

# Redstone Rocket

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## Leadership opportunity builds career

*Mansker joins USASAC as senior enlisted adviser*

By SKIP VAUGHN  
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Although he was accepted to college, the San Jose, Calif., native decided he wasn't ready to go. Rodger Mansker joined the Army instead because he wanted to see the world and he liked the GI Bill.

His enlistment in December 1985 out of San Jose became his career.

"It was about the three-year mark," Mansker said of his decision to stay. "And truly what that deciding factor was I became a leader, a noncommissioned officer, and realized how great it was to lead the Soldiers."

On Friday, Mansker became the first command sergeant major to serve as senior enlisted adviser to the commander in the 47-year history of the Security Assistance Command. He assumed responsibility as USASAC's command sergeant major in a morning ceremony.

"It's an incredible opportunity personally but it's also an incredible opportunity for our Army – through the partnerships we deal with (at USASAC) – to show the noncommissioned officer corps," Mansker said.

His goals in this position are "first and foremost to learn the command, learn



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Command Sgt. Maj. Rodger Mansker is the senior enlisted adviser at the Security Assistance Command. He is USASAC's first command sergeant major.**

how we operate and how to improve, to meet with our partner countries, to get to know the employees of the command and seek to improve based on the initiatives the commanding general (Maj. Gen. Del Turner) has already established," he said.

Mansker served as the command ser-

geant major for 404th Army Field Support Brigade, under the Army Sustainment Command, from August 2010 through the end of July at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. He has been a command sergeant major for six years.

**See Mansker on page 4**

## Gate 7 revamped for better access

*Part of bigger plan to ease congestion*

By KARI HAWKINS  
Assistant editor  
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Gate 7 has a new look.

Gone are the construction cones and temporary lanes.

In their place are bullet-resistant gate booths, raised concrete islands between the lanes, a separate gate house, improved lighting, new road striping, active vehicle barriers (also known as the grab-it net)

and permanent traffic lanes that bring the busy gate in compliance with access control point guidance set by the Army, Garrison officials said. Gate 7 is the last Redstone gate to be brought to compliance.

**See Gate on page 4**

Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Temporary gate lanes and construction materials at Gate 7 are now replaced by an upgraded gate design that makes the area safer and in compliance with Army access control point guidance.**



### COMMUNITY NEWS

Job fair targets military, spouses.

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### PEOPLE PROFILE

Future Soldier answers call.

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### MILITARY SCENE

First sergeants receive awards.

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### TECHNOLOGY TODAY

Helicopter demo shows capabilities.

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### WIN OR LOSE

Softball tournament concludes this week.

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# RocketViews

What would be your dream job?

By SKIP VAUGHN  
 Rocket editor  
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**Dwight Fields**  
 Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office  
 “My dream job would probably be in my same field. It would be the chief logistician in the Department of Defense. Actually what I do right now I really enjoy – I’m a logistics management specialist for the Army – but I just believe I could contribute more effectively at a higher level.”



**Doug Carper**  
 AMRDEC Weapons Development and Integration Directorate  
 “I guess I have my dream job. It’s because I just get a lot of self-satisfaction out of the position I hold right now.”



**Chris Huey**  
 Garrison Directorate of Emergency Services  
 “I guess I’m in my dream job since I can’t think of anything else.”



**Sandra Boyle**  
 AMRDEC Engineering Support Division  
 “My dream job would be to have a little shop to sell artwork on the beach. That’s what I want to do. I want to be down on the beach. I’d do that every day. And when I wasn’t working, I could sit out on that beach doing pina colodas. That’s it.”

## Letters to the editor

# Accept everyone for who they are ‘as is’

In most stores, you can find good deals on lots of merchandise, but there is a tip off about those articles when you read the tag and see the words, “as is.” It’s a euphemistic way of saying these are damaged goods. They have a stain, a broken zipper, a missing button, or some other flaw and are consequently slightly irregular. The store often does not tell you where the flaw is. You must look for it. If you purchase the item, don’t come back later whining and sniveling. There will be no refunds, exchanges or sympathy. You’ve been given fair warning. Don’t expect perfection. If you want it, you must take it “as is.”

What if there was a truth in advertising law for people, perhaps in dating services

or even churches? What if people were required to wear a tag that might say, “Slightly bruised self-esteem,” or, “Mildly impaired ability,” or even, “Wacko, run for your life”? Would anyone even get married?

Consider the person you are closest to. That person is slightly irregular. He or she might as well wear an “as is” tag. Don’t expect perfection. Don’t be shocked. He or she is a flawed person. And so are you and I.

So, how are we to respond to the flawed people around us? Do we judge them or accept them? Do we beat them or build them? Do we ignore them or extend ourselves to them?

The original language of the Bible’s New Testament was Greek. It is interesting to

note that the Greeks used three separate terms to define various types of love.

The first and most shallow term for love was the word EROS. We derive our word erotic from it and tend to think of erotic love. But actually, it describes a love that must be earned. One must perform to receive love. In other words, another will love you IF you... please him sexually, buy her an expensive present, or do what he tells you to do. Some of you may have grown up as children with parents who dispensed love based on your grades in school or your achievements on the athletic field. If you stop meeting the conditions, jumping through hoops, or performing, the love

See Letter on page 3

## Softball coach appreciates true sportsmanship

As some of you may have heard, we had an injured player Tuesday (Aug. 21) at the 5 p.m. MARS softball league game. Our All-Star first basewoman suffered a trauma to her hand during the game. She was bleeding after the play and walked to the bench to ask if we had a first aid kit. We did not. However, I realized our opponent, Guns-N-Hoses, was comprised primarily of firefighters

and security force members – Redstone’s first responders!

We approached their dugout and they immediately provided the kind of help we needed. Although it was initially thought to be a compound fracture to her finger, the diagnosis at the hospital later indicated a significant dislocated joint with a deep laceration. She received stitches and was fitted with

a brace. She is expected to make a full recovery.

Thank you again to the Guns-N-Hoses team for the infield care and support. Although tournament play can bring additional anxiety and flared tempers, I would like to formally acknowledge the true sportsmanship that was represented at this game.

**Greg Martin**  
 Bit Players coach

## Community youth event draws 2,500 attendees

On behalf of the Huntsville Police Department, Team CAFY, and all of Madison County, we want to give our heartfelt thanks to all of the Redstone Arsenal community for being CAFY 2012 sponsors, supporters, volunteers and attendees!

This year’s Community Awareness For Youth event was truly awesome, due largely in part to your participation! Compared to last

year’s attendance of approximately 1,000, this year we had approximately 2,500 in attendance!

We look forward to working together with you for many, many years to come. Together, we can help create a better environment more conducive to safely raising happy, healthy citizens, families and leaders in Madison County and beyond. It truly takes a village!

Please look for CAFY 2013 next year and pass the word on!

**Dr. Harry Hobbs and the members of Team CAFY**

*Editor’s note: Dr. Harry Hobbs, a retired chief warrant officer 5, is the communications relations officer for Huntsville Police Department.*

### Quote of the week

‘The difference between a job and a career is the difference between forty and sixty hours a week.’  
 — Robert Frost

# RedstoneRocket

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# Letter

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ceases to flow. EROS love is the weakest form of love.

PHILEO love goes a little deeper than EROS love. One is loved because of an attitude or loveable quality. You are loved because you are handsome, pretty, outgoing, rich, or you have a great sense of humor. But what happens when you lose that loveable quality? For example, if you are loved for the way you look, what happens if your skin begins to thin? Will you still be loved to the same degree?

Or what happens when someone else comes along with more of that loveable quality? Perhaps that is why the child gets jealous of the newborn or the new pretty girl at school provokes jealousy from the other girls. Perhaps this kind of love is exemplified in the following poem:

John's girl is rich and haughty.  
My girl is poor as clay.  
John's girl is young and pretty.  
Mine looks like a bale of hay.  
John's girl is smart and clever.  
My girl is dumb but good.  
But would I trade John's girl for my girl?  
You bet your life I would!

The deepest level of love is expressed through the Greek term AGAPE. One is not loved for his or her performance or even just a loveable quality. The word literally is translated, "I love you regardless of your faults. I love you in spite of your deficiencies. I love you unconditionally." Every time the Bible talks about God's love for us or love between husband and wife, it uses the term AGAPE.

AGAPE love is best demonstrated in a true story coming out of Brooklyn, N.Y. A school for children with learning disabilities was holding a fund-raising banquet. During the program, a father stood to speak. He first extolled the school and staff for their outstanding work. Then he posed a question.

"Where is the perfection in my son? Everything God does is done with perfection, but my son can't understand as others. He cannot remember facts and figures. Where is God's perfection?" The audience was shocked by his question and pained by his agony. Then the father provided an answer for the question he had asked.

"I believe when God brings a child like this into the world, the perfection He seeks is in the way other people react to this child."

He went on to tell a story about he and his son, Shiah, taking a walk through the park. Shiah noticed a group of boys he knew playing baseball.

"Do you think they would let me play, Dad?" Shiah asked. The father knew Shiah was neither athletic nor coordinated enough to play baseball. However, he approached one of the boys to ask if his son could play. "We're down by six runs and it's the

eighth inning. I guess he could be on our team. Maybe we can even get him up to bat in the ninth inning."

The father was ecstatic and Shiah smiled broadly as he put on a glove and ran out to short center field.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shiah's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the bottom of the ninth, Shiah's team scored again and now with two outs and the bases loaded with the potential winning run on base, Shiah was scheduled to bat.

Surprisingly, Shiah was given a bat, even though everyone knew he didn't even know how to hold a bat properly, let alone swing it. As Shiah stepped up to the plate, the pitcher moved a few steps closer to lob the ball in softly so Shiah could at least make contact.

As the first pitch came in, Shiah swung clumsily and missed. One of Shiah's teammates then approached Shiah and together they held the bat waiting for the next pitch. The pitcher moved in closer to softly toss the ball toward Shiah. Together with his teammate, Shiah made contact with the ball and it rolled slowly toward the pitcher, who picked up the ball and could have easily thrown it to the first baseman. Shiah would have been out and the game would have ended. Instead, the pitcher threw the ball on a high arc over the first baseman's head and into right field.

Everyone started yelling, "Shiah, run to first, run to first!"

Never in his life had Shiah run to first base. He scampered down the first base line wide eyed and startled. As Shiah stepped on first, they pointed him to second base. The right fielder could have easily thrown the ball to second and Shiah would have been tagged out. Instead, inexplicably, he threw high and over both the second and third basemen's heads and into short left field.

Everyone yelled, "Run to third base, Shiah! Run to third!"

The opposing team's shortstop then ran to him and turned him in the direction of third base. As Shiah stepped on third base, boys from both teams ran behind him screaming, "Shiah, run to home plate! Run home!"

As Shiah stepped on home plate, all 18 boys from both teams lifted him on their shoulders and made him a hero because he had just hit a grand slam home run to win the game.

"That day," said Shiah's father softly with tears now rolling down his face, "for one moment, those 18 boys reached the level of God's perfection."

We live in an imperfect world of needy, grasping, broken, flawed people, every one of them with a little tag on them saying "as is." When you encounter them, remember the story of Shiah. Remember the better way. And for just a moment, you too can reach the level of God's perfection.

**Chaplain (Col.) Douglas Kinder**  
SMDC/ARSTRAT

# Marshall plans facilities for space mission future

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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With one eye toward the future, and the other on preserving the past, Marshall Space Flight Center is "right sizing" and renewing its Redstone Arsenal facilities to best serve the mission and the tax dollars that support it.

The most obvious example of that process, as anyone that has driven on Neal Road near the MSFC's 4200 complex can attest to, is the construction of building 4220. The roughly \$40 million building is part of the center's 20-year facilities master plan, as it moves from the Apollo days, when many of MSFC's buildings were constructed, into the future.

"These older facilities performed well during their design life, supporting the critical research and work required for rocket engine development that got us to the moon, but it has become necessary to divest some of these facilities and replace them with newer higher performance facilities to allow a new generation of engineers and scientists to make their own history, thus continuing the legacy," said



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Construction begins on Marshall Space Flight Center's building 4220 on Neal Road. The \$40 million building will replace building 4202 as part of the center's 20-year facilities master plan.**

Melvin McKinstry, master planning team lead with Marshall Space Flight Center's facilities management office. "We want to honor and preserve our past history in the best way possible but at the same time provide the opportunity to write our own history, too. The taxpayers and the citizens expect NASA to go and do far-reaching great things. The service that we provide is to make sure our engineers, scientists,

**See Plans on page 3**

## Getting to know you

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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**Name:** Kai Ealy

**Job:** Special events assistant, Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation

**Where do you call home?**

Limestone County, Maine

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

I would have to say the networking. The different faces that I get to see. It's different every day. And the events – especially Oktoberfest. I'd have to say the networking and the events. I like meeting people.

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

I am an emcee – an artist. So I like to go to my studio and kind of relax in

the studio and take my mind off the day's work – as far as venting through the mike. And I love soccer – watching it and playing it.

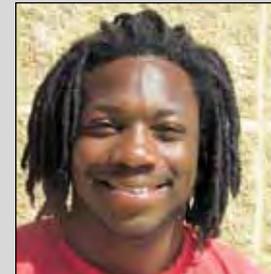
**What are your goals?**

My future goals are to obtain a bachelor's degree in theater arts (from Alabama State University). I would also like to become a professional entertainer – whether it's theater or the music industry. Anything regarding professional entertainment is the long-term goal.

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

**before you kick the bucket?**

The top of my bucket list would be to return back to my hometown in Maine because I was 8 months old when we left. So return back to Maine and retrace my steps to Huntsville. I don't even have a picture in my mind what my home state looks like.



# Mansker

continued from page 1

This is his first tour with USASAC, known as the “Face to the World,” which manages foreign military sales and builds partnerships through engagements with 145 nations and 11 agencies. USASAC is already at \$18.7 billion for foreign military sales in this fiscal year, and will probably surpass \$20 billion – second only to fiscal 2009 foreign military sales.

“First of all, it’s an incredible command reaching all around the globe, truly building partnerships and friends before we really need them,” Mansker said. “It’s not just the equipment (being sold through FMS), it’s the total package – including the training, the training mission. Our training mission is incredible. It’s much larger than I anticipated or expected. It’s a great op-

portunity for our noncommissioned officers to get out there and show what we do, our professional noncommissioned officers.”

USASAC has more than 500 employees, including about 110 servicemembers. With the completion of its relocation to Redstone, USASAC is now a two-star entity and has a subordinate command, the Security Assistance Training Management Command, at Fort Bragg, N.C., which is conducting training in 21 countries throughout the world.

Mansker, 45, with more than 26 years service, earned a bachelor’s of science degree in resource and technology management in 2009 from Troy University through the distance learning program. He and his wife, Tammy, have three children: Michelle, 22, Victoria, 21, and Brandon, 18. His wife attends Pierce College in Tacoma, Wash.; Victoria goes to Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tenn.; and Brandon is a freshman at Central Washington University in El-

lensburg, Wash.

He enjoys dirt bike riding; “I like to tinker around in the garage and on my hotrod”; barbecuing and being around his family and friends. He became a University of Tennessee fan while stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky., from 2000-04. “That’s the college I anticipated my children would attend,” he said.

Mansker said he has enjoyed his first two weeks at Redstone Arsenal and appreciates the community’s hospitality and support for the military. He was impressed by the Garrison’s One-Stop area for human resources.

“As we (USASAC) partner with these other countries, regardless of their size or the amount of the sales, they’re all partners,” he said, “and they’re all important to us.”

Photo by Ellen Hudson

**USASAC commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodger Mansker arrive at Friday’s ceremony.**



# Gate

continued from page 1

In the new design, there are two guard booths for monitoring access to the Arsenal. A third guard booth will be installed in the next few months to provide additional service for processing inbound vehicles during heavy traffic periods into the Arsenal, Garrison officials said.

The new gate is safer for gate guards and easier to maneuver for drivers, the officials said.

The \$3.5 million gate construction project began in fall 2010 and completion was expected in fall 2011. Construction and weather delays put the new gate behind schedule.

Other traffic changes are expected for the area surrounding Gate 7 that ease traffic congestion, increase safety and offer better access. The city of Huntsville, the city of Madison, the state transportation office and the federal government are all funding projects that will improve the traffic flow in the Gate 7/Martin Road/Zierdt Road area.

On July 30, during a press conference

in Madison, Gov. Robert Bentley announced that the state will fund four regional road projects that will have a positive effect on Arsenal-related traffic. The two projects closest to Redstone Arsenal are the widening of Martin Road on the installation from Rideout Road to Gate 7 and widening County Line Road from U.S. Highway 72 to Madison Boulevard.

Each city will provide a 20 percent match for their respective projects and the city of Huntsville has already committed additional funds for the initial phases of Martin Road widening on the Arsenal.

These projects are critical to easing the traffic congestion for Arsenal commuters who normally enter and exit through Gates 7 and 9 during rush hour traffic.

As a critical link to opening up this western corridor, the community plans to widen the segment of Martin Road

from Zierdt Road to Laracy Drive, near Huntsville International Airport. Currently scheduled to begin construction in 2013, Martin Road will also be widened to four lanes and is expected to help offset traffic at Gate 9 as well.

The final piece of the Gate 7 traffic puzzle is the needed widening of Zierdt Road. On July 25, the city of Huntsville and the city of Madison announced that they had joined forces to transform the heavily traveled two-lane road into a four-lane multi-use boulevard that will include pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular traffic.

The project will begin at Madison Boulevard and end at Martin Road. Because Zierdt Road lies within both Madison and Huntsville, the municipalities have worked together to secure funding for the project. Initial construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2013.

# Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for Aug. 12-18:

- Police received a report of a car being damaged at building 7855.
- A driver was cited for a revoked license when he arrived lost at Gate 9.
- A driver was cited for a revoked license when he attempted to enter Gate 3 to drop off an employee.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, with injury, traffic accident on Rideout Road at Gate 9.
- Police arrested a driver for DUI when he was observed driving the wrong way on Martin Road west of Patton Road.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Burse Road.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the

parking lot of building 4400.

- Police investigated a two-vehicle, leaving the scene, without injury, traffic accident in the parking lot of building 5224.
- A driver was cited for a suspended license when he was selected for a Random Antiterrorism Measures inspection at Gate 9.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Patton Road at Buxton Road.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the channelized right-hand turn lane on Goss Road onto Rideout Road.
- An employee reported that their vehicle had been scratched in the parking lot of building 5302.
- Police arrested a subject for shoplifting at the Redstone Exchange.
- Eleven U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.



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# Local employment doors open for veterans

*Hiring Our Heroes job fair serves military community*

By MEGAN COTTON  
For the Rocket

More than 100 veterans met with potential new employers Thursday.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce sponsored Hiring Our Heroes, a job fair open to veterans, active duty military, Guard and Reserve members and their spouses. More than 60 employers attended the job fair – from Northrop Grumman to Verizon Wireless – and more than 160 veterans pre-registered with other attendees and many walk-ins expected.

Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis, of the Expeditionary Contracting Command, welcomed all the employers and servicemembers.

“These great men and women are looking for a second job in life,” Clark-Davis, who has served 29 years in the



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis of the Expeditionary Contracting Command talks with Ernie Lombardi of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Both spoke at the job fair's kickoff.**

Army, said. “It is an honor and privilege to serve your country, so please make sure you hire a veteran today.”

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle thanked everyone for attending. He said



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Katrina Samoranski, district manager of Wells Fargo, meets veteran Douglas Doane of Huntsville.**

events like the job fair are examples of the partnerships between the local governments and servicemembers. Battle estimated that about 30 percent of the area's work force are veterans.

“This town serves our veterans day in and day out, not just on Veterans Day,” Battle said. “We hope to put those to work who have already worked for us.”

Veteran Carl Johnson was attending his first Hiring Our Heroes event.

“I believe this will help,” Johnson said. “It is a lot of different contacts that I didn't know were in Huntsville.”

Lois Bombard agreed that it would be helpful.

“There are a lot more employers here than I expected,” Bombard said. “I am finding a lot of potential opportunities.”

The job fair was held at the Marriott



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Sarah Arnette, with Wyle, talks to veteran Anthony Andreoni of Paint Rock.**

Hotel. The employers' tables filled up four rooms and the atrium.

Steven Kenney of Lowe's said this was not his first time working with veterans or Hiring Our Heroes.

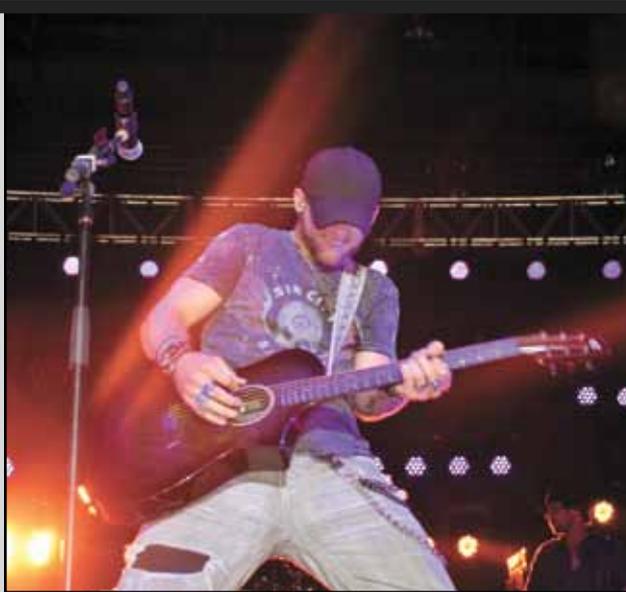
“We (Lowe's) just did a training session at Hiring Our Heroes,” Kenney, who works in human resources, said. “We offered different workshops to help veterans with resume writing, interviewing skills, how to find jobs you are interested in and more.”

Sponsors included the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Huntsville Mayor's Office, the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service, the Alabama Committee of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, WorkSource Alabama, NBC News and local partners.

Photo by Megan Cotton

## Country concert

**Brantley Gilbert performs during Sunday's country music concert at the Activity Field which was this year's show from the Army Entertainment series. “The official (attendance) count I don't have yet but it's going to be close to 9,000,” Mark Germonprez, business operations officer for Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, said.**



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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:

### Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest, Redstone's annual German festival, is Sept. 13-16 at the Activity Field off Patton Road. As always the public is invited. Hours are 5-11 p.m. Sept. 13, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sept. 14, noon to 1 a.m. Sept. 15 and 1-8 p.m. Sept. 16. Prices are \$12 for Sept. 13 and Sept. 16, and \$15 for Sept. 14 and Sept. 15. That covers admission and all the rides, but doesn't include the chance games. Entrance will be through Gate 10 on Pat-

ton Road. In case they're asked, people should have their vehicle registration, proof of insurance and a valid driver's license. For more information, call 313-5224 or visit [redstonemwr.com](http://redstonemwr.com).

### 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](http://redstonemwr.com).

# Behind the scenes at country music concert

Photos by Ellen Hudson

Family and Morale Welfare and Recre-

ation and other organizations were busy setting up the area for last Sunday's concert on the Activity Field.



**Reserve unit 375th Engineering Company members set up the stage in the Activity Field.**



**Banners are affixed in the pavilion area for the concert.**



**FMWR workers do their concert preparations at the field.**

# Read about what's new on Post Library shelves

The Post Library, building 3323 on Redeye 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.

To see the library's catalog, visit [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com), click on Recreation, click on Library and then click on online catalog.

The library has the following new items:

Adult fiction: "Black List: A Thriller" by Brad Thor – When his name is added to a secret government list of individuals slated for assassination, counterterrorism operative Scot Harvath engages in a game of survival. ... "Happy Birthday" by Danielle Steel – The story of three different people, each of whom, on the same day, reaches a turning point in life.

Adult nonfiction: "Behind the Beautiful Forever" by Katherine Boo – Profiles everyday lives in Mumbai's slum, Annawadi, and how the efforts to build better lives are challenged by religious, caste and economic tensions. ... "Thinking, Fast and Slow" by Daniel Kahneman – A Nobel Prize-winning psychologist discusses the faults and capabilities of intuitive versus logical thinking, providing insights into such topics as optimism, the unpredictability of happiness and the psychological pit-

falls of risk-taking.

Children fiction: "A Call for a New Alphabet" by Jef Czekaj – X, tired of being at the end of the alphabet and other grammar rules, calls for a new alphabet. ... "Frankenstein: A Monstrous Parody" by Rick Walton – Frankenstein is the scariest of all the monsters in Miss Devel's castle until one night when he loses his head.

Children nonfiction: "Cheerleading Basics" by Lisa Mullarkey – Traces the history of cheerleading, cheer basics such as arm and leg positions and how to get a crowd excited. ... "How the Dinosaur Got to the Museum" by Jessie Hartland – Traces the 1923 discovery of the diplodocus dinosaur in Utah to its arrival at the Smithsonian Institution.

DVDs: "Community (Season 3)" with Chevy Chase and John Goodman ... "Coriolanus" with Ralph Fiennes, Gerald Butler and Vanessa Redgrave ... "Dexter (Season 6)" with Michael C. Hall, Jennifer Carpenter and Desmond Harrington ... "Treme (Season 2)" with Melissa Leo and Steve Zahn.

Audio books on CDs: "One Good Dog" by Susan Wilson (reader Fred Berman) ... "A Prayer for the Dying" by Jack Higgins (reader Michael Page) MP3 ... "Shock Wave" by John Sandford (reader Eric Conger).

## Redstone Exchange by the numbers

The Redstone Exchange provided the following statistics:

**900** shoppers is the daily average.

**300** people participated in the annual Customer Satisfaction Index during August and each received a \$5 gift card for their survey feedback.

**1,827,071** dollars have been provided to Redstone Arsenal so far in the Exchange's annual distribution for the post.

# Financial lunch-and-learn targets declining home values

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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What long has been considered the American dream, owning a home, has become a nightmare for some in recent years, as homeowners across the country have faced a drop in home values, putting many households underwater on their mortgage.

The reality of value in home ownership and market rental rate in the Huntsville metropolitan area will be the topic of discussion at the Sept. 5 Financial Matters Lunch and Learn, sponsored by ACS and the Housing Office, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road.

David Roach, a certified appraiser with Appraisal Services of North Alabama Inc., and Shelle Neupert, a certified loan officer with Home Mortgage of America Inc., will be on hand to provide information about home values in Huntsville, what it means to have your home appraised and the importance behind knowing not only the process, but who your appraiser is as well. Registration is due by Friday. To register, email kathleen.riester@us.army.mil or kennith.e.carter.civ@mail.mil. Anyone who works on

the Arsenal and their families, especially those that may be realtors, are welcome to attend.

“No matter what, it’s still the American dream and the number one investment anyone is going to make,” said Bob Lovett, residential communities initiative financial manager in the Garrison housing office.

To safeguard that investment, knowledge is key, and understanding not only what’s happening with home values in Huntsville, which slightly differs from the rest of the country, but also the appraisal process itself may impact the decisions you make regarding your current home, or a property you’re looking to buy in the future. Lunch and learn attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions of Roach and Neupert, who have both spent more than 20 years in the business, and know the specifics of the Tennessee Valley.

“This is for your protection, when you turn around and sell that house,” Neupert said.

Values have dropped 10 percent in the Huntsville area, according to Roach. While compared to the rest of the country that may seem minimal, due to the fact that “we didn’t have the bubble go up as fast,” Roach said, it’s still an unwanted



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**The current market rental and value of home ownership will be the topic of the Sept. 5 Financial Matters lunch and learn at Army Community Service.**

decline for area homeowners.

“It’s hard for people to accept it’s gone backward, how much it’s gone backward,” Roach said. “There are some areas of Huntsville and Madison County that have felt very little to nothing, and we’ve also got some other areas that have

been hit very hard. We’ve really felt that 10 percent in the last 12 to 18 months. I’m starting to feel the pain and discouragement of the homeowners.”

The appraisal process is typically the last step taken before a home sale closes, according to Roach, and involves an appraiser coming out to the home to look at the wear and tear of the structure, take measurements, photograph both the inside and outside, and rate the condition of the house. It is, however, not a home inspection. If the appraised value is below the purchase price, the contract must be changed to reflect that. Buyers do not get to choose their appraisers, who are selected by the mortgage lender, and at times are brought in from other locations, such as Atlanta or the southern portion of the state. Roach recommends homebuyers ask their lenders where their appraisers are located, as those based locally will know the area market best.

“It’s more important than it’s ever been,” Roach said. “So many people don’t know what’s going in the transaction.”

For more information about the lunch and learn, call Army Community Service at 876-5397. Attendees are invited to email questions to Neupert ahead of time, at sneupert@hmoai.com.

# Dog defies odds, overcomes paralysis



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Andrea Stewart, environmental engineer for AMRDEC, and her dog Calypso, share a little love in their backyard in Decatur.**

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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DECATUR – She doesn't fit any prototype or what's in the books. It's just Calypso's way.

There are commands a pet owner can teach their dog – sit, come, roll over – but sometimes the greatest lessons don't come from the mouths of humans, but rather, from man's best friend. For Blake and Andrea Stewart, that lesson started

with the basic command “no” and has transformed into so much more.

The Stewarts were on vacation last September when their pet sitter called to let them know their dog Calypso wasn't feeling well – she was lethargic and didn't want to go outside. When a family friend came in to check on the dog she knew well and loved, it quickly became apparent that something was not right with the 7-year-old red Doberman pinscher. Calypso was unresponsive and breathing as though she was in labor. She needed to be seen by a vet, and it couldn't wait until they got home.

While the vet's first suspicion was that she was impacted, soon neurological symptoms began to manifest, and a trip to the emergency vet predicted it was a tick-borne paralysis. As they began their journey back to Alabama, the Stewarts received great news. Calypso was fine. They could take her home. But after arriving in Nashville just hours later, the vet said the words no pet owner wants to hear: you're going to have to put your dog down.

All they could do on the long drive from Nashville to Decatur was cry and prepare to say farewell.

“We got there, we said our goodbyes, and I don't know, something just hit me like a ton of bricks, and all of a sudden I just got a real clear answer – no,” said Andrea, an environmental engineer at AMRDEC. “It's really hard to explain. But after a lot of prayer in the car, I just got a really clear answer. No. And every time I would start to question that, it was like a billboard in my head. No. There

**See Dog on page 13**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Andrea Stewart, environmental engineer for AMRDEC, and her husband Blake Stewart, security manager for RTC, gather with their dogs Ebby, and Calypso, who gets around with the help of a wheelchair after descending myelomalacia paralyzed her hind legs last September.**

# Youth invited to lead memorial's future, honor the past

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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They will be Madison County's bridge to the future, leading the way with the values that have permeated the Huntsville community for the past 50 years – patriotism, freedom and a love for the nation's veterans – into the next 50 years.

"As long as we have a military presence, I feel that Huntsville will continue to be one of the most patriotic communities in the nation," Judy Carney said as she tried to imagine what Huntsville will look like in 2062. "I do envision that spirit will remain."

And it will, with the help of the community's children, who are invited to apply to be an ambassador for the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial. Ambassadors have no specific directed duties or responsibilities, but are encouraged to be present at the Veterans Memorial Time Capsule Internment in November and help plan the disinternment 50 years from now, in 2062.

"Every one of us was 9 years old once," Carney, co-director of the ambassador program, said. "Some of these people are going to grow up to be leaders. This sets

it up for success in the future."

For an application form, visit [www.HuntsvilleVeterans-Memorial.org](http://www.HuntsvilleVeterans-Memorial.org) or email [Time@HuntsvilleVeteransMemorial.org](mailto:Time@HuntsvilleVeteransMemorial.org). Children ages 9 to 15 are invited to apply, but other ages may also be considered. Application deadline is Oct. 19. Any child that is interested in their community and veterans, such as members of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Young Marines and Boys and Girls Club, and military-connected children make good candidates for the program.

"The first 50 years they'll just be responsible for honoring our veterans, showing them the respect due and watching over our beautiful park as best they can," Carney said.

"Ownership, that's what I'd like to see," Brenda Perry, co-director of the ambassador program, said.

In 2062, if they are living, willing and able, their real work will begin, as they are invited and encouraged to come forward to begin plans to bring the time capsule up, host a ceremony and turn the



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet, co-chairman of the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial Board, and Everett Carter Sr. stand with the memorial's time capsule, which Carter painted. Applications are being accepted for area youth who help lead the disinternment of the capsule in 2062.**

artifacts over to the city for public viewing. They will then be responsible for collecting other artifacts from their 50 years, appointing new ambassadors, and re-interring the time capsule for another 50-year cycle. Ambassadors will be invited to submit their own artifacts for the



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**The time capsule will be interred at the foot of the Alabama state flag.**

2012 internment. They will all be given an Appointment Charter at the November internment.

"It's a rare opportunity for children to touch the future, and to be a part of Huntsville's history," Carney said. "It fosters good citizenship and interest in our veterans."

**See Memorial on page 14**

## Dog

continued from page 10

was nothing else in my mind except for no.”

It was not an answer the veterinarian wanted to hear. Calypso was diagnosed with myelomalacia, the premature death of the spinal cord, a condition that left her hind legs paralyzed and within days would travel up her central nervous system, to her lungs and her brain, leading to a painful death. Even as her own husband encouraged her to just let Calypso go, something continued to tell Andrea no.

“I just looked at her, and I don’t know, maybe we communicated or something, but something told me that it was going to be OK,” Andrea said.

**The vet agreed to give her 24 hours.** After a night literally sleeping by Calypso’s side in the kennel, when the Stewarts awoke the next morning there was promising news. Calypso hadn’t gotten any worse, which was atypical. There was reason to keep trying. For the next five days the Stewarts lived at the emergency vet, taking turns going to work and sleeping on the floor, making sure that someone was by her side the entire time.

“She and I clicked that day,” said Andrea, who admittedly wasn’t much of a dog person, even after marrying Blake, and as a result, his dog Calypso. “We bonded. She

wasn’t really my dog until that day.”

Eventually the vet diagnosed her with descending myelomalacia. She could go home, but Calypso’s future looked bleak – her hind legs were of no use to her, she was incontinent, would have lots of urinary tract infections and bedsores, be confined to a bed and have no mobility. Essentially, she would not have a life worth living.

“They basically thought we’d be back in a week to put our dog down,” said Blake, the security manager at RTC.

But they weren’t. The very next day a wheelchair from Walkin’ Wheels arrived after Andrea’s engineering brain kicked in to find the best solution for her baby girl. The first time Calypso tried out her new wheels she ran across the street to the neighbor.

“She hasn’t stopped since,” Blake said.

Since then, she’s broken three harnesses, gone through three sets of wheels, and is so active, requires pneumatic tires to keep up with her busy lifestyle. Within a month she was walking two miles a day, and was approved to go to Auburn, where the vets declared she was one of the best cared for dogs, but couldn’t give Blake and Andrea any more answers as to why Calypso was the way she was, except to predict another bleak outcome. But the Stewarts didn’t give up hope. Every other Wednesday the family would make the trip to Nashville to see a veterinarian who specialized in acupuncture and chiropractic for dogs, and they even tried

an underwater treadmill in Huntsville. Slowly, Calypso regained her anal tone, began to move her tail and showed reflexes in her feet.

“All the vets have said, no, no movement, she will never get it back, she doesn’t have reflexes, but that’s typical of what’s in your veterinary books,” Andrea said. “We’ve defied the odds.”

**Once again, veterinary science** predicted that after six months Calypso would show no signs of improvement, but nearly a year later she’s shown measurable results, gaining muscle mass on a weekly basis. She even spinal walks, putting all of her weight on her front legs and picking up her back legs, standing nearly straight up.

“It’s just such an anomaly of a case because every time someone says, ‘Hey, Calypso can’t do this,’ she ends up doing it,” Andrea said. “Nobody thought she would survive at all, and she did.”

It’s even possible that she might walk again. Weighing in at 64 pounds before the onset of the paralysis, Calypso dropped to 41 pounds, but is now back up at 54, all muscle mass, and shows some movement in what previously lay dormant. She takes Chinese herbs, specific for a dog’s hind legs, every day, and undergoes infrared light therapy, forging the path in medical care for other disabled pets across the country, and the world.

“I’ve heard people say, ‘They survived. We can survive this,’” Andrea said. “We

hope she inspires people. You wouldn’t put a human down.”

That isn’t to say life hasn’t changed for Calypso and the Stewarts. Considerations had to be taken in their backyard to make sure she could get around in her wheelchair, and throw rugs are scattered throughout the inside of the home, to give her traction to move around. She doesn’t use her wheelchair inside, but instead scoots, quite effectively the Stewarts add. Someone is responsible for stopping in to check on her while the couple is at work to help her relieve her bladder, a task that Blake is happy to assist her with at 3 a.m. each day. And for every moment she spends outside in her wheelchair, she spends an equal amount of time inside resting.

But for all the changes she’s undergone in the past year, at the end of the day, Calypso is still Calypso. She still tries to jump on the couch, and while she can’t snatch birds from the sky anymore, she cheers on Ebby, a Chihuahua/rat terrier mix, her companion who is more than happy to take on the job. She even has her own following on Facebook, as well as throughout Decatur, where people will go out of their way to stop and talk to her and Ebby, no greeting for their human parents.

“People told us she’s not going to be happy in a wheelchair, but as most people that meet her can see, her quality of life is really good. She’s still really happy,” Andrea said

## Plans

continued from page 3

partners and other stakeholders have top performing facilities to conduct the agency’s missions.”

The original facilities master plan was created in 2003, but was updated in 2010 to reflect the transitions the agency is undergoing as it moves from its renowned history with the shuttle program to the promising future of the commercial crew and Space Launch System. The challenge facing the facilities management office is determining what the right size is and how they can deliver the capabilities needed to complete the mission with a smaller footprint, and with a limited budget. The office is using three basic strategies to right size and renew its facilities for the future – repair by replacement, straight demolition and revitalization.

“We do have a proactive, comprehensive strategy in place to make sure that we’re right sizing the center in the right way,” McKinstry said.

Many of Marshall’s facilities were built in the pre-Apollo era, the 1960s, and as a result have aged past their design life, according to McKinstry. Rather than renovating the existing structure, sometimes it is more fiscally responsible to repair by replacing it. The new construction of build-

ing 4220, estimated to be completed in January 2014 is a case in point, as it will replace building 4202, which was constructed in 1964, and is expected to be demolished in 2014. The construction of a new building, 4221, is slated to begin in early 2014 and may be completed by the end of 2015, and will replace building 4201, which will be demolished sometime in 2016.

“Instead of spending money to maintain aged buildings beyond their design life, it is sometimes cheaper and a better return on taxpayers’ dollars to just demolish it and replace it with a new building,” McKinstry said.

In other instances, the capability that a building houses is no longer needed by the agency or other stakeholders, and therefore, the building can be demolished, without any need to replace it.

**Building 4471**, which housed office and warehouse space, is planned for demolition in 2013. Building 4481, which housed office space and labs, is also planned for demolition in that same time period.

At times a building houses unique capabilities or has historical significance, such as building 4666, which many of NASA’s prominent engineers worked in supporting the test area. In those cases, the building is revitalized, sometimes called a “gut and redo,” where plumbing, electrical, mechanical and other buildings systems are replaced and brought up to

code. Building 4666 is planned for revitalization in 2013.

“In essence, when we are done with that building we have reset the clock. We have given it a new lease on life,” McKinstry said. “You basically have a new building, but you have maintained its historic integrity.”

Building 4200, which once housed Dr. Wernher von Braun’s office, is under study to determine which of the three strategies will best suit its renewal.

As new facilities are planned, McKinstry’s team also works with key stakeholders to make sure they are programmed and support the capabilities of the center and mission needs. As a government agency and subject to the political climate and budget, all new construction is designed to handle ever-changing conditions in the event an office space needs to be restructured in the future. Rather than hard walls, office buildings will have removable partitions to make the space flexible. With an awareness of their employees’ needs, they are also designed to provide a desirable working environment.

“The talent coming out of school have choices and career options,” McKinstry said. “We want them to feel good about working here.”

Buildings are also constructed to perform energy efficiently, to reduce energy costs which savings can be spent on programs and missions, as opposed to pow-

ering computers and light bulbs. All the new construction is not only LEED certified, but is designed to achieve LEED Silver certification. Certification is based on water efficiency, the energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality and sustainable sites. Buildings 4600, 4601 and 4602 are best examples of this initiative.

**Throughout the process** of right sizing Marshall, the facilities office is working to better organize the center, putting organizations and functions that work closely together physically near each other when possible, and giving the overall center a campus-like feel. One of the key features of this campus friendly approach will be the greenway, which provides possible locations for future buildings, and will make MSFC more pedestrian-friendly by giving employees an accessible and safe space to walk to meetings as opposed to driving. The greenway will also provide a corridor for new utilities, providing the opportunity to reduce the center’s horizontal infrastructure.

“We feel that we’re doing the right thing when it comes to investing the taxpayers’ dollars to provide the maximum return that we possibly can,” McKinstry said. “We are protecting and maintaining the capabilities that we not only need for our current missions, but the future missions that the country decides to embark upon.”

# Employee preparedness focus for September

*Entire work force invited to expo*

By BETH SKARUPA  
For the Rocket

What better time to focus on employee preparedness than during National Preparedness Month?

The inaugural Employee Preparedness Expo, hosted by the Aviation and Missile Command G-3 (Operations), will be held Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. All Arsenal employees – whether military, contractor or civilian – are invited.

September has been designated National Preparedness Month since 2004 when the Federal Emergency Management Agency sponsored the month to encourage Americans to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools and communities. The theme for this year is “Pledge to Prepare – Awareness to Action.”

To that end, all Redstone employees have been invited to the Employee Preparedness Expo. Several speakers will be inside Bob Jones Auditorium throughout the day, while various tables will be set up outside for vendors. No registration is required.

David Nadler, a warning coordinator meteorologist from the National Weather Service in Huntsville, will present a two-hour storm spotter class at

9:30 a.m. for anyone who wants to participate.

“He is our keynote speaker. The class will be the same class he taught at different places around town, like SciQuest and Discovery,” Ellen Ramsey, AMCOM G-3 emergency management/continuity of operations planner, said.

Other speakers include Cynthia Gordon from AMCOM G-1 speaking on AMCOM personnel accountability, Michael Tyler from the Alabama Department of Public Health, Paul Paetian from the Huntsville Amateur Radio Club speaking on HAM radios and emergency communications, Steve Turner from Barron Communications speaking on SAFE-T, the free service for all Alabamians, Robert Fuller from The Community Emergency Response Team and Linda Pennington from the Salvation Army.

Representatives from the Huntsville-Madison County EMA, the American Red Cross, Army Materiel Command and Fox Army Health Center also are expected to be available at the event.

Door prize drawings will be held periodically before each speaker’s presentation. Only those present in the audience will be eligible to win. Donated prizes include Midland weather radios, ready crank flashlight radios, first aid kits, Evacuation Go kits, and a grand prize Emergency Preparedness Kit for a family of four.

“Acquisition employees who attend the expo can get credit hours for the time they participate



Photo by Beth Skarupa

**Marc Lacy, emergency management/continuity of operations planner for the Aviation and Missile Command G-3 (Operations), holds some of the door prizes being collected for the first Employee Preparedness Expo. The expo is scheduled Sept. 27 in Bob Jones Auditorium.**

through their supervisors,” Ramsey said.

AMCOM G-3 team members coordinating the event include Ramsey, emergency management lead Alfreeda Alexander, EM/COOP planners Marc Lacy and Jeanette Williams, G-3 director Larry Gunter and G-3 deputy director Margaret Moulder.

Watch the *Redstone Rocket* for weekly articles about employee preparedness during September.

## Memorial

continued from page 12

Perry’s own grandson, Nate, 9, will be an ambassador, and Carney’s grandson and six great-grandchildren will also serve, carrying on the tradition of their grandparents who have become involved in the memorial.

“It just gives me a huge sense of pride,” Carney said of her family’s participation in the ambassador program. “We know that our country will be safe as long as we have children that carry that spirit forward.”

The time capsule, which measures 2x2x2x2 to fit as many items as possible, is made out of stainless steel and was hand painted by local artist Everett Carter, with images that embody Huntsville and its patriotic spirit. The time capsule will be buried at the foot of the Alabama state flag during Veterans

Day week activities. It will be placed in a vault, which will control the air to best preserve the artifacts.

“I can just imagine the faces of the people who see it come up in 50 years,” Carney said.

The public is invited to submit their own artifacts for consideration for the 2012 internment Sept. 15 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Smith Store It, located at the corner of Cook Avenue and County Road. Ideal artifacts are reminiscent of a Madison County citizen’s military experience, such as letters home, books, souvenirs, photographs and patches.

To reach the veterans memorial, call 604-3896 or email [adminperson@huntsvilleveteransmemorial.org](mailto:adminperson@huntsvilleveteransmemorial.org).

*Editor’s note: All Veterans Memorial brick pavers that have been ordered in the past were placed in the ground at the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial last week, according to Dave Carney, with the memorial.*

# Huntsville native answers patriotic call to duty

*Enlists in the Army after high school*

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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All Tucker Hawkins wants is to be a Soldier.

Come Oct. 1, after years of watching Soldiers march in the Veterans Day parades, learning more about the military structure in JROTC at Lee High School, and looking up to his role models such as the Army Materiel Command's Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling and Mike Durant, author and former POW, Hawkins is joining the ranks himself.

"I've always had a patriotic bone in my body," Hawkins said. "The last couple years it has really come out."

Come out so much so that while patience may be a virtue, when it comes to serving his country, impatience is what drives the 18-year-old, who enlisted this spring in Nashville just before graduation. Although he was accepted to the University of Alabama, where he would have followed in his mother's and sister's

footsteps, it wasn't their paths he wanted to take, but rather, those of the men and women that have served the Army over the past 237 years.

"I didn't want to wait another four years. I really just wanted to get something going right away," said Hawkins, who finished up his last week of work Saturday at the Links, where he was employed throughout his senior year of high school.

So on Oct. 1, Hawkins will leave his Huntsville home for a future that is unknown, but what he anticipates will turn into a lifelong career, where he hopes he will have the opportunity to attend college and become a chief warrant officer. What is known is his specialty, infantry, which will likely take him out on patrols, as well as Airborne and Ranger schools, prospects that excite him.

"I always pictured myself holding a rifle and kicking down doors," Hawkins said. "I'm excited. If I'm going to be infantry I want to be the best. I've always wanted to do something in the field, but it's worried my mother a lot. Whenever she hears about something happening in

See Tucker on page 18



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Tucker Hawkins wraps up his last week of work at the Links before his lifelong ambition of becoming a Soldier becomes reality Oct. 1.**

# Soldier assignments turn spouse's career



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Susan Wilhide is always ready with supplies for her Creative Memories customers. The military spouse enjoys the freedom her consultant career gives her to spend time with her family, to volunteer in her children's classrooms, and to be the kind of mom and wife she wants to be.**

*Family takes top place in her career choices*

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

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Since meeting her Soldier, Susan Wilhide has often stood at a crossroads.

And each time, she has taken the path that has put her family first while allowing her to continue her career.

Her first crossroads came in 1999 soon after she met her future husband – Brent Wilhide – at church. At the time, he was stationed at Fort Lee, Va., where he worked as a combat developer at the Combined Arms Support Command.

"I was older and single and hadn't been married," she said. "He was older, divorced and had custody of his three children.

"And that was one of the things that attracted me. I thought 'He knows how to be a dad.' We married and I had a ready-made family. It was all God's plan. A year before meeting Brent, if somebody had told me I was going to get married to a man with three children I would

have 'ran the other way.' But it was perfect timing and the perfect guy for me."

That was 2001, and Wilhide had been teaching school for eight years. She enjoyed the challenge of spending her days helping inquisitive fourth- and fifth-graders learn about the world around them. Taking on the duties of being a stepmom to her husband's two daughters, ages 15 and 13, and son, age 8, just added to the day-to-day fun and challenges.

But then Wilhide became pregnant with her own daughter and another crossroads loomed in her life.

"Brent wanted me to be a stay-at-home mom and wife. I wasn't so sure," she said. "Our baby was due in October 2002, so I finished out the school year and, with tears in my eyes, I resigned from teaching. We had lots and lots of discussions about

**Military Spouses at Work**  
*Part 7 in series*

whether I should do that because I wanted to continue teaching. I enjoyed that.

"It was really hard for me to give up teaching. At the same time, it was very important to Brent that I be a stay-at-home mom. There were some adjustments for me. I had to sacrifice a few things to be supportive of his career and our family."

Her days quickly filled up with taking care of her family, getting ready for a

See Spouse on page 20

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**AMRDEC TEAM RECEIVES COMBAT FLAG**

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# National group inducts workers' equity advocate

When Mary Peoples initiated action to establish the Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Blacks In Government in 1989, little did she realize that 22 years later she would be inducted into the national BIG organization's Distinguished Service Hall of Fame. She was elected for that award by a group of her peers at BIG's national assembly of delegates Aug. 13.

This award is the highest honor bestowed on long-serving BIG members who excelled in the award criteria: distinguished, dedicated service for BIG at the local, regional and national levels as well as support for community advocacy organizations.

She has been a member of BIG for 22 years and she is a life and gold plus member. Peoples has worked in most chapter officer positions and under her leadership, the chapter has been recognized with a Chapter of the Year Award by the Southeast Region of BIG, and received awards at the national level for recruitment initiatives. Peoples has received the chapter's Distinguished Service Award and chapter membership awards for her recruitment efforts.

At the regional level of BIG, Peoples was elected by her region as a regional director for three terms, serving on the national board of directors for BIG. For her demonstrated service to the Southeast Region of BIG, she has received the Region's Distinguished Service Award for two years and also the Meritorious Service Award.

At the national level of BIG while serving on the board of directors, she was successful in developing policies and procedures to improve the efficiency and operation of the organization. While serving as chair of the organization's Financial Advisory Oversight Committee on the board, she developed procedures to ensure that organization financial operations and policies were met. Over the 22 years she has been a member of the organization, she successfully introduced amendments to the organization's operating document that resulted in creating equal employment opportunity programs that benefited its members.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Mary Peoples emceeds the Federally Employed Women's 2012 women's history luncheon and outreach awards program held March 21 at The Summit.**

Peoples has also supported other advocacy organizations such as Federally Employed Women (North Alabama Chapter) and the Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People where she was recognized for developing guidelines to process complaints from local citizens alleging unlawful discrimination. She is a founding sponsor of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial.

Blacks In Government is a national non-profit organization of government workers concerned with equity and excellence in government. BIG was established under the District of Columbia jurisdiction in 1976. The organization is dedicated to addressing issues, including discrimination, which black public servants sometimes feel they have experienced. BIG is committed to ensuring that there is no erosion of affirmative action programs. The organization sponsors a national effort to promote the well-being, education and professional development of government employees at the local, state and federal level. BIG has chapters throughout the country that are segmented within 11 regions.

Peoples serves as an equal employment manager with the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. (*Huntsville-Madison County Chapter, Blacks In Government, release*)

# SMDC's new deputy commander on duty

By **CARRIE E. DAVID**

*SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs*

The Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's new deputy commander was welcomed to the command in a ceremony Aug. 17 at the Von Braun III auditorium.

Ronnie Chronister began his first week as a representative of the command at the 15th annual Space and Missile Defense Conference, which took place Aug. 13-16 at the Von Braun Center downtown.

Chronister had served as the deputy commander for the Aviation and Missile Command since February 2008. He also previously held positions at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center and at the Army Materiel Command Intern School of Engineering and Logistics.

He has a bachelor's in civil engineering from the University of Alabama and a master's in programming management from the Naval Post Graduate School.



Photo by Carrie E. David

**Ronnie Chronister, incoming deputy commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, addresses its work force for the first time following a welcome ceremony at the Von Braun III auditorium Aug. 17.**

## AMRDEC team receives combat flag

An American flag that flew in the skies over Afghanistan in an 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade Apache helicopter conducting combat missions was presented to members of AMRDEC's Aviation Mission Planning System Product Support Facility for their service to the war fighter.

The Product Support Facility is part of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center's Software Engineering Directorate. The team supports hardware fielding and maintenance to aviation units around the world for the Product Directorate of the Aviation Networks and Mission Planning Project Office.

Kellie Strange, support contract lead to the PSF, said that government lead Mark Hunscheid and the rest of the team emphasize quick turnaround in delivering systems to the war fighter.

This is the third flag presented to the PSF team. It has also received flags flown in the Bravo Company 1-3 Attack



Courtesy photo

**Members of AMRDEC's Aviation Mission Planning System Product Support Facility, from left, Justin Bolden, Kellie Strange, Lisa Thompson and Morgan Medlock display the third combat-flown flag presented to the team for exceptional service. The flag was flown in a combat mission over Afghanistan by the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade.**

Apache mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Afghanistan, and the 1-140th Air Assault Black Hawk in support of Operation Freedom/New Dawn over Baghdad, Iraq.

# Tucker

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the Middle East she gets worried. I just tell her not to worry about me.”

Not to worry, Hawkins said, because the Army will prepare him for whatever mission he is sent on. Missions he is ready to accept, no matter where they take him. The chance to experience life outside his hometown and travel the world is one of the things that excites Hawkins most about this new chapter in his life, even if it means danger.

“If they want me to deploy, I’ll do it, I’ll be ready for it,” Hawkins said. “They’re going to prepare me for whatever I have to go through. If I ever do see combat, I’ll be scared, but I’ll be able to handle it.”

Growing up in Huntsville, Hawkins first became attracted to the military in middle school, but it wasn’t until his sophomore year of high school, after talking with his JROTC instructors and a visit to Fort Campbell, Ky., where he got to fire simulation rifles and tour the installation, that he knew it was something he wanted to seriously pursue. Playing videogames like Call of Duty and researching the Army online has only further sparked that calling. A football player when he attended Lee, Hawkins

made the conscious decision to ignore his coaches’ advice so he could follow his dream of being a Soldier long after his ball days were done.

“They wanted me to get bigger so that I could be a better blocker, but I didn’t want to because I knew if I did it would be a lot harder when I decided to join the Army,” Hawkins said.

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*“Going in enlisted would give me the experience I would need to lead people effectively.”*

**Tucker Hawkins**

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That decision came at Christmas, when he announced to his parents that he wanted to go talk to a recruiter about enlisting, a choice he made not only because he simply couldn’t wait to wear the uniform, but also so that when the day hopefully comes where he will lead enlisted men himself, he will know what they are going through because he’s been there.

“Going in enlisted would give me the experience I would need to lead people

effectively,” Hawkins said.

To prepare for the Army, Hawkins goes to PT every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and runs on his own, in addition to lifting weights. To prepare his mind, he’s been reading Army handbooks, in addition to taking classes online in topics such as first aid, mapping and the rank structure. He also likes to read about military

history, and that’s how he learned about the Battle of Mogadishu in 1993, and Black Hawk pilot Chief Warrant Officer Mike Durant and Medal of Honor recipients Sgt. 1st Class Randall Shughart and Master Sgt. Gary Gordon.

“They were Delta Force snipers who volunteered to land at Mike Durant’s crash site. They volunteered to try to help him even knowing they might get killed. And they were killed,” Hawkins said.

Since he made the decision to enlist, it seems everyone he meets at the Links wants to share a little bit of advice, or their experience in the armed forces.

“They just tell me to stay at it. You’ve got to stay mentally tough to get through it because it is a lot of work,” Hawkins said.

He’s also felt the support of the Army family, meeting Soldiers like Command Sgt. Maj. Riling, who took time to mentor him; and SMDC/ARSTRAT commander Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, who sent him a letter of congratulations.

“They’ve already made me feel the value of the Army family,” Hawkins said.

While it’s a lot of anticipation and excitement for the young man, he admits there will be challenges as well, which he is prepared to face.

“The mental toll is the biggest – during football I had the problem sometimes of wanting to give up, but I think I’ll be able to do it,” he said. “You’ve just got to know it’s what you want, and that will help you get through. I just think it will be something I enjoy. I’ve never really wanted to have a desk job, so being in the Army would keep me really active.”

*Editor’s note: Tucker Hawkins is the son of Kari Hawkins, the assistant editor of the Redstone Rocket, and Boyd Hawkins, a 32-year NASA/MSFC contractor working in the Huntsville Operations Support Center.*

# Spouse

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baby, supporting her husband who was then working as a program system manager at the Software Engineering Center at Fort Lee, and finishing her studies for her master's degree.

"I was writing my thesis while I wanted to be reading baby books and parenting books," said Wilhide, who obtained her master's in 2003, about seven months after her daughter Julia was born.

While in Virginia, another military spouse introduced Wilhide to the creative fun of scrapbooking. And, unknown to her at the time, it would become a future career opportunity.

The family remained in Virginia through 2004. While there, the family had a son, who they named Jacob.

Wilhide got her first experience with moving as a military spouse when her husband was assigned in 2004 to Redstone Arsenal as an assistant project manager for Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space. The family moved to Madison, where Wilhide continued to be a stay-at-home mom who enjoyed scrapbooking more and more as a creative and social outlet.

"I became a Creative Memories consultant in 2005," she said. "Actually, I had been a very good customer for a long time and an opportunity presented itself. I thought I could make a contribution to the family through my own business.

"So, I built up a customer base by holding monthly crops (meetings where scrapbookers work together on their scrapbooks), weekend scrapbooking retreats and scrapbook parties in people's houses. I also displayed as a vendor at holiday events."

**B**ut just as she was building up her business to nearly 75 customers, Wilhide hit another crossroads with her husband's reassignment to the Washington, D.C. area, to work as the acquisition branch assignment officer at the Human Resources Command at Alexandria, Va. The family lived there from 2007-10, during which their last child, Joshua, was born.

"It's really hard getting started again and it takes a while to build up your business," Wilhide said. "When I found out we were moving, I met with my biggest customers here and asked them to become consultants. I was able to recruit four consultants and I gave them my customer base to help them get started.

"When I got to D.C., I started all over again. Being a vendor at holiday craft shows where I could meet the public helped me to again build my business."

Yet, another move was imminent and, in 2010, the family found themselves once again living in Madison when their Soldier, now a lieutenant colonel, was reassigned to serve as the product manager for SLAMRAAM, IFPC Inc 2-1 and C-RAM A13, PEO Missiles and Space. This

time, though, when the crossroads came up, Wilhide was able to keep her D.C. customer base while also making the move.

"Most of my customers in D.C. are career women. Among those customers, one works at the White House, another at Children's National Medical Center and another is a professor at George Mason University. I really didn't want to lose my customer base all over again. So, I have kept them and I work with them easily over the phone and through email. Whenever they want to place an order, they get in touch with me," Wilhide said.

**G**etting her Creative Memories business reconnected during their second time in Madison has been more difficult. To build a new customer base, Wilhide has looked for new ways to promote her business, such as becoming a vendor at this year's monthly meetings of the Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club. And she has agreed to put her scrapbooking skills to work as the club's historian this year.

Wilhide's business has changed with the industry. Besides offering the traditional scrapbooking techniques and materials, she also offers products for digital scrapbooking.

"Creating scrapbooks digitally is a lot easier and quicker than the traditional way of scrapbooking with cutouts, scissors and glue," she said.

"But whichever way you choose to scrapbook, you really don't have time not to do it. If you don't capture the moments of your family's lives in a scrapbook, the moments will be lost. It's up to us. If women want to preserve their history and traditions and family stories, scrapbooking gives them a way to do that. If we don't capture it, who will? We now take thousands of pictures because everything is digital. It's so important to get those pictures in a scrapbook so we can share them and enjoy them."

While Wilhide helps others capture their memories in scrapbooks, she is thankful for a career that lets her be a wife and mom, and still contribute financially to her family.

"This job has made it easy for me to be active in my kids' classrooms and to still volunteer," she said. "I can work it around our schedules so that I can be a mom when the kids come home from school, and I can support my husband with his work. It also allows me the time I need to be both mom and dad when my husband is TDY. This is a fun job that lets me work around the things in my life and my husband's life."

Next year, as Joshua goes to kindergarten and the family faces yet another possible move, Wilhide will be at yet another crossroads, deciding whether to continue as a Creative Memories consultant or resume her teaching career.

"Every year, when school starts I think 'Oh, I want to go back to teaching.' But I have been out of it for about 10 years now. So, if I don't return to teaching, I will always have Creative Memories," she said.

# First sergeants stand behind successful troops

*Ordway award  
cites top leaders*

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

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Two first sergeants recognized for their leadership at an annual Association of the U.S. Army breakfast Friday said the Soldiers who serve in their units are the reason behind their success.

When their Soldiers succeed, so, too, does Reserve 1st Sgt. Christopher Nolder of the 326th Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Company, stationed on Patton Road, and Alabama National Guard 1st Sgt. Michael Shane Smith of the 1165th Military Police Company in Fairhope.

“Our job is the most fulfilling and rewarding position in our service,” Smith said. “When our Soldiers succeed, it’s a personal accomplishment for us. It makes me feel good when our Soldiers accept the challenge and then succeed.”

Nolder and Smith were recognized with the 1st Sgt. John Ordway Leadership Award presented Friday at the AUSA breakfast at The Summit. The award recognizes a first sergeant from each of three services – active duty, Reserve and National Guard. The recipient for the active duty award, 1st Sgt. Lance Hemmert of B Company, Military Intelligence Battalion, Redstone Arsenal, was unable to be at the event because he has moved on to another assignment at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Both Nolder and Smith have “award-winning” Soldiers in their units. From Nolder’s unit, Spc. Michael Swan of Gurley was named the nation’s Reserve Soldier of the Year. Swan is currently at Fort Dix, N.J., preparing for the Armywide Soldier of the Year competition in mid-October. From Smith’s unit, National Guard Sgt. Brian Powers was named the NCO of the Year for the Alabama National Guard in late 2011.

The 1st Sgt. John Ordway Award was created by the local AUSA chapter in 2005 to recognize the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. John Ordway, a regular Army Soldier, served as the first sergeant on that expedition. Descendants of Ordway live in Huntsville, two of whom attended the breakfast ceremony.

First sergeants are known within Army units for taking care of the needs of enlisted Soldiers, and ensuring they have proper training and equipment to serve their country. “This is the most rewarding job in the Army because of the interaction you have with Soldiers and the opportunity you have to care, mentor, teach and lead those Soldiers,” Nolder said.

Both Nolder and Smith spend countless hours being of service to the Soldiers in their unit, working far beyond the normal once-a-month weekend schedule for “civilian Soldiers.” When Soldiers need assistance and guidance, those calls don’t often fall into regular working hours.

“It’s easier for me because I have good support here at our headquarters on Patton Road,” said Nolder, a Clarksville, Tenn., police detective. “I have resources I can call on for my Soldiers and I have the active duty Reserve component here that can help me out.”

Among his responsibilities, Smith assisted Soldiers of the 1165th in overcoming the death of two fellow Soldiers after the unit’s deployment to Afghanistan. He instituted a “buddy system” where the unit’s Soldiers check on each other, works with families through a viable family readiness group that is supporting Soldiers during recent activations and develops programs to assist Soldiers in times of crisis.

Nolder has ensured that the 326th is the best equipped and prepared chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear warfare defense company in the entire Reserves. He works closely with Soldiers who need assistance with civilian employment and life issues that impede with their Reserve obligations. He personally mentored and prepared Swan for the rigorous competition for Soldier of the Year through the Reserve levels and now at the Army level.

Hemmert planned and executed training for 10 field offices, eight Joint Terrorism Task Force members, one counterespionage team and various attached personnel on how to prevent, neutralize and exploit foreign and insider threats to the U.S. He has handled the day-to-day functions of an active duty component while also mandating enlisted Soldier compliance with the Structured Self-Development program and was himself the first non-commissioned officer to complete the program in his battalion.

Nolder was nominated for the 1st Sgt. John Ordway Award by active duty Reserve



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Pullom introduces the winners of this year’s 1st Sgt. John Ordway Award at an Association of the U.S. Army breakfast Friday at the Summit. The recipients are, from right, Alabama National Guard 1st Sgt. Michael Shane Smith of the 1165th Military Police Company in Fairhope and Reserve 1st Sgt. Christopher Nolder of the 326th Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Company, stationed on Patton Road. The third Soldier at far left is Sgt. 1st Class Wesley Wilkerson, who stood in for active duty recipient 1st Sgt. Lance Hemmert of B Company, Military Intelligence Battalion, Redstone Arsenal, who has been reassigned to Fort Huachuca, Ariz.**

officer Lt. Jeff Hauck.

“He is such a good noncommissioned officer,” Hauck said. “Because of his police officer side, he comes across as personal and caring. Soldiers really relate to that. It gives him an edge in mentoring and guiding and leading Soldiers.”

AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell spoke about what it takes to make a good first sergeant during the breakfast program. He served as a first sergeant for five years and has about 12 years serving as a command sergeant major.

“It takes an Army to grow a leader, to grow a first sergeant,” Glidewell said. The Army provides Soldiers with “an environment where they learn. They have a life of learning experiences. Then, 14 or 17 years later, they grow into a good first sergeant.”

Glidewell said the three recipients of the Ordway award are the epitome of the non-commissioned officer. Using NCO as an acronym, he said “N” stands for no one in the Army being more professional, the “C” for competence in accomplishing the mission and ensuring the welfare of their Soldiers and “O” for “officers having the maximum time to accomplish their duty because they won’t have to accomplish mine.”

Good first sergeants, good NCOs, he said, are often overlooked because of the amount of time they spend training and doing the things required behind the scenes so their units operate efficiently and smoothly.

“Great leaders are invaluable and they are hard to replace,” Glidewell said. “Their success is measured by those they have taught, coached and mentored, and what they will do in their generation of our Army.”

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# AMC aviation officer reflects on by-the-book career

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**  
AMC Public Affairs

On the front of his business card it reads, “BY-THE-BOOK,” referencing the motto that has stood for the Aviation office of Army Materiel Command since the mid-1980s. A motto he created.

John Savelli, chief aviation officer, joined the AMC team Jan. 7, 1977, and after 35 years with AMC and 46 years of aviation experience his dedication to the war fighter has not wavered.

Six words can sum up the reason why he has stayed with AMC through downgrades, name changes and work force separations.

“I truly love what I do,” Savelli said. “Most of what we do supports the commanding general in our compliance reviews, such as Aviation Resource Management Surveys,” he said. “We go into our organizations and ensure compliance with all the training requirements for the pilots, all standardization requirements, maintenance requirements, quality control and aviation ground support equipment.”

“When we evaluate all the operations, we evaluate them ‘BY-THE-BOOK’ referring to the governing document down to the page and chapter,” he explained. “It’s paramount to how we operate.”

“Since 1987, I have served as the Army’s proponent and waiver authority for

## AMC: Then and Now Fifty years of history Part 5 of series

Army Regulation 95-20, which is a multiservice document that directs contractors on how they will direct and conduct their flight and ground operations.”

Any contractor around the world that manufactures, modifies, overhauls or repairs Army aircraft is mandated to comply with that document.

“It has great impact to the war fighter because you can go to any of our operations within our area of responsibility and have contract maintenance support,” Savelli said. “We cannot operate in a wartime or even peacetime environment without contractors in the aviation industry.”

Compliance reviews are only part of the job for Savelli and his colleagues.

“AMC has a very unique role in aviation where we do subsystem development of components that accommodate everything from seekers, sensors and night vision devices that support our active aircraft,” he said.

These seekers, sensors and other devices are capable of being sized to fit any aircraft needed to use the technology.



Photo by Cherish Washington

**John Savelli, chief aviation officer, joined the AMC team Jan. 7, 1977, and after 35 years with AMC and 46 years of aviation experience his dedication to the war fighter has not wavered.**

The stakes are high when it comes to providing the war fighter’s needs in the field. The appropriate subsystem on the right aircraft can be the difference in successful mission accomplishment and increased survivability. Test programs are developed to integrate life-saving technology with existing equipment.

“I had the opportunity to personally be the chief pilot on a flight test program. We were doing seeker technology for fire and forget weapons and the data we collected is still being used to this day,” Savelli said.



Army photo

**“This patch represents 35 years of my career,” AMC chief aviation officer John Savelli said.**

The technology cultivated from this three-year-long test program was the advanced indirect fire system. As unique as this experience was for Savelli, he proclaims that the entire package has been a memorable experience.

“I’ve been working with those guys for a long time and, typical of aviation, it’s always family oriented,” he said.

According to Savelli the bottom line is, “Getting the latest and greatest technologies in the least amount of time to the war fight. That’s what AMC aviation does.”

And he plans to continue doing that, “BY-THE-BOOK.”

# Local children look to chaplain for answers

*Information shared at Sunday school*

By **LARRY McCASKILL**  
ACC Public and Congressional Affairs

Not one to turn down an invite, Army Contracting Command’s chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles “Chip” Fields found him-

self fielding questions from a very inquisitive group of local children at the Grace United Methodist Church Sunday School.

Ingrid Murray, wife of ACC Command Sgt. Maj. John Murray, was talking to a group of children, kindergarten to fifth-grade, when one child talked about his dad serving in the Army and who was presently deployed.

“One of the other kids said ‘well he doesn’t get to go to church then,’” Murray said. “I knew right then that this was

**See Chaplain on page 23**

Photo by Ingrid Murray

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles “Chip” Fields addresses youngsters at the Grace United Methodist Church Sunday School.**



# Chaplain

continued from page 22

an opportunity to help them understand a little more about the Army.”

Soon after, she mentioned the conversation to Fields who immediately set up a visit with the children.

“It was very important to him to let the children know that the Soldiers’ spiritual needs were being met no matter where the Army sends them,” Murray said.

The meeting with the children generated a lot of interest in the chaplain and his role in the Army.

“They were inquisitive and excited about the chaplain’s kit. Sunday school ends at 10:30 a.m., but they didn’t leave until 10:45 a.m.,” Murray said.

According to Fields, the riveting conversation included answers to why the Army has chaplains, the equipment chaplains use in the field and how those tools correspond to what they knew about church.

“They wanted to handle everything,” Fields said after showing the children his chaplain’s kit as well as his helmet and protective vest.

“A famous preacher (Harry Ironside)

once said, ‘Put the cookies on the bottom shelf, so the children can get to them,’” Fields said. “One of the hardest things for a theologian to do is refrain from speaking like a theologian when talking to people, even more important when talking to children.

“I learned how to take deep spiritual truth and make it understandable to even the youngest of students there,” he said.

The chaplain said he hoped the children left understanding that the assembling of believers is an important aspect in an individual’s overall spiritual growth and this is made available no matter where people congregate.

Murray said the chaplain’s visit exposed the children to a whole new world.

“The following Sunday, one of the children said that they liked the Army preacher and told their mom about the experience,” Murray said. “I’ve also had several parents tell me how much their child talked about Army people going to church anywhere in the world. Now the children have seen firsthand how church is conducted by the Army even if it is in the desert. One parent



Photo by Ingrid Murray

**From left, Harper Rasmussen, Daniel Pizitz and Nicholas Marden explore the contents of the chaplain’s field kit during chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles “Chip” Fields visit to the children’s Sunday school at Grace United Methodist Church.**

admitted she had never really thought about Soldiers in the field and going to church.”



Photo by Ingrid Murray

**Harper Rasmussen has fun trying on the chaplain’s helmet and protective vest.**

# Industry shows interest in Army's renewable energy initiatives

By **DEBRA VALINE**

*Huntsville Center Public Affairs*

The Army and Corps of Engineers achieved a milestone Aug. 22 when more than 600 interested individuals attended the pre-proposal conference for the \$7 billion Renewable and Alternative Energy Power Production for DoD Installations Multiple Award Task Order Contract.

The Corps of Engineers, through its Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville, issued the MATOC Request for Proposal Aug. 7 for \$7 billion in total contract capacity to procure reliable, locally generated, renewable and alternative energy through power purchase agreements. The \$7 billion capacity would be expended for the purchase of energy over a period of 30 years or less from renewable energy plants that are constructed and operated by contractors using private sector financing.

The solicitation is posted on the Federal Business Opportunities website at [www.fbo.gov](http://www.fbo.gov) or <http://go.usa.gov/Gd6>. The solicitation closes Oct. 5.

The conference, hosted by the Army Energy Initiatives Task Force and the Huntsville Center, was held at Bob Jones Auditorium. It presented an overview of the RFP and allowed an opportunity for a questions and answers session. All presentations, questions and answers will be posted as an amendment to the solicitation on the Federal Business Opportunities website. A video of the conference will be posted to the Army EITF website, [www.armyeitf.com](http://www.armyeitf.com), and the Huntsville Center website, [www.hnd.usace.army.mil](http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil). The conference places the Army one step closer to putting a contract vehicle in place that will help installations meet mandated energy goals.

**G**arrison commander Col. John Hamilton opened the conference by telling attendees the importance of renewable energy to energy security on Army installations. He cited the power outages in Huntsville following the April 2011 tornadoes as an example and discussed the challenges of improving energy security and sustainability while remaining cost conscious.

Col. Robert Ruch, the Huntsville Center commander, talked about the goals the Army, the EITF and the Huntsville Center hope to achieve with the RFP.

"This is a huge opportunity for the Army, and we're glad you want to be part of it," Ruch said. "We are truly excited to be leading this effort that will help installations meet mandated energy reduction goals far into the future. Increasing energy security is a top priority for DoD and Army leadership, and this effort will lead to enhanced energy security and sustainability for our installations."

This past April, the White House announced that the Defense Department was making one of the largest commitments to

clean energy in history, by setting a goal to deploy three gigawatts of renewable energy – including solar, wind, biomass or geothermal – on Army, Navy and Air Force installations by 2025. That is enough energy to power 750,000 homes. The Army's goal is one gigawatt of that total. These goals support the broader DoD goal to enhance installation energy security and reduce installation energy costs. "This MATOC is a key contracting vehicle that will be used to procure reliable, locally generated, renewable and alternative energy through establishing a pool of qualified firms and contractors with solar, wind, biomass and geothermal technologies to compete for individual Power Purchase Agreements," Ruch said.

**B**y awarding the contract, the Army will increase its agility by streamlining acquisition processes to develop large-scale renewable energy projects that use private sector financing. This approach will help speed overall project development timelines to ensure the best value to the Army and private sector.

John Lushetsky, the EITF's executive director, spoke about the role of the EITF in helping the Army meet its renewable energy goals.

"To reach the Army's goal of deploying one gigawatt of renewable energy by 2025 will require a different way of doing business with the private sector," he said. "The issuance of the MATOC is a clear milestone for us, and the significant interest we've seen from industry indicates that we are on the right path. The EITF has worked closely with the Huntsville Center to make the MATOC a streamlined and agile tool for the government to procure power from large-scale renewable energy projects. We reviewed and responded to more than 900 comments from industry to make this the best product possible. We think we accomplished our goal but ultimately the people in this room will tell us if we've got it right."

Attendees at the conference said the information was helpful and the partnering opportunities were important.

Kurt Adams, executive vice president and chief development officer for First Wind, Portland, Maine, said the explanation of how pricing would work was very beneficial since he has projects that range greatly in price per kilowatt hour.

Artis Brazee, vice president for operations, MCC Construction Corporation, said the opportunity to speak with the other conference attendees about possible partnerships was helpful.

"This is a unique effort and partnership with the EITF, USACE and other DoD agencies," Lushetsky said. "We want to create processes and pipelines that will help ensure Army energy security, and ultimately, to make the Army the preferred partner with industry in developing large-scale renewable energy projects."

# Helicopters fly in demo over Redstone

*Aircraft capabilities displayed by Bell*

By **KARI HAWKINS**  
Assistant editor  
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Bell Helicopter put itself on display Thursday.

Actually, it was its helicopters that took the “center tarmac” at the Redstone Airfield in a demonstration for Army officials, mostly from the Security Assistance Command; the Non-Standard Rotary Wing Aircraft Project Office, Program Executive Office for Aviation; the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center; Aviation Engineering Directorate and the Army Contracting Command-Redstone.

Four helicopters – 407AH, 407GX, 429 and Huey II – were available to Redstone employees to check out for themselves. Pilots were on hand to answer questions. Army leaders from Team Redstone participated in demonstration flights, with pilots like Col. Brent Vergez, the project manager for Non-Standard Rotary Wing Aircraft, getting an opportunity to work aircraft controls.

“We wanted to let them touch and see these helicopters,” Dale Cato, program manager for Bell’s Foreign Military Sales Program, said.

“These helicopters are available to the Army and to foreign allies. The reason allied governments are interested in these helicopters is that they meet their requirements, but they don’t need the military infrastructure to support them. These governments will buy commercial aircraft like these because they are less expensive and more available. We can deliver them quicker than an Army aircraft. Cost and schedule are the most important factors for these allied governments.”

The helicopters are used for humanitarian support, border patrol, and equipment and personnel transportation.

“They can fulfill any mission. It just depends on their requirements,” Cato said.

The 407AH is armed with multiple weapons, including the Hydra 70, and surveillance packages, and is primarily designed for military operations. The 407GX is a non-armed version of the 407AH that serves as a utility helicopter in support of such activities as border



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**The 407GX, a non-armed version of the 407AH, takes off from the Redstone Airfield in a flight demonstration. Four Bell helicopters that are available to allied governments through the Security Assistance Command were demonstrated to Redstone Arsenal officials.**



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Col. Brent Vergez, the project manager for Non-Standard Rotary Wing Aircraft Project Office, talks about the flight characteristics of the Bell 407AH with pilots Randall Parent, center, and Erik Eriksen. Bell brought four helicopters to Redstone Arsenal on Thursday for flight demonstrations.**

patrol, police patrol, operational awareness and medical missions. The 429 offers the latest armed aircraft technologies for enhanced situational awareness and is certified to the latest military standards. And the Huey II is a remanufactured Huey I helicopter used for transportation.

Much of the business Bell does with foreign countries is through the Security Assistance Command. When a nation is approved by Congress to receive U.S. Army aircraft, they make the purchase as a foreign military sales case through the Security Assistance Command. That sales case is supported by PEO Aviation,

AMRDEC, AED, Aviation and Missile Command, and ACC-Redstone.

“We can sell these helicopters direct to a foreign country or as a foreign military sales case,” Cato said. “It becomes an FMS case if funding for the aircraft requires it or if the government isn’t allowed to go directly to a commercial purchase. As an FMS case, the purchase has U.S. government oversight to ensure the ally is getting a good product.”

Recently, Bell has equipped the country of Yemen with a Huey II. During the last three years, the company has also had opportunities to provide helicopters to the governments of Mexico and Colombia.

Bell Helicopter pilots on-site for the demonstration were proud to show off what the helicopters can do. All former military pilots, they could easily compare the technologies of Bell’s newer aircraft with those of years past.

“I haven’t had a job for 47 years,” joked Bell pilot Mac McMillan. The Vietnam veteran flew Cobras in combat and, in 1969, became a Huey pilot. He joined Bell in 1995 after retiring from the Army.

Recently, Bell has remanufactured Huey helicopters for NASA, the U.S. Border Patrol and the state of New

York. The Huey II demonstrated Thursday was first purchased by the Army in 1971 as a UH-1. It flew in Korea, and was used at Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Hood, Texas; and Fort Leavenworth, Kan., before being given to the National Guard. It was later retired from the Army fleet.

“Bell doesn’t build Hueys anymore,” McMillan said. “The last Hueys came off the line in 1978 and 1979.”

Instead, Bell remanufactures them, taking the well-used models and adding new engines and other internal systems, increasing the weight it can carry to 10,500 pounds and reducing maintenance costs by 43 percent. “Its upgraded performance makes it a Huey II,” David Archer, Huey II program manager, said.

While the Huey II was interesting and brought back memories for many visitors, it was the new technologies of the 407AH, 407GX and 429 that really caught visitors’ attention.

The 407AH is “a similar version to the Iraqi 407 that we are selling to our international partners,” Col. Bob Pastorelli, chief of staff for the Security Assistance Command, said.

“This is an opportunity to see how well these aircraft fly.”

Vergez, the Non-Standard Rotary Wing Aircraft project manager, said the helicopters use new technologies that “provide situational awareness with reduced pilot workload.”

Bell’s lead demo pilot Erik Eriksen recently flew in two international live fire demonstrations in Jordan and Burnei. During his flight with Vergez, he demonstrated many of the 407AH’s flight characteristics, telling the colonel that the helicopter can land in the tightest of physical limitations, including a residential backyard or at a road intersection.

“It takes a lot of practice to be that precise,” Eriksen said. “But the aircraft will do it. Nine times out of 10, the aircraft exceeds the pilot’s capabilities. ... You can see why I like to go out and do demonstrations with it.”

## In this section...

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# AMCOM Operations workers push change initiatives

By JEANNA REITMEIER

For the Rocket

While 2012 is more than two-thirds over, for the work force of the AMCOM G-3 (Operations) it started with change. But this wouldn't be the standard organizational flux that seems to be ongoing with staff reductions and realignments across the Army. This is unique. Led by a core group of their peers, this transformation cornerstone of the G-3 serves as a touch point for the entire directorate, gathering and encouraging transformation initiatives, cost efficiencies and providing feedback to leadership.

With the guidance of the Leading Change Team, leading change initiatives and their respective agents are led through "10 Steps to Success." With careful mentoring, agents are encouraged to become involved in the process, and are empowered with the abilities and tools to make their initiative permanent solutions.

Over the last eight months, more than 20 initiatives were presented to command leadership by the Leading Change Team and accepted for formal mentorship. They were then either moved through the 10 Step Process until completion, are currently in process, or were forwarded to AMCOM headquarters.

The following are just a few of the examples that you should see throughout the G-3, which have been initiated by your co-workers (agents):

**Completed Initiatives:** Organization Day, upcoming Sept. 20 at the NASA Pavilion, contact Jennifer Todd; Events Committee, contact Jennifer Todd; G-3 Newsletter, article submissions due by 15th of every month to Jennifer Todd; Wellness Wednesday, contact Larry Calhoun; and Training Stand-Down Day, contact Tim Bryson.

**In-Process Initiatives:** Lean Six Sigma lanyards, contact Bill Johnson; G-3 KP, contact Deb Rice; AOC Wellness Initiatives, contact Paul Quintel, Jeanna Reit-

meier and Bill Marrero; and Combined Inspection Plan, contact John Moore and Charlie Miller.

The initiatives are important steps in transforming the work force and the culture of the G-3.

"It's not about the actual destination, it's about the direction," G-3 director Larry Gunter said in a recent AMCOM G-3 town hall meeting. "I'm setting the direction for the organization. It's up to you on where we go from here."

Gunter has been on the forefront of the Leading Change Initiative, participating in various events from Walk and Talk with the Boss, Snack with the Boss, G-3 Wellness Wednesday Events, and various Mini Town Halls within the organization.

"Good leaders are supposed to lead from the front, but it's a two-way street," he said. "If we don't know what's wrong, we can't fix it. We take every suggestion to heart. If we can't do it, we're going to find out why, and we'll tell you why."



Courtesy photo

**AMCOM G-3 director Larry Gunter participates in a weekly Wellness Wednesday Walk with his workers.**

If you would like to submit a Leading Change Initiative for consideration, contact the Leading Change Team. Contact information for all members can be found on the Sharepoint site, or you may email Jeanna Reitmeier at [jeanna.k.reitmeier@us.army.mil](mailto:jeanna.k.reitmeier@us.army.mil).

# Shamess recognized for money-saving contributions

By HEATHER R. SMITH

AMRDEC Public Affairs

Jim Shamess of the AMRDEC Aviation Engineering Directorate was honored with the 2011 AMCOM Tarquine Award for outstanding contributions to the AMCOM Value Engineering program.

Value Engineering is an organized effort to analyze the functions of systems, equipment, facilities, services and supplies for achieving the essential functions at lower life cycle cost consistent with required performance, reliability, quality and safety. The program's objective is to lower the cost of products and processes while maintaining or improving performance.

Maintenance Engineering Division chief Kevin Rees nominated Shamess for the award, commenting that Shamess has

played a significant role in AMRDEC's ability to initiate VE proposals with validated savings that exceed both the AMRDEC and the AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center annual VE goals.

A graduate of the aerospace engineering program at Parks College of St. Louis University, Shamess began his employment with the Aviation Systems Command in June 1984.

He credits the award to the excellent work of the entire Aircraft Support Branch, within which he works.

"This award represents well-deserved recognition of a large group of dedicated pro-



**Jim Shamess**

professionals that are absolutely focused on the safety and success of our Soldiers," Shamess said. "My honor is to be associated and allowed to represent these fine individuals on a daily basis."

An example of an initiative that resulted in significant VE savings was the Airframes Team effort in developing repairs for Apache and Black Hawk main rotor blades.

"Combined initiatives to repair a variety of debonds, minor spar damage and large area core replacement prevented dozens of blades from being scrapped unnecessarily," Shamess said. VE studies for these initiatives have been validated, and total savings

exceeded \$3.9 million for fiscal 2011.

Another example of sustained effort, Shamess said, are the Liaison Engineering VE studies which combine a multitude of smaller field support efforts into more manageable groups of actions that represent millions of dollars in validated VE savings each year.

"While small if evaluated individually, the sum of these efforts represent a 20 to 1 return on investment and deliver the brigade commanders the ability to maximize the impact of their fiscal resources on operational readiness and capability," he said.

The Tarquine Award is named for the late Robert Tarquine, who made significant contributions in the early years of AMCOM's VE program. It is presented annually to the professional making the most outstanding contributions to the AMCOM VE program.

# Eighth Army exercises space support team

By Capt. KURT VAN SLOOTEN

*Eighth Army Public Affairs*

CAMP WALKER, South Korea – During the Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise, Eighth Army typically receives augmentation from other military commands across the Korean Peninsula and around the globe.

This year they are getting help from space by way of Army Space Support Team 3, known as ARSST3, from Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. ARSST3 is part of the Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Strategic Forces



Command, which regularly supports the exercise.

ARSSTs deploy globally to plan, coordinate, integrate and synchronize execution of Space Force Enhancement Functions, and Space Control, in support of military and civil operations.

Team leader Maj. Rob Hoffman explained that his team usually deploys with the Space Application Technology User Reachback Node, or SATURN, the Global Broadcast System, or GBS; this exercise they also brought the Broadband Global Area Network, known as BGAN, SAT COM Terminal, a commercial product that allows expedited initial communications worldwide.

“The BGAN is very efficient,” Spc. Samuel DuBose said. “There is no other system that I would rather deploy with.

Photo courtesy of 8th U.S. Army PAO

**Staff Sgt. Oscar Perez and Spc. Samuel DuBose, both with Army Space Support Team 3, set up the Broadband Global Area Network SAT COM Terminal with its solar battery recharger next to the Space Application Technology User Reachback Node on Camp Walker, South Korea, in support of the annual Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise.**

The fact that it is a briefcase-sized Internet providing system is a plus; coupled with the fact that we can set up connections for regular and encrypted Internet in less than five minutes makes it huge.”

In comparison, he said they setup and commissioned their SATURN system in three hours and 45 minutes, which he believes may be close to a record time.

The capabilities, both in technology and in personnel, the ARSST brings reinforce the existing space-based capabilities inherent to Eighth Army.

“Having the Army Space Support Team here is a great benefit to the exercise,” Maj. Ed Schober, senior space operations officer for Eighth Army, said.

## Logistics summit scheduled Thursday

The Garrison Directorate of Logistics will have a meeting this week on its move from the Installation Management Command to the Army Sustainment Command, a subordinate to Army Materiel Command.

The Logistics Summit is Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road.

“The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the support changes generated by DOL’s transition from IMCOM to the Army Sustainment Command (AMC) effective Oct. 1, 2012,” a prepared release said. “Included in these discussions are: new support agreement requirements, and how to select DOL support and procedures for

“It increases our analysis capability in surveillance, intelligence, reconnaissance, terrain analysis, environmental monitoring, and utilization other space-based assets.”

ARSST 3 is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan next spring in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Training exercises like Ulchi Freedom Guardian are carried out in the spirit of the 1953 Republic of Korea-U.S. Mutual Defense Treaty. These exercises highlight the longstanding partnership and enduring friendship between the two nations, help to ensure peace and security on the peninsula, and reaffirm the U.S. commitment to the region.

collecting reimbursable charges.”

DOL’s services include: SSA operations, ammunition and surveillance support, CIF, HMMP, property book, fuel support, vehicle and equipment maintenance support, and transportation services, to include non-tactical vehicle support, bus and taxi services, household goods shipments and storage, and official passport services.

“Target audience (for the summit) are key logisticians that coordinate DOL support for their RSA organization,” the release said. “Additionally, resource management personnel responsible for submitting invoices, and/or performing GFEBs user roles associated with logistical functions are encouraged to attend the last hour of the meeting (11-noon).”

# Win or Lose

## Screw Balls spin past Bit Players in winners bracket

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

On a sunny afternoon at the NASA softball field, the Screw Balls had their way.

The Screw Balls beat the Bit Players 26-11 on Aug. 20 to improve to 2-0 in the Division C postseason tournament and 11-2 overall. But they lost 16-15 to the top-seeded Hard Noc Hitters (13-1) in Thursday's winners bracket semifinal.

The championship final was scheduled Aug. 28.

Against the Bit Players, Screw Balls pitcher Damon Bramlett got the win and went 4-for-5 at the plate. David Whitener and Ronnie Allen had five hits apiece.

Player/coach James "Scooter" Thomas added four hits.

"We just had hot bats," Thomas said. "And the infield was great on defense."

Bit Players (8-4-1) was led at the plate by left fielder Mack Chavis, who doubled. His wife, Katherine, played right



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Shawn Wilson scores during the Screw Balls' eight-run third inning against the Bit Players. The Screw Balls won 26-11.**

## Postseason tournament concludes this week

Here's the championship schedule in the Army/NASA softball league; games will be played at the NASA field:

**Division A:** On Thursday at 5 p.m., Got the Runs vs. Tuesday's winner from the Hit Circus vs. RTC

**Division B:** Tonight at 5, the A-Team vs. Monday's winner from the WYLE Coyotes vs. Fireballs

**Division C:** On Aug. 28, Hard Noc Hitters vs. Monday's winner from the Misfits

field and was at catcher earlier on. Greg Caldwell pitched.

"It was a good game," Bit Players player/coach Greg Martin said. "And they proved themselves superior at the plate."

Bit Players dropped to the losers bracket to face Guns-N-Hoses in an elimination game Aug. 21. Guns-N-Hoses put them out 13-12 to advance.

"It was a close game," Guns-N-Hoses right center Tony Bowden said. "The first three innings we were up by eight runs. And the last couple of innings the other team came back on us and made it quite interesting, made it a nail biter down to the stretch. They made it a close game but we hung on at the end and survived."

Brett Atwell hit an inside-the-park home run and Mike Stoke also homered for Guns-N-Hoses (8-7-1). Pitcher/coach Ed Herbster earned the win and Atwell got the save.

"We had a good balanced attack," Bowden said.

Said Herbster, "I think we've come a long way from the beginning of the season until now but only due to the effort of all our team members."

The game was stopped temporarily when Bit Players first baseman Yvette Binford was injured. The Guns-N-Hoses players, who represent the Garrison's Directorate of Emergency Services, treated her lacerated finger until an ambulance arrived.

Binford suffered a significant dislocated joint with a deep laceration. She received stitches, was fitted with a brace and is expected to make a full recovery.

"I appreciated the help that the fire department (members on the Guns-N-Hoses team) gave," Binford said. "They were just wonderful. They made me relaxed. They're really sweet."

Guns-N-Hoses was eliminated by the Misfits 17-5 on Thursday.

vs. Screw Balls

**Results from last week included:** In Division B, A-Team def. Fireballs 17-14; and WYLE Coyotes def. Redstone's Step-Children 16-6. ... In Division C, Screw Balls def. Bit Players 26-11; Misfits def. EVengers 15-10; Guns-N-Hoses def. Bit Players 13-12; Misfits def. Renegades 8-7; Hard Noc Hitters def. Screw Balls 16-15; and Misfits def. Guns-N-Hoses 17-5.

## Skip's Picks roll in for college football

Alabama, Auburn, Ala. A&M favored

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Here are my predictions for selected games this week in college football:

Michigan at Alabama – **Bama**  
Clemson at Auburn – **Auburn**  
Tuskegee at Alabama A&M – **A&M**  
Northern Colorado at Utah – **Utah**  
South Carolina at Vanderbilt – **South Carolina**

UCF at Akron – **UCF**  
Texas A&M at Louisiana Tech – **Texas**

**A&M**  
UCLA at Rice – **UCLA**  
Washington St. at BYU – **BYU**  
Northern Arizona at Arizona St. – **ASU**

Minnesota at UNLV – **Minnesota**  
Villanova at Temple – **Temple**  
Tennessee at N. Carolina St. – **Tennessee**

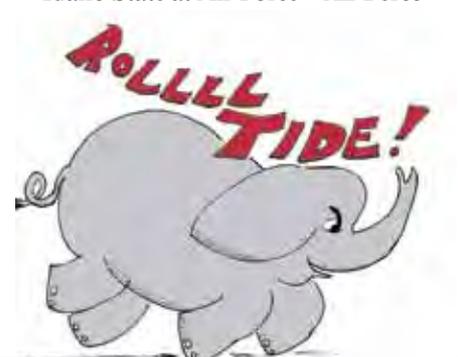
Boise St. at Michigan St. – **Michigan St.**

San Jose St. at Stanford – **Stanford**  
Notre Dame at Navy – **Notre Dame**  
Ohio at Penn St. – **Ohio**  
Tulsa at Iowa St. – **Tulsa**  
W. Michigan at Illinois – **Illinois**  
Miami (Ohio) at Ohio St. – **Ohio State**  
Troy at UAB – **Troy**  
Marshall at West Virginia – **West Virginia**

Northwestern at Syracuse – **Northwestern**

Appalachian State at East Carolina – **East**

Buffalo at Georgia – **Georgia**  
Elon at North Carolina – **UNC**  
Idaho State at Air Force – **Air Force**



Richmond at Virginia – **Virginia**  
William & Mary at Maryland – **Maryland**

Nicholls State at Oregon St. – **Oregon St.**

Nevada at California – **California**  
South Dakota at Montana – **Montana**  
Miami (Fla.) at Boston College – **Miami**

Eastern Kentucky at Purdue – **Purdue**  
Southern Miss at Nebraska – **Nebraska**  
Bowling Green at Florida – **Florida**  
Northern Iowa at Wisconsin – **Wisconsin**

Iowa at Northern Illinois – **Iowa**  
Colorado St. at Colorado – **Colorado St.**

Southern at New Mexico – **New Mexico**

Murray State at Florida St. – **FSU**  
Youngstown State at Pittsburgh – **Pitt**  
Liberty at Wake Forest – **Wake Forest**  
Jacksonville State at Arkansas – **Arkansas**

Chattanooga at South Florida – **S. Florida**

FIU at Duke – **FIU**  
Grambling at Alcorn State – **Grambling**  
Northwestern State at Texas Tech – **Tech**

Savannah State at Oklahoma St. – **OSU**

Southeastern Louisiana at Missouri – **Missouri**

Jackson State at Mississippi St. – **Miss. State**

Tennessee-Martin at Memphis – **Memphis**

North Texas at LSU – **LSU**  
Missouri State at Kansas St. – **KSU**

South Dakota State at Kansas – **KU**  
Central Arkansas at Mississippi – **Ole Miss**

Hawaii at USC – **USC**  
Indiana State at Indiana – **Indiana**

Wyoming at Texas – **Texas**  
Rutgers at Tulane – **Rutgers**

Chadron State at Montana State – **MSU**

Weber State at Fresno St. – **Fresno**  
San Diego St. at Washington – **Washington**

Oklahoma at UTEP – **Oklahoma**  
Arkansas St. at Oregon – **Oregon**

Toledo at Arizona – **Arizona**  
Kentucky at Louisville – **Louisville**

SMU at Baylor – **Baylor**  
Georgia Tech at Virginia Tech – **VT**

## In this section...

# Evans wins Rocketman Triathlon at Redstone



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Competitors in Sunday's Rocketman Triathlon start the race with a 1.5K swim in the Tennessee River.**

Craig Evans, 34, of Hendersonville, Tenn., won the 19th annual Rocketman Triathlon held Sunday at the Col. Carroll Hudson Recreation Area.

Evans finished the race in one hour, 51 minutes and 55 seconds. It included a 1.5 kilometer swim in the Tennessee River followed by a 40K bike ride and 10K run.

Jonathan Krichev, 36, of Huntsville, was second in 1:58:42. Chad Williamson, 27, of Homewood, placed third in 1:59:18. Bruce Gennari, 46, of Brent-

wood, Tenn., was fourth in 1:59:45.

The top four females were Hallie Blunck, 28, of Birmingham, in 2:03:31; Lesley Brainard, 42, of Collierville, Tenn., in 2:10:04; Caitlin Morris, 27, of Madison, in 2:12:47; and Jamie Van De Kamp, 32, of Mount Pleasant, S.C., in 2:14:33.

The male masters winner was Brad Rollins, 43, of Nashville, in 2:02:38. And the female masters winner was Vicki Updike, 44, of Brentwood, Tenn., in 2:20:10. About 460 competitors started the race.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**The participants make their transition from the water to the 40K bike ride, which is followed by a 10K run.**

# Rocket Announcements

## 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.wearbluerun-toremember.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 shotgun scramble starts at 8 a.m. 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.

### 9.11K run

The second annual 9.11K (5.66 mile) race, in memory of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, is Sept. 8 at 7:30 a.m., starting and ending at the Sparkman Center parking lot at building 5302. Check-in time is from 6:30-7:15. Last year's race drew 165 runners, more than doubling previous running events, according to FMWR sports and fitness director Gaylene Wilson. Register on race day for \$20, with a limited number of T-shirts available. For more information, call 876-6701 or 876-2943.

### Sept. 11 remembrance golf

The Aviation Systems Project Office will hold its annual golf scramble Sept. 6 at 8 a.m. at the Links in remembrance of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Jimmy Smith Infiniti of Huntsville

will sponsor a hole-in-one competition during the tournament. Cost is \$40 for Links members and \$60 for non-members, including green fees, cart and lunch. If interested call Amanda Medley 313-4014 or email [amanda.medley@us.army.mil](mailto:amanda.medley@us.army.mil).

### Autism benefit golf

GM Financial is sponsoring the 2012 Par 3 Shootout Charity Golf Tournament, benefiting the Autism Resource Foundation, Sept. 14 at 1:45 p.m. at RTJ Golf Trail at Hampton Cove, 450 Old Highway 431. The \$75 entry fee includes golf and cart, prizes, lunch and shrimp boil. For information call 975-1579 or visit [www.theautismresourcefoundation.org](http://www.theautismresourcefoundation.org).

### 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](mailto:bess_robert@hotmail.com) or Douglas Smith 808-561-8526, email [dshank4@yahoo.com](mailto:dshank4@yahoo.com).

### Sergeants major tourney

Redstone Arsenal's Sergeants Major Association third annual Golf Tournament will be held Sept. 14 at 8:30 a.m. at the Links. Open to the public, the cost is \$60 per person which includes lunch, team and hole prizes. For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 509-2473 or email [reginald.c.battle.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:reginald.c.battle.ctr@mail.mil).

# Rocket Announcements

## Conferences & Meetings

### Weekly worship

The Contemporary Christian Worship Service is held each Sunday at 11 a.m. in the Bicentennial Chapel fellowship hall. 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 Senator 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 Hunts-

ville Christian Church, 171 Indian Creek Road. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359.

### Catholic women

The Military Council of Catholic Women at Redstone Arsenal invites all ladies with a civilian or military ID to its 2012-13 welcome and social program Sept. 7 at Bicentennial Chapel. The social starts at 9 a.m. in the general assembly room, with a short business agenda at 9:30; and at 10 they will have some fun activities to get to know each other better. The 2012-13 MCCW board will provide snacks, and there will be prizes for those women filled with the most “holy spirit.” Consider joining them and stay for an optional Holy Hour at 11, followed by noon Mass. For more information, call Beverly Thetford (254) 371-2265 or Phyllis Gibat 842-2175.

### 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.

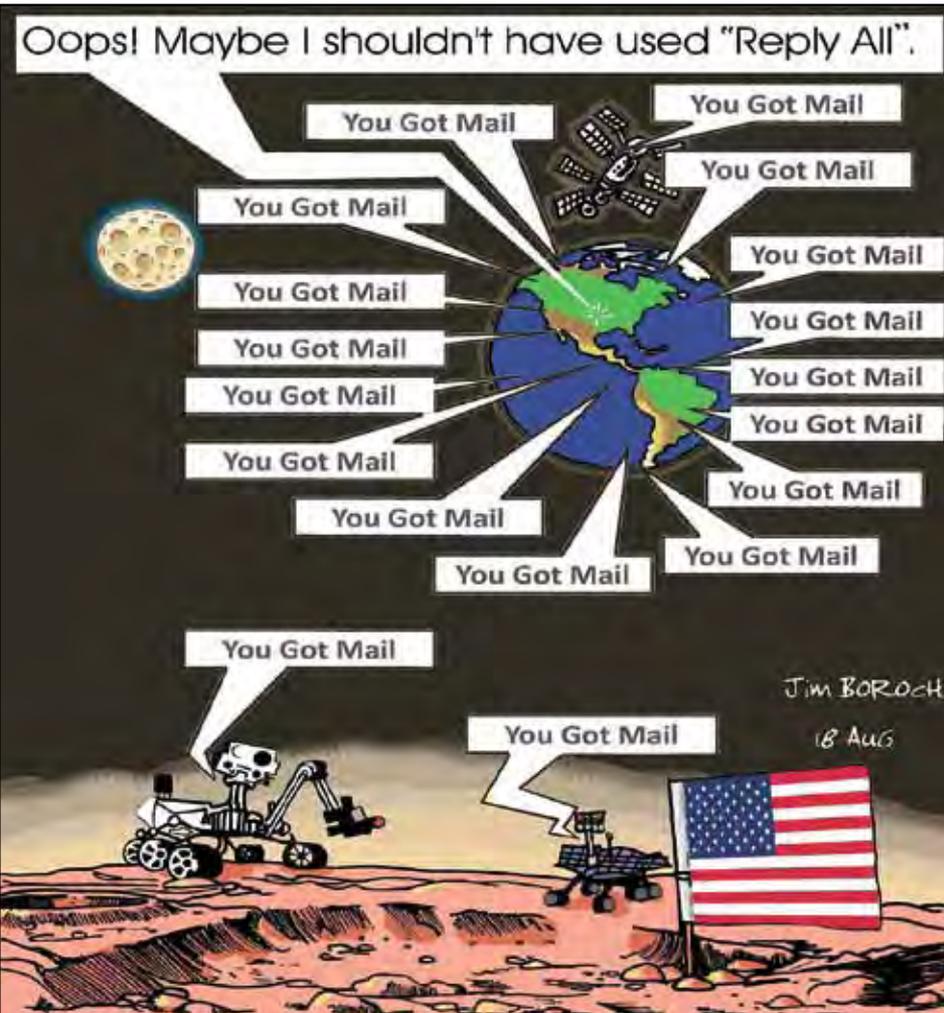
### Meeting professionals

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/srec>. 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.

### Special Forces chapter

The North Alabama Chapter (Chapter 92) of the Special Forces Association will meet at 11 a.m. Sept. 8 at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant, 209 West Grand Ave. (Highway 77), Rainbow City. All Special Forces qualified and personnel who served with or contributed in a unique and definable way to Special Forces units are welcome. For more information, visit <http://www.chapter92sfa.com/>.

See Announcements on page 33



Courtesy photo

## Launcher retiring

The Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office plans a ceremony Sept. 19 at 3 p.m. at building 112 honoring the Multiple Launch Rocket System M270 Launcher's 30 years of service and retirement from the Army. The former MLRS Project Office invites all past alumni/retirees, former MLRS unit personnel and close program associates. RSVP to Christina Hall at 876-4809 by Sept. 12.

# Rocket Announcements

## Parkinson's support

Parkinson's Disease Support Group will meet Sept. 9 at 1:30 p.m. at the Willowbrook Baptist Church's Youth Building, 7625 Bailey Cove Road; there is parking in the back lots. Patients, family and caregivers are invited. The speaker is Nancy Robertson, director of aging programs, TARCOG. For information call 837-6577.

## Missile launcher alums

The Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office (formerly known as the Multiple Launch Rocket System Project Office) invites all past alumni/retirees, former MLRS unit personnel, and close program associates to a ceremony and reception commemorating the MLRS M270 Launcher's 30 years of service and retirement from the Army. The brief ceremony (which includes an M270 Launcher display dedication) will be held Sept. 19 at 3 p.m. outside the PFRMS Project Office, building 112. A small reception will follow at the neighboring Firehouse Pub, building 114. RSVP to Christina Hall 876-4809 by Sept. 12.

## Federal employees

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Sept. 8 at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshment and social time will start at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting at 10. Shannon Hall of Huntsville Hospital will speak on the goal of wellness for seniors, maintaining your health, body mechanics and preventing injuries. Active federal employees and retired nonmembers are invited to visit at any time. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

## Community women's club

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club would like to invite you to its luncheon Sept. 11 at 10:30 a.m. in The Summit. Jill Connett, author of the "Green Plate," is the speaker. Signup deadline for each luncheon is the preceding Friday. For more information, visit [www.rsacwc.org](http://www.rsacwc.org) and "Like" them on Facebook: Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club.

## Logistics society

The International Society of Logistics, Tennessee Valley Chapter, will hold a luncheon today from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Summit. The speaker is Barbie Peek, director of marketing for Port of Huntsville. For information email DeAnn Brower at [deann.brower@mtsi-va.com](mailto:deann.brower@mtsi-va.com).

## Small business council

NDIA-TVC Small Business Council will hold a free event Sept. 18 from 7:30-9 a.m. at the Dynetics Solutions Complex,

1004 Explorer Boulevard. Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, will speak on "Managing the Budget Transition." Members of the small business community are encouraged to attend. Please register at [www.ndiatvcmgrosby.eventbrite.com](http://www.ndiatvcmgrosby.eventbrite.com). The event is posted on NDIA TVC website <http://www.ndia-tvc.org/>.

## Mechanical engineers

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, North Alabama Section, will meet Sept. 5 at 11:30 a.m. at UAH in the Von Braun Research Hall to hear Todd May, program manager for NASA's Space Launch System. He will talk about planning and progress for America's new human-rated heavy-lift launch vehicle. For information and reservations, visit <http://sections.asme.org/NorthAlabama> or email [lisatunstill@asme.org](mailto:lisatunstill@asme.org).

## Rolling Thunder chapter

The Alabama 2 Chapter of Rolling Thunder, a non-profit organization formed in Huntsville, is among 100 chapters nationwide. Their collective mission is dedicated to maintaining public awareness and education of continuing POW/MIA issues as they relate to all military personnel left behind and forgotten. They also provide support and assistance to local veterans from all wars wherever and whenever there is a need. The chapter meets the second Sunday of each month at VFW Post 2702, corner of Sparkman and North Parkway, at 2 p.m. All interested parties are welcome to attend. Membership is open to any individual who is willing to donate their time in support of veterans issues and welfare. For more information, visit the website <http://www.rollingthunder-al-chap2.org>.

## Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will hold its 2012 Sesquicentennial Dinner on Sept. 13 at 5 p.m. at the Roundhouse, Historic Huntsville Depot, 398 Monroe St. Keynote speaker Edwin C. Bearss, a Civil War historian, will discuss the "First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas - A New Face on the War." A reception and social begin at 5, followed by a catered sit-down dinner at 6:30, period music and keynote speaker. Cost is \$30 per person. Business casual attire, but period dress, is encouraged. Visitors are invited but tickets are limited. For more information, call 539-5287 or email [jha@knology.net](mailto:jha@knology.net).

## Miscellaneous Items

### Fraud hotline

The Huntsville Fraud Resident Agency (USACIDC) has implemented a

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

### Education test center

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

### Senior volunteers

Madison County Retired & Senior Volunteer program is partnered with various nonprofit organizations in Huntsville and Madison County that utilize volunteers. R.S.V.P. recruits, places and trains individuals who are 55 or older to fill community service needs. For more information about R.S.V.P. or volunteer opportunities, call R.S.V.P. director Jennifer Anderson 513-8290 or email [rsvp.dir@seniorview.com](mailto: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 [www.gsaauctions.gov](http://www.gsaauctions.gov), search by state of Alabama, and there you will find

items located at MSFC and other federal agencies in Alabama to bid on. For more information, call 544-1774.

### Re-entry information

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

### Lending closet

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

### 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.

### 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

# Rocket Announcements

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>.

## 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](mailto:miranda.walker@usar.army.mil), phone 535-6232 or Sgt. 1st Class Stumpe at [roy.marcus.stumpe@usar.army.mil](mailto:roy.marcus.stumpe@usar.army.mil), phone 535-6229 or Capt. South at [william.south@us.army.mil](mailto: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.

## 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.

## Fraud prevention

Medicare fraud is big business for

criminals who steal more than \$60 billion of Americans' tax dollars every year. Protecting personal information is the best line of defense against con artists that depend on Medicare numbers to make false claims. Another safeguard is remembering to review Summary Notices for possible mistakes or errors in billing. TARCOG Area Agency on Aging and the Senior Medicare Patrol program are working hard to protect seniors and beneficiaries by investigating suspected forms of fraud and abuse. If you suspect errors, fraud or abuse, report it to your local SMP office at 830-0818.

## Food collections

Army Community Service has a food donation box for the Feds Feeds Families 2012 food drive. Non-perishable food items collected will be donated to the local area food bank for families in need. Drop off donations through today until 4 p.m. at ACS, building 3338 on Redeye Road. The Commissary also has a donation box. For more information, call Natalie Taylor of ACS at 876-5397.

## Vietnam veterans' tribute

A Vietnam Veterans Tribute will be held Sept. 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Huntsville Veterans Memorial. The names of 1,223 Alabama Vietnam veterans, 1,207 killed-in-action and 16 missing-in-action will be read by various community and Redstone Arsenal leaders during the event. Everyone is invited to attend and take part of this tribute to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice as the Huntsville community marks the 50th anniversary since the United States' entry into the Vietnam War. Community members are encouraged to respectfully walk around the memorial as the names are being read. The Association of the United States Army is hosting the event. Details on parking and street closings will be available at a later date. For more information, call Jeff Wishik 468-9499 or email [jwishik@yahoo.com](mailto:jwishik@yahoo.com).

## A&M athletic banquet

Alabama A&M University Athletic Hall of Fame will hold its 21st Induction Ceremony and Banquet on Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Ernest Knight Center on campus. The tickets are \$40. To purchase tickets, call Shirley Alexander 372-5654. For banquet information, call Sandra Lyles-Jackson 426-5458.

## Logistics achievement award

Nominations for the Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Award are being accepted for deserving individuals (civilian or military) assigned to Team Redstone who have made significant contributions to the logistics

community and whose leadership and expertise have made a major, positive impact on the Army's logistics program. The 2012 "Ernie" format will include two awards – the Management/Executive Award for GS/GM-13s and above (or military equivalents), and the Professional/Technical Award for GS/GM-13s and below (or military equivalents). Nomination packages must have a cover memorandum signed by the nominee's director or deputy director. Nominations should be submitted by Friday to Barbara A. Harris, logistics management specialist, IMMC Business Management Directorate, at 876-3805.

## Fox health center

Fox Army Health Center will close Friday and Sept. 3 in observance of Labor Day and a training holiday. On Aug. 31, the Primary Care Clinic will open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. for scheduled appointments. The Pharmacy, Pathology, Radiology, Medical Records Window, Call Center and the Tricare Service Center will be open until noon. All other clinics and services will be closed the entire day for a training holiday. On Sept. 3, the entire facility will be closed. As a reminder, the health center is closed on the first Thursday afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

## Bodybuilding competition

The third annual Military Challenge, sponsored by Bodybuilding.com and MusclePharm, is open through Friday for entries to all active and Reserve military, veterans and their spouses. Whether someone is already in great physical shape or wants to utilize this 12-week challenge to transform their body, the most important factor is showing that an individual physical fitness goal can be met while being a top motivator for others. For more information, call Allison Kim (208) 377-3326, ext. 309, email [allie.kim@bodybuilding.com](mailto:allie.kim@bodybuilding.com) or visit <http://www.bodybuilding.com>.

## Special-need families

"Emergency Planning for Families with Special Needs," a program for special-need family members, will be held by the UAH School of Nursing and Huntsville/Madison County EMA on Sept. 12 from 4-6 p.m. at the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Building, 3000 Johnson Road. Registration is free but attendance is limited.

**See Announcements on page 35**

You must pre-register by emailing [wcheeks@phoenixhsv.org](mailto:wcheeks@phoenixhsv.org), or by calling 880-0671, ext. 100. Registration is limited to 40 families. The workshop will include planning guidance for disasters and breakout sessions where participants will begin to write their personalized disaster preparedness plans including emergency "Go" Bag contents with assistance from UAH nursing staff/students. This program is sponsored by Phoenix.

### Exchange news

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

### 'Legend' performance

Three Army Materiel Command employees will be featured this weekend in

the Christian production "The Legend of the Dane" at the Von Braun Center. Horace Wilson of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office wrote and directed the play, and will also perform in the play. He will be joined by Joseph Givens of the Public Affairs Office and Kevin Moore of G-6 in the production. Show times are Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at Lifeway Christian Bookstore, James Records and Tapes, and the Von Braun Center. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

### Housing update

All Soldiers reporting to Redstone Arsenal with authorized permissive temporary duty orders for house hunting must report to the Housing Service Office, building 3494, room 115, on Honest John Road, the One-Stop center. The Soldier will need to bring their DA Form 31 to the HSO for signature before their PTDY begins, or the Soldier will be charged. PTDY will end on the date specified on your DA Form 31 or the date you sign into your new duty station, whichever comes first. For more information call Minnie Rhoden, housing referral specialist, at 842-9902 or email [minnie.s.rhoden@us.army.mil](mailto:minnie.s.rhoden@us.army.mil).

# Rocket Announcements

### Health center news

Fox Army Health Center will conduct a mandatory Army Suicide Prevention Stand-Down in support of health of the force Sept. 27. All services will be closed on this day in order to conduct required training. Normal operating hours will resume Sept. 28. "We apologize for any inconveniences that this may cause and thank you for choosing Fox," the health center said in a prepared release. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

### Civil War history tour

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will hold its 2012 Campaign Tour, Oct. 12-14 – a bus tour of the final round of battles that sealed Atlanta's fate in the Civil War. It features military historian Greg Biggs as the tour guide for "Johnston's Rubicon: The Fall of Atlanta and the Rise of John Bell Hood." The tour is three days and two nights, with accommodations and breakfasts included. Visitors are invited but space is limited. For res-

ervations and more information, call 890-0890 or email [kdwrt@netzero.net](mailto:kdwrt@netzero.net).

### Sept. 11 remembrance

"God in the Ashes" will be presented by retired Lt. Col. John Mahony at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 7 p.m. Sept. 11. All are invited to this inspirational talk. St. Mark's is located one block south of Governors Drive on Franklin Street. You can park on the Westmoreland lot south of the church or across from the church on Franklin. For more information, call 539-4361.

### JAG Office move

The Judge Advocate General Office will be closed Sept. 24-28 to accommodate its move from building 111 to the trailers behind 3494 on Honest John and Mauler roads. These are the temporary buildings previously occupied by the Military Personnel Office. The JAG Office will move in mid-to-late December to its permanent building 3439 on Honest John Road. The JAG Office will provide services on Retiree Activity Day, Sept. 29 at the Tax Assistance Center, building 3489. For more information, call 876-9005.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

## Shopping construction

Construction has begun on a new Redstone Federal Credit Union on Mills Road that is heralding in a new era of customer service along the Martin Road corridor. The credit union, located on about three acres, is part of a larger project that will include about 15 acres at the corner of Martin and Mills roads for a new shoppette area that will be managed by AAFES, Garrison officials said. The credit union will be south of the shoppette area. Construction on the shoppette area will begin in December and is expected to be complete by fall 2013. The shoppette area will include a convenience store with three gas pump stations, a Burger King with a drive-through window and a Blimpies. There will also be a retail area for other stores.

**WASTE...**  
**...RUINS MY TASTE**



**Keep storm drains clean  
for those downstream!**

**Keep Redstone Arsenal water streams free of pollutants.  
For more information call the Garrison Environmental Office,  
Storm Water Program manager at 955-8501.**