

# Redstone Rocket

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## Lasting memorial for Matt Dahl

*Ball field legacy for youngster killed by alleged drunk driver*

By KARI HAWKINS  
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On a spring evening in a Madison County neighborhood where kids were ending a day of outdoor play, the lives of Mike Dahl and his family took a traumatic turn for the worst in one single heartbeat.

That's how long it took for a teenage alleged drunk driver to hit 6-year-old Matt Dahl as he rode his bike across the street to talk to friends about organizing a game of flashlight tag.

And, in that heartbeat, Matt was killed.

This is the sad story of a family's loss. It is the story of the life of Mike Dahl, a retired Marine and now Redstone Arsenal employee, and his wife, Marge, and their two children as they learn to go on without the youngest member of their family. This is the story of a mourning family trying to find hope as they cope with the needless death of their playful, energetic, baseball loving son.

"Matt loved to play ball," said his mom, Marge. "If any kids were outside playing, he was always out there. He was so full of life. He was very social. He loved playing in the neighborhood with the other kids. He wanted to play all the time. He had great friends in the neighborhood."

The Dahl family moved to the Harvest/Monrovia area of Madison County following Mike's second deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It was a choice between going to the Pentagon or to Alabama," Dahl said of his decision to take a military liaison job working with the Aviation and Missile Command. "Marge was having Matt, and we thought 'Let's just go to Alabama and see.'"

They had heard about the Redstone Arsenal/Huntsville area from previous neighbors at Cherry Point, N.C.

"Mike came out for house hunting and he told me 'You are absolutely going to love it here.' He was right. I fell in love



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Mike and Marge Dahl are learning to live life without their beloved 6-year-old son after he was hit by a car driven by an alleged drunk driver. Mike, a retired Marine lieutenant colonel and now a Missile Defense Agency employee, and his wife are working to keep their son's legacy alive with the building of a ball field at his elementary school. The blue ribbon was placed on their mailbox by neighbors on their son's 7th birthday in May.**

with this area. It reminds me of home back in central Minnesota," Marge said.

At Redstone, Dahl, a Marine lieutenant colonel, was assigned to serve as the Naval Air Systems Command's liaison to AMCOM. He served in that capacity until his retirement in 2009, and then went to work for the Missile Defense Agency, where he is a program management analyst.

Everything was going well for the family, which includes older son Ryan, now 11, and daughter Elise, 9. Besides work, Mike was involved with the Semper Fi Community Task Force, leading the initial efforts to bring wounded warriors to Huntsville for patriotic weekend events. Mike and Marge coached their children's baseball, softball, basketball and soccer teams, with the family particularly enjoying their time together in the summer at local ball fields. Their home was often filled with the playful sounds of their children's friends, who enjoyed the fam-



Courtesy photo

**Matt Dahl loved playing baseball. He also loved school, soccer, rockets, stars and moons, airplanes and helicopters.**

ily's swimming pool, batting cage and the fun chaos of the Dahl's loving home.

The evening of May 28, 2011, promised to be filled with fun with friends. Matt had just graduated from kindergarten and had enjoyed his 6th birthday

See Family on page 4

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New reading list for Post Library.

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Fox Army Health Center commander retiring.

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Sports and fitness program bulks up with construction.

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# RocketViews

*Would you buy an electric car?*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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**Brent Swart**

AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center  
“No. The level of technology isn’t there yet.”



**Carl Pack**

Chugach Federal Solutions Inc.  
“No. Because of the distance. I don’t think they’re safe to operate on Huntsville highways. You just don’t have the speed to pull out in traffic. It would just be good for running down to local areas, staying off the main roads. It would just be good for running down to local shops to shop, things like that. Just local stuff. Not for like on (Highway) 565, roads like that, because of the speeds. You just don’t have the power to get out into it. I don’t see one on the Parkway.”



**Renee Stroud**

AMC Public and Congressional Affairs Office  
“I would buy an electric car, especially for energy conservation and gas prices – even though they’re a little low this week, you never know. And we’re trying to move toward a greener environment, and I think that would be very helpful with that.”



**Michelle Sammarco**

Army Materiel Command G-3/5 (Resource Integration)  
“I would purchase an electric car if the cost benefit were there. I would purchase an electric car because on the one hand it’s of benefit to the environment. And on the other hand, I would look at it for the financial benefit.”

## Letters to the editor

# Forefathers paid price for freedom

Gathered in the sweltering heat of Philadelphia in July 1776, the signers of the Declaration of Independence risked treason to proclaim the rights of “the People” to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. For eight years, Soldiers and patriot civilians fought and gave their lives to earn the freedom we cherish today. Through the trials, challenges and hardships of the past 237 years, our nation has prevailed and America has stood for freedom.

But freedom has a price. Past and present, our citizen Soldiers have stood in the forefront in defense of our freedom at home and abroad. Their dedication and selfless service characterize every member of the Army family who has volunteered

to guard and protect our freedom and the American way of life.

As we observe Independence Day 2012, we ask that you pause for a moment to remember the prior generations of dedicated Soldiers who risked their lives to protect what we hold so dear. Their extraordinary service inspires us all to be better Soldiers and patriots, as we continually strive to live up to their remarkable legacy of bravery, loyalty and sacrifice.

**Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond Chandler**  
**Army chief of staff Gen. Raymond Odierno**  
**Secretary of the Army John McHugh**

## Retiree recalls conversation in German taxi cab

Early on a damp, frigid winter Sunday I found myself standing, bags afoot, in front of a small German train station waiting for a cab. At first I took him for an unfriendly sort. Middle aged, heavy set – “He’s probably been driving this taxi for ages.” I thought as he popped the rear hatch. My wife and I had just arrived on a less than comfortable overnight sleeper from Italy. Rumped, tired and anxious to get to the nearby U.S. airbase, and hopefully on a military flight back to the states, I paid him about as much attention as he did us, and settled into the immaculately clean and pleasantly warm cab.

At first we drove in silence. Then, glancing at us in his rearview mirror he broke the ice and asked, in very bad English, “Your home airbase?” Possessing even worse German – that is virtually none – I explained that we lived in the states. To that he warmed considerably and fired off several city names “Boston? Miami? Chicago?”

When I replied “San Antonio,” he

exploded with joy and paying no attention to the road ahead, turned smiling and answered excitedly, “I go San Antonio!”

“Oh,” I said, “You’ve been to San Antonio?”

“No. I go San Antonio ... soon.”

“Vacation?”

“No, no,” he answered. “I go live San Antonio with my son. He marry American girl.”

“How long will you visit with them?” I asked. And to my surprise he said, smiling grandly “Forever!”

Paying absolutely no attention to the road ahead now, he continued, “I will be American citizen!”

I didn’t expect this response and my curiosity was piqued. I dug for more: “You want to live in America? You like Texas?”

“Yes, yes!” he said excitedly. “San Antonio Spurs! Dallas Cowboys! ... President Obama. Alamo!”

I was floored. Considering myself fairly well-traveled, with the majority of my recent

excursions divided between South America and Europe, it is not uncommon to hear hopeful immigrants from such places as Haiti, Peru or Serbia talk of someday going to America. But I think this was the first time I ever spoke to a less than young, employed, western European so. I probed deeper: “We love visiting Germany,” I began. “It’s such a wonderful country. Why do you want to leave?”

To which he said, “America is freedom.” Confused, I countered, “But Germany is a free country as well.”

And that is where he got me. “Yes,” he said. “But America started it.”

All I could think to say to that was, “I’m very happy for you.”

“I happier!” my new friend and soon-to-be fellow countryman replied.

As we pulled up to our destination, I noticed that the sun was out and it had warmed considerably.

**Scott Hubbart**

Air Force retiree in Schertz, Texas

## Quote of the week

“We are living in a revolutionary age and we must adapt.”

— Thomas Jefferson

## Army aviation worker appreciated for flags

Hats off to Tim Franklin (“Instructor replaces, honors American flag,” July 3 *Redstone Rocket*).

I live near the Tennessee state line and see those flags flying in the State Line Cemetery often. My best friend as a child is buried there.

I couldn’t help but notice the other day the beautiful new flags there. May God bless Mr. Franklin for taking on such a wonderful deed.

The world needs more men like him.

**Rex Stewart**  
**Hazel Green**

## RedstoneRocket

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# Military C-130 crews continue firefighting efforts in west

WASHINGTON – In 123 airdrop missions since they were called into action to battle fires in the Rocky Mountain region and other western locales, Defense Department C-130s equipped with the U.S. Forest Service's Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System had discharged more than 320,000 gallons of retardant as of early July 5, U.S. Northern Command officials reported.

The aircraft are under Northcom's command and control and are participating in the firefighting effort at the request

of the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho.

C-130 efforts July 4 centered on the Squirrel Creek Fire, three miles west of Woods Landing, Wyo., officials said, discharging about 50,600 gallons of retardant during 18 missions flown in a 15-hour span.

On July 3, crews flew 16 airdrop missions over 22 hours, discharging about 41,250 gallons of retardant.

*Editor's note: This was compiled from U.S. Northern Command releases.*

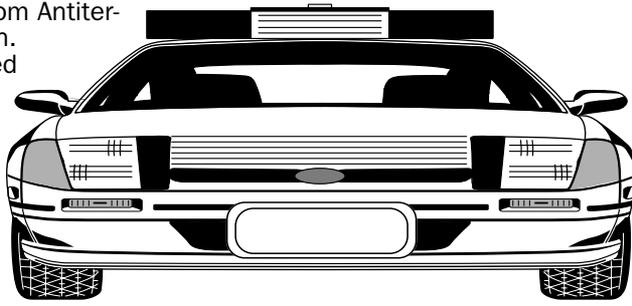
## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for June 24-30:

- Police investigated a report of vehicle damage at a residence.
- A subject was cited on a U.S. District Court notice for fraudulent use of a government identification card and criminal trespass when he attempted to enter the installation with an identification card he had failed to turn in upon termination of his employment.
- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Rideout Road.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the parking lot of building 114.
- Police investigated a three-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the parking lot of building 130.
- A subject was cited on a U.S. District Court notice for fraudulent use of a government identification card and criminal trespass when he attempted to enter the installation with an identification card he had failed to turn in upon discharge from the military.
- A driver was cited for driving with a suspended license at Gate 9 when he was selected for Random Antiterrorism Measure inspection.
- A contractor reported to Redstone and Huntsville Police that her Redstone Arsenal security badge had been stolen from her home in Huntsville.
- A government employee reported that he

had lost his government issued BlackBerry while playing golf at the Links.

- Police investigated a three-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Rideout Road at Gate 9.
- Two subjects were arrested on local misdemeanor warrants and one was cited for driving with a suspended license when the driver presented a mutilated license at Gate 10.
- A subject was arrested on a Tuscaloosa County felony warrant during visitor screening at Gate 10.
- Police investigated a report that a Soldier had been arrested in Jacksonville, Ala., for third degree domestic violence.
- Police investigated a report of damage to a government vehicle at building 7310.
- A driver was cited for driving with a suspended license and speeding when he was stopped for the speeding violation on Vincent Drive.
- A driver was cited for driving with a suspended license when police investigated a single-vehicle, with injury, traffic accident on Skinner Drive.
- Thirty-three U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.



# Redstone Exchange stocks up for healthy choices

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

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

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

Beyond lightening the strain on the

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

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

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

## Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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**Name:** Staff Sgt. Kristoffer Underwood

**Job:** Plans and operations NCO for the deputy chief of staff G-3/5/7, Army Materiel Command

**Where do you call home?**  
Red Bank, N.J.

**What do you like about your job?**  
I would say the best thing about my job is that I get to serve Soldiers in the Army in different capacities. There are so many ways that I get to serve my fellow Soldiers.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

I love to fish here on post. I like to shoot. I like to competition shoot handguns and rifles. And because I'm a classically trained chef, I'm always sharpening my skills by practicing.

**What are your goals?**

Finish my bachelor's degree in culi-



nary management. To make sergeant first class, my next rank.

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

Probably to open a bed-and-breakfast with my fiancée. It's not only sharing a life with somebody, it's sharing your life's work with someone. Because I'm a classically trained chef and service is what's in my heart – serving people. And sharing it with my life's partner, that would be the ultimate for me.

# Family

continued from page 1

three days earlier. He and his siblings were spending the evening with a babysitter while their parents enjoyed the Toby Keith outdoor concert on Redstone Arsenal. With the mention of organizing a game of flashlight tag, Matt decided to run outside to let his friends know of the evening's plans.

"All the kids were outside. It was a gorgeous evening. It was still light. Matt took off on his bike to get his friends. He was riding right outside the cul-de-sac to his two friends who were playing Nerf gun," Marge said. "He was going across the street and his friends yelled 'Matt, look out!' A car was going really fast. Matt was killed on impact. His body was thrown 100 feet."

The 19-year-old alleged drunk driver reportedly hit Matt at 58 mph. Matt's helmet was no protection against the violent impact of the car. Parts of Matt's bike were later found in neighborhood yards. There were no skid marks at the scene. The driver never stopped. He was arrested several hours later, and charged with manslaughter and leaving the scene of an accident.

"Nothing can prepare you for something like this," Mike said. "I had to resign from the Semper Fi Community Task Force board of directors. I just didn't have the energy or the will for it. I had to focus on my family."

"During two deployments to Iraq, I saw death every day. You learn to compartmentalize it because that's the only way you can keep going. I spent time at the battalion aid station during the Battle of Fallujah (in 2004) when the Marine Corps had hundreds of casual-

ties. I've gone to the funerals of fallen Soldiers and Marines. In those deaths, you can take some comfort in that they died for a cause, they died for something they fought for. But Matt shouldn't have died. You don't ever get over the pain of the loss of a child. You have to learn to live with it."

"It's your child," Marge added, rubbing tears from her eyes. "It's your worst memory, your worst nightmare. I still get up in the morning and think it's a dream. And then I realize it's not. It's reality."

**T**he family can still be found at local ball fields in the summer. Their daughter was an All-Star softball player this year.

"Marge still coaches (their daughter's teams), but now I'm a dugout dad," Mike said. "It's tough to coach. You see the kids that he played with and it brings back all the memories. I'm still called 'Matt's dad.' That's how the kids know me."

"Going to the ball field is hard and it's comforting at the same time," Marge added. "It's hard to go to the field and see Matt's team playing. They used to always say 'Get the ball to Matt because he'll know what to do.' He had watched his older siblings playing ball. He had practiced with his sister and her team when I coached her Redstone Arsenal team. He was so good the team thought he was one of their players, even though he wasn't old enough to play. He grew up knowing the concept of the sport."

Matt's older brother struggles quietly with his death while Matt's sister tries to stay positive.

"She'll say to me and Mike 'Tell us the good things about Matt.' And she'll say things like 'If Matt were here, he'd do this or he'd do that.' She says 'He's in heaven with grandpa now,'" Marge said.

Family and friends have shown their support for the Dahl family. Recently,

on Matt's 7th birthday, neighborhood friends tied blue bows to the neighborhood's mailboxes in Matt's memory. Their faith and church family have also helped them through the difficult times. The Semper Fi Community Task Force has set up a scholarship for military-connected children at Aviation Challenge in memory of Matt and his love of learning about stars and moons, rock formations, numbers, and airplanes and helicopters.

The family of the teenage driver has tried to reach out to the Dahl family, but they have refused such contact. A July 26 hearing has been set to argue for the teenager's request to be tried as a youthful offender, a move that the Dahl family strongly opposes. A letter writing campaign by local veterans led by the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organization Coalition is sending letters opposing the youthful offender status to the Madison County District Attorney's Office. The letters will be submitted to the judge as part of the hearing record.

If the 19-year-old does obtain youthful offender status, the case will be forever sealed and he will not have a criminal record.

"We don't want the record of Matt's death to be sealed," Marge said. "If there is no record, then this drunk driver will not be a criminal. He will have no record. He could run for president or do anything with his life, and not have a record. The day he turns 21, if he is arrested for a DUI, it will be considered his first offense."

**F**or Mike, a 19-year-old should step up and take responsibility as the adult that they should be.

"There's no accountability, no responsibility, for this drunk driver," he said. "I served with some of the finest 18- and 19-year-olds in Iraq. You are either an adult or you're not. This guy is an adult. There is overwhelming evidence of the act he committed. Witnesses said he knew he had hit something on the road. Should he only get 18 months and no record of what he did as a youthful offender? Or should he be found guilty of a Class A felony and sentenced to serve 10 to 99 years?"

"I served with men who took the oath to support and defend our country. Now, I want the law to support and defend us, to support and defend Matt, to give us justice for what has happened to Matt."

Marge said a conviction as an adult in the case has ramifications far beyond what happened on May 28, 2011. It also sends a message to others who mix drinking and driving.

"The ultimate goal is to inform 16 to 21-year-olds to not drink and drive in Madison County," she said. "If he gets off on this, it tells teenagers this is your free ticket because if you drink and drive you'll get off as a youthful offender. It sends the wrong message. This 19-year-old had a choice to get behind the wheel.

He had a choice to drink and drive."

While the Dahl family waits for the case to work itself through the court system, they have taken action in their own way to remember their son. In February, Marge began efforts to have a ball field built at their children's elementary school – Legacy Elementary – in memory of Matt.

"I needed something, a project, that would help me through all this," Marge said. "It's a brand new school and it's just a short walk across a field from our house. Right now, there is not a ball field at the school. I'm a former physical education teacher, and I was thinking about what I could do for the school in Matt's name. That's when I thought of this ball field."

**M**arge contacted Legacy Parent/Teacher Organization president Melody Helms and the school principal to get their approval of the project. James Hise, an architect with Florence & Hutcheson, donated plans for the ball field. Madison County commissioner Dale Strong committed the county to doing the ground work for the field. Even at that, the cost of the ball field will be about \$30,000. Donations are being accepted at Redstone Federal Credit Union through the Matt Dahl Memorial Ball Field Fund. So far about \$15,000 has been raised.

"The goal is to get the field down before school starts," Marge said, adding that preparations for ground work are under way.

"This will be a lasting memorial to Matt," Mike said. "It will be used as long as the school is there. It will be multi-purpose so that the school and the community can use it as a practice field and for PE during the school day."

Recently, the family participated in a groundbreaking for the new ball field. They wore uniforms from Matt's Little League team, and were joined by school officials as well as Alabama State Trooper Jason Fox, the first officer to respond when Matt was killed; Shauna Barnett, the Madison County assistant DA prosecuting the driver in the case; architect Hise and Jon Liddle, who helped secure the dirt for the needed field.

Mike and Marge Dahl do find hope and happiness in the plans for the ball field being built in Matt's memory. Yet, even in their smiles, there is some sadness.

"When something like this happens, your life is changed forever," Marge said. "You can never go back. All those dreams you had for your son are gone. You have to give up those dreams. Your dreams to teach him how to fly a kite, to throw a spiral, to drive a car – you don't have those anymore. So, instead, you try to do whatever you can so that other Madison County families don't have to go through something like this."

Photo by Kim Gillespie

## Quarterly recognition

**Karen Grant, a senior country case manager for CENTCOM regional operations directorate at the Security Assistance Command's New Cumberland, Pa., office, receives a certificate of appreciation from USASAC commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner on June 27 for her selection as "Employee of the Quarter" for fiscal 2012's second quarter. Grant was recognized for her extensive knowledge of foreign military sales case execution to coordinate the shipment of materiel through the Defense Transportation System.**



# Read all about what's new at Post Library

The Post Library, building 3323 on Redeye Road, is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10-4. Its phone number is 876-4741. The library has the following new items:

**Adult fiction:** "77 Shadow Street" by Kean Koontz – A 200-year old haunted house reawakens. ... "The Cabal" by David Hagberg – When his son-in-law and a reporter are gunned down, Kirk McGarvey gets involved in an investigation of a shadowy group called the Friday Club. ... "The Lower River" by Paul Theroux – After his divorce, Ellis Hock, a former Peace Corps worker, decides to return to Malawi only to find the region devastatingly transformed by poverty and apathy. ... "The Newlyweds: A Novel" by Nell Freudenberger – Amina leaves her home in Bangladesh for New York to marry George Stillman, whom she met online. ... "The Road to Grace" by Richard Paul Evans – Shattered by the loss of his wife, home and business, an advertising executive embarks on a cross-country backpacking trip. ... "Star Wars: Red Harvest" by Joe Schreiber – A zombie horror tale set in the Star Wars universe.

**Adult nonfiction:** "Batik and Tie Dye Techniques" by Nancy Belfer – Traces the



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**The Post Library staff includes, seated from left, librarian Sara Roberts, library technicians Heather Morris and Martha Burns; and standing, library technician Pam Causey and librarian Barbara McGroary. Not pictured is library director Gail Alden.**

uses of dyes and demonstrates techniques of batik and tie dying. ... "Magical Illusions, Conjuring Tricks, Amazing Puzzles & Stunning Stunts" by Nicholas Einhorn – A step-by-step guide to more than 200 illusions, tricks, puzzles and stunts. "Service: A Navy Seal at War" by Marcus Luttrell – A Navy SEAL relates stories from his Special Operations assignment. ... "Tubes: A Journey to the Center of the Internet" by Andrew Blum – A behind the scenes

look at the development of the Internet. "The Wonderful Future That Never Was: Flying Cars, Mail Delivery by Parachute and Other Predictions from the Past" by Gregory Benford – Collects predictions of future technology that appeared in "Popular Mechanics," describing possible technological innovations.

**Young adult, fiction:** "Bitterblue" by Kristin Cashore – This is the sequel to "Graceling" and a companion to "Fire." Bitterblue, queen of Monsea, tries to help her people heal from the 35-year spell cast by her father. ... "City of Lost Souls" by Cassandra Clare – Book Five in the Mortal Instruments Series; thrills and danger for Jace, Clary and Simon.

**Children, fiction:** "Crush: The Theory, Practice and Destructive Properties of Love" by Gary Paulsen – Afraid to ask Tina Zabinski for a date, eighth-grader Kevin spends most of his time theorizing about love and romance and observing and ana-

lyzing male/female interaction. ... "Little Dog Lost: The True Story of a Brave Dog Named Baltic" by Monica Carnesi – Based on a true story; recounts the dramatic sea rescue of a curious dog who wandered onto a frozen river only to be swept out to the Baltic Sea on a piece of ice.

**Children, nonfiction:** "Crazy Concoctions: A Mad Scientist's Guide to Messy Mixtures" by Jordan D. Brown – A collection of totally gross and icky-sticky experiments. Also explains the science behind the experiments. ... "Not Your Parents' Money Book: Making, Saving and Spending Your Own Money" by Jean Chatzky – Gives advice and tips to help children increase their financial literacy and create habits to make, save and spend money. ... "Snakes" by Melissa Stewart – Discusses the physical characteristics, behavior, habitat, life cycle and eating habits of snakes.

**DVDs:** "Safe House," "Act of Valor," "Wishbone," "Machine Gun Preacher."

**Audio Books on CDs:** "Hush, Hush" by Becca Fitzgerald, "Crescendo" by Becca Fitzgerald, "Level 26" by Anthony E. Zucker, "A Season in Hell" by Jack Higgins (MP3), "Leaving Home" by Jodi Picoult (MP3).

## 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:

### Pool passes

Swimming pool passes are now on sale. Outdoor Recreation offers three well-maintained swimming pools, fully staffed with Red Cross certified lifeguards during all activities. Costs include \$60 for individuals, \$100 for families; \$30 for active duty individuals, \$50 for their families. You can purchase your passes at Outdoor Recreation or poolside; and credit card purchases can be made at both locations. Daily pool passes for individuals and guests are \$3 per person; \$2 for active duty and family with ID cards. Daily pool passes will only be available at the FMWR pools. For more information, call 876-4868.

### Army concert tour

The 2012 Army Concert Tour, featuring "Brantley Gilbert and New Faces of Country," is Aug. 26 at 2 p.m. at the Activity Field. General admission is \$20, \$25 on show day. For more information, call 313-5224.

### Youth golf

Youth Golf Clinic, open to ages 8-17, will be held Thursdays through Aug. 2, 9:30-11 a.m. at the Links. Cost is \$85. Golf clubs are provided if needed. Basic golf instruction is provided by PGA professionals. There will be a Skills Challenge with prizes and lunch on the last day. For more information, call 313-3699.

### Sports memorabilia

Bob's Sports World Sale is under way today through Thursday from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sparkman Cafeteria. "We have NFL and some college memorabilia, including hats, tags, mugs, T-shirts and more," a prepared release said. For more information, call 876-8741.

### Golf tournament

The annual Four Person Best Ball Tournament is Saturday at 8 a.m. at the Links. Lowest score of the four-some counts toward its final score. There will be food and beverages, closest to the pin on all par 3s, and great prizes. Entry costs \$50 per person plus applicable fees. For more information, call 876-7977.

**Free Movie Friday**  
**Heiser Hall**  
**Doors open at 5 p.m.**  
**for refreshments**  
**Movie starts at 5:30.**

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# AMC shows colors for Independence Day

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

[skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com)

You may have noticed the larger U.S. flag flying last week in front of the Army Materiel Command headquarters building.

It was a garrison flag, the largest flown by the Army – a 20-foot hoist by 38-foot fly. And the banner was flown on the AMC flagpole July 2-5 in observance of the Fourth of July.

“It’s a gorgeous sight,” Staff Sgt. Kristoffer Underwood, one of the AMC G-3/5/7 noncommissioned officers who hoisted the flag at 11:20 a.m. July 2, said. “And it’s an amazing flag to see because it’s so big. It epitomizes who we are as a country. And it’s so big, so vast and so amazing. I mean it just brings tears.”

AMC Protocol procures all of the flags for the headquarters. AMC protocol chief Heine Rivera said his office ordered the garrison flag about a year ago and it flies for special occasions like the Fourth of July.

“This is the first time that that garrison flag has touched that pole,” Underwood said. “I’m sitting here at awe of it really. I mean everything pales in comparison.”

The NCOs planned to return a post flag to the pole July 5. By comparison, a post flag’s dimensions are 8-foot-11 3/8 inch hoist by 17-foot fly.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**A garrison flag, larger than the usual staff flag, flies July 2 at headquarters Army Materiel Command.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

## Construction work

Members of the Robins & Morton Construction Company work July 3 on the flex office of Redstone Gateway.

# Strep throat: Not your average sore throat

By Lt. Col. PATRICIA MCKINNEY  
Army Public Health Command

People often think that any painful sore throat is strep throat and that antibiotics are needed to make it better. This belief is not true. Strep throat is an infection of the throat and tonsils caused by streptococcal bacteria. The throat gets irritated and inflamed causing a sudden, severe sore throat. Most other sore throats are caused by a virus. Sore throats caused by a virus are also painful. If you have cold-like symptoms such as a runny or stuffy nose and coughing, you probably do not have strep throat.

The most common symptoms of strep throat are: sudden, severe sore throat; pain when you swallow; fever over 101 degrees Fahrenheit (38.3 degrees Celsius); swollen tonsils and lymph nodes; and white or yellow spots on the back of a bright red throat.

People spread the bacteria by sneezing, coughing, shaking hands or close contact with people who are infected. You can also pick up strep by touching objects that were touched by an infected person, (i.e., phones, doorknobs, tables) and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

To prevent infection:

- Avoid close contact with an infected individual.
- Do not share toothbrushes or eating and drinking utensils.
- Wash your hands frequently.
- Strengthen your body's ability to

fight off infections with a healthy diet, regular exercise, a good night's sleep and managing your stress.

- Wipe down your phone.

Strep throat cannot be accurately diagnosed by symptoms or by a physical exam alone. Diagnosis is made by swabbing the back of the throat for a culture to identify the presence of strep bacteria. Sore throats should only be treated with antibiotics if the strep test is positive. Penicillin or amoxicillin are usually the antibiotics prescribed to treat strep throat infection. Antibiotics should be taken for the entire 10 days,

even though symptoms are usually gone after a few days. If antibiotics are not taken for the full course of treatment, the infection may reoccur and stronger antibiotics may be needed to treat the infection.

Remember strep throat is not your average sore throat. If you suspect that you may have strep throat, see your healthcare provider.

*Editor's note: July is International Strep Awareness Month. The Army Public Health Command, based at*

*Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., focuses on promoting health and preventing disease, injury and disability in Soldiers and military retirees, their families and Army civilian employees. As well, the USAPHC is responsible for effective execution of full-spectrum veterinary services throughout the DoD. The USAPHC was created from the merger of the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and the Army Veterinary Command.*



# Army issues guidance on political activities

WASHINGTON – Army commanders and leaders must comply with Department of Defense and Army policies concerning participation of Army personnel in political activities and use of Army facilities for political events throughout election year 2012.

The 2012 DoD Public Affairs Guidance for Political Campaigns and Elections reiterates longstanding policy that DoD personnel acting in their official capacity may not engage in activities that associate DoD with any partisan political campaign or election. It also provides guidance on visits to installations and use of facilities by candidates, support of political events by military personnel, and voting assistance.

Army Regulation 360-1 provides additional policy and procedural guidance when considering requests for use of Army facilities by candidates or military involvement in election year activities. Installation commanders will not permit the use of installation facilities by any candidate or individual representing a candidate for political assemblies, meetings, fund-raising events, press conferences, or any other activity that could be construed as political in nature.

Members of Congress and other elected

officials, whether or not candidates for reelection, may visit Army installations to receive briefings, attend official events and receive tours. Requests from members of Congress to visit an installation should be referred to the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison. The media may be granted access to cover a candidate's official visit to an installation. Candidates who are not current members of Congress or serving governmental officials may be given the same access to installations as that to which any other unofficial visitor is entitled.

**P**rior to visiting an installation on official business, political candidates shall be informed that they will refrain from making campaign or election-related statements or responding to campaign or election-related queries while on the installation.

In a change, this year's guidance directs installation officials to inform candidates and their staffs that footage, photographs or statements taken or recorded during official installation visits may be used for campaign or election-related purposes.

However, while the candidate may highlight support of the armed forces, nothing should be used to imply or appear to imply DoD or military personnel sponsorship, approval or endorsement of the candidate.

Requests from candidates to film or tape campaign commercials on Army installations and facilities will be denied. Additionally, installation commanders shall not allow candidates or their agents to obtain imagery of military equipment (e.g., ships, tanks and aircraft) on military installations for use in political campaign or election advertisements, commercials, or literature, except for imagery of elected officials captured in connection with official business or travel. Installation commanders should immediately notify OCLL of any concerns, disputes, unresolved issues or potential problems involving federal candidates.

Army participation or support – including troops, bands and color guards – to political meetings, ceremonies or similar events is prohibited. Note, however, that a joint service color guard may participate in the national conventions of the major political parties. Requests for Army speakers at non-DoD events should be evaluated carefully to preclude participation in politically-oriented programs.

Army leaders and commanders should ensure that military personnel and federal employees under their leadership are familiar with the laws and policies regarding their active participation in the political

process. Department of Defense Directive 1344.10 and AR 600-20, paragraph 5-3, set forth the basic guidance concerning the political activities of officers and enlisted members of the Active Army, the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard. The political activities of federal civilian employees are governed by the revised Hatch Act amendments.

While active duty military members and civilian employees may participate in the political process, they are subject to restrictions that preclude them from engaging in any partisan political activity while on duty or in uniform. Army personnel may not engage in political activity while on duty. All military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve forces, are prohibited from wearing military uniforms at political campaigns and election events.

**DoD encourages** all active duty military and civilian personnel and their eligible family members to register and vote. Commanders and Army leaders will support the Federal Voting Assistance Program. Commanders will provide voting assistance officers at every level of command and ensure that those officers have the necessary training and resources to provide voting assistance.

*Editor's note: This memorandum was distributed by Army headquarters.*

# Summer hire returns for USASAC experience

By CORINNA SLATER  
USASAC Public Affairs

Cyle Baker never thought he would end up in Huntsville as a summer hire at the Security Assistance Command, which is responsible for security assistance and foreign military sales for the Army.

Baker, a native of Alexandria, Va., found the opportunity when his family moved from Virginia to Alabama with the Base Realignment and Closure of 2005 shortly before he graduated from Middle Tennessee State University in December 2008. While working on his master's in business administration, which Baker is set to finish in December, he applied for a summer hire position at Redstone Arsenal in spring 2011. He was chosen from numerous candidates by Ramon Rivera, deputy director of USA-SAC SOUTHCOM regional operations directorate, based on his achievements and desirable qualities.

"It was an experience I couldn't pass up," Baker said. "Each new job is an opportunity to grow as a person."

During his time in PACOM/SOUTHCOM, Baker immersed himself in his



Cyle Baker

work and the organization wholeheartedly. He became involved in fund-raisers and joined the planning committee that coordinates and organizes events. He also put a great deal of effort into organizing his office, filing papers, creating a standardized system for binders and helping his supervisor transform trip books from pieces of paper shoved in a folder into organized, informative, detailed and easy-to-use books.

Not only did he spend his summer

working hard, he also made an effort to meet and talk to people throughout the organization.

"A lot of summer hires don't venture out of their cubicles, but I made myself known," he said.

Through his work ethic and personality, Baker caught the attention of many people in the building, resulting in his return this summer.

His supervisor, Brenda Hatley said, "I interacted with him on numerous occasions (last summer) and was always impressed with his positive attitude and his willingness to help out in any way he could."

His return did come with a change of scenery, however. He moved from PACOM/SOUTHCOM to the Command Group. Baker said the main difference between his work this summer and last summer is the level in the organization of the people he works with.

"I get to see the decisions as they are being made instead of after they are made," he said.

Beyond that, he said his main task is the same – alleviate stress for his supervisor. This involves a wide array of things, including making certificates, learning

and helping with Protocol, helping with events and performing day-to-day activities.

He does not mind these sometimes tedious tasks, though. He looks at each new experience as an opportunity to learn. Some things he has discovered from his time as a summer hire are that hard work always pays off in the long run. Smiling and being helpful makes you a better worker, according to Baker, and you must take time to do it right the first time. He also believes you have to be proactive if you want to leave a good impression and be a great worker.

"Cyle brings a fresh enthusiasm and positive attitude for every task he's asked to handle," Hatley said. "Cyle is a great addition to our team and I believe we're all glad to have him here working with us."

When asked what he'll take away from his time as a summer hire, he emphasized the experience. He said that at each job henceforth, he'll have the valuable skills he acquired here, such as professionalism and communication, which will make him a stronger employee anywhere he goes.



Utility Helicopters Project Office photo

## Medical exercise

Sgt. Dustin Anthony (positioned at door), 2/104th Aviation Battalion, West Virginia Army National Guard, supervises the loading of his HH-60L helicopter during a mass casualty exercise. Lt. Col. Paul "Bryce" Anderson (lower right), product manager for the Medevac Product Office, Utility Helicopters Project Office, and Staff Sgt. Thomas Rath (upper right), 2nd Bn., 501st Avn. Rgt., Fort Bliss, Texas, are positioned on litters. The Air Ambulance Medical Equipment Set exercise was held June 25-28 by the MPO and included 44 participants from 11 states. Various medical equipment configurations were examined and rated on three different airframes and covered multiple scenarios on 21 flights.

File photo

## Joining UAH

Dr. Steven Messervy has joined the University of Alabama-Huntsville as deputy director of the Research Institute. He served as deputy commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command before retiring in February with 36 years of service. "We welcome Steven to our campus as deputy director of our Research Institute, and look forward to his contributions to our research efforts," UAH president Bob Altenkirch said. "His experience and knowledge will add even more depth to our research division, and his efforts will be crucial as we expand our capabilities and grow our research portfolio."



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**PROJECT MANAGER RECAPS FOUR YEARS OF PROGRESS  
'I WILL FIND A WAY TO TEACH'  
MONTANA NATIVE SOLDIER WORKS TO KEEP OTHERS SAFE  
USASAC RETIREES TOTAL 200-PLUS YEARS EXPERIENCE  
OBAMA HONORS NEW CITIZEN SERVICEMEMBERS  
DEADLINE NEARS FOR HOMEOWNERS ASSISTANCE**

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# Project manager recaps four years of progress

By **RANDY TISOR**

*PEO Aviation Public Affairs*

Col. Anthony Potts, aviation systems project manager in the Program Executive Office for Aviation, wrapped up nearly four and a half years of challenges, change and progress during a town hall meeting July 3 at Heiser Hall.

Potts assumed responsibility for the Aviation Systems Project Office in April 2008 and recounted that a lot of things had changed in the four years since.

“As managers and leaders, what we do every day is adapt to our environment,” he said. “We manage change and the risk that comes with change.”

In 2008, he said, the Aviation Systems Project Office was responsible for the Army’s fixed wing aircraft. Today, fixed wing aircraft fall under a separate project office that stood up last October.

When Potts assumed responsibility, there was also no such thing as the Aviation Networks and Mission Planning product office. But that, too, changed later in 2008.

And, Degraded Visual Environment had not been addressed nearly to the point that it has been today. The developing technology intended to address partial or total lack of visibility in certain flight conditions may require its own product office, Potts said, if it becomes a program of record as he believes may happen.

The town hall meeting was also an opportunity for Potts to officially address the next big change on the horizon. Col. Jerry Davis, Potts said, will take over the duties of project manager during a change of charter ceremony July 30. Potts will then move on to his next assignment as the director of plans, programs and resources with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology.

Photo by Thomas Voight, Aviation Systems Project Office

**Aviation systems project manager Col. Anthony Potts, right, awards Sgt. 1st Class William Patterson the Army Achievement Medal for his exceptional performance as the noncommissioned-officer-in-charge for the Air Traffic Control Product Office’s deployment of the Airfield Lighting System. The medal was among many awards and recognitions bestowed on members of the ASPMO during a town hall meeting July 3 at Heiser Hall.**



# 'I will find a way to teach'

*General's wife follows path to the classroom*

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Back in 1983, it may have seemed that Diane Formica ended the ability to pursue a teaching career when she married her beloved Soldier.

But today, despite some 14 moves, and the absences and long hours of military service that took her husband – Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Command/Army Forces Strategic Command – away from her and their four children, Diane Formica is very much the successful teacher she had always dreamed of being.

Yes, it may have taken her longer to gain teaching experience after graduating from the University of Kentucky. Yes, frequent

moves haven't allowed her to establish herself professionally within one school system or even within one state teachers association. Yes, she has had to contend with the frustrations of different state teaching requirements, and with searching for teaching jobs in communities where she and her abilities were unknown. And yes, while being a military spouse with a civilian career has been a challenge, being an officer's wife with a career has often raised questions about her priorities.

"A lot of people think, especially when your husband is in command, that you should not work outside the home," Formica said. "But, first, it was always nice to have my own thing, to have a job that I felt really passionate about. And, second, I was always able to find my niche in the command and in the community where I could make a difference.

"I think I was a good example for young wives that they could still be active and involved without having to do everything. Especially in this day and age when families need dual incomes, I've been a role model that says 'It's OK to work. You can still do what you need to do as a military wife and mother, and you can work. It's not a nega-

Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Diane Formica, wife of Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, looks forward to continuing her teaching career this fall as a first-grade teacher at Country Day School. Throughout her husband's Army career and the couple's commitment to raising four children, Formica has also found time for her passion – teaching in the classroom. She is the first of many working military wives who will be featured in the Rocket's new series: Military Spouses at Work.**

tive.' Wherever Richard served, I found my niche and I focused my abilities to provide support in my own way."

To Formica, following her own professional calling while also being an officer's wife and a mother has been well worth it.

"I always wanted to work. I always had a passion to teach and to work with children," she said. "And Richard has always been supportive of that."

Granted, the teaching profession is one of the easiest to work around the demands of home, children and, even, the military. In the first years of their marriage and their young family, Formica worked part time, serving in such roles as the director of children's minis-



tries at a Methodist church near Fort Hood, Texas; directing a Kindercare child care facility near Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; and working for Child Development Services in two locations in Germany.

And everywhere she worked, her children were able to come right along with her.

"The kids just went to work with me," she

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**Military Spouses at Work**

*Part 1 in a series*

# Montana native Soldier works to keep others safe

By Sgt. MIKE MacLEOD

1st Brigade Combat Team,  
82nd Airborne Division

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WARRIOR, Afghanistan – From a small town in Montana to a small base in Afghanistan, Spc. Nathaniel Rose feels at home – to a degree – here in Afghanistan’s mountainous Ghazni province.

The attraction of college and post-service employment opportunities and the Army’s health care benefits led the lanky Montanan to enlist three years ago to become an unmanned aerial vehicle operator.

Rose is assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division’s 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, based stateside at Fort Bragg, N.C.

“My dad showed me an article in a Guard magazine with a Predator on it,” Rose said. “It looked like a fun thing to do while doing some good for the guys on the ground. The guys on the ground have told me that they feel more secure with the Shadow flying overhead. It’s good to feel like you’re doing something useful.”

Rose’s father, Lt. Col. Collin Rose, is an infantry officer in command of the Montana National Guard’s 190th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. As a former Marine parachutist, he said, he is glad his son was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. “I am very proud of my son’s decision to enlist, and of his service,” he said.

The father and son enjoy hunting, hiking and mountain biking in the mountains surrounding Huson, Mont., when they can. The two are close and talk on the phone a few times a week.

“I enjoy the rugged mountains and arid climate here (in Ghazni),” Nathan-



Army photo by Sgt. Jonathan Shaw

**Spc. Nathaniel Rose serves as an unmanned aerial vehicle operator in Afghanistan’s Ghazni province.**

iel said. “It reminds me a little bit of home.”

The 21-year-old specialist said he believes his choice to join the Army was a good one, particularly for the employment opportunities he will have as an unmanned aerial vehicle operator when he finishes his service. With a new family, he added, he is considering civilian employment related to the aircraft he and his teammates fly to observe the battlefield and inform the troops on the ground of what they see.

Rose said he may attend college before getting a job, but has yet to decide.

“Honestly, I want to go back to Montana for a while and just be there,” he said.

# USASAC retirees compile 200-plus years experience



Photo by Kim Gillespie

**Employees from the Security Assistance Command's New Cumberland, Pa., office are honored prior to their June 30 retirements. From left, Tina Benscoter, Vicki Wolf, Laura Jones and Debra Lebo retire with a collective 138 years of federal service.**

Six workers retired during June at the Security Assistance Command with a combined 209 years of federal service.

Photo by Kim Gillespie

**USASAC commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner recognizes Kathleen Lauer of the New Cumberland office as she retires after 31 years.**



Photo by Melody Sandlin

**Gregg Turner, division chief of regional operations for AFRI-COM at the Security Assistance Command, receives the Meritorious Civilian Service Award from USASAC commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner during his retirement ceremony June 30. Gregg Turner retires with 40 years.**

# Obama honors new citizen servicemembers at White House

By LISA DANIEL

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Twenty-five U.S. servicemembers filed through the White House East Room on July 4 in dress uniforms, proudly displaying their service and sacrifices to America, and took their citizenship oath before their commander in chief.

They were among more than 4,000 Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who became U.S. citizens during Independence Day ceremonies also held at U.S. military installations in Kandahar, Afghanistan; Seoul, South Korea; Las Vegas; Miami; Tegucigalpa, Honduras; and San Diego.

Obama said it brought him “great joy and inspiration” to conduct the ceremony on America’s 236th birthday. “It reminds us that we are a country that is bound together not simply by ethnicity or bloodlines, but by fidelity to a set of ideas,” he said.

“As members of our military, you raised your hand and took an oath of service,” he continued. “It is an honor for me to serve as your commander in chief. Today, you raised your hand and have taken an oath of citizenship. And I could

not be prouder to be among the first to greet you as ‘my fellow Americans.’”

Obama addressed the servicemembers and their families in a late morning ceremony as White House staff prepared for an evening barbecue for military members and their families that would include viewing the annual Fourth of July fireworks over the Washington Monument.

The president noted various evolutions throughout the nation’s history, and pointed out that what began as “a ragtag army of militias and regulars” has become “the finest military that the world has ever known.”

The servicemembers arrived in America in different ways – some as children, and some as adults, Obama noted. “All of you did something profound,” he said. “You chose to serve. You put on the uniform of a country that was not yet fully your own. In a time of war, some of you deployed into harm’s way. You displayed the values that we celebrate every Fourth of July: duty, responsibility and patriotism.”

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services director Alejandro Mayorkas presided over the White House ceremony, and noted that he was a refugee who became

**See Citizens on page 18**



Photo by Pete Souza

**President Barack Obama listens as homeland security secretary Janet Napolitano administers the Oath of Allegiance during a military naturalization ceremony for active duty servicemembers in the East Room of the White House, July 4.**

# Series focuses on today's working military spouses

They are not an anomaly anymore.

Gone are the days when the traditional military family consisted of a servicemember, his stay-at-home wife and their children.

Today, those stay-at-home wives are finding their way into the work force. Nearly 85 percent of military wives work outside of the home, according to military.com. These spouses are learning how to create and nurture a dual-income, dual-career family while being a wife and raising children through the challenges of multiple moves, and deployments and long hours that often make them a one-parent family.

In support of these spouses, the Department of Defense has set up programs, such as the Military Spouse Career Center and the Military Spouse Job Search, to provide assistance during a job search and while sustaining a career.

Even so, military wives continue to face challenges as they work to sustain a career while their servicemember answers the call of service. A 2005 Rand Survey of 1,100 military spouses pinpointed the following key findings about military spouses who

work outside the home:

- Military wives are employed at lower rates and earn less than civilian wives, on average.

- The majority of military spouses believe that the military lifestyle — including frequent moves, deployments and long hours that keep servicemembers from assisting with parenting, and living in areas with poor local labor market conditions — has negatively affected their employment opportunities. Almost half believe that their educational opportunities have suffered.

- Military spouses work for different reasons, based on their own education level, their servicemember's pay grade and their financial situation.

Over the next few months, the *Redstone Rocket* will feature the stories of Redstone Arsenal's working military spouse in a series titled Military Spouses at Work. The series will include military spouses from different backgrounds, careers and situations. Each has their own unique story to tell as they face the realities of juggling the military lifestyle with the work demands of the civilian world.

Courtesy photo

## Proud fathers

**Col. Gary Stephens, project manager for Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems, and Russ Dunford, of Aviation Systems, first crossed paths 23-plus years ago as cohorts in flight school. On a recent Friday in June at 6:30 a.m., they gathered with their work team for their weekly**

**Ultimate Frisbee PT/team building. But this was no ordinary Friday morning — because they were accompanied by their daughters. From left are Claudia and Col. Gary Stephens; and Annie, Russ and Abby Dunford.**



# Spouse

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said. "As our children got older, they went to public school and I went into the classroom as a teacher. They would even help me in the classroom by grading papers and putting up bulletin boards."

She has taught in both public and private schools in Fairfax County, Va., Oklahoma and Georgia. In Huntsville, she has worked the past year as a part-time teacher in support of the kindergarten, first-grade and second-grade classes at Country Day School. She will take on a full-time position as a first-grade teacher with the school in August.

"It can be difficult getting hired by public school systems because each state has different requirements for teaching certification," Formica said.

"In some states, they will give you a two-year provisional license and require you to do a few things to get a teaching certificate."

**It has also been challenging** to be a teacher new to a community who is applying in school systems that are facing tight budgets. The field can be quite competitive and teachers unfamiliar to a school system's leadership can be at a disadvantage.

"You have to be determined to sell yourself when you go to a new state or a new community," she said. "Now, a lot of applications are done online. So, I would do the online application. But then I would hand carry my resume to schools so that principals can see me and talk to me. You really have to be proactive. The plus side is that you can teach anywhere, and you take your experience with you anywhere you go."

Regardless of the difficulties, Formica has enjoyed the various teaching experiences that come with a mobile military lifestyle.

"It's interesting to see the way things are done in different school systems and in different states. It's interesting to see the different teaching philosophies," she said. "But everywhere I've gone all the teachers have had the same focus and it's been the children."

During the Formica's family years, teach-

ing hours made it easier for Formica to be a military wife and mom. Her work hours mirrored her children's school hours, making her available to her children every day after the school bell rang, and during school holidays and the summer months. Those breaks also made it easier to fulfill her duties as the wife of an officer.

"I always did what I could to support Richard and his Soldiers and their families," she said. "As a working Army spouse I was and continue to be sensitive to all spouses within our units. We would – and still do with our SMDC coffee group – rotate times of activities and events, such as having a lunch event one month and an evening event the next month, so that it gives all of the spouses an opportunity to be a part of unit activities and events."

In the early years of marriage and family life, Formica was very active in family readiness groups. Over the years, that focus has shifted to Army Community Service and today, at Redstone Arsenal, the focus is Survivor Outreach Services, where Formica serves alongside her husband to provide leadership support to the spouses and families of fallen servicemembers.

**While Formica, who was raised** as a military child, has always been immersed in the Army life, her teaching career also gave her a chance to be part of the civilian communities wherever the family lived.

"I always felt that teaching in the schools in a community allowed me to meet some of the most wonderful people in the community and I loved being with children," she said. "When Richard deployed, I really needed my job to help me get through the separation. It gave me another support group. I had my military family, my church family and my school family."

"And I always wanted to be able to survive on my own if, heaven forbid, something had happened to Richard. I always wanted to be current in the work force. And now, with all of our children grown and gone, teaching is what I can do with my time and my energy. It keeps me young."

A teaching career also worked well with the Army's schedule for family moves, which usually occur in the summer. That

schedule allowed her to fulfill her commitments as a teacher since it enabled her to leave teaching positions at the end of the school year. Only once – during their move to Redstone Arsenal – did Formica have to leave her teaching job in the middle of the school year.

"I take my role as a teacher very seriously. It's a commitment to the child in the classroom. I don't want to walk away from the kids," she said.

**Her teaching jobs**, she said, have also made her "more organized, more current and more fun to be around."

"When you love what you are doing and you feel a passion for it, that affects your whole life. Richard recognized that and he was always so supportive and wonderful. He has spent a lot of time in the classroom with me as a volunteer reader and by attending our patriotic events like Veterans Day programs. The kids are always mesmerized by the uniform and by his stories about being a Soldier," she said.

This past school year, Formica's husband attended Country Day School's international festival. It was fun, Formica said, to see their roles reversed.

"He was introduced as 'This is Mrs. Formica's husband' instead of me being introduced as the general's wife," she said, smiling.

Formica is looking forward to being a full-time first-grade teacher in the classroom this next year. She has been spending time

recently going through her teacher supplies and getting ready to decorate her classroom with lots of learning aids and bright, cheery things for her class of 14 first-graders.

"I've always liked early childhood education because those are the years that are crucial to children liking school," Formica said. "School was very hard for me when I was that age. I want to make the classroom a very positive learning experience for my students. I want my students to know it's OK to make mistakes and that you learn from mistakes. Kids are very honest at that age and learning is exciting. I like to include a lot of hands-on things in my classroom so they can learn by doing. It's neat to watch the children grow and change from their first day of school to the very end of the year."

Over the years, Formica has developed her own style of teaching that includes daily structure, flexibility in learning styles, acceptance, love and care of each child, respect for both the teacher and the student, and parent involvement and support.

Formica will continue to teach at Country Day School, where she enjoys the teaching philosophy and atmosphere, until the next move in her husband's Army career.

"When people learn I am a general's wife, they will ask me 'Why do you work?' I don't do it for the money. I teach because it's a passion. It's something I love to do," she said.

"I'll teach wherever we end up. Whether it's retirement or another place in the military, I will find a way to teach."

# Citizens

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a naturalized U.S. citizen. "These 25 exceptional individuals took an oath to support and defend the Constitution before sharing fully in the rights and opportunities it provides," he said. "We are all inspired by their commitment to freedom and service to preserve our great nation."

Homeland security secretary Janet Napolitano delivered the Oath of Allegiance. "Today, you have earned all the rights and responsibilities that

come with being a citizen of the United States," she said. "America is now your country. You have worked so hard to get here. You should be just as proud of this achievement as I am to call you my fellow citizen."

More than 80,000 U.S. servicemembers have become American citizens since 2001, Napolitano said. "Our nation thanks you for your service," she told the new citizens. "We owe the freedoms we all enjoy to the sacrifices of men and women like you."

The Homeland Security Department is working with the Defense Department to expand a process that began in 2009 to

offer noncitizen enlistees the opportunity to become naturalized citizens before completing basic training "so that they can graduate as naturalized citizens," Napolitano said.

"We will continue to do all that we can to expedite the naturalization process for those like you who have sacrificed so much," she added.

Army Spc. Oluwatosin Akinduro immigrated to Houston from Lagos, Nigeria, with his parents when he was 6. He said he is the first in his family to become a U.S. citizen and that he hopes to lead by example, both in the military and in his personal life.

"My family is very proud of me today," he said. "I'm a little nervous, speechless. This is something I'm doing for myself and my family."

After graduating from high school, Akinduro played football for Rutgers University in New Jersey and hoped to play professionally. When that goal wasn't realized, he said, he joined the Army and plans to make it his career.

"I have my head up, my chest out, and I'm just so proud of what I'm doing," he said. "I come from a very proud background. I don't believe in fear too much. With my background, I always believed I could do anything I put my mind to."

## Deadline nears for expanded homeowners assistance program

By AMAANI LYLE

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, – Eligible military members and federal civilian employees who face financial loss when selling their primary residence may receive compensation, provided they apply for the Expanded Homeowners Assistance Program by Sept. 30.

The Army Corps of Engineers manages HAP on behalf of the military branches. The HAP, initially created by Congress in 1966, provides financial assistance to qualifying homeowners when a closure or significant change in operations at a military base leads to severe losses in the local real estate market.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Public Law 111-5, expanded the HAP to provide assistance to:

- Deployed wounded, injured, or ill members of the Armed Forces (30 percent or greater disability) and forward deployed wounded, injured or ill Department of Defense and Coast Guard civilian homeowners (including employees of non-appropriated fund instrumentalities) reassigned in furtherance of medical treatment or rehabilitation or due to medical retirement in connection with their disability;
- Surviving spouses of the fallen;
- Base Realignment and Closure 2005-impacted homeowners relocating during the mortgage crisis; and
- Servicemember homeowners undergoing permanent change of station moves during the mortgage crisis.

"The amended law now includes HAP relief for surviving spouses of the fallen, BRAC 2005-impacted homeowners relocating during the mortgage crisis, and servicemember homeowners

undergoing permanent-change-of-station moves during the mortgage crisis," said Michael McAndrew, director of facilities investment and management office for the deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment.

Key expanded HAP deadlines and qualifying timeframes have already passed, McAndrew said, further escalating the urgency of swift benefit distribution and program closure.

"Reassignment order dates must range from Feb. 1, 2006, through Sept. 30, 2010, and qualifying property purchases, or signed contracts to purchase must have occurred prior to July 1, 2006," McAndrew said. "BRAC reached its full implementation by Sept. 15, 2011."

The total benefit calculation, capped at \$729,750, is based upon the home purchase price, McAndrew said.

"We've made every effort to try and

make funds available to pay as many of these applications as we can, and so far we've been very successful in doing that," McAndrew explained, adding that the program is designed to minimize the housing market's impact, not negate it altogether.

"It's a great program, but we can't help folks if they don't apply," McAndrew said. "We need to know who is out there because there's no magic database in the department that tells us who may have been impacted."

Wounded, injured and ill and surviving spouse applications take priority and are not be subject to the Sept. 30 deadline for claims.

All applications are now centrally processed through the Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District. To apply, visit the HAP website and follow application instructions. The website is <http://hap.usace.army.mil>.

# Army nurse concluding 30 years of service

*Health center commander retiring, returning to Iowa*

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Commanders may come and go, but Fox Army Health Center's commitment to ensuring its beneficiaries live a lifetime of wellness remains strong, a standard of care Col. Elizabeth Johnson has dedicated the past two years of her life to.

Johnson will relinquish her command of Fox Army Health Center to Col. William Darby in a change of command ceremony Friday at 2 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium.

"This is not only a great team to be part of, it's just been a great community to be part of, and it really, truly is a very positive way to end my active duty time," Johnson said. "I am going to miss the whole Huntsville community and Team Redstone. It's a unique environment. There's just been so much collaboration between Team Redstone and the entire community. I will miss that."

She joined Team Redstone July 16, 2010, assuming command of Fox Army Health Center. But for Johnson, the fo-

cus has never been on her, it's about the beneficiaries, and each member of the Fox staff. And in the end, it is through those personal interactions that she has found the most reward in her time at Redstone.

"It's always been about the people," Johnson said. "The staff does a great job taking care of the beneficiaries and it's always fun to interact and talk with the beneficiaries and get to know them and talk with them on a personal basis. That's really been the highlight of being here."

In her time as commander, she has seen the medical facility through the transition to patient centered medical home, a MEDCOM directive that allows patients to be treated by the same team of doctors and nurses at each visit, allowing for better access to and continuity of care, a transition, Johnson said is ahead of schedule. She also guided Fox through the aftermath of the April 27, 2011 tornadoes. The morning after the storms Fox opened its doors, providing acute care and pharmacy services for beneficiaries in need.

"The staff really stepped up to support the beneficiaries during that time, and I'm very proud of that, proud of the staff for what they did," Johnson said of

her proudest moment as Fox commander.

As she retires, she will miss the people, but is excited to watch the pool of "talented Army Nurse Corps officers continuing to succeed." Passing the baton to Darby, Johnson hopes she has provided the resources to her staff to allow them to do their job and do it well.

"I hope that my lasting impact is that everyone in the organization feels like they are a contributing member of the entire success of the organization," Johnson said. "We all are a part of Army medicine, and I hope that each member of Fox knows that they are a significant partner in the success of Army medicine."

While Friday will mark the end of Johnson's military career on Redstone Arsenal, the official end of her active duty life won't come until her retirement ceremony Aug. 17 in her home state of Iowa, where friends and family will be there to help Johnson close a chapter that has lasted 30 years of her life, and begin a new one.

"Thirty years has gone extremely fast," Johnson said. "It's amazing how each assignment has contributed something toward the success of the next assignment. It's been fun. It's been an adventure. I did things and had opportunities I never dreamt of growing up. It's been a great life. I don't think I'd do anything different."

After three decades of answering the call of duty, which included assignments to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where she served as chief, perioperative nursing section; Fort Ben-



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

**Col. Elizabeth Johnson will relinquish command of Fox Army Health Center Friday at 2 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. She is retiring after 30 years of service, two of which she has spent as a part of Team Redstone.**

ning, Ga., where she was deputy commander/deputy commander of nursing, 14th Combat Support Hospital; and to Iraq, where she was deputy commander for nursing, TF 14 MED in support of detainee healthcare operations, Johnson is returning home to Iowa, where she is building a house and hopes to get a faculty position in a school of nursing. In addition to seeking volunteer opportunities with an Alzheimer's organization, she also looks forward to some travel, including doing Route 66 with her youngest niece.

"I'm very excited to start this new chapter in life," Johnson said.



Courtesy photo

## Aviation tour

U.S. Military Academy cadets, from left, Matthew Gallup, Jeff Von Hor and Michael Lesmeister visit the Redstone Test Center's Aviation Flight Test Directorate. "This is a great opportunity for the cadets desiring to branch into aviation to see what is involved in the test and evaluation of aircraft/systems as part of the acquisition process," Maj. Marc Deziel of AFTD said.

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**KEANE PRESSES FOR U.S. AID FOR AFGHAN PROGRESS** PAGE 24

**REOPENED SUPPLY ROUTES SAVE MONEY, SPOKESMAN SAYS** PAGE 24

# Calibration lab gets revamped building in Germany



Courtesy photo

**Attendees at the ribbon-cutting ceremony in the Kaiserslautern military community include, from left, Lee Roberts, director of Region Europe; Col. Ronald Green, 405th AFSB; and James Johnson, USATA executive director.**

The Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity held a ribbon-cutting ceremony June 20 for a newly renovated building which will house its Region Europe headquarters and the Area Calibration Lab.

“Our new home will be located on Rhein Ordnance Barracks-Weilerbach in the Kaiserslautern military community,” Jennifer Holloman, chief of the Operations Support Office, Region Europe, said.

USATA executive director James Johnson attended the ceremony. Col. Ronald Green, commander of the 405th Armed Forces Sustainment Brigade and an avid supporter of the TMDE mission in Europe, was also present. Employees from USATA Region Europe, as well as representatives from the 405th and Department of Public Works, were there to witness this historic event. After the ceremony, Johnson and Green were given a tour of the facility followed by a reception.

The Region Europe headquarters and the ACL have been in the Pirmasens area for many years. The headquarters has been there since 1993 and in their current building since late 1998. The ACL has been in their leased facility since 1984. The consolidation of the logistic footprint in Germany has caused many of the U.S. Army installations to close and relocate or consolidate capabilities elsewhere in Europe. Force protection has also been a major concern at remote facilities within Europe such as the facilities in Pirmasens.

“With this in mind, IMCOM-Europe began to look for a new location on an existing installation to house our TMDE support operations,” Holloman said. “They were able to find a building to suit our purposes. This building formerly held a Patriot Missile Repair operation and encompassed two separate sides connected by an underground hallway. The building was structurally sound and each side was an open space, perfect for upgrading the interior to hold a state-of-the-art TMDE lab and headquarters. In addition, it is in a location that will serve us and our customers well, right in the heart of the Kaiserslautern military community within easy reach of local customers and shipping and receiving points.

“With the open interior of the building, we had the opportunity to design a facility to specifically meet our needs. The calibration technicians in the current ACL facility have been working out of old modules which were installed in the building in the 1980s. They encompass a total square footage of approximately 360 square meters. The new laboratory area will be over 480 square meters.

“The other half of the building will house our Nucleonic Lab which is cur-

rently in the design process,” Holloman added. “Once the Nucleonic Lab has moved to the Kaiserslautern area, we will have all of Region Europe headquarters, the ACL and Nucleonics in the same location. This total project will greatly enhance our ability to perform our mission in a combined location using state-of-the-art facilities.”

Movement to the new facility is scheduled to begin in early August.

The Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity executes the Army’s Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment calibration and repair support program.

USATA is the Army’s recognized leader for advanced, state-of-the-art metrology, i.e., precision measurements, and provides the technical expertise and worldwide facilities comprising the Army’s calibration and repair support program. The activity oversees and supports more than 730,000 pieces of test equipment worldwide and carries out its mission with measurement accuracies traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The activity supports every weapon system currently in the Army inventory and provides support to other Department of Defense, federal and state government agencies including the Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Department of Homeland Security, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard.

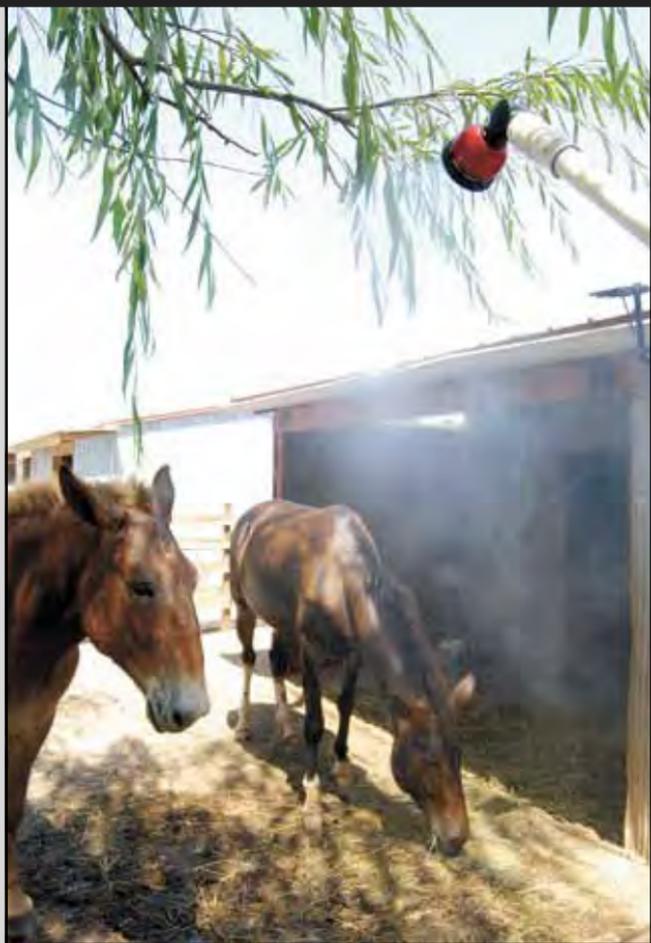
The activity is an essential component of Army maintenance. Calibrated TMDE verifies that measurements made on the battlefield, in the repair shop, and at the depot are the same as those used in the original equipment design. TMDE used at any level of maintenance has the ability to test, adjust and synchronize equipment and its associated components by using highly precise measurements. These measurements ensure the accuracy, safety, readiness and information assurance of weapon platforms and equipment across the physical/dimensional, radiological, electrical, electronic and electro-optical spectrums. The capability of Army weapon platforms and associated systems to operate accurately and effectively depends on the synchronization of these precise measurements against known standards.

The activity’s unique worldwide calibration mission is headquartered at Redstone Arsenal. The program is executed via an integrated, hierarchical network of TMDE support activities located around the world and arranged into four geographic regions, each containing a regional headquarters and director. (*Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity release*)

Photo by Ellen Hudson

## Summer shower

Spray mist keeps these mules cool July 3 at the Redstone Saddle Activity. Mr. Spock, left, and Luke Duke are owned by Jasmine and Mervin Hudson of Huntsville.



# Keane presses for more U.S. aid for Afghan security progress

By KATIE NELSON  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Retired Gen. Jack Keane pushed for continued U.S. assistance and funding for the Afghan National Security Forces, or ANSF, during a House Armed Services Committee hearing June 29.

The hearing, titled “Expert Assessments on the Afghan National Security Forces: Resources, Strategy and Timetable for Security Lead Transition,” was intended to glean opinions from top military personnel on what the next steps should be in preparing Afghan forces for a more independent role as U.S. troops continue their withdrawal from the country.

A former Army vice chief of staff, Keane mentioned that in certain areas of Afghanistan, the realization of Afghan military takeover depended heavily on U.S. aid, but other regions were not given the same amount of support and struggle because of it.

“We’ve had much success in the security situations since we applied the surge forces,” Keane said. “We’ve begun the turn of momentum in the east. The frustration there is we don’t have the force generation because of the pullout of the surge forces that we had in the south and southwest, I think, to be able to achieve the same kind of end state.”

Although he argued that more troops were necessary for the transition, Keane expressed his faith in the Afghan National Security Forces’ ability to be self-sufficient.

“I believe the ANSF is a capable force,” he said. “And it’s beginning to stand up to the task of taking over from the United States and naval forces.”

Keane also brought up four decisions that he believed would largely shape Afghanistan’s security in 2014 and beyond. These include determining the amount of troops that will remain in Afghanistan, whether to decrease ANSF’s budget, whether allied naval forces should stay to assist the ANSF, and whether the U.S. should destroy Taliban sanctuaries.

Keane views these four resolutions as key components in ensuring the ANSF’s ability to effectively protect Afghanistan. He fervently argued that reducing troops and funding would be a major setback in the process of weaning Afghan security off U.S. backing.

“How can we expect the ANSF to protect the people with one-third less force only a year after we almost zero out the U.S. naval force of 100,000?” he said. “We spent over a decade investing in the training and equipping of the ANSF. By 2014 we will have the results of that investment. So why, after all these years of investing, would we gut that force and put the entire security mission at risk?”

To wrap up his assessment, Keane urged the HASC to keep following



Photo by Sgt. Michael J. MacLeod

**Paratroopers with 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division fire at insurgent forces during a firefight June 15 in Afghanistan’s Ghazni Province. Retired Gen. Jack Keane pushed for continued U.S. assistance and funding for the Afghan National Security Forces during a House Armed Services Committee hearing June 29.**

through with their help as U.S. presence in Afghanistan continues to subside.

“We are on the cusp of ending our participation in our longest war,” he said. “Never before in our nation have

so few served for so long on behalf of so many. This effort has enjoyed your support and it begs for your continued leadership and support as we begin to write the final chapters.”

# Reopened supply routes save money, spokesman says

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

WASHINGTON – Pakistan’s decision to reopen ground supply routes on its border with Afghanistan will allow the Defense Department to save tens of millions of dollars transporting material in and out of Afghanistan, a senior Pentagon spokesman said here July 5.

Navy Capt. John Kirby said officials estimate that use of the reopened routes will save \$70 million to \$100 million per month.

Kirby noted that Defense Secretary Leon Panetta had told Congress that since Pakistan had closed the routes in November, resupplying forces in Afghanistan had been costing the United States about \$100 million more per month than before the closure.

“Secretary Panetta fully supports the approach that was taken, and the discussions that were had,” Kirby said.

“He welcomes the decision by Pakistan to open the gates.”

Pakistan closed the supply routes after a Nov. 26, 2011, incident in which American troops came under fire from Pakistan. U.S. forces returned fire and killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. Pakistan responded by closing the main overland supply routes for U.S. and NATO forces into Afghanistan.

U.S. logistics specialists quickly shifted to other means, such as the Northern Distribution Network, to supply the forces. However, DoD officials have noted the routes through Pakistan are considered the most direct and most cost-effective.

“The Defense Department, immediately after the incident in November, expressed our regrets and condolences over it (and) acknowledged the mistakes we’ve made, and we’re sorry for those mistakes,” Kirby told reporters July 5.

He added that although the Pakistani ground supply routes are cheaper, coalition forces will continue to use the Northern Distribution Network as well.

“The Northern Distribution Network is still a viable, vital method through which logistics flow in and out of Afghanistan,” Kirby said. “One of the things that we’re looking at, more (now) than we were in November when the (Pakistani ground supply routes) closed, was retrograde – the need to get material out of Afghanistan. So the Northern Distribution Network will still remain vital as we move forward.”

Kirby said traffic has started to flow through the Pakistan ground gates, and that the same agreement in place before the closure still applies.

“The same arrangement we had using the ground gates before they closed are in existence now,” he said. “There’s been no change to those agreements.”

No lethal material is permitted to flow through the ground lines of communication, he added, unless it is designed and designated solely for the Afghan national security forces. Kirby said the United States and Pakistan continue to work to “get this relationship on better footing.”

“My sense is this was just a series of a lot of discussions and negotiations, and (a) concerted effort by both sides to move past this and to get the relationship into a better place (as we) start to look at the common challenges in the region,” he said.

Kirby re-emphasized the practical benefits and cost-effectiveness of moving logistics through Pakistan’s ground supply routes.

“We’ve always said moving things through the ground gates is cheaper and more expedient,” he said. “Because we have that open to us now, it will save money.”

# Army radar to allow UAS to fly in National Air Space

By C. TODD LOPEZ  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – By March 2014, the MQ-1C Gray Eagle, an Army unmanned aerial system, or UAS, will be able to train in the same airspace as the Boeing 747, with the help of the Army-developed Ground Based Sense and Avoid system.

The Army recently concluded a two-week demonstration of the Ground Based Sense and Avoid system, or GB-SAA, at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah. During the demonstration, the Army put the system through multiple training “vignettes” that validated both the design and functionality of the system.

“We are ready to begin the certification process in order to be fielding in March 2014, for the Gray Eagle locations,” said Viva Austin, product director for the Army’s Unmanned Systems Airspace Integration.

The five locations for Gray Eagle basing and training include Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; and Fort Bragg, N.C. It’s expected the first system will field in March 2014 at Fort Hood. About three months later, the system should field to Fort Riley. All five sites should be equipped with the GBSAA system by 2015, officials said.

The GBSAA is a radar and warning system designed to allow Soldiers to fly unmanned aerial systems, like the Gray Eagle, inside the National Air Space, while still meeting Federal Aviation Administration regulations. The system monitors location and altitude of the UAS and other aircraft, detects possible collisions, and makes recommendations to UAS operators on how to avoid those collisions.

As unmanned aerial systems and the Soldiers who fly them return home from theater, the Army needs a way to keep

those UAS operators trained for the next battle, and they need to do that training inside the United States and inside the National Air Space, or NAS.

The Federal Aviation Administration, or FAA, requires a pilot be able to “see and avoid” other aircraft flying in the same airspace. But a UAS has no pilot onboard. The Army can get around that by meeting other requirements, however. The Army can fly a UAS in the NAS with a chase aircraft following the UAS, for instance. It is also possible to fly in the NAS if a trained observer is watching the UAS. But the observer must be within one mile and 3,000 feet of the vehicle.

Additionally, the Army can’t fly the UAS in NAS at night.

The GBSAA was developed as an “alternate means of compliance” for the FAA’s “see and avoid” requirement. The system senses other traffic in the area, using a 3D radar system, and uses algorithms to determine if there is danger of collision and how to avoid that danger. That information is provided to the UAS operator.

When the FAA approves the system for use, the Army will be able to train UAS pilots any time of day.

“It’s a significant impact (on training),” Austin said. “It does two things. One is it allows us to not need to put chase planes out to follow the aircraft over. It allows us to not have ground observers standing out there, trying to separate traffic. And it allows us to fly through the night hours, it gives us 24-hour operations, GBSAA allows that and opens it up.”

The recent demonstration of the GB-SAA involved seven vignettes at Dugway Proving Ground, involving both live and synthetic UAVs, as well as synthetic “intruders.”

The first three vignettes used real UAS. In vignettes 1 and 2, a real Hunter UAS flew at Dugway against synthetic “intruders” in their airspace. The differ-



Army photo

**Two unmanned aircraft system operators fly a UAS during one of the synthetic flight vignettes using replicated airspace and environment from Cherry Point, N.C. On the left is an Aircraft Operator and on the right is the Ground Based Sense and Avoid System Operator.**

ence between the two vignettes was the version of the GBSAA used. In both scenarios, the system performed without endangering the mission, but on the second run, the Army Phase 2 Block 0 system’s improved algorithms indicated an earlier, safer departure time between the two intruders.

Vignette 3 pitted two live Shadow UAS against each other. One of the Shadows served as the intruder aircraft, the other was guided by the GBSAA. The operator of that aircraft was warned at an appropriate time and was able to follow the recommended maneuver to avoid the other aircraft.

The next three vignettes showed the adaptability of the Phase 2 Block 0 algorithms. They were flown using synthetic UAS, through the X-Plane system. Each of the three vignettes used replicated airspace over different military installations, including Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; and Fort Drum, N.Y.

Finally, in vignette 7, the GBSAA system was demonstrated again using a synthetic UAS, but was flown against live aviation traffic data around nearby Salt

Lake City, and also against recorded air traffic data from Boston’s Logan Airport.

“In both cases we were extremely successful and (it) was even more than we had hoped for,” Austin said.

Austin said it was difficult to get the GBSAA system into a tough situation that it couldn’t handle.

“The hardest part of that was actually trying to get into a situation where the maneuver algorithm was really tested, getting into a red condition,” Austin said. “Big sky theory kind of held true, we almost felt like we were trying to chase people down at that point because air traffic control keeps people separated so well, it was kind of hard to put yourself in a really stressing situation and test those algorithms out really well. It was very safe and we demonstrated that the system and the test bed was really successful.”

Austin did say one thing learned about the GBSAA is that the algorithm used to safely move UAS through airspace does not always do things conventionally, as pilots would do them. Austin said that they will try to work more standard ways into the system, if they can do so without breaking the algorithm.

## Airfield operation by the numbers

Here’s some information about the Redstone Airfield, courtesy of the Garrison’s airfield division:

**18** people are assigned.

**30,000** aircraft movements are conducted each year.

**690,408** gallons of fuel are provided annually.

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**CORPS OF ENGINEERS WORKER HELPS SAVE SWIMMERS**

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# Army expanding, upgrading Gray Eagle fleet



Photo by Spc. Roland Hale

**An MQ-1C Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft makes its way down an airfield on Camp Taji, Iraq, before a surveillance mission in the Baghdad area. The Army plans upgrade and buy 29 more of the game-changers.**

By **KRIS OSBORN**  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON – The Army is upgrading its fleet of MQ-1C Gray Eagle Unmanned Aircraft Systems while also advancing plans to equip each 10-15,000 Soldier division with its reconnaissance, surveillance, targeting and acquisition capabilities, officials said.

“The feedback we’ve gotten from our war fighters down range is that this system is a game changer. It is really enhancing our ability,” Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, said. “Soldiers have been able to take this great technology and put it into the war quickly with great results.”

At a recent Defense Acquisition Board, Pentagon officials approved an Army plan to acquire 29 more aircraft as part of a longer term plan to equip each division with a Gray Eagle company consisting of a full-spectrum Combat Aviation Brigade of 12 air-

craft, Crosby explained.

“The world will continue to be a dangerous place. Having that organic reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition, or RSTA, capability at the division level will be a real asset,” Rich Kretzschmar, Unmanned Aircraft Systems deputy project manager, said.

The Gray Eagle is a Hellfire missile-equipped, 3,600-pound UAS with a 56-foot wingspan and the ability to fly and send back images and sensor data for nearly 24 hours at altitudes up to 25,000 feet. Two Quick Reaction Capabilities units, each consisting of four aircraft, ground control stations and supporting equipment, are currently deployed in Afghanistan.

Additionally, a Gray Eagle company of 12 aircraft is serving in Afghanistan. Overall, the Gray Eagle has flown more than 24,000 combat hours and maintained an operational availability at about 85 percent, said Col. Tim Baxter, UAS project manager.

# Corps of Engineers worker helps save three swimmers

By MARILYN PHIPPS  
Army News Service

DUCK, N.C. – After a day of gathering coastal survey information, it was time to wash the Army Corps of Engineers Lighter, Amphibious, Resupply, Cargo vessel, or LARC, and head back to the office, then home for the evening.

At least that was Mark Preisser's thought before a rip current changed the plan.

The Corps of Engineers civil engineering technician, a Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory employee, heard cries coming from the beach at the Field Research Facility that sounded like someone was in trouble.

"I ran up over the dune to see three young men, probably 50 yards out in the ocean, crying and waving desperately for help," he said.

"The moment I realized those young men were in trouble, my adrenaline kicked in. There was not a question in my mind, or time to think much about what I was about to do," Preisser said. "The look of those boys in panic and their desperate yelling for help stirred me to do what I did."

Still wearing his foul weather gear from being on the boat, Preisser quickly started stripping down to his blue jeans. Another young man, Sam, on the beach realized the

situation and entered the water the same time as Preisser.

"Of the three in trouble, one was swimming back toward the beach," Preisser said. "He made it back to land on his own."

Sam, knowing that Preisser was behind him, swam to the distressed swimmer that was furthest from the beach.

Preisser, a former competitive swimmer, could hear cries of "help me!" as he approached one panicked young man. He calmly assured the scared swimmer that he would be OK and instructed him to "turn over and float on your back; I am going to put my arm under yours."

The young man replied that he didn't float but trusted his rescuer and turned over as instructed, although he could not relax.

Preisser realized they were making little headway against the rip current, but remaining calm, told the tired swimmer, "we'll use the waves to help us, so kick hard when the waves approach and we will ride the waves in."

His strategy worked and soon they were able to touch bottom and walk back onto the beach.

Preisser then looked in the Atlantic Ocean to check on the other rescue. Sam had reached the other young man, but they were still about 65 yards from shore.



Corps of Engineers photo

**Mark Preisser, Army Corps of Engineers Engineer Research and Development Center coastal and hydraulics lab engineering tech, helped save three people from drowning in the Atlantic Ocean near Duck, N.C.**

He decided that the best chance of a rescue was to take the LARC back out and ran over the dune to the waiting vehicle.

"I started it up. No one was around to assist me, so I drove it over the dune and into the ocean," he said.

The two swimmers were now under the 1,840-foot-long research pier, trying to find a place to hold onto until rescued. Having just completed a hydrographic survey of the beach and near shore a few hours earlier, Preisser knew the current would prevent the LARC from crashing into the pier, so he pulled alongside just 10 yards away and killed the propeller.

He then motioned the swimmers to come toward the vessel. Sam boarded first, and together they pulled the exhausted young swimmer out of the water. Preisser then quickly headed the LARC back to the

beach.

Once on dry land, Preisser checked on his passengers. The rescued swimmer mumbled a few words but was "too weak to lie down or even lift his head," Preisser said. A few minutes after landing on the beach the emergency rescue squad arrived and transported the exhausted swimmer to the hospital.

The ocean rescue life guards informed Preisser that the young man would be OK and credited him with saving the young man's life, making him a hero to that young swimmer and in the eyes of all who hear his rescue story.

"I don't feel like a hero," Preisser said. "I happened to be in the right place at the right time to help some people out. I believe almost everybody would have done what I did."

# Win or Lose

# Sports program builds up with indoor pool

*Redstone Fitness Center closed during six-month construction*

By **BETH SKARUPA**  
Staff writer  
beth.skarupa@theredstonerocket.com

Team Redstone's options for sports and fitness just keep getting better and better.

Construction of an indoor swimming pool and planning a race commemorating 9/11 are at the top of the list of what's happening at the fitness centers this summer.

The construction of the pool began with the official closing of the Redstone Fitness Center on June 25. The Redstone Fitness Center, building 3705 on Aerobee Road, is the only Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation fitness center that will be affected. It will be closed for at least six months.

"The pool's expected completion date is around Thanksgiving. It will be a lap pool and there will be space to accommodate water aerobics. We don't have any details on the hours of operation or the cost to use the pool yet," Gaylene Wilson, sports and fitness director, said.

The pool will be 25 yards long, eight lanes wide, 7 feet deep at each end for diving and 4 feet deep in the middle for exercise classes. It will be built for competitive swimming as well as water aerobics.

"Swim teams will use it for practice and swim meets, but we anticipate having times for open swim as well," Wilson said. "In the next couple of months we should have more information about the hours and cost to use the pool, but right now we have not worked out the specifics."

Although the Redstone Fitness Center is closed, Pagano Gym is open the same hours that the fitness center was open on the weekdays, 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Monday and Wednesday 5:30 a.m. classes that were offered at the fitness center (Braveheart and Zumba respectively) have been moved to the aerobics room at Pagano Gym, building 3474 on Honest John Road.

"So now Pagano Gym has classes every weekday morning from 5:30-6:15 a.m. A full schedule of classes is available at the gym or on our website,"



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Lee Marker practices basketball at Pagano Gym on June 25.**

Wilson said. "There's nothing that was available at the Redstone Fitness Center that is not available at Pagano Gym. The racquetball courts are a little bit more congested, so I would recommend calling ahead to make a reservation."

Pagano Gym has the added benefit of being open on the weekends and some federal holidays. Racquetball courts can be reserved one day in advance by calling Pagano Gym at 876-6701 or 876-2943.

"Of course some people who used Redstone Fitness Center will choose to go to our two other fitness centers, either the Col. Scott Fitness Center or Sparkman. Sparkman is a little bit harder to access, but you can call us for information on how to do it," Wilson said.

The Col. Stephen Scott Fitness Center is located in building 4460 on Digney Road. The Sparkman Fitness Center is in building 5302 in the Sparkman Center complex. These two fitness centers are only open Monday through Friday and do not have basketball or racquetball courts.

Fitness classes such as yoga, pilates, toning, step, circuit, kickboxing and Zumba are offered at Pagano Gym

and the Sparkman Fitness Center. Classes are free to eligible users.

Currently basketball can be played every day, any time that Pagano Gym is open.

"Pickup games are going all the time, every morning, at lunch, and in the evening. If it gets too congested we will break it up into two groups," Wilson said. "Right now they like to play full court but we can play half court if necessary."

"So many people work on post and still don't know that they can use the fitness centers. We want to get the word out," Wilson said.

To this end, a sports and fitness campaign will be kicked off within the next month. Its mission will be to spread the word about all the sports and fitness activities that are available to Team Redstone.

"Plan on seeing sports and fitness staff all over the Arsenal," Wilson said.

One upcoming event that they will be telling everyone about is the second annual 9.11K Commemorative Run on Sept. 8. Registration will be Aug. 1-21 at any of the FMWR fitness centers. Pre-registration will cost \$15 and will include a T-shirt. Race day registration will be \$20 with T-shirts available on a first-come, first-served basis. The race will start at 7:30 a.m. at the Sparkman Center in the parking lot in front of building 5302.

"Last year was our first year doing this and it was really fantastic," Wilson said. "One of our fire captains ran it in full gear and he said he's planning on doing that again this year."

Wilson also wants people to know that recreation specialists who are certified trainers are available, free of charge, at all three fitness centers to assist with developing an exercise program and proper use of gym equipment.

"Some people are uncomfortable in a gym and are not sure what to do or how to use the equipment. We have trainers who will design an exer-

cise program for them and walk them through it," she said. "And some people have been working out for a long time but are not using proper form. A trainer can go over their form and we do not charge for that."

Eligible users can pick up a training packet at one of the fitness centers, complete a health history questionnaire, then call to make an appointment with a trainer.

With children out of school this summer, some parents may want to take their children with them to the gym. Children age 12 and younger are only permitted in the basketball courts and racquetball courts at Pagano Gym. They must remain with a parent at all times. Children 13-15 may use all areas of Pagano Gym when accompanied by a parent, but again the child must remain with the parent at all times. Only children 16 and older may sign themselves in at Pagano Gym and use all areas without a parent.

"Children who are 16 or 17 cannot bring a younger brother or guest into the gym. They have to be at least 18 to be considered a guardian of someone under the age 16," Wilson said.

Only patrons 18 years old and older are allowed to sign themselves in and use all areas of the facilities at the Sparkman Fitness Center and the Col. Scott Fitness Center.

A FMWR membership is not necessary to use the fitness centers for those who have access to the installation and are military servicemembers or Department of Defense civilians. Military and DoD dependents can get a dependent card through the FMWR membership office free of charge that will allow access. Contractors can sign up for a FMWR membership that will allow use of all the fitness facilities for a monthly fee. Call the FMWR membership office at 313-4006 for more information.

A monthly fitness newsletter and information about hours of operation, classes and upcoming events is available at the FMWR website ([www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com)) under recreation, sports and fitness.

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# Team USA loaded with Soldiers for London Olympics

By TIM HIPPS

Installation Management Command

EUGENE, Ore. – The U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program will send its strongest contingent of athletes and coaches to the 2012 Olympic Games in London since the program's inception in 1997.

Eleven World Class Athlete Program, or WCAP, coaches and athletes qualified to participate in the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Several more competed for spots on Team USA at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Team Trials in Eugene, which began June 21 and concluded July 1.

WCAP provides Soldier-athletes the support and training needed to successfully compete in Olympic sports on the national and international levels, including the winter and summer Olympics, Pan American Games, world championships and at the Conseil International du Sport Militaire.

The Soldier-athletes serve as ambassadors for the Army by promoting the service to the world and assisting with recruiting and retention efforts. Since 1948, more than 600 Soldiers have represented the U.S. as Olympic athletes and coaches. They have collected more than 140 medals in a variety of sports, including boxing, wrestling, rowing, shooting, bobsled and track and field.

WCAP wrestling head coach Shon Lewis, a retired staff sergeant who has led the Army to 11 national team titles in Greco-Roman wrestling, will lead three of his wrestlers to London as an assistant coach for Team USA.

As a WCAP athlete, Lewis was a 12-time armed forces champion and a 10-time national team member. He was named Greco-Roman Coach of the Year five times by USA Wrestling, the governing body for wrestling in the U.S.

Two-time Olympian Sgt. 1st Class Dremiel Byers will wrestle in the 120-kilogram/264.5-pound Greco-Roman division. A world champion in 2002, Byers, a 10-time national champion, is the only U.S. wrestler who has won gold, sil-

ver and bronze medals at the world championships. He also is the only American wrestler to win gold at both the open and military world championships.

Spc. Justin Lester is a strong medal contender in the 66-kilogram/145.5 pound Greco-Roman division. Lester heads to England as USA Wrestling's reigning Greco-Roman Wrestler of the Year.

A two-time bronze medalist at the world championships, Lester has more than ample motivation to succeed in London.

"I've had two bronze medals, and they're all right, but I need an Olympic gold medal," he said. "That's eating at me more than anything, that I don't have that gold medal."

Two-time Olympian Sgt. Spenser Mango will compete in the 55-kilogram/121-pound Greco-Roman class. A four-time national champion, Mango is eager to return to the Olympics.

"The first time, I'll admit, I was surprised myself," Mango recalled of his Olympic debut in Beijing. "I knew I could do it, but I hadn't done it yet. This time, it's all business – need to bring home some medals. I've wrestled almost all the top guys in the world in my weight class. I know what I need to do, just get out there and really get after it."

Four-time Olympian Sgt. 1st Class Daryl Szarenski will compete in both the 50-meter free pistol and 10-meter air pistol. He struck gold with the air pistol and silver with the free pistol at the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Szarenski finished 13th at the Olympics in Athens, Greece, in 2004 and 13th in Beijing in 2008. He's aiming for a shot at the podium in London.

"I'm hoping to keep wearing them down and get in there and get a medal out of it," Szarenski said. "I think the training regimen that I have now is a lot better than what it was in the past. I've changed a couple technical issues and I think I'm heading in the right direction. I feel that I'm shooting the best now that I've ever shot."

Two-time Olympian Sgt. 1st Class Keith Sanderson will compete in the



Photo by Tim Hipps

**Spc. Justin Lester takes down an opponent in an earlier competition. Lester is presently USA Wrestling's reigning Greco-Roman Wrestler of the Year and is headed to the London Olympic Games. A two-time bronze medalist at the world championships, Lester said he won't settle for anything but gold this time.**

25-meter rapid-fire pistol event. He set an Olympic record during the qualification rounds in Beijing but left China without a medal. He hopes to improve upon that fifth-place result in London.

"I remember the excitement," Sanderson said. "That was more than I was ready for. It's faded a little bit, but I remember it was awesome. It was more than I could control. I'm looking forward to feeling that again. It was something that words can't describe, and to this day, words can't describe it. I didn't sleep for two or three days after I competed, not a wink, from all of the adrenalin."

Four-time Olympian Maj. David Johnson has coached three athletes to Olympic medals and led shooters to 25 medals in World Cup events. He will again coach Team USA's rifle shooters in London.

Two-time Olympian Staff Sgt. John Nunn qualified for the 50-meter race-walk. He competed in the 20-kilometer event at the 2004 Olympics in Athens but did not make Team USA for the 2008 Beijing Games.

Spc. Dennis Bowsher will compete in modern pentathlon, a five-sport event that includes fencing, swimming, equestrian show jumping, cross country and laser pistol shooting all in the same day. Bowsher finished fourth in both the 2011 Military World Games

in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, where he secured an Olympic berth.

Staff Sgt. Charles Leverette will serve as Team USA's assistant boxing coach in London. A former WCAP heavyweight boxer, Leverette was a bronze medalist at the 2004 U.S. Olympic Boxing Team Trials.

Staff Sgt. Joe Guzman will serve as the trainer and help work the corners for Team USA's boxers in London. As a WCAP boxer, Guzman was a three-time Armed Forces champion.

Four-time Olympian Basheer Abdullah, a retired staff sergeant and head coach of the WCAP boxing team from St. Louis, will serve as Team USA's head boxing coach in London. He also led the U.S. boxing team in the 2004 Athens Games and served as a technical adviser for Team USA at the Olympics in 2000 and 2008.

Several other WCAP Soldiers vied for Olympic berths at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Team Trials in Eugene, which concluded July 1.

WCAP also features a Paralympic program for wounded warriors and expects to qualify at least one Soldier for the London Paralympic Games. Sights are set on qualifying several more for the 2014 Paralympic Games in Sochi, Russia, and the 2016 Summer Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

# Scenes from Redstone Launchers swim meet

Photos by Ellen Hudson

The Launchers swim team competed against Hampton Cove in a dual meet July 3 at the pool off Weeden Mountain Road. Zach Harting of the Launchers lowered his record in the boys ages 13-14 50-meter butterfly with 28.23 seconds, but Hampton Cove won the meet 322-226.



Action is under way in the boys ages 11-12 medley relay.



Melody Brady prepares to dive in during the girls 9-10 medley relay.



Renita Vanderschaaf competes in the girls 11-12 medley relay.



Andrew Paden, left, and Jackson Eames do the backstroke in the boys 9-10 medley relay.



Claire Munster does the butterfly in the girls 13-14 medley relay.



The 8-and-under boys make a splash in their 25-meter freestyle.

## NASA/Army softball league standings

Here are the standings entering this week's games:

Division A	Wins	Losses	Ties
Got the Runs	7	0	0
Hit Circus	6	3	0
Expendables	4	4	0
Kitchen Sinks	4	4	0
RTC	3	6	0
Rotorheads Too	1	8	0

Division B	Wins	Losses	Ties
A-Team	8	1	1
TBE Integrators	6	2	1
WYLE Coyotes	7	3	0
Spaceballs	5	4	1
Fireballs	3	5	1
Redstone's Step-Children	1	7	0
Space Cowboys	0	8	0

Division C	Wins	Losses	Ties
Hard Noc Hitters	8	1	0
Screw Balls	7	2	0
Bit Players	6	2	1
Rotorheads	5	3	0
Renegades	5	4	0
Misfits	5	4	0
ESTS Jacobite Rising	4	5	0
ET Throw Home	4	5	0
Put em in Boots	3	5	0
Guns 'N Hoses	3	6	1
EVengers	3	6	0
Starz	0	8	0

## Sports & Recreation

### Run to remember

A Redstone Arsenal chapter of Run to Remember is meeting Saturday mornings to jog together as a living memorial to fallen Soldiers. For meeting locations and times, call Charity Watral 542-1208. Members are encouraged to wear royal blue T-shirts or the Run to Remember T-shirt that can be ordered from <http://www.wearblueruntoremember.org>.

### Benefit golf tournament

The 100Black Men of America, Greater Huntsville Chapter, annual Golf Tournament fund-raiser is July 20 at the Links. Onsite registration starts at 6:30 a.m., the putting contest at 7 and tee time at 8. The tournament will be a two-man scramble; and cost is \$100 per player or \$200 per two-man team. There will be two flights and cash prizes will be awarded for first through third place in each flight. Participants are encouraged to register by July 16. Register online at [100ghc.org](http://100ghc.org) or call the 100BMOA GHC business office 536-8050. For more information, call Mirie Westbrook 694-0646 or Robert Clark 759-6060.

### Exercise camp

Huntsville Adventure Boot Camp will be giving all military, retired military or a family member of either \$50 off any boot camp purchased in July. This is a way to honor those who have served and are serving. Schedules and locations can be found at [www.HuntsvilleBootCamp.com](http://www.HuntsvilleBootCamp.com). To get the discount, call 468-7146 or email [info@HuntsvilleBootCamp.com](mailto:info@HuntsvilleBootCamp.com).

### Indoor pool

The Redstone Fitness Center, building 3705, is expected to remain closed for approximately six months for construction of an indoor pool. During this time, the Monday and Wednesday 5:30 a.m. classes have moved to the Aerobic Room at Pagano Gym. For information on hours, call Pagano Gym 876-6701 or 876-2943, Scott Fitness Center at 955-6844/7508, Sparkman Fitness Center 313-6091/6096 or visit [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com).

### Football officials

The North Alabama Football Officials Association is accepting new officials. The group has more than 90 officials who work games under contract to high schools in Huntsville, Madison, Madison County, Limestone County and Lawrence County. Members will meet each Sunday at 7 p.m. starting July 8 in the Red Cross building at 1101 Washington St. To apply call Bob Arnone 763-1796 or visit the website <http://www.nafoa.biz>.

## 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

Starting July 12 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Bicentennial Chapel, the Protestant Women of the Chapel will be doing a four-week lesson on James by Rick Warren. In these four weeks attendees will learn: How to Manage Your Mouth, How to Relate Wisely to Others, How to Avoid Arguments and How to Develop Patience through Prayer. This will be a 30-minute DVD study followed by discussion. Watch care will not be provided but mothers are welcome to keep children with them during the study. Mothers, please bring some form of quiet entertainment for your child during the hour session.

### Catholic mass

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

### Sergeants major

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

### Toastmaster clubs

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

# Rocket Announcements

### Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter, will hold its monthly luncheon Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. Debora Brand, from the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense (Comptroller), Office of Financial Workforce Management, is the guest speaker. For ticket information, call Audrea Edwards 313-2382 or Michelle Cobb 842-0228.

### 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.

### Meeting professionals

The 2012 Society of Government Meeting Professionals Southeast Regional Conference, “Navigating through Government Meetings,” will be held Sept. 16-19 in Mobile. Information regarding the educational workshops can be found at <http://sgmpcentralflorida.com/srec>. The conference is geared for administrative/technical professionals who plan/execute meetings, seminars, tutorials, etc. TIP information is: course title, SGMP Southeast Conference; vendor, Society of Government Meeting Professionals; catalog number, F124SGMP. For more information, call Barbie Baugh 876-7135 or Sherry Hilley 479-0198.

### Federal employees

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Saturday at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshment and social time will start at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting following at 10. Michelle Anderson, marketing director for Hospice Family Care, is the scheduled speaker. Active federal employees and retired non-members are invited to visit at any time. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

### Air defenders

The Huntsville/Redstone Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association will have a membership social July 18 from 5-8 p.m. at the Firehouse Pub. This event is open to all ADAA corporate and individual members. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Awardees of the 2012 grants and scholarship program will also be recognized.

### Collaboration workshop

Registration is now open for the Hy-

perspectival & Polarimetric Community Collaboration Workshop scheduled July 18-20 in Huntsville. For more information, including registration details, visit <http://smapcenter.uah.edu/SMAP-CENTER/Conferences/HyperPolar2012/index.html>.

### Airborne consortium

The Future Airborne Capability Environment Consortium is presenting the “FACE Army 2012 Technical Interchange Meeting” July 31 at the Jackson Center in Cummings Research Park. The FACE Consortium comprises representatives from industry, academia and the Department of Defense, many of whom will be exhibiting FACE-related projects and initiatives at this event. The FACE Army 2012 TIM is open to the public and runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit <https://www.open-group.us/face/index.php>.

### Stop the bullying

A “Stop the Bullying” prevention program will be held Aug. 4 from 4-6 p.m. at the True Light Church of God in Christ, Harris Family Life Center, 6380 Pulaski Pike. Sponsors include the Beta Epsilon Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.'s Social Action Program, the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.'s “Z-HOPE-Zetas Helping Other People Excel” program and Dependable Hands Organization. The program will focus on victims of bullying and their attackers. It will include a dramatic skit, musical band performance and inspirational speakers. For more information email Benjamin Otey, 2012 “Stop the Bullying” campaign coordinator, at [benlotey@att.net](mailto:benlotey@att.net).

## Miscellaneous Items

### Civilian deployment

Army civilian volunteers are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, operations, logistics and automation, among others. The new personnel deployment website is at the AMCOM homepage or <https://apdw.redstone.army.mil>. Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM or AMC. Contractors or military personnel cannot be considered. Army civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and visit the deployment website or call Cindy Gordon 313-0369 or Nicole Massey 313-0365. Contractors and

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# Rocket Announcements

others interested can access [www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil) for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

## Fraud hotline

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

## Education test center

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

## 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 Jennifer Anderson 513-8290 or email [rsvp.dir@seniorview.com](mailto:rsvp.dir@seniorview.com).

## NASA surplus

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

## Re-entry information

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

## Lending closet

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

## Computer classes

Free self-paced computer classes are offered at Army Community Service from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Classes are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, QuickBooks and SharePoint. Each class has about three levels and will take about three hours to complete each, but you can work at your own pace. Certificates of completion are issued after you successfully complete each course. Call 876-5397 to pre-register.

## Community youth event

The second annual Community Awareness For Youth event is Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jaycees Building and Fairgrounds, 2180 Airport Road. CAFY is sponsored by the Huntsville Police Department in partnership with Mayor Tommy Battle. Its goal is to inform youth in Huntsville, Madison and Madison County about various career opportunities and four "Pillars of Success," which include health, physical fitness, careers and education. There will be free food and entertainment, with inflatables for the youngsters. The first 500 kids will receive a free backpack with school supplies. For more information, call Dr. Harry Hobbs 425-5307 or visit [www.hsvpolice.com](http://www.hsvpolice.com).

## Space Camp for special kids

A "Special Needs" Space Camp will be held Aug. 24-29 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. It is for individuals or groups. The camp will be similar in nature to the regular Space Camp, but some activities may be modified, depending on the specific needs of the individual child. Since every child has different needs, organizers encourage parents to call and speak with them directly. The camp is \$749, which includes meals and lodging. Lodging is on-site in the Space Camp habitat. If a child normally has a full-time aide, he or she may attend as an aide at no additional cost. For more information, call 1-800-637-7223.

## Ability-Plus day

The third annual Ability-Plus Fun Day is Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Friendship United Methodist Church, 16479 Lucas Ferry Road, Athens. Ability-Plus is a 501(c) non-profit organization that maintains residential homes for individuals in North Alabama with intellectual disabilities. Ability-Plus operates 26 homes and serves more than 70 special needs citizens in North Alabama providing 24-hour care, supervision and supportive services. Fun Day is sponsored by the Decatur-Athens Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and the Central North Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. For more information, call Willie Boyd 842-3111.

## A&M logistics registration

Alabama A&M University will conduct onsite registration Thursday for its sought-after logistics degree program, which has doubled its students in the last two years. Registration will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Redstone Education Center, building 3222 on Snooper Road. For more information, call Samuel Scruggs 372-8216 or Bonnie Banks 372-4777/4781.

## Reserve openings

The 375th Engineer Company (Army Reserve) in Huntsville offers the opportunity for promotion while simultaneously enhancing project management, construction and leadership skills. The unit has immediate openings for sergeant through chief warrant officer 2 and first lieutenant (Engineer specialties preferred) who want to make a significant contribution to the readiness of the Army. The 375th conducts vertical construction operations in CONUS and OCONUS during Extended Combat Training Exercises. All prior service-members are welcome to contact the unit. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Walker at [miranda.walker@usar.army.mil](mailto:miranda.walker@usar.army.mil), phone 535-6232 or Sgt. 1st Class Stumpe at [roy.marcus.stumpe@usar.army.mil](mailto:roy.marcus.stumpe@usar.army.mil), phone 535-6229 or Capt. South at [william.south@us.army.mil](mailto:william.south@us.army.mil).

## Summer reading

The Summer Reading Program, for ages 18 and under, runs through Saturday, cul-

minating in a recognition ceremony July 19 at 4:30 p.m. at the School Age Services building. Pick up your reading log at the Post Library on Redeye Road or Parent Central Services on Weeden Mountain Road. Receive credit for 25 free pages each time you check out books. Participation prizes will be handed out at the library throughout the program, while supplies last. Call the library 876-4741 or Barbara Williams 842-9642 for more information.

## Photo contest

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table is holding its first photo contest through Nov. 1 with categories for middle and high school students, and for adults age 19 and above. Winners will be announced in January. Individuals may enter two of their photos in each category – print and digital – with potential subjects pertaining to the Civil War. For more information, visit <http://sites.google.com/site/tvcwrt/>.

## Fox change of command

Fox Army Health Center will close at noon Friday for its change of command ceremony. Col. Elizabeth Johnson, Fox's commander since July 16, 2010, will relinquish command to Col. William Darby, chief of concepts and requirements division, Directorate of Combat and Doctrine Development, Army Medical Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Johnson is retiring with 30 years of service. The change of command ceremony is 2 p.m. Friday in Bob Jones Auditorium.

## Music and arts event

Looking for some good simple family fun? Try "Lovefest 4," where families gather each year with lawn chairs and coolers to enjoy a lazy afternoon of cultural fun and fellowship. This year's event will feature musical performances by some of the hottest acts in the area: Kush Reggae Band, jazz singer Myrna Clayton and Latin music, as well as poetry and other activities. Lovefest 4 will be held Sunday from 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment, 2211 Seminole Drive. Lovefest 4 supports a local school supply drive, sponsored by nonprofit organization, United Stylists. Bring school supplies to the event for admission. On behalf of underprivileged children in the Huntsville area, monetary donations will be accepted. For more information, call 468-1756 or 533-0399.

## Motorcycle night

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Chapter 28-2, will hold "Bike Night," July 19 from 6-10 p.m. at Knuckleheads Sports Pub and Restaurant, 7407 Highway 72 west, Madison. All are invited to a 50-50 raffle, night of entertainment with a band on the outdoor patio. Rocket Harley Davidson will also be on location. This event is to support veterans of North Alabama, "vets helping vets." For information visit [www.nalcvma.com](http://www.nalcvma.com).

**See Announcements on page 35**

# Rocket Announcements

## Newcomers/new employees

The next Team Redstone Newcomers and New Employee Orientation for civilian employees, Soldiers and military family members is July 31 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Summit. Participants will receive training to orient them to federal employment and the installation, which will include: Garrison deputy commander and CPAC director remarks, Army Community Service, FMWR, Fox Army Health Center, Legal/JAG, Security, Management

and Employee Relations, American Federation of Government Employees, Classification/Staffing, Benefits, Payroll, Workers Compensation, Training and Work Force Development, Equal Employment Opportunity, Tomorrow's Army Civilian Leaders, and Safety. For more information, call Jessie McCray 313-0714, Mary Breeden 876-5397 or Eugene Folks 313-0713. To obtain a space in this course, you must register in TIP by July 30 at <https://tip.redstone.army.mil/>.



## College evaluation

Columbia College is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The college will host a visit Oct. 1-3 with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Columbia College is accredited by the commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the commission's criteria for accreditation. The public is invited to submit comments regarding Columbia College to: Public Comment on Columbia College, The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411.

## Thrift Shop position

The Thrift Shop is looking for an assistant manager. Knowledge of retail sales is helpful; data entry and organizational skills are preferred. If interested, submit an application at the shop by 3 p.m. July 19. Its hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 9-5 Thursday and 10-2 the first Saturday of each month. For information call 881-6992.

## Thrift Shop volunteers

The Thrift Shop is looking for volunteers to join its team. The shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. For information call 881-6992.

## Poker run/pig roast

Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Post 2702, will have its second annual Poker Run and Pig Roast on July 28 at 2900 North Memorial Parkway. First bike out is 11 a.m. and the last bike in is 4:30 p.m. Cost will be \$15 for one rider, \$25 for rider and passenger. Prizes are awarded for best and worst poker hands. Pork plates with side items cost \$6. The band 5 O'Clock Charlie will perform in concert. There will also be door prizes. For more information, call 852-4371 or email [reba.j.walters@us.army.mil](mailto:reba.j.walters@us.army.mil).

## Blues and jazz concert

The 2012 "Dinner on the Grounds" Blues and Jazz Concert is July 24 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Longing for Home Bed and Breakfast, 1017 Lee St., Rogersville. Cost is \$18. This is a WC Handy event to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. Blues and Jazz Music will be provided by "The Little, Big Band" directed by Dr. Ed Jones, chair of the UNA Music Department. For more information, visit [Longingforhome.com](http://Longingforhome.com).