

Redstone Rocket

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June 20, 2012 Vol. 61 No. 25 PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

Celebrating 237 years of sacrifice

Picnic party honors Army's birthday

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

Spc. Anthony Striano, 22, thought he was "old" to be considered a young Soldier.

But there he was on Thursday, cutting the Army birthday cake as the youngest Soldier at Redstone Arsenal.

"You get to do a lot of things in the Army," said the Army Materiel Command Band trumpet player. "I thought I was old. But it's pretty cool to know I might be the youngest of everybody here."

And as Army tradition goes, the youngest and oldest Soldier at Redstone get the honor each year of cutting the Army birthday cake presented by the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army during Armed Forces Celebration Week. On Thursday – the Army's 237th birthday – Striano was joined by Aviation and Missile Command's Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell, Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton and AMCOM Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Leon Kircher to cut the Army birthday cake in a picnic-style Army birthday celebration at the Community Activity Field.

"I first heard rumors that I might be the one doing this," Striano said. "Then, a couple of days ago, they told me I was the one."

Striano, who has played the trumpet for about 13 years, grew up near Jacksonville, Fla., and joined the Army just a year ago. With a few years of college-level music courses to his credit, he decided the Army offered some of the best opportunities for an aspiring professional musician who also wanted to have a stable job, a worthwhile career and a chance to travel the world playing music.

It hasn't always been easy, though. Basic training was tough and so was adjusting to being away from family and friends. But with his family's support, Striano knew he was on the right path with the Army.

"My family raised me up right with pretty good values. So, it wasn't at all bad learning to live by the Army values," he said. "My parents were thrilled with the idea of me joining the Army. They were pushing for it the whole time while I was considering it."

"There are so many great opportunities for a musician

See Birthday on page 4



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Spc. Anthony Striano finishes up the Army cake cutting ceremony with the help of, from left, Aviation and Missile Command's Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell, AMCOM Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Leon Kircher and Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton. The ceremony was held Thursday during a picnic-style Army birthday celebration at the Community Activity Field. It was one of several patriotic events during Armed Forces Celebration Week.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Monica Jones of The Summit serves Army birthday cake to Lt. Gen. Dennis Via and his wife, Linda. Via is the deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command.



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Wounded warrior softball hits homer with fans.

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RocketViews

How are you like your father?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com



Terri Stover

AMCOM/Garrison
Public Affairs

"My physical appearance certainly takes after my father's side of the family. There are things that I see. As I get older, I think before I leap which is my father. He's so logical and so analytical. So I tend to do that more. I see the value that that has – the ability to think things through, analyze and consider the consequences just like him."



Maj. Travis Tilman

Command and General
Staff School student

"I would say stubborn. I always think I'm right, too."



Nicholas Walker

Lee High School
2012 graduate

"I guess we just kind of go and do our own thing – without anybody telling us. We just do what we want."



Amy Belew

Chugach Federal
Solutions Inc.

"My father is a very honest man. And that's one of the qualities I admire in him. I try to be as honest as I possibly can. He's got a lot more great qualities but that's one that comes to mind."

Letter to the editor

Birthday greetings to Army on 237th year

Today (on June 14), we celebrate the 237th birthday of our Army.

For 237 years, our Soldiers, civilians and families have been the strength of our nation in peace and at war.

Today, America's Army is engaged in nearly 150 countries around the world, on 6 of 7 continents, with over 94,000 Soldiers deployed today and 94,000

forward stationed. Our nation depends on its Army to defend the shores of our homeland, defeat enemy forces abroad, and help with recovery efforts in the wake of natural disasters.

We have the best equipped, best trained and best led Army in history because of the 1.1 million professional Soldiers who serve in the active Army, Army National

Guard and Army Reserve, as well as the dedicated service of our Army civilians. It is our Army's competence, adaptability, moral character and resolute commitment that defines us as professionals and guarantees our long-standing sacred trust with the American people.

I'm proud of your accomplishments, your sacrifice and your selfless dedication to our Army and to the nation. Today, on its 237th birthday, we honor our Army and the remarkable men and women, past and present, who have embraced our nation's call to service. Army Strong!

Gen. Raymond Odierno
Army chief of staff

Quote of the week

When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.

— Mark Twain

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Name: Maj. Angela Smoot

Job: Student in the Intermediate Level Education Course, Command and General Staff School

Where do you call home?
High Point, N.C.

What do you like about your job?

Currently I'm a contract specialist. I procure services and supplies for the government. What I like about that is the challenge of negotiating to get the best price for the government in high-tech equipment that's going to support the war fighter.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Something that I like to do is read a

lot – whether it's history or autobiographies. It gives you something to pattern your life after. I like arts and crafts. I like working with my hands – whether it be painting or sewing. I like hands-on activities. Recently I went to the Davidson Center during the phenomenon of Venus passing through our sun. I found it pretty interesting in how vested our community is in understanding space and the solar system. It was a great event to be a part of.

What are your goals?

One of my goals professionally is to become a battalion commander. Since company command, it's been a long time since I've been around Soldiers in the capacity of leading an organization.

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

The top of my bucket list includes tra-



vel. I would love to have a Winnebago and ride around and see the United States – particularly Yellowstone National Park.

RedstoneRocket

The Redstone Rocket is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in the Redstone Rocket through the Public Affairs Office, Army Garrison-Redstone, Bldg. 5300 Room 5144, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the Redstone Rocket is Tennessee Valley Printing Co., Inc., located at 201 1st Ave., SE, Decatur, AL 35603.

Retail advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday before Wednesday publication. Classified advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

Email: skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Editorial office: 256-876-1500 Editorial Fax: 256-955-0133 Retail Advertising: 256-340-2463 Classified Advertising: 256-260-2218 Advertising Fax: 256-260-2211

Rocket articles are available at:
<http://www.theredstonerocket.com>
<http://pao.redstone.army.mil>

Rocket Staff

Editor-in-chief: Col. John Hamilton, Garrison commander

Editor: Skip Vaughn

Assistant Editor: Kari Hawkins

Reporters: Amy Tolson, Beth Skarupa

Photographer: Ellen Hudson

Copy Editor/Design: Kelley Lane Sivley

General Manager: French Salter

Advertising Sales: Shelia Smith, 256-260-2212

or shelia.smith@theredstonerocket.com
Anna Hyles, 256-260-2213 or anna.hyles@theredstonerocket.com

The Redstone Rocket is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by Tennessee Valley

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The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of Redstone Arsenal Public Affairs Office.

Published by Tennessee Valley Printing, a private firm

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The Redstone Rocket is distributed free of cost to any personnel at Redstone Arsenal and Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates for off post for the Redstone Rocket are \$35 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual). We do not send subscription renewal notices.

War fighters convene for missile conference

China, North Korea, Russia, and Iran have shown substantial growth in their Integrated Air Defense and Surface-to-Air Missile programs, posing a significant threat to the air superiority long enjoyed by the U.S. and its allies. The Association of Old Crows and the Missile and Space Intelligence Center came together at Redstone Arsenal to present the "Performance and Vulnerabilities of Modern IADs/SAMs Conference."

Scheduled June 19-21, this symposium provides an in-depth review of technical

analysis of both modern IADs and SAMs. Discussions cover threat system capabilities and vulnerabilities, status of new development programs, and identify the current and projected proliferation of high-interest air defense systems.

AOC is a non-profit international Electronic Warfare/Information Operations association which promotes electromagnetic spectrum operations and related activities across military, civilian and commercial applications. (*Association of Old Crows release*)

Panetta calls for leadership on suicide prevention

By **CHERYL PELLERIN**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Defense secretary Leon Panetta, in an internal memo written last month, addressed the issue of military suicides, calling it one of the most complex and urgent problems facing the department, a Pentagon spokesman said Friday.

In a briefing with reporters, Navy Capt. John Kirby confirmed the accuracy of numbers in news reports indicating that military suicides have risen 18 percent, from 130 in the period from Jan. 1 to June 3, 2011, to 154 in the same period this year.

"We've said for many years now how deeply concerned we are about the tragedy of suicides in the military and we recognize that the numbers are going up," Kirby said. "If you just compare this year's numbers ... compared to 10 years ago, they've doubled," he

added, "and each one is a tragedy."

Referring to Panetta's May 10 memo on suicide prevention for Defense Department personnel, Kirby said the secretary makes clear that suicide prevention is, first and foremost, a leadership responsibility.

"To that end," Panetta wrote, "leaders throughout the chain of command must actively promote a constructive command climate that fosters cohesion and encourages individuals to reach out for help when needed."

In the memo, he notes that the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness established a Defense Suicide Prevention Office to serve as the focal point for suicide prevention policy, training and programs.

The DoD Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide, established in 2009, recommended the creation of

such an office in its 2010 report, "The Challenge and the Promise: Strengthening the force, Preventing Suicide and Saving Lives."

The suicide prevention office, Panetta wrote, will collaborate with military departments to implement the recommendations of the DoD Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide and serve as the DoD lead with the Veterans Affairs Department and nongovernment organizations on suicide prevention.

"We understand there is a stigma to mental health issues that regrettably persists," Kirby said.

"The secretary wants to make it very clear to everybody in uniform and their families that there's nothing stronger you can do for yourself and your family than to come forward and seek some help and seek the counseling that you need," he added. "And you'll get it from the department."

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division provided the following list of reported incidents for June 3-9:

- Police investigated a report of assault at a residence.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, with injury, traffic accident on Rideout Road at Hale Road.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident at the Shoppette.
- Police investigated a report of shoplifting at the Redstone Exchange.
- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Rideout Road near Titan Street.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the parking lot of building 3224.
- Police and Fire responded to a report of a vehicle fire on Buxton Road.
- A Phoenix em-

ployee turned in property he found on Goss Road at Rideout Road to Police. The property was later returned to its owner.

- Police and Fire responded to a structure fire at building 7380 which resulted in minor damage to the building.
- Police responded to a request for assistance when a boater backed his vehicle into the river while loading the boat.
- Fifteen U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.

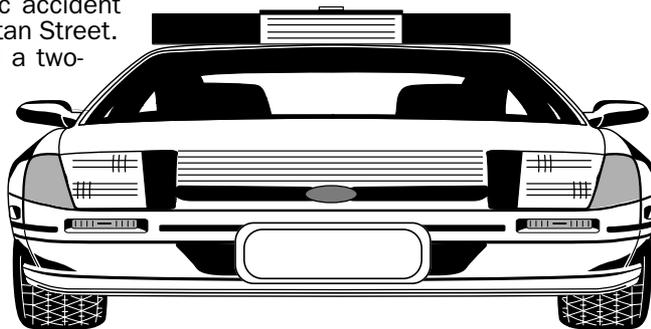


Photo by Randy Tisor

New product manager

Lt. Col. Roger Kuykendall speaks after becoming the first product manager for the newly created Common Engine Product Office under the Utility Helicopters Project Office, Program Executive Office for Aviation. The assumption of charter ceremony was held Thursday in Bob Jones Auditorium. Kuykendall most recently served as the executive officer to the deputy for acquisitions and systems management, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology. The ceremony was attended by Kuykendall's wife, Melissa, and their four children, Joshua, Madison, Hanna and Abigail.



Birthday

continued from page 1

in the Army. Not only do I have a stable job, but I can go back and finish college. There's a big possibility that I will strive for making sergeant major in the band. And my friends and I have talked about using the Green to Gold program to become officers."

Then, of course, as the youngest, there's the benefit you get from having plenty of mentors playing instruments right there with you in the band.

"There are surprises every day. I find out new things all the time," Striano said. "Everybody is giving me advice all the time. It's like when you think someone has a lot of potential, you want to give them all you got."

Glidewell, who, as AMCOM's senior enlisted adviser, represented the oldest Soldier at Redstone for the cake cutting ceremony, has been mentoring and advising young Soldiers for much of his nearly 30-year Army career. During that time, he's had lots of opportunities to celebrate the Army birthday.

"This is one day out of the year when we come together to celebrate the Army's lineage," Glidewell said. "It's a time to celebrate those who have come before us and those folks who will come after us."

With less than 1 percent of the nation's population serving in the military, the Army has a reputation for having some of the best of America in its ranks. Glidewell said he has always appreciated those holidays that recognize the contributions and sacrifices of the nation's military, including Memorial Day and Veterans Day. But the Army birthday

Army's origin by the numbers

237 - Age of the U.S. Army

June 14, 1775 - Date on which Congress approved creation of the Continental Army

\$2 million - Amount authorized by Congress to support the forces around Boston and in New York City in 1775

holds a special place in his heart.

"Today is the day that actually focuses on our Army and what our Army does for this great nation," he said.

"This Army is made up of young Americans who will be the leaders of tomorrow who will represent not only our nation but the American taxpayer in the best light. The youngest Soldier here today represents our future while the oldest Soldier represents those individuals who have served. Together, they show the linkage between the future Army and

where the Army has been."

The audience at the cake cutting ceremony included many Soldiers who serve at Redstone. It's those men and women in uniform who have set the bar for the standard of living in Huntsville and its way of life, said Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle.

"Redstone Arsenal is more than a place to work. It's a way of life and you protect our way of life," Battle told the audience.

"We've built a great tradition here. We can maintain the type of life we want and you have done the heavy lifting for us."

Madison Mayor Paul Finley said he enjoys representing Madison at the area's patriotic and military events.

"I told (my administrative assistant) that I get to go celebrate the Army's birthday today," he said. "That's one of my joys. So many times I have the honor of representing our city at events like this. ... Thank you for what you are doing each and every day."

Speaking on behalf of Redstone Arsenal, Hamilton thanked the volunteers and corporate sponsors who made possible the ceremony as well as all the events of Armed Forces Celebration Week. Sponsors for the AUSA-hosted birthday celebration were DynCorp, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman and VT Group. The event was supported by the Garrison and its Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation organization.

"We appreciate all the efforts you put in here for us," Hamilton told AUSA and its sponsors. "We appreciate the work you have done."

Although the Army's birthday is a time for celebrating with cake and ice cream, Hamilton said it's also a time for reflection.

"It's a day to stop and pause and reflect on what our Army means to us and to our nation," he said. "The Army has a history of 237 years of incredible sacrifice."

Hamilton expects those birthdays will be celebrated and reflected upon for at least another 237 years.

"Someone else will be up here then talking about this incredible nation and the Army that has served it well," he said. "This is an opportunity to stop and reflect upon that, and to remember how important it is what we do for our nation each and every day."



Photo by Melody Sandlin

Birthday cookout

Nick Helsner, Brian Steinberg and Allen Moore, of the Security Assistance Command, celebrate the Army's 237th birthday with a cookout Thursday. During the event USASAC employees enjoyed lunch, an Army trivia contest, a slideshow featuring employees' military service, a military documentary and birthday cake.



Photo by Mike Howard, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Spouse appreciation

From left, SMDC/ARSTRAT family members Jessica Sorensen, Kristin Jones, Stephanie Dufour, Diane Formica, B.J. Hebert, Amanda Johnson, Katherine Tighe, Stacie Wodjowski and Kristina Geib cut a cake donated by the Fort Carson, Colo., Exchange in celebration of the 2012 Military Spouses Appreciation Day on May 11 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

'Great' luncheon turnout salutes military

AMCOM's new commander lauds community support

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

Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar stood before a group of about 1,000 business, community, veteran and Soldier leaders and felt, in his words, quite honored.

For the new commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and a Huntsville native, being asked to be the keynote speaker at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce's annual Armed Forces Celebration Week's Salute Luncheon was a compliment that he truly appreciated.

Looking out into the audience at the Von Braun Center's North Hall at the luncheon June 13, Collyar noted the "great turnout" and specifically called attention to the veterans in the audience, saying he was "honored" to speak on behalf of the community's military, and to be given the responsibility to carry on a "legacy you pass on to us as we try to fill your shoes."

The Army's birthday – June 14, 1775 – marks the day when 10 companies of young men enlisted in the Continental Army to fight for U.S. freedom. And even though changes have come along the way, including the formation of the Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Air Force, the Army continues to stand tall.

"Throughout all of those years, we've had people serving and they have done everything they have been called on to do, and they've been doing that for 237 years without fail," Collyar said.

Today, the Army is more than 1 million Soldiers strong, serving in 150 countries around the world.

"We have the best trained Soldiers, the best equipped Soldiers and the best led Soldiers the Army has ever had," he said. "The experience level we have today is

incredible."

But that's only been made possible because of the support the Army receives today from the American public.

"It wouldn't have happened without you," Collyar said. "Some of you who have stood up in the past didn't experience that same level of support. It's because of you that the military gets the recognition it gets today. ... The fight you all fought over the years made the difference for today's Soldiers."

The Soldiers of today have earned the respect of the American public and their senior leadership through the ability to take on significant responsibilities and leadership roles in theater, he said.

Collyar is a 2000-01 graduate of the Army War College, which instructs high-level military personnel and civilians, and prepares them for strategic leadership responsibilities. He recently gave a graduation speech at the Army's Captains Career Course, which prepares company grade officers to command and train at the company, battery or troop level and to serve as staff officers at battalion and brigade levels. Those attending the Captains

See Luncheon on page 9



Photo by Kari Hawkins

AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar expresses his appreciation to the Huntsville/Madison County/Tennessee Valley community during his comments as the keynote speaker at the Armed Forces Celebration Week Salute Luncheon.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

About 1,000 business, community, veteran and Soldier leaders attend the Armed Forces Celebration Week's Salute Luncheon on June 13 at the Von Braun Center's North Hall to honor those who have served and who currently serve in the military.

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events

The Garrison's Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation provided the following list of upcoming events:

Pool passes

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

Army concert tour

The 2012 Army Concert Tour, featuring "Brantley Gilbert and New Faces

of Country," is Aug. 26 at 2 p.m. at the Activity Field. General admission is \$20, \$25 on show day. For more information, call 313-5224.

Birthday night

The Quarterly Birthday Night Bash is Thursday from 6-10 p.m. at The Summit. The buffet begins at 6. Club members celebrating birthdays during April, May and June will receive complimentary tickets. For all other non-birthday patrons, the ticket price will be \$17.95 per person. The Sentimental Journey Orchestra will perform. Dance the night away from 7-10. For more information, call 313-3255.

Youth golf

Youth Golf Clinic, open to ages 8-17, will be held Thursdays from June 21 through Aug. 2, 9:30-11 a.m. at the Links. Cost is \$85. Golf clubs are provided if needed. Basic golf instruction is provided by PGA professionals. There will be a Skills Challenge with prizes and lunch on the last day. For more information, call 313-3699.

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Soldier Show brings energetic musical extravaganza

Photos by Kari Hawkins

The 2012 U.S. Army Soldier Show brought its 90-minute Broadway-style revue to Huntsville High School on June 12 as part of Armed Forces Celebration Week.



Spc. Genesis Rodriguez sings from the heart during the Soldier Show.



Pfc. Christopher Roman leads a group of hip-hoppin', groovin', rappin' Soldiers during the high-paced pop section of the show.



Toward the end of the Soldier Show, **Spc. Whitney Jones** leads the chorus in a rendition of patriotic songs.

Country music gets high billing during the Soldier Show as **2nd Lt. Daniel Monplaisir** sings about the country way of life. Monplaisir, from Montgomery, is a human resources professional in the Alabama Army National Guard.

AMC Band rings in celebration week

Photos by Ellen Hudson

The AMC Band performed at the Concert in the Park in downtown Huntsville on June 11 during Armed Forces Celebration Week. Usually held in Big Spring International Park, the concert was moved into the Von Braun Center South Hall after the day's rain.



The AMC Band plays in the Von Braun Center South Hall.



Band commander Chief Warrant Officer 4 Peter Gillies conducts the concert.



Fireworks follow the Concert in the Park.



Maddi Glouner, 3-year-old daughter of Sean and Amanda Glouner, dances to the music.



Sgt. Gokben Boothby and Spc. Michelle Dykes perform on flute.

Luncheon

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Career Course have an average five years of Army service, yet many have more experience with leadership than most in Collyar's War College class.

"There was more combat experience in that Captains Career Course than in my War College class," the major general said. "Captains, today, are doing things that it once took colonels to do.

"It's routine every day to Soldiers at the E-5 and E-6 (sergeants and staff sergeants) levels to make decisions. In theater, they are in charge of 30-person convoys going through bad areas and making decisions affecting their Soldiers every kilometer along the way."

Case in point, Collyar mentioned the experience that Staff Sgt. Salvatore Augustine Giunta now carries with him as one of the few living recipients of the Medal of Honor. He received the award for actions he took to save the lives of his squad members on Oct. 25, 2007 in Afghanistan.

In a nationally televised interview about his experience, Giunta said "I'm an average Soldier. In fact, I'm a mediocre Soldier. I just did what anybody else would have done to take care of their buddies."

The interviewer then asked Giunta that, if he is a "mediocre Soldier" then what does that make other Soldiers who are serving.

To that, Giunta replied "If I'm mediocre, just think how good the rest of them are."

Collyar said public surveys show the military ranks at the top or near the top with the "trust factor."

"That trust allows us to do our job every day," he said. "That trust is between Soldier and Soldier, between Soldiers and leaders, between Soldiers and their families and the Army, and between Soldiers and the American people. It's that trust that empowers us to really do our jobs."

Besides servicemembers, Collyar also spoke about the Army's 280,000 government civilians, and the 23,000 government employees that are deployed with Soldiers along with a multitude of contractors.

"Not having the resources to have a draft Army requires you to step up," he told the civilians in the audience.

Besides those civilians, the Army leans on its Soldiers' families and friends to ensure Soldiers get the support they need to do their job.

"Without our families we wouldn't be the Army we are today. ... Those are the people who stand side by side with our Soldiers," Collyar said. "They are

the ones that make sure our Soldiers have something to come home to. They keep the flame going."

So, too, does the community, and a community like Huntsville is known for giving its Soldiers the support they need to do their job, whether they are active duty stationed at Redstone Arsenal or Reserve or National Guard Soldiers.

"This community has such a great reputation across the services for doing the right thing. It was very easy to come back here," said Collyar, who grew up in Huntsville while his parents worked on the Arsenal and who has returned here with his wife, Col. Sarah Green.

"It's a great place to come back to. Who wouldn't want to come back here? We're very proud to be back."

Collyar's address was his first public appearance since taking command of the Aviation and Missile Command on June 1.

"It is incredibly rare for a native son to return to his hometown to head the command that in many ways defines this community. We couldn't be happier or more fortunate," Joe Fitzgerald, chairman of the Armed Forces Celebration Committee, said.

Jim Bolte, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, thanked Collyar for being the Salute Luncheon's keynote speaker, saying "You understand the important relationship between the members of our armed forces and their families, and Redstone Arsenal and this community. We are here to support you in any way that we can and hope that you will be quick to call on us."

Sponsors for the Salute Luncheon included Northrop Grumman as the presenting sponsor. Gold sponsors were: DynCorp International, General Dynamics Information Technology, Aranea Solutions Inc., Lockheed Martin Corporation, The Boeing Company, Yulista Management Services Inc., Dynetics Inc. and the Madison County Commission. Silver sponsors were: TASC, QinetiQ North America, PeopleTec Inc. and SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation). Bronze sponsors were: ERC Inc., Harris Corp., The Huntsville Times, Radiance Technologies Inc. and Systems Products and Solutions Inc. And corporate sponsors were: Aegis Technologies Group Inc., Aerojet, BAE Systems, Business Council of Alabama, EADS North America, First Financial Group Wealth Management, Fyffe Construction Co., General Dynamics C4 Systems, Holiday Inn-Downtown, L-3 Communications Corp.-Huntsville Operations, Maynard Cooper & Gale, P.C., Parsons, Phoenix, PPT Solutions Inc., Sigmatech Inc., and Wyle CAS Group.

AER campaign tops \$270K final total

Closing ceremony slated Thursday

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Even in the toughest of economic times, the Army takes care of its own.

The 2012 Army Emergency Relief campaign will come to a close Thursday in a ceremony at Heiser Hall at 10 a.m. This year's campaign exceeded last year's total, collecting more than \$270,000 for the emergency relief fund available to active duty Soldiers, retirees, National Guard and reservists on Title 10 orders and widows.

"It was a wonderful campaign season," said Capt. Alyssa Wood, Headquarters & Headquarters Company commander for the Garrison and this year's campaign chairman. "We had some really incredible events that went on. Between golf fund-raisers, the Huntsville Havoc auction to many bake sales, bowling competitions and the like, all brought in significant donations from all over Team Redstone."

Certificates of appreciation will be presented to all organizations that contributed to the campaign at the closing ceremony. Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton will present Kerrie Branson,



Photo by Megan Cotton

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton and Capt. Alyssa Wood, Headquarters & Headquarters Company commander for the Garrison and the 2012 Army Emergency Relief campaign chairman, complete their AER forms, the first to do so this year. Thursday will bring the closing ceremony for the campaign.

AER officer, with this year's check.

"This money is going to touch the lives of many retirees, Soldiers and their families and wounded warriors as they transition or face those unexpected events that can pop up," Wood said. "It helps them focus their energy back on their work and not have to think about the financial part of the things that they're dealing with outside of the work environment. Thank you and we look forward to the AER campaign next year."

Command-wide family honors Army's 237th birthday



Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Cutting the cake celebrating the Army's 237th birthday are, from left, SMDC/ARSTRAT commander Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner, Sgt. Nelson Villanueva of SMDC Headquarters & Headquarters Company, Korean War veteran Meryl Seals and the Future Warfare Center's Innovative Ventures Office director Norven Goddard.

By **JASON CUTSHAW**

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

During Armed Forces Celebration Week, members of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command celebrated the Army's 237th birthday with a global party.

On June 12, members of the SMDC/ARSTRAT family were united via video teleconference from around the globe to celebrate the Army's birthday and witness the cutting of the Army birthday cake. Soldiers, civilians, contractors and family members were present from Arlington and Fort Eustis, Va., Omaha, Neb., Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Colorado Springs, Colo., Fort Greely, Alaska, and the Army Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands.

"We are about two days too early," SMDC/ARSTRAT commander Lt. Gen. Richard Formica said. "On Thursday, our nation will celebrate our Army's 237th birthday. We celebrate here in the command with the many sites across our command. From here in Huntsville to Colorado Springs to Fort Greely to the Kwajalein Atoll to Washington, D.C., to Fort Eustis to Fort Leavenworth and Omaha. We are, in fact, uniquely organized and geographically well-positioned to perform our core tasks from across the globe. And we remain focused on providing capabilities and services to the war fighter.

"We come together to celebrate our Army's birthday. We trace our Army's roots to the Continental Army. Since then,

it has been a team of Soldiers, civilians and contractors through the years who have formed our great Army, which has been the strength of our nation since its very birth.

"It is good for us to remember that there are Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and civilians who are serving around the world and in harm's way," Formica added. "Over 870 of those are from SMDC/ARSTRAT, who are providing space and missile defense capabilities to our war fighters around the world. I would ask you to remember those in particular who are serving in harm's way, those who have been wounded and are recovering from those wounds and those who gave their lives, and in all cases, the families at home."

At the beginning of the ceremony, Clara Moore Pride, a member of SMDC G-8, sang the national anthem and Staff Sgt. Richard Murphy, 49th Missile Defense Battalion, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-Based Midcourse Defense) in Fort Greely, Alaska, led the command in the Pledge of Allegiance. An invocation was given by 49th Missile Defense Battalion Chaplain (Maj.) Vince Cepeda.

The command welcomed several special guests to the ceremony. Eight combat veterans from the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home in Huntsville were present. They were Soldiers William Martin, who served in World War II and Korea, and George Dickerson, Kelvey Helton and Meryl Seals, who all served in the

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Redstone recognizes ATF for safety contribution



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Garrison safety officer Mike Moore presents an award Friday to Brad Earman, chief of explosives enforcement and training division at the National Center for Explosives Training and Research.

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The Garrison Safety Office has thanked a Redstone tenant for providing explosives safety training.

The ATF's National Center for Explosives Training and Research conducted at no charge a two-day course on safe range and explosive handling operations. It would have cost \$75,000 or more if done with outside sources, according to Garrison safety officer Mike Moore.

"You've done a great job as a good neighbor," Moore said during Friday's awards ceremony at the center.

On behalf of Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton, he presented a commander's coin and certificate of appreciation to the center, and individual letters

of appreciation to instructors from the Florence Police Department who assisted in the classroom and hands-on range portion.

Moore, Bobby Taylor and Jonathan Niedergeses from the Garrison Safety Office successfully completed the two-day training along with Army civilians and support contractor personnel assigned to Team Redstone.

Dennis Wheeler (former Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal), assigned to the Garrison Safety Office, initially met with Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives personnel and coordinated this training effort.

"We're going to continue with safety programs in the future," Brad Earman, the center's chief of explosives enforcement and training division, said. "Safety is one of our principal concerns and top priorities."

Summer camp delivers educational experience



Photo by Beth Skarupa

Students participating in the STEM Summer Experience camp hosted by the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center wait as Kailey Landrum, SSE assistant, examines a tomato they packaged to see if it is damaged after being dropped from a ladder by SSE teacher Christy Lockhart, who watches behind them.

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

beth.skarupa@theredstonerocket.com

Fractions and fun might not seem to go together, but students who attended the STEM Summer Experience camp hosted by the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center last week agreed that the two were successfully combined.

“It was fun, exciting, and we got to do a lot of experiments,” participant JaMya Fowler, a rising sixth-grader at Haynes Middle School in Nashville, said.

The Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics Summer Experience camp held at North Alabama J.F. Drake State Technical College last week was the first of three offered this summer. The SSE learning camps are sponsored by the National Defense Education Program.

Gayla McMichaels, an electronics engineer, is AMRDEC’s STEM education and outreach manager. She explained that although AMRDEC hosts the SSE camps, all three will be held at Drake State Technical College’s cafetorium because they had the space available for them.

Each SSE camp is designed to aid in the development of students’ critical thinking skills utilizing inquiry and design based STEM learning methods and to broaden the students’ interest in science, technology, engineering and math by working in groups.

Last week’s camp, geared toward third-

through fifth-graders, focused on fractions, geometry and food packaging. The students explored relationships between fractions through hands-on activities using set models, fraction number lines, pie graphs and ratio tables. The food packaging curriculum brought science and math together and allowed the students to conduct experiments that involved packaging tomatoes and potatoes in a variety of materials, watching a teacher drop them off a ladder, and then checking them to see if they became damaged.

“It was good,” participant Grant Gordon, a rising fifth-grader at Endeavor Elementary, said. “My favorite part was the potato packaging because I like dropping things.”

“I liked it because it was fun and we got to do experiments,” Paitlyn McGee, a rising fourth-grader at Heritage Elementary, added.

AMRDEC summer hire Kailey Landrum, a recent graduate of Bob Jones High School who plans to major in elementary education at Auburn University this fall, assisted with the SSE camp last week. She observed that it is a good educational outlet for kids in the summer.

“I think it’s really neat because it helps bridge the gap between school years,” she said.

Stu Shultz, lead instructor for the National Center for the Advancement of STEM Education, led the STEM training offered to area teachers the week before the camp and then served as a

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Korean War. Alongside their Army brothers were seamen Willis Branton and Fred Moffitt, who served in World War II, and Roy Owens who served in Korea, and Marine Virgil Mitchell who served in World War II and Korea.

“Today has been fun,” said Helton, who served with the 2nd Infantry Division in the Korean War. “To be with today’s Soldiers and the guys I served with in Korea is great. The ceremony was wonderful and, oh boy, the cake was good.

“I am glad to be here and to celebrate this day with SMDC,” he added.

After the command’s guests were introduced, birthday messages from Army leaders and a short film titled “Symbol of Strength” were shown. Then Spc. Jonathan Marshall, 53rd Signal Battalion, 1st Space Brigade in Colorado Springs, led Soldiers across the command in reciting the Soldiers Creed.

“Today is a great day,” Sgt. Nelson Villanueva, of SMDC Headquarters & Headquarters Company, said. “It is a pleasure and an honor to serve and be a part of everything. The Army is a great

tradition to be a part of, and the future is only going to be bigger and better. I look forward to seeing the next generation and where they lead us.”

During the event, the command chose to recognize the role civilian employees play in the Army’s success. Phil Patterson, SMDC Future Warfare Center, and Ed Kiker, SMDC Technical Center, led the civilian work force in the Civilian Creed.

To make the day even more special, members of the civilian work force command-wide were presented with the new SMDC civilian lapel pins. The new civilian lapel pins are a replica of the SMDC/ARSTRAT shoulder sleeve insignia, which identifies the organization. Command leaders encouraged civilians across the command to wear their insignia pins as often as possible.

“Today was great, I had a great time,” said Norven Goddard, Future Warfare Center. “It is great to be associated with so many great people. After 40 years, this is my first time cutting the Army birthday cake. It was an honor.

“One of the highlights today is receiving the lapel pin,” he added. “It is a great way to show other people what we are about and talk about our capabilities. I am just glad to be a part of it all.”

In the Army tradition, the oldest and

the youngest Soldier in the command were called up to cut the Army birthday cake. Joining the commanding general and SMDC Command Sgt. Major Larry Turner were Seals, a Korean War veteran, Goddard, an Army civilian, and Villanueva, the youngest Soldier currently assigned to SMDC in Huntsville.

After the cake cutting, members of the SMDC family joined together to sing the Army Song and celebrate in the rich heritage they all share.

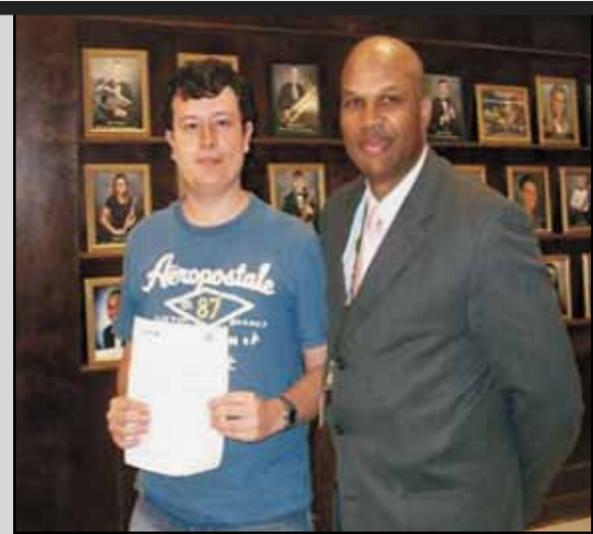
“Today was just wonderful,” John B. Rogers, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army, said. “It was an outstanding ceremony. To have an opportunity to celebrate the Army’s 237th birthday here at SMDC was a true delight.

“This has to rank near the top,” Rogers added. “Lt. Gen. Formica always does a fantastic job. The events here at SMDC are always intimate and it has a very personal touch and that is what makes it so special.”

Photo by John Pearson

Adventure participant

Sparkman High student Zachary Hurley shows his acceptance letter from the Adventures at AMCOM Program, accompanied by Sparkman principal Manuel Wallace. The program, slated June 18-22, is part of the Army Education Outreach Program.



Youth awareness event aims for success

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

beth.skarupa@theredstonerocket.com

Harry Hobbs beat the odds to become a success in life and he wants area youth to have as many opportunities as possible to succeed like he did. That's why he is passionate about the second annual Community Awareness for Youth event.

The CAFY event is slated Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jaycees building and fairgrounds off Airport Road. It is sponsored by the Huntsville Police Department, Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and the city of Huntsville in cooperation with Madison city and all of Madison County. Although aimed at ages 12-18, families and the public are encouraged to attend. Admission is free and will include free food, soft drinks, activities, contests, prizes, giveaways, music and more.

"People say that this event is just four hours long, so how can that make a difference? I tell them that it took just 15 minutes to change my life," Hobbs said. "You never know where a kid is going to go in life after this."

Hobbs, communications relations officer for the Huntsville Police Department, is the director of the CAFY event. He sees it as an opportunity for youth throughout Madison County to connect with civic organizations and groups that can help them succeed in life. He knows from personal experience that those kinds of connections are important.

"I was born near a railroad track. I was an at-risk kid automatically because, as most people know, in a low-income area education is not valued," he said.

Although he grew up poor, biracial, and fatherless in Louisville, Ky., in the 1960s, Hobbs said he did not let himself be a victim. He credits his involvement in the Boy Scouts and the YMCA with his ability to change his life. He also attributed his success to words from one of his high school teachers.

"My home economics teacher, Ms. Faye Ashworth, told me I was intelligent and that I could succeed if I tried and worked hard. I held those words close," he said.

The Boy Scouts and the YMCA gave Hobbs direction. They also inspired him to join the Army. He served for just over 29 years before retiring as a chief warrant officer 5. His work in the Army included race relations, being a mediator and serving as a U.S. liaison in foreign countries.

"I'm a person that's always trying to build community," he said. "Education and unity are very important to me."

Hobbs earned his Ph.D. and now teaches at the Florida Institute of Technology. He worked as a high school teacher in the Huntsville school system and helped build the JROTC program before joining the HPD. He also serves on the U.S. Military Academy's nomination committee and is an inspirational speaker.

"I just feel like I'm on a mission from God. That is the driving force behind this event," he said. "It's my faith that has driven me to want to set up this program. I feel that God put Christian folks in my life that helped me to succeed, so as a Christian I feel that it's important that I try to do that as well in the position that God has put me in."

CAFY began as an effort to inform Huntsville's youth about the four pillars of success – health, physical fitness, career and education. This year CAFY's goal is to encourage youth from all areas of Madison County to attend, learn about the pillars of success, become informed about their futures, and build relationships that will foster a positive environment for success.

Activities will include a rock climbing wall, inflatable bouncy houses, martial arts demonstrations, static displays, music and free giveaways. The first 500 qualifying students will receive backpacks filled with school supplies donated by Landers-McLarty.

Hobbs became the first person of color to earn his Eagle Scout in his Boy Scout troop in Kentucky. Because of that achievement, he met Muhammad Ali and Harlan Sanders. He said meeting them at age 17 made a big difference to him.

Special guests for CAFY 2012 include John Stallworth, mayor Battle and several other city, county and state representatives. Hobbs hopes to get as many special guests as possible to come out and encourage area youth to be successful.

"If you give someone opportunities and encouragement, you never know how much that will mean to them," Hobbs said. "I would rather see a child standing in a line to get a book than seeing them get booked."

Both Hobbs and his wife Erica, as well as a large committee of volunteers, are working to make this year's event even better than last year's. Erica is the event coordinator, in charge of logistics.

"We have a group of great volunteers, a cross-section of our community, who learned about this event and how it can help our youth and they jumped on board to help with it. We couldn't do it without them," Hobbs said.

Last year's event drew more than 1,000 youth from Huntsville. CAFY 2012 will

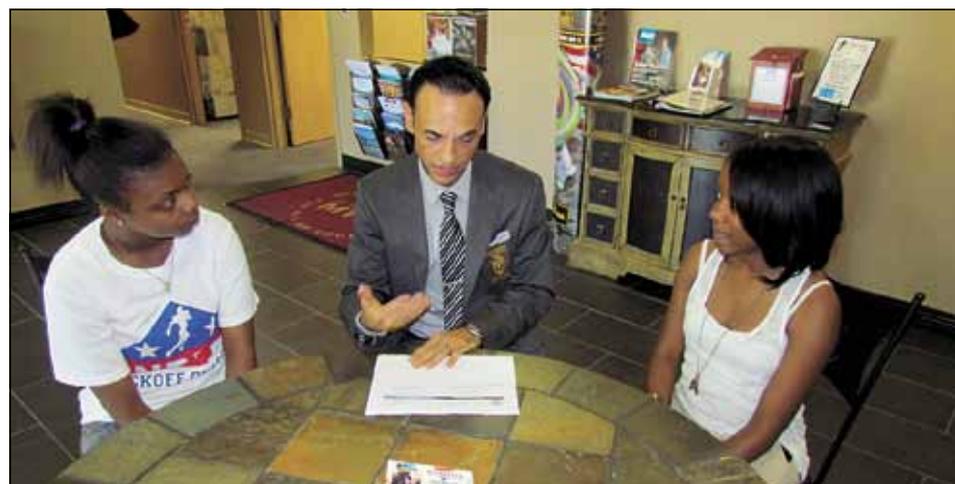


Photo by Beth Skarupa

Harry Hobbs, communications relations officer for the Huntsville Police Department, discusses the Community Awareness for Youth event with recent high school graduate Terrell Petty, left, and Columbia High School senior Miya Smith.

have even more food, drinks, activities, contests and giveaways. Hobbs noted that all items donated will be given away at the event and all leftover food will be donated to local organizations like the Rescue Mission.

"We hope it's more than a feel good experience. We want to encourage networking and connections for our youth," he said. "It's important. We want them to

see that we care about them."

To that end, the theme of this year's event is "Huntsville City and Madison County Cares About You!" Visit the HPD website at hsvpolice.com for a CAFY 2012 itinerary.

For more information about the event, or to volunteer to help, call Hobbs at 425-5307 or email harry.hobbs@huntsvilleal.gov.

Camp

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consultant for the SSE camp last week. He travels throughout the country conducting teacher training and consulting on SSE camps.

"What's unique about this program here is that Gayla set this up so that they had the teacher training last week and then she had some of those teachers volunteer to teach the children this week. So basically I've just been observing them and helping with planning each day," he said. "They are elementary school teachers and so they are adapting our curriculum for these younger students. They know how to relate to these kids much better than I do. As good as these teachers are, I just get out of the way."

Last week's teachers included Dan Bennich, Christy Lockhart and Sonja McKelvy for the food packaging/science section, and Kim Wenzler and Shannon Ashworth for the fractions and geometry/math section.

"I think this is a great idea for professional development. A lot of times we get trained on things and then have to wait all summer or a year to implement them. This gives us a chance to adjust what we learned to the needs of

the students," Lockhart said.

She teaches fifth-grade at Walter Jackson Elementary School in Decatur, so she expects her experience teaching last week's SSE camp to be very helpful to her in the classroom.

"I think this will be beneficial for every kid here. It will help them with their math, reading, and communicating too because they have to share what they think all the time," she said. "It's either a review if they are fifth-graders going into sixth-grade, or something to look forward to if they're younger. Most people talk about how hard fractions are, so everybody is scared of them. This gives the kids an edge on others in their classrooms because they had fun with fractions. I think it's great."

The next two SSE camps this summer, aimed at sixth- through eighth-graders, will focus on mathematics with robots and science with forensics. One is being held this week and the last one will be June 25-29. Each student will receive a \$50 stipend at the end of the week if they have perfect attendance.

The SSE camps are offered each summer, but registration opens in the spring. Only a limited number of spaces are available, so classes fill up quickly. For more information, email McMichael@amrdec.army.mil.

Air defenders have new German liaison officer

Lt. Col. Deppe expects interesting assignment

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

The close relationship between the German government, the U.S. Army and U.S. industry was evident in a ceremony Thursday in The Summit.

German Air Force Lt. Col. Stefan Deppe succeeded Lt. Col. Christian Uhlig as the director of the German Patriot Office, which serves as a liaison between Germany, the Army and American industry.

Uhlig, director since September 2008, is moving back to Germany with his wife, Edda, and will retire Sept. 30 after more than 40 years of service. He will be 59 on Sept. 30.

"Now is the time for us to start a new chapter, and we look forward to it," said Uhlig, who started his career in air defense in 1978 with the Nike maintenance training course at Redstone Arsenal.

He is originally from Moenchengladbach, Germany. He and his wife will reside in the northern part of the country between Hamburg and Kiel.

"It was good," Uhlig said of his time as director. "It was like coming back, I took a lot of profit out of being here before. We had successful cooperation."

Deppe, 53, originally from Hameln, Germany, joined the German Air Force in 1977. In his last duty station Ramstein, Germany, he served as the branch chief for tactical evaluations ground based air defense, NATO headquarters Allied Air Command, since 2009.

"It's my first tour to Huntsville. I've been to Fort Bliss (Texas) before but not Huntsville," Deppe said. He and his wife, Martina, look forward to the new challenges here.

"It's going to be interesting. It's an important position," Deppe said. "The international cooperation is the future for combined freedom operations."

Col. Heinz-Josef Ferkinghoff, commander of the German Air Force Command USA/Canada at Fort Bliss, thanked Uhlig for his outstanding service and welcomed Deppe as the ninth director of the German Patriot Office. The office exchanges information between the Lower Tier Project Office and the pertinent German organizations – mainly the Armament Directorate and the Air Staff of the FMod, Bonn; the Armament and the Logistic Branch of the Weapon Systems Command in Cologne as well as the Office for Military Technology and Procurement, the BWB, in Koblenz. The office acts on their behalf as an authorized representative of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Since its inception in 1986, the Ger-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

From left are Lt. Col. Christian Uhlig, outgoing director of the German Patriot Office; Col. Heinz-Josef Ferkinghoff, commander of the German Air Force Command USA/Canada at Fort Bliss; and Lt. Col. Stefan Deppe, incoming director.

man Patriot Office has served as an integral part of the German Patriot management as well as the international Patriot community. It includes three members of the German Air Force, two civilians and one secretary.

Bill Breffeilh, deputy project manager

for the Lower Tier Project Office, was among the presenters of mementos and tributes to Uhlig.

"I'm sure everyone here has the same goal in mind," Breffeilh said. "It doesn't matter what uniform you wear, what nationality, it's all about the Soldier."

Kwajalein Soldiers receive surprise recognition

By MARCO MORALES
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

The commander of the Army Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site and his director of host nation activities were recognized with awards during a June 12 ceremony at Majuro hosted by the Republic of the Marshall Islands U.S. ambassador.

Col. Joseph Gaines, commander of USAKA/RTS, and Lt. Col. Christopher Mills, director of host nation activities, were visiting Majuro, the Republic of Marshall Islands capital, to brief the RMI president and his cabinet on recent U.S./RMI partnership efforts. While on their visit, ambassador Martha Campbell surprised the two Soldiers with a Meritorious Honor award for Gaines



Army photo

Col. Joseph Gaines, left, holds his framed meritorious honor certificate alongside U.S. ambassador to the Marshall Islands Martha Campbell and Lt. Col. Christopher Mills at a ceremony in Majuro June 12.

and the Foreign Affairs for Public Service award to Mills. This was Gaines and Mills last visit to Majuro before they both leave

USAKA/RTS.

"We are honored to be recognized by ambassador Campbell for our work here in the Republic of the Marshall Islands," Gaines said. "It's been a thrill to serve as a member of her country team during the last two years and I am proud of all we have accomplished together. Ambassador Campbell and the embassy staff are like family to us at USAKA/RTS and we will miss them very much."

During the meeting with RMI gov-

ernment officials, president Christopher Loeak praised Mills and Gaines for their efforts to keep the RMI government informed of changes at the Army installation and thanked them for their service.

Mills is a career foreign area officer who has served at USAKA for the last three and a half years. He is being reassigned to the 163rd Infantry Brigade at Fort Polk, La. Gaines is scheduled to retire from the Army at a ceremony on Kwajalein scheduled June 27.

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Space officer becomes Army's newest one-star

By DJ MONTOYA

1st Space Brigade

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – The newest general officer in the Army is assigned to the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

Col. Timothy Coffin, deputy commander for operations, SMDC/ARSTRAT, was promoted to brigadier general June 6 during a ceremony in front of the command's operations headquarters on Peterson Air Force Base.

"We expect all of our leaders to be selfless servants," SMDC/ARSTRAT commander Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, host for the ceremony, said. "It is not about self, it is about serving our Army, our Soldiers and their families. That is especially true for our general officers. For the first time in Tim's career he will no longer be evaluated for technical and tactical competency. Rather he will be assessed by his seniors, his peers, and most importantly his subordinates, by how selflessly he serves our nation – and by the manner in which he serves as part of a team. It is about selfless service and teamwork that define general officers.

"And he has got all of the right space-related job experience to have earned the opportunity to get promoted today from colonel to brigadier general."

Before Coffin received his new rank and took the oath of office, he received two honors for past service. The first was the Defense Superior Service Medal while serving as director of Operations and Training, Joint Functional Component Command for Space, U.S. Strategic Command, from July 2008 to February 2011.

The second award was the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for his service while assigned as chief of the U.S. Strategic Command Forward Integration Team, Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, from July 2010 to January 2011.

After the awards, Coffin's wife, Khristy, and daughter, April, pinned on his one star. Coffin also received the general officer ensemble of cap and belt.



Photo by Rob Lingley, 21st Space Wing

SMDC/ARSTRAT commander Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, left, administers the oath of office to newly promoted Brig. Gen. Timothy Coffin, deputy commander for operations, during a ceremony at the command's operations headquarters on Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., June 6.

His father Bernie assisted with the uncasing of the one-star flag.

"I am awestruck to be here today seeing the outpouring of congratulations that comes from both here and from other areas," Coffin said.

Turning to his father he said, "Dad, you have been to every promotion that I've had over the years. You set an example for me of leadership, of ability to make things happen, and of can-do attitude. Thank you so much for being there."

Coffin assumed the position of SMDC/ARSTRAT deputy commander for operations in March 2011. The position was previously held by Brig. Gen. Kurt Story.

He originally came to SMDC/ARSTRAT (then Army Space Command) in 1999.

During his tenure he became the first commander of the 1st Space Battalion. Coffin left the command to work in other areas of space, including the Future Warfare Center, until 2006 when he was selected to command the 1st Space Brigade. After leaving command, Coffin continued his work in the space field, serving as director of operations, training and exercises for the Joint Functional Component Command for Space, U.S. Strategic Command.

Keeping up with the Joneses in Afghanistan

Deployed family members reunite on Mother's Day

By ANN JENSIS-DALE

Army Contracting Command Public Affairs

This year Claire Jones didn't receive flowers for Mother's Day. Instead, she received a bouquet of love at an unexpected family reunion.

Claire, a procurement contracting officer with the Army Contracting Command's Deployable Cadre Program, reunited with her husband Michael, and one of her sons, Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Jones, while deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan.

"I kept telling myself this is the first Mother's Day I will not receive flowers," said Claire who has been in Bagram since November.

Claire's husband Michael, administrative contracting officer with the Defense Contract Management Agency in Afghanistan, is also in Bagram but more than 30 minutes away. Although both are serving in Bagram, due to the travel restrictions, they have only seen each other twice: first when Claire arrived at Bagram Airfield and then again on Christmas Day.

"I was able to see Claire on Christmas Day since I was scheduled to brief lead administrative contracting officers about the contracts we have," Michael said.

Richard, who serves with the Air Force's 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron/33rd Expeditionary Helicopter Maintenance Unit, arrived the day before Mother's Day and wasn't sure that he would be able to see his parents right away.

"I didn't call my mom until Mother's Day," Richard said. "I also told my dad that I was trying to get things situated and that it probably wasn't a good day to get together."

Said Claire, "Richard told me there is a possibility he will be deploying to Afghanistan in May and I told him I'd extend my current deployment for the possibility of completing my dream of serving with him and my husband. Serving together with my husband and son, working together to make a difference, my dream did come true making a difference in support of our

country as a family."

Once Claire and Michael heard their son was arriving at the airfield, both separately began heading out to meet him.

"I called my husband to tell him Richard was coming in and I was heading to the airfield and he said he was doing the same," Claire said.

After a few tense moments, everyone arrived safely at the airfield for a long-awaited reunion.

"Man, I didn't think that we would all be out here, but it's good to see them," Richard said. "God is good. I never thought I would see my parents here. One maybe, but both? That never happens. The possibility of seeing my dad increased when he took a tour in Iraq with



Courtesy photo

Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Jones celebrates Mother's Day, May 13 with his parents Claire and Michael Jones at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. This was their first time together since April 2011.

the Army Corps of Engineers prior to his DCMA tour. Then he tells me he is going on a second tour to Afghanistan. So from there I knew it was only a matter of time before I saw him in the sand box."

Military service runs deep in the Jones family. Claire has 29 years of federal service. Michael retired from the Army and has 18 years of federal civil service. It was a dream for Claire to serve alongside her husband and son while deployed.

"My dream finally came true. I've always wanted to support our country as a family together," she said.

Said Richard, "My parents' service is awesome. My dad is retired Army. I never really knew what he sacrificed until I joined the service myself. My entire family supports each other and even my wife is prior service Air Force with a number of deployments under her belt. So with my family doing what we do, it's awesome."

Army redefines eligibility for civilian leader courses

By JULIA BOBICK

Army Recruiting Command

The Army has redefined employee eligibility for its complement of Civilian Education System leader development courses, as well as the rules for receiving course equivalency credit based on previous military education and training.

“We wanted to eliminate any confusion and establish a clearly progressive leader development model for our civilian work force,” Vicki Brown, chief of the Army’s Civilian Training and Leader Development Division, Army G3/5/7 Training Directorate, said.

In addition, she said the changes were implemented to help all Army leaders, supervisors and managers better define command training requirements, more clearly understand their civilian employees’ training and leader development requirements and make appropriate recommendations for their professional development.

Civilian Education System, or CES, courses are aligned with a civilian employee’s grade level similar to the way the Army has identified grade requirements in the Noncommissioned Officer Education System, Warrant Officer Education System, and Officer Education System. The realignment will allow for greater consistency of requirements development across commands and organizations, provide deliberate progressive development for Army civilian employees and meet the Department of Defense Instruction 1430.16 to grow civilian leaders.

Eligibility is based on the following grade levels, with first priority given to supervisors, managers and team leaders, in accordance with Army Regulation 350-1, Army Training and Leader Development:

- Basic Course: GS-01 to GS-09 or equivalent pay band
- Intermediate Course: GS-10 to GS-12 or equivalent band
- Advanced Course: GS-13 to GS-15 or equivalent band (no change)
- Continuing Education for Senior Leaders: GS-14 to GS-15 or equivalent (no change)

In addition, the Foundation Course is required for all civilian employees (GS-01 to GS-15 or equivalent) hired after Sept. 30, 2006. If required, the Foundation Course must be completed before employees are eligible to apply for the resident phase of their target CES leader course.

The Civilian Education System, administered by the Training and Doctrine



Photo by Prudence Siebert, Fort Leavenworth Lamp

Erika Brooks, TRADOC civilian educator of the year, instructs students in the Civilian Education System Basic Course March 30 at the Army Management Staff College’s Fort Leavenworth, Kan., campus. The Army has redefined employee eligibility for the CES Basic and Intermediate courses, as well as rules for receiving course equivalency credit.

Command through the Army Management Staff College, provides centrally funded progressive leader development courses for the Army’s civilian work force commensurate with that of uniformed members.

“It’s important for employees to learn about the system and the programs available to them so they can take ownership of their own development,” Brown said. “A successful career always requires active management and the best person to manage your career is you. No one else has as much at stake in the outcome of your career decisions, and no one else will work as hard to ensure success.”

When individuals create/update their profiles and register for CES courses within the Civilian Human Resource Training Application System, or CHRTAS, they will see the CES course for which they are eligible based on grade level and previous professional military education and civilian leader development course completions recorded in the Army Training Requirements and Resource System, known as ATRRS.

In addition, the “10-year rule” for receiving course equivalency credit has been eliminated. Individuals may now receive credit for legacy civilian or military leader development courses regardless of when they completed the courses. CHRTAS automatically determines equivalent course credit for PME and civilian

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Expo promotes safety on and off the job

SMDC and MDA hold safety day

By **JASON CUTSHAW**
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

As summer approaches, the Redstone Arsenal and Colorado Springs, Colo., communities are learning about health and safety.

The Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command and the Missile Defense Agency hosted the fourth annual Joint Safety Awareness Day and Health Expo to promote safety awareness June 7 at the Von Braun Complex on Redstone Arsenal and at Eagle Park in Colorado Springs.

“On behalf of the commanding general, (Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, SMDC/ARSTRAT commander), I would like to welcome you to the fourth annual USASMDC/ARSTRAT and MDA Joint Safety and Health Expo,” Col. James Jenkins, SMDC chief of staff, said. “This event is held in conjunction with June’s National Safety Month. This expo highlights the



Photo by Rachel Griffith, SMDC/SMDC

Grace Hunter, of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, gives a child an up-close look at a corn snake during the fourth annual Joint Safety Awareness Day and Health Expo to promote safety awareness June 7 at the Von Braun Complex.

SMDC’s and MDA’s commitment to employee safety and health by bringing in local vendors to demonstrate and promote safety awareness for on the job and off.

“What a great event. Your safety is important to our command. Recent estimates place the direct costs associ-

ated with occupational injuries and illnesses for the Army at close to \$2 billion over the last 10 years.

“Please incorporate safety and wellness not just into your work but into your life,” Jenkins added. “It is cool to be safe. Awareness is the key to preventing mishaps and developing a safety culture and living a healthier lifestyle. I hope you have a fantastic day and enjoy this event.”

The purpose of the expo is to help minimize the risk of unintentional death, injury or damage caused by mishaps and to promote proactive measures within the work force, as well as during leisure activities. The day’s activities focused on safety demonstrations and inspections performed by members of Redstone Arsenal and its surrounding communities.

“The over-arching purpose of safety day is improving overall safety awareness of all our employees,” Harvey Player, MDA-Huntsville chief of staff, said. “The potential for an accident

or mishap is all around us so, setting aside a deliberate block of time to concentrate and talk about safety really brings the purpose into the focus. We must continually raise the awareness of personal risk both on and off duty by building a strong sense of safety in all our personnel, which hopefully will extend into their personal lives. The day’s events are really all about nurturing our safety culture.

“Also, each June, the National Safety Council encourages organizations to get involved and participate in National Safety Month. NSM is an annual observance to educate and influence behaviors around the leading causes of preventable injuries and deaths.

“Safety is important and you can really never be too careful,” Player added. “‘Remember, Be Safe Out There’ is a personal quote I always try to tell my staff as we depart for weekend activities each and every week.”

The expo highlighted SMDC’s and MDA’s commitment to employee safety and health by bringing in local vendors to demonstrate and promote safety awareness. The expo takes place

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Safety

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in June to recognize National Safety Month and to provide the opportunity for family members to participate.

"The Safety and Health exposition is an opportunity to emphasize SMDC's commitment to employee safety and health in order to demonstrate and promote safety awareness," said Randy Joyner, SMDC command safety director.

Exhibits and safety demonstrations included: motorcycle safety; dangerous insects, spiders and snakes; drunk driving simulation; fire extinguisher use; boating safety; blood pressure checks; radon; drug and alcohol awareness and severe weather information; and several others. Employees also were able to bring in their weather radio to be programmed by local meteorologists from WHNT News 19.

SMDC members in Colorado Springs partnered with the Fort Carson and Peterson Air Force Base Safety Office to provide summer safety demonstrations including: drinking and driving prevention, motorcycle safety, outdoor safety, firearms safety, sexual assault prevention, range safety, health and fitness tips, and home repair tips, as well as visits from Fort Carson's Army Medical Department Activity, University of Phoenix, Colorado Springs Office of Emergency Management, Peterson Air Force Base Dental Office, Fort Carson emergency services and the Colorado

Spring Police Department.

"We are here to explain about dangerous animals and how they can affect us," Grace Hunter, member of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, said. "We want people to be able to identify the few poisonous snakes we have in the area. A lot of people are scared of snakes for no reason and they actually do help us.

"We are here to help people to know the differences. Most snakes like the corn snake are not venomous at all, they might hurt, but their bite would feel like little briar scratches."

MDA and SMDC employees and family members at Redstone Arsenal got a firsthand chance to learn about local safety and health issues unique to Alabama and the Tennessee Valley. They learned about several issues confronting them both indoors and outdoors.

"The safety day and expo has been a good experience," Marilyn Wurtz, member of SMDC's G-1, said. "We have a wide variety of different representatives here today. I think the MDA and SMDC teams have come together to do a wonderful job pulling this together.

"I have picked up some brochures and other information to read. We do live in Alabama where there are different types of dangers, such as the weather and spiders and snakes. This is a great place for people to come and get informed and this gives them valuable information they can use."

Courses

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leader development courses that have been approved for equivalent credit by TRADOC.

The list of courses is available in the "Resources" section of the Army G-3/5/7 Civilian Training and Leader Development website at www.civilian-training.army.mil, and in CHRTAS via the main menu under "About CES Course Credit."

Equivalent credit will only be granted for CES courses for which the individual is eligible by grade. For example, employees who are GS-11, GS-12 or equivalent may not receive credit for the Advanced Course because they are not yet grade-eligible to attend the Advanced Course. Once employees advance to the appropriate grade, equivalency will be automatically assigned in CHRTAS if they previously completed the higher level equivalent course.

Individuals with current course reservations will not be affected by the new eligibility rules that went into effect in May. Reference Army ALARACT 121/2012 - Civilian Education System Policy Changes, dated April 27. ALARACTS can be found on Army Knowledge Online at <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/550282>.

To learn more about and register for CES courses and other Army civilian professional training and leader development opportunities, visit www.civiliantraining.army.mil. The FY 13 training schedule for the Civilian Education System courses is now available in CHRTAS and qualified employees may begin registering for Phase II (resident) courses. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/armyciviliantraining.

Editor's note: Julia Bobick, a public affairs specialist with the Army Recruiting Command, wrote this article during a public affairs fellowship with the Civilian Training and Leader Development Division in the Headquarters, Department of the Army, G-3/5/7 Training Directorate.

Veteran stays in uniform to promote youth education

Austin High JROTC instructor achieves community award

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

DECATUR – Standing amidst the uniforms and picture frames that commemorate the success of the future Soldiers he fosters, the pride that radiates from retired Lt. Col. James Walker's eyes shows no sign of fading after 43 years of wearing the uniform.

It was a tumultuous time in the United States to support the military, let alone join it, but Walker's patriotism and duty to his country were persistent when he enrolled in Georgia State's ROTC program while attending Morehouse College in Atlanta during the Vietnam era. Keeping his uniform in a garment bag, he would leave Morehouse each afternoon at 3:15 and, without a car or much money, would thumb a ride across town to Georgia State, where he would change in the bathroom and join his fellow cadets. Every day, without fail, the future Soldier would find a ride, sign and symbol for the unflinching commitment he would give his country and its youth in the years to come.

Today Walker still puts on that uniform, but he does it for the kids, his JROTC students at Austin High School in Decatur, where he has built a thriving program, changing countless cadets' lives. For his outstanding service to his community and state, Walker was named the 2012 recipient of the Spirit of America Festival's Barrett C. Shelton Sr. Freedom Award. He will receive the award in a ceremony at the festival in Decatur July 4.

"Lt. Col. Walker was selected for his outstanding work overseeing 121 JROTC programs, then creating 50 new JROTC programs throughout the Southeast, and finally, moving to establish the program at Austin High School, where his students have continually excelled," said Dave Carney, member, board of directors, and chairman of the awards program for Spirit of America. "His work has created opportunities for thousands of



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Retired Lt. Col. James Walker is the 2012 recipient of the Spirit of America Festival's Barrett C. Shelton Sr. Freedom Award for his service to the nation's JROTC program, most notably at Austin High School in Decatur where he has worked as an instructor for more than 20 years.

young men and women throughout the Southeast, opportunities that for many students would not have otherwise existed."

Born and raised in Athens, Walker attended the segregated Trinity High School in Athens before graduating and being drafted into the Army. After a year in Vietnam, he got out of the military and went back to college, planning to finish the rest of his life in small town Alabama where he worked for TVA. As much as he loved the town he affectionately calls the "big city," something was missing from his life. He needed something more.

So Walker left the comforting confines of his hometown and headed to Martin Luther King Jr.'s alma mater, Morehouse College, where he was a student by day and a cadet in the ROTC program at nearby Georgia State at night. Graduating in 1972, Walker spent 20 years in the Army before retiring in 1992, only to go back on active duty shortly thereafter to serve as a Junior ROTC operations officer overseeing programs in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and West Florida, 121 in all, and estab-

lished 50 new programs in the Southeast. But Walker once again felt the familiar tug of wanting something more out of life, and retired in 1995 to pursue his dream.

"I wanted to work with kids," said Walker, who established the first Army JROTC program at Austin High School in 1995. "It's the best job I've ever had in my life. It's just fascinating to work with these kids."

In those 20-plus years he has helped mold and shape more than 2,000 cadets in the program, including 150 enrolled in the 2011-12 school year, and a projected 235 for the upcoming year, by all definitions a large JROTC program. Of the more than 1,500 Army JROTC programs in the United States, Walker's has performed in the top 20 percent for the past 15 years, receiving 15 consecutive Honor With Distinction ratings from the Army, and earned students more than \$11 million in scholarships, \$1.12 million

in just the last year. But it's not the numbers or the awards that matter to Walker – it's the kids.

"Unfortunately adults think that the country is going to hell in a hand basket. Nah," Walker said. "I see great kids every day. Every day."

Each school day the students begin their academic day with Walker and Sgt. 1st Class Billy Taunton, his fellow instructor, who check in with the kids on what's happening off school grounds before launching into a lesson on topics such as American history, world history, international relations or first aid.

"We're always trying to expose these kids, trying to make them think outside the box and try and help them realize the fact that the world doesn't stop at Decatur Bridge," Walker said. "There's a big world out there."

After 45 minutes of class time, the cadets perform physical training and then join the rest of the Austin High School student body for more academics. Every afternoon, except Fridays, they return at 3:15 to work in their teams, whether it be color guard, drill, rifle or PT. Some days they may work on a special project or go on a field trip, like their annual trip to Vanderbilt, but everything they do is about scholarship, athletics and leadership.

"Kids like structure," Walker said. "They like the fact that we instill discipline in them. They like the confidence that it builds. All these things are attractive to kids. You're trying to instill certain values – honor, duty, respect, loyalty, selfless service – it takes time."

While less than 3 percent of the Austin High cadets actually go into the military upon graduation, all students are expected to and must be accepted to a college by Dec. 1 of their senior year, whether it be Harvard, Calhoun Community College or a vocational school. No matter what their path, their foundation must be rooted in education, Walker said.

"I'm dealing with kids who are the

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AMCOM WORKER PENS BOOK WITH FATHER**

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SMDC engineer honored as winning leader

By JASON CUTSHAW

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

A member of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command has been recognized for his contributions to the community.

Donald Hodge, SMDC Directed Energy Directorate general engineer, received the Civic/Community Award at the 11th annual Leadership Awards Banquet held June 2 at the Ernest L. Knight Center on the Alabama A&M University campus. Hodge was nominated for this award because of his contributions to the Huntsville and Madison County community, as well as Alabama A&M University.

"This is a great honor," Hodge said. "It says that I have accomplished something within the community that I have lived in for so long. It is also special because the university I attended recognized my accomplishments. I also want to say that the people I have coached and mentored throughout the years are really honored also because they are a part of this honor that was bestowed on me."

Hodge grew up in Opelika, and

played football, baseball and ran track throughout elementary and high school. He attended Darden and Opelika High School. Hodge attended Alabama A&M University, where he played football as a running back. He received his bachelor's in physics and math, and his master's in applied physics, specializing in optics/laser from Alabama A&M.

"What drives me is that there is a need for people, like myself, who have been given so much and want to give back to the community," he said. "I grew up in a family with a single mom and I know that there needs to be somebody who wants to give back in that regard. I understand what kids are going through, and I just want to be able give back to the community."

Hodge has been coaching football for ages 8 and under in Huntsville for 30 years. His Metro 8-under football team has won the city championship for the last 16 years, and has only lost one game during that time. Besides instilling football knowledge and discipline into his team, he encourages his players to take part in other activities, such as attending church services,

watching high school games, and collecting canned goods to donate to those in need.

Hodge said he wants his players to respect their parents and teachers, as well as have a good report card, and understand that there are consequences if they do not. He hopes his players will always remember coach Hodge's motto, "Mind God, mind parents, do well in school, and you will be a winner."

A significant moment in Hodge's coaching career came when Huntsville and the community proclaimed Donald M. Hodge Day on July 18, 2009 and named the Metro home field the "Donald M. Hodge Football Field."

"Receiving this honor is a great thing for me. There are a lot of other honors that have been bestowed on me, but this is a great honor that overshadows all the others," he said. "I have told people that God has given me a mission to work with the children in the community and I wouldn't hesitate to do this all over again. Being able to see my kids grow up, become good leaders and good role models is the greatest thing I can be a part of."



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Donald Hodge, SMDC Directed Energy Directorate general engineer, holds the Civic/Community Award he received at the 11th annual Leadership Awards Banquet held June 2 at the Ernest L. Knight Center on the Alabama A&M University campus.

AMCOM worker pens book with father

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Ann Hutson has always looked up to her father – she just didn't realize how much he warranted the admiration until she put his life story down with pen and paper.

Together with her father, Zane Geier, the duo have published the story of the 86-year-old's life, "Zane Geier, His Life & Times."

"It puts a whole different perspective on it," said Hutson, who is finishing an internship with the AMCOM Chief Information Office G-6 in the Governance Directorate with organizational metrics and strategic planning. "My dad and I have always been close, but this project has definitely helped us grow closer. I think of him almost as a hero figure. It's kind of neat to have it all chronicled."

It all began when Hutson's mom, Mary, idly commented to her husband that he had had some unusual experiences as a child growing up on a farm in Alabama. As Geier began to reflect on his life and write it all down on paper, he couldn't help but agree, and before he knew it, he had the makings of a manuscript. Over the course of 10 years Geier wrote his autobiography, massaging the words and memories he wanted to be sure to include, before handing it over to Hutson, who organized it, provided the artwork, wrote the foreword and polished it to make it a publishable work. The more she worked on the project, which took her two to three years to complete, the more she discovered about the man who raised her.

"He's told me bits and pieces but I didn't really have the full breadth of it until he put it down on paper," Hutson said. "For instance, 40 countries? I knew that he had traveled the world, but I didn't quite realize it was that extensive until I saw the pictures and all of his writings."

Geier was born in May 1926 in the village of Weaver, north of Anniston, where he was raised on his grandfather's farm during the depths of the depression. After some years, the family moved around to Florida and California, where Geier filled in for the able bodied men that had gone off to war fighting forest fires in high school. In May 1944 he joined the Navy where he was aradarman

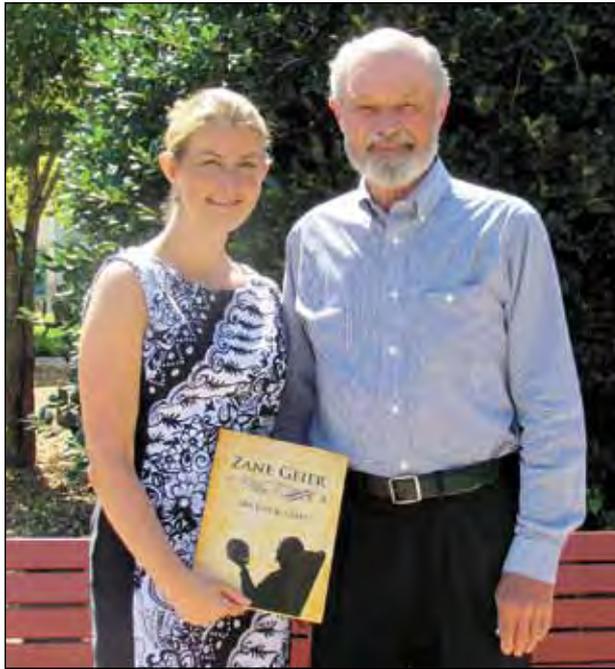


Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Ann Hutson stands with her father Zane Geier and their book "Zane Geier, His Life & Times," the story of the 86-year-old's life.

for two years, serving in WWII, a fact Hutson's teachers never believed due to his youthful appearance. Upon his return to civilian life, he was given the choice to either go to college, which no one in his family had ever done, or help his father's business. Geier chose college, the University of Alabama specifically, a decision that would change his life.

"One of the biggest takeaways I've had is just a thirst for knowledge and learning. Never settling, always look for improvement – self improvement – through education," Hutson said. "Just to know of all the experiences he had, I don't think that he probably would've gained access to that if he hadn't taken that first step and gotten his bachelor's degree. That is a really empowering thing, the thirst for knowledge."

Upon graduating with a degree in accounting, Geier landed a job in Atlanta with what is now the Office of Government Accountability, where he was able to further quench his thirst for education, attend Harvard and travel the world at some of the most interesting times in history, such as to Europe during the Marshall Plan rebuilding era.

"That was the most interesting thing for me – the places that dad has gone and the times that he went there were such interesting events, it was almost like listening to a movie hearing him

tell these experiences," Hutson said. "Getting it chronicled was such a fun process. To have been able to have gone there at those exact moments and experience those things when he did, trying to describe that to somebody else only does it justice so much, and I think he did a pretty good job of doing that."

Over the course of those years he went through three families, losing two children from his first failed marriage, Lex to Hodgkin's disease when he was 20 in 1969, and Violet to a self-inflicted pistol shot while on an LSD trip in 1970. He amicably divorced another wife before finding the love of his life Mary and raising Ann, his only surviving child.

"It is fascinating to look back," Geier said. "I'm 86 years old now and have had what I consider a remarkably active life and I've been fortunate health wise to come through unscathed. I've been extremely fortunate."

The book chronicles it all, including pictures and memories

from his travels around the world, his accomplishments and sorrows, and yes, the very thing that got the whole ball rolling, his childhood.

"I think one of the most fascinating aspects of this is my childhood years I was sort of isolated from the real world living on a farm," Geier said. "This book describes the games we played as children in the community and in grammar school so dramatically different than what's going on today. I suspect that our 4-year-old granddaughter would be amazed at some of these games that are mentioned here. They don't even know what you're talking about."

What originated as a book meant just for family members has sparked interest in Geier's and Hutson's friends and colleagues as well. The book is available for purchase at www.lulu.com.

"I had a supervisor that said she loved it and couldn't put it down," Hutson said. "It's been very interesting to see everybody else's perspective from outside the family, how intrigued they've been with it. We never expected to get that sort of interest."

Talley takes command of Army Reserve

By **TIMOTHY HALE**
Army News Service

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Talley assumed command of the Army Reserve Command at a ceremony here June 9.

With the passing of the command flag, Talley becomes the 32nd chief of the Army Reserve. He also is the seventh commander of the Army Reserve Command, which relocated to Fort Bragg from Fort McPherson, Ga., last year.

“Never in our nation’s history has the Army Reserve been more indispensable to America’s Army,” Talley said. “For after a decade of war, the Army Reserve has evolved into a central part of the total force. With streamlined deployable forces and citizen-Soldiers they embody the warrior spirit.

“Our Army Reserve Soldiers and civilians are truly ‘Twice the Citizen,’” he said.

Talley thanked senior Army leadership for choosing him to lead the Army Reserve.

“I promise I will not let you down – you or America’s Army or the nation,” Talley said.

Talley brings more than 30 years of active and reserve service to his new position with command experience in the United States, Iraq, Kuwait and South Korea. He also has extensive work in the civilian sector in civil and environmental engineering earning a doctorate from Carnegie Mellon University, and multiple master’s degrees.

As the chief, Talley serves at the strate-

gic level as the principal staff adviser to the secretary of the Army and the Army chief of staff on all Army Reserve affairs. As the commanding general, he serves at the operational level, commanding all Army Reserve troop program units worldwide, with a total end strength of 205,000 Soldiers and more than 12,000 civilians.

Gen. Raymond Odierno, the Army’s chief of staff, said the “Army Reserve has proven itself time and time again. These warriors have proved themselves as an integral component of our joint force.”

He praised Lt. Gen. Jack Stultz, the outgoing Army Reserve chief, for leaving behind a “tremendous legacy – an operationalized Reserve force of citizen-warriors seasoned by combat but grounded by our Army values.”

Talley replaces Stultz who is retiring in July after 38 years of Army service. Stultz spent the last six years as the Army Reserve’s senior officer – the longest-serving commanding general in that position.

During his time in command, Stultz was instrumental in transforming the Army Reserve from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve supporting contingency operations in Afghanistan and Iraq and establishing a presence in other parts of the world in theater security cooperation missions.

Stultz also established an employer partnership program that assists employers in finding qualified Soldiers who are looking for jobs.

He said that while leadership changes, the Soldiers who live the Army values are a constant.

sons and daughters of hard-working red blooded Americans,” Walker said. “Smart kids. Real, real smart kids. They’ll go out and build solid lives, but that’s after they go to college. I’m a firm believer that the



Photo by Timothy Hale

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Talley receives the oath of command from Gen. Raymond Odierno, Army chief of staff, while Linda Talley holds the Bible, during the Army Reserve Command promotion ceremony and change of command ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C., June 9. Talley becomes the 32nd chief of the Army Reserve and the seventh commander of the Army Reserve Command.

“Today is a significant event for the Army Reserve and the Army, but it doesn’t change what our Soldiers are doing for us,” Stultz said.

“The strength of our Army is our Soldiers, and the strength of our Soldiers is our family. And for the Army Reserve, the strength of our families is our com-

munities.

“I’m not leaving sad, I’m smiling. It’s been a great run,” Stultz said, thanking everyone in attendance for what they do for Soldiers every day.

The ceremony was held in front of the command’s headquarters with nearly 500 guests in attendance.

JROTC

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key to success is education.”

One of his favorite examples of how important education is can be found in the success story of the cadet who joined the program as an illegal immigrant, the first in her family to get a high school diploma. Even after getting pregnant in college she defied the odds and finished her degree in mathematics, became a U.S. citizen, married her child’s father, found a job as a cost analyst on Redstone Arsenal and bought a home in Madison. Whether it’s the alumnus stopping in to say hello that works as a mechanic down the street or those students that go onto West Point or another elite military academy or Ivy League school, their faces pictured on the walls of the JROTC building, all make Walker’s face light up with pride.

“If you’re working and raising a family and paying your taxes you’re

contributing to the growth of this country, and that makes me happy,” Walker said.

Forming solid citizens is the end goal for Walker, whose JROTC program is more than just a class or an extracurricular for kids – it’s a way of life and a place to call home. While wearing the uniform might not be a lifelong calling for all his students, there are a few lessons he hopes last.

“Treat people like they like to be treated, just to have a respect for all humans – that’s what we push here,” Walker said. “We call ourselves a family. We don’t see male or female, black or white, Hispanic. We’re all humans and we must have an undying respect for each other. That’s the goal here, and that’s what I really want. Be respectful of your fellow man and then go see the world. It’s a big world out there. Go and see it, all of it. Every bit of it.”

Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Bumper sticker

Master Sgt. Timothy Hardaway, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command/Army Forces Strategic Command chaplain assistant, watches as his first noncommissioned officer in charge, retired Sgt. 1st Class Charles Archer, hands his son Jasaes, 10, an Army retired bumper sticker during Hardaway's retirement ceremony June 4. At left is Archer's wife, Linda. Hardaway retires with 24 years of service.



Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

SMDC sendoff

Col. Lorenzo Mack, deputy chief of staff G-3, and Maj. Steve Johnson watch as Johnson's wife, Finnie, fastens his retirement pin June 8 at the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. Johnson retires with 20 years of service.



Courtesy photo

RTC retirements

The Redstone Test Center's Missile and Sensors Test Directorate honors four retiring members – Tony Crutcher, Norman Dowdy, Lawrence “Moose” Rhoades and Wade Sanders – who represent a combined 125 years of service. From left are Mrs. and Mr. Dowdy, Rhoades, Sanders and Mr. and Mrs. Crutcher.

Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Legion of Merit award

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, pins the Legion of Merit on Col. Patrick Hampton, deputy chief of staff G-2, during Hampton's retirement ceremony June 11. Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner watches. Hampton retires with 24 years of service.



Missile production speeds toward target

Raytheon to open automated facility with ribbon cutting at end of year

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

Missiles – and the advanced technology and automation that can be used to build them – have brought Randy Stevenson back to his North Alabama roots.

The Raytheon executive and Athens native, who is the director for the company's Weapon Integration Center, has lived away from his hometown for about 30 years. He is now back home, leading a construction building project that will re-introduce missile assembly and production to the Redstone Arsenal industrial mix later this year. The production milestone represents more than a four-year effort to build a facility to accommodate production demands for the Standard Missile-3 and Standard Missile-6, two ballistic missiles associated with the nation's worldwide missile defense strategy.

Today, the \$75 million, 70,000-square-foot Raytheon Redstone Missile Integration Facility is well under way with construction at a 200-acre site in the northern most corner of the Arsenal's southeastern section near Gate 3. Hiring for its 130 employees is now under way with a ribbon cutting set for late November. The first missile is set to come off the production line Jan. 22.

"Everything is on schedule. Construction is on schedule. We are sustaining our budget," Stevenson said.

"This will be the most technologically advanced missile factory in the world. We are building this facility based on about 10 years of research in advanced technologies and automation used in today's automotive, appliance, electronics and other industries. This missile factory will be different from all others in its use of automatic guided vehicles and robotics, and it will be innovative as well in its factory culture. It will promote mission assurance at the highest level and reduce cost to the taxpayer through innovation."

The Garrison's Directorate of Public Works has worked closely with Raytheon to bring the project to fruition. Although a commercial tenant, the Raytheon facility was desirable because it fits well with

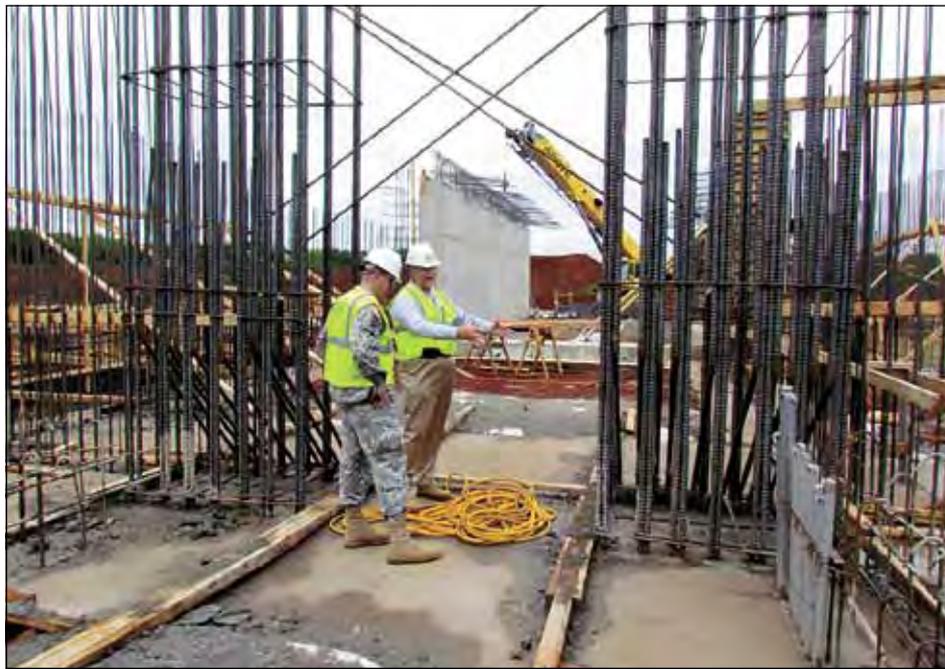


Photo by Kari Hawkins

Randy Stevenson, director of Raytheon's Weapon Integration Center, describes to Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton the layout of the concrete corridor and test cell for the automated testing of the Standard Missile-3 and Standard Missile-6 ballistic missiles associated with the nation's worldwide missile defense strategy. Test cells will be constructed as part of the 70,000-square-foot Raytheon Redstone Missile Integration Facility on Redstone Arsenal.

the Arsenal's work in the field of explosive operations and in bringing diversity to the installation.

"The addition of the Raytheon missile manufacturing facility on Redstone Arsenal further solidifies this region as a cornerstone of the advanced missile technology industry," Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton said.

"Their decision to locate this facility here speaks highly of what this community has to offer – economic stability, opportunities for key partnerships, a highly-skilled work force and great quality of life. The Garrison is excited to include them as one of our tenants and as a member of Team Redstone."

Raytheon is building on the site that was once used by Thiokol Corp. for missile production. The Thiokol facility was closed in the mid-1990s.

"This project helps bring manufacturing back to this installation," Craig Northridge, program manager for the Directorate of Public Works, said.

"It allows for the greater utilization of Arsenal land that is dedicated to explosive operations. It further diversifies our

work force and expands the installation's support to the Department of Defense. Putting this operation in an area where similar operations historically occurred just makes a lot of sense."

And yet, the Raytheon facility nearly didn't happen at Redstone.

In October 2008, Raytheon approached the Garrison to discuss a possible land lease for construction and operation of the new missile assembly building. At the time, there was no available space to accommodate Raytheon's requirements. In May 2009, the Alabama Development Office requested another review of land availability for the proposed Raytheon facility. At that time, appropriate land was identified that met both the installation master plan and project requirements due to changes in proposed

Military Construction-Army projects for Redstone.

In January 2010, Raytheon verbally confirmed to the Garrison their intent to pursue coming to Redstone. Once the Army approved the 25-year and 25-year-option property lease, the project was announced publicly and a groundbreaking ceremony at the site was held in late June 2011.

"I was given the responsibility to find a location for the new facility," Stevenson said. "We had outgrown our present capability for large missile manufacturing, so we had to do this. We just didn't have to do it in Huntsville."

The Raytheon site selection committee, led by Stevenson, reviewed 130 sites, with 20 of those actually visited.

"We looked at all the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) 2005 sites to consider every government facility abandoned or closed in association with BRAC," Stevenson said.

In the end, three sites – Camden, Ark., where Raytheon already has a missile production site; Tucson, Ariz., home to Raytheon's Missile Systems headquarters; and Huntsville – made the short list for the new missile production facility. It was Huntsville/Redstone Arsenal that offered the "best of the best" combination of location, state economic incentives, quality of life, availability of an educated work force, transportation, security and safety, and a host of other factors reviewed by a Raytheon site selection committee led by Stevenson.

"Huntsville had three big things going for it," Stevenson said. "First, it was unique because, of our 350 facilities, it is our only worldwide location with all six of our business elements represented at our facility in Cummings Research Park. Second, Redstone Arsenal offered us lots of benefits in terms of site, transportation with air, rail, road and water all available, safety and security, and all the quality of life things like schools, health-care and entertainment. Third, the state of Alabama offered us the best incentive package."

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ARMY TO DELIVER FUEL-EFFICIENT GENERATORS PAGE 34

Developing resupply system uses unmanned aircraft

By HEATHER SMITH

AMRDEC Public Affairs

A new capability being developed by the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center will use unmanned aerial systems to quickly, safely and accurately deliver mission critical and time sensitive resupply to Soldiers on the ground.

AMRDEC computer engineer Sara Condon described today's battlefield as complex and rapidly changing, and thus it is essential the Army finds a new way of responding to the needs of the war fighter. Autonomous Technologies for Unmanned Aerial Systems, for which Condon is the technical lead, is doing just that by providing a system to resupply units isolated by high threat environments and difficult terrain.

Constrained and unimproved roads, choke points and difficult terrain hamper resupply operations as well as humanitarian and disaster responses.

"Unimproved roads and inhospitable terrain force ground convoys to carry smaller, lighter loads and travel at slower speeds," Condon said. "This lack of speed and predictable routes make movements susceptible to improvised explosive device attacks."

While utility and cargo helicopters address many of these concerns, Condon said the limited number of these kinds of vehicles forces commanders to choose between conducting logistical resupply missions or operational support missions. Also, resupply operations in extreme heat and high altitudes reduce the cargo carrying capacity of the aircraft resulting in the need for additional sorties to meet Soldiers' resupply needs.

The ATUAS has the capability to fly

multiple-load in-stride cargo delivery missions or single location retrograde missions, when properly configured, while continually providing situational awareness feedback to a ground control station operator.

"During delivery operations, the aircraft autonomously identifies obstacles, selects safe dropoff locations, avoids obstacles, drops off loads and departs," Condon said. "During retrograde operations the aircraft autonomously locates the retrograde load, identifies and avoids obstacles, maneuvers over the load, connects to the load and departs."

The aircraft utilizes GPS to guide it in the general cargo delivery area. When the UAS is within 300 meters of the target, a beacon provides flight guidance to the flight control computer. As the aircraft maneuvers within the field of view of the camera, more precise guidance is provided to the aircraft as to the exact cargo dropoff location.

ATUAS is a program of AMRDEC's Aviation Applied Technology Directorate. It is sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense as a Joint Capability Technology Demonstration. Condon said the JCTD provided the level of funding and oversight necessary to take the project from a small science and technology project to a full operational demonstration. Without the JCTD this project would not have been possible, Condon said.

A technical demonstration held in April at Fort Pickett, Va., showed successful precision delivery of a load to a handheld delivery location beacon. Delivery accuracy was assessed over 10 drops resulting in two within 1 meter, seven within 3 meters and one within 10 meters.



Autonomous Technologies for Unmanned Aerial Systems is demonstrated in April with a load's precision delivery to a handheld location beacon.

Army photo

Missiles

continued from page 31

The project also gained the support of both Alabama Gov. Bob Riley and his successor Gov. Robert Bentley along with support of Sen. Richard Shelby, Sen. Jeff Sessions and all of Alabama's elected state and federal officials.

The amenities offered by Huntsville/Redstone Arsenal speak for themselves when it comes to winning the project.

For instance, Redstone offers multimodal transportation that allows them various ways for missile delivery.

Huntsville/Redstone was recommended for the missile production facility over such locations as the Anniston Army Depot, and military installations in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee and Oklahoma because it was the winner in an extensive analysis of sites that involved 15 weighted elements analyzed by Raytheon's experts in those areas. Stevenson, who, despite having grown up in Athens, had been away from the area for about 30 years, recused himself from the analysis when Redstone emerged as a leader because he didn't want the decision to appear biased.

"We were looking for existing facili-

ties we could modernize for our requirements," he said. "We wanted to minimize capital for the whole footprint and minimize time."

But there were no existing facilities that fit the requirements. With the decision to bring a new facility online at Redstone, Raytheon grew its missile production capability to four facilities, with the three others located at Tucson, Ariz., Camden, Ark., and McAllister, Okla. In addition, Raytheon in Huntsville became the headquarters for the company's Weapon Integration Center.

"A state requirement for our incentive package was to establish a headquarters in Alabama with facilities outside the state reporting to that location," Stevenson said. "So, our engineering support services will increase here and the Weapon Integration Center will be moving to our Cummings Research Park location."

In the end, the project will bring 300 jobs to Huntsville, with 130 of those jobs associated with the missile production facility at Redstone and another 170 jobs focused on other Huntsville and Department of Defense related activities based out of Redstone. Those jobs will be added to the 550 Raytheon employees already located in Huntsville.

Currently, Raytheon is working with

Alabama Industrial Development and Training to recruit, hire and train the missile integration technicians, engineers and support staff needed for the new facility. The jobs, which will require a secret security clearance, will offer salaries that are competitive for the local market, Stevenson said. Those interested can apply at www.aidt.edu/jobs aidt.com or <http://jobs.raytheon.com/>.

SM-3 is part of the Missile Defense Agency's sea-based Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense, with deployment on Navy cruisers and destroyers, on Japanese destroyers to defend against short- to intermediate-range ballistic missile threats in the ascent and midcourse phases of flight, and at land-based sites in Europe. SM-6 is an extended range anti-air warfare missile fired from Navy ships against fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles and cruise missiles.

Standard Missile-3 missiles are already in production at Raytheon's Camden, Ark., facility. When complete, all SM-3 production along with missile depot maintenance and recertification will be moved to the Redstone Arsenal facility.

"SM-3 has been in production for several years at Tucson and Camden. There are more than 130 SM-3s on ships today. At certain periods of time, these missiles will have to be taken out of inventory and

sent to Redstone for depot maintenance and recertification," Stevenson said.

But the first missile set to come off the production line will be the new SM-6, which will be delivered to the Navy. Before they leave the facility, each missile is tested with the use of automated guided vehicles that move the missile down a concrete corridor into a test cell that uses a comprehensive, multi-layered system of protection from any potential explosion. Automatic controls guide the vehicles through the corridors to the test cells. It is the safest and has the highest explosive capacity of any of Raytheon's missile production facilities.

Once SM-3 and SM-6 production is under way, it will take two to three weeks to produce a missile.

"We can grow well beyond that with this facility," Stevenson said. "We need this capability to meet DoD contract requirements."

"The ability for us to start this facility on schedule and to grow to meet the rates expected for the new facility is very aggressive. All we are doing has to be coordinated very effectively to ensure we can produce to schedule to give the war fighter what they need when they need it because everything we do is in support of the war fighter."



Children at the Child Development Centers celebrate the Army's 237th birthday with special visits from Team Redstone leadership. In the photo at top, Mills Road CDC students and their teachers get excited about singing the Army birthday song during a visit by the Aviation and Missile Command's Col. David Luders. In the other photo, Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton and 5-year-old Marisa Dillard lead the Army birthday song during a pre-kindergarten class at the Goss Road CDC. Friday's celebrations included the reading of the Happy Birthday U.S. Army story and a birthday cake.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Birthday parties celebrate army

Photo by Kari Hawkins



Army to deliver fuel-efficient generators to Afghanistan

By NANCY JONES-BONBREST

Army News Service

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – The Army will soon field its next generation of operational energy to Afghanistan with a line of leaner, fuel-saving generators expected to transform the way power is delivered to the battlefield.

Known as Advanced Medium Mobile Power Systems, or AMMPS, the generators cut fuel consumption by as much as 21 percent and free up Soldiers from fuel convoys often targeted by roadside attacks.

This technology, being delivered to a unit in Afghanistan, serves as the operational energy model for the Army at a time when the Department of Defense is aggressively pursuing efforts to cut fuel consumption, leverage alternative energy sources and improve operational energy efficiencies.

“The balance of new technology that comes with AMMPS, including the right size power generation, power distribution and Soldier energy awareness, will save lives on the battlefield,” said Col. Brian Cummings, project manager for Mobile Electric Power, or PM MEP.

Last October, the Army G-4 office estimated 18 percent of U.S. casualties in Afghanistan and Iraq were related to ground resupply. By lowering fossil fuel consumption in theater, the number of trips made by convoy supply units will be reduced, cutting risk to Soldiers.

In May, the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colo., became the First Unit Equipped with AMMPS. Fielding of AMMPS to Afghanistan will begin in July.

As many as 15 outposts in Afghanistan are targeted to receive the new generators, Cummings said.

The efficiencies brought by AMMPS give combat power back to the Soldiers who do not have to spend as much time transporting fuel, maintaining generators or guarding convoys.

“Soldiers need power to run communications gear, weapons systems, tactical operations centers and more,”

Lt. Col. Michael Foster, product manager for medium power sources, said. “But in Afghanistan, where there’s very little infrastructure, units have to take power with them. To be able to do that in an efficient way allows Soldiers to focus on combat operations instead of tactical power.”

AMMPS, being fielded by PM MEP in partnership with the Rapid Equipping Force, are overall 50 percent more reliable than their predecessors, greatly reducing maintenance costs and time. Once fully implemented, the new generators are expected to avoid 346,000 hours of maintenance manpower per year in Afghanistan.

Ranging in size from 5 kilowatts to 60 kilowatts, AMMPS are 21 percent more fuel-efficient than the systems currently in theater, with greater reliability and a 10 percent reduction in size and weight.

Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines were able to see AMMPS firsthand and ask experts questions about their capabilities during the 2012 MEP User Conference held May 8-10.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joshua Bruce, a Soldier with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat team who attended the conference, said he had a chance to train and use AMMPS while stationed in Germany.

“I jumped at the opportunity to use them,” Bruce said. “We hooked it up, used it and loved it. It did everything they said it did.”

During the first fielding the Army will deliver 81 AMMPS to Afghanistan. Over the next 12 months, the Army has the capability to deploy approximately 1,600 AMMPS to theater. At the same time, PM MEP will provide training and energy specialists to assist in the transition.

This is especially important as the Army gears up to field its first integrated package of tactical communications equipment, known as Capability Set 13. AMMPS will better support the power demands of this advanced network than the current power solution, known as Tactical Quiet Generators.



Army photo

The Army is fielding approximately 1,600 Advanced Medium Mobile Power Systems to Afghanistan over the next 12 months. The new generators are more fuel-efficient and offer greater reliability than the generators they’re replacing.

The use of the energy-efficient AMMPS is just one part of a multi-pronged approach to improving energy efficiency for the Army and DoD.

Last year PM MEP deployed the DoD’s first operational microgrid at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan. The microgrid consists of “smart” generators that link with one another to intelligently manage the power supply and operate at peak efficiency. The shift from Tactical Quiet Generators to the microgrid system at Bagram showed a 17 percent reduction in fuel use, 85 percent reduction in maintenance man hour requirements and 100 percent power availability.

PM MEP will continue to field innovative power solutions that better leverage energy efficiency and ultimately help protect Soldiers on the battlefield.

Win or Lose

America's newest favorite team thrills local crowd

Wounded warriors sweep doubleheader

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

This was a star-spangled day on the ball field under a sunny sky with a patriotic crowd in red, white and blue.

The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team raced onto the field Friday at the Metro Kiwanis Sportsplex to the delight of the appreciative onlookers estimated at more than 1,000.

"It's just overwhelming for the community to invite us here to Huntsville, Ala.," coach David Van Sleet said.

In the opener the warriors, the home team all weekend, beat Team Redstone 16-1. They edged the Senior All-Stars Rockets 13-12 in the nightcap.

Warriors shortstop Matt Kinsey, batting cleanup, went 6-for-6 with five RBIs on the night. He slugged a two-run homer over the left field fence against Team Redstone in a five-run first inning.

"Had good contact. Good pitch, good contact and everything went to work," Kinsey said after his homer. "It felt good. Felt good coming off the bat."

Todd Reed had an RBI double and three-run triple against Team Redstone. Tom Carlo was the winning pitcher in both games. Three members of the University of Alabama's national championship softball team – Jaz Lunceford, Kendall Dawson and Danae Hays – played for the warriors.

Team Redstone's Felix Marbury had an

RBI single in the sixth inning, driving in Cynthia Austin. Lynn Collyar, batting in the lead-off spot, went 2-for-2.

"It was wonderful," Team Redstone player/coach Skip Sherrell said. "What a great experience working with these guys. Resiliency."

In the nightcap, the warriors led 10-2 after two innings but saw the Rockets rally with four runs in the third. In the seventh inning, the Rockets scored three runs and had men on second and third when Bob Drolet grounded out to end the game.

"It was a great game," Rockets pitcher/coach Jim "Hitman" Myers said. "This is what it's all about. There's no losers in this game. They're the champions anyhow. Even if we'd beat them, they're the champs."



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Warriors player Tim Horton rounds third base and heads for home during Saturday's game against the Protectors. Third baseman Drew Sanderson (26) and pitcher Tate Calvert look for the throw on defense. The Protectors, a team of Huntsville police and firefighters, beat the wounded warriors 15-14.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team players are introduced before the first game.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Team Redstone's Lynn Collyar opens the first game with a single and finished 2-for-2.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Warriors cleanup hitter Matt Kinsey went 6-for-6 in Friday's doubleheader against Team Redstone and the Senior All-Stars Rockets with five RBIs and a two-run homer.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Members of the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team throw the ceremonial first pitch for Saturday night's Huntsville Stars baseball game at Joe Davis Stadium. The Montgomery Biscuits beat the Stars 7-2 before an announced crowd of 6,389.

Team Redstone	AB	R	H	RBI
Collyar, ss	2	0	2	0
Pokemire, 1b	2	0	0	0
I.Johnson, p	2	0	0	0
Marbury, lf	2	0	1	1
Hamilton, 3b	2	0	0	0
Sherrell, lc	2	0	0	0
Knudson, 2b	2	0	0	0
Brown, rf	1	0	0	0
Pastorelli, rc	1	0	1	0
E.Johnson	1	0	0	0
Smith	1	0	0	0
Jones	1	0	0	0
Williams, c	1	0	1	0
Masterson	1	0	0	0
Glidewell	1	0	1	0
Stephens	1	0	0	0
Jenkins	1	0	0	0
Ogden	1	0	0	0
Austin	1	1	1	0
Totals	26	1	7	1

Wounded Warriors	AB	R	H	RBI
Lunceford, rf	3	1	3	0
Clark, lf	2	1	1	1
Wege, 1b	3	1	1	2
Kinsey, ss	2	2	2	2
Dawson, dh/rf	3	2	0	0
Bosquez, 3b	3	1	3	1
Carlo, p	2	2	1	1
Reed, rc	3	2	2	4
Hays, dh/rf	2	2	1	0
Horton, 2b	2	1	2	2
Reynolds, lc	3	1	0	1
Rugg, c	1	0	0	1
Totals	29	16	16	15

Team Redstone	000	001	0	-1
Wounded Warriors	520	135	x	-16

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AMPUTEE SOFTBALL PITCHES AWARENESS OF SACRIFICE
RAPTORS END BASEBALL SEASON ON UPSWING
IRON MIKE GOLFERS COMPETE FOR BRAGGING RIGHTS

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Amputee softball pitches awareness of sacrifice

Left fielder takes on whole new ballgame

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

kari.j.hawkins2.civ@mail.mil

It's the kids that get to Nick Clark the most.

Whenever he's traveling and meeting new people – and he is doing a lot of that these days – Clark likes talking with his youngest fans, teasing with them and just sharing a good laugh.

"Kids always ask the honest questions. I had one little girl who asked me what happened to my leg. I told her I didn't eat all my vegetables when I was young and this is what happened," Clark said. "Her mom smiled and gave me a thumbs-up."

What happened to his left leg has nothing to do with eating vegetables, of course.

Clark, a native of Washington state, is No. 13 on the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, which played exhibition games in Huntsville this past weekend during Armed Forces Celebration Week. He lost his left leg just below the knee after the vehicle he was riding in got hit by a rocket propelled grenade in Afghanistan in June 2007.

The airborne infantryman was working that day as a .50-caliber machine gunner in Nuristan Province, Afghanistan. Everyone in the vehicle was injured. The driver was paralyzed from the neck down and the truck commander lost his fingers and an ear. One Soldier and an interpreter died in the attack.

"We were on a one-lane road in the mountains of Afghanistan. We were in the middle of nowhere when we got hit," Clark said.

"After it happened, I had my wits about me. I knew what was going on. My leg was messed up from shrapnel and they put a tourniquet on it. But it was my neck injury that was really bad. A piece of turret blew off and nearly took my head off."

The then 26-year-old Clark was taken by medical helicopter to Landstuhl, Germany, where he had two surgeries.

"In Germany, all of us who were in the attack were together. They put us all in the same hospital room," he said. "We were able to talk a little about what happened. But that was hard because initially we weren't really able to talk about it too much."

He then was sent to Madigan Army Medical Center at Fort Lewis, Wash., which is close to his family and friends in Yakima, Wash. It was there that doctors removed his leg.

"I still had part of my foot intact. I could

still wiggle my toes. But my whole heel was completely gone," Clark said.

"My uncle did some research and looked at some of the high-tech prosthetics. It took about a week for me to make my decision. My dad and my uncle helped me. I just got tired of lying in the hospital bed. I could keep the foot, but they would have to fuse it and I wouldn't have had range of motion in my ankle. If I had the leg cut off, I could start healing and get into rehabilitation quicker."

Clark then was transferred to the Center for the Intrepid at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, where he got his first prosthesis and spent about eight months in rehabilitation.

"Everybody in my vehicle was medically retired because of their injuries," Clark said.

"I really didn't realize the severity of my injuries. Even now I don't fully understand."

Clark said it was his family and friends who helped him through those difficult first days after the attack and who continue to support him today.

"I don't think I could have gotten where I am today without them," he said.

The attack on that remote road in Afghanistan brought an end to Clark's Army career. At the same time it opened up for Clark opportunities he never expected.

In March 2011, a notice was sent out to



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Wounded warrior and medical retiree Nick Clark now represents the Army as a member of the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team.

Veterans Affairs clinics throughout the nation seeking mobile and athletic wounded warrior amputees for a softball team.

See Player on page 37

Raptors end baseball season on upswing

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The Redstone Raptors youth baseball team won their last two games to finish with six wins, six losses and two ties.

The Raptors, playing in the minor league (ages 9-12), beat the other Red-

stone team 9-4 on June 4 and 10-1 on June 7 at the Goss Road fields.

"All our practices paid off with the last two wins of the season," coach Lt. Col. Spencer Guida, assistant project manager for systems integration at Utility Helicopters Project Office, said.

A highlight in the June 4 game was a triple by Sam McFetridge, who could

have had an inside-the-park home run but stopped on third base and eventually scored. At age 9, the second baseman was the team's youngest player.

"The last two games were really highlighted by a great team pitching effort from Jesse Soto, Max Guida and Nick Seal," the coach said.

Max Guida was the starter, Seal

pitched in the middle and Soto finished and got both wins. On June 4, Seal recorded three straight strikeouts followed by another scoreless inning.

Alaysia Hogan, one of two girls on the team, had two RBIs June 4 and was a "late bloomer" this season, according to Guida.

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Player

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"I had played baseball in high school. So, I tried out at the University of Arizona and I've been on the team since then," Clark said.

"This has been great for me. I didn't think I'd ever play baseball, softball or any sport again. Not like this. The other guys on the team are just like me. It's pretty cool to have that bond with them. We're all combat veterans. Most of us were in the Army. And we've all had to overcome our injuries."

The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team uses the theme "Life Without a Limb is Limitless" to promote awareness of the sacrifices and resilience of the military and to highlight their ability to rise above any challenge. Their goal is to show other am-

putees 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 left fielder, who is sporting a more durable and rugged prosthesis these days, travels two to three weekends a month year-round to meet up with the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team in communities throughout the nation. In each community, the team plays softball against exhibition and celebrity softball teams.

"When we play, it's a whole different ballgame," Clark said. "It's amazing to see the faces of the fans when they see what we can do. I guess we impress them. The reaction is different from guys who are prior service and those who are not. But they all seem to love what we can do.

"I like meeting the people in the communities that we visit. It's all about the people

and making that connection with them."

Groups such as the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army donate and sponsor the travels of the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team. The Huntsville visit was made possible by donations from presenting sponsor InDyne, major sponsor Semper Fi Community Task Force and the following supporting sponsors: Aegis Technologies, All Saints Lutheran Church, Carrabba's Italian Grill, Crestwood Medical Center, Huntsville Hospital System, *Redstone Rocket*, *The Huntsville Times*, Torch Technologies, University of Alabama-Huntsville, WBB Consulting, Weichert Realtors and Woody Anderson Ford.

"It's all possible because of the support we get from the communities we visit," Clark said.

Besides softball, Clark has also gone back

to skateboarding, a sport that he enjoyed as a teenager. He is hoping to become a competitive skateboarder and is working with a company in Texas that may become his sponsor. The 31-year-old lives in Puyallup, Wash., where he also enjoys hiking, fishing, disc golf and playing the drums. He has not made any long-term plans for his life.

"I've always been a fly by the seat of my pants kind of guy. I don't like to make plans because you never know what's going to happen," he said, patting his prosthesis. "I want to play softball with the team as long as I can because I really enjoy it. And it's for such a good cause that it would be selfish for me not to."

Yet, Clark wishes he could still serve in uniform.

"I loved the Army. I wish I could go back now," he said. "But I'm serving in another way."

Iron Mike golfers compete for bragging rights

By BETH SKARUPA

Staff writer

beth.skarupa@theredstonerocket.com

On the day that Andy Zhang was announced as the youngest player in U.S. Open history, Redstone's own Iron Mike golf tournament boasted having a 14-year-old as its youngest player, too. Although Shawn Cromartie did not take home the prestigious Iron Mike trophy, he had fun trying.

"It was all right today, not too bad," Cromartie, a rising sophomore at Bob Jones High School, said. "I like golf because I like being outdoors and I like the competition."

Cromartie moved here from Germany just 11 months ago because his father, Keith Cromartie, works for the Army Materiel Command's G-1. Shawn golfs at the Links at least once a week.

"He's a good ballplayer," said Lt. Col. John Smith, who was partnered with Cromartie during the tournament. "It was great. I had a good time."

The Iron Mike Tournament, presented by the Association of the U.S. Army during Armed Forces Celebration Week, is named after the 27-inch trophy with the "Iron Mike" bust on top that is presented to the winners. The winning team has their name added to the trophy, as well as the honor of displaying the trophy until the next competition.

"It's been pretty popular. Everybody wants their name on the trophy and the bragging rights. (Maj.) Gen. (Jim) Myles



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Putting, from left, are Dave Smith, Gordon Brown, Bob Clune and David Floyd with CAS.

won it once. It sat up in the AMCOM command suite for a year. But my name's not on it. I've come within one stroke of it about three times. My name won't ever be on it," Mike Kelley, tournament chairman, said with a laugh.

The Iron Mike Tournament began 14 years ago as an event to celebrate Armed Forces Celebration Week. Since AUSA supports Soldiers and their families, as well as military retirees and civilians, the golf tournament is just one more way to continue that support. All prizes are purchased from the Links pro shop in order to support the Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation and, in turn, activities on the Arsenal.

"Any funds raised by AUSA are used to support the Soldiers and Soldiers' families. We are involved in Operation Christmas Bear and welcoming home ceremonies. We hand out thousands of flags at the Veterans Day parade each

two RBIs," he said.

The coach credited the big win June 7 to his entire team.

"Essentially every player on the team was swinging the bat and getting on base and they contributed to the higher score," he said. "And outstand-

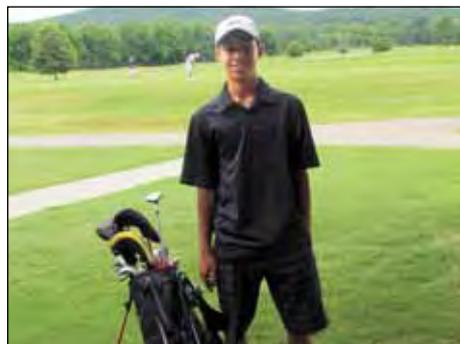


Photo by Beth Skarupa

Shawn Cromartie, a rising sophomore at Bob Jones High School, was the youngest player vying for the Iron Mike trophy.

year and other events. Those are the types of things we do. We have over 300 corporate sponsors and over 2,500 AUSA members," Kelley said.

The Iron Mike is a non-handicap, three flight tournament. This year about 134 players participated in the four-person scramble with a two-putt maximum. First, second and third place in each flight earned prizes, as well as closest to the pin on all par 3s. Players also had the chance to win door prizes which included a set of irons, golf bags, gift certificates, umbrellas and golf towels.

The winners of the Iron Mike trophy this year were Eric Post, Jeff Wishik, Steve Humphrey and Donna Lowen. Post works for Bell Helicopter and Lowen works for J. Smith Lanier & Company. Wishik and Humphrey are military retirees.

"It was a great tournament," Wishik

ing base running by all the players."

Afterward the Raptors had a team party, with pizza at the pavilion, and a parents-vs.-the-kids game. The parents won 4-0.

"It was the kids' own fault because they lost their mind," Guida quipped.



Photo by Beth Skarupa

Jeff Wishik, Eric Post and Steve Humphrey win the Iron Mike golf tournament June 13 at the Links. Not pictured is the fourth member of their winning team, Donna Lowen.

said. "It was well-run and the golf course did a super job. Everyone had a great time."

Besides being on the winning team, Post served as the unofficial tournament co-chair, assisting Kelley with whatever he needed.

"We couldn't have done it without all the great volunteers from AUSA. It was a great event to support the Soldiers and their families," he said.

Jon Samuelson, the Links manager, was on hand to fill in the leader boards and determine the winners.

"This AUSA tournament is always one we take a lot of pride in holding every year," he said. "The Links at Redstone always loves to help people with great causes like this one that benefits the Soldiers and their families."

"All their training in the regular season went out the window."

The Raptors' 14 players were ages 9-11 and mostly children of active-duty or retired military. Redstone's other minor league team was coached by Sgt. David Schuler.

Season

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"She got aggressive and essentially got on base every time she was up in both of these games and had at least

Sports & Recreation

Run to remember

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

Post basketball league

A Coed Basketball League is forming at Pagano Gym for any eligible user ages 18 and over, excluding guests. Teams can submit rosters and payment through July 10. The league will start July 23 and games will be played at Pagano Gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 and 6 p.m. Cost is \$150 per team. Get your organization/team together. For more information, call sports and fitness director Gaylene Wilson 842-2574.

Indoor pool

The Redstone Fitness Center, building 3705, will be temporarily closing effective June 25 for construction of an indoor pool and is expected to be closed for approximately six months. During this time, the Monday and Wednesday 5:30 a.m. classes will move to the Aerobic Room at Pagano Gym. For information on hours, call Pagano Gym 876-6701 or 876-2943, Scott Fitness Center at 955-6844/7508, Sparkman Fitness Center 313-6091/6096 or visit www.redstonemwr.com.

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.

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.

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 Senator 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 Tues-

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days 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.

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 Meet-

ing 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 Thursday.

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.

Military vehicles convention

The Military Vehicle Preservation Association will have its 37th annual convention June 28-30 at the Von Braun

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Center. MVPA's Dixie Division, host for this year's convention, is dedicated to the preservation, restoration, collection and display of historic military vehicles of all nations and of all eras. For more information, call Charles Evans 557-1146 or visit www.ddmvpa.org/index2.html.

Industrial security chapter

NCMS Mid-South Chapter, Society of Industrial Security Professionals, will hold a luncheon June 27 at 11:30 a.m. at Holiday Inn Research Park. Jeff Bennett, ISP, will discuss "What Critical Information Means to Government Contractors." To register, email chapter chair Stan Miller at stanta.miller@gmail.com or visit <http://ncmsmidsouthchapterluncheon-june271012-eorg.eventbrite.com/>.

Engineer society

The Huntsville Post of the Society of American Military Engineers will hold its monthly meeting Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in the Madison Square Holiday Inn. The June meeting will showcase presentations by the science fair student winners from north Alabama, and formally recognize them

for their efforts. Cost for the luncheon is \$15. Check in begins at 11 and lunch will be served at 11:30. Visit <http://samehsvpost.org/>.

Stop the bullying

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

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

Army civilian volunteers are needed

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

Fraud hotline

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

Education test center

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

Senior volunteers

Madison County Retired & Senior

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

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 pre-register call Army Community Service

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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

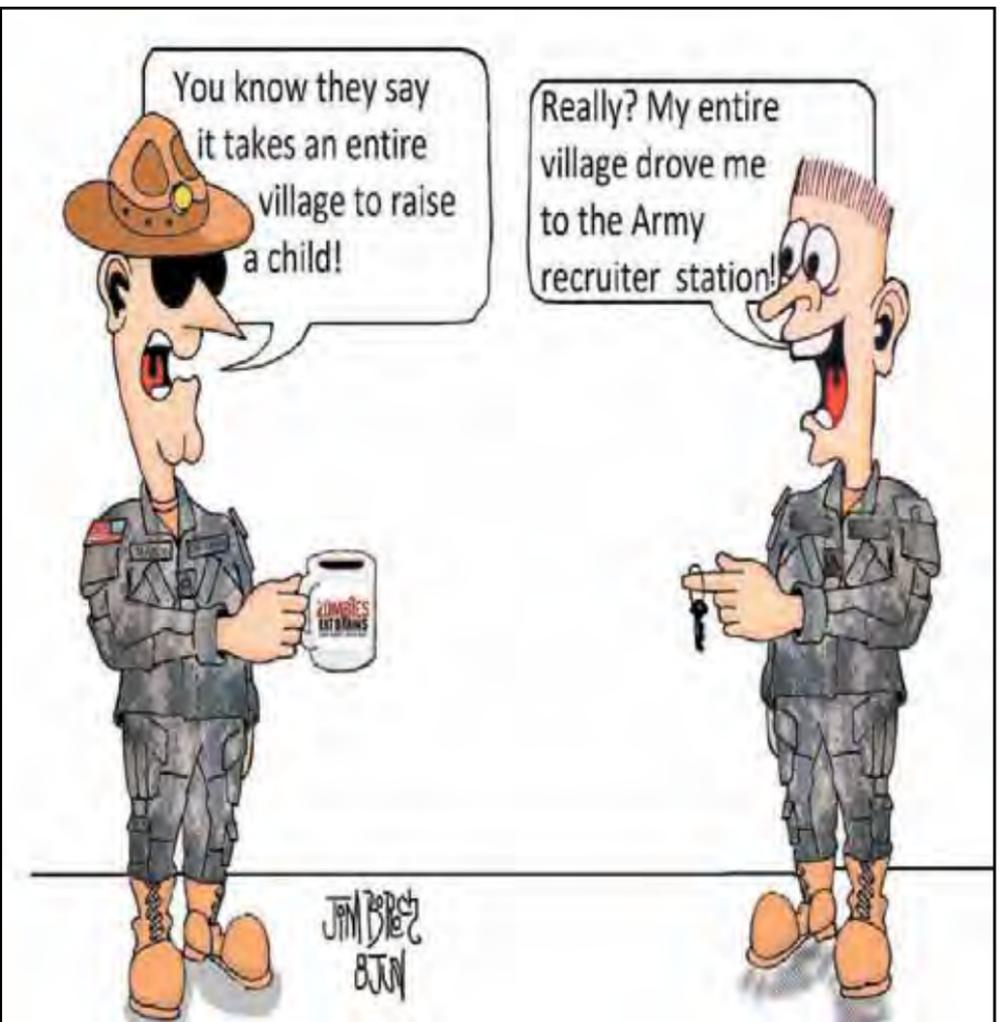
The second annual Community Awareness For Youth event is Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jaycees Building and Fairgrounds, 2180 Airport Road. CAFY is sponsored by the Huntsville Police Department in partnership with Mayor Tommy Battle. Its goal is to inform youth in Huntsville, Madison and Madison County about various career opportunities and four

“Pillars of Success,” which include health, physical fitness, careers and education. There will be free food and entertainment, with inflatables for the youngsters. The first 500 kids will receive a free backpack with school supplies. For more information, call Dr. Harry Hobbs 425-5307 or visit www.hsvpolice.com.

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.

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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 angie.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 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 Thursday 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.

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@us.army.mil.

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 through-

out the program, while supplies last. Call the library 876-4741 or Barbara Williams 842-9642 for more information.

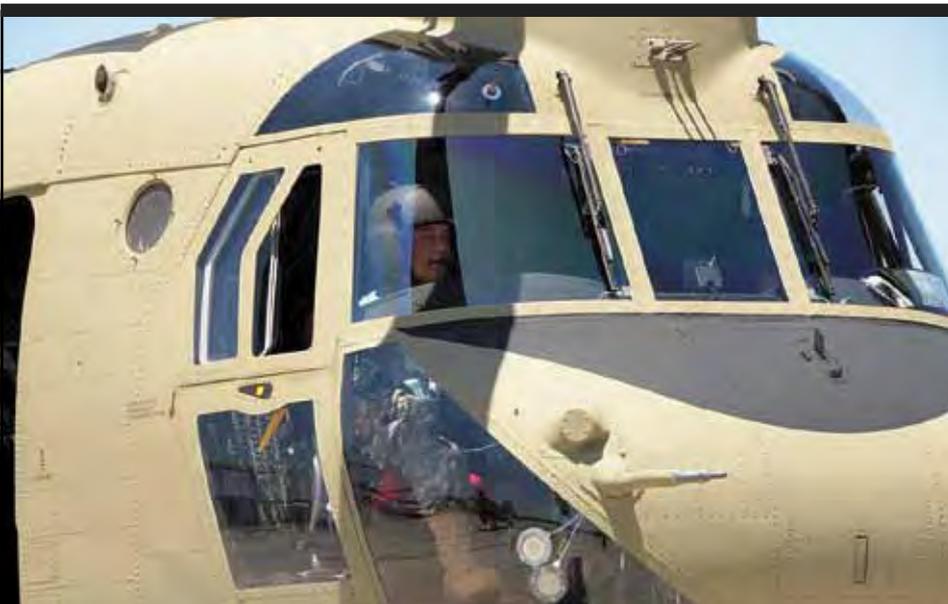
Photo contest

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

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

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Courtesy photo

Orientation flight

Edward Greer, deputy assistant secretary of defense (DT&E), takes an orientation flight as co-pilot in a CH-47F to learn its capabilities firsthand. Eric Trafton serves as the pilot-in-command while Staff Sgt. Frank Bagley and Staff Sgt. Michael Boyd are the flight engineers. Greer visited the Redstone Test Center May 30, including a tour of the new Rotary Wing Center.



Photo by Merv Brokke

Security standout

AMRDEC security specialist Roark Washington receives the Commander's Award for Civilian Service from Eric Edwards, director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center. He was recognized for his exceptional leadership skills and initiative toward the development plan for the AMRDEC Step-by-Step DD254 How-to Guide, which addresses foreign national issues involved in contract actions. "This guide is a major help to our acquisition employees as it gives detailed information with preparing the DD254 Security Classification document before the contract is completed," Sharon Boclair, AMRDEC security and intelligence manager, said.

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award is open to all active, 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.

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 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, Di-

rectorate of Combat and Doctrine Development, Army Medical Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Johnson is retiring with 30 years of service.

Commissary scholarships

The Defense Commissary Agency will hold a recognition ceremony for this year's recipients of Scholarships for Military Children at 11 a.m. June 27 at the Commissary.

MILPO closing

The Military Personnel Office, Garrison's Directorate of Human Resource, which includes the ID Card Section, will close on June 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to attend a farewell/retirement luncheon for three MILPO employees retiring at the end of the month with more than 100 years combined government service. "We apologize for any inconvenience if any as a result of this farewell retirement luncheon," a prepared release said. In case of emergencies, call Luis Ortega 755-6963.

Community workshops

"Butterfly Effects," a lunch-and-learn workshop, will be held June 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Behavior analyst Stacy Cleveland will discuss services available for children with developmental issues, the new law for insurance companies to help pay the cost of therapies, and Applied Behavior Analysis therapy for children on the autism spectrum. Participants are welcome to bring their lunch. Seating is limited and registration is required. Call ACS at 876-5397. ... "Elder Care Law/Estate Planning" will be presented June 28 from noon-1 p.m. at ACS by attorney LaTanya Rhines of the area on aging, TARCOG. To register call ACS at 876-5397.

Commissary Fourth

The Commissary will be open the Fourth of July from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will reopen with normal 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. shopping hours July 5.