

Helping the military is 'labor of love'

Veteran of Year feels blessed as volunteer

By KARI HAWKINS
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Working for a company that shares your personal philosophy can be a blessing.

And so it is for John Perry, a retired Reserve command sergeant major who balances his work responsibilities with his obligations as a community volunteer supporting servicemembers, veterans and their families.

It is in his volunteer work that his personal philosophy fits well with the working philosophy of his employer, Intuitive Research and Technology Corp., where veterans make up more than 25 percent of the 200-member work force.

"This company has been at the forefront of veterans affairs. It does a lot for veterans, and we're grateful for that," Perry said. "I've been blessed because of this whole company. The good Lord has given me the guidance, and has put me in the right place at the right time."

Last summer, Intuitive made headlines as the number two company in the nation – only behind USAA, a military-focused banking and insurance company – for being the best place for veterans to work, according to Military Times Edge magazine. Just last month, Perry further cemented Intuitive's image among veterans by making headlines of his own as the Veteran of the Year, an honor presented by the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition at the annual Veterans Day dinner to a veteran who has provided outstanding support for the community's military programs.

"When we hired John we were looking to augment our staff with folks that had commercial expertise in production readiness. We felt these types of employees would help to support our government customer in ensuring the production readiness of missile systems," Intuitive founder and president Hal Brewer said.

"But John winning this award caught us all by surprise. His personal philosophy and our company philosophy are in sync with each other. We don't do this for accolades or publicity, and neither does John. We do this because supporting our veterans is very important to us. It's part of our nature."

Perry began volunteering with local veterans groups soon after 9/11. He became involved with a group of veteran volunteers led by Bill Hogan and Bill Meyers, who started and then coordinated Huntsville's Veterans Day Parade for several years.

"They were both Vietnam veterans and their philosophy was they didn't want any of our Soldiers to be treated today like they were treated after Vietnam. These two guys were my mentors," Perry said.

It wasn't long before Perry's Reserve unit, the 4th/108th



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Veteran of the Year John Perry holds the trophy he received in recognition of the work he does to support servicemembers and veterans through a variety of local organizations. His work is augmented by the veteran-focused activities of the company he works for – Intuitive Research and Technology Corp.

Chemical Battalion, began preparing for deployment. His wife, Brenda, activated the unit's family readiness group support plan to prepare families for mobilization while Perry and the unit's commander prepared Soldiers. Perry did not deploy with the unit, but during its deployment he and his wife and the FRG team supported Soldier families.

After the unit's return, Perry's son, Chad, who had just completed his training as a reservist, began to prepare for mobilization to Afghanistan with the 926th Combat Engineer Battalion, comprised of Soldiers from Alpha Company in Decatur, Bravo Company in Birmingham and Charlie Company in Huntsville. Perry and his wife provided support for the more than 140 families

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Birthday party honors 97-year-old general.

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WIN OR LOSE

Army wounded warriors take first in competition.

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RocketViews

What do you want Santa to bring you for Christmas?

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Emily St. Peter
Preschool A
Marshall Child
Development Center
“A mermaid. She can take her tail off and become a person. And a rock star guitar and a princess book.”



Alex Salgueiro
Preschool A
Marshall Child
Development Center
“I want a Transformers house with Transformers, a Bumblebee Transformer and Optimus Prime. And I want a Spider-Man house with a Spider-Man motorcycle.”



Sydney Turpin
Preschool A
Marshall Child
Development Center
“A Barbie and a red bowling ball, a puppy dog and a leash, and a motorcycle.”



Landon Cole
Preschool A
Marshall Child
Development Center
“A bulldozer toy and a helmet, pretend dirt and a space station.”

RedstoneRocket

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Letter to the editor

Use social media to tell the Army story

Today, nearly 3 million men and women serve our country in uniform. Though that number may seem large, it's actually less than 1 percent of the American population. Believe it or not, there are many Americans who have never even met a U.S. servicemember. That means that there's a large number of Americans who are unaware of the hard work, commitment and sacrifice of our incredible Soldiers, veterans and their families. Fortunately, there's a powerful new technology to help us tell our Army story: social media.

Many of our Soldiers are already adept at using social media; whether it be keeping in touch with friends on Facebook, sharing an interesting link with your friends on Twitter, or watching a funny video on Youtube. In fact, our Soldiers don't just watch Youtube, some of them are talented Youtube stars in their own right!

It's an incredible new tool for helping to tell our Army story, and I encourage all of our Soldiers to help share their Army story with the world, as long as they follow four simple rules.

- Only write/blog or talk about first-hand experiences.
- Do not use this new technology as a forum to air grievances.
- Whatever you write or discuss must be attributable to you.
- Always tell the truth, and if you do not know the answer just state that.

When we all follow these four simple rules, the results are amazing. Last year, our Army chief of staff, Gen. Raymond Odierno, finalized his reading list based partly on responses posted on the Army Live blog. Our Soldiers regularly post lessons learned in military forums like Small Wars Journal. Our Soldiers even rebut Taliban propaganda on platforms such as Twitter in real time.

So whether you're a fan of Facebook or Twitter, Flickr or Youtube, Pinterest or Google Plus, I encourage you to get out there and help tell the amazing story, your story, of the U.S. Army.

Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV
Army North (Fifth Army) commander



Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV

On this date in history: Dec. 12

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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In 1787: Pennsylvania becomes the second state to ratify the U.S. Constitution five days after Delaware became the first.

In 1800: Washington, D.C., is established as the U.S. capital.

In 1941: Adolf Hitler announces extermination of the Jews at a meeting in the Reich Chancellery.

In 1953: Chuck Yeager reaches mach 2.43 in a Bell X-1A rocket plane.

In 1958: Guinea joins the United Nations.

In 1963: Kenya gains its independence from the United Kingdom.

In 1979: A major earthquake and tsunami kill 259 people in Colombia.

Quote of the week

“It's not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what's required.”

— Sir Winston Churchill

Rocket takes holiday break

The *Redstone Rocket* will have its annual two-week holiday break after the Dec. 19 edition.

The *Rocket* will not publish Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. The first issue of the year will be Jan. 9.

We wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.

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Commissary recycling nets \$5.3M for surcharge

By JESSICA NEWBY
DeCA mass communications specialist

FORT LEE, Va. – Recycling cardboard to the tune of 63,000 tons a year helps save the environment and build new commissaries.

Here's how: Cardboard used to ship products to commissaries is not thrown away but is collected by store workers and sold to recycling companies. Money generated from those sales — \$5.33 million in fiscal 2012 — goes to DeCA's surcharge fund, which goes directly to build and renovate commissaries.

"It's a great ecosystem!" said Joseph Jeu, DeCA director and CEO. "As a Department of Defense agency, good environmental stewardship is a big part of our mission of providing the commissary benefit. Our recycling efforts directly benefit our customers through the surcharge funds generated that go to maintain commissaries around the world."

The process used by commissaries in fiscal 2012 was 70 percent efficient, meaning that 70 percent of all recyclable material brought into stores got recycled, according to Mark Leeper, a DeCA environmental engineer. It surpassed the agency's recycling goal of 55 percent and its stretch goal of 60,000 tons.

Leeper said the increase in the amount recycled is the result of the overall awareness of the program among commissary employees and the benefit it provides. Also, the agency is using an improved reporting system, which allows DeCA to capture more data of the recycling efforts at all commissaries worldwide.

"This reflects the culture in which DeCA operates, one that takes into consideration the big picture of benefits gained through environmentally friendly actions," Leeper said. "The stores, and the diligent efforts of their employees who have caught the vision, make the program work." (DeCA release)

Exchange gift cards personalize troop support

DALLAS – According to a recent National Retail Federation survey, six in 10 shoppers polled said they'd like to receive gift cards this holiday season, the most in the survey's history. Whether in Afghanistan or Alaska, servicemembers also appreciate the value of a gift card during the holidays.

Fortunately, Americans wishing to send support always hit the mark when sending an Army & Air Force Exchange Service gift card.

"By sending an Exchange gift card, troops are empowered to choose items that make their life easier wherever they are called to serve," the Exchange's senior enlisted adviser Chief Master Sgt. Tony Pearson said. "Whether it's tacos, televisions or even

just a tank of gas, Exchange gift cards personalize troop support."

While only authorized military shoppers can redeem Exchange gift cards, any American can send one by simply calling 800-527-2345 or logging on to www.shop-myexchange.com and clicking "Support Your Troops" and then the "Gift and Calling Cards" icon.

From there, Exchange gift cards, ranging in values from \$10 to \$500, can be addressed to a specific Soldier, airman, sailor or Marine or sent to "any service member" through the Fisher House Foundation, Air Force Aid Society, Warrior and Family Support Center or Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. (AAFES release)

Getting to know you

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
Staff writer
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Name: Tammie Learned

Position: Branch chief, energy programs, Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center

Where do you call home?
Here is home, but I was born in Oklahoma.

What do you like about your job?
I have the best job in the world. Energy is more fun than anything I've ever done. We do audits and studies and then see projects put into place which bear savings, so you get that full cycle of satisfaction for the work. The people you work with are phenomenal in energy. They truly have high morals and ethics and they really want to do the right thing.

What are your goals?
I would like to be a director one day here at Huntsville Center. I also have three children, they all should graduate this year from college, UAH, and I have one getting married in the spring, so to get everybody grown up and happy.



What do you like to do in your spare time?

Go motorcycle riding, church activities, spending time with friends and family. I love listening to music, jazz, country and gospel are my favorites. I love working outside, I have beautiful flower beds.

What's on your bucket list?
I want to travel to Ireland, New Zealand, Australia and Italy.

What college football team do you root for?
Alabama.

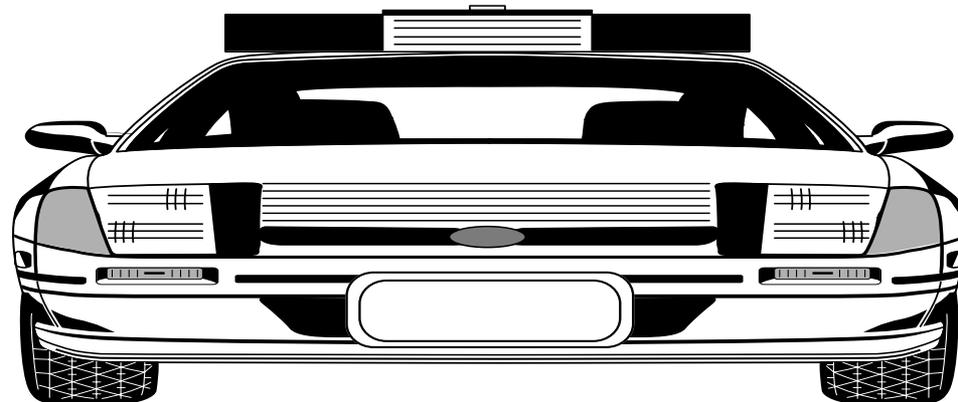
Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for Nov. 25 through Dec. 1:

- Police arrested a man for criminal trespass after he entered Gate 8 without permission.
- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, accident in the parking lot of building 3224.
- Police are investigating the theft of copper wire from building 3302.
- Police are investigating the theft of government property from building 1436C.
- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, accident in the parking lot of building 4723.
- Police received a report of harass-

ing communications.

- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, accident on Fowler Road at Mills Road.
- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, accident on Martin Road east of Mills Road when a vehicle struck a deer.
- Police investigated a report of harassment at building 5309.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, accident on Goss Road at Gate 8.
- Police are investigating the theft of English horse bridles from the horse stables, building 4860.
- Eleven U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.



Garrison family remembers casualty affairs specialist



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Johnny Hawkins died Thursday night after suffering a heart attack at his residence. He served as a casualty and mortuary affairs specialist at the Casualty Assistance Center, which is part of the Garrison's Military Personnel Division.

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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Johnny Hawkins was like a one-man shop in the One Stop customer service area. He served as one of the casualty and mortuary affairs specialists at the Casualty Assistance Center, which is part of the Garrison's Military Personnel Division.

He provided casualty assistance after deaths of active duty and retired military, and he arranged military honors.

Last week the entire Garrison family was saddened with the news that Hawkins himself had died Thursday night after suffering a heart attack at his Toney residence. He was 58.

"We were always treated very well by Mr. Hawkins when his assistance was needed for military families," Dave Franklin, assistant at Berryhill Funeral Home, said. "We are saddened by his passing and he will be missed."

Barbara Moudy, chief of the Transition Center, worked with Hawkins for more than 20 years and was his supervisor.

"He loved his family, he loved his country," Moudy said. "And he loved helping people. He was dedicated to this country but he loved his family most of

all. He had a great sense of humor, he kept everybody laughing."

Carol Lanier, human resources assistant, was a co-worker. "John always had time for everybody, no matter what or when they showed up, whether they had an appointment or not. He made time for people," she said. "He enjoyed working with people. He was big-hearted. And he did everything he could to help people. He always went above and beyond. And we're going to miss him a lot."

Luis Ortega, chief of the Military Personnel Division, said: "He was a great person."

Hawkins was retired from the Army. Survivors include his wife, Joslyn Hawkins; two sons, Matthew Hawkins and wife Victoria and Benjamin Hawkins; daughter, Brooke Lagano and husband Joseph; five brothers, Calvin Lee Hawkins, Gene Hawkins, David Hawkins, Jimmy Hawkins and Howard Hawkins; two sisters, Susie Peters and Betty Walters; four grandchildren, J.D., Dylon, Jewell and Bailynn; other loving children: Mooch, Jamie, Fudge, Stone, David and Nathan; and a number of other family members.

Visitation was held Sunday afternoon at Berryhill Funeral Home.

Redstone Arsenal then and now

Sparkman Center serves AMCOM

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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The John J. Sparkman Center, which opened in 1994, serves as the headquarters for the Aviation and Missile Command.

The office complex includes eight office buildings plus the Bob Jones Auditorium in building 5304 and the Sparkman Cafeteria in building 5302.

It has more than 1 million square feet of floor space, not including the equipment building 5306. About 4,400 people work in the complex.

The center is named for the late John Sparkman, a Hartselle native who served in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate from 1937 until 1979. He was the Democratic Party's nominee for vice president as Adlai Stevenson's running mate in the 1952 presidential election.

In 1949, Sparkman was instrumental



Photo by Skip Vaughn

About 4,400 people work in the Sparkman Center office complex.

in convincing the Department of the Army to transfer the missile development activities from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Redstone Arsenal. This brought Wernher von Braun and the German Operation Paperclip scientists and engineers to Huntsville, forming the foundation to what eventually became



AMCOM History Office photo

John Sparkman served in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate from 1937 until 1979. He died in 1985.

the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center.

Sparkman completed 42 continuous years of service in Congress in January 1979. He died in November 1985 at age 85.

The Sparkman Center was dedicated Aug. 22, 1994. More than 500 invited



AMCOM History Office photo

The Sparkman Center, on Martin Road, is the headquarters for the Aviation and Missile Command.

guests – including Army and civic leaders and family members of the late senator – attended the morning ceremony in Bob Jones Auditorium.

Buildings 5308 and 5309, the final pieces of the eight office-building Sparkman Center, were dedicated in honor of retired Sen. Howell Heflin in a ceremony Feb. 9, 1998.

Editor's note: Dr. Kaylene Hughes of the AMCOM History Office provided information for this article.

Fox health center has hearty holiday kickoff

Photos by Ellen Hudson

Fox Army Health Center celebrated the holiday season Thursday at its annual tree lighting ceremony, complete with Santa, hot cider, Christmas cookies and a carols sing-along with the AMC Band.



Tristan Lehr, 6, son of Troy and Andrea Lehr, helps Col. William Darby, right, Fox Army Health Center commander, light the tree.



Santa Claus arrives at the Fox Army Health Center tree lighting ceremony.



Fox Army Health Center staff members Maria Triplett, left, and Cpl. Sarah McCue sing along to the holiday favorites.



With the Christmas tree lit, Fox Army Health Center staff get ready to sing one more Christmas carol.

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:

NCO call

Calling on noncommissioned officers from all services – active duty, retirees and veteran NCOs. This month's event is Thursday at 4 p.m. at the Firehouse Pub, building 114 on Hankins Drive. For information call Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Kyle Crump at 876-5331.

Comedy night

New Year's Eve Comedy Night Celebration is 5:30-10 p.m. Dec. 31 at The Summit. The bar opens at 5:30, dinner is at 6 and the show starts at 7. Tickets are \$25 for the dinner and show. There will be a complimentary champagne toast at the end of the show. Performers include headliner Ken Evans, headliner Brad Tassell and featuring Roger Keiss. For information or tickets, call 313-3255.

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Vaccination first line of defense against flu

Flu shots available Thursday at Fox

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Flu season is upon us, and despite predictions that 2012-13 could be a bad flu year, it's not too late to protect yourself.

This year's flu season is the earliest it has been in nearly a decade and Alabama is right in the thick of it, joining four other states – Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas – considered to have a particularly high level of flu activity, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Thus far, the predominant strain of flu circulating the country is H3N2, and while H3 predominant years tend to be the most severe, according to Dr. Thomas Frieden, director of the CDC, H3N2 is a match to this year's flu vaccine. Vaccination remains the best line of defense against the flu, according to Maj. Debra Murray, chief of preventive medicine at Fox Army Health Center.

"On average, 24,000 people die from the flu. You never really think about that. That's a lot," Murray said. "We're encouraging everybody to get their flu vaccine."

Flu shots will be available Thursday in Preventive Medicine/Occupational Health at Fox Army Health Center, located in the trailer in the east parking lot, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. for all Fox beneficiaries and Department of Defense civilians. A current DoD CAC card or military identification card is required. For more information, call 955-8888 ext. 1441 or 1442. All active duty military are required to be vaccinated for the flu each year.

As of Dec. 3, the CDC estimated that 112 million people had been vaccinated against the flu. It is recommended that everyone 6 months of age and older receive the vaccine, especially those considered high risk. Individuals at high risk for complications from the flu include those with asthma, diabetes, chronic heart disease, adults 65 years and older, children younger than 2, pregnant women and others with weakened immune systems due to disease, should be vaccinated, but that doesn't mean if you don't fall into that



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Rodger Lesniak, a logistics management specialist with the Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity, receives his flu shot from public health nurse Sonya Roberts on Nov. 16 at the Commissary. Fox Army Health Center provided flu shots to active duty and retired military, their family members and Department of Defense civilians.

category you shouldn't, Murray said.

"Even if you are not in that high risk group, you and your family members need to get the vaccine to protect those who are in that high risk group," Murray said.

In addition to vaccination, Murray recommends individuals take preventive measures to avoid spreading germs, such as covering your nose when you cough or sneeze, throwing away tissues after you've used them, not touching your eyes, nose and mouth, washing your hands often and using hand sanitizer. Respiratory hygiene stations, which include masks, hand sanitizer, Kleenex and information on how to stop the spread of germs, are available at waiting rooms throughout Fox. All Fox staff that come into direct contact with patients receive the flu vaccine.

If you do become ill, avoid contact with other people and take any medication your doctor may prescribe you. Flu symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue, vomiting and diarrhea. You do not have to have a fever, vomiting or diarrhea to have the flu however.

"Redstone Arsenal has a lot of employees, so if you're sick you need to stay home and limit your contact with people," Murray said.

Get your laugh on to bring in the New Year

The Summit's curtain goes up New Year's Eve comedy night

By **AMELIA FLANIGAN**
FMWR marketing director

What better way to celebrate the New Year than laughing till your sides hurt. The Summit has a top-notch lineup of comedians for New Year's Eve that will keep you smiling well into 2013.

After racking up those big bills at Christmas time you will definitely appreciate not only the quality of this show, but the price as well; you get three internationally known comedians and a scrumptious buffet dinner by The Summit's executive chef Ben Howard for only \$25.

"For those of you who have been to a comedy club with dinner before or after know that an evening like this would normally run over a hundred dollars," Mark Germonprez, deputy director of FMWR, said.

Opening up the show is writer and comedian Roger Keiss, best known for being the last finalist on Showtime's "Funniest Person in America" series. Keiss has been making people laugh in one way or another since 1987, writing and performing for corporate clients, at comedy clubs and colleges and "Jay Leno's Tonight Show." Since his appearances on the "Funniest Person in America" contest, Keiss has made appearances on Comedy Central, TNN and Showtime as well as writing pieces for television and nationally syndicated comic strips and magazines.

Following Keiss is the crazy, high energy performance of Brad Tassell, whose award winning show "Comedy Therapy," in Las Vegas, was a sellout hit. Tassell's comedic style is positive, crazy, silly and value oriented which is exactly like his bestselling books. As a well-known author and comedian, Tassell has opened up for comedy giants like Bill Engvall, Tim Allen, Jeff Foxworthy, Larry the Cable Guy and Richard Belzer



Ken Evans

to name a few and made appearances on nearly every syndicated late night television show. Tassell also wrote and performed on the PBS comedy series, MTV and ESPN.



Roger Keiss



Brad Tassell

Finishing up the evening's lineup is well-known comedian Ken Evans. Bringing a boy-next-door persona to the stage, Evans has an observational style of comedy that relates to every audience member. His energy is electric and his act is very visual, bringing his comedy to life with his command of the stage. The Orlando Sentinel said, "Ken Evans' biting wit is like viewing life through broken glass." Yet another seasoned comedian and writer, Evans has been in the industry for more than 28 years performing alongside such greats as Joan Rivers, Tim Allen, Ron White, Ellen DeGeneres, Drew Carey, Larry the Cable Guy, Rosie O'Donnell and others. His comedy has earned him a spot as the closing act for A&E's "Caroline's Comedy Hour," and he's also appeared on Showtime, NBC's "Ed," "Law & Order" and "Last Comic Standing."

Editor's note: New Year's Eve Comedy Night Celebration is 5:30-10 p.m. Dec. 31 at The Summit. The bar opens at 5:30, dinner is at 6 and the show starts at 7. Tickets are \$25 for the dinner and show. There will be a complimentary champagne toast at the end of the show. For information on tickets, call 313-3255.

Post Library has sweet annual family event

Holiday stress making you crazy? Mall crowds have you in a frenzy? The Post Library offers a solution: its second annual Christmas Cookie and Cone Decorating Extravaganza.

This stress free, fun, family event takes place Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the library and is open to all ages. Participants can do some quick cookie decorating or spend more time creating an elaborate design. The library supplies the cookies and cones and all the supplies needed to create your masterpiece. To spur your creativity they will have frosting, sprinkles, sparkles, gumdrops, M&Ms and more. Eat your creations at the library with a cup of coffee, tea or hot chocolate (available for \$1) or take them home to enjoy. Make the Post Library one of your family holiday fun stops.

If you need some holiday craft inspiration, these books are full of ideas:

- “301 Country Christmas Quilt Blocks” by Cheri Saffiotte – Quilt blocks, pillows and basic stitches and quilting techniques.
- “Better Homes and Gardens Old-Fashioned Christmas Crafts” by the editors of Better Homes and Gardens –

Instructions on topiaries, painted trays table runners, dough ornaments and more.

- “Christmas Crafts from Around the World” by Judy Ann Sadler – A kids-can-do-it book with 17 projects from 17 countries such as cranberry and popcorn garlands from the United States, an Advent calendar from Germany and a First Star from Poland.

- “Classic Crafts and Recipes for the Holidays” by the editors of Martha Stewart Living – An assortment of crafts (pinecone ornaments, velvet leaf wreath) and recipes (Chewy Cranberry-Almond Cookies and Yummy Pecan Shortbread Cookies).

- “Hanukkah Fun: Crafts and Games” edited by Andrea R. Weiss – Directions for five different Menorahs (Dough, Egg-Carton, etc), games, decorations and cards.

- “Holiday with Matthew Mead” – A variety of crafts, wrappings and recipes for the holidays.

- “Simply Handmade: 365 Easy Gifts and Decorations You Can Make” edited by Carol Field Dahlstrom – Includes crafts for Christmas and the four seasons. (*Post Library release*)



Photo by Matthew Bucca, FMWR

Right arm night

Co-workers socialize Thursday during Redstone Right Arm Night at the Firehouse Pub. From left are Craig Gardunia, Anthony Liller, Lt. Col. Clint Verge, Kevin Zurmuehlen, Lt. Col. Charlie Stein and Dwayne Morton, all faculty members with the Army Acquisition Center of Excellence located on the campus of University of Alabama-Huntsville.

Fire safety prescribed for holiday decorating

Decorating the workplace adds to the joy of the approaching holiday season. Proper safety precautions should be observed at all times to avoid potential property damage and personal injuries.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that more than 12,000 people nationally are treated annually for falls, cuts, shocks and burns due to incidents involving faulty holiday lights, dried-out Christmas trees and other holiday decorations. To ensure safety in the workplace, Redstone Fire and Emergency Services sets the following safety guidelines for decorating your workplace.

No live trees or cut trees will be allowed in government buildings except for single family homes.

Artificial Christmas trees are permitted as long as the tree does not interfere with the minimum clear width of egress, and a 16 wire gauge extension cord or larger is used for holiday lights. Artificial vegetation and artificial Christmas trees should be labeled or otherwise identified or certified by the manufacturer as being fire retardant. If your Christmas tree is metallic, do not place any types of lights on the tree.

Candles and flame devices are not approved and cannot be used inside of any facility except for religious ceremonies.

All holiday decorations must be approved for indoor use and must be labeled from a national testing laboratory.

Do not place decorations that could impair the visibility of exit signs, fire alarm pull stations, fire extinguishers, fire alarm horns, strobes or bells. And exits cannot be obstructed by Christmas trees or other decorations. Decorations cannot exceed 50 percent of the wall space in buildings with an automatic sprinkler system and 20 percent of the wall space in buildings without automatic sprinkler systems.

Do not place or attach any holiday decorations on fire-rated doors or inside stairwells or other protected enclosures including elevator doors. Do not place holiday decorations inside telecommunication or computer server rooms.

Do not place holiday decorations or lights on or within 22 inches of an automatic fire sprinkler head.

Temporary electrical power and lighting installations are authorized for a period not to exceed 90 days for holiday decorative lighting and similar purposes.

Extension cords must be approved by a recognized national testing laboratory and cannot pass under a doorway, through the ceiling or cause a tripping hazard. Do not run cords under carpets or rugs; and they cannot be stapled to any fixture.

All holiday lights and extension cords should be unplugged at the end of the workday.

Follow manufacturer's instructions when using decorative lighting and do not connect more than three sets of lights together on the same extension cord. Inspect all strings of lights and extension cords to ensure there is no damage. Damaged extension cords and lights cannot be used.

When using power strips, do not daisy chain them together, which means plugging one into another. Power strips must be listed by Underwriters Laboratory as either UL 1363 Relocatable Power Taps, or UL 1449 Surge Protectors.

Outdoor decorations are approved for outside only. Extension cords providing power to outside devices must be listed for outdoor use and be protected by a GFCI outlet or circuit.

If you have any questions or concerns, call the Redstone Fire Prevention Branch at 876-7005. (*Redstone Fire and Emergency Services release*)



AroundTown

Former SMDC commander celebrates 97th birthday

By JASON CUTSHAW
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

MADISON – Friends, community members and leaders from the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command gathered Nov. 17 at Iveys Restaurant in Madison to wish retired Brig. Gen. Ivey O. Drewry Jr., an early 97th birthday.

Born in Birmingham on Dec. 17, 1915, a then Col. Drewry came to Redstone Arsenal in June 1962 to serve as the project manager of the Nike-Zeus project. While at the Arsenal, he would become the third commander of what is now SMDC/ARSTRAT.

Friends and family members sang along as members of the Army Materiel Command Band played “Happy Birthday” for the retired general.

“I am amazed,” Drewry said. “This was totally unexpected. I can’t believe this. I want to thank everyone for coming today. I am honored.

“I can’t explain 97 years,” he added. “I’ve never known anyone this old before to ask them anything about life. I am truly blessed to be here.”

The system Drewry helped develop was ultimately deployed at the Stanley R. Mickelsen Safeguard Complex near Grand Forks, N.D. Although operational for only a short time as an antiballistic missile defense system, part of the complex continues in operation today as an early warning deep space tracking component.

In 1965, Drewry was awarded the Toftoy Award for outstanding technical

management by the Alabama section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He was the first military person to receive this honor.

On Sept. 1, 1966, Drewry was promoted to brigadier general and retired from the Army on July 31, 1969. In June 1990, he would receive the National Space Club’s John B. Medaris Award for Army Achievement in Space.

As the people gathered for the birthday party, a friend said one of the reasons it was held early was because with the upcoming holiday season, this was the best time everyone could come together to honor Drewry and show their appreciation for him.

“I love him, he’s one of the nicest people you could ever meet,” retired Lt. Col. Stephen Lee said. “He’s a class act and a gentleman of the first degree. We sit here and pontificate every Saturday and solve all the world’s problems.

“I have built up a great respect for him,” he added. “He deserves this and I am glad I could be a part of this great event to honor this great man.”

The current SMDC leader took the time to honor one of the command’s pioneers and show his appreciation for all Drewry has done, not only for the Army and the command, but also for the nation.

“We’re here to celebrate the 97th birthday of General Drewry,” said Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, SMDC commander. “I just wanted to come by and do that command connection and honor this public servant for all he has done.

“I was walking in the office and ran into



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, left, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner, right, SMDC/ARSTRAT command sergeant major, wish retired Brig. Gen. Ivey O. Drewry Jr. an early 97th birthday Nov. 17 at Iveys Restaurant in Madison. Drewry was born in Birmingham on Dec. 17, 1915. He came to Redstone Arsenal in June 1962 to serve as the project manager of the Nike-Zeus project. While at the Arsenal, he would become the third commander of what is now SMDC.

Mr. Lee who knew Col. Drewry, who commanded USASMD/ARSTRAT in one of its predecessor organizational formations a long time ago,” he added. “He mentioned that they were having a 97th birthday party and I asked if we could come by and honor him, too. So we are here to see retired Brig. Gen. Drewry and celebrate with him.”

SMDC’s senior enlisted Soldier was also present to honor Drewry and thank him for his service to the country and to the Soldiers he commanded.

“It is a good thing to celebrate his life and his service,” SMDC Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner said. “I hope I can live that long and be honored as he is being honored. It is a great thing to come out and celebrate 97 years of life and a career of service.”

With so many people honoring the general, Drewry’s son thanked all those who took the time to come out and honor his father

and make it a very special occasion for him.

“His neighbors and friends really admire him,” said son Ivey O. Drewry III. “He is where they would like to be, he still has his senses, he’s still healthy, and he’s still having a good time. He represents to them the goal of life. He still goes to breakfast with his friends and he still plays poker once a month.

“For him, it’s great to be around such young people,” he added. “And I’m talking young like their 70s and 80s. For them, it’s nice to be around someone who is older and still active. He still tells them stories about his time in the service.”

The son said his father was overjoyed and how much it meant to have everyone come celebrate the occasion.

“He deserves this,” Drewry said. “He is one of the forgotten heroes and he has done great things. He truly appreciates this and I will hear about it all the way home and for a long time after.”



Courtesy photo

Christmas giving

Sixth-graders at Heritage Elementary School in Madison collected donations to ship to deployed Soldiers in appreciation for their service and to wish them a Merry Christmas. The sixth-graders had an overwhelming response to their request for donations, and are shown with only half of what they were able to collect. In addition, several of the students donated their allowance money to help pay for the \$250 in shipping costs. Mackenzie Holtcamp, second from left in the front row, is the granddaughter of Candie Richard, an employee of the Missile Logistics Division, Army Contracting Command-Redstone.

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Operation Christmas Bear entertains military families



Jacqueline Broadenax, 4, gets her face painted by volunteer Melony Hatch. She is the daughter of Lt. Col. Timothy and Maj. Zara Broadenax.

Photos by Ellen Hudson

The Tennessee Valley's ninth annual Operation Christmas Bear – for active duty, National Guard, Reserve and deployed Department of Defense civilian family members as well as wounded warriors and their families – was held Saturday at the Jaycees building in Huntsville.



Command Sgt. Maj. John Murray, his wife Ingrid and their 7-year-old son John Jr. check out the train station.



Playing with toys are, from left, 10-year-old Sydney and 7-year-old Bryce Pennywell, children of Rodney and Monica Pennywell; volunteer Deborah Bartlett; and 4-year-old Meaghan Drauch, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Michael and Samantha Drauch.



Santa greets 15-month-old Kadence Provens, daughter of Spc. Carl Provens and Tiffany Herron.

Soak up this advice for safe, happy holidays

Shopping during the holiday season can present unique danger. Taking a few prevention measures can help keep your holiday season joyous. The holiday season is a time when busy people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. The following tips from the Directorate of Emergency Services can help you be more careful, prepared and aware during the holiday season.

- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member.
- Dress casually and comfortably.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry.
- If possible, do not carry a purse or wallet. They are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas and parking garages.
- Carry your license/ID Card along with necessary cash, checks and/or credit card you expect to use.
- Even when rushed, stay alert to your surroundings.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with a check or credit card when possible.
- Keep cash in your front pocket.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages. It is important to have clear visibility and freedom of motion to avoid mishaps.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, con artists may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Protecting children

The holidays can present potentially dangerous situations for children. Some simple prevention measures can help keep your children safe during the season. Here's advice from the Directorate of Emergency Services:

- If possible, leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter.
- Teach your child to go to a store clerk and ask for help in case your child is separated from you.
- Teach children to stay close to you at all times while shopping.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Children should never be allowed to go to the car alone and they should never be left alone in the car.
- Teach children their full name, address and telephone number to give to police officers or mall security. Teach children to immediately inform you if a stranger is bothering them.

Holiday driving

The holiday season is a time when busy

people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. DES advises the following:

- Avoid driving alone at night.
- Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lit area.
- Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.
- When approaching and leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

Home safety

The holiday season is a time when busy people can become careless and vulnerable to theft and other holiday crime. Here's advice from DES:

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
- When leaving home for an extended time, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.
- Indoor and outdoor lights should be on an automatic timer.
- Leave a radio or television on so the house looks and sounds occupied.
- Large displays of holiday gifts should not be visible through the windows and doors of your home.
- When setting up a Christmas tree or other holiday display, make sure doors and passageways are clear inside your home.
- Be sure your Christmas tree is mounted on a sturdy base so children, elderly persons or family pets cannot pull it over on themselves.
- If you use lights on your Christmas tree, ensure the wiring is not damaged or frayed. Frayed or damaged wiring can cause a fire.
- Place your Christmas tree in water or wet sand to keep it green.
- Never place wrapping paper in your fireplace.

Decorating tips

If using a ladder, check the condition of

rails, rungs and brackets before positioning or climbing it. It is better to not use a metal ladder when installing electrical decorations if avoidable. Set ladders so the feet are on a stable, even and clean dry base. Have a spotter, if available, to help steady the ladder, pass materials/tools, and prevent persons from entering the drop zone.

Survey the location where you intend to install decorations to ensure that nails, screws or brackets will not penetrate electrical or other utility lines. Use the proper style and size hanger for the weight of the decoration you intend to mount. Decorations should never block any means of egress nor access to utility shutoffs (faucets, outlets or meters). Be sure your street address numbers are not obscured by decorations. Young children should be kept out of areas where decorations are being installed; it's very difficult to handle tools and materials properly and safely while keeping an eye on them.

Indoor lighting

Buy/use only lighting sets and extension cords that bear the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM) label and are specifically marked for indoor use.

Unroll or untangle and inspect each set of lights (new or old) for worn insulation,

bare or frayed wires, broken or cracked sockets and loose connections. If you find any such damage, throw it away versus trying to repair the set. Replace broken or damaged bulbs. Always unplug lights before doing any maintenance work on them.

Do not overload electrical outlets. Follow the manufacturer's recommendation on the number of light sets that can be strung together and other precautions listed on the packaging for the lights. If no manufacturer instructions are available, never string more than three sets of lights per single extension cord.

Protect electrical wires from damage. Don't run lights/wires behind drapes, under carpet, through doorways, or where they will be walked on. Don't use nails or tacks to hang wires. Plastic non-conductive hangers are available for various holiday light-set hanging needs.

Outdoor lighting

Buy/use only lighting sets and extension cords that bear the Underwriters Laboratories or Factory Mutual label and are specifically marked for outdoor use.

Always look for the manufacturer's recommendations on the number of lights sets that can be strung together and other precautions listed on the packaging for the lights.

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Check all light sets for fraying, aging and heat damage. Throw away any sets that show signs of damage.

Connect sets of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into an outlet.

Always test your light sets before setting up your ladder – replacing broken/burnt-out bulbs is much easier on the ground than on a ladder/roof.

To hold lights in place, string them through hooks or insulated staples; do not use nails or tacks. Never pull or tug lights to remove or disconnect them.

Plug all outdoor electric decorations into circuits with GFI (ground fault circuit interrupter) protection to avoid potential shocks.

If you are using a ladder, avoid contact with overhead power lines when setting up your ladder, stringing lights or working on the roof.

Wherever extension cords and light sets are connected together outdoors, keep the connections dry by wrapping them with friction tape or plastic.

Tree safety

For fresh trees: When selecting your tree, shake the tree vigorously, tap it on the ground, and watch for excessive loss of needles. If the tree loses a lot of needles, it's already drying out and significantly increases the risk of the tree catching fire in

your home. The trunk butt should be sticky with resin. Fresh trees should be green and the needles should be difficult to pull from the branches. Another good test is to take a single needle and bend it between your fingers. The needle should bend, not break.

Once you've gotten the tree home, secure it in a sturdy stand and provide it with adequate water. Keeping your tree well-watered will keep it supple so it retains its needles, making for less clean-up and a lesser fire danger. Remember, live trees dry out rapidly in heated rooms.

Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals.

For artificial trees: If you're considering an artificial tree, the most important thing to look for is the "Fire Resistant" label. This means the tree has been treated with a chemical that makes it resist burning — it does not mean the tree can't, or won't, catch on fire. Never use electric lights on metallic trees — use spotlights for illumination. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.

For greens: Evergreen – never cedar – cuttings may be used in limited quantities, but keep greens away from heat sources (radiators, air vents, large appliances, light receptacles, etc.) and don't smoke near trees or greens. To be as safe as possible, greens/cuttings used for door adornment or for

corridor/stairwell decorations (or really for use anywhere other than as a table centerpiece) should be flame-proofed by flocking or other treatment.

For tree lighting: Decorate the tree first, and plug in the lights last.

Turn off or unplug your indoor holiday lighting whenever the decorated area of the house is unattended – not just when going to bed or leaving the house. Lighting timers and remote-control sets are available and should be considered.

Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. When using candles for holiday accents, always use non-flammable holders, and place candles where they cannot be overturned.

In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable; keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces. Avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.

Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass "angel hair." Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

Remove all wrapping papers, bags, paper, ribbons and bows from tree and fireplace areas promptly after gifts are opened. These items can pose suffocation and choking hazards to a small child, or can ignite if near a heat source.

Candle safety

Make sure candles are placed in sturdy, non-combustible holders that will not tip, away from decorations, drapes, and other combustible materials.

- Check candles frequently to ensure they don't burn down too far or drip hot wax.

- Keep small children away from candles and never leave children unattended in a room with lit candles.

- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children.

- Do not use candles to decorate Christmas trees.

- Keep Yule Logs, Menorahs and Kina-

ras away from drapes, trees or any other potentially flammable objects.

- Extinguish candles and turn off decorative lights before leaving home or going to sleep.

For holiday decorating, you should purchase/use only materials labeled as noncombustible, flame-resistant or flame-retardant. Store decorations and decorating materials away from heat sources.

Keep holiday plants such as mistletoe, holly berries and Christmas cactus away from children and pets. For poinsettias — previously considered a poisonous plant, recent studies have shown that the poinsettia is nontoxic. Ingestion of small amounts may result in mild gastrointestinal irritation (upset stomach) and could make pets very sick.

Toy gifts

Select toys to suit the age, abilities and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards for younger children. Here are tips to help choose appropriate toys for children:

- Magnets: For children under age 6, avoid building sets with small magnets. If swallowed, serious injuries and/or death can occur.

- Small parts: For children younger than 3, avoid toys with small parts, which can cause choking. Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly-secured eyes, noses and other potential small parts.

- Ride-on toys: Riding toys, skateboards and in-line skates go fast and falls could be deadly. Helmets and safety gear should be sized to fit.

- Projectile toys: Projectile toys such as air rockets, darts and sling shots are for older children. Improper use of these toys can result in serious eye injuries. For children under 8, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.

- Chargers and adapters: Charging batteries should be supervised by adults. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to children.

Be a label reader when shopping for toys. Look for toy labels that give age and safety recommendations and use that

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information as a guide. And before allowing your child to play with a toy that he has received as a gift, read the instructions carefully.

To prevent both burns and electrical shocks, don't give young children (under 10) a toy that must be plugged into an electrical outlet. Instead, buy toys that are battery-operated. Pay attention to instructions and warnings on battery chargers. Some chargers lack any device to prevent overcharging.

Children under 3 can choke on small parts contained in toys or games. Government regulations specify that toys for children under 3 cannot have parts less than 1 1/4 inches in diameter and 2 1/4 inches long.

Children under 8 can choke or suffocate on un-inflated or broken balloons. Remove strings and ribbons from toys before giving them to young children.

Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys before they become dangerous playthings.

Watch for pull toys with strings that are more than 12 inches in length. They could be a strangulation hazard for babies.

Chimney advice

Fireplace chimneys should be cleaned annually, preferably by a professional chim-

ney sweep.

Fireplaces should be equipped with a safety screen or doors, which should be kept closed at all times when the fire is lit.

Before lighting any fire, check to see that the damper is open. Remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from the fireplace area.

Use care with "fire salts," which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children and avoid inhaling smoke from their flames.

Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. Flash fires may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

Keep an approved fire extinguisher available at all times.

Alcohol awareness

In Alabama, an individual can be arrested based on one of two theories of driving under the influence. The first theory involves a police officer's determination that an individual's physical or mental capacity to operate a motor vehicle was impaired through the use of drugs or alcohol. The second theory involves scientific evidence demonstrating blood alcohol content above 0.08 percent (.02 percent if under age 21) – without regard to an individual's level of impairment.

- Penalties for first DUI conviction are as follows: imprisonment for up to one year,

a fine for \$600 to \$2,100 or both, and license suspension for 90 days.

- Penalties for second DUI conviction are: imprisonment for up to one year, jail for a mandatory minimum of five days or community service for a minimum of 30 days, a fine for \$1,100 up to \$5,100, and license suspension for one year.

As you might suspect, the holiday season is the most dangerous time of year for alcohol-related accidents and deaths. There are several reasons for this, including that more people drink during the holidays due to numerous parties and other festivities. Many holiday drinkers don't drink often, so they have a lower tolerance for alcohol. These people often underestimate their level of impairment and sometimes drive when they shouldn't. When arrested for drunk driving, these people often show a relatively low blood alcohol content yet they are very intoxicated.

Problem drinkers and alcoholics love the holidays because there are more social occasions to drink. They say they feel more "normal" because the occasional drinkers are also more likely to abuse alcohol during this time of year. Consequently, alcoholics drink and drive more frequently. Unlike occasional drinkers, they have a high tolerance for alcohol and can consume large amounts before showing effects. The holidays are busy and stressful. People are hurrying more than normal and winter road conditions make

driving more dangerous. Add alcohol to this scenario and you have a recipe for disaster.

People can follow these tips to avoid an alcohol-related disaster:

- Resist the pressure to drink or serve alcohol at every social event. Just because it's there does not require that you drink it. Alcohol is not a necessary ingredient for holiday cheer.

- If you want to serve alcohol to your guests, offer nonalcoholic beverages as well. Make your guests feel as comfortable choosing a nonalcoholic beverage as they would choosing alcohol. You can do this by putting nonalcoholic drinks in an easily accessible place and by asking guests what they would like to drink, instead of pointing them to the bar or handing them an alcoholic drink when they arrive.

- If you or your friends are going to a party and plan to drink alcohol, decide in advance who will be the designated driver. If everyone wants to drink, taking a taxi to the party removes all temptations to drive. Drinking and driving is not an option.

- If you are going to drink, be a responsible drinker by deciding ahead of time how many drinks you will have and stick to it. Alternate alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.

- Have something to eat before and while you are drinking.

- Drink responsibly and enjoy a safe, happy holiday season.

German Christmas



Photos by Ellen Hudson

The annual German Christmas Ceremony on Dec. 5 at Bicentennial Chapel was sponsored by the German Patriot Office and conducted by German Military Chaplain Uwe Becker from Washington, D.C. Standing above, from left, are Johan Thomissen, Dirk Kleikamp, Stefan Deppe, Becker, Frank Heidtmann, Wolfgang Heym and Klaus Greczmiel. Below, Sabine Corbett smiles during the traditional gathering which included a church service and seasonal pastry.



Non-commissioned officers share monthly fellowship

NCO Call set for Thursday

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
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Fellowship is one of the key ingredients to building a team.

And with the Army focused on building cohesive units among its Soldiers wherever they are stationed, it's important for Soldier leadership to provide events that allow for fellowship, networking and camaraderie among non-commissioned officers.

At Redstone Arsenal, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Kyle Crump has willingly taken on that task, scheduling monthly NCO Calls at the close of the workday at the Firehouse Pub.

The first NCO Call on Nov. 15 was deemed a success, drawing about 160 active and retired non-commissioned officers from all branches of service. The next NCO Call, set for tomorrow at 4 p.m., will follow that success and set the pace for the monthly meetings, which will be scheduled for the third Thursday of each month.

"The feedback that we've received has been great," Crump said. "The NCOs really liked that we were doing this, and they enjoyed the meet-and-greet. They've asked us to sustain it at the Firehouse Pub because they like the atmosphere

and the heavy hors d'oeuvres. It was received very well, and it was really good to see all those NCOs coming together for a good time."

The NCO Call may be a new offering for Redstone Arsenal Soldiers. But such an event is a longstanding tradition at Soldier-heavy installations.

"The NCO Call is one of those Army traditions where the senior NCOs on the installation take the time to come out and talk with the NCO community," Crump said. "This event lets NCOs get together and get to know each other better. It's about bonding and networking, and about building camaraderie."

Army Materiel Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riley, Aviation and Missile Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell and Expeditionary Contracting Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis joined Crump at the November meeting as the senior NCOs among the group.

"It's important to have senior NCOs visit with the group. They know more about what's going on across the Army, and they can share that information within a group like this," Crump said. "The NCO Call gives them a chance to meet and talk to junior NCOs who may someday report to them, and it gives the junior NCOs the opportunity to learn about their senior leadership and what it takes to get promoted."

The teamwork built at Redstone through the NCO Call can also benefit non-commissioned officers as they move

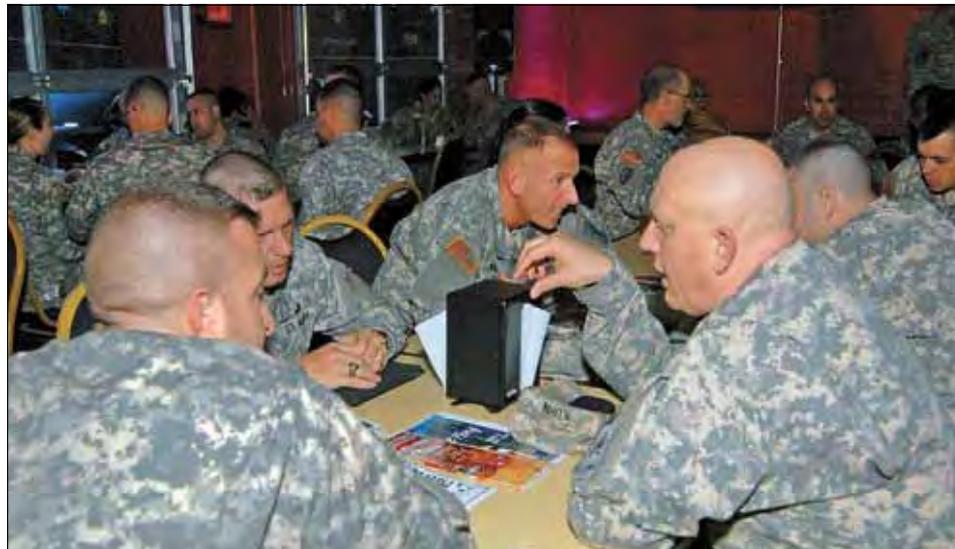


Photo by Ellen Hudson

Non-commissioned officers from throughout Redstone Arsenal gather for the first NCO Call held in November. The next event is slated for tomorrow at 4 p.m. at the Firehouse Pub.

throughout the Army and into different positions. NCOs that they get to know through the Redstone NCO Call they may actually meet again at a different installation, Crump said.

The Redstone NCO Call also allows NCOs from the different military branches to come together, learn from each other and gain insight into each other's branch. And retired NCOs are always welcome to join the group.

While the Redstone NCO call is set for once a month, larger installations hold the event on a weekly basis.

"We have a small population of Soldiers here. We want to make sure to sustain this event, so a monthly meeting seems more appropriate for Redstone," Crump said.

"Last month was really impressive. I am hoping tomorrow night will be a great meeting, too, for our NCOs."



Courtesy photo

Flight test

A Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missile leaves the MEADS 360-degree launcher during a successful intercept test Nov. 29 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Patriot missile has successful test

The Lower Tier Project Office conducted a Patriot Advanced Capability-3 Missile Segment Enhancement flight test Thursday at White Sands Missile Range, N.M.

Patriot ground support equipment fired two production representative PAC-3 missiles from a launching station to intercept a threat representative Tactical Ballistic Missile target.

The TBM was fired from the Oasis Site on White Sands.

The engaging Fire Unit used tactical software to engage and kill the TBM target.

Preliminary test data indicated primary missile flight test mission objectives were successfully achieved. (Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space release)

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AMC commander visits Aberdeen Proving Ground

By KELLY LUSTER
CECOM

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command, visited several major supporting commands here Nov. 30.

Aberdeen Proving Ground is home to 11 major commands and supports more than 90 tenants, 20 satellites and 17 private activities. The installation provides facilities to perform research, development, testing and evaluation of Army materiel. Facilities include laboratories for research investigations, state-of-the-art ranges, engineering test courses for wheeled and tracked vehicles and a wide variety of research. The installation also supports a wide variety of training, including mechanical maintenance, health promotion and preventive medicine, chemical and biological defense and chemical casualty care, chemical demilitarization. APG also hosts National Guard and Army Reserve operations and training.

Via said he plans to visit all of his major commands' posts, depots and activities. In doing so, he has spent a great deal of time traveling during the first 100 days of his command tenure at AMC. Via said

he is impressed with what he has seen so far and credits his most valuable asset, the people of AMC.

"AMC is not the same organization it was 10 years ago," Via said. "We have organizations today that didn't exist in 2006. I would dare to say we won't be the same organization in 2015 or 2020. That includes CMA, CECOM, RDECOM, even the Garrison here. Things are changing here."

During the visit, Via toured several unique facilities including laboratories like the Joint On-demand Interoperability Network. The JOIN provides a distributed test environment for combatant commands, military services, interagency, multi-national and coalition partners. It allows these groups to collaborate and forge new avenues for joint interoperability communications to meet the demands of the future operational environment, according to John Kahler, JOIN chief.

Via said he remembered the JOIN from its former location at Fort Monmouth, N.J., and was impressed with the improvements that occurred with the move to Aberdeen Proving Ground and the construction of the new facility.

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Photo by Sean Kiefer

JOIN chief John Kahler briefs Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command, and Maj. Gen. Robert Ferrell, commander of the Communications-Electronics Command, at the Joint On-demand Interoperability Network. The JOIN provides a distributed test environment for combatant commands, military services, interagency, multi-national and coalition partners. It allows these groups to collaborate and forge new avenues for joint interoperability communications to meet the demands of the future operational environment.

Bravo Company weathers Hurricane Sandy on coast



Army photo

This is one of the satellites manned by Bravo Company, 53rd Space Battalion.

SMDC/ARSTRAT release

FORT MEADE, Md. – Throughout Hurricane Sandy’s devastation along the East Coast Oct. 29-30, businesses, schools and the federal government closed, but Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion (Satellite Control) continued providing and maintaining communications to support the executive branch and the war fighter overseas.

The storm, nicknamed “Frankenstorm” in honor of Halloween, collided with two other systems – a cold front and winter storm from the Northwest and a high pressure system from Greenland. It produced strong winds, large amounts of rain, and storm surges that left more than 2.1 million people without power, many for weeks, and extensive flooding in business and residential areas.

Through all of this, Bravo Company’s Soldiers continued to carry out the battalion’s and the Army’s mission. On Oct. 29, Sgt. Christopher Lingle, Sgt. Justin Evan, Spc. James Cole, Spc. James Wingate, Spc. Chad Kolod, Spc. Jason Banas, Spc. Bennet Elder and

Pfc. Tricia Snider kept communication lines open. The evening of Oct. 29 through morning Oct. 30 was manned by Sgt. Benjamin Mages, Sgt. Christina Podskalan, Spc. Luke Turner, Spc. James Messner, Spc. Jennifer Weiss and Pfc. Ethan Wilkinson.

“These Soldiers of Bravo Company, 53rd Signal Battalion are the ‘unsung heroes’ ensuring that those across the world have reliable communications and are able to conduct their mission,” Capt. Matthew Mills, Bravo Company commander, said. “There are no weekends, holidays or days off when it comes to Bravo’s mission, and we will continue to conduct our mission through rain, snow, or even a hurricane.”

The Soldiers from Bravo Company are different from other Soldiers by their vast knowledge and understanding of satellite communications. They represent only a fraction of the Army’s Signal Corps.

“Our Soldiers’ ability to ‘control the high ground’ under these circumstances showcases their competence, professionalism and dedication to our mission,” 1st Sgt. E. Mitchell, Bravo Company first sergeant, said.

Value engineering projects produce savings

VE awards presented in annual ceremony

By **DAN O'BOYLE**
AMCOM Public Affairs

The 16th annual Robert B. Tarquine Value Engineering Achievement Award was presented Thursday in Bob Jones Auditorium.

The award, named after the late Robert B. Tarquine, is presented to a key individual or team for outstanding achievements in value engineering.

This year the award went to Mark Velazquez, chief engineer of the Storage Analysis Failure and Reclamation Center.

He was cited for his primary leadership role in the success of the Maintenance Engineering Division, providing high-quality engineering support for the

depot production of aircraft, as well as the management oversight on all engineering repair projects for SAFR parts being returned to service.

Velazquez leads engineers in the Maintenance Engineering Division in developing cutting-edge repairs of aviation parts, components and aircraft in support of depot and field maintenance.

In the past three fiscal years alone, SAFR has returned more than 2,000 parts per year to service, and successfully completed significant airworthiness engineering tasks that generated \$161.8 million in validated savings for the government.

Tarquine was a key participant and contributor to the early success of value engineering programs. His leadership and expertise has had a major, positive impact on Team Redstone.

"Awards and savings are important, but more important is the impact these projects have on Soldiers' lives," Tom Reynolds, value engineering manager, said. "Many of the projects mitigated obsolescence, improved reliability, and reduced Soldier burdens."

For example revamping of the C-23 fleet has minimized disruption for ground units, increased readiness and decreased administrative burden. Also, the Patriot cooler liquid electron tube's motor impeller has afforded fewer disruptions to the equipment and units with



Photo by Tracey Ayres

From left, Bill Ference, Jack Van Kirk and Joe Dombrowski, representatives of the Fixed Wing Project Office, hold an award received for exceeding its value engineering savings goal for fiscal 2012. The award was given during a ceremony Thursday at Bob Jones Auditorium. The organization's project, an idea out of the Transport Product Office, sought ways to reduce the life-cycle cost of the C-23 aircraft. The group formed a VE study team and, as a result of the team's findings, the Transport Product Office realized \$8.5 million in cost avoidance allowing critical funding to be used for other mission requirements.

fewer procurement actions needed while yielding \$16 million in savings.



Photo by Glenn Campbell

Mark Velazquez, center, receives the Robert B. Tarquine Value Engineering award from Bill Andrews, AMC's acting deputy commander. At right is Carol Tarquine, wife of the late Robert B. Tarquine.

Via

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He capped the day with a town hall meeting in the installation theater at which he discussed the way ahead for AMC, covering the organization's priorities, challenges and opportunities. Via said AMC's top priority must be support to the joint war fighter. Among his other priorities were setting conditions for a successful transition to sustainment.

"We can't wait until it happens," he said. "We must set the conditions now even while we continue to support combat operations. It's no different than setting the conditions for successful BRAC relocations while we're still supporting the wars."

CECOM had what has been lauded as one of the most successful BRAC moves in the entire Department of Defense with nearly 70 percent of the personnel relocating from Fort Monmouth to Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Among what Via thought were challenges on the horizon for AMC and its major subordinate commands were the next contingency operation and reset-

ting the Army after 11 years of sustained combat operations.

"We have to make sure we are resetting the right equipment for the next contingency, for the next mission," he said. "That we are getting it (equipment) to the arsenals and depots and back to the units so they can regenerate combat readiness to be prepared to deploy for whatever comes next."

But along with the challenges, Via said he always sees the silver lining and tremendous opportunities. One of the key opportunities he said AMC has is the trust the command has built with the war fighter over the years.

"The war fighter knows what we'll deliver," said Via. He said the AMC patch is well-recognized on the battlefield. People know they can count on AMC to deliver.

"AMC is an operationalized command now. We're down at the installation level – down in brigade combat teams and at the company level," he said. "We have a capability we didn't have before."

Ending as he began his presentation, Via said, "Thank you. You are part of a winning team. There is nowhere at which that is more demonstrated than right here at Aberdeen Proving Ground."

AMC's legal team above the bar in experience

Law watchdogs focus on serving command

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

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For an attorney, a position with the Army Materiel Command can be an ideal opportunity to practice law while also supporting one of the nation's leading Army organizations.

For Brian Toland, it means even more than that. His appointment to the Senior Executive Service and assignment as deputy command counsel for AMC in November 2009 eventually led to a move back to Huntsville. And in October, he assumed the position of command counsel, the senior legal adviser to the AMC commander.

"I started working for AMC at the U.S. Army Aviation and Troop Command Legal Office in St. Louis and then came to Redstone Arsenal in 1997 with the BRAC move (which merged the Aviation Command with the Missile Command to create the Aviation and Missile Command). I left AMCOM in 2006 for a chance to go do protest litigation work at AMC headquarters at Fort Belvoir," Toland said.

"So, coming back to Huntsville again was sort of like coming home for me and my family (including his

wife, and now 16-year-old daughter and 14-year-old son). We really enjoyed the Washington, D.C. area but we're happy to be back. It's great seeing old friends and reconnecting. And we were very surprised how much growth has occurred here at the Arsenal and in Huntsville in the five and half years we were gone."

Toland leads a legal staff of 28 attorneys and paralegals at AMC headquarters, and his office provides a full array of legal services in all fields of government legal practice supporting AMC's worldwide mission.

"We are responsible for a broad range of complex legal areas, including acquisition, personnel, environmental and fiscal law," Toland said. "Our main purpose is to provide top-notch legal advice and business counsel to the AMC commanding general (Gen. Dennis Via) and his headquarters staff element."

The AMC Office of the Command Counsel also oversees the work of more than 350 attorneys worldwide

See Legal on page 27

Photo by Kari Hawkins

As the command counsel for the Army Materiel Command, Brian Toland oversees the work of 28 attorneys and paralegals at AMC headquarters as well as more than 350 attorneys worldwide who represent AMC, its major subordinate commands and various interests, all working to ensure AMC and its employees follow government legal practices.



Legal

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who represent AMC, its major subordinate commands, and various AMC and Army activities.

“We are the qualifying authority for those attorneys who are supporting the AMC worldwide mission to provide logistics support to the joint war fighter,” Toland said. “We work closely with our subordinate commands – including the Aviation and Missile Command, Army Contracting Command, and the Expeditionary Contracting Command, all located here at Redstone Arsenal, as well as all other AMC commands both CONUS and OCONUS.”

In addition to being a member of the Army’s Senior Executive Service, Toland serves as a colonel in the Army Reserve. His extensive legal background includes serving five and a half years on active duty as an Army judge advocate. His 20 years within AMC have allowed him to gain invaluable legal experience in a multitude of legal fields. Today, as AMC’s command counsel, Toland’s experience is matched only by the legal background of the other members who make up AMC’s legal staff.

“We have a very experienced group of senior lawyers who are truly experts in their particular fields of legal practice,” he said.

“Our work centers on supporting our great Soldiers in the field. And it also revolves around public service. On a daily basis, you feel you are adding value not only to the Army but to the nation. AMC is a great command to work for because we are an organization made up of largely civilian employees who have supported two wars over the past 11 years in every aspect of logistics. During that time, we’ve had numerous civilian attorneys deploy to theater to help AMC accomplish the mission.”

Much of the AMC legal work focuses on government acquisition and also contract litigation. In fiscal year 2012, the Army Contracting Command awarded \$71.4 billion in contracts, totaling 229,000 contract actions. With that many dollars at stake, there are bound to be disappointed bidders, Toland said.

“The number of GAO protests filed government-wide in fiscal year 2012 rose and that’s not unusual in this kind of economy,” he said. “Sometimes when there is less money to go around, contractors will be more aggressive in fighting for a contract, and

that can lead to protests when a contract award doesn’t go the way they think it should.

“Within AMC, our acquisition professionals and attorneys handled over 180 bid protests. We were highly effective in achieving successful outcomes in the overwhelming majority of cases. That is a testament to the great work of both our attorneys and contracting professionals.”

“Our main purpose is to provide top-notch legal advice and business counsel to the AMC commanding general (Gen. Dennis Via) and his headquarters staff element.”

Brian Toland

Other areas that have gained a significant focus include procurement fraud, personnel and labor relations, and ethics training.

“Last year, we had a goal to ensure that every employee at AMC headquarters received face-to-face ethics

training,” Toland said.

“At times it seems that there are so many rules and regulations to adhere to that our employees can sometimes feel overwhelmed. People want to do the right thing and it is our job to help them accomplish the mission while adhering to the highest ethical standards. Gen. Via sets a tremendous example and we in the legal community certainly feel that we add value in this area by providing ethics training as well as legal advice and counsel.”

Toland said the AMC Office of Command Counsel is much like any other large law firm.

“The quality of the attorneys we have at headquarters and throughout our AMC commands is really extraordinary, and we are lucky to get to work on a wide variety of interesting legal issues,” he said.

There is much the AMC attorneys share with their counterparts in the private bar – including a love for the law, a penchant for details and a commitment to serving.

“As an attorney work force, we are problem solvers. We strive to help our leaders get to the right answer legally and to make good decisions, always for the benefit of the Army,” Toland said.

Soldier caps career of fixing missile systems

Chief warrant officer 4 retiring after 27 years

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Sharing the Soldier's perspective on missile systems and how they are used in the field has been a rewarding way for Chief Warrant Officer 4 Duane Baugher to spend his last few years in the Army.

So, as he trades his Soldier uniform for the clothes of a civilian, Baugher is grateful for a military experience that has provided opportunities to learn technical skills, maintenance procedures, acquisition regulations and logistics management. He retired Thursday from his logistics position with the Cruise Missile Defense Systems Project Office, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.

"I've had a great career," Baugher said. "I've enjoyed it and I've met some great people who have become good friends. I will always look back on my time and not regret anything I did."

He certainly doesn't regret joining the Army, although when he was 17 he really wasn't interested in being a Soldier.

"I never wanted to join the Army," said Baugher, who grew up in Hudson, Fla. "When I was a senior in high school, the recruiter would call our house all the time. It wasn't something on my radar, so I never returned those calls.

"But one day I was home alone when the phone rang and I answered it. The next thing I knew I was at the recruiting station taking the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) and signing up for the delayed entry program."

Even so, Baugher wasn't convinced he would become a Soldier.

"I kept thinking 'This isn't for me. I'm not going to go,'" he recalled. "But when I graduated and I realized I didn't have much of a future, I was right there with the recruiter asking him 'Hey, we're still going right?'"

"I decided I'd go in the Army and get paid while I figure out what I was going to do. But, then I loved it."

He joined in 1986 as a Vulcan repairer in the Ordnance Corps. It was a job that appealed to him for the hands-on maintenance of the system, which he learned at Redstone Arsenal.

"They showed it firing and doing crazy stuff, and then they showed this guy working on the system. That's what I wanted to do," Baugher said.

"I really liked that attention to detail that maintenance and repair required. When Soldiers broke it they brought it to Soldiers like me who would fix it for them."

His first assignment took him to Fort Drum, N.Y., where he climbed the ranks to sergeant before moving on to an assignment in Hawaii. That second assignment became a crossroads for Baugher, who



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Duane Baugher is transitioning into the civilian world after a nearly 27-year career in missile maintenance and repair. He is a three-time veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

made the decision to re-enlist and to apply to warrant officer school while in Hawaii.

"I had friends who were warrant officers and they encouraged me to apply," Baugher said. "They saw something in me and encouraged me to put in my packet. They felt I had the qualifications to be a technical expert in missile systems."

Even as things were going well for his career, Baugher had to give up his work on the Vulcan because the system was being replaced by the Avenger. He shifted his focus to the Multiple Launch Rocket System, and was assigned to Fort Carson, Colo. After about two years, he was chosen to go to warrant officer school, followed by two more years at Fort Carson, where he worked on the Bradley Stinger Fighting Vehicle, and then a year at Camp Stanley, Korea, where he was in charge of all Avenger repairs.

"Working on the different systems was interesting," Baugher said. "But as a missile warrant, a lot of the work didn't involve the missiles themselves. It was more about being an automotive warrant than a missile warrant because the missile systems work so well. It was the platforms they were riding on that broke and had to be fixed."

He then was assigned to Fort Polk, La., with the Avenger system. While there, he married and then deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, for six months, where he handled field acquisition for an Avenger battery.

"There was no infrastructure at the time. If you didn't bring it with you or you couldn't buy it there, then you didn't get it," Baugher said. "I went out on a lot of convoys just to find things we needed. I had just gotten married, so there were a lot of letters and phone calls home."

After he returned, the family moved to Germany

for six and a half years, where Baugher was assigned to the Corps Materiel Management Command as a readiness analyst/fleet manager in Wiesbaden and then as a Support Operations Maintenance Branch officer-in-charge in Bamberg. His job involved tracking the readiness of missile systems in Europe.

Also during this time, he deployed to Camp Victory in Iraq from 2005-06 to serve with the Multinational Corps-Iraq as a liaison officer with the Joint Operations Center and then to Balad, Iraq, in 2008-09 with the Sustainment Command-Expeditionary to serve as a liaison officer.

"In Balad, there were multiple mortar attacks every day," he said. "You just had to stay focused on your work. We worked 12-hour days, so they went by pretty fast."

Baugher was then assigned to PEO Missiles and Space to manage logistics for, first, the SLAMRAAM Product Office, and then the Sentinel Product Office. Since June 2010, he has been involved in validations and verifications for technical manuals, logistics demonstrations and maintainability demonstrations.

"I've particularly enjoyed helping to develop new systems and coming up with new ideas. I've enjoyed being able to give a Soldier's perspective to the engineers here as they design and build systems," Baugher said.

While most of his career has focused on maintenance and repair of missile systems to ensure readiness, Baugher has also learned about acquisition and logistics, particularly during his assignment with PEO Missiles and Space.

"When you're a warrant officer, they want you to take care of all the equipment in the unit," Baugher said. "You are expected to have a thorough knowledge of your area of expertise and others respect you for that knowledge. You always have to be careful with what you say. Soldiers will follow what you say because you're the chief."

As Baugher transitions into the civilian world, he is hoping to return to PEO Missiles and Space as a civilian employee. His wife Vonetta and four children enjoy this community, and this is where they will make their home. Looking back on his nearly 27 years moving around with the Army, he said it is an experience he will never forget and will always learn from.

"It's a good way of life if you like structure, camaraderie and esprit de corps," said the recipient of the Bronze Star. He has also received the Order of St. Barbara and Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe.

"You do spend a lot of time separated from your family. But the Army becomes your extended family – both for you as a Soldier and for your wife and children – because you are all in it together, you are away from your extended family and you care about each other. It's the kind of life that you just have to embrace and it embraces you."

'Raider' women among first in Army to get new tactical vests

By Cpl. EMILY KNITTER
Army News Service

FORT STEWART, Ga. – As members of the female engagement team with 1st Armor Brigade Combat Team, Third Infantry Division, deploying soon, they will be sporting a new piece of gear that only a handful of Soldiers in Afghanistan currently have: brand new armored vests tailored to the female body.

The push to create these new vests began in 2009 when the 101st Airborne Division reported issues female Soldiers were having with the fit and maneuverability of the recently fielded Generation II IOTVs.

“When I was with the 101st in Afghanistan, I raised the issue there that we had female Soldiers going outside the wire on a routine basis and their equipment was just too large for them to operate and correctly pocket their weapon in,” Master Sgt. Jeff Fenlason said. “Because the problems were directly affecting the ability of these women to operate efficiently in combat, the Army began looking for ways to improve the vests.”

On Nov. 28, the 1st ABCT FET gathered in a small room with the lead product engineer of the Generation III Female Improved Outer Tactical Vests and officially became the second group in the Army to ever receive the new equipment.

Making the changes to these vests marks a culture change in the Army which hasn't always been the easiest to overcome.

“We, as a military, have to truly accept that our female Soldiers are combatants, they are in harm's way and this battlefield does not have a frontline,” Fenlason said. “As we have recognized that tactically, we are now getting caught up equipment-wise and in training.”

During the initial push for a better

vest, the Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center initiated multiple surveys and found that about 85 percent of women in the Army were wearing a vest one size too large and about 52 percent were wearing a vest about two sizes too large.

“Over the course of a couple years, NSRDEC worked through a couple design changes, and what we put the 1st ABCT FET team in is the result of all that work,” explained Fenlason, who is now operating as a plans noncommissioned officer for 1st ABCT.

“These vests are absolutely amazing,” Capt. Orielle Buentello, the FET officer-in-charge, said after trying on her vest for the first time. “The most exciting part is by far the fact that it really just fits us. I feel like I have complete mobility and function.”

The new gear is designed to curve with the female anatomy, and the parts come in multiple sizes to custom fit to each woman, unlike the one-size-fits-all Gen II model.

“I can actually move my arms now,” remarked Pfc. Mary Kidd, a medic with the FET. “It covers the places that it is supposed to cover, and now that it fits the whole vest feels a lot lighter.”

But mobility is not the only improvement these vests offer.

“The vest is vastly going to improve my ability to defend myself with a weapon,” Buentello explained. “The old vests were too wide on my shoulders and high around my neck. Now, I feel like I have an extra two inches of reach through my arms and I will be able to get a proper sight alignment, making it easier to hit my target.”

This team of eight women will be the final significant test before the vests become more widely available, said Deana Archambault, the Gen III Female IOTV product engineer. The target is to release 3,000 vests by the summer of 2013.



Photo by Cpl. Emily Knitter

Pfc. Cheryl Rogers grins as 2nd Lt. Chelsea Adams helps her into the new Generation III Female Improved Outer Tactical Vest on Nov. 28. The Soldiers, who are part of the 1st ABCT Female Engagement Team, Third Infantry Division, are preparing to deploy to Afghanistan and will be only the second group in the Army to test this new body armor.

Med furniture program renamed at Corps of Engineers

By JAMES CAMPBELL

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

One of the medical programs at the Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville changed its name in November, and that name change reflects recent mission growth.

The Integrated Modular Medical Support Systems Program, often simply referred to as IMMSS, is now the Integrated Medical Furniture Program.

IMF provides all furnishings necessary to create a functional medical space whether it is in a hospital, clinic, office space, or any space that supports the medical mission, for Army Medical Command medical facilities worldwide, often working closely with the center's Medical Repair and Renewal Program and Initial Outfitting and Transition Program. The IMF program also acquires other furniture for Army medical facilities. This can include wood office furniture and case goods, lounges and waiting rooms, some patient-room furniture, and other types of loose furnishings. These products are typically delivered and installed using GSA schedule contracts.



Photo by Joseph Serena III

This administration station at the Primary Care Clinic at General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., was procured through Huntsville Center's Integrated Medical Furniture program.

The name change reflects how the program has branched out from sole-source-contracted medical systems furnishings to office furniture and related products the customer needs, said Joseph Serena

III, program manager.

Items now range from waiting room chairs to medical staff offices to special installations for pharmacies and labs, offering the customer one source for both

systems products and other related items.

“The new name is intended to more accurately reflect the mission we actually execute and the products and services we actually provide,” Serena said.

The growth of the program's mission is easy to track. In the “other furniture and furnishings” category, the work grew from two orders in fiscal year 2006 to 66 orders with more than \$3.5 million in fiscal 2012.

IMF uses Blanket Purchase Agreements for systems products, coupled with General Services Administration contracts for other furniture and furnishings, getting the best value for the customers who also often have tight schedules to manage, Serena said.

“We have broadened our vision supporting the Army medical mission,” Julia Chlarson, IMF and IO&T branch chief, said. “This required a new name to signify our capabilities. We found that some customers did not come to us because of the IMMSS name – they would say, ‘Huntsville only does the modular piece.’ They thought we could not meet their needs, but we can. We are so proud to be there for our medical customers.”

Retiring senior research scientist is leader and mentor

By HEATHER R. SMITH
AMRDEC Public Affairs

Much of the details of Jay Loomis' career are secretive, as a matter of national security, but what is not a secret is that his 40-year career as a radar frequency sensors expert has made a lasting impact on the Army's aviation and missile efforts.

Loomis is retiring this month after a long Army career, the last two decades of which were spent as a senior research scientist at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center. A retirement ceremony in his honor was held Nov. 30.

"The work that I've done – with people that I have led and our team – has made a lot of contributions to the air defense products of the Army and the nation," Loomis said. "I really feel like I've had an opportunity to work on important problems with a lot of dedicated people."

A self-described Army brat, Loomis was born in Oklahoma, and his formative years were spent following the military career of his father, Col. Jester M. Loomis Jr. He believes his Army career was somewhat pre-ordained due to the heritage passed on to him from his father, and later his father-in-law Maj. Gen. John Zierdt, who was the commander of the Missile Command from 1960 to 1967.

Loomis studied electrical engineering at Auburn University, earning bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, and upon graduation was given a direct commission into the Army through the university's ROTC program.

He served in the Army for two years

and then began his civilian career with the Army Missile Laboratory at Redstone, in the Radar Technology Branch.

After a decade of roles in research and development, Loomis earned a master's in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Upon his return he became the Radar Branch Chief and served as supervisory electronics engineer, leading some of the Army's best radar engineers.

Loomis was selected in 1992 into the second class of senior research scientists, or STs.

"What that means, to be an ST," explained AMRDEC director Eric Edwards, "is you're basically a national and international expert in a certain field. So in this case with Jay it's radio frequency sensors.

"I can't tell you all the things that Jay has done because a lot of it is at a level we can't talk about here, but I can tell you that for systems that you know and hear about all the time – the Patriot, both the missile and the radar, JLENS, the Sentinel, the fire-control radars that are on Apache – Jay's got his fingerprints on those weapon systems that are advancing Soldiers today."

Edwards went on to describe Loomis' work in radio frequency sensors as game-changing and state-of-the-art.

"Jay has always been a leader and mentor to the next generation of scientists and engineers," Edwards said during the retirement event. "Before the ceremony I heard at least two people say, 'Thank you for your mentorship over the years.' I don't know what better thing you'd want for somebody to say to you as you're walking out the door than 'thank you for your mentorship.'"



Army photo

Kevin Flamm, executive director, Programs and Technology Transition, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, right, presents a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Mary Miller, acting DASA Research and Technology, to Dr. Jay Loomis, senior research scientist, upon his retirement at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

Carol Tucker, chief engineer for the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, described Loomis as "the E.F. Hutton of radar." "When he speaks about radars, 'everyone listens,'" Tucker said. "PEO M&S is proud that Dr. Loomis is a part of the Redstone community, but is well-known throughout DoD, industry and academia. We value his technical expertise, and he is our go-to man for all things related to radars. We appreciate the time that he has personally dedicated to this PEO and the entire sensor community. The legacy that Dr. Loomis established will endure for generations."

In his retirement speech, Loomis reminisced about the people and programs that shaped his career path, thanking many, including Vicki, his wife of more than 40 years and a retired civil servant.

"I've really never worked a day in my life," Loomis said. "It's not work when

you love what you do, and I love what I've been doing because it's challenging, it's important, and most of all because of the support and assistance that I've gotten from so many of you."

A few weeks prior to his official retirement date, Loomis said he was counting down the days until his retirement but not in the traditional sense. There are still a lot of undone things, he said. "When people think about counting the days 'til your retirement, I'm counting them in a very different way. I've only got 10 days more to get done what I want to get done and have things handed over. I'm not really strongly looking forward to retirement. I'm looking to perhaps stay engaged in one capacity or another a little bit of the time, and I'm certain I'm going to miss it a lot. Too many fun things to do and too many good people to work with."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Job opportunities

Participants line up at the Redstone Arsenal Defense Technology and Intelligence Career Fair on Dec. 4 at the Community Activity Center.

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Redstone invests in future civilian leaders

*Training programs
certify graduates*

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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Thursday's gathering in Bob Jones Auditorium showed AMCOM's support for civilian education.

This was the 2012 graduation for participants in the Leadership Investment for Tomorrow programs at the Aviation and Missile Command. These included students from organizations throughout Team Redstone.

"This is a commitment from both the supervisor and the individual," AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar said. "We cannot afford to let programs like this go away."

He thanked the organizations that have supported the Lift program and encouraged the graduates to use what they learned.

"I want to thank those that allow you to go. You now need to repay them for that effort to allow you to do this," Collyar said.

The graduating classes included Advanced Lift class 6, Lift classes 12 and 13 and Uplift class 11. Collyar presented certificates of completion.

Leah Trusley, of the AMCOM Logistics Center, who graduated from Lift class 13, shared her impressions of the program.

"I thought it was very beneficial," she said. "And we learned a lot about leadership and where to go within our career, what steps to take to advance in our career. It's a great program."

Here are the graduating classes:

Advanced Lift class 6 – Eric Atchley, AMCOM Safety Office; James Bailey, NASA; Gina Best, AMRDEC; Dr. Phillip Dark, AMCOM G-4; Dr. Randy Flisak, AMC; Thomas J. Lapointe, AMRDEC; Claudinette Purifoy, AMCOM G-4; Helen Smith, AMCOM G-4; Debora Staton, Garrison; and Paula Taylor, AMC.

Lift class 12 – Oriel Brooks, SMDC; Barry Byrd, ACC-Redstone; Guillermo Colmenero Jr., ALC; Billy Gravitt, SAMD; Josie Teague-Hampton, PEO M&S; Lori Harting, ALC; Chad Kuipers, ACC-Redstone; Melanie Landers, CIO/G-6; Joezer Lopez, ALC; Michael Lucento, USATA; Ranjit Singh Mann, PEO M&S; Beth Ward Massingill, CIO/G-6; Eva Mears, AMCOM G-4; JD Miller, ALC; Ellen Ramsey, AMCOM G-3; Daniel Robers, SAMD; Kenya Rucker, ALC; Deborah So'Brien, LOGSA; Ricky Edward Terrell, ALC; Bettye Lee Long-Walden, CIO/G-6; Allen



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Advanced Lift graduates, in the front row, and others applaud during Thursday's ceremony.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Some members of the graduating Lift class 12 include, from left, Oriel Brooks, Guillermo Colmenero Jr., Josie Teague-Hampton, Lori Harting and Chad Kuipers.

Wampler, ALC; Lindsay West, ALC; Veronica Williams, NASA; and Satonya Hobson-Williams, AMRDEC.

Lift class 13 – Melanie Bone, AMCOM EEO; William Wes Calloway, ALC; Josh Cavanaugh, AMCOM Command Group; LeLorna Bennett-Chunn, SAMD; Tammi Cochran, ACC-Redstone; Jamie Conner, CIO/G-6; Theresa Falcetano, Garrison; Sara Finigan, ALC; Roger Gray, ALC; Ron Karl, AMC; Tina Lesley, MDA; LaDonna M.C. McCann, AMCOM G-4; Shannon McNatt, ALC; Alicia Patton, AMCOM Safety Office; Marilyn Powers, CIO/G-6; Tanya Purcell, CIO/G-6; Tonia Rasberry, AMRDEC; Leah Trusley, ALC; Cornelia W. Watson, CIO/G-6; Dianna Westbrook, ALC; Ann Westermeyer, AMCOM G-1; and Akindallis Whitman, PEO M&S.

Uplift class 11 – Julie Anderson, CIO/G-6; Suzanne Barbara, AMCOM G-1; Anna Beach, SAMD; Jacqueline Bright, USATA; Anthonas J. Cooper, SAMD; Delores Eppes, SMDC; Jose Figueroa, ALC; Sharonda Grandberry, ALC; Donna Hood, ALC; Joey Jodoin, CIO/G-6; David Jones, USATA; Charles Mayo, LOGSA; Brittany McCray, CIO/G-6; Robert Mitchell, USATA; Louie Ogle, PEO M&S; Stela Pierce, CIO/G-6; Danielle Pollard, ALC; Todd Rauch, G-2; Glorianie Rolon, ALC; David Sampleton, AMC; Jason Smith, LAISO; Robert Tidmarsh, ALC; and Tim Wood, ALC.

Veteran

continued from page 1

of the combined company, coordinating a farewell ceremony, conducting numerous Soldier-family teleconferences, providing a family newsletter, and organizing fundraisers and Blue Star Banner ceremonies, and then Welcome Home ceremonies at Fort Benning, Ga., and in Huntsville.

The support provided by Perry and his wife went beyond official channels to include their personal commitment to care for the deployed Soldiers' families. On occasion they helped provide groceries to families who were unable to make ends meet. At other times, they provided assistance with child care and supervision. They continued to support their son's unit for several years and provided guidance to the new FRG leaders during the unit's second deployment last year.

"We wanted to make sure these Soldiers were treated like the heroes they were. We felt we were doing the right thing. We felt we were making a difference for the families," Perry said. "That started Brenda and I down the path of volunteering."

Perry's early work with those deployed units led him to become involved, with his wife's support, in several other local military events, and to join with such community leaders as retired National Guard Sgt. Dave Carney in developing new programs for the area's servicemembers, particularly National Guard and Reserve Soldiers. Perry and his wife have been involved with Operation Christmas Bear, a program that provides a holiday party for the children of deployed servicemembers and Department of Defense civilians, since its early years, with Perry chairing the event for three of those years. They have been involved with countless Yellow Ribbon and Welcome Home ceremonies.

Perry serves with the Association of the U.S. Army as the Reserve Affairs vice president; and as co-chairman of the Madison Cheer Brigade, a program for needy Soldier families. He is active with the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, where he served as president in 2009-10; Sergeants Major Association; Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1067; and American Legion Post 229, Madison. He is also a member of the Veterans Day

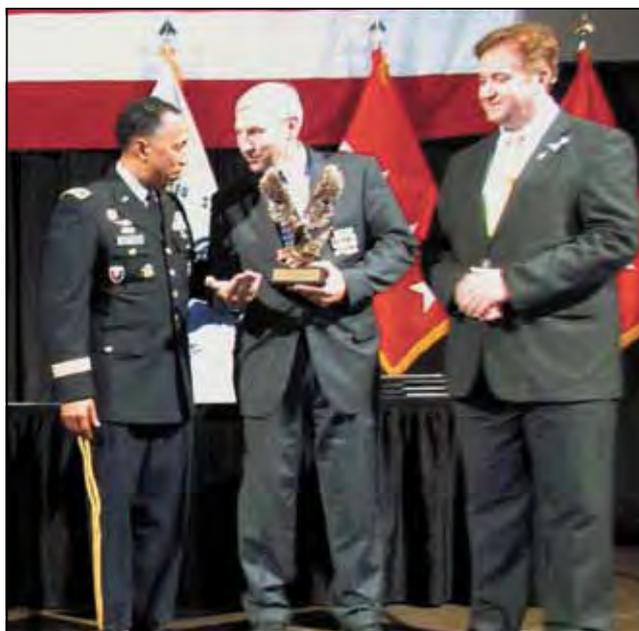


Photo by Kari Hawkins

John Perry receives a coin from Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Dennis Via and his trophy as Veteran of the Year for 2012 from Max Bennett, president of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, at the Veterans Day dinner Nov. 9.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

John Perry and wife, Brenda, have been active with the Operation Christmas Bear program since its early days. Brenda Perry is a big supporter of the work her husband does to support servicemembers, veterans and their families.

Parade planning committee, and the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial Board of Directors, where he coordinated efforts to develop a historical time capsule that was buried at the memorial on Nov. 17.

"When the committee was looking at candidates for this award, John stood out because he was involved with so many different programs and he has been involved at a level that provided unparalleled support," Max Bennett, president

of the NAVFOC, said after presenting the Veteran of the Year award at the Veterans Day dinner.

"In the past year, John's support has really exceeded the activity of others. He continues to be involved and contribute to our community's military programs."

Perry said his involvement has not ever been deliberate or planned. It has happened because he and his wife enjoy supporting local Reserve and National Guard troops as well as the Redstone Arsenal community, and working with other volunteers who are just as committed to supporting the military as they are.

"I guess Brenda and I just don't know how to say 'no.' We just keep on doing these programs and helping out. We continue to go where we are needed. It's a great feeling after you accomplish something that means so much to Soldiers and their families," Perry said.

"Like the time capsule, for instance, that took hundreds of hours of work by a group of volunteers. But we successfully completed a great program on time. We were proud of what we did. And it was good to see the boss (retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet, chairman of the memorial foundation) proud of us."

Perry has even had the opportunity to support veterans at Intuitive, where his responsibilities include serving as the veterans information coordinator. He works with the company's human resources manager, Juanita Phillips, to provide the Veterans Information Program, a company-sponsored informational network that links veteran employees within the company and provides them with information on community programs and events for veterans. Perry is proud of Intuitive's donations to the veterans memorial and the Madison Cheer Brigade, and its contribution to provide care packages to the 115th Signal Battalion, Alabama National Guard during their 2011-12 deployment to Afghanistan.

Although Perry has been on the giving end of the community's support networks to assist servicemembers and veterans with employment and quality of life issues, there was a time when he came close to being on the receiving end of those services. In 2007, Perry retired from the Reserves with 30 years of service, and then, in 2008, he took a voluntary layoff from the local Chrysler facility, which was moving toward shutting down operations.

"My worry was who was going to hire a 60-year-old electrical engineer?" Perry

recalled. "But I came over here to Intuitive for an interview, and they had a need for my engineering skills and my product background. At the time, they hired me to do a technical job as a quality engineer. I had thought I would end up being a Wal-Mart greeter. Anywhere else that might have been the case. I was truly blessed to be here."

That was five years ago. Since then, Perry has moved up in the company, all the while continuing his volunteer work with veterans. Most of that work was done in the evenings and on the weekends, and was often aided by his wife. But when Intuitive realized the nature of Perry's extracurricular activities, they allowed him some flexibility in his weekday hours to accommodate his passion for supporting veteran causes.

In everything he volunteers to do, Perry remembers the words of Gen. George Washington: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

And Perry, who was drafted in 1970 during the Vietnam War, has seen how those words ring true for yesterday's returning Vietnam veterans and today's returning war veterans.

"How we treat Soldiers today is so important to their future. I always keep that in the back of my mind," he said. "If we do treat our Soldiers well, it shows them that we are behind them and that we've supported them, and that they've done their job and have done it well. It is important that we acknowledge their sacrifice."

The Veteran of the Year award isn't the only recognition Perry has received in recent years. When Perry retired from the Reserves, he received two State Resolutions for his outstanding record of public service to the nation and to the community over the span of almost four decades. In 2008, John, Brenda and their son, Chad, were awarded the Family of the Year award by NAVFOC. In 2011, he received the YMCA BG Robert Drolet "Service to Veterans" award, and he and his wife received the Point Mallard Spirit of America "The CSM John and Brenda Perry Support for Military Families" award in 2011, and also had the award named after them.

Perry said the difference he has helped make for the community's servicemembers has been a group effort involving countless volunteers from the organizations he is involved with.

"We've set a whole new standard for military appreciation in this community," Perry said. "I feel proud of what we've accomplished over the last nine to 11 years. I feel we've done the right thing for our servicemembers. For my wife and I, it's a labor of love."

WWII bombardier's son cherishes memories of dad

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Randy Wells is proud of his family's military history.

His father and five of his dad's brothers served in various branches of the armed forces during World War II. His father was a bombardier whose B-17 was escorted by the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

"I'm around because of the Tuskegee Airmen," Wells said. "He told me a lot of stories about them. I feel like I'm around here because of them. I have a lot of respect for them."

Wells, who works at building 5250 as an electrician for Henshaw Electric, bought the DVD "Red Tails," which is about the Tuskegee Airmen, after the movie was released this year.

"I've seen it about 15 times now. I keep watching it," he said. "It's a good movie."

He keeps photos of his father during World War II and he wears his dad's Army Air Forces wings on a leather vest. His father, Carrol David Wells, died Sept. 20, 2007 at age 83.

In 2008 a retired veteran noticed the wings on Wells' vest during a motorcycle rally in Shelbyville, Tenn.

"There were probably a thousand people there," Wells, 55, of Meridianville, recalled. "He said 'Excuse me, bud, I was just admiring your wings right there. Those are original.' I said it's my dad's. I was pretty impressed, especially since he could tell they were original."

On June 1, 1943, his father joined the Army Air Forces, a predecessor of the Air Force which was established in 1947. His father was a bombardier on 38 missions and his plane was shot down over Belgium on his 24th mission. Wells is unsure how many of these bombing runs were escorted by the Tuskegee Airmen but believes it was 12 or

more. "He's not around to ask him anymore," Wells said.

The Tuskegee Airmen initially were equipped with Curtis P-40 Warhawks fighter-bomber aircraft, briefly with Bell P-39 Airacobras (March 1944) and later with Republic P-47 Thunderbolts (June-July 1944) and finally with the aircraft with which they became most commonly associated, the North American P-51 Mustang (July 1944). When the pilots of the 332nd Fighter Group painted the tails of their P-47s – and later, P-51s – red, the nickname "Red Tails" was coined.

"When they came up there to escort you, you could take a nap," Wells said. "I feel like I'm here because of them. You think about it: They didn't lose anybody. They didn't lose a B-17. I hold a special place in my heart for those guys right there."

Wells and his wife, Debbie, have three grown children. His stepson, Michael Howard, is a Redstone police officer.

Wells' father was among 13 children, including 11 boys and two girls, of William R. and Roberta Wells of Monrovia. He was the third oldest son. The other five who joined the military during the war included Charles, who joined the Navy and lives in Meridianville; Arthur, who entered the Navy and was killed on the USS Hoel during the Battle of Leyte in the Philippines on Oct. 25, 1944; Joseph, the second oldest son, who entered the Army; Perry, the oldest son, who was an Army staff sergeant; and Robert, the youngest son, who entered the Army and resides in Meridianville. A brother-in-law, John Hofues, also served in the Army during the war.

His father left the service in 1945 as a staff sergeant. During the Korean War, he joined the Army National Guard in August 1950, served in Korea and was discharged in December 1952 as a sergeant first class.

"I'm kind of proud of Pop," Wells said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Randy Wells, an electrician at building 5250, shows his father's photos from World War II. In the group picture of the 10-member bomber crew, Staff Sgt. Carrol David Wells is in the top row, third from the left.

Madison Cheer Brigade delivers holiday cheer

Community effort serves military families in need

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer
amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

The boxes that lay at Lori and Spc. Dee Smith's feet were not for them. They were for Marc.

It's been four years since Smith's ex-wife put his son Marc, 11, in foster care in Utah, deciding one day that she no longer wanted to be a mother and that her son's father should not have the opportunity to be his parent either. Smith and Lori stopped counting after paying \$38,000 in legal and travel fees fighting for custody of Marc, draining their savings. When Smith was laid off from his job this year, it didn't look like there would be a Christmas for Marc. But with the help of the Madison Cheer Brigade, come Christmas morning there will be presents under the tree.

As a sign of the community's support for the Soldiers and their families, and in gratitude for the many sacrifices they make on the country's behalf, the Madison Cheer Brigade made sure that even though times may be tough, 10 families from the 375th Engineer and 326th Chemical companies have reason to celebrate this Christmas. An outreach of the city of Madison, the Madison Cheer Brigade presented each family with a sizable check made payable to them, in addition to gift cards, toys, food, clothing and other items on their wish list Fri-

day at the Army Reserve Center.

"These are Soldiers who come back – they don't have a job, their spouse has an illness, their children have an illness, they drain their bank accounts, they have absolutely nothing – and they are distraught," said John Perry, one of the organizers of the event. "They are not going to have a Christmas unless someone steps in and helps. All of us stand together when we say we are truly blessed. We have income, we have a house, we have clothes, and we want to help. It's in the giving back to these young families that we receive more than what we give."

Each fall the local National Guard and Army Reserve help to identify families in need, and then the call goes out to the community to provide them with the items on their wish list. Since the outreach started eight years ago with then-Madison mayor Sandy Kirkendall, who came to Perry and Dave Carney with a desire to help Soldiers and their families for the holidays, the Madison Cheer Brigade has given to more than 50 families in need.

"They have sacrificed so much of themselves and their families have sacrificed so much, so this is just our way of giving back to them for the sacrifices they have made for us," said Gayle Milam, volunteer and special event coordinator for Madison.

The Soldiers' stories ranged from parents unable to find steady employment to provide for their young children to the Smiths, who asked for Christmas gifts for Marc.

"This means everything. This is Christmas," Smith said. "This makes it all for us."

While the Smiths won the Utah court's decision in March 2010, the judge ruled that it would be too disruptive for Marc to be pulled out of his foster family, so Smith has visitation rights, but hasn't seen his son in over a year, due to the costs involved with travel. Add to their worries are health problems only aggravated by the stress for Lori, who wears a pacemaker/defibrillator and suffered from a silent heart attack two weeks ago.

"It's been really tough for all of us," Smith said. "He's my biological son. I want my child."

Each month Smith faithfully sends a care package



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Wrapping presents with the Madison Cheer Brigade are, from left, Debbie Overcash, Terri Towry, Kelly Rolin and Anne Davidson.

to his son in Utah. This Christmas, the presents made possible through the generosity of the Madison Cheer Brigade will also find their way across the country to let the child know his father is thinking of him.

"This is my son. I want my son. That's what hurts the most," Smith said. "I try to look at it from my heavenly father's perspective – he sent his son here and look at how they treated him. When I think about that it humbles me. If they treated him that bad, how could I expect any better treatment? It still doesn't make it easy. It's still tough."

Through the Madison Cheer Brigade however, local military families know that they don't have to endure the tough times by themselves.

"If you think that you're alone, you're not," Perry told the families. "Every one of us has been there. Every one of us has been short on cash or had some down times, whatever the case may be. We are happy to be here to help you out. The military is family."

Madison Mayor Troy Trulock echoed Perry's sentiments, remarking at how important it is that the community reaches out to the Soldiers, not just for the families, but for the sake of the mission as well.

"Thank you for what you do for our military and for our country," Trulock said. "We have an amazing country, we have an amazing military and we

have amazing Soldiers out there. Because of what you do, we live very comfortably in a great society. But equally as important to that is the family members, the spouses. I've been deployed. I've been on combat tours and I understand how important it is. We cannot do our job on the front line if we don't know how our family is being taken care of. If we're concerned about our families in the background, we cannot focus and function on the front line."

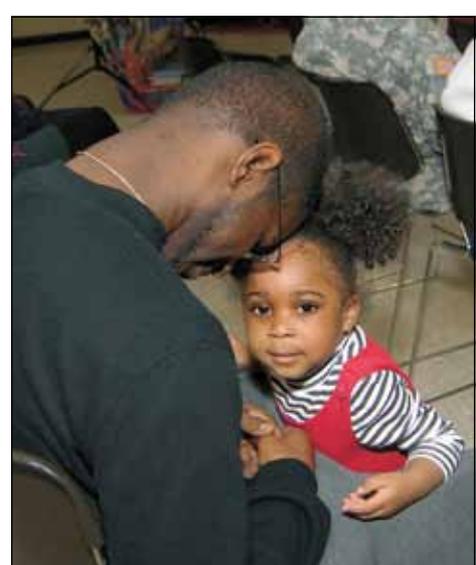


Photo by Ellen Hudson

KaMyah Lee plays with her father, Sgt. Karrus Lee.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

After receiving the generous donations of the Madison Cheer Brigade, Lori and Spc. Dee Smith smile with Santa and Mrs. Claus (Gordon and Ellen Mathay); Madison Mayor Troy Trulock; Gayle Milam, Madison volunteer and special events coordinator; and Dave Carney.

Army captures gold in sitting volleyball competition



Photo by C. Todd Lopez

The Army team beats the Veterans Affairs team in the final round of the Department of Defense Warrior Care Month sitting volleyball competition Nov. 20 at the Pentagon Athletic Center.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Ten-Milers honored

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle presents a proclamation honoring Redstone's Ten-Miler Team during Thursday night's City Council meeting. The team won its sixth straight championship in the government agency division and fourth straight in the all comers division at this year's Army Ten-Miler in Washington, D.C. From left are Randy McFarland, assistant coach Skip Vaughn, Brandon York, coach Harry Hobbs, Alex Gornik, Brad Schroeder, Erik DeBolt, Brett Wilks and Rob Whitaker. Members not pictured include Col. John Hamilton, Sgt. Maj. Corey Smallwood, Joe Robenson, Rob Youngren, Tim Pitt, George Heeschen and Tim Vinson.

VA team finishes second at wounded warrior event

By C. TODD LOPEZ
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army team took the top slot, beating out the Veterans Affairs team in the final round of the Department of Defense Warrior Care Month sitting volleyball competition Nov. 20 at the Pentagon Athletic Center.

“It means everything,” Sgt. Monica Southhall, an Army team participant, said. “You come out here today and show that regardless of your disability, you are still able to do something fun.”

Army finished the tournament 8-0. VA came in second, Special Operations Command took third, and the Marines, the Air Force and the Navy took fourth, fifth and sixth place, respectively.

Southhall is still in the Army and is assigned to the Community-Based Warrior Transition Unit at Virginia Beach, Va. A wounded warrior, she tore both rotator cuffs and injured her left knee while serving in Afghanistan. She is both a track and field athlete and a sitting volleyball player. As part of the Army's team at the Warrior Games in 2012, she helped her team take the gold.

Right now, she said, she thinks the goal for the team at next year's games is pretty much the same as it was last year and the same as it was at the Pentagon competition: to dominate the playing field.

“Last year at the 2012 Warrior Games we took the gold medal – that's pretty much our same goal,” she said. “We're looking to repeat in the 2013 Warrior Games. We get together, we do camps at different times, to try to keep our momentum going and keep our skills up. I think we can repeat again next year.”

Robbie Gaupp, a veteran of the Army and the gold-winning 2012 Warrior Games sitting volleyball team, also helped the Army take the No. 1

slot in the Warrior Care Month tournament. He said winning is all about training.

Even though the Army's team won gold, he said, “you still have to train hard, you have to practice. No matter, when you take a break for a day, or time off, you start losing basics. You want to go back to basics and fundamentals which create great athletes.”

Winning gold at the Warrior Games and taking the top slot at the Warrior Care Month competition means a lot to Gaupp, he said.

“It's great to come out and show ... warriors don't have to give up, even though you are injured,” he said.

Gaupp initially joined the Army in 2003, but was medically retired as a sergeant in 2010, due to shoulder injuries sustained during Operation Jumpstart, along the Texas-Mexico border.

The competition at the Pentagon was in recognition of the DoD's Warrior Care Month, said Master Sgt. Jarrett Jongema, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Army Adaptive Sports and Reconditioning Branch.

The Army hosted the event this year, and Jongema, a wounded warrior himself, said “we wanted to showcase recovery, we wanted to showcase resiliency, and at the same time we bring about awareness of some of the different sports.”

This is the second year the event was held in the Pentagon, but Jongema said this year was better than last, because this year, all four services sent a team of skilled players to compete.

“That changes the dynamic,” he said. “The competition level goes through the roof.”

This year, the VA team, “Team Semper Fi,” was sponsored by the Semper Fi Fund. Jongema said he sees no reason why more sponsored teams couldn't play in next year's event.

“Why wouldn't you expect to see other sponsored teams show up ... other great programs and non-profits?” he said. “I want to see it grow. This was very successful today.”

In this section...

Alabama should beat Notre Dame for national title

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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Here are Skip's Picks for the bowl games:

Jan. 7, BCS Title. Miami, Fla. – No. 1 Notre Dame (12-0) vs. No. 2 Alabama (12-1): **Alabama**

Jan. 3, Fiesta. Glendale, Ariz. – No. 5 Oregon (11-1) vs. No. 7 Kansas State (11-1): **Kansas State**

Jan. 2, Sugar, New Orleans, La. – No. 4 Florida (11-1) vs. No. 22 Louisville (10-2): **Florida**

Jan. 1 Orange, Miami, Fla. – No. 13 Florida State (11-2) vs. No. 16 Northern Illinois (12-1): **Florida State**

Jan. 1, Rose, Pasadena, Calif. – No. 8 Stanford (11-2) vs. Wisconsin (8-5): **Stanford**

Jan. 6, GoDaddy.com, Mobile, Ala. – No. 25 Kent State (11-2) vs. Arkansas State (9-3): **Arkansas State**

Jan. 5, BBVA Compass, Birmingham, Ala. – Pittsburgh (6-6) vs. Ole Miss (6-6): **Ole Miss**

Jan. 4, Cotton, Arlington, Texas – No. 10 Texas A&M (10-2) vs. No. 12 Oklahoma (10-2): **Texas A&M**

Jan. 1, Capital One, Orlando, Fla. – No. 6 Georgia (11-2) vs. No. 23 Nebraska (10-3): **Georgia**

Jan. 1, Outback, Tampa, Fla. – No. 11 South Carolina (10-2) vs. No. 19 Michigan (8-4): **South Carolina**

Jan. 1, Heart of Dallas, Dallas, Texas – Purdue (6-6) vs. Oklahoma State (7-5): **Oklahoma State**

Jan. 1, Gator, Jacksonville, Fla. – Mississippi State (8-4) vs. No. 21 Northwestern (9-3): **Mississippi State**

Dec. 31, Chick-fil-A, Atlanta, Ga. – No. 9 LSU (10-2) vs. No. 14 Clemson (10-2): **LSU**

Dec. 31, Liberty, Memphis, Tenn. – Iowa State (6-6) vs. Tulsa (10-3): **Iowa State**

Dec. 31, Sun, El Paso, Texas – USC (7-5) vs. Georgia Tech (6-7): **USC**

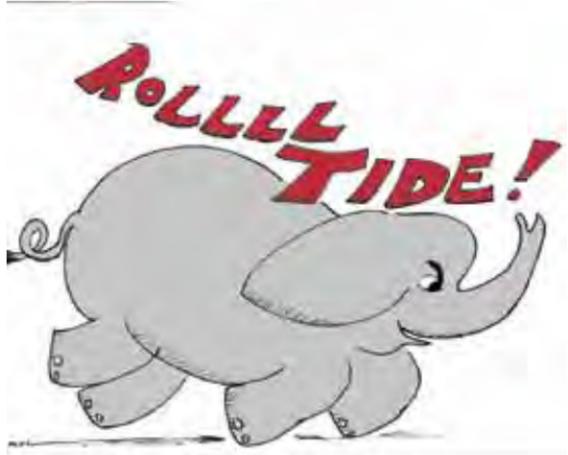
Dec. 31, Music City, Nashville, Tenn. – N.C. State (7-5) vs. Vanderbilt (8-4): **Vanderbilt**

Dec. 29, Buffalo Wild Wings, Tempe, Ariz. – TCU (7-5) vs. Michigan State (6-6): **TCU**

Dec. 29, Alamo, San Antonio, Texas – Texas (8-4) vs. No. 15 Oregon State (9-3): **Texas**

Dec. 29, Kraft Fight Hunger, San Francisco, Calif. – Navy (7-4) vs. Arizona State (7-5): **Arizona State**

Dec. 29, Pinstripe, Bronx, N.Y. – West



Virginia (7-5) vs. Syracuse (7-5): **West Virginia**

Dec. 29, Armed Forces, Fort Worth, Texas – Rice (6-6) vs. Air Force (6-6): **Air Force**

Dec. 28, Meineke Car Care, Houston, Texas – Minnesota (6-6) vs. Texas Tech (7-5): **Texas Tech**

Dec. 28, Russell Athletic, Orlando, Fla. – Rutgers (9-3) vs. Virginia Tech (6-6): **Virginia Tech**

Dec. 28, Independence, Shreveport, La. – Ohio (8-4) vs. Louisiana-Monroe (8-4): **Louisiana-Monroe**

Dec. 27, Military, Washington, D.C. – No. 24 San Jose State (10-2) vs. Bowling Green (8-4): **San Jose State**

Dec. 27, Belk, Charlotte, N.C. – Cincinnati (9-3) vs. Duke (6-6): **Cincinnati**

Dec. 27, Holiday, San Diego, Calif. – Baylor (7-5) vs. No. 17 UCLA (9-4): **Baylor**

Dec. 26, Little Caesars Pizza Detroit, Mich. – Central Michigan (6-6) vs. Western Kentucky (7-5): **Central Michigan**

Dec. 24, Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii – Fresno State (9-3) vs. SMU (6-6): **Fresno State**

Dec. 22, Maaco Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Nev. – Boise State (10-2) vs. Washington (7-5): **Boise State**

Dec. 22, New Orleans, New Orleans, La. – East Carolina (8-4) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (8-4): **East Carolina**

Dec. 21, Beef O'Brady's, St. Petersburg, Fla. – UCF (9-4) vs. Ball State (9-3): **Ball State**

Dec. 20, Poinsettia, San Diego, Calif. – BYU (7-5) vs. San Diego State (9-3): **BYU**

Dec. 15, Famous Idaho Potato, Boise, Idaho – No. 18 Utah State (10-2) vs. Toledo (9-3): **Utah State**

Dec. 15, New Mexico, Albuquerque, N.M. – Nevada (7-5) vs. Arizona (7-5): **Arizona**

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.wear-blueruntoremember.org>.

Conferences&Meetings

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.

Protestant women

Protestant Women of the Chapel holds Bible Study classes every Thursday at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. Child care is available at the Child Development Center on a first-come, first serve basis for the 9:30 study. PWOC also provides supervision for the home-schooled children at the Youth Services building. For more information, call Bicentennial Chapel 842-2176. You can also email PWOC ladies at Redstone@pwoc.org.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at The Summit. Breakfast is available at the club. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. “We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us,” a prepared release said. “Let’s try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area.” For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 955-0727.

Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sentar offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Marva Morse 430-0860. The

Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 4488, room B-306. For information call Claudinette Purifoy 955-9422. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Huntsville Christian Church, 171 Indian Creek Road. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359.

Men’s ministry

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

Civil space symposium

The Greater Huntsville Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics is sponsoring a technical symposium, titled “Civil Space 2013,” on Feb. 12-13 at Dynetics Inc. This event is to discuss current challenges, opportunities and emerging technologies relative to space access and orbital solutions within the civil space market. This discussion includes commercial space providers and the Federal Aviation Administration and NASA. The cost to attend is \$75 for AIAA members and \$150 for non-members. For more information and to register, visit <http://tinyurl.com/CivilSpace2013>.

Civilian leadership summit

The second annual AUSA sponsored, Department of Army Civilian Leadership Summit will be held Jan. 31 at The Summit. A leadership panel will share their insights on leadership challenges and civilian opportunities. Mark your calendars, and look for registration information coming soon.

Fraternity member intake

The Decatur-Athens Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. announces its membership intake informational meeting Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at Calhoun Community College, Decatur Campus, Aerospace Training Center Building at 6250 Highway 31 North in Tanner. Note this is the last building on campus on the right, on the north end of campus. For more information, email Derrick McKitt at derrick.mckitt@kapsimad.com.

MiscellaneousItems

Fraud hotline

The Huntsville Fraud Resident

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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 Phyllis Chunn 880-7080 or email rsvp.dir@seniorview.com.

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NASA surplus

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

Re-entry information

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

Lending closet

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

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.

Fraud prevention

Every hour Medicare loses \$6.8 million to waste, fraud and abuse. These costs are ultimately passed down to

the beneficiaries and taxpayers. The federal government is cracking down on abusers but they cannot do it alone; they need the help of all current beneficiaries, including you. The Senior Medicare Patrol program, which is made up of beneficiaries within our community, was created in 1997 to help detect and report the red flags of Medicare fraud. Local SMP volunteers can help Medicare stop the loss. For more information on reporting concerns or being a part of the program, call your SMP coordinator Patricia Rogers at TARCOG 830-0818.

Child care center

The Marshall Child Development Center on Redstone Arsenal accepts all members of the Redstone family with Arsenal access. The MCDC currently has openings for children in the Preschool A area with birthdates ranging from Sept. 2, 2007 through Sept. 1, 2008. For more information, call Kelli Wright 544-8609 or visit <http://mcdc.msfc.nasa.gov/>.

Save lids to save lives

In support of breast cancer awareness and education, Zeta Tau Alpha is teaming up with Yopliat for the 2012 "Save Lids to Save Lives" campaign. Between now and Saturday, drop off your pink "SLSL" Yopliat lids in the pink collection box in the Sparkman Center Cafeteria (by the doors to the courtyard). For each lid collected, Yopliat will donate 10 cents to Susan G. Komen for the Cure to benefit breast cancer outreach programs and research.

Thrift Shop news

If you are interested in volunteering or consigning, call or stop by the Thrift Shop for more information or to pick up a packet. The shop is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9-5 and the first Saturday of the month from 10-2. Consignments are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-11:45 a.m. unless otherwise stated on the No-List recording at 881-6915. The Thrift Shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. The phone number is 881-6992. ... Holiday closings are Dec. 25 through Jan. 3. The shop will reopen Saturday, Jan. 5 from 10-2.

Merit award applications

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club is taking applications for Merit Awards. These financial awards are available to graduating high

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school seniors, college students and spouses who are family members of military and DoD civilians whose primary residence is located within the Redstone Arsenal community, and who meet the eligibility requirements. Information and applications are available at www.rsacwc.org. If you have questions, call Stacy Prater 617-8558. Applications will be accepted through Jan. 31. The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club is a non-profit, private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

Alabama A&M extension

Alabama A&M University has an office at the Education Center, building 3222, room 13, on Snooper Road. Office hours are Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Available is program information leading to the undergraduate degree in Logistics and Supply Chain Management, credit evaluations (prior academic and military), advising, and information for other degree programs offered at Alabama A&M. Academic advisement is ongoing for the spring semester; classes begin Jan. 7. The Logistics and Supply Chain Management degree is available to active duty servicemembers, their spouses and adult children, retirees, civilians employed on Redstone Ar-

senal, 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. Those interested may also visit <http://www.aamu.edu/business>.

Gala fund-raiser

The 100 Black Men of America-Greater Huntsville Chapter's annual Holiday Gala is Dec. 29 at the Von Braun Center's North Hall. The reception starts at 6 p.m. with the program at 7; and the event continues with dining and entertainment through midnight. "The theme for the event is 'The 100 as One: Mission-Vision-Cause,' and the program will reflect the organization's emphasis on mentorship and their commitment to growing and developing community youth," a prepared release said. "The gala is one of two annual fund-raisers that support academic scholarships and the organization's 'Four for the Future' cornerstone programs (mentoring, education, economic development and health and wellness). The scholarships are awarded to area youth who

meet prescribed requirements without regard to gender, race or religious preference." Tickets are now \$75 per person and \$600 for reserved tables of eight. For more information, call Kenneth Anderson 679-4241, James Matthewson 714-8921, or Freeda McDowell at the 100 BMOA-GHC Business Office 536-8050 where credit card purchases can be processed.

Commissary news

The Commissary has the following schedule for the holidays: Christmas – open Dec. 24 but closes at 4 p.m., closed Dec. 25, reopen Dec. 26. ... New Year's – open Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Jan. 1, reopen Jan. 2.

Post Library offer

Come in to the Post Library through Saturday and get a free commemorative "The Hobbit" bookmark with your checkout, in anticipation of the release of "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," in theaters Friday.

Book fair benefit

The Mills Road Child Development Center and Goss Road CDC are hav-

ing book fairs through Friday from 3-5 p.m. The theme is "All Star Book Fair: Every Reader is a Star." Funds raised will help purchase books for these Child Youth and School Services child care facilities. Families, staff and the community are invited to this fun reading event which helps inspire children to become lifelong readers. In addition, an online book fair for both CDCs will be available for purchases through Dec. 23 at the following websites: for Goss Road CDC, <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/redstonearsenalcdc>; and for Mills Road CDC, <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/millsrdcdc>. This book fair benefit is an initiative of the Redstone Arsenal CYSS Parent Advisory Council. The PAC is a private organization not affiliated with the Army or Redstone Arsenal.

Chapel holiday services

Bicentennial Chapel has the following holiday services in addition to its regularly scheduled services: Catholic – Christmas pageant, Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m.; Christmas Eve Family Mass, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.; Midnight

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Photo by John Pearson

Educational outreach

Rebecca Shelton, electrical engineer and government product lead at the Prototype Integration Facility of the AMRDEC, speaks to engineering and science students at Bob Jones High School. Shelton discussed the importance of developing writing skills in fields in technology and how it benefits her in her career. She appeared as part of the AMCOM Army Educational Outreach Program.



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Mass, Dec. 24 at midnight; Christmas Day Mass, Dec. 25 at 9 a.m.; Mary, Mother of God Vigil Mass, Dec. 31 at 5 p.m. ... Protestant - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

Tree cutting

Anyone with access to Redstone Arsenal is authorized to cut trees on a self-serve basis in the old storage yard area on Warehouse Road, located west of building 7427. Trees cannot be cut for commercial or unauthorized use, only for personal use in your home. The gate entering the area has been marked with pink flagging for easy recognition. The tree cutting area is surrounded with a chain link fence. Vehicle travel will be limited to the one road entering the gate and the two turnaround roads. Any further travel will be on foot, so work boots or protective footwear is suggested. Cutting operations will be limited to inside the Christmas tree cutting area only. Caution should be exercised to prevent straying outside the area or off the access route and removing any objects other than a Christmas tree. Trees can be cut through Dec. 24 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The trimmings should not be

left on grassed rights-of-way or access roads. For more information and a map, call Outdoor Recreation 876-4868, building 5132, or the installation forester's office 313-3258.

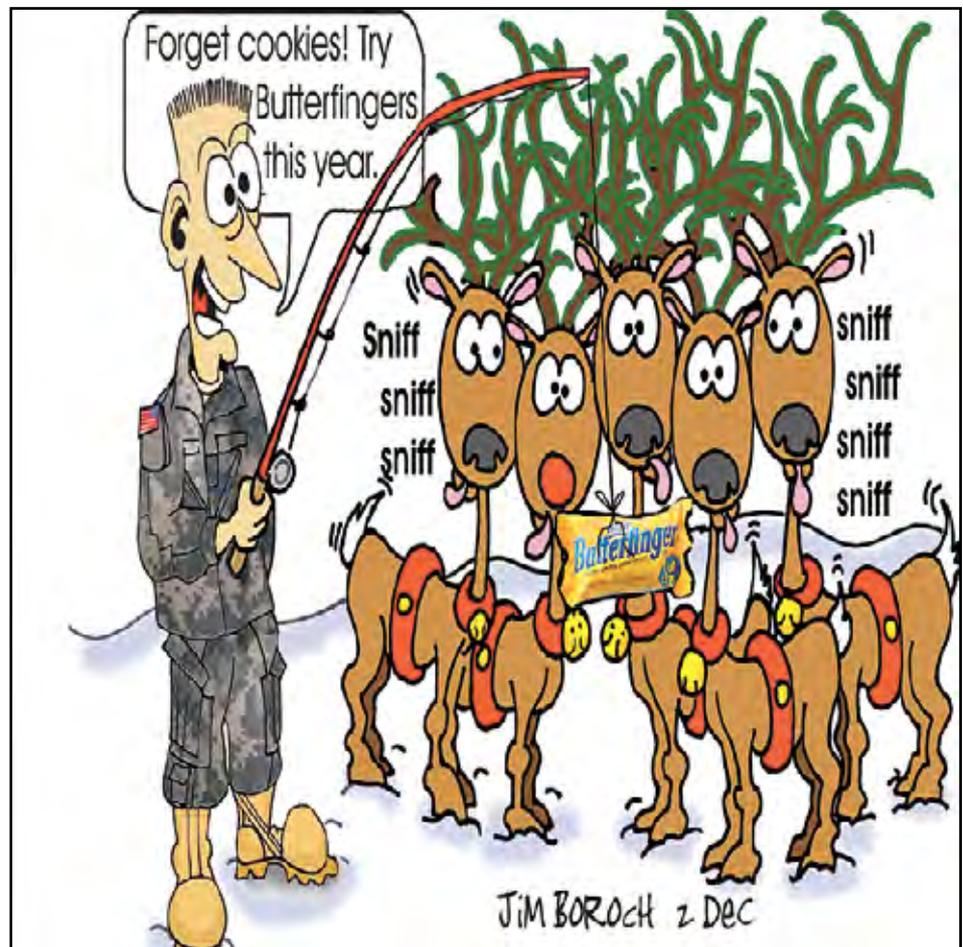
Redstone Exchange news

Here's the Redstone Exchange holiday schedule: **Dec. 24** - Main Store open 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Alteration Shop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Barber Shop, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Barber Shop at VBC III, closed; Flower Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; GNC, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Laundry, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Nail Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Firestone, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Express, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Optical Store, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Optometrist Dr. Van Hartman, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Anthony's Pizza/Sub, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Charley's, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Church's Chicken, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; American Eatery, closed; Burger King, 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Café (Fox Army Health Center), closed. ... **Dec. 25** - Main Store closed; Alteration Shop, closed; Barber Shop, closed; Barber Shop at VBC III, closed; Flower Shop, closed; GNC, closed; Laundry, closed; Nail Shop, closed; Firestone, closed; Express, 10 a.m.

to 7 p.m.; Optical Store, closed; Optometrist Dr. Van Hartman, closed; Beauty Shop, closed; Anthony's Pizza/Sub, closed; Charley's, closed; Church's Chicken, closed; American Eatery, closed; Burger King, closed; Café (Fox Army Health Center), closed. ... **Dec. 26** - Main Store, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Alteration Shop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Barber Shop, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Barber Shop at VBC III, closed; Flower Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; GNC, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Laundry, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Nail Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Firestone, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Express, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Optical Store, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Optometrist Dr. Van Hartman, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Anthony's Pizza/Sub, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Charley's, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Church's Chicken, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; American Eatery, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Burger King, closed; Café (Fox Army Health Center), 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... **Dec. 27** - Main Store, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Alteration Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Barber Shop, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Barber Shop at VBC III, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Flower Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; GNC, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Laundry, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Nail Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Firestone, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Express, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Optical Store, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Optometrist Dr. Van Hartman, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Anthony's Pizza/

Sub, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Charley's, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Church's Chicken, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; American Eatery, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Burger King, 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Café (Fox Army Health Center), 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... **Dec. 28** - Main Store, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Alteration Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Barber Shop, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Barber Shop at VBC III, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Flower Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; GNC, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Laundry, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Nail Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Firestone, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Express, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Optical Store, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Optometrist Dr. Van Hartman, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Anthony's Pizza/Sub, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Charley's, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Church's Chicken, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; American Eatery, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Burger King, 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Café (Fox Army Health Center), 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... **Dec. 29** - Main Store, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Alteration Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Barber Shop, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Barber Shop at VBC III, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Flower Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; GNC, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Laundry, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Nail Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Firestone, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Express, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Optical Store, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Optometrist Dr. Van Hartman, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Anthony's

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Pizza/Sub, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Charley's, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Church's Chicken, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; American Eatery, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Burger King, 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Café (Fox Army Health Center), 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... **Dec. 30** – Main Store, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Alteration Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Barber Shop, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Barber Shop at VBC III, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Flower Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; GNC, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Laundry, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Nail Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Firestone, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Express, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Optical Store, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Optometrist Dr. Van Hartman, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Anthony's Pizza/Sub, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Charley's, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Church's Chicken, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; American Eatery, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Burger King, 6 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Café (Fox Army Health Center), 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... **Dec. 31** – Main Store, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Alteration Shop, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Barber Shop, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Barber Shop at VBC III, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Flower Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; GNC, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Laundry, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Nail Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Firestone, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Express, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Optical Store, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Optometrist Dr. Van Hartman, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Anthony's Pizza/Sub, 10:30

a.m. to 2 p.m.; Charley's, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Church's Chicken, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; American Eatery, closed; Burger King, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Café (Fox Army Health Center), closed. ... **Jan. 1** – Main Store, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Alteration Shop, closed; Barber Shop, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Barber Shop at VBC III, closed; Flower Shop, closed; GNC, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Laundry, closed; Nail Shop, closed; Firestone, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Express, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Optical Store, closed; Optometrist Dr. Van Hartman, closed; Anthony's Pizza/Sub, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Charley's, closed; Church's Chicken, closed; American Eatery, closed; Burger King, closed; Café (Fox Army Health Center), closed. ... **Jan. 2** – Main Store, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Alteration Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Barber Shop, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Barber Shop at VBC III, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Flower Shop, closed; GNC, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Laundry, closed; Nail Shop, closed; Firestone, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Express, 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Optical Store, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Optometrist Dr. Van Hartman, closed; Anthony's Pizza/Sub, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Charley's, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Church's Chicken, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; American Eatery, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Burger King, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Café (Fox Army Health Cen-

ter), 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Rhythm and blues show

R&B artists Avant and Tank will perform at the Von Braun Center's Mark C. Smith Concert Hall on Dec. 29. The show will be hosted by comedian Tommy Davidson. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8. For more information, call 551-2345 or visit www.vonbrauncenter.com.

Community concert series

The Valley Conservatory is continuing its Community Lyceum Series. A master class with Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano Marilyn Mims will be held Friday from 4-6 p.m. in Roberts Hall on the campus of the University of Alabama-Huntsville. The Messiah will be presented Sunday at 4 p.m. at the First Christian Church, 3209 Whitesburg Drive. Admission is free. For more information, call 534-3131.

Redstone newcomers

The next Team Redstone Newcomers and New Employee Orientation for civilian employees, Soldiers and military family members will be held

Jan. 8 from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at The Overlook, building 150 on Golf Course Road. Participants will receive training to orient them to federal employment and the installation, which will include: Garrison deputy commander and CPAC director remarks, Army Community Service, Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, Fox Army Health Center, Legal/JAG, Security, Management-Employee Relations, American Federation of Government Employees, Classification/Staffing, Benefits, Payroll, Workers Compensation, Training and Workforce Development, Equal Employment Opportunity, Tomorrow's Army Civilian Leaders, and Safety. For more information on how to participate in Team Redstone Newcomers/NEO, call Jessie McCray 313-0714 or Mary Breedon 876-5397. To obtain a space in this course, you must register in TIP at <https://tip.redstone.army.mil>.

Adult dance classes

A free class on "Introduction to Ballroom Dancing" will be offered by FMWR on Jan. 10 from 8-9 p.m. at

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Photo by Carrie E. David

Care packages

Pamela Stevens, left, and Master Sgt. Tanya Savell-Marzan pack holiday care packages Dec. 3 for the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Soldiers and Army civilians currently deployed. Not pictured is KC Bertling. The packages were done as part of a newly established Family Support Activity Group and included such items as a toiletries bag, dry drink mixes, candy, and odds and ends.

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Pagano Gym. This class is intended for couples with little or no dance experience and is an overview of the "Dancing Like the Stars 2013" program. Demonstrations, Q&A and a mini-lesson are included. This class is offered without any obligation or pressure to sign up for additional dance classes, but registration is required by Jan. 9. "Swing" classes will be offered six Thursdays from Jan. 17 through Feb. 21 (no class on Feb. 14) from 8-9 p.m. at Pagano Gym; tuition is \$66 per couple. This course is also available as a five-week, \$55 review course (by eliminating the first class only) for those who have taken this course previously at Redstone. Deadline for registration is Jan. 16. Registration for either or both of the aforementioned activities may be made by calling 876-4531 or by visiting the Community Activity Center, building 3711, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Class size is limited to 25 couples. Copies of the schedule of dance classes for 2013 are also available at the CAC.

Tobacco cessation

The Fox Army Health Center's To-

bacco Cessation Program provides a series of five classes held every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The class incorporates motivation, behavior modification, peer support, and medication safety education into each session. The program is offered free of charge to active duty Soldiers and their Tricare-eligible family members, Tricare-eligible military retirees and their Tricare-eligible family members, and DoD civilians assigned to Redstone Arsenal. Each class is facilitated by a registered nurse. There is a pre-program physical examination. Blood pressure evaluations are provided at each session. Free tobacco cessation medication is provided, if the need is indicated. Interval telephone follow-up is conducted after the classes are over to check on your progress. The 2013 Tobacco Cessation Class dates include Jan. 15, Feb. 26 and April 9. To sign up, please call the Fox Army Health Center Wellness Clinic at 955-8888, ext. 1026/1440, or call Nicole Sarabia, BSN, RN, at 955-8888, ext. 1431, for more information.

Airborne chorus

The 82nd Airborne Division Cho-

rus will perform Friday from 11:30 a.m. to noon at Bob Jones Auditorium. The entire Redstone community is invited.

Survivors' art outreach

Join Survivor Outreach Services for fellowship and creativity at Huntsville's "Spirited Art" event Thursday at 5000 Whitesburg Drive, Suite 130 (phone 883-3353). Doors will open at 6 p.m.; and participants will start painting at 6:30. The cost is \$35 per person which covers the art supplies and lesson. Participants must be 18 or older. To register go to the website www.myspiritedart.com, click on the Huntsville calendar, then click on Thursday's "Patriotic Circle Tree" Survivors of Fallen Soldiers. Follow the registration procedures. For more information, call Kerrrie Branson 876-9579.

Retirement reception

A retirement reception for Danny Dunn, supervisory environmental protection specialist at the Garrison, will be held Thursday from 1-2 p.m. at building 4488, room A-315. He's retiring after 32 years.

Housing service guidance

Soldiers reporting to Redstone

Arsenal on permissive temporary duty for house-hunting purposes must have a DA Form 31 and report to the Housing Service Office, One Stop Center, building 3494, room 115, Honest John Road. The Soldier must report to the gaining installation's housing office and have DA Form 31 stamped on the first available duty day. 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. The stamp and date serves as verification of housing processing and permissive TDY status. Failure to secure the HSO validation may result in the Soldier being charged leave for the entire period. For more information, call housing management specialist Minnie Rhoden 842-9902 or email minnie.s.rhoden.civ@mail.mil.

Church services

A "Special Carols and Readings" service will be held Dec. 19 at 7 p.m. at St. Mark's Lutheran Church (one block south of Governors Drive in the medical district). Christmas Eve service times include 5 p.m. children's program, 7 p.m. traditional candlelight communion service, and 11 p.m. festive candlelight communion service.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Melinda Garcia

Puck drop

Staff Sgt. Jorge Mendez joins his daughters for the ceremonial puck drop at the Dec. 6 Fayetteville Fireantz hockey game versus the Augusta RiverHawks. Mendez is a member of the Security Assistance Training Management Organization based at Fort Bragg, N.C. USASATMO, a subordinate command of the Security Assistance Command, attended the hockey game as part of the command's holiday party activities.