

Redstone Rocket

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Homecoming marks end of Iraq war

*Mission continues
but conflict over*

By Sgt. JESSICA M. KUHN
XVIII Airborne Corps PAO

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – “As your commander in chief and on behalf of a grateful nation, I am proud to finally say these two words – welcome home,” President Barack Obama said, causing a loud joyful roar from the crowd at Pope Army Airfield here, Dec. 14.

More than 3,000 servicemembers gathered to witness Obama’s speech marking the end of the war in Iraq.

“Fort Bragg, we are here to mark a historic moment,” Obama said. “For nearly nine years, our nation has been at war in Iraq, and you the incredible men and women of Fort Bragg have been there every step of the way serving with honor while sacrificing greatly from the first waves of the invasion to some of the last troops to come home.”

Prior to the president’s speech, First Lady Michelle Obama also expressed her admiration to all the servicemembers as well as their families.

“When I look out at this crowd, I have to tell you I am simply overwhelmed and proud because I know the level of strength and commitment that you all display ev-



Photo by Spc. Eric Guzman, 22nd MPAD

President Barack Obama interacts with servicemembers after delivering his speech marking the end of the war in Iraq to more than 3,000 servicemembers Dec. 14 at Pope Army Airfield, Fort Bragg, N.C.

ery single day,” she said. “Although your children, spouses, siblings and family members don’t wear a uniform, they serve right beside you.”

Moreover, the president spoke of

how the U.S. military’s work during both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn hasn’t gone unnoticed.

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AMC delivers results with quick response

*Stockpiled equipment, plans
supported strategy in Iraq*

By KARI HAWKINS
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Mission success in Iraq required a commitment throughout the Army Materiel Command to one objective – quick response in support of the war fighter.

In March 2003, when the war in Iraq began, AMC was strategically positioned to respond to war fighter needs for supplies and equipment thanks specifically to its pre-positioned stocks, both on land and afloat, and its leadership’s forward-think-

ing in preparation for a war.

“When AMC deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 the AMC Forward leadership had already done some planning in identifying the requirements of the war,” said Rodolpho “Rudy” Chavez, who has worked for AMC for 24 years and who is a logistics management specialist for AMC’s current operations and plans.

To support the war effort, AMC focused on five strategic areas, one of those being Army pre-positioned stock, including tanks, missiles and communications equipment stored in strategic locations. The other areas were: logistics support elements involving an extensive network of in-theater Logistics Assistance Repre-

sentatives; logistic civilian augmentation program involving the employment of contractors in theater to support logistics; forward repair activities involving AMC’s major subordinate commands and the depots; and contractors supporting Soldiers on the battlefield.

“Ten years ago, these were the requirements in preparation for a quick war,” Chavez said. “The effort required Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and a large contractor community.”

Chavez, who was in theater with 64 other AMC Forward employees in February 2003, can still remember the Scud missile attacks in mid-March 2003 and the “great AMCOM Patriot (missiles)

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Walk on wild side at annual cookout.

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AT EASE

Poet uses imagination to rise above disability.

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Redstone reflects on war in Iraq.

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WIN OR LOSE

Army tops Navy in basketball.

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RocketViews

What are your thoughts on the end of the Iraq war?

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
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Jerry Hinson
Garrison Directorate of Public Works
"I'm just glad it's over. I just think we've done about all we can do over there. I'll be glad to get everybody back home."



Sharon Codrey
Army Materiel Command G-3 (Current Operations)
"It may be officially over but I don't think it's over until all the Soldiers are home."



Staff Sgt. Kristoffer Underwood
Army Materiel Command
"I'm just hoping that there's not going to be a political vacuum and we wind up back there. I wish them the same freedoms that we have here in the United States."



Sgt. 1st Class David Johnson
Army Materiel Command
"Mission complete on a job well done. And my condolences go out to all the families who lost loved ones."

Letters to the editor

AMCOM commander encourages ideas from workers

Dwight Eisenhower, general of the Army and 34th president of the United States, said "Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him." In light of recent Department of Defense budget cuts and the Army's goal to create a force which is smaller, but flexible, agile and ready, no quote better sums up the sense of urgency for the Aviation and Missile Command to transform its business operations.

It's clear the time for change is now.

In fiscal year 2010, the DoD had a budget of \$698 billion. During the next 10 years, defense spending cuts must total \$469 billion, and we anticipate additional cuts.

While the amount of future cuts remains uncertain, history has shown us what is going to happen. For the last 60 years defense spending has been cyclical. Every time our budget has been drastically cut, we have been reactive instead of proactive and the result has been a hollow, less capable Army.

We've gotten it right zero out of four times.

To absorb expected future cuts, we have to be able to articulate what we do, demonstrate that we do it efficiently, and show why the Army cannot do it without us. To avoid the haphazard "salami slicing" approach to saving money, we have to be aggressive during 2012 to determine what right looks like and posture ourselves to implement cuts that benefit the Army without hindering our ability to support the Soldier. We hold the power to balance mission and costs against the big picture of overall readiness requirements, but only if we do our jobs right.

Traditionally, when budget cuts are made, personnel are the first to go. I would argue instead that our first priority should be to become more cost efficient by transforming our business processes. That's the key and premise for the "Transforming



Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers

AMCOM" initiative.

Let's look at the facts.

In 2011, AMCOM's funding for labor and non-labor totaled \$6.38 billion. Approximately \$1 billion were from costs associated with supporting the work force. The remaining \$5.3 billion were non-labor costs.

We need to go where the money is – and that means reducing our non-labor costs wherever we can, while improving the efficiency of the supply chain life-cycle. We have

to take a hard look at ourselves command-wide and make sure that we are going in the right direction. Decisions about programs and services must be made carefully, thoughtfully and strategically.

And that's where each of you comes in.

My intent for launching the "Transforming AMCOM" initiative is to empower the work force at every level to take action and help AMCOM become a more efficient and effective organization. I believe that the work force holds the answers to these very complex issues because you are the people doing the work every day.

Great ideas aren't delegated to a particular pay grade. So, it doesn't matter if you're a GS-5 or a GS-15; a logistician or a human resource specialist; a permanent employee or a contractor. If you have an innovative idea for how AMCOM can generate fiscal savings by transforming its business pro-

cesses, then I want to hear about it. Please submit your ideas at <http://tinyurl.com/TransformingAMCOM>.

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

In professor John Kotter's book "Leading Change," there are several essential steps to creating lasting organizational and cultural change within any large company. "Lasting" is the key word. We do both ourselves and the Soldiers we serve a grave injustice if we don't maintain improvements because it's easier to go back to the way we are used to doing things.

I am not taking a top-down approach to AMCOM's transformation, but rather an employee-driven process. This cultural movement is centered on the efforts of employees at the lowest level, not just middle and upper management. While middle and upper management plays a significant role, they are not expected to be the driving force.

My vision is twofold: for AMCOM to be known Armywide for its continuous innovation, and to become the provider of choice worldwide for the sustainment and logistics of the Army's state-of-the-art aviation and missile systems.

To do that we have to change the way we do business command-wide, instilling a culture of efficiency without sacrificing

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Quote of the Week

"They (Soldiers) will cross the border out of Iraq with their heads held high. One of the most extraordinary chapters in the history of the American military will come to an end. Iraq's future will be in the hands of its people. America's war in Iraq will be over."

— President Obama
Dec. 14, 2011

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Name: Patrick O'Linger

Job: Chief of operations at the Prototype Integration Facility

Where do you call home?
I'm originally from Scottsboro.

What do you like about your job?
There's a great environment over here. We've got great people. The stuff we design and build goes straight to the Soldiers in the field. There's no doubt we're making an impact and making things better for the Soldiers. We're giving them additional capabilities. We're getting it to them quickly.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I've got three small children – twin 6-year-olds (Jillian and Megan) and a 3-year-old (Shelby) – all girls. I like spending time with my wife (Krista) and my three kids and still like to go play golf when I get a chance.

What are your goals?

My main goal is to just continue to make an impact and try to affect positive change.



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

Playing a round of golf at St. Andrews (Scotland). Playing a round of golf at the birthplace of golf would be a unique experience.

Supply chain improvements drive savings for command

As a result of commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers' push to improve the AMCOM supply chain for unserviceable secondary items, 14 Supply Chain Transformation Action Teams began working simultaneously in November, with three more teams being added.

These 17 teams are now working improvements on different aspects of the entire supply chain process.

"So far, I've been extremely pleased with the results of the AMCOM Supply Chain Enterprise's 17 teams to improve the supply chain management process," Rogers said. "In a few months' time, the enterprise effort has already reduced the inventory dollar figure by more than half a billion dollars."

In November, AMCOM had a total on-hand spares inventory valued at \$12.1 billion. An initial goal is to reduce this 30 percent, \$3.6 billion by June. Additional goals include increasing data accuracy by 20 percent and reducing lead time by 20 percent.

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

Rogers said.

The 17 Supply Chain Transformation Action Teams are focused on:

- Inventory reduction
- Depot inventory reduction
- Repair analysis
- Invalid dues in
- Backorder reduction
- Unliquidated obligations
- Lead time reduction-Administrative lead time
- Lead time reduction-Production lead time/Repair lead time
- Repair cycle time
- Acquisition strategy and sourcing
- Metrics
- Strategic communication
- Forecasting accuracy
- Training, both current and future
- Demilitarization process
- Product verification audit
- Financial Reporting



These teams are already achieving "quick wins." For example, teams have achieved the following savings: Inventory reduction, \$503 million; Back order reduction, \$180 million; Unliquidated obligations, \$13.2 million; and Invalid dues in, \$331.5 million.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Jan. 12-18:

Jan. 12: Someone stole copper wire and welding cable valued at \$2,080 from a construction site on Maintenance Row.

Jan. 12: In the Redstone Exchange, a Soldier concealed a bottle of corrective serum valued at \$68 and left without paying. She was processed by Redstone Police and released to her unit.

Jan. 15: A Soldier was arrested by Loudon (Tenn.) Police and charged with desertion. He was released to Redstone Police who processed him to the confinement facility at Fort Knox, Ky.

Jan. 15: A Soldier was arrested by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and charged with desertion. He remained in the Jefferson County jail pending release to Redstone Police.

Jan. 16: When a driver approached

Gate 9 lost, illegal pills and open alcohol containers were found in the vehicle. Two civilian occupants were charged with drug and open container violations.

Jan. 18: A Soldier was arrested by Huntersville (N.C.) Police and charged with desertion. She was released to Redstone Police who processed her to the confinement facility at Fort Knox.

Jan. 18: In the Redstone Exchange, a juvenile concealed merchandise valued at \$5.98 and left without paying. She was processed by Redstone Police and released to a sponsor.

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

Violation notices issued: 40 speeding, 1 open container, 2 drug violations, 3 traffic control device violations, 1 expired tags, 1 no proof of insurance.

Letter

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effectiveness. I want every AMCOM employee to ask themselves two questions on a daily basis: "What can I improve today?" and "How can I help my organization achieve its ideal future ready state that best meets the needs of our Soldiers?"

This culture change and different way of doing business will foster open communication, improve collaboration and eliminate redundancies in the life-cycle management of the Army's aviation and missile systems. The result will be a lean, globally-networked life-cycle system that is agile and adaptable to the Soldiers' needs.

What I'm asking you to do is not easy. If it was then it would have been done already. But AMCOM has a reputation of thinking forward and executing things that need to get done ahead of schedule. And

that's exactly what we need to do now.

So, I challenge each of you to take ownership of being part of the solution by not only embracing change, but by leading change as we look for innovative ways to transform AMCOM. An issue of this magnitude cannot be solved by one person, one directorate, or even one command. Only through our ability to innovate, collaborate and rapidly adapt, will we achieve our vision and ensure that America's Army forever remains the strength of the nation.

Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers
AMCOM commander

Editor's note: In preparation for reductions in defense spending, commands across the Army have begun to look for innovative ways to reduce overhead expenditures. At Redstone Arsenal, the Army Materiel Command and the Aviation and Missile Command have launched campaigns encouraging their workers to submit ideas to help the commands be more effective and efficient in a resource constrained environment.

Annual cookout bounty promises wild treat

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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James Pons is preparing to take your taste buds on a wild ride.

Get your mouth watering with visions of venison sliders, duck poppers with jalapenos and bacon, rabbit stew, squirrel dumplings, deer pork chops, tenderloin with wild rice and mushrooms, and bear shish kabobs, all accompanied by corn on the cob, green beans and homemade hush puppies – and that’s only the beginning. Pons has plenty of recipes guaranteed to please a variety of palates.

“It’ll do your taste buds good,” said Pons, chef for FMWR and Outdoor Recreation’s annual Wild Game Cookout.

The all-you-can-eat wild game buffet and chili cookoff will be Friday, Feb. 3, from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, building 3711, on the corner of Patton and Aerobee roads. Tickets may be purchased at Outdoor Recreation or the Community Activity Center. Tickets are \$15 in advance for Redstone permit-carrying hunters and their family members, \$20 in advance for all other participants, \$25 the day of the event. Children 12 and under are free. Beverages, including beer, are included in ticket price. Tickets will also be available select days and times at the Sparkman Center, Exchange and Commissary.

“Take a walk on the wild side with your friends and family at the Wild Game Cookout,” Bill Moreland, Outdoor Recreation manager, said.

Pons spends weeks in preparation for Outdoor Rec’s annual celebration of the bounty of the Arsenal’s harvest. All the wild game is donated by Redstone’s hunters, most of which is harvested right here on the post. From processing the meat to prepping, marinating, and cooking it, Pons, who has 30-plus years of culinary experience, most of which was spent on the Arsenal cooking at the dining facilities and then Fox Army Health Center, has done the Wild Game Cookout for more years than he can remember.

“I love to cook,” said Pons, who also runs Pons Catering. “It is just a treat to



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Mike Chemsak, FMWR recreation division chief, serves up some award winning chili at last year's Wild Game Cookout. This year's attendees are once again invited to bring a pot of wild game chili for a chili cookoff. Chemsak will defend his championship title at the Feb. 3 cookoff.

be able to do this.”

Attendees get to show off their own cooking creations in the wild game chili cookoff. Bring your best pot of chili for tasting and judging; chili must include some type of wild game. Entries to the contest must be at the Community Activity Center by 4:30 p.m. Feb. 3 for judging. Trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place, as well as the people’s choice. Those in need of wild game for their recipe may contact Outdoor Recreation.

In addition to the great eats, door prizes and entertainment will also be available, including plenty of fun for the kids.

“We really like to make this as family oriented as we possibly can,” Moreland said. “We look forward to seeing everyone come out and enjoy this and have a good time. It’s our special event of the year and we enjoy being able to provide this and meet everybody, and enjoy what we do during the season.”

For more information about the Wild Game Cookout, call 876-4868.

There's always a need for blood donations

*Roll up your sleeve
to help save lives*

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Every day in the United States, 38,000 units of blood are needed for blood transfusions. For those that call Redstone Arsenal work or home, it has never been easier to save a life.

With three blood suppliers authorized to collect blood on the Arsenal – the American Red Cross, LifeSouth and Armed Services Blood Program – ample opportunity is available for anyone with access to the Arsenal to give blood. All they have to do is roll up their sleeve. Blood drives will be held Thursday at building 5400 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Friday, at the Sparkman Center, building 5308 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Interested donors may also give Feb. 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Exchange.

“It’s critically important for everyone to consider donating because we can’t have enough,” said John Mahan, chief of pathology and radiology at Fox Army Health Center and blood program coordinator for Redstone Arsenal. “There’s always somebody that’s going to have a need, both downrange and in the United States. The need is real and ongoing.”

On average, 20 to 50 units of blood are collected with each drive on the Arsenal, according to Mahan. Twenty percent of all blood collected through LifeSouth and the Red Cross can be credited back to the military as requested, such as at Brooke Army Medical Center and other military hospitals in the United States, but cannot go downrange. Only blood collected through the Armed Services Blood Program is eligible to go downrange, where having a ready supply of available blood can be the difference between life and death.

“The enemy are trained to shoot down below the body armor and it could hit so many vital organs. You only have a few minutes to get the bleeding stopped and get blood into these Soldiers,” Mahan said. “There’s so many things in the news today that can detract from what’s going on



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Alice Pitman draws blood from Andrew Mulder at the Red Cross blood drive last Friday at NASA.

downrange. There always needs to be in the back of people’s minds that there’s always a need for blood, especially for our military and their dependents.”

One unit of blood can be split into several components, including red cells, white cells, plasma and cryoprecipitate, and can save up to three lives, but in trauma cases it doesn’t take long to go through 30 units or more. Blood donors can give every 56 days, but new donors are always encouraged to brave the needle and save a life.

“Giving blood is kind of like going to the dentist – you don’t like going, but once it’s over with, it wasn’t as bad as you thought it would be,” Mahan said. “Most of the time it’s not an uncomfortable procedure.”

The process of donating is relatively simple: once donors find a blood drive, they’ll fill out a basic health questionnaire, have their blood pressure, temperature, pulse and hemoglobin checked, and then have the opportunity to get comfortable before the actual donation begins. Once it’s done, donors are rewarded with cookies, juice and other snacks, before resuming their daily activities. The rewards of giving blood, however, extend far beyond a sugary snack.

“Whenever I give blood you have this feeling of you’ve done something that might save somebody’s life or help somebody recovering,” Mahan said. “That feeling of doing something for other people, for your country, for Soldiers that are doing something for you, it’s hard to express, but it’s helping Soldiers do their job.”

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Club renamed

The Summit at Redstone is the new name for what used to be the Officers and Civilians Club.



SMDC upgrading its computer network system

By JASON CUTSHAW

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Without going anywhere, the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command work force will soon be fully migrated into the future.

To help improve the efficiency and speed of network usage, SMDC/ARSTRAT G-6 is migrating content from the current SharePoint 2003 Portal to the SharePoint 2010 Portal.

“The SharePoint 2010 system is a more efficient collaborative and knowledge management environment for the talented members of USASMDC/ARSTRAT so that together we can provide the space and missile capabilities needed by the war fighter,” Col. Bennie Pokemire, SMDC G-6, said. “A byproduct will be a reduction in the demand on bandwidth for the command’s network since members should no longer email large attachments, such as large briefings, across the network to multiple recipients as they work on an upcoming briefing.

“Less demand for bandwidth usually results in a faster network.”

Pokemire talked about how the migration will help make the work force more efficient in the future.



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Glenn Robertson, left, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command G-6 SharePoint administrator, looks on with James Hinkle, SMDC/ARSTRAT G-6, as Brad Rouillier, SMDC G-6, works on the command’s SharePoint 2010 migration.

“With the right business processes and designs you will find and share information faster,” Pokemire said. “The command currently has several often disparate web pages with important information scattered throughout them and across various shared drives. A customer will spend less time looking for information. Collaboration will be faster and more team

members can join in to tackle a problem regardless of his or her physical location.

“Another useful feature is application-level integration. As an example, a person can create a document then publish it to a website where it is accessed as a web page and updated immediately by several different people from different locations. Viewing or reviewing the spreadsheet is possible even for those who don’t have the particular client application installed on their respective PC.”

Pokemire said the work force should know and understand that SharePoint will ultimately be theirs to control.

“SharePoint is a technology that facilitates the sharing of ideas and knowledge,” Pokemire said. “Those ideas and knowledge belong to the team. The team must make the effort and choice to share them. Consequently, SharePoint is the work force’s system. It is only as good as the team makes it by using it. The G-6 will deploy the best available technology.

“Equally important are the processes and procedures for maximizing collaboration and timely distribution of critical information. Each staff primary and MSE will contribute to the development of those processes.”

Pokemire discussed how the new system

will be more versatile than the current one and will help keep SMDC’s work force on the cutting edge.

“I am excited about the capabilities SharePoint 2010 will provide to the command,” Pokemire said. “Microsoft SharePoint 2010 is a very versatile platform capable of serving many different audiences. SharePoint’s versatility and integration offers a wide range of functionality which includes search, document management, work flow and business intelligence.

“The command’s investment in SharePoint and Knowledge Management is an investment in its work force.”

One of the command’s primary goals is to reduce confusion new and current SMDC employees experience with multiple information portals.

“Right now we currently have CIMS, CommandNet and the old SharePoint 2003 system. Those are the primary portals everybody uses,” Glenn Robertson, the SharePoint administrator, said. “In the near future we will consolidate a number of web portals to give one presence to the user in support of Col. Pokemire’s ‘one-portal’ direction. The intent is to provide SMDC/ARSTRAT users with a centralized secure web portal on both NIPR and SIPR networks.

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Faith grows in tough times of service

Ex-sergeant major of the Army to address luncheon

By KARI HAWKINS

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The military has a hold of Jack Tilley.

Ever since he was 17, this 36-year veteran has lived the values of a Soldier. Following his service in the Vietnam War, Tilley hung up his uniform and tried to walk away from it.

That uniform was hard to keep in the closet. So, he put it back on and wore it until 2004, with his last assignment as the 12th sergeant major of the Army.

But the Army keeps calling – and Tilley keeps returning, sans the uniform. He is often sought after as a motivational speaker for military and veterans groups. He will visit Redstone Arsenal on Feb. 15 as the speaker at Team Redstone's National Prayer Luncheon, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at The Summit club. Free tickets are available from command sergeants major and sergeants major on the installation.

"I really like getting around people in the military," Tilley said. "I was a part of it for 36 years. I like talking about what's going on in the military."

Tilley has brought his message of service, patriotism and faith to Redstone in years past. The most recent visit was in 2009 when he spoke at Retiree Appreciation Day.

"I like to talk to audiences about the things that have changed my life and that affected me as a Soldier," he said. "I like to talk about the sacrifices the military is making, and the strength of prayer and believing."

Tilley's own faith was tested as a Soldier and as a father. His only son had pneumococcal meningitis, and is disabled.

"If it wasn't for my wife, and the strength of our family and our faith, I don't know if I could have gotten through that kind of thing," he said.

"People get closer to God when they



Jack Tilley

go to war, whether that's in Baghdad or at home against a disease. I was deployed quite a lot. I was on the streets of Saigon when I was 18. I don't think a Soldier can go to war and not get closer to God."

For all Soldiers, young and old, Tilley said the best advice he can give them is to "go to church and talk to people of faith and understand your faith."

"There are so many things going on in the military and so often Soldiers don't take the time to go to church and talk to God. But when you see other places and the things people go through, it makes you thankful for your faith, and you realize how blessed you are to be an American and how blessed you are to serve your country. The military strengthens you and educates you on how blessed you really are."

With at least 16 deployments to various locations during his career, Tilley has received numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Distinguished Service Medal and Defense Superior Service Medal. His leadership positions allowed him to climb through the ranks from tank commander to section leader, drill sergeant, platoon sergeant, senior instructor, operations sergeant, first sergeant, command sergeant major and finally sergeant major of the Army. As the Army's top enlisted Soldier, Tilley advocated pay raises for the military, and comforted Soldiers and families after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the Pentagon.

Since retiring and establishing a home in Tampa, Fla., Tilley has advocated for servicemembers as a member of the Army Retirement Council and the special advisory board for Wounded Warriors. He is co-chairman of the American Freedom Foundation, which honors veterans, and raises money and awareness for veteran organizations. He is also a management consultant for Fortune 500 companies on projects and programs unique to the military community.

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"This will make everyone's job easier because it will make locating information more efficient and one consolidated resource will reduce the amount of confusion."

Although planned for a while, the migration will not be without growing pains, and patience by the work force is appreciated.

"The transfer has been in the works for nearly a year now and when Col. Pokemire arrived, he solidified the command's vision with direction to focus on 'knowledge management,'" Robertson said. "Our hope is

that everyone at SMDC finds the SharePoint transfer useful and appreciates the hard work everyone has put into the new system."

As the migration continues, the goal is to minimize inconvenience while maximizing results.

"We, G-6, do all of the program deployment, maintenance support, data migrations and coordination from the technical end," Robertson said. "We basically facilitate the user and customer requirements, as outlined by senior leadership's guidance."

"We expect there will be some growing pains as the data migration occurs. Our biggest concerns are that we identify, transfer and coordinate data migration with our customers to ensure all data is transferred."

Poet rises above disability in branches of tree

Imagination takes author beyond earthly bounds

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Imagination can take you a long way.

For Carey Link, imagination took her up into a tree. It let her swing from its boughs, to hang upside down from its branches, to sleep in its hollows. Imagination let Link see her world from the top of a tree and the sun's rays reflected on its leaves.

Link, whose cerebral palsy makes her physically unable to climb a tree or sit in its arches, has used imagination as a tool to write poetry about the inner joy and peace discovered in the colorful beauty of trees. Her chapbook of poetry, titled "What It Means To Climb A Tree," was recently published by Finishing Line Press.

"All these poems are based on my imagination of what it's like to climb a tree. Trees express freedom for me. Trees have to do with spiritual freedom and finding my own freedom," Link said.

"You can go anywhere in your imagination."

Link, an equal employment specialist in the Garrison's Equal Employment Opportunity Office, is the daughter of retired Redstone senior commander Lt. Gen. Jim Link. Her mom is Judy Link, a community volunteer known for her support of the United Cerebral Palsy of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley.

Link, 36, has not allowed her disability to keep her from pursuing her imagination or her dreams. She graduated from the University of Alabama-Huntsville in 2004 with a psychology degree and soon joined the Team

Redstone work force. She uses a wheelchair, and has some difficulty with fine and large motor skills. But Link is able to spend her workdays mediating EEO cases. She enjoys work that allows her to help resolve conflicts and build new relationships between Redstone managers and employees. In her free time, she enjoys reflecting, imagining and writing her thoughts in free verse.

"Physically it takes me longer to write, but I've always enjoyed writing," she said.

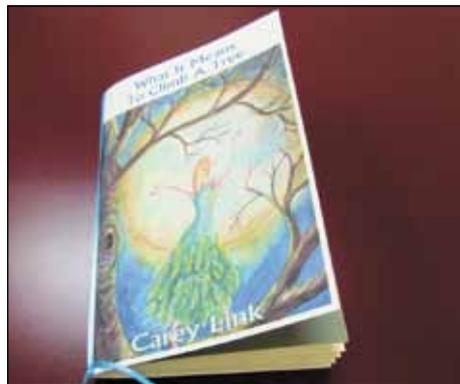
"I don't think you see my disability in these poems. I transcend my wheelchair in these poems. I don't let my disability define who I am. My disability is not part of this process."

Link's chapbook, a small book or pamphlet containing poems, ballads, stories or religious tracts, uses illustrations of trees to depict her poems. The cover art is of a young girl dancing in a leaf dress under the branches of a tree. The image is taken from the cover poem's lines "to dance on the ends of my toes in a leaf skirt."

Link's poetry depicts the beauty of trees through such lines as "My diamond fingers brown, green, red, yellow – sway to touch clouds," and "Beneath a veil orange-red I sleep with muted shadows silver and gold on my cheek." It depicts her own imagined experiences in a tree with lines like "To drink sap warm and sweet from places dark," "To look down from a high place and not fear feeling small" and "I sway in the arm of a labyrinth that carries me between earth and sky."

She describes the feelings of peace, mystery and adventure of trees through such lines as "cradled in the arch of a cloister" and "a labyrinth that never needs a destination." She describes winter branches as "weather vanes in a silver sky" and the tree's awakening in spring as "I birth the bitter-

Poet Carey Link transcends her disability with imaginative poetry about the beauty, mystery and adventure of trees. Link, who works for the Garrison's Equal Employment Opportunity Office, is the daughter of retired Redstone senior commander Lt. Gen. Jim Link and Judy Link, a community volunteer.



Photos by Kari Hawkins

"What It Means To Climb A Tree" is a book of poetry written by the Garrison's Carey Link.

sweet, the round, the ripe."

Link began writing poetry as a teenager.

"I enjoy poetry because it's all about the conscious meeting the unconscious," she said. "You don't always know where you are going with poetry, but it's always a destination that flows into a message."

At age 14, her writing helped her through the emotional pain of losing her beloved grandmother, Martha Hart, one of the three women her chapbook is dedicated to.

"When she passed away, it was devastating to me. I closed myself off. My writing helped me deal with that and it helped me realize who I am as a person," Link said. "When I was 16, I was writing a lot of exploration poetry. I was exploring who I was."

At Lee High School, she was encouraged by creative writing teacher Bonnie Roberts. In college, she continued to take writing classes as an English minor.

"The book started in a class assignment at UAH in 2002," said the 2004 UAH graduate. "In a class taught by (well-known author and poet) Kelly Cherry, we wrote a sequence of poems. I wrote the first poem – 'What It Means To Climb A Tree' – in the class, and it became part of a sequence of seven or eight poems."

A sequence of poems, Link explained, "have a lot of the same images. In this poetry sequence about trees there's a lot of images of climbing and being in trees, and that's what connects the poems."

Link hopes her chapbook will be an inspiration to all readers, both with and



without disabilities.

"Everyone needs to find a way to express themselves, and this is my way," Link said.

"A disability doesn't have to define you. You can transcend a disability through your imagination. Just because I use a wheelchair doesn't mean I don't know what it means to climb a tree or do something physical in my own way."

It took several years for Link to get her poetry published in the chapbook.

"It was a long process and there was a lot of rejection. But you just keep trying and trying," she said.

"I probably got 40 rejection letters. So, it was a feeling of accomplishment when I got the letter from Finishing Line Press. It was a humbling feeling because they only knew me through my poetry."

She hopes to go on to publish more poetry about her experiences – real and imagined. She also plans to continue her education by pursuing a master's degree in counseling. Besides her grandmother, Link dedicated her chapbook to high school teacher Roberts and her mom.

"They've all helped me to find out who I am as a person, and they nurtured that and encouraged me," Link said. "Without that encouragement, some of the elements of my book and my poetry wouldn't have happened. I would have always written. But my poetry is richer because of their encouragement."

Editor's note: Link's book can be purchased at finishinglinepress.com and Amazon.com.

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:

Comedy night

Comedy Night is Friday, with dinner at 6 p.m. and show time at 7:30, at The Summit club. Tickets are \$18 for dinner and show. Headliner is Kenny Smith with feature act Jack Willhite, and hosted by Todd Link. For more information or tickets, call 830-2582.

Wild game cookout

Outdoor Recreation's annual Wild Game Cookout is Feb. 3 from 5-10 p.m. at the Community Activity Center, conference hall, building 3711 at the corner of Patton and Aerobee roads. Tickets are

\$15 in advance for Redstone permit-carrying hunters and family members; \$20 in advance for all other participants; and \$25 the day of event. Children under 12 are admitted free. Purchase tickets at Outdoor Recreation or the Community Activity Center. For more information, call 876-4868.

Library open house

February is Library Lovers' Month. There will be daily candy prizes for adults and kids Feb. 1-14 at the Post Library. Visit the library on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14 for its open house. Prizes are planned throughout the month, with a grand prize at the end of the month. For more information, call 876-4741.

Iraq war changed AMCOM operations

Command revamped to improve support

By KARI HAWKINS

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Transformation for the Aviation and Missile Command came with war.

And in that transformation, AMCOM found its direction, purpose and empowerment as a command that supports the war fighter with the best of aviation and missile systems.

“We had processes in place in all the different operations, but we had no idea which one would work if we went to war,” Ronnie Chronister, deputy commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, said.

Chronister had been a Team Redstone employee for 20 years before the Iraq war began in 2003. At that time he was serving as the executive director of AMCOM’s Integrated Materiel Management Center and had served in several positions with the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center. He assumed his

current position in 2008.

At the time the war began, AMCOM, which was formed in 1997 with the merger of the Missile Command at Redstone and the Aviation and Troop Command at St. Louis, was hitting the mark on all its objectives in developing, acquiring, sustaining and maintaining aviation and missile systems. But it was the war that caused its management and employees to take a huge step up in war fighter support.

“A lot of things we were doing weren’t really appropriate. We had to revamp ourselves to support this effort,” Chronister said.

“We had to turn the switch on because we weren’t as ready as we thought we were. The areas that we thought were important weren’t. We had funding issues for years that manifested themselves when the war started. We had been preparing to fight the Russians in Germany and now we had American Soldiers fighting an enemy in Southwest Asia who was much more secretive, cunning and smart.”

In 2003, AMCOM didn’t have enough parts in inventory to maintain and sustain



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Deputy commander Ronnie Chronister conducts a lot of business for the Aviation and Missile Command from his office on the fifth floor of building 5300 at the Sparkman Center.

systems in wartime. The supply chains were empty due to budget cuts in peacetime. And the command’s depots were not able to operate at the levels needed for war due to no funding and some inefficiency, Chronister said. To meet the requirement for an agile,

flexible and responsive Army, it quickly became apparent that commands such as AMCOM had to also take on those attributes.

“It wasn’t that we had done anything wrong as a command. It was a function of what happened in peacetime and the post-Reagan era,” Chronister said. “We did change. But as Maj. Gen. (Jim) Myles (former AMCOM commander) told me ‘You can’t improve until you honestly see yourself, until you are objective about yourself.’ The war showed us who we were, and how we had to evolve and make changes to be absolutely responsive to Soldiers. The war really did open up our eyes to who we were and what we wanted to be.”

In 2003, then Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen was the commanding general at AMCOM, coming into that position only a day before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. Once the Iraq war started, he instigated daily (seven days a week) operational updates to assess readiness of missile and helicopter systems in theater.

“Now we do that a couple times a week,”

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Supporting more than just the war fighter

By ANN JENSIS-DALE

Army Contracting Command

Civilian and military contracting specialists are increasingly in demand to support critical contracting requirements around the world.

Whether it's military operations, counterinsurgency, life support systems or emergency disaster relief, contracting specialists will always be needed. As these requirements increase, the Army Contracting Command is poised to provide critical support.

The ACC Contingency Support Center was established in April 2011 to resource and coordinate command support for contingency operations within the U.S. and overseas.

"ACC has been increasingly asked to provide contract management support for the war fighter and the Army in missions that are beyond the scope of the command's day-to-day mission and operations," Jack Cunnane, director, ACC Contingency Support Center, said.

The ACC CSC is the command's resourcing focal point for all contingency operations overseas and natural disaster relief in the U.S. The backbone of the CSC is the Deployable Cadre Program whose mission is to provide the immediate capacity to deploy contract management personnel support when needed. "The command must be prepared to respond quickly and effectively with highly qualified personnel at a moment's notice. These people must be ready to deploy when called," Cunnane said.

To establish a standing roster of personnel, the center actively promoted the benefits of serving in the DCP through Army command information and social media outlets and channels.

"The most successful endorsement of the program has been the sincere pride of service for ACC employees currently serving," Cunnane said. "Program members' stories were featured in the ACC Spotlight and publicized throughout the command and on Facebook. Employees described their experiences, challenges and unique situations encountered in a contingency environment. Most notably, they described what it was like to work and serve alongside the war fighter."

"The program has offered me an opportunity to take risk and develop my skill set in a contingency environment," said Kathy Valentine, contracting officer serving with ACC in Afghanistan. "I was ready to explore another facet of the 1102 (contracting specialist) career field and the cadre program helped me take that first step."

"The Soldiers we work with as cadre members versus permanent party civilians appreciate what we do and understand what they are dealing with here



Courtesy photo

Delores Peshoff, third from the left, is a Deployable Cadre Program member currently deployed to Afghanistan. From left are Kip Ryan, Staff Sgt. Michael McCue, Peshoff, Maj. Blain White, Air Force Master Sgt. Christopher Klaasen and Air Force Capt. Clinton Minor.

in Kuwait," said Deborah Doyle, division chief, special projects, serving with ACC in Kuwait. "We are a part of getting the mission done and ensuring the war fighters get what they need here and downrange."

"I have the deepest respect and admiration for the war fighter," Lynn Roberts, contract specialist serving with ACC in Afghanistan, said. "Working alongside them in a contingency environment has given me a new perspective on their day-to-day job."

In less than six months, the ACC Deployable Cadre Program developed a standing roster of ACC qualified employees ready to deploy at a moment's notice. Due to this overwhelming response, ACC was able to support more than just its initial requirements. ACC reached out to the Defense Contract Management Agency to provide deployment opportunities for ACC acquisition personnel to support DCMA's burgeoning operational contracting mission. DCMA director Charlie Williams accepted ACC's offer of support.

ACC and DCMA signed a memorandum of agreement in late April 2011 citing ACC will support seven DCMA Afghanistan positions on an enduring basis as volunteer pools and Army contingency tasking allows. The seven positions will consist of three contract specialists, two property specialists and two quality assurance specialists for 179 days to perform duties in DCMA Afghanistan. As of January 2012, ACC provided DCMA with 12 employees currently performing contingency contracting duties for DCMA as well as supporting ACC contingency requirements.

The ACC Contingency Support Center continues to recruit for the Deployable Cadre Program. For more information, go to www.armyhire.com/volunteer.

Exchange workers serve Soldier customers in Iraq

Redstone store associates volunteered during war

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Wherever the American Soldier serves, there is an Army & Air Force Exchange Service employee ready to serve the Soldier.

When American troops departed for Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, AAFES employees were right behind them, including Redstone Arsenal's very own.

"When the military goes in, we go in," said Kathy Foote, food service manager at the Exchange, who deployed to Tallil Air Base from 2003-05. "That's what AAFES does, we go in and we provide services to the Soldiers."

For two years Foote, one of more than 1,500 AAFES employees that deployed during the war, lived in a tent and worked seven days a week for 12 to 14 hours at a time stocking shelves, unloading trucks and selling merchandise in an abandoned gymnasium, with no air conditioning, no lights, shelving or a forklift – just manual registers, generator power and a whole lot of love for the American Soldier.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Exchange employees Liliolovao Gilbert, left, and Kathy Foote deployed overseas in support of the Iraq war from 2003 to 2005.

"We had to do everything ourselves," said Foote, who volunteered to deploy after 9/11. "It was probably the hardest job I ever had, and for sure the dirtiest job I ever had, but it was the best and I'd do it again and again."

"Over there you get up, you work, work, work," said Liliolovao Gilbert, who deployed to nearby Qatar from 2003-05. "But it was fun for me because I always wanted to go in the military, but of course my parents said no, and my husband said

no. At the time we got to wear the uniform, so we were just like the military, except we didn't carry the gun. I loved it."

Even in the face of danger, like when Foote and her fellow employees had to cease traveling between two bases due to kidnappings and beheadings occurring at the time, AAFES employees remained faithful to the Soldier and their job.

"It didn't scare me. I felt like I'm here being protected by America's finest," said Foote, who later deployed again to Afghanistan for 18 months. "I would go again tomorrow."

That dedication to the Soldier was made even more apparent by AAFES' bottom line in the first few years of the war. By the time merchandise reached locations,

it was often expired or deteriorated to the point of not being able to sell it. Foote remembers once writing off \$250,000 in one truck. Despite the losses, AAFES' dedication to serving the Soldier never wavered.

"Our company in the beginning of the war operated at a loss. AAFES lost lots of money for probably the first three to four years," Foote said. "We did it as a service. AAFES took a beating just to be able to be over there and serve the military."

That service to the Soldier is why AAFES employees, such as Gilbert and Foote, come to work each day.

"We're serving the best customer in the world," Gilbert said.

"I think that's what our company does best," Foote said.

Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Cost cutters cited
David Magee, graphics lead in the Cargo Helicopters Project Office, accepts his Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certificate from Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, during a Lean Six Sigma recognition ceremony Jan. 9. Magee was recognized for his cost savings efforts.



Garrison has Team Redstone's back during war

Support organization keeps post operating

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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The Garrison kept the home fires burning during the Iraq war.

This organization oversees a myriad of functions to keep Redstone Arsenal operating – everything from maintaining the buildings and roads to providing security and utilities. And that role was even more essential during the war from 2003-11.

“The Garrison’s role on the installation is basically to take care of the installation,” Alvin Odoms, the Garrison’s director of plans, training, mobilization and security, said.

Its customers include Soldiers and their families, civilians and contractors and Redstone’s more than 60 tenant organizations.

“We are basically taking care of the family and those that live and work on the installation,” Odoms said.

This ensures that the Soldiers can do their mission in the field without hav-

ing to worry about their families back home. And it ensures that the organizations can do their daily activities to support the troops in the theaters of war, which means more than just Iraq.

“One, we make sure their families are secure and safe, make sure that the Soldiers have what they need to meet their requirements,” Odoms said. “That’s our support to the war fighter – is taking care of the families and Soldiers and civilians and contractors.”

The Garrison, led by Col. John Hamilton and deputy commander Curtis Clark, has more than 600 people, predominantly civilian. During the past decade, about three to six reservists augmented Odoms’ force protection duties for the installation operations center. “My last reservists left last year,” he said.

Individuals within the Garrison also volunteered to deploy to Iraq when their expertise was required.

“They volunteered to go back into theater as civilians and served well I’m sure,” Odoms said. “The ones that I know of were prior military. But I don’t think that made a difference, it’s expertise driven.”

Some of the many functions provided

by the Garrison include Odoms’ Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security; the Directorate of Public Works; Directorate of Emergency Services; Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation; Directorate of Logistics; and the Directorate of Human Resources.

“You find people that are willing to go the extra mile,” Odoms said, citing the Garrison’s around-the-clock operations during last April’s tornadoes and ensuing power outages. “And service is our mantra. We’re a service organization.

“And we’re only as good as the service we provide to our customers. And I think we do a great job of that. I really do.”



Alvin Odoms

Cost of Iraq war by the numbers

An estimated 4,500 American troops died in the conflict.

Returning Soldiers respond to end of the Iraq war

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

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The end to the war in Iraq brought mixed emotions for the many U.S. servicemembers who served there. Spc. Caleb Hardy, retired Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Goyer and Capt. Kelly Stell all have something in common – they all have to deal with what the end of the Iraq war means to them, the Soldiers who served there.

First deployment

Spc. Caleb Hardy was deployed to Iraq in June 2010 with the 214th Military Police Company out of Alexander City. He returned to the U.S. in June 2011. His was one of the last units in the country that deployed with Operation Iraqi Freedom and then transitioned to Operation New Dawn. It was his first deployment.

“There are a lot of misconceptions about the war in Iraq,” Hardy said. “For me personally, I spent a lot of time with the Iraqi people – the Kurds – up in northern Iraq. They were worth saving. They were trying to keep

their city clean. Like any of us, they were trying to make their way of life better.”

Hardy served as part of a security element for officers and civilians training at Iraqi police stations. His unit witnessed 50,000 Christian refugees coming into northern Iraq. He respected the fact that the Kurds considered the Christians to be their brothers despite their religious differences. The Iraqi people were very receptive to the U.S. Soldiers where Hardy was serving, on the outskirts of the region.

“We got invited into people’s homes, they fed us, and that’s a big deal when they hardly have much for themselves. In the northern region, most of the people were eternally grateful for us getting Saddam Hussein out. They wanted us gone, they wanted to take care of themselves, but most of their anger was directed toward their own government not taking care of them,” he said.

The Iraqi children were espe-



Spc. Caleb Hardy

cially receptive to the Soldiers and were always asking for handouts. Hardy said that he and his fellow Soldiers enjoyed spoiling the children that way. He has a young daughter himself. His unit also was involved with a campaign to provide the children with backpacks and other items for school.

Originally from the Huntsville area, Hardy has been with the National Guard just over six years. As a student at Bob Jones High School in Madison, he decided that he wanted to do something meaningful with his life. He also wanted to make his parents proud. Joining the Guard seemed like a good way to do that. He considers what he and his unit did in Iraq as something to be proud of, no matter what some people might say about the war.

“I don’t consider (the war in Iraq) a failed mission. I’m proud of what I did over there. I was fortunate to get to do the things that made a difference in little kids’ lives and for the

IP training. I am glad our people are out and our guys are back home. I think we accomplished a lot. We gave people support for years and a chance to rebuild,” he said. “People want results instantly, but it’s like starting a country all over again. The Iraqi people will have to eventually agree with each other, get their act together, and decide they’ve had enough.”

Since returning home in June, Hardy has had to adjust to civilian life. His original goals were to find an apartment and get a job. In September he began working for a company doing medical billing. He plans to work full time and take classes at night spring semester to earn a degree in computer information systems and technology.

Hardy explained that the Veterans Affairs in Huntsville helped him learn that he has to make goals for himself. When a fellow Soldier committed suicide after returning home, Hardy started to have problems with anxiety so he turned to the VA for help.

“A lot of vets coming back feel like there’s nothing left for

See Veterans on page 23



Capt. Kelly Stell



Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Goyer

AMCOM worker rolls with troops out of Iraq

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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When the last military vehicle left Iraq last December at the end of the war, Wiley Foutch was with it.

Foutch, a supply clerk in AMCOM's Security Assistance Management Directorate, is on a temporary promotion through Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa. His one-year assignment as an inventory management specialist started last August and he's currently at Camp Virginia, Kuwait.

He has been at various bases in Iraq from September through November. This is his third deployment; and he's doing inventory on the vehicles and equipment. He works for Product Manager IED Defeat.

"I think it's a great thing," said his wife, Angie Foutch, a program specialist in the Sparkman Management Office. "He really wants to support our Soldiers and of course it's helping our family out, too. But it's hard him being gone. It's hard on both of us."

The Foutches, who reside in Scottsboro, are a true Army family. Two of their combined six children are enlisted Soldiers at Fort Campbell, Ky.; and one is a military spouse, whose husband is deployed. The Foutches have six grandchildren.



Courtesy photo

AMCOM's Wiley Foutch, on his third deployment, stands in front of a historic military vehicle last December. Written in chalk on its side is the message "Last vehicle out of Iraq!"

Their son Steven, 29, is stationed at Fort Campbell, as is Lewis, 26. Jessica McBride, 26, resides in Scottsboro. Tara Buller, 24, is married to a Soldier in Germany who will be going to Afghanistan. Michael, 19, is a student hire in AMCOM G-4 (Logistics) and attends Columbia College on post. The youngest child, Alan, is 5.

Wiley and Angie have both worked here for 26 years. They originally met at the Printing Plant, building 5688, and have been married 20 years.

Wiley deployed for 179 days twice through AMCOM in 2009 and 2010.

"I'm proud of him," Angie said. "Proud of my boys."

Contracting support to CENTCOM nearly doubles in combat areas

By ED WORLEY

Army Contracting Command

The Army Contracting Command is almost doubling its support to the war fighter in theater this fiscal year, sending almost 100 contingency contracting officers to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar.

ACC's Expeditionary Contracting Command is deploying elements of three contingency contracting battalions and an Army Reserve contracting battalion to support the U.S. Central Command's area of responsibility. The first group of Soldiers deployed in February.

"This is a significant increase over our prior year commitments," Jeff Parsons, then ACC executive director, said. "This demonstrates our success in building the contingency contracting force."

Parsons conducted a site visit to the CENTCOM Contracting Command resulting in additional requirements for contingency contracting officer support, according to Col. Jerry C. Jones, ACC Operations (G3). Brig. Gen. Joe Bass, ECC commander, approved the additional requirements. Jones said ECC provided more than 50 contingency contracting officers to the CENTCOM theater last year.

ECC's support to CENTCOM will come from the 900th Contingency Contracting Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C.; the 901st CCBn, Fort Hood, Texas; and the 902nd CCBn, Fort Lewis, Wash. Also deploying are Soldiers from the Army Reserve's 915th CCBn, Baltimore, Md. The 412th Contracting Support Battalion, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, will deploy contingency contracting officers to ACC-Rock Island, Ill., to provide reach back support.

Jones said the mission objectives are improving command and control, and contract management, across CENTCOM contracting operations, providing additional resources to mitigate shortfalls at all critical nodes, leveraging both active duty and reserve component resources, establishing a contracting network that can be adaptive to the changing environment, and providing sustainable support for potential future requirements.

"We are standing up and able to provide full spectrum contracting support to the combatant commander," he said. "We're able to meet the increased requirement because we are at about 95 percent of our overall authorized strength."

Contingency contracting officers must have at least one year of contracting experience before deploying into a combat



area of operations, Jones explained. The 412th facilitated a joint contingency contracting readiness training exercise, Operation Joint Dawn, at Fort Campbell, Ky., Jan. 24–Feb. 4, 2011. The exercise simulated field contracting conditions and was designed to assess and prepare more than 100 deploying active and reserve component Soldiers and airmen on basic contracting and warrior tasks. Actual Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom contracting scenarios were used to provide realistic challenges faced in the regional contracting centers that the participants will run.

The group received warrior skills training and participated in expeditionary contracting operations, working in simulated regional contracting centers where they executed contracts and dealt with vendors, suppliers and customers.

Lt. Col. Carol Tschida, 900th CCBn commander, said Operation Joint Dawn provided contracting officers and non-commissioned officers some of what combat units gain through pre-deployment training at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

"This training is very important for contracting officers because we don't have the opportunity to get together like this and practice for pre-deployment," Tschida said. "This exercise is a culminating event. We're training on warrior tasks and contracting officer proficiency guide tasks. We put all that together in realistic scenarios of what CCOs can expect to see in theater so that they are prepared for realistic scenarios and for handling those situations when they happen."

Jones said the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq will not affect the contracting officers deploying there. He said a few CCOs will remain to support ongoing U.S. missions and contract closeout.

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Chronister said. "But before Iraq we were not doing anything like that. Our updates show us the status of every helicopter that's down for parts and every missile system that's down for parts. We know what's down, what parts are needed, what the sources are for the parts and where those parts are in transport. We want to make sure those parts are moving in support of Soldiers."

When then Maj. Gen. Jim Pillsbury took over as commander of AMCOM in 2004, he implemented a monthly video teleconferencing meeting to bring aviation and missile brigade commanders across the world in theater into a meeting with AMCOM, the Program Executive Office for Aviation, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space and other organizations involved in AMCOM's materiel enterprise at Redstone. Those meetings involved plenty of discussions on what was happening in theater, what the combatant commands needed from AMCOM in terms of support and how AMCOM was making a difference in the war effort.

A reset review held every other week with the depots was the third initiative put in place to support the war effort. The

reviews allowed AMCOM to understand what repairs had to be made to aviation and missile systems after use in theater.

"That became our battle rhythm – operational updates, monthly VTCs and reset reviews," Chronister said.

"We did what we needed to do to keep aircraft flying, missiles operating and our test, measurement and diagnostic calibrations correct. The processes, the culture changed really effectively to keep those systems flying and operating."

AMCOM also started a program where the commanders of deployed aviation brigades came to AMCOM about six months before their deployment to meet with the command, the Integrated Materiel Management Center and program managers.

"They would leave here knowing who their points of contacts were so they knew who to call if there was a problem," Chronister said. "Most of the operational Army doesn't understand Redstone Arsenal or its capabilities. So we wanted to educate these commanders and gain their trust."

Chronister made his first trip to Iraq as Pillsbury's deputy.

"That was a defining moment in my career," he said. "Now, I understood what hardship was for the Soldier, what they are going through and how they depend on us."

When Maj. Gen. Jim Myles stepped in

as AMCOM commander in 2007, AMCOM had already built itself up as a viable and effective supporter of the war fighter. The general kept up the initiatives implemented by his predecessors while adding program management modifications to the reset review meetings.

"The things we were doing were giving us a single picture of what was going on with our aircraft," Chronister said. "We were all united and our processes have gotten better and more efficient over time. But we can never sit back on our laurels. We always need to be looking for better ways to do things."

U.S. Army helicopters are now out of Iraq and either in Kuwait or Afghanistan. Missile systems, although not directly placed in Iraq, are still in place throughout Southwest Asia to provide defensive measures if needed. And the challenges for AMCOM continue.

"There is an insatiable desire for aviation support in theater," Chronister said. "We have an opportunity to better support Operation Enduring Freedom now. Afghanistan is a lot different from Iraq. It is like a Third World country. There is no infrastructure, no roads. There is a great need there."

The end of the Iraq war also gives AMCOM an opportunity to focus on reset and upgrades while "alleviating some of the burden on aviation hardware and aviators," he said.

The war has affected AMCOM employees, too, with a refocus on the customer and an understanding of how a job well done can affect the Soldier in the field. AMCOM employees have also shared personal losses with others in the Huntsville area community who have lost Soldiers or whose Soldier returned

wounded by war.

"There's a greater deal of patriotism in this community than there was before the war," Chronister said. "We have all shared in the joys of seeing Soldiers come home and in the heartache of those in our community whose Soldier has fallen. We all understand this is real and it puts family members at stake."

While the average citizen proclaims their support of the Soldier and Soldier families, Chronister said they don't understand "the burden and the commitment that we've put on our great Soldiers and their families to the level of detail that the employees of AMCOM do. And you will see the commitment AMCOM employees have to Soldiers and families at other commands. TACOM, CECOM, the Joint Mission Command and all the commands are as engaged and committed as we are."

Chronister said AMCOM is a better organization and is better recognized throughout the Army because of the challenges the war presented.

"We all have our role in the Army," he said. "We are one cog in a huge wheel. But we are a big cog. Today, the importance and relevance of our aviation and missile products are much more prevalent than prior to the war. The Army understands much more about the importance of our aviation and missile systems because of the environment we were in over there.

"And I think the Army has evolved, too, with the war. The operational Army understands everyone is better if we work together. Ground forces need aviation and vice versa. We are different because we are working together as partners rather than competitors and staying Soldier focused, and that is powerful."

Rock Island closing contracts in Iraq, Afghanistan

By **LARRY McCASKILL**

Army Contracting Command Public Affairs

The Army Contracting Command has been asked to step in to help close out the current backlog of contracts supporting the efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Prior to that decision, the responsibility for closing out those contracts belonged to the U.S. Central Command's Contracting Command. The ACC has directed its ACC-Rock Island contracting center to now execute this mission.

"ACC-RI was already providing acquisition support to the U.S. Central Command via our Reachback Division," Joan Wysoske, ACC-RI, said. "There was an existing memorandum of agreement and that had to be modified slightly to add the closeout mission."

Originally, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement) created the Contract Closeout Task Force Office in San Antonio, Texas, to eliminate an estimated backlog of 25,000 contracts. That estimate quickly grew to more than 105,000. In May 2010, the commander of the U.S. Central Command Contracting Command made the decision to move the closeout mission to ACC-RI.

In order to get the task at hand accomplished, some additional staff was needed.

Since this is an additional mission, ACC-RI is providing some staffing and DASA (P) will also continue to provide funding. The ACC-RI personnel have been in place since October 2010 and the first DASA (P) funded personnel came on board in June 2011. DASA



Photo by Liz Adrian

Army Contracting Command-Rock Island will close out thousands of Iraq and Afghanistan contracts at the Rock Island Arsenal, III.

(P) provides funding for 25 persons (as they did for the San Antonio facility) and is also funding nine personnel through Ability One, National Industries for the Blind and the Chicago Lighthouse, not-for-profit agencies that are committed to providing jobs for people with disabilities. Currently there are 31 personnel working the closeout mission at ACC-RI with six more in the process of coming on board, according to Wysoske.

According to the Government Accountability Office, it's uncertain how many contingency contracts are still open from fiscal 2003-10 but Wysoske thinks they can identify some of the contracts using the systems that helped create them.

"The use of contract writing systems, such as PD2 (Procurement Desktop-Defense) and PADDS (Procurement Automated Data and Document Systems), will be instrumental in identifying open contracts eligible for closeout (for those contracts awarded after 2008). The systems were not available to deployed personnel prior to 2009 when contracts were written with word processing software and statistics were gathered manually," she said.

To work their way through the contracts, Wysoske said each contract file reviewed will be inventoried and confirmed as closed. If not closed, documentation will be researched to determine that the goods or services contracted for were delivered, accepted and paid for; and the contract will be closed. Any excess funds will be de-obligated.

"If we do not identify and deobligate excess funds before they expire, that money may not be used for other needed goods and services," Wysoske said. "And secondly, if payment issues are not resolved in a timely fashion, unpaid contractors are less likely to want to provide competitive bids and offers for future business with the U.S."

For Wysoske and her team, success can be measured in dollars and sense.

"Closing the 15,000 contracts in inventory from FY '07 before the FY '07 dollars expire will be considered success," she said. "Doing that while the ACC-RI Closeout Branch will also be working payment issues, claims issues and newer contracts as well is the best approach and will show results."

AMC

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that were defending us. The Army was moving forward with all units and AMC was there with them.”

Even though AMC was prepared to support the war fighter, there were obstacles to overcome as the size of the war and the number of U.S. troops deployed increased.

“There was so much logistics support required above and beyond what we expected. Plus the drawdown in the military in the 1990s caused us to lose a lot of capabilities, that we had to hire many contractors for the battlefield,” said Chavez, who served as chief of the contractor coordinator cell in those early days of the war.

Initial reports had 1,200 contractors in theater. But a closer count put the number at more than 7,500 in those early days.

Over the ensuing months, AMC continued to supply everything that the Army needed to continue the mission, from helicopters and missiles and tanks to communications equipment and radar equipment and meals-ready-to-eat. As the war continued, AMC Forward grew from those first

64 employees to more than 64,000 in support of the war fighter in theater.

While Chavez described the Iraq war as a pre-positioned war that relied on stock kept in strategic places like Kuwait, he did emphasize that aviation was not part of the pre-positioned stock.

“All aviation had to be brought from the states, from Germany or from other U.S. installations around the world,” he said. “Aircraft is not part of pre-positioned stock because of the maintenance it requires.”

A prolonged war also created maintenance and sustainment issues, resulting in the establishment of Forward Repair Activities.

“We thought we would complete this mission in a couple of months. We went in so fast that we were blowing tires and everything, and our equipment required extensive maintenance,” he said. “So, AMC started working on Forward Repair Activities for tanks, aviation, communications electronics and other equipment. We also built a warehouse at Camp Arifjan in Kuwait and started a tire repair program.”

The enemy’s use of improvised explosive devices caused AMC to not only do repairs in theater but also modifications and upgrades.

“We had to find ways to add more ar-

mor to the vehicles,” Chavez said. “The Forward Repair Activities had to sustain and enhance because the enemy had a vote in this fight.”

As the U.S. troops in Iraq surged so did the activities of AMC Forward.

“AMC had a mission to repair and prepare and provide all support required to operate equipment and meet the requirements of the brigades,” he said.

“We have to recover, maintain, account, retrograde, modify and do all those things to keep the equipment usable for the Soldier. And we had to ensure the proper distribution of equipment.”

As the war started to draw down, AMC was at the helm again, implementing a Responsible Reset Task Force that took equipment out of the Iraq theater and sent it to Kuwait to be reset and stored or reset and shipped to Afghanistan for re-assignment.

From the war, AMC employees have new systems in place to better manage theater operations.

“We have to have a better structure. We have to be ready for the next contingency operation,” Chavez said. “Ten years of lessons learned shows us that AMC and its major subordinate commands took the initiative to improve equipment and prepare for the next contingency op-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Rudy Chavez likes to talk about the successes of the Army Materiel Command in the early days of supporting the Iraq war and throughout the war's 10-year run.

eration. We have also learned that AMC is relevant to the network of combatant commanders.”

Homecoming

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“All the fighting, all the crying and all the bleeding as well as the building, training and partnering has all led to this moment of success,” Obama said. “Iraq is not a perfect place. It has many challenges ahead, but we are leaving behind a solid, stable and self-reliant government that was elected by its people. We are building a new partnership between our nations, and we are ending a war not with a final battle but a final march home – an extraordinary achievement that was nine years in the making.”

After hearing the president’s praise

during his speech, many Soldiers felt they had really contributed to the success in Iraq, said Staff Sgt. Luis Figueroa, a paratrooper with 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division.

“His speech made me feel like I actually accomplished something while serving in the Army,” Figueroa said. “We helped build Iraq to where we can leave and let them run their own country.”

However, the war in Iraq ending only meant one thing to the airborne Soldiers of Fort Bragg: now they can focus all their training and attention on Afghanistan, said Sgt. Michael Way, a paratrooper with 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Abn. Div.

“It’s nice to know the war in Iraq

is ending so we can close that chapter and focus primarily on Afghanistan,” Way said. “We will always do what we need to do, and hopefully, eventually we will bring home everyone from there as well.”

Besides talking about the ending of the war, both the president and first lady spoke about their plans for servicemembers in the future.

“We are going to keep finding new ways to serve all of you as you have served us,” Mrs. Obama said. “The man leading the way is standing right here. He is fighting for you and your families every day. He is helping veterans and family members go to college through the post 9/11 Montgomery GI Bill, improving mental health care, cutting taxes to businesses who hire

veterans, and he has kept his promise to bring you home from Iraq.”

“I plan to make sure you get the benefits and opportunities that you deserve,” Obama said. “You are the finest our nation has to offer. We are committed to doing everything we can to extending opportunities to those who have served our nation.”

In the end, the president couldn’t stress enough how impressed he was with the U.S. military’s commitment to completing the mission.

“You have had to be more than Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen. You have also had to be diplomats, developers, trainers and peacemakers,” Obama said. “In all of this, you have shown why the U.S. military is the finest fighting force in this great world.”

Logistics assistance representative keeps high pace

By MEGAN COTTON

For the Rocket

For Army aviation units assigned to Iraq, the past year has been a challenge of flying combat missions at a high pace while simultaneously supporting the drawdown of U.S. forces from Iraq. Executing these different missions has challenged everyone involved, including Logistics Assistance Representatives.

AMCOM LAR Tom Newby has been deployed to Iraq five times. His mission in Iraq was to provide technological help, logistical help and anything else Soldiers need to make their mission successful.

During one of his deployments, Newby worked with the 140th Attack Helicopter Battalion in Balad, while they had the dual mission of supporting U.S. forces in Iraq, and simultaneously closing bases. The 140th flew around 2,000-plus hours a month in support of Operation New Dawn, including the drawdown mission. Newby provided support with engineering repairs, supply assistance and advice on maintenance procedures which enabled the unit to keep their down time to a minimum.

"I seldom worked just 12 hours a day supporting the 24/7 two-team shifts. Most

times it turned out to be 14-to-18-hour workdays in order to provide the support needed," said Newby, currently the senior systems technical representative stationed at Fort Polk, La.

One of Newby's major jobs for the 140th was locating and tracking parts. He spent a lot of time on the phone and on the computer locating and coordinating delivery of needed repair parts.

"Parts that used to be available in Balad had to be shipped from the states in most cases, and could take from 1 to 4 weeks to get delivered," Newby, a LAR since 2004, said. "This took a lot of daily checking to find parts, and track them until arrival."

For Newby a very difficult time period arose when the 140th AHB's tour was over and they were replaced by the 131st AHB from Alabama.

"The 131st had to, as the old saying goes, hit the ground running," Newby said. "Not one mission was missed or dropped because of aircraft non-availability. During this time period I worked long hours with the 131st's tech supply office helping them to understand where their repair parts were coming from, how to get them and how to keep track of them."

In addition to finding parts from mul-

iple sources, Newby had to find Air-Ground Support Equipment needed for flight operations. At that time all the AGSE equipment was being shipped out to other bases. Newby identified and contacted base representatives who were shipping parts and equipment from their bases, and these efforts enabled him to locate and pick up items needed by his new customer.

"I also checked several times a week at the Defense Reutilization Manage-

ment Office and Redistribution Property Accountability Team in Kuwait for AMCOT items such as discarded parts and equipment," he said.

Newby found several items that had been abandoned by units. They ranged in value from several thousand to \$2 million. All of these items were recovered for immediate use, or shipped back to the states for repair/refurbishing, saving the Army thousands, if not millions of dollars.

Photo by Grant Thompson

Leading change

Aviation and Missile Command commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers on Jan. 18 thanked the AMCOM Transformation Leading Change Teams, members of the work force who were willing to spend their own time focusing on making changes to make the command more efficient based on suggestions submitted by the work force. He encouraged the members to come to their teams with an open mind, bring in the right experts and then collectively decide what the best solution is. He also discussed the importance of the job at hand and how the command is looking to make a culture change about how we do business while continuing to be the provider of choice for aviation and missile systems.



AMCOM 'adapting for whatever comes next'

Commander sees change from the lessons in Iraq

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers has lived the Iraq war since its beginning in 2003.

As a logistician and officer, his career has been inexplicably connected to the war fighter, leading him to serve in positions to support war efforts both from the U.S. and in theater.

During 10 years of war in Iraq, Rogers helped lead change as the Army learned what it meant to support two wars (Operation Iraqi Freedom/New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan) simultaneously. The Bronze Star recipient spent two deployments in Southwest Asia, one with the 101st Division Support Command in 2003 and most recently as the commander of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait from 2008 to 2010. Now, as the commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, he is in a position to ensure change continues to move forward as the Army becomes stronger, leaner, and more flexible and adaptable.

"Before the wars, I was on a career track that involved training to develop leadership skills and working in positions that provided supplies to Soldiers. The Army uses training to ensure we are ready to go to war if we need to and to show our strength to other countries so they won't go to war. The goal for every Soldier is never to have to go to war," Rogers said.

"But when we do go to war, it always has a way of determining the folks who truly have leadership ability and can handle all the stress that goes along with leadership."

In the early years of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, Rogers remembers the struggles as the Army shifted equipment, training and capabilities to meet the demands of a Southwest Asian war.

"I was a brigade commander during Operation Iraqi Freedom one with the 101st," he recalled of his deployment in 2003. "We had significant challenges with our ability to move, deliver and get visibility of parts to support readiness of all the forces.

"It was a painful beginning. But the Army Materiel Command used a materiel enterprise approach to aggressively go after trying to fix any kind of issue and we did that very quickly."

As the commander of the 101st, Rogers led the efforts of 10,000 Soldiers to

provide equipment and supplies needed to battle the enemy along the western side of Iraq near Mosul.

"We supported the war fighter in their fight," he said. "My work involved counseling senior Soldiers so they could lead their Soldiers.

"No matter what job each Soldier had, it was important to what we were doing. Every Soldier has a mission and additional duties assigned. If they do their job to the best of their ability then they are supporting their team and their team is going to win."

Once equipment was in theater, there were issues with sustainment as the harsh conditions of desert warfare took their toll on missile and aviation systems. During those trying times, it was the efforts of the Logistics Assistance Representatives, who provided technical support in theater, that had an immediate impact on system support.

"The LARs were at the forefront of our ability to communicate with places like AMCOM," Rogers said. "Because of them, the reaction time was always good. AMCOM, TACOM and all the commands responded quickly to what was needed in theater."

Also at the forefront was the Soldier, requiring the best the Army had to offer in training, equipment and military systems to win a war against a smart, determined and conniving enemy.

"Our Soldiers are representative of the nation," Rogers said. "They are so powerful because they come from all walks of life and they represent their nation well. Soldiers have always been at the forefront of challenges that this nation has and they have always worked through those challenges. Things get done on the backs of our Soldiers. They make it happen and they never fail."

During the beginning of the Iraq war, Soldiers faced challenges with equipment and supplies that threatened their success. Throughout the war, those Soldiers have been successful despite funding issues and war situations that may have slowed the distribution of supplies and equipment.

"The Army has been stretched more than any other of the services," Rogers said. "But our individual Soldiers have come through that. And always in the time of need our industry partners have stepped up and helped us find solutions. ... We are going to get leaner. We have had to make adjustments based on the fact that we had two wars, and there will be more adjustments as budgets reduce. We have to be part of the solution for the national debt.

"The Department of the Army is just now at the forefront of figuring out what



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Aviation and Missile Command commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, right, talks with his aide Capt. Matthew Woolsey about upcoming meetings and events on the general's calendar. Both are Iraq war veterans.

right looks like for the future Army. We are having to right-size ourselves."

Hopefully, the work the Army has done to make Iraq a democratic nation and to secure partnerships in Southwest Asia will lead to stronger, healthier nations that can work to defend themselves against tyranny and oppression, the commander said.

"The countries we are in, their soldiers love to be with U.S. Soldiers and to fight alongside U.S. Soldiers because of our values, and the quality of our training and equipment. When we take care of our Soldiers, the rest takes care of itself," Rogers said.

"The countries who have fought alongside us - Austria, Britain, Canada, Jordan - always come back impressed with our individual Soldier."

Yet, in America, Rogers said there seems to be a disconnect between citizens and the military branches of service. With less than 1 percent of the nation's population serving in the military, the Iraq war has not "touched the nation like the bigger wars like World War I and World War II did," Rogers said. "It seems the Reserves and National Guard have touched more lives than our active component. The disconnect has been a challenge. Our nation hasn't really stood up for our military other than the fact they've spent a lot of money on war."

The general described Huntsville as an "anomaly" compared to the support that other cities give their military. He said the nation doesn't view military accomplishments and the pride of service the way they are appreciated in Huntsville. It is not units, but individual servicemembers, who connect the nation to its military, he said.

"I think the war has made the Army and the nation realize the importance of the individual who protects the interest of our nation. In the Army, our secret weapon is the individual Soldier," Rogers said. "There were questions on how well Generation Y or Generation Next would do. I think we're building the next greatest generation in the young Soldiers who voluntarily are going to war. They have been called the 'what's in it for me' society. But they have proved that wrong.

"We have such high standards in our Army with our values that we are making the next generation even greater. Overall, the Army is still ranked of all the services as the number one service that people trust. The American people believe in the way we put Army values in front and the way we support our nation."

Because of the Iraq war, the Army has experienced change at all levels, including on the home front where families have had to learn how to cope with multiple deployments and the return of Soldiers who were injured by war.

"The military is truly a family affair, and, if not, then Soldiers will leave," Rogers said. "Family support groups, Army Community Service and chaplain programs have all stepped up to support our families when Soldiers have been gone. When Soldiers return, they and their family should feel comfortable with getting the help they need. We are pushing hard to make sure the stigma of getting help with mental health is gone."

Army civilians, too, have been impacted by the war as their roles have been better defined and they better understand how their support is a game changer for the war fighter.

"Whether Soldier or civilian, the focus at AMCOM is supporting the war fighter and making a difference for the war fighter," Rogers said of his current command.

"Those Soldiers and civilians who have deployed can bring their experience back and maximize lessons learned. Civilians who come back from deployments can educate others in the work force of how important the mission is and what their roles are in fulfilling that mission."

As the Department of Defense and the Department of the Army work to bring down budget requirements, those who have been to war can help shape the future of the Army.

"The Army is the decisive force for the future of our nation," Rogers said. "We need to reflect and determine what lessons we've learned should be applied for the future. Our next conflict will be different from Iraq. We need to train Soldiers so they can be adaptable for whatever comes next."

Veterans

continued from page 15

them, that the mission is over and they're just not needed anymore," he said. "I'm fortunate that I realized I needed help and I got it."

Hardy encouraged veterans to get help if they need it. He talked about the high suicide rate for veterans and that many people think that asking for help is a sign of weakness.

"They're too scared or afraid of what people will think, especially now that the Army is downsizing by 100,000 troops. They're afraid they'll get kicked out, but what it boils down to is you have to make a conscious decision to get help. It's a tough pill to swallow but you have to eat your pride and get help. It's not easy for anyone," he said. "Don't be afraid to get help. If you don't, you're going to drive everyone in your life away. If you pull the trigger, you can't start over like in a videogame. If you know you need help, go get it."

Retiree looks forward

Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Goyer retired in June 2011 after 22 years of service. He retired out of the 57th Signal Battalion as an ordnance Soldier with the Third Corps at Fort Hood, Texas, after several deployments to Iraq and other countries.

Goyer's first deployment to Iraq was in 1990 during Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield. He was with the 701st Main Support Battalion in the 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kan. He

was primarily in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait working as a radar repairer, but did spend some time in Iraq moving supplies. His next deployment to the area was in 1999 with the Air Defense Artillery Battalion out of Fort Bliss, Texas. He worked as a Patriot missile system repairer defending Kuwait that time. His last deployment to Iraq was for 15 months during the time he and his family was stationed in Germany in 2006-08. The ground war was over by then, but he was in Iraq during the insurgency.

"I remember when Dick Cheney was on television saying that we were going to war with Iraq. People were asking how long we were going to be there and when we were going to get out. He was saying we were going to be there for the long haul. I thought he meant it was going to be a long-term thing like our presence in Japan or Korea. A lot of people balked at that and the politicians made it an important talking point after that," Goyer said. "I think we may have been premature in leaving now."

Goyer explained that he thought the best solution would be to put a permanent division in Iraq because the people in Iraq, like everyone almost everywhere, want to feed their families and they want to be free. Although he recognized that some things happened in Iraq that gave U.S. Soldiers a bad image around the world, such as the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse, he saw that the Iraqi people who dealt with U.S. Soldiers who were actually doing their jobs liked them.

"I think the people liked us, if not loved us. When they talk about Americans, they talk fondly of us because of their dealings with the Soldiers," he said. "I think there's

a lot to be said for staying (in Iraq). Our Soldiers are the best we've got and when we send them abroad we're doing us a service. The more we can expose people in other countries to regular GIs, telling jokes and having fun, the better. And another thing our Soldiers do, they spend their money. They'll spend their money on whatever the locals want to hawk to them and that can be a good thing. We don't see a lot of those sorts of stories on American television. We see the riots and the bombings and we think, "These people hate us. Why should we give them anything?" But that's not true."

Originally from Arizona, Goyer joined the Army when he was 22 because he wanted the stability and the training that the Army offered him. He met his wife, Sherry, when he came to Redstone Arsenal for nine months in 1989-90 after completing basic training. They decided to move back to Huntsville with their 13-year-old twins in order to be closer to Sherry's family. Although Goyer had a resume prepared and had made some contacts here before he retired in June, he did not have a job lined up when they moved back. Army Community Service at Redstone helped him with his job search. After several months, he found a job as a district manager for a propane company in Huntsville. He is looking forward to a promising future.

"Iraq is a very important nation in Islamic culture and us being there and the Iraqi government being there with us on their soil says something very important. So we'll just have to see what the changes bring. I think good will prevail, it's just you can never say when," he said. "There are a lot of

bad things happening there, but it was getting better when we left. We had gotten the government up and running. I hope if they ever need us again, we'll always be ready to go back because we can't let them fail. They have to succeed. It's a very young nation now and it could go in a number of different directions. We have to be with them the whole way. We have to have strong political ties and an active embassy there."

Wife and mother returns

Capt. Kelly Stell was deployed to Iraq as an individual with the 2-402nd Army Field Support Battalion as the reset OIC for the Army Materiel Command in February 2011. She is a member of the Detachment 1 of the Army Reserve Sustainment Command in Huntsville. She just returned from her deployment in November.

Stell and her husband Bill, a government employee with the Software Engineering Directorate, have been married for 22 years and have three daughters, ages 21, 22 and 16. She is a contract specialist with the Corps of Engineers and has been in the Army Reserve for 13 years.

"It was a very challenging mission for me. We were in charge of moving all of the equipment that had been in Iraq out of the country. It was the largest movement of military equipment in the history of the Army," Stell said.

Stell was at Joint Base Balad in Iraq when she first deployed, then moved to Cob Ader toward the end of the drawdown. She had no interaction with the Iraqi people while she was there. Adjusting to civilian life is difficult because she does not have anyone who was in Iraq with her who can understand what it was like to be over there.

"I think it's harder for reservists than it is for active duty Soldiers. Being deployed as an individual, I went over there with complete strangers and came back by myself. There was no big welcome home party at the airport, just my family was there to greet me," she said. "I think that's been the hardest part."

Originally from Arizona, Stell has lived in the Huntsville area for 16 years. She said she joined the Army Reserve 15 years ago when there were no wars going on. She did it because of its education benefits and so she could earn money to support her family.

Now that she is back home, Stell's goals are to get reintegrated with her family and her workplace. She expects that the leadership skills she learned while she was in Iraq will transfer to her career well. She just started back with the Corps of Engineers at the beginning of January.

"Time will only tell what our presence over there did for the people of Iraq," she said. "I think it's been a lot of years and I think our Soldiers are tired. I know our Soldiers are glad to be home, but I hope our efforts weren't in vain and that we made some positive changes and contributions to the Iraqi people and to the country."



Photos by Ellen Hudson

Reflecting on the fallen

Survivor Outreach Services is housed in part of the Army Community Service building 3338 on Redeye Wall. The facility includes a Hall of Reflection in honor of the Soldiers who died in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Missile systems on target throughout Iraq war

Weapon systems managed by the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space played a major role during the past decade in Iraq.

Some of these include the Javelin, the Cruise Missile Defense Systems and the Joint Attack Munition Systems.

Javelin fire-and-unforgettable

Javelin is the premier man-portable, fire-and-forget, anti-tank weapon system in the Army infantry combat formations. The field reliability of the round, Command Launch Unit and training devices continue to meet and exceed requirements. From Sept. 11, 2001 to the ongoing combat operations in Afghanistan, the Close Combat Weapon Systems Project Office has continued to support the U.S. war fighter by applying lessons learned to continuously improve both the Javelin missile and the Javelin CLU.

The Javelin Block 1 missile and CLU was fielded in 2007 to provide a greater engagement range, longer surveillance times and improved gunner interfaces. The current Javelin missile system improvement in development, the Multi Purpose Warhead, will enhance the lethal area of the warhead's blast by a factor of 1.7-times which provides an improved capability against non-armor targets while still retaining the capability to destroy all armor threats. The new warhead is planned to be procured beginning in fiscal 2014.

While supporting the combat theaters with all the necessary equipment, training and missiles is extremely important, CCWS continued to reset and equip units in the rotation cycle. Since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom, CCWS has been fully and effectively engaged in the Javelin New Equipment Training/Total Package Fielding mission, which involved 23 accelerated fieldings to units deploying to the theaters of operation. In addition to accelerated fielding, CCWS reacted to the transformation of the Army forces and adjusted accordingly to fulfill the mission. Ongoing combat operations and Army transformation efforts changed the pace of NET and TPF; however, the CCWS Project Office was able to successfully meet all fieldings. These efforts resulted in approximately 9,100 Soldiers being trained, as well as the physical handoff of over 5,500 tactical Command Launch Units and

more than 1,700 Javelin training devices. The efforts of the CCWS Javelin team culminated in more than 1,900 successful missile engagements against enemy targets in all theaters.

Cruise control

As Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn has ended, the Cruise Missile Defense Systems Project Office reflects on its accomplishment in supporting our deployed Soldiers during the war and focuses on implementing the Army's new strategy of shaping a force that will be smaller and leaner, but agile, flexible, ready and technologically advanced.

During the conflict, CMDS executed its mission to develop, produce, field and sustain the world's premier short and medium range air defense and associated systems. Two of CMDS' five product lines were deployed to theater during the conflict: the Sentinel Radar and Stinger based systems including the Avenger and Stinger. These systems were well-supported by the project office and maintained a high level of operation readiness to support their missions.

Sentinel supported Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn beginning in 2003, and has provided persistent surveillance data on Army and joint networks through external command and control platforms enabling protection of U.S. and coalition forces. Sentinel has had up to 16 radars supporting OIF/OND performing situational awareness/situational understanding in support of a traditional air defense mission. Sentinel has also supported Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar operations by providing the air breathing target "call off" capability to prevent fratricide of friendly aircraft. Sentinel's mission in this architecture was to provide a low level air picture to the division and below to the C-RAM intercept batteries, reducing chances of fratricide. Sentinel identified and reported air breathing threats on the network, providing C-RAM confidence that engagements occur only on rockets, artillery and mortars.

The Avenger was used in the force protection role defending our troops and critical assets from low level air attack. As a lightweight, highly mobile, short-range, surface-to-air missile and gun weapon system mounted on M1097A1 Humvee, the Avenger features missile launch pods contain-

ing four Stinger missiles each and a very high rate of fire M3P .50-caliber machine gun.

CMDS Project Office has supported the war from pre-deployment to post deployment. CMDS provided pre-deployment equipment maintenance and enhanced operator/maintainer training to units prior to deploying to theater. While in-theater, contract teams were deployed from the continental U.S. to provide additional maintenance support, reset of Sentinel radars, and response to emergency operational needs as the conflict matured. As part of the post deployment phase, CMDS reset Sentinel radars and Avengers.

One of the most significant contributions and challenges that CMDS faced in supporting the war effort was to respond to an operational need statement to replace the inadequate and unreliable gun system on the Kiowa Warrior OH-58D helicopter. AMCOM in conjunction with the PEO Missiles and Space and PEO Aviation identified the Avenger's M3P .50-caliber machine gun as the solution. The M3P machine gun is a lightweight, reliable gun system with a level of lethality greater than the helicopter's previous XM296 machine gun and more suited for close fighting situations encountered in urban environments. Due to the Army's decision to downsize the Avenger fleet, excess M3P machine guns were available to support this effort. CMDS and the PEO Aviation's Air Support Helicopter Project Office worked together to integrate the M3P and design the mounting system for the OH-58D. In December 2008, Kiowa Warrior began fielding the M3P and used the new gun in the force protection mode. Pilots were impressed with its accuracy and dependability. More than 4 million rounds have been fired from the M3Ps on Kiowa helicopters in theater in the force protection role. The gun is supported with a depot capability at Redstone Arsenal.

CMDS now turns its attention to equipping a force that will be smaller and leaner, agile, flexible, ready and technologically advanced. CMDS is developing and fielding an improved Sentinel on a FMTV which provides greater capability and crew protection; developing a Stinger proximity fuze to increase lethality against small UAS, initiating a new start program to develop an new intercept capabil-

ity to counter the RAM threat as the Indirect Fire Protection Capability-2 and continuing to support NORAD/NORTHCOM in defense of the homeland.

JAM on

The mission of the Joint Attack Munition Systems Project Office is to support the war fighters by providing them with the missiles, aviation rockets and support they need to carry out their mission. During Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn, more than 14,000 Hellfire missiles were used in theater to successfully take out high value targets, many of which have been reported on in the news. The success of Hellfire during these operations is by no means a recent accomplishment; Hellfire has a long history of being the weapon of choice for U.S. aviators. More than 60,000 Hellfire missiles have been produced at Shingo Award winning facilities. JAMS not only ensures that war fighters receive these missiles and rockets but they also have any support that is needed for total mission success.

JAMS depot maintenance technicians were also assigned to 66 units and provided on site assistance with training, test equipment/launcher repairs, and status/issue reporting and resolution. A Forward Test and Repair Facility was established in Qatar to reduce repair cycle times and increase theater readiness. The FTRF can quickly perform minor repairs and verify that missiles are in working order in less than a third of the time it would take to send missiles back to the continental U.S. depot. More than 50 percent of the missiles evaluated at the FTRF are repaired and returned to the theater of operations directly, thereby significantly increasing readiness and availability while decreasing transportation time. This allowed the Hellfire Missile Depot at Anniston to more effectively concentrate on more than 3,000 missiles requiring major repairs.

JAMS carries out these missions with a commitment to quality and excellence that has been formally recognized by quality award programs at the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, the Alabama Quality Award program and iSixSigma.

Editor's note: This information was provided by the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.

Army space professionals review lessons from Iraq

Since the United States invaded Iraq in 2003, numerous Army space professionals served with distinction in the Iraqi joint operations area. Army Space professionals have made significant and lasting contributions to both combat and stability operations during Operation Iraqi Freedom ending August 2010 and Operation New Dawn which ended in 2011. The purpose of New Dawn was to support "Iraq's continued development into a sovereign, stable and long-term self-reliant strategic partner that contributes to peace and security in the region."

While the current experience and quality of the Army space cadre, both space professionals and space enablers, across the Army is unparalleled, contributions of the Army space professionals during U.S. Forces-Iraq stability operations provided an excellent case study for professional assessment. Now is a good time to consider the maturing of the space force that has occurred over the last eight years in Iraq. One way to consider space operations officers today – those serving on the USF-I Space team supporting stability operations – are as utility infielders on their corps and division staffs. They each bring space expertise to a variety of jobs critical to the effort.

Surveyed space professionals anonymously responded that their primary missions during New Dawn included Integrated Joint Special Technical Operations chief or planner, Alternate Compensatory Control Measures program manager, general staff planner, monitoring the space environment and Information Operations planner. Additionally, every space professional and enabler serving in a space support element agrees that the Iraqi joint operations area is a mature theater. Five major space force enhancement functions are well-understood by the staffs: Communications; Position, Navigation and Timing; Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance; Missile Warning; and Environmental Monitoring. An additional function that is less understood, but still equally important, is Space Control which includes Offensive Space Control, Defensive Space Control, and Space Situational Awareness.

With this as a starting point, space professionals need to help clearly define the role of space in the Army's tactical and operational headquarters in the future. The options are: one, maintain the current force structure and functions; two, modify the force structure to accomplish current and likely future requirements; or three, merge space with related career fields to provide a strategic enabler or technical enabler staff generalists that shapes integration of unique, technical, national capabilities in the operating force. To assist in the analysis of the options, this article begins with an overview of the evolution of tactical and operational space in the Army and assesses the future in light of the Army organizational and proponent constructs.

Overview of space evolution

Before 2005, the only space operations officers or FA40s assigned within the operating force were majors assigned to Corps G3s – one space profes-



Photo courtesy of USF-I Joint Combat Camera and DoD

Army space professionals served with distinction in the Iraqi joint operations area in the decade since the United States invaded Iraq in 2003.

sional per organization. Since 2005, the expertise that was organic to an organization has grown to a space support element. This element now includes two FA40 officers in a division and three in a corps, along with a satellite communications NCO in each headquarters. The primary function of all deployed division and corps SSEs became that of managing Integrated Joint Special Technical Operations and focal point programs classified with the Alternative or Compensatory Control Measures caveat. This was primarily out of operational need. It was a natural fit for FA40s since they had the required security clearances for IJSTO and co-locating the ACCM mission with the IJSTO vault made sense since it provided a secure location for ACCM operations.

This situation of the space professional needing flexibility becomes the overarching theme that emerges from looking at the Army space team in Iraq. The 2008 spring edition of the Army Space Journal included a bellwether article Successes from the Field: OIF V that presented an informative overview of employing division SSEs and four recommendations. Based on the situation in 2010 and 2011, SSEs in New Dawn, and likely the rest of the Army, appear to have embraced these recommendations:

- Get smart on Special Technical Operations and Alternative or Compensatory Control Measures.
- Leverage Corps Space Element and supporting Army Space Support Team.
- Don't worry too much about the Space Support Element Toolset-Light.
- Expect opportunities to do other things and do the best at them.

Current versus future fight

As mentioned earlier, Operation New Dawn was conducted in a mature theater and in a threat environment with low probability of insurgent access to counter-space systems. This will not always be the case. As adversaries gain more and more access

to the electromagnetic spectrum and space is normalized, the vulnerability of Army reliance on space assets becomes more apparent. Knowledge and employment of space protection systems are only partial solutions. Operations in a contested space domain will not result in the assured capabilities most U.S. forces currently enjoy. In lieu of the traditional blue-on-blue interference, we will also face issues from gray and red systems. This may degrade communications, ISR, and precision engagement. A thorough link and node analysis may take some time to conduct, but the results will provide U.S. forces a basic architecture from which to troubleshoot.

Another area requiring examination is the SSE force structure. The lieutenant colonel billet must continue to be filled with experienced, senior FA40s, primarily to ensure that the headquarters is effective. But the seasoned FA40 also benefits junior FA40s with mentoring. The changes to some of the SSE positions from major to captain, combined with the four-year career field designation, will require assessing a true career model that describes how to achieve success and where SSE service fits into success.

The beginning of this article described three options for the future of Army space: hold what we have, modify force structure within the space construct, or look at where space broadly fits into our Army formations with other enabling career fields. While this article did not address these options directly, it did provide a necessary discussion about integrating space in Army operations – a background that is necessary for taking things forward. A final consideration is this: 4,500 Americans have given their lives and the ultimate sacrifice in military operations in Iraq. Concepts for the Army Space Cadre, Army Space Support Teams and Space Support Elements were forged and tested during eight years of combat and stability operations in Iraq. They were weighed, measured and tested – the contributions are unquestionably invaluable to our Army's exceptional success.

As Operation New Dawn ends, it is appropriate for our Army and SMDC/ARSTRAT to conduct a holistic assessment of Army space activities to ensure we are trained, organized and equipped to support the next challenge. As our Army adapts for the future in support of combined arms maneuver and wide area security missions so must Army space. The Army must understand its requirements for space based assets and space forces in support of full spectrum operations. Yogi Berra said it best: "If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else." We have come too far to drown in irrelevance – now is the perfect time to comprehensively review the Army space enterprise and prepare for the future.

Editor's note: This article, provided by the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, resulted from a Space After Action Review June 24 at the Al Faw Palace in Baghdad, Iraq, by space professionals serving in the Iraqi joint operations area.

Family holds onto memories of fallen Soldier

Jon-Erik Loney gave his life in Iraq war

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

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HARTSELLE — When the knock came at the door, nothing could have prepared Josh Loney for what he would find on the other side. In disbelief, he opened and shut the door, certain that when he opened it again it would all have just been a dream. But everything remained just as it was the second time he set his eyes on the front porch. Turning to get his sleeping parents, it was a wakeup call sure to change their lives forever.

No one expected the soft-spoken Jon-Erik Loney, a 2003 Danville High School graduate and Hartselle native, who loved kids and didn't like hunting, to join the Army, but that's exactly what Loney did, borrowing his stepfather's car and disappearing one night, not telling his parents where he had gone. It wasn't until they tracked down the car at the recruiter's office, who informed them that their son was in Nashville taking a physical, that they discovered their son's mission in life.

"It was such a shock," said Violet Kaylor, Jon-Erik's mother.

Entering the Army was enough cause for the family to worry, but when they discovered he would be infantry as well, the entire family did all they could to convince him to rethink his plans.

"I told him, 'I cannot believe that you're joining and volunteering during the wartime,'" said Bo Kaylor, Jon-Erik's stepfather, who had worked with his son installing sprinkler systems after high school, thinking the time on the job had dispelled the 19-year-old's original plans to join the Navy. "It was going on good then. But there was no stopping him. You couldn't talk him out of it."

Instead, Jon-Erik pledged his life to his country, a lesson he had learned early in life.

"He thought it was his patriotic duty," Violet said. "We taught him to be that way. It was country, country, country."

"It wasn't like we were pumping him up to join the military, we were just pumping him up to be patriotic," Bo added.

About a year into his military career, Loney was sent to Germany, a telltale sign to his family that it wouldn't be long before he'd find his boots on the ground in Iraq. In January 2006 he began his deployment with the 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment in Hit, Iraq. Just a few months later, in March, he returned home to North Alabama on



Photo by Gary Cosby Jr./Decatur Daily

Five years after his death, Violet Kaylor celebrates the life of her firstborn son, Jon-Erik, and will always remember his trademark, mischievous grin.

leave. For two weeks the 20-year-old attended church with his family, indulged in his favorite food, fried okra, stocked up on civilian clothes at American Eagle, happy to be out of the uniform, and relaxed with those that loved him the most. On April 9, Loney's 21st birthday, he said goodbye to his parents and returned to Iraq. Bidding farewell to her firstborn, the embrace was to be Violet's last with her son.

"I knew," Bo said. "I told my mother, 'He's not coming back.' There was just something."

The danger was evident. Loney was on his fifth Bradley, the others having fallen victim to IEDs, and while he would never share the horrors of war with his mother, he let his father know life in Hit was hell on earth and things were only getting worse.

"He said it was one of the most evil places they had ever been, but you never heard about it and you can barely find it on a map," Bo said. "He told me, 'Things are getting worse over here. I'll tell you when I get home.'"

Sending a picture of himself looking out from his Bradley, ditches around him filled with dead bodies, the message he sent to his father, "No dad, they're not sleeping," gave Bo concern for his kind and caring son.

"I wonder how it affected him," Bo said. "That had to affect him."

Despite the terrors that surrounded him, if promoted to gunner, Loney was ready to stay in Iraq, despite the danger,



Courtesy photo

Cpl. Jon-Erik Loney, a 2003 Danville High School graduate, was deployed to Iraq in January 2006. He died there on Nov. 28, 2006 in an IED attack.

explaining to his mother that they needed him. The promotion was not to be. On the morning of Nov. 28, 2006, while out on patrol, Loney and his fellow Soldiers noticed two men running away from a car shop in the middle of an open field. Scanning the road and using thermals to search for IEDs, each spot they checked showed no indications any were present until Loney's Bradley rolled over the 500 pounds of explosives, blowing a hole the size of a couch cushion where he was sitting.

When the chaplain and major came knocking on the Kaylor's front porch, they instinctively knew that the two Soldiers weren't there to tell them their son would be coming home alive.

"We kept telling ourselves, 'No, no, no,'" Violet said.

The next day, a bereavement officer arrived to let the family know that Jon-Erik had been killed in an IED attack. The Army offered the Kaylor's the chance to speak with those that were on patrol with him, an opportunity they took advantage of, to learn the story and ask questions about the way their son had died. Rather than shying away from the details, the Kaylor's chose to hear the whole story, to help them through the grieving process.

"You just want to know, that's your son," Violet said.

"You don't believe that it's real," Bo added.

A week and a half later, after DNA and dental testing on his body to ensure it was their beloved Jon-Erik, the Kaylor's met their son one last time at the Birmingham airport. In 18 degree weather, the Patriot Guard escorted the Soldier home on their motorcycles as the family prepared to celebrate his life and mourn his death with the rest of the community that loved him. Loney was buried Dec. 9 at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Hartselle, where Violet and Bo purchased four plots so they may all one day rest beside each other. An outpouring of support greeted the family, as those that knew Jon-Erik and even those that didn't turned out for the funeral, many bearing American flags, sign and symbol for what the 21-year-old died for.

"He was a fine man," Bo said.

While American families celebrated the end of the war for their Soldiers in Iraq in December, it was a homecoming that will never happen for the Kaylor's, leaving mixed feelings for the family. While they're happy for the Soldiers to be home, they can't help but wonder what their son really died for.

"I honestly believe he died for nothing, but he didn't. He died doing what he believed in. I'm proud of him," Bo said.

"That's about the only comfort," Violet added.

The emotions the Kaylor's are experiencing are similar to those of other gold star families that lost loved ones in Iraq, according to Kerrie Branson, Survivor Outreach Services coordinator at Army Community Service.

"It's an emotional time for them, because it's a reminder of when their Soldier didn't come home with their unit/troops from Iraq," said Branson, summing up the emotions of those gold star families she has spoken with since the war ended. "They see all the welcome homes and envy the excitement of it all because they can't welcome their own Soldier home. Many survivors are comforted knowing their Soldier made a difference

See Soldier on page 31

Army Community Service serves returning Soldiers

By **BETH SKARUPA**

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Although the war in Iraq is over, Army Community Service's mission is not complete. Many ACS programs are more important than ever as Soldiers return home.

Returning Soldiers and their families can turn to ACS for help with reintegration, one of the steps in the deployment cycle. The mobilization deployment program can help Soldiers transition from active duty to the civilian work force or back into family life, the financial readiness program can help Soldiers and their families work out a budget, and the employment readiness program can help Soldiers or family members prepare for new careers.

"Even when the war ends, it's not the end for the family," Mary Breeden, ACS relocation assistance program manager, said. "We always have to remember: adjust, adapt, survive and thrive. When the Soldiers come home, they don't just drop their duffel bag at the door and troubles are over."

ACS has many programs and services to help returning Soldiers adapt. These programs are standard programs that existed before the war in Iraq and will continue to exist now that the war is over. Soldiers coming back into a work force that has been doing without them for several months may need help adjusting.

"You've got a lot of that, when the Soldiers come back and they're back at their job site and people just don't understand what they went through – why they twitch when something falls on the floor, why they feel the need to drive so many blocks out of the way, or why they get

nervous at Walmart, in crowds," Breeden said. "We've got on post resources, we've got off post resources. If they need somebody to talk to, we can link them with all those programs."

Reintegrating into the family can also be difficult. Reunions usually go very well, Breeden explained, but when Soldiers get back home they realize that things have changed. The kids have gotten older, the spouse may have taken a new role in the family, and the Soldier's experiences have changed him, too.

"You've got family members that don't understand," Breeden said. "Yes, they're happy to see you but this isn't the same person that left either. There could be a darker side, and so we want to let the family members know that we're there for them, too."

The employment readiness program can help Soldiers or their spouses with resumes and job searches. Returning Soldiers may also need the financial readiness program. They can work on adjusting to not having battle pay, creating a budget, and changing spending habits. Returning Soldiers may want to buy something that is not in the budget or their family may want to go on a vacation. The financial readiness program can help them decide what is affordable.

"A lot of times when somebody comes back from a situation like that, they're going to want to go out and buy things because they've been doing without for so long," Breeden said. "They say, 'I deserve a motorcycle,' or they want to do the Disneyland trip with the family, but those things are expensive."

Since the Iraq war started, the emphasis at ACS shifted to include the Survivor Outreach Services. That has expanded to cover not only the spouse and the surviv-



Photo by Beth Skarupa

From left, ACS social services assistant Angel Solomon and volunteer Lorraine Kraus sort handmade crocheted hats that are sent to Soldiers throughout the world.

ing children, but also the parents, brothers, sisters and grandparents.

Breeden emphasized that ACS supports the family. That family is not just the traditional family, but deployed DoD civilians, contractors and single Soldiers as well. Parents of single Soldiers may want help understanding what their returning son or daughter is going through.

"So whenever you talk about what's going to change at the end of the war, it's not just the end of the war it's the beginning of having to go through all these changes. We want to let them know that we're here for them," Breeden said.

Breeden noted that returning Soldiers and their families often choose to continue to get information from her "geographically separated" group. They don't have to stop getting the email about free events, they can stay connected. They can also email Breeden with questions they may have once they are back.

"We want to stay in touch with them.

Even though we're very happy that they're back, we still want them to know that we're here for them," she said.

Another service ACS provides to Soldiers returning from Iraq is contacting the right organizations to greet the Soldiers at the airport. If a Soldier is coming back and wants to be greeted, ACS can make that happen.

"Soldiers are still in Kosovo, Bosnia, Korea and Afghanistan and they and their families still need services, too," Breeden said. "We're here. We're not going to go away."

ACS also works with groups that want to send items to troops. Church groups and schools often call because they cannot send packages addressed "Any Soldier." They have to send items to a specific Soldier and ACS helps get permission from a Soldier to give the contact information.

One ACS volunteer has made a big difference in Soldier's lives simply by crocheting hats for them. In the past two years, Betty Reed has crocheted more than 2,000 hats that have been shipped out to Soldiers all over the world.

"At first, I would personally ship them out to somebody's son that I knew," Breeden said. "They said it's so much fun to get the hats. They get helmet hair and want to have a hat, or the bright colors cheer them up. Betty Reed takes donations of money or yarn. She said one skein makes about five hats. As soon as we find a place to send them out, we send them. Any place that there are Soldiers, they're probably wearing one of Betty's hats."

For more information about ACS programs and services, or to donate yarn or money for crocheted hats, call Breeden at 876-5397.

Photo by Jason Cutshaw, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Commander's note

Lt. Col. Brian Soldon, right, Army Kwajalein Atoll and Reagan Test Site deputy commander, Kwajalein support director and RTS space operation director, presents a commander's note to Janet McCreary, wife of John McCreary, an electronics engineer with the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's Army Kwajalein Atoll, Reagan Test Site, Technical Center (Provisional) in Huntsville, at his retirement ceremony Jan. 19. McCreary served at the Kwajalein Missile Range/Reagan Test Site for 33 years.



Resources for returning Soldiers and their families

MilitaryOneSource.com provides 24/7 resources for deployment support, financial guidance, relocation assistance, counseling. Telephonic counseling is available by calling 1-800-342-9647

Vet Center Readjustment Counseling Service provides counseling for all veterans and their families. It is located at 415 Church St., Building H, Suite 101, Huntsville. Phone number: 539-5775. Email them at www.vetcenter.va.gov or call 800-273-8255.

A Smile for Troops is a Huntsville group that ships care packages to servicemembers. Contact them through their website at <http://asmilefortroops.com> to add someone to their mailing lists or contribute.

Still Serving Veterans provides weekly group and individual counseling for those back from war and dealing with PTSD/TBI, depression, anger and other issues. Find them online at www.Stillservingveterans.org or visit them at 224 Spragins Road, Huntsville. Call 866-778-4645 or 883-7054 for more information.

M.O.R.E. Military Outreach and Encouragement provides support and information for families on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7-9 p.m. It is located at Mayfair Church of Christ, 1095 Carl T. Jones Drive. Call 881-4651 or 882-3266 for more information.

Brain injury clinic treats linger effects from war

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

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The war in Iraq may be over, but its impact on the Soldier will linger in the years and decades to come.

As troops return home from their deployments, many of them bring with them an unwanted passenger, traumatic brain injuries and post traumatic stress disorder, an undesirable outcome of the war that they fought and must now try to overcome.

“Coming back from combat, seeing things that people shouldn’t see and experience, and trying to explain that; they don’t want to explain that, it’s impossible to explain it, and it’s a very different way of life – a very different mission,” said Dr. Lynley Ebeling, neuropsychologist and director of Fox Army Health Center’s Neuropsychology/Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic. “To come back and have a family who knows you’ve had a difficult time, but really doesn’t know or understand what you have seen or done, is very difficult. The Soldiers don’t want to have to burden anyone. Reintegrating and pretending none of that happened is impossible to do.”

Studies have shown, according to Ebeling, that about 20 percent of Soldiers coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan have had one concussion or more, and 20 percent of Soldiers returning also meet criteria for PTSD. Of those 20 percent that suffered a concussion, about 45 percent meet the criteria for PTSD. If a Soldier has PTSD and incurs a concussion, it is much harder and takes longer to get rid of or help the PTSD symptoms, Ebeling said.

“Just the adjustment of life outside of war and coming back, there are a lot of hurting Soldiers and families out there,” Ebeling said.

Up to 58 percent of combat veterans returning from war meet criteria for PTSD; symptoms typically arise within the first three months of their return. And while 50 percent will no longer meet criteria for full PTSD within three months of the onset of their symptoms, 50 percent still will, and more than a third will never fully recover.

“It’s a lifelong issue,” Ebeling said.

So what makes PTSD and traumatic brain injury more of a problem today than with any other war? Soldiers deployed for longer spans of time, and for many, went on multiple tours, some

three, five or six times, which just compounds the PTSD. And while traumatic brain injury and PTSD have been around for decades, the triggers for them and the way the military faces the enemy changed drastically with the Iraq war. For the first time ever Soldiers have had to live in fear of IEDs, and the experience of being almost blown up or watching others blown up, for many, has led to PTSD, understandably. Now as they drive home from work they’re faced with McDonald’s bags and other forms of litter on the roadside, which to them looks like an IED being planted. This new method by which many Soldiers were injured created a perplexing phenomenon for Ebeling and her colleagues across the country.

“We were taken by surprise with this particular war in Iraq and Afghanistan because of the development of the IEDs,” Ebeling said. “What we weren’t expecting was the numbers of Soldiers complaining of TBI related symptoms after what we thought were mild concussions, that shouldn’t be a big deal, but they were persistently complaining of symptoms.”

TBI experts across the country began wondering if IED blast injuries were different from a typical concussion, which launched a military mission to research and find out what was happening to America’s Soldiers as they endured these blasts. As an IED detonates, overpressurization of waves from the blast reaches the body and affects the air-filled organs, such as the lungs and ears. What researchers found is that while symptoms of the traumatic brain injury on the outside are the same, such as memory loss, irritability and blurred vision; on the inside, the brain and inflammation that accompanies it looks different. It’s difficult, however, for researchers to narrow the cause of the TBI down strictly to the overpressurization of the waves, due to the fact that if an individual is that close to a blast, they are likely to fall down and hit their head or be struck by shrapnel, either of which can also lead to a TBI.

“The question then is what about the brain? If you’re standing next to a huge blast that goes off, does that overpressurization wave affect the brain because of the pressure and how it changes your body inside and the air-filled organs?” Ebeling said.

Regardless of how the TBI occurs, the impact of the injury can impact an individual for years to come, particularly if a Soldier experiences several throughout a deployment.

“We’re concerned,” Ebeling said, citing that usually an individual can recover from one or two basic concussions over their lifetime. “The problem is it’s not that simple. These Soldiers are not usu-



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Dr. Lynley Ebeling, neuropsychologist and director of Fox Army Health Center’s Neuropsychology/Traumatic Brain Injury Clinic describes the impact TBI and PTSD will have on troops returning from Iraq.

ally exposed to just one concussion. Often it’s multiple concussions. Once you get one too many concussions, which by themselves may not be a big deal, but the cumulative effect of them, you’re talking about permanent brain injury, permanent brain effects that can compromise somebody’s ability to work, to socialize, their mood.”

Depression is common with these types of injuries, as TBI is often experienced in conjunction with PTSD, as well as forgetfulness; and there is a question of whether or not the injury will facilitate or advance dementia as a Soldier ages. Fox Army Health Center is equipped with a team to help returning Soldiers in the here and now as they cope with PTSD and TBI. Ebeling reassures those facing these after-effects of war that they can transition to normal life and it will get better for both them and their families.

“These problems can be nipped in the bud and reduced instead of them growing and festering,” Ebeling said.

The key, she said, is for Soldiers to overcome the stigma and reach out to her staff who are ready, waiting and honored to help them.

“They’re going to be met with folks that want to help and they’re going to be treated with dignity and respect,” Ebeling said. “It’s we as providers who look at them and are amazed at who they are and what they’ve been through, and we’re proud of them every step of the way.”

The Neuropsychology/TBI clinic is located in the behavioral medicine division at Fox. To schedule an appointment, call 955-8888, ext. 1032 or 1940.

Huntsville Center deployed support to war in Iraq

By DEBRA VALINE

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

The Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville supported the war in Iraq by deploying civilians to perform a variety of functions in support of Corps of Engineers projects and by managing the coalition munitions disposal effort.

Some 70 center employees volunteered to serve, which comes to approximately 1 percent of the Huntsville Center work force, according to Jeffrey Davis, the center's deployment coordinator.

Quintessia Fuller deployed twice to Iraq. She spent 18 months leading the resource management team and working as the staff accountant and program analyst for Victory Area Office in the Corps of Engineers' Gulf Region Central District. She was responsible for 147 projects worth approximately \$405 million, weekly monitoring of all district funding documents, training on the Corps of Engineers Financial Management System and all accounting functions for the district.

Kimberly Pugh served two deployments in Iraq, from April-October 2007 and July 2008-October 2009. During the second deployment she served as the district chief of contracting and adviser to the Gulf Region District commander.

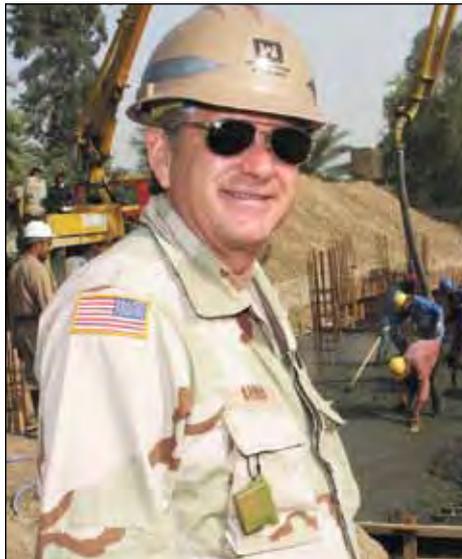
Pugh was responsible for the execution and administration of more than \$1 billion in highly complex procurements for construction, support services, operation and maintenance and architect-engineering service firm fixed price contracts to support the coalition forces.

Gerald Ramos was in Iraq from August 2007 to October 2009. He served as a deputy chief, project management; chief, civil works and energy sectors; and program manager.

Ramos supervised and mentored project managers and project specialists at two different locations. He was responsible for identifying, developing and implementing strategies and policies to assure quality and efficient project execution.

"I spent four tours in Iraq," said Ramos, a civil engineer and project manager in Huntsville's Medical Operations Division. "These were the best professional experiences in my 25 years working for the Army. It provided the opportunity to take on responsibilities far beyond what would be given elsewhere. It also provided me the opportunity to become an important participant in executing a critical Army mission."

He was hand selected by the Gulf Region District commander with concurrence from the Department of State to complete projects such as Basrah Children's state-of-the-art Pediatric Cancer Treatment Center worth more than \$166 million.



Army photo

Gerald Ramos of the Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville served in Iraq from August 2007 to October 2009.

Some of his other accomplishments were the successful execution of more than 600 projects totaling more than \$2.27 billion in Gulf Region Central and the successful execution of more than 119 active projects totaling more than \$634 billion in Gulf Region South. He also coordinated the receipt, installation, testing and commissioning of more than 4,000 pieces of hospital equipment donated by Project HOPE.

Munitions disposal

The Huntsville Center also managed the mission to destroy captured enemy ammunition and later munitions.

The munitions disposal mission started in July 2003 as the captured enemy ammunition disposal program. The focus of the CEA mission was securing six major captured Iraqi ammunition depots and disposing of ammunition not retained for the future Iraqi Army. The CEA mission evolved into both CMC and the depot operations program in February 2006.

CMC was tasked with the subsurface clearance of previously destroyed ammunition sites in Iraq, with a focus on denying improvised explosive device capable materiel to a rising insurgency. The depot operations program was tasked with initially standing up and operating two ammunition depots for the newly-formed Iraqi Army. One depot was later closed by the Iraqi Army, and the other became Bayji National Depot.

Under the CMC program, mobile contractor teams moved from site to site, clearing collapsed bunkers and uncovering buried munitions. When the ammunition sites that were a concern under CMC had been cleared and the depot turned over to the

Iraqi Army for their own control and operation, the mission changed from a mobile operation to the CMD effort with a centralized collection point for unserviceable U.S. munitions disposal.

During the five years of the CMC program, more than 346,000 tons of explosive remnants of war were destroyed at 51 clearance sites, denying the enemy these hazardous materials for IED that would have caused untold loss of life and property, said Col. Rock Donahue, former director, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, Engineers (C7).

"The toll on these honorable men and women performing this inherently dangerous mission was high," Donahue said. "Forty-three contractor personnel and an untold number of local nationals lost their lives denying the enemy ammunition, ordnance and cache sites."

At the height of the program, 18 mobile teams were operating in Iraq to support the CMC mission, and local national labor and subcontractors were hired at each of the 51 clearance sites.

The coalition munitions disposal mission stood up Nov. 21, 2008, replacing the CMC mission that had mobile teams conducting ordnance clearance and disposal missions all over Iraq.

"The CMD mission was a static opera-

tion, in that all munitions were delivered to a centralized disposal point at forward operating base Hammer where the actual disposal occurred," said Bill Sargent, chief of the International Operations Division. "Complete demobilization from the site was completed Nov. 12, however, the last demolition shot was executed Oct. 24."

A "shot" is a controlled demolition where explosives are rigged to destroy a parcel of unexploded ordnance.

Preliminary numbers show that 3,731 tons of unserviceable ammunition, 479 tons of enemy remnants of war and 214 tons of munitions belonging to the United Kingdom were destroyed, totaling more than 4,400 tons combined.

Also destroyed in the demolition shots were weapons, other sensitive items, expired drugs, etc. Munitions disposed of included artillery projectiles, land mines, grenades, rockets, small arms ammunition, some bombs, detonation cord, etc.

"The majority of the munitions and other items disposed of were sent to us by the U.S. Army," Sargent said. "We also destroyed some explosive items for the U.S. Air Force. When the British Army pulled out of Iraq, their excess ammunition also was sent to FOB Hammer where it was destroyed."

U.S. helicopter sales bolster Iraqi defense

Team Redstone delivers Bell 407 in support of democratic nation

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

A symbol of American freedom will soon be in the military hardware inventory of the Iraqi Army Aviation Command.

The Bell 407 helicopter, which shares some similarities to the U.S. Kiowa Warrior helicopter, has been modified with military upgrades that will make it a defender of freedom and democracy in the hands of Iraqi Army aviators.

“The Bell 407 helicopter is being modified for the government of Iraq under the foreign military sales program” employing a Redstone Arsenal Enterprise approach with the Aviation and Missile Command’s Security Assistance Management Directorate, the Security Assistance Command, the Program Executive Office for Aviation, the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center’s Prototype Integration Facility, and the Redstone Test Center, said Lt. Col. Courtney Cote, product manager for Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter, Program Executive Office for Aviation.

“There are minor similarities with the Kiowa like some engine commonalities. But the Bell 407 is a commercial aircraft. There are lessons learned from the Kiowa Warrior that they applied to this in the commercial world. We are taking a commercial Bell 407 and making it into an armed helicopter unique to the government of Iraq. The only place this aircraft will be is in Iraq.”

In late 2008, with the end of U.S. involvement in the Iraq war on the horizon, the Iraqi government requested to purchase from the U.S. government a military helicopter that had an armed reconnaissance capability, Cote said. The Iraqi government requested a multi-use platform helicopter that could be used for transport, for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and for combat operations.

“The Iraqi government liked this aircraft because it is a relatively simple, inexpensive aircraft that does the mission required by the Iraqi Army,” Cote said. “There’s a lot of reputation on the line with this case – the Army as well as the FMS program as well as all the different vendors and organizations involved. But we are confident the Armed Bell 407 will be a good technical solution for the multi-use helicopter that they wanted. It is a simple,

relatively inexpensive armed reconnaissance aircraft that is easy to maintain.”

While the Kiowa Warrior fit the bill, there have been no surplus OH-58s to sell to the Iraqi government and, in 2008, no plans for new Kiowa production. The solution was requested by the customer to use the Bell 407 with military modifications unique to the Iraqi Army. Team Redstone was approached to be the lead system integrator to design, develop, integrate and qualify the Bell 407 helicopter and to manage all its modifications from prototyping and production to fielding. All prototyping was done at the Arsenal’s Prototype Integration Facility and at the PIF’s other facility at the Madison County Executive Airport in Meridianville.

“This project crossed over just about every organization on the Arsenal,” Cote said. “We’ve applied a mission equipment package of modifications to make it an armed aircraft. We have three configurations – slick for VIP transport, ISR for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and, the third, a fully armed configuration.”

In December 2010, three training helicopters were delivered to Iraqi Army Aviation Command. The trainers were used by two U.S. pilot advisers to qualify 22 Iraqi aviators of the 21st Squadron. Two of those Iraqi pilots – the squadron commander and executive officer – were also trained at a Bell Helicopter facility.

The foreign military sales case did have some delay as details were completed for another FMS case that would provide contractor logistics support and train the squadron’s maintenance crews to repair and sustain the fleet of helicopters. But delivery of the first Bell 407 is set for this summer.

“There is an entire portfolio of up to nine foreign military sales cases that deliver this capability to Iraq,” Cote said. “Another FMS case is in place that will provide contractor logistics support to help maintain the helicopters. We will also supply all the spares and ground support equipment. It’s almost like we are fielding an entire squadron. Besides supplying the helicopter, we are responsible for FMS cases involving training, sustaining and maintaining.”



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Lt. Col. Courtney Cote talks about the military modifications being made to the commercial Bell 407 helicopter to provide an armed reconnaissance helicopter that meets the unique demands of the Iraqi Army Aviation Command.

Before it becomes equipped for the Iraqi Army, the commercial Bell 407 is built at a Bell facility in Maribell, Canada. The helicopter is then flown to the Bell facility in Piney Flatts, Tenn., where commercial modifications are applied to prepare the helicopter to accept military modifications. The helicopter is then flown to Redstone Arsenal, where it is put on a military modifications product line at the Logistics Support Facility managed by SESI near the Huntsville International Airport. Each helicopter will be qualified by the Redstone Test Center before being shipped to Iraq.

Throughout the project, Cote and the team have worked directly with the Office for Security Cooperation in Iraq and with the Arsenal’s security assistance community to ensure the foreign military sales case is a success. He has traveled to Iraq several times to provide program updates, and has a tentative meeting with Iraqi Army officials set for February.

“They have been anxiously waiting

for this aircraft,” he said. “To them, it’s been taking a long time. To us, we have done this in an unprecedented time. From design to the first flight, it was only 17 months. It took us three years to bring this from fruition to delivery whereas a U.S. Army acquisition like this would have taken eight to 10 years.”

The Bell 407 with military modifications will be a key element in the defense of the democratic Iraq. The country has a requirement for 27 helicopters.

“The government of Iraq is in the process of building their capabilities to provide security internally and externally,” Cote said. “Our strategy is to help them provide their own security. As we help them build their capabilities, they become stronger in defending themselves without U.S. involvement.”

The new helicopter isn’t the only aircraft in the Iraqi Army Aviation Command inventory. The Iraqi army also has MI-17s (Russian), Huey IIs (U.S. Huey helicopter with upgrades), EC635s (European) and Bell 206 Jet Rangers. But the Bell 407 will be the most modern with the choice of multiple missions.

It’s also not the only foreign military sales project being conducted between the U.S.

and Iraq.

“From an FMS perspective, we are delivering all kinds of equipment to the Iraqi army,” Cote said. “There is a complete FMS capability across the Army, Navy and Air Force being worked in regards to Iraq to help build up their security force. The Bell 407 is just one piece of that puzzle.”

“It is important that we give Iraq the means to have a credible military to defend themselves and provide security, and it’s important that we continue to energize and partner with them to do that.”

Besides being a defender of freedom, the Bell 407 has helped inform design activity by the PIF on development of the Kiowa OH-58F for U.S. Army aviators, which will have a new cockpit and sensor upgrade.

“Since 2008, we now have a wartime replacement requirement that will replenish back into the fleet all those Kiowa Warriors we’ve lost,” Cote said. “The Kiowa is the Army’s only small, light attack, reconnaissance aircraft.”

Foreign military sales program helps bring troops home

By PAUL STEVENSON
USASAC Public Affairs

The United States lowered its flag in Baghdad Dec. 15, officially ending the American military mission in Iraq. Two of the major factors in setting the conditions for the American forces withdrawal were the capacity and capability of Iraq to provide for its own security needs.

Since 2005 the Security Assistance Command has assisted the government of Iraq in building both the capacity and the capability of its security forces in moving toward self-reliance. A key element of that assistance has been the sale of critical material and services through foreign military sales.

“USASAC has played a major role in providing the government of Iraq with a wide range of equipment and services,” logistics management specialist Ryan Calvin said. “Support through the FMS process has ranged anywhere from teaching 10-level (basic) tasks to Iraqi soldiers and setting up basic computer networks, to (procuring) heavy weapons systems and sophisticated support equipment.”

Once USASAC began opening FMS cases to support the rebuilding of Iraq, it was immediately recognized that expedited service was the reality for all requirements, as the program value and number of cases grew exponentially. Responding to the need for focused Army FMS actions in theater, USASAC established the Intensive Management Office in 2006 to interact directly with the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq and the government of Iraq.

USASAC Washington Field Office director Dave Dornblaser headed the

IMO from June 2008-October 2010. As FMS cases totaled roughly \$6.4 billion in fiscal '08, the efforts by the IMO yielded positive results.

“We reached the high-water mark for FMS sales in Iraq between 2008 and 2009,” Dornblaser said. “Not only were we executing cases for large quantities of heavy equipment such as Humvees, tanks and helicopters, we cut the standard case processing time from an average of 120 days down to 62 days. This happened because everyone from our LNOs to country program managers and case managers realized the importance of their efforts and looked for innovative ways to ensure success.”

One example of innovative measures applied to execute the Iraq program was the transfer of M1114 up-armored Humvees to the Iraqi government. In December 2007, the Army determined the most cost-effective way to rapidly equip the Iraqi security forces with armored maneuver capability was to repair and transfer displaced Humvees.

As the U.S. ramped up production and fielding of the Mine Resistant Ambush

Protected Vehicles in Iraq, the Army initiated a program to refurbish Humvees to fully mission-capable status for direct transfer to Iraqi forces. This program satisfied an urgent Iraqi requirement and avoided a major retrograde and the expense of returning the vehicles to the U.S.

By partnering with USASAC, the Iraq security ministries have made significant strides toward Iraq self-reliance. The Iraqi Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior and Counter-Terrorism Bureau have fully embraced the U.S. foreign military sales program as



Courtesy photo

Army up-armored Humvees await refurbishment before being transferred over to Iraq under the Army's foreign military sales program. USASAC manages the Army's FMS program, which was a key element in equipping and training Iraq's security forces prior to the withdrawal of U.S. forces.

a major component of their defense strategy.

Today, with USASAC managing approximately 200 cases totaling roughly \$5 billion, the Army FMS support has enabled Iraq security forces to expand in number, increase in quality, and establish organizational structures outfitted, in most cases, with modern U.S. equipment.

“One of the reasons our troops were able to get out of Iraq is Iraq's large scale use of FMS to equip and train their security forces and first responders” Calvin said. “USASAC played

a key role in helping to establishing a well-equipped and trained Iraqi defense force capable of securing Iraq, which helped set the conditions on the ground to allow our Soldiers to return home.”

The withdrawal of U.S. forces does not end the Army's relationship or commitment to Iraq. USASAC will work with the government of Iraq well into the future as the Army FMS community continues to build and cultivate long-term relationships while providing “total package” support throughout the life cycle of the FMS process.

Soldier

continued from page 26

in Iraq. To others, the pull out was the end of a war that should never have been launched and took so many lives.”

Survivors sum up their emotions with the acronym RAASP – they are relieved that the Soldiers are coming home, angry that the job is not done, anxious about the anticipation of the same outcome in Afghanistan, sorrowful for the loss of lives and proud of all the fallen warriors.

“In general, survivors are very happy that our Soldiers are home safe and sound,” Branson said. “And they are

very proud of those warriors their Soldiers served with, and that they did their very best and made a difference. However, the end of the war makes some survivors feel that their Soldier died for nothing. That is the cold hard truth. Some survivors feel their Soldiers were cheated out of life. Most feel they left Iraq too early and worry about what it means for future generations to come.”

Survivors also worry that with the war over and the rest of the world moving on, that the men and women they loved and lost in Iraq will be forgotten about, Branson said. But Arsenal leadership and SOS are working to ensure that never happens, by continuing to offer support services to help them through their grief, and providing them

with Survivor badges, which allow them access to the installation at any time.

“Losing a Soldier to war is a very personal hurt,” Branson said. “There aren't particular words that can take that hurt away, but I can ensure them that their Soldier will not be forgotten. We, the community needs to know their Soldiers by name and take time to pause and remember and reflect on who they were and the sacrifice they made.”

The memory of Jon-Erik lives on everywhere, from the Facebook group “RIP Jon-Erik Loney, we miss you,” to plaques in his elementary school and high school, services held on Veterans Day in his honor, and a Memorial Bridge in his name on Highway 31 be-

tween Decatur and Hartselle. But perhaps the place it lives greatest is in the lives of the two who raised him. Even five years after his death, a day the family calls his “angel date” the life and trademark smile of Jon-Erik lives on in everything they do. Violet talks to her son every day, Bo's office is enshrined with pictures of that mischievous grin and mementos of their son's accomplishments, and every time someone thanks them for their service, they're quick to point the gratitude in another direction.

“Don't thank me, thank him,” Violet said.

“In his mind he was doing it for everybody, not just Hartselle, not just Alabama,” Bo said.

Win or Lose

Army rolls past Navy with 3-pointers, defense

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - Army (8-10, 1-2 PL) hit 13 of its 23 3-point shots and held Navy (3-14, 0-3 PL) to 42.6 percent shooting overall and 26.1 percent (6-23) from deep in its 75-62 win at Alumni Hall in Patriot League men's basketball action Jan. 14.

The victory snapped Army's 10-game losing streak against Patriot League opponents and its seven-game skid against conference foes on the road. It was the Black Knights' first win against their archrival since 2010 and its first win in Annapolis since 2008. It was the first time Army scored a double-digit win in Annapolis since 1971.

The trio of sophomore guard Josh Herbeck (5), junior forward Ella Ellis (3) and senior guard Julian Simmons (3) combined for 11 of the Black Knights' triples. Ellis was the team's top scorer with 19 points, while Simmons contributed 18 markers and Herbeck added 15 points. Ellis just missed his first double-double of the season with a team-high nine rebounds.

Simmons became the fourth player in Army history with at least 200 career 3-pointers (202), while Ellis moved into 11th place on Army's career 3-point ledger (95). Herbeck also climbed the career list, becoming the 15th Army player to make 80 career triples.

Freshman guard Milton Washington dished out a career-high nine assists, while classmate Maxwell Lenox added five helpers.

Navy's J.J. Avila led all players with 21 points and completed a double-double with a game-high 14 rebounds. Jordan Sugars added 17 points, while Isaiah Roberts scored 11 points, all in

the second half.

The Black Knights came out firing, hitting four of their first five 3-pointers to take a 12-6 lead on Simmons' second triple with 16:41 left in the first half. The Mids tied the game at 12-12 on 3-pointers by Avila and Sugars before Ellis knocked down his second 3-pointer to give Army a 15-12 advantage with 13:59 to go. The first nine field goals of the game were 3-pointers.

Avila scored the game's first two-point basket to cut the Mids' deficit to 15-14. Ellis knocked down Army's sixth 3-pointer of the half to start a 19-3 spurt that gave the Black Knights their largest lead at 34-17 with 2:17 left. The Army defense limited the Mids to just one field goal during the span, including a scoreless streak of six minutes, seven seconds.

The Mids went back to Avila to end the drought. His two-point basket started a 7-1 Navy spurt that ended the first half and sent the teams into the locker room with Army on top 35-24. Army did not make a field goal in the final 2:52 of the opening stanza.

The Black Knights hit seven of their 10 3-point tries and hit at a 57.1 percent clip (12-for-21) overall in the first half. The Army defense limited the Mids to 9-for-26 overall (.346) and 4-for-16 from 3-point range. Ellis led Army with 11 first-half points, his 20th straight game in double figures. Avila led all players with 14 points and nearly posted a first-half double-double with eight rebounds.

Navy scored the first basket of the second half to get within nine points, but Herbeck answered with his third 3-pointer and Ellis scored on a layup

to put the Black Knights back on top 40-26 with 18:06 to go. The Mids scored the next four points, but freshman guard Mo Williams knocked down Army's ninth 3-pointer of the game to extend its lead back to 13 points.

The Mids pulled within nine points twice, but with the score 52-43 the Black Knights scored 16 of the next 20 points to take its first 20-point lead at 68-47 with 7:48 left. Herbeck sparked the run with a pair of 3-pointers, while Simmons drilled his third triple of the game to cap the spurt.

Army led by as many as 22 points before a late push by Navy in the closing minutes made the final score 75-62.

Game notes: Army snapped a four-game road losing streak. ... Jason Pancoe made his first appearance since suffering a hand injury against Dartmouth. ... Army's 13-point win was only the fourth time since 1976 that the Black Knights have defeated Navy by double digits. ... The loss was Navy's 10th in a row. ... The Black Knights did not trail in a game for the first time this season. ... Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, attended the game



Photo from goARMYsports.com

Julian Simmons made the 200th 3-pointer of his career in the win at Navy.

and spoke to both teams after the contest. (*goARMYsports.com website*)

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Dance like stars

The first course of the "Dancing Like the Stars 2012" program to be offered by FMWR started Jan. 19 and will run six Thursday nights through Feb. 23 at building 3155.



Sports & Recreation

Boating skills class

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

Havoc military night

Huntsville Havoc hockey's "Military Appreciation Night" is March 10 at the Von Braun Center. See the Havoc play the Knoxville Ice Bears at 7:05. All active military components are asked to wear their duty uniforms. Free tickets, provided by the Association of the U.S. Army, will be available Feb. 1 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.

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 reg-

ister 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.

Contracting workshop

The Army Contracting Command's Office of Small Business Programs will conduct its next Small Business Workshop Jan. 31 at 9 a.m. Harry Hallock, ACC deputy director, will present "The Army Contracting Command's Commitment to the Small Business Community," which will include the latest policies and directives approved to assist small businesses. Further event details and registration are available at www.facebook.com/USArmyContractingCommand.

Parkinson's support

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

Sergeants major

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

Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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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.

Administrative professionals

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

Resource managers

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

University women

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

yahoo.com.

Modeling/simulation

AlaSim 2012, the Alabama Modeling and Simulation Conference and Exhibition, is May 1-3 at the Von Braun Center. Abstracts and proposals – for briefings, posters, panels, workshops and tutorials may be submitted through Jan. 27 at www.AlaSim2012.org.

Women's connection

Huntsville Christian Women's Connection will have a luncheon Feb. 2 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Huntsville Country Club, 2601 Oakwood Ave. Cost is \$15. The speaker is Rita Schwarz. Free child care is available for ages 6 and younger off-site. Reservations are due by Jan. 30. Call Betty 837-8286 or Nancy 883-1339.

Civil War round table

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

Federally employed women

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will hold its monthly meeting Thursday at 11:15 a.m. at The Summit club, in the Loft Room. Lunch can be purchased from the snack bar and brought to the meeting. Everyone is invited. For more information, call Mary Peoples 955-4275 or Kenya McLin 955-2233.

Democratic women

The Democratic Women will hear from Cletus Wetli, Obama for America Huntsville Neighborhood Team leader, on "The Virtues of Vigorous Activism: Building Effective Neighborhood Teams and Overcoming Voter Apathy." The meeting is Feb. 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Downtown Holiday Inn. Lunch and non-eating reservations are due by noon Jan. 30. Call 536-2701 or email marilyn.robertson@knology.net.

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-

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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.

Aviation symposium

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

Literary association

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

Space society

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

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

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>.

Civilian leadership summit

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army will hold its inaugural Department of the Army Civilian Leadership Summit on Thursday from 1-4 p.m. at The Summit club. This free event will be followed by a Leader Social for all guest speakers and attendees from 4-5 p.m. Those interested in attending can register in the Training Information Program. Log into TIP at <https://tip.redstone.army.mil>.

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 informa-

tion 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).

Community assistance

Each year the Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club distributes money to a variety of requesting nonprofit organizations. "Thanks to all of our enthusiastic and supportive members who contribute their time and talent to make each fund-raising event a huge success," a prepared release said. Several fund-raising events are being planned this year to continue the club's humanitarian efforts to benefit the military and civilian communities. Applications for the RSACWC community assistance grants are now being accepted. Forms are available at the RSACWC website at www.rsacwc.org (click on community assistance) and will be used to collect the same information from each requesting organization. By doing this, it will reduce the influence of such things as professionally prepared advertising, writing styles, supporters and the amount of information the club receives. All requests must conform to the RSACWC Community Assistance Request Form. Send to rsacwccommunityassistance@gmail.com. Deadline for submission of the grant request is Jan. 28. All requests must be postmarked no later than the deadline. Requests received after the deadline will not be considered.

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.

Merit awards

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club is accepting applications for merit awards. These financial awards are available to graduating high school seniors, college students and spouses who are U.S. military and DoD civilian family members whose primary residence is located within the Redstone Arsenal community and who meet the eligibility requirements. Applications will be accepted through Jan. 31. Information and applications regarding the merit award program are available online. For more information and to download the application, visit the women's club website at www.rsacwc.org or contact Teresa Lee, the Merit Award

chair, at www.rsacwcmeritawards@gmail.com or 830-0562. The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club is a non-profit, private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

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 Feb. 10 at 5:45 p.m. at the Von Braun Center, South Hall 2. All proceeds benefit the humane society. For tickets call 881-8081, stop by the humane society at 2812 Johnson Road or visit www.thedogball.org.

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

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Hollands, will be held Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Research Boulevard (in front on Madison Square Mall). Mix and mingle is from 7-7:45. Cost is \$15 for college students with approved school ID, \$20 for singles and \$40 for couples. This event is sponsored by 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.

Professional development

The Breakpoint Consulting Group is offering a CMMI Introduction course from Jan. 31 through Feb. 2 in Huntsville. This is a new three-day course covering both the Development and Services models. For more information, call Jeffrey Dutton 527-4151 or visit <http://www.breakpointcg.com>.

Mardi Gras party

Pinnacle Affairs is bringing Mardi Gras to the Rocket City on Feb. 4 at the historic Huntsville Depot Roundhouse downtown. There will be performances by comedian Ced Delaney, the disc jockey duo 5D (Ghon Bomb and Chief Rocka), Coolbone Band, and Chakabaman the stilt dancer. Doors will open at 9 p.m. Advance tickets are \$15. There will be free party favors all night long. For more information and tickets, call 508-8674 or visit www.huntsvillemardigras.com.

Senior volunteers

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

Health luncheon

Central North Alabama Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority will hold its annual Go Red Luncheon, Feb. 4 at the Marriott, 5 Tranquility Base, Huntsville. Tickets for the luncheon are \$40 a person and may be purchased by

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

Small businesses

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

Benefit dinner

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

Baghdad treasures

Marine Reserves Col. Matthew Bogdanos will be the featured speaker at the Huntsville Museum of Art on Feb. 9 as part of a new lecture series titled Voices of Our Times. Bogdanos, a New York City homicide prosecutor and middleweight boxer, is the author of the bestselling book "Thieves of Baghdad: One Marine's Pas-

sion to Recover the World's Greatest Stolen Treasures." The book is a chronicle of Bogdanos' experience after the fall of Baghdad, Iraq, in 2003, when looters plundered the Iraq National Museum. While on active duty with the Marine Corps, Bogdanos led the investigation into the museum looting, and was subsequently awarded the National Humanities Medal for his efforts. Bogdanos will speak about his work in Iraq and sign copies of his book following the lecture. The lecture begins at 7 p.m. The cost of the event is \$20 for museum members and military personnel with their ID card. Cost for non-members is \$30. Advance tickets may be purchased at the front desk of the museum at 300 Church St., by calling 535-4350, ext. 208 (the reservations line), or online at www.hsvmuseum.org.

Flu shots

Flu shots are still available for all active duty, retiree and their beneficiaries and current DoD civilian employees ages 18 and older at Fox Army Health Center's Preventive Medicine from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday - available during lunch from now until Jan. 31. "We regret that we are unable to immunize government contractors, retired DoD civilians

or any DoD civilian family members," Fox said in a prepared release. For more information call Preventive Medicine 955-8888, ext. 1026 or 1442.

SMDC retirement

Team Redstone employees and service members 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.

Comedy show

McCloud Entertainment will present comedian Dominique and friends from the "Tom Joyner Morning Show" Saturday at the Holiday Inn-Research Park ballroom. The two shows that night are 7:30 and 9:45. Advance tickets are \$20 and

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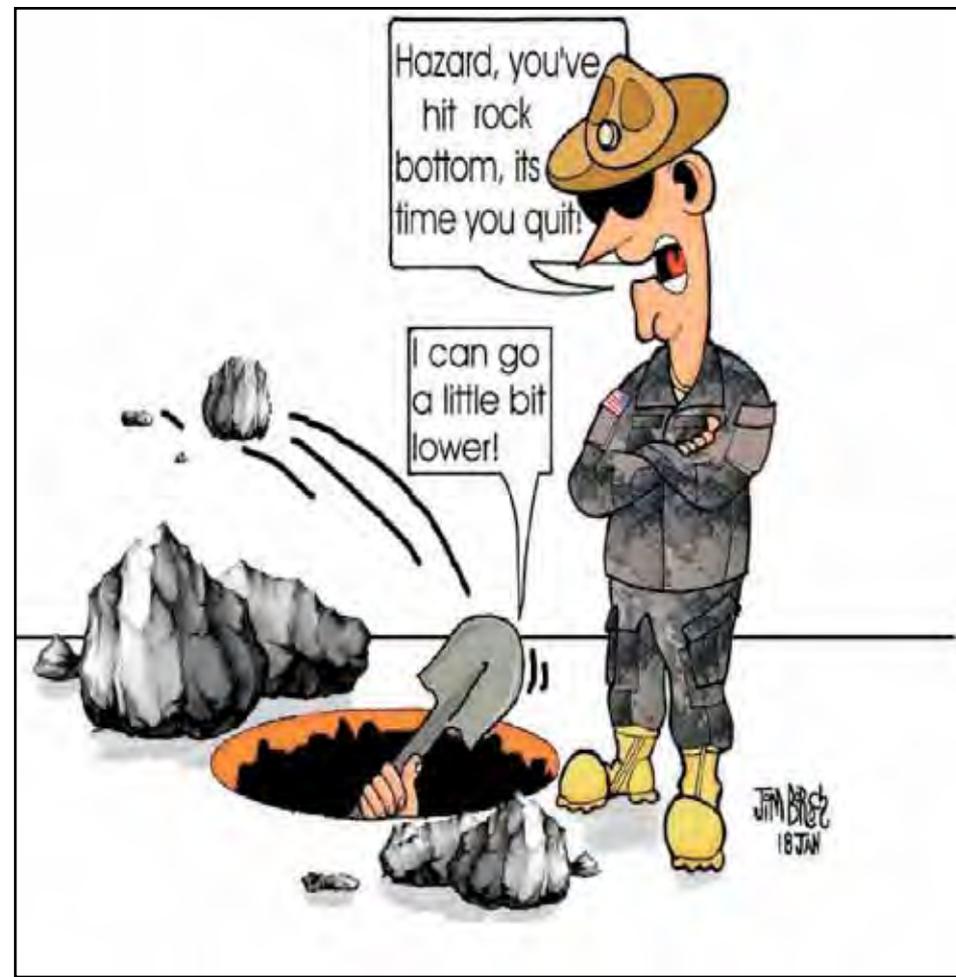


Photo by Judy Wilson

Media man

Dan O'Boyle, news media relations chief and team leader in the AMCOM/Garrison Public Affairs Office, holds forth at Thursday's January meeting of the Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers. He spoke to the group about his long career in Army public affairs dealing with the media.



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\$25 VIP; and they are available at James Records & Tapes and Expansion Books. For VIP tickets or more information, call 693-2004.

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.

Hitchcock spoof

Huntsville High School Theater will present "The 39 Steps" Feb. 2-4 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. in the school's theater, 2304 Billie Watkins Ave. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$8 for military and

students. The comedy is an "Alfred Hitchcock-meets-Monty Python" spoof, based on the Hitchcock film of the same name and full of allusions to other Hitchcock films, including Rear Window, Psycho, and North by Northwest.

Marine speaker

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

College financial aid

If you are searching for answers about college financial aid, the University of Alabama-Huntsville wants to help. UAH will hold Financial Aid Night on two evenings during January. The university will have experts available for students or parents who are interested in attending any college or university. The programs are scheduled Jan. 26 and Jan. 30 in the Shelby Center for Science and Technology on the UAH campus. The sessions are free and open to the public. If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, call Mallory Spragins 824-2773 or email Mallory.spragins@uah.edu. You can also register at <http://www.uah.edu/finaidnight2012/>.

Blood drives

Red Cross blood drives for February include the following: Feb. 3 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Redstone Exchange. ... Feb. 9 from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at building 5400, from 7-noon at the Sparkman Center and from 7-noon at building 6263. ... Feb. 10 from 6:30-noon at the Corps of Engineers, 7-1 at MDA's building 5222 (Von Braun II Complex) and 7-12:30 at building 5400. ... Feb. 24 from 7-noon at building 5681 and 7-noon at building 4545.

Financial management training

There are two Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training courses being offered in Huntsville during fiscal 2012. These courses are an opportunity to prepare you for the testing required to obtain CDFM status. The first class is scheduled March 19-23 and has open enrollment for everyone, including contractors. To enroll go to the Graduate School USA website at http://www.graduateschool.edu/course_details.php?cid=FINC7060D. The second class is scheduled April 16-20 and is for government employees only. The link for this course is <http://www.asmcertification.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.asmcertification.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 looking for volunteers. Its volunteers work Monday through Thursday and the first Saturday of the month. If you have a few hours to fill on any of those days, stop in and sign up as a way to give back to the military community. Consignments are taken at the shop from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the NO-LIST number 881-6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each week. The shop's hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9 to 5, and the first Saturday of the month from 10 to 2. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome and tax deductible.



Photos by Ellen Hudson

Senior Leaders Social scenes

Newly-renamed, The Summit club serves as the site for Friday's event. At left are Aviation and Missile Command commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, Huntsville mayor Tommy Battle and John Nerger, executive deputy to the commander of the Army Materiel Command. In the photo at right are Logistics Support Activity commander Col. Pat and Suzanne Sullivan, Garrison commander Col. John and Melinda Hamilton, and Lauri Sherrell, wife of AMCOM chief of staff Col. Skip Sherrell.