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Lifetime of difference for the Army

AMC's general of 'firsts' likes 21st century outlook

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Gen. Ann Dunwoody doesn't see her upcoming retirement as the end of a career for the Army's first female four-star general.

Rather, she sees it as the end of a 37-year career for a Soldier who was committed to leading and mentoring those who served with her, and to making a difference in the Army.

Gender, quite honestly, just doesn't have much to do with Dunwoody's outlook on her years of service.

"I didn't see gender. I saw Soldiers," she said last week during one of her last interviews as the commander of the Army Materiel Command.

"I was trying to make a difference for platoons, companies and, on a bigger scope, the Army. I was working to establish and develop high performing organizations. It was about leadership."

Dunwoody, who grew up in an Army family, was commissioned as a quartermaster officer in the Army in 1975, at a time when the nation's largest military organization was at a crossroads. Vietnam was winding down as was the nation's defense budget and the Army was straining under years of fighting an unpopular war while also restructuring into an all-volunteer force. On top of all of that, in 1978 the Army integrated its Women's Army Corps into the regular Army.

Upon commissioning, Dunwoody attended the Women Officer's Orientation Course at Fort McClellan only to learn soon after that females were no longer going to be a segregated minority in the Army. But change didn't fade her, and she soon became committed to an organization that stood tall in her esteem.

"My passion was fitness and family," said the college physical education major. "The Army was as values based as the family I came out of. I thought I would enjoy this and make a difference for a few years. Now, it's 37 years later. And in my experience the doors have continued to open."

'Firsts' in Army

In those early years, Dunwoody actually tried to distance herself from any special recognition as a female officer. She wasn't inter-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Gen. Ann Dunwoody stands proudly next to the Army Materiel Command flag as the organization's and the Army's first female four-star general. She will be turning command of AMC over to Gen. Dennis Via on Aug. 7 and will retire Aug. 15.

ested in being a member of women's groups or being thought of as the first woman in the leadership roles where she served.

"I didn't want to be recognized as a female platoon leader. I wanted to be recognized equally as a platoon leader," she said. "Later, I did realize there was a healthy need to bring in female Soldiers together because they are more likely to open up amongst themselves."

And those "notable firsts" do remain part of her record. She was the first woman to command a battalion in the 82nd Airborne Division in 1992. She was the first female general officer at Fort Bragg, N.C., in 2000. She was the first woman to command the Combined Arms Support Command at Fort Lee, Va., in 2004. And in 2005, Dunwoody became the first female Soldier to achieve three-star rank since now retired Lt. Gen. Claudia Kennedy in 1997. Then, on Nov. 14, 2008, Dunwoody achieved the most significant "first" of her career, becoming the first woman in U.S. military history to achieve the rank of four-star general and the first female commander of AMC. Soon, she also became Redstone Arsenal's first female general and first four-star general in residence.

Dunwoody began her Army career as a platoon leader with the 226th Maintenance

Company, 100th Supply and Services Battalion at Fort Sill, Okla. As a quartermaster officer, she also commanded the 226th Maintenance Company at Fort Sill; the 5th Quartermaster Detachment (Air Delivery) at Kaiserslautern, Germany; the 407th Supply and Transport Battalion/782nd Main Support Battalion at Fort Bragg; the 10th Mountain Division Support Command at Fort Drum, N.Y.; the 1st Corps Support Command at Fort Bragg; the Military Traffic Management Command/Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command in Alexandria, Va., and the Combined Arms Support Command at Fort Lee.

"I've been blessed and privileged that out of 37 years, 16 have been in command," Dunwoody said. "I've had the privilege and responsibility of taking care of Soldiers and families. I've had the opportunity to command at so many levels. When I got promoted to four stars, I thought about the decades of women who started this journey and whose experiences we could build on."

Although her gender prevented her from serving in combat roles, Dunwoody deployed to Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1991 as the executive officer and division parachute officer for the 407th

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RocketViews

How do you feel about gun control?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Rodney Bailey

Garrison Directorate of Logistics

"I think it should be a stiffer screening process as far as purchasing of assault weapons. You never can tell if someone is going to go and do something wrong. You can't regulate a person's psyche. We just need to crackdown on assault weapons. We just need to look at overall gun safety. We need better gun safety training. There's no way to tell if someone's going to go in there and start shooting up the place."



Christian Tully

FMWR Outdoor Recreation

"Personally I'm not a fan of it. I like to hunt so I kind of like to keep my guns."



Danica Abejon

SMDC/ARSTRAT

"I think it's more of a cultural thing. Trying to lessen it or detract from it is going to affect people that abide by the law. I don't think it'll affect criminals. For example if you look at Canada, their gun control laws are just as loose as or looser than ours. But people aren't getting shot as much as in the U.S. I think it's a cultural difference."



Sharry Gilliam

SMDC/ARSTRAT

"I don't think the issue that happened last week (in Colorado) is so much about gun control. I think people should be allowed to own guns. I think they should be subjected to background checks in order to buy a gun. I'm not against people owning guns. I just think the steps to getting a gun should be a little more stringent."

Quote of the week

'For target shooting, that's OK. Get a license and go to the range. For defense of the home, that's why we have police departments.'

— James Brady

Letter to the editor

Tackling obesity for national security's sake

It's not often there is a national call to action over a matter of national security, but that is what's happening over America's obesity problem. Luckily, there is no shortage of resources for all of us to do our part in addressing it.

Concerns about the quick rise in obesity – some call it an epidemic – and its potential to harm military readiness are not new. Ever since 100 retired generals and admirals formed the nonprofit organization "Mission: Readiness" and released its landmark 2010 report "Too Fat to Fight" to convince Congress to mandate healthy school lunches, federal officials, at least, have known of the military imperative to reverse the fat trend. The report included the services' assessment that 75 percent of the nation's 17- to 24-year-olds do not qualify for military service – mostly due to obesity.

Those concerns were reiterated in June when the Bipartisan Policy Center released its report, "Lots to Lose," which shows alarming trends not only in recruiting, but also in retention due to overweight problems. The report notes that nutrition concerns for service-members and recruits factored into President Harry S. Truman's decision to mandate the federal school lunch program. The focus then, however, was vitamin deficiencies.

In the past two years, the movement has changed from alarm bells to action as public officials, including Defense Department leaders, carry the issue from Washington to cities, towns and military installations across the country. In July, First Lady Michelle Obama took her "Let's Move" campaign to Philadelphia to announce locally-based public-private initiatives that include things like closing a city street to traffic to make a "safe play" place, challenging residents to a citywide diet, bringing farmers' markets to low-income areas and holding information campaigns about the nutritional content of foods.

DoD has made similar changes, requiring all of its schools and daycare centers to give children meals emphasizing fruits and vegetables, restrict TV and computer time, ensure daily exercise and ban sweetened drinks.

Also in July, Charles E. Milam, principal deputy assistant secretary for military community and family programs, met with military food and beverage workers for their annual workshop and directed that they ensure that dining facilities and other installation eateries give healthy choices that also fit into today's

fast-paced culture. Also, Military OneSource offers free nutrition and fitness training to servicemembers and their families.

In promoting Let's Move, the first lady often talks about changing American culture toward healthier living. That's where families come in.

As I talk to military spouses and other parents, most agree that one of our toughest challenges is in challenging the idea that "kid-friendly" cuisine is limited to pizza, fries and chicken nuggets. Changing the culture will mean cutting back on the all-too-easy and inexpensive drive-through meals. It will mean cooking healthy and encouraging kids to try new things – even when your child's friends are over. Changing the culture means challenging the notion that kids need snacks for every event – soccer, Scouts, etc. – even when the event only lasts an hour. And it means asking teachers to discourage parents from bringing cupcakes in the classroom for every birthday, especially when there are 30 kids in a class.

I've had to do all these things in the year and half since my daughter was diagnosed with Type I diabetes. It's not easy to make these kinds of changes that affect the whole family, but it can be done. Now, at age 9, my daughter has memorized carbohydrate counts of many foods – there are great carb and calorie counters on the market. She also recognizes foods high in sugar, salt and fat, and understands how much better she feels eating eggs for breakfast instead of pancakes or doughnuts.

Granted, she would not have learned all this without being forced to, and that is where the campaign against obesity comes in. With the right information – and there is plenty out there – Americans can change the tide on obesity and its many related problems. Even young children can tell if half of their plate is made up of fruits and vegetables, or count whether they've eaten five in a day. They can know that sweet drinks – including juice – is best saved for rare occasions, or if you have dessert at lunch you should skip it at dinner.

The cultural change Mrs. Obama speaks of will mean they have the information they need and the support of family and friends. Some great websites for information are the Agriculture Department's "Choose My Plate," Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures, and the National Institute of Health's Health, Lung and Blood Institute.

Lisa Daniel

American Forces Press Service

RedstoneRocket

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Bicyclists should wear reflective vest

Safety rules for bicycles on post include a requirement for a reflective vest or belt. Redstone Arsenal Regulation 190-5 addresses Bicycle Traffic/Safety Supervision. The Garrison's Directorate of Emergency Services assimilates state law when enforcing traffic.

Rules include the following:

- At all times, all riders and passengers of bicycles riding on Redstone Arsenal roadways should wear as an outer garment a reflective and brightly colored safety vest or belt. If a reflective belt is worn, it should be worn diagonally, over the shoulder (bandolier style) to provide front and rear visibility. If a back pack, bicycle seat or fairsing obstructs visibility of the safety garment, the bicycle rider should strap a reflective and brightly colored safety vest or reflective belt around the pack, seat or fairsing to provide front and rear visibility.
- Every person operating a bicycle on a roadway should ride as near to the right side of the roadway as practicable, exercising due care when passing a standing vehicle or one proceeding in the same direction.
- Persons riding bicycles on a roadway should not ride more than two abreast except on paths or parts of roadways set aside for the exclusive use of bicycles.
- Wherever a usable path for bicycles has been provided adjacent to a roadway, bicycle riders should use such path rather than the roadway.
- No persons operating a bicycle should carry any package, bundle or article which prevents the driver from keeping at least one hand on the handlebars.

- Every bicycle when in use at nighttime should be equipped with a lamp on the front which emits a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and with a red reflector on the rear of a type approved by the department which should be visible from all distances from 100 to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle. A lamp emitting a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear may be used in addition to the red reflector.
- Every bicycle should be equipped with a brake which will enable the operator to make the braked wheels skid on dry, level, clean pavement.
- When operating a bicycle on roadways, bicycle riders will use nationally recognized hand and arm signals when stopping or turning.
- Bicycle riders will yield the right of way to pedestrians at crossings or on sidewalks.
- Bicycle riders will not race or play games on public roadways unless participating in a sporting event sanctioned by the Garrison commander.
- All riders and passengers of bicycles will wear suitable helmets conforming to federal safety standards while riding on the installation.
- Individuals will not wear radio headphones/earphones while riding bicycles on roadways.
- Bicycles will be ridden single file when being passed by traffic traveling the same direction.

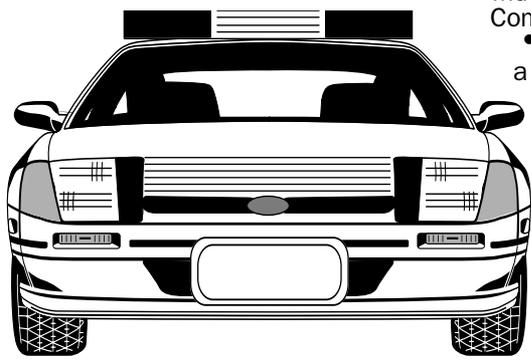
Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for July 14-21:

- A driver was cited for driving with a suspended license at Gate 9 when he could not produce a license while attempting to gain access to the installation.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident at the Commissary loading dock.
- A government employee reported the license plate had been stolen off his motorcycle. The license plate was later recovered from a Huntsville motorcycle shop where it had been turned in by an unknown citizen.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident at the Commissary parking lot.
- Police investigated a single-vehicle, with injury, traffic accident on Vincent Drive.
- Police recovered a deserter from the Jackson County Sheriff's Office and re-

turned him to his unit in Fort Carson, Colo.

- The Fire Department reported damage to a cook stove in a residence when food caught fire.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, leaving the scene, traffic accident in the parking lot of building 111.
- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Rideout Road.
- A driver was cited for driving with a suspended license at Gate 8 when she presented an expired dependent identification card and an expired Alabama driver's license to gain access.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, leaving the scene, traffic accident in the parking lot of building 5301.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, leaving the scene, traffic accident in the parking lot of building 5222.
- A contractor reported damage to their privately owned vehicle at building 5222.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident at the Commissary parking lot.
- A driver was cited for driving with a canceled license at Gate 9 when he presented an expired Michigan driver's license during turnaround procedures after arriving at the gate lost.
- Police received a report that a child had damaged the statuary at building 5250 while a relative was taking photos.
- Seventeen U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.



Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Name: Kristen Cahill

Job: Plans and operations officer for Army Materiel Command G-2 (Intelligence and Security)

Where do you call home?
Woodbridge, Va.

What do you like about your job?
I like being able to coordinate with different directorates. And I like being able to work on contingency planning as well as Army campaign plan initiatives and how that ties into our operating environment.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

It used to be golf but now I'm expecting my second (child). But my husband (Mark) and I both golf when we have some free time. I like to paint on canvases. And I used to play basketball at Wake Forest University (on a full scholarship from 1997 to 2001), so every once in a while I like to get out and shoot baskets.

What are your goals?

I'm interested in pursuing a doctorate in leadership, so to have a Ph.D.



in like organizational leadership. That's definitely a goal. In general to keep climbing the career ladder and obtain a high-level leadership position. And personally to raise a happy and healthy family.

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

First thing that comes to mind would be to do an African safari in Kenya. That's something I've always thought about doing.

Firsts

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Supply and Transport Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg. In 2001, as the 1st Corps Support Command commander, she deployed the Logistics Task Force in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan and stood up the Joint Logistics Command in Uzbekistan in support of the Combined Joint Task Force-180. In addition, as commander of Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, she supported the largest deployment and redeployment of U.S. forces since WWII.

Example for others

Dunwoody does acknowledge that young girls do see her as a role model. The proof of that can be found in the letters she gets from school girls who tell her she was the subject of their school report and in the stories she hears from parents who mention Dunwoody as an example to their daughters that they can achieve anything they desire as long as they work for it. And yet, she points out that she is one of more than 70 females in the U.S. military who have worn general's stars.

"You do hope you've opened doors for them so they can be anything they want to be," said the general, who participated in 2009 with First Lady Michelle Obama in a forum for promising girls from the Washington, D.C., public school system.

A self-professed tomboy, Dunwoody did work hard in the relatively all-male forces of the Army of her earlier years. And it was there that she thrived.

"I've never worked for a female," she said. "I've always had male role models within the Army that have inspired me and motivated me. Now, there have been a lot of women who have worked for me. My concern was not that they were male or female, but that we had the right leaders in all positions. I kept an eye out for talent."

And in an Army that encourages diversity, talent was supposed to come in all races, ages and backgrounds, and both genders.

"The Army continues to look at itself," Dunwoody said. "It continues to open doors for women in all opportunities. But this is being done methodically to set the Army and the individuals up for success."

"The Army wants women, men, minorities. The Army considers diversity as a strength. Diversity brings different perspectives to an organization. When you are looking for solutions to problems, you want different perspectives."

Noble profession

Dunwoody commends those female Soldiers who, along with their male counterparts, have done an "incredible job" on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan. During the past 10 years, women have served in forward deployed roles that have led to

informal duties serving side-by-side with combat arms personnel. The Army is now loosening restrictions to allow women to serve in combat units.

"This is a dangerous profession, a very demanding profession," she said. "It requires separations from your family. In the first 10 years of our marriage, Craig (now retired Air Force Col. Craig Brotchie) and I were separated for five years. I loved the Army, he loved the Air Force and we loved each other. So, we made it work."

"It is an absolutely great profession, a noble profession with great responsibility and challenges and opportunities, more so than any other. Whether you serve for two years, five years, 10 years or 37 years, you will be a better citizen because of it."

Dunwoody is a general who knows she is leaving an Army that is better than when she first joined it.

"We have the best trained Army in the world," she said. "I have a lot of confidence in the talent we have out there doing the heavy lifting. The spirit of our Soldiers is amazing."

"And in this command, our employees have done as much heavy lifting in deployments, operational coordination and transforming this organization in such a positive way. It's the quality of this work force that continues to make a difference. I'm very optimistic for this organization. As I look back over the past 10 years, we have supported Soldiers on two war fronts, provided humanitarian support in places like Haiti, Pakistan, Chile and Japan, and moved this headquarters along with 60 percent of our employees to Redstone Arsenal. I look back at what we've done and I'm optimistic about the future."

Growing footprint

At the "high water mark" of the two wars, AMC had 120,000 military, civilian and contractor deployments in theater, transforming it into an operational command.

"Since 9/11 we have grown this operational force deployed in theater," Dunwoody said. "AMC has such a huge footprint and a forward presence. I've been fortunate that so much of my career has been in the command of operational commands. That prepared me well for this command. In Afghanistan, Kuwait, Iraq, you would see the AMC patch all over the battlefield. Our employees were proud to be forward deployed in direct support of the war fighter."

The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations brought AMC in 2011 to its first official permanent home with the opening of its headquarters facility at Redstone. The move represented six years of planning.

"Coming to Redstone has just been an incredible event for the entire command," Dunwoody said. "It took BRAC to transform us. We took advantage of moving down here to transform to be more agile, responsive and forward looking to the 21st century."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

As Gen. Ann Dunwoody retires, the Army Materiel Command celebrates its 50th anniversary. Fifty years ago today, AMC became an official Army command.

BRAC, in all, moved 11,000 of AMC's 67,000 employees.

"We were impacted significantly by BRAC in one way or another," Dunwoody said. "We had the largest piece of BRAC, and we did it as seamlessly as possible given the magnitude of it."

In the midst of the BRAC move, AMC was given the additional responsibility of moving about 173,000 pieces of equipment worth about \$16.5 billion out of Iraq at the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom. AMC addressed the challenge with the Responsible Reset Task Force, which consisted of a 60-person forward-deployed AMC element that worked with the Army Central Command and U.S. Forces-Iraq to organize and move the equipment out of theater.

"The equipment was either redistributed in theater or going back to the U.S.," Dunwoody said. "Fifty percent of the equipment that supported the surge in Afghanistan came out of Iraq. In Desert Storm, we couldn't do this because we couldn't see the equipment. But this forward-deployed team of AMC civilians led by Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury (and later by Lt. Gen. Dennis Via) used technology to have visibility that saved an incredible amount of money and prevented the iron mountains that we had after Operation Desert Storm."

"R2TF allowed us to bring the power of the industrial base to the battlefield. We could accelerate the exit and retrograde of all this equipment. ... We had to get this stuff out of Dodge and leadership understood that AMC would be the enabler that would sort out, redistribute, fix and repair this equipment."

Developing leaders

Describing much of her job as being a talent manager, Dunwoody said she is proud of the leadership that has developed both within the Army's Soldier and civilian ranks under her guidance. At AMC, she is confident those leaders will take the organization well into the 21st century.

"The legacy of your command is in the

leaders you develop," she said. "And if you have done that successfully you have developed leaders for the future. The talent on our bench right now at AMC is incredible. Their portfolios and experiences are so much broader than what I had coming up. These leaders will continue to make this command relevant in its time and in its era."

As with many of the Army's senior leadership, the latter years of Dunwoody's service were overshadowed by the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Recently, she visited Ground Zero in New York City with the Army's other four-star generals.

"It probably stirred up every emotion I had in my body," she said of the visit. "That was an event that changed us all. I saw the names of friends on the wall, talked to first responders and officers from NYPD, and was surrounded by four-star generals who have led the Army since 9/11. We've asked a whole lot of our leaders since then and they have been there at the highest level down to our enlisted Soldiers."

Family legacy

Dunwoody's voice caught a bit when she talked about her retirement ceremony, which has been scheduled for Aug. 15 at Summerall Field, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va. She is part of a long family legacy of military service that includes her father, and sister and brother. She will go into retirement remembering all the people she worked with over the years.

The people at her retirement ceremony, she said, will be those "you know made a difference in your life. It's a happiness knowing they are there. It gets emotional. It still makes me smile thinking about the people I've met. What makes the Army different is hands down the people. I've had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people – Soldiers and families and civilians – and I've had the opportunity to serve with Soldiers both on and off the field."

Her only regret is that the years went by too fast.

At 59, Dunwoody said her retirement which she jokingly called the "demilling of a general" – may offer a bit of the leisure fun she hasn't had much of during her career. She and her husband and their dog Barney will move to Tampa to be closer to her 93-year-old father, who is a veteran of three wars, and her two siblings, both who have served in the military. The move will allow her husband to be more active as a director of the Special Operations Warrior Foundation, which is based in Tampa.

"I'm blessed to have a life partner who is so supportive," Dunwoody said of her husband. "But we really need to slow down. The optempo has been a part of our lives for a long time. When the Army is at war, you are always on call. It's the nature of our business."

"We say we enjoy golf, but I haven't done much golfing. We say we sail, but I haven't done much sailing. We say we ski, but I haven't done much of that. We'd like to travel together. My hope is that I find something I can be as passionate about as I have been about being a Soldier."

Army chaplaincy celebrates 237th anniversary

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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Chaplain assistant Sgt. Brenton Grierson saw the importance of religion to Soldiers firsthand while he was deployed in Iraq from March 2010 until March 2011.

On Friday he helped cut the birthday cake commemorating the 237th anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Army Chaplaincy in a lunchtime ceremony in the Sparkman Cafeteria.

"It's really important for the chaplains to offer the services they do. They help a lot of people out," said Grierson, a member of the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, who cut the cake as the youngest Soldier at 23. "We support all religions. It's very important spiritually for the Soldier.

"If a Soldier loses his spirit, he loses his will to fight. So that's how important I think this job is."

Grierson, from Ocean Springs, Miss., was joined in the cake-cutting by AMCOM chaplain Col. Leon Kircher and Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

The AMC Jazz Band performs during Friday's event in the Sparkman Cafeteria.

"Chaplains are available 24/7, 365 days a year," Collyar said. "The job is probably one of the most challenging jobs in the entire military."

The Army Materiel Command Jazz Band performed during the event which included display tables of chaplaincy items.

Since July 29, 1775, about 25,000 Army chaplains have served as religious and spiritual leaders for 25 million Soldiers and their families. From military



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Cutting the 237th birthday cake for the Army chaplaincy, from left, are AMCOM chaplain Col. Leon Kircher, chaplain assistant Sgt. Brenton Grierson and AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar.

installations to deployed combat units and from service schools to military hospitals, chaplains and chaplain assistants have performed their ministries in the most religiously diverse organization in the world. Always present with their Soldiers in war and in peace, chaplains have served in more than 270 major wars and combat engagements. Nearly 300 chaplains have died in battle. Six have been awarded the Medal of

Honor.

More than 3,000 chaplains are serving the Army representing more than 140 different religious organizations.

The U.S. Army Chaplaincy's mission is to provide religious support to the Army while assisting commanders in ensuring the right of free exercise of religion for all Soldiers. In short, chaplains nurture the living, care for the wounded and honor the fallen.

Free Movie Friday

This week's feature:

"Safe" (rated R)

Heiser Hall

Doors open at 5 p.m. for refreshments

Movie starts at 5:30.

In this section...

AIR DEFENDERS CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY GROUPS
ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICE BY THE NUMBERS
ALL ABOARD FOR ARSENAL AFTERSCHOOL CARE
READ ABOUT WHAT'S NEW AT POST LIBRARY
BUS TOURS RETURN TO REDSTONE
SCENES FROM BUS TOUR OF REDSTONE ARSENAL
VICTIM RECALLS MASS SHOOTING
KNOW WHAT TO DO WHEN THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENS
EVERYONE ENCOURAGED TO WATCH FOR TERRORISM

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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:

Army concert tour

The 2012 Army Concert Tour, featuring "Brantley Gilbert and New Faces of Country," is Aug. 26 at 2 p.m. at the Activity Field. General admission is \$20, \$25 on show day. Tickets are on sale this Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Von Braun Complex III and the Sparkman Center Cafeteria. For more information, call 313-5224.

Dancing classes

Learn how to dance the Rumba by registering through Aug. 15. Classes

will be held at Pagano Gym from Aug. 16 until Sept. 20 from 8-9 p.m. Cost is \$66 per couple for six Thursday classes and \$55 for reviewers. For more information or to register, call the ITR office at 876-5431 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Rhythms/Brew/Barbecue

"Rhythms, Brew and Barbecue" will be held Sept. 29 at the Activity Field. Doors open at 2 p.m. with the show at 3. Performing in concert are Eric Benet, Mint Condition, Frank McComb and Rick Ward. Tickets are \$25 advance, \$30 day of show and \$65 premium. For more information, call 313-5224 or visit redstonemwr.com.

Air defenders contribute to community groups



Courtesy photo

Annette Hall accepts the TAPS donation from Jody Maxwell of ADAA.

The Huntsville/Redstone Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association presented its 2012 grants during a membership social July 18 at the Firehouse Pub.

ADAA vice president Jody Maxwell presented checks to the North Alabama



Courtesy photo

Pam Stieglitz accepts the Total Tots donation from ADAA's Jody Maxwell.

Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition (\$2,500), Total Tots (\$2,000), Veterans Memorial Museum (\$2,000) and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (\$1,000). Representatives from Army Emergency Relief and Valor Flights were not available.

Army Community Service programs by the numbers

ACS, in building 3338 on Redeye Road, serves anyone who has access to Redstone Arsenal which includes active duty and retired military, survivors, civilians, National Guard and Reserves and their spouses. Its phone number is 876-5397.

Army Community Service is scheduled to move by April 2013 to the newly renovated Welcome Center (formerly the troop Dining Facility) on Aerobee Road.

ACS provided the following statistics:

13 core programs are offered.

32 volunteers provided support from April 2011 through March 2012.

5,100 hours plus were contributed by volunteers since April 2011.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Financial readiness program manager Kathleen Riester, standing, helps client Carrie Smith at ACS.

All aboard for Arsenal afterschool care

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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The answer to parents' questions about where to send their children afterschool and how to get them there can be found right on Redstone Arsenal.

FMWR's Child Youth and School Services will add a 12th bus to their fleet for afterschool transportation for the 2012-13 school year, bringing an additional 18 children from Madison, Huntsville and Madison County schools to the Arsenal for afterschool care at one of CYSS' facilities.

"Our bus program has been very, very successful," Andre Terry, chief of Child Youth and School Services, said. "Last year it put 143 children who would normally not be able to use our programs into our facilities. These are parents who can't go get their kids."

The buses deliver children from area schools to the afterschool programs available on post for ages kindergarten and up. All students, regardless of age, must be registered with CYSS. Students kindergarten through fifth-grade must be enrolled in a CYSS afterschool program. There is no charge for the middle school and teen program.

Parents desiring afterschool transportation for their child should call Central Enrollment at 876-3704 for more information. If there is not currently space on a bus, the child will be placed on a waiting list. What schools the buses pick up from is entirely dependent on the need, making the waiting list fluid. As demand changes, so will the stops.

"Our motto is wherever the kids are, we are," Terry said.

The program has proved to be espe-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Child Youth and School Services will add a 12th bus to their fleet for afterschool transportation for the 2012-13 school year.

cially convenient for parents with all the unpredictable weather North Alabama has seen in recent years, and with the weather, early school closures. Even with only 30 minutes notice that a school is closing, CYSS drivers are rolling in to pick kids up and get them back to the Arsenal safely.

"These early school closures are a big headache for parents," Terry said. "They just can't leave work, pick up their child and bring them back to use our facilities. The number one thing that is excellent about this program, and why I believe it has been so successful, is that we are able to pick those children up without their parents even having to leave their desk. They don't have to worry about their child."

Proof of the perks parents get from the program is evident in the increase in demand since it began some three years ago. When the program started it utilized three buses, then five, nine, 10, last year 11, and now 12.

"It has really improved our services to the community," Terry said.

Lineup of schools along bus route

Here is a list of area schools that Child Youth and School Services will be picking up from for the 2012-13 school year. If you do not see your child's school on the list, or would like to inquire about afterschool transportation, call 876-3704:

- Columbia Elementary
- Heritage Elementary
- Mill Creek
- Rainbow Elementary
- Providence Middle
- Discovery Middle

- Endeavor Elementary
- Legacy Elementary
- Madison Elementary
- West Madison Elementary
- Monrovia Middle
- Providence Elementary
- Horizon Elementary
- Lynn Fanning
- Meridianville Middle
- Sparkman Middle
- Sparkman 9th
- Sparkman High School

Read all about what's new at Post Library this week

The Post Library, building 3323 on Red-eye Road, is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10-4. Its phone number is 876-4741. The library has the following new items:

Adult fiction: "Between the Lines" by Jodi Picoult and Samantha van Leer – Sixteen-year-old Prince Oliver, who wants to break free of his fairy tale existence, and 15-year-old Delilah, a loner obsessed with Prince Oliver and the book in which he exists, work together to seek Oliver's freedom. ... "The Innocent" by David Baldacci – Will Robie, a freelance hitman working for the government, rescues a teenage girl whose parents' disappearance may be linked to a vast, high-level cover-up.

Adult nonfiction: "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens: The Ultimate Teenage Success Guide" by Sean Covey – Offers teens practical ways to cope with peer, parents, relationships, school and the future. ... "Area 51: An Uncensored History of America's Top Secret Military Base" by Annie Jacobsen – A history of Area 51, assembled from interviews with the people who served there and formerly classified information. ... "The Book of Universes: Exploring the Limits of the Cosmos" by John D. Barrow – Provides a tour the potential universes that could exist as part of Einstein's theory of general relativity. ...

"Carthage Must Be Destroyed: The Rise and Fall of an Ancient Civilization" by Richard Miles – A history of the defeat of Carthage and the contributions of military leader Hannibal. ... "Drift: the Unmooring of American Military Power" by Rachel Maddow – Argues how the focus on national security is actually compromising national stability. ... "The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do In Life and Business" by Charles Duhigg – Explains how self-control and success are largely driven by habits and shares guidelines for achieving personal goals.

Children fiction: "Bud, Not Buddy" by Christopher Paul Curtis – During the Great Depression 10-year-old Bud, a motherless boy, sets out in search of the man he believes to be his father – the renowned bandleader H. E. Calloway. ... "My Snake Blake" by Randy Siegel – A boy receives an extremely long, bright green snake that proves to be incredibly smart and talented. ... "Fantasy Baseball" by Alan Gratz – A 12-year-old boy wakes up in Ever After, where he is recruited by Dorothy to play first base for the Oz Cyclones in the Ever After Baseball Tournament.

DVDs: "21 Jump Street" ... "Contraband" ... "Gone" ... "The Grey" ... "John Carter" ... "One for the Money" ... "Red Tails."

Audio books on CDs: "City of Ashes" (sequel to "City of Bones") by Cassandra Clare (reader Natalie Moore) – After finding out that Jace is her brother and the Inquisitor is hunting for him, Clary finds herself back in battle against warlocks,

vampires, werewolves and her own father. ... "All I Did Was Shoot My Man" by Walter Mosley (reader Mirron E. Willis) – Part of the Leonid McGill series, Leonid finds himself caught between his sins of the past and the present.

Photo by John Pearson

Education outreach

Mary Epps, left, of AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center, participates in Junior Achievement's Entrepreneur Camp held at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. With her is Britney Cothren of Madison Academy. Epps judged student business presentations and mentored the students on how they could go about making their businesses happen. Her appearance was part of the AMCOM Army Education Outreach Program.



Bus tours return to Redstone

U.S. Space & Rocket Center brings tourists back on post

By **KARI HAWKINS**

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Tourists have come back to Redstone Arsenal.

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center is now offering bus tours that include a drive through one of the Arsenal's most heavily populated areas and stops at two Marshall Space Flight Center sites. It is the first time tour buses from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center have been allowed on the Arsenal since the Garrison brought a halt to the tradition due to security reasons following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"Ever since the tours were stopped after 9/11 our museum guests have constantly asked about them. They've asked when they would resume and what they could see on a tour," Mike Flachbart of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center said.

"So, there's been some public clamor to get access for these tours over the years. For the past 10 years or so, and



Photo by Ellen Hudson

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center bus, parked outside the museum to pick up tourists, can now be seen on Redstone Arsenal as tourists get a windshield tour along Rideout and Martin roads. Bus tours of Redstone Arsenal have resumed after being halted following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

especially during the last two or three years, NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center has inquired about them. Recently, security arrangements were worked out with Redstone Arsenal, and we've done what needs to be done to make sure

everything is in place to do this correctly. Enough distance and time since 9/11 has allowed the tours to resume."

John Dumoulin, Marshall's exhibits and artifacts manager, and liaison to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's board of directors, said resuming Arsenal tours is a result of about three years of working through security issues and other concerns, such as securing a handicapped accessible bus from the City of Huntsville to accommodate tourists with handicaps.

"It has taken a long time to make this happen," he said. "The time is right, the interest is right and all the players lined up that made this a go."

"We're happy with these arrangements because it allows the Space & Rocket Center to offer a feature that visitors can't get anywhere else. It's a unique feature for our museum and we are hoping the public sees this as a special opportunity."

It is unknown how popular the bus tours will be. They were initially started

in the 1970s and "millions of folks had gone on the tours" until the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Flachbart said.

In those early years, the tour focused on Marshall Space Flight Center activities. But U.S. Space & Rocket Center officials have changed the tour to better reflect all the missile and space activity ongoing on Redstone Arsenal.

"This tour is going to drive past some of the Arsenal buildings along Martin Road. With the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) commission movements to Redstone and the new buildings that have been built, we want to highlight not only what's happening on the Arsenal for Marshall and NASA but also for the Army and all of Team Redstone," Flachbart said.

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center tour bus, which is white with red lettering, and features logos from the center, NASA and the Smithsonian, is operated by a tour guide and bus driver who has received security clearances and escort training through Marshall. The Garrison's Directorate of Emergency Services provided training guidance.

Tourists begin their windshield tour of the Arsenal as they travel through Gate 9

See Tours on page 14

Scenes from bus tour of Redstone Arsenal



Tourists unload the bus for the first of two stops at the NASA International Space Station Payload Operations Center.

Photos by Ellen Hudson

A full tour bus left July 25 at 11 a.m. from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center to tour Marshall Space Flight Center and Redstone Arsenal. Passengers in-

cluded individuals, families and a group of youngsters from the Stillman College Youth Summer Camp.



Tourists climb the stairs to the Payload Operations Integration Center.



Inside the Space Station Operations Center, STS mission patches are viewed by 9-year-old Meadow Higgins and her grandmother Barbara Goodrich.



The second stop is the MSFC test area, and tourists are viewing the historic Redstone Rocket on the Dynamic test stand. They also get to see launch pads for the Saturn program and the Shuttle program from inside the bus.



Behind the glass is the Payload Operations Integration Center; and reflected in the glass are tourists from the bus.

Tours

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on Rideout Road, with the tour route concentrated in the Rideout Road and Martin Road corridors.

There are two stops on the tour – one at the historic Redstone test stand where engineers tested the Redstone Rocket that launched Alan Shepard, the first American into space, and today is registered as a National Historic Landmark; and the other at the Payload Operations and Integration Center, where Marshall employees coordinate all scientific experiments on the International Space Station as well as communications between researchers around the world and their experiments on-station.

“On the first floor of the POIC, they will see shuttle artifacts and will visit a viewing room where they will see the lab where scientists try to reproduce anomalies in experiments,” Dumoulin said. “Then they will visit another viewing room where they will actually see the control room for payload operations on the space station.”

From the windshield, tourists will see the Dynamic Test Stand used in testing the Saturn V rocket, Marshall’s own

rocket park, the Propulsion Research Lab and various military points of interest.

“The Army side has provided talking points for our guide,” Flachbart said. “As things change and messages change for NASA/Marshall and the Army, they are sure to let us know so we have up-to-date information. We really want to tell the story that NASA and the Army want us to tell.”

Organizers will solicit feedback from tourists on the bus tour, Dumoulin said, using that information to make changes that ensure the tour’s relevancy and importance.

Resuming tours of Redstone Arsenal is important to the future of Arsenal programs because they show taxpayers where federal funding is being spent and offer a more complete telling of the Arsenal’s story.

“The tours allow the public to see the work that is going on here,” Flachbart said. “When people visit the Space & Rocket Center they see a lot of historical projects and vehicles. But we don’t have a lot of current projects because there are not a lot of artifacts or hardware to display. The tour helps the public better understand the current work going on at Redstone Arsenal.

“A lot of people have no idea of the amount of work going on, and the impact

Redstone Arsenal has on Soldiers around the world and its connection to Huntsville. We want to increase the awareness of Marshall and Redstone to visitors from all over the U.S. and the world.”

The bus tours will be offered twice a day at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Friday and

Saturday, and once a day – at either 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. – Sunday through Thursday depending on the demand. Each tour can accommodate up to 45 tourists. Tickets cost \$12 each and are free for children under 5. The tour lasts about an hour and 15 minutes.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Movie night

Moviegoers check out the refreshments at Heiser Hall before watching “The Hunger Games” at FMWR’s Free Movie Friday. Each Friday a recent release comes to Heiser Hall, building 3712, on Patton and Aerobee roads, for families to enjoy for free. Show starts at 5:30 p.m. Refreshments are also available for a nominal charge. Movies for the coming weekend will be listed in the Redstone Rocket or at www.redstonemwr.com by the Wednesday prior to the movie.

Victim recalls mass shooting

World has changed in 46 years but people remain the same

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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At 11:30 a.m. Aleck Hernandez will pause and remember.

Forty-six years ago today the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center branch chief was just a 17-year-old newspaper boy, going about his summer route at the University of Texas, when a mysterious popping noise, like fireworks, erupted, just before noon, from the observation deck of the university's 307-foot-tall tower.

Surrounded by some 150 confused people on the west side of the Austin landmark, Hernandez joined them in raising their eyes to the tower for answers to what was happening.

"Instantly, I fell down, and I realized, I'd been shot," Hernandez said.

Charles Whitman, the gunman and student at the university, took not one but two shots at Hernandez, the first ricocheting, the second striking him in the hip, making Hernandez the first victim to be shot on the west side of the tower. Lying still in range of the gunman's scope, Hernandez passed out, as a stranger dragged his body to safety, away from the shooting spree that would last for more than 90 minutes, as Whitman fired at those to the north, south, east and west of the tower.

"You've got to think about it, this was 1966, people didn't know what it was," Hernandez said.

As Hernandez was taken by ambulance to the hospital, police arrived at the

See Shooting on page 16

Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

CPAC branch chief Aleck Hernandez shows old newspaper clippings on the University of Texas shooting Aug. 1, 1966, 46 years ago today. Hernandez, then a 17-year-old delivering papers on campus, was shot in the hip.



Know what to do when the unthinkable happens

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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If an active shooter were to open fire where you are right now, what would you do? Where would you go? Would you be able to protect your own life?

In the wake of the Aurora, Colo., shootings July 20, countless people across the country are asking themselves those very questions, questions that Redstone Arsenal's Installation Emergency Operations Center wants you to have the answers to.

"It's better to prepare yourself mentally than something happen and you never thought it through," Dan Huber, antiterrorism program manager for the Garrison, said. "We can't stop an active shooter incident from happening, but we can alleviate some of the chaos and catastrophe."

It all starts with awareness. Whether you're at the mall, church, a concert, sporting event or even at work, know your surroundings, Huber said. Keep in mind an escape route at all times and know where the exits are, so that in the event of an emergency, whether it be fire, bomb threat or an active shooter, you can evacuate, the first step you can take in protecting your life.

If an active shooter is in your vicinity, the IEOC recommends that you:

- **Evacuate.** If you hear gunfire, do not run toward the noise to see what all the commotion is. "We don't want people

to go out there and investigate and become a casualty," Huber said. Escape in a direction away from the shooter if at all possible. Leave all your belongings, including purses and bags, so that law enforcement don't mistake you for a suspect trying to conceal something.

- **Hide.** Find refuge in a location out of the shooter's view and lock all doors, barricading entryways with furniture or other heavy objects if at all possible. Stay low to the ground.

- **Call 911** when it is safe to do so. Identify the location and number of shooters, and provide a physical description, as well as the number and type of weapons being used.

- **Take action.** If your life is in imminent danger and evacuating or hiding is not possible, attempt to incapacitate the shooter by acting with physical aggression and throwing objects at them.

"The last resort may be the only resort that you have," Capt. Jack Rush, supervisory police officer for the Directorate of Emergency Services, said. "Always fight for your life. It may be to escape, it may be to shelter, it may be to fight back with whatever you have available."

If you are in a secure location with



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Capt. Jack Rush and Dan Huber, antiterrorism program manager for the Garrison, discuss what to do if an active shooter is in your vicinity.

those that are injured and the shooting is still taking place, provide medical assistance if at all possible. First responders will work to incapacitate the shooter prior to responding to those that are wounded, and putting pressure on a gunshot wound until they are able to help them may mean the difference between life and death.

"Our goal is to neutralize the suspect and prevent the further loss of life as quickly as possible," Rush said.

Once police have arrived on the scene, immediately raise your hands above your head and spread your fingers to indicate you are not a threat.

Follow all instructions you are given. As difficult as it may be, attempt to remain calm throughout the entire incident.

"Try not to panic," Huber said. "Panic will cause more chaos."

All law enforcement on the Arsenal, including police officers, gate guards and the Special Reaction Team, are trained to respond to an active shooter incident, if one were to occur on the Arsenal. Having just completed a training exercise in May at the Sparkman Center, personnel are constantly training themselves to best protect the Arsenal. But that training isn't just for those that wear the uniform – everyone can take a proactive stance in their safety. Know the emergency action plan for your

facility, where to evacuate in case of an emergency. Be vigilant – if you see something suspicious, say something. Always know where the exits are. Further information about iWATCH Army, the Army's version of the neighborhood watch and the Anti-Terrorism Program, including the Army Active Shooter Pocket Guide, is available through AKO. August is the Army's Antiterrorism Awareness Month.

"We don't want people to live in fear," Rush said. "The Active Shooter Awareness program is just that, awareness. Be aware of your surroundings."

Everyone encouraged to watch for terrorism

iWATCH is a nationwide modern version of Neighborhood Watch developed by the Los Angeles Police Department to encourage and enable members of the community in identifying and reporting suspicious behavior that may be associated with terrorist activities.

The purpose of iWATCH is to promote antiterrorism awareness and leverage every member of the Army community to act as a sensor to help identify and prevent potential terrorist acts. There are two elements to the initiative: Passive and Active.

The passive element of iWATCH is individual situational awareness of your surroundings. The active element requires individuals to take action and report suspicious behavior or activities to law enforcement for further investigation.

An essential component of iWATCH is reporting suspicious activity. iWATCH aspires to ensure everyone knows how to report suspicious activity. If you see something, say something; report suspicious activity to the Redstone Police at 876-2222, or in an emergency call 911.

Examples of suspicious activity include:

- People drawing or measuring impor-



tant buildings (religious, government, etc.).

- Strangers asking questions about security procedures.

- Briefcase, suitcase, backpack or package left unattended.

- Vehicles left in no parking zones in front of important buildings.

- Unfamiliar people in secure areas.

- Persons wearing clothes that are noticeably too big or too hot for the weather (coats or jackets in summertime).

- Chemical smells or fumes that seem out of the ordinary for the specific location.

- People asking questions about sensitive information such as building blueprints, security plans or VIP travel sched-

ules who do not have a need to know.

- People purchasing supplies or equipment that can be used to make bombs or weapons, or purchasing uniforms without having the proper credentials.

Be alert at all times for suspicious activity. Maintain individual situational awareness of your surroundings. Everyone can all make a difference by recognizing what to report and reporting it to security forces or law enforcement. Law enforcement officials cannot be everywhere and they need the eyes and ears of the entire installation community to assist in quelling terrorism.

Familiarize yourself with the iWATCH awareness tools. Take a minute to review the iWATCH Army posters on bulletin boards, banners and iWATCH Army public service announcements aired on Channel 42. Additionally, disseminate and promote iWATCH Army awareness products throughout the community. Antiterrorism iWATCH products are available through the OPMG-Army ATEP on AKO Page www.army.mil/suite/page/605757.

Remember: If you see something, say something. Report suspicious activity to the Redstone Police at 876-2222 or call 911. Once you have made the call, inform your supervisor or organizational anti-terrorism officer.

The organizational antiterrorism officers, and their phone numbers, include:

Garrison: Daniel Huber 842-2182 or Mark Olson 842-2186

LOGSA: Vickie Cooper 313-6701

ACC: Bill Cooper 955-8203

AMC: John "Woody" Olin 450-6905

AMCOM: Josette Paschal 876-2909

ECC: Ken Purdin 955-8221

PEO Missiles and Space: Robert Turay 876-9879

PEO Aviation: Michael Lombardo 955-7441

AMRDEC: Debbie Tipton 313-5244

MSIC: Russell Akins 313-7679

TSMO: Cindy Wilson 876-8602

2nd Recruiting Brigade: Ron Harper 450-9542

RTC: Joe Nugent 313-4147

SMDC: Michael Mitchell 955-2141

MDA: Maurice Elliard 450-3205

USASAC: Travis Otis 450-5812

NEC-R: Michael Horry 876-1810

NASA (MSFC): Jeffrey Branting 544-6170

Shooting

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scene, not sure what exactly was going on or how to stop it, as local hunters offered them the use of their rifles. Two officers and a civilian were eventually able to make their way to the top of their tower, met by Whitman and his arsenal of weapons and ammunition. After killing 16 people, including his wife and mother whom he murdered the evening before, and injuring 31, Whitman was shot and killed by officers, putting an end to the 96 minutes of terror.

At the hospital, Hernandez was taken to surgery, where a 9-inch plate and screws were put into his leg, which doctors came close to amputating after infection threatened to overcome it. From his fourth floor hospital room, Hernandez had a view of the tower that changed his life, his roommate having witnessed the whole thing.

"You never know about life," Hernandez said. "Had it not happened, I don't know what would've happened to me. I don't see it as anything negative today. I like to think that this happened, and because this happened, this happened and this happened and this happened. I look at it all as good."

After seven months on crutches, Her-



Photo by Larry D. Moore (1980)

This is the main building of the University of Texas at Austin from where Whitman fired upon those below from the observation deck.

nandez regained the ability to walk on his own again, graduated from high school and went to college at the encouragement of an IRS employee who took him under his wing. More than four decades after his injury, the weath-



Wikimedia Commons file photo

Here are the rifles and sawed-off shotgun used in the massacre.

er still affects his leg, causing the occasional limp or ache and pain, but hasn't held him back from completing 25 marathons over the years, before a bout with cancer sidelined him. Hernandez is not ashamed to admit he's afraid of the dark and when traveling in a car will oftentimes prop his elbows around his head protectively, the very part of the body Whitman targeted in all of his victims. But Aug. 1, 1966 didn't just change Hernandez physically, it changed his whole outlook on life.

"It happened," said Hernandez, who wasn't supposed to ride that route 46 years ago today, but filled in when the usual carrier didn't show up for work.

"Was it meant to be? I don't know. I just know because it happened, it made a world of difference in who I am today."

Who he is today is a man that goes out of his way to help people in need, such as a woman stranded on the side of the road with a flat tire. When asked why, the answer is simple.

"I don't know if she has a friend or relative who's the one who tried to save me. I don't know who it is," Hernandez said. "That might be the person or their relative that helped me. I kept that in the back of my mind. Because I don't know."

The University of Texas shooting was one of the first and worst shootings the U.S. has seen, caused by what officials said in 1966 was a small tumor in the back of Whitman's head, who was an ex-Marine and sharpshooter. As news broke on the Aurora, Colo., shooting July 20, Hernandez reflected on his own story of survival and the latest story of senseless violence.

"I imagine somewhere on the news today they'll go back, and say the first mass shooting was Charles Whitman. I think his name will continue to pop up," Hernandez said the morning of the Colorado shooting. "I kind of think that there are crazy people out there that think, 'I can beat that.' Who knows. Will there be more? Yes. When? Where? I don't know. The world has changed."

Aspiring to share her love of education

Military spouse turns class work into career with education center

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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No matter where the Army has taken her, Misty Calhoun has found educational opportunities.

First as a Soldier, now as an Army wife and mom, the one constant in Calhoun's life has been her commitment to higher education.

These days, with a bachelor's degree in hand and a master's within reach, Calhoun has settled down into a career path with the Education Center that allows her to help Soldiers, civilians and their family members achieve their educational aspirations. It is the first full-time job she has held since her youngest child, 4-year-old Sophia, was born.

Military Spouses at Work Part 4 in a series

"I didn't want to be out of the work force too long because I felt I could be at a disadvantage," Calhoun said. "And I really wanted a government job so that I could use my military time toward retirement.

"My husband's job gives us stability. But I had a desire to go back to work for my own independence, for something that is mine. It has taken some adjusting. But if it's something you're interested in and committed to, then it's worth it. For me, my family will always come first. Having my support system in place makes it possible to also have a career. My husband and I are a really great team."

Calhoun is the wife of Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Calhoun, who will be promoted today to master sergeant. He is the brigade senior career counselor for the 2nd Recruiting Brigade.

The couple met at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., while Calhoun was still an active duty Soldier working in the military intelligence field. With their marriage in January 2006, they created a blended family that today includes four children – Sophia, 11-year-old Isaiah, 13-year-old Savannah and 14-year-old Allison. A couple months after their marriage, Calhoun, then a staff

sergeant, left the Army.

Besides taking on the responsibility of supporting a full household, Calhoun's husband also knew he would be sharing his wife with the classroom. Except for a semester off here or there to take care of family, Calhoun has been going to college part-time since soon after joining the Army in 1996.

"I joined straight out of high school," she said. "I'm from Clay County, Ala., and I wanted to join the Army to travel and to be able to go to college. For me, it was all about the college benefit the Army could provide. I liked the idea of being able to go to college without having any student loans or debt."

Her military intelligence occupational specialty came with a \$30,000 educational stipend from the Army College Fund and the educational guarantees of the G.I. Bill. Throughout a nearly 10-year military career that took her to Camp Darby, Italy; Fort Meade, Md.; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and Fort Huachuca, Calhoun managed to take online college courses. Even through her first marriage and the births of two children, and then as a single mom, Calhoun was able to continue her education while serving her country.

"Looking back, I wish I had gotten in more college hours as a Soldier," she said. "I was two classes short of my associate's degree when I got out."

A few months after leaving the Army, Calhoun had that associate's degree, and three years later, as a military wife, mom of four, and school and veterans affairs volunteer, she completed her bachelor's in management, despite having to support her family through a deployment.

"We married in 2006, and in 2007 my husband was assigned to the 101st at Fort Campbell, Ky., where he would have to deploy immediately to join his unit in Iraq," Calhoun said.

"We had just had our last child and we didn't know anyone at Fort Campbell. I didn't want to go to a new duty station with our children – including a 2-month-old – and not have the support system I needed. So, instead of moving there, the children and I moved back to Alabama to be close to my family. I had to move our family, buy a house and take care of a lot while my husband was gone."

When her husband returned in late 2008, the family did move to Fort Campbell. But, soon, in May 2010, he deployed to Afghanistan for a year. Upon his return, they moved to Redstone Arsenal.

Despite the moves, the deployments and family obligations, Calhoun was able to



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Misty Calhoun's love for education has turned into a career with the Education Center. She is a test examiner, but hopes to obtain her master's and become an educational counselor.

continue her educational pursuits. She has now completed 24 semester hours toward a master's in adult, occupational and continuing education through the online curriculum offered by Kansas State University.

"When I was working toward my associate's degree, I thought I would go on to get my bachelor's degree in elementary education," she said. "But taking online courses in elementary education was difficult with frequent moves and a deployment, and not being in one place long enough to do my student teaching and observation. So, I switched to a management degree."

Yet, her work as an instructor at Fort Huachuca had convinced Calhoun that her professional fit was a career in the education field. But, instead of elementary education, the adult education field provided Calhoun with better options. Her job with Garrison's Education Center has confirmed that for Calhoun.

"I feel this is the right fit for me," she said. "I love my work and working with Soldiers. They motivate me. We are providing a really good service for Soldiers and families and DA civilians who need counseling on education benefits. We are open to anyone who works on post or their family members."

The Education Center serves the milita-

ry and DA civilians in northern Alabama, southern Tennessee, parts of western Georgia and all of Mississippi. Since October 2011, Calhoun has served as a test examiner at the center.

"My job is to provide Army Personnel Testing to active duty, reservists and National Guard Soldiers," Calhoun said. "I also conduct Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support examinations, and Air Force testing and certification exams. I do a lot of language testing for Soldiers and DA civilians who want to maintain their language proficiency. Also, I give many Armed Forces Classification Tests for Soldiers who want to improve their GT (general technical) score to reclass to another job in the military or to go to warrant or officer training school."

She also provides proctor testing for the SAT and ACT college entrance exams, CLEP (College Level Examination Program) tests and for any college exam that requires a proctor.

"The majority of our customers are Soldiers. But about 40 percent of our customers are family members, DA civilians and even retirees. So, we have a good mix here," Calhoun said.

Through the years, Calhoun's commitment to her education has set an example for her children, the oldest who are getting close to those years when high school graduation and decisions about their future loom large.

"I use what I've gone through as an example to show them if you want something you need to go for it," she said. "Having children, trying to balance work and school and your family, it's all important. If you're determined and you want to achieve something, just keep doing it. Perseverance is the key. My parents told me that and now I'm showing that to my children. And I wouldn't have been able to do all I've done without the support of my husband."

She is also grateful to her co-workers, who are supportive of her aspirations.

"We're all veterans here. We've all served. So we all have a really good perspective of what it takes to go to school while

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Leadership participants have uplifting time at school

By JOHN PEARSON

For the Rocket

Something that was supposed to be simply a part of a leadership program turned into a passion for 24 members of Team Redstone.

The Upward Leader Investment for Tomorrow program is designed to develop skills in employees. Part of it is a Selfless Service Day where the participants select a group or organization that can use some help and then spend a day providing it.

The selection of the Southwest Boys and Girls Club, which is housed at McDonnell Elementary in Huntsville, was a perfect fit.

"I believe it is very important because it allows you to connect with your community and make it a better place," logistics management specialist Danielle Pollard said. "If you're not in tune with the problems your community is facing or just being supportive of your community you will never know what it takes to make it better. You can strengthen yourself by strengthening your community and bring a lot of fun and fulfillment to your life knowing you are helping others."

The UPLIFT participants did everything from pulling weeds on the playground at the school to helping students with math exercises in the computer lab. They even helped call Bingo. Club director Ruben Flores said he hopes this is the beginning of a regular partnership with the AMCOM Army Education Outreach Program.

"We enjoyed that opportunity to speak about Boys & Girls Clubs to Redstone Arsenal employees and educate them that we are actively engaged in youth development, with an expectation to prepare our youth for the future because 'Great Futures Start Here' at their Boys & Girls Club," Flores said. "It was also noted by RSA members that one of their own was a member of BGCA.

"He inspired our youth to continue with their education. I enjoyed the looks of RSA members when they observed the quality of youth at our club, their character, manners and honesty."



Photo by John Pearson

UPLIFT participant Anna Beach helps youngsters in the computer lab.

Jamie Candelaria, of AMCOM G-1, said showing the kids that someone cares is a step in helping them head in the right direction. She also sees a group that would be a great fit at Redstone Arsenal some day.

"It is extremely important for the Arsenal to be involved with the surrounding community," Candelaria said. "These kids are the future of the Arsenal. They are extremely bright and enthusiastic youth that, when given an opportunity, will become valued members of society who will want to work for and/or support the Arsenal."

While UPLIFT is designed to bring out the best in the employees, Candelaria saw something else simply by looking at the kids. "I enjoyed seeing the promising potential of all the youth when given an opportunity to succeed. Mr. Flores is phenomenal with the students. I definitely think this could lead to regular visits to the Boys and Girls Club," she said.

Pollard said this involvement has already begun. "Absolutely, I have already taken the steps to continue my participation with the children of the Boys & Girls Club. I actually went back the following day and provided some students with school supplies and a Scrabble game. I also plan to spend some time during my lunch to help students with their reading during the school year," Pollard said.

Space Soldier helps guide Army to high ground

By **JASON CUTSHAW**
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

One of the Army's leaders is helping defend the high ground at the Army's highest command.

Lt. Col. Edward Anderson, Department of the Army Military Operations-SSS, Space Branch chief, whose office is located in Crystal City, Va., not far from the Pentagon, interacts with the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command on a daily basis to ensure the command and the Army are working together to defend the nation.

"As members of the Army staff, we are in a position to influence senior leaders on space-related issues," Anderson said. "When space-related issues come to the Army staff, chief of staff of the Army, or secretary of the Army for decisions, we are usually involved in the preparation of these senior leaders."

Anderson was commissioned as a field artilleryman in 1994. His first space operations assignment was in 2001 with the Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center as a Missile Warning Center deputy crew commander and later as a Missile Defense Integration staff officer and missile defense officer. He was assigned to the 1st Space Brigade as a space control planner in 2005; and in 2007, he took over as the Functional Area-40 assignment officer.

He began his current assignment as Space Branch chief in 2011 and expects to stay in this position till summer 2014.

Anderson discussed what the DAMO-SSS is and how he is involved.

"DAMO-SSS is the Space Division in HQDA G-3/5 Strategy, Plans and Policy directorate," Anderson said. "Our mission in DAMO-SSS is to develop, articulate and advance strategic plans, concepts and policy to ensure that Army forces have assured access to resilient and relevant space-enabled capabilities. We support the deputy chief of staff G-3/5/7 in his roles as: the principal military adviser to the chief of staff of the Army for space related policy, plans and strategies; and as the Army staff focal point for space.

"As the focal point, we serve as the executive secretariat for the Army Space Council and ARSTAFF lead for coordination with the Defense Space Council," he added. "We also represent Army space equities in DoD, joint staff and service forums."

Anderson explained what the Army Space Work Group is and how he is involved. He said the ASWG is the action officer level of the Army Space Council.

He said that as the Space Branch chief, he serves as the chairman for the ASWG.

The ASWG is responsible for identifying, recommending, preparing, coordinating and presenting issues for the ASC. The ASWG meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Principal membership includes: assistant secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology); chief information officer (CIO/G-6); deputy chiefs of staff G-1; DCS G-2; DCS G-3/5/7; DCS G-4; DCS G-8; Training and Doctrine Command, Army Capabilities Integration Center; SMDC; Army engineers; Army Reserve; and Army National Guard. The Space Council of colonels and one- and two-star ASC meet three to four times a year and

the Senior Army Space council meets twice a year.

He also explained what the Defense Space Council does for the Army and how it affects SMDC.

"The Defense Space Council serves as the principal advisory forum to inform, coordinate and resolve all DoD space issues," Anderson said. "As Department of Defense's largest user of space capabilities, it is important for the Army to remain actively involved in DoD space issues. The DSC gives the Army a venue to influence decisions that will impact the Army.

"The majority of our time is spent working space-related issues for the Army staff," he added. "We represent the Army in the (office of the secretary of defense), joint staff and other forums. We are also coordinating the implementation of the 2011 Army Space Strategy. This strategy envisions assured access to resilient and relevant space-enabled capabilities to ensure Army operational and generating forces can conduct a variety of operations around the world. We also represent the Army in a variety of DoD space-related work groups and studies."

Anderson talked about the space mission and what the Army is doing on behalf of space issues.

"There is a small cadre of Army space professionals strategically positioned on the Army staff and in the Pentagon," he said. "We have the ability to influence space issues, but we're only as good as the information we have available. I would encourage anyone working a space issue headed for the Army staff or Pentagon to start a dialog with us as early as possible. We can advise on coordination and begin shaping the issue for senior leaders.

"Additionally, understand that the building moves at its own pace," he added. "This is especially true on the Army staff since Army space is managed in an enterprise construct with many space stakeholders."



Lt. Col. Edward Anderson

Retired officer lands job by learning market value

By **TERRI MOON CRONK**
American Forces Press Service

FORT MEADE, Md. – Retired Air Force Lt. Col. David Jensen knew what he had to do to get a job after 28 years in the military, and it landed him the job he wanted at Oshkosh Defense as the manager of the company's global purchasing and supply chain.

But Jensen's successful job search didn't come easily, he recalled. It was the result, he said, of a good deal of searching, rewriting resumes and making a lot of repeat phone calls to keep his name fresh in the minds of potential employers.

Jensen was a NATO staff officer in the Netherlands when he retired in July 2011. He knew his chances of getting a job there were limited, so he examined where he wanted to live and what type of position he thought would best suit him and a potential employer. He and his family decided on Wisconsin as the place to live. "I could have gone anywhere," he said.

Before his retirement, Jensen, like other servicemembers, took the Transition Assistance Program class. But he took it three times.

"Each time, different things were reinforced," Jensen said. He also saved up his leave to use for interviews as they arose.

Jensen sought help from the Department of Workforce development in Wisconsin, where he worked with a Veterans Affairs case worker. That's where he learned his market value so he could look for the right job fit, Jensen said, adding that he also wanted to do something he enjoyed and be fairly compensated for his work. He found that a person's market value can vary, from region to region and state to state.

"It is a daunting task," Jensen said of finding work in the private sector that was a good fit for him. In particular, he said, job hunting was complicated by learning to translate military lexicon into civilian-world terms.



Photo courtesy of Oshkosh Defense

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. David Jensen explains how hard work and persistence led him to find suitable post-military employment.

"Everything changed," when he got out of the military, Jensen said, adding that the military has its own subculture, and he had to learn the civilian ways of

employment.

After he decided on Wisconsin as his home, and what he wanted to do with his life, he said, he worked to find a job that matched. "I didn't want to work for a company where it wasn't a good fit for me and I wasn't a good fit for the company," he explained.

Getting his job at Oshkosh, he said, was "one of those good-news stories where you say, 'Wow, it works.'"

Jensen acknowledged that he became a little disheartened when job hunting took more time than he had planned. It took six months to become employed after he put in his first application with Oshkosh. But now, he added, he's a natural fit in his job and with the company, a Defense Department contractor with which he already was familiar.

"There really is hope for anybody out there," Jensen said of his job search as a veteran. "You just have to be patient, and you have to be persistent."

Chief, vice chief of National Guard Bureau confirmed

By Sgt. 1st Class JIM GREENHILL
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Senate confirmed Lt. Gen. Frank Grass to be the next chief of the National Guard Bureau and Air Force Maj. Gen. Joseph Lengyel to be vice chief July 26.

Grass, who also will be a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be promoted to four-star general and Lengyel will add his third star with his promotion to lieutenant general.

The Senate action followed Grass' July 19 hearing in front of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Grass told that committee the National Guard is an operational force at a historic peak of readiness, its ranks filled with seasoned citizen-Soldiers and -airmen, and a critical partner to the Army and Air Force at home and abroad.

"Your National Guard," Grass – deputy commander, U.S. Northern Command, and vice commander, U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Command – told senators, "is more ready, more capable and rapidly deployable than ever before in our nation's history and also ready to respond to disasters in our states, territories and the District of Columbia.

"The past decade," he said, "has also demonstrated that the National Guard is an operational force and a critical partner with the Army and the Air Force in

all missions, all contingencies and on the North American continent."

He attributed the transformation of the National Guard to previous chiefs of the National Guard Bureau, directors of the Army and Air National Guard, adjutants general, senior enlisted and, he said, "Most importantly, the sacrifice and commitment of the citizen-Soldiers, airmen and their families."

As chief, National Guard Bureau, Grass told senators, "I will work to ensure the capabilities gained since 9/11 are not lost and the investment not squandered."

As the channel of communications to the adjutants general of the 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia, Grass will also partner with Congress, the Army and the Air Force to ensure the Guard's readiness and availability, he said.

"To the men and women and families of the Army and the Air National Guard you can know that I will be your strongest advocate," Grass said.

Asked about the chief's role on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Grass said, "As a member of the Joint Chiefs, I (will) definitely have to bring forward the adjutants generals' and governors' thoughts, concerns, on the homeland mission. I also need to be able to balance that with the federal mission and deployable forces and be able to give my best military advice to the secretary of defense as well as



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Jim Greenhill

Lt. Gen. Frank Grass testifies before the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services at a confirmation hearing for his appointment to the grade of general and to be chief, National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C., July 19.

the chairman of the Joint Chiefs."

Grass told senators he is an advocate of the National Guard's 20-year-old, 64-nation State Partnership Program, which he was heavily exposed to during his tenure as director, mobilization and Reserve component affairs, at U.S. European Command and at other points in his career.

"For a very small amount of money, it's been a tremendous program around the map," Grass said, noting deployments by SPP partner countries and the enduring nature of both the partnerships themselves and individual, career-long relationships between Guard members and their partner country counterparts. "(I) saw the value every day, saw the relationships that were built over the last 20 years, especially in what used to be Eastern Europe during the Cold War."

Grass' biography tells a quintessential National Guard story – a quintessential American story:

In 1969, he enlisted in the Missouri Army National Guard. He served as a traditional citizen-Soldier, juggling a civilian career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and family life with monthly drills at a National Guard armory. He was promoted to staff sergeant, and his awards include the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development ribbon. Twelve years after enlistment, in 1981, he was commissioned.

July 19 – almost 43 years after his initial enlistment and after a career that has seen full and part-time service in his lo-

cal community, for his state and at the federal level; enlisted and commissioned; domestic and overseas – Grass found himself testifying to the committee, nominated to be a four-star general, to be the 27th chief of the National Guard Bureau and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His wife, Patricia, sat among the spectators. The couple have five children and seven grandchildren.

"My service in the National Guard would not have been possible without her tremendous family support," Grass told the committee.

Grass will succeed Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, the first four-star general and first to be appointed to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the National Guard's more than 375-year history.

Lengyel, the senior U.S. defense official in Egypt, will be the first three-star vice chief of the National Guard Bureau. The position of vice chief was re-established and elevated to the three-star level by the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act.

Lengyel is a command pilot with more than 3,000 flying hours, mostly in the F-16 Fighting Falcon. His 30-year career has included extensive service with the Texas Air National Guard and key assignments as commander, 455th Expeditionary Operations Group, Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan; commander of the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Joint Base Andrews, Md.; and vice commander, First Air Force, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla.

Tortora reflects on his time commanding Huntsville Center

By WILLIAM S. FARROW

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Col. Nello Tortora relinquished command Thursday of the Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville to Col. Robert Ruch.

Tortora had assumed command July 28, 2009. During his tenure, he identified three challenges he faced as commander and how he faced those challenges.

“The first challenge was just the tremendous workload the center was experiencing,” Tortora said. “When I arrived in 2009, defense budgets were surging as a result of the convergence of many significant events: two overseas contingency operations; significantly increased military construction and operations and maintenance budgets, and stimulus-funded projects from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This convergence resulted in the perfect storm for all of USACE and placed some incredible demands on Huntsville Center.

“We faced these challenges by doing a number of smart things,” Tortora said. “First, it is all about people. Making sure our team was resourced and ready to accomplish the mission. Making sure the troop-to-task ratio was right. We grew the center by 160 people and focused on hiring people with the right skills to get the job done. Second, we focused on delivery of the project, product or service on time. This was extremely difficult given the demanding timelines we were up against. We were successful by listening to our customers, ensuring that processes and systems were in place and adjusted as needed, defined expectations, tracked schedule, cost and quality metrics and focused all effort on delivery to meet our customer requirements. Easier said than done, but our people got it done. Third, we had to organize for combat. We had to adjust our organization to support the Army. A great example was having the vision to realize the significant need of our



Col. Nello Tortora

ordnance and explosive expertise in overseas contingency operations. We decided to stand up and resource an International Operations Division leveraging our program and project management, technical and acquisition expertise and projecting it into Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world. This is a huge success for the center and makes a significant contribution to saving Soldiers’

lives in OCO.”

Strategic planning

Tortora said the second challenge was developing a strategic plan for the future – looking to 2020.

“What became clear is that after the surge in budgets there would be a downturn in defense spending, and we would need to adapt our organization to best serve the needs of the Army and the Defense Department,” Tortora said. “We set out to do this in early 2010 by first assessing what we were doing and whether or not it would lead us to where we want to be as an organization. Then asking, are these missions we should continue to put our effort into? And are there missions we should further develop or are there new missions we should develop?”

“We leveraged some of the best and brightest teams in the center to analyze our 40 programs and assess what we were doing and whether or not we needed to change anything,” he said. “The key is we wanted to determine where we add the most value to the USACE enterprise and our customers and then as a follow-on, in our Implementation Plan, what would be our focus on enhancing our value.”

The teams asked basic questions: Which of our programs are most aligned with our charter? Which are we most passionate about? What drives our economic engine; and what do we want to be best in the world at?

“We found that our highest ranked

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Commander

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programs were those that had strong proponents here, in headquarters and within our customer organization,” Tortora said. “They are programs that have their foundation in one of our Centers of Expertise. They provide a significant amount of in-house work; are stable programs in terms of funding; our contribution adds great value for our customer; they are directly linked to our charter; they have a manageable level of risk; and they employ the resources of all our functional areas within the center.”

The analysis helped the team develop a set of lines of effort for the future, develop a strategic plan and form the annual IPlan that details specific actions to achieve the outcome specified in the center’s lines of effort and the USACE campaign plan.

“I am very proud that our team has published the center’s first strategic plan based on our lines of effort that will continue to form the actions we need to take to achieve strategic outcomes,” Tortora said.

Energy goals

The third challenge was to adapt to the Army’s significant challenge and new emphasis on meeting mandated energy reduction goals, he said.

“This required us to quickly stand up a

new Energy Division to help the Army meet its energy goals,” Tortora said. “It was also a great opportunity for Huntsville Center to showcase its expertise and ability to develop and execute innovative programs and acquisitions. The best example of this is the new Federal Renewable and Alternative Energy Power Purchase Agreement ID/IQ. This large and complex acquisition will contribute immensely to meeting the Army’s goal of leveraging \$7 billion in private sector finance for renewable energy projects. Bold in its conception, it is a perfect example of the center’s culture of innovation and being first with the most to support the Army. Our new Energy Division has stepped up to the demand and is delivering on programs and projects that are helping achieve energy security.”

Tortora said the most exciting aspect of his job at the Huntsville Center is the people.

“I have never been someplace where there is more passion about what we do,” he said. “Likewise, the technical expertise is the foundation of what we do, and our technical experts are a humble group who are making an incredibly positive impact. Being on this team has been an extremely humbling experience. It is a team that demonstrates Army values in all they do, is extremely proud and passionate about their work; understands that we must deliver for service members and their families; and has fun doing it. Their dedication to USACE, the Army, and the nation is what excites me.”

Evolving mission

“I am not convinced that everyone always understands the importance of adaptability, innovation and that we must lead in this regard,” Tortora said. “The old adage that the only thing constant in the Army is change holds as true today as ever. We must always understand our customer’s mission and requirements and as there are changes adapt and innovate to add value to their mission. The medical program is always a great example. We started out just procuring MRIs and doing minor renovations to install the new equipment. Looking to add value, our Medical Support Team developed a Medical Repair and Renewal, Medical Furniture and Maintenance programs that just this year executed \$500 million in work.”

Tortora said he sees the future of Huntsville the same as the past. He said we must continue to leverage our foundation expertise to develop programs, acquisitions and projects that support the Army, DoD and the nation. To do this, we must continually assess the environment we are in and then adjust, adapt, innovate, implement and deliver.

Mission accomplished

Now that his 27-year Army career is coming to a close, Tortora recalls a few memories he has of his time wearing the Army uniform.

“There have been so many great memories it is unlikely that I can do justice to any

of them,” he said. “Most of the great memories are not about anything I did, but what we were able to accomplish as a team. The great memories are about the relationships ... personal and professional. I consider myself blessed to have met my wife, Karen, while we both served in Honduras. Twelve years later we were blessed when Nicholas was born. The fun and loving family memories while serving at some 20 different addresses will always be cherished.

“The memories from the great leaders I served under,” he continued. “I consider myself so incredibly fortunate to have served under the command of some of the most positive, genuine, caring leaders ever; selfless leaders who coached and mentored me throughout my career.

“Certainly, the memories of the officers, non-commissioned officers, Soldiers and civilians that I have had the privilege to serve will be unforgettable,” Tortora said. “Their list of accomplishments is too long to cite. They met every challenge, exceeded every expectation, and displayed initiative and courage in service to our nation in peace and war. They inspired me each and every day and serving with them is the highlight of my career.

“I am humbled and deeply honored to have served as commander of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center. This is the perfect way to end a 27-year career. Thanks to each of you that make our nation, Army and Corps of Engineers great.”

SMDC officer ready to come home to Redstone

By JASON CUTSHAW

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

One Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command leader keeps the lines of communication open between the command and U.S. Strategic Command as both organizations stay on alert for national defense.

Lt. Col. Victoria Miralda, SMDC/ARSTRAT Forward Detachment commander at STRATCOM in Omaha, Neb., was at Redstone Arsenal July 16-17 to talk with leaders within the command in regard to U.S. STRATCOM policies, as well as prepare to make her way home to SMDC headquarters in the next few months.

"I came down for a meeting with the commanding general and key staff that concerns some of the future decisions for our capabilities," Miralda said. "I also began tying into the Future Warfare Center. I will be moving down here soon to work as the director of combat developments under the Future Warfare Center.

"The FWC is responsible for documenting requirements and capabilities related to space and missile defense for the Army," she continued. "We basically build the future, or as the commanding general says, 'We build tomorrow's capabilities.' So being in the heart of that is going to be perfect for me. This will be my third location in the same organization (FWC) for this command so I think between that and having the operational background experience, I can offer a new perspective of why these capabilities are required for the future force.

"I know a lot of the current Functional Area-40 Soldiers who have recently completed or are out there doing the mission right

now and so I will be able to make sure we reach out to them," Miralda added.

She graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned as a signal officer in 1990. She later earned a master's in telecommunications from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2000. She first came to SMDC after being appointed as a FA-40 officer in 2003 where she was assigned to the Force Development Integration Center in Crystal City in Arlington, Va.

After working at FDIC, she was on an Office of the Secretary of Defense Joint Test and Evaluation Team for Joint Space Control Operations Negation and then reassigned to SMDC as the executive officer to Brig. Gen. Roger Matthews, deputy commander for operations. Miralda then became the 1st Space Brigade's S-3 where she deployed to U.S. Central Command as the deputy director for space from November 2008 to December 2009.

"I have enjoyed all of my jobs because there is always a way to make a difference and a positive impact, not only for the command and the Army, but for its people," Miralda said. "So every day as we do our job, to be able to link the folks we come into contact with and to gain momentum as a team, to me, is a great success.

"I think as a senior leader, I will be able to



Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Victoria Miralda, SMDC/ARSTRAT Forward Detachment commander at STRATCOM in Omaha, Neb., is shown in November 2009 as she prepared to deploy overseas.

see that opportunity and help bridge some of those gaps that we have and accomplish more as a team," she added.

Miralda discussed the importance of STRATCOM and SMDC's relationship and explained the purpose of her visit.

"Currently my job at STRATCOM entails representing the SMDC commanding general (Lt. Gen. Richard Formica) at the four-star headquarters to Gen. C. Robert Kehler, STRATCOM commanding general," Miralda said. "My job is to help keep Gen. Kehler and staff informed on all of our command issues, positions and priorities, how we integrate our capabilities and feed back to our command and its staff the STRATCOM objectives, priorities and requirements.

"That is what we do at the SMDC/ARSTRAT Forward Detachment; we basically ensure the lines of operation are open and healthy between our commands so there are no surprises and that our commander can then better support his boss," she continued. "We are physically present there building

personal relationships and making sure they know what our command has to offer, because not many arrive to USSTRATCOM knowing what a service, much less the Army service, component provides. We are the most robust service component to STRATCOM but it takes reinforcement to keep it that way in all aspects.

"It is important because providing capabilities is what we do," Miralda added. "It is our mission, and a lot of the capabilities that the regional combatant commanders need are provided through STRATCOM and our command providing those capabilities to STRATCOM in support of the regional combatant command plans. As we prepare to deploy and execute those missions, our readiness state, the availability of different types of systems and Soldiers all feed back up to STRATCOM."

Before heading back to STRATCOM headquarters, Miralda said she was excited about becoming a permanent resident of Redstone Arsenal.

"I am just excited about the new job. I just got to meet some of the team for the first time and some of them I have known professionally for a decade, so it is wonderful to work with people you know and share common history with," Miralda said. "It feels like family and it will be great to be working in Huntsville."

Technical writer transforms into futuristic novelist

By BETH SKARUPA

Staff writer

beth.skarupa@theredstonerocket.com

Living in the Rocket City just might have affected Joe East's imagination. If nothing else it was an appropriate place to begin writing his first novel – a story about space marines, mining operations, and sabotage on the moon.

"Base Camp Freedom" is set in a future where the United States, Canada and Mexico have merged to form one country called the United American Republic. Mega corporations have attained enormous economic, political and military power, forcing the UAR to form a special unit within its military called the Space Marines. This unit's sole mission is to protect the space station, transport and mining operations run by UAR contractors. The novel focuses on the adventures of the marines assigned to Base Camp Freedom.

"I hope it's widely read and enjoyed and I hope one day it's made into a movie. That's what I hope," East said laughing.

Although he admitted that he would love for Clint Eastwood to read the novel and make it into a movie, he said that he enjoyed writing it and is delighted that he can now share his idea of adventure with others.

When he was growing up in Mississip-

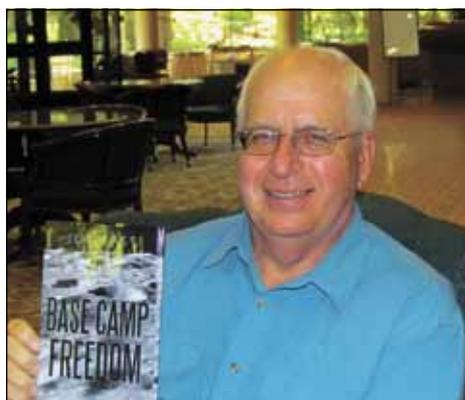


Photo by Beth Skarupa

Army civilian Joe East penned his first novel, "Base Camp Freedom," and has started his second.

pi, he enjoyed reading adventure stories but never imagined himself as a novelist. He served four years in the Air Force as a communications specialist and then spent more than 35 years as a civil servant writing technical publications and teaching courses to Soldiers serving in the Army.

East moved to Huntsville from Fort Lee, Va., 10 years ago, tasked by the Army to establish a satellite campus for the School of Systems and Acquisition Management. He retired as the school's department chairman two years ago, several months after the Army Acquisition

Center of Excellence was established at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

For the past two years he has been running an intern training program for Army civilian employees in contracting. The interns are trained here at UAH, or sometimes the classes are held at other sites such as Warren, Mich., Rock Island, Ill., or even Korea – wherever the Army Contracting Command sends the teachers.

East became an avid reader of science fiction once he left home and joined the Air Force. Through the years he enjoyed many science fiction series, especially the Battle Tech series, and James Clavell's novels. He never thought of becoming an author until six years ago when one of Clavell's novels inspired him to write his own. He had an idea for a story, so he started writing on weekends and holidays.

"Trying my hand at a novel was a big departure from normal for me," he said.

He wrote whenever he had time, often waking up early and writing from 3-5 a.m. before getting ready for work. He usually wrote at home although his dogs, a cocker spaniel named Randy and a dachshund named Socrates, were a distraction because they wanted his attention. He finally completed "Base Camp Freedom" when he and his wife Joan took a three-week vacation to the Dominican Republic this spring.

"My wife is supportive. She's interested in my success and she's been helpful in that she lets me do what I need to do. She's proud of me and of the novel," he said.

He plans to retire from his current government position in October. Then he will devote more time to writing, as well as woodworking and singing in the choir at St. Timothy Episcopal Church in Athens. He is already writing his next novel, an adventure/romance set in the future tentatively titled "An Unfortunate War."

"I derived a great deal of knowledge from my military background that lends itself to writing these novels. I worked in communication intelligence in the Air Force and 10 years in the Army National Guard serving Field Artillery," he said.

His background in politics – he served 16 years on the city council in Petersburg, Va., while on assignment at Fort Lee – also informed the political coverage in "Base Camp Freedom." He said he also researched extensively to ensure accuracy in the novel.

"Base Camp Freedom" is available online from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, diesel eBookstore and iUniverse in both hardback and e-book form. It will soon be available as an audio book. For more information, go to <http://www.base-camp-freedom.com>.

Spouse

conyinned from page 17

being a Soldier," she said. "The understanding and support I get from my boss and my co-workers makes all the difference in having a job, having children and having a

spouse that's active duty."

Through the summer months, the Calhoun children have spent time with their grandparents and other family members. The youngest child attends preschool. During the school year, the children will also enjoy programs at School Age Services.

Calhoun works in an environment where all her co-workers have advanced degrees.

To be competitive in the adult education field, Calhoun, who aspires to be an educational counselor within the Army Continuing Education System, knows she must also hit her own educational bar.

"Going to school off and on takes a long time compared to the traditional way. Sometimes it has gotten tough and has gotten to be too much, so I've had to take a

break," she said. "There was a year between getting my bachelor's and starting for my master's. But I've always felt a need to go back until I finish my goal. I am 33 and my goal is to get my master's by the age 35."

"To be competitive, I needed my bachelor's degree. To stay competitive, I feel I need my master's degree. But, who knows, I may also go for a doctorate."

Photo by Jason Cutshaw,

SMDC/ARSTRAT

Summer study

U.S. Military Academy at West Point cadet James "Hunter" Jenkins IV teams up with recent University of Alabama-Huntsville graduate Tammy Cottam in

the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Concepts Analysis Laboratory. Jenkins and Cottam are simulating the plotting of orbits for the upcoming Space and Missile Defense Conference in August. Jenkins, a senior at West Point, will graduate in the spring with a degree in engineering management.



Courtesy photo

Triathlon competitors

Nine representatives from AMRDEC survived the heat, humidity and the grueling course at Point Mallard Park in Decatur to complete the 13th annual Wet Dog Triathlon. From left are Chris Roberts, Greg Reynolds, Evelyn Teats

(front), Tisha Guidry (back), Janet Baeder, Brian Baeder, Sgt. 1st Class John Herring, Jeff Rhea and Mike Turner. Roberts placed second overall with a time of 49:08. The event raises money for the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. For more information, visit <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wet-Dog-Triathlon/201384599888880>.

Grateful nation thanks World War II infantryman

Bronze Star presented posthumously at MDA

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

He was a humble man from Mississippi who didn't smile much. He turned 21 just two weeks before Pearl Harbor and went off to fight in the South Pacific with the 24th Infantry Division during World War II.

The late Pfc. Guy Marvin Nabors would have been proud to receive the Bronze Star Medal awarded posthumously Thursday for his service.

"I couldn't begin to tell you," Gena Turner Nabors, his wife of nearly 63 years, said of how he would react. "He would've been so proud because he didn't think they got what they deserved after the war."

The award ceremony at the Missile Defense Agency honored this member of the greatest generation who had died in September 2010 while residing in the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home in Huntsville. Attendees included his family members, dignitaries, veterans group representatives and MDA senior leaders.

"Welcome to a very special day here at Missile Defense Agency," MDA director for test Maj. Gen. Heidi Brown said. She delivered remarks and presented the medal to Gena Nabors.

While building a shadow box for his father-in-law's WWII medals in 2009, Jimmy

Ellis learned that Nabors was eligible for the Bronze Star Medal due to a 1947 change in the criteria for the medal's award, particularly for individuals having earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge. Nabors had received the CIB and other honors for his service which ended Dec. 7, 1945.

Ellis, a retired Navy captain who works at MDA as the lead for vessel engineering for the Sea-Based X-Band Radar, started the process which eventually led to awarding Nabors the Bronze Star Medal. "It took about a year to do that, almost a year," Ellis said.

Ellis and his wife, Jan Nabors Ellis, thanked the Army and MDA for the posthumous award.

"My dad was a really humble man," Jan Ellis said. "He was a typical World War II veteran. He didn't even share stories with me."

There were so many things she wished she had asked her father, she said, so many things she wished she would have known to ask him. But the story he did share with her was his recollection of having gone days and even weeks with very little food. He told his daughter that he had prayed that if he made it out of the South Pacific alive his family would never go hungry.

"He was truly a very humble man," she said.

The Ellis' three grown children have carried on their grandfather's legacy with their military service. Navy Lt. Krysten Pelstring, stationed at Kings Bay, Ga., has served 12 years and is among "the first group of women to go submarines," according to EL-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

MDA's Maj. Gen. Heidi Brown presents the Bronze Star Medal to Gena Turner Nabors on behalf of her late husband, Pfc. Guy Marvin Nabors. Applauding at right is Nabors' son-in-law Jimmy Ellis, a retired Navy captain who works at MDA.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Standing at the ceremony's conclusion, from left, are MDA's Maj. Gen. Heidi Brown, Gena Turner Nabors, Jan Nabors Ellis and Jimmy Ellis.

lis. Navy Petty Officer 1st class Scott Barrow, stationed in Kauai in the Hawaiian Islands, has served 14 years. Rob Barrow, who resides in Jacksonville, Fla., served 10



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Pfc. Guy Marvin Nabors spent most of World War II following Gen. Douglas MacArthur around the South Pacific Theater of Operations.

years in the Navy before getting out as a petty officer first class.

"This is a very special day for us," Ellis said.

Fox Army Health Center schedules renovation

The first phase of Fox Army Health Center's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system renovation will begin Aug. 6.

Preventive Medicine, Wellness Center and Occupation Health will be closed Aug. 6 to move to their temporary location. In preparation for this event, they have re-scheduled their patient appointments affected by this date only. Normal schedules for those clinics will resume Aug. 7.

Trailers in the east end parking lot will house the facility's various clinics as each area of the health center undergoes renovations to the 34-year-old HVAC system. The project is estimated to take two and a half years. Directional signs will help beneficiaries navigate the facility through the renovations, which are estimated to be completed in October 2014.

The following are the estimated phases of the project, at which specified clinics will move to the transitional trailers in

the parking lot. Each phase is estimated to take 45 to 60 days, which is subject to change:

- Phase 1A/1B: Wellness Clinic, Preventive Medicine, Occupational Health and Medical Records
- Phase 2: Primary Care Clinics (Red, White and Blue Teams)
- Phase 3: Command Suite
- Phase 4: Radiology and Quality Management
- Phase 5: Optometry and Physical Therapy
- Phase 6: Behavior Health Department
- Phase 7: Managed Care
- Phase 8: Logistics, Industrial Hygiene, Facilities and Housekeeping
- Phase 9: Pharmacy, Laboratory and Dental

Fox officials apologize in advance for the inconveniences of this project, but patient care will not be impacted. (Fox Army Health Center release)

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AMC turns 50 with growing mission

Soldier's choice provider since beginning in 1962

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Fifty years of history for the Army Materiel Command can be summed up with one descriptive word – provider.

On Aug. 1, 1962, when AMC became a full-fledged member of the Army team, its first commander, Lt. Gen. Frank Besson, said in a letter to its employees that the new organization is the first “single integrated organization specifically conceived and designed to provide the Army’s weapons and equipment.”

Today, that word – provider – is still a big word in the AMC vocabulary as this worldwide organization is the source for the power, production, process, people and performance needed to deliver the best weapons, equipment and supplies to Soldiers.

The AMC of 1962 brought together seven of the Army’s major component commands – five of those being the commodity-type commands then known as the Weapons Command, Munitions Command, Mobility Command, Missile Command and Electronics Command; and two functional-type commands known as the Supply and Maintenance Command, and the Test and Evaluation Command. Together, AMC represented about 166,000 civilian employees and 20,000 officers, a total weapons and equipment inventory of \$23.5 billion and estimated annual expenditures of \$7.5 billion. Its employees were located at more than 250 installations, activities, arsenals and laboratories.

Fast forward to today and AMC is headquarters for 11 major subordinate commands: the Contracting Command; Sustainment Command; Aviation and Missile Command; Communications-Electronics Command; Chemical Materials Agency; Joint Munitions and Lethality Command; Joint Munitions Command; Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command; Research Development and Engineering Command; Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command; and Security Assistance Command. It has close to 70,000 employees representing AMC in all 50 states and in 144 countries, an annual budget of nearly \$60 billion and more than \$96 billion in contract obligations.

AMC is one of the Army’s largest and most complex organizations. It spends nearly half of the total Army budget. It is the principal Army employer of civilian workers. The basic mission of the



File photo

Computers have come a long way since 1962. But even in those early days of the Army Materiel Command, they were instrumental to the organization’s mission to provide Soldiers with the equipment and supplies they needed to be successful.



File photo

The M-60 machine gun from 1965 was one of the weapon systems developed by the Army Materiel Command that gave Soldiers the leading edge on the battlefield.

command is to meet the materiel needs of the Army, whether that need is for new weapon systems, new helicopters and tanks, new machine guns or new types of food.

“The AMC that was created in 1962 is an entirely different AMC than it is today,” said AMC historian Mike Baker.

“From 1962 to 1988, AMC’s focus was project management at its core. The heart and soul for Lt. Gen. Besson when creating this organization was creating the concept of project management where organizations were in charge of making all decisions related to a specific system. Now, the focus is on life cycle management with research and development, logistics and acquisition at its core.”

Soon after its creation, AMC’s new structure was put to the test, providing

support almost immediately for the Cuban Missile Crisis and then, on its heels, for the Vietnam War.

“There were a lot of logistical challenges involved in support during Vietnam, and AMC and its major subordinate commands met the challenge,” Baker said. “With the end of the Vietnam War, AMC started to transform itself.”

During those first 10 years as a command, AMC had to its credit advanced telecommunication systems, the M-16 rifle, second generation night vision devices, the TOW missile, and advances in freeze-dried and concentrated foods.

In 1976, corporate changes at AMC were formalized with a name change to the Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command. During this time, AMC’s commodity commands were broken into separate commands for research and development, and readiness.

During the 1970s and ‘80s, AMC was home to the Army’s Big Five systems – the Abrams main battle tank, the Bradley fighting vehicle, the Apache helicopter, the Patriot air defense system and the Black Hawk helicopter – plus several other effective systems such as the Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, MK 19-3 40mm Grenade Machine Gun and High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle.

“It was the success of those big five systems that would be AMC’s claim to

fame during those years,” Baker said.

On Aug. 1, 1984, on its 22nd birthday, the organization’s name returned to the Army Materiel Command. The change led to a new chapter in AMC characterized by optempo support to the nation’s war fighters.

With the ‘90s and the beginning of the 21st century, AMC systems were definitely put to the test as the Army’s war fighters became more lethal, agile and expeditionary. AMC and its major subordinate commands made a critical difference in Operation Just Cause-Panama in 1991 and Operation Desert Storm/Shield in 1990-91. All total, AMC delivered more than 900,000 tons of equipment, supplies and ammunition to the war efforts.

In addition, AMC equipment and systems gained a larger profile in providing support for humanitarian and peacekeeping activities in Somalia, Haiti, Rwanda, Bosnia and Kosovo.

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 put AMC on the edge of the nation’s defensive and offensive measures, with its efforts quickly mobilized to assist first responders, secure valuable assets and support deployed Soldiers. It’s most impressive activity was the support its employees provided during Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan beginning in 2001 and Operation Iraqi Freedom beginning in 2003. The organization also took on a high profile in supporting humanitarian efforts after Hurricane Andrew in 1992, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Haiti natural disasters in 2010 and the Japanese tsunami in 2011.

AMC: Then and Now Fifty years of history Part 1 of series

“During the past 10 years, AMC has continued to grow its reputation as it has supported war fighters on two fronts while at the same time keeping up with peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts throughout the world and managing the changes resulting from the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations,” Baker said.

Throughout its history, Baker said the operative words for AMC have been readiness, support and development as its employees have worked to provide Soldiers with the best in equipment, weapon systems and supplies.

“The leadership at AMC has been key to its success, starting with Lt. Gen. Besson, who led the organization for eight

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International case team invests in cooperation

By KIM GILLESPIE

USASAC Public Affairs Office

NEW CUMBERLAND, Pa. – The Security Assistance Command's crest includes the motto "Strength in Cooperation," which refers to the relationships developed between the U.S. and international partners through U.S. security assistance and the foreign military sales program. It also can refer to how USASAC employees, such as the small four-person Case Development Team, accomplish their workload.

Stephanie Rhoads, Mike Walp, Sue Glatfelter and Kim Rizzardo were recently recognized by Maj. Gen. Del Turner, USASAC commander, for maintaining a more than 96 percent average for developing cases for potential FMS agreements within a specified time frame. Additionally, the team completed more than 289 cases within a five-month period.

Richard "Rick" Berry, chief of the Logistical Programs Division, said the team's hard work is about providing a properly prepared and executable Letter of Offer and Acceptance (which is a formal agreement between the U.S. and another country), or LOA, based on the international partners' requests. This allows U.S. partners and allies to make better decisions regarding a FMS purchase, which can result in enhancing an already established relationship or creating a new one. USASAC

works with 145 countries around the globe.

In terms of FMS, case development has some similarities to developing a "scope of work" for a contract, but there are still many differences. Rather than a contract, the case is developed for a LOA or the case can be an amendment or modification to a previous case that was developed and was finalized as a LOA.

Case development begins when an approved country wants to make a request for Army materiel or services. The country will work with its assigned USASAC country program manager to determine the exact requirements of what it wants to purchase.

"The country sends a LOR (Letter of Request) to the CPM, who then submits the LOR into the Defense Security Assistance Management System, where it is received by the Case Development Team," Rhoads, team leader, said. It is up to the case writers on the Case Development Team to work with the "Sources of Supply," such as the Army Materiel Command Life Cycle Management Commands, Defense Logistics Agency, General Services Administration and other DoD/non-DoD agencies, to determine the source for the materiel/services, e.g., stock or acquisition, price, availability, time frame for purchase and delivery, etc.

According to Rhoads and Walp, once the LOR is received through DSAMS is when the real team work begins. Unlike the CPMs and country case managers who handle the same

countries and are aligned under geographic combatant commands, the Case Development Team is not country specific. Instead it prioritizes workload based on case development priorities and each team member's current workload.

The time specified for case development varies based on the type of case. Emergency LOAs are required as soon as possible, while defined order LOAs are required within 65 days, and Blanket Orders and Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement are required within 15 days of receipt of the LOR, Rizzardo said.

The Case Development Team members do not work with the same USASAC CPMs and CCMs or the AMC LCMCs as weapons systems-specific.

"But having different program managers facilitate our requests is not really a problem," Rhoads said.

Whether it is USASAC or AMC LCMC personnel, the most important factor is experience.

"It was a challenge when TACOM lost personnel because of the finalizations of the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure 2005)



Photo by Kim Gillespie

Mike Walp, Stephanie Rhoads, Kim Rizzardo and Sue Glatfelter, members of the Case Development Team for the Security Assistance Command in New Cumberland, Pa., are on track to exceed their goal for developing cases for potential foreign military sales agreements in fiscal 2012.

moves that occurred last year," Walp said. "There weren't always enough PMs and there is always a learning curve for employees new to FMS."

But USASAC faced a similar problem when it began its BRAC moves in 2009 and had a large turnover of CPMs.

"Having an experienced CPM can make a huge difference. A lot of being successful with FMS is based on the CPM helping the country develop the capability they need," Berry said. "That is not something that is taught in a class,

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Golden Knights decorate sky at air show

By Sgt. ASHLEY OUTLER

28th Public Affairs Detachment

JOINT BASE LEWIS-McCHORD, Wash. — They are knights who wear flight suits instead of armor, Airborne Soldiers who jump into crowds instead of combat zones, whose mission is for entertainment — not war.

They are the Army's parachute team the "Golden Knights" and their exhilarating lifestyle grants them thousands of free-fall jumps in locations all over the world where they perform for huge crowds of cheering fans in hopes of inspiring the enlistment of future Soldiers.

"Free-falling is absolutely the greatest feeling in the world," Staff Sgt. Brian Karst, a demonstration parachutist for the Gold Team of the Golden Knights, said. "I get excited every single time I look out of the plane at the target below. There is no greater feeling than knowing that I'm about to land in front of all those people and all eyes are on me."

The Golden Knights Gold Team, one of their demonstration teams, performed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord where they jumped for the 2012 JBLM Air Expo at McChord Field July 21-22.

"I love being in the sky, (it) is like home for

me," said Sgt. Trey Martin, who is also a demonstration parachutist on the Gold Team. "I love jumping out of planes, especially for the Army. The American public is just awesome."

The Knights are no strangers to jumping out of planes, as they are required to have at least 100 free-fall jumps prior to even trying out for the team.

"It was six minutes of awesomeness. It was indescribable," Karst, a Vancouver, Wash., native, said about his first jump. "There was so much freedom up there. I couldn't think of anything else I wanted to do after that."

Their performances often include a variety of aerial formations, vibrant displays of smoke, sparks, proud Army parachutes and flags. They most often land at an air show or sporting event.

"You can't hear anything or see anything but the target," Karst said about his feelings after jumping. "It's so humbling because you have such a small area to land in and you have to really concentrate and your heart is pounding."

The demonstrators are split-up into two teams, black and gold. A total of 26 demonstration positions are available to anyone with enough jumps, a clean record and enough heart and skydiving skill to make the cut.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Sparks
17th Public Affairs Detachment

Sgt. 1st Class John Berentis, above, a team leader and Staff Sgt. Brian Karst, below, a demonstration parachutist, both from the Gold Team of the Golden Knights, descend together during an aerial performance at the 2012 Joint Base Lewis-McChord Air Expo held at McChord Field, Wash., July 21-22.

"Our tryout program is very intense. You go through two months of training in the middle of the North Carolina heat," said

Martin who is from Houston and has been on the team for almost a year. "You do about 200 free-fall jumps and a lot of physical exercise. They want to see who wants to be there. You got to love it if you want to be here."

Being a Golden Knight requires a great amount of teamwork as many of their preparations and aerial formations rely heavily on cooperation, Karst said.

"We all have one mission, which is to spread the Army word and through that we all have that common bond and that common goal. That's what sort of brings us together," said Karst.

Their events often conclude with a meet-and-greet with the crowd and by packing their parachutes with children or other spectators.

"We are ambassadors to the people," Karst said. "We travel around and talk about all the opportunities available in the Army and how great of a job you can have."

They travel for about 250 days a year and can complete up to 4,000 free-fall jumps during their four years with the team.

"Anybody who wants to do this should just go for it. Don't let fear hold you back," Karst said. "I've circled the globe and nothing can compare to the excitement of this job."

Helicopter society lands fixed-wing guest speaker

Project manager visits luncheon

By TRACEY AYRES

STRATCOM specialist/FW Project Office

It seems an unlikely fit for the Fixed Wing project manager to speak with a group of helicopter enthusiasts but that's exactly what happened Thursday.

Col. Brian Tachias spoke at a luncheon for the Redstone Chapter of the American Helicopter Society.

Larry Thomas, president of the chapter, said fixed wing and rotary wing are part of one large community: Army aviation.

"The mission we have for AHS is to bring the technical community together for anything having to do with Army aviation," Thomas said. "We are always looking for an eclectic mix of speakers. Now that the Army has tasked Col. Tachias with bringing all of the fixed wing aircraft under the fold of PEO Aviation, it's an opportunity to have him here at the beginning

of his PM-ship and bring the fixed wing mission to our society."

The Fixed Wing Project Office originated in October to serve as a one-stop-shop for industry and the Soldier. As the office's first project manager, Tachias was selected to oversee better quality aircraft and support being provided to the user community. In the past nine months, the Fixed Wing Project Office has grown from 256 aircraft and seven contracts to 377 aircraft and 37 different contracts. That number could still increase as programs are transitioning to the project.

"Our first priority is to provide first class support to the Soldier by achieving improvements in aircraft safety, airworthiness certification, improved configuration management and maintenance of all air platforms," Tachi-



Photo by Tracey Ayres

Fixed Wing project manager Col. Brian Tachias is welcomed by Larry Thomas, president of the Redstone Chapter of the American Helicopter Society.

ment Team to work with the AMC LCMCs to provide the specifications in a timely and efficient manner for what the countries requested. And ultimately, it is also about making priorities for the COCOMs work.

"Right now we have an eight-page LOR

as said. "We'll work diligently to reduce cost by consolidating contracts where it makes sense and achieve manpower efficiencies by working with other services like the Air Force and the Navy to partner for a common materiel solution. The Fixed Wing Project Office will work hard to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars."

Even though the Army is more widely known for having helicopters, rotary wing and fixed wing have long been a part of Army aviation. During the Vietnam era, a master aviator was rated in rotary wing and fixed wing. Both ratings were necessary.

While it's no longer the case to have both ratings, fixed wing and rotary wing still perform a lot of the same duties some of which are being transferred over from rotary to fixed wing in or-

der to free up assets for other missions.

"In theater, CH-47s fly a lot of transport missions which costs more money to fly than a fixed wing aircraft. To alleviate the pressure on maintenance and availability of CH-47s for more combat type operations, the fixed wing fleet has taken up that role of moving people and parts in theater to cover down on some of those areas," Tachias said.

While both rotary wing and fixed wing support the Soldier and Army aviation, AHS is supporting the future of it through its scholarship program.

"Some of these bright students may want to become part of our team after they graduate," Tachias said.

At the luncheon, the Redstone Chapter of AHS presented five \$2,000 scholarships to the following aerospace engineering students who are excelling in their fields: David Winter, University of Tennessee; Justin Anderson, University of Alabama; Matt Berke, Mississippi State University; Chris Potter, University of Tennessee; and Tony Favaloro, Mississippi State University.

Team

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it just comes from experience and learning the right questions to ask the country."

And then it's up to the Case Develop-

ing her as their caseloads permit. The 289 cases developed by the Case Development Team in five months put them on-track to exceed the 574 completed in fiscal 2011. For the Case Development Team, it's all about "Strength in Cooperation."

MILPO moves into One Stop building



Workers with C&C Office Relocating Services move office equipment through the main front doors of the new building. From left are Jacob Hood, Jason Nichols and Jeffery Narrell.

Photos by Ellen Hudson

Members of the Military Personnel Office have moved into the newly renovated building 3494 in the Garrison's One Stop customer service area.



Paving operations are under way July 25 in the back parking lot.



Steven Doyle, of O.F. Richard & Son Painting, paints some railing on the front of the building.

Accounting system completes full deployment

By PAMELLA B. GRAY
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – During a time of increased scrutiny of government spending, the General Fund Enterprise Business System steps forward to transform the way Army manages its finance and real property accounting.

On July 1, GFEBS completed the final wave for full deployment and supporting over 50,000 customers worldwide to facilitate the management of nearly \$140 billion in the General Fund, and an additional \$80 billion in Overseas Contingency Operations funds.

Previously, the Army's finances were tracked by multiple systems that were increasingly inefficient, costly and outdated, some more than 30 years old. In an effort to gain visibility over finances and inventories, many Army commands established their own methods and internal systems. These antiquated and fragmented systems impacted military leaders' ability to make informed decisions because there was no clear picture of full resources. This ultimately affected the Soldier.

GFEBS transformed this approach. The GFEBS solution will subsume 107 legacy systems into an enterprise-wide system integrating financial, real property, cost management and performance data. Leaders have visibility through GFEBS to data that has never been available through a single access point, taking into account the true costs of operations, functions and organizations when making budgeting decisions in support of war fighting capabilities. GFEBS allows leadership to make smarter, faster decisions, ranging from provisioning troops in the midst of battle to budget planning.

"GFEBS has enabled new financial management capabilities to more than 52,000 end users at 227 locations in 71

countries," Col. Patrick Burden, the project manager for GFEBS, said. "We have standardized business processes across the active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve."

GFEBS is not an update of existing legacy systems, but an integrated, web-based solution replacement of the outdated systems used across the Army and by the Defense Financial and Accounting Service.

"GFEBS is an unprecedented leap forward in Army financial management," Edward Quick, deputy project manager for GFEBS, said. "It will fulfill the mandates for audit readiness and fiscal responsibility."

GFEBS is the Army's response to the 1990 Chief Financial Officers Act, which mandates federal agencies to centralize their finance systems to better account for their spending, and the 1996 Federal Financial Management Improvement Act, requiring federal financial management systems to provide accurate, reliable and timely financial management information to the government's managers.

As the largest branch of the armed forces, the Army has more than 550,000 Soldiers on active duty. Along with the more than half million members of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve, as well as more than 279,000 civilians – "GFEBS touches everyone in the Department of the Army," Burden added.

In the last three years, GFEBS grew from one million transactions and \$1.2 billion in obligations in fiscal 2009 to 20 million transactions and \$30.8 billion in obligations in fiscal 2011. GFEBS currently processes approximately one million transactions a day and \$140 billion of the general fund annually.

"Reaching the full deployment in only seven years places GFEBS as the Army's flagship Enterprise Resource Planning system," Burden as-



Photo by Pamella B. Gray

After working 24 years in legacy systems, Cheryl Brophy, General Fund Enterprise Business System budget analyst, now processes actions in the GFEBS system. The GFEBS system reached full deployment July 1.

serted. "This initiative is unmatched in the Army, and has come to fruition through the efforts of many dedicated personnel."

GFEBS focuses on simplicity and efficiency for the end user. A member of the Program Executive Office, Enterprise Information Systems family of systems, GFEBS reduces financial complexity and promotes standardization by subsuming legacy systems and driving improved end-to-end processes, improved compliance with congressional directives, audit-ready financials, increased internal and management controls, and, most importantly, provides timely and accurate data to make informed business and mission decisions that support Soldiers.

"GFEBS' achievement of the full deployment milestone will be an excellent example of how the Army is providing

cutting edge infrastructure and information management systems solutions to meet today's needs and tomorrow's challenges," Doug Wiltsie, the program executive officer for PEO EIS, said. "The GFEBS team and our strategic partners throughout the Army and Department of Defense have worked tirelessly as a team to mark an important advancement in the Army's technology evolution."

System users will realize these benefits, explained Maj. Scott Geary, National Guard Bureau Resource Oversight Branch chief, because "GFEBS has allowed us to better manage how we execute (these) funds by providing better interoperability with contracting systems, clearer visibility of fund status and reporting tools that allow improved data analysis from previous systems."

Mission

continued from page 26

years," Baker said. "All of its leaders have brought in skills that have been needed in leading this massive organization. Whatever AMC has had to deal with, its leadership and its employees have been able to adjust and respond."

Interestingly, throughout the years, AMC has been successful despite not

having its own permanent home. When it was created, the organization was temporarily headquartered at Temporary Building 7 at what is now the Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C. In 1973, it moved into a contractor-owned building at 5001 Eisenhower Boulevard in Alexandria, Va. With the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks that led to the need to move Army commands onto installations, AMC was moved to Fort Belvoir, Va., where most of its employees were

housed in portables.

"At Redstone Arsenal, AMC has been given its first permanent facility," Baker said.

Today, AMC's reputation as a provider has stood solid as the Army and its missions have evolved and adapted to meet an ever-changing military environment. Since its creation, AMC has developed everything from rations to rifles, helmets to helicopters, and bullets to missiles as it fulfills the role of providing materiel

(equipment and supplies) to the Army's war fighters.

That's not too bad for an organization that was once described by Besson, its first commander, as an organization of employees who "operate the hardware store and firework concession."

Editor's note: This is part one of AMC's 50th anniversary series which will include insight from each decade and comments from people who worked with AMC throughout the years.

North Carolina removes licensing hurdles

By Air Force Capt. AMBER MILLERCHIP
4th Fighter Wing

GOLDSBORO, N.C. – North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue signed legislation here July 24 making it easier for military members, spouses and veterans to obtain the necessary occupational licenses required to work in the state.

The new law streamlines the procedure for those already licensed elsewhere to apply to work in the same occupation in the state. During the bill-signing ceremony, Air Force Col. Jeannie Leavitt, 4th Fighter Wing commander, addressed the legislation's significance to the military community.

"As our nation continues to field an all-volunteer force, it is critical to address the challenges that are inherent in military service, and North Carolina House Bill 799 does just that," she said. "This bill removes many of those obstacles and affords service members and their families opportunities to obtain North Carolina licensing in reduced time, allowing them to more quickly enter the civilian work force."

However, the law requires all military or out-of-state qualifications meet or exceed North Carolina's licensure standards. A licensing board will determine eligibility based on training, experience and competency. For example, applicants must have been actively practicing

their occupational specialty for two of the last five years.

"This bill helps streamline the procedures, so military spouses in North Carolina can get the certification they need to work," Perdue said. "We owe it to them to provide this kind of support. As one of the most military-friendly states in the nation, I am proud to sign this bill."

These same rules apply to military spouses interested in transferring certifications and licensing, such as teachers, nurses and cosmetologists. They are also required to demonstrate competency in the occupation through means determined by the respective licensing board, such as continuing education credits.

When her husband was assigned to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base a year ago, Ashley Butler wasn't able to transfer her Florida cosmetology license to North Carolina. Her frustration with the licensing process finally led her to pursue a different career as a child care provider, in which certification can be obtained with military assistance.

"I think the bill is great, because it's hard enough as it is moving state to state and picking up and starting over," she said. "That's the whole reason I'm doing child care – it took too long, with too many hoops to jump through, to use my cosmetology license here."

North Carolina officials said more



Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Colette Graham

Air Force Col. Jeannie Leavitt, 4th Fighter Wing commander, speaks at a July 24 ceremony in Goldsboro, N.C., in which North Carolina Gov. Bev Perdue signed legislation making it easier for military members, spouses and veterans to obtain the necessary occupational licenses required to work in the state.

than 100 different occupational licensing agencies and each licensing board will be required to implement the new statute within a year.

Editor's note: Air Force Tech. Sgt. Colette Graham and Air Force Airman First Class Mariah Tolbert contributed to this article.

Panetta: Aleppo attacks will cause Assad's downfall



DoD photo by Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo

Defense secretary Leon Panetta gives an in flight press briefing while flying to Tunis, Tunisia, July 29. Panetta was on a five-day trip to the region, including stops in Tunisia, Egypt, Israel and Jordan.

By JIM GARAMONE

American Forces Press Service

ABOARD A MILITARY AIRCRAFT – The Syrian regime's attacks on the citizens of Aleppo ultimately will be "a nail in Assad's coffin," defense secretary Leon Panetta said July 29.

Panetta was traveling to North Africa and the Middle East for a series of meetings, and Syria figured prominently in his conversations in Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia.

Bashar Assad's forces have launched heavy attacks against Aleppo, Syria's largest city. The violence that the regime is launching against its own people will ensure that the regime will fall eventually, Panetta told reporters traveling with him.

The international community has brought economic and diplomatic pressure on Syria to stop the violence and to have Assad step down for a transition to a democratic form of government.

"The key right now is to continue to bring that pressure to bear on Syria to provide assistance to the opposition and to provide whatever humanitarian aid we can to assist the refugees," Panetta said en route to Tunisia.

The United States must not do anything to show that the international community is anything other than unified in the effort to bring the Assad regime down, the secretary said.

Panetta also discussed the chemical and biological weapons sites in Syria that U.S. planners say need to be secured. "We've been in close coordination with countries in the region to ensure that this is happening," the secretary said.

The United States also is working with Turkey and Jordan to provide humanitarian assistance to refugees from Syria.

NASA approves Marshall's space launch system

WASHINGTON – The rocket that will launch humans farther into space than ever before has passed a major NASA review.

The Space Launch System Program completed a combined System Requirements Review and System Definition Review, which set requirements of the overall launch vehicle system. SLS now moves ahead to its preliminary design phase.

The SLS will launch NASA's Orion spacecraft and other payloads, and provide an entirely new capability for human exploration beyond low Earth orbit.

These NASA reviews set technical, performance, cost and schedule requirements to provide on-time development of the heavy-lift rocket. As part of the process, an independent review board comprised of technical experts from across NASA evaluated SLS Program documents describing vehicle specifications, budget and schedule. The board confirmed SLS is ready to move from concept development to preliminary design.

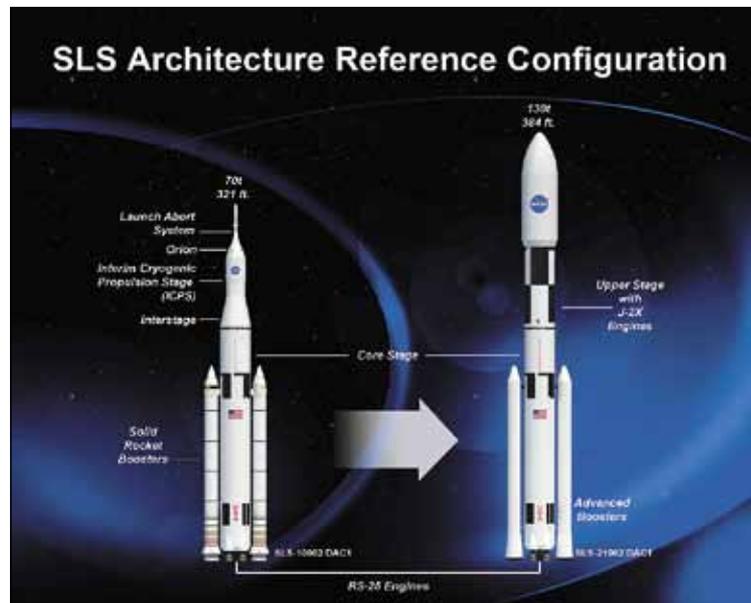
"This new heavy-lift launch vehicle will make it possible for explorers to reach beyond our current limits, to nearby asteroids, Mars and its moons, and to destinations even farther across our solar system," William Gerstenmaier, associate administrator for the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate at NASA headquarters in Washington, said. "The in-depth assessment confirmed the basic vehicle con-

cepts of the SLS, allowing the team to move forward and start more detailed engineering design."

The reviews also confirmed the SLS system architecture and integration with the Orion spacecraft, managed by NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, and the Ground Systems Development and Operations Program, which manage the operations and launch facilities at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

"This is a pivotal moment for this program and for NASA," SLS program manager Todd May said. "This has been a whirlwind experience from a design standpoint. Reaching this key development point in such a short period of time, while following the strict protocol and design standards set by NASA for human spaceflight, is a testament to the team's commitment to delivering the nation's next heavy-lift launch vehicle."

SLS reached this major milestone less than 10 months after the program's inception. The combination of the two assessments represents a fundamentally



This is an artist rendering of the various configurations of NASA's Space Launch System, managed by Marshall Space Flight Center. The flexible configuration, sharing the same basic core-stage, allows for different crew and cargo flights as needed, promoting efficiency, time and cost savings. The SLS enables exploration missions beyond low-Earth orbit and support travel to asteroids, Mars and other destinations within the solar system.

different way of conducting NASA program reviews. The SLS team is streamlining processes to provide the nation with a safe, affordable and sustainable heavy-lift launch vehicle capability. The next major program milestone is preliminary design review, targeted for late next year.

two exploration missions. The Boeing Co. in Huntsville is designing the SLS core stage, to be built at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans and tested at Stennis before being shipped to Kennedy. (NASA release)

Aviation enterprise team honored for cutting costs

By HEATHER R. SMITH
AMRDEC Public Affairs

Representatives from the AMRDEC Aviation Engineering Directorate and the Corpus Christi Army Depot have received the Department of Defense Value Engineering Achievement Award.

Army photo

Receiving the VE award, from left, are Danielle Finley (CCAD), Jennifer Bennett (AED), Kevin Rees (AED), Brig. Gen. John Wharton (chief of staff, Army Materiel Command), Patrice Puckett (CCAD), Mark Velazquez (AED) and Pat Kelley (AMRDEC's Engineering Directorate).

AED's Maintenance Engineering Division was selected to receive the VE award for cost savings and benefits achieved from 2007-11. During this



period, the MED completed 244 VE projects and generated \$339.8 million in VE savings and cost avoidance.

The MED has actively participated in the VE program since 1990 and has generated more than \$1 billion in VE savings and cost avoidance. In fiscal 2011 alone, the MED completed 36 Value Engineering projects and achieved a total of \$41.4 million in savings and cost avoidance, representing nearly one-third

of the assigned \$130 million AMCOM VE goal and 37 percent of all savings and cost avoidance for Team Redstone that year.

Prior to MED's participation in the VE program, most non-overhauled used parts were discarded. Currently, used parts are gathered in a warehouse and engineers perform a VE study on high demand articles to see if they can be repaired or otherwise recovered.

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Science adviser finding solutions for Alaska Soldiers

By **HEATHER R. SMITH**
AMRDEC Public Affairs

Paul Thakur loves his job.

"Being a science adviser is one of the best jobs I had in my whole professional career. It is very rewarding and has been an honor to work with Soldiers to help make a difference in their lives, come up with solutions that save Soldiers lives and give them an edge in the battlefield," he said.

The engineer with the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center was looking for something different after working for nearly 20 years supporting Army aviation programs. He was looking for a change in mission and location.

So when the opportunity came in 2002 to participate in the Field Assistance in Science and Technology program, Thakur took it.

"It was kind of getting old, doing the same thing for so long," he said.

The FAST Program, managed by the Research Development and Engineering Command, places civilian and uniformed science advisers at Army commands and training centers throughout the world to provide on-site technical advice and quick reaction solutions to technical problems.

In addition to having personnel on the ground with Soldiers and their equipment, the FAST program provides reach back to the Army's research and development community including AMRDEC. A team of teams.

Thakur is part of another Army team — one that traveled with him on his FAST assignment: his family.

In 2009, Thakur and his wife moved from Redstone Arsenal to Anchorage, Alaska, where he's serving a second tour as

science adviser to the U.S. Army Alaska. His first tour was from 2002-06.

Being a member of the FAST is never routine. Soldiers come to Thakur with a problem or a capability gap, and it's up to him to find a solution. "You don't know what's coming your way. You get in here and you just talk to the Soldiers, talk to the commanders, and they will throw some issues and some problems at you — 'this technology isn't working' — and then you make your assessment of the available technologies and options to fix the problems."

Through RDECOM, Thakur has reached back to more than 10,000 scientists, engineers and subject matter experts. RDECOM provides a rapid response through quick reaction coordinators in each of the command's centers and labs. In addition, Thakur and RDECOM network with other armed services, government and non-government agencies, industry and academia to find novel solutions.

"You do some research; you collect the data and try to solve the problems," Thakur said. "The problems could be related to improving the performance of a weapon system, Soldier readiness, safety, training and logistics support for the combatant command and units. You are in a multitude of roles. It's not routine stuff. You move from one project to another to another to another. It is a pretty challenging and rewarding experience."

When Thakur finds a possible solution, he works with the RDECOM-FAST headquarters at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., to arrange a demonstration. "I show the technology to the Soldiers and to the commanders over here, and if they like it, they go ahead with training and all the work that is needed to acquire that system," he said.

Recently, Thakur arranged several on-

site demonstrations and training sessions for Soldiers from the 2nd Engineer Brigade.

One demonstration was of the Reusing Existing Natural Energy Wind and Solar System, developed by RDECOM's Communication Electronics Research Development and Engineering Center. RENEWS enables the harvesting and utilization of wind and solar power to provide portable power and battery recharging on the battlefield. RENEWS lightens the Soldier's battery load and enables them to work longer without interruption due to power loss.

Another portable battery charging system developed by CERDEC, the Rucksack Enhanced Portable Power System, was demonstrated, too. REPPS is a lightweight, portable power system capable of recharging batteries and acting as a continuous power source. It combines anti-glint solar panels and interchangeable connectors and adaptors for increased charging options, while also lightening the Soldier's load.

The 2nd Engineer Brigade will be taking several REPPS and RENEWS units with them to Afghanistan and providing feedback on the capability and use of the system. "There's a two-way benefit," Thakur said. "We're helping the lab by providing them with Soldier feedback, and we're helping the Soldiers, too, by coming up with a product the Soldiers can realistically use in the field."

Another recent demonstration was of the Combat SkySat system, a capability that the 2nd Engineer Brigade is considering for their deployment to Afghanistan. "Combat SkySat is a balloon-based system for enhancing communication in hilly and mountainous terrain where satellites are not available or satellite time is very



Photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Winstead/U.S. Army Alaska Public Affairs

Paul Thakur, far left, RDECOM science and technology adviser to U.S. Army Alaska, participates in a demonstration of the Combat SkySat system with Soldiers from the 2nd Engineer Brigade.

expensive," Thakur said. "The system can be launched from a standoff location by a small team of two personnel. It provides beyond line of sight battlefield communications from above 65,000 feet, providing coverage to distances of over 500 miles and deep into canyons and valleys."

On any given day Thakur is juggling eight to 10 different projects.

"You do these projects and you feel like you are part of the team and contributing. You have some success stories; you save money for the command on several efforts and you come up with a better technology and equipment," said Thakur.

Living in "the Last Frontier" is just one of the perks of the job. "I like the atmosphere and the people here," Thakur said. "The first six months was kind of hard. After you blend in and all, it's a great place to live and work."

He added that the Alaskan terrain reminds him of the mountainous area in India where he grew up.

Redstone gains electromagnetic spectrum manager

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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Rick Green is ready to assist Team Redstone with a wide array of communications needs.

Green, circuit operations manager in the Network Enterprise Center-Redstone, graduated July 29 from the Electromagnetic Spectrum Manager Course at the 7th Signal Command at Fort Gordon, Ga. The 10-week course included a variety of radio and skywave propagation along with new software programs and more.

He is now certified as an electromagnetic spectrum manager.

"It was a pretty tough course but it

was rewarding in itself, too," Green, who works in NEC-Redstone's network and switch division, transmission branch, said. "It was something you're proud of, being a graduate. But it's a tremendous undertaking for us in communications here because we'll be the frequency management office for all of Redstone."

"It (the course) was pretty intensive. It was long hours, too. It was cramming classroom by day, studying by night."

His primary duties as electromagnetic spectrum manager are to review, retain records and submit frequency requests through Spectrum XXI to the Army Frequency Management Office at Fort Sam Houston for all commands located on Redstone Arsenal. He'll focus on resolving any spectrum usage conflicts, assur-

ing policy/procedural compliance and developing, improving and enhancing policy guidelines.

"The Army Frequency Management Office at Fort Sam Houston coordinates frequency management for all of the United States," Green said.

A spectrum management work group meeting is scheduled for all Redstone spectrum managers on Aug. 15 from noon to 4 p.m. in building 3400 on Ajax Road. This work group will include spectrum managers from 93rd Signal Brigade, 7th Signal Command and AFMO. For more information, call Green at 876-6570.

Green, 55, has 31 years of government service, including 26 years with NEC-Redstone.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Rick Green works in the Network Enterprise Center-Redstone's network and switch division in building 3400.

Supply and services division goes extra miles to serve

Planned consolidation should help customers

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

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Several functional missions of the Supply and Services Division will soon be consolidated into two adjacent buildings in order to improve customer service.

"We're getting ready to co-locate to an area on Cottonwood Road. Right now we're spread out across the installation," Tony Fuller, chief of the Supply and Services Division, said.

Renovations are under way on buildings 8022 and 8024, the future home of the installation's Property Book, Central Issue Facility, Hazardous Material Management, and Fuel Operations.

In the next 45-60 days, customers can expect the CIF (currently in building 3471) and Property Book (building 3205) to move into building 8024. In 60-90 days, the Hazardous Material Management Program and Fuel Operations (both currently in building 3631) will move into building 8022.

"This all started when the installation commander and the director of logistics asked us to review and look at our space utilization," Fuller said. "Our analysis concluded that if we can optimize how we use our vertical space, we can condense our space. In other words, if we

enable ourselves to stack up and decide what to put on the floor, we will have gained efficiency on three fronts. We will also be able to move 95 percent of the division into the same geographic area."

First, the division will be able to consolidate the Supply Support Activity into one warehouse. Currently, the SSA is in two warehouses. Once consolidated, the central receiving area, the Authorized Stockage List, and the turn-in section will all be in the same building. This means that all functions of the SSA will be in one location except for packing and crating.

Second, the CIF and Property Book can move into the area that was vacated as a result of consolidating the SSA. This allows the two missions to be co-located. From the customer's point of view, this will be more convenient. Currently, customers have to drive back and forth across the installation to have documents signed by Jorge Clemente, Property Book manager and chief of the Assets Management Branch, and to receive items from Agrippa Sherrell, chief of Stock Control Branch and SSA accountable officer.

Third, by moving the CIF and Prop-



Photo by Beth Skarupa

From left, Ed Lopez, chief of the Ammunition Management Branch, Tony Fuller, chief of the Supply and Services Division, Roy Barrett, contract supervisor supporting the Supply Support Activity, Agrippa Sherrell, chief of the Stock Control Branch, and Jorge Clemente, chief of the Assets Management Branch, visit the future home of the installation's Property Book and Central Issue Facility.

erty Book, two buildings on the installation will be vacated and available for other use.

"Overall, we think it's a good thing to do. Something that's smaller in nature is moving the HMMP and the Fuel Operations to building 8022 because of the operational benefits that we realized,"

Fuller said. "Of course, you always have some kind of disadvantages with any decision. Now the customer will have to travel a little bit further to get some supplies, but we believe the benefits outweigh the inconvenience of going a few extra miles."

The only two facilities within the Supply and Services Division not moving are the Fuel Storage Activities, which will remain in building 3169, and the Base Supply Store operated by the Alabama Industries for the Blind, which will remain in building 3775.

"So we're excited about the move. All of our functions will be within one-and-a-half miles of each other," Fuller said.

He noted that all of Sherrell's people will be located together and Clemente's materials will be located next to his operation. Also Ed Lopez, chief of the Ammunition Management Branch and Ammunition Supply Point accountable officer, will be happy to have everyone closer to him.

"We'll be a closer family and we won't have to drive over 18 miles roundtrip to get to everyone," Lopez said.

Fuller added that the Supply and Services Division now is working with the Defense Logistics Agency-Energy and the Army Petroleum Center in an effort to privatize the installation's fuel operations and support infrastructure.

"Next year, hopefully sooner, we'll be getting ready to make some changes on that front," he said.

RATS research may teach rodents to detect explosives



Army Research Laboratory photo

The African giant pouched rat is socialized and readily handled. The Rugged Automated Training System research sponsored by scientists with the Army Research Laboratory, in collaboration with engineers at West Point and the Counter Explosives Hazards Center, explores whether small rodents could be used to detect improvised explosives and mines.

By Army Research Laboratory Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – A rat may never be man's best friend, but the Rugged Automated Training System research sponsored by scientists with the Army Research Laboratory, in collaboration with engineers at West Point and the Counter Explosives Hazards Center, will determine if and how these animals can be trained to save Soldiers' lives.

In July, Barron Associates Inc., Charlottesville, Va. was selected for an award under the Small Business Technology Transfer, or STTR, program to develop and test a rugged, automated and low-cost system for training rats to detect improvised explosive devices and mines, said Micheline Strand, chief of the Army Research Office's Life Sciences Division, which manages the program.

"The automated system we're de-

veloping is designed to inexpensively train rats to detect buried explosives to solve an immediate Army need for safer and lower-cost mine removal," said William Gressick, senior research engineer and the project's principal investigator at Barron Associates. "Beyond this application, the system will facilitate the use of rats in other search tasks such as homeland security and search-and-rescue operations. In the long-term, the system is likely to benefit both official and humanitarian organizations."

Said Strand, "If we can demonstrate that rats can be trained inexpensively to be reliable detectors, then this method would not only lower costs for the Army but would also create new opportunities for using animals to detect anything from mines to humans buried in earthquake rubble."

It is well established that animals are capable of identifying explosives

at lower concentrations than abiotic systems. The Department of Defense currently relies on dogs as the animal of choice for explosives detection. The goal of this STTR program is not to replace the use of dogs, but to expand the Army's detection capabilities.

"Training dogs is very expensive. If we can significantly reduce the cost of a trained animal, then we could provide more animals to protect Soldiers," Strand explained.

Trained rats would also create new opportunities; rats can search smaller spaces than a dog can, and are easier to transport.

Landmines kill between 15,000 and 20,000 people a year, and continue to kill adults and children decades after a conflict ends. An automated system to train rats to find mines could accelerate worldwide efforts to clear mined areas and return mined land to farming or other productive uses.

Win or Lose

A-Team show no mercy on softball field

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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The A-Team had a message on their lineup tacked to the fence inside their dugout: "I pity the fool!"

No doubt that was in reference to the 1980s television series with Mr. T on the action-adventure's cast. But this softball version is as hard-hitting as its fictional soldiers-of-fortune namesake.

Led by pitcher LaTesa "Ms. T" Graham, the A-Team blanked Redstone's Step-Children 20-0 on July 23 at the NASA softball field. The A-Team improved to 9-1-1 with their ninth straight win in Division B of the NASA/Army league.

"With great pitching from Tesa and great defense, great fielding," A-Team coach/right fielder Brad Harris said. "The other team scores zero runs, you can't help but win."

Graham had one strikeout and allowed nine hits with one walk. She retired all three batters in three of the game's five innings. "That's pretty good - 60 percent," Harris said.

At the plate, Graham went 4-for-4 and scored three runs. Harris went 3-for-4 with a triple and two runs. Jeff Norman and Adam Lacock both went 3-for-4 with a double and three runs. Jeremy "Germ" Lang was 2-for-3 with a triple and two runs.

The A-Team scored four runs in the first inning, eight in the second, three in

the third and five in the fourth.

Last week was the last of the regular season before the postseason tournament. The A-Team, in their first year, are a mix of NASA and mostly Army workers. About half of their players were on NASA's Dirt People team last year which lost to the TBE (Teledyne Brown Engineering) Integrators in the final.

The A-Team lost to their nemesis TBE Integrators 19-9 in the third week of this season before recording nine straight victories. TBE Integrators ended that streak by beating the A-Team 15-7 on Thursday for first place in the division. The double-

elimination tournament was scheduled to start July 31 and continue through August.

"We're going to win it (this year)," Harris said of the championship. "I'm confident. We want revenge from last year. We're hungry."

Redstone's Step-Children, from the Corps of Engineers, was 2-9 after last week. Michael Ashworth was the losing pitcher against the A-Team.

"We were short-handed today," Redstone's Step-Children coach Mark Dillinger said. "Short-handed and a lot of mental errors. Six guys were TDY."

NASA/Army softball league standings

Here are the standings entering this week's games:

Division A	Wins	Losses	Ties	Division C	Wins	Losses	Ties
Got the Runs	9	0	0	Hard Noc			
Hit Circus	7	3	0	Hitters	10	1	0
Expendables	5	4	0	Screw Balls	9	2	0
Kitchen Sinks	4	6	0	Bit Players	7	3	1
RTC	3	7	0	Renegades	7	4	0
Rotorheads Too	1	9	0	Misfits	6	5	0
Division B	Wins	Losses	Ties	Rotorheads	6	5	0
TBE Integrators	9	2	1	ET Throw Home	5	6	0
A-Team	9	2	1	Guns 'N Hoses	4	6	1
WYLE Coyotes	8	3	0	ESTS Jacobite			
Fireballs	5	5	1	Rising	4	6	0
Spaceballs	5	6	1	EVengers	4	7	0
Redstone's				Put em in Boots	3	7	0
Step-Children	2	9	0	Starz	0	11	0
Space Cowboys	0	11	0				



Photo by Skip Vaughn

A-Team leadoff hitter Jeff Norman singles in the bottom of the first inning and eventually scores on Vann Patton's single. At left is Redstone's Step-Children's catcher Rachel Wills.

World Class Athlete Program goal: Win the Olympics

By JENNIFER MATTSON

NCO Journal

FORT BLISS, Texas - Servicemembers have participated in the Olympics since 1896 as athletes and as coaches in both the summer and winter games. In 1997, the Army created the World Class Athlete Program with the explicit goal of competing - and winning medals - in the Olympic Games.

Since its founding, 40 World Class Athlete Program, or WCAP, Soldiers have brought home gold, silver and bronze Olympic medals.

This summer, the Army's World Class Athlete Program will send eight noncommissioned officers to London; four of them have competed in the Olympics in previous years, and four of them stand ready to show what it means to serve in WCAP. These NCOs

are charged with one task: to bring home medals. After the games, these NCOs will continue to serve the Army by supporting Army Recruiting Command, hosting clinics and promoting the Army. Then, they will either serve in WCAP by training for national and international competitions, or they will return to the operational Army to serve in their military occupational specialty.

Soldiers compete alongside other Americans at the Olympics. They wear the Team USA gear, and when they win, they step up to the podium to hear "The Star-Spangled Banner" play. But these Soldier-athletes continually represent the Army on and off the field - through their discipline and determination.

Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Szarenski, an air pistol Olympian, will return to the Olympics for the fourth time in the shooting event. Pre-

Photo by Tim Hippi

Army World Class Athlete Program pistol shooter Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Szarenski practices at Fort Benning, Ga. He will compete in his fourth Olympics this year in London in the air pistol event.

viously, Szarenski has gone to the Olympics with the Army Marksmanship Unit, which also sends Soldiers to the Olympics. The difference, Szarenski said, is that the World Class Athlete Program's focus is solely on the Olympics.

See Athletes on page 40



Athletes

continued from page 39

“Our mission is to go to the Olympics and win the Olympics,” Szarenski said. “Not everyone here will make the Olympic team, but we’re all pulling together to try to get the mission accomplished. We’re there to win.”

Szarenski started shooting in the sixth-grade and started competing in the eighth-grade. He earned a full scholarship to Tennessee Tech Rifle University after winning state and national competitions.

He was recruited by the Army Marksmanship Unit out of college to compete. After 21 years of service, Szarenski will retire from the Army after this year’s Olympics.

“I was in ROTC and had a chance to be an officer, and I turned it down in college because I wanted to be an NCO,” Szarenski said. “I wanted to be in with the troops, and I wanted to be more in with the guys and leading and helping the guys out.”

Szarenski said representing the Army means even more when it comes to the Olympic shooting events.

“The importance of the Army competing in the Olympics, especially in shooting, is we’re showcasing,” Szarenski said. “I came in during the Cold War, and (when) you would beat the Russians and Chinese in shooting, it was peace through sports. You look and say, ‘Those guys can shoot and those guys are competitive; let’s not poke the bear.’ The strength that I give back to the Army is when I win something that makes everyone say, ‘OK, he’s from the Army and the rest of those guys can probably do that, too.’ It makes them realize we are on top, and we’re not slacking. And don’t test us, because we do have the strength.”

Staff Sgt. John Nunn has served in the Army and the Army Reserves for 11 and a half years. Originally an infantryman, he has since changed his military occupational specialty, known as an MOS, to dental hygienist with hopes to one day be an Army dentist. He will compete in the 50-kilometer racewalk event in the Olympics, an event he has only competed in three times. He won the Olympic trials for the 50-kilometer racewalk and has competed in the 20-kilometer racewalk in the 2004 Olympics. He puts in 100 miles a week in training, and says he supports the other WCAP athletes as they head to London.

“Within the Army, everyone is striving for success and being the best that they can be in whatever the Army is asking them to do,” Nunn said. “This is a situation with the program when we make the Olympic team. It’s an honor, one, to make an Olympic team and represent your country. But for us, it’s even more of an honor because we get to represent the Army along the way. It gives you something to cheer on

and be a part of something bigger than just yourself.”

The World Class Athlete Program has benchmarks for those hoping to compete in the Olympics. If Soldiers fail to meet those benchmarks, they are sent back to the operational Army to serve in their primary MOSs. When the program begins to recruit, usually two years before the Olympic trials, NCOs in the program are charged with setting the example for younger Soldiers. The unit, which serves under Installation and Management Command’s Morale Welfare and Recreation Directorate, consists of a company with a commander and support staff.

“You’re still an NCO, and still in the absence of orders or the absence of leadership, take charge,” Szarenski said. “There’s not a squad or teams, but you’re still an NCO, and how I carry myself influences those younger guys. You have to maintain your military bearing.”

Sgt. 1st Class Dremiel Byers has served on and off with WCAP since 1997, when it was stood up at Fort Carson, Colo. Byers, who competes in Greco-Roman wrestling in the 120 kg weight group, said being professional and disciplined is a part of his training. Byers and other wrestlers also teach combative clinics for other Soldiers.

“It’s Soldiering all around,” Byers said. “There’s discipline that you have to have to be a highly competitive athlete and even more discipline to be a Soldier. The two go hand in hand, and they complement each other.”

Byers said he sees bringing home the medal on the international stage as a win for Soldiers everywhere.

“This victory is our victory,” Byers said. “Sometimes when we’re overseas, and I know I’m going to be the one on top of the podium, I love seeing the flag and love hearing our anthem being played. It feels good.”

As NCOs and competitors, many Soldiers in the program compete against one another when it comes to Army standards and tests – especially the Army Physical Fitness Test.

“The Soldiers in this program are some of the cream of the crop that the Army has to offer,” Nunn said. “Every Soldier in this program is not working to just get the bare minimum on their PT test or the bare minimum to pass so they can get a promotion. Everyone is striving for perfection. With that, it carries over into the Army aspect of being a Soldier. We’re constantly going to competitions, working to beat each other at PT tests and who can become Soldier of the month or NCO of the quarter and who maxes their boards when they go. It provides a great asset to the Army itself as far as deploying Soldiers and giving them opportunities to train for the Olympics. But then those Soldiers are put back into regular units and are incredible assets to those units by the discipline and things that they’ve learned being part of the World Class Athlete Program.”

Most WCAP Soldiers come into the Army with the explicit intent of serving the Army by winning Olympic medals. Most, though, say that Army training has helped them compete at the higher level by teaching them mental strength.

“The Army has taught me with discipline and being able to train every day,” Szarenski said. “With periodization, many people will taper down to 20 or 40 shots. With me, I’ve learned through the Army drilling and doing something over and over again until it’s second nature. Like anything you do in the Army, you do it until you can’t. It’s just second nature. The Army has taught me that if you think you have it down, you’re about halfway there and you just need to keep beating it down to the ground.”

Staff Sgt. Keith Sanderson served in the Marine Corps for eight years before joining the Army Reserve. He served for 12 years as an infantryman before he started to compete nationally in shooting events. Sanderson credits the Marines for his ability to shoot; before he joined the Marine Corps, the only thing he shot was a sling.

“WCAP is the ultimate expression of leadership by example that you can have in the Army for both physical fitness and shooting ability, which is the most fundamental skill anyone can have in the Army,” Sanderson said.

The techniques used to win gold medals at the Olympics are the same tools Soldiers use when under stress of combat, Sanderson said.

“I’m an infantryman,” Sanderson said, “Because (the Olympics is a) competition, the will to fight is very important. In the Olympic Games, it can get kind of stressful and the ability to deal with that stress is critical to be successful. The things you learn to deal with stress in competition are the same ways you deal with stress in combat – it’s the same techniques.”

Nunn said his time during basic training has helped him mentally prepare for competition.

“Physically, basic training was very easy for me,” Nunn said. “I actually got out of shape going through basic training since I was training at such a higher level. Mentally, I’d never been in a situation where they break you down by being mean and angry and building you up the way they want you to be. After I got out of basic, it really helped with my training. I was already a decent athlete, but racewalking requires so much mentally of you.”

Nunn said basic training allowed him to understand the bigger picture of what he was doing and why he was there. Those lessons, he said, are important when it comes to competing on the international stage.

Though their primary goal is to bring home medals, Soldiers with the World Class Athlete Program also make time to give back to the Army. They support recruiting efforts in which they can tell their Army story and inspire athletes to join, and they host wrestling and shooting clinics to make Soldiers more proficient in their warrior tasks.

“People should know we’re the same,” Byers said. “We learn from everybody around us; I’m truly humbled in the presence of every Soldier.”

“The people who are out there doing it every day cast a shadow over anything that I do.”

Their mission to win the Olympics makes them unique among Army units. It also means that many of them will come in and out of the program every two or three years. When not training for the Olympics, they maintain proficiency in their primary MOSs and work within the operational Army.

“Every job you can train a Soldier to standard and hold them accountable for failure,” Byers said. “There’s a handful of jobs where you just have to have it or you don’t. How many Soldiers can you pull out of the ranks and say, ‘Go get a gold medal?’ We can be number one in the nation and bring home world medals.”



Photo by Sgt. Michael MacLeod, Task Force 1-82 PAO

Puma launch

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Dylan Ferguson, a brigade aviation element officer with the 82nd Airborne Division’s 1st Brigade Combat Team, launches a Puma unmanned aircraft June 25 at Ghazni Province, Afghanistan. Ferguson uses the Puma for reconnaissance for troops on the ground.

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Sports & Recreation

Run to remember

A Redstone Arsenal chapter of Run to Remember is meeting Saturday mornings to jog together as a living memorial to fallen Soldiers. For meeting locations and times, call Charity Watral 542-1208. 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>.

Golf tournament

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its inaugural Retiree Day Golf Tournament on Sept. 27 at the Links. This is a shotgun scramble. The \$50 entry fee includes golf cart, golf, lunch and door prizes. For information and registration, call Arno Hoerle 837-6253. All profits will go toward scholarships for military dependents.

Rocketman triathlon

The 19th annual Rocketman Triathlon will be held Sunday, Aug. 26 at the Col. Carroll Hudson recreation area. This Olympic distance triathlon will begin at 7:30 a.m. with a 1,500 meter swim in the Tennessee River, followed by a 40 kilometer bike and 10K run. More than 500 participants are expected. For more information, visit the website <http://teamrockettri.org/content/races/rocketman-triathlon>.

Benefit at Colonial

The Limestone County Chapter of NAACP will hold its inaugural Golf Tournament fund-raiser Sept. 29 at the Colonial Golf Course. Onsite registration starts at 6:30 a.m. The tournament will be a four-man scramble and cost is \$60 per player. Prizes will consist of first, second and third place, longest drive and closest to the pin. For more information, call Robert C. Bess Sr. 278-8347, email bess_robert@hotmail.com or Douglas Smith 808-561-8526, email dshank4@yahoo.com.

Boating safety class

Boating Skills and Seamanship will begin Aug. 9 at building 3704. It will cover a broad scope on boating safety including trailering a vessel, proper and safe launching, lines and knots, weather, marine communications and more. Successful completion may qualify you for reduced premiums on your vessel insurance policy; and it meets Alabama's requirement for a written boat operators examination. The course is offered by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary free of

charge with the student required to purchase the course textbook for \$25. For more information, call Thomas Kunhart 527-4475, 830-6621 or email tkunhart@knology.net.

Babe Ruth baseball

The Huntsville Babe Ruth League will hold registration for the fall season Aug. 18 and 25 from 9 a.m. to noon. Players ages 13 to 18 as of May 1, 2013 are invited; and 12-year-olds are eligible to sign up as well under the "Local Swing Player" option. Registration forms will be accepted after Aug. 25 on an individual basis upon park approval and team availability. A copy of the player's birth certificate is required for all new players. Persons interested in coaching a team are encouraged to apply as well. Contact one of the following park representatives for registration information: Northern Division, Mastin Lake Park, Emile Jones, phone 990-5902 or email ejones@wilsonlumber.net; Southern Division, Sandhurst Park, Tim Harrison 544-3180 or tth3180@bellsouth.net; Eastern Division, Optimist Park, Jeff Abbott 653-5752 or jeff.abbott@adtran.com.

Football officials

The North Alabama Football Officials Association is accepting new officials. The group has more than 90 officials who work games under contract to high schools in Huntsville, Madison, Madison County, Limestone County and Lawrence County. Members will meet each Sunday at 7 p.m. starting July 8 in the Red Cross building at 1101 Washington St. To apply call Bob Arnone 763-1796 or visit the website <http://www.nafoa.biz>.

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.

Catholic mass

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

Sergeants major

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

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

Toastmaster clubs

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

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.

Meeting professionals

The 2012 Society of Government Meeting Professionals Southeast Regional Conference, "Navigating through Government Meetings," will be held Sept. 16-19 in Mobile. Information regarding the educational workshops can be found at <http://sgmpcentralflorida.com/rec>.

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The conference is geared for administrative/technical professionals who plan/execute meetings, seminars, tutorials, etc. TIP information is: course title, SGMP Southeast Conference; vendor, Society of Government Meeting Professionals; catalog number, F124SGMP. For more information, call Barbie Baugh 876-7135 or Sherry Hilley 479-0198.

Community women's club

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club invites you to its "Sweet Home Alabama" August Super Signup on Aug. 14 at 10:30 a.m. in The Summit. "Whether you are new to the area, have been here for several years, or just want to come see what we are about, the RSACWC is here to show you the exciting events we have planned for the upcoming year," a prepared release said. All new members will receive a gift from the membership chair. RSACWC along with many on-post agencies and services as well as Alabama artisans and local businesses will be present. This event is stroller friendly, and refreshments will be served. For more information, visit www.rsacwc.org and "Like" them on Facebook: Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club.

AMCOM town hall

Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar will hold his first AMCOM Town Hall on Aug. 7 from 2-3:30 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. The commanding general will recognize some AMCOM personnel for their accomplishments, discuss his philosophies, and conclude with a question-and-answer session. All AMCOM personnel are invited. There will be a video-teleconference hookup for CCAD, LEAD, ACLC and Fort Eustis team members. The town hall will also be broadcast on Redstone Arsenal's Channel 42.

Federal employees

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Aug. 11 at the Thomas Davidson Senior

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Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshment and social time will start at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting at 10. The program will be a presentation of the Huntsville mayoral candidates in a candidate forum. If you cannot attend the meeting, but have a question for the candidates, call Cheryl Patterson 828-0773 or email drpatter@hiway.net. Active federal employees and retired non-members are invited to visit at any time. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

Space society

Huntsville AL L5 Society (HAL5), a local chapter of the National Space Society, will hold its August public program Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library, 915 Monroe St. Billy Gonterman, one of the first test conductors during the development of the SSME, will speak on "Space Shuttle Main Engines Early Testing: Successes, Failures and Corrections." The program is free and open to the public. For more information about HAL5 and upcoming speakers, visit www.HAL5.org.

Leadership conference

The Global Leadership Summit, organized by Chicago's Willow Creek Church, will be simulcast Aug. 9-10 at Cove Church, 366 Old U.S. 431 in Hampton Cove. The conference features author and Willow Creek Senior Pastor Billy Hybels, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, "Good to Great" author Jim Collins, Geoffrey Canada, Patrick Lencioni, John Ortberg and other business, service and religious leaders. Special military rate pricing at \$99. For more information or to register, go to www.covechurch.com.

Stop the bullying

A "Stop the Bullying" prevention program will be held Saturday from 4-6 p.m. at the True Light Church of God in Christ, Harris Family Life Center, 6380 Pulaski Pike. Speakers include the Beta Epsilon Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.'s Social Action Program, the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.'s "Z-HOPE- Zetas Helping Other People Excel" program and Dependable Hands Organization. The program will focus on victims of bullying and their attackers. It will include a dramatic skit, musical band performance and inspirational speakers. For more information email Benjamin Otey, 2012 "Stop the Bullying" campaign coordinator, at benlotey@att.net.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

Army civilian volunteers are needed

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

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 Jennifer Anderson 513-8290 or email rsvp.dir@seniorview.com.

NASA surplus

NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center's surplus property can be purchased through the General Services Administration sales website. Go to [\[actions.gov\]\(http://actions.gov\), 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.](http://www.gsaa-</p>
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Re-entry information

Just back from an overseas assignment and new to the Redstone Arsenal community? Feeling like a stranger in your own homeland? Contact the Relocation Readiness Program, Army Community Service, for a re-entry briefing to learn about community programs and services. All newly assigned/attached military personnel, appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian personnel, contractors and spouses, as well as retirees are welcome to call Mary Breeden, relocation readiness program manager, 876-5397 or email mary.breeden@conus.army.mil.

Lending closet

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

Community youth event

The second annual Community Awareness For Youth event is Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jaycees Building and Fairgrounds, 2180 Airport Road. CAFY is sponsored by the Huntsville Police Department in partnership with Mayor Tommy Battle. Its goal is to inform youth in Huntsville, Madison and Madison County about various career opportunities and four "Pillars of Success," which include health, physical fitness, careers and education. There will be free food and entertainment, with inflatables for the youngsters. The first 500 kids will receive a free backpack with school supplies. For more information, call Dr. Harry Hobbs 425-5307 or visit www.hsvpolice.com.

Space Camp for special kids

A "Special Needs" Space Camp will be held Aug. 24-29 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. It is for individuals or groups. The camp will be similar in nature to the regular Space Camp, but some activities may be modified, depending on the specific needs of the individual child. Since every child has different needs, organizers encourage parents to call and speak with them directly. The

camp is \$749, which includes meals and lodging. Lodging is on-site in the Space Camp habitat. If a child normally has a full-time aide, he or she may attend as an aide at no additional cost. For more information, call 1-800-637-7223.

A&M logistics registration

Alabama A&M University is now on Redstone Arsenal. Office hours are every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Army Education Center, building 3222 in room 13 on Snooper Road. Available is program information leading to the undergraduate Logistics and Supply Chain Management Degree, advising, evaluations (prior academic and military), registration and information for other degree programs offered at Alabama A&M University. The Logistics and Supply Chain Management Degree is available to active duty servicemembers, their spouses and adult children, retirees, civilians employed on Redstone Arsenal, and on a space-available basis for all others. Classes are taught in the evenings to allow working professionals the opportunity to earn their degree without career interruption. For more information, contact retired Lt. Col. Samuel Scruggs at samuel.scruggs@aamu.edu or 372-8216 or 479-2730 and Kris Reed at kris.reed@aamu.edu or 372-5753. Interested persons may also visit <http://www.aamu.edu/business>.

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.

Reserve openings

The 375th Engineer Company (Army Reserve) in Huntsville offers the opportunity for promotion while simultaneously enhancing project management, construction and leadership skills. The unit has immediate openings for sergeant through chief warrant officer 2 and first lieutenant (Engineer specialties preferred) who want to make a significant contribution to the readiness of the Army. The 375th conducts vertical construction operations in CONUS and OCONUS during Extended Combat Training Exercises. All prior servicemembers are welcome to contact the unit. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Walker at miranda.walker@usar.army.mil, phone 535-6232 or Sgt. 1st Class Stumpe at roy.marcus.stumpe@

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usar.army.mil, phone 535-6229 or Capt. South at william.south@us.army.mil.

Photo contest

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table is holding its first photo contest through Nov. 1 with categories for middle and high school students, and for adults age 19 and above. Winners will be announced in January. Individuals may enter two of their photos in each category print and digital – with potential subjects pertaining to the Civil War. For more information, visit <http://sites.google.com/site/tvcwrt/>.

College evaluation

Columbia College is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The college will host a visit Oct. 1-3 with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Columbia College is accredited by the commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the commission's criteria for accreditation. The public is invited to submit comments regarding Columbia College to: Public Comment on Columbia College, The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411.

Thrift Shop job

The Thrift Shop is looking for a cleaning team/person to clean once a week on Mondays. If you are interested, visit the Thrift Shop in building 3209 on Hercules Road or call management 881-6992.

Las Vegas night

Xi Omicron Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity invites you to its annual "Las Vegas Night" and the Silent Auction, Aug. 17 from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Omega Center, 181 Import Circle. Proceeds will support the scholarship foundation and the Harris Home for Children. There will be music by DJs Ghon Bomb and Chief Rocka of 103.1 WEUP,

and photography by Radar Magazine. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$35 at the door. Purchase tickets online at www.xi-omicron.com. For more information, call Richard Suttle 655-6769 or email richard.suttle@dps.alabama.gov.

Community day

Northwest Church of Christ, 5008 Pulaski Pike, is sponsoring a Community Day on Aug. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to noon. This free community event includes a clothing giveaway for all ages and expert-led workshops on money and property management, healthy eating and more. Representatives from health-care agencies, the legal profession, financial planning and TARCOG will be on hand. Health South Blood Mobile will also be there to take blood donations. Continental breakfast and a light lunch will be provided. For more information on this free event, call John or Gladys Branch 837-9217.

Rumba dance classes

Rumba, a slow, Latin dance, will be taught for adult couples on six Thursdays from Aug. 16 through Sept. 20 from 8-9 p.m. at Pagano Gym. Tuition is \$66 per couple. No experience necessary. This course is also available as a five-week, \$55 review course (by eliminating the first class only) for those who have taken this course previously at Redstone. You may call the ITR Ticket Office 876-4531 and register using your credit card or stop by building 3711 at the intersection of Patton and Aerobee roads. Class size is limited to 25 couples. Instructors are Mary Jo Blount and Vince Guarin.

Veterans job fair

"Hiring Our Heroes Career Fair" – a job fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members, and military spouses – will be held Aug. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Huntsville Marriott, 5 Tranquility Base. For more information on this free event, call Sheila McFerran of Still Serving Veterans 883-7035 or email sheilamcferran@stillservingveterans.org.

Car show

The Ardmore Quarterback Club presents the Ardmore Car Show, Aug. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at John Barnes Park in Ardmore, Tenn. All proceeds go to support Ardmore High School athletic programs. Spectator admission is \$5 per person, \$15 per family; and children 12 and under are admitted free. For more information, call Rodney Willoughby (205) 908-2677, Sandy Hardiman (256) 656-3413 or visit ArdmoreCarShow@gmail.com.

Memorial open house

Open House at the Memorial will be presented the last three Thursdays in August – Aug. 16, 23 and 30 – from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial located in Veterans Park in downtown Huntsville. The open house will involve volunteers who will answer questions about the memorial's design, the symbolism of some of the memorial elements and other facts about the memorial. Information about the time capsule and the brick pavers will also be provided. Re-enactors dressed in period military uniforms will participate in the events.

Breast cancer awareness

As part of its vision to realize a world without breast cancer, the North Central Alabama Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure is encouraging people to show their true colors by participating in Worship in Pink, a simple education program that inspires breast cancer advocacy and honors those affected by the disease. Worship in Pink Weekend will be held Aug. 25-26 throughout north central Alabama. The Worship in Pink program encourages and empowers places of worship to spread the life-saving message of early detection and honor survivors in their communities. Participants are encouraged to wear

pink and get creative to make the day fun and educational. After registering at komenncalabama.org, groups will receive a free participation kit that includes ideas and promotional materials for Worship in Pink Weekend. Groups host their own events and incorporate breast cancer education into their weekly service. For more information, visit komenncalabama.org.

Disabled/veterans recruitment

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs will hold a free Disability and Veteran Linkage Fair for Huntsville area federal contractors Aug. 9 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, 3000 Johnson Road. The purpose is to assist federal contractors and sub-contractors in their mission to develop meaningful relationships with community based organizations, educational institutions, state and federal government agencies and other sources in their efforts to identify and recruit qualified individuals with disabilities and covered veterans. The event will begin with speakers from OFCCP, Veterans Affairs and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. Registration is required for this free event. Submit registration requests to John Ambrose via email at John@DOL.gov.

Comedy show

McCloud Entertainment and eventblack.com will present a comedy show Aug. 18 at the Holiday Inn Research Park. Doors open at 7 p.m. with the show at 8. It features from "P'Diddy Bad Boyz of Comedy" Marcus Combs and comedian Ron Ron; and the host is BET Comicview's Bo P. Tickets are on sale online at eventblack.com and at James Records & Tapes. For VIP tickets or more information, call 693-2004.

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Meet new principals

Huntsville City Schools is holding a "Meet and Greet" for the three new principals of Williams Elementary, Williams Middle and Columbia High School on Aug. 9 from 6-7:30 p.m. The event will be held at Williams Elementary, 155 Barren Fork Boulevard. In addition to meeting the new principals, the Redstone Arsenal community will have the opportunity to do onsite school registration, transportation signup, and learn more about course requirements, extracurricular activities and the extended day program.

Business seminar

"How to Start a Business" with Stephen Levy of SEL & Associates will be presented Aug. 8 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, briefing room. The \$20 fee is payable at the door. To register call 824-6422 or email SBDC@uah.edu.

Contract managers support

The Huntsville Chapter of the National Contract Management Association will participate in the 2012 Walk to

End Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's disease is the nation's sixth-leading cause of death and this annual walk is held in more than 600 communities nationwide to raise awareness, funds for care, support and research. The Huntsville Walk will take place Sept. 15 at the Botanical Garden and NCMA is seeking participants of all ages and abilities to join it on this walk. If you wish to walk or volunteer with NCMA in support of this cause, call Amy Donlin 876-0500 and Kevin Powell 450-4675.

Artifact collection

The Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial Foundation is collecting historical and military artifacts for a time capsule that will be buried at the veterans memorial on or near Veterans Day. Artifacts are being collected at the SmithStoreIt at Church Street and Cook Avenue on the following dates: Aug. 25 for member organizations of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, and Sept. 15 and 22 for all Madison County residents. In addition, the foundation will collect artifacts from

members to the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home on Aug. 11. Artifacts can include items such as military medals and ribbons, personal letters, hats and clothing, photos and books. Items not chosen to be placed in the 2-foot-square capsule will be returned to their owners.

YMCA summer camp

Registration is free for active duty or deployed military to the YMCA Summer Camp Aug. 5-8 at 4 p.m. at Camp Cha-La-Kee on Lake Guntersville. Cost for others is \$325 per camper for YMCA members, \$350 for non-members. First- through eighth-graders are invited. Register by Friday at the Hogan YMCA in Madison or the Southeast Family YMCA in southeast Huntsville. For more information or reservations, call James Gossett or Carole Forbes 883-9622.

Island-theme benefit

The Rotary Club of Madison will hold the 10th annual Parrots of the Caribbean, an outdoor evening of live music, food and libations, Aug. 25 from 6-11 p.m. at 58 Martin St. in downtown Madison. All guests must be 21 or older and are encouraged to bring their IDs, blankets and

lawn chairs. This event is held rain or shine. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the night of the event and can be purchased from Madison Rotarians or online (<http://madisonrotary.org/parrots>) with an additional online ticketing service charge of \$2.09 per ticket. Tickets can also be purchased over the phone using a credit card; call 564-2075 and leave your callback number. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Madison Rotary Club's local and international projects. For more information, call the Rotary Club of Madison 564-2075 or email madisonrotary@gmail.com.

Eighth Army opportunities

The Eighth Army is looking for the Army's best and brightest. Expand your horizons by joining its team in the Republic of Korea. The Eighth Army offers you the opportunity to: grow professionally, play a critical part in the U.S. Pacific strategy, experience the most dynamic area in the world today, make lifelong relationships with America's Korean allies and experience a new and vibrant Korea with your family. Contact your assignment manager today, a prepared release said. Visit <http://8tharmy.korea.army.mil> or Facebook: 8th-Army-Korea.

