!" will be presented April 12-14 and April 19-21 at 7:30 p.m., and April 15 and 21 at 2 p.m. Tickets are on sale at www.hhsphanthertheater.com. They are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students, military and seniors. Tickets for military are \$5 for the April 19 show at 7:30 p.m. and the matinee show on April 21 at 2 p.m.

## New employee orientation

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

## Adventures at AMCOM

AMCOM's Educational Outreach Program will hold its third annual Adventures at AMCOM Summer Program for school students. Local area schools have been notified and all student applications will go through the school guidance counselors. This one-week summer program will be June 18-22. This program will provide a learning experience for eighth-12th graders to obtain an understanding of the organizations on Redstone Arsenal that support the Army while promoting teamwork, time management and presentation skills. The deadline to submit applications to school guidance counselors is April 9.

## Easter egg party

The Children's Ministry of Southeast Church of the Nazarene, 2275 Cecil Ashburn Drive in southeast Huntsville, will hold an Easter Egg Hunt/Party on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. It will feature an Easter egg hunt, moon bounce, face painting, cake walk, ring toss, popcorn and drinks; and children can get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. For more information, call 881-3399 or email childrensministry@southeastnaz.org.

## 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.

## Theatre performance

"The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" will be performed Friday and Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m. at Bob Jones High School in Madison. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and seniors (ages 60-over). Tickets can be bought one hour before show time at the BJHS box office.

## Scholarship competition

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

## Blood drive schedule

American Red Cross blood drives this month include the following: April 6 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at MDA building 5222 (Von Braun II Complex). ... April 6 from 7-noon at building 6263. ... April 6 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Redstone

Exchange. ... April 12 from 7-noon at the Sparkman Center. ... April 12 from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at building 5400. ... April 13 from 6:30-noon at the Corps of Engineers. ... April 13 from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at building 5400. ... April 20 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4487. ... April 24 from 7-noon at building 5681. ... April 27 from 7-noon at building 4545.

## Professional development

Basic CES Courses at Redstone Arsenal are now open for registration. They include the following: 12-708, May 7-18 (applicants will have to submit an exception request); and 12-709, June 4-15 (application deadline is today). For more information, email reds.leader.development@conus.army.mil. Applicants can submit their request by logging into CHRTAS at <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/chrtas/student/logon.aspx?caller=1>.

## Earth Day event

Celebrate the 42nd anniversary of Earth Day with the Operation Green Team on April 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Hays Nature Preserve. "It's a perfect day to relax and enjoy the wildlife and sounds of the Flint River," a prepared release said. More than 70 earth-friendly exhibitors/vendors will have exhibits and demonstrations throughout the day. Trees will be given to the first 1,000 (one tree per family). For more information, call 532-5326 or visit [huntsvilleal.gov/greenteam](http://huntsvilleal.gov/greenteam).

## Ballroom dance classes

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



Photo by Ellen Hudson

## Easy ride

David Owens, of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, rides his motorcycle Thursday at Vincent Park.