

Joint 911 center dials up savings



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Dennis Wooten, manager of the Joint 911 Dispatch Center, conducts a tour of the facility in building 4312.

Merger represents partnership between Army and Marshall

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Team Redstone organizations are working together to improve efficiency during these times of fiscal constraints.

An example is the Joint 911 Dispatch Center, a partnership between the Army and Marshall Space Flight Center.

The respective dispatch centers for the Army and Marshall merged Thursday in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with Redstone leaders, congressional representatives, local law enforcement and first responders. The joint center is in building 4312 on Digney Road.

"I really have high expectations for the benefits of this initiative," Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton said.

He said he expects the consolidation to save taxpayers about \$1 million annually. The center takes 911 calls for police, fire and ambulance and provides firefighters and policemen for

both the Army and Marshall at Redstone Arsenal.

"We will do it better because of this (initiative) and we'll do it a lot cheaper," Hamilton said.

Joining him to cut the ceremonial red ribbon was Robin Henderson, Marshall's associate director. She runs all the institutional services at Marshall.

"Great benefits," Henderson said. "What we get is savings on both sides."

The call center is operated by contractor Excalibur.

"We operate 24/7 obviously," Dennis

See 911 on page 17



COMMUNITY NEWS

Tax Assistance Center has grand opening.

PAGE 4



SOLDIER STORY

NASA seeks candidates for astronaut program.

PAGE 16

POST PROFILE

Prototype Integration Facility delivers technology quickly.

PAGE 26



WIN OR LOSE

Rival teams compete in 10U basketball.

PAGE 32

RocketViews

Who will win the Super Bowl?

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
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Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Broderick
 Expeditionary Contracting Command
 "I'm going with New York because their defense has gotten stronger."



Sgt. 1st Class Lascelles Cuff
 Expeditionary Contracting Command
 "I'm going to go with the Giants. I believe in Eli (Manning)."



Rachael Yeoman
 Office of the Staff Judge Advocate
 "Patriots. That's without a question. I'm from Rhode Island, it's an obligation. Patriots and Red Sox – you're born, it's in your blood."



Jerry Hamilton
 Retired master sergeant
 "I don't even know. Who's playing? I follow Alabama and Auburn, but the rest of them I don't get into it."

Quote of the Week

"If it's the ultimate game, how come they're playing it again next year?"

— Duane Thomas
 Dallas Cowboys running back before Super Bowl VI

RedstoneRocket

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Letters to the editor

Here's a round of thanks for generous donors

Christmas Charities Year Round would like to express its heartfelt appreciation to the many hundreds of donors that supported us this past year. As we enter our 63rd year of service to less fortunate Madison County residents, my heart is overjoyed that we never once found ourselves where we were unable to serve our clients, despite a greater demand for our services and more challenging finances.

In 2011, our agency provided free clothes, shoes, furniture and other household items to more than 1,650 people, including emergency services to many tornado

victims. Plus, we served an additional 1,500 people during the holidays by providing Christmas toys, gifts and food boxes. Again this year, we were also proud to be the sorting and distribution center for the WAFF Holiday Can-a-thon.

None of this would have been possible without the many generous people in our community, whether they were students collecting cans, individuals sending checks, families donating household items, volunteers wrapping gifts and sorting donations, or people investing in United Way or CFC; they all saw fit to help us take care of their

neighbors.

While I've tried to thank as many donors as I can individually, there must be hundreds of other advocates and unsung heroes who I've missed. Please know how much we very sincerely appreciate you and all you do for us. On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and 3,000-plus clients, thank you for caring for those in need in Madison County.

Violet Edwards
 Christmas Charities Year Round executive director

Getting to know you

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
 Rocket editor
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Name: Randy Tisor

Job: Public affairs officer for the Program Executive Office for Aviation

Where do you call home?
 I grew up in Cleveland (Ohio), but I'm also from LA.

What do you like about your job?
 It's never the same – seldom boring.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
 I'm into cars. I'm a big 'car guy.' I've had lots of cars. I've got an older Corvette, it's a fun car.

What are your goals?
 Near future I've got to find a house. I arrived the first week in January from Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colo. Personal goals: I'm a writer. I've got a few projects going here and there. And I'd like to get back into doing voice-overs.



What's at the top of your "bucket list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?
 I think I'd like to have a book published. And I'd like to do a radio show, talk radio. That would probably be bigger, I think.

Hunting mishap claims Soldier's life

FORT POLK, La. – A 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Polk Soldier was killed by a .22-caliber rifle round in a hunting mishap Jan. 21 at approximately 10:30 p.m. near Lake Kincaid.

Initial reports indicated four Soldiers were raccoon hunting when the 30-year-old staff sergeant was shot by a hunting companion. One of the Soldiers shot a raccoon but did not kill it. As one of the Soldiers attempted to shoot the raccoon again, the rifle was bumped by a dog and the round struck the staff sergeant. Emergency Medical Services was called immediately while the Soldiers treated the wound. When EMS arrived they pronounced the staff sergeant dead at the scene. No alcohol or drugs were involved. He redeployed from Operation Enduring Freedom in September.

This was the Army's first hunting fatality in fiscal 2012 compared to one for the same time frame in fiscal 2011.

Editor's note: This release originated from the Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center.

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Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Jan. 19-25:

Jan. 22: An Army employee reported that someone stole his prescription medication from his work station.

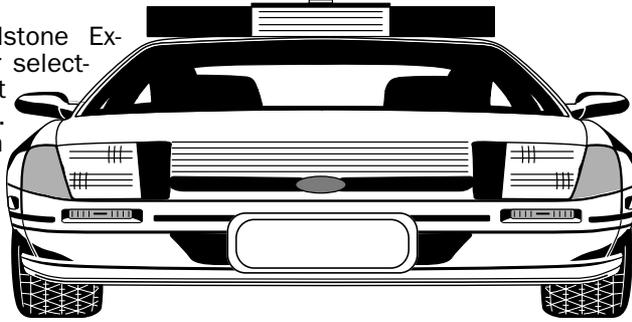
Jan. 23: A Soldier was arrested by Florence Police for desertion. He was released to Redstone Police who processed him to his Fort Campbell, Ky., unit.

Jan. 25: In the Redstone Exchange, a family member selected an umbrella and left the store without paying. She received a violation notice.

Jan. 26: An Army employee reported that his private vehicle was damaged while parked at building 4400.

Traffic accidents reported: Nine without injury, two of which involved deer strikes.

Violation notices issued: 22 speeding, 4 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 following too close, 1 shoplifting, 1 trespassing, 1 failure to move over, 1 no driver's license, 1 no registration.



Foreclosure proposal offers relief for homeowners

By MINNIE RHODEN
Housing management specialist

In October 2010, major banks temporarily suspended foreclosures following revelations of widespread deceptive foreclosure practices by banks. Discussions then began over a national settlement.

This settlement would apply to privately held mortgages issued between 2008 and 2011. The draft settlement would pay out as much as \$25 billion. Those who lost their homes to foreclosure are unlikely to get them back or benefit much financially from the settlement.

The deal would provide the following:

- \$17 billion reducing the principal

homeowners owe on their mortgages.

- \$5 billion placed in a reserve account for various state and federal programs. A portion of that money covers the \$1,800 checks sent to those homeowners affected by the deceptive practices.

- \$3 billion to help homeowners refinance at 5.25 percent.

This agreement – pending congressional action – could also reshape long-standing mortgage lending guidelines and make it easier for those at risk of foreclosure to restructure their mortgage loans. The banking industry offer includes changes in foreclosure practices, which is a major goal of the Obama administration.

Send valentines out to veterans via Exchange

Army & Air Force Exchange Service shoppers can show their appreciation to military servicemembers who came before them by sending free valentines through the Redstone Exchange now through Feb. 6.

Now in its second year, “Valentines for Veterans” is an annual Exchange campaign to send greetings to local Veterans Affairs hospitals, Fisher House locations and military retirement facilities.

“Our shoppers include many veterans and their families who know what it means to serve, and understand how nice it is to be remembered,” Exchange general manager Lorraine Arbo said. “Valen-

tines for Veterans’ is an opportunity for our patrons to reach out to those who’ve already served and send their greetings.”

To send free Valentine’s Day cards, shoppers can simply stop by the Redstone Exchange through Feb. 6 and fill out cards provided, or bring their own cards to drop off. The drop off box at the Exchange is located at the fine jewelry department. The Exchange will arrange for delivery to local veterans on or

before Valentine’s Day.

Exchange shoppers can learn more by calling the Redstone Exchange at 883-6100 and asking about “Valentines for Veterans.” (*Exchange release*)



Redstone Exchange explains store’s shopping privileges

On any given day, a variety of visitors, contractors and Department of Defense civilians visit any one of the Army & Air Force Exchange Service’s food, entertainment and retail operations on Redstone Arsenal. The question most frequently posed by these visitors is “Who’s authorized to shop these facilities?”

Exchange service authorization actually begins with the House Armed Services Committee and ultimately ends with the Redstone Arsenal commander. The guidelines, as prescribed by Army Regulation 215-8/Air Force Instruction 34-211 (I) and the Armed Services Exchange Regulations, Department of Defense Instruction 1330.21, require proper identification of authorized customers, including uniformed personnel and members of the Reserve Components and family members, applicable DoD civilians, Exchange associates, retirees and their dependents who possess a basic Exchange purchase privilege authorization card.

While rules governing who can buy merchandise and services at Exchanges often apply to a chosen few, the doors to the Redstone Arsenal Exchange’s food facilities, such as Anthony’s Pizza, O’ Charley’s and the Express are open to virtually anyone looking for a taste of home. In fact, DoD policy allows all federal government employees, and even installation visi-

tors, to dine at Exchange restaurants as long as their orders are consumed on the installation. Furthermore, anyone can purchase single-serve consumables from the Express, an option that is especially valuable late at night considering the Express is open until 10 p.m.

“Most Expresses have ‘Snack Avenues’ which offer a broad selection of snacks and beverages,” Exchange general manager Lorraine Arbo said. “Fruit, candy bars, soft drinks and even chicken pot pies can be picked up by just about anyone with business on the installation.”

Anyone who believes they may qualify for Exchange benefits can call 883-6100 for additional information. (*Exchange release*)

Courtesy photo

Education outreach

Rob Federico, attorney at AMCOM Legal Office, gives a presentation to environmental science classes at Huntsville High School. He appeared as part of the AMCOM Army Education Outreach Program.



Tax assistance center returns for new year



Photo by Grant Thompson

Cutting the ribbon at the center's grand opening Jan. 23 are, from left, Col. David Crawford, staff judge advocate and AMCOM's deputy chief counsel; Curtis Clark, Garrison deputy commander; and Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Johnson, Garrison command sergeant major.

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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The Tax Assistance Center is officially open for business.

Cutting the ribbon at the Jan. 23 grand opening were Col. David Crawford, staff judge advocate and AMCOM's deputy chief counsel; Curtis Clark, Garrison deputy commander; and Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Johnson, Garrison command sergeant major.

"From personal experience the last few years I've been here, this is a great organization," Clark said. "You guys do a great amount of work for our community.

"On behalf of (Garrison commander Col. John) Hamilton and (AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim) Rogers, we want to take this opportunity to thank you. You guys do great and the entire community is very appreciative."

The center consists of eight volunteers, two borrowed military members and three people from the Office of the Staff

Judge Advocate. The center's success each year is largely attributed to the volunteers, who each contribute from 5-40 hours weekly.

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

The center is a free service helping servicemembers on active duty, military retirees and their dependents prepare and file federal and state tax returns each year.

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

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

Here's advice to help you choose a tax preparer

Many people look for help from professionals when it's time to file their tax return. If you use a paid tax preparer to file your return this year, the IRS urges you to choose that preparer wisely. Even if a return is prepared by someone else, the taxpayer is legally responsible for what's on it. So, it's very important to choose your tax preparer carefully.

Also, do not overlook the tax preparers who are there to help those who qualify. The Redstone Arsenal Tax Assistance Center is a free service helping servicemembers on active duty, military retirees and their family members prepare and file federal and state tax returns each year. Other Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites are in the area to help AARP and other members of the general public. These free sites are generally for those who have basic tax returns and do not include those with business or significant investment which require multiple schedule attachments. These properly authorized free sites are not required to retain copies or sign the return as preparers as is necessary with paid preparers.

This year, the IRS wants to remind taxpayers to use a preparer who will sign the returns they prepare and enter their required Preparer Tax Identification Number.

Here are 10 tips to keep in mind when choosing a tax return preparer:

- **Check the preparer's qualifications.** New regulations require all paid tax return preparers to have a Preparer Tax Identification Number. In addition to making sure they have a PTIN, ask if the preparer is affiliated with a professional organization and attends continuing education classes. The IRS is also phasing in a new test requirement to make sure those who are not an enrolled agent, CPA or attorney have met minimal competency requirements. Those subject to the test will become a Registered Tax Return Preparer once they pass it.

- **Check on the preparer's history.** Check to see if the preparer has a questionable history with the Better Business Bureau and check for any disciplinary actions and licensure status through the state boards of accountancy for certified public accountants; the state bar associations for attorneys; and the IRS Office of Enrollment for enrolled agents.

- **Ask about their service fees.** Avoid preparers who base their fee on a per-

centage of your refund or those who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other preparers. Also, always make sure any refund due is sent to you or deposited into an account in your name. Under no circumstances should all or part of your refund be directly deposited into a preparer's bank account.

- **Ask if they offer electronic filing.** Any paid preparer who prepares and files more than 10 returns for clients must file the returns electronically, unless the client opts to file a paper return. More than 1 billion individual tax returns have been safely and securely processed since the debut of electronic filing in 1990. Make sure your preparer offers IRS e-file.

- **Make sure the tax preparer is accessible.** Make sure you will be able to contact the tax preparer after the return has been filed, even after the April due date, in case questions arise.

- **Provide all records and receipts** needed to prepare your return. Reputable preparers will request to see your records and receipts and will ask you multiple questions to determine your total income and your qualifications for expenses, deductions and other items. Do not use a preparer who is willing to electronically file your return before you receive your Form W-2 using your last pay stub. This is against IRS e-file rules.

- **Never sign a blank return.** Avoid tax preparers that ask you to sign a blank tax form.

- **Review the entire return** before signing it. Before you sign your tax return, review it and ask questions. Make sure you understand everything and are comfortable with the accuracy of the return before you sign it.

- **Make sure the preparer signs** the form and includes their PTIN. A paid preparer must sign the return and include their PTIN as required by law. Although the preparer signs the return, you are responsible for the accuracy of every item on your return. The preparer must also give you a copy of the return.

- **Report abusive tax preparers** to the IRS. You can report abusive tax preparers and suspected tax fraud to the IRS on Form 14157, Complaint: Tax Return Preparer. Download Form 14157 from www.irs.gov or order by mail at 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

Editor's note: This article was adapted from an IRS release.

Shop the commissary for Super Bowl preparations

By KAY BLAKLEY

DeCA home economist

FORT LEE, Va. — Smart shoppers always look for ways to get the biggest bang for each and every buck. It logically follows that military shoppers with commissary privileges are among the smartest shoppers on the planet. We know that, because some of the commissary's busiest days of the year are right before the Super Bowl games are scheduled to begin.

No matter what kind of goodies you

plan to serve while you cheer your team to victory, we've got just what you need, at the best price you'll find. Need some snack crackers to serve with your special homemade dip? We have a good assortment at as much as 33 percent off the normal price. Several cheeses are on sale, too, at 27 to 39 percent savings.

If you can't find time to make your own cookies, get them from us — several varieties are sale priced at 20 to 31 percent savings. Do try to find the time

to remove them from the package and arrange them nicely on a serving plate, though. A touch of manners goes a long way, even while watching a football game. If cooking skills are limited, go for ready-to-bake pizzas, lasagna, fully-cooked meatballs and buffalo chicken wings that you just heat and eat. Cold cuts and cheese, with macaroni or potato salad, is an easy-do, as well. Whatever you choose, arrange it nicely on a serving plate, tray or bowl, and your guests will

be mighty impressed.

For those who prefer serving something homemade, visit Kay's Kitchen at http://www.commissaries.com/kays_kitchen/healthy_cooking/articles/kays_01_23_12.cfm to check out a recipe collection for all your Super Bowl favorites, plus a few new, possibly healthier choices. Be a smart shopper by purchasing ingredients at the commissary — shop early for best selection. And, may your team win the big game. *(Defense Commissary Agency release)*

Edamame Dip (makes about 2 cups)

Ingredients:

12 to 16 ounces shelled edamame, fresh or frozen, thawed
1/2 cup packed, roughly chopped fresh cilantro, including stems
1/2 cup plain yogurt
1 avocado, peeled, pitted and roughly chopped
1/2 cup water
1/4 cup fresh lime or lemon juice
1 to 2 teaspoons salt
5 shakes of Tabasco or other hot sauce (less or more to taste)
3 drops dark sesame oil

Directions:

1. Bring 2 quarts of well-salted water (2 tablespoons salt) to a boil. Add the shelled edamame. Return to a simmer and cook 5 minutes, or until cooked through and tender. Drain and rinse with cold water.
2. Place drained edamame in a food processor; pulse several times. Add the chopped cilantro; pulse again. Add remaining ingredients and pulse until well pureed. Add more water if a smoother consistency is desired; adjust seasonings and serve. Pita chips are the perfect partner, but other chips go well, too.

Peppermint pie (serves 8)

Ingredients:

20 crisp chocolate cookies
2 tablespoons butter, melted
1 (1/2-gallon) carton peppermint ice cream
1 (8-ounce) container whipped topping, thawed
Crushed peppermint candies and chocolate syrup or hot fudge sauce for garnish

Directions:

1. In a food processor, crush cookies into fine crumbs.
2. In a mixing bowl, stir together cookie crumbs and butter. Press crumb mixture evenly onto bottom and sides of

a 9-inch pie pan. Place in freezer for 15 minutes, or until firm.

3. Meanwhile, place ice cream in refrigerator for 15 minutes to soften. Scoop softened ice cream into hardened crust and spread evenly with spatula.

4. Pipe or spoon whipped topping around border of pie. Sprinkle center of pie with crushed candies. Place pie in freezer for several hours or overnight until firm.

5. To serve, set on counter top for five minutes to soften. Cut into 8 wedges; place each wedge on a dessert plate and drizzle with chocolate syrup or hot fudge sauce, as desired, and serve.

Marine sets Lego world record

By Marine Corps Cpl. AARON DIAMANT
Marine Corps Air Station Yuma

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. – While many have a hobby, few have the drive and dedication to turn that hobby into a world record. Marine Corps Capt. Kyle Ugone not only has that drive but also the certificate declaring him as the Guinness world record holder for the most completed Lego sets in a private collection, with an astonishing 1,091 sets.

While his record officially stands at 1,091, Ugone actually has 1,251 sets. But some did not count toward the record because they are reproductions or don't have the original instructions, Ugone explained.

His vast collection started small and at a young age, but has grown in size and number, including one set that contains more than 5,000 individual pieces.

"I got my first set as a gift when I was 5 years old," Ugone said. "It's a windmill, and I still have it today. From there, I kept getting more and more sets."

Rooms in his Yuma home look as if they belong in a Lego Land theme park, containing hundreds of completed Lego

sets separated by genre, such as space, trains, castles and "Star Wars" sets, displayed on tables and shelves.

Lego is a line of construction toys consisting of colorful interlocking plastic bricks and an accompanying array of gears, mini-figures and various other parts.

Lego bricks can be assembled and connected in many ways to form vehicles, buildings, and even working robots. Anything constructed can be taken apart to make other objects.

The toys originated in the 1940s in Denmark and have achieved international appeal, with an extensive subculture that supports Lego-themed movies, games, videogames, competitions and five amusement parks.

It wasn't until 2009, when Ugone was talking to other Lego enthusiasts online, that he decided to go for the world record.

"I was talking to a guy who said he wanted to build every set Lego has ever made," Ugone said. There are more than 5,000 sets, he added, some of which are extremely rare and others available only in certain areas.

Ugone contacted officials at the Guinness Book of World Records and found



Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Marine Corps Capt. Kyle Ugone achieved the world record for the most completed Lego sets in a private collection with 1,091 sets.

that no such record existed. He was told he would need at least 500 sets to claim a record.

"At the time, I had about 600 to 700 sets, but I wanted more," Ugone said. "So I spent a lot of time scouring the Internet to purchase more sets and build them."

After a Lego expert visited Ugone's home to verify his plethora of building-

block masterpieces, 1,091 of his 1,251 sets were authenticated for the record, earning him the title as the man with the most.

Now, Ugone is slowly taking the sets apart for storage to regain some of the square footage in his home. He's taking a break from collecting Lego sets, planning instead to focus more of his attention on restoring a classic muscle car.

Depot inventory reduction team seeks goal for AMCOM

By DAN O'BOYLE
For the Rocket

Like NFL players trying to reach the Super Bowl, the 17 Supply Chain Management Enterprise teams are working toward an ultimate win for the command.

The trophy for Depot Maintenance Army Inventory Reduction is \$20 million by June 30, with a mark of \$7 million or 35 percent on the scoreboard now.

"We are identifying obsolete operating materials and supplies," Jennifer Vogeltanz, depot team leader, said. "This excess inventory impacts financial accounting by encumbering funds that could be applied elsewhere, and it increases total supply chain costs, constraining future resources."

Using a value stream map, depot team members are seizing the opportunity to reduce excess dormant inventory at both the Corpus Christi Army Depot and Letterkenny Army Depot as well as working to prevent future instances of aged and excess items by developing and implementing new policies and procedure at the depots.

Additionally, following AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers' guid-

ance, the team will work to determine what "right looks like," in terms of deriving an accurate view of depot inventory sizes.

"We are close to finalizing a report from the Logistics Modernization Program's Enterprise Data Warehouse that will depict past consumption as well as forward requirements to assure that the depots are identifying and disposing of the right items," Vogeltanz said. "LMP is the key source data to track inventory reductions."

The depot team members include Melody DeMaris and Tina Leos, Corpus Christi Army Depot; Nadine Stoler and Chris Snyder, Letterkenny Army Depot; Olivia Cowart, John Keck, Terry Wheatley, all of the Integrated Materiel Management Center; along with Jessica Medlen and Ashlyn Isom of Cargo Helicopter, Keith Langewisch of the Command Group, Chris Collins of the Defense Logistics Agency and Tom Ray of the Office of Continuous Improvement.

Aviation and Missile Command workers are encouraged to visit the Supply Chain Management Enterprise "War Room" on the second floor of building 5301.

"Your ideas will be used to develop

feasible solutions to AMCOM's efficiency issues," Rogers said. "More importantly, they will play a significant role in instituting a cultural change within the command, ultimately creating an organization that embraces change rather than resists it."

The AMCOM Supply Chain Enterprise teams' overall goal is to reduce the command's Army working capital fund inventory by \$3.6 billion before the summer. The enterprise team effort is just one of the command's overall efficiency initiatives.

Photo by Rachel Griffith, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Continuing education

Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner, left, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, sits beside 100th Missile Defense Brigade's Command Sgt. Maj. Russell Hamilton while being briefed on Structured Self Development and the Army Career Tracker. Each quarter, senior enlisted leaders from around the globe gather, either in person or via video teleconference, for training. The training is conducted in-person in Colorado Springs, Colo., with leaders in outlying units dialing in, often at odd hours for those overseas, to receive information to help them guide and mentor their Soldiers. This quarter, training focused on updates to online training and mentoring programs, and Soldier retention, among other topics.



U.S. reputation goes long way worldwide



Photo by Kari Hawkins

USASAC commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner speaks about foreign military sales with business leaders at the annual meeting of the North Alabama International Trade Association on Jan. 25.

Good relations build strategies with allies

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
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The reputation of the U.S. and its Army stands tall with foreign governments.

And when it comes to selling U.S. helicopters, missiles, tanks and other equipment to allied nations, that reputation goes a long way to meeting the nation's security assistance goals.

Maj. Gen. Del Turner, commander of the Security Assistance Command headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, spoke about the nation's security assistance program during the annual meeting of the North Alabama International Trade Association on Jan. 25. Turner's appearance before some 200 business leaders at the Westin Hotel was his first public presentation in Huntsville since assuming command about five months ago.

Turner emphasized that the U.S. is known worldwide for the quality of equipment, training and sustainment. When allies purchase U.S. military equipment, foreign leaders say "we know we are getting whatever you advertise as the capability and you will stand by it," he said.

Turner's previous assignment as the program manager for the Saudi Arabian National Guard Modernization Program gave him insight into the U.S. foreign military sales

program, which has aided him in assuming his new responsibilities.

"I learned about the tremendous respect that foreign governments hold for the U.S.," he said, adding it is vital to U.S. security strategies to take the time and effort to develop relationships with those countries.

The Security Assistance Command leads the Army Materiel Command's security assistance enterprise. It develops and manages security assistance programs and foreign military sales cases to build ally partner capacity, support combatant command engagement strategies and strengthen U.S. global partnerships.

Besides the military equipment sold to the Saudi Arabian National Guard, "the training and support assistance we've given to the Saudi Arabian National Guard since March 1973 has really paid dividends for our country, for the military and, I'd say, for industry," Turner said.

"It is a model for what security assistance programs should be. ... We all benefit from the relationship that we've had for over 39 years. It's a relationship of mutual respect, and of them being exposed to American values and their trust in us to deliver what we say we'll deliver."

There was a time when Saudi Arabia bought Mi17s and Mi35s from Russia. But on April 5, 2010, the Saudi government decided to go with all U.S. aircraft for its three National Guard aviation brigades, amounting to the purchase of 54 helicopters and the support network of maintenance, parts, facilities, training and sustainment that goes along with them.

See Reputation on page 12

Reputation

continued from page 10

"I've had a lot of experience that tells me relationships are extremely important" to decisions involving foreign military sales, Turner said, adding that the U.S. has military, diplomatic and economic access to Saudi Arabia because of the security assistance relationship that has been built over years.

The relationships that U.S. companies have with foreign governments also help to promote the U.S. security assistance program.

"I want to facilitate your relationships to foreign military so you can get in and further my goals in establishing relationships," Turner told the international business group.

"You want to sell your products, make money and strengthen the bond you have with existing partners. When you are selling overseas and engaged with leaders overseas, you are helping the U.S. Your engagement in relationships with them furthers the interest of the U.S."

The U.S. military along with industry partners provide a security assistance enterprise to support a foreign military sales program that makes the Security Assistance Command "the Army's face to the world."

"FMS is a means to an end and it's going to become more and more important as foreign military sales of equipment and training become an important part of our military strategy," Turner said.

The Department of Defense is one of 24 U.S. government agencies involved in foreign assistance, with others including the state department as well as energy, health and human resources and transportation organizations. The Security Assistance Command has about 430 employees at Redstone Arsenal who are involved with case development, training and logistical management support of military systems that foreign governments have bought from the U.S. The command further benefits from the efforts of security assistance management directorates within other Army Materiel Command major subordinate commands.

"The Aviation and Missile Command, with its end to end sustainment, is very

much involved with fielding to foreign militaries," Turner said.

The Security Assistance Command interfaces with 140 armies, 45 air forces, 25 navies, one marine unit and 26 other foreign entities. So far in fiscal 2012, the command has negotiated nearly \$14 billion in foreign military sales, with that figure expected to rise to \$17-21 billion with the year end.

"That's very good news here. ... About 75 percent of that \$14 billion in sales we've done this year is missile and aviation. It's had a big effect on that industry," Turner said.

Foreign military sales cases begin with a letter of request from a U.S. ally and close two years after the last supply action. Many cases will run 10, 15 or 20 years.

Currently, the Security Assistance Command is working with 145 countries on 4,642 foreign military sales cases. There are \$134 billion worth of cases now in some stage of the foreign military sales process, with about \$65 billion of value yet to be delivered. The command also has 35-40 teams deployed in training actions associated with foreign military sales cases around the world.

"We take a total package approach to a foreign military sales case that includes material, spare parts, training, publications, technical documentation, maintenance support and other services," Turner said. "Everything comes with the full backing of the U.S. government and the countries enjoy the fact they are getting full capability."

During his comments, Turner joked that he has been called "Mr. FMS" and "The Army's used car salesman," references made to his leadership of an organization focused on selling new as well as excess equipment to foreign governments.

"But they are really envious," Turner said of other Army officers, "because we are the only growth industry in the Army right now and in DoD."

Joking aside, he said the Security Assistance Command is "dedicated to building partner capacity, and building and strengthening relationships with foreign militaries. This is the most unique time since post-World War II Europe. It is a time when we are building two armies and police forces (in Iraq and Afghanistan), supporting coalition partners in Afghanistan and operating worldwide at a record op-tempo."

Via nominated as AMC's next commander

Secretary of defense Leon Panetta announced Jan. 24 that the president has nominated Army Materiel Command deputy commander/chief of staff Lt. Gen. Dennis Via for appointment to the grade of general and for assignment as the AMC commander.

Additionally, the president nominated Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuiston for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general and for assignment as AMC deputy commander/chief of staff. McQuiston is currently the commander of the Army Sustainment Command, Rock Island, Ill.

Presidential nominations for general officers must be confirmed by the Senate.



Lt. Gen. Dennis Via

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:

Wild game cookout

The annual Wild Game Cookout is Friday from 5-10 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, conference hall, building 3711, on the corner of Patton and Aerobee roads. Tickets are \$15 in advance for Redstone permit-carrying hunters and family members, \$20 in advance for all other participants and \$25 on Friday. Children under 12 are admitted free. Purchase tickets at Outdoor Recreation or the Community Activity Center. For more information, call 876-4868.

Library lovers month

February is Library Lovers Month. Beginning today there will be prizes for visitors throughout the month and an Open House on Valentine's Day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This is open to everyone in the Redstone community, adults and children. For more information call the library at 876-4741 or visit www.redstonemwr.com, Recreation, Library.

Firehouse Pub

You're invited to mix and mingle Feb. 10 from 5-8 p.m. at the Firehouse Pub, building 114 on Hankins Drive. There will be free hors d'oeuvres, DJ Bigg Play, business card drawing, drink specials and dancing. For more information, call 842-3070.

Aerobic fun

FMWR Sports and Fitness's "Aerobi-thon" is Feb. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Pagano Gym. February is Heart Health Month. This event promises three hours of non-stop fun including toning, cardio, Zumba, yoga and more. For more information, call 313-1201.

Youth sports

Register from now through Feb. 27 for Little League Baseball. The \$45 cost includes uniform. Practices begin in March and games start in April. Games are played with the City of Huntsville Recreation Services at the CYSS Sports Facility and at the city's sports facilities. Volunteer coaches are always welcome. Open to boys and girls ages 4-12. For more registration information, call 876-3704. For program information, call 313-3699.

Jewelry sale

Masquerade \$5 jewelry sale is Feb. 7-8 from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sparkman Center Cafeteria. There will be earrings, necklaces, bracelets, watches and more. For more information, call 876-8741.

Golf tournament

The Valentine's Couple Tournament is Feb. 11 with a 10 a.m. shotgun start at the Links. Cost is \$25 per person plus applicable greens fees. For more information, call 883-7977.

Workshop eases transition into civilian world

Soldiers receive advice on life after military

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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At the end of a Soldier's career, there's no telling what's waiting for them on the other side of the fence.

"You really think you're preparing, but you're really not," Sgt. Maj. John Mattie, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command G-3, said of his retirement later this year, after 32 years of service. "Just by through the grapevine I've heard what other people have done, but obviously until you turn the course and you really understand what all you have to do, it's a little overwhelming."

Despite the uncertainty he faces when he hangs up his uniform for the last time in nine months, by the time that day arrives he will be a little more prepared, thanks to the help of the Military Personnel Division's Transition Assistance Program.

The four-day class, held monthly at the MILPO, is designed to assist transition-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Terris Tatum and Barbara Moudy facilitate the Transition Assistance Program workshop for Soldiers transitioning to civilian life.

ing and preretirement National Guard, Army Reserve, active duty and their spouses as they make the change from military to civilian life. Created in the 1990s after the first Gulf War, the work-

shop is operated under the umbrella of the Army Career and Alumni Program, in conjunction with the Department of Labor, VA, Department of Defense and Homeland Security.

"The military is the only life they've ever known for the last 20 to 30 years," said Barbara Moudy, chief of the transition center who runs the TAP Workshop. "It really is a big change in life."

To ease that change, course topics include information on the various benefits available to the transitioning Soldier, including Tricare, the Army Education Center and the VA, as well as advice on how to succeed in the civilian work force, including writing a resume, interviewing, networking, dressing for success and how to start a small business. For veterans that have become accustomed to having a job waiting for them each time they PCS, learning how the work force operates outside the military can be like learning another language.

"This is going to be different," Terris Tatum, TAP facilitator, said. "They've got to get out there and run the race with folks that are accustomed to finding opportunities, going through the interview process – it could be different from a promotion board."

"With the economy and hearing about jobs that concerns me, but I think I have a lot of skills to share, it's just are they ready to take on a Soldier?" said active

See Workshop on page 31

Astronaut makes recruiting visit to Redstone Arsenal



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Col. Shane Kimbrough, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's NASA Detachment, speaks with Army officers interested in becoming astronauts during a recruiting visit to Redstone Arsenal on Jan. 20.

By **JASON CUTSHAW**

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

NASA is seeking applicants for its next class of astronaut candidates who will support missions to the International Space Station and future deep space exploration activities.

Col. Shane Kimbrough, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's NASA Detachment, led an officer professional development discussion at the invitation of the Program Executive Office for Aviation on Jan. 20. The subject of Kimbrough's briefing was the fiscal 2012 Army Astronaut Candidate Screening Board and eligibility criteria for all Redstone Arsenal Soldiers desiring to submit an astronaut candidate package to NASA.

Approximately 15 aviation officers attended the briefing, which was followed by a question and answer period.

"I am here to let Soldiers know about the upcoming astronaut selection process," Kimbrough said. "I am talking typically to the test pilot community here at Redstone, but also to anyone who may be interested. We want to have as many Army people apply as possible so we can get the very best candidates at NASA."

"NASA has always had a really good history of Army personnel come and do great things for our nation and our space program. We want to continue that tradition. Members of the Army are used to living in small spaces and tough conditions and they bring a lot of operational experience with them."

Kimbrough talked about the training he went through and said that no matter how difficult it may have been,

it was well worth it.

"I remember my brain hurting a lot," he said. "It was like going through a very intense graduate school for a couple of years, but the experience was great and I wouldn't trade for anything."

"There is also a lot of physically demanding training, especially when training to space walk, and if there is one thing Soldiers excel at is the physical aspect of training. The challenges are hard but the rewards are worth it in every way. I am honored to have had the chance to serve not only my country but to be a member of an international team that worked together to be a part of something bigger than ourselves is something I am proud of."

Interested members of the Army community came out to learn more about how to be a part of an elite community.

"I think it is important to get Army people involved and get them to apply," Lt. Col. Jeff Johnson, PEO Aviation product manager for the AH-64D Longbow Apache, said. "The Army has always played a part in the country's space program and has contributed to NASA's successes. When all is said and done, we want to have a Soldier named to the next group of astronauts and represent our Soldiers in the future."

Once trained, NASA astronauts are involved in all aspects of assembly and on-orbit operations of the ISS. This includes extravehicular activities, robotics operations using the remote manipulator system, experiment operations, and onboard maintenance tasks. Astronauts are required to have a detailed knowledge of the ISS systems, as well

See Astronauts on page 23

continued from page 1

Wooten, manager of the Joint 911 Dispatch Center, said.

The center has 15 dispatchers, five on each shift, along with supervisor Vicki Brewer and the manager Wooten. Eight of the members came from the Army side, including Brewer; four were already at NASA; and three were new hires.

In an interview last year with the *Redstone Rocket*, Brewer described the work of the 911 dispatchers.

“We’re the calm voice on the phone or the radio when everything else is chaotic,” she said.

When someone on post dials 911, they answer the call and get important information from the caller.

“We’re going to ask them what is the location of your emergency; what’s going on there, if they say it’s a medical call; we’re going to ask for their phone number just in case we get disconnected. At that point we’re going to be sending help,” Brewer said.

Often the caller will get agitated because he or she mistakenly believes the dispatcher is the one who will be going to the scene. The dispatcher stays on the line asking questions so the actual responder will know what the situation holds, what equipment will be needed and more so they’ll be better able to help the people requiring assistance. They



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Cutting the center’s ceremonial ribbon are Marshall associate director Robin Henderson and Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton.

follow the calls until the situation is resolved and can pursue other resources if necessary.

“When you do dispatch you have to be prepared for everything because you never know what the next call is going to bring,” Brewer said.

Last April 27 brought Alabama’s deadly tornadoes which devastated the entire community. The Army’s dispatchers were all affected in one way or another by the storms, which created power outages lasting several days. Two had damage to their homes.

“When you work in emergency services you’re always affected by something like that because it could be your home, it could be your family’s home, it could be somebody you know,” Brewer said.

Publisher announces advertising product for readers

Tennessee Valley Printing Company Inc., civilian enterprise printer of the *Redstone Rocket*, launched a Weekly Deals program targeting the Redstone audience on Jan. 25.

The Redstone Deal will appear on TNValleyDeals.com from Wednesday through Sunday night. The Redstone Weekly Deal features local businesses that offer discounts of 50 percent or more off of products and services.

“We’re excited to be launching this product in Huntsville for the Redstone audience, especially after our success with Daily Deal programs in Decatur and the Shoals,” French Salter, Tennessee Valley Printing’s general manager of the *Redstone Rocket*.

Salter said the product is similar to national programs like Living Social and Groupon but the focus will be area businesses who want to appeal to the Redstone audience. “We specialize in providing audiences to local advertisers, whether it’s through our website or our newspapers. This is one more niche audience we can provide that is a different advertising model,” he said.

The bulk of the consumers who have interest in the Redstone Weekly Deal will come in the next few weeks. “In the first month alone, with minimal promotion in the *Rocket*, we have more email subscribers than our previous product launches. We’re excited about the potential,” Salter said. These people are the foundation of the first subscriber list.

Anyone can subscribe to a Redstone Weekly Deal email at TNValleyDeals.com to be sure they have access to all local Redstone deals. And if you’re a subscriber and see a Deal a friend might like, you can receive \$10 in Deal Bucks to be used on your first purchase, Salter said. The deals can also be shared via Facebook.

“While there may be consumer overlap in the multitude of Deal products,

our deals will be local to our consumers every day,” Salter said. “That sets us apart, but we’ve also learned that even though we’re small, our results can be very strong.”

He said that by organically building the email subscriber list, TVP is able to build lists that have email open rates well above average as well as a percentage of active users more than twice national deal programs.

For businesses, the product also has a positive twist. Unlike the typical advertising model where you invest in advertising and hope the consumers come, businesses only pay for customers who purchase Deals through the Redstone Weekly Deal at TNValleyDeals.com. The consumer purchases via online and businesses receive a portion of every deal. “There’s no upfront cost to the business,” Salter said. “Our businesses invest in their offers and only pay a percentage for every deal sold. If no offers are sold, they pay nothing.”

Redstone Deals that appear at TNValleyDeals.com and that are emailed on Wednesday are available for purchase through Sunday night at midnight. Purchasers receive a confirmation email immediately after their purchase, and then an email after the Deal closes Sunday night explaining that they can now print their voucher. Consumers are encouraged to tell friends about the deal. “Birds of a feather tend to flock together,” Salter said, explaining if you like a deal, chances are your friends have a similar interest.

The Redstone Weekly Deal is the fifth Deal program to be launched by TVP, parent company of the *Decatur Daily*. All deals can be viewed at TNValleyDeals.com. Just click “Change Location” and all of the market options appear; just click on Redstone.

For more information on the Redstone Weekly Deal, call Salter at 340-2463. (*Tennessee Valley Printing release*)



Tester of Year belongs to Apache helicopters team

Steve Allen, flight test lead with the Apache Sensors Product Office, has been named the National Defense Industrial Association's Tester of the Year in the contractor category. He will be recognized at the annual Test and Evaluation Conference awards luncheon March 14 at the Hilton Head Island in South Carolina.

Allen is responsible for testing the newly designed Electronic Image Intensification camera. He leads a team of approximately 20 pilots, engineers, downrange target technicians and ground crews to ensure that the AH-64 Apache attack helicopter, the instrumentation and the computer systems are performing optimally. The types of testing Allen and his team perform are typically completed at night between 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. to ensure that the optimal night-time light conditions are achieved.

"I am honored by the recognition of the test community for our efforts in Apache sensors," Allen said. "As the flight test lead, I recognize that it is the unique composition of the entire sensors team and their efforts that have enabled me to win this award. This award acknowledges events for which I was the visible member of the team but in actuality were the ac-



Photo by Apache Helicopters Project Office

Flight test lead Steve Allen manages night vision testing of the Apache sensor suite at Redstone Arsenal.

complishments of a dedicated group of highly skilled individuals. I look forward to continuing this task and appreciate the recognition of the Army and NDIA."

Allen's achievements have directly benefited war fighters, helping to prove how well the system works before placing it in the hands of the Soldiers. His efforts are instrumental in providing Soldiers with exceptional operational capability and ensure Apache's role as the most lethal attack helicopter in the world. (*Program Executive Office for Aviation release*)

Defense technology consortium invites innovation

By DAN O'BOYLE
For the Rocket

This conference's 200 attendees in Research Park's Jackson Center did not let Thursday's rain dampen their zeal for Soldier support.

Each was challenged by Dr. Charles Lind, chief of staff for the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, who set the tone for the Department of Defense Ordnance Technology Consortium Collaboration day.

"We have a responsibility to give the best capability to our Soldiers," Lind said. "This gathering will be used by the PEO MS as a vehicle for the rapid acquisition of urgent requirements to meet war fighter needs."

The consortium was established in 1999 and became a Department of Defense initiative commissioned by the undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics in 2002 for voluntary use by all service munitions laboratories, defense agencies and the Special Operations Command.

Using the PEO Missiles and Space System Components chart, Lind stressed the importance of horizontal capabilities among the PEO's seven project offices in



Photo by Jayne Jordan

Jose Gonzalez, left, of the Defense Ordnance Technology Consortium Executive Committee, talks with Dr. Charles Lind, chief of staff of the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.

the areas of communication, launchers, radars and missiles.

"Product enhancements in these areas are our common interest," Lind said. "Further, we need better ways to produce products, as measured in terms of performance and available funding, and that is where you folks come in. You are the brain trust of the ordnance and missiles

system business.

"We need to strengthen the industrial base, reduce costs and become more efficient, across the board. The enemy is learning and adapting. We have to be innovative in this resource-constrained environment."

The chief of staff also said that the current challenges, and the fight today, will be different from the challenges and the fight tomorrow.

"Together, we need to integrate and test better," Lind said. "And this need fits in across the entire acquisition life cycle. Missile defense is not easy; it's hard and it's challenging."

The consortium is the focal point for ordnance system technologies with particular focus on explosives, propellants, pyrotechnics, warheads, fuzing, sensors, demilitarization, Joint Insensitive Munitions Technology Programs, Protection and Survivability and applicable enabling technologies. It includes the National Warheads and Energetics Consortium to bring the resources of more than 120 industry, academia and non-profit organizations to bear on armed forces lethality and energetic challenges.

DOTC also consists of the 14 Munitions Laboratory in the Department of

Defense and the Department of Energy. Through this unique government, industry, academic and joint munitions organization, there are increased efficiencies in the acquisition process, with new and expanded collaborations to enhance developing state-of-the-art weapons related technologies, as well as to leverage the resources of all the partners. The leveraging of resources, facilities, programs and people provides for a high return on investment and information sharing, allowing members to focus on advancing military technological superiority.

The event is specifically aligned with the guidance spelled out in the November 2010 "Implementation Directive for Better Buying Power – Obtaining Greater Efficiency and Productivity in Defense Spending." The leveraging of resources, facilities, programs and people provides for a high return on investment and information sharing, allowing participants to focus on advancing technological superiority.

Additionally, the increased efficiencies realized with a DOTC acquisition process significantly lowers the risk of program cancellations and increases the transition of new technology in a cost effective and time efficient manner.

Wood crafts

The Arts & Crafts Center, building 3615 on Gray Road, was the site of a woodworking class Jan. 19 for making book shelves. In the photo at right, instructor Charles Mullins (right) gives instruction to Charlie Dischinger and Carole Patterson. In the middle photo, Dave Whitaker does some sanding as does Mark Horton in the third picture.

Photos by Ellen Hudson



Astronauts

continued from page 16

as detailed knowledge of the operational characteristics, mission requirements and objectives, and supporting systems and equipment for each experiment on their assigned missions.

Long-duration missions aboard the ISS generally last from three to six months. Training for long duration missions is very arduous and takes approximately two to three years. This training requires extensive travel, including long periods away in other countries training with our international partners. Travel to and from the ISS will be aboard the Russian Soyuz vehicle.

“This has always been a lifelong dream of mine,” said Maj. David Hnyda, Aviation Flight Test Directorate, Redstone Test Center, and OH-58D Kiowa Warrior pilot. “When I was a kid, I wanted to be an astronaut when I grew up. This is the opportunity of a lifetime.

“To be able to represent our country and to be able to explore new frontiers is all I can ask for. And I hope to one day be the next person to walk on the moon.”

NASA selects astronauts from a diverse pool of applicants with a wide variety of backgrounds. From the thousands of applications received, only a few are chosen for the intensive Astronaut Candidate training program. There have been only 15 Army astronauts who have been selected to date.

The backgrounds of NASA’s previous groups of astronaut candidates include schoolteachers, doctors, scientists and engineers.

“Humans have always had the propensity to explore, and it is no different today,” said Maj. Anne McClain, experimental test pilot en route to Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md., for test pilot school. “Astronauts have always been on the cutting edge of exploration, and I want to be involved. It is the greatest accomplishment I could achieve and to be a part of something bigger than yourself is the ultimate adventure.

“I would like to be able to make a positive difference,” she added. “I don’t know how to define that difference yet and don’t know if I ever will, but to be a member of this elite team is one way to start on that path.”

Astronaut selections will be announced in the spring of 2013. Selected candidates will report for duty at the Johnson Space Center that summer.

Nichols named to lead contracting command

The Army chief of staff announced Jan. 24 that Brig. Gen. Camille Nichols will assume command of the Army Contracting Command.

Previously selected for promotion to major general, Nichols currently serves as the Program Executive Officer, Soldier, at Fort Belvoir, Va. A 1981 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., she has more than 20 years of Department of Defense acquisition experience.

Nichols was the first commander of ACC’s Expeditionary Contracting Command at Fort Belvoir from January 2007 until November 2009. Prior to her current assignment, Nichols served as the commander, Army Central Command Contracting Command.

The date for the ACC change of command has not been determined.

With headquarters at Redstone Arsenal, the Army Contracting Command provides global contracting support to Soldiers through the full spectrum of military operations. ACC consists of more than 5,800 civilians and Soldiers at more than 115 locations worldwide. In



Brig. Gen. Camille Nichols

fiscal 2011 ACC awarded and managed nearly 198,000 contract actions valued at more than \$86.8 billion. (*Army Contracting Command release*)

Drivers slow down for speedier road improvements

Rideout/Goss projects change traffic pattern

By **BETH SKARUPA**
Staff writer
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Improvements to Rideout Road will bring long-term gains despite causing short-term inconveniences for drivers on the Arsenal.

Reed Contracting Services began making roadway improvements last week on both the inbound and outbound lanes of Rideout Road. On the outbound lanes heading north, a third lane will be added starting at Overlook Road and continuing north just past the Goss Road intersection. On the southbound lanes heading toward Gate 9, two right lanes will be added. One will allow drivers to go straight or turn right and the other will be a right turn lane only. Both of the new southbound lanes will allow traffic to enter the Redstone Gateway development.

Ultimately, the Rideout Road improvements will ease traffic congestion coming in and out of Gate 9. But new speed limits of 25 mph in the construction zone will slow drivers down for the duration of the project. Although no road closures of inbound or outbound lanes on Rideout Road will occur during peak hours, work may still be ongoing at the side of the road. No inbound lanes will be closed until after 9 a.m. and no outbound lanes will be closed between 3 and 6 p.m.

“So we can say that there will be some temporary pain in order for some long-term gain,” Tom Richardson, Garrison traffic engineer for base operations, said. “I think it’s relevant to point out that for years we’ve had issues with the three lanes merging to two on the outbound lanes in the afternoon on Rideout Road. And to me, this is a great example of how the Redstone Gateway project is benefiting the infrastructure of the Arsenal. If it wasn’t for the Gateway project we



Directorate of Public Works graphic

wouldn't have the money to implement this improvement.”

The Rideout Road improvements are part of an infrastructure package that the City of Huntsville promised to Redstone Gateway developers Corporate Office Properties of Maryland and Jim Wilson & Associates of Montgomery. The Redstone Gateway development is a 468-acre office, retail and hotel complex that will be the Army's largest enhanced use lease project.

Drivers on Goss Road also will be impacted by the Rideout Road project. Beginning Thursday, drivers on Goss Road will no longer be able to turn left at Rideout Road to re-enter the installation through Gate 9. In addition, drivers will no longer be able to use Goss Road to go straight across Rideout Road to the Visitor Center or the Redstone Gateway development.

“Goss Road will be considered a giant right in/right out. We are going to terminate the transition from east to west through the light,” Chris McNeese, a City of Huntsville engineer overseeing the project, said. “So when you're heading north on the right outbound lane of Rideout, you'll be able to turn right going to Goss Road. When you're coming down Goss Road headed toward the intersection, you'll be able to turn right and leave the Arsenal. So it's right in/right out, there's no straight through or left turn anymore.”

Although completion of the Rideout Road project is expected by June, Goss Road will remain a right in/right out intersection until it is redirected to the south within the secure perimeter of the installation.

“Again, that's a short-term inconvenience,” Richardson said. “But we are working in every way that we can to implement the Goss Road realignment project as an immediate follow-on to this project, to provide a permanent access of Goss Road back into Rideout Road. That will be a separate project and we will be working with the City of Huntsville again to implement that project as soon as possible.”

Once the redirection of Goss Road is complete, drivers entering the Arsenal through Gate 9 will no longer have to make a U-turn to access Goss Road. The road will intersect Rideout Road at the point where the U-turn is now. Drivers coming from Goss Road will be able to turn left on Rideout Road once again. The intersection also will have a traffic light.

The redirection of Goss Road will address force protection and traffic congestion concerns by moving the road within the secure perimeter. Rerouting the road will not affect the golf course, Richardson said. No greens or fairways will be impacted. Any concerns will be addressed as the plan for the implementation of the project progresses.

The long-term benefits of both the Rideout Road and the Goss Road projects are expected to be smooth traffic flow from I-565 and through Rideout Road and Goss Road. The Rideout Road improvements will result in three northbound lanes heading out of the Arsenal, eliminating the need for drivers to merge from the left lane as they approach Gate 9. The two additional southbound lanes will take traffic from the Redstone Gateway development off Rideout Road as soon as possible.

“There's been a lot of planning to look at this whole part of the Installation from the Redstone Gateway project to Rideout Road to Gate 9 and Goss Road, so we've done our best to come up with an area-wide plan of how all of this is going to tie together,” Richardson said.

He considers the Rideout Road project as another step along the way – and the Goss Road realignment will be another step – to improvements necessary for the Arsenal. There will be more things to come as the area is developed and the Redstone Gateway project continues to develop and grow.

“We as the Army are very happy with the partnership that we have with the City of Huntsville, with the development team, and with all the people executing the work here on Redstone,” Craig Northridge, project manager for the Directorate of Public Works, said. “We are looking forward to Reed doing this work because they have a long history of doing this – especially doing work on Redstone – in a successful manner.”

Prototype Integration Facility creates real world solutions

Products delivered quickly to troops

By **BETH SKARUPA**

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Necessity truly is the mother of invention at the Prototype Integration Facility.

Most of the inventions conceived at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, Engineering Directorate PIF were inspired by war fighters' needs for rapid solutions to shortfalls or problems within the theater of operations. From something as big as a Bell 407 helicopter modified to become an Iraqi armed reconnaissance helicopter so the Iraqis can support their own air space, to something as small as a crew extraction bracket designed to allow Soldiers to pull open a damaged Humvee door to extract a wounded Soldier, the government employees and contractors at the PIF work together to create real world solutions.

"We've got one of the best jobs in the Army. There's a lot of pressure and a lot of requirements to support the Soldiers, but we take it personal to make sure we give them the best possible solution that's quick and cost-effective," PIF aviation special projects lead T.J. LaPointe said.

When there is a need in the theater on a weapon system or an Apache helicopter or an MLRS or any kind of vehicle, the people at the PIF set out to not only find a solution but to create a prototype and test it as well. Many of the inventions are lifesaving solutions that the PIF takes from conception to reality with a rapid response so that war fighters have them in hand as soon as possible.

"When we say rapid – a lot of development projects are years in the making, we do it in months, sometimes weeks. For some smaller items or mission equipment we may end up doing in such a short time that we're able to get it in the hands of the war fighter really quickly and get true feedback back from them," LaPointe said.

Seven PIF inventions have won "Army's Greatest Inventions" and the facility itself has contributed to previous AMRDEC best lab awards. LaPointe often receives commendations for his work, but he would rather share the limelight with everyone involved. Although the PIF's crew extraction bracket is not a high tech solution, it was named one of the Army's greatest inven-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

T.J. LaPointe, the PIF's aviation special projects, shows a laser designator.

tions because it is a high impact solution that saved countless Soldiers' lives. The brackets allow the locking mechanism of the Humvee doors to be overcome so that an injured Soldier can be removed from the vehicle in time to save his life.

"We don't want to leave somebody out that had a hand in it. It's easy to take credit, it's much tougher to share with a bigger volume that says this whole group had a hand in this," LaPointe said. "It's not fair to say, 'Hey, I did a great job' when it was a team, a village, behind that."

The PIF was tasked with creating an improved personal effects container prototype. Its display at the facility reminds everyone why their lifesaving inventions are so important. It contains items such as a fallen Soldier's uniform, dog tags and medals. The PIF team interviewed a wide range of male and female staff to get the best ideas, and then created a prototype that looks like a WWII footlocker but is made of a hybrid of eucalyptus and walnut so that it impervious to water.

Because Soldiers today are part of what LaPointe calls the "Xbox generation," the PIF has teamed with the Industrial Operations division (a sister Engineering Directorate division) to house a visual graphics lab. The VIZ LAB creates training videos using 3-D models and animations that allow Soldiers to learn how to perform specific tasks. These visualizations are a better way to teach Soldiers instead of simply handing them a maintenance manual.

"You can take young military maintenance guys and let them read the manual and you've lost them in less than five minutes. By the second page they're bored to tears. And then you go out on the aircraft and they didn't retain what they learned in a classroom," LaPointe said. "But if you give them a video, real quick they pick it up, they understand it, they retain it and there's an 80-95 percent retention rate when they work on the aircraft."

The VIZ LAB's team of engineers, graphic artists, software developers and 3-D modelers works to illustrate complex ideas, concepts and processes through the visualizations. The lab's primary mission is rooted in the training arena, but a byproduct of the visualizations is the creation of movies and marketing videos. Just like the visualizations, the marketing videos try to capture the viewers' attention and feed them relevant information that they will retain.

The VIZ LAB can take any idea and illustrate it. In some cases this saves money because customers can see the product before it's built and make some adjustments or changes based on seeing the models. The VIZ LAB created its own marketing video to explain its processes and the types of products it makes.

"We can fool some people with these videos because some of these scenes are so realistic that they do look real, they look like live-action footage when in fact they're 3-D models and animation," VIZ LAB project lead Cody Flores said. "Before anything was even built for the Iraqi Armed 407, we took the design plans that the PIF came up with and actually modeled it from those plans and created a conceptualization of the helicopter. When the Iraqis saw this video, they thought it was real. They thought the helicopters were out there flying and we were taking pictures of it when in fact it was just a model."

When the Iraqi government asked the U.S. government to take a commercial Bell 407 and modify it to become an armed scout reconnaissance helicopter, the PIF team executed the Program Executive Office strategy to take three commercial helicopters and incorporate several Supplemental Type Certificate components, military weapons, and Aircrew Survivability Equipment. "This was a Team Redstone effort to provide the most cost effective and functional components and equipment to meet a quick turnaround time," Jimmy Dunaway, a government product lead for the Iraqi

Armed 407, said. "It's not just the PIF, it's a joint endeavor of the Security Assistance Management Directorate, the Program Management Office Armed Scout Helicopter, the Aviation Flight Test Directorate, the AMRDEC's Aviation Applied Technology Directorate out of Fort Eustis (Va.), Aviation Engineering Directorate, and other Aviation and Missile Command elements – a lot of organizations and bases or agencies. This has truly been a Redstone enterprise to get these helicopters ready. In a two-year period, we had three helicopters up and in flight test."

The PIF's customer base stretches across the Department of Defense. Inventions displayed at the facility include an electronic display module for Navy Sea Hawks, an infrared zoom laser designator mounted on Apache helicopters, a flare dispenser cable for Chinook helicopters, and a gunner glove or mitt for an M240 machine gun. All of these are lifesaving solutions that the PIF put into the theater very quickly.

In 2004 a customer said he needed an infrared solution and he needed it quick because Army helicopters were crashing into each other at night. So the PIF invented a covert lighting system.

"When we say invent it we mean we go to Fort Belvoir's night vision labs and find out what's the highest intensity IR light emitting diode and then we package it and send the design in 15 days, prototype it, test it, and then carry it down to Fort Rucker. They put it on an aircraft and do a flight test because they've got the ranges for it," LaPointe said. "They come back and say, 'It worked so well, it gave six miles of visibility with night vision goggles. You have five weeks to put 250 of them on the back of our Apaches.'"

The PIF can best be described as a rapid response engineering center. It is a Government Owned Government Operated enterprise established to economically meet compelling and urgent needs of the U.S. government. The PIF has the necessary expertise and facilities to rapidly design, fabricate, integrate, test, qualify and field hardware solutions.

"Colonels come in and tell us that in their prior career they'd see a solution and two years later it still hadn't made it to the battlefield. Here they see real world solutions happening in a matter of weeks or months. Everything here has a rapid urgency to it and we take a lot of pride in making sure we get that solution to them quickly and cost-effectively," LaPointe said.

Space capabilities rank high for decisive force

SMDC commander addresses association's annual meeting

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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As the Department of Defense and the Army look for ways to reduce forces while increasing strategic capabilities, the leader of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command is confident his organization will continue to provide capabilities essential to the Army's core strength.

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica told more than 500 industry, government and technology leaders at the Air, Space and Missile Defense Association's annual membership luncheon on Thursday at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center that space and cyberspace defense capabilities are crucial to combatant commanders and their troops.

"If the Army wants to be able to shoot, move and communicate – it needs space. If the nation wants to be protected from rogue nations' ability to launch ballistic missiles – it needs mis-

sile defense," Formica said. "If joint forces want to fight in domains without geographic boundaries – they will need space and missile defense.

"I believe exploiting the potential of space and missile defense capabilities become even more important in an era where conflicts may take place in domains without boundaries and where forward presence may be reduced."

Although there will be "efficiency drills" across the entire Department of Defense, Formica said the space and missile defense capabilities that SMDC/ARSTRAT and the U.S. Strategic Command's Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense provide become more relevant as the Army focuses on being leaner and more effective.

"You are well aware of the fiscal challenges we face. These will lead to force reductions and program changes, and will mean a different future for all of us," Formica said.

"The recently published strategic defense guidance – 'Priorities for the 21st Century' – reminds us that we need to ensure we can operate in anti-access/area denial scenarios. We must have



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica speaks about the accomplishments of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command during the annual membership luncheon of the Air, Space and Missile Defense Association.

cross-domain synergy with assurances that our forces can operate effectively in space and cyberspace. And as the STRATCOM commander emphasized recently – we must be able to fight in domains without geographic bound-

aries. Space and missile defense capabilities are critical to the Army as a decisive force and the Army's ability to execute unified land operations."

Last year, as the new commander of SMDC/ARSTRAT, Formica used the platform of the Air, Space and Missile Defense Association's annual meeting to announce the three core tasks of his organization – the operations function of providing trained and ready space and missile defense forces and capabilities in service to the war fighter and the nation; the capability development function of building future space and missile defense forces; and the materiel development function of researching, testing and integrating space, missile defense, cyber, directed energy and related technologies.

As the organization enters 2012, SMDC/ARSTRAT will "remain focused on accomplishing our three core tasks while being disciplined stewards of our nation's resources," Formica said.

He went on to say that SMDC/ARSTRAT "is uniquely organized and geographically well-positioned"

See Luncheon on page 31

Wall honors leaders in nation's missile defense

Historic memorial unveiled at space and rocket center

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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Thursday's annual membership luncheon of the Air, Space and Missile Defense Association included a tribute to the past with the unveiling of a Wall of Honor featuring leading scientists, business people and government civilians whose early contributions to the nation's space and missile defense have made it what it is today.

The Wall of Honor, located in the Davidson Center at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, includes the names of 45 honorees. Of those, 31 were either in attendance or represented by their families.

"This wall honors past members of organizations dedicated to support our nation's efforts in space and missile defense," Debra Wymer, the association's 2011 president, said.

"These honorees were involved in the research, development, test and engineering of space and missile defense technologies and systems. These honorees gave a



Photo by Kari Hawkins

John Cady and his wife Barbara share memories as they visit the Air, Space and Missile Defense Association's Wall of Honor at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. Cady is honored on the wall for his work as the chief counsel for the Space and Missile Defense Command.

high level of commitment to our nation's missile defense and space mission. The success we enjoy today in air, space and missile defense can be directly attributed to the individuals on this wall."

The Wall of Honor, which includes pictures of each of the honorees along with a touch-screen video system that highlights the contributions of each honoree, was designed and planned by the ASMDA Wall of Honor Committee. It is actually the third rendition of the organization's historical memorial, which began with a Hall of Fame at the Space and Missile Defense Command's office at 106 Wynn Drive in the 1980s, and then moved to the command's headquarters at the Von Braun Complex at Redstone Arsenal. Every other year, ASMDA seeks nominations for additions to the memorial.

"We are so excited about this new version of the wall, designed for all to see and recognize the accomplishments of these dedicated people," Wymer said, noting that the new location allows better public access to the memorial.

Future additions to the memorial include a time line of space and missile defense, and models of systems developed by the honorees.

"I think this is a great idea," said Dr. Julian Davidson, whose work with the Ballistic Missile Defense Program has earned him the title of "grandfather of all ballistic missile defense" from his

colleagues. "It's long overdue. I want to thank ASMDA for making this happen."

Davidson is the namesake of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's Davidson Center. He is joined on the Wall of Honor by such historical contributors to space and missile defense as Pete Cerny, Dr. Shelba J. Profitt, Frank Vann, William Turney and Dr. William Davis Jr.

"I am really pleased to be in this kind of company," said Wall of Honor honoree Ed Vaughn, who served as a public affairs officer for the Strategic Defense Command at Redstone Arsenal. "It is fascinating to me to be a part of this. I got here too late to work with Dr. Werner von Braun (the founder of the nation's space program), but I was associated with an organization that also tried to do things in space and missile defense that had never been done before."

Some of the honorees traveled lengthy distances to be part of the ceremony. Joseph Butler, the 43rd honoree on the Wall of Honor inducted in 2011, traveled from Columbia, S.C., with his wife.

"I am honored to be chosen and to be part of this Wall of Honor," he said. "I really felt it was necessary for me to be here and to share this with my colleagues."

Army civilians take on leadership basics

Being the best starts with knowing self

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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Good Army leaders start with the basics – safety, training, and ensuring Soldier and family strength both physically and spiritually.

But beyond that, how a good Army leader leads depends on their own personal style, expectations and requirements as well as the type of team that is being led.

It's the same set of conditions in the Army's civilian work force, said a former Redstone Arsenal commander during the first Department of the Army Civilian Leadership Summit hosted by the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army on Thursday at The Summit at Redstone. The event was attended by close to 300 government civilians.

"Leadership is a team activity," said retired Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, whose military service included assignments as the commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command.

"As a leader, it has to do with your priorities, and your likes and dislikes. I don't like it when people shirk their duties. I don't like it when people put off what they can do today. ... I had an employee who had to write a letter and he told me he would have it done in two weeks. He wanted to set the conditions for success. I was the leader and I didn't like those conditions. I like it when you give me your best shot."

His likes and dislikes, and his expectations affected Pillsbury's leadership style as an Army leader. A good leader recognizes that their own personal standards will affect their leadership, and they communicate those standards to their employees, he said.

"Set your conditions for your team. How do you want your subordinates to respond to you? ... Whatever works for you, do it. Be that leader. Don't be someone you're not," he told his audience.

Pillsbury also suggested that good leaders know where their leadership is needed. In his own work, the retired lieutenant general would give a lot of freedom to those he could trust to do the job. Likewise, he gave little attention to the low performers because their impact on the organization was minimal. Instead, he concentrated



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Mark Moe, chief of the Maintenance Support Division of the Aviation and Missile Command's Integrated Materiel Management Center, talks with IMMC interns, from left, Catherine Robert, Randy Gentner, Andrew Perez and Angela Turner about comments on leadership that were made at the first Department of the Army Civilian Leadership Summit on Thursday. The summit was hosted by the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

John Neger, executive deputy to the commander of the Army Materiel Command, makes a point about leadership at the Army Civilian Leadership Summit. In the background is retired Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury.

most of his leadership efforts on those employees in the middle of these two groups because he felt that was where he could have the most impact as a leader.

"Those folks are doing their job or they wouldn't still be there," he said. "But are they doing it at the level where they can achieve the most?"

A good leader, he said, knows the people who they lead. They understand their motivations, desires and challenges. But getting there isn't always easy.

"The first day at a new command was always the easiest because that's the day you get to talk about your command philosophy. It's the best day a commander has because they get to talk about themselves and what they expect," Pillsbury said.

"But after that day, you have to live the command philosophy. Leadership requires listening. Listen to hear. Do not listen to talk. Listen to the person talking to you. Listen to absorb. Then talk. You've got to listen to your subordinates. Then, you've got to make sure they understand."

While leaders must be fair, open and honest, they also should recognize that "everyone is different and you have to treat them differently," Pillsbury said.

Other nuggets of leadership that Pillsbury shared with the group included: recognize good and bad leadership traits in others and emulate the good and discard the bad in your own leadership style; leaders must keep emotions in check; actions speak louder than words; spend time doing the things you expect your subordinates to do; don't become paralyzed from making a decision by too much data; don't surround yourself with "yes" people, but do have a trusted circle of advisers; and don't lead the organization from behind a

desk.

Pillsbury's presentation was titled "Leadership 101." He was followed by John Neger, executive deputy to the commander of the Army Materiel Command, whose presentation was titled "All I know About Leadership, I Learned In Fifth Grade." The summit also included a leadership panel discussion involving Pillsbury and Neger as well as Cathy Dickens, executive director of the Army Contracting Command-Redstone; Keith Roberson, the executive director of the Integrated Materiel Management Center; and retired civil servant Dr. Richard Amos, who served as Pillsbury's deputy at AMCOM and is now the chief operating officer at COLSA.

Neger, who has worked for the Department of Defense since 1980, said he is inspired daily by those who wear the Soldier's uniform.

"It's a privilege and tremendous opportunity to serve the finest in uniform. The motivating force to keep me working in the Army are those who wear the uniform," he said.

Regardless of a person's job, everyone has a career journey. Neger's started at age 5 when his dream was to be a garbage man. It continued at 7-years-old when he wanted to be a baseball player and, at 9, when he wanted to be a pastor.

"Your career journey starts as some kind of dream or aspiration. I'm living my dream today," he said, comparing his dream of being a garbage man to being a hardworking civil servant, of being a baseball player to a civil servant who strives for individual excellence while helping the team succeed and of being a pastor to working as a civil servant to lead other government workers in the right direction.

Neger said the question he is most often asked by employees is: "How do I know I'm a leader?"

His answer: "When you start acting like one."

"Leadership is a practiced art," Neger said. "It's something you do and you couple that with a passion to be a good leader, and that's how you lead. It's a practiced technique. You become a good leader by behaving like one and practicing good leadership skills."

Neger said he started developing his leadership skills as a 10-year-old newspaper delivery boy. The job taught him about job skills (rolling papers, delivering on time, providing customer service), sacrifice (early morning weekend deliveries), commitment (seven days a

Army holds network modernization Industry Day

By **CLAIRE SCHWERIN**
Army News Service

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – Army officials hosted more than 275 industry representatives at new integration facilities at Aberdeen Proving Ground last week, stressing the service's commitment to its new "agile" approach to modernizing the tactical communications network.

The Jan. 11 event was the second informative Industry Day held since the Army launched the Network Integration Evaluations, known as NIEs, which are semiannual events designed to rapidly integrate and mature the tactical network. The NIEs and Agile Process will allow the Army to field "capability sets" that provide integrated connectivity from the command post to the dismounted Soldier, and update that equipment on a two-year cycle to reflect improvements in technology and changes in operational needs.

"We can't afford to build a network capability like we build a tank," said Col. John Morrison, director of the Army G-3/5/7 LandWarNet-Battle Command Directorate. "We want to leverage industry innovation. For this process to work, industry is a key partner."

Industry representatives from small to large defense companies received detailed updates on criteria to participate in the Agile Process, the Army's new quick-reaction acquisition methodology to address defined capability gaps and insert new technologies into the overall network at a lower cost. This fundamental change in business practices is even more critical in light of planned cuts in



Army photo

Industry representatives toured seven of the laboratories and integration facilities that support the Network Integration Evaluation, Agile Process and capability set fielding during the Army's network modernization Industry Day held at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., Jan. 11.

defense spending, Morrison and other senior leaders said.

"As budgets go down, this will become more important to the Army and Department of Defense," said Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, commander of the Army Test and Evaluation Command. "The NIE and Agile Process are going to endure."

Industry Day also coincided with the release of a "sources sought" notification for systems to participate in NIE 13.1, which will take place in the fall of 2012. That will be the final NIE prior to the synchronized delivery of Capability Set 13, the first integrated group of network technologies that will be fielded to up to eight brigade combat teams starting in fiscal year 2013.

Held twice a year at White Sands Mis-

sile Range, N.M., the NIEs leverage a full brigade combat team to assess new network capabilities in a robust operational environment. Prior to receiving a field tryout with Soldiers, these capabilities must pass through the laboratories at Aberdeen Proving Ground, or APG, for technology evaluation, assessment and integration. The lab assessments inform the Army's choices on what systems will participate in the NIE and provide detailed "score cards" to industry on how their technologies performed and what could be improved in the future.

Industry representatives toured seven of the laboratories and integration facilities that support the NIE, Agile Process and capability set fielding. Built as part of the recent Base Realignment and Closure move of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, known as C4ISR, organizations to Maryland, the laboratories are linked through direct fiber optic connectivity – creating an integrated environment for government and industry to measure system performance and interoperability.

The APG facilities are already yielding tangible benefits for key Army network efforts, such as the mission command "collapse strategy" that is combining fires, sustainment, air defense and airspace product lines onto a common workstation. Engineers from General Dynamics recently used the Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical, or PEO C3T, System of Systems Integration Facility for some of this integration work.

The facility recreates the environment of a brigade or division level command

post, allowing engineers to simulate challenges like high volume traffic on the network.

"It was our chance to integrate in an environment that was going to be more similar to what people were going to see in the field," software engineer Austin Murray said. "(The testing) was able to expose some of the areas where we can enhance what we're doing."

Other resources highlighted for industry included facilities focused on tactical radios, satellite communications, intelligence and the integration of C4ISR equipment onto various vehicle platforms.

"The synergies we have at APG allow us to take advantage of the other laboratories, integration facilities and test capabilities on the installation – and this is a tremendous asset," said Robert Zanzalari, associate director of the Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center, known as CERDEC, which owns several of the labs. "I think the NIE support and the capability set efforts taking place here are going to be prime examples of how this community at APG can coalesce onto a high-priority, high-visibility project for the Army. That's important for the future of agile acquisition."

Industry Day attendees said the experience and information exchange was valuable, especially in light of the significant changes in the Army's network modernization strategy.

"It's important for us to be talking to one another," said Lori McKaig, a senior executive with the Accenture Defense group. "Given this is a totally new process, it's more important than ever."

Civilians

continued from page 28

week in all weather conditions), financial responsibility (bill collecting and bill paying), accountability (responding to customers who didn't get their paper) and mentorship (teaching others to take your place when you are gone or sick). He also learned patience, perseverance and resource management.

One of the first things a leader should do for a new employee is to make them feel welcomed into the organization.

"Today we call that on-boarding. It's an important part of bringing someone into the organization and making them feel they matter," Nerger said. "It's also important for leaders to remind their employees that what they do really

matters. ... My boss told me 'You don't deliver papers. You are informing the citizens and that's an important thing in a democracy.' Now I had a calling. It became a motivating force for me. ... Knowing we have a mission that matters is powerful."

As Nerger got older, he was ready to move on from his newspaper delivery business. And that's when his boss promoted him to help manage 75-100 newspaper carriers.

"It's important to identify and see the potential in others. Open your eyes to the possibilities that exist," he said. "My boss saw something in me and he wanted to take a chance on me.

"It's not about the money. It never is. But it's about the satisfaction of having someone see something in me and then gave me additional responsibilities because of that."

He also learned that performance success often involved exceeding someone's expectation and treating people fairly.

"Treat all of each other with dignity and respect no matter how we are treated in return," Nerger said. "Customer service and leadership is always about people. It's always about relationships."

But most of all he learned the importance and value of humility.

"There are a lot of people who work real hard at what they do for a living and they don't get much in return," Nerger said.

The key to leadership development, he said, is to stick to the basics and to be committed, passionate, talented and adaptive – just like a Soldier.

Nerger said he has stayed committed to the Army for the same reasons

others stay committed to their career field – "I have meaning and happiness in what I do. My organization gives me a chance to pursue my dreams and goals. And I like the people I work with. We're a team. I don't want to leave them behind."

But the key to Army civil service is knowing there's a reason we are all here, Nerger said, referring to his experience living through 9/11 at the Pentagon.

"It made me realize we are all here for a reason," he said. "And we have a 'use by' date that gives us a sense of urgency once you know your calling and mission.

"All of us are on the front lines and we need to remember that as we support Soldiers. Those Soldiers need and depend on you to provide the kind of support to help them succeed."

SMDC Soldiers give customers perspective, protection

By DOTTIE WHITE

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – In keeping America safe, the sun truly never sets on the Soldiers of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

As the Army's proponent for space and ground-based midcourse defense and the operational integrator for global ballistic missile defense, SMDC/ARSTRAT oversees a number of elements around the globe.

One of these elements is the 1st Space Brigade which provides 24-hour satellite communications support and early missile warning around the world. In the Europe and Pacific regions specifically, 1st Space Brigade has two primary space support missions, according to its leader.

"One is enduring and the other is on call," Col. Eric Henderson, 1st Space Brigade commander, said. "Forward stationed units such as Joint Tactical Ground Stations, or JTAGS, and Wideband Satellite Communications Operations Centers, or WSOCs, live day in and day out within these areas. They are a part of the tactical, operational and strategic community providing early missile warning and satellite payload control.

"Additionally, deployable units such as Commercial Imagery Teams and Army Space Support Teams, residing within the brigade, stand ready to deploy on short notice to support operational plans to units that reside in these two areas of operations," Henderson said.

There are definite technical skills that are required of Soldiers assigned in these two areas of responsibility.

"These Soldiers must be proficient in both operational and maintenance areas of expertise," Henderson said. "Soldiers with innate leadership and unflappable demeanor are the norm within these mission areas."

Although no more important than an infantry or quartermaster unit, Henderson proudly described his unit's mission as unique.

"There is no '2nd Space Brigade.' We are a one-of-a-kind organization with a vast global area of influence," he said. "The Soldiers, civilians and contractors on my team do not have the luxury of 'taking a knee' while someone else or some other Soldier performs the mission that is ours.

"We are the provider of trained and ready space and missile defense forces for this command. It is not a mission that is taken lightly."

Another element of the command, the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), is responsible



Photo by Dottie White

A Joint Tactical Ground Station operations crew based out of Stuttgart, Germany, watches over the European Command theater 24 hours a day.

for providing trained and ready missile defense forces to the commander of U.S. Northern Command in support of his mission to defend the homeland against ballistic missile attacks.

"We do this by operating key command and control nodes in Colorado, Alaska and California 24/7/365 with highly trained and certified Soldiers," Col. Gregory Bowen, commander of 100th MDB (GMD), said. "In addition to operating the GMD system, the 100th is responsible for protecting and securing the Missile Defense Complex at Fort Greely, Alaska. The military police from Alpha Company 49th Missile Defense Battalion conduct the security mission 24/7/365, enduring all of the weather extremes the interior of Alaska has to offer.

"Finally, the 100th is a force provider for the AN/TPY-2 (Army Navy/Transportable Radar Surveillance) radars. These radars provide fire control data to the GMD system as well as supporting regional operations in several geographic combatant command areas of responsibility."

Bowen said being the only missile defense brigade in the U.S. military brings distinctive challenges.

"The rest of the Army does not understand what we do or how we do it," he said. "Most Army units train, deploy and perform their mission, then return home and reset. In contrast, the 100th is essentially deployed in place, executing its wartime mission 24/7/365. We never get the down time, and as a result, we don't 'fit' well into what the rest of the Army is doing.

"Certified GMD operators are a very

scarce commodity; at any given time, there are about 75 Soldiers certified to operate the system. Managing the careers of these low-density specialists is one of the critical challenges we face."

Bowen said the training and mastery of the system are paramount as this is a no-fail mission.

"Beyond the tactical and technical skills you would expect the Soldiers to have, they must display a high level of commitment to the mission," he said. "We have a very demanding certification program which the GMD operators must complete every six months in order to remain qualified.

"There are similar programs for the military police and for the Soldiers in the radar detachments. The commitment comes into play as the Soldiers battle complacency. There are threats out there, so the missile defense crews and the MPs must maintain a very high state of readiness at all times, and under all types of conditions. They maintain this 'razor's edge' of readiness without any fanfare or accolades.

"They are quiet professionals who are doing a critical job on behalf of our nation. Our citizens can go to sleep at night knowing they are out there, ready to defend the homeland at a moment's notice," Bowen added.

These two unique brigades provide support to numerous customers around the globe. Some of these customers spoke highly of the brigades' unique abilities in support of the war fighter.

Delta detachment, 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, supports the Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines

stationed at Misawa, Japan. Delta Detachment is one of four JTAGS detachments around the world.

"Simply put JTAGS is indispensable for this base. Every second counts," Col. Al Wimmer, vice wing commander at Misawa Air Base, said. "You can imagine how amazed the command and I were when we got here and understood what JTAGS was, never having been exposed to what they do.

"But then also to know they understand the threat to us and give us a lot of instruction," he added. "They pick up the phone and call us directly to give us that warning, and they get it before anyone else."

Another "customer" said he appreciates the role space Soldiers play in ensuring the troops on the battlefield know more than their enemies.

"I don't think SMDC is getting out and beating their chests about all the things they do on the battlefield. They just do it," said incoming International Security Assistance Force Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Capel. "It's amazing now how we can look at our objectives by the imagery technology from space and missile defense satellites, look at our targets before we get out and hit them.

We know exactly where we're going, we can see the enemy first, and that comes from communications, electronics and computer satellite systems provided by SMDC."

Although many Soldiers may not be aware of the critical roles space plays in providing communications, early missile warning and even missile defense capabilities, their leaders are quite aware of this important mission.

"I'm not sure if knowing who provides these capabilities is all that important to them. They just know that it works," outgoing ISAF Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill said. "They know that there are far more capabilities to forge the fight, provide force protection, and locate potential threats than there were during their last deployment. They are familiar with the menu and often select the appropriate tools from the menu."

Hill talked about JTAGS and Army Space Support Teams providing missile warning and commented on their contributions in supporting and defending the war fighters in theater.

"I am aware of both elements," Hill said. "It's kind of hard to comment on a unit whose job is to keep stuff from happening. In all fairness to them, missile defense was not one of the things that kept me up at night. Unfortunately for them, they do not have the pleasure of saying, 'my bad, it won't happen again,' they are always in the title game."

Workshop

continued from page 14

reserve Master Sgt. Carlos Sanders out of Birmingham, who attended TAP with his wife Marilyn. "You hear that they're afraid of our education plus our experience and where we fit in."

For Lt. Col. Bob Hannah, deputy project manager for SMDC's LEMV program, learning how the outside industry views the talents of a Soldier and the challenges associated with hiring them will help him as he begins his career search after more than 23 years in the Army. As he works to translate the skills he's cultivated throughout the Army career into the civilian work force, he looks forward to setting down roots in North Alabama and finding more time for family.

"A lot of us are very driven and we're very used to going where we're called and working as long as we need to. I want to be able to get a good fit for a good organization and be able to balance that with more family time," Hannah said.

In addition to navigating the work force and the Army benefits, TAP also prepares Soldiers for the changes to expect at home once their military career is complete, such as budgeting for a change

in income and the support services available to them through Army Community Service, as their role in the Army family changes.

"You're losing that family or network that you're so accustomed to," Mattie said. "One minute you're on this side of the fence and the next minute you're on the other and you can't go back to that per se, that security blanket."

TAP also encourages Soldiers to give back to the younger generation that will take their place, as well as become involved with the retiree council which helps plan Retiree Appreciation Days every year.

"I want them to return the benefits they're receiving to outside society to those younger people that are coming into the military and be a good influence on them. That's what we're looking for," Moudy said.

Sanders and his wife plan on taking the messages they learned at TAP back to the Soldiers in Birmingham.

Unlike other, larger installations, Redstone Arsenal does not have an ACAP Center, a place for transitioning servicemembers to receive resume writing assistance, search for jobs, attend job fairs and receive mentoring throughout their transition period. While ACAP Centers across the country are expanding to meet the in-

Workshops slated for retiring troops

The Transition Assistance Program Workshop will be held the following dates this year:

- Feb. 13-16 (class is full)
- March 19-22
- April 16-19
- May 14-17
- June 18-21
- July 16-19
- Aug. 20-23
- Sept. 17-20

- Oct. 15-18
- Nov. 12-15

Participation is limited to 30 participants per class session. Servicemembers may take the class up to two years prior to leaving the military. Spouses are welcome to attend the class.

To register for TAP or for more information, call Barbara Moudy at 313-6481 or email barbara.moudy@us.army.mil.

creasing needs of its transitioning Soldiers, Redstone's TAP Program is doing the best it can to keep up with demand with the sole funding it receives from the Garrison.

"With all the Soldiers returning back and the drawdown, a lot of the new programs being put into effect are going to plus up a lot of the ACAP Centers with more counselors and more personnel," Luis Ortega, chief of the military personnel division, said. "Us smaller installations are being left out, we're not in their plans since we don't have an ACAP Center, so we don't get the benefits, even though we need them here at Redstone.

We provide the service from within our own resources, we try to provide the best possible information, and the best possible assistance that we can with the limited resources we have. We don't only support the Soldiers here at Redstone, but also all DoD personnel in the surrounding area."

"The staff here has done an amazing job – the cross section of folks they're bringing in to give us pointers on what we need to do to prepare has really been exceptional," Hannah said.

For more information about the Transition Assistance Program, call Moudy at 313-6481.

Luncheon

continued from page 27

at Redstone Arsenal and in Colorado Springs, Colo.

"We are well positioned here in Huntsville because we are co-located with MDA, MSIC, PEO Missiles and Space, PEO Aviation, AMC, AMCOM, NASA, and the strong tech base here in the Tennessee Valley," he said.

The lieutenant general reviewed a long list of SMDC/ARSTRAT's accomplishments for 2011, including streamlining the command, synchronizing SMDC/ARSTRAT with the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, sustaining collaborative relationships with the Missile Defense Agency, seeking out opportunities to integrate activities within the Army enterprise, and improving relationships with both Department of Defense and industry stakeholders.

Formica noted the deployment of 12 space support teams to theater, bringing to 70 the number of teams deployed since the beginning of combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq; providing space and missile defense capabilities to 15 combatant commanders, war fighters and mission rehearsal exercises; activating the Forward Based Mode Radar Missile De-

fense Detachment in Japan and Turkey; providing Friendly Force Tracking data to armed forces around the world; providing geospatial intelligence and tailored satellite imagery products in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn and Operation Tomodachi; providing the High Altitude Test Bed Aerostat to support the Army's Network Integration Evaluation; leading the Army's effort to draft an Army Space Operations White Paper for determining future space capabilities for the Army; orbiting the Army's first nanosatellite; and conducting the first flight of the Advanced Hypersonic Weapon.

In 2012, SMDC/ARSTRAT will continue to provide space and missile defense forces and capabilities in support of the geographic commandant commands and war fighters, Formica said.

"On any given day, we have approximately 850 operational forces supporting ballistic missile defense systems and space operations around the world – CONUS-based, forward-stationed or deployed. That includes five space support and commercial imagery teams currently deployed, and we will deploy another eight teams in 2012 as part of the Army's nine-month deployment cycle," Formica said.

"We will provide space and missile defense forces in support of 11 combatant commands, war fighters and mission rehearsal exercises, to include the Strategic

Command's Global Thunder and Global Lightning. These provide an opportunity to train the way we plan to fight in all our mission areas, and ensure we are prepared for crisis operations."

The command will also prepare for the deployment of the Long Endurance Multi Intelligence Vehicle to theater, launch the first flight of the low cost ballistic missile target alternative, the Economical Target-1; prepare for the initial High Power Demonstration of the High Energy Laser Mobile Demonstrator with a 10 kW laser; and progress toward nanosatellite demonstrations in 2012, among a long list of other tasks.

"To accomplish everything we do, we

must continue to recruit, retain and support our high-performing team of Soldiers, civilians, contractors and the families that support them," Formica said.

"We are all about providing capabilities and developing public servants. SMDC/ARSTRAT is a diverse, complex and global command that provides critical capabilities to the Army, USSTRATCOM, the geographic combatant commanders and the war fighter. I am very proud of the Soldiers, civilians and contractors at SMDC/ARSTRAT on our team – focused on accomplishing our mission, in concert with our partners in industry, academia and the other federal agencies."

Win or Lose

Redstone 10U youngsters prevail with teamwork

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Redstone 10-and-under basketball coach Jonathan Turner used football language with his players in the closing minutes of their game Jan. 23.

"We've got a two-touchdown lead," he said.

Redstone went on to beat the Stingers 24-10 at the Youth Center in a matchup of Redstone Arsenal's two 10U teams. Turner's squad improved to 2-3.

"It was just good teamwork," he said. "Teamwork, intensity and staying under control."

Redstone led 4-0 after the first quarter, 14-2 at halftime and 16-8 after three quarters. Each quarter lasted six minutes.

Walker Hamilton led Redstone with a game-high 16 points.

"We just hustled and played good defense and had good offense," said the forward, whose father is assistant coach and Garrison commander John Hamilton.

Brandon Kelly and Alisha Plant scored four points apiece for the Stingers (1-4).

"Our teamwork was completely out of sync," Stingers coach Montrice Bethea said. "We had players trying to go one-on-one instead of make good passes. We made terrible passes and we didn't play good defense."

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Redstone's Michael Fitzgerald (in black) battles the Stingers' Jaren Parker for the basketball. At far left is the Stingers' Alisha Plant (13) and at far right is Redstone's Walker Hamilton (12).



Redstone boxer's All-Army quest concludes

Army recruiter Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Judge was stopped in his championship bout Jan. 21 during the 2012 All-Army Boxing Championship at Barnes Field House at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

In the 201-pound division, Judge lost to Sgt. Charles Blackwell of the 925th TC Detachment in Marana, Ariz. The referee stopped the contest at 1:15 of round two.

Judge, 32, a Los Angeles native, is operations NCO for the 2nd Recruiting Brigade.

The winners advanced to represent the Army at the Armed Forces Boxing Championship at Camp Pendleton, Calif., beginning Jan. 31.

Here are other results of the championship bouts:

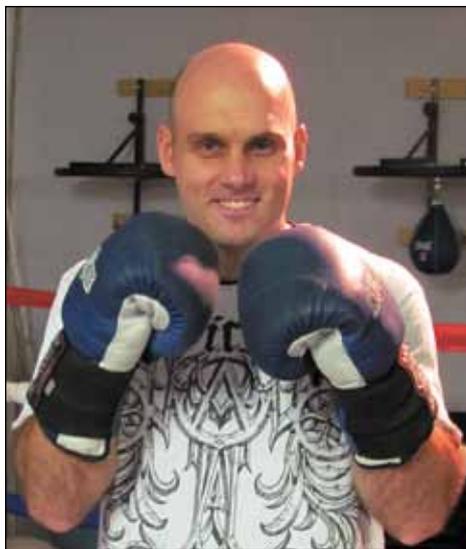
123 pounds: Pfc. Charles Williams of Fort Bragg, N.C., defeated Sgt. Guy Jean-Baptiste of Fort Stewart, Ga., by decision, 13-6.

141 pounds: Pfc. Maximino Ramos of Fort Bliss, Texas, defeated Sgt. Diego Moya of Fort Riley, Kan., by decision, 23-7.

152 pounds: Spc. Sidney Williams of Fort Knox, Ky., defeated Spc. Julian Gerena of Fort Hood, Texas, by decision, 10-9.

165 pounds: Pvt. Marquis Moore of the Maryland Army Reserves stopped Sgt. John René of Heidelberg, Germany, at 2:22 in round two.

178 pounds: Spc. Steven Nelson of Special Forces Group at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., stopped Spc. Tony Young of Fort



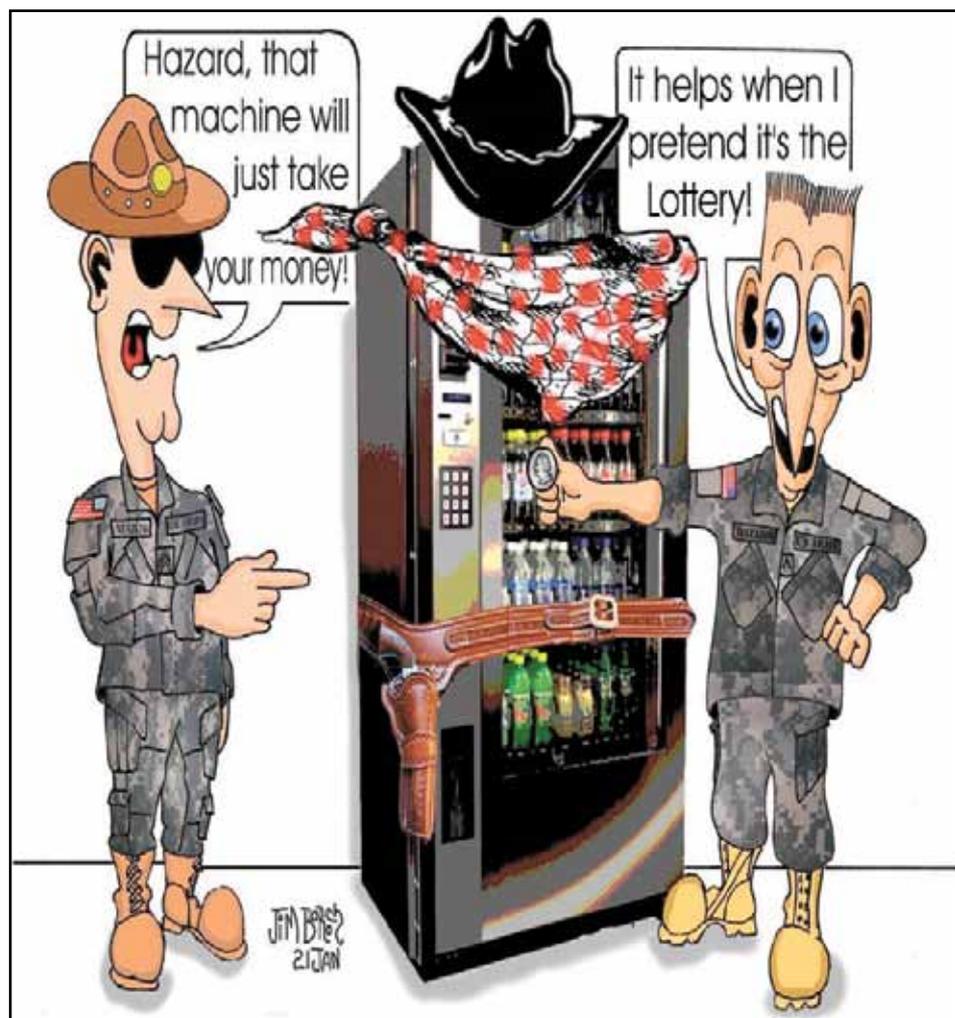
Sgt. 1st Class Bobby Judge

Hood, Texas, by RSC at 2:01 in round two.

201-plus pounds: Sgt. Marvin Carey of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, stopped Spc. Richard Fale of Fort Shafter, Hawaii, by RSC at 53 seconds in round three.

Also receiving gold and moving on to the Armed Forces Boxing Championship at Camp Pendleton were Spc. Michael Mendez (114 pounds) of Fort Bragg and Sgt. Toribio Ramirez (132) of Fort Stewart.

Editor's note: This was based on an Army News Service article.



Sports & Recreation

Boating skills class

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will hold a Boating Skills and Seamanship class beginning Feb. 9 at the Installation Safety Office, building 3687 on Neal Road. The class will be held Thursday nights from 6:30-9. Cost is \$25 for the textbook. To register or for more information, call Thomas Kunhart 830-6621 (home) or 527-4475 (cell) or email tkunhart@knology.net.

Havoc military night

Huntsville Havoc hockey's "Military Appreciation Night" is March 10 at the Von Braun Center. See the Havoc play the Knoxville Ice Bears at 7:05. All active military components are asked to wear their duty uniforms. Free tickets, provided by the Association of the U.S. Army, should be available today at Redstone's Community Activity Center for all military ID and CAC card holders. Tickets will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis; limited to four tickets per family.

Bass tournament

The third annual Homeland Security Bass Tournament is May 18-19 at Ingalls Harbor, Decatur. The entry form is available at <http://www.the-boat-house.com/>. For more information, call David Whitman 652-3446 or Ed Whitman 337-0909.

SEC hockey tournament

The South Eastern Collegiate Hockey Conference tournament is Feb. 24-26 at the Benton H. Wilcoxon Municipal Ice Complex in Huntsville. Hosted by the Huntsville Sports Commission and sponsored by the Army, there will be 10 games to decide the winner of the Army Strong Championship Cup. Participating club teams include Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn, Ole Miss, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Vanderbilt. All tickets will be sold at the door. Friday night tickets are good for four games, Saturday tickets for four games, and Sunday tickets for the third-place game and the championship final. Costs are \$8 for adults, \$5 for students with student ID, \$5 for military (active duty, Guard, Reserve and retired with ID); and children 5-and-under are admitted free. For ticket sales and information, call the Iceplex 883-3774. You can also visit www.SECHChockey.com or email conference commissioner Kenney "Sarge" Day at SargeDay@Comcast.net.

Ladies golf

The Ladies Redstone Golf Association will have its first meeting of the year March 7 at 9 a.m. at the Pro Shop at the Links. All ladies interested in joining and playing golf are invited for coffee and brunch. The members play each Wednes-

day from March 14 through the end of October and plan many tournaments to fit each person's handicap.

Wounded Warrior 5K

The third annual Grissom JROTC Wounded Warrior 5K will be held Feb. 25 at McGucken Park in southeast Huntsville. The cannon signals the start of the race at 8 a.m.; the Army Materiel Command Brass Band will entertain spectators and motivate the runners as will the colorful Vets with Vettes and Patriot Guard Riders. For more information, email Stefanie Payne Armstrong at stefaniepayne@bellsouth.net or visit grissomjrotcwoundedwarrior5k.com for a registration form.

Benefit walk

The 2012 North Alabama Heart Walk is March 17 at the Westin at Bridge Street Town Centre. Registration starts at 8 a.m. The Heart Walk is the American Heart Association's premiere event for raising funds to save lives from this country's No. 1 and No. 3 killers – heart disease and stroke. Designed to promote physical activity and heart-healthy living, the Heart Walk creates an environment that's fun and rewarding for the entire family. This year, more than 1 million walkers will participate in nearly 350 events. "Your participation will help us raise even more in our fight to save lives," a prepared release said. "Walk with friends, family, co-workers or strangers you'll bond with along the way." To register your team, visit <http://northalheartwalk.org>.

Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

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

Protestant women

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

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.

Rocket Announcements

Parkinson's support

Certified music therapist Jennifer Jonas will speak to the Parkinson's Support Group on Feb. 12 at 1:30 p.m., in the Youth building at Willowbrook Baptist Church, 7625 Bailey Cove Road – enter from back parking area. Family, friends and caregivers are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Ron Prince 837-6577.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at The Summit club. 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 Valerie Cortez 313-9753. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 4488, room B-306. For information call Claudinette Purifoy 955-9422. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 8721 Madison Boulevard in Madison. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359.

Tricare briefings

Humana Military Healthcare Services, the Tricare managed care support contractor for the South Region, holds informational briefings on Tricare every Monday at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Tricare Service Center, Fox Army Health Center, second floor.

Logistics society

The International Society of Logistics Tennessee Valley Chapter luncheon is Feb. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Summit club. Eric Edwards, executive director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, is the scheduled speaker. For

more information, call 533-5781, ext. 271.

Administrative professionals

Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals will hold its 17th annual Seminar and Education Forum, with keynote speaker Ron Woods, on Feb. 6 at The Summit club. The topic is "My job would be easy if it weren't for other people!" For more information, call Alpha McRae 313-1957 and Gala Horry 842-8389.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter, will hold its monthly luncheon Feb. 9 at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. Robert Turzak, deputy chief of staff for resource management, G-8, Army Materiel Command, is the guest speaker. For ticket information, call Audrea Edwards 313-2382 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

Federal employees

The Huntsville-Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Feb. 11 at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshments and social time will start at 9:30 a.m., with the business meeting at 10. Chapter 443 will host a political forum for candidates in the Republican Primary on March 13, for the 5th Congressional District representative. The candidates, Mo Brooks and Parker Griffith, will be allotted equal time in presenting their platforms and views. Guests are always welcome, active or retired. For more information, call 519-3327 or 539-1333.

Acquisition training

The Defense Acquisition University-South Region Alumni Association announces the continuation of its annual conference series with an Acquisition Training Symposium Feb. 22-23 at the DAU campus on Old Madison Pike, Huntsville. Featured topics at the event will include: Defense Business Systems Acquisitions; Earned Value Management; Should Cost/Will Cost; Fundamentals of Source Selection; Understanding Industry; Systems Engineering and Test and Evaluation Resources; What is Systems Engineering? (for non-engineers); and Industry Partners-NISH/Ability One with Dr. Carol Lowman, acting director of the Army Contracting Command. Registration is limited and with a total cost per attendee of \$25, participant spaces will fill up quickly. All

See Announcements on page 34

Rocket Announcements

participants will receive 8 Continuous Learning Points. To begin the enrollment process, visit <https://www.regonline.com/dausaatraining>. For more information, call Sam Parks 922-8738 or email sam.parks@dau.mil.

University women

The Huntsville Branch of the American Association of University Women will hold its dinner meeting Feb. 7 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Covenant Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, 301 Drake Ave. A panel discussion will explore the topic "HB 56, Alabama's Controversial Immigration Law: What Does It Mean for Women and Families?" Call 880-8643 or email herb.guendel@knology.net by noon Feb. 5 to reserve a meal. If interested in becoming a member, call 464-0469 or email mar172@yahoo.com.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Feb. 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Thomas Flagel, author, historian, speaker and professor of American history at Columbia State Community College in Tennessee, will present "Messengers of Death: How the Press Reported the Civil War." Optional chicken buffet is available at 5:30 for \$8.95. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 541-2483.

Meeting professionals

The Rocket City-Alabama Chapter, Society of Government Meeting Professionals, has extended its membership drive through March. Membership fee for government planners is \$30 (a reduction of \$25). Get your membership application form from membership chair Marie Arighi at marighi@vonbrauncenter.com. If you have questions regarding the chapter, email Barbie Baugh at barbie.baugh@us.army.mil. You can also view the website at <http://www.rocketcity-alabamachapter.org/>.

Southern elegance

An annual benefit dinner at The Summit club on March 9 will be hosted by the Redstone Arsenal's Community Women's Club. The event's theme is "Evening of Southern Elegance," and it will feature a silent auction, live auction, giveaways, music by the AMC Jazz Band and a chef-inspired dinner. Tickets are \$40 each. Proceeds will go toward Merit Awards (scholarships) and Community Assistance grants. The community women's club is a non-profit organization. This event is open to the public. For ticket information, call 489-3009 or email rsacw-clstvicepresident@gmail.com.

Valentine luncheon

Redstone Arsenal's Community Women's Club will hold its monthly luncheon meeting on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Summit club. Guest speaker will be Kimberly Lang, Harlequin Romance novelist and bestselling author. February will also be recognized at the luncheon as Women's Health Month with Mary Bouldin, wellness program manager from Fox Army Health Center, giving a presentation. Members are asked to bring gently used books for a book exchange. For more information, visit www.rsacwc.org or email rsacwreservations@gmail.com.

Aviation symposium

The 38th annual Joseph P. Cribbins Aviation Product Symposium, sponsored by the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America, is scheduled Feb. 8-9 at the Von Braun Center. This year's theme is "Army Aviation - Enabling the Future While Performing Today." This symposium meets the requirements of the recently released Army Directive 2011-20. It will include presentations by senior personnel within the government and industry Army aviation community. For information on possible exhibit space, call Chris Henderson 698-0411 or email chris.henderson1@us.army.mil. For more event information, call Janice Sanders 799-5914 or 975-1690 or email janice.sanders@vt-group.com.

Leadership seminars

Focus of Alabama Leadership Seminars begin March 9; and the registration deadline is Feb. 24. "Unlock the full power of your potential," a prepared release said. For more information, call 652-9293 or visit <http://focalabama.com>.

Literary association

Dr. Holly Tucker, associate professor at Vanderbilt University, will talk about her book "Blood Work, A Tale of Medicine and Murder in the Scientific Revolution" on Feb. 5 from 2-5 p.m. at the Huntsville Art Museum Davidson Center, 300 Church St. Admission is free. This event is sponsored by the Huntsville Literary Association and Iberia Bank. For more information, call 361-6325 or visit www.hlhsv.org.

Space society

Huntsville AL L5 Society (HAL5), the local chapter of the National Space Society, will meet March 1 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Public library. Todd May, program manager of NASA Space Launch System, will speak on "What Would You Do With the

World's Biggest Rocket? An Overview of NASA's Space Launch System." The event is free and open to the public. A social will follow. For more information, visit www.HAL5.org.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

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

Dog ball

Greater Huntsville Humane Society's "Dog Ball" will be held Feb. 10 at 5:45 p.m. at the Von Braun Center, South Hall 2. All proceeds benefit the humane society. For tickets call 881-8081, stop by the humane society at 2812 Johnson Road or visit www.thedogball.org.

Fraud hotline

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

Education test center

Taking online courses? Need a proctor for your exams? If so, call the Army Education Center Testing Office 876-9764 for an appointment. They can proctor exams for most colleges. Proctoring services are free and available to the Redstone Arsenal community (military/government ID card holders).

Thrift shop grants

The Thrift Shop will be taking applica-

tions for 2012 grants until Feb. 29. These grants are open to all non-profit groups (no individuals please) that impact the Redstone community. For more information, call Lisa Loew 604-8777 or email lloew3@gmail.com.

Student apprentices

The Defense Department initiated the Science and Engineering Apprentice Program in 1980 to involve academically talented high school and college students in hands-on research activities and student/mentor relationships during the summer. The high school and college programs are designed for students who are U.S. citizens, with a Social Security card, and at least 16 years old by the beginning of the program June 4, 2012. The apprentice program is divided into periods of 8, 10 and 12 weeks. Possible career placement areas at Redstone include physics, chemistry, computer science, engineering and mathematics. The application deadline is Feb. 24. In addition to your application, you are required to submit copies of your transcripts and teacher recommendations by March 2. If students are unsuccessful in receiving application information from high school senior counselors or college placement services, call Angela Jefferson 842-8981 or Vivian Whitaker 313-3198 at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center or review application information at <http://www.gwseap.net> or <http://www.usaeop.com>.

Scholarship program

The American Society of Military Comptrollers scholarship program is to provide financial assistance to aid ASMC members or their immediate family in continuing their educational endeavors. The 2012 application deadline is Feb. 29. For more information call Lindsey Harper 876-8361, Michelle Cobb 842-0228 or Judy Smith 876-6163.

Special education law

The Autism Resource Foundation will sponsor a seminar, titled "Wright's Law: Special Education Law and Advocacy," March 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Chan Auditorium, Administrative Sciences Building, University of Alabama-Huntsville. Preregistration is required. For more information, call 975-1579 or visit www.theautismresourcefoundation.org/wrightslaw.

Valentine's Day theater

Valentine's Day Dinner Theater, with a play titled "He Completes Me" by Brandon Hollands, will be held Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Research Boulevard (in front on Madison Square Mall). Mix and mingle is from 7-7:45. Cost is \$15 for college students with approved school ID, \$20 for singles and \$40 for couples. This event is sponsored by

See Announcements on page 35

Rocket Announcements

Beacon Hill Worship Center. Tickets may be purchased at the door on the day of event you may call elder Darrell Stroy for more information 541-1451 or email stroy.darrell@yahoo.com.

Mardi Gras party

Pinnacle Affairs is bringing Mardi Gras to the Rocket City on Saturday at the historic Huntsville Depot Roundhouse downtown. There will be performances by comedian Ced Delaney, the disc jockey duo 5D (Ghon Bomb and Chief Rocka), Coolbone Band, and Chakabaman the stilt dancer. Doors will open at 9 p.m. Advance tickets are \$15. There will be free party favors all night long. For more information and tickets, call 508-8674 or visit www.huntsville.mardi.gras.com.

Senior volunteers

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

Health luncheon

Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority will hold its annual Go Red Luncheon, Saturday at the Marriott, 5 Tranquility Base, Huntsville. Tickets for the luncheon are \$40 a person and may be

purchased by calling Flo Dawson 683-9913 and Edwinta Merriweather 682-6230. Proceeds will be used by CNAA to help the American Heart Association continue lifesaving research and community education in providing services to fight heart disease. Proceeds will also benefit students in the form of scholarships, mentoring, reading programs and leadership training.

Small businesses

The UAH Small Business Development Center Network and the Procurement Technical Assistance Center will present "Part 1: How to Start a Business" and "Part 2: Writing an Effective Business Plan," Feb. 8 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County briefing room, 225 Church St. The guest speaker is Steven Levy, president of SEL & Associates. Cost is \$20. To register call 824-6422 or email SBDC@uah.edu. ... On Feb. 22 from 10-noon, the program will be "Understanding the SBA Loan Programs," by L.D. Ralph, lead lender relations specialist, SBA. Call 824-6422 or email SBDC@uah.edu.

Benefit dinner

The non-profit organization AGAPE of North Alabama has announced that Capt. Mark Kelly, commander of Space Shuttle Endeavour's final mission, will be the keynote speaker for the 2012 AGAPE Benefit Dinner on March 8. The dinner, themed "Endeavour to Succeed," will be held in the Von Braun Center. All funds raised will go toward providing services for children and families in a spirit of

love and hope, caring enough to make a difference across North Alabama. Tickets are available to the public. Purchase tickets, reception passes and sponsorships at www.agapecares.org or call 859-4481.

Baghdad treasures

Marine Reserves Col. Matthew Bogdanos will be the featured speaker at the Huntsville Museum of Art on Feb. 9 as part of a new lecture series titled Voices of Our Times. Bogdanos, a New York City homicide prosecutor and middleweight boxer, is the author of the bestselling book "Thieves of Baghdad: One Marine's Passion to Recover the World's Greatest Stolen Treasures." The book is a chronicle of Bogdanos' experience after the fall of Baghdad, Iraq, in 2003, when looters plundered the Iraq National Museum. While on active duty with the Marine Corps, Bogdanos led the investigation into the museum looting, and was subsequently awarded the National Humanities Medal for his efforts. Bogdanos will speak about his work in Iraq and sign copies of his book following the lecture. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. The cost of the event is \$20 for museum members and military personnel with their ID card. Cost for non-members is \$30. Advance tickets may be purchased at the front desk of the museum at 300 Church St., by calling 535-4350, ext.

208 (the reservations line), or online at www.hsvmuseum.org.

Flu shots

Flu shots are still available for all active duty, retiree and their beneficiaries and current DoD civilian employees ages 18 and older at Fox Army Health Center's Preventive Medicine from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday – available during lunch from now until Jan. 31. "We regret that we are unable to immunize government contractors, retired DoD civilians or any DoD civilian family members," Fox said in a prepared release. For more information call Preventive Medicine 955-8888, ext. 1026 or 1442.

SMDC retirement

Team Redstone employees and servicemembers are invited to a retirement ceremony for Dr. Steven Messervy, deputy commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. Messervy has more than 30 years experience in the research, development and acquisition business. He served in major command staff and project offices at both the Aviation and Missile Command and the Space and Missile Defense Command. For more information, call SMDC/ARSTRAT Protocol 955-2368.

See Announcements on page 36



Photo by Ashley Crick

Center tour

James Cooke, third from left, assistant deputy undersecretary of the Army for test and evaluation, visits the Redstone Test Center on Jan. 11. He toured the Rotary Wing Center where he viewed static displays of the Helicopter Icing Spray System and an Objective Helicopter Icing Spray System. Cooke also visited the Aviation System Test and Integration Laboratory.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Flooded auto

A Volkswagen lies in the flood path of Indian Creek about 25 yards south of Old Madison Pike in Huntsville on Jan. 23. The car, which was washed off the road in that day's flash flooding, remained in the creek with belongings strewn about the area.

Rocket Announcements

Military retirements

The Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is scheduled March 21 at 4 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are encouraged to participate in one of the quarterly retirement ceremonies. To make arrangements for participation, call Sgt. 1st Class Michael Tilley or Spc. John Hill 842-3032 by Feb. 29. A retirement ceremony is also scheduled June 19.

Education film

The Foundation for Educational Progress, UAH Department of Education and the Country Day School have joined together to bring the film "August to June - Bringing Life to School" to the Huntsville community on Feb. 16 from 6:30-9 p.m. at UAH Chan Auditorium. This free event is open to the public but will be on a space-available basis. For more information, call Yin Chi Fuller 837-5266 or email cds@country-day.com.

Young professionals

The Committee of 100 Young Professionals will hold its third "Rock the Vote" event Feb. 28 from 5-8 p.m. at the Historic Huntsville Depot Roundhouse. This free event is geared to professionals age 21-40 in Madison County and to all candidates on the ballots for Huntsville, Madison and Madison County offices in 2012. The group's goal is to engage large numbers of young professionals in this year's elections, campaigns and local political issues. Food, beverages and live music by Kush will also be part of the event. For more information, visit www.Huntsvillecommitteeof100.org. Candidates should con-

tact Robert Davis by calling 755-1185 or emailing robertpaul_davis@yahoo.com.

Development institute

The American Society of Military Comptrollers is offering a Mini-Professional Development Institute on Feb. 22 at the Jackson Center in Cummings Research Park. The keynote speaker is U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks, a member of the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee and the Science, Space and Technology Committee. Other speakers include Lt. Col. Rick Diggs, deputy director of the Defense Financial Management and Comptroller School; and Valisa Farrington-Lynch of the Department of the Army's Comptroller Proponency Office. Cost of the MINI-PDI is \$110. Participants can register in TIPS by using catalog number F121MPDI, or at www.jacksoncenter.net.

Hitchcock spoof

Huntsville High School Theater will present "The 39 Steps" Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. in the school's theater, 2304 Billie Watkins Ave. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$8 for military and students. The comedy is an "Alfred Hitchcock-meets-Monty Python" spoof, based on the Hitchcock film of the same name and full of allusions to other Hitchcock films, including Rear Window, Psycho, and North by Northwest.

Marine speaker

Marine Lt. Gen. Willie Williams, director of the Marine Corps staff at the Pentagon, will be the guest speaker at the Boy Scouts of America's annual Whitney M. Young Jr. Banquet on Feb. 10 begin-

ning at 6 p.m. at the Huntsville Marriott. Williams is an Alabama native. The banquet recognizes prominent Scouting supporters and community leaders in the Northern Area of the Greater Alabama Council. The public is invited. Tickets may be obtained at the Boy Scouts Service Center, 211 Drake Ave. For more information, call Talatko District executive Curtis Hunt 883-7071 or 361-7303.

Financial management training

There are two Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training courses being offered in Huntsville during fiscal 2012. These courses are an opportunity to prepare you for the testing required to obtain CDFM status. The first class is scheduled March 19-23 and has open enrollment for everyone, including contractors. To enroll go to the Graduate School USA website at http://www.graduateschool.edu/course_details.php?cid=FINC7060D. The second class is scheduled April 16-20 and is for government employees only. The link for this course is <http://www.asmc-certification.com/> under the Education/Training tab. The registration for this class has slightly more confusing navigation, so email Rob Archer at rob.archer@us.army.mil for assistance if necessary. Go one step further and become a CDFM-A (certified defense financial manager with acquisition specialty). To enhance your CDFM status, consider taking Module 4 (Acquisition Business Management). A class will be held for government employees in Huntsville May 3-4. The link is <http://www.asmc-certification.com/> under the Education/Training tab. If assistance is needed, contact Archer.

Ride wanted

Badge checker Blake Taylor needs a ride home at 5:30 p.m. from the Spark-

man Center to the Reserve At Research Park (behind Target on University Drive). Call 617-3202.

Thrift shop

The Thrift shop is looking for volunteers. Its volunteers work Monday through Thursday and the first Saturday of the month. If you have a few hours to fill on any of those days, stop in and sign up as a way to give back to the military community. Consignments are taken at the shop from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the NO-LIST number 881-6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each week. The shop's hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9 to 5, and the first Saturday of the month from 10 to 2. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome and tax deductible.

Tricare town hall

Fox Army Health Center, in partnership with Humana Military Healthcare Services, invites all Tricare beneficiaries to the 2012 Tricare Town Hall Meeting on Feb. 15 from 2:30-4 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. For questions and concerns about gaining access to Redstone for this event, call Patricia Terry 842-8818.

Prayer luncheon

Redstone Arsenal chaplains will hold a National Prayer Luncheon on Feb. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Summit. The speaker will be Jack Tilley, retired Sergeant Major of the Army. Free tickets are available from Arsenal chaplains, chaplain assistants and command sergeants major/sergeants major. For more information, call 842-2965 or email Garrison Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie at marvin.luckie@conus.army.mil.



Courtesy photo

Library love

Staff member Heather Morris displays one of the Valentine prizes for the annual Library Lovers event at the Post Library beginning today with prizes for visitors throughout the month and an Open House on Valentine's Day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This is open to everyone in the Redstone community, adults and children. For more information call the library at 876-4741 or visit www.redstonemwr.com, Recreation, Library.

Photo by Apache Sensors Product Office

Scout audience

After completing Fly-Fix-Fly test activities at the Lockheed Martin facility in Orlando, Fla., Chief Warrant Officer 4 Paul Steele provided a three Boy Scout troops an opportunity to get an up-close look at the AH-64D used during the flight testing as part of the product office's education outreach program. Thirty-seven scouts from Troop 6 Sand Lake Road district, Troop 148 Central Florida district, and Webelos 898 for Seminole County were represented. Steele, himself an Eagle Scout, is an experimental test pilot with the Aviation Flight Test Directorate.

