Redstone Rocket
www.theredstonerocket.com
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Army attacks hardware corrosion

Persistent problem affects performance

By KARI HAWKINS
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Scott Reis is on a mission.

An anti-corrosion mission, that is.

He and fellow Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center employees carry out the mission of the Aviation and Missile Command's Corrosion Program Office to promote corrosion prevention programs for a wide range of AMCOM systems. They study the way metals, coatings and finishes develop corrosion; engineer design and materials solutions for corrosion issues in the field; train Soldiers on how to prevent equipment corrosion; and tout the ill effects of corrosion on the Army's missile and aviation systems.

Those ill effects are staggering in terms of capabilities lost, and the cost of repairing or replacing equipment due to corrosion. At AMCOM, an estimated $1.6 billion a year is spent combating corrosion issues. The U.S. General Accounting Office estimated the cost of corrosion to

See Corrosion on page 28

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Corrosion engineer Nancy Whitmire goes over the findings of a corrosion test with Steve Carr, the program manager for the Aviation and Missile Command's Corrosion Program. The test involved coating metal coupons with different finishes and then placing them in an accelerated corrosion chamber to determine the amount of corrosion that would develop in a sand and salt environment.

Want to know about Redstone? Visit these sites

Various ways available to learn about events

By ASHLEY KALIFEH
For the Rocket

On an installation as large and diverse as Redstone Arsenal, it is easy to feel like you are missing out on something. Between the Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation directorate, the community and each command, there are events of different types throughout the year. If your next question is "How do I find out about these events?" look no further. There are multiple ways to find out and a synopsis of each follows.

Community calendar

The most comprehensive list of post-wide and community events can be found on the Community Calendar, located on the Team Redstone website. The Community Calendar has events posted in a calendar format, and you can click on each item for additional information, including a phone number or email address for the point of contact of the event.

This calendar can be found by clicking the "Community Calendar" link on the right-hand side of the Team Redstone webpage, http://www.garrison.redstone.army.mil/.

Social media

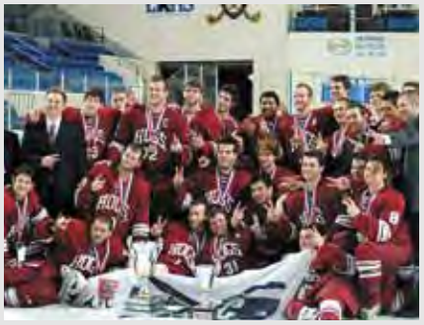
The fastest and perhaps hippest way to get information is through social media sources. Team Redstone has a Facebook page and a Twitter page. Each is frequently updated with information pertaining to events on or off the Arsenal. And since social media sites are interactive, you can ask questions and get timely responses. Also, if you are unable to attend an event, but would be interested to see photos, videos or quotes from it, check these sites for content after the event. You do not need to have an account with either site in order to view the pages.

See Websites on page 8

COMMUNITY NEWS
Family recreation focus of new series.
PAGE 4

AVIATION UPDATE
Black belts awarded in Lean Six Sigma.
PAGE 16

TO YOUR HEALTH
Confidential help available for substance abuse issues.
PAGE 24



WIN OR LOSE
Arkansas Razorbacks try to defend crown.
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RocketViews

What are you doing for Valentine's Day?

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

Bruce Whitaker
Defense Contract Management Agency
"I'll celebrate early with my wife (Kim) I'm sure because she'll be out of town on the 14th, so we'll try to do something special probably the weekend before."

Andrew Browning
Army Corps of Engineers Learning Center
"Taking my wife (Sandy) out to some place special."

Jamie Hughes
Army Corps of Engineers Learning Center
"On Valentine's Day I will be out of town on TDY. I'll be in Savannah, Ga., for two courses that we have going on. So that way I'll have to do all my valentines before I leave. I've got grandkids and kids so I always try to do something special for them for Valentine's."

Cynthia M-Jones
Mills Road Child Development Center
"My husband John and I are going to Nashville to Joe's Crab Shack. That's my favorite restaurant."

Redstone Rocket turns 60 years old

This is a big month for the *Redstone Rocket*.

The very first edition of the *Rocket* was published Feb. 5, 1952. And the weekly newspaper has appeared each week for the past six decades.

We'll commemorate the *Rocket's* 60th anniversary with a keepsake magazine insert Feb. 29.

From the entire *Rocket* staff, we look forward to serving Team Redstone for years to come.

Quote of **the Week**

'Nothing takes the taste out of peanut butter quite like unrequited love.'

— *Charles M. Schulz*
cartoonist (1922-2000)

Crimes, accidents **& other occurrences**

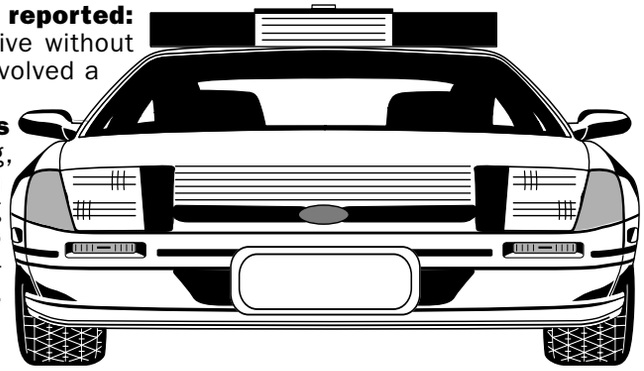
The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Jan. 26 through Feb. 1:

Jan. 28: A juvenile in the Redstone Exchange concealed a videogame valued at $39.95 and left the store without paying. The juvenile was processed by police and released to a sponsor.

Jan. 30: Someone stole two privately owned Blu-rays from a government building.

Traffic accidents reported: Two with injury; and five without injury, one of which involved a deer strike.

Violation notices issued: 9 speeding, 1 failure to maintain control, 2 following too close, 2 failure to obey traffic control device, 1 no insurance, 1 failure to yield.



Getting to **know you**

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

Name: Lt. Col. Patrick Denny

Job: Executive officer for attack systems division of AMCOM's Security Assistance Management Directorate

Where do you call home?
Atlanta, Ga.

What do you like about your job?
I like working with our allies and all the people that I come in contact with across the security assistance enterprise.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Play (electric) guitar. I'm just learning. I'm taking lessons from Preston Black.

What are your goals?
My goals for the future are to make a positive impact on U.S. foreign policy as much as my position permits.

What's at the top of your "bucket list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?
Being the best dad I can possibly be (to my son, Connor, 17).

RedstoneRocket

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Command due savings by balancing inventory books

By DAN O'BOYLE
For the Rocket

"Invalid due ins" may be an unknown term to many AMCOM employees, but logistics management specialist Penny Robertson deals with that daily.

The term means the expected delivery of aviation and missile assets to a specific location, with records showing that the assets may have been shipped and received but show up as still being in transit. Stock transport orders, military standard requisitioning purchase orders and procurement actions are the various types of invalid due ins being researched.

"We have used a value stream map to identify a lot of gaps in processes," Robertson said. "We are reconciling records, in a systematic analysis, and have arrived at solutions to clear and to correct out-of-balance requisition actions in databases.

"We have to find innovative ways to save money, and especially to reduce our supply chain management operation costs, our inventory and carryover, as well as fine tune our forecasting abilities."

– Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers
AMCOM commander

"We have been working closely with the Defense Contract Management Agency, the Defense Logistics Agency and contractors to cleanse system accountability, clearly pinpointing shipments that in fact have been received at storage locations. In fact, our analysis has revealed the root causes of gaps and disconnects in processes that will meet our March 30, 2012 goal of reducing invalid due ins by 25 percent."

So far the Stock Transport Orders team has cleared $219 million of its invalid due ins' $275 million goal.

Overstated inventory levels contribute to inaccurate forecasts, false demands, delays and impact readiness.

"This effort will correct and maintain accurate data required to support Enterprise Resource Program business processes," Robertson said. "Further, we will establish policies and procedures to eliminate invalid due ins in the future."

The Invalid Due Ins Team Charter is divided into four sub-teams: Stock Transport Orders (Non-Repair and Return), Stock Transport Orders (Repair and Return), Procurement and Military Standard Requisitioning Purchase Orders.

The 29 team members include Jennifer Wilborn, Kim Scott, Doris Peoples, Demetrius McKinney, Vanessa Lee, Jeni Moreno, Tynesha Malone, Jacob Cody, Dan Nguyen, Reba Adkins, Linda Murphy, Sherry Barre, Angelique Bradley, Stuart Fischer, Justin Kelso, Chuck Harris, Carolann Bledsoe, Joan Hoge, Savannah Atchley, Nadine Manderson, Pat Hood, Kathlyn Dulaney, Roy Mixon, Lynn Watts, Dru Jackson, Maggie Rivers, Seth Cole, Andrew Clemons and Amy Twilley.

All members of the AMCOM work force are encouraged to visit the Supply Chain Management Enterprise "War Room" on the second floor of building 5301.

Educator/author to address Black History Month event

Dr. Crystal Kuykendall

Team Redstone's program for Black History Month is Feb. 15 at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Crystal Kuykendall, an educator, legal analyst/litigator and author.

Born in Chicago, she graduated from Hyde Park High School with four scholarships at age 16. She received her bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University (Carbondale) as a government major. Through an assistantship, she graduated from Montclair (N.J.) State University with a master's in sociology. Through a Ford fellowship, she received her doctorate in educational administration from Atlanta University.

Kuykendall received her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center in 1981 and was admitted to the bar association of the District of Columbia after passing the bar exam in 1988 on her first attempt.

A former elementary and secondary public school teacher, Kuykendall has taught at Seton Hall University and Montclair State University. She is the former executive director of the National Alliance of Black School Educators. She also served as director of urban and minority relations for the National School Boards Association and the director of the Citizens Training Institute for the National Committee for Citizens in Education.

Appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the National Advisory Council on Continuing Education, Kuykendall served as council chairperson from 1979-81. She was also chosen by the editors of *Ebony Magazine* as one of the "50 Leaders of the Future" in 1979.

Mother of two daughters and a son, Kuykendall has been a H.O.S.T.S. (Help One Student To Succeed) mentor since 1995 and is a school and church volunteer. One of her daughters, Rasheki Kuykendall, received the 2005-06 Milken Family Foundation National Educator of the Year Award.

Exchange shoppers show satisfaction in survey

At 116 years old, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service may not have "moves like Jagger" but its shoppers are getting plenty of satisfaction, according to a recent American Customer Satisfaction Index survey.

The ACSI was developed to provide information on satisfaction with the quality of products and services available to consumers. In the latest survey, the Exchange scored higher than ever before as its operations equalled the industry of excellence.

In addition to the ACSI, the Exchange relies on a Customer Service Index to provide localized, real-time snapshots of the job Exchange facilities are doing to improve the value of support provided to Soldiers and their families. The Redstone Exchange's CSI score for 2011 increased by 3 points from the previous year.

"We're excited about the satisfaction level shown by Redstone Arsenal Exchange shoppers," Exchange general manager Lorraine Arbo said. "We continue to maintain an intense focus on customer satisfaction in an effort to meet, or beat, shoppers' expectations."

The CSI survey, which addresses customer service, pricing, sales associate availability, merchandise assortment and many more key issues, is administered at 130 Exchange main stores around the world. The next CSI survey will take place at Redstone Arsenal this fall.

"Feedback from military shoppers is an invaluable tool in our ongoing efforts to provide the best service possible," Arbo said. "Both the ACSI and CSI enable us to ensure that when Soldiers shop, the Redstone Arsenal Exchange is top of mind and their first choice." *(Exchange release)*

AAFES
We go where you go!

FMWR focuses on postwide family fun activities

Organization delivers customers morale, welfare and recreation

By KARI HAWKINS
Assistant editor
kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation director Derrick Gould looks over upcoming event plans with FMWR marketing director Amelia Flanigan, left, and FMWR schools liaison Barbara Williams.

All communities are defined by their quality of life. And that's no exception at Redstone Arsenal.

This working community offers a wide range of leisure, recreation and entertainment activities that provide plenty to do after hours. From the popular quarterly Comedy Nights at The Summit to the wide range of youth sports coordinated on well-maintained sports fields and in state-of-the-art gyms, the quality of life for the Arsenal community offers opportunities for most all interests.

"Our basic vision is to provide an improved quality of life for the Redstone Arsenal work force and their families," Derrick Gould, director of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, said. "We are offering activities that the entire family can enjoy, and that maybe they can't get off the Arsenal. And we are offering them at reduced rates."

See Fun on page 18

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:

Library lovers month

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

Firehouse Pub

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

Aerobic fun

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

Youth sports

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

Golf tournament

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

Commissary scholarship applications due Feb. 24

FORT LEE, Va. – Eligible students who want to apply for the 2012 Scholarships for Military Children program still have time, but the clock is ticking. Applications must be completed and delivered – not postmarked, but delivered – to a commissary by close of business Feb. 24.

Scholarship applications are available in commissaries and online at http://www.commissaries.com – choose the "News & Info" tab and then the "Scholarship Info" tab. Applications are also available at http://www.militaryscholar.org. At least one $1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary with qualified applicants.

The following are key reminders for scholarship applications, which are also available in greater detail on http://www.militaryscholar.org.

- **Current military ID.** Applicants and their sponsors must be enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System DEERS database and have a current military ID card.
- **Military family member.** Applicants must be a dependent, unmarried child – no older than 21, or 23 if enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university – of a servicemember on active duty, a reservist, guardsman or retiree, or survivor of a servicemember who died while on active duty or survivor of a retiree.
- **College bound.** The student must be planning to attend, or already be attending, an accredited college or university, full time in the fall of 2012 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.
- **Essay.** The essay must be 500 words or less, stapled to the application and written in the following format: typed, double spaced, no more than two pages, applicant's name in upper right-hand corner of each page. The essay topic: "Whose four faces would you place on a 21st century Mount Rushmore-type monument, and why?" The person must be nonfictional, U.S. citizen, male or female – the time frame for the selection is 1850 to 2011.
- **Correct address.** Applicants must provide their permanent home address on the front page of the application – not their college address.
- **Complete package.** The submission package must include the following: 1) transcript or copy of applicant's grades; 2) essay with applicant's name on each page; 3) parent or guardian's signature as well as the applicant's signature on application; and 4) applicant's high school College Board Code number (if available).
- **Keep a copy.** Applicants should also maintain their own copy of their application and essay.
- **Submit to one commissary.** Applicants can only submit their application to one commissary; submitting to more than one store will disqualify the applicant from consideration.
- **No faxes or emails.** Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

For more information, call scholarship managers at 856-616-9311 or email them at militaryscholar@scholarshipmanagers.com. *(Defense Commissary Agency release)*

Courtesy photo

Education outreach

AMCOM information assurance network manager Darren Addison, right, and contractor Wes Slone speak to students at New Century Technology High School in Huntsville. As part of the AMCOM Army Education Outreach Program, they helped the students prepare for a cyber-security competition.

Recommended reading list from Post Library

The Post Library is in building 3323 on Redeye Road. Its catalog may be viewed at www.redstonemwr.com, click on Recreation, then Library. The facility, free to everyone in the Redstone community, is open 10 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10-4 Saturday. Its phone number is 876-4741.

Here are some popular items available there:

Fiction

"The Help" by Kathryn Stockett – Describes the experiences of African-American maids working in white households in Jackson, Miss., during the 1960s. Also DVD.

"Hunger Games" trilogy by Suzanne Collins – The trilogy (the "Hunger Games," "Catching Fire" and "Mockingjay") is a young adult dystopian adventure series. The movie will be released March 23.

"Private" by James Patterson – Former CIA agent Jack Morgan runs Private, an investigation company that discreetly handles the intimate problems of the famous and powerful.

"Covert Warriors" by W.E.B. Griffin – The seventh book in W.E.B. Griffin's Presidential Agent Series is about a U.S. diplomat held hostage in Mexico.

"Explosive 18" by Janet Evanovich – Continues the adventures of Stephanie Plum.

"The Affair" by Lee Child – The 16th book in the Reacher series finds Jack Reacher still in the Army and working undercover in a small Mississippi town.

Some books are also available as CD audiobooks.

Non-fiction

"SEAL Team Six: Memoirs of an Elite Navy SEAL Sniper" by Howard E. Wasdin, Stephen Templin – A behind the scenes look at the Navy's Seal Team Six.

"The Tuskegee Airmen: An Illustrated History: 1939-1949" by Joseph Caver, Jerome Ennels and Daniel Haulman – This book traces the Tuskegee Airmen's training, deployment and combat with captioned photographs.

"The Hidden Reality – Parallel Universes and the Deep Laws of the Cosmos" by Brian Greens, who also wrote "The Elegant Universe" on DVD.

"I Didn't Ask To Be Born (But I'm Glad I Was)" by Bill Cosby – Cosby writes on everything from the Bible, grandchildren and his first date.

"Afghanistan: Graveyard of Empires: A New History of the Borderland" by David Isby – The author's fourth book on Afghanistan examines the country's current situation, its history and policies for success.

"Unbroken: a World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption" by Laura Hillenbrand – The story of Louis Zamperini, an Olympic athlete, POW and WWII hero.

DVDs

The library has more than 300 TV series and over 4,000 movies on DVD.

TV series: "The Unit," "NCIS," "Mad Men," "Downton Abbey."

Movies: "Lion King," "Justin Bieber: Never Say Never," "Thor," "Green Lantern," "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," "Fast Five," "Rio," "Kung Fu Panda 2."

Websites

continued from page 1

The Team Redstone Facebook page is http://www.facebook.com/teamredstone and the Team Redstone Twitter page is http://www.twitter.com/teamredstone.

FMWR also has a Facebook and Twitter page where you can stay updated on events related to FMWR.

The FMWR Facebook page is http://www.facebook.com/redstone.mwr and the FMWR Twitter page is http://www.twitter.com/redstonemwr.

Other organizations may have a Facebook or Twitter page devoted only to their command as well. This site would be best for events pertaining particularly to a certain organization. You can perform a search for your organization's title within the social media sites using the search tool.

Websites

Websites are a wealth of knowledge when it comes to needing information quickly. The Team Redstone website can direct you to what you're looking for, and links are found within drop down menus and sidebars on the page. The Team Redstone homepage is http://www.garrison.redstone.army.mil/.

Some browsers don't display the Team Redstone page correctly, so if it doesn't look right, try using a different Internet browser for better viewing capability.

FMWR also has a website, and it includes a "News and Events" link. There, you can sign up for both text message and email updates, called "FMWR E-Happenings," for FMWR news and events. This page also contains links to their social media sites. The FMWR website is http://www.redstonemwr.com/. You can call the FMWR main office at 876-2073.

Many Redstone organizations have a website for their command as well, most of which you can link to through the Team Redstone website on the "Tenants" link on the right-hand side of the page. The address for the site is http://www.garrison.redstone.army.mil/tenants.asp.

Channel 42

This informational television channel is only broadcast on post and is a great way to catch events that you might have missed. It also broadcasts updates from organizations like FMWR, Fox Army Health Center and the Garrison Safety Office.

Some live events, such as the Equal Employment Office's monthly diversity observances, are first broadcast live and then repeated throughout the month. Also, many of Fox Army Heath Center's "Lunch and Learns" are shown on this channel. When local events are not on, the station broadcasts what is showing on the Pentagon Channel.

To watch this station, tune your nearest on-post television set to Channel 42.

Redstone Rocket

Published weekly on Wednesday, the *Redstone Rocket* is the longest standing communication form on the Arsenal. Since its inception 60 years ago, people have turned to the *Rocket* for the latest in activities, news and thorough coverage of the week's events.

Available in print in locations across the Arsenal and the community, the *Rocket* is readily utilized. Newsstands can be found at the Exchange and Commissary, Garrison building 4488, Bowling Center, the Community Activity Center, FMWR gyms and several on-post work facilities. In addition, the *Rocket's* off-post distribution includes: Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, Huntsville International Airport, U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Signature Aviation, Pratt Avenue Post Office (Propst Drugs), Café Sun, UAH and SMDC (Research Park); in Madison, Veterans Health Care (Madison Boulevard); in Decatur, Post Office, *Decatur Daily* and Calhoun College.

Now, there is also an online version of the *Rocket*. The most current issue and archived issues can be found at http://www.theredstonerocket.com/ and http://pao.redstone.army.mil. From the redstonerocket.com website, you can link to Team Redstone's social media pages. The *Rocket* has its own Facebook page as well, and it can be found at http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Redstone-Rocket-newspaper-website/133475340053454.

Every Wednesday, an email is sent out Redstone Arsenal-wide announcing the top *Rocket* stories for the week as well as upcoming events of interest. If you have any questions pertaining to *Rocket* distribution or if you want to receive the weekly *Rocket* email announcement, send your request to teamredstone.cmdinfo@conus.army.mil.

Installation guide

This annual publication features information on the Redstone Arsenal community, and its commands and organizations as well as phone number listings for on-post organizations and an installation map. The guide also includes information on Huntsville area events and a yellow page directory.

Copies of the installation guide either in hard copy or computer disk are available through public affairs offices on post, and through Army Community Service and the Garrison Public Affairs Office. If you have trouble obtaining an installation guide, email teamredstone.cmdinfo@conus.army.mil.

MILPO announces website for veterans

The National Personnel Records Center has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty): http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. Because the requestor will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center mail room and processing time.

For more information, call Barbara Moudy at 313-6481 or email: barbara.moudy@us.army.mil. *(Military Personnel Office release)*

Soldier wins wild game cookout's chili cookoff

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Outdoor Recreation's Tom Pyburn presents the first place trophy to the winner of the chili cookoff, Maj. Dustin Heumphreus.

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
Staff writer
amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

All it took was a touch of Guinness and a dash of red wine.

Command and General Staff College students Maj. Dustin Heumphreus and Maj. Joe McLaine were only looking for something fun to do on a Friday night and a way to pass the time away from their families, but the two took home much more than that at the 2012 Outdoor Recreation Wild Game Cookout's Chili Cookoff.

Heumphreus defeated reigning champion Mike Chemsak, FMWR recreation division chief. McLaine took home third place. Both were awarded trophies for their creative concoctions that featured venison they obtained from Outdoor Recreation after hearing about the annual cookout and reading about it in the *Rocket*. Their class will graduate from the college at the end of April.

"We're glad we can be part of the community and that we can integrate and engage here at Redstone," Heumphreus said.

Heumphreus' winning recipe, "Tennessee Drunk Buck," included Guinness and red wine, as well as the deer, a combination he said he came up with by googling chili recipes and mixing and matching a few the night before. McLaine's "Black Betty" also included Guinness Stout.

"The Redstone community has been very welcoming," said McLaine, who encouraged his fellow classmates to attend the event. "We're very happy that we were able to participate in this great tradition."

See Game on page 12

Game

continued from page **10**

Record breaking crowds turned out for Outdoor Recreation's annual celebration at the Community Activity Center Friday night, where the cooks couldn't keep the duck poppers and deer summer sausage coming fast enough. For nearly two hours the line for the wild game wrapped around the room, as singer Matt Prater entertained and Outdoor Recreation staff Bill Moreland, Tom Pyburn and Monique Dykstra worked the room, mingling with diners and making sure there was enough food to go around. The Crimson Tide Bass Anglers also made an appearance at the event.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Dennis and Stacy Hubbard and 6-year-old Quenton Hubbard enjoy their dinner.

Automated system notifies workers during emergency

Photo by Sue Tillery

A catastrophic storm ripped through northern Alabama on April 27, 2011, killing more than 200 people around the state. This is Sue Tillery's damaged home after a F5 tornado hit in Athens. She and her family all survived unharmed.

By CHERISH WASHINGTON
AMC Public Affairs

Your phone rings: "Please report to your appointed shelter," the message says. Within the hour, a F5 tornado rips through your neighborhood.

Approximately 1,600 tornadoes occurred across the states in the 2011 tornado outbreak. Locally, homes were flattened and thousands were left without power, including Redstone Arsenal, on April 27.

How were you notified about the storm? And did your supervisor know you were safe?

In the event of an emergency, the Army Materiel Command uses the Emergency Notification System to warn its employees of pending danger.

However, technology is only as effective as the information provided by the work force.

Currently, 38 percent of the headquarters AMC work force has a mobile phone number listed in the ENS system, 27 percent have a home phone listed, 15 percent have an emergency contact listed, and 33 percent of the work force have signed up to be notified via their home email in the event of an emergency.

The purpose of the ENS system is to alert users of impending or occurring emergency conditions and to communicate critical information to the users before, during and after an event.

"For example, in the event of a tornado warning, all employees will receive a message saying that they should report to their appointed shelter," Morgan Stangle, staff action control officer for the AMC Operations Center, said. "Another example is if we have a base closure the ENS system will target users' alternate contact methods to inform them that they are to stay at home due to base closure, and that those mission essential personnel should or should not report to work."

Submitting your information is voluntary, but not providing all the requested information – including your personal mobile phone, home phone, email – could lead to an employee not receiving information in a timely manner.

To prevent vexing employees with notification after notification, the system gives the user the option to acknowledge.

"Each end user will receive notification until they respond; at that point the system will stop sending notifications," Stangle said. "For example, if we have a tornado warning issued during working hours each end user will receive a pop up notification on their desktop, an email and potentially a call on their work phone. If the user acknowledges the message the notices will stop, if they do not respond they will then roll over to sending to their alternate points of contact," Stangle explained.

Your information within the ENS system is protected by the Privacy Act to prevent the sharing of personal information.

"ENS helps to keep employees safe, keeps them informed of what is going on. It also provides leadership an easy and effective – if employees use the system – method to obtain accountability," Stangle said.

To update your information: right click the purple icon in your tool bar; select Access Self Service, update information on the "My Info" tab and "Devices" tab.

Huntsville Center supports Afghan recycling program

By WILLIAM S. FARROW
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Courtesy photo

Besides typical waste recycling, the program reduces the solid waste stream by incinerating large quantities of unsorted solid wastes at military facilities.

Huntsville Center's International Operations Division is working with partners to help bring recycling and reusing initiatives to Afghanistan.

The environmental support contract with AECOM, a professional technical and management support services firm, establishes a recycling program which combines waste management with economic development and social contribution in Anbar Province, Afghanistan.

Project manager Bruce Railey, Huntsville Center IO division, said the program supports an economic development strategy by partnering with Afghanis to build sustainable Afghan businesses surrounding waste recycling that extends beyond U.S. military installations there and into local communities.

He said besides typical waste recycling, the program also reduces the solid waste stream by incinerating large quantities of unsorted solid wastes at military facilities.

"The integrated solid waste management programs center on source segregation, collection and reuse, and waste composting projects diverting tons of waste and emissions from burn pits to incinerators and reduces fuel usage," Railey said.

Railey said first year program results of the contract include additional local business opportunities, establishment of segregation and reuse contracts, vendors for recyclables in multiple locations, and projects for treating petroleum contaminated soil associated with the burn pits.

Suzanne Thomas-Cole, AECOM associate program director, said AECOM has 10 recycling specialists deployed in Afghanistan developing and implementing recycling initiatives in an environment with limited infrastructure for recyclable materials.

"We won an award under the Huntsville Center Worldwide Environmental Remediation Services contract for environmental management support that consisted of finding and mobilizing 10 recycling professionals to perform as recycling specialists for USFOR-A," she said.

Since June the specialists have been deployed to locations throughout Afghanistan. Thomas said at most installations solid waste is dumped into pits, covered with fuel and burned. In a few instances, waste is disposed of in poorly operating burn boxes and incinerators.

"Burn pits create serious air pollution problems around the camps and bases not to mention personnel exposure issues to the smoke and particulate," Thomas said.

However, by implementing recycling programs Thomas said AECOM reduces what is being burned by at least 60 percent.

"In fact, we believe that we can eventually eliminate the burn pits with this program," she said. "Our numbers tell us that we can also substantially improve the operations of their incinerators by removing the wet waste (food waste) that they are now trying to burn."

There is plan for development of a food waste composting program at a facility owned and operated by an Afghan women's partnership – resulting in 60 new jobs for the Afghan community.

Thomas also said there is significant cost savings to the Army in each of the initiatives and the plan is to eventually use incinerators built in country to reduce the hazards associated with fuel transport in country.

Railey said one of the most important aspects of the program is the counter insurgency angle to this initiative.

"We're providing opportunities for local Afghans to develop businesses based on this recycling program and carrying it beyond the Army fence-line to local cities and towns," he said.

PEO Aviation certifies top-level cost cutters

Black belts awarded in Lean Six Sigma

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Three members of the air defense community have joined the elite ranks of professionals finding ways to save Army money.

Samuel Collier, Clinton Wann and Stanley McCrary, all of the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office, participated in a Lean Six Sigma black belt certification ceremony Feb. 1 at the Program Executive Office for Aviation.

Collier became the first Army civilian from PEO Aviation to receive his Master Black Belt Certification. He is also the 76th civilian/military recipient Armywide.

Wann and Stanley McCrary received their black belt certifications.

"Innovative smart thinking by folks like you all is what we need," Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, the PEO for aviation, said. "Budgets are getting tight. That's a huge achievement. I'm really proud of you all."

Collier, UAS logistics program manager, and Wann, a logistics engineer, worked together on a project to improve technical manual production. McCrary, of the modernization product office, worked on streamlining the basis of issue plan feeder data.

"The combined projects over the next five years will have cost avoidance of approximately $3 million," Tim Franklin, Lean Six Sigma deployment director for PEO Aviation, said.

Collier mentored Wann and McCrary and helped them achieve their black belts.

"I want to thank the leadership of PM UAS – project manager Col. Tim Baxter, Dr. Juanita Harris, the deployment director, and Ed Ward, the primary project sponsor for logistics – for supporting the initiative," Collier said, "and allowing us the opportunity to try to improve the processes to make them more efficient for the overall organization PM UAS.

"It's an honor and a privilege to receive that (master black belt)," he said. "And with declining budgets and budget cuts the Army's going to receive it's imperative that we start applying Lean Six Sigma processes – trying to be more efficient in our business, minimizing process time, reducing errors and reducing the costs. In the future I look to apply Lean Six Sigma in the organization I'm working for and look forward to working an enterprise project that crosses command-wide and organizations like IMMC (Integrated Materiel Management Center) and other PMs."

Photo by Skip Vaughn

From left, Clinton Wann and Stanley McCrary received their black belt certifications from the program executive officer for aviation Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby. Samuel Collier received his master black belt.

Army, Coast Guard unite for aircraft towing system

By SOFIA BLEDSOE
PEO Aviation Public Affairs

Photo by PM AGSE

Standing in front of two SATS vehicles after the roll-off ceremony are, from left, Lt. Col. Steve Ansley, product manager for Aviation Ground Support Equipment; Bruce Steingart, vice president of NMC-Wollard; Timothy Keyes, president of NMC-Wollard; and Chief Warrant Officer Greg McDermott, support equipment chief of the U.S. Coast Guard Aviation Logistics Center.

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. – The Army teamed with the U.S. Coast Guard on the Standard Aircraft Towing System Joint Venture during a roll-off ceremony at the NMC-Wollard facility Feb. 1 in Eau Claire.

The first five SATS rolled off the production line and were delivered to the U.S. Coast Guard by the Product Office for Aviation Ground Support Equipment, part of the Program Executive Office for Aviation, during the initial joint-use production line roll-off event.

"SATS represents the mutually beneficial scenario to both government and business that occurs when a system that one service is using can be incorporated for use by another, with little or no modifications, and our industry partners are flexible and responsive enough to accommodate the increased production requirements," Lt. Col. Steven Ansley, product manager for AGSE, said.

Used for pushing or towing all Army rotary and fixed wing aircraft, the SATS is a towing vehicle which has been in the field supporting Army aviation units since 2010. The SATS is also capable of towing all the associated Aviation Ground Support Equipment for the Army and is an integral piece of ground support equipment that supports Army aviation missions every day.

To date, the Army has bought 487 SATS and fielded them to units worldwide. The U.S. Coast Guard will now begin fielding nearly 100 SATS to its locations.

Bruce Steingart, vice president of NMC-Wollard, said the demand for the SATS has grown especially with the new Coast Guard order.

"A joint venture of this magnitude is very exciting for the company and its employees. We are very pleased with the success of the SATS program and look forward to a long and mutually successful relationship with the United States Coast Guard," Steingart said.

Modifications to the SATS are under way and will enhance the protection of Soldiers while they operate the vehicle on open airfields. During the AGSE Users Conference in September 2009, the product office heard from Soldiers representing various aviation brigades who unanimously recommended a modification to the SATS that will protect them from all the weather elements they encounter.

The product office initiated a modification to the contract which includes a rigid cab structure called the Crew Protection System. The CPS has a ventilation capacity via sliding side and rear windows, complete with heating, interior lighting and an easy on/off design.

The CPS has been fielding since October 2011, both directly from the production line at NMC-Wollard and as a retrofit to the pre-CPS versions which are being installed on those units at their Army home stations.

"PM AGSE is very pleased with the dedication and responsiveness NMC-Wollard has shown, specifically in cutting the CPS into their existing production process," Ansley said. "They are producing a system which is making the lives of Army aviation Soldiers, and now our Coast Guard brothers and sisters, easier and allowing them to perform their aircraft maintenance mission more effectively."

Fun

continued from page 4

During the past year, FMWR has been reshaping and redeveloping its programs and activities to better reflect the changing Arsenal community. With the move of the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, the Arsenal lost a community of about 1,000 transitional Soldiers that fueled a robust intramural program, populated activities offered through the Recreation Center and kept the Arsenal's nightspot – Brooklyn's in the Bowling Center – filled with Soldiers who enjoyed playing pool or watching sporting events with their friends at a sports lounge.

But while the younger Soldier is no longer part of the Arsenal community, there is a growing community of senior Soldiers and civilians who still want to enjoy what FMWR has to offer both in terms of adult and family programs.

"The move of OMEMS really had a huge impact on our customer base," Gould said. "But with more and more offerings of family-oriented programs we are reworking some of our hours and activities so that we can provide the kinds of things our work force will enjoy. What we offer is based on customer need and demand."

So, while The Summit continues to offer Comedy Nights, beer and wine tasting events, and other social gatherings, other FMWR programs offer team sports to include bowling, basketball and softball; outdoor recreation such as boating, hunting and camping; entertainment that brings outdoor concerts and festivals to the Arsenal; and facilities for numerous activities including arts and crafts, auto repair, children's martial arts and dance activities offered through the School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills, and even flying airplanes.

FMWR focus

Part 1 of series

"These offerings are benefits for our federal work force," Gould said. "Our customers are getting the best we have to offer in activities, facilities and customer service."

In a weekly series beginning today, the *Redstone Rocket* will explore the variety of programs, activities and events offered by FMWR.

Offering the best in facilities has, in recent years, led FMWR to add new and renovated facilities to attract new customers and increase usage by existing customers overall. Those facilities have included an expanded golf course, renovated gyms, a new bowling center, updated arts and crafts, and auto skills center facilities, and updated sports fields. But Gould and the FMWR staff know that to keep customers coming in the front door of their facilities they must provide top quality service.

"When the new Bowling Center opened in 2005, it was packed from day one. It is very easy to maintain a large number of customers six months to a year with a shiny new facility," Gould said. "But without good customer service you don't keep those customers and you don't grow your customer base. Sometimes, customer service overrides everything else."

More than 90 percent of the FMWR work force has received Operations Excellence Training and monthly training programs that reiterate the importance of good customer service.

"Customers keep coming back because of the employees at the front counters and throughout our facilities who do all the hard work to make their experience a good one," Gould said. "It is important that the entire FMWR work force understands they are the important cog in the machine."

Fortunately, new and renovated facilities have been designed to make it easier for FMWR employees to serve their customers.

"We've built in more efficiencies so it is easier for them to do their jobs," Gould said. "For example, we doubled the size of the kitchen at The Summit so that the staff can prepare two different kinds of meals for large groups at the same time. We have added better employee facilities to increase morale and to make it a better working environment overall."

Renovations, especially those at Pagano Gym and The Summit, have received a lot of positive feedback from customers.

"At Pagano Gym, things are more user friendly, there's more space and the offerings are so much better. At The Summit, people have liked the new aesthetics," Gould said.

FMWR is working to increase its conferencing, meeting and catering offerings with the opening of The Overlook and the Community Activity Center during the past year. This year, FMWR will open a renovated facility that will be known as The Cliffs (formerly the Rustic Lodge) and the renovated Heiser Hall, where the popular Friday night movies are set to resume in the next month or so. In addition, the former dining facility will be renovated to provide a one-stop site for Army Community Service; FMWR membership office; Child Youth and School Services registrations; Information, Tickets and Reservations activities; Leisure Travel; and the Java Café.

"It will be a one-stop signup shop to make things more convenient for our customers," Gould said.

While the FMWR offerings provide a rich quality of life, Gould said his staff is most challenged by informing the Arsenal work force about its offerings and who can use them.

"Anyone who has access to the Arsenal can use our facilities," he said. "And I believe if we offer something the Arsenal community wants, then they will use it.

"Our challenge is to offer programs, activities and events to entice our work force to either stay here after work or to return. And in today's fiscal environment, we also have to be self-sustaining. If we aren't, then we will have to shut down programs. So, it is important that we offer programs, activities and events that appeal to a wide range of our work force."

To that end, Gould said the FMWR staff is always interested in customer input.

"We listen to what our customers say and we respond," he said. "They need to give us their ideas. We have and will incorporate their ideas into FMWR. And we hope our customers spread the word about what is available here for them."

Industry professionals help design acquisition strategy

By JASON CUTSHAW
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Members of the defense industry participated in the second Design, Development, Demonstration and Integration program and Test Execution Services and Launch Augmentation update on Jan. 24 at the Jackson Center in Research Park West.

Defense industry professionals learned more in depth about how the D3I program is utilized to conduct research for the development and procurement of hardware components and software solutions for space, high altitude, missile defense, information integration and data exploitation, as well as enhanced war fighter capabilities.

"We have been posting information and sharing information with industry as we go through the development process, and D3I helps speed that process along immensely," said Cathy Dickens, principal assistant responsible for contracting, Army Contracting Command-Redstone. "D3I allows us to receive feedback from industry on what we need to do to improve, how we can maximize competition and who is available to satisfy our needs when it comes to contracts.

"We have received great feedback from industry as we have developed this acquisition strategy. So what you see in this strategy is a recognition of our industry partners and what they can bring to the table and how we can minimize any deficiencies. Also, we have learned how we can stand by industry and help draw down costs and maximize performance to gain rapid turnaround with technology and support our war fighters as rapidly as possible, and that is our bottom line."

Hosting the event once again was the Jackson Center. The 13,000-square-foot facility hosts corporate events, government and industry conferences as well as educational and research training for groups of 500-700 people.

"We are pleased that D3I is hosting their industry day conference once again at Jackson Center," said Jerri Robinson, Jackson Conference Center director. "The success and growth of Jackson Center in 2011 was driven largely in-part by the government and industry market and we hope to see this growth continue in 2012.

See Industry on page 30

Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Cathy Dickens, principal assistant responsible for contracting, Army Contracting Command-Redstone, answers a question asked by *The Huntsville Times* reporter Ken Kesner, right, following introduction briefings of the second Design, Development, Demonstration and Integration day Jan. 24 at the Jackson Center in Huntsville. Also in the interview were Tom Webber, Tom Kallam and Dr. Jack Tomkovich (not shown). D3I is a new acquisition process being implemented, and the day was designed to familiarize local defense industry contractors with the program.

Ammo specialist graduates at top of Ranger class

By TRACY A. BAILEY
75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga. – "Rangers Lead the Way…" took on a new meaning for one of the newest graduates of the Army's Ranger Course, Jan. 20.

Sgt. 1st Class David James, ammunition section chief, Company E, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, earned the school's Glen M. Hall Enlisted Leadership award.

James, a native of St. Croix, Virgin Islands and a graduate of St. Croix Central High School, joined the Army in August 2003 and graduated from the Ammunition Specialist Course at Redstone Arsenal.

His first assignment was with 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as an ammunition specialist. He deployed twice with 25th ID; once to Iraq and once to Afghanistan.

James volunteered for the 75th Ranger Regiment in the fall of 2007, and following successful completion of the Assessment and Selection Program, was assigned to Company E, 1st Bn., 75th Rgr. Rgt.

He has 14 months in combat with 1st Bn., three tours to Iraq and two to Afghanistan.

James found the Army Ranger Course extremely challenging.

"Ranger School pushes you and you find out a lot about yourself," he said. "It was an honor to be named the Glen M. Hall Enlisted Honor Graduate.

"The worst part of Ranger School? Definitely the field training exercise; especially the first two days; we had 20 degree weather and rain and the following day we had snow."

Graduation day, however, made it all worthwhile.

"It was great to see all my friends and all of those who supported me," James said. "It made me happy."

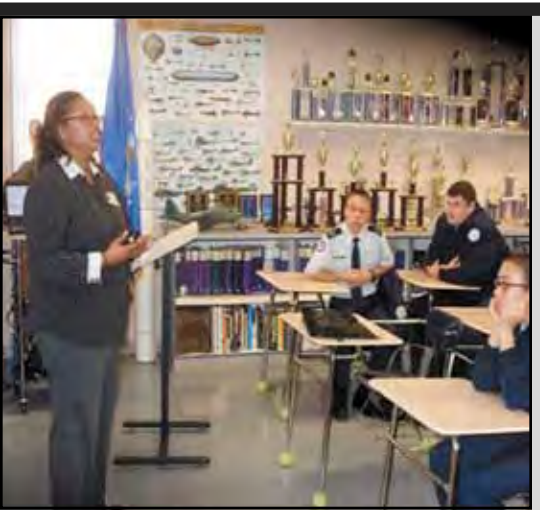
James was promoted to sergeant first class following graduation. He was eligible to pin on E-7 Nov. 1, 2011; however, he was in the Darby Phase of Ranger School.

Sgt. 1st Class David James

James is one of four ammunition handlers with the Victor identify in the Army, according to officials.

"I wanted to be part of an elite team," James said. "The Regiment is an awesome opportunity to progress in the military."

If you are an experienced NCO and are interested in volunteering for the 75th Ranger Regiment, contact the recruiters at 75recruit@soc.mil.



Courtesy photo

JROTC speaker

AMCOM Equal Employment Opportunity specialist Melanie Bone speaks to JROTC students at Bob Jones High School in Madison. She talked about the military landscape for women and how it changed over the 20 years she served in the Air Force before retiring. She appeared as part of the AMCOM Army Education Outreach Program.

Corps of Engineers Learning Center ready to serve

The Army Corps of Engineers Learning Center is a major component and force multiplier of the USACE Human Capital Plan in attracting, retaining and developing a disciplined, competent and professional work force, now and into the future.

Through the Proponent Sponsored Engineer Corps Training program, the center provides cost reimbursable technical courses to USACE employees and other DoD, federal and state customers. Competencies are identified from the Competency Management System and validated by subject matter experts; and PROSPECT courses are linked to competencies to ensure return on value. PROSPECT offers the Corps of Engineers communities of practice the opportunity to meet professional training requirements.

As a component of the Corps of Engineers Directorate of Human Resources, the learning center was established in Huntsville in the 1970s to offer training to meet or achieve the required competencies to sustain and improve the ability of the work force to successfully execute its mission.

The center offers vital engineering and support training to develop and sustain competencies cultivating a competent, disciplined and resilient work force that provides high quality solutions.

The center provides high quality learning experiences to Corps of Engineers, DoD, federal, state and non-government individuals.

The center's PROSPECT program is self-funded via a 100 percent tuition based business model, with the cost (tuition) of each course determined by the exact costs of operating each session.

It provides continuing education credits to maintain professional certification. The curricula offer 175 active diverse courses.

The center provides web-based/mobile training courses and applications available and in development. There are 400 continental U.S. and OCONUS sessions annually and 11,000 students each year.

Its 500-plus member adjunct faculty mostly consists of Corps of Engineers subject matter experts.

For more information about the Army Corps of Engineers Learning Center, email Jeffrey Dziedzic at jeffrey.d.dziedzic@usace.army.mil or visit http://ulc.usace.army.mil/. *(Corps of Engineers release)*

Photo by Melody Sandlin

Fellows forum

Redstone Arsenal students of the Defense Acquisition University's Senior Service College Fellows program meet Feb. 1 with Maj. Gen. Del Turner, commander of the Security Assistance Command. Turner discussed USASAC's role in foreign military sales and leadership expectations during the international forum with the Fellows.

IRS reminds parents of 10 tax benefits

Your kids can be helpful at tax time. That doesn't mean they'll sort your tax receipts or refill your coffee, but those charming children may help you qualify for some valuable tax benefits. Here are 10 things the IRS wants parents to consider when filing their taxes this year.

1. Dependents – In most cases, a child can be claimed as a dependent in the year they were born. For more information see IRS Publication 501, Exemptions, Standard Deduction, and Filing Information.

2. Child Tax Credit – You may be able to take this credit for each of your children under age 17. If you do not benefit from the full amount of the Child Tax Credit, you may be eligible for the Additional Child Tax Credit. For more information see IRS Publication 972, Child Tax Credit.

3. Child and Dependent Care Credit – You may be able to claim this credit if you pay someone to care for your child or children under age 13 so that you can work or look for work. See IRS Publication 503, Child and Dependent Care Expenses.

4. Earned Income Tax Credit – The EITC is a tax benefit for certain people who work and have earned income from wages, self-employment or farming. EITC reduces the amount of tax you owe and may also give you a refund. IRS Publication 596, Earned Income Credit, has more details.

5. Adoption Credit – You may be able to take a tax credit for qualifying expenses paid to adopt an eligible child. If you claim the adoption credit, you must file a paper tax return with required adoption-related documents. For details, see the instructions for IRS Form 8839, Qualified Adoption Expenses.

6. Children with earned income – If your child has income earned from working, they may be required to file a tax return. For more information, see IRS Publication 501.

7. Children with investment income – Under certain circumstances a child's investment income may be taxed at their parent's tax rate. For more information, see IRS Publication 929, Tax Rules for Children and Dependents.

8. Higher education credits – Education tax credits can help offset the costs of higher education. The American Opportunity and the Lifetime Learning Credits are education credits that can reduce your federal income tax dollar-for-dollar. See IRS Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Education, for details.

9. Student loan interest – You may be able to deduct interest paid on a qualified student loan, even if you do not itemize your deductions. For more information, see IRS Publication 970.

10. Self-employed health insurance deduction – If you were self-employed and paid for health insurance, you may be able to deduct any premiums you paid for coverage for any child of yours who was under age 27 at the end of the year, even if the child was not your dependent. For more information, see the IRS website.

Forms and publications on these topics are available at www.irs.gov or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676). *(IRS release)*

Problem-solving staff ready to answer call

Confidential help available for substance abuse issues

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
Staff writer
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The fact that few people know where the Army Substance Abuse Program is on Redstone Arsenal, or the very fact that it even exists is a double-edged sword.

When it comes to maintaining confidentiality for those that seek their services, ASAP couldn't be doing it better, but for the men and women that work day in and day out to ensure the health and well-being of Redstone Arsenal's work force, what concerns them most is that people in crisis aren't getting the help they need.

"People don't know they can get treatment here," Gina Koger, ASAP clinical program manager, said. "We can do anything that a nonprofit or other treatment provider can provide."

Located off the beaten path at building 3204 on Little John Road, the Army Substance Abuse Program is open to all DoD civilians and family members that are on their insurance, as well as all military, including National Guard and Reserve, and retirees. Services are free and confidential for civilian employees.

"Everything that happens in this building is extremely confidential," Koger said. "Nobody is going to be labeled as you're in treatment."

While most people think counseling for drug and alcohol abuse when they think of ASAP, it's more than just that. ASAP also includes prevention, education, treatment and rehabilitation, including programs like risk reduction, suicide prevention training, and the employee assistance program, which can assist civilians, retirees and their family members in dealing with such stressors as depression, anxiety and workplace conflicts.

"What we don't pay attention to doesn't get better, it gets worse," Lewis said. "On the front side we have people to address these issues early before they do mammoth damage."

Individuals don't have to hit rock bottom to seek out the program's services. If someone simply needs help problem solving or a sounding board, call to 842-9897 or 313-6255.

"You don't even have to know you have a problem, know you have a concern," Lewis said. "Pick up the phone and call and say, 'Here's what I'm thinking about, what do you think?' It's confidential, it's a phone call, and that's it. A lot of people struggle for a long time with issues, and a lot of times they'll tell you they weren't sure who to talk to or where to go. Call us."

The licensed professionals on the other side of the line are there to coach, mentor, and provide encouragement for as long as an individual may need through their outpatient services; if a more intensive approach is necessary, they will match them with the appropriate outside treatment. As scary as saying 'I need help' can be, ASAP staff said there is no reason to suffer in silence.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Army Substance Abuse Program staff members include, from left, Richard Lewis, Paula Hagy, Ruby Turner, Pat Johnson, Harold Smith and Gina Koger. They want to help Redstone Arsenal employees and family members through life's challenges.

"Taking that step and saying I need some help here, that's a difficult thing to do," Lewis said.

"There's no judgment here," Koger said. "I don't think we'd be doing this if we were shaking our fingers at people. You come when you're ready."

Civilians cannot be mandated to seek help from ASAP, but in some cases, particularly when a security clearance is involved, they can be strongly encouraged. The key is to seek help before it gets to that point.

"Keep trying it your way and when you determine that your way isn't working, give me a call," said Harold Smith, substance abuse counselor.

For more information about ASAP, call 842-9897 or 313-6255 or visit building 3204 on Little John Road.

"We're here. We're free. We're qualified," Koger said. "We don't have a waiting list. If you need help, we'll get you in."

Health center says prevention worth more than cure

By Fox Army Health Center

The new year brings with it new opportunity, new hope and another chance to start fresh with a healthier lifestyle. Fox Army Health Center is committed to helping to improve the health and well-being of its military population – those who serve our nation, past and present.

One of the best ways to assist us with this commitment is by taking advantage of preventive healthcare. Fox is calling all Tricare Prime beneficiaries enrolled to Fox Army Health Center to encourage monitoring and tracking of well-being through preventive services. These preventive services are either (1) screening procedures to detect disease or (2) primary or secondary preventive interventions to protect or restore health. They can help ensure that common, serious disease and conditions are detected and treated.

At this time, Fox is focusing on five preventive services for its enrollees: Diabetes Screening, Cervical Cancer Screening, Breast Cancer Screening, Colon Cancer Screening, and Asthma. Each service has a target risk population and time period for screening.

Diabetes is targeting only those beneficiaries, children and adults, age 18-75 with a past diagnosis of "diabetes." These beneficiaries must see their primary care manager at least annually to ensure they are being managed effectively. Lab tests (A1c, cholesterol, microalbumin) and exams (optometry exams, neuropathy exams) must be performed at least every 12 months and more frequently if the results are abnormal. Poorly controlled diabetes may result in decreased life expectancy, blindness, amputations, kidney failure and decreased quality of life. A staff member will be contacting those identified beneficiaries to schedule an appointment. If you need an appointment before being contacted, call Fox's appointment center staff at 955-8888.

Cervical cancer screening is targeting women, age 24-64, who have not had at least one Pap smear in the past three years. Worldwide, cervical cancer is the third most common type of cancer in women. It is much less common in the United States because of the routine use of Pap smears. If you need an appointment before being contacted, call the appointment center staff at 955-8888.

Breast cancer screening is targeting women, age 42-69, who have not had a mammogram in the past two years. Breast cancer is found in 1 of every 8 women. Early diagnosis leads to greater quality of life and life expectancy. If you need an appointment before being contacted, call Fox's Wellness Center at 955-8888, ext. 1026.

Colon cancer screening is targeting all adults, age 51-75, who have not had appropriate colorectal cancer screening. Screening may be accomplished in a variety of methods: fecal occult blood test within the past year, flexible sigmoidoscopy within the last five years and colonoscopy within the last 10 years.

If you need an appointment before being contacted, call the Wellness Center at 955-8888, ext. 1026.

Asthma is targeting only those beneficiaries, children and adults, with a past diagnosis of "asthma." These beneficiaries should have prescribed medications considered acceptable as a primary therapy for the long-term control of asthma in the past 12 months. Poorly controlled asthma leads to increased hospitalizations, emergency room visits and decreased quality of life for the beneficiary. A staff member will be contacting those identified beneficiaries to schedule an appointment. If you need an appointment before being contacted, please call the appointment center staff at 955-8888.

Let's work together to build a healthier you in 2012.

Huntsville Center launches weight-loss contest

Scale Back Alabama program draws engineering workers

By WILLIAM S. FARROW
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

More than 40 Huntsville Center employees are taking a shot at losing unwanted weight as Scale Back Alabama 2012, a statewide weight-loss contest designed to help Alabama fight obesity and to encourage participants to develop lifelong healthy habits, gets under way.

The program, now in its sixth year, has resulted in a total weight loss of nearly 760,000 pounds and healthier lifestyles for thousands of Alabamians. According to an annual report from the Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Alabama has the second highest obesity rate in the nation.

The 10-week contest is free of charge and is targeted to adults 18 and older. The program primarily focuses on the workplace and utilizes local businesses, schools and organizations as weigh-in sites.

To participate, teams of four registered and had their initial weigh in at a local site during the week of Jan. 21-27. Participants who complete the contest and are on a team in which every member loses at least 10 pounds are placed in a drawing for one of three grand prizes, the top prize being $1,000 per team member.

"Scale Back Alabama is a motivational boost for the new year for people who know they need to lose weight," Marsha Russell, Huntsville Center's Life Center director, said.

Russell said this is the fourth year the Center has participated in the event. She said the Center's most successful year was 2010, when 31 Huntsville Center teams lost a collective 661 pounds.

She said many people return to participate every year and even though participants may gain back some of the weight they lost, the team concept is motivational for the four-person teams.

"As a team, participants are motivated more than trying to lose weight on their own and they seem to have more success. (Losing) 10 pounds in 10 weeks is doable for just about everybody and the program has been a great success for Huntsville Center and Alabama," Russell said.

A Scale Back Alabama kickoff rally took place in Huntsville Center's Life Center on Jan. 25. Attendees were encouraged to participate in the program by guest speaker Grace Ragland who shared her story about her fight with multiple sclerosis and overcoming obstacles to become a world-class athlete.

Photo by William S. Farrow

World-class athlete Grace Ragland shares her story about her fight with multiple sclerosis at the Huntsville Center's kickoff rally Jan. 25 for Scale Back Alabama.

Ragland is a member of Team Compaxon, a group of 10 athletes afflicted with multiple sclerosis. Compaxon, a drug used to treat MS, is the sponsor of the team comprised of 10 athletes each excelling in different sports. Ragland is a competitive mountain biker and has competed in and won many prestigious and grueling mountain bike races.

As an 18-year-old college freshman, Ragland was diagnosed with MS in 1980. Although she led a physically active lifestyle before her diagnosis, she said the disease triggered a focus on her fitness and training.

"I know the benefits of being active and MS is my main competitor in life and so I'm winning the race against MS," Ragland said.

As a member of Team Compaxon, Ragland said she has the opportunity to speak to about 20 groups a year. "I used to say if I could make a difference in one person's life then I've done my job, but now I see that I'm touching many people's lives and it's not just people with MS, it's people with all kinds of challenges, such as losing weight."

Ragland said a team's success in a program like Scale Back Alabama depends on an individual approach.

"People have to set some goals, find what motivates them and keep their eyes on the prize."

Beekeeping business keeps retiree busy

By BETH SKARUPA
Staff writer
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Life after retirement keeps Bill Bradshaw and his wife, Delores, as busy as bees – or at least as busy as beekeepers.

Beekeeping is not just a hobby for the couple, it is a small business and a passion as well as a natural expression of their lifestyle. They first got into beekeeping in 2006 because they wanted to supply their own honey instead of buying it from a store. Bradshaw worked on Redstone Arsenal and said he was thinking about getting a few bee hives. Then Delores decided that if they were going to do that, they may as well sell the honey too.

The Bradshaws heard that Gary Suckow, a retired sergeant major from the 59th Ordnance Brigade/Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School who had worked with Bill, had about 20 hives at his farm and was willing to sell a few. Suckow and his wife, Nancy, own G & N Berry Farm in Harvest and keep bees to pollinate their berries.

The Bradshaws joined the Madison County Beekeepers Association and enrolled in a beginning beekeepers class. They bought two hives from Suckow, ordered precut wooden ware from a bee supplier, and assembled the bee hive bodies in their backyard. They learned from experience after that.

Although they both have bee suits and tend to the bees together, Bradshaw said the bees really belong to Delores. They both know a lot about bees and honey after six years of beekeeping, but Delores is the one who nurtures the bees. She likes to observe the bees and admires how particular and exact they are. She also hates to waste even a drop of honey because she knows just how much work it takes for a worker bee to make.

"It's just amazing what they can do," she said. "Bees are so industrious. They don't use up energy if they don't have to. ... Their lifespan is about six weeks in the summertime, a little bit longer in the winter. The worker bees, the females, use up a lot of energy in flying and they visit about 10 flowers per minute. They're really busy because they have to visit one million flowers to make just one pound of honey."

Both Bradshaws are veritable bee experts now. Bill is in charge of the MCBA's bimonthly newsletter. The club's mission is to educate the public about beekeepers and bees. Meetings are held at the Huntsville Botanical Garden on the first Thursday of every odd month. The club also exists so beekeepers can share their knowledge with one another.

"They say there are as many ways of practicing beekeeping as there are beekeepers," he said. "Everyone has a different way of doing things."

Bradshaw was a chief warrant officer 4 missile systems technician when he retired with 33 years of service on Feb. 29, 2008. Originally from eastern Oregon, he joined the National Guard while still in high school and went to basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. He joined the Army upon high school graduation. Half of his Army career was spent in Germany. He and Delores also lived in Oregon, Oklahoma and Minnesota, where Delores is from originally. They came to Huntsville in March 2003 and ended up deciding to stay even though they still have property in Minnesota.

"Oregon for me is one of those places you just can't go home," Bill Bradshaw said. "So it was either nine months of being snowed in (in Minnesota) or three months of sweating it out (in Alabama). Plus I liked being around the military, taking advantage of all the facilities."

Bradshaw also wanted to be around the space program. He volunteered and worked with a UAH professor, teaching students about rocketry and high-powered rocket competitions up until 2009. He is a member of the Triopli Rocket Association (Level II certified) and the Huntsville Area Rocketry Association, which is mainly a National Association of Rocketry club.

His father's interest in science fiction and seeing the moon landing on television led to his interest in NASA, rocketry and missiles. While in the Army, he helped maintain, repair and assemble missiles. He also, as an enlisted Soldier, was part of the launch team of the Army's largest nuclear missile, the Pershing. He operated the computer at launch for the P1A and then the PII.

"The first half of my military career I was in field artillery and spent most of my time living in a pup tent. Now the motor home is the only way to travel," he said.

When they are not busy beekeeping, the couple spends their time traveling to see relatives in Arkansas, Oregon and Minnesota. They enjoy exploring the countryside in their motor home with their cats and dog along for the ride. They always bring some of their honey along to give to family members and sometimes even sell it at stops along the way.

The Bradshaws have six bee hives and harvest about 90 pounds of honey each year. They keep 5-10 pounds for themselves and sell the rest by word of mouth. They sell one-pound jars for $6 and 12-ounce honey bear jars for $4.75. They will also sell 2 or 5 pound jars or fill up a customer's container. Their honey is called "neighborhood honey."

"It's called that because we're in the middle of a neighborhood, so the bees collect whatever's in a two or three mile radius of here. Most of it is going to be in people's yards and whatnot, so it's got good flavor," Bradshaw said.

The Bradshaws' pure Alabama honey is available for sale by calling 489-3383 or emailing dmbradshaw@knology.net. For more information on bees and beekeeping, attend a MCBA meeting or visit www.alabees.com.

Photo by Beth Skarupa

Army retiree Bill Bradshaw and his wife, Delores, have six beehives in their backyard. Their bees make enough honey for them to use themselves with plenty left over to sell.

New kiosk rewards recycling at Exchange

Dreams of a greener tomorrow can become a reality today with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's introduction of a new recycle kiosk at the Redstone Exchange, located near its food court.

The computerized kiosks recycle empty drink cans and plastic bottles into points Soldiers or retirees can redeem for select merchandise and discounts or even donate to charity.

Recycling at the kiosk is as easy as touching the screen, scanning a card and depositing an item. Recyclers receive a printed receipt and can go online to view point totals and reward options.

Each recycled item is worth five points and rewards, including tickets to local sporting events, travel deals and contributions to Keep America Beautiful, the Humane Society or Student Conservation Association, are available for as little as 100 points. Rewards range from dining, lodging and entertainment discounts for 100 points to a personal computer for 450,000 points.

"Participating in Dream Machine recycling is a win-win for Exchange shoppers," Exchange general manager Lorraine Arbo said. "Recyclers get to contribute to a greener world. And signing in at the kiosks allows users to collect points and rewards for each container."

Dream Machine kiosks represent an Exchange partnership with PepsiCo and Waste Management Inc. Besides the kiosks at Redstone Arsenal and other military installations, there are approximately 3,000 Dream Machines throughout the U.S. The program aims to increase recycling and help the environment, with the overall objective of increasing the U.S. beverage container recycle rate to 50 percent by 2018.

Dream Machine recycling also supports Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities. EBV is a national program offered through seven leading business schools to aid post-911 veterans in starting small businesses. PepsiCo has committed to donating $500,000 a year to EBV, with additional support tied to total pounds recycled.

Turn your dreams of a greener future into reality today by recycling at the Dream Machines. To learn more, log onto www.shopmyexchange.com/DreamMachine. *(Exchange release)*

Corrosion

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the Department of Defense at between $9 billion and $20 billion annually.

"Problems with corrosion represent 20 percent of AMCOM's total annual maintenance program," Steve Carr, AMCOM's corrosion program manager, said.

"Corrosion continues whether there is a war or not. It's an issue of concern because of the need in the field for performance reliability."

In recent years as corrosion has become a top concern within the Department of Defense and even Congress, AMCOM has focused squarely on corrosion issues, developing new procedures and techniques to combat corrosion, studying how different system designs and materials can encourage or discourage corrosion, and working to make Soldiers aware of corrosion effects. Its Corrosion Program Office, which employs more than 40 civilians, is equipped with laboratories and machinery to study corrosion issues. Recently the program moved into its new offices in building 7631 on Line Road near Gate 3.

For Reis, combating corrosion in one particular missile system – the Patriot – is a personal commitment. He retired in 2009 as a chief warrant officer 3 after a career operating and supporting the missile system.

"I really believe in the Patriot missile system and I want it to be successful and ready to fire when it's needed," the senior engineer analyst said.

Reis is a member of a team of corrosion program employees who assess corrosion issues in the field that are affecting the Patriot missile, write corrosion checklists for each piece of equipment related to the Patriot, and then teach Soldiers how to prevent that corrosion.

"We take pictures of corrosion on Patriot equipment, and then we show this in the classroom. If we can train the Soldiers on how to take care of the equipment, and they follow through with that training and work to prevent corrosion, then we can reduce the number of issues we have with corrosion on equipment," Reis said.

Reis was joined by corrosion program employees Courtney Guasti, Terry Williams and Stephen Coons on a 26-day deployment in 2011 to the Southwest Asia countries of United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait to conduct corrosion assessments of about 200 pieces of equipment and to train more than 170 Soldiers of the 69th Brigade, Air Defense Artillery, about corrosion prevention at four Patriot missile locations.

"Corrosion affects missiles, aviation and supplies," he said. "Dehumidification facilities and airtight storage facilities can assist with preventing corrosion. But a lot of the units, especially those deployed, don't have the facilities and tools to prevent corrosion.

"And that issue is compounded because the shelf life of today's equipment has to be longer. Equipment that once lasted 10 years now has to last 20 years. The number one thing is mission readiness. In general, Soldiers don't worry about corrosion. But looking to the future 20 years down the road, minor corrosion now means mission equipment later that can't perform."

The teaching team emphasizes to Soldiers that it only takes one day a month to prevent corrosion. Besides instruction, they leave each unit with corrosion prevention/repair kits.

"If they follow the instruction, mission readiness ratings will go up," Reis said. "Equipment will look better and run better. Preventing corrosion in the Patriot system is especially important because its life has been extended to 2042. There will be no new equipment. So, what can we do to help prolong the life of equipment?"

With that in mind, Reis will continue to be part of a team that pinpoints the 15 Patriot units stationed at Fort Bliss and Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; and in Korea, Germany, Okinawa and Southwest Asia.

Corrosion prevention has been an Army concern ever since the development of ballistic missiles.

"Corrosion prevention was a very serious consideration for missile systems because we wanted high reliability. The systems had to be stored over long periods of time and still have high reliability," said Carr, who began working on corrosion issues at Redstone as a young materials engineer 30 years ago.

"Corrosion problems can make a system unreliable and not operational. So, we reverse engineered the designs for missile systems so that we could study corrosion and how it affected the system, and so we could develop corrosion prevention and control processes."

Although most think of corrosion as only affecting metals, it can also affect plastics, polymers, sealants and all materials that go into the manufacturing of any piece of equipment. Besides the Patriot missile, Carr spent the early part of his career studying corrosion on many different missile systems, including Chaparral, Hawk, TOW and Javelin.

"Materials, finishes and design all affect corrosion," Carr said. "We study corrosion on different kinds of steels and metals, the impact of corrosion on bare metals versus finished metals, and how system designs can prevent water entrapment."

The Army's corrosion program was active until about 1990, when budget cuts led to the end of the formal program. Carr and others who studied corrosion prevention issues continued their work through the program management offices at Redstone.

"But in the mid-1990s, there were so many corrosion issues on vehicles in the Pacific Rim. Doors, floorboards, batteries, everything was getting corroded. There was a lot of high level Army attention brought to the issue and, in 1998, the Army restarted its corrosion program with the Tank and Automotive Command taking the lead," Carr said.

Also, between the ending of Desert Storm in 1991 and the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, "lots of

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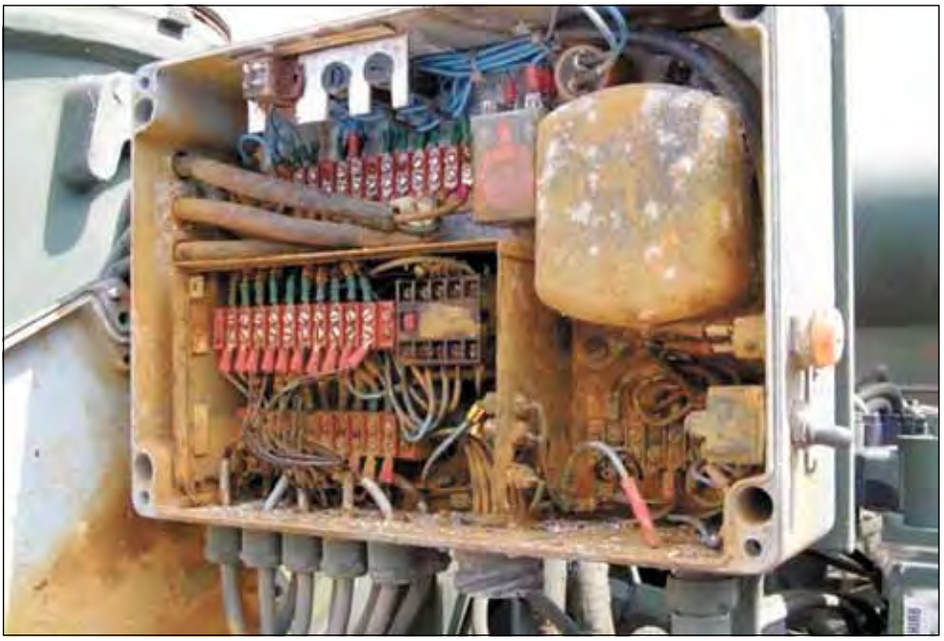
Photo by Kari Hawkins

Metallurgist Al Ingram takes calibrations of an extensometer, which is used to measure changes in the length of an object. The extensometer will be used in stress-strain measurements and tensile (or tension) tests of various metals.

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Scott Reis packs up a corrosion prevention/repair kit that will be given to a Soldier in the field during an upcoming corrosion prevention class.



Courtesy photo

Corrosion in this piece of Patriot missile equipment resulted in having to replace the equipment for about $15,000. The corrosion has the potential to cause system failure and could have been prevented if proper corrosion prevention techniques had been followed.

Program

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things were coming back for reset, and corrosion was a major issue. It began getting a lot of attention," Carr said. "After Desert Storm, missiles had to be de-milled because of corrosion. Desert Storm really affected aviation and missiles. Extensive corrosion required de-mil or repair. It was a major impediment."

By 2001, AMCOM officially set up its corrosion program with Carr as its program manager. Under then Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, AMCOM formed a partnership with Naval Aviation to study corrosion.

"Dodgen's last action (as commander of AMCOM) was to set up this partnership to look at the aircraft coming back for reset and doing assessments of corrosion issues and coming up with solutions," Carr said. "In 2004, we spent a lot of time looking at aircraft, and identifying several key corrosion issues and solutions.

"At about the same time, Congress signed the National Defense Appropriations Act with the requirement to start a corrosion program to determine the impact of corrosion throughout the Department of Defense."

Other AMCOM commanders also gave corrosion a top priority.

During the command of then Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, who consequently gave program funding to corrosion prevention in 2004, AMCOM tackled a major corrosion issue involving deployed aircraft shipped back to the states. Many were in good condition before shipment, but then had corrosion problems once they were back in the U.S.

"All the aircraft coming back were required to be shrink-wrapped, and the CH-47s (Chinook) were shrink-wrapped and stored on the top deck of a ship," Carr said. "The ship went through a storm and the shrink wrap was torn. Saltwater was trapped inside the shrink wrap, and it created rust.

"Even the Black Hawks, Apaches and Kiowas that were shrink wrapped and shipped below deck had condensation and water entrapment inside the shrink wrap. Gen. Pillsbury asked for the study, and we ended up getting rid of shrink wrap and now all helicopters must ship under deck. We found that even in Kuwait, helicopters that were shrink wrapped would sit in 140 degree weather before getting shipped. The shrink wrap wasn't well done because in that kind of heat you can't touch the aircraft while you wrap it. So, water would get inside while the helicopters sat there and mildew would grow."

Another major corrosion case involved 12 Patriot launchers in Korea that had to be shipped back to the U.S. for corrosion overhaul and repair at a cost of $4 million. In 2005, AMCOM spent $17.4 million in corrosion maintenance costs on Patriot, putting the system in the AMCOM top 10 for average corrosion cost and in the AMCOM top 20 for total corrosion cost.

Since then, corrosion issues have been given high visibility throughout DoD. There have been 30 DoD forums on the subject to develop policies for corrosion prevention, to study the cost of corrosion, and to conduct corrosion technology demonstration projects that show corrosion issues and solutions.

At AMCOM, another direct result of corrosion studies was to develop a conductive antenna gasket for the Chinook and Black Hawk helicopters to prevent corrosion from occurring between the aircraft's antenna and the body of the aircraft, which caused communication problems. In 2008, AMCOM's Corrosion Program became a Corrosion Center of Excellence for the Program Executive Office for Aviation.

"Now we have corrosion technology demonstration validation teams, corrosion unit assessment teams and non-destructive testing assessment teams that go out all over the world to study, assess and resolve corrosion issues," Carr said. "We provide corrosion awareness and prevention training, and corrosion repair kits to Soldiers. We are providing training and technology for Soldiers so they can take care of equipment in the field."

With existing systems, the corrosion program works to make modifications that reduce corrosion issues. With new systems, the program's engineers are involved in the design and acquisition process to minimize corrosion issues before a new system is even built. The corrosion program is involved in addressing corrosion issues on three levels – research and development, acquisition and sustainment.

"We are involved in both acquisition and sustainment. We can do better with our processes and our technologies, but we can never totally prevent corrosion. But if it is addressed in sustainment and if equipment is taken care of properly, it can be minimized," Carr said.

"Helicopters designed 50 years ago didn't have the technology and knowledge we have today to address corrosion in the design. There is nothing we can do about that but work to sustain and prevent corrosion problems. But in the systems we are designing today, we need to really address corrosion issues because once they are acquired those systems will impact the Army for years."

And to better help Carr and his employees in the battle against corrosion, Congress passed a law that requires the Department of Defense to have an organized effort to prevent and mitigate corrosion, and to ensure all major acquisitions are designed with a corrosion prevention control plan and a corrosion prevention action team.

"Those two things are in place for the life of the system," Carr said. "And the team works to revise designs and oversee sustainment so that new technologies can be incorporated to address corrosion issues during the lifetime of the system."

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Quality federation

The Army Materiel Command held the AMC Quality Federation annual meeting Jan. 31 through Feb. 2 at the Bevill Center. The 58 attendees included, from left, Susan Cole of AMC, Ron Edmunds of the Defense Contract Management Agency, Col. Betty Yarbrough of the Defense Logistics Agency, Bruce Ellrick of DLA Aviation and David Carns of DLA Aviation. AMC's Continuous Process Improvement Division served as host. The federation's goal is to communicate, collaborate, develop and recommend policies and procedures to headquarters AMC that will improve the overall quality of its products and services to the war fighter and reduce the overall cost to the taxpayer.

Air Force space cadre visits radar sites

Photo by Ruth Quigley

Gen. William Shelton, commander of Air Force Space Command, brought several key members of his staff with him to visit Kwajalein and Roi-Namur. Shelton came to Kwajalein as part of a several-week-long tour of assets in Air Force Space Command.

By RUTH QUIGLEY
USAKA/RTS public affairs officer

KWAJALEIN ATOLL, Marshall Islands – The commander for Air Force Space Command got a firsthand look at the radar and GPS facilities on Kwajalein and Roi-Namur during a visit to USAKA Jan. 23-24.

Gen. William Shelton and several one-star generals from his staff came to Kwajalein to visit facilities and discuss future efforts of cooperation and coordination between the Air Force and Army in the arena of space operations.

"USAKA plays an important role in support of space operations missions," Col. Joseph Gaines, USAKA/RTS commander, said. "Many people think of USAKA as just a test range; however, what we contribute to the space operations mission is quite significant. Having Gen. Shelton come to Kwajalein is recognition of the important role USAKA/RTS plays in the space operations arena."

USAKA and the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command have a history of working with the Air Force on many projects. Every year the Air Force uses Kwajalein in some capacity to conduct tests of the Minuteman III system. USAKA also participates in the Joint Space Operations Center with the Air Force, tracking objects in space during specified times.

"The RTS sensors play an important role in the Space Surveillance Network," Kurt Schwann, MIT/Lincoln Labs site manager, said. "Visitors cannot help but be impressed with this atoll, the sensors and the people. (Shelton and his staff) gained a clear understanding of our capabilities and the crucial role that we play."

Shelton and his staff spent a day on Roi-Namur touring all but one of the radar and optics sites on the island. Shelton was engaged during the entire visit, asking specific questions about each of the sites and showing a keen understanding of how radars operate.

At one site, the issue of parts replacement was mentioned, and one of the technicians explained the unique situation. Some of the radar parts are unique to that system and are not bulk-manufactured. The standard Army policy is to have a command turn in any parts not used in the past two years. However, for these radar parts an exception had to be made because some radar parts are much older, but still very needed.

Shelton also visited the Global Positioning System site on Kwajalein and enjoyed a potluck dinner with Gaines, his staff and key contractors Jan. 23.

Shelton's visit to USAKA was part of a nearly month-long tour of AFSPC sites around the world. He and his staff headed to Guam after departing Kwajalein Jan. 24. Shelton was accompanied by staff from AFSPC's headquarters: Brig. Gen. Samuel Greaves, director of plans, programs and analyses; Brig. Gen. Martin Whelan, director of requirements; Brig. Gen. David Thompson, director of air, space and cyberspace operations; Brig. Gen. Ian Dickinson, director of communications and information; and Jeffrey Allen, director of logistics, installations and mission support, and the commanders of the 21st and 50th Space Wings.

Shelton is responsible for "organizing, equipping, training and maintaining mission-ready space and cyberspace forces and capabilities for North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Strategic Command and other combatant commands around the world," according to a biography of Shelton found on the Air Force website. He is also in charge of space system development and acquisition.

Air Force Space Command is headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., with units stationed all over the country and the globe.

Industry

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"We are pleased to be able to support D3I by accommodating their budgetary requirements and providing services needed to make it successful."

The D3I program is used to implement programs including, but not limited to, Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations, Advanced Technology Demonstrations and the Missile Defense Central Test and Evaluation Investment Program. D3I provides SMDC and its customers with the ability to procure a broad range of missile defense, space and other applicable war fighter solutions in support of developmental and operational requirements.

"D3I is an avenue that will allow us to streamline the time it takes us to field equipment for the war fighter," Tom Webber, SMDC Technical Center deputy director, said. "We now have a method to have equipment go from 'cradle to grave,' and get the technology to our Soldiers quicker.

"Today is an opportunity for industry to learn the best submission process for achieving success in competition and what we are looking for in the future," he added. "We want to make sure everyone has the same information and knows the proper channels to go through for success."

The program includes providing anticipated solutions to include design, development, demonstration and integration of future capabilities. These efforts follow an evolutionary development of systems focused on a "Concept to Combat" philosophy which begins from design phase and ends when the system is in the hands of the war fighter.

"We are focusing everything we do on supporting our forces," Dr. Jack Tomkovich, SMDC Future Warfare Center operations chief, said. "Contracts are critical for us to continue providing services and our technical edge to our troops and one thing we have learned is that the smoother the process goes here, the quicker our troops get what they need."

"D3I is an avenue that will allow us to streamline the time it takes us to field equipment for the war fighter."
Tom Webber
SMDC Technical Center deputy director

D3I not only supports SMDC and Redstone Arsenal, but all branches of the U.S. military, NASA, the Department of Energy, allies and other government agencies in mission requirements related to space, high altitude, missile defense, ground systems, information integration and data exploitation and enhanced war fighter capabilities.

"These economic times are driving us to be more focused on streamlining the process in which we acquire technology and we hope this year we can learn more ways to accomplish that," Dickens said. "If today is like last year's D3I day, I am sure we will do just that."

Airspace trainer expands capabilities for units

By SOFIA BLEDSOE
PEO Aviation Public Affairs

The Product Office for the AH-64D Longbow Apache Block III conducted a demonstration Thursday of a new capability that will enable collective Manned-Unmanned Teaming training using a manned helicopter. The demo was held on the campus of University of Alabama-Huntsville.

The AB3 National Airspace Trainer was demonstrated to the Program Executive Office for Aviation leadership and local news media members for the first time and showed that a manned platform is capable of being a UAS surrogate and emulate the capabilities of Manned-to-Unmanned-Training. MUM-T is the ability for manned platforms such as the Apache to receive full motion video from a UAS and control the UAS payload such as its cameras. The AB3NAT is capable of providing Level of Interoperability 2-4, meaning it can control the flight path and payloads of an unmanned aircraft system.

"The AB3NAT, initially developed as an essential risk reduction effort to the upcoming Apache Block III IOT&E (Initial Operational Test and Evaluation), will also provide additional training capability that can be employed by tactical units without the normal restricted airspace limitations of UAS operations," Col. Shane Openshaw, project manager for Apache Attack Helicopters, said. "The team that designed, developed and tested the AB3NAT has done an outstanding job on this entire project, setting the stage for the future – a future in which the Army will benefit for many years."

Engineered, developed and tested in Huntsville, AB3NAT is a flexible system that provides MUM-T capabilities without the restrictions associated with a UAS that currently have to operate in restricted airspace. The AB3NAT ultimately addresses the need for collective MUM-T training when multiple assets are not organic to one unit.

Because it takes coordination and training with multiple aircraft that are not necessarily organic to one unit, the AB3 Product Office came up with a solution that allows units to conduct collective training.

"When you look across the U.S. where units that have UAS are located, they're not able to train on MUM-T without deploying to another location that has restricted airspace," said Lt. Col. Dan Bailey, product manager for Apache Block III.

So the AB3 Product Office engineered and built the AB3NAT in collaboration with the University of Alabama-Huntsville and Momentum Foundation, a nonprofit organization that is part of UAH. The OH-58 used in the demonstration operates from the XP Services hangar in Tullahoma, Tenn.

Like many projects, this one was met with certain challenges that if not for the serious combined efforts of the AB3NAT team, may have delayed or even canceled the effort, said Capt. Jeffrey Belcourt, assistant product manager for AB3. "This team consisting of UAH, Momentum Foundation and PM Apache (AB3) definitely congealed for the good of the effort and the larger supporting picture," he said.

The idea for the AB3NAT was born out of lessons learned from the AB3 Limited User Test that was conducted in November 2008, which included testing the MUMT capabilities of the AB3 aircraft with a substitute UAS that operated under airspace restrictions such as all other UAS systems.

"The lesson learned there was we don't go to IOT&E without having collective training completed beforehand," Bailey said. "This initial contract provides us the collective training needed prior to IOT&E. It will be available to the unit to do as much collective training as they want to do."

Photo by Henry Norton

Rucie Moore, technical lead for the Apache Block III National Airspace Trainer project, shows AB3 product manager Lt. Col. Dan Bailey how the system emulates capabilities of an unmanned aircraft system and relays video to the manned aircraft, enabling collective manned-to-unmanned teaming training while using two manned platforms.

With AB3NAT, units can conduct MUM-T training with virtually no restrictions either on UAS availability or airspace.

"The purpose of this is to risk mitigate the lesson learned from LUT," Bailey said. The AB3NAT ultimately provides a possible long-term solution to conduct collective training by units located anywhere in the continental United States where UAS assets would be stationed.

Sue O'Brien, interim director of UAH's Rotorcraft Systems Engineering and Simulation Center, said this project fills a great need for a flight trainer in manned-to-unmanned teaming operating in national airspace.

"We want to thank the U.S. Army aviation program executive office and the Apache Project Office for the confidence they have placed in our center and university," she said. "We especially appreciate the efforts of Col. Shane Openshaw, Lt. Col. Dan Bailey and Capt. Jeff Belcourt for the leadership in this important program."

AB3NAT was designed with total flexibility in mind. It can be used in the current configuration, kitted for any non-specific Army aircraft or put on a pylon of a unit's organic aircraft in the form of a pod that will enable that unit to have its own capability.

"You can kit this in any way you want. You can kit this on an LUH Lakota helicopter that the National Guard has and all the training facilities the Army has across the U.S.," Bailey said. UAS units can also use the system for their own UAS operators, place them in a manned aircraft with NAT capability and conduct MUM-T training in terms of the voice communications and coordination with other manned aircraft that occurs during MUM-T.

The AB3NAT provides an exponential game-changing capability that the Army already has with MUM-T and will enable Soldiers to be able to train in all different LOIs at any given time and any given place. Units will now be able to train on MUM-T in their own respective unit locations and fly in any airspace. AB3NAT provides increased capability and flexibility, an increase in training opportunities, and cost savings in terms of funding and unit dwell time at their home stations.

The next step for the AB3 Product Office is to collect feedback from Soldiers training with the AB3NAT and will provide further improvement of the system through continued analysis and evaluation. PM AB3 intends to prove the system first during the AB3 IOT&E in March and provide the Army with all the options available to leverage the capabilities of the AB3NAT.

Photo by Henry Norton

The Apache Block III National Airspace Trainer project team includes representatives from the Apache Project Office, University of Alabama-Huntsville and the Momentum Foundation.

Arkansas leads field in SEC hockey tournament

Courtesy photo

The Arkansas Razorbacks are two-time defending SECHC champions.

Razorbacks to defend title at Huntsville ice complex

Arkansas will try to defend its title in the South Eastern Collegiate Hockey Conference tournament Feb. 24-26 in Huntsville.

The Razorbacks are the two-time defending champion in the SECHC, which is completing its fourth season as a representative body of 11 teams participating in Division III of the American Collegiate Hockey Association. The 11 teams are collegiate club ice hockey programs at the universities that make up the Southeastern Conference in NCAA athletics – with the exception of Kentucky, who participates in Division II.

The 2012 SECHC Tournament will take place in Huntsville for the first time in its brief four-year history. The championship tournament is scheduled Feb. 24-26 at the Benton H. Wilcoxon Ice Complex. Huntsville won the rights to the 2012 and 2013 tournaments.

The teams of the SECHC all play each other frequently via a "balanced schedule" throughout the season. This season, like the SEC and NCAA athletics, the teams in the SECHC were broken down into East and West divisions. Each team also scheduled games against numerous non-SECHC teams.

The eight teams participating in the Feb. 24-26 championship tournament are:

- **West Division** – Alabama, Arkansas, Auburn and Ole Miss.
- **East Division** – Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and Vanderbilt.

Arkansas defeated Florida in the championship final in both 2010 and 2011.

The SECHC is led by Kenny "Sarge" Day who became the conference's first elected commissioner during the 2009-10 season. Day is a retired Army master sergeant and former paratrooper who served with the 82nd Airborne Division. He previously served as assistant coach and business manager for Georgia Tech ice hockey for 10 years and was the co-head coach of the University of California-Davis for three seasons. Day also served as the ACHA D III South regional coordinator for five years and coordinated two national tournaments for the ACHA. During his Army career, Day was a member of the Army's club hockey team at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"I am thrilled at the thought of bringing the SECHC playoffs to the great city of Huntsville and to have use of the beautiful Wilcoxon Ice Complex. No facility in the Southeast USA has better ice or does a better job than Steve Clough and his staff," Day said. "We are also strong supporters of University of Alabama-Huntsville NCAA D I hockey and the Huntsville Amateur Hockey Association and consider it an honor to conduct our playoffs in Huntsville."

The SECHC West division coordinator is Steve Durrigan, former head coach of the University of Tennessee; and the East division coordinator is Georgia head coach and the founder of the SECHC, John Hoos.

This year, the "ARMY STRONG Championship Cup" will be presented to the champions of the Feb. 24-26 SECHC playoffs. The City of Huntsville's SECHC Playoffs MVP Award will be presented to the tournament's most valuable player.

Hosted by the Huntsville Sports Commission and sponsored by the Army, there will be 10 games to decide the winner of the championship cup. All tickets will be sold at the door. Friday night tickets are good for four games, Saturday tickets for four games, and Sunday tickets for the third-place game and the championship final. Costs are $8 for adults, $5 for students with student ID, $5 for military (active duty, Guard, Reserve and retired with ID); and children 5-and-under are admitted free. For ticket sales and information, call the Iceplex 883-3774. You can also visit www.SECHChockey.com or email conference commissioner Day at SargeDay@Comcast.net. *(SECHC release)*

Sports&Recreation

Boating skills class

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

Havoc military night

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

Bass tournament

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

SEC hockey tournament

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

Ladies golf

The Ladies Redstone Golf Association will have its first meeting of the year March 7 at 9 a.m. at the Pro Shop at the Links. All ladies interested in joining and playing golf are invited for coffee and brunch. The members play each Wednesday from March 14 through the end of October and plan many tournaments to fit each person's handicap.

Wounded Warrior 5K

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

Benefit walk

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

Conferences&Meetings

Weekly worship

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

Protestant women

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

Parkinson's support

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

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Sergeants major

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

Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sentar offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Valerie Cortez 313-9753. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 4488, room B-306. For information call Claudinette Purifoy 955-9422. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 8721 Madison Boulevard in Madison. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359.

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.

Logistics society

The International Society of Logistics Tennessee Valley Chapter luncheon is Feb. 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Summit club. Eric Edwards, executive director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, is the scheduled speaker. For more information, call 533-5781, ext. 271.

Resource managers

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

Federal employees

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

Engineer luncheon

Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers, meets Feb. 16 at the Holiday Inn adjacent to Madison Square Mall. Check in begins at 11 a.m. The luncheon starts at 11:30, costs $15 and is open to the public. The topic is "Roofing: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly" presented by Raymond Engineering. The spotlight is on Bhate Engineering this month. For reservations, visit http://rsvp1.samehsvpost.org.

Acquisition training

The Defense Acquisition University-South Region Alumni Association announces the continuation of its annual conference series with an Acquisition Training Symposium Feb. 22-23 at the DAU campus on Old Madison Pike, Huntsville. Featured topics at the event will include: Defense Business Systems Acquisitions; Earned Value Management; Should Cost/Will Cost; Fundamentals of Source Selection; Understanding Industry; Systems Engineering and Test and Evaluation Resources; What is Systems Engineering? (for non-engineers); and Industry Partners-NISH/Ability One with Dr. Carol Lowman, acting director of the Army Contracting Command. Registration is limited and with a total cost per attendee of $25, participant spaces will fill up quickly. All participants will receive 8 Continuous Learning Points.

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To begin the enrollment process, visit https://www.regonline.com/dausaatraining. For more information, call Sam Parks 922-8738 or email sam.parks@dau.mil.

Civil War round table

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

Meeting professionals

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

Southern elegance

An annual benefit dinner at The Summit club on March 9 will be hosted by the Redstone Arsenal's Community Women's Club. The event's theme is "Evening of Southern Elegance," and it will feature a silent auction, live auction, giveaways, music by the AMC Jazz Band and a chef-inspired dinner. Tickets are $40 each. Proceeds will go toward Merit Awards (scholarships) and Community Assistance grants. The community women's club is a non-profit organization. This event is open to the public. For ticket information, call 489-3009 or email rsacwc1stvicepresident@gmail.com.

Valentine luncheon

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

Leadership seminars

Focus of Alabama Leadership Seminars begin March 9; and the registration deadline is Feb. 24. "Unlock the full power of your potential," a prepared release said. For more information, call 652-9293 or visit http://focusalabama.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 March 1 at 7 p.m. at Huntsville/Madison County Public Library. It is open to the public. A social will follow.

Federally employed women

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women is seeking nominations for the following awards in celebrating Women's History Month: Military Meritorious Service Award to an outstanding military woman who displays the ideals of duty, honor and country; Outstanding Career Achievement to recognize a civilian woman who has demonstrated significant achievement in personal development, career accomplishments and civic/community initiatives; and to an Outstanding Management Official who has made significant contributions to the development, advancement and retention of women in government service. These awards will be presented March 21 at a FEW luncheon program. Individuals interested in submitting a nomination for any of these award categories should email Erica Thompson, FEW awards chair, at ericathompson4@aol.com. She will send you a nomination package. Award nominations should be submitted by Feb. 21. For more information, call chapter president Mary Peoples 955-4275.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

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

Fraud hotline

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

Education test center

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

Thrift shop grants

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

Student apprentices

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

Scholarship program

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

Dog ball

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

Special education law

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

Valentine's Day theater

Valentine's Day Dinner Theater, with a play titled "He Completes Me" by Brandon Hollands, will be held Friday at 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Research Boulevard (in front on Madison Square Mall). Mix and mingle is from 7-7:45. Cost is $15 for college students with approved school ID, $20 for singles and $40 for couples. This event is sponsored by Beacon Hill Worship Center. Tickets may be purchased at the door on the day of event you may call elder Darrell Stroy for more information 541-1451 or email stroy.darrell@yahoo.com.

Benefit dinner

The non-profit organization AGAPE of North Alabama has announced that Capt. Mark Kelly, commander of Space Shuttle Endeavour's final mission, will be the keynote speaker for the 2012 AGAPE Benefit Dinner on March 8. The dinner, themed "Endeavour to Succeed," will be held in the Von Braun Center. All funds raised will go toward providing services for children and families in a spirit of love and hope, caring enough to make a difference across North Alabama. Tickets are available to the public. Purchase tickets, reception passes and sponsorships at www.agapecares.org or call 859-4481.

Baghdad treasures

Marine Reserves Col. Matthew Bogdanos will be the featured speaker at the

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Huntsville Museum of Art on Thursday as part of a new lecture series titled Voices of Our Times. Bogdanos, a New York City homicide prosecutor and middleweight boxer, is the author of the best-selling book "Thieves of Baghdad: One Marine's Passion to Recover the World's Greatest Stolen Treasures." The book is a chronicle of Bogdanos' experience after the fall of Baghdad, Iraq, in 2003, when looters plundered the Iraq National Museum. While on active duty with the Marine Corps, Bogdanos led the investigation into the museum looting, and was subsequently awarded the National Humanities Medal for his efforts. Bogdanos will speak about his work in Iraq and sign copies of his book following the lecture. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. The cost of the event is $20 for museum members and military personnel with their ID card. Cost for non-members is $30. Advance tickets may be purchased at the front desk of the museum at 300 Church St., by calling 535-4350, ext. 208 (the reservations line), or online at www.hsvmuseum.org.

SMDC retirement

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

Military retirements

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

Education film

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

Young professionals

The Committee of 100 Young Professionals will hold its third "Rock the Vote" event Feb. 28 from 5-8 p.m. at the Historic Huntsville Depot Roundhouse. This free event is geared to professionals age 21-40 in Madison County and to all candidates on the ballots for Huntsville, Madison and Madison County offices in 2012. The group's goal is to engage large numbers of young professionals in this year's elections, campaigns and local political issues. Food, beverages and live music by Kush will also be part of the event. For more information, visit www.Huntsvillecommitteeof100.org. Candidates should contact Robert Davis by calling 755-1185 or emailing robertpaul_davis@yahoo.com.

Development institute

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

Marine speaker

Marine Lt. Gen. Willie Williams, director of the Marine Corps staff at the Pentagon, will be the guest speaker at the Boy Scouts of America's annual Whitney M. Young Jr. Banquet on Friday beginning at 6 p.m. at the Huntsville Marriott. Williams is an Alabama native. The banquet recognizes prominent Scouting supporters and community leaders in the Northern Area of the Greater Alabama Council. The public is invited. Tickets may be obtained at the Boy Scouts Service Center, 211 Drake Ave. For more information, call Talatko District executive Curtis Hunt 883-7071 or 361-7303.

Financial management training

There are two Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training courses being offered in Huntsville during fiscal 2012. These courses are an opportunity to prepare you for the testing required to obtain CDFM status. The first class is scheduled March 19-23 and has open enrollment for everyone, including contractors. To enroll go to the Graduate

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Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Survivor outreach

Diane Barker, SMDC G6 office, works with her charge on a project during the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Winter Wonderland event Jan. 28 at The Overlook on Redstone Arsenal for families through Survivor Outreach Services.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Accident scene

Emergency workers respond to a two-car accident Jan. 26 on Goss Road at east Bennett Drive. This car traveling west on Goss Road turned south on Bennett Drive into the path of a vehicle traveling east on Goss Road. The driver of this first vehicle complained of chest pains from the air bag, and was transported to Huntsville Hospital for evaluation. The other driver received a rash on his face from the air bag, but declined medical attention, according to officials. Both were wearing seatbelts.

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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.asmccertification.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.asmccertification.com/ under the Education/Training tab. If assistance is needed, contact Archer.

Ride wanted

Badge checker Blake Taylor needs a ride home at 5:30 p.m. from the Sparkman Center to the Reserve At Research Park (behind Target on University Drive). Call 617-3202.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop is asking for donations of used ink cartridges for its ongoing recycling program. Drop them off at the shop and enter to browse while you're there. The staff thanks you for your support in this effort. Consignments are taken at the shop from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the NO-LIST number 881-6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each week. The last day to consign winter clothing is Feb. 16. The shop will be accepting the first spring clothing Feb. 28. You may then also consign 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. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome and tax deductible. Remember: If you have access to the Arsenal, you can shop at the Thrift Shop. Debit cards are now accepted.

Tricare town hall

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

Prayer luncheon

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

VBC shows

Military discounts are available for three shows in March and April at the Von Braun Center. "Disney Live! Phineas and Ferb" is scheduled March 16 at 3:30 and 6:30 p.m.; tickets are $17 with your government ID; purchase tickets at the Von Braun Center box office; groups of 10 or more also may call 603-2420 to order. … "Monster Jam" is scheduled March 16 at 7:30 and March 17 at 2 and 7:30; tickets are $17 for adults and $12 (kids age 2-12) with your government ID; purchase tickets at the VBC box office, call 800-653-8000 (promotional code SGRP) or visit www.ticketmaster.com; groups of 10 or more also may call 603-2420 to order. … "Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey DRAGONS" is scheduled April 27 at 7:30, April 28 and April 29 at 11:30 a.m., 3:30 and 7:30; tickets are $12 with your government ID; purchase tickets at the VBC box office, call 800-653-8000 (promotional code 12MIL) or visit www.ticketmaster.com; groups of 10 or more also may call 603-2420 to order; tickets go on sale Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. For more information, call Group Tickets USA 603-2420.

Fox health center

Fox Army Health Center will close Feb. 17 and Feb. 20 in observance of a training holiday and Presidents Day. On Feb. 17 the Primary Care Clinic will open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. for scheduled appointments. The Pharmacy, Pathology, Radiology, Medical Records Window and the Tricare Service Center will be open until noon. All other clinics and services will be closed the entire day for a training holiday. On Feb. 20 the entire facility will be closed. As a reminder: the health center is closed on the first Thursday afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

Business workshops

The UAH Small Business Development Center and Procurement Technical Assistance Center will hold two small business training workshops in March. "Business Organization and Tax Compliance," presented by Bryan Mason of the accounting firm Mason, Bearden and Diehl, is March 7 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County briefing room, 225 Church St. "Owning Your Own Business/An Overview of Franchising," presented by Jerry Bird, consultant for FranNet of Alabama and East Tennessee, is March 21 from 10-noon at the chamber. Cost for each workshop is $20. Call 824-6422 or email SBDC@uah.edu.

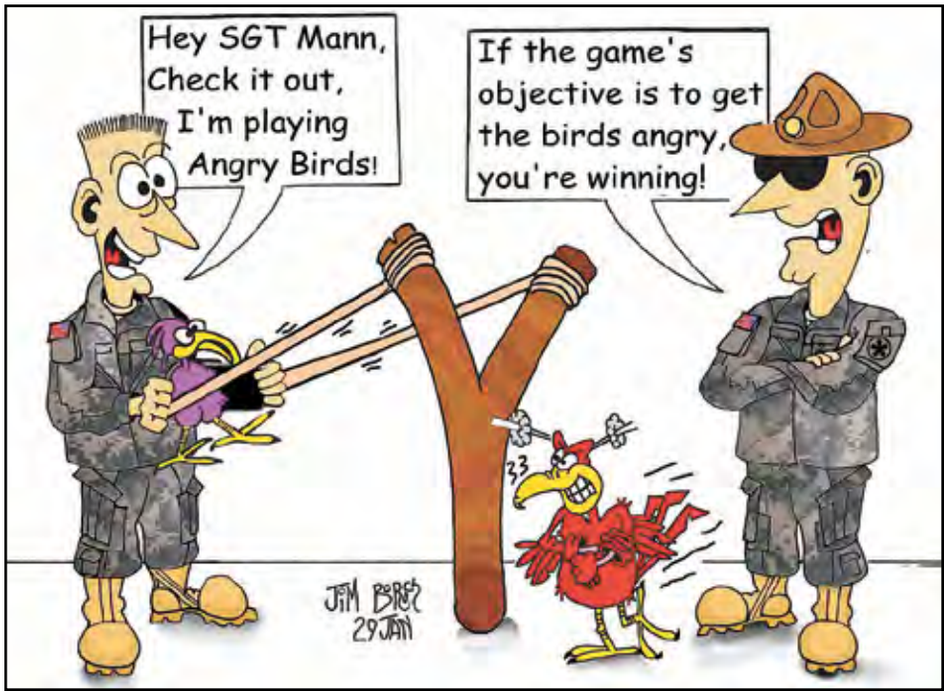
Food system discussion

A presentation/discussion of the findings of the North Alabama Farm and Economy study with national food system expert Ken Meter will be held Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. at the Huntsville City Council chambers, Municipal Building. This free event is titled "Local Foods: Potential to Build Wealth and Health in Alabama." For more information, call Kathryn Strickland 655-8585 or email kstrickland@fbobna.org.

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.

Photo by Paul Stevenson

Town hall

Security Assistance Command commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner speaks to the USASAC work force about leadership development among other topics during a town hall meeting Jan. 24 at the Community Activity Center.