

Redstone Rocket

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Celebration week in full swing



Local patriotic events continue with Army birthday, softball

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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Armed Forces Celebration Week may be halfway over, but the fun and patriotism has just begun.

Today's Salute Luncheon, beginning at noon at the Von Braun Center's North Hall, will feature comments from the Aviation and Missile Command's new commander Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar, a Huntsville native. The Army Materiel Command Band will also perform. The luncheon is sponsored by the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce and reservations are required.

Two huge events still remain for those who enjoy large gatherings brimming with ceremony, sports, food and patriotic music. All events are free and open to the public.

Army birthday celebration

On Thursday – which is both the Army's 237th birthday and the U.S. flag's 235th birthday – the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army invites Redstone Arsenal employees as well as the community to enjoy a picnic-style event at the Community Activity Field on Patton Road near Gate 10.

“This event is to recognize 237 years of history for the U.S. Army and to recognize the importance of the Army and the importance of the Army to our national defense.

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Photo by Ellen Hudson

The Army's 237th birthday will be celebrated Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Community Activity Field during Armed Forces Celebration Week. This is a view from the Veterans Memorial downtown.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Driver's education pulls up to curb.

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Female major general breaks gender ground.

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Arts & Crafts worker joining Marine Corps.

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TECHNOLOGY TODAY

Missile target system fielding nears finish.

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WIN OR LOSE

Screw Balls team batters EVengers.

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Wounded warrior softball team takes field

Armed Forces Celebration Week leads to softball games Friday and Saturday featuring the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team.

Team Redstone will play the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team at 5 p.m. Friday at the Metro Kiwanis Sportsplex. The wounded warriors will play the Senior Rockets All-Stars that night at 7 and then face a City of Huntsville Team at 4 p.m. Saturday. The games are among this week's activities for Armed Forces Celebration Week. Admission is free.

Team Redstone's players include coach Col. Skip Sherrell, Col. Jerry Jones, Col.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

From left are Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team players Matt Kinsey and Josh Wege and Senior Rockets All-Stars player/coach Jim "Hitman" Myers. They participated in a press conference May 3 which announced the games Friday and Saturday for Armed Forces Celebration Week.

Jeffrey Ogden, Col. Bennie Pokemire, Lt. Col. Isaac Johnson, Staff Sgt. Felix Marbury, Col. Dan Williams, Col. Mark Smith, Col. Peggy Masterson, Command

See Softball on page 4



RocketViews

What's your message for the Army's 237th birthday?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com



Command Sgt. Maj.

Tod Glidewall

AMCOM command sergeant major

"After 11 years of conflict, although our Army may be tired, I believe that we're still as ready, able and relevant to defend this nation as we've ever been. And it's because we're a solid team of Soldiers, civilians and families that make it possible."



Dan Pfeiffer

AMCOM G-6 (Chief Information Office)

"Continue to do good things. Happy birthday."



Bill Nichols

Close Combat Weapon Systems Project Office

"The message is that Soldiers made the Army then and they continue to make the Army what it is today – the best in the world."



Pat Johnson

Army Substance Abuse Program counselor, Garrison

"I've worked for the Army for 25 years. I believe in the Soldier, the resiliency of the Soldier. I believe in our troops. I'm an American patriot. And the Army's birthday (June 14) is my mother's birthday. They're two very important people in my life, they've meant a lot to me. I've supported the Army here and in Germany."

Letter to the editor

Smaller, more capable Army depends on network

In an era of tighter budgets and a very active threat environment, the Army must produce a force that is smaller, yet more capable. According to the 2012 Army Posture Statement, the Network is the core of that smaller, capable Army; it must empower a CONUS-based Army that projects expeditionary forces with little or no notice. The LandWarNet remains the Army's top investment priority.

Through more than 10 years of sustained combat, the Army made significant improvements to expeditionary communications capabilities to support our Soldiers in the fight. However, the largest portion of the LandWarNet was not adequately modernized; this negatively impacts home-station operations, homeland defense, interagency communications, training, staging, deployment and redeployment.

We are now focusing our LandWarNet modernization efforts end-to-end, including both the tactical edge and the enterprise infrastructure on posts, camps and stations. To achieve this, we are addressing several major challenges: increasing the security of our information, improving overall operational effectiveness, and gaining efficiencies.

First and foremost, improving Cybersecurity and Network Operations is absolutely necessary to successfully operate in a single, secure, standards-based network environment. Non-standard network management tools, multiple access points, vulnerable perimeter defenses, and inconsistent architectures (many of which were deployed quickly to support war efforts), make it difficult to prevent, identify, isolate and eliminate security risks. As cyber threats increase exponentially, the ability to secure the LandWarNet is not only the Army's top concern, but also a top concern for the Department of Defense and the president.

Second, meeting the Army's operational needs is a continuing challenge, both on the tactical edge and on posts, camps and stations. To be operationally effective, the LandWarNet

must provide trusted access, assured connectivity, interoperability and collaboration with all required mission partners. Soldiers and leaders expect the Network to be available wherever they are conducting the daily business of the Army, training, preparing for deployment, en route or deployed.

The Army is becoming more efficient through advanced technology and improved IT governance. The president mandated all U.S. government agencies to achieve efficiencies and optimize return on investments. For our networked Army, this mandate drives the need for enterprise systems and solutions, seamless data access, and a robust, secure network infrastructure to support every facet of Army, joint and multinational operations.

To meet these challenges, four major efforts are under way:

- Joint Information Environment, through which we are aligning with our DoD counterparts to develop a single, secure, standards-based end state architecture.

- IT Management Reform, a comprehensive proposal to modernize the network and realize efficiencies, with the goal of achieving \$1.5 billion in annual savings beginning in fiscal year 2015, without compromising effectiveness or security.

- Network Capabilities Portfolio Review, institutionalizing an end-to-end management approach for network capabilities and IT services.

- IT Workforce Rebalancing & Redesign, developing effectively organized and better trained and certified personnel to operate and defend LandWarNet.

I want to express my gratitude to the entire team of Army Soldiers, civilians, contractors and mission partners who are aggressively building this agile, responsive, affordable and sustainable LandWarNet.

Army Strong!

Lt. Gen. Susan Lawrence

Army chief information officer/G-6

Quote of the week

"Two hundred and thirty-seven years ago, our nation's leaders established the Continental Army, beginning a rich heritage of successfully defending this great country and her citizens. Today, we celebrate the continued honor, loyalty and bravery of our Soldiers in this noble calling. Our Soldiers remain Army Strong with a deep commitment to our core values and beliefs. This 237th birthday commemorates America's Army – Soldiers, families and civilians – who are achieving a level of excellence that is truly Army Strong. We also celebrate our local communities for their steadfast support of our Soldiers and families. We are America's Army: The Strength of the Nation."

— Army birthday website

RedstoneRocket

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Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Name: Tim Kirkpatrick

Job: Command ombudsman, Aviation and Missile Command

Where do you call home?
Huntsville – born and raised.

What do you like about your job?
The ability to assist industry and AMCOM customers in doing business with AMCOM – cutting through the red tape. I'm kind of the voice of the commander and his focal point in doing business with AMCOM.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Water type sports. I like to spend a lot of time at the lake. I don't really like to fish. Boating, swimming, a little gardening. General outdoor activities is the best way to sum it up. I'm getting a little too old to water ski.

What are your goals?
My goal for this office is to provide a one stop shop that can very quickly connect you with the right government entity to address your problem. The ombudsman does not replace pro-



cesses that are in place, but I'm here to augment the processes if they don't meet your expectations. If you feel like the office of the command ombudsman can be of service to you in some fashion, feel free to contact us at 876-6659 or tim.kirkpatrick@us.army.mil.

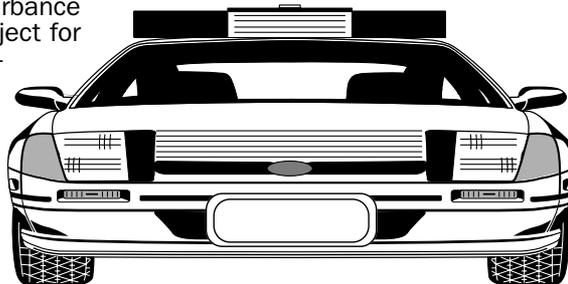
What's at the top of your "bucket list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?

Good health for myself and immediate family members. We've been blessed in a lot of ways but we have had challenges in our family's health. And with that in mind, I want to do my part with nutrition and exercise.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for May 27 through June 2:

- A Soldier reported that his military ID card was stolen from a vehicle parked at a residence in Killen.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without-injury traffic accident in the parking lot of building 5250.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without-injury traffic accident in the parking lot of building 4505.
- Police investigated a disturbance at a residence, arresting a subject for damaging the home and disorderly conduct.
- Police investigated a theft of property report near the pool at building 1500.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without-injury traffic accident on Patton Road at Redstone Road.



- Police responded to a report of undocumented persons and driving without a license. No warrants were found and the subjects were released as directed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.
- A resident reported to police that he had found a bicycle at his home.
- Police investigated a report of shoplifting at the Redstone Exchange.
- Nine U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.

Marine veteran hired through training program

Russell Reith, a Marine Corps veteran and recent graduate of UAH, is the first graduate from the Tennessee Valley Corridor's innovative NEW-STEM Program designed to attract and educate more highly-trained and skilled military veterans to the Tennessee Valley.

Reith, selected from a national pool of promising veterans for the NEW-STEM (Non-Traditional Emerging Workforce in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Program, attended the University of Alabama-Huntsville and graduated with his degree in mechanical engineering, while gaining hands-on experience in his field of study with the Boeing Company.

Due to Reith's new training, strong work ethic and experience, the Boeing Company immediately offered him a full-time position as an entry level mechanical engineer upon his graduation from UAH.

"It is always important for us to support our military veterans who are coming back home, but the NEW-STEM

Program also helps our company, by recruiting and bringing new and excellently trained personnel to our region." Tony Jones, vice president and Boeing Huntsville site executive, said. "We are very pleased to be part of such an important program."

Reith is the first UAH graduate among 14 others currently participating in the NEW-STEM Program while working with one of four leading Huntsville organizations: the Boeing Company, DoD's Missile Defense Agency, Northrop Grumman, and Intuitive Research and Technology Corp.

"As a university, we want to help both our students and our employers in the Tennessee Valley, and the nation, by making sure our graduates have the skills and experiences they need to succeed," UAH president Robert Altenkirch said. "And these NEW-STEM veterans bring an entirely new level of skills and experiences to our university and our region. We are pleased to be supporting this innovative effort." (Boeing release)



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Proclamation signing

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle adds his signature during Monday's proclamation signing for annual Armed Forces Celebration Week, among many activities this week.

Celebration

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Our lead volunteer, Bill Tillman, has put together a program for recognizing and celebrating the Army birthday in a very patriotic way," Joe Fitzgerald, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce's Armed Forces Celebration Week Committee, said.

"It was a change to our schedule to encourage everyone on and off Redstone Arsenal to be able to come to an event recognizing the Army birthday and enjoy the festivities without a formal dinner or a costly event. It's opened up the recognition of the Army birthday to a larger audience."

The event will begin at 11 a.m. and continue until 1 p.m. A formal ceremony complete with an Army birthday cake cutting is set for 11:30 a.m., with those attending including the Army Materiel Command Band performing patriotic music; and leadership from the Arsenal, Huntsville and Madison. The ceremonial cake cutting will involve four cakes – two decorated with the Army birthday "America's Army: Strength of Our Nation" theme logo, one with the Association of the U.S. Army logo and a fourth with the Team Redstone logo – that will be cut in a ceremony conducted by AMC commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody along with the oldest and youngest Soldier in attendance.

Vendors will provide food for sale. Water and lemonade will be provided free by Family and Morale Welfare and Recognition.

Fitzgerald said the Redstone-Huntsville chapter of AUSA is hoping for a large turnout from both Redstone and the community.

"We are an installation of Army Soldiers and civilians, and we are supported and appreciated by this community. So, it's really exciting for us to have an event like this that's open to the entire community to celebrate the great relationship between the Army, Redstone Arsenal and

the Huntsville/Madison/North Alabama community," he said.

Reservations are encouraged by contacting Bill Tillman at bill_tillman@msn.com or 783-9939. Those wanting to attend the event but who don't have access to the Arsenal should also contact Tillman to get their names on a post access list for the event.

Wounded warrior softball

On Friday and Saturday, the local debut of the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team will take place during three games at the Metro Kiwanis Sportsplex on Patton Road just north of Drake Avenue.

The games are set for 5 p.m. Friday against Team Redstone coached by Aviation and Missile Command's chief of staff Col. Skip Sherrell, and 7 p.m. Friday against the Senior All-Star Rockets coached by the legendary Jim "Hitman" Myers. The Saturday game, set for 4 p.m., will be against the City of Huntsville's police officers and firefighters making up a team known as "The Protectors" and coached by Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle. Admission is free.

But the real stars on the field will be the wounded warrior athletes.

"This is not just a national softball team," Fitzgerald said. "This is the only wounded warrior athletic team in the world. They've been adopted by the Washington Nationals (baseball team) and they are national celebrities. They are our nation's heroes."

The team is made up of Army and Marine veterans from across the nation. All are warriors who were wounded in combat. Each has a Purple Heart in their medical case. "Life without a limb is limitless" is the theme the team members live and play ball by every day.

"They've sacrificed so much for our country. We should all want to go out and see them," Fitzgerald said. "They are an inspiration to all of us."

Team members are all young, extremely athletic men who have sustained severe injuries resulting in amputation while serv-

ing in the military, and through extensive rehabilitation they have become competitive athletes again. Their armor now includes prosthetic legs and arms, along with extreme perseverance and attitude. The mission of the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team is to raise awareness, through exhibition and celebrity softball games, of the sacrifices and resilience of America's military, and highlight their ability to rise above any challenge. Their goal is to show other amputees and the general population that these athletes through extensive rehabilitation and training are able to express their desires and perform the sport they loved.

The Army Materiel Command's jazz band will perform prior to each game and the Marine Corps' Kilo Battery will provide a color guard for each game. Prior to the first game on Friday, an F-16 flyover by the 187th Fighter Wing of the Alabama Air National Guard is set for 4:50 p.m.

"They will be saluting wounded warriors and military veterans, and members of our armed forces," Fitzgerald said.

The team has chosen a bat boy from Muscle Shoals who also loves to play ball. Seven-year-old Jayce Ethridge, who was born without arms, is known for his prowess on his local ballfield, where he made two doubles and a few RBIs this past season with the help of prosthetic arms.

"He's overcome hardships like the wounded warriors have," Fitzgerald said. "He joins the wounded warriors as an inspiration for us all."

Fitzgerald predicts that ball fans attending the games will quickly be cheering for the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, even if they have players on the local opposing teams.

"The wives, children and mothers and fathers of the opposing teams will come in rooting for their players. But after the first inning those opposing teams won't have a fan in the place," he joked.

For more information about the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, visit their website at <http://www.wounded-warrioramputeesoftballteam.org/>.

Wrapping up week

Another new event for the week will be a free movie screening of the award-winning documentary "Hell and Back Again" on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Monaco Theater at Bridge Street. The movie showing, hosted by Still Serving Veterans, will help to raise awareness of issues pertaining to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder suffered by thousands of veterans.

"Hell and Back Again," which chronicles the experiences of 25-year-old Sgt. Nathan Harris and the impact a Taliban machine gun bullet has on his life, is a 2012 Academy Award nominee for Best Documentary Feature. It also won the Grand Jury Prize and the Cinematography Prize at the 2011 Sundance Film Festival. To register for tickets, visit <http://www.stillservingveterans.org>.

Also, the following local attractions are offering free admission to active or retired military and military families through Saturday: U.S. Space & Rocket Center, museum free, but IMAX is \$8; Huntsville Botanical Garden; Early Works Museum; Huntsville Museum of Art; Sci-Quest and Veterans Memorial Museum.

Armed Forces Celebration Week 2012 will wrap up on Saturday with the AUSA Huntsville Stars Military Appreciation Night at Joe Davis Stadium. Members of the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team will throw out the first pitch at 6:20 p.m. and be introduced to the spectators with the game beginning at 6:43. There are a limited number of free tickets available through Redstone ITR at the Community Activity Center.

"This whole week is meant to inspire and show appreciation," Fitzgerald said. "The next three days are about resiliency and strength of the human spirit of our armed forces. It's about the sacrifices they've made and overcome, and about the obstacles and the severe hardships that have been conquered. It is about the sacrifices made by many in service to our country."

Softball

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Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell, Col. Dave Luders, Col. Elizabeth Johnson, Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Austin, Col. John Hamilton, Col. Bob Marion, Brig. Gen. Ole Knudson, Col. Gary Stephens, Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar, Col. Bob Pastorelli, Col. Jimmy Jenkins, Col. Bill Whitney, Maj. Gen. Heidi Brown and Darryl Colvin, a retired colonel.

"We're just thrilled and privileged to have the opportunity to recognize these young warriors for the sacrifice and example they demonstrate on a daily basis,"

Sherrell said. "And so for us it's an honor to be able to share the same field with these great representatives of the Army."

The Senior Rockets All-Stars are led by Jim "Hitman" Myers, 64, a legend in senior softball, who will be coaching and pitching. He put his team together from the 55-and-older league out of Huntsville and Madison. His roster includes outfielder Gerry Meier, infielder Mike Hoy, infielder David Camp, infielder Elton Grissom, outfielder Bobby Upton, infielder Herb Prince, infielder Denny Reasner, infielder/outfielder Phil Shriner, infielder Larry Guthrie, infielder Gary Wilkison, outfielder Tony Campbell, outfielder Kyle Albright and utility player Bob Drolet.

Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

AER contribution

Army Emergency Relief campaign chairman Capt. Alyssa Wood shakes hands with SMDC/ARSTRAT commander Lt. Gen. Richard Formica after receiving an AER check from the command for more

than \$8,000 June 1 at the command's headquarters. Looking on, from left, are AER officer Kerrie Branson; KC Bertling, SMDC G-1 office and AER coordinator for the command; and Sgt. Maj. Rod Beach, SMDC G-3 sergeant major. The funds were raised by the Redstone Arsenal and Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., locations.



Driver's education takes to streets at Redstone

Student Johnathon Grigsby inspects the car before getting in to drive, per the instructions of the driver's ed teacher.



Photos by Ellen Hudson

Karvellis Lee, director of SKIESUnlimited (School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills), has begun a driver's education program at the Youth Center, building 3148.

SKIESUnlimited also offers drum line classes, martial arts, arts, dance, piano and guitar. For information call 690-6235.



Driver's ed teacher Joseph Henderson instructs the first student of the program, 15-year-old Isabelle Lynn, daughter of Virginia and Scott Lynn.



From left are driver's ed teacher Joseph Henderson, student Johnathon Grigsby and director Karvellis Lee.

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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 infor-

mation, call 313-5224.

Drum line classes

Drum line classes, for ages 4-19, started June 4 and are held Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the CYSS Annex, building 3153 on Youth Center Road. Cost is \$60 per month. If interested 690-6235. This is among the summer programs for SKIESUnlimited (School of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills). They also offer martial arts, arts, dance, piano and guitar.

Golf clinic

The Cleveland Golf Short Game School is Friday from 4-6 p.m. at the Links. The Short Game School costs \$100 per person and the fee includes a new Cleveland Wedge of your choice. Join Cleveland Golf and the Links at Redstone for a special short game. This year Jon Samuelson will give a one-hour clinic on bunker play. Rich Santagata Jr. of Cleveland Golf will speak on Cleveland's and Srixon's new products. There will be discounts on all Cleveland products Friday. For more information, call 842-7977.

Summer camp shines at School Age Services



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Justin Rhodes, 9, in foreground, and other youngsters Thursday do Xerdance.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Mark Smith, 9, runs the obstacle course.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Brandon Clark, 8, exercises with a hula hoop.

Creative expressions sprout book of poems



Ariel Graham designed the cover of their book.



Caleb Shuffler finishes reading one of his poems.

Photos by Ellen Hudson

The Creative Expressions writing workshop, held since spring at the Youth Center, culminated Thursday when the students read their poems to their parents. The home-schooled students had their poetry published in their own book.

The students, from left, include Rosie Beshears, Emmanuel Hird, Seth Bowes, Samantha Bowes, Ariel Graham, Caleb Shuffler, Jacob Carney and Vincent Graham.



Student Vincent Graham reads one of his poems.



Working Wounded Warriors ready to start careers

New business caters to injured veterans

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Retired Capt. Jae Barclay doesn't just want to help wounded warriors find a job – he wants to give them one.

While there are many organizations across the country devoted to giving wounded warriors things like therapy dogs, fishing and hunting trips and even homes, only a few exist to provide them with the one gift that can change their purpose and direction in life – a job. A new business in the Huntsville area – Working Wounded Warriors – is about to change that.

“There's nobody out there who really creates a job,” Barclay said. “I want to create jobs for these guys. I want to be a company that gives them a meaningful career and something they can be proud of. We're not giving them a handout, we're giving them a help up.”

The premise of the service disabled veteran small-owned business is sim-

ple – hire wounded warriors and use VA and federal dollars to train them as electricians, foremen, plumbers and other occupations in the trade field to perform construction work in the area, starting out with minor jobs and moving on to larger contracts as the company grows. Once the business becomes a success in Huntsville, the concept will be taken to other communities where there is construction to be done and wounded veterans to do it.

“Construction is the perfect area for us to go into because there's such a wide variety of things we can do,” Barclay said. “It can serve a purpose for everyone's background. Even if you don't have a college education, you can go to technical school and get that certification to be an electrician. We really want to find the right fit for the wounded warrior.”

The key, Barclay said, is identifying those wounded warriors that embody those Army values and are ready to carry them into the civilian work force, and then matching them with a career that emphasizes skills the military has already put into place. It may be a medically retired captain who got

his finance degree in college that could be a great fit for their accounting department, or a platoon sergeant with a background in leading Soldiers that can be a site manager, but with W3 in its infancy stage, the timing is right to build the business with people as opposed to open positions.

“I want to find the right wounded warrior – not the right job and then find somebody – but find somebody that's wounded who can work and do a good job, and then I will find them the right fit,” Barclay said.

Who better to serve as chief executive officer and leader, than a wounded warrior himself? Barclay was deployed to Afghanistan in 2006 as an infantry platoon leader when his vehicle was hit by an IED. Of the five Soldiers in the vehicle, only two survived. Burned over 40 percent of his body, Barclay spent two and a half years in and out of the hospital and underwent 30 surgeries, injuries that led him to medically retire from the Army in 2008 and come to Huntsville where he took a job with Science Engineering Services. Barclay actively searched for a job before he

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Photo by Ellen Hudson

Retired Capt. Jae Barclay, wounded in Afghanistan in 2006, has started a new business, Working Wounded Warriors, which will exclusively hire wounded veterans to perform construction in the area.

Fox Army Health Center renovation on July's agenda

The first phase of Fox Army Health Center's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system renovation is to begin July 30.

Trailers in the east end parking lot will house the facility's various clinics as each area of the health center undergoes renovations to the 34-year-old HVAC system. The project is estimated to take two and a half years. Directional signs will help beneficiaries navigate the facility through the renovations, which are estimated to be completed in October 2014.

The following are the estimated phases of the project, at which specified clinics will move to the transitional trailers in the parking lot. Each phase is estimated to take 45 to 60 days, which is subject to change.

Phase 1A/1B: Wellness Clinic, Preventive Medicine, Occupational Health, and Medical Records

Phase 2: Primary Care Clinics (Red, White and Blue Teams)

Phase 3: Command Suite

Phase 4: Radiology and Quality Management

Phase 5: Optometry and Physical



Therapy

Phase 6: Behavior Health Department

Phase 7: Managed Care

Phase 8: Logistics, Industrial Hygiene, Facilities and Housekeeping

Phase 9: Pharmacy, Laboratory and Dental

Fox apologizes in advance for the inconveniences of this project, but patient care will not be impacted. *(Fox Army Health Center release)*

Vacation Bible School shares aviation wonders

Photos by Ellen Hudson

Around 50 children gathered June 4-8 at Bicentennial Chapel for “Amazing Wonders Aviation” Vacation Bible School. The curriculum, based on aviation in the 1930s and ‘40s, gave children a chance to celebrate and learn more about the power God has in the world and their own lives, through music, arts and crafts, recreational activities, Bible study, missions and worship.



Teacher Ruth Teters dances with her rising third-graders, from left, Ethan Shuffler, Cree Dalton and Nathan Neal, during Amazing Wonders Aviation Vacation Bible School at Bicentennial Chapel.



Rising fourth-graders pretend they're airplanes and fly down the hallway at Vacation Bible School with the sky (balloons) above them and the runway beneath.



Rising fifth-graders have fun in the “Great Barrier Reef,” one of the backdrops of their Vacation Bible School classroom at Bicentennial Chapel. Each portion of the day – Bible study, missions music, recreation, snacks and crafts – was held at a different amazing wonder throughout the world, including Victoria Falls, the Northern Lights, Matterhorn, Grand Canyon, Paricutin volcano, and Great Barrier Reef.

Warriors

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even got out of the Army, knowing he would both need and want something to do. Having been in their situation, Barclay knows how important it is for wounded veterans to feel as though they have a purpose in life.

“There’s all different kinds of wounded warriors out there ... I see guys that want to do something, they just don’t know what it is,” Barclay said. “When I got out I didn’t know what I wanted to do. A lot of guys don’t want to ask for help, they don’t know where to go, they thought they were going to be in the Army for a career and then something tragically happened to them and they don’t know what’s their next step. They really don’t see a light at the end of the tunnel.”

W3 will be that light for them, with

Barclay shining the way. With \$220,000 in the bank, nearly halfway to the \$500,000 he desired to get the business off and running, he is ready to start looking for those wounded warriors to join his team in W3’s office space at Madison RV. For those servicemembers so used to being part of a unit that were suddenly left isolated and alone, joining the company – whose board includes retired Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury and retired Col. John Olshefski – will give them the opportunity to once again feel a part of something.

“You still want to be part of a team and W3 can provide that environment for them,” Barclay said.

With all the growth from BRAC on post, as well as a community known for its support of wounded warriors and veterans in general, choosing Huntsville as the place to begin operations makes perfect sense.

For more information about W3, visit www.workingwoundedwarriors.com.



Photos by Ellen Hudson

Welcome home, troops

The Heroes Homecoming Parade, to honor returning troops, took place June 6 in downtown Huntsville. Included in the parade were the Redstone Riders and the Huntsville Drumline.



Grassroots process serves total Army family

SMDC/ARSTRAT leaders attend annual conference

By JASON CUTSHAW
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command leaders recently listened to Soldiers, families and civilians to gather ideas for a better future for the Army family.

SMDC/ARSTRAT commander Lt. Gen. Richard Formica and SMDC Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner traveled to Colorado Springs, Colo., May 8-11 to hear ideas about how to increase the quality of life for members of the command during the SMDC Army Family Action Plan Conference.

SMDC members from U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands; Fort Greely, Alaska; Germany; Japan; Fort Detrick, Md.; Fort Meade, Md.; Colorado Springs; and Huntsville, met with Formica and Turner, along with other leaders. AFAP is a grassroots-level effort to gather ideas for improving the quality-of-life for those who have chosen the Army as a career.

“People need to realize that AFAP is for everyone associated with the Army,” K.C. Bertling, SMDC/ARSTRAT AFAP coordinator, said. “It is not just for the Soldiers and their families, but also for Department of the Army civilians and contractors and their families as well. AFAP is a way to let members of the Army family know that leaders are listening to them and that they care about issues that affect them.”

Through AFAP, Army procedures, rules and regulations can be changed and modified.

“Since beginning in hosting its first conference in 1983, AFAP has facilitated a lot of great things to improve the quality of life for our Army,” Bertling said. “This is not a complaint process but a way to present ideas to Army leaders.”

Issues brought up that can be resolved locally are addressed, while issues that cannot be resolved locally and may benefit the Army as a whole are sent forward to the Department of Army for further evaluation.

The 2012 Army Family Action Plan Conference workgroups prioritized issues that will impact global Army families. In addition, they were required to vote on the top six most critical AFAP issues.

These are:

- Increase the number of readily available behavioral health providers and services for Soldiers, retirees, family members and previously deployed Army civilians.
- Authorize wounded, ill and injured servicemembers who have from 18-20 years of service to remain on active duty to the minimum retirement requirement and not be separated due to medical reasons.
- Fund a formal program to provide service dogs for wounded warriors.
- Authorize honorably discharged disabled veterans with 10 percent or greater disability access to the commissary, post exchange and Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation benefits.
- Establish a 24/7 centralized toll free process for Tricare beneficiaries to request and acquire out of area urgent care authorization and referral assistance.
- Establish a searchable convicted Sex Offender Registry and make it available to the military community. Require all convicted sex offenders who are authorized a Department of Defense ID to register with the installation Provost Marshal Office and be entered into the registry.

“All of the ideas brought forth were excellent,” Bertling said. “It is great the way that ideas are formed in the groups. Everyone always seems to have at least one suggestion and in the workgroups they come together and work together to make a great idea even better.”

Among other suggestions made, workgroups at the conference were required to prioritize the top two global Army issues that the command will submit to Army headquarters for the 2013 worldwide AFAP conference.

The two issues are: advanced notification of Tricare cost changes to retirees with a recommendation to provide retirees a minimum of 180 days advanced notification of Tricare cost changes; and statements of non-availability for permanent change of station of military families with pets with a recommendation to authorize external lodging for PCSing military families with pets in the event pet friendly lodging on post is not available.

Bertling talked about how leaders learned about the needs of those serving and their families. She also said that people have to speak up to be heard.

“Everyone – whether they are active duty, Guard or reservist, family members,



Army photo

Soldiers, civilians and family members gather at an Army Family Action Plan Conference hosted by SMDC/ARSTRAT commander Lt. Gen. Richard Formica at Colorado Springs, Colo., May 8-11. From left, members of the Soldiers and Families workgroup include, front row, Capt. Blair Tighe, Bill Shanahan, Cmdr. James Scott; middle, Amanda Johnson, Maj. Gary Casey, David Crouch, Jeff Dickson; and back, John Watson, Justin Kersteter and B.J. Hebert.

civilians or retirees – has benefited from the ideas of others,” Bertling said. “I recommend that everyone get involved. There is nothing to lose and we can only better our future as an Army family.”



Courtesy photo

Scout thanks

Payton Benjamin, a first-grader at Academy for Academics and the Arts and a member of Daisy Troop 540, stands with Irene Smith and Lauri Bamburg outside the Thrift Shop. Troop 540 has several girls who are daughters or family members of Soldiers or retirees stationed at Redstone. The grant money awarded to their troop provides the girls an opportunity to obtain badge and award goals throughout the year. The Thrift Shop's generosity is appreciated.

Army path leads to breaking down barriers

Female major general achieves firsts in gender-neutral military

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
kari.j.hawkins2.civ@mail.mil

Looking over her 31-year Army career, Maj. Gen. Heidi V. Brown has failed miserably at meeting two of her goals.

As a 1981 graduate of West Point's second coed class, Brown set her sights on, one, branching from air defense artillery to military intelligence as soon as she could and, two, leaving the Army after five years of obligatory service.

"Those are two goals I did not accomplish," she said with a smile. "I failed miserably at those two goals because I fell in love with the air defense artillery branch and the Army. My career has been an absolutely phenomenal experience. Does it stretch you? Absolutely. I've done things I didn't think I could do."

And the Army is happy for that.

Ever since her Army career began, Brown has been breaking down barriers. Her graduation and commissioning into combat arms, air defense artillery, made her the first woman from El Paso, Texas, to graduate from West Point. She went on to be the first woman to command a Patriot missile battalion. As the commander of the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, she was the first woman to command an air defense artillery brigade and to lead that brigade into combat during the 2003 invasion of Iraq. She was also the



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Maj. Gen. Heidi V. Brown enjoys leading test programs for the Missile Defense Agency. The Army has given Brown opportunities to blaze new leadership ground as one of a growing number of female general officers.

first woman to serve as a Fort Bliss, Texas, chief of staff and the first female general officer in the air defense artillery branch.

Brown, the director of test for the Missile Defense Agency, is responsible for planning, programming, budgeting, staffing and managing a Ballistic Missile Defense System test program to support the fielding of an integrated and effective capability for the war fighter. She was promoted to major general in January.

"I saw my first female general at West Point (the general of the Women's Army Corps)

and then I didn't see another female general for years," Brown said. "People do react to you very positively. They tell me 'I'm bragging about you.' I take things seriously, but not myself. When I look in the mirror, I still see second lieutenant Brown. I just don't get wrapped up in it all. For me, it's not a big deal."

Brown, who insists in all public correspondence on using her middle initial for Virginia in honor of her mother who she is named after, is one of the Army's up-and-coming female generals. She was assigned to Redstone in 2011 on the heels of the Army's only female four-star general, Gen. Ann Dunwoody, commander of the Army Materiel Command, coming to Redstone with AMC's move.

Yet, for Brown, it's not a gender thing. "People who are qualified and want to serve, they serve," she said. "There are opportunities to serve regardless of gender."

"I know the Army is looking at the potential of expanding opportunities for women in the infantry, armor and field artillery branches. I think that's great as long as they are qualified."

She has proven her qualifications time and time again, with a Legion of Merit with four oak leaf clusters and a Bronze Star Medal among her recognition awards.

Brown's artillery career has included several command positions, including battalion commander for the 52nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 32nd Army Air Defense Command; a Patriot battalion commander for the 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th Air Defense Artillery Brigade; commander of the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, III Corps; chief of staff and deputy commander

of the Army's Air Defense Center and assistant commandant of the Army's Air Defense School at Fort Bliss; and deputy commander for sustainment at Fort Lewis, Wash., and deputy commander for sustainment for the Multi-National Corps-Iraq.

"Personally, what I've experienced in the Army has been wonderful," she said. "It has offered me all the opportunities in the world. I've commanded. I've gone to grad school. I've gotten to do everything I've wanted to do and more. I've loved what I've done so much that it's kept me in the Army."

With each assignment, Brown has stretched her leadership and decision making skills. And that goes without saying at her current assignment.

"This is the hardest job I've ever done," she said. "The depth and breadth and speed in which we do things is challenging. In test, we are working with three different commands and the strategic importance of what we do can really cause you to pause."

"It's exciting. It's huge. It makes me think deeper about the decisions we make, and their second and third order effects to our nation and other nations."

Another challenging assignment involved commanding Soldiers in combat. In 1983, she commanded a brigade during the initial invasion of Iraq, making her the only woman to command a combat arms brigade in combat. She led battalions providing air cover and artillery support to U.S. ground forces fighting their way toward Baghdad. Her troops shot down Iraqi Scud missiles. Several of her Soldiers, including Pfc. Jessica Lynch, were ambushed

See Barriers on page 21

Scheil captures ACC NCO of the Year title

By **LARRY McCASKILL**
Army Contracting Command Public Affairs

After three days of intense competition, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Scheil, 413th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, was named the 2012 U.S. Army Contracting Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Year during a ceremony here Friday.

ACC commander Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols and Command Sgt. Maj. John Murray congratulated and praised Scheil and the other NCOs who competed in the event June 6-8.

"It is awesome to see our warrior contracting spirit reflected in the eyes of these Soldiers," Nichols said. "I thank you for coming forward and going above and beyond what was asked of you. You truly exemplify the warrior ethos."

Scheil, an acquisition, logistics and technology contracting NCO with the 413th CSB's 715th Contingency Contracting Team, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, outscored his fellow NCOs with consistent scores in 13 events that challenged the Soldiers' mental and physical skills.

"I guess I did better than I imagined," Scheil said. "Competitions like this keep you up to date on things and keep you motivated to do what you need to do as a Soldier. Yes, we are contracting specialists, but we are Soldiers first."

Scheil finished with 2,657 points out of a possible 3,540.

"Events like this help to prepare a Soldier to be a better leader. Coming down here and meeting all these great NCOs has given me the chance to learn even more from them,"

Scheil said. "I haven't done most of the tasks in a while so I have been practicing with my team and Soldiers back at Fort Wainwright."

See NCO on page 22

Photo by Larry McCaskill

The 2012 Army Contracting Command Noncommissioned officer of the year, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Scheil, 413th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, receives his first place trophy from ACC commander Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols.



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**AMC WORKSHOP SHARES LESSONS LEARNED
GARRISON RECOGNIZED FOR SUPPORT OF THE DISABLED**

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AMC workshop shares lessons learned

By AMC Public Affairs

The Army Materiel Command's Industrial Base Capabilities Division held its first Public-Private Partnership workshop here May 30-31.

Some 71 attendees shared best practices and lessons learned in forming partnerships, identified issues of concerns to improve partnership execution and development process improvements.

"The goal was to give emphasis to the importance of the program and its proper execution to aid the installations with their workload," Ramon Campos, Industrial Base Capabilities Division chief, said.

"The workshop garnered attention from business development, contracting and legal communities Armywide," Ruby Price, AMC's program manager for public-private partnerships, said.

Briefers from the Department of Defense and Department of the Army presented on public-private partnership policies currently in effect and the future of the program.

Headquarters AMC presented a command view of the program with briefings from AMC's command counsel, Army Contract-



Courtesy photo

James Dwyer, deputy chief of staff for logistics at the Army Materiel Command, delivers opening remarks at AMC's first Public-Private Partnership workshop May 30-31.

ing Command's Small Business office, the AMC Ombudsman, and the Logistics Management Oversight division.

The workshop went beyond briefings. Three Integrated Process Teams were formed, with each IPT having its own products and goals to complete and present to the public-private partnership community within the next six months.

The best practices IPT focuses on developing a guidebook that identifies best practices, mandatory requirements, and guidelines on running the program.

The marketing IPT focuses on developing effective marketing and communication strategies for the program in the future.

Finally, the legislation IPT will identify legislative, regulatory and policy changes that would be beneficial for the Public-Private Partnership program.

"The overall consensus of the workshop attendees was that this event should be held annually to bring together the organic industrial base, the life cycle management commands, headquarters AMC, Department of Army, program managers, and Department of Defense, and continue sharing of lessons learned on P3 formation and execution," Price said.

Barriers

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and taken hostage, in the first major crisis of the early days of the invasion.

Then, on the other side of the war in 2009-10, Brown was equally challenged as she served as the commander in charge of the responsible withdrawal of troops from Iraq. She oversaw the retrenchment of the nation's vast military enterprise, a task made more difficult in a country still simmering from insurgency and rising political tension ahead of a January national election.

As a Soldier, she has never backed down from a challenge. While the Army's air defense artillery branch is her passion, Soldiers have kept Brown in the Army.

"I'm passionate about what I do. I follow my heart. As long as I love what I'm doing, I'm going to keep doing it," she said.

"I love working with Soldiers and they never cease to amaze me. They are resilient, innovative, creative and remarkable. When they are put in very difficult situations they are absolutely amazing. Because of them, I love serving. I will serve until they tell me to leave."

For that reason, she is especially looking forward to this week's softball games with the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team. She will be a member of the Team Redstone team that will play against the wounded warriors in their first game on Friday at 5 p.m. at the Metro Kiwanis Sportsplex on Patton Road just north of Drake Avenue.

"Soldiers are a special breed," Brown said. "And I think the resiliency of our wounded Soldiers is amazing. They're tough and they can accomplish a lot of things. Beating a bunch of us is probably going to be way too easy for them."

Even before she joined the Army, Brown was familiar with that resiliency. Her father retired from the Army a year before she was born, although she enjoyed many of the Army's family benefits growing up in El Paso, near Fort Bliss. But while her brothers participated in JROTC in high school, Brown's route to the Army's service academy was set only when she found out about the opportunity it could provide.

"When the Army's service academy opened for women, it didn't even dawn on me what that might mean," Brown said. "I wanted to be a doctor, and I wanted to go to college and medical school and do it on the Army's dime."

During her four years as a cadet, she learned what it was like to stand up for herself even when male cadets saw her as a threat. She learned to adapt and be strong. She learned to seek out those who looked past her gender to the Soldier she wanted to be.

"There were not a whole lot of role models out there for women, and I relate more to men," she said. "There were not many female influences at the academy and in a combat arms branch dominated by men. Today, I think a lot of folks are gender neutral. I am grateful for my family upbringing, values and experiences, and for the opportunities I've

had because folks were gender neutral."

She's seen the Army evolve from a time when women Soldiers had to leave the service when they got pregnant to an Army that works with female Soldiers who want to mix motherhood and a military career. Through the years, she has supported fellow female West Point cadets in the telling of their own stories, even adding her own testimonial in a compilation of West Point stories from female cadets called "Porcelain on Steel: Women of West Point's Long Gray Line" written by Donna McAleer.

"I've seen the significance of impactful leadership, the leadership that makes a Soldier do the right thing even when others aren't looking," she said. "One of the best things the Army did was come out with Army values. My Army values and the values my parents raised me with are one in the same. But sometimes it's breaking glass for some because they didn't grow up that way. Army values do more than change behavior. They change attitudes."

Even with strong values to back her up, there have been some rough spots along the way for Brown. There was a point in her career when she thought about leaving the Army, when the command climate of her unit made her uncomfortable and wonder if she should pursue another career path. There were times in her career when her fellow female West Point graduates made decisions to leave the Army to focus on their families, causing Brown to question where she was going in life.

But she knew deep down inside that, no matter what, she had more to give to the Army.

"We all have to make sacrifices, every one of us. Whether male or female, we have to make choices to stay where we are or to get out," she said.

"I don't fault anyone for their choices. Do I think women sacrifice more than men to be in the Army? Certainly, during nine months of pregnancy they do. That's a very unique and gender specific experience and sacrifice. Or, when they feel they are sacrificing their family for their career. That's particular to the individual. Some will leave because of that while others have stayed and felt good about their career because they have found a balance. It's about the choices we make."

Brown's family has made a lot of choices in service to their country. Her oldest sister is a colonel in the Army Reserves. She has twin brothers, one a retired Army lieutenant colonel and the other a retired Air Force colonel. She also has a sister who is an active duty nurse at Fort Bragg, N.C. And another sister is a teacher. Brown has served in theater at the same time as a few of her siblings.

Throughout her career, Brown has followed three personal rules – do your best, don't try to be someone you're not and set your own boundaries.

"I want to continue to serve," she said. "The Army has more than fulfilled my expectations. And the support we get from the public makes what we do every day to serve our country an absolute joy."

Garrison recognized for support of the disabled

NISH, Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Significant Disabilities, announced May 17 the recipients of their Customer Awards which are part of the annual NISH National Achievement Awards.

The Customer Awards recognize federal agencies, including military organizations, which have demonstrated outstanding support for the AbilityOne Program. AbilityOne is the largest single source of employment for people who are blind or have significant disabilities and currently provides employment opportunities to more than 50,000 people nationwide.

“As a result of the AbilityOne Program, more than 50,000 people across the country who have significant disabilities are able to say, ‘I have a job.’ This program would not be what it is today if it wasn’t for the tremendous support it receives from Federal and military customers,” Bob Chamberlin, president and CEO of NISH, said. “The relationships that exist between these governmental organizations and our NISH-affiliated nonprofit agencies are instrumental in the growth and success of the program mission of providing meaningful employment opportunities for people who are blind or have significant disabilities.”

The Customer Awards are divided into categories for products and services. The Government Award for Services recognizes both

military organizations and civilian federal agencies that have provided outstanding support to the AbilityOne Program for services. The Government Award for Products recognizes a military organization or civilian federal agency that has provided outstanding support to the AbilityOne program for products.

The winners of the 2011 NISH National Achievement Customer Awards include:

Army Medical Command, Fort Sam Houston, Texas – Government Award for Services-Military. Army Medical Command, under the leadership of Col. Scott Svabek, has seen a spectacular 300 percent increase in AbilityOne Program jobs for people with disabilities in just three years. All told, MEDCOM together with PSCI, its NISH-affiliated AbilityOne nonprofit agency, employs 185 people with disabilities, including 52 service-disabled veterans. Svabek champions the quality of work performed by AbilityOne employees and clearly is impassioned by the difference employment makes in the lives of veterans and others with significant disabilities.

Garrison-Redstone – Government Award for Services-Military. The Garrison has been a supporter of the AbilityOne Program since its inception in the 1970s. AbilityOne contracts with the federal community of Redstone Arsenal employing 425 people with disabilities who provide janitorial services for

more than 500 buildings and maintenance of some 6,000 acres of ground – the largest U.S. grounds maintenance contract in the world. The Garrison’s Directorate of Public Works staff works along with Phoenix, a NISH-affiliated AbilityOne NPA, to ensure the success of the partnership by meeting regularly and advocating for the AbilityOne Program.

U.S. General Services Administration, White House Center, Washington D.C. – Government Award for Services-Civilian. The U.S. General Service Administration’s enthusiastic and longtime support for the AbilityOne Program is showcased at the GSA White House Center Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington. The cleanliness of this high profile historic site is paramount and GSA has entrusted that responsibility to the NPA, Didlake Inc. of Manassas, Va. Since Didlake took over custodial services in 2008, GSA has expanded the contract by 30 percent to encompass 800,000 square feet of building space. Jobs for people with disabilities have simultaneously more than doubled, from 24 to 52 positions.

Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support, Philadelphia, Pa. – Government Award for Products. Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support of Philadelphia is an extraordinary promoter of the AbilityOne Program and its product manufacturing capabilities for the armed forces. Under the leadership of DLA director Navy Vice Adm. Alan Thompson, the agency has looked to AbilityOne to provide uniforms and other products to the De-



NISH photo

Dr. Carol Lowman, Army Contracting Command deputy commander, accepts on behalf of the Garrison the Government Award for Services-Military presented by NISH, Creating Employment Opportunities for People with Significant Disabilities.

partment of Defense. DLA has counted on Vocational Guidance Services of Cleveland, Ohio, a NISH-affiliated AbilityOne NPA, since the 1990s to manufacture uniforms for the Army and the Marine Corps, adding the Navy in 2001. DLA has continued to add contracts through the years resulting in more AbilityOne Program jobs and now employ 52 people with disabilities.

The Customer Awards were presented at the 2012 NISH National Training and Achievement Conference in Indianapolis, Ind., May 21-23. Nominations for Customer Awards may be submitted by an AbilityOne-producing NPA. (NISH release)

NCO

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Murray was impressed with how each of the NCOs pushed forward and gave each challenge their best effort.

“Over the past three days, each of these competitors has endured long hours and demonstrated great stamina, technical and tactical skills in completing 13 different tasks,” Murray said. “I am very proud of each one of them. Throughout this competition I could see that warrior spirit in each of the competitors as they gave 110 percent effort in each event. They have represented their units well. Each one of the brigade representatives demonstrated that they are the best within their units for their technical and tactical knowledge, competence and execution of Army tasks.”

The NCOs competing this year were: Scheil, Staff Sgt. Booker Jordan, 409th Contracting Support Brigade, Kaiserslautern, Germany (first runner-up); Sgt. 1st Class Lachad Jefferson, 408th Contracting Support Brigade, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait (second runner-up); Staff Sgt. Desmond Culler, 410th Contracting Support Bri-

gade, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Staff Sgt. Deaquennet Thomas, 411th Contracting Support Brigade, Camp Humphries, Republic of Korea; and Staff Sgt. Brandon Carroll, 412th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Sam Houston.

The annual event included a formal board, an urban orienteer course, day and night land navigation, weapon qualification and a challenging foot march up one of the mountains at Redstone Arsenal’s Vincent Park, complete with 40-pound rucksack.

Each of the NCOs received a certificate of achievement, a box of Army chocolates, an ACC lanyard and various coins of excellence from the ACC leadership. Jeffers, the second runner-up, also received a mini ACC football signed by Nichols and Murray. Jordan, the first runner-up, received a trophy and a signed mini football.

In addition to the aforementioned items, Scheil received an Army Commendation Medal, an NCO of the Year trophy and a full-size signed ACC football.

Scheil will represent ACC at the Army Materiel Command’s NCO of the Year competition in July.

“Being here will help me to better prepare the next Soldier from our unit who participates next year,” Scheil said.

Crafts worker shapes future career in Marines

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Don't get Daniel Green started on Bethlehem Olive Wood.

To the naked eye, Green is a typical teenager. Born in Huntsville, he graduated from Lindsay Lane Christian Academy in May where his list of activities read like any other well-rounded high school student, sports, academics and the arts. But get him started on Bethlehem Olive Wood – what it smells like, looks like, where it comes from and what he could create from it – and it's plain to see there's something special about this teen.

Two and a half years ago, Green's father signed him up for the Introduction to Woodworking class at the Arts & Crafts Center, not knowing the doors the class would open for him. Within 10 minutes of stepping foot in the woodshop, Green knew that he had found a hobby he would enjoy his whole lifelong.

"It was a lot of I get to make something and see my own work," Green said of what drew him to woodworking. "I love working with the tools and getting to see the finished project after starting out with a blank piece of wood."

Coming from a generation of texting and technology, the Arts & Crafts Center knew they had a unique patron when Green fell in love with woodworking, so when a need arose for an intern to help

out in the woodshop, Green was a perfect fit – why not get paid for something he already enjoyed? So in addition to basketball, baseball, robotics, drama and being a member of the student advisory board at First National Bank, Green added Hired! intern at the Arts & Crafts Center to his resume.

"There aren't that many guys Daniel's age that are interested in woodworking," said Lori Connors, supervisory arts specialist at the Arts & Crafts Center. "I just thought that was an anomaly."

For the summer of 2010 Green took care of the woodshop, cleaning up the equipment and assisting with classes as needed. His work ethic was so good that he was hired on as a recreation aide in May 2011, where he's become a vital part of the team, helping in the final stages of the center's internal reconfiguration during recent renovations, working with CYSS summer campers and learning front office duties.

"I try and do a job as well as possible," Green said. "I keep getting told that a job half done isn't worth doing."

"Daniel is a quick learner and I consider him one of Arts & Crafts' MVPs," Connors said. "He never complains and he'll do whatever he is asked to do."

That philosophy will especially prove useful when Green ships off to boot camp at Parris Island this August. The high school graduate enlisted in the Marines last November. Having made more



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Daniel Green got his start as a Hired! intern at the Arts & Crafts Center before becoming a recreation aide in May 2011. The 2012 high school graduate enlisted with the Marines in November and will begin boot camp at Parris Island in August.

than 100 Freedom Pens, wood pens made at the Arts & Craft Center that are then sent to servicemembers serving in harm's way as well as wounded warriors, Green will now serve alongside those who received his woodshop creations.

"Daniel is highly regarded by the rest

of the Arts & Crafts staff," Connors said. "His solid work ethic and dedication will take him far. He will be missed. I am very proud of Daniel. It's been a pleasure to get to know him, an honor to work with him, and I know he will serve our country well."

Defense security certifies AMRDEC trio

The Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center has recognized three AMRDEC employees for successfully demonstrating an understanding of the concepts and prin-

ciples deemed critical to protect Department of Defense assets.

AMRDEC director Eric Edwards presented each honoree a Security Fundamentals Professional Certification signed

by Stan Sims, director of DoD's Defense Security Service. Throughout the Army, only half of the security specialists have taken the certification and passed the exam.

The honorees included security specialists Richard Barbee and Nasu Bethea and supervisory security specialist Roark Washington, branch chief. (AMRDEC release)

Roark Washington



Richard Barbee



Nasu Bethea



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ARMY WAS 'WHAT HE LOVED TO DO'

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Senior NCO retires from Redstone Test Center

Sgt. 1st Class Victor Estrada, senior non-commissioned officer for Redstone Test Center, celebrated the end of a military career spanning 20 years and 13 days May 24.

Family, friends and RTC personnel enjoyed a slideshow of career photos, presentation of gifts, and a brief reception in the Rotary Wing Center following his retirement ceremony.

Estrada served in various commands during his career. His most recent deployment was in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, deploying as the first NCO representing the former Aviation Technical Test Center with ATEC FOA teams X and XI supporting the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade with the first deployment of the CH-47F helicopter company. Other deployments included Bosnia, Kosovo, Haiti, Afghanistan and Iraq.

He graduated from basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., in November 1992 and from advanced individual training at Fort Eustis, Va., in March 1993.



Courtesy photo

Redstone Test Center commander Col. Steven Kihara presents Sgt. 1st Class Victor Estrada with a certificate of retirement May 24.

The Denver native is married to the former Dawn Austin of Twenty Nine Palms, Calif. They have two children: Trevor, 17, and Marisa, 12. (*Redstone Test Center release*)

Army was 'what he loved to do'

Family of fallen Soldier finds peace through skydiving, sharing story

By KARI HAWKINS

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Allison Hall has taken on a once-a-year hobby that is slightly out of her comfort zone.

Every June 1, on the anniversary of her husband's death, she goes tandem skydiving in Vinemont.

It's in the sky – in the quietness of the aircraft right before her jump, in the rush of adrenaline as she freefalls through the air at 120 miles per hour, in the serenity and stillness of floating with the help of a parachute and the canopy piloting of her tandem instructor – that she now feels the closest to Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Hall. And once her feet are back on the ground, she can feel her Soldier's love in her very own cheering squad made up of Jeffrey's parents, extended family and friends.

"It's what he loved to do, jump out of airplanes because he was an airborne Ranger," Allison said. "So, we made this a tradition on the first anniversary. His dad and I went that first time and it was such a crazy rush. This is my third time, and every time it has felt so peaceful because you're up there with him. I felt him with us that first time, and every time since I feel him with me. I do this in memory of him."

Allison's Soldier was killed on June 1, 2009, in Nerkh, Afghanistan, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. The 28-year-old Huntsville native was a squad leader and a Ranger, a Soldier who was on his third tour in Afghanistan assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) from Fort Drum, N.Y.

Since then, Allison and their daughter – 3-year-old Audrey – make an annual trip to North Alabama, staying a few weeks at the Hartselle home of Jeffrey's parents – Charlie, a Marshall Space Flight Center engineer; and Annette, an executive assistant at the Huntsville Airport Authority. While here, they participate in Memorial Day activities, visit with other relatives, including Jeffrey's sister, and spend time with Jeffrey's friends such as best friend Brian McIntosh. Although Allison and Audrey live in Carson City, Nev., the family manages to get together several times a year to celebrate the love they have for Jeffrey and for each other.

"We do hit bumps in the road, sad times when we wish Jeff was still here with us," Allison said. "Sometimes it feels like three years have been a lifetime and other times it feels like yesterday."

The Hall family, who were first featured in the Nov. 10, 2010 *Redstone Rocket*, enjoys remembering those early days when Jeffrey brought his girlfriend home to meet his parents. Instead of visiting for a few days, Allison stayed for more than a year.

The young couple met at Fort Drum between Jeffrey's first and second deployments to Afghanistan. As he prepared for that second deployment, Jeffrey wanted to make sure Allison was safe and cared for while he was away. So, only five months into their relationship, they put their things in storage and Allison moved in with Jeffrey's family. Although she was a stranger to them, Jeffrey's parents were happy to welcome their

Photo by Kari Hawkins
The Hall family – including daughter-in-law Allison with daughter Audrey, mom Annette and dad Charlie – spent time together on Memorial Day at the Maple Hill Cemetery gravesite of their fallen Soldier, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Hall.

son's girlfriend into their home.

"I had to meet this girl. Jeffrey had an impossible image of perfection for a woman. I didn't think he'd ever get married," Charlie said. "So, when he told us he was head over heels in love with her, I knew I had to meet her."

While she stayed with the family, Allison worked in a local bistro, spent free time getting to know the town Jeffrey grew up in, and grew to love his family and friends.

Jeffrey returned from that deployment in May 2007 and proposed two weeks later. The couple married in July and a year later Audrey was born. Jeffrey got to spend six months with his young family before his third deployment to Afghanistan. He was killed when Audrey was 11 months old.

"He was a great dad," Allison said.

"I truly think God sent Allison to Jeffrey as a gift so he could know the love of a wife and a child," Annette added.

The relationship Annette and Charlie share with Allison has helped them endure their loss.

"We've been very, very blessed because so many military widows, and surviving mothers and fathers don't really know each other. So, once that Soldier gets killed there's no relationship between them," Annette said.

"To us, Allison is more a daughter than a daughter-in-law. Because she lived with us for a year, we established a tight relationship and loved each other before this ever happened."

Allison's daughter has also helped her own mom through the loss of her husband.

"I just couldn't drown in my sorrows. It's not what Jeff would have wanted. I have this little person that I have to take care of," Allison said. "I have to stay strong for Jeff, and be strong for Audrey and the rest of his guys."

Jeffrey's unit was close-knit and many of his fellow Soldiers have visited Allison and Audrey during the past few years. Many have had to deal with survivor's guilt, and Allison has been there to support them through their own grief.

Even now, three years later, the hurt of Jeffrey's loss is still very real for the Hall family. Annette keeps the pain at bay through her work to start a Gold Star Mothers chapter (for the mothers of fallen servicemembers) in North Alabama, and by participating in local veterans and survivor programs, including local Veterans Day, Memorial Day and Armed Forces Celebration Week activities, and the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. She is willing to share the story of her son with anyone who asks about him.

"To me, it's just a way to make sure people understand that there's a face to the cost of war, that there is a face, a family, and lives affected by war. It's a way to keep the faces of our fallen Soldiers out in front so people don't forget," Annette said.

"I try to take advantage of every opportunity to share



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Allison Hall accepts a play meal from her daughter Audrey during a visit to the Survivor Outreach Services offices at Army Community Service. With them are grandparents Charlie and Annette Hall.

Jeff's story so that the public will be able to see and gain a better understanding of the true sacrifice of war."

At Jeffrey's gravesite in the veterans' section of Maple Hill Cemetery, his parents have added a crusading angel to his tombstone and a bench at the foot of his grave

See Family on page 28

Family

continued from page 27

where they can sit in the shade of a dogwood tree to reflect and remember.

"People will come by when we're here and they'll ask questions. They say 'thank you' for his sacrifice," Annette said. "Strangers come here on a regular basis and just sit. They're drawn to the gravesite and that's OK with us. We want it to be a place where people can think about the loss of our Soldier and other Soldiers like him."

As a Gold Star Mother, Annette conducted a letter writing campaign that helped raise \$17,000 in sponsorships to bring TAPS to Redstone Arsenal for the second time. The TAPS weekend, which was coordinated through the Arsenal's Survivor Outreach Services, brings together families of fallen servicemembers for grief counseling, support, networking and survivor activities. Annette also talks about TAPS, Survivor Outreach Services and her own fallen Soldier to various local groups upon request.

"I feel we owe it to our fallen warriors to put them forth in the public eye whenever we can," Annette said.

When she visits, Allison touches base



Army photo

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Hall of Huntsville was killed on June 1, 2009 in Afghanistan.

with other local military widows. She is good friends with Tiffany Little, wife of fallen Soldier Spc. Kyle A. Little, 20, who died May 8, 2007 in Iraq. Their daughters enjoy playing together.

At home in Nevada, Allison enjoys her time as a stay-at-home mom and her work as an independent distributor for Premier Designs Jewelry. She has also fallen in love again and plans to marry in September.

"He knows my past life and he knows what he's dealing with. He knows he has to sacrifice for me to come out here," Allison said. "He is great and supportive. I'm very lucky to

be able to find another person who is very understanding and very loving. He's also a good father figure for Audrey, and he has two great kids that are 5 and 8. They have all blended together."

From a young age, Jeffrey was interested in a military career. As a boy, he often played Soldier. He enlisted in 2000 after graduating from Grissom High School. Annette sees other families with sons and daughters like Jeffrey who want to walk the path of military service. Even though it may be hard to accept due to the dangers and risks involved, she said families should stand behind their child's decision to serve their country.

"You've got to give them 110 percent

support," she said. "When they are in training where you have no contact, you should write them a letter every day. It means so much to them. And when they get to come home, you should do all their favorite things.

"There's no preparing for the bad that could happen, so don't even think about that. Just think about the positive. If you have to deal with the other, then cross that bridge when it happens."

Living through the loss of her son has made Annette "much more tolerant and forgiving of other people" and has made her want to "hold my loved ones just so close to me and spoil them because you don't know what will happen the next day." For Charlie, it has "made me appreciate life and the important things instead of worrying about the small stuff."

The couple have been married 37 years. They have grieved their son's loss together, yet in their own way, too.

"It's been a rocky road for us," Annette said. "We've managed to stay on the same road, if not the same side of the road. The past year has been the darkest. I feel like the first two years we were in a frozen mode, sort of in shock, and we were trying to take care of everything and everybody else.

"We've started thawing this last year. We're really facing it and dealing with it. Now I feel like I'm coming out into the light, so to speak."

Charlie agreed, adding "the first couple of years you're reacting to it all. Then, the third year comes, and it all sinks in and you have to deal with it on a deeper

level. You have to learn how to cope."

Because families go through grief and healing in different ways and at different times, Annette feels strongly that support groups offered through organizations like Survivor Outreach Services and TAPS are important because they can provide the support needed at crucial times for family members.

"We're all in the same shoes, the same boots, but we may be at all different levels. We can help each other and understand each other through those different levels," Annette said.

If she can organize a Gold Star Mothers chapter in North Alabama, Annette said the group would take on projects to support Survivor Outreach Services, coordinated through Redstone's Army Community Service, and to support Soldiers and the families of fallen Soldiers.

For Allison, just knowing that Jeff would want her to go on with her life makes her confident that she and Audrey can be happy as they embark on a new chapter in their lives. But despite all the happiness that life still holds for them, Allison knows that some day she will have to answer hard questions from her daughter.

"She really doesn't understand yet what happened," she said of Audrey, who turns 4 in about a month. "Audrey was only 11 months old when Jeff died. She's had a rollercoaster of not knowing what has happened. It will be a few years before she understands, and I will be there to help her."



Photo by Merv Brokke

Support appreciated

AMRDEC security specialist Cassandra Leflore, center, is cited for her outstanding coordination during the planning and execution of a recent visit of security assistance liaison officers from 12 countries. AMRDEC director Eric Edwards, right, recognizes Leflore for her invaluable contributions to the successful visit noting that without her efforts the visit would not have been possible. He presents her a letter signed by Maj. Gen. Frank Turner, commander of the Security Assistance Command. At left is Leflore's daughter Kimberly.



Photo by Melody Sandlin

Security assistance update

Col. Robert Pastorelli, chief of staff at the Security Assistance Command, addresses the Huntsville Aerospace Marketing Association during Friday's monthly meeting at The Summit. Members received an overview of USASAC and the foreign military sales program.

Fielding near completion for missile target system

By MEGHANN DELASHAW
For the Rocket

The challenge to outfit the Army and National Guard with an Improved Target Acquisition System for the TOW missile is coming to a close.

The Close Combat Weapon Systems Project Office began fielding the ITAS upgrade in 1998 to units to replace the M220 TOW systems. The first unit equipped with ITAS was Alpha troop, 1/17th Cavalry, 82nd ABN Division on Sept. 28, 1998. In 2007, the additional upgrade of a Far Target Locator was added to the ITAS. This upgrade gives Soldiers the enhanced capability of a GPS on their ITAS systems. With FTL, Soldiers can not only find a 10 digit grid location for their target, but also for their own personal grid location. The project office has assisted in fielding more than 1,453 ITAS systems to units across the Army, National Guard and Army Reserves.

The final tactical unit fielding occurred April 24. The CCWS Fielding Team was in Frankfort, Ind., with Delta Company, 2/151st Infantry Battalion. They were the last tactical unit to receive this upgrade, but it was well-worth the wait. This fielding process included the handoff of new equipment and New Equipment Training. The NET included an ITAS Crew, ITAS Maintenance and Train the Trainer courses.

The ITAS FTL fielding process started with coordination of a path ahead for key events. A New Materiel Introductory Briefing and Materiel Fielding Agreement for the IBCT was developed, scheduled and provided to the unit. These documents established the sequence of events, schedules and responsibilities/roles of each participant during the fielding process. Coordination with the unit continued until the day the hardware arrived at the fielding location.

After the initial coordination with the unit, the CCWS fielding team began at 6:30

a.m. April 24 at a warehouse in Indianapolis. There the team conducted an inventory of all shipments and ensured that all items were loaded and transported to the Frankfort Armory. The members that made up this final fielding team included Greg Mattson and Brandon Williams from CCWS, Mike Sams and Bob Farris from Raytheon, and Bruce Lipe and Buddy Thieschmann from Cherokee Corp. Once the team and equipment arrived in Frankfort, they unpacked and positioned the eight systems for setup and checkouts that would occur the following day.

The next day the fielding was completed. During the system deprocessing, the team checked out all eight systems. They found no issues meaning the systems were now ready to use. The Cherokee High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle Team installed the eight Vehicle Mount Charger kits on the unit's M1167 Humvees. The eight VMCs allow the unit to use the ITAS system while mounted on their vehicles. They also checked that all the cables and straps for the system were in the correct location and verified the charge of the Lithium Battery Boxes which power the ITAS systems. Finally, the following hardware items were fielded to the unit: eight ITAS FTL systems, eight VMC kits, eight missile simulator rounds and four lithium-ion kits.

Once the initial fielding of equipment was complete, the ITAS training team arrived in Frankfort on May 7 to begin the Train the Trainer course and Maintenance training. It is important that the Soldiers that received the new equipment attended training on how to implement it. There is no institutional sustainment training for the ITAS system, making the training given by CCWS all the more important to the success of the system.

One of the ITAS trainers, Bernard Mostella, conducted the Maintenance course with Soldiers from the Combined Support



Photo by Gregory Mattson

Raytheon field engineers Mike Sams, standing, and Bob Farris install the elevation limiter on the ITAS Traversing Unit.

Maintenance Shops No. 1 in Indianapolis and CSMS No. 2 in Camp Atterbury. This course teaches the Soldiers how to maintain and fix their new ITAS systems with FTL. The class had seven maintainers in attendance and some of the topics covered were system description, system setup, BIT controls and indicators, and the Contactor Logistics Support concept.

The other ITAS trainer, Ryan Gough, led the Train the Trainer course for 2/151st Infantry. The course not only teaches the Soldiers how to employ the system, but also how to teach others to use it. With seven Soldiers in attendance, Gough spent four days covering topics such as system description, assembly and disassembly on the tripod, controls and indicators, sight picture, Far Target Locator controls and indicators, active ranging, passive ranging, track gates, LBB charging, missile description, target engagement, embedded training and the Basic Skills Trainer. The fifth and final day of training was at Camp Atterbury where

the unit was conducting a weekend drill. The seven Soldiers that had just completed the training days before were now the ones leading the training. Gough was able to ensure the Soldiers had absorbed all of the training and were able to teach other Soldiers in the unit.

Although long awaited, 2/151st Infantry now has the latest ITAS equipment. Coupled with the training they received, they are a well-equipped, knowledgeable force. You can outfit Soldiers with the greatest equipment and systems, but if they do not possess the knowledge to use it then they cannot be effective. The last tactical fielding represents a culmination of the 14 years that the CCWS ITAS fielding team has been outfitting Soldiers in the Army, National Guard and Army Reserves with the ITAS system and more recently, the FTL capability. Now that this effort is mostly complete, ITAS can continue to expand and develop even greater capabilities for the system ensuring a solid path forward.

Photo by Robin Sterling

Steam geyser

A gust of steam blows June 5 at the end of Red Cedar Road at ATACMS Road. "It went hundreds of feet in the air and resembled the eruption of Old Faithful in Yellowstone Park," observer Robin Sterling said. "It made a shrill ear-piercing noise for several minutes until workmen shut it off somewhere down the line."

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Replacement helicopter rolls off production line



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

The 1-6 Air Cavalry Squadron from Fort Riley, Kan., accepts the log book and keys from Corpus Christi Army Depot during an OH-58D Kiowa Warrior Wartime Replacement Aircraft rollout ceremony Thursday. Standing in front of aircraft 10-01331 are, from left, Jim Shultz, OH-58 program manager from Bell Helicopters; Lt. Col. Paul Cravey, squadron commander; Col. Christopher Carlile, Corpus Christi commander; and Lt. Col. Mathew Hannah, Kiowa Warrior product manager.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Army delivered the first OH-58D Kiowa Warrior upgraded under the Wartime Replacement Aircraft Program to the war fighter at a rollout ceremony Thursday at Corpus Christi Army Depot.

Corpus Christi commander Col. Christopher Carlile handed over the aircraft's log books to Lt. Col Paul Cravey, squadron commander for the Air Cavalry Squadron from Fort Riley, Kan., during the ceremony in Hangar 44.

The Wartime Replacement Aircraft Program is the Army's initiative to replace OH-58D Kiowa Warriors, the primary air cavalry helicopter. The Army is pursuing ways to sustain the fleet and is looking to its industrial base and the entire aviation enterprise to support ongoing fleet upgrades that address obsolescence, improve reliability, increase capability and put OH-58Ds back in the fight.

The Army is approved for a complete fleet of 368 of OH-58D Kiowa Warriors. Since production of the KW ended in 1999, increasing the number of 58Ds to the Soldier is crucial at a time when cost-effective measures are critical. The Army recognizes the cost-saving opportunities from investing in its depots and their partnerships.

The WRA Program is a joint effort with Corpus Christi, the Armed Scout Helicopter Project Office, the Aviation Field Maintenance Directorate and Bell Helicopter providing the Army a cost-effective and efficient way to replenish lost aircraft. This aircraft, completed seven weeks ahead of schedule, represents the first KW to be produced as part of that joint venture and is the first one to increase Army fleet density in more than a decade.

"This is a significant milestone for our Army as we deliver the first Kiowa Warrior that replenishes the fleet

under the Wartime Replacement Program," Lt. Col. Matt Hannah, product manager for Kiowa Warrior helicopters, said. "This is the beginning of a bright future for our scout pilots and Army aviation. I am extremely proud of this team."

While fleet attrition continues to be a serious problem with an average of six lost per year, the Kiowa Warrior has logged more than 800,000 combat hours between Iraq and Afghanistan where it battles sand, snow and high altitudes. These war birds are life-saving assets for troops on the ground. The Army will rely on the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior as the primary air cavalry helicopter at least until 2025.

The Army is replacing wartime losses suffered by the OH-58D fleet by taking "A" model cabins and upgrading them to "D" model cabins and capabilities. This is done through an element of the WRA program called the "A2D" conversion program.

This A2D wartime replacement cabin was inducted at the Bell Helicopter, Amarillo, Texas, facility for conversion in December 2010 and completed in December 2011. The cabin was then delivered to Corpus Christi in January where the depot completed final assembly operations and flight test.

The success of the WRA program process was proven with the completion of an earlier Kiowa Warrior aircraft in December 2011. Because it did not increase the Kiowa Warrior fleet density, that aircraft was not classified as a WRA, but it was restored to service and served as the pilot for all future WRA production aircraft. *(Corpus Christi Army Depot release)*

Defense Department office selects AMRDEC scientist

By HEATHER R. SMITH
AMRDEC Public Affairs

AMRDEC's Dr. Roger Strawn has been selected by the Department of Defense High Performance Computing Modernization Office to serve as computational technology area leader in the field of computational fluid dynamics for 2012-15.

Strawn was competitively selected as one of 11 technology area leaders chosen for their expertise to perform strategic planning and technical coordination to represent their computing domain across the Department of Defense. Those selected serve as advisers to the chief scientist of the High Performance Computing Modernization Office.

Barry Lakinsmith, deputy director of the Aeroflightdynamics directorate

where Strawn works, described Strawn as a pioneer in the use of DoD high-performance computing resources within AMRDEC's aviation science and technology program.

"Since the 1990s, he has developed and applied sophisticated computational analyses to model and resolve important challenges in rotary wing aeronautics," Lakinsmith said.

Strawn is the principal investigator for the Army's Helios software code development project under the HPCMP's CREATE-Air Vehicles program. CREATE stands for Computational Research and Engineering Acquisition Tools and Environments.

He leads the High-Performance Computing Institute for Advanced Rotorcraft Modeling and Simulation at the Army Aeroflightdynamics Director-



Courtesy photo

Dr. Roger Strawn leads the High-Performance Computing Institute for Advanced Rotorcraft Modeling and Simulation at AMRDEC's Aeroflightdynamics Directorate in Moffett Field, Calif.

ate in Moffett Field, Calif. This group is responsible for the development and applications of advanced computa-

tional modeling tools for rotary-wing aeromechanics. Over the past 25 years, Strawn has led the development and application of such methods for a range of Army helicopter configurations including the CH-47 Chinook, the UH-60 Black Hawk and the OH-58 Kiowa. He has also served for more than 10 years as the service agency approval authority for Army aviation within the DoD High-Performance Computing Modernization Program.

According to its website, the High Performance Computing Modernization Program was initiated in 1992 in response to congressional direction to modernize the Department of Defense laboratories' high performance computing capabilities. The HPCMP supports DoD objectives through research, development, test and evaluation.

Photo by Patrick Sheahan

Retiring officer

Maj. Jud McCrary, center, accepts a Meritorious Service Medal award from Lt. Col. David Bristol, right, product manager for the Light Utility Helicopter Office, as Col. Thomas Todd, project manager for the Utility Helicopters Project Office, looks on. The medal was awarded during McCrary's retirement ceremony June 6 at Bob Jones Auditorium. It was his second retirement from active duty; he retired the first time in October 2009 but jumped at the chance to return to active duty when the opportunity arose less than a year later. He then served as the assistant product manager, and later the production lead, for the UH-72A Product Office. McCrary was joined at the ceremony by his wife, Lisa, and sons, Dan, 20, and Walker, 14. McCrary's parents, retired Lt. Col. Dan and Lanier McCrary, also attended.



Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Sendoff reception

Col. Bennie Pokemire, deputy chief of staff G-6 for Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, Bob Ogle, longtime G-6 employee, and his wife, Rebecca, receive congratulations from well-wishers following Ogle's retirement ceremony May 31. Ogle retired with nearly 34 years of federal service.



Photo by John Pearson

Student outreach

Westminster Christian Academy student Charles Nelson joins principal Alma Houston to celebrate Nelson's selection to the Adventures at AMCOM Program. He is the first student from the school to participate in the program which is part of the Army Education Outreach Program. It takes place from June 18-22.



Courtesy photo

Safety for pilots

Redstone Test Center test pilot Phil Catoire leads the Pilots Class during Aviation Flight Test Directorate's annual Safety Stand Down Day on May 31. Safety classes were held after an awards ceremony and presentations by retired Command Sgt. Maj. Buford Thomas and WAAY TV chief meteorologist Spencer Denton.



Photo by Randy Tisor, PEO Aviation Public Affairs

Transport charter

Lt. Col. Johnathan Frasier, right, receives the charter as product director for Transport Aircraft from Col. Brian Tachias, project officer for the Fixed Wing Project Office, PEO Aviation, during a ceremony Friday. Frasier officially became the first product director for Transport Aircraft during the assumption of charter ceremony held in Bob Jones Auditorium. The Transport Aircraft Office will oversee more than 200 Army fixed-wing aircraft with an estimated combined value of more than \$4 billion. Frasier, a former OH-58D Kiowa pilot, was joined at the charter ceremony by his wife, Amy, their son Benjamin, 7, and their daughter Hannah, 5. Frasier previously served as the assistant product manager for Air Traffic Control Systems, Aviation Systems Project Office.



Win or Lose

Screw Balls roll past EVengers on diamond



By **SKIP VAUGHN**
Rocket editor
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One inning made the difference in this softball game.

The Screw Balls erupted for nine runs in the fourth and last inning to beat the EVengers 18-9 on June 4 at the NASA field.

“Pitching and fielding got a little weak in the last inning,” EVengers pitcher/coach Austin Decker said.

Of course the Screw Balls had a different perspective. “Everybody was hitting the ball,” Screw Balls shortstop Joseph Hamilton said. He

went 4-for-4 with a three-run, inside-the-park homer “to burn the left fielder,” he added.

The Screw Balls, an Army contractor team from Sam’s Construction, improved to 4-2 in Division C in the NASA/Army league. The EVengers fell to 3-4.

David Whitener went 3-for-5 with bases-loaded, three-run triple in the fourth. T.J. Henderson went 3-for-4 with three RBIs and scored three runs. Ashlyn Smith went 3-for-4 with one RBI, scored three runs and made three putouts in right field.

Damon “Taco” Bramlett (4-1) got the win on the mound.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

James “Scooter” Thomas hits an RBI single and later scores during the Screw Balls’ nine-run fourth inning against the EVengers.



NASA/Army softball league standings

Here are the standings entering this week’s games:

Division A	Wins	Losses	Ties
Got the Runs	5	0	0
Hit Circus	4	2	0
Expendables	4	2	0
Kitchen Sinks	4	3	0
Rotorheads Too	1	5	0
RTC	0	6	0

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

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



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Army team

Army, a 12-and-under team coached by Greg Parker in the local youth indoor football league, prepares to go on the field at the Von Braun Center during Military Appreciation Night before the Alabama Hammers game. Army lost to Air Force 21-16 to fall to 4-1.

In this section...

GOLF CLINIC TEACHES SHORT-GAME TECHNIQUE

PAGE 39

Golf clinic teaches short-game technique

By **ALEXANDER N. BROWN-CLAY**
For the Rocket

The Cleveland Golf Short Game School will be coming to the Links for a second consecutive year.

Jon Samuelson, PGA, and Rich



Santagata Jr. of Cleveland Golf will hold Friday's intensive, two-hour clinic in which they will be discussing short game, wedges and why they need loft, golf lie and bounce. Samuelson explains that all of these aspects are important to your short game as a player and that many people misunderstand what bounce and lie are.

From what he witnessed throughout his years of experience as a professional, Samuelson says most people would rather see how far they can hit the ball instead of seeing how close they can get the ball to the hole.

"I've seen so many people work so hard in improving their long game and don't put much time into their short game so that if they really want to bring down their score, the place that they really need to be practicing is in their short game with bunker shots and shots around the green," he said. "Once you learn the technique, it's easy."

Samuelson also explains that some of these same players avoid perfecting their short game because they don't find it to be as much fun. He suggests that golfers get together and make the

short game fun through competition and friendly wagers. However, he is not promoting gambling in suggesting this.

This clinic also serves as a great opportunity to capitalize on a one-of-a-kind deal. The cover charge for the clinic is \$100. However, everyone in attendance will receive a free Cleveland wedge of their choice which includes a free fitting as well from the very precise SCUBA system – the ultimate club fitting machine. The quality

of instruction as well as the discounted deal sets the clinic apart from many of the other clinics that are offered.

The Cleveland Golf Short Game School will be held Friday from 4-6 p.m. The clinic is open to all ages and skill levels. Anyone with access to Redstone Arsenal is welcome to attend as well as use the Links golf course. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for the clinic ahead of time, although they will still be able to show up Friday and pay their cover charge.

Rocket Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Huntsville Stars night

Huntsville Stars baseball "Military Appreciation Night" is Saturday at Joe Davis Stadium. See the Stars play the Montgomery Biscuit at 6:45 p.m. All active military components are asked to wear their duty uniforms. Free tickets, provided by the Association of the U.S. Army, are available at the Community Activity Center for all military ID and CAC card holders. Tickets will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis; limited to four tickets per family.

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>.

County golf championship

The American Cancer Society 2012 Madison County Golf Championship is July 9 at the Valley Hill Country Club with a shotgun start at 8:30 a.m. Lunch, provided by Carrabba's Italian Grill, is noon to 1 p.m. for all participants. For more information, call 535-1090.

Basketball camp

JSmith Hoops presents the fifth annual J Smith All-American Basketball Camp, for ages 6-15, on July 9-12 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Columbia High School. The cost is \$100. For more information, call 1-866-595-4449 or visit www.jsmithhoops.com.

Boating safety class

Boating Skills and Seamanship class, sponsored by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, will start Thursday from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Garrison Safety Office building 3687 on Neal Road. For more information, call flotilla public education staff officer Thomas Kunhart 830-6621 or 527-4475.

Bass tournament

The Combined Patriotic Organizations of Morgan County will sponsor a Veterans Memorial Team Bass Tournament on Saturday at Ingalls Harbor on Wheeler Lake in Decatur, sponsored and operated by American Bass Anglers. All proceeds go to the Morgan County Veterans Memorial Park, under construction in Decatur. Cost of registration is \$100 per team, with a \$1,000 guaranteed payout to first place with a 50 boat minimum. Entry forms are available at the American Legion Post 15 at 2607 Highway 31 South in Decatur. Registration will be accepted Saturday from 4-5 a.m. For more information, visit

www.townofpriceville.com or www.allegion-post15.com or call 353-5501, Bob Stricklin 565-2652, Becky Burney 345-7610 or Theresa Groves 606-4414.

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 at 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

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

Catholic mass

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Community at Bicentennial Chapel invites the Redstone community to its mass services noon Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 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.

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. Susan Goodyear, AMC assistant deputy chief

of staff for resource management, will install 2012-13 ASMC officers. For ticket information, call Audrea Edwards 313-2382 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

Toastmaster clubs

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

Men's ministry

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

Civil War discussion

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Historical re-enactor Daniel E. Hughes will speak on "Was Thomas as Really Slow at the Battle of Nashville?" Optional chicken buffet starts at 5:30 for \$8.95. Visitors are welcome. For information call 539-5287.

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.

Women's connection

Huntsville Christian Women's Connection will have a luncheon June 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Huntsville Country Club, 2601 Oakwood Ave. The scheduled speakers are Tony Yelle, a children's book author and young father, and recording artist Amy Drinkwater. Cost is \$17. For reservations call 837-8286 or 883-1339 by June 21.

Parkinson's support

Parkinson's Disease Support Group, for patients, family and caregivers, will meet July 8 at 1:30 p.m. at the Willowbrook Baptist

Church Youth Building, 7625 Bailey Cove Road (parking in back lots). For information call 837-6577.

Executive committee meeting

Alabama Sen. Tammy Irons will be the keynote speaker at the Madison County Democrats Executive Committee Meeting on Thursday at 6 p.m. at the Optimist Park Recreation Center. Admission is free. For more information, email info@madisoncountymademsoc.com.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

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

Fraud hotline

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

Education test center

Thinking of changing your military occupational specialty or entering a commissioning program and need to take an Army Personnel Testing examination? If so, call the Army Education Center Testing Office 876-9764. Tests offered include the Armed Forces Classification Test, Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test and the Defense Language Aptitude Battery test. If you speak a language and want it annotated on your records, call and make an appointment to take the Defense Language Proficiency Test. All Soldiers and qualified DA civilians are eligible to take the DLPT. In addition to APT exams, the Education Center offers the ACT, SAT, Test of

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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 non-profit 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 rvsp_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, 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.

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. Stop by Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road, from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Parenting classes

"Parenting 101," free classes presented by the National Children's Advocacy Center, will be held on the second Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. upstairs in the ChildWise Building, 1413 Nike St. Topics include Positive Discipline, July 10. Space is limited; child care is provided with reservations.

To preregister call Army Community Service 876-5397. This is sponsored by the New Parent Support Program, for birth through age 3.

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. 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 1,000 kids will receive a free backpack with school supplies. For more information, call Dr. Harry Hobbs 425-5307.

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.

Workshop papers

This is a call for papers for the Hyperspectral/Polarimetric Community Collaboration Workshop scheduled July 18-20 at Redstone Arsenal. For more information, email angelia_cornelius@us.army.mil or visit the workshop website at <http://smapcenter.uah.edu/SMAP-CENTER/Conferences/HyperPolar2012/index.html>.

Ability-Plus day

The third annual Ability-Plus Fun Day is July 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Friendship

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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.

AER campaign

Army Emergency Relief campaign chairman Capt. Alyssa Wood invites Team Redstone to the AER recognition ceremony June 21 at 10 a.m. at Heiser Hall to recognize directorates and organizations that contributed to this year's campaign. In 2011 Redstone AER provided \$292,000 in assistance to 268 people, which included 172 loans and 96 grants. Army Emergency Relief represents 70 years of helping the Army take care of its own, and a strong tradition of Soldiers helping Soldiers.

U.S. flag birthday

Celebrate the 235th birthday of the U.S. flag at the Main Library on Monroe Street in Huntsville on Thursday. Included are activities for young children from 9:30-11 a.m., flag ceremony by Boy Scout Troop 400 at 11, historical re-enactors at 11:15, patriotic concert by the Crestwood Sunshine Singers at 11:30, and the DVD story of the flags that have flown over our land, "The Many Faces of Old Glory," at 1 p.m. The public is invited

to bring a brown bag lunch and share in the festivities. Drinks and birthday cake will be furnished by LearningQUEST. For more information, email tuckmo1935@aol.com.

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 servicemembers are welcome to contact the unit. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Walker at miranda.walker@usar.army.mil, phone 535-6232 or Sgt. 1st Class Stumpe at roy.marcus.stumpe@usar.army.mil, phone 535-6229 or Capt. South at william.south@usar.army.mil.

Military job fair

A job fair for military, military family members and veterans, including financial services workshops, will be held Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Optimist Park, 703 Oakwood Ave. This is sponsored by the American Red Cross in partnership with the Joint Family Support Assistance Program, Madison County Vet Center, Army Community Service, Still Serving Veterans and the West Corporation. Military ID is required; pre-register by calling 536-0084, ext. 310.

Summer reading

The Summer Reading Program, for ages 18 and under, runs through July 14, culminating 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 sup-

plies 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/>.

Youth arts camp

While We Wait Productions and Huntsville High School will present "Blue Plate Broadway," a summer arts camp for children ages 5-15. The third annual camp is June 18-22 from noon until 5 p.m. at Huntsville High School Auditorium, 2304 Billie Watkins Drive (off Bob Wallace Avenue). The students will work alongside New York professional singers, dancers and writers to create a full Broadway-style production the students will present June 22-23. The cost is \$310 which includes a performance DVD, a creative writing journal, snacks each day and two complimentary tickets to any performance. Ticket prices are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, and \$8 for military attendees. For more information, call 361-6107 or (609) 226-7345 or visit www.blueplatebroadway.com.

Military appreciation award

In the spirit of Memorial Day, Bodybuilding.com and BSN have kicked off their Military Appreciation Award wish-granting program. "Do you know someone in the military lacking the daily basics, a veteran with a special need, or a relative of a fallen Soldier going through a difficult time? Bodybuilding.com and BSN are excited to grant an ultimate wish to those making the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Tell us what they need, so we can help give back," Ryan DeLuca, Bodybuilding.com CEO, said. This award is open to all ac-

tive, reserve or veteran members of the U.S. military – including their spouses, widows or children. Bodybuilding.com is accepting video nominations through June 24. This isn't a high-tech video assignment, a simple camera or smart phone is all entrants need to share their honoree's story and have the chance to make their wish come true. For more information on the Military Appreciation Award, and to nominate your deserving candidate, go to www.Bodybuilding.com/Honor.

Scholarship winner

Bethany Herndon of Toney is among the 10 first-place winners of the 18th annual Holland & Knight Holocaust Remembrance Project, a national essay contest for high school students designed to encourage and promote the study of the Holocaust and related episodes of injustice. The winners will receive up to \$10,000 in college scholarship funds and a life-changing experience in Boston. Herndon will spend one week meeting Holocaust and genocide survivors, visiting Holocaust memorials and museums and will attend the awards banquet June 28 at the John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse in Boston. The Sparkman High graduate plans to attend the University of Alabama in the fall and pursue a degree in psychology as a First Scholar.

Business workshops

UAH Small Business Development Center and the Procurement Technical Assistance Center will present several workshop training sessions in the upcoming months. "Seeing Beyond the Numbers – Simple Numbers, Straight Talk, Big Profits," with guest speaker Greg Crabtree, CPA, is July 11 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Chamber of Commerce briefing room, 225 Church St.; cost is \$20 (pay the day of the event). "Entrepreneurs – Maximizing Your Business's Potential," with guest speaker Jim Morris, founder of Clarity Business Advisors, is July 25 from 10-noon at the Chamber of Commerce briefing room; cost is \$20 (pay on event day). If you are interested in

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

Parking lot open

A new parking area opened June 4 on the north side of the Sparkman Center, behind building 5302. Over the next few weeks, workers will do some touchup work, including lighting, electrical, signs and erosion. In addition, the outside lane of Sparkman Circle encircling the office complex has been restriped to allow for on-street parking.



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attending any sessions, call 824-6422 to register or email SBDC@uah.edu.

Fox health center news

Fox Army Health Center will close July 4 in honor of Independence Day. Normal operating hours will resume July 5. "We apologize for any inconveniences that this may cause and thank you for choosing Fox," a prepared release said. As a reminder, the health center is closed on the first Thursday afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-

9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

Fox change of command

Fox Army Health Center will close at noon July 13 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.



Photo by Doug Brewster

Senior executives

The Army Materiel Command's senior civilians gathered June 4-6 for the Senior Executive Service conference. The conference gave senior civilians the opportunity to share ideas, introduced AMC's SES employees to AMC's Vision 2020 and discussed upcoming transitions and initiatives within AMC.