

Redstone Rocket

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CFC sets record in 50th year

Agencies, individuals thanked during victory celebration

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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The 50th year of the Combined Federal Campaign lived up to expectations, and then some.

A record \$2,976,730.98 was contributed to the 2011 Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign, the most ever collected by the local fund-raising drive. The goal was \$2.4 million.

"It was our 50th anniversary celebration, 50 years of caring," Donna Johnson, chairperson of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee, said. "That's what made this year special."

And the more than 19,000 federal employees in the Tennessee Valley made it extra special. Awards were presented during the 50th anniversary victory celebration Feb. 21 in Bob Jones Auditorium.

"We wanted this to be the greatest year ever and it was," Johnson said.

This was also her final year as the campaign coordinator, a post she has held since 2004.

"When we give to CFC we are giving back to our community," she told the audience.

Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and senior commander of Redstone Arsenal, served as honorary chairman of the 2011 campaign. He presented the awards during the victory celebration.

"We hit it again," Rogers said of the CFC goal, which was met and exceeded.

The Combined Federal Campaign was born March 18, 1961 when President John F. Kennedy signed an executive order forming a charitable donation system that allows federal employees to make payroll deductions and/or one-time voluntary contributions to their favorite charities.

"You contribute to where you feel they need the help, and you do it time after time, year after year," Rogers said.

Some 198 local charities were approved to participate in the 2011 cam-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

The Whitesburg Middle School cheerleaders perform during the CFC 50th anniversary victory celebration Feb. 21 in Bob Jones Auditorium.

paign; and there about 2,300 international and national charities from which federal employees could choose for their donations.

There are 64 federal agencies in the six-county area of Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Limestone, Lawrence and Cullman counties.

Federal agencies award recipients included Marshall Space Flight Center, Missile Defense Agency, Aviation and Missile Command, Tennessee Valley Authority-Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Social Security Administration-Huntsville (Early Bird Award), Garrison, Logistics Support Activity (Early Bird Award), Army Audit Agency-Huntsville (Early Bird Award), U.S. Postal Service-Huntsville, Internal Revenue Office, Government

See Campaign on page 29



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Donna Johnson received a letter of appreciation signed by AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers and Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton. This was her final year serving as chairperson of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee, a post she has held since 2004.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Challenger Bingo generates support.

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TRAINING DAY

Classes develop future Army civilian leaders.

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SOLDIER STORY

Conference room dedicated in name of fallen Soldier.

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WIN OR LOSE

Hockey teams compete for SEC championship.

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RocketViews

What do you think of Army Emergency Relief?

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Maj. P.J. Engelbrecht
Command and General Staff School student
“I think it’s a great program. I’ve had the opportunity as a commander to see my Soldiers use it. It’s benefited a lot of Soldiers in my command in the past.”



Chaplain (Maj.) Charles Hamlin
Command and General Staff School student
“It’s a very good program to help Soldiers meet unexpected needs. You don’t always have a crystal ball to look in to see how life’s going to happen. AER helps fill the gaps when life’s problems happen.”



Maj. Leilani Tydingco
Command and General Staff School student
“I think that it is very beneficial to Soldiers in times of need. In times of need it is definitely a source to get them back to their loved ones. For example, when I was in Korea, a parent of one of my Soldiers passed away. And the Soldier needed money to get home quickly and he did not have the funds in his account. The money from AER allowed him to go back to the states and attend the funeral. Life’s emergencies are just that. There’s no way to predict them. It really gives Soldiers a lifeline in their time of need. It’s there to assist. It’s our way of taking care of our own – especially the lower enlisted.”



Sanda Martel
Marshall Space Flight Center Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications
“I think it is a very good program that has done an excellent job over the years of supporting Soldiers and their families at Redstone. When I worked for the Army I had some personal relationship with the program in supporting it and I’m glad it’s still a viable program. I remember all the doughnut sales. We all ate lots of doughnuts in those days.”

Letter to the editor Motorcycle rider seeks faster gate entry

I completely understand post protocol on gate entry. However as a year-round motorcycle rider, I find it to be poor judgment to require motorcyclists to remove their winter face covers just to enter post. The guards wear face masks, so how do we know that guard is who that guard says he or she is? We don’t. We see his badge and move on. I see other riders with full face helmets go straight through the gate, but us that wear normal helmets with a winter face covering are required to pull it down, which makes it come off our ears and slows gate entry for other motorists. If we have our badge and proper attire, common sense should be used that it is cold and we should be allowed entry as those with full face helmets. Not only would this expedite gate entry for all motorists but

would also keep us that ride warm without having to take it all off and put it all back on.

Christopher Weber

Editor’s note: The Garrison provided the following response. “Thank you for your comments regarding installation access for motorcycle riders. Commanders employ access control measures at an installation perimeter to enhance security and protection of personnel and resources. Verifying the identity of personnel entering the installation is central to the access control process yet, as a matter of practical application, cannot be accomplished without visually matching the photograph with the face of the person presenting the identification. We regret the inconvenience this may cause for motorcycle riders and other impacted customers.”

Retirement poem tribute for Len Farbman

We’re here today, to wish you a happy retirement and a warm farewell.
Personnel honors your professionalism and dedication, we tell.
Your 40 years of service to the government, speaks for itself, as well.

We’re sad to see you go, as we celebrate your retirement, on this day.
We all wish you well, on your retirement, but we wish you would stay.
You’ve helped so many people along the way.

As you transition with directors and supervisors, standing tall.
Your door was always, always, open to us all.

Enough to drive a person off the wall.
We salute all that you stand for, motivator and a leader, it was your call.

We love your energetic personality, as told.
One of our favorite was YMCA, you were bold.
Although, some like your Elvis Presley, with gold.

We know that you’re a dedicated Mississippi State fan, all the way.
Although, some are Alabama Roll Tide, so they say.
You didn’t hold that against us, because we bragged, about it every day.

You’re a true legacy that will always be remembered, time and time again.
Your honesty, respect and integrity is a true reflection, as you begin.

Enjoy life with your family and have fun!
By all means, relax in the sun.

Thanks for all your hard work and determination, we wish you well.
Let’s not shed a tear, as we wish you farewell.

Happy Retirement, Mr. Farbman!

Rosie Douglas
CPOC employee

Quote of the Week

‘We provide emergency financial assistance when unforeseen situations happen in the lives of active duty Soldiers, retirees, National Guard and reservists on Title 10 orders, and widows.

— **Kerrie Branson**
Army Emergency Relief officer,
Army Community Service

RedstoneRocket

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Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Feb. 16-22:

Feb. 17: A contractor approached Gate 9 driving erratically and was found to be under the influence of alcohol. He was also driving with a revoked license; and an open alcohol container was found in his vehicle. He was transported to the Redstone Police Station where he submitted to a Draeger Test with a result of .19 percent blood alcohol content. He was detained until his BAC reached an acceptable level. He was then issued violation notices and released.

Feb. 17: A Soldier was arrested by Chatsworth (Ga.) Police for desertion. He was later released to Redstone Police who transported him to the confinement facility at Fort Knox, Ky.

Feb. 17: When a government employee was stopped for speeding on Goss Road, she had a suspended driver's license. She received a viola-

tion notice.

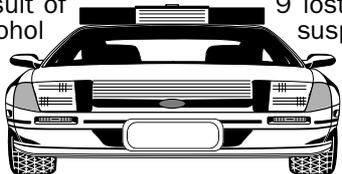
Feb. 18: A civilian approached Gate 9 lost and was driving under the influence of alcohol. He was transported to the Redstone Police Station where he submitted to a draeger test with a result of .22 percent BAC. He was detained until his BAC reached an acceptable level and he was then issued a violation notice and released.

Feb. 21: A civilian approached Gate 9 lost and was driving with a suspended license. He received a violation notice.

Feb. 22: A civilian was charged with a controlled substance violation when suspected marijuana was found in his vehicle at Gate 9.

Traffic accidents reported: Three without injury.

Violation notices issued: 26 speeding, 2 driving under the influence, 1 revoked driver's license, 2 suspended driver's license, 1 open container, 2 no driver's license, 1 improper backing.



Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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Name: Karl Restall

Job: Instructor, Department of Logistics and Resource Operations, Command and General Staff School

Where do you call home?
Oneonta, N.Y.

What do you like about your job?

Working with the students. It's productive to have professional discussions with the officers, hear what they have to say to enlighten them or have them enlighten you. I just retired as a lieutenant colonel logistician and arrived here at the end of January.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

House hunting right now (laugh). Once we get settled we'll be camping. I'm sure there are lots of places around here to go. We enjoy boating and camping.

What are your goals?

Having just transitioned recently,



get over the transition period. Long-term: Settle down, watch my kids grow, steady job, another retirement I guess. My wife, Robin, and I were married in 1998. And we have two children: twin 10-year-olds, Renee and Konrad.

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

Probably visit Australia because I've always been interested in it and I don't think I'll ever have a chance to do it.

AER kickoff in Thursday's basket

The Army Emergency Relief kickoff event, scheduled 9 a.m. Thursday in the Sparkman Cafeteria, will feature a performance by the AMC Band along with several opportunities to donate to AER.

The Garrison will hold a silent auction with themed baskets ranging from workout to date night for everyone to bid on. Pictures of the baskets can be viewed on Team Redstone Facebook page or at www.redstonemwr.com. Bids need to be emailed to Katherine Pillsbury at katherine.l.pillsbury@us.army.mil. All emails must be titled "Auction Bid." On Thursday, bidders will be able to bid both online and



in person at the Sparkman Cafeteria; the highest bidder at 2 p.m. will win the basket.

Along with the silent auction, the Garrison hopes to raise money with a bake sale and by offering neck

massages for donations.

The event will begin at 9 a.m. with the silent auction baskets and go until 2 p.m. At 11:30, Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton and AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Yates will make remarks about the importance of AER and sign the first allotment forms.

The 2012 AER fund-raising campaign will continue through May 15 with a \$300,000 goal.

Fox Pharmacy to install new dispensing technology

By Maj. PAUL KASSEBAUM

For the Rocket

Patient and medication safety are paramount to the Fox Army Health Center's mission, and the Fox Pharmacy will be making advances in those areas with the installation of the latest bar code-enabled medication dispensing technology, scheduled for March 1-4.

The new dispensing systems, made by pharmacy automation manufacturer Parata, will replace the pharmacy's current bar code dispensing system, which has exceeded its life expectancy and for which replacement parts are no longer available. One of the new systems, the Parata Mini, will be used for new prescriptions, automatically counting tablets or capsules when a pharmacist scans a prescription bar code, and allowing a pharmacy technician to retrieve the counted medication and continue the process from there.

The other new system, the Parata Max, is a robotic dispensing system used for refill prescriptions.

After a patient calls in a refill, the call-in system transmits the request to the Parata Max; the robot then counts, labels and caps the prescription prior to the pharmacist check.

Both systems remove the human element

from medication selection to ensure accuracy and allow pharmacists to focus on optimizing medication regimens and discussing prescriptions with patients.

"Our focus at Fox Pharmacy is two-fold – to ensure both medication safety and patient satisfaction," Lanell Cianciola, chief of pharmacy services, said.

Fox Pharmacy excels on both fronts with an excellent record on patient safety and the highest pharmacy patient satisfaction in the Southern Regional Medical Command.

Despite filling an average of more than 25,000 prescriptions per month, the average wait time is less than 10 minutes.

Patients will likely see wait times increase during the week of March 5-9 while pharmacy staff trains on the new equipment, and wait times may continue to be longer than normal for the month of March as the pharmacy staff adjusts to the new systems. To avoid the longest wait times, try to visit the pharmacy before 10:30 a.m. or after 2:30 p.m.

The pharmacy is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"We are excited to install and utilize this new equipment that will help us ensure the right patient gets the right medication and ask for your patience as we learn how to effectively and efficiently use the new systems," Cianciola said.

Huntsville Center seeks energy proposals

The Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville has issued a draft Request for Proposal for \$7 billion in shared capacity contracts to procure reliable, locally generated, renewable and alternative energy through power purchase agreements or other contractual equivalents.

The \$7 billion capacity would be expended for the purchase of energy over a period of 30 years or less from renewable energy plants that are constructed and operated by contractors using private sector financing. (*Huntsville Center release*)

Challenger Bingo offers fun way to give back

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

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Challenger Bingo offers more to the Redstone community than weekly recreation and special events like the upcoming "Luck of the Irish Bingo Extravaganza." The program also provides Team Redstone with a way to give back to Soldiers.

"I think the most enjoyable part of being a part of Challenger Bingo is what we stand for, and that's that any money that's generated here goes back to help support our Soldiers and the people who support Soldiers," Chris Isbill, Challenger Activity Center business manager, said.

The money goes back into the Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation fund, Isbill explained, and through that fund the money could go toward building a playground for Youth Services or to help capitalize other areas of need for Soldiers and their families.

Challenger Bingo is available solely to



Photo by Beth Skarupa

The Challenger Bingo staff includes Anna Wesseling, Aida Principe, business manager Chris Isbill, Doris McLeod, Lottie Elridge and Terri Luker.

the Redstone community. Patrons must be at least 19 years old to enter the bingo hall. Those with access to Redstone Arsenal who have military identification, Department of Defense civilian identification, or DoD spouse identification can go in and play at the Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road. Contractors with Arsenal access who are interested in playing can do so by becoming a FMWR

See Bingo on page 29

FMWR focus Part 4 of series

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:

Bingo extravaganza

The "Luck of the Irish Bingo Extravaganza" is March 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Challenger Activity Center, building 1500. Doors and registers will open at 10:15. Electronic bingo begins at 10. Bingo session begins at 1:45. Ticket sales will be limited to the first 200 patrons. For more information, call 837-0750.

Youth baseball

CYSS Sports and Fitness "Start Smart Baseball" will be held Saturdays through March 31, from 10-11 a.m. at the Youth Center, building 3148. Open to ages 3-5. The \$35 cost includes a T-shirt. For more information, call 313-3699.

Hockey clinics

CYSS Sports and Fitness' Ball Hockey "Learn to Play" Clinics are free on Saturdays through March 31: from 9-10:30 a.m.

for ages 6-17, 1-2:30 p.m. for ages 18 and up, and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for adult pickup inline hockey. The Ball Hockey Clinics will be held at the CYSS Outdoor Hockey Rink at the corner of Goss and Skinner roads, next to Hotel Redstone-Army Lodging. For more information, call 313-3699.

Rock, paper, scissors

The "Rock Paper Scissors Tournament" is 4:30 p.m. March 30 at the Firehouse Pub. This is single game elimination with first, second and third place prizes. To register call 842-0748 by March 28.

Spring into fitness

FMWR Sports and Fitness "Step into Spring Fitness Month" is March 3-31 on Saturdays from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Vincent Park trail. Step into spring with a new workout program. Every Saturday during March, participants will meet at Vincent Park (entrance to the trail). The workout has a boot camp-style program which includes walking,

See FMWR on page 29

Catholic confirmation conferred at chapel

By DAVE MACEDONIA

For the Rocket

Bishop Richard Higgins, archdiocese for the military services, conferred Catholic confirmation to six candidates Feb. 3 at Bicentennial Chapel.

The six recipients of confirmation for this year included Biagio Di Benedetto, Darby Nicole Aida Nash, Walter Ruben Shontz, Emma Anna Waldron, Maxent Cortez Wilks and Jacob Duncan McWhorter.

Confirmation instructor Bill Sanner has spent the past seven months preparing the candidates, and their parents, for this sacred rite by rigorous weekly classes consisting of reading, practical exercises and tests.

Fourth Degree Color Corps Knights from the Knights of Columbus Chapter 4080 performed ceremonial protection for Higgins during his confirmation visit. The Color Corps is the most visible arm of the Knights as they are often seen in parades and other local events wearing their colorful regalia.

Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation, one of the Catholic Church's seven sacraments. Confirmation may be received only once. Catholics believe this sacrament

strengthens baptized Christians and through the gift of the Holy Spirit helps them to be active, caring followers of Jesus. It helps them become willing to witness to personal faith, to proclaim the good news of Christ, and to serve others. A Catholic bishop, the normal and original minister of confirmation, confers this sacrament by praying to the Holy Spirit, placing his hands over each person to be confirmed, and saying, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." He also anoints the one confirmed with holy oil (chrism) by tracing the sign of the cross on his or her forehead.

Higgins was born Feb. 22, 1944 in Longford, Ireland. He retired from the U.S. Air Force following 30 years of active duty effective Sept. 1, 2004 as a colonel. Higgins is an accomplished aviator and holds an airline transport pilot certificate and sev-



Photo by Dave Macedonia

Ceremony participants include, from left, confirmation instructor Bill Sanner, Maxent Cortez Wilks, Darby Nicole Aida Nash, Walter Ruben Shontz, Bishop Richard Higgins, Biagio Di Benedetto, Emma Anna Waldron, Jacob Duncan McWhorter and Father (Lt. Col.) Jose Herrera.

eral flight instructor certificates. He was ordained to the episcopacy July 3, 2004 in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. Higgins assumed his present duties Oct. 1, 2004.

The archdiocese for the military services, or Military Ordinariate, serves military personnel and families at 220 installations in 29 countries, patients in 172 Veterans

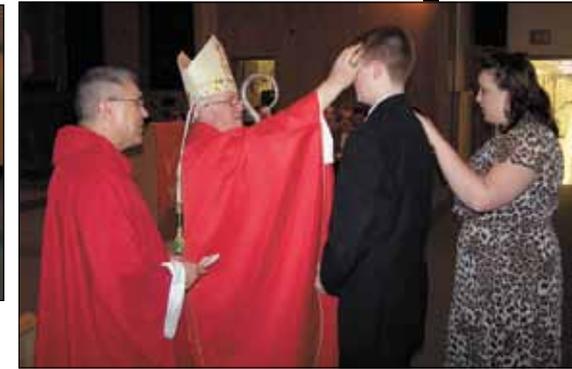


Photo by Dave Macedonia

Bishop Richard Higgins, archdiocese for the military services, confers the sacrament of confirmation on Jacob Duncan McWhorter. His sponsor, Kaitlin Smith, lays her hand on his shoulder for support. To the left in the picture is con-celebrant Father (Lt. Col) Jose Herrera.

Affairs hospitals and is responsible for federal employees serving 134 countries. Numerically, this is more than 1.4 million Catholics. They are served by more than 1,000 priests supported by members of the Catholic laity.

A reception followed at the Bicentennial Chapel fellowship room.

Huntsville police spokesman reaches out to community

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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This was a glimpse behind the yellow tape at a police scene. Or perhaps it was a look at life from the perspective of growing up as a black child who could pass for white in the racially charged South.

Dr. Harry Hobbs, communications relations officer for the Huntsville Police

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Dr. Harry Hobbs, communications relations officer for the Huntsville Police Department, speaks during a lunch-and-learn at Marshall Space Flight Center.



Department, provided that view as the guest speaker Feb. 22 for a Black History Month lunch-and-learn at Marshall Space Flight Center. He titled his talk as "Bridge Building, Creating an Inclusive Community."

"I feel God has uniquely trained me and positioned me to build bridges," said Hobbs, a retired chief warrant officer 5 who earned the Bronze Star in combat during his 29 years of service.

"I'd rather build a bridge than burn a bridge," he said.

The Louisville, Ky., native described his background, showing old photos of himself as a child saluting like the Soldier

he would become. His mother was black, his father was white; he was born out of wedlock and his father wasn't around.

"Sometimes in life everything is not black and white," Hobbs said. "Sometimes it's in the middle."

As the police communications relations officer, he works toward building an inclusive community through neighborhood programs, through the schools, through mentoring youth and through the news media.

"I want everyone to feel that you're a part in keeping crime to a minimum here in Huntsville and Team Redstone," Hobbs told the 40 attendees.

Generate savings by monitoring your home energy consumption

By **PATRICK HOLMES**
DPW Energy Office

A home energy assessment, sometimes referred to as an energy audit, will show what parts of your house use the most energy and suggest the best ways to cut energy costs.

You can conduct a simple home energy assessment by doing it yourself or, for a more detailed assessment, contact your local utility or an energy auditor. Also, you can learn more about home energy audits and find free tools and calculators on energysavers.gov, the Residential Services Network at www.resnet.us, or the Building Performance Institute at www.bpi.org.

Do-it-yourself tips

Check the insulation in your attic, exterior and basement walls, ceilings, floors and crawl spaces. To determine the insulation R-values in different parts of your home, visit the Air Leaks and Insulation section of energysavers.gov.

Check for air leaks around your walls, ceilings, windows, doors, light and plumbing fixtures, switches and electrical outlets.

Check for open fireplace dampers.

Make sure your appliances and heating and cooling systems are properly maintained. Check your owner's manuals for the recommended maintenance.

Study your family's lighting needs and look for ways to use controls – like sensors, dimmers or timers – to reduce lighting use.

Professional assessments

A more advanced alternative to performing an energy assessment yourself is to get advice from your state energy office, utility or an independent energy auditor. A professional energy auditor uses special test equipment to find air leaks, areas lacking insulation and malfunctioning equipment. The auditor analyzes how well your home's energy systems work together, and compares the analysis to your utility bills. After gathering information about your home, the auditor will recommend cost-effective energy improvements that enhance comfort and safety. Some will also estimate how soon your investment in efficiency upgrades will pay off by doing a life cycle cost analysis.

Professional energy assessments generally go into great detail. The energy auditor should do a room-by-room examination of the residence, as well as a thorough examination of past utility bills. Many professional energy assessments will include a blower door test. Most will

also include a thermographic scan with an infrared camera.

Preparing for assessment

Before the energy auditor visits your house, make a list of any existing problems such as condensation and uncomfortable or drafty rooms. Have copies or a summary of the home's yearly energy bills; your utility provider can get these for you. Auditors use this information to establish what to look for during the audit. The auditor first examines the outside of the home to determine the size of the house and its features i.e., wall area, number and size of windows. The auditor then will analyze the residents' behavior: Is anyone home during working hours? What is the average thermostat setting for summer and winter? How many people live here? Is every room in use?

Your answers may help uncover some simple ways to reduce your household's energy consumption. Walk through your home with the auditors as they work, and ask questions. They may use equipment to detect sources of energy loss, such as blower doors, infrared cameras, furnace efficiency meters, and surface thermometers.

Selecting an auditor

There are several places where you can locate professional energy assessment or auditing services. Your state or local government energy or weatherization office may help you identify a local company or organization that performs audits. They may also have information on how to do your own assessment. Your electric or gas utility may conduct residential energy assessments or recommend local auditors. TVA also offers these services and may rebate any fees if improvements are made based on the auditor's recommendations. Visit www.energyright.com for details.

Before contracting with an energy auditing company, you should take the following steps: Get several references, and contact them all. Ask if they were satisfied with the work. Call the Better Business Bureau and ask about any complaints against the company. Make sure the energy auditor uses a calibrated blower door. Make sure they do thermographic inspections or contract another company to conduct one.

Your whole-house plan

After you know where your home is losing energy, make a plan by asking yourself a few questions: How much money do you spend on energy? Where are your greatest energy losses? How long

See Energy on page 28

IRS warns taxpayers of scams for 2012

By the Taxpayer Advocacy Panel

The Internal Revenue Service has issued its annual "Dirty Dozen" tax scams list, reminding taxpayers to use caution during tax season to protect themselves against a wide range of schemes ranging from identity theft to return preparer fraud.

The Dirty Dozen listing, compiled by the IRS each year, lists a variety of common scams taxpayers can encounter at any point during the year. But many of these schemes peak during filing season as people prepare their tax returns. Illegal scams can lead to significant penalties and interest and possible criminal prosecution. The IRS Criminal Investigation Division works closely with the Department of Justice to shut down scams and prosecute the criminals behind them.

Here are five of the Dirty Dozen tax scams for 2012:

1) Identity theft – In response to growing identity theft concerns, the IRS has embarked on a comprehensive strategy focused on preventing, detecting and resolving identity theft cases as soon as possible. In addition to the law-enforcement crackdown, the IRS has stepped up its internal reviews to spot false tax returns before tax refunds are issued and is working to help victims of identity theft refund schemes.

Identity theft cases are among the most complex ones the IRS handles, but the agency is committed to working with taxpayers who have become victims of identity theft.

The IRS is increasingly seeing identity thieves looking for ways to use a legitimate taxpayer's identity and personal information to file a tax return and claim a fraudulent refund.

An IRS notice informing a taxpayer that more than one return was filed in the taxpayer's name or that the taxpayer received wages

from an unknown employer may be the first tipoff the individual receives that he or she has been victimized. Anyone who believes his or her personal information has been stolen and used for tax purposes should immediately contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit. For more information, visit the special identity theft page on this website.

2) Phishing – These scams are typically carried out with the help of unsolicited email or a fake website that poses as a legitimate site to lure potential victims into providing valuable personal and financial information. Armed with this information, a criminal can commit identity theft or financial theft.

If you receive an unsolicited email that appears to be from either the IRS or an organization closely linked to the IRS, such as the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System, report it by sending it to phishing@irs.gov.

It is important to keep in mind the IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email to request personal or financial information. This includes any type of electronic communication, such as text messages and social media channels. The IRS has information that can help you protect yourself from email scams.

3) Return preparer fraud – About 60 percent of taxpayers will use tax professionals this year to prepare and file their tax returns. Most return preparers provide honest service to their clients. But as in any other business, there are also some who prey on unsuspecting taxpayers.

Questionable return preparers have been known to skim off their clients' refunds, charge inflated fees for return preparation services and attract new clients by promising guaranteed or inflated refunds. Taxpayers should choose carefully when

hiring a tax preparer. Federal courts have issued hundreds of injunctions ordering individuals to cease preparing returns, and the Department of Justice has pending complaints against many others.

In 2012, every paid preparer needs to have a Preparer Tax Identification Number and must enter it on the returns he or she prepares.

Signals to watch for when you are dealing with an unscrupulous return preparer would include that they:

- Do not sign the return or will not include a Preparer Tax Identification Number on it.
- Do not give you a copy of your tax return.
- Promise larger-than-normal tax refunds.
- Charge a percentage of the refund amount as preparation fee.
- Require you to split the refund to pay the preparation fee.
- Add forms to the return you have never filed before.
- Encourage you to place false information on your return, such as false income, expenses and/or credits.

For advice on how to find a competent tax professional, see Tips for Choosing a Tax Preparer.

4) Hiding income offshore – Over the years, numerous individuals have been identified as evading U.S. taxes by hiding income in offshore banks, brokerage accounts or nominee entities and then using debit cards, credit cards or wire transfers to access the funds. Others have employed foreign trusts, employee-leasing schemes, private annuities or insurance plans for the same purpose.

The IRS uses information gained from its investigations to pursue taxpayers with un-

declared accounts, as well as the banks and bankers suspected of helping clients hide their assets overseas. The IRS works closely with the Department of Justice to prosecute tax evasion cases. While there are legitimate reasons for maintaining financial accounts abroad, there are reporting requirements that need to be fulfilled. U.S. taxpayers who maintain such accounts and who do not comply with reporting and disclosure requirements are breaking the law and risk significant penalties and fines, as well as the possibility of criminal prosecution.

5) "Free money" from the IRS & tax scams involving Social Security – Fliers and advertisements for free money from the IRS, suggesting that the taxpayer can file a tax return with little or no documentation, have been appearing in community churches around the country. These schemes are also often spread by word of mouth as unsuspecting and well-intentioned people tell their friends and relatives. Scammers prey on low-income individuals and the elderly. They build false hopes and charge people good money for bad advice. In the end, the victims discover their claims are rejected. Meanwhile, the promoters are long gone. The IRS warns all taxpayers to remain vigilant.

There are a number of tax scams involving Social Security. For example, scammers have been known to lure the unsuspecting with promises of non-existent Social Security refunds or rebates. In another situation, a taxpayer may really be due a credit or refund but the scammer uses inflated amounts to complete the return for a larger refund they'll run off with.

These are some of the Dirty Dozen Tax Scams for 2012. For a complete list, see IRS Releases the Dirty Dozen Tax Scams for 2012 at <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=254383,00.html>.

Healthy choices help shopper's bottom line

Understanding that a large part of the military's focus is on a fit mind and body to ensure top performance, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service values the importance of wellness.

To that end, the Exchange is feeding shoppers' minds with information. Healthy nutrition options, fitness programs, family activities and overall wellness information are all just a click away through the Exchange's "Operation Be Fit" website. OpbeFit.com offers tips for all members of the family, from novice to expert.

"Providing fitness and nutritional information is just one of the many ways the Exchange strives to meet the needs of shoppers," Redstone Exchange general manager Lorraine Arbo said. "In addition to the myriad of online resources, the 'Be Fit' shop in the Exchange offers competitively priced athletic footwear, fitness gear, sporting goods and nutritional items all in one convenient location."

Beyond lightening the strain on the wallet, the Redstone Exchange is also looking out for military families' literal "bottom lines" with healthy eating options. Charley's, Burger King and other Exchange restaurants have a wide array of nutritional facts available for diners to review to ensure they're making healthy choices. Many even allow the substitution of a side salad or bottled water in lieu of fries or a soft drink.

Hungry shoppers looking to "fill up" at the Redstone Express also have wholesome snack choices as Exchange Snack Avenues offer six different fresh salad options, fruit cups and grab-pack sliced apples. The "Fresh Fruit" program delivers fresh bananas, apples, oranges, limes and lemons to Expresses as well.

"A strong mind and body are important to military members and their families," Arbo said. "The Redstone Arsenal Exchange's healthy options are the perfect supplement for both conditioning efforts." (AAFES release)



Army photo

Afghanistan patrol

Sgt. Craig McComsey, a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard, serving with the Zabul Agribusiness Development Team, keeps a close watch from the roof of the district center, Shah Joy, Afghanistan.

Some scenes from Redstone's Saddle Activity

The Redstone Arsenal Saddle Activity is located next to the construction site of Redstone Gateway. And construction crews are working on installing new power lines through the pasture where the horses graze.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

A horse named Betty checks out a power pole that was just finished.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Ashley Wallace visits with one of her family's four horses in the pasture next to one of the new power poles.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

A truck driver with the construction crew unlocks the gate to leave the horse pasture, as two horses near the gate seem only partially interested in his presence. Perhaps that is because these intruders have been passing through their gate for weeks, and have yet to offer them a carrot!

Tricare website helps patients manage care

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Beneficiaries of Fox Army Health Center can access their care 24 hours a day, seven days a week with the help of Tricare Online.

All it takes is a click of the button to schedule appointments, cancel appointments, refill prescriptions, view lab results and more at www.tricareonline.com, a patient-focused portal that allows the more than 9 million beneficiaries, including those of Fox, the ability to manage their care both at home and on the go.

“It allows you to manage your own health care online. You can see your medication refills, your medication profile, your lab results,” Barbara Williford, chief of the Clinical Support Division, said. “It allows you to better be able to manage your own health care. We want our beneficiaries to be advocates of and actively participate in their own health care.”

Beneficiaries may register at www.tricareonline.com where each family member will have their own password to access their account, regardless of

age. Once a patient is registered, they may begin using the portal to manage their own health care, whether it be requesting refills on medication, checking on the status of that refill or booking an appointment. One of the greatest advantages of the website is the ability to book appointments at any time, especially in the middle of the night, when the Centralized Appointments is closed.

“If you get sick at 3:00 in the morning, you can go online and book an appointment before Centralized Appointments is open,” Williford said.

When an individual goes online to make an appointment, it will ask for the reason for the appointment and then give the patient the available dates for their doctor based on the access to care standard for a particular appointment type. Acute access standard is 24 hours; routine appointments, such as a follow-up for a patient’s ongoing condition, the access to care standard is seven days; well appointments, such as physicals, have an access to care standard of 28 days. If



Courtesy photo

Fox Army Health Center beneficiaries can manage their health care online, including making appointments, viewing lab results and refilling prescriptions.

their provider is not available, the portal will give patients the opportunity to book an appointment with another provider on their team.

“Tricare Online is a great tool that’s easy to use,” Fox commander Col. Elizabeth Johnson said. “Along with the convenience of making appointments and

medication refills online, the website is a great resource to beneficiaries on health care topics as well as information in regards to their benefits. My staff is ready to assist anyone needing help with registering for this great service.”

Users that log on with their Common Access Card (CAC) or DoD Self-Service logon will also have the ability to access the “blue button” which allows patients the opportunity to view lab results, download and save their personal health data and print it, as well as explore medication, allergy and problem lists, in addition to managing their appointments and refilling medication. Appointment management and prescription refills do not require CAC or DS access.

Beneficiaries can register for TOL during Welcome to Wellness or Welcome to Readiness classes in the Wellness Clinic. They can also get assistance from Williford and Paula Twitchell, BCAC; both are located on the second floor at Fox.

AMCOM builds bench for future civilian leaders



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Mario Coronel, the Army Materiel Command's deputy G-3/5 (Operations/Strategy), talks about eMentorship during Thursday's Lift kickoff. He said eMentorship is a way of "connecting mentors and mentees to help build that leadership bench for the Army civilian leadership."

Kickoff event opens leadership classes

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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The crowd gathered Thursday morning in the Community Activity Center had a singular purpose in mind.

They wanted to help the Aviation and Missile Command develop its future civilian leaders. This was AMCOM's 2012 Leader Investment for Tomorrow kickoff.

Under this umbrella, there are three programs targeted to all employees: Uplift, which is geared to an audience up to and including GS-11; Lift, for GS-12s and GS-13s; and Advanced Lift, for GS-14s and GS-15s.

"And all these programs focus on the seven Army values, building the leadership bench, better supporting the Soldier and building relationships," Jamie Candelaria, Lift program administrator, said.

The programs are produced by the AMCOM G-1 (Human Resource) team. Candelaria is the instructor/facilitator for Uplift, which has 24 students. Lift, with instructor/facilitator Roger Kitchen, has 50 students. Advanced Lift instructor/facilitator

Heidi Collier has 11 students.

Each class meets monthly from February until December's graduation.

"You gain so much knowledge out of it," said Advanced Lift student T.J. LaPointe, who completed the Lift class in 2008. He is the aviation mission equipment team lead in the Prototype Integration Facility, which is under the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

"It makes you think about the decisions you make more logically and how you execute it and get a task done," LaPointe said. He also values the interagency relationships.

Phillip Dark, supervisory environmental engineer in AMCOM G-4 (Internal Logistics), said he signed up for Advanced Lift a few weeks ago "just to be a better leader."

"It's just a way of investing a little time. It seems like everybody enjoys the connection with other groups, too," Dark said. "You make contacts. There's just a lot of different organizations. It's not just one group."

AMCOM chief of staff Col. Skip Sherrill presented certificates of appreciation to members of the Lift alumni committee to recognize their efforts. The overall program has more than 400 alumni since its inception in 2005.

Security assistance enterprise shares acquisition overview

By KIM GILLESPIE

USASAC Public Affairs

The Security Assistance Command and the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation hosted an acquisition workshop for USASAC employees Feb. 16. Two three-hour workshops were conducted by video teleconference and were available to the work force in morning and afternoon sessions.

“The acquisition personnel within the Security Assistance Enterprise reside at the Program Executive Office level and within the Army Materiel Command’s life cycle management commands and Army Contracting Command,” John Daniele, deputy assistant program executive officer for customer support and international programs at PEO STRI, said. “USASAC, in its role as the lead for the Security Assistance Enterprise, is providing crucial information to the acquisition work force in foreign military sales.”

Daniele emphasized that the acquisition workshop provided an overview for USASAC employees who may have only a limited knowledge of the acquisition process, but was not intended to be a substitute for formal acquisition instruction.



Photo by Melody Sandlin

Jeff Claar and John Daniele from the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation presented via VTC to USASAC employees during an acquisition workshop held Feb. 16.

“This is not a Defense Acquisition University class, and some of the PEOs have unique ways of doing things. I encourage those of you who need more knowledge and training to pursue the DAU instruction, training and/or certification in acquisition,” Daniele said.

The idea for conducting the workshop was first discussed after Maj. Gen. Del

Turner, USASAC commander, met with PEO STRI personnel at the annual Interservice/Industry Simulation Training, and Education Conference last fall.

“We discussed how important it is for USASAC program managers and case managers to understand the various systems sold through FMS, how they fit into the total package of an FMS case, how this is developed with the Letter of Request and Letter of Offer and Acceptance and how this fits into the acquisition process,” Daniele said. The result was a suggestion from Daniele to Turner that PEO STRI provide an acquisition overview.

Jeff Claar, a procurement analyst with PEO STRI’s Acquisition Center, covered everything from regulations to performance work statements, proposal evaluation methods and the seven steps of performance-based acquisition.

“We covered in a few hours what you would spend months learning in a formal acquisition training environment,” Claar said.

Claar also addressed PEO STRI’s Procurement Administrative Lead Time for acquisition. PALT is designed to improve the efficiency of procurements by measuring contracting milestones and ensuring the program is in accordance

with Federal Acquisition Regulation, DoD and agency supplements and local policies. PEO STRI’s PALT report specifically tracks the status and progression of procurement actions from requirement to acceptance and through contract award. For USASAC, tracking the procurement process assists with tracking the overall schedule for equipment deliveries.

“Maj. Gen. Turner is emphasizing C2, short for cooperation and collaboration, as the key to success for the Security Assistance Enterprise,” Daniele said. The workshop emphasized how the FMS process, which involves many different organizations performing independent actions, makes up the Security Assistance Enterprise. “During program execution, USASAC should look to the ACC entity and LCMC that is supporting the specific commodity for guidance and assistance.”

“For employees who have not worked in an LCMC SAMD (Security Assistance Management Directorate), this workshop explained the basics of how the acquisition process is conducted in relation to our FMS process,” Michelle Gomez of USASAC plans and policy, said.

New system unifies Army's financial management

Redstone joins in starting April 2

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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Just what the Army needed – another acronym. But you'd better get used to this one because it's going to change how you manage funds.

GFEBS stands for the General Fund Enterprise Business System. It's being adopted throughout the Army in waves; and Team Redstone goes on-line in April.

It will replace the Standard Operations and Maintenance Army Research and Development, or SOMARDS, system and it will interface with the Logistics Modernization Program. This will change how the Army does finance, cost management, logistics and acquisition.

"So we'll have one system that is cross functional, it's visible to everybody – all the functionalities," Dr. Felicia Williams, deputy director of the GFEBS Transition Office, said. "So we become one – that's what we're trying to do, unify everybody into one. They're trying to get away from using multiple systems – to try to unify as many systems as they can into one."

The transition office, located on the second floor of building 5304, represents a combined effort with the Aviation and Missile Command, the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, and the Program Executive Office for Aviation.

GFEBS will be deployed April 2 throughout Redstone's Army organizations, including the Army Materiel Command, AMCOM, Corpus Christi Army Depot (Texas), Letterkenny Army Depot (Pa.), PEO Aviation, PEO Missiles and Space, the Garrison, Medical Command, Test and Evaluation Command, and the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

The Army decided about 10 years ago that it wanted to have one financial system. And the system has been implemented in waves

since its first deployment at Fort Jackson, S.C., on Oct. 1, 2008. Some 400 sites have adopted the system so far.

Redstone represents wave 8. But AMCOM's TMDE Activity went onboard in wave 4 in January 2011, and the activity's overseas operations joined in last April. The last deployment, wave 8B, is slated for July.

"When it's fully operational it will have 79,000 end users," Williams said. "And it replaces 200 legacy systems."

"We move from an old antiquated system to a web-based system," she said. "Under the old system we had to go in there and put streams (of data) ... Now we're going into a web-based system, where you can see the information real time. To me this is like Microsoft friendly. That's the best way I can put it – real time data, instant data. Sharing data across services. You can see data across services. From here at Redstone, I can see data and I can be talking to a person at CECOM and we can see the same data at the same time."

Various functional areas have been assigned core classes on the system which they should complete by March 30. For more information about GFEBS, call the transition office at 842-9644.

"It's going to be great," Williams said. "To me it's going to change the way we do business. It gives us the opportunity to communicate across organizations (Armywide). And we'll end up being a collaborative leadership team. We'll be unified as one."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Members of the GFEBS Transition Office include, from left, administrative assistant Andrea Cheyne, deputy director Dr. Felicia Williams, functionality coordinator Carol Coatney and data coordinator Tim Dozier. Not pictured are user assignment coordinator Spencer Cunningham and cost management team lead Shafer Minnick.

Carter concludes Afghan trip with visit to Kajaki Dam



DoD photo by Erin Kirk-Cuomo

U.S. deputy defense secretary Ashton Carter surveys Kajaki Dam in Kajaki, Afghanistan, Feb. 24. He toured the dam and its turbine engines, which are integral to providing water in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

By Sgt. 1st Class TYRONE C. MARSHALL Jr.
American Forces Press Service

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Wrapping up his first trip to Afghanistan since assuming the Pentagon’s No. 2 post, deputy defense secretary Ashton Carter on Feb. 24 visited a key site that provides irrigation and hydroelectric power to residents here.

“It has always been a dream of mine to come here,” Carter said as he walked through the grounds of the Kajaki Dam.

After the Helmand Valley Authority was formed in 1952, the dam was built with the assistance of the U.S. Agency for International Development and \$40 million in bank financing, officials of the International Security Assistance Force’s Regional Command Southwest said. The facility’s turbines produce the hydroelectric power crucial to villages throughout the province and the irrigation of farmlands.

Carter met the dam’s chief engineer and received follow-up information from Col. Steve Waldron, Regional Command

Southwest’s civil-military affairs officer, and Thomas Bauhan from USAID.

Two of the units were installed in 1975, but a third turbine was delayed due to conflict in the country, they said. Following failure of both installed turbines in 2003, USAID hired companies to step in and repair the units, and the work finished in 2006.

In August 2008, a contingent of British, Afghan and ISAF troops delivered the third turbine from Kandahar Airfield, but it has yet to be installed, said Pentagon spokesman Navy Capt. John Kirby, who is traveling with Carter.

The deputy secretary was able to witness the results of recent efforts by U.S. Army engineers, Marines, USAID and international donors to restore and improve functionality at the dam and to begin preparations for the third hydroelectric turbine’s installation, Kirby said. The turbine could be operational in 2013, he added, and would be able to provide more than 50 megawatts of power once distribution lines are in place.

Courtesy photo

Science talk

LaVern Spearman, chief physicist at TMDE Activity, speaks to students in the Chemistry Club at Huntsville High. The presentation was on metrology and its role in every aspect of science but it also was a career pep talk for the students. Spearman is part of the AMCOM Army Education Outreach Program.



Army recognizes need for responsible reset

Senior leaders analyze materiel management

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**
AMC Public Affairs

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – Managing and maintaining every piece of equipment in a single home is cumbersome. Try managing equipment in two countries and add the supply warehouse and maintenance shop to the mix. Hence, the topic of maintaining materiel at a panel discussion Feb. 22 during the winter meeting of the Association of the United States Army.

The Army delegated the responsibility of resetting the force and all materiel management to the Army Materiel Command, synchronizing these efforts under one name: Reset.

“Our senior Army leadership certainly recognized that the status quo would not work in terms of the enormity of the retrograde mission,” AMC deputy commander Lt. Gen. Dennis Via said. “Often what Gen. (Ann) Dunwoody says in a complex situation is, ‘fix the C2 first’ – fix the command and control first. That’s in fact what our Army did.”

The method of attack for addressing the retrograde and reset mission was to link the industrial base to the operational force by focusing on four strategic imperatives: visibility, accountability, velocity, and triage forward.

“In essence, connecting the FOB (Forward Operating Base) to the depots and facilitating responsible drawdown while



Courtesy photo

AMC deputy commander Lt. Gen. Dennis Via, far right, discusses retrograde and reset. The other panelists include, from left, Kenneth Hunzeker, executive vice president of Exelis Inc.; John Urias, executive vice president of Oshkosh Corporation; Glynn Raymer, vice president combat and sensing system at Raytheon; and Maj. Gen. Kevin Leonard, commander of Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command.

leveraging national and joint logistics and building strategic depth for our Army,” Via said. “This mission would not have been possible without the relationships that were developed and invested in with our strategic materiel stakeholders.”

The successes were enabled coordination and relationships between Department of Defense and Army agencies, as well as industry partners, according to Via.

The successes of reset are measurable. The procedures and processes established by retrograde and reset allowed more than 50 percent of the equipment

coming from Iraq to be funneled to support the surge in Afghanistan.

Two key elements within the reset process are the data used to power retrograde and reset and the actual transportation arm to execute it.

Maj. Gen. Kevin Leonard, commander of the Military and Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, addressed the transportation piece.

“At SDDC, we answer the fundamental question: Where’s my stuff?” he began. “Whether it’s your household goods, or an MRE (Meal Ready to Eat) – where’s my stuff. It’s central to everything we’re doing and incredibly important as we re-posture, redeploy, reset the United States Army.

“We have to sustain this effort, in some ways modify what we’ve done with responsible reset task force to help us work the next mission which is redeployment and the return of forces from Afghanistan,” Leonard said. “We have to achieve that strategic velocity – and as far as SDDC is concerned, we will continue to deliver that trust and sustain our forces in combat.”

James Dwyer, deputy chief of staff for AMC’s G4, explained the information used to power the retrograde and reset process.

“We can see inside of the depots with the logistics modernization program and now we can see inside of the DOLs through LIW, the Logistics Information Warehouse.” Dwyer said. “The secretary of the Army designated the LIW as the single authoritative logistics repository for data because of that we can now get data and see ourselves in the DOLs (Di-

rectorate of Logistics) and in our maintenance facilities, in our arsenals, and depots to generate combat power. That’s what we are here to do.”

Dwyer further explained AMC’s new ability to track the BCTs (Brigade Combat Team) as they travel through the ARFORGEN cycle (Army Force Generation) and identify excess and storages in materiel.

“We have web-based systems where we can see it, DA (Department of Army) can see it, and the unit can see it. That is a huge step forward. We are globally linked. That is the advantage of what we bring to the battlefield in AMC,” he said.

Outcomes of retrograde and reset are apparent in the numbers.

“When resetting and recapping the Humvee began at Red River Army Depot in Texas, only one a week was completed. In 2009, we were doing one (Humvee) every 15 minutes,” Dwyer said. “More than one million weapons have been repaired with the use of SARET (Small Arms Readiness Teams) teams.”

SARET teams are expeditionary repair teams – complete with mechanics, parts and tools – that meet with the unit to repair their weapons, helmets and sensors.

“A SARET team can do a brigade’s worth of weapons – more than 6,000 weapons – and repair them in less than a month,” Dwyer said. “At the beginning of the war, the DOLs had that mission and it took them an excess of nine months to do.”

“At the end of the day, that enabled Soldiers to return home to their families,” Via said. “We had a saying over there (deployed): ‘We don’t mind having frustrated cargo that we have to figure out, but we don’t want to frustrate a Soldier.’ If we have the processes in place that are user friendly to turn in equipment, then he or she is going to do that responsibly and that’s what we call responsible reset.”

Black Hawks join fight against drug traffic in Mexico

By **RANDY TISOR**
PEO Aviation Public Affairs

William Brownfield, assistant secretary of state for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State, accepted delivery of two UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters during a Friday afternoon ceremony at the Aviation and Missile Research and Development Center Prototype Integration Facility.

The helicopters are slated to be transferred to the government of Mexico where the UH-60Ms will support the Federal Police of Mexico with mobility, interdiction, search and rescue and communications capabilities.

Brownfield stressed the Mexican government's need for the aircraft.

"The 100 million people of Mexico are being pretty badly battered. Thousands and thousands of Mexican citizens are dying every year due to drug (related) violence," he said. The Black Hawks represented some of the law enforcement tools and equipment provided to the Mexican government to curb and contain the violence.

"Better security and better law enforcement in Mexico," Brownfield said, "is



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

William Brownfield, assistant secretary of state for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, U.S. Department of State, talks with utility helicopters project manager Col. Thomas Todd during Friday's ceremony commemorating the final transfer of the last two modified UH-60M Black Hawks to the Department of State.

good for the United States of America."

Less crime there, he added, translated into a lot less crime north of the border.

To fight that crime, the Black Hawks

were modified to fulfill specific law enforcement needs of the Mexican Federal Police under a design, build and test program managed by the UH-60M Product Office in coordination with the PIF, the Aviation Engineering Directorate and the Redstone Test Center.

Col. Thomas Todd, utility helicopters project manager under the Program Executive Office for Aviation, praised the efforts of the various teams involved in the modification project.

"The aircraft before you," he said, "demonstrate how the Army team can cooperate with the Department of State and our industry partners to produce quality products on time and within budget constraints."

Todd added that "it is our nation's responsibility and my duty to provide our war fighters with the technologies and systems they will use to combat our enemies. In today's complex world, not all of our war fighters wear the U.S. Army uniform."

Some of the modifications made to the Black Hawks include external rescue hoists, emergency locator transmitters, satellite based communication systems, enhanced

ground proximity warning systems, Trakka-beam searchlights and custom exterior paint.

The first group of three UH-60s was delivered in November 2010, completing phase one of the program. A second group of three UH-60s included delivery of a fourth helicopter last November. The fifth and sixth Black Hawks delivered during Friday's ceremony marked the final phase of the program.

The delivery also marked another milestone in the Merida Initiative partnership between the United States and Mexico. The Merida Initiative is a program of cooperation that recognizes the shared responsibilities of the two countries to counter drug-fueled violence on both sides of the shared border.

The ceremony was hosted by Todd and the Utility Helicopters Project Office.

"This has been an amazing success story," Patti Martin, director of the AMRDEC Engineering Directorate, said. "A story where the U.S. government collaborates across departments. It started with the collaboration between the Department of State and the Army working together to efficiently obtain the best available technology, to get the best capability to assure execution of our foreign policies in support of the Mexican government."

SoldierStory

Military attorneys remember one of their own

Conference room dedicated to fallen Soldier's memory

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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Members of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate have ensured a fallen comrade will always be remembered.

On Feb. 21 they dedicated a conference room in their office at building 111 to the memory of former Redstone attorney Capt. Laura Matejik Eberts, who drowned March 21, 2011 while on her honeymoon in Argentina.

"We will never leave a fallen comrade behind," Col. David Crawford, the staff judge advocate, said of one of the responsibilities of an Army leader.

"And so today we want to do our duties, to discharge our duties, and make sure that Capt. Eberts is not left behind," he said.

The room was dedicated as the Eberts Conference Room in a ceremony which included the unveiling of a commemoration placard, candle lighting and reading of a



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Capt. Derek Eichholz, chief of military justice, reads aloud the commemoration. At right are Maj. Carla Peters, the deputy staff judge advocate, and Capt. Dimitri Facaros, legal assistance attorney.

commemoration.

Eberts reported to Redstone in August 2008 and worked as a legal assistance attorney, special assistant U.S. attorney and the chief of justice for the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. The Mechanicsville,



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Col. David Crawford, the staff judge advocate, and Maj. Carla Peters, deputy SJA, emplaced the commemoration placard on the conference room door.

Pa., native was a member of the Redstone Arsenal Ten-Miler Team and deployed to Afghanistan.

She is survived by her husband, Capt. Robert Eberts; her parents, Joseph and Karen Matejik; and two sisters: Christina, who is serving in the Air Force, and Jessica, an officer in the Army Veterinarian Corps.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Brig. Gen. John W. Miller II, the Army's assistant judge advocate general for military law and operations, speaks during the dedication ceremony.

Brig. Gen. John W. Miller II, the Army's assistant judge advocate general for military law and operations, was among the ceremony's attendees, some of whom were here on business from Washington, D.C. He complimented the office on the ceremony and reminded everyone to cherish each day of their lives.

"Make sure you're leading a blessed life," Miller said.

SMDC says farewell to senior civilian leader

By JASON CUTSHAW

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Members of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command bade adieu to a leader who served the Army in and out of uniform for 36 years during a retirement ceremony Friday.

Dr. Steven Messervy, deputy commander of SMDC/ARSTRAT, came to the command in November 2008 as a member of the Senior Executive Service in the position of deputy for research, development and acquisition.

"I am proud of what we have accomplished together here at SMDC," Messervy said. "We have shed a lot of blood, sweat and tears working on systems that are designed to protect our troops. As I move on to the next thing, I will always be thankful for the time I spent here."

Messervy came to SMDC from his former position as general manager of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization-Medium Extended Air Defense System Management Agency based in Huntsville. While at SMDC, Messervy has been at the forefront of the command's mission to provide trained and ready space and missile defense capabilities, build future space and missile defense forces and research, test, and integrate space, missile defense, directed energy, and related technologies.

"We have accomplished many things here at SMDC," he said. "The people here are doing great things to protect our Soldiers and our nation as a whole. SMDC is continuing a tradition of excellence and the future looks bright."

SMDC's top leader spoke about what Messervy has meant to the Army and especially to the command.

"Dr. Messervy has served his country in and out of uniform for 36 years," Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, SMDC commander, said. "He has brought operational, leadership, management and acquisition skills to this command which he has served for three years. He has served the command well as



Courtesy photo

Dr. Steven Messervy, deputy commander of SMDC/ARSTRAT, speaks at a Space and Missile Defense Conference. He retired Friday after 36 years of service.

the deputy – as our senior civilian – and as our senior acquisition officer.

"The command is all about providing capabilities to the military and developing a work force of public servants. Dr. Messervy has been central to both of those efforts."

Formica also talked about what kind of impact Messervy's retirement will have on SMDC.

"His retirement will change the senior leadership and the command," Formica said. "We have recently streamlined the command. We've just changed the chief of staff and we tragically lost Mr. George Snyder. The combination of these four changes will impact the senior leadership and the command."

"The replacement process has begun – I'm confident we'll find someone with the right leadership, management, operational and technical qualifications to assume the role of deputy. But we'll miss Steve's steady leadership and broad operational and technical experience."

Formica mentioned Messervy's leadership and how he led by example in all that he did. The general also wished him well in his future endeavors and thanked him for all of his contributions to make SMDC a better place.

"Dr. Messervy transitioned his position from deputy for research, development

and acquisition to the realigned position of deputy to the CG," Formica said. "He established the position – and he has laid the professional groundwork for his successor to contribute in that capacity. Steve has been a great part of the senior leadership and the command for both Lt. Gen. Kevin Campbell and for me.

"He has been a valued member of Team Redstone. And he is an active contributor to the greater Huntsville community. We will miss Donna and him in the command but we look forward to their continued contributions to Team Redstone and to the community."

Messervy has more than 30 years experience in the research, development and acquisition business. He served in both major command staff and project offices at both the Missile Command and the Space and Strategic Defense Command. His project office experience was with the Missile Command, Program Executive Office for Air and Missile Defense, and the PEO Aviation.

His experience spans aviation, tactical missile and unmanned aerial systems, electronic/communications, missile defense, space, and strategic defense laser, missile and other technology programs such as Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, Advanced Hypersonic Weapon, Patriot Advanced Capability 3, X-Band Radar and others.

"No matter what I have done, designing and fielding systems that protect our troops makes it all worthwhile," Messervy said. "I remember when a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter pilot came up to me after a deployment and told me how a system we fielded saved him from the certain doom of a missile. He said he saw the missile coming at him and there was nothing he could do to avoid it. He then noticed as the missile got closer it wiggled a little then veered off."

"That pilot came up to us and shook our hands to thank us for saving his life. That makes everything I have done worth it."

Taking after his father, Lavon, who was a

Pershing missile officer and served in Huntsville, Germany and other duty stations, Messervy served in the Army Reserves for 30 years and retired as a colonel in 2008.

While serving and deploying with Soldiers, Messervy said his time in the field helped him better understand what the troops needed and went through when he returned to his "real" job.

"Being in the Reserves was very complementary because of my direct dealings with the Soldiers and then working on the operational side of the Army was very helpful," Messervy said. "From an operational perspective, in this command we have more than 850 Soldiers deployed all over the world so we are an operational command and I have at least one 'green leg' to stand on and understand how operations work. That to me has been very beneficial and I have always been able to connect with our Soldiers."

As Messervy and his wife of 38 years, Donna, prepare to take the next step in their journey, he said how a supportive family made his career more enjoyable and that he could not have accomplished what he did without his wife and children.

"It really takes a good partner in life to do this," Messervy said. "If you are going to travel and deploy, there is always someone who has to pick up the slack and do more. I have been very lucky to have a very supportive family."

Messervy took time to talk about the friends and colleagues he has worked with throughout the years and how they will never be forgotten.

"One of the things that really stand out a lot for me is the opportunity I've had to work with a lot of super people," Messervy said. "Pretty much all of my experiences at Redstone Arsenal have been great because of the people who have stepped up and done the work."

"And here at SMDC especially, I will miss working with some real world-class folks. We have some really good people here, doing some pretty awesome things on a daily basis."

Military retirement lecture a 'must see' event

The Transition Assistance Program, Military Personnel Division, Directorate of Human Resource, Garrison, is sponsoring a once-a-year lecture regarding transition here at Redstone Arsenal.

"Marketing Yourself for a Second Career," presented by the Military Officers Association of America, is scheduled March 14 from 9-11 a.m. at the Challenger Activity Center, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road.

This top-shelf presentation is a professional development opportunity. Transition is of course ultimately a part of all military careers. Therefore, the lecture is perfect for those who are contemplating retirement in

one to five years, and for those that have recently retired within the last couple of years. However, it doesn't stop there. Regardless of whether any particular officer or senior enlisted member has reached the point of being in their own transition, they should be educated about the process in order to mentor and counsel those who work for them and are contemplating or going through their transitions. This "executive summary" presentation can prepare them for that role as well as many multi-day programs. It's a great fit for any commander, officer or senior enlisted supervisor – from the most senior, to the most junior.

The lecture will be given by retired Air Force Col. Brian Anderson, now a deputy director of transition services on MOAA's national staff. The presentation, given annually at more than 150 military installations of all services worldwide, is universally praised by audiences as "up-to-date, hard-hitting and sharply focused – a must see."

It includes comprehensive information on the retirement decision itself, employer perceptions, your competition, resumes, cover letters, job search, networking, career fairs, interview techniques, salary negotiation, benefits packages, the current job market, and other relevant and important

transition topics.

The presentation is geared toward officers and senior enlisted, but those of all ranks are welcome. Spouses are encouraged to attend as well. All who attend will receive a free copy of the lecture's companion book, also titled "Marketing Yourself for a Second Career." It is an in-depth, all-in-one resource for the transition process.

For more information, call Barbara Moudy, chief of the Transition Point, at 313-6481, email barbara.moudy@us.army.mil; or call Luis Ortega, chief of the Military Personnel Office, at 842-2418, email luis.ortega@us.army.mil. (MILPO release)

ATF provides demolition course for Team Redstone

By BETH SKARUPA

Staff writer

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The people who work with explosives on Redstone Arsenal are now receiving standardized safety training thanks to the team work of the Garrison Safety Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

With so many different tenant organizations on the Arsenal, there were some gaps in the training that people had received in the use of explosives to destroy something. They needed to be trained in the latest safety methods, so the Garrison Safety Office's explosive safety specialist Dennis Wheeler turned to ATF.

ATF agreed to provide four basic demolition courses for free, resulting in a \$72,000 savings for Redstone Arsenal. By the time the last course takes place in March, 48 people will have received safety training that usually costs \$1,500 per person. It made sense to turn to ATF rather than a private corporation because the Arsenal is home to the ATF National Center for Explosives Training and Research.

"It's all about being a good neighbor.



Photo by Beth Skarupa

Nicole Hicks, a propulsion safety environmental coordinator for Redstone Test Center at Test Area 5, carefully combines two non-explosive components to make an explosive one during her demolition course as an assistant instructor watches at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives firing range Thursday.

Because the base has given us so much, it's just our way of giving back to them and in as much of a whole-government approach," special agent Jeff Groh, chief of ATF's Explosives Training Branch,

said. "I think it works out very well and I think it's a great idea. Everybody on Redstone works together as a team and they train together. Now everybody understands what to do and they've all had the same training. Dennis had a great idea."

The demolition class explains the difference in different types of commercial explosives, what those explosives may be used for, the safe handling of those explosives, and understanding firing trains and how to make explosives explode. It lasts two days and is a mix of classroom and range work.

"A lot of the people in these classes already understand the properties of explosives, but they don't understand sometimes how we in our field handle explosives. So we're just trying to give them a safety class, basically, of how to safely handle and destroy explosives by various means," Groh said.

The course's range work, because of the way ATF operates, includes the help of the Florence Police Department Bomb Squad, the Alabama State Patrol Bomb Squad, and the Huntsville Bomb Squad. Fox Army Health Center also helps by providing a medic. The bomb squads provide members who are assigned to each person in the class. They go out on the range with their assigned individual and help them understand the firing train, set up the explosive shots, and fire them on the range.

Nicole Hicks, a propulsion safety environmental coordinator, and Jeff Tunstill, logistics management, both with Redstone Test Center's Test Area 5, attended the basic demolition course last week and were enjoying the range work Thursday morning.

"This is my first time out here. It's been awesome. Actually we deal with ammunition as far as the logistics side of it goes, so understanding what I'm handling does and how it works together is very useful," Hicks said.

Thursday was the first time Tunstill was at the ATF range, too. He said that he has worked on the Arsenal since he was 16 years old, but working with explosives on the range ranked as one of his best days so far.

"I love it. I never got to blow stuff up before," he said. "It's very useful. There's a lot of people who work in the background of things and now they get to see the safety aspect. That's very useful."

Wheeler originally set up the basic demolition course for test area employees. Those working with TOW missiles or different kinds of ordnance sometimes needed to know how to dispose of them safely. Those working with smoke projectiles needed to use small explosives and a blasting cap.

"It's best to have them professionally trained and have that training recorded and have a standard across the board, rather than having someone who's been doing it for 30 years just try to explain how to do it. You can go to any test range now and everybody should follow the same procedures," Wheeler said.

Once the test area people were signed up, other tenant organizations wanted to get their people trained, too. Although the last basic demolition class is already full, Wheeler has a waiting list because ATF may offer a few more of the classes at the end of summer.

"This is a win-win for everyone. We also have unexploded ordnance training upon request. It tells you what to do in case of an emergency. It has worked. We've had employees and hunters find unexploded ordnance and they knew what to do. So the training is working," Mike Moore, Garrison safety manager, said. "The Installation Safety Council on Tuesday stressed that. This is going to be the year of explosive safety."

For more information about the basic demolition course or to request Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) training, call Wheeler at 876-3114.

Unliquidated obligations focus of supply management team

By **DAN O'BOYLE**
For the Rocket

The Supply Chain Management Enterprises' Unliquidated Obligations team is working to achieve what right looks like.

"This is us helping ourselves," team leader Kathlyn Dulaney said. "In the Logistics Modernization Program, good logistics comes with good financing."

To date the team has cleared \$54 million in Unliquidated Obligation dollar values.

Invalid Unliquidated Obligations can occur when materiel that has been ordered and received, but the logistics systems show that the assets have not been received or the accounting systems show that the vendor has not been paid for the services specified in the contract.

"Migrating from legacy databases to the integrated Logistics Modernization Program database has been challenging," Dulaney said. "But we are working to achieve valid receipt and invoice posting in LMP so that Unliquidated Obligation dollar values are accurate."

The migration of contract data from the Commodity Command Standard System has required AMCOM's Inte-

grated Materiel Management Center employees to account for the fact that an LMP transaction creates a financial transaction as well.

"Therefore, invalid undelivered orders and invalid accounts payable entries produce invalid Unliquidated Obligation dollar values," Dulaney said. "We have created a guide that will simplify and unveil the mystery associated with validating the undelivered order portion of an Unliquidated Obligation dollar value, clear invalid materiel due ins and identify invalid invoice receipts."

Team members include Thomas Stutzman, Debbie Auton, Mary Dailey, Wanda Nall, Susan Oshel, Catherine Hendrix Jones, Penny Robertson, April Willis, Linda Murphy Wesley Jones, Pamela Stewart, Josie Minnon, Phyllis Brock, Lori Harting and Portia Kelly. It has members from the Aviation and Missile Command, the Army Contracting Command-Redstone and the Defense Contract Management Agency.

All members of the AMCOM workforce are encouraged to visit the Supply Chain Management Enterprise "War Room" on the second floor of building 5301, as well as visit <http://tinyurl.com/TransformingAMCOM>.

Courtesy photo

Speaker appreciated

Lisa Lowry, president of the American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter, presents U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks with a certificate of appreciation for being keynote speaker during the local Mini Professional Development Institute.



Courtesy photo

Motivational outreach

AMCOM protocol specialist Priscilla Sanders gives a motivational speech on choices to students at Huntsville High School. The presentation focused on outside influences and not letting the negative influences invade your life. Sanders spoke as part of the AMCOM Army Education Outreach Program.



Leader of federal agency visits Huntsville, Phoenix

By DAVE PERSON

For the Rocket

It's not every day that the highest ranking official at one of the nation's most important federal agencies visits Huntsville. But that's exactly what happened last week when Tina Ballard arrived.

Ballard is the executive director of the AbilityOne Commission, an independent federal agency that facilitates the purchase of products and services from nonprofit affiliates of NISH and the National Industries for the Blind. Both NISH and NIB serve people with a wide range of disabilities.

Every year, AbilityOne and its affiliates save taxpayers millions of dollars by helping people with disabilities to be independent, taxing workers who reduce or eliminate their reliance on the social safety net. Phoenix and the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind are the two AbilityOne-affiliated nonprofits that operate in north Alabama.

"Phoenix wouldn't exist without AbilityOne," Phoenix CEO Bryan Dodson said. "We served 1,204 people with disabilities last year through jobs, job placement and various rehabilitation services. We couldn't have done any of that without the direction and support of AbilityOne under Tina Ballard's excellent leadership."

Ballard spent three days in Huntsville. She visited the Alabama Industries for the Blind base supply center on Redstone Arsenal, where she was greeted by Brig. Gen. John Wharton, chief of staff of the Army Materiel Command. She also toured Phoenix's headquarters and plant, and spoke at the Defense Acquisition University.

During her tour of Phoenix, Ballard seemed especially impressed with the manufacturing of burial flags, the centerpiece of Phoenix's plant operations.

"It's very important that they make the flags," Ballard said. "It touches me. It's an honorable service."

Prior to her work at the AbilityOne Commission, Ballard spent her career supporting



Courtesy photo

Tina Ballard, executive director of the AbilityOne Commission, tours manufacturing of burial flags, the centerpiece of Phoenix's plant operations. At right is Wes Tyler, Phoenix's vice president of manufacturing.

the men and women in uniform. She began her career as a contract specialist at Wright-Patterson Air Force base before becoming the Air Force's principal administrative contracting officer in Wichita, Kan., working with Boeing Military Airplanes. Ballard became the director of contract operations there before leaving to become the director of Pacific/Caribbean Contract Operations in the Defense Contract Management Agency International.

Ballard has also been a liaison to the Air Force Materiel Command, the director of combat support operations, the deputy executive director of contract management operations in the DCMA, and the deputy assistant secretary of the Army for policy and procurement.

Her 30 years of service have given Ballard a clear understanding of the importance of procuring high-quality goods and services for this nation. That's why her endorsement of Phoenix and other AbilityOne affiliates is so meaningful.

"There's still the perception that people with disabilities can't do this kind of work," Ballard said while watching Phoenix consumers preparing burial flags for shipment. "This disproves it."

Marshall's cosmic vacuum puts materials to test

Deep space simulation advances composites

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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The quest for lighter, stronger and better materials is going cosmic.

And cosmic is very much a part of the Redstone Arsenal landscape.

In January 2007, NASA directed the design, build and test of a full-scale crew module using carbon-fiber reinforced epoxy-based composite materials. While the directive was given to NASA's Engineering and Safety Center at its Langley Research Center in Virginia, Marshall Space Flight Center's National Center for Advanced Manufacturing was tapped to support the effort. The overall goal of the Composite Crew Module project is to develop a NASA team with hands-on experience in composite design, manufacturing and test, with such experience being used to design space exploration materials using composite materials.

Fast forward five years, and today a composite capsule – shaped just like the Apollo capsules of the 1960s and '70s – is being prepared for testing at Marshall building 4619, where it will be placed in a 20-foot

in diameter vacuum chamber that simulates a deep space habitat. The vacuum chamber will take the test vehicle – a full-scale mockup of the future space-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Marshall Space Flight Center engineers Justin Jackson and Larry Pelham look up out of the shell of the Composite Crew Module that is being prepared for permeability testing at the center's building 4619. Behind and to the left of the capsule is the vacuum chamber that can simulate a deep space habitat for testing.

craft known as Orion – into the harsh conditions of a cosmos environment while keeping it on Earth.

"The challenge of space is trying to reduce cost," Bob Devlin, Marshall's deputy director for center operations, said.

"It costs \$10,000 to \$25,000 a pound to put a payload up in space, and most of the spacecraft we have is from the 1960s. We want to take basic designs from the 1960s and use new lighter materials called composites and new welding techniques. The composite version of the Orion capsule will be the next generation of the Apollo capsule."

Composite materials, which are engineered or naturally occurring materials made of materials with different physical or chemical properties, are being used across industry to develop lighter, stronger and cheaper metals. The Army has incorporated composites in its helicopters, with much work in composite research conducted by the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center. Research findings on composite materials – known as materials property data – are often shared between NASA and the Army.

"It's all about trying to see if we can do things cheaper with composites," Devlin said. "Cheaper, lighter, safer are

the buzz words. But we also have to design to ensure that the composite can carry the weight of the load. There's a lot of testing that still needs to be done."

Devlin said "a team of NASA engineers from across the agency all came together for concept design," but manufacturing and test were delegated to Marshall because of its expertise in advanced manufacturing and composite manufacturing.

"As the manufacturing lead, we came up with the concept and looked at different manufacturing capabilities," said Marshall engineer Larry Pelham, who oversaw the manufacturing effort.

"We worked with Alliant Techsystems Inc. to build the composite capsule at the company's facility in Iuka, Mississippi. We want this to be a shared government and industry project. It involved an eight-month effort for fabrication. Then, it went to Langley for structural testing, and now it is here for leak permeability testing in the vacuum chamber."

The capsule has been designed to fit on the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, which will be NASA's next spacecraft with its first unmanned multi-hour test flight launched aboard a Delta IV Heavy rocket in 2014. The first manned mission will occur after 2020.

Each Orion spacecraft will carry four astronauts. The spacecraft will be used to dock with a Near-Earth object with an eventual mission to Mars.

"The Orion composite capsule is the same basic shape as Apollo, except it is bigger," Pelham said. "The idea is to use it to transport people to the space station or other modules in space, and then go on to somewhere else."

The vacuum chamber testing will involve pumping all air out of the chamber to create deep space. With no air in the chamber, engineers will be able to detect leakage of air (represented by helium gas in the test) from the composite capsule.

"The pressure of space will be simulated to be the same pressurized envelope that astronauts and equipment work in while in space," Pelham said.

The mission of the vacuum chamber tests are two-fold, said Marshall test engineer Bill McMahon.

"Our goal is to show, by and large, the integrity of the composite materials and that they will perform in space," he said. "We also want to come up with processes and techniques to seal the composite materials."

The tests, which will begin in March

and continue for three months, will first search for gross leaks. Once these have been located and repaired, the tests will search for smaller leaks.

"It's one thing to know its leaking, it's another thing to find the leak," McMahon said. "We will go section by section on the capsule to find leaks and then seal them up."

Although composite materials have been used by industry in unmanned launch vehicles, they have yet to be used in launch vehicles that include the human element.

"NASA composites are new as a primary structure," McMahon said. "The space shuttle has a lot of composites, but they have only been used in the secondary role, such as on the shuttle cargo doors. Those doors didn't have to seal off an area where humans were living."

"When you separate humans from the rocket equation you don't have to have the same level of safety as you have to have when human life is at stake."

Besides being lighter and less expensive, composite materials are also renewable, they don't experience the type of corrosion as standard metals, and they don't expand and contract in varying temperatures like other standard metals. It is hoped that composite materials will allow NASA to use each Orion capsule multiple times, much like the space shuttles, and that they will provide the durability for long-duration space flight.

"We are putting together the ability to travel between planets and Orion is very much a part of that," Devlin said. "It will be used as a multi-purpose logistics module to space station, and as an interplanetary spacecraft. Really, in a very practical way, we are talking about how to travel in space."

Composites will also eventually be used in the manufacturing of space habitats.

"NASA engineers and designers are looking at composites as solutions for habitable spacecraft. Industry is interested in this, too," Pelham said. "Testing gives us a better understanding of the materials and how they can be used so that our designers have more options in designing spacecraft."

Eventually, it is hoped NASA will rely on composite materials as much as the Army now relies on them in the design of new and modified helicopters.

"At one time, all military helicopters were made of metals," McMahon said. "But the Army has moved to composites for safety reasons and to minimize corrosion. Composite materials provide us at NASA with the same opportunities."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Mike Lau, a Marshall structural strength engineer, checks for shell buckling – also known as hairline cracks and bulges – on an external tank made of composite materials after undergoing a load test. The test is helping engineers understand how to design with composite materials so that they are able to carry equipment into space.

Technical library supports Redstone missions

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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The literature found on the shelves of the Redstone Scientific Information Center may not make the *New York Times* best-sellers list, but when it comes to defending the nation against the enemy and space exploration, the materials it checks out to the scientists and engineers that use the facility are invaluable.

"It's essential, because any science has to be built on what already has been done," Gloria Miller, acting director of RSIC, said. "Basic physics concepts have been around, it's been researched, but like the new Ares rocket is being based on the older rockets, well that was based on something else, and that was based on other principles. All science builds on itself. If you've got something wrong somewhere, and you try to build something else on top of it, it won't work. You have to verify what was done before and then build on it."

Since 1962, the Redstone Scientific Information Center has supported the mission of Redstone Arsenal, serving as the science and technology library for the engineers, scientists and other researchers whose organizations are based on post. Funded largely in part by AMRDEC and NASA, as well as many other organizations on the Arsenal, a wide range of topics are available at RSIC, located in building 4484 off Martin Road, in the building just north of Garrison headquarters. Hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday on the first floor, where open literature is available. Documents, including technical and government reports, located on the third floor, is open Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. to

3:30 p.m. Friday. The library is closed weekends and federal holidays.

DoD or MSFC employees, or contractors with current DoD or MSFC contracts for those government organizations assigned to Redstone Arsenal or Huntsville, may register to use the library in person, or by downloading the registration form available at <https://rsic.redstone.army.mil> and faxing it to 876-6000.

"Many scientists on Redstone have found that RSIC is a valuable resource in locating information they need," research librarian Elizabeth Lloyd said. "We frequently hear from customers how pleased they are with results of our research."

Whether it's infrared detectors, molecular electronics or nanophysics, RSIC can help with your research. Librarians assist patrons in obtaining materials on a variety of topics, including aviation, helicopter specifications, space exploration, tanks, military capabilities, microorganisms on Mars and even dolphins. Technical reports and other government documents are available on the third floor, where classified and unclassified documents, such as those relating to rocket and missile development on the Arsenal, are kept. The third floor is considered to be "closed stacks"; customers cannot browse the collection on their own, but rather, librarians research the material and release them on a need to know basis to those individuals that have been cleared to access such materials. Customers can request materials through the "Ask a Librarian" feature on the RSIC website.

"This is what we are here for – we're the researchers," said Ginny Navarro, a research librarian on the third floor. "The engineers' job is to take the information and data we find for them and synthesize it for effective application."



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Gloria Miller, acting director of the Redstone Scientific Information Center, assists Courtney Kerr, a NASA contractor, at the science and technology library.

In addition to documents on the third floor and the books and journals that are available for 30-day checkout on the first floor, customers also have access to a variety of online databases right from the comforts of their own desk, including the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Aviation Week Intelligence Network, Military Periscope and ProQuest. The library catalog is also available online, through RSIC's website. Additional online features include interlibrary loan – the extensive collection allows patrons to obtain 95 percent of anything they'd want within the United States, as well as a large portion available worldwide – and electronic books. Library staff will also go out to individual offices across the Arsenal to teach employees how to use the resources available at RSIC.

"Libraries are a good return on investment," Miller said. "We buy the databases, we buy this for everyone, we're the expert in searching databases. We can do a good return on investment while the researcher can

then go and spend more time in the lab, on computer programs, or whatever it is they are doing, and then we can give them the information they need. It's a more cost effective use of their time, as well as ours."

As research methods have largely gone online, RSIC has noticed a change in the way their patrons use their resources, but not necessarily a decrease in demand. While foot traffic in fiscal 2011 was only 2,480 walk ins, 122,407 items were viewed online.

"Library models are changing and it's now more delivery to the desktop," Miller said. "They don't have to come to the library, they can email the library and they can get to the databases themselves directly, they just need their library account."

Through the resources available through the library, researchers can also verify what they may have found online through search engines such as Google or may find items available for free through the library that they might otherwise have to pay for during an Internet search. But perhaps the greatest resource of all RSIC provides the Redstone community is time – by turning over research questions to the facility's eight librarians, all who have master's degrees in library science, engineers and scientists can continue to work the problem while the librarians help them obtain the information they need that may have the answer.

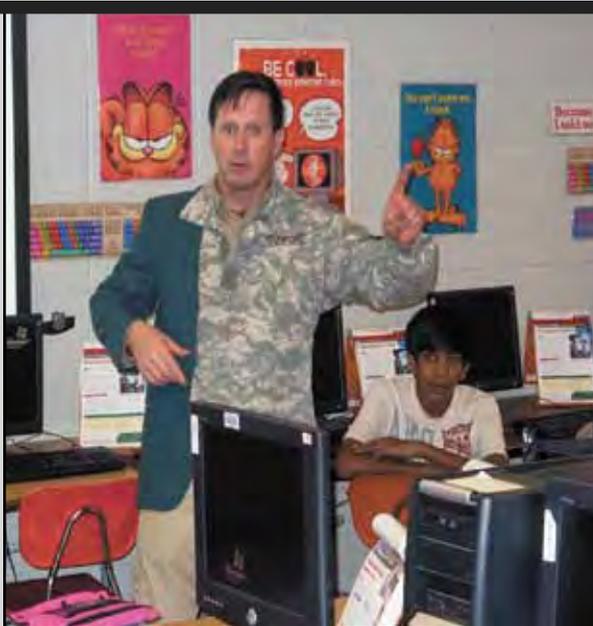
"An engineer's time is very valuable. If they know what they're doing and they want to go in and find something, perfect, we'll show them how to use it," Miller said. "If they can't find it and they spend more than 15 minutes looking, send it to us and we'll find it as they go on to the next project."

For more information, visit <https://rsic.redstone.army.mil> or call 876-5195 or 876-5181.

Courtesy photo

Half and half

Russ Dunford, assistant product manager for Aviation Ground Support Equipment Product Office, speaks to Business Tech Essentials students at Mountain Gap Middle School. Dunford wears a jacket that is half-sport-coat/half-military uniform to show the multiple roles many government employees play at Redstone Arsenal. He spoke as part of the AMCOM Army Education Outreach Program.



Army photo

Observation post

Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, and Afghan National Army soldiers prepare to board a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter Feb. 8 at Observation Post Mangol in the Nari district, Kunar province, Afghanistan.

Research center team earns manufacturing honor

Members of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center's Low Cost Zinc Sulfide Missile Dome Manufacturing Technology Program have received the Defense Manufacturing Excellence Award.

The National Center for Advanced Technologies gives the Defense Manufacturing Excellence Award annually to a small working group in the defense manufacturing community that has made outstanding contributions to furthering manufacturing science and technology in the United States. The award acknowledges the contributions of those scientists, designers, engineers or managers of manufacturing who have sought to research, develop or practice ways and means to increase productivity, affordability or technical superiority of U.S. defense systems.

The team, managed by Anthony Haynes, lead general engineer and program manager, Manufacturing Technology Branch, Manufacturing Science and Technology Division of the Engineering Directorate, consisted of fellow AMRDEC scientists and engineers and members of the Raytheon Company. They earned the award for their work with zinc sulfide materials.

"Beginning in 2005, the Affordability and Manufacturing Engineering Team of the Manufacturing Science and Technology Division collaborated with other directorates in AMRDEC to identify cost drivers within dual and tri-mode seeker systems. The largest component cost driver was found to be the zinc sulfide optical dome, which is the missile's window to the battlefield, passing the optical wavelengths of interest inside to the seeker," Haynes said.

After further investigation, AMRDEC engineers and



Courtesy photo

During the Defense Manufacturing Conference held in Anaheim, Calif., Anthony Haynes (center), program manager for the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center's Low Cost Zinc Sulfide Missile Dome Manufacturing Technology Program, and Dr. Teresa Clement, of Raytheon Missile Systems, receive the Defense Manufacturing Excellence Award from Rick Jarman, of the National Center for Manufacturing Sciences.

scientists discovered the dome cost issues were solely related to manufacturing processes. The AMRDEC team, with members from Haynes' Engineering Directorate and two other directorates were involved in a tradeoff analysis which included cost, dome thickness, quality and transmission.

"Team members from the Weapons Science Directorate contributed with optical materials science expertise; Systems Simulation and Development Directorate personnel performed specific missile simulations to support the dome program and prove different manufacturing methods would not interfere with performance," Haynes said.

Their work addressed all aspects of the entire life cycle of the missile dome and achieved significant engineering results and cost savings.

"The team incorporated applied physics, chemistry, materials science, and manufacturing engineering to derive state of the art processes for growing and finishing zinc sulfide material that is stronger, safer, more efficient and affordable," Haynes said. "Together, our efforts produced a 25 percent yield improvement, 65 percent lead time improvement, 45 percent strength enhancement and 65 percent cost reduction overall."

Applications for this technology include the Joint Air to Ground Missile, the Small Diameter Bomb II, the Modernized Target Acquisition Designation Sight/Pilot Night Vision Sensor, and the Javelin man-portable anti-tank missile.

Ultimately, the benefit to the war fighter is immeasurable wherever they may be deployed.

"For missiles that use zinc sulfide, higher level kill ratios can now be obtained due to the elimination of ZnS abrasion, and achieve better performance in rain and snow environments," Haynes said.

Founded in 2002, the National Center for Advanced Technologies is a non-profit research and education foundation established to provide a bridge between government, industry and academia, and to encourage cooperative efforts on technology development. (AMRDEC release)

Energy

continued from page 7

will it take for an investment in energy efficiency to pay for itself in energy cost savings? Do the energy-saving measures provide additional benefits that are important to you – for example, increased comfort from installing double-paned, efficient windows? How long do you plan to own your current home? Can you do the job yourself or do you need a contractor? What is your budget? How much time do you have for maintenance and repairs?

Planning smart purchases and home improvements will maximize your energy efficiency and save you the most money.

Other possible factors

Other factors that may affect your energy bill include smart meters and a smarter power grid, and time-based electricity rates.

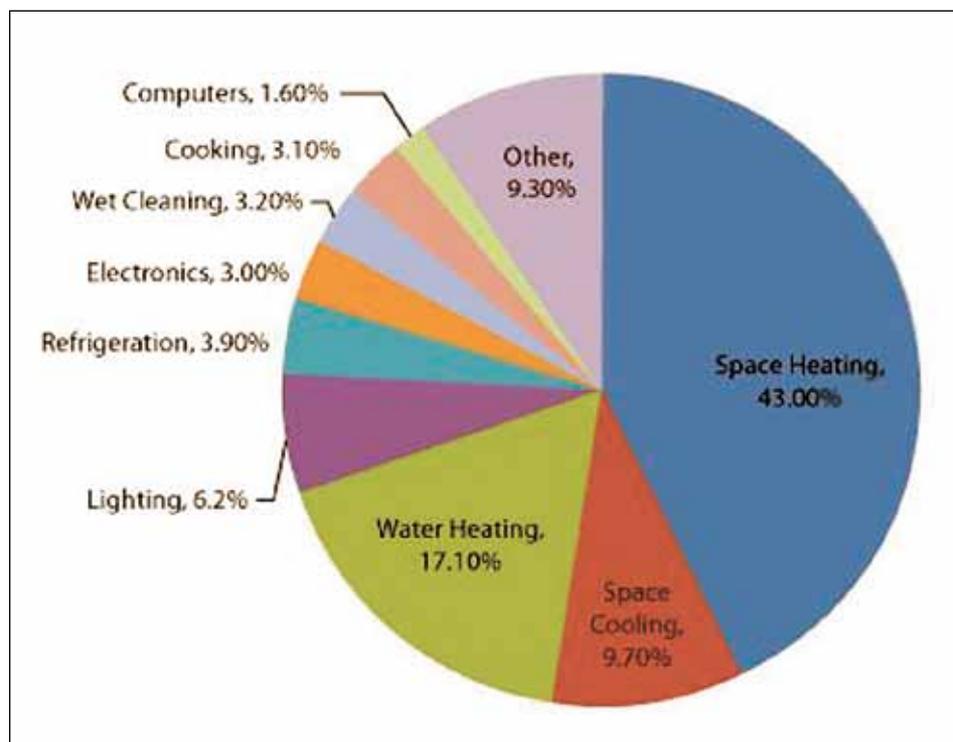
Millions of smart meters have been installed across the country. Smart meters provide two-way communication between you and your utility, helping your utility know about blackouts, for example. This helps utilities to maintain more reliable electrical service. Smart meters allow the utility to take meter readings automatically and remotely which improves the accuracy over manual meter reading. Smart meters

can be used with home energy management systems such as web-based tools that your utility provides or devices that can be installed in your home. Smart meters can display your home energy use, help you find ways to save energy and money, and even allow you to remotely adjust your thermostat or turn appliances off.

To help reduce their peak power demands and save money, many utilities are introducing programs that encourage their customers to use electricity during off-peak hours. The programs pass on the savings to you, the customer, through rebates or reduced electricity rates. It also helps the utility company avoid the capital expense of building new power generation facilities.

Smart meters and home energy management systems allow customers to program how and when their home uses energy. Such programs might charge you the actual cost of power at any one time, ranging from high prices during times of peak demand to low prices during off-peak hours. If you are able to shift your power use to off-peak times – such as running your dishwasher late in the evening – these programs can save you money while helping your utility.

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



Courtesy graphic

Heating accounts for the biggest portion of your utility bills. The source for this chart is the 2010 Buildings Energy Data Book, Table 2.1.6 2010 Residential Energy End-Use Splits, by Fuel Type.

Bingo

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member, as long as the membership program chosen includes Challenger Bingo.

An added benefit to FMWR membership is that discounts of up to 10 percent are offered for Challenger Bingo. The FMWR sponsored guest program membership allows a current member to sponsor up to three people who are not currently part of the Redstone community. More information about the various memberships can be found on the FMWR website at www.redstonemwr.com.

Several patrons of the Challenger Bingo program have been coming to the bingo activity center at its present location at 1500 building on Weeden Mountain Road for more than 20 years. Mila, who preferred not to use her last name, said she remembers when the building was an NCO Club and people would line up outside the doors to get in, especially on weekends.

"I worked here before. Twenty years ago I used to run the bingo and I was a supervisor. Now I come out to play once in a while," she said. "It's good. The people have got a good personality and it's good management."

Another regular patron, Yvonne (who also preferred not to use her last name), said she likes people who come out to support the club and who do so often to really support it. She has been a Challenger Bingo supporter since 1994. She has not won a big prize, but she said she is optimistic that she will one day.

"It's like a big family here. Everybody knows everybody, everybody roots for everybody, and there isn't a lot of animosity," she said. "And they've got a good crew here. They take good care of us, they bring us water and coffee when we want it, and they take our money too."

Bingo 24 can be played on Challenger Bingo's handheld electronic bingo games or on its GameTech units. Pictures and information about these bingo units can be

found on the Redstone FMWR website at www.redstonemwr.com. Bingo 24 hours are Tuesday through Thursday 3-9:30 p.m., Friday 3-10:15 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-5:15 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and closed Monday.

Regular session bingo can be played with Challenger Bingo's paper bingo cards or on the handheld electronic bingo games. Hours for session bingo are Tuesday through Friday, with cards on sale at 5:15 p.m. and games starting at 6:45 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, cards go on sale at 12:15 p.m. and games start at 1:45 p.m., and closed Monday.

"For our session bingo, we run a 22 game session, we average over \$5,000 in nightly payouts, and we have an average of 75 people playing on any given night," Isbill said. "We have a lot of extra values that are built into our program to help our patronage and to help people maybe have better odds of winning too."

Quickshot Bingo also can be played at Challenger Bingo, as well as at the Links, Weeden Mountain Grill, Outdoor Recreation, Redstone Lanes and the Sparkman Cafeteria. The handheld electronic bingo games are available for play at Redstone Lanes and at the Firehouse Pub.

The "Luck of the Irish Bingo Extravaganza" is the biggest Challenger Bingo program of the year, with more than \$13,000 of guaranteed prizes in its session bingo. This year the event will be on St. Patrick's Day, March 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Electronic bingo begins at 10 a.m. and the bingo session begins at 1:45 p.m. Free green beer (for those 21 and over) and extra door prizes will be available. Tickets are on sale now through March 15 at Challenger Bingo for \$100 per person. Tickets will increase to \$150 March 16-17. Ticket sales will be limited to the first 200 patrons, with the first 100 guaranteed a computer.

"If anyone who hasn't been here before wants to come through the doors and play Bingo, I strongly encourage people to give me a call on my cell phone at 698-8912 and ask me if they have any

ter-Redstone (Early Bird Award), Security Assistance Command, Army Materiel Command, Command and General Staff School (Early Bird Award), Army Contracting Command-Redstone, Army Contracting Command, Transportation Security Administration, Defense Acquisition University (Early Bird Award), National Weather Service, 2nd Recruiting Brigade (Early Bird Award), Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, Program Executive Office for Aviation, Criminal Investigation Division; Bravo Company, 308th Military Intelligence Battalion, 902nd MI Group (Early Bird Award); TMDE Program Director (Early Bird Award), Air Warrior Product Office, and Aircraft Survivability Equipment Project Office (Early Bird Award).

questions about our program," Isbill said. "When you come in, you can grab me or Terri (Luker) or Anna (Wesseling) or any of our operations assistants and we'll be happy to walk you through our program and some of the different options that are available to play."

Challenger Bingo has a snack room which serves a variety of items from personal pizzas and chicken fingers to egg rolls, salads, and french fries. Beer, wine and Pepsi products are also for sale in the snack room. Free water, caffeinated and decaffeinated coffee and popcorn are available every night. Both smoking and nonsmoking areas for playing bingo are available at the activity center. The smoking area is on its own air handler so that the smoke does not enter any other parts of building.

"I think we've got a really interesting program here. We're very competitive with any of the other military installations. As a mat-

ter of fact, all of the installations I've seen have absolutely fantastic programs. ... Of course me being me, I'm partial to mine," Isbill said.

He noted that more emphasis is being placed on electronic bingo in order to appeal to upcoming generations of bingo players. To this end, Challenger Bingo will be hosting its first electronic bingo competition on April 20.

"We try to treat all our patrons like family and do our very best to make sure all their needs are met as we move forward," Isbill said. "I really appreciate how great my team is, especially on the new equipment and how great they are with customer service. As a team we go above and beyond to deliver great service."

For more information about Challenger Bingo, call 837-0750/837-0751 or go to the FMWR website at www.redstonemwr.com/recreation.

FMWR

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jogging and toning exercises. For more information, call 876-2943 or 876-6701.

Golf tournament

"St. Patrick's Day March Madness," a two-person mystery format, is March 17 at 9 a.m. at the Links. There will be beer, drinks and corned beef cabbage after the round. Cost is \$50 each plus applicable green fees. For more information, call 883-7977.

St. Patrick's Day bash

The Firehouse Pub will have a St. Patrick's Day Bash on March 16 from 3-10 p.m. The Zooks will perform from

4:30-8 p.m. There will be light hors d'oeuvres, drink specials and green beer. For more information, call 842-0748.

Wine tasting

The international wine tasting is March 16 from 5-9 p.m. at The Summit. Sample select wines from around the world, enjoy a variety of hors d'oeuvres and the door prize drawings. Cost is \$25 per person, and tickets may be purchased at The Summit. Attendees must be age 21 or over. For more information, call 830-2582.

Book sale

The "Books-R-Fun" book sale is March 6-8 from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sparkman Cafeteria. For more information, call 876-8741.

Campaign

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Accountability Office (Early Bird Award), Corps of Engineers, Defense Contract Management Agency (Early Bird Award), Redstone Exchange (Early Bird Award), Dental Clinic Command (Early Bird Award), U.S. Postal Service-Athens, Airborne Battle Command-Program Support Office (Early Bird Award), Blue Force Tracking-Aviation, Social Security Administration-Decatur (Early Bird Award), Defense Logistics Agency-Huntsville (Early Bird Award), Defense Military Pay Office (Early Bird Award), Army Signal Network Enterprise Cen-



JROTC formal

Bob Jones High JROTC cadet Col. Garius Nabors talks with Madison Mayor Paul Finley and Dr. Julie Finley during the corps' formal ball.

Courtesy photo

Win or Lose

SEC hockey teams compete for Army Strong Cup

Alabama beats Florida
in tournament final

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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The Army had a strong presence during last weekend's South Eastern Collegiate Hockey Conference tournament at the Wilcoxon IcePlex.

Soldier recruiters manned an Army informational table in the lobby while club teams from eight SEC schools competed in the two rinks. The student athletes were battling for the Army Strong Championship Cup.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 James Joyner, a young warrior, was an invited guest. He returned to the states in September after eight months in Afghanistan and is recuperating with the Community Based Warrior Transition Unit at Redstone before rejoining the 20th Special Forces out of Birmingham.

"They asked me to come and accept an award on behalf of the WTU Soldiers," Joyner, 42, of Huntsville, said.

Sgt. 1st Class Scott Reed, of the Huntsville Recruiting Company, presented the championship cup Sunday after the Alabama Frozen Tide beat Florida 7-2 in the final.

"We started early and we had a great first period," said Alabama's fourth-year coach Mike Quenneville, who played at UAH from 1987-89. "The ability for me to play four lines, keep the pressure on them, was huge."

"I'm just very proud of how we played. This is our first SEC championship. I'm just proud of my boys, proud of our fans and all. It's just an awesome feeling to be cham-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Vanderbilt's Brad Pesce (22) scored three goals against Auburn in a 7-3 win Friday night.

pions."

Matt Mayes, a junior center from Huntsville, had one goal and one assist and was named Alabama's player of the match. Zach Dailey had two goals and one assist; and Mark Wysock added two goals. Goalie John Bierchen was named the tournament most valuable player after allowing only two goals in 120 minutes, including Friday's shutout over South Carolina.

"It was awesome," Mayes, a junior center from Huntsville, said. "It was just an unbelievable experience, something I'll never forget."

Alabama (30-10-1) went up 2-0 in the first period on two shots from the slot. Mayes scored at 15:23 with an assist from Dailey. Alex Dubrinsky bounced the puck over Florida goalie Jake Lewis at 16:49 with assists from Kenneth Grabeldinger and Tanner Himmelman.

The Frozen Tide went up 3-0 at 1:25 into the second period on Dailey's goal. Wysock scored a power-play goal at 8:14 with assists

from Himmelman and Clay Link.

The Gators (18-6) cut their deficit to 4-1 with a power-play goal at 9:28 by Michael Dutka, assisted by Scott Schilson and Zach Roesch. Florida got closer with Roesch's power-play goal at 10:35 on assists from Scott Schwartz and Michael Jugan.

Alabama's Christian Edge made it 5-2 at 12:37 in the second. Wysock got a power-play goal at 10:56 in the third with assists from Kenny Janssen and Link. Dailey finished the scoring at 14:41 with assists from Mayes and Ryan Barletta.

"They're a good team, just capitalized on pretty much every one of their opportunities. And that's basically it," Florida coach Tracy Jacobson said. "You can't give a good team like that chances we gave them and they buried every one of them."

In the third-place game, Vanderbilt (20-7) won 5-2 over Georgia (9-16-2). Vandy's Ben Ross raced in and scored just to the left of the crease at 2:47 in the first period with an assist from Eliot Rosenfield on the power play. Brad Pesce, assisted by Thomas Trepanier, put the Commodores up 2-0 at 14:25.

Georgia's Peter Kacer cut the deficit to 2-1 at 6:38 in the second period when he raced toward the net from the left side and scored his league-leading 50th goal. He tied the score with his 51st on the power play 23 seconds into the third.

But it was all Vanderbilt after that, including a power-play goal 3:14 by Jordan Zauderer, assisted by Pesce; a goal by Jack Delehey at 12:33; and Ross' second goal of the game at 17:00, assisted by Kyle McCann.

"This team's got a lot of heart," said Ross, named Vandy's player of the match. The sophomore center is from Manchester, Vt.

Vanderbilt coach Thomas Bernstein won the John Hoos Coach of the Year Award

as voted by the club league's coaches. This is his second year leading the Commodores.

"We did a better job of dumping the puck last night and today," Bernstein said. "And we were able to stretch the ice and really get a lot of good scoring chances off that today."

South Carolina blanked Tennessee 10-0 in Saturday's seventh-place game. Ole Miss edged Auburn 5-4 for fifth place. In the semifinals, Florida beat Georgia 4-3 and Alabama defeated Vanderbilt 4-2.

In Friday's first-round games, Vanderbilt's Pesce scored three goals in a 7-3 win over Auburn, Georgia edged Ole Miss 2-1, Alabama blanked South Carolina 5-0 and Florida routed Tennessee 14-3.

"I couldn't have done it without my linemates," said Pesce, a sophomore left wing from Westchester, N.Y. "They really did all the work, I just put the goals in."

The fourth annual tournament was hosted by the Huntsville Sports Commission.

"We've got it for two years right now – this year and next year – and hopefully we're going to make it a long-term relationship," commission director Ralph Stone said.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Members of the Alabama Frozen Tide celebrate with the Army Strong Championship Cup.

Courtesy photo

8-under youth

Coach Kurtrell Jackson's 8-under basketball team went 9-1. The players include, from left, Devin Steen, Curtis Collins, Jeremiah Leatherwood, Caitlyn Carney, Jordan Brown, Jazmy Jackson, Lamont Davis, Jaden Edwards and Quincy Campbell. Standing behind them are assistant coach Curtis Collins and Kurtrell Jackson.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

17-under team

The Redstone Arsenal 17-under basketball team, with only three returning players from last year, went a respectable 5-5 during the regular season. The team jelled to take third place in an ABA tournament Feb. 18. From left, in the front row, are Timothy Brewer, Mark Fitzgerald, Edward L. Little II, Caleb Doss and David Spencer. In the back row are coach David Spencer, Khalil Humphrey, Andre Lewis, Marvin Stewart, Roosevelt Thurman and coach Gregory Knight.



Martial arts program molds young and old

Taekwondo triggers positive lifestyle

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**
Staff writer
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Every time her parents drove past the martial arts sign near their home, little Rachel Hernandez pestered them to let her join. After two years of begging and pleading, they finally gave in to their daughter's requests, neither of them knowing how much the decision would shape her life.

That was 10 years ago, and just as Hernandez has grown from a little girl to a senior at Bob Jones High School in Madison and black belt in Taekwondo, so has the program her parents enrolled her in, the SKIES Unlimited Martial Arts program, Rocket Tae Kwon Do, on post. When "Master" Jeffrey Davis brought the sport of Taekwondo to the installation's Child Youth and School Services in 2002, the 23-year Army veteran held classes for two months with no students, until finally, in the third month, one showed up, and then another, and another. Today, children, teens and adults of all ages and abilities – nearly 50 students in all – meet three times a week to perfect the Korean martial art.

"I really believe that this is a family," said Davis, instructor of the SKIES Unlimited martial arts program. "A lot of these kids probably wouldn't ever get the chance to know each other if they didn't come here. You've got folks here from all walks of life. I know they live in different worlds. We have an opportunity to bring all these people together to form a big family. It's really unbelievable."

Classes meet at the SKIES multi-purpose facility, building 3153, between the Goss Road Child Development Center



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Keith Green, a Rocket Tae Kwon Do student, practices his self-defense techniques.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Kloe Freeman stretches with the rest of her classmates after a SKIES Unlimited Taekwondo class.

and Youth Center, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and Saturdays from 7:30-8:30 a.m. for red and black belts, 8:30-9:30 for all belts. Cost is \$40 per month; no contract or sports physical necessary. The class is for ages 4 and up. For more information, call SKIES director Karvellis Lee at 876-6844.

"We feel that if a kid is involved in extracurricular activities, be it sports or whatever, the chances of them getting involved in activities that are not positive will diminish. We just try to keep them busy," Lee said.

For the students and families that devote their time to Taekwondo however, it's more than just keeping kids out of trouble – it's also a chance for family time. Parents not only watch their children from the sidelines, but are also able to practice right alongside them as students in the class, uniforms and all.

"It's a family atmosphere," Davis said.

"They like being in an atmosphere where it's not aggressive, and at the same time they're surrounded by people who care for them and love them."

In addition to focusing on the basic principles of self-defense and giving students the opportunity to exercise their bodies, the sport also exercises their minds and their spirits.

"It's not so much the Taekwondo part of it, it's what goes into all of it," Davis said. "The Taekwondo is just a sport basically, but it's what you try to get out of it as far as the discipline, the respect, the coordination and the courtesy for others. These kids, the lessons

they learn, many of them come in with no confidence. A lot of them can't get involved with team sports because they don't fit in, so here they have an opportunity to have an individual way of actually expressing themselves. It's a little bit of everything. A lot goes into it."

Over the past 10 years, Hernandez has been an example of that, as she evolved from a little girl who simply wanted to try karate, to a more structured young woman.

"I've always been one to be more aggressive than the other girls," said Hernandez, a black belt since she was 14. "It's made me a lot more controlled, a lot more disciplined and a lot more outgoing. Master Davis will put me in front of people and say, 'Teach them this.' It's one of those things where you can't be insecure."

For Davis, who has been doing Taekwondo for more than 30 years, watching students like Hernandez learn and grow through his example is a testament to the dream he lives today as their instructor. Since the program started on the Arsenal in 2002, Rocket Tae Kwon Do has expanded into the community, to University Fitness Center on the campus of UAH in 2005, and to the Jones Valley Wellness Center, part of Huntsville Hospital, in 2006.

"This is an opportunity that you dream of," Davis said. "I've always wanted to give back to the community. I realize that a lot of these kids need some good leadership; they need an example to be set for them. This is an opportunity and my way of giving back."

A year-round sport, the team typically competes two to three times annually. Individuals go one-on-one in the ring with other students that are of a comparable belt, age, weight and skill level. Points are awarded for strikes to the body and head through kicking and punching. Individuals from Rocket Tae Kwon Do competed in the Southeastern Winter Battle VIII Taekwondo Championships Feb. 11 in Ringgold, Ga. Twenty students participated in the championship, going 16-34. Members of the team will also compete in the 2012 Alabama Sports Festival in Birmingham, June 22-24. Davis looks forward to the opportunity to bring awareness of the Arsenal's team to the rest of the state.

"They'll know we are here and that we are a force to be reckoned with," Davis said.

Taekwondo team competes in Southeastern meet

Twenty members of the Rocket Tae Kwon Do team competed in the Southeastern Winter Battle VIII Taekwondo Championships in Ringgold, Ga., going 16-34.

Competitors were broken down into age, weight, and belt categories – novice for white, yellow and orange; intermediate for green, purple and blue; advanced for brown and red; and black belt. Here are the winners from the tournament:

- 1st** – Quenton Hubbard, novice/light, male and female 7 and under
- 4th** – Jasmine Kidd, novice/middle, male and female 7 and under
- 5th** – Connor Sheffield, novice/heavy, male and female 7 and under
- 4th** – Nathan Shipley, novice/heavy, male and female 8-9
- 3rd** – Reece Adams, intermediate/middle, male and female 8-9
- 4th** – James Palmer, intermediate/heavy, males 10-11
- 3rd** – Nayeli Coman-Ubiles, intermediate/middle, females 10-11
- 1st** – Kayla Reed, intermediate/heavy, females 10-11
- 6th** – Brandon Johnson, novice/heavy, males 12-13
- 2nd** – Danielle Moore, novice/intermediate, females 12-13
- 3rd** – Rachel Long, novice/intermediate, females 12-13
- 4th** – Keith Green, novice, males 14-17
- 3rd** – Jaizon Collins, intermediate/heavy, males 14-17
- 5th** – Chad Gardunia, intermediate/heavy, males 14-17
- 7th** – David Shepherd, intermediate/heavy, males 14-17
- 4th** – William Avery, intermediate, males 18-32
- 2nd** – Edward Jimenez, advanced, males 33 and up



Photo by Ellen Hudson

From left, Davis Lawrence, Philip Altman, Quenton Hubbard, Ashlyn Shipley and Darrian Simpson practice their Taekwondo technique.

Wounded Warrior 5K draws crowd for day in sun

By ELLEN HUDSON
Staff photographer
ellen.hudson@theredstonerocket.com

The Grissom High School Army JROTC sponsored the Wounded Warrior 5K run Saturday to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project and Grissom's cadet activities.

Starting at 8 a.m., the run and surrounding activities took place at McGucken Park in southeast Huntsville.

Other JROTC and ROTC groups ran the 5K in formation, including Alabama A&M University, Mississippi State, Samford University, Athens High School, and Greene County High School; as well as Army recruits, Marines, and Command and General Staff School students. They were joined by supporters of Soldiers, friends of JROTC programs, and running enthusiasts.

The Army Materiel Command Brass Band played the national anthem, then played for the beginning and the end of the race. Many interesting sights to see were scattered around the park, including the cars of Vets with Vettes, a Chinook helicopter and Apache helicopter, an Army utility truck, a bomb suit and robots of the 666th Ordnance Company, and other displays. Barbecue plus Subway sandwiches and Publix refreshments were



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Runners take off at the start of the 5K on Saturday at McGucken Park.

served, and a climbing wall was there for children. The Patriot Guard Riders lined the finish line for the runners.

A re-enactment of saving a wounded warrior finished the race, acted by JROTC students Derek Herring and Brent Ledper pulling cover, and Caleb Fluker carrying Tanner Payne. Stephanie Payne Armstrong was the director and master of ceremonies. The winner of the race was David Whitmore, 18, in 17:17 followed by Paul Lemon, 27, in 17:21.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Having finished the run, 15-year-old April Lane watches other runners finish with her dad's puppy, Bear.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Caleb Fluker carries Tanner Payne during a wounded warrior re-enactment by the Grissom High JROTC.

The race was skyped with an Army unit in Afghanistan.

The temperature was in the 30s, but not so cold for a good run by the 665 finishers. And the sun shined on all who enjoyed their morning outing.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Patriot Guard Riders provide a cordon for the runners approaching the finish line.



Photo by Judy Wilson

Scholarship gift

Eugene Yerkes, right, of Atkins North America Inc., presents a \$5,000 check to the Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers, Scholarship Fund. Accepting the check is SAME scholarship chair Charles Joyner.



Courtesy photo

Veteran students

Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling, Army Materiel Command's senior NCO, speaks to veteran students attending The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale during a community outreach event Feb. 23 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. More than 120 of the school's attendees are veterans.

Sports & Recreation

Ten-Miler tryout

Redstone Arsenal's Ten-Miler Team, which will compete in the 28th annual Army Ten-Miler on Oct. 21 near the Pentagon, will hold an open tryout for runners March 31 at 7 a.m. The course begins at the Sparkman Fitness Center, continues south on Patton Road past Buxton Road to the five-mile point and then back to the fitness center. Redstone is the five-time defending champion in the government agency division and three-time defending champ in the all-comers division. The team has members from the entire post community – including active and retired military, civilians and contractors. For more information, call assistant coach Skip Vaughn 876-1500 or coach Harry Hobbs 425-5307.

5K training program

Have you been thinking about starting to run to lose weight or get in better shape? If so, then it's time to get off your couch and get moving with the No Boundaries 5K training program. This program is designed for minimally active or inactive people who want to start running. No Boundaries is for the beginner who needs a supportive, non-competitive environment in which to learn to love walking, walk/running or running. The program starts at one mile and gets you to the finish line of a 5K (3.1 miles) in 10 weeks. And this year, for the first time, one of the classes will have its weekly meetings on Redstone Arsenal. In a joint effort between FMWR Sports & Fitness and the NASA Exchange, meetings will be held at both the NASA Wellness Center and FMWR fitness centers to run. This will give a change of scenery for your training runs and no membership is required in the fitness centers for participation in the training program. The 10-week program will graduate at the Cotton Row 5K race May 28 downtown. The kickoff meeting is March 13 at 7 p.m. at Fleet Feet Sports, 2722 Carl T. Jones Drive (phone 650-7063).

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.

Golf league

The OMMCS Golf League will have its 2012 season meeting March 15 at 4:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse of the Links at Redstone. The league will begin play April 3 and run through the first week in September. There are openings for several teams in the league, as well as for individual golfers to participate with some of our teams that have lost a player or

two. The league plays nine-hole matches each week, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons starting between 3:45 and 4:45. Each team will play one day per week, fielding a team of four players. Each team must have a minimum of six players to a maximum of 12 players. A team entry fee of \$120 is charged to all teams, which is used to pay winning teams for the first and second parts of the season, as well as for weekly individual and team prizes. For more information call Dave Parker 313-4196, email david.k.parker@us.army.mil, or Lee Foster 529-7103, email ldfjmt@comcast.net.

Ladies golf

The Redstone Ladies 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 Wednesday from March 14 through the end of October and plan many tournaments to fit each person's handicap. Dues are \$25. The Nike ladies apparel representative from Birmingham will be present to offer the latest in ladies golf styles.

Babe Ruth baseball

The Huntsville Babe Ruth League will hold registration for the spring season on March 10 and March 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. Players ages 13 to 18 as of May 1, 2012 are invited. Registration forms will be accepted after March 17 on an individual basis upon park approval and team availability. A copy of the player's birth certificate is required for all new players. Persons interested in coaching a team are encouraged to apply as well. Contact one of the park representatives for registration locations and other information. All coaches interested in entering a team in either the 13, 14 or 15-year-old competitive division should contact Tim Harrison for more information. The Babe Ruth parks and their primary contacts are: Southern Division, Sandhurst Park, Tim Harrison 544-3180, email timothy.t.harrison@nasa.gov; Northern Division, Mastin Lake Park, Emile Jones 990-5902, email ejones@wilsonlumber.net; and Eastern Division, Optimist Park, Jeff Abbott 653-5752, email jeff.abbott@adtran.com.

Girls golf program

LPGA-USGA Girls Golf, a developmental junior golf program for girls ages 7-17, will be held April 16 through June 25 at the Richland Golf Center. Registration fee is \$85. Call site director Marie Maksimowski 881-2924 or email girlsgolfhuntsville@knology.net.

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

Rocket Announcements

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.

Catholic mass

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Community at Bicentennial Chapel invites the Redstone community to its mass services, set for noon Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday. For baptisms, weddings or any questions, call 842-2175.

Federal employees

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet March 10 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. Bill Yell, communications director for Huntsville Utilities, will speak on the utility's new billing system and also the soon to-be revamped meter reading schedule. Guests are always welcome – active or retired. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

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.

Logistics society

The International Society of Logistics, Tennessee Valley Chapter, will have a luncheon March 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Summit. Scheduled speaker is Eric Edwards, executive director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

Toastmaster clubs

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

Men's ministry

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

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.

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

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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 rsacwclstvicepresident@gmail.com.

Space society

Huntsville AL L5 Society (HAL5) will have its March program on "How to Predict Solar Impacts on GPS and Satellite TV?" with Dr. Linda Krause of Marshall Space Flight Center. The free event is Thursday at 7 p.m. at Huntsville/Madison County Public Library. It is open to the public. A social will follow.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter, will hold its monthly luncheon March 8 at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. Joy McKee, director of Operation Green Team, Huntsville, will be guest speaker. For ticket information, call Audrea Edwards 313-2382 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

Blacks in government

Blacks In Government, Huntsville-Madison County Chapter, will hold its monthly meeting March 8 at 11:30 a.m. at The Summit at Redstone, ballroom V. The speakers will be Sandra Brazelton, broker, CRS, GRI, MBA, A-REO, and Alex B. Cothron, associate broker/realtor, ABR, listing specialist, REO listing agent. The public is invited. Those eating lunch should arrive early and go through the lunch line and return to the meeting room. For more information, call Ronnie Hawkins 886-6001 or email programs@hsvbig.org.

Catholic women

The Military Council of Catholic Women at Redstone Arsenal invites all ladies with a civilian or military ID to its First Friday program, March 2 at

the Bicentennial Chapel. Social starts at 9 a.m. in the General Assembly Room, with a short business agenda at 9:30 and Father Herrera will share his journey to the priesthood at 10. "Please consider joining us and stay for an optional Holy Hour at 11, followed by noon mass," a prepared release said. For more information, call Phyllis Gibat 842-2175 or Beverly Thetford (254) 371-2265.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet March 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Peggy Allen Towns, North Alabama historian and author, will speak on "Duty Driven: North Alabama African-Americans during the Civil War." Optional chicken buffet is available at 5:30 for \$8.95. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 541-2483.

Parkinson's support

Caneta Hall, assistive technologist and environmental access consultant, will speak to the Parkinson's Support Group on March 11 at 1:30 p.m. in the Youth building at Huntsville's Willowbrook Baptist Church, 7625 Bailey Cove Road - enter from the back parking area. Family, friends and caregivers are encouraged to attend, as well as participate in the group discussion. For more information, call Rono Prince 837-6577.

Special Forces group

The North Alabama Chapter (Chapter 92) of the Special Forces Association will meet at 11 a.m. March 10 at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant, 209 West Grand Ave. (Highway 77), Rainbow City. "All Special Forces qualified and personnel who served with or contributed in a unique and definable way to Special Forces units are invited to attend," a prepared release said. For more information, visit <http://www.chapter92sfa.com/>.

Faith conference

The seventh annual Catholic Women of Faith Conference is March 24 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Philip Church, 113 2nd Ave. South, Franklin, Tenn. Exhibits are scheduled 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and mass at 8:30 a.m. with Bishop Choby. Speakers include Tim Staples, "What Made Me Catholic"; Derby Schlappizzi, "The Splendor of You"; and Leah Darrow, "From Top Model to Role Model, Leah's Witness Talk." Adoration, reconciliation and benediction will be included. Register at www.catholicwomenoffaithconference.com.

University women

The Huntsville Branch of the American Association of University Women will hold

its annual Breaking through Barriers fundraiser luncheon March 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Carrabba's at Parkway Place. Sarah Savage, president/CEO of Leadership Huntsville/Madison County, will address "Walking the Tightrope: Women in Leadership." Tickets are \$30. Call 852-4802 or email elienau@yahoo.com.

Contracting workshop

The Army Contracting Command's Office of Small Business Programs has a workshop March 29 on Market Research. Registration and more information is available at www.facebook.com/USArmyContractingCommand.

Air defenders

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association will have a Fires Luncheon March 20 from 11:30 to 1 p.m. at the Huntsville Marriott. Featured guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. Cost is \$23 per person; corporate tables (seats eight) for \$170. For reservations and information, call Brittany Jeffers 325-4483 by March 16 or email brittany@globaldefenseassoc.com.

Professional development

The Air Force Association Tennessee Valley Chapter 335 is co-sponsoring with CyberHuntsville, the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, Women in Defense and with the National Defense Industrial Association a professional development luncheon March 8. Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert Elder Jr. will speak on cyberspace from a war fighter's perspective. The luncheon is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Von Braun Center's North Hall. Tickets are \$30 per person and \$350 for corporate tables of eight. Tickets may be obtained using PayPal at www.hsv-afa.org. For more information, call 651-5862 or email AFAAFCEA@att.net.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

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

Massey 313-0365. Contractors and others interested can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Fraud hotline

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

Education test center

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

Special education law

The Autism Resource Foundation will sponsor a seminar, titled "Wright's Law: Special Education Law and Advocacy," Thursday 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.

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

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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.

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.

Business workshops

The UAH Small Business Development Center and Procurement Technical Assistance Center will hold the following free workshops: "Government Contract Accounting Made Easy – Meet the Expert," with Miriam Ezell, a certified public accountant with Solvability Inc., will be held March 13 from 9-11 a.m. at the

Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County, 225 Church St. The Procurement Technical Assistance Center will give "An Overview of the Army SBIR Program" from 9 a.m. to noon March 28 at the UAH Salmon Library, room LIB 111. "Financing Options for Entrepreneurs," with DeMarco McClain and Jennifer Bryant, will be held March 29 from 10-11 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County, 225 Church St. To register for any of these workshops, call 824-6422 or email SBDC@uah.edu.

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.

CFC applications

The Tennessee Valley 2012 Combined Federal Campaign is now accepting applications from potential recipient agencies. They should be non-profit charitable human health and welfare organizations in Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Limestone, Cullman or Lawrence counties. Applications are due by 4 p.m. March 16 at the principal combined fund organization, the United Way of Madison County, 701 Andrew Jackson Way. On behalf of federal donors, the CFC is responsible for the overall management, collection and disbursements of donor designations from federal, military and postal personnel within the Tennessee Valley area to charities that have applied and been approved to participate in the

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Combined Federal Campaign. For a copy of the 2012 CFC package, call 876-9143 or 518-8209 or visit ams8.redstone.army.mil/cfc.

AER book sale

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

Retiree leadership class

Leadership Huntsville/Madison County announces that the Masters Program for those at or approaching retirement is accepting applications for the March through June class. The Masters program is primarily designed for experienced talent looking to embrace an active, meaningful retirement. This program serves as a refresher course for previous leadership program graduates, a jumpstart for involvement for those who never had the calendar space before retirement to take on a community role, or veteran community leaders looking to strengthen their civic activities. Participants meet twice a month learning about Huntsville/Madison County's successes and challenges and generating creative responses to community needs. The six program days focus on major community sectors to inspire each participant to pursue opportunities that will utilize their talents and enrich their lives and the quality of life for everyone in this community. Masters encourages seniors to embrace an active role in defining the future of the community they love. The application deadline is Fri-

day. Applications and more information are available at www.leadershipsv.org.

Korea veterans fund-raiser

Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation, 501 (c) (3), is a non-profit organization that will hold its inaugural charity fund-raising event with a MASH theme April 13 from 5:30-9 p.m. at The Summit at Redstone. The wine and whiskey tasting event will also feature live/silent auction items including signed MASH memorabilia, signed footballs, a patriotic quilt handmade by a group of ladies in the New York Quilters Guild, gift baskets and a room full of items that will be waiting for your bid. For more information, or to purchase event tickets, call KC Bertling 541-0450, Anna Pastorelli 489-5673, Still Serving Veterans 883-7054 or The Summit at Redstone 830-2582. All proceeds will be used for the sixth annual luncheon honoring the Korean War veterans and their guest, provide assistance to those veterans wishing to participate in the "Korea Revisit Project 2012" and to support the Korean War veterans and their families, and veterans organizations within the Tennessee Valley.

West Point day

The West Point Society of the Tennessee Valley will hold its annual Founder's Day on Saturday at the recently renovated Valley Hill Country Club. The speaker this year is Capt. Scott Smiley, the Army's first active-duty blind officer. Seating is limited to the first 200. To make reservations and for information, visit the society's website at <http://www.west-point.org/society/wps-tenn-valley/>.

Waltz classes

Basic dance classes in Waltz will be **See Announcements on page 36**

Photo by Dottie White

Home with vets

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, right, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and SMDC/ARSTRAT Command Sgt.

Maj. Larry Turner visit with residents at Alexander "Sandy" Ninger State Veterans Nursing Home in Pembroke Pines, Fla., Feb. 22. They spoke one-on-one with approximately 60 veterans at the home. Turner and Formica were in the area for the 2012 Association of the United States Army Winter Symposium and Exposition.



Photo by Dottie White

Technical talk

Debra Wymer, right, director of the Technical Center, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, talks to a group of science students from Westminster High School Feb. 23 during the 2012 Association of the United States Army Winter Symposium and Exposition in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Lt. Col. Pat Marshall, left, assists.



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held six Thursdays from 7:30-9 p.m. March 1 through April 12 (no class on March 29). No experience necessary. Tuition is \$66 per couple. Reviewers who have taken Waltz previously at Redstone may take this course at the reduced rate of \$55 per couple by eliminating the first class only. Classes will be held at the Overlook, 150 Golf Course Road. For registration information, call the Community Activity Center (building 3711) 876-4531.

Spring break camps

Sci-Quest, Hands-on Science Center, is registering for its Spring Break Camps, March 12-16 and March 26-30. Camps offer children ages kindergarten through eighth-grade an informal and hands-on learning experience in subjects such as deciphering hieroglyphics, photography and game developing on iPads. Participants in the Spring Break Camps must be preregistered prior to the requested program. There is no registration the day of the programs. Class sizes are limited, and enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. Sci-Quest members receive a 10 percent discount. For a complete list of programs offered and registration directions, call 837-0606 or visit www.sciquest.org.

College fellowship

The fiscal 2012-13 Senior Service College Fellowship announcement is open through March 15. SSCF is a 10-month

fellowship focused on leadership and acquisition training. In 2012, the Army will centrally fund SSCF tuition. This year's SSCF graduation will be held May 23 at 2 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. For more information, email Ann.Lee@dau.mil. Details on the fellowship announcement can be found at http://asc.army.mil/docs/announcement/DAUSSCF_2012-2013_Current_Announcement.pdf.

Program manager course

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

Foods symposium

The 26th annual Symposium on the Future of the City is Friday from 8 a.m. to noon at the J.I. Dawson Auditorium on the Alabama A&M University campus. This free event offers presentation/discussion on "Healthy Sustainable Food Systems for Urban Development" agenda in the Huntsville/Madison County region. For information call Dr. Berniece Herbert 372-4988 or email bernecec.herebert@aamu.edu.

NASA surplus

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

College fair

Pope John Paul II Catholic High School will hold a College Fair on March 14 from 5-8 p.m. in its gymnasium, 7301 Old Madison Pike. The public is invited. For a listing of colleges and universities, visit jp2falcons.org.

Association scholarships

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

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop is open to anyone who has access to the Arsenal. You need not have a military ID card. Purchases can be made using cash, check or debit card. Consignments are taken from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the NO-LIST number 881-6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each week. The shop is accepting spring clothing, St. Patrick's Day and Easter items. 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. Get a head start on spring flowers at its plant sale March 3. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome and tax deductible.

University women

AAUW Huntsville Branch and the UAH Women's Studies Program are sponsoring two screenings of "Miss Representation," Saturday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. at Flying Monkey Arts at Lowe Mill, on the second floor. Admission is free. Premiered at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival, "Miss Representation" exposes the influence of mainstream media in facilitating beliefs about women that contribute to their underrepresentation in positions of power.

Civilian of year awards

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the United States Army will sponsor the Department of the Army Civilian of the Year awards dinner April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. This award and dinner recognizes local Army civilians who have demonstrated exceptional performance as members of the Army team. Plan to support these outstanding civilian nominees by attending the awards dinner. Individual ticket cost is \$38; corporate tables of eight are \$304. Make your reservations by visiting www.ausaredstone.org/Events.aspx. Reservations must be made by April 3. For more information, call the AUSA event coordinator Jerry Hamilton 652-7437 or email AJH72USMA@mchsi.com.



Photo by Carrie E. David

Lining up for AER

The Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command is kicking off its Army Emergency Relief fund-raising efforts with an autographed football auction. Presenting the footballs are, from left, in back row, Lt. Col. Gregory Ash, deputy chief

of staff, G-1, with a University of Alabama football; KC Bertling, SMDC AER financial chair; Kerrie Branson, AER officer at Army Community Service; Col. James Jenkins III, SMDC chief of staff, with a University of Alabama football; Capt. Alyssa Wood, 2012 AER campaign chairman, Louisiana State University football. In the front row are Sgt. Nelson Villanueva, SMDC Headquarters & Headquarters Company administrative clerk, with an Auburn University football; Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Griffin, SMDC G1 noncommissioned officer in charge, with a University of Mississippi football; and Sgt. Najeet Ramlaxhan, SMDC enlisted aide and commanding general's driver, with a University of Georgia football. Not pictured is an autographed football from NFL Hall of Famer John Stallworth, a former Pittsburgh Steelers great and Alabama A&M University alum. The auction begins March 5 and final bids will be accepted until 3:10 p.m. March 15. Bids begin at \$50 and must increase in \$5 increments. Email bids to kum.bertling@us.army.mil.

