

Personnel center cares to improve



Human resources program emphasizes 12 behaviors

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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As the largest civilian human resources activity in the Army, the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center at Redstone Arsenal is working to set the military standard for human resources support to managers and employees.

And recently they were given a tool that will help the organization's 120 human resources specialists do just that.

A new initiative titled "ICARE" is being used at all 17 civilian personnel advisory centers that make up the South Central region of the Civilian Human Resources Agency. The 2012 initiative – which is named as a synonym for integrity, compassion, advocacy, resourcefulness and excellence – is designed to build on the "soft skills" of human resources professionals so that they are more integrated as part of management teams throughout the region.

"This program is quite an undertaking for us," Vanessa Midgett, director of the Redstone CPAC, said. "Customer service and

See Cares on page 24

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Vanessa Midgett, second from left, talks with Civilian Personnel Advisory Center employees about the ICARE initiative that will develop a culture of excellence. With Midgett are, from left, Diane Colmenero, Andora Crawford and Desiree Burgess.

More parking spaces en route for the Sparkman Center

Additional paved lot under construction

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
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A section of the walking trail behind the Sparkman Center is closed for a good reason.

An additional parking lot is being constructed to increase the spaces available at the office complex which serves as the headquarters for the Aviation and Missile Command. The construction project began March 5.

"Completion date is the middle of August," project manager Jacob Roth, a civil engineer in the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works engineering and construction, said.

About 100 parking spaces will be provided by the new paved lot, which will have lights. In addition, the outside lane of Sparkman Circle will be restriped to allow for on-street parking.

"You see people parking on that road

now," Rickey Moore, facilities specialist in the Sparkman Management Office, said. "They're going to have that (outer lane) marked so it'll be identified as parking."

About 600-700 feet of the trail, frequented by walkers and joggers, is blocked off for the next several months during the construction.

"We're just needing help to keep the people out of the area for their safety," Moore said. "The walking trail is going to be pretty well blocked (during the project), but we will get extra parking out of it."

The project is being conducted by the Directorate of Public Works; and Reed Contracting is doing the construction.

"Just to try to alleviate some of the traffic, parking issues, for the complex," Roth said.

The Directorate of Public Works last week also sent out notification that because of upcoming construction in the vicinity of the Von Braun Complex, the asphalt walking trail is closed to through



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Trees are being cut behind the Sparkman Center to construct an additional parking lot.

traffic between Burose Road and the southwest side of the southern entrance to the Von Braun Complex beginning March 19 and will remain closed for approximately 24-30 months.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Redstone Flying Activity back in business.

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PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Skills curriculum teaches children to expand horizons.

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WIN OR LOSE

NASA/Army softball preparing for season.

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RocketViews

For St. Patrick's Day, what is your lucky charm?

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
 Rocket editor
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Gary Hillis
 Phoenix Service
 "My lucky charm is the people that I work around. They always make me feel that I have good luck just knowing them."



David Reed
 AMRDEC Prototype Integration Facility
 "I've got an Alabama coin that's like my lucky charm. That's what I keep for good luck. It's from the University of Alabama. I'd

like to think it's helped contribute to our recent success on the football field."



Kimberly Cockrell
 AMRDEC Prototype Integration Facility
 "I have a leprechaun brooch. I've worn it every St. Patrick's Day since high school. I in-processed on St. Patrick's Day – I really did. That's my anniversary date (with the Army)."



Gwen Smallwood
 Mills Road Child Development Center
 "I don't have a lucky charm due to me not being Irish. But I do like the color green. That's my favorite color."

Letter from the editor

Baseball in Huntsville will never be the same

The face of Huntsville baseball died March 4. Ex-Major Leaguer Don Mincher had brought professional baseball to his Huntsville hometown in the mid-1980s. I first met him when he agreed to speak to the Huntsville Press Club when the Stars began play as a Double-A affiliate of the Oakland A's in 1985. He served as their general manager, formed a coalition of local owners to buy the Stars in 1994 and served as team president until 2001. He served as president of the Southern League from 2000 until he resigned in 2011, and he was named the league's president-emeritus that year. He often visited the Joe Davis Stadium press box to watch games.

We renewed acquaintances when I started covering some Stars games as a sports stringer for *The Huntsville Times*. He was always friendly and always asked about my son, Cole, who he remembered was playing Babe Ruth baseball back then.

I last saw him at a Stars game a couple of years ago. We asked about our respective families. And he remembered Cole, who's now in his 20s and attending the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

I showed him one of my vintage baseball yearbooks from back in the day. In 1965 he was an infielder for the Minnesota Twins. My book titled "Major League Baseball Up-to-Date 1965," by Jack Zanger, lists him on the Twins' roster as Donald R. Mincher, 6-foot-



Don Mincher

3, 205 pounds, born June 24, 1938 in Huntsville, Ala. He played 1,400 games in the Major Leagues from 1960 until 1972. He was selected to the American League All-Star team in 1967 and 1969. He played in two World Series, in 1965 and 1972. He homered off Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Don Drysdale in his first World Series at-bat during the fall of 1965. And he played on the 1972 World Series champion Oakland A's.

But I just knew him as Don. A tall, friendly man with a warm handshake who always remembered that my son had played Babe Ruth baseball.

He died at age 73 on Sunday night, March 4 after a lengthy illness.

Yes, Huntsville baseball lost its face. And I lost a friend.

Skip Vaughn
 Rocket editor

Quote of the week

'M ay St. Patrick guard you wherever you go, and guide you in whatever you do – and may his loving protection be a blessing to you always.'
 — Irish blessing

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for March 1-7:

March 2: A civilian approached Gate 9 lost. He was found to be operating his vehicle with a suspended license. He was issued a violation notice and released.

March 6: A contractor attempted to register three people at the visitor center to go to a construction worksite on Redstone Arsenal. All three were found to be in possession of fraudulent IDs and also were in the country illegally. They were processed by Redstone Police and later released to Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

March 7: A military retiree was apprehended for shoplifting \$67 worth of merchandise at the Exchange. He was issued a violation notice and released.

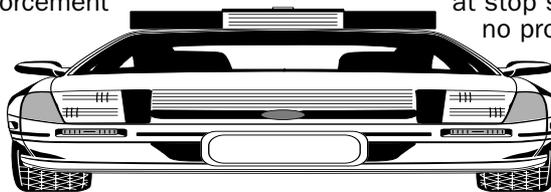
March 7: A military retiree was

stopped for speeding. He was found to be operating his vehicle with a suspended license. He also had a misdemeanor warrant and was released to the Huntsville Police Department

March 7: A Redstone employee reported that she has been receiving harassing phone calls at her office. Investigation continues by DES investigations.

Traffic accidents reported: Three without injury, one with injury.

Violation notices issued: 35 speeding, 1 failure to stop at stop sign, 1 failure to set parking brake, 1 no proof of insurance, 2 improper backing, 1 failure to register vehicle, 1 failure to obey a traffic control device, 2 driving while license suspended, 1 larceny of government property, 3 trespassing, 3 possession of fraudulent identification.



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Bovy takes reins of security assistance training team

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The Army Security Assistance Training Management Organization has a new commander.

Col. Joseph Bovy assumed command of USASATMO from Col. Pete Aubrey during a ceremony March 2 at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville. Maj. Gen. Del Turner, commander of the Security Assistance Command, presided over the ceremony.

Bovy comes to USASATMO after serving as the assistant deputy director, Political-Military Affairs, Middle East, Joint Staff J5 at the Pentagon.

“I know the men and women of SATMO look forward to continuing our engagements across the globe as members of the USASAC team – and I look forward to joining that team,” he said.

Turner praised both the incoming and outgoing leadership, and stressed the importance of USASATMO to USASAC.

“SATMO is ‘Training the World, One Soldier at a Time,’ and more importantly, building relationships by leaving a lasting impression of professionalism and expertise to other militaries throughout the world,” Turner said.

The ceremony was also an occasion for USASATMO and the Army to bid farewell to the out-

going commander. Aubrey, who served as the USASATMO commander since July 19, 2010, will retire in April with 34 years of military service.

During his career Aubrey served in a variety of command and staff assignments in Europe, Africa, and North and South America, as well as throughout the Pacific Basin in both peacetime and war environments. He led the unit during a crucial transition period when USASATMO was transferred from the Training and Doctrine Command to the Army Materiel Command as a subordinate organization to USASAC. He also restructured USASATMO to meet the engagement challenges of the 21st century and deployed to Afghanistan in support of the Combine Security Transition Command in 2011.

“It has been my privilege and honor to wear the uniform and serve our great nation,” Aubrey said.

USASATMO plans, forms, prepares, deploys, sustains and redeploys U.S.-based security assistance teams to execute security assistance missions that support Army security assistance missions outside the continental U.S. (USASAC release)



Photo by Melody Sandlin

Retiring Col. Pete Aubrey, left, relinquishes command of the Army Security Assistance Training Management Organization to Col. Joseph Bovy, right, during a ceremony March 2 at Fort Bragg, N.C. USA-SAC commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner presides over the ceremony.

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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Name: Willie Love

Job: Assistant director, Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity, Marshall Space Flight Center

Where do you call home?
Birmingham, Ala.

What do you like about your job?
Interacting with the people. Providing services to them. It's a people job. So I like interacting with the employees – all the people, including managers and supervisors. So that's the fun part. We're a service organization. And I like to provide the services that we're mandated to provide. I like to serve people.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Community service work. I serve on a number of boards and organizations in the community. The human relations committee downtown, I'm also on the Huntsville police advisory council downtown. I'm also a trustee at Saint John's AME Church. I like to do community service work. And spending time with my family – my wife Rickshel, our son Ricardo, 17,



and our daughters Ashley, 22, and Tuesday, 31.

What are your goals?

My goal is to retire and spend more time with community service projects. I also want to work with the educational system mentoring young men and preparing them for the future.

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

To do an African safari. That's one of the things I've always wanted to do. That's at the top of my list – to go explore and do a safari in Africa. I think that would be a great thing to do.

Redstone Exchange promises shoppers best price available

According to an article by *PC World*, more than half of U.S. adult mobile phone owners used a handset for shopping assistance while in stores during the 2011 holiday season. Additionally, a quarter of these shoppers went online to see if they could find a better price for a product they were considering buying.

With smart phones becoming more prevalent as shopping tools, price matching is becoming increasingly popular. With this in mind, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's "We'll Match It!" program is ensuring military shoppers at Redstone Arsenal pay the lowest price possible.

Depending on the item, price matches can be done with or without a competitor's ad:

- A price difference of less than \$10 is matched on the spot.
- Pricing discrepancies greater than \$10

are matched with a current local competitor's ad.

Of course, in either scenario, products must be identical.

“We even offer a 14-day price guarantee on any item originally purchased from the Exchange,” Exchange general manager Lorraine Arbo said. “So, if an item is sold at a lower price by the Exchange, or any local competitor, the price can be matched up to two weeks after the purchase.”

The Exchange Catalog and shopmyexchange.com also match lower prices (including shipping and handling) from other online retailers on identical items available for sale and delivery in the customer's area.

Complete details regarding the Exchange's price matching policy as well as exceptions can be found at <http://www.shopmyexchange.com/CustomerService/priceMatch.htm>. (Exchange release)

Irish eyes smile on Exchange card users

Shoppers using their Military Star Card at Redstone Exchange restaurants on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, will save a “wee bit o’ the green” with a 20 percent discount off their entire order.

“Diners using their Military Star Card at Redstone Arsenal Exchange fast food facilities always receive 10 percent off their entire purchase,” Exchange general manager Lorraine Arbo said. “But for this one day, Irish eyes will be smiling as our

restaurants offer a 20 percent discount on any purchase – from something as small as a cup of coffee to catering orders.”

In addition to saving at the food court, Military Star Card holders receive exclusive savings at the pump with a five cents a gallon discount every time they fuel up at Redstone Arsenal gas stations. On top of the everyday savings, steeper discounts are offered periodically throughout the year. (Exchange release)

Hobby sends Soldier soaring over local area

Army pilot enjoys Flying Activity

By KARI HAWKINS

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Timing can mean everything for a pilot. For Maj. Joe McLaine, the timing of his attendance at a Command and General Staff School course at Redstone Arsenal was nearly perfect for getting involved with one of only two flying clubs still active on an Army installation.

This professional Apache helicopter pilot and fixed wing pilot hobbyist was thrilled with the opportunity to fly at Redstone while taking intermediate level education courses, a temporary duty assignment that began in mid-January. Unbeknownst to him, if he had instead attended a class in late 2011, his hobby flying would have been

FMWR focus
Part 6 of series

seriously grounded.

"The Redstone Arsenal Flying Activity was closed at Redstone from October through the first week in February," the activity's business manager Tim Thompson said. "We had to close because of construction at the airfield. During that time, we operated through Signature Aviation at Huntsville International Airport.

"Even though we were still open, we incurred higher expenses for gas, our flight hours dropped and we had to rent a hangar to perform maintenance. Our members missed the convenience of the Flying Activity being right on the Arsenal."

Though the arrangement worked OK during the normally slow flying months of late fall and winter, Thompson is glad to be back in business at the Flying Activity's Redstone home.

And so are McLaine and the 300 members of the Flying Activity. The activity will celebrate being back home on May 5, when it holds its first open house in two years.

Although McLaine won't be here for the open house, he is glad to be able to enjoy all the flying activity has to offer.

"I thought that coming to Redstone for



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Maj. Joe McLaine sits at the pilot controls of a Piper Arrow at the Flying Activity. He has taken advantage of the flying activity's aircraft while on temporary assignment as a student at the Command and General Staff School.

four months was a good assignment because of the Aviation and Missile Command, and the Army Materiel Command being here. But the thing that really popped out to me was the ability to fly," McLaine said.

"I chose to come to Redstone, in part, because of the Flying Activity. Since I was

only going to be here a short time, I made sure I was up and flying the first week in February."

McLaine, who got his fixed wing pilot's license about 20 years ago, has also flown at the Army's other flying activity, located at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. But Redstone turned out to be his favorite of the two.

"Fort Leavenworth is a beautiful airfield, but nothing compares to how well-run the flying activity is here," he said. "There are some 20 instructor pilots here and the website just draws you in. The people here are really great. They are professional and knowledgeable. It is the best-run operation I have ever seen."

The combat veteran, who flew AH-64 Apache Longbow missions in the Balkans in 1999, in Iraq in 2003-04 and in Afghanistan in 2010-11, has never lost his passion for flying under any conditions.

"I love flying. I love the feeling it gives you," he said. "When you are flying, all the troubles of the world seem to leave you.

"As a helicopter pilot, the missions are intense. But the people you fly with and the attitude they bring to the mission help

See Flying on page 2B

Driver's ed, SAT course on horizon for SKIES

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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When life's major milestones await, look no further than Child Youth and School Service's SKIES Unlimited program to help your teenager prepare.

SKIES (Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills) Unlimited is taking the program's instructional approach to the next level by teaching teenagers not just a new instrument or sport, but rather, the tools needed to help them succeed in life beyond adolescence. Driver's education, as well as an SAT preparation course are slated to join the SKIES class offerings this spring.

"These 15 and 16 year olds are now young adults," Karvellis Lee, SKIES director, said. "They now see the light at the end of the rainbow. They need a car to get a part-time job. Once they get that part-time job, they realize they don't want to get stuck at seven or eight dollars an hour, so they need to go to college."

Driver's education classes are estimated to begin around April 9, according to Lee, who was prompted to add the course to the SKIES program after Sparkman High discontinued their driver's ed program. Tentative cost is \$350; the class is open to anyone with access to the Arsenal, ages 15 to 19. Students must have their learner's permit prior to getting behind the wheel of the driver's education vehicle.

The course will be held in two portions, an initial classroom phase which will cover the rules of the road and safety through videos and presentations, and then actual time behind the wheel, including parking, backing up and navigating area highways. The initial phase will be held Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon at the Youth Center, building 3148. Families will schedule behind the wheel time as their schedule allows. Students will be matched with three other students who will take turns behind the wheel.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Teenagers preparing to get their driver's license can prepare themselves for the road with the SKIES Unlimited driver's education class, set to debut this spring.

"Not only do they drive, but they observe the other person driving so that they can pick up on the mistakes," Lee said. "It's not just one hour and you get off, you still have to be in that car watching other people so you can learn from them, too."

Upon graduation from the course, students will receive a certificate of completion that they can take to their insurance company to get a reduction in rate.

Lee is searching for an AP English and math teacher to conduct the SAT preparation course that is also slated to be held Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon. Tentative cost of the course, which would run for four weeks, is \$120. At the end of the four weeks, students would take the SAT the following Saturday to ensure all they've learned is still fresh in their minds.

Unlike many similar programs offered in the area, Lee aims to make the SKIES SAT prep course unique, by only offering it to 10 students at a time.

"The typical kid will improve their score by 20 to 30 points," Lee said. "It's not going to be magical – but we can get you 25 to 30 points that might get you to the college you want to be accepted to."

For more information, call Lee at 876-6844.

Fox health center prescribes travel medicine services

By RHONDA LAMBERT
Fox Army Health Center

If your job has you traveling out of the country, there are certain health risks you should know about. The Occupational Medicine Clinic at Fox Army Health Center provides travel medicine services to DoD civilians with official travel orders.

Travel medicine services include the following:

- Review of medical history, travel itinerary and other travel-related factors to determine health risks.
- Review of the immunization history with focus on vaccinations indicated for your specific destination.
- Recommendations for additional screening tests (for example, serologic titers), immunizations, chemoprophylaxis, personal protective measures and other medical advice based on the geographic location of travel.

Services are provided to those with overseas, TDY, PCS or deployment related travel.

Travel medicine recommendations are based on current guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization, and Office of the Surgeon General.

The Occupational Medicine Clinic is on the first floor of Fox Army Health Center. Clinic hours are Monday through Friday

from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed from noon-1. Appointments are required and may be scheduled by calling 955-8888, extension 1026. For your appointment, you will need a list of your current medications, immunization records and a copy of your travel orders or call forward statement advising them of their pending deployment.

For more information on immunizations and travel health tips, search the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/>.

Whether traveling or not, Fox offers these tips for staying healthy this cold and flu season:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

If you are sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. (Your fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.)

While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.

Here's how to call Fox Army Health Center

To reach frequently dialed extensions at Fox Army Health Center, use the following instructions. First dial the main phone line, then dial the extension when prompted. You can always dial extension 0 for an operator. If you have a medical emergency, dial 911.

Main phone line – 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531

Frequently used extensions:

- Operator** – 1720 or 0
- Patient appointments** – 1970
- Red and White Team (Ambulatory Care)** – 1024
- Blue Team (Aviation Medicine)** – 1400/1401
- Blue Team (Physical Exams)** – 1400/1401
- Behavioral Medicine** – 1032
- Traumatic Brain Injury** – 1032
- CB-WTU Alabama** – 1559
- Dental Clinic** – 1920
- Exceptional Family Member Program** – 1654
- Laboratory** – 1039
- Radiology** – 1039
- Optometry** – 1038

Occupational Medicine – 1027

Preventive Medicine – 1027

Patient Administration – 1600

Patient advocate – 1152

PEBLO – 1650

Pharmacy counseling – 1036

Pharmacy refill line – 1023

Physical therapy – 1034

Public Affairs Office – 1112

Release of information – 1603

Veterinary Medicine – 1059

Wellness Center – 1027

Immunizations Clinic – 1238

Command Suite – 1101/1102

Audiology – 1027

Administrative officer of the day – 1110

Advice Nurse – If you would like to talk to an advice nurse, during duty hours, dial the appointment line at extension 1970, then you will be forwarded to the appropriate nurse for the team on which you are assigned. The following numbers must be dialed separately: Army Substance Abuse Program, 876-7256; and Tricare Service Center, 800-444-5445. (Fox Army Health Center release)

Standard deduction vs. itemizing: Make right choice

The IRS wants every taxpayer to minimize the taxes legally due each year. Married taxpayers should consider checking whether a joint return or married filing separately will minimize the total family taxes due.

Also, some people assume that itemizing (or taking the standard deduction) will be the way to go because “that is how we’ve done it in past years.” But there may be family changes that occur during the past year (on or before Dec. 31) that could make significant differences in how you file.

Here are seven facts to help you choose Standard Deduction vs. Itemizing. Each year, millions of taxpayers choose whether to take the standard deduction or to itemize their deductions. The following seven facts from the IRS can help you choose the method that gives you the lowest tax:

- Qualifying expenses – Whether to itemize deductions on your tax return depends on how much you spent on certain expenses last year. If the total amount you spent on qualifying medical care, mortgage interest, taxes, charitable contributions, casualty losses and miscellaneous deductions is more than your standard deduction, you can usually benefit by itemizing.

- Standard deduction amounts – Your standard deduction is based on your filing status and is subject to inflation adjustments each year. For 2011, the amounts are: single, \$5,800; married filing jointly, \$11,600; head of household, \$8,500; married filing separately, \$5,800; qualifying widow or widower, \$11,600.

- Some taxpayers have different standard deductions – The standard deduction amount depends on your filing status, whether you are 65 or older or blind and whether another taxpayer can claim an exemption for you. If any of these apply, use the Standard Deduction Worksheet on the back of Form 1040EZ, or in the 1040A or 1040 instructions.

- Limited itemized deductions – Your itemized deductions are no longer limited because of your adjusted gross income.

- Married filing separately – When a married couple files separate returns and one spouse itemizes deductions, the other spouse cannot claim the standard deduction and therefore must itemize to claim their allowable deductions.

- Some taxpayers are not eligible for the standard deduction – They include nonresident aliens, dual-status aliens and individuals who file returns for periods of less than 12 months due to a change

in accounting periods.

- Forms to use – The standard deduction can be taken on Forms 1040, 1040A or 1040EZ. To itemize your deductions, use Form 1040, U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, and Schedule A,

Itemized Deductions.

These forms and instructions may be downloaded from the IRS website at www.irs.gov or ordered by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676). (IRS release)



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Voter encouragement

KC Bertling, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command G-1 program analyst in the military personnel division, talks about the importance of voting with Mark Robbie, SMDC/ARSTRAT G-8 management analyst.

Contestants try their hand at rock, paper, scissors

Firehouse Pub sounds bell for first RPS tournament

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

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Rock-Paper-Scissors is not just child's play.

The well-known hand game, also called roshambo, is played in official tournaments around the world with standardized rules and championship prizes of more than \$60,000. Now it's coming to the Firehouse Pub.

"It's the hottest new bar game and we're the first pub/bar to do a Rock-Paper-Scissors tournament in North Alabama," FMWR marketing director Amelia Flanigan said. She plans on being one of the contestants.

The tournament will be at the Firehouse Pub on March 30 at 4:30 p.m. Everyone 21 and older with access to the Arsenal is invited to either compete or come out to support the players and enjoy this hands down showdown.

If you have never seen a RPS tournament, try searching "Rock, Paper, Scissors" on YouTube. The 2007 USARPS Championship in Las Vegas, listed as "the biggest throw down in hand sport history," is particularly fun to watch.

The tournament at the Firehouse Pub will be run like a basketball tournament, with brackets and the best three out of five winning. The games, which begin at 5:30, will be played one at a time. First, second and third prizes will be awarded. The first-place winner will also receive a trophy.

Flanigan noted that a contestant can use some knowledge of statistics to increase his or her chances of winning the game. Some websites discuss different RPS strategies such as knowing that women usually throw scissors first.

According to Wikipedia, the game can be played with some degree of skill, especially if a series of games is played with the same people. It is then possible to recognize and exploit the non-random behavior of an opponent.

Contestants are required to pre-register by stopping by the Firehouse Pub or calling 842-0748 and leaving their name and contact information by March 28. They also can designate an organization that they will represent in the competition.

"We're hoping that every command will send a delegate to the tournament so all of their friends and co-workers can come and cheer them on," Flanigan said.

Contestants also must arrive at the pub early on March 30 to get their numbers. Papa Johns will be providing free pizza for all contestants from 4:30-5:30. Tournament sponsors include Papa Johns, Knology, and Brown Foreman.

As always, the pub will have free nachos, popcorn and hot dogs available for customers that night. Wings may also be on the menu, and Firehouse Pub manager Nina Cutts expects to offer some drink specials as well.

"We're starting off with the basic rock smashes scissors, paper covers rock, and scissors cuts paper. I think if it goes well we will probably add twists and turns to it if we host another tournament," Cutts said.

Those twists and turns include using the version of RPS called "Rock, Paper, Scissors, Lizard, Spock" made popular by the "Big Bang Theory" television show or adding an "electric bomb" to the mix. But this first tournament will be the basic RPS most people played as children.

"I've talked to other people in other cities that have played it and they say that it's a really, really good time," Flanigan said. "And it's something that everyone can play. You know, pool takes skill, darts take skill, other pub games take skill, but everybody can do Rock-Paper-Scissors."

The Firehouse Pub is located off of Goss Road at building 114 on Hankins Road. It's near the golf course, on the same side of the road as the entrance to The Summit.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Rock-Paper-Scissors is a well-known hand game involving two players. The Firehouse Pub is holding its first RPS tournament March 30.

Crowd expected for AMC prayer luncheon

*Army chaplain chief
the keynote speaker*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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The Army's chief of chaplains will visit Redstone next week to speak at a prayer luncheon.

Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Donald Rutherford will address the Army Materiel Command Prayer Luncheon on March 19 at The Summit. The event is from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

AMC commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody will introduce the guest speaker and deliver the closing remarks. Food will be provided, according to AMC's deputy chaplain Lt. Col. Timothy Sowers.

"We'll have (free) tickets. We have about 300 places. We have reservations for 300 people and we're asking folks to get a ticket from chaplains at Redstone," Sowers said. "We're encouraging folks to go ahead and get a ticket. I think it'll be pretty well-attended."

Rutherford is a native of Kinderhook,

N.Y. Ordained as a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany in 1981, he served as associate pastor of St. Gabriel's Church in Schenectady, N.Y.; as Roman Catholic chaplain of Albany Medical Center Hospital, Albany, N.Y.; and as parochial vicar of St. Mary's Parish, Oneonta, N.Y.

In 1977, he received his commission through the State University of New York at Albany ROTC Program where he received a bachelor's in English and sociology. He received an educational delay from active duty in order to attend St. Bernard's Seminary of the University of Rochester, N.Y., where he was awarded a master of divinity degree in 1981. In addition, in 2000 he was awarded a master's in strategic studies from the Army War College.

Rutherford became the 23rd chief of chaplains on July 7, 2011. His previous chaplain assignments include serving as the 22nd deputy chief of chaplains



**Chaplain (Maj. Gen.)
Donald Rutherford**

at the Pentagon; command chaplain for U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, Heidelberg, Germany; command chaplain for Multi-National Corps Iraq, Camp Victory, Baghdad; XVIII Airborne Corps chaplain, Fort Bragg, N.C.; installation staff chaplain, Army War College and Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, Pa.; community chaplain and the 235th base support chaplain, Ansbach, Germany; division staff chaplain, 3rd

Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Stewart, Ga.; senior chaplain recruiter, Office of the Chief of Chaplains, Washington, D.C.; deputy division chaplain and division artillery chaplain, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg. Upon ordination, Rutherford served in the Army Reserve with the 364th General Hospital until 1990 when he entered active duty.

His military education includes the Chaplain Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the Airborne Course, the

Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Command and General Staff College, the Division and Installation Chaplain Courses and the Army War College.

Rutherford has served in Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operation Hurricane Andrew Relief, Operation Desert Thunder, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the South West Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, the Army Superior Unit Award, the Saudi Arabia Kuwait Liberation Medal, the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal, the Army Staff Identification Badge, the Combat Action Badge and the Parachutist Badge.

PeopleProfile

Fort Gordon receives, rededicates monuments

By NICK SPINELLI

Fort Gordon Public Affairs

FORT GORDON, Ga. – A rededication ceremony of the Brig. Gen. Henry Harrison Chase Dunwoody Monument/Plaque, the Spanish-American War Monument and the Signal Corps Time Capsule was held March 2 at the Fort Gordon Myer Mall.

The monument and time capsule were previously a part of Dunwoody Park in Fort Monmouth, N.J. The move of the memorials occurred after the post was closed due to the Base Closure and Realignment Commission initiative.

“This historic rededication ceremony is a great day that honors the history and heritage of signal Soldiers,” Col. Robert Barker, Fort Gordon garrison commander, said.

Gen. Ann Dunwoody is the Army Materiel Command commander and Brig. Gen. Henry Harrison Chase Dunwoody’s great grand-daughter.

“Thank you for making this a reality for our family,” she said.

The memorial represents a legacy of service and commitment by one of the great families in our military history, said Maj. Gen. Alan Lynn, Army Signal Center of Excellence and Fort Gordon commander.

Dunwoody is the Army’s first female four-star

general. Additionally, her

father, brother and sister have all had distinguished military careers.

“I’m not the only Dunwoody,” she said jokingly. “I just happen to be the one at the podium.”

During the ceremony, Dunwoody told the gathered audience how proud she was of her family, and more importantly, how proud they all were of the men and women who serve in the military.

As to what her great-grandfather would have thought, she said, “I know he would be proud that the memorial which bears his name has now sat at two distinguished installations.”

Brig. Gen. Dunwoody graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1866 and served in the Army until his retirement in 1904. In 1872, he became assistant to the chief signal officer, Brig. Gen. Albert Myer. He was instrumental in the meteorological work of the Signal Corps and served during the Spanish-American War.

“I think he would be surprised to be recognized this way,” his great-granddaughter said. “He wasn’t concerned with being recognized for his contribution.”

The Signal Corps Time Capsule was originally buried in 1960, in honor of the Corp’s centennial.



Photo by Nick Spinelli

Susan Schoeck and her sister, Gen. Ann Dunwoody, Army Materiel Command commander, unveil a memorial dedicated to their great-grandfather, Brig. Gen. Henry Harrison Chase Dunwoody during a rededication ceremony March 2 at the Fort Gordon Myer Mall. The monuments were previously a part of Dunwoody Park in Fort Monmouth, N.J.

Rice becomes IMCOM's senior enlisted Soldier

By EVAN DYSON
IMCOM

SAN ANTONIO – Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice joined the Installation Management Command as the highest-ranking noncommissioned officer Friday in a ceremony at Fort Sam Houston.

Rice has served the Army since 1981, most recently as command sergeant major for XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, N.C. He assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Felt, who served as the interim command sergeant major for IMCOM since November 2011. Felt continues to serve as command sergeant major for the IMCOM Central region.

As Rice joined the IMCOM command group, he reunited with familiar faces. As command sergeant major for the Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning, Rice served under the leadership of Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter, now the commander of IMCOM.

“It’s truly awesome,” Rice said. “I know without a doubt we have an awe-inspiring leader who everything that he does is thinking about our Soldiers, our families and our Army mission. He lives it every day 24/7.”

Throughout his career, Rice has held numerous command sergeant major positions, including XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg; Maneuver Center

of Excellence and Fort Benning; and the Army Infantry Center and Fort Benning, Ga. In 1991, he was selected as the 82nd Airborne Division and the XVIII Airborne Corps Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

“Number one,” said Rice, “I’m a Soldier and I’m proud to be a Soldier. I give it my best every single day.”

Drawing from those experiences, Rice plans to maintain a strong connection with garrison leadership while working to standardize services to Soldiers and families.

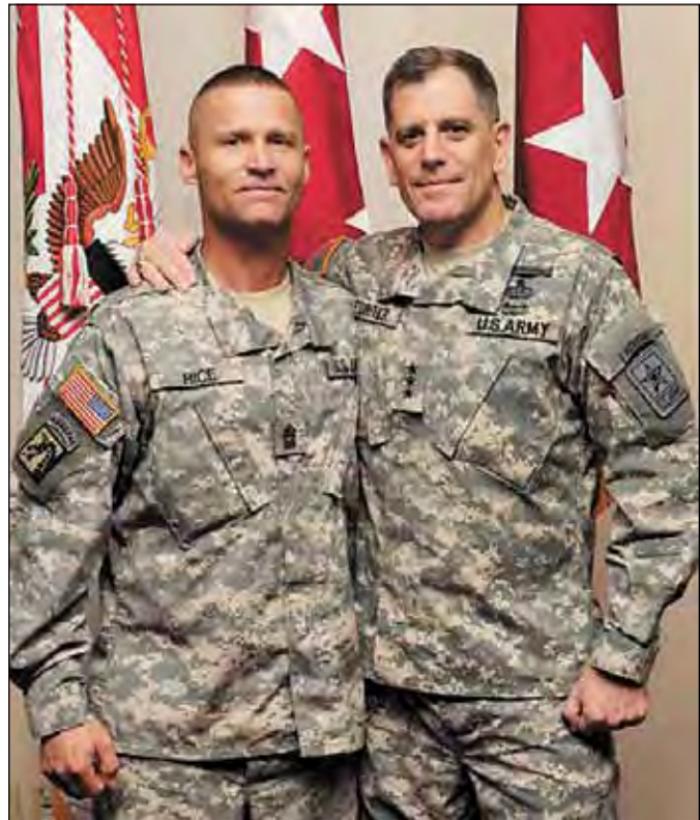
“I know what’s made us successful at these places that I’ve been,” he said. “It’s wrapping our arms around our garrison teams and understanding their focus and how engaged they are with the mission. It’s one of those things where you’ve got to be there and you’ve got to provide the support.”

“(Looking ahead, it’s about) keeping our team focused on making sure that we’re doing the right thing by our Soldiers and family programs. And (that) we have the right assistance on the home front that allows our Soldiers to give their all.

“We can’t forget why we come to work every day.”

Army photo

Command Sgt. Maj. Earl Rice poses with Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, commander of the Installation Management Command, at the Army Family Action Plan conference in Arlington, Va., on Feb. 27.



Senior fellowship students participate in staff rides



Courtesy photo

The DAU Fellows gather during their tour at the Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma, Tenn.

The Defense Acquisition University Senior Service Fellowship attendees have visited the Arnold Engineering Development Center in Tullahoma, Tenn.

The DAU Fellows toured the most advanced and largest complex of flight simulation test facilities in the world. The center operates 30 aerodynamic and propulsion wind tunnels, rocket and turbine engine test cells. The tour included space environment chambers, arc heaters, the “chicken” gun and other specialized units.

AEDC executive director John Sutton welcomed the Fellows at the outset of the tour. He explained the history of the facility, and many of the programs it had supported. AEDC is a national asset with unique testing and simulation capabilities.

The DAU Fellows regularly tour selected industrial and military locations re-

lated to their studies in acquisition and leadership. They are going to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., March 10-14 and Hawaii to visit the Pacific Command, Pacific Fleet, and participate in a staff ride of the Pearl Harbor Battleground led by a former Army War College faculty member.

The current Senior Service College class will graduate May 23 at 2 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium.

Army civilians interested in attending the next DAU SSCF class, which starts in July, should call SSCF director Diane Williams at 922-8039 or the SSCF coordinator Ann Lee at 922-8161. The Army announcement can be found at the Army Acquisition Support Center website: http://asc.army.mil/docs/announcement/DAUSSCF_2012-2013_Current_Announcement.pdf. (*Defense Acquisition University release*)

Mortgage help available for military homeowners

The HopeNow Housing Alliance, a group of stakeholders made up of mortgage servicers, investors, nonprofit counselors and military subject matter experts has met to develop solutions to assist Soldiers and families who are in receipt of Permanent Change of Station orders or who were in or approaching default on their mortgage.

Recognizing the call for mortgage assistance by servicemembers and families, PCS has been classified as a hardship in the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Mortgage Servicing Guides. HopeNow has adapted their current outreach program to coincide with the needs of the military family. These outreach events will be visiting installations – including Fort Gor-

don, Ga., Fort Jackson, S.C., Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and the Washington, D.C. – area through 2012.

To prepare for these outreach events make sure to bring the following financial documents:

- Monthly mortgage statement
- Two most recent pay stubs
- Documentation on all income you receive from other sources (alimony, child support, Social Security, etc.)
- Most recent bank statements and utility bills with your name and address.

For more information on mortgage assistance for military homeowners, call housing management specialist Minnie Rhoden at 842-9902 or email minnie.s.rhoden@us.army.mil.

Sparkman High students send care packages

Contributed items destined for troops in Afghanistan

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

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HARVEST – Students from Sparkman High are sending care packages and letters to Soldiers serving in Afghanistan, including many who are alumni.

What started out as an ambitious, student-run military outreach project, ended up as a spirit-filled, highly successful campaign to honor and support Soldiers who are near and dear to the students' hearts. The Sparkman High Senators for Soldiers military outreach project involved the entire school and community, far exceeding expectations with 7,533 donated items and more than 1,000 letters filling more than 75 boxes.

The project originated in Beverly Massa's management principles class. Massa is an instructor for the Sparkman Business Academy and co-sponsor of Future Business Leaders of America. She and Brandi Glenn, a student teacher from Auburn University, asked the students to come up with a project that would give back to the community.

"It ties into our social responsibility curriculum on giving back and this was one of the areas that was kind of close to the kids' hearts," Glenn said.

The students had a breakfast meeting, brainstormed ideas and formed committees to handle every aspect of the project. They decided to have a door decorating contest to stir up support and a contest for the class that collected the most items, with breakfast as the prize for both.

"They were the ones," Massa said. "They were driving, we were just guiding them. They divided up into what committees they would be on, all the way from our school announcements and getting signs hung up, to picking up the items and recording them, getting the door decorations going, every-

thing. They've been great, the kids have been great. I'm very proud of them."

Senior Emery Hughes was involved in promoting the project. He created a visual presentation that played on each classroom television during morning announcements. The project meant a lot to him because he is thinking of joining the Army.

"I thought if I go in the Army, I know how I'll feel to get packages and stuff from my friends at school," he said.

Senior Amber Smith and junior Krisalaun Battle worked as part of the public relations team. Smith made fliers to advertise the project and contacted media, while Battle was in charge of keeping a tally of the items collected by each class and posting the progress. Both were happy to be involved with the project.

"It related so much to what we were doing in class and I thought it was an awesome opportunity for us to get a real-world situation going," Smith said. "I'm really active in the community, so I like the fact that as a school we all got together and decided to help out."

Items collected Feb. 6-14 included candy and snacks, personal hygiene items, pens and games such as dice or cards.

"I think it's a great opportunity to always help others and to not always think about yourself," Battle said. "It's a wonderful thing because everybody likes it, and especially the troops are going to be happy to see all these things we send to them and how much we care."

Junior class president Patrick Fitzgerald, who as a freshman started the Sparkman in the Community program encouraging each student to contribute service hours, was in charge of the letter writing campaign. Several letters will be included with each care package shipped.

The students collected so many items that the expense of shipping them became a problem. Each box shipped costs about \$15. Initially, the students projected sending 15-20 boxes to Afghanistan. Now that they have enough items to fill 75 boxes, several community members have stepped up to help.



Photo by Beth Skarupa

Students from Beverly Massa's management principles class at Sparkman High gather to package thousands of donated items and letters that they collected to send to Soldiers in Afghanistan.

"Shauna Thurgood and her husband, Col. Neil Thurgood, have been instrumental in helping with the shipment," Massa said. "They will personally ensure that the balance of the boxes will reach the troops in Afghanistan."

Members of 3/108th Signal Detachment, Assistant Secretary of Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, and the Program Executive Office for Aviation also assisted Sparkman High with this endeavor.

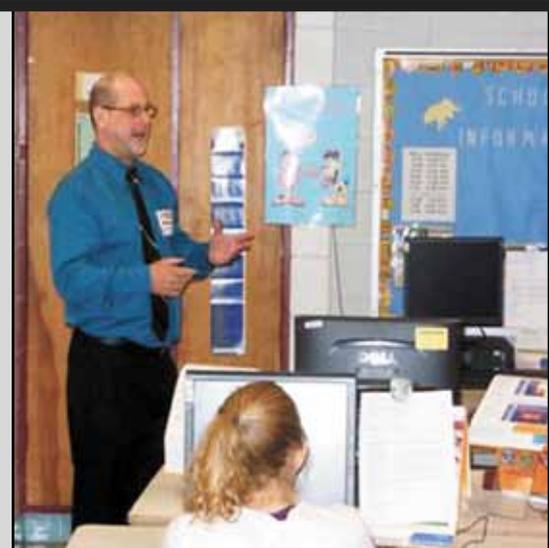
The boxes are being shipped to SHS alumni and other servicemembers who have connections to Sparkman High students and teachers.

"It makes me happy to give back to them because since my family is a military family and my dad did work on the Arsenal, I know a lot of people out there," junior Elizabeth Davis said. "And it makes me happy to know that I'm giving back to them, that I'm doing something more"

Courtesy photo

Education outreach

AMCOM G-2 personnel security chief Wayne Arrowood speaks to students at Mountain Gap Middle School. He used his own career path to send the message to always be looking for opportunities to improve where you work and your own situation. Arrowood spoke as part of the AMCOM Army Education Outreach Program.



Lunch session focuses on process improvement

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**
AMC Public Affairs

“What is a headache right now in my job? What is waste in my job right now?” Terrence Wilson, Lean Six Sigma deputy deployment director and Master Black Belt, asked in a lean six sigma training session.

Army Materiel Command’s continuous process improvement directorate held two Lunch and Learn sessions to improve effectiveness of employees at AMC and Team Redstone.

The first session taught students to identify waste and inefficiencies and the second session taught them to sort, set in order,

stratify, sustain and standardize their various processes.

Wilson used a numbered chart which looked like a math trivia game to teach the “five s” process, pointing out the importance of a fine tuned process despite the complexity of the project.

“You have to work what’s important not just to your boss, but to your area that will better align your projects to be successful,” Wilson said.

Lunchtime learners received a surprise visit from Maj. Gen. Larry Wyche, deputy chief of staff for operations of AMC, who overheard the class being taught.

Photo by Cherish Washington

Greg Turner, AMC FOIA officer, works on a timed exercise during a lunch and learn session offered by the Army Materiel Command’s continuous process improvement directorate.

He chimed, in commenting on Lean Six Sigma’s effectiveness and Wilson’s enthusiasm.

The lunch and learn sessions also helped promote AMC’s upcoming Lean Six Sigma black belt class starting March 26, which is already full.

The course was designed to give students a few tools that employees could get excited



about and use to identify waste in their respective processes, Wilson said.

AMCOM resource manager gives view of new system

By **MARK BARKLEY**

AMCOM G-8 (Resource Management) deputy

In April, the General Fund Enterprise Business System will be implemented at the Aviation and Missile Command. GFEBs is an enterprise financial system which replaces Standard Operation and Maintenance Army Research and Development System, a legacy financial system.

GFEBs, like SOMARDS, is a tool which facilitates the sub-allocation, re-distribution and monitoring of the execution status of appropriated funds. However, GFEBs is more user-friendly and provides for more capability.

GFEBs was designed to include algorithms which collect, identify and distribute

cost to a specific function or Work Breakdown Structure element, activity, cost center or organization, weapon system, commodity or agency from the highest level to the desired level. The results of these algorithms will provide managers of these entities the capability to capture and generate real-time cost reports of a specific function or WBS element, activity, cost center or organization, weapon system commodity or agency at the desired level.

As a consequence, GFEBs is expected to provide Army and its management on demand hierarchical, management friendly information in report form, with real-time answers to questions such as the current inventory of real property, current inventory of

aircraft and missile weapon systems and associated secondary items, the cost of Widget A, where Widget A may be found, how many man-hours did Division X, Directorate X, or Major Subordinate Command X expend supporting Widget A, the cost of all Widget A’s, the cost to support Weapon System A or Commodity A. This kind of information may be extracted from GFEBs throughout the life cycle of the various aircraft and missile weapon systems, including their secondary items, and other commodities.

In summary, GFEBs, unlike SOMARDS, is a financial accounting system. It records financial transactions in a single system Armywide; complies with statutory

and regulatory requirements for funds control and accounting; includes real property and other asset data for accountability; and provides visibility in real-time across the Army. It is a cost accounting system. It allocates overhead and other indirect costs to outcomes, outputs or services; provides full cost of outcomes, outputs or services; connects operational outputs or performance data to cost data; and enables various types of cost analyses. Lastly, it is a decision support system. It provides trends, comparative and other analytical data; enables analyses and forecasting; and supports well-informed decisions to leverage available resources and improve program and budget decisions.

GFEBs trainee likes new financial management system

Redstone preparing for April start date

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Army Materiel Command budget analyst Mary North likes the direction of the Army’s new General Fund Enterprise Business System.

She completed her fifth and last GFEBs class March 1-2. The General Fund Enter-

prise Business System is being implemented throughout the Army in waves; and Team Redstone goes online April 2.

“I think it’s going to be a wonderful addition for the Army financial management system,” North said. “Once it gets rolling, I think it’s going to be the best financial management system the Army can implement.

“It’s going to be hard at first but I think once it gets rolling it’s going to be wonderful.”

North has been a budget analyst for the government about 12 years and with AMC

for two years.

Redstone represents wave 8. The last deployment, wave 8B, is slated for July.

“When it’s fully operational it will have 79,000 end users,” Dr. Felicia Williams, deputy director of the GFEBs Transition Office here, said. “And it replaces 200 legacy systems.”

It will replace the Standard Operations and Maintenance Army Research and Development, or SOMARDS, system and it will interface with the Logistics Modernization Program.

The transition office, located on the second floor of building 5304, represents a combined effort with the Aviation and Missile Command, the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, and the Program Executive Office for Aviation.

The Army decided about 10 years ago that it wanted to have one financial system. And the system has been implemented in waves since its first deployment at Fort Jackson, S.C., on Oct. 1, 2008. Some 400 sites have adopted the system so far.

Flight crew thanked for community support

In appreciation of Redstone Test Center's support of the annual Girls Science and Engineering Day, the Women's Leadership Council of the University of Alabama-Huntsville presented RTC with a plaque of appreciation.

April Harris, UAH associate vice president, and Emily Vandiver, committee chair, met with RTC commander Col. Steve Kihara on Feb. 27 to thank him and the test center for their continued support. Maj. Richard Bratt, Aviation Flight Test Directorate commander, and the flight crew that supported the event were also on hand for the presentation.

RTC provided one of the highlights of the Nov. 12 event – a static display of a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. Thanks to the flight crew, consisting of project pilot Steve Kaye, flight test engineer Leabeth Durham and human factors engineer Shauna Legan, girls were able to sit in the cockpit and ask questions regarding the aircraft and careers in engineering and aviation.

The event, which RTC has supported for the past three years, is organized by



Courtesy photo

From left are Steve Kaye, Leabeth Durham, April Harris, Col. Steve Kihara, Emily Vandiver, Shauna Legan and Maj. Richard Bratt.

UAH's Women's Leadership Council to encourage girls with an interest in science, technology, engineering and math. Girls in the third- through fifth-grades attend workshops with topics including raptors, robotics, medicine, biology, math games on interlinked computers, weather, fossils, reptiles, rockets and more. (*Redstone Test Center release*)

AMCOM inventory team changes sustainment game to cut costs

By DAN O'BOYLE

For the Rocket

A football coach – especially one in the Southeastern Conference – is always on the lookout for a game changer. Army leaders do that, too.

AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers has found his game changer in the 17 teams of the Supply Chain Management Enterprise, based on the second floor of building 5301.

One of those players, the Repair Program Analysis team led by logistics management specialist David McRee, is contributing to the overall game plan.

“Incorrect coding and current processes may lead to excess inventory and increased costs to transport, store and handle items that may not need repairing,” McRee said.

In terms of that inventory value, the Repair Program Analysis team has reduced the consumable, unserviceable, stock-on-hand items value from \$19 million to \$7 million, or by 36 percent.

“Our effort will help ease the impact on financial accounting, as well as free up encumbered funds that can be applied elsewhere,” McRee said.

To contribute to the decrease in the total supply chain management cost and not

constrain future resources, the nine-member team is doing the following:

- Identifying and correcting incorrect coding and current processes that lead to excess inventory and increased costs to transport, store and handle items that may not need repairing.
- Assuring that coding supports repairs before initiating new buys.
- Identifying and initiating disposal actions for consumable, unserviceable, on-hand assets.
- Reducing consumable, unserviceable stock on hand by 30 percent.
- Assuring that the 95 percent data accuracy goal is achieved and maintained.

The members focus on improving the process for database maintenance of items, ensuring a sustainment plan is in place to maintain data accuracy, and supplementing item manager and provisioner training courses.

They include Sandra LaBonte, Chris Pugh, Olivia Cowart, Erika Curry, Jennifer Helton, Tammey Lavack, Ben Otey and Maxie Pooler.

AMCOM workers are encouraged to visit the Supply Chain Management Enterprise “War Room” on the second floor of building 5301, as well as visit <http://tinyurl.com/TransformingAMCOM>.

Aviation veteran joins Order of St. Michael

By DAN O'BOYLE
For the Rocket

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jay Nance has received the Bronze Order of St. Michael award, which was established in 1990 as a joint venture between the Army Aviation Association of America and the Army Aviation Center.

“The Order of St. Michael recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the promotion of Army aviation in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient’s seniors, subordinates and peers,” Gary Nenninger, Army Aviation Association of America local chapter president, said. “Jay Nance has demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, while displaying an outstanding degree of professional competence, in service with distinction to the United States Army aviation community.”

St. Michael is referred to in biblical writings as an archangel who wages war against evil. He is known as the heavenly prince or champion charged specifically to guard and defend others. He is legendary as the leader of angels who fought a war in heaven and conquered the dragon and cast it down from the skies. St. Michael’s battles are an allegory of the struggle between good and evil. Throughout the centuries, St. Michael has been depicted with a sword fighting or standing over a conquered dragon.



Courtesy photo

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jay Nance poses with his wife, Melba. Nance is the vice president for programs, Millennium Engineering and Integration. An Operation Desert Storm veteran, he was in the Army’s first chief warrant officer 5 promotion group.

The legendary image of St. Michael defeating the dragon exemplifies the bravery and gallantry associated with the aviation Soldier. His warrior qualities demonstrate the boldness and swiftness of aviation on the battlefield. As a brave warrior and protector, St. Michael is the embodiment of courage and justice and is the symbol of excellence within Army aviation.

The archangel St. Michael is the embodiment of courage, justice and gallantry. So too, Nance embodies these qualities and represents excellence in aviation, the award citation read.



Courtesy photo

Helicopter update

Stephen Davis, center, senior legislative assistant for U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks, receives a capabilities update on the UH-60M Black Hawk. From left are David Byrd, Redstone Test Center technical director; Davis; and Maj. James Deboer, System Integration and Simulation Division chief. Davis toured the Rotary Wing Center, received an overview of how the Redstone Test Center’s test capabilities support aviation and heard aircraft familiarization briefings.

Flying

continued from page 4

you manage the stress of combat. And with fixed wing flying, well, that's all fun. It's never lost its allure for me."

While he said there is nothing to compare to the "hover and takeoff" capabilities of a helicopter, fixed wing flying is an easy hobby to enjoy because of the national air space system in the U.S. and the flying activity clubs located throughout the nation.

"It's a great pleasure of mine to fly all over the country in a fixed wing," McLaine said.

At the Flying Activity, the chief flight instructor teamed McLaine with certified flight instructor Caroline Hodges, who conducted a Federal Aviation Administration flight review with the officer. The first day of flight, McLaine piloted a Cessna 172, flying a pattern around the Arsenal and going through the landing process. While he's been here, he has also flown to Shelbyville, Tenn., to review his instrument and night flying, and he flew in a Piper Arrow, which has retractable landing gear. His first solo flight was to Guntersville and then along the Tennessee River to Muscle Shoals. Along the way, he passed his flight review.

"To maintain your pilot rating you have to be checked at least every other year," McLaine said. "And no one wants to be just barely proficient. So, you work hard to make sure you know the aircraft and how to fly it."

During the review, Hodges checked

McLaine's proficiency and knowledge about flying.

"He is proficient in both the Cessna and Pilot, so now he can fly them whenever he wants to," Hodges said.

"Besides teaching new students how to fly, we also offer written tests for each airplane and for instrument training. Pilots want to qualify for as many different aircraft in their log book as possible. Each single engine aircraft has its specifics for weight and balance, and for takeoff and landing, and pilots need to know them before they fly. But the concepts of flight are universal."

Since McLaine was new to the area, Hodges also showed him what restricted and non-restricted areas to avoid, the area's landmarks and the good places for getting that "\$100 hamburger," a reference to pilots who fly miles away just to dine out at a special destination. Before leaving Redstone, McLaine hopes to make a flight to Atlanta to see his aunt, and possible flights to Pensacola, Fla., and Enterprise (Fort Rucker) to visit aviation buddies.

How much fixed wing flying McLaine gets in depends on the availability of a flying club where he is stationed and the amount of time he has available. While at Redstone, he's had some free time for flying. But after completing his class, McLaine will return to his family – including wife, Maj. Keke McLaine, who is the executive officer for a supply brigade, and three young children – at Fort Drum, N.Y., where he will prepare for a 2013 deployment to Afghanistan with



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Certified flight instructor Caroline Hodges put Maj. Joe McLaine through his biannual FAA flight review at the Flying Activity. She has also shown him the local area from the skies while piloting a Cessna 172 and a Piper Arrow.

the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade. So the respite at Redstone won't last for long.

When he does get a chance, McLaine likes to introduce other Soldiers to flight.

"I was the officer in charge of the West Point Flying Club when I was teaching at West Point in 2007-10," he said. "I loved introducing cadets and others to the joys of flight."

"It's surprising to me how few active Army aviators do fly fixed wing. For me, flying fixed wing has made me a better pilot all around. I have a better air sense, and better communication and visual skills. Being a fixed wing pilot in the civilian FAA world has made me a better Army aviator."

Thompson hopes to gain some new pilots with that type of enthusiasm during the Flying Activity's open house in May, during

which visitors can fly in aircraft at a cost of \$30 for adults and \$25 for children 12 and younger.

"An open house is really to interest people in flying. It's a recruiting kind of thing," he said. "But we do have to be careful not to recruit more interest than we can handle."

The Flying Activity's 22 instructors also have full-time jobs and take on teaching flight students in their spare time. And the activity only has 12 aircraft that can be used by its members.

"In the spring of 2010 we didn't have an open house because we had a lot of growth in the early months of the year and more students could have been overwhelming to our flight instructors, and we might not have had enough planes to accommodate instruction," Thompson said. "We also didn't have an open house in 2011 because our Arsenal facility was going to be closed for a few months. So now we are ready for some new students."

These days, the airfield is hampered by the lack of runway lights for night flights. Those runway lights were shut down by the airfield's management because old wiring made them undependable. Replacing the electrical system for runway lights is currently cost prohibitive.

But the flying activity is still a popular location for Arsenal-connected pilots who like the services and social activities it provides, including free hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch on Saturdays.

"They love to come out here and socialize and tell their pilot stories. There's a lot of good camaraderie," Thompson said.

The airfield staff includes Mildred Lancaster, who manages the office, and Derrick Romine and Telton Tolbert, who work as aircraft mechanics. The Flying Activity also relies on a group of about 40 volunteers, which includes chief flight instructor Max Gurgew, to run the club.

With new neighbors like the Redstone Test Center and expanding neighbors like the Software Engineering Directorate, and with budget cuts, there have been concerns as to how long Redstone will keep its flying activity. But for now, it continues to thrive with its membership.

"The majority of the people who utilize the Flying Activity work on the installation," Thompson said.

"We have a lot of strong members. We have majors, colonels, retired officers and people with NASA. This flying activity has been here since at least the late '80s or early '90s, and it's something that attracts an influential group of pilots. But the Army mission comes first. So we'll be here as long as the Army doesn't need us to move."

Hours of operation for the Flying Activity are: Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Members have access to the activity and aircraft rentals seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Check out flying rates and class offerings at <http://www.redstonemwr.com/recreation/flying>.

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:

Bingo extravaganza

The "Luck of the Irish Bingo Extravaganza" is Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Challenger Activity Center, building 1500. Electronic bingo begins at 10. Bingo session begins at 1:45. Ticket sales will be limited to the first 200 patrons. For more information, call 837-0750.

Youth baseball

CYSS Sports and Fitness "Start Smart Baseball" will be held Saturdays through March 31, from 10-11 a.m. at the Youth Center, building 3148. Open to ages 3-5. The \$35 cost includes a T-shirt. For more information, call 313-3699.

Hockey clinics

CYSS Sports and Fitness' Ball Hockey "Learn to Play" Clinics are free on Saturdays through March 31: from 9-10:30 a.m. for ages 6-17, 1-2:30 p.m. for ages 18 and up, and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for adult pickup inline hockey. The Ball Hockey Clinics will be held at the CYSS Outdoor Hockey Rink at the corner of Goss and Skinner roads,

next to Hotel Redstone-Army Lodging. For more information, call 313-3699.

Rock, paper, scissors

The "Rock Paper Scissors Tournament" is 4:30 p.m. March 30 at the Firehouse Pub. This is single game elimination with first, second and third place prizes. To register call 842-0748 by March 28.

Spring into fitness

FMWR Sports and Fitness "Step into Spring Fitness Month" continues through March 31 on Saturdays from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Vincent Park trail. Step into spring with a new workout program. Every Saturday during March, participants will meet at Vincent Park (entrance to the trail). The workout has a boot camp-style program which includes walking, jogging and toning exercises. For more information, call 876-2943 or 876-6701.

Golf tournament

"St. Patrick's Day March Madness," a two-person mystery format, is Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Links. There will be beer, drinks and corned beef cabbage after the round. Cost is \$50 each plus applicable green fees. For more

information, call 883-7977.

St. Patrick's Day bash

The Firehouse Pub will have a St. Patrick's Day Bash on Friday from 3-10 p.m. The Zooks will perform from 4:30-8 p.m. There will be light hors d'oeuvres, drink specials and green beer. For more information, call 842-0748.

Wine tasting

The international wine tasting is Friday from 5-9 p.m. at The Summit. Sample select wines from around the world, enjoy a variety of hors d'oeuvres and the door prize drawings. Cost is \$25 per person; and tickets may be purchased at The Summit. Attendees must be age 21 or over. For more information, call 830-2582.

Youth turkey hunt

Outdoor Recreation's "Youth Turkey Hunt" is March 24-25 from dawn until noon at Outdoor Recreation, building 5139 on Sportsman Drive. This event is free for youth ages 10-15. Each child must be accompanied by a Redstone authorized hunter who is 25-over and possesses a valid hunting license. For more information, call 876-4868.

Cares

continued from page 1

delivery of that service is critical. It's paramount of the work we are doing.

"I already think we are the best at what we do. But with every program there is always room for improvement. We always need to be looking at what we are doing and looking for ways to improve."

In fact, Team Redstone supervisors surveyed in 2011 said they were 92.99 percent satisfied with CPAC's quality, 99.87 percent satisfied with its timeliness and 97.31 percent satisfied with its availability of candidates. These averages surpass Armywide averages in all categories.

But with the Army transformation calling for hiring reform initiatives, the shift from using Resumix to USA Staffing for gaining new employees, the need to streamline and speed up the civilian hiring process, and the challenge of civilian recruiting, there is a need to improve partnerships between human resources specialists, and the managers and employees they serve.

By definition, human resources specialists are called on to provide high-quality applicants with specific skills, manage the hiring process and provide comprehensive, life-cycle support in the areas of staffing, training, classification, compensation, management and employee relations, performance management, labor relations, workers compensation, records maintenance, succession planning and out-processing/retirement.

But when it comes to providing those services, human resources specialists need the skills that will better enable them to be participants in the everyday management/employee team. It is hoped that with a combination of technical and "soft skills," human resources specialists will be sought out by managers, supervisors and employees for assistance in managing the entire civilian employment life cycle.

"We are undergoing a cultural change in human resources," Midgett said. "The ICARE initiative dovetails into what we are trying to do."

"The Army is transforming itself completely. The off-shoot for Human Resources means we need to revamp and retool ourselves to be more efficient and effective. We need to think more strategically. We need to be doing more up-front preplanning and prepositioning so that we develop more partnerships with management. When we talk strategically, we have to ask how do we gain trust, respect and integrity with our partners, and how do you teach those concepts when you are strategically working in perhaps a different culture?"

The ICARE initiative gives human resources specialists the "opportunity to work on our own skills and partner better with

our managers," she said.

With the largest customer base in the Army – 14,000 appropriated funds Army civilians and 500 non-appropriated funds Army civilians – the Redstone CPAC has become the largest CPAC in the Army. Its customers include Army Materiel Command headquarters, Security Assistance Command, Army Contracting Command/Expeditionary Contracting Command, Aviation and Missile Command, Space and Missile Defense Command, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, Logistics Support Activity, Huntsville Corps of Engineers, Program Executive Offices for Aviation and for Missiles and Space, Redstone Test Center, Medical and Dental Activity-Redstone, the Garrison and several other Army organizations at Redstone.

"The strength of the Army is really heavily laden in its civilian support," Midgett said. "When the Army shifts, it impacts the civilian work force. For that reason, we have to be very much aware of and understand the current government strategic plan and what it means for the work force. ICARE is the kind of program that helps us to become a strategic partner. It will help us become that ideal CPAC we all want to be."

The ICARE initiative launched in January throughout the South Central region.



Its five standards of excellence – integrity, compassion, advocacy, resourcefulness and excellence (for which the ICARE synonym is derived) – are promoted through 12 supporting behaviors that will be emphasized during the 12 months of 2012. For integrity, the supporting behavior of attitude was emphasized in January and professionalism was emphasized in February while commitment is being emphasized in March. For compassion, courtesy will be emphasized in April, respect in May and communication in June. For advocacy, safety will be emphasized in July and privacy in August. For resourcefulness, stewardship will be emphasized in September and creativity in October. And for excellence, quality will be emphasized in November and ownership in December.

"These are standards that are important to the Army," Midgett said. "For the human resources specialist, the core competency is a myriad of hard and soft skills encompassing these behaviors."

"But, to me, integrity is the underpinning. Integrity is the beginning of everything and the root of everything. We are stewards of taxpayer money and we should have the integrity to help managers make decisions about recruiting, pay and other personnel issues. You can learn technical skills, but it is just as important to have the



Photo by Kari Hawkins

John Bentley, who works at Redstone Arsenal for the South Central region of the Civilian Human Resources Agency, is the developer of the ICARE customer excellence program for human resources specialists throughout the region.

sound integrity to deliver services to managers that positively impact the mission. We are not only impacting individuals, we are impacting the larger Army with our line of sight focused on supporting the Soldier in the field. Whether you know us or not, we are an integral part of what managers do."

During each month of ICARE, the region's CPACs develop programs and activities that promote that month's supporting behavior. Each CPAC competes to receive

recognition for their programs and activities. For instance, in January, as they promoted the behavior of attitude, Fort Benning, Ga., the ICARE winner in the large category, hosted a kickoff with a guest speaker, created an ICARE Rap Dance that was posted on YouTube, and publicized the program on electronic marquees, in the post newspaper and on its Facebook page, among other things. The medium category winner, Fort Stewart, Ga., conducted USA Staffing briefings with managers and employees, each CPAC employee created a personal poster on attitude and conducted weekly ICARE training sessions, among other things; and Fort Polk, La., the winner in the small category, initiated such things as a customer service pledge, conducted town halls to introduce USA Staffing to employees and provided customer service awards to CPAC employees who received positive comments about attitude from their customers.

ICARE also recognizes individual accomplishments by recognizing star performers each month. At Redstone CPAC, Andora Crawford was recognized in January for her positive and upbeat attitude as she managed the moves of furniture and equipment for the Redstone CPAC, regional office and virtual teams, working as a facilitator between contractors and employees to ensure a smooth transition to new offices.

ICARE was developed and initiated by a team led by John Bentley of the regional

Civilian Human Resources Agency in part because of reforms mandated by the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Defense and Army requirement to reduce the hiring process from an average of 96 days to an average of 80 days by the end of the summer 2012.

"We need to be able to hire the best, brightest, most qualified people out there for the Army," Bentley said. "That requires us to have a stronger relationship with managers. We need to be able to partner with them and have trusting relationships to meet this goal. This program helps us to show our customers that they are the No. 1 priority."

ICARE can help CPACs as large as Redstone's 120 human resources specialists and as small as the three that work for the Charleston, W.Va., Corps of Engineers promote the "soft skills" needed by all human resources specialists, Bentley said.

"We want them to communicate, demonstrate and celebrate these behaviors," Bentley said. "Human resources people are very professional and they want to do a great job. This program shows them the behaviors they need to have to do a great job."

"Once our CPACs saw this program, they became excited. We are not telling them exactly what to do. We are saying we want you to live these behaviors and then we are letting them use their creativity to implement that message. And we want to show how living these behaviors can make a difference for your customers and yourselves. It's not that we aren't doing these behaviors. It's that we need to recognize them and publish them, and align what we are doing with what our leadership at Civilian Human Resources Agency headquarters wants us to do."

Bentley said he has been encouraged by the response CPAC employees have had toward ICARE. Although the program will have a larger impact on newer CPAC employees, it does offer plenty of opportunities to grow professionally for both new and seasoned CPAC employees.

"I've been here for about 30 years, but you can still teach me new stuff. There are still things I can improve on and there are always areas where we can learn from each other," Midgett said.

Both Bentley and Midgett hope ICARE will emphasize and influence behaviors long after the 12-month initiative is complete. They hope the behaviors will become habits for CPAC employees.

"In human resources, we are always dealing with people, so we need to be excellent not only on our hard skills but also on our soft skills," Midgett said.

"I've had a very rewarding career, and it's because of the mix of hard and soft skills that you need to do this job. I want my staff to have that same fulfillment by knowing they are key at the table supporting the management team and helping management execute the mission. We are working to make a better Army. We are key members making a difference for the Army."

Unexploded ordnance can become deadly find

Safety office provides training upon request

By BETH SKARUPA

Staff writer

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Unexploded ordnance training can save your life and it's only a phone call away.

Any member of Team Redstone can request UXO training by calling the Garrison Safety Office. Dennis Wheeler, explosive safety specialist, will then set up a time to give the training session.

"Anyone can have this training," he said. "We're looking into having this training for everyone on the Arsenal."

A UXO is an unexploded ordnance that failed to function or was not used. Many have been found when digging on the Arsenal or simply walking through a wooded area. Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville Arsenal produced many kinds of ordnance during World War II, and more were used in training in the years since then.

Wheeler noted that records from the Arsenal's environmental office indicate that more than 8 million pieces of ordnance were produced here during WWII.

A key to his UXO training is learning the three Rs, which stand for recognize, retreat and report. The training helps participants recognize what a UXO looks like, especially after it has been buried for several years or rusting, because photos and inert training aides are used as examples.

"It's either unexploded ordnance or it isn't. There's no in between," Wheeler said.

If you are unsure about whether something is a UXO or not, Wheeler advises assuming that it is one. After recognizing the UXO, he says you should not touch it, move it, or try to get a better look at it. Just mark the spot by placing a flag or hat near it, not on it, and then move at least 300 meters away. Secure the area so no one else goes near it.

"Report it to your immediate supervisor, then call 911 and make sure to tell them that you are on the Arsenal. You can call me too, that will speed things up," he said.

Some UXO are empty, but some have possible chemical components that could leak out. If the person who came across it accidentally touched it or picked it up, he must stay in the safe area so the explosive experts can make sure it wasn't leaking and he was not exposed to anything.

Those who receive the training get a verification card that is good for two years. The safety office also keeps track of who has had the class, so a verification card can be replaced if it is lost. All hunters on the Arsenal are now required to have the UXO training as part of their hunters' orientation.

"Basically we're trying to give the training to anyone who will work in wooded areas. If they will have to dig, they are required to have it," Wheeler said. "It's a 30-minute training. Anyone can call and request the class. Even people off post can request it, even groups like the Boy Scouts."

For more information or to request the training, call Wheeler at 876-3114.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Workers contracted to plant trees on the Arsenal discuss the inert training aids provided as examples at their unexploded ordnance training at the Garrison Safety Office March 6.

Skills program helps kids reach for the stars

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Little Gracie Parker is in constant motion. Dressed in head to toe pink complete with matching tutu, her arms, hands, feet and legs are a bundle of energy, dancing as they wish. And she's not alone.

Around 15 little girls dressed in pink surround her, and just like Gracie, all they want to do is dance, even if it sometimes means not exactly listening to what dance instructor Sabrina Jenkins has to say. But amidst the giggles and the grins, there's something greater going on at building 3153 every Tuesday morning – learning. And for the SKIES Unlimited Program, that is exactly the point.

SKIES (Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills) Unlimited provides children the opportunity to expand their horizons and develop new interests through class offerings in subjects such as music, dance, art, martial arts and foreign language, all within the safe confines of Redstone Arsenal. Just because school is done for the day doesn't mean the learning has to stop, and that's exactly what the SKIES program capitalizes on, giving kids a productive way to spend their time when they're not in school.

"It establishes a sense of pride, a sense of ownership to something," said Karvellis Lee, SKIES director. "We believe that if a child is provided some sort of enrichment program, he or she is likely to not get into

trouble. I think it's a proven fact. Some kids can't be on the football, basketball or athletic team and this is another outlet for them to participate in."

At the SKIES dance class on Tuesday mornings, the little girls age 3 to 5 aren't just having fun twirling in their tutus, they're learning the difference between left and right and practicing their counting, as well as building their basic dance and social skills. For Gracie's mom Michelle, enrolling the little girl in the program has been more than just seeing if her love of dancing at home will translate into a hobby, it's also about the life skills she's learning in class.

"Gracie actually gets to meet other children of all different ages, and she'll also start to learn, hopefully, a little bit of discipline," Parker said. "She's 2 and a half – at that age they need to learn discipline, respect and to treat the other girls with respect as well."

It's not just the learning aspect, however, that drew Parker to the SKIES program, it's the convenience and cost as well. Students are picked up right from their CDCs on post and transported to the SKIES Unlimited facility, building 3153 next to the Youth Center, in time for class at 10, and are taken back by bus when the dancing is said and done, making it hassle and worry free for parents. At \$40 a month for four hourlong classes compared to what can be as much as \$48 for a single hour in the community, the savings is undeniable.

"You can't beat our prices," Lee said. "Our prices alone, along with the background checks and the facilities – you can't beat it. It's the security and the convenience."

Fully aware of how quickly a child can become both excited or disinterested in a hobby, there are no contracts, but rather fees are paid on a month-to-month basis, so kids can come and go as their interests please. All instructors receive a background check and CPR and first aid training, and all facilities have cameras. Anyone with access to the Arsenal is eligible to enroll their children in the program; registration is done at Parent Central Services, building 1500 on Weeden Mountain Road.

"It's just another avenue for children to explore their interests without a long-term commitment. We don't have any contracts. We're month to month, because we realize kids may think they want to play piano, but they might change their mind next month," Lee said.

Current classes offered include martial arts (Taekwondo) and the Tuesday morning dance class, but upcoming classes include piano, guitar, Spanish conversation, art, drumline and drivers education. No matter



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Sabrina Jenkins leads the SKIES Unlimited creative movement class Tuesday mornings for children ages 3 to 5 to expose them to the basic elements of dance.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Haley Eder gets ready for dance class.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Ifunanyi Ukeje practices her dance moves at a Tuesday morning SKIES Unlimited class.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

The Tuesday morning SKIES Unlimited creative movement dance class takes a break from the action for a group picture.

what piques a child's interest however, the impact of their participation in SKIES can be life changing.

"I've seen kids who were loners and now all of a sudden they have an interest," Lee said. "When they get off the bus they're like, 'hey, can I go play the piano for a few minutes?' You see that. That kid is now not so much an introvert, but a little more outgo-

ing." Add in the community feel, and it's no wonder why parents choose SKIES.

"The people are friendly," Parker said. "I think it offers a great opportunity for children to learn respect, discipline and they can make friends. You as a parent get to meet people. The hours are great and they have such a variety of programs."

Sky's the limit for program's class offerings for youth

Current SKIES Unlimited Class offerings include:

Taekwondo, open to ages 4 and up, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, cost is \$40 per month.

Dance, open to ages 3 to 5, Tuesdays, cost is \$40 per month.

Upcoming classes include:

Piano, open to ages 3 and up, tentative cost is \$80 per month.

Guitar, open to ages 8 and up, tentative cost is \$80 per month.

Spanish conversation, open to ages 4 and up, tentative cost is \$60 per month.

Art, open to ages 3 and up, tentative cost is \$60 per month.

Drumline, open to ages 5 and up, tentative cost is \$120 per month.

Driver's education, open to ages 15 and up, tentative cost is \$350.

For more information call SKIES director Karvellis Lee at 876-6844.

Huntsville site tracks missile flight in Pacific

Makes connection from 7K-plus miles

By JASON CUTSHAW
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

The Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site Operations Center in Huntsville made history when it gathered data on an Air Force Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile flight test.

The ROC-H command and control facility has become the primary RTS command-and-control location for future missions instead of the historic location on the Army Kwajalein Atoll. The RTS recently received a communications upgrade focused on the core networking and communications infrastructure linking Kwajalein to the United States and building a reliable, high bandwidth, low latency network that is crucial to a distributed range in which the instrumentation is operated from more than 7,000 miles away.

"The mission itself, GT-203, was to track a Minuteman III ICBM and support for operational verification testing," Lt. Col. Brian Soldon, Kwajalein and RTS deputy commander (the continental U.S.), Kwajalein support director and RTS space operation director, said. "RTS has traditionally supported those missions in terms of the downrange mission to be able to verify that the system is operating correctly. We support these types of tests between two and four times a year for our customer, the U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command.

"The missile is launched out of Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and then impacts in the broad ocean area in the vicinity of Kwajalein Atoll. RTS sensors normally collect data on the objects to verify that they are operating correctly, both in-flight and as they impact."

The RTS is a world-class range and test facility located 2,300 miles southwest of Hawaii on Kwajalein, Republic of the Marshall Islands. Its unique instrumentation sensors, including high-fidelity metric and signature radars, as well as optical sensors and telemetry, play a vital role in the research, development, test and evaluation in support of America's defense and space programs.

One of the goals completed was the RTS Distributed Operations program which transferred RTS from a locally operated range to a globally operated national asset. Started in 2006, the RDO program created an enhanced distributed operations control capability that leverages high-speed networks, advanced algorithms and instrumentation control technology to enable RTS operations from



SMDC/ARSTRAT photo

Reagan Test Site Operations Center-Huntsville employees utilize the mission control center at the ROC-H to prepare for an Air Force missile test launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., to the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site at Army Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific Ocean on Feb. 25.

Huntsville.

"The ROC-H transforms RTS from a locally-operated range to a globally-connected national asset that allows distributed control of operations from CONUS," Thomas Webber, SMDC/ARSTRAT Technical Center interim deputy director, said. "Distributed operations increase our ability to support the war fighter. Operating from ROC-H also increases accessibility to our customers and makes using RTS more cost effective. The ROC-H network connectivity allows interoperability with other test ranges, sensors and elements."

A key advantage of a distributed center is a common environment that allows better utilization of personnel by streamlining mission operations. Primary operations will be conducted from Huntsville while a backup mission capability is still retained at Kwajalein.

"From our perspective, what we did that was somewhat new was that we used the ROC-H as the primary command and control center for RTS instrumentation," Soldon said. "This was the primary center, although it was not the only location, because truly what we are standing up is an RTS Distributed Operation. What that means is we have the ability to have command and control of RTS missions and many of the instrumentation sensors from here, and we are also capable of efficiently utilizing on-island personnel to execute some aspects of the mission as well.

"Data is transferred here so that analysis can take place. When it comes to instrumentation, it varies in terms of what

is required or what is mandatory. In this operation, quite a few sensors were involved and we controlled many of them from 7,000 miles away. It was pretty impressive for our first time."

The RDO program will benefit RTS customers in several key ways. RTS system engineers and mission planners will be available centrally in Huntsville, co-located with several major RTS customers. The ability to have the operations center here will simplify and expand the interaction with the customers.

"The significance of the operation was that it was the first mission use of our ability to command and control RTS instrumentation with our distributed operations concept," Soldon said. "It worked as well as our previous operations which were commanded and controlled from Kwajalein, and in a lot of cases better because some of the ROC-H equipment has been upgraded and is more reliable."

In 2009, the final connection of an undersea fiber optic cable connected USAKA/RTS to U.S. government facilities on Guam. This new cable was tied into the existing fiber optic cable that connected Guam to the west coast of the United States. By using this cable, USAKA/RTS no longer had to rely on satellite connections resulting in a more secure, faster link for sending test data for customers.

"Because we are now using fiber optics instead of satellites we don't have as much time delay in our data transfer capability," Soldon said. "It is that added capability that allows us now to significantly reduce our on-island footprint, and thereby our operating costs, for our

customers as well as RTS."

Customers will benefit from the range being "closer" through reduced flight times and lesser time zone differences for training, demonstrations, mission planning and mission execution than has been experienced with Kwajalein-based RTS support. Further, the availability of data, both real-time and post-mission will be greatly improved.

From the ROC-H, customers will be able to view their mission in real-time as it unfolds and the reduced cost and increased convenience will enable customers to allow more of their personnel to view the mission.

Given the ability to view the mission in real-time from the control center, only those mission support functions requiring access to physical assets will need to deploy to Kwajalein. Customers can realize cost savings by deploying fewer personnel to the atoll.

"It is nice to hear from our customers that we are doing things that no one else has ever done," Soldon said. "Our ability to truly utilize the concept of net-centric operations is beyond where just about everybody else is. In that regard, the ability to command and control on a day-to-day basis is something that is going to set the standard for how things are done in the future.

"It feels great to be a part of this," he added.

And with more technical jobs and customers coming to Huntsville instead of Kwajalein, that means more money will be spent on the local economy as well as the government saving more taxpayer money because of the higher costs of supporting individuals on the island.

"There is a great sense of accomplishment," Tim Kirchner, RTS technical director, said. "We, (RTS government, Massachusetts Institute of Technology/Lincoln Laboratory and contractor work force) have successfully executed a tremendous amount of work, all the way from initial concept to development, prototyping, architecture selection, design, development, integration and testing leading to implementation of this operational capability. We performed a large number of tests while following a very extensive validation and acceptance test plan. Our testing has given us a tremendous amount of confidence in the ability of our system to perform efficiently and effectively.

"We went into this mission with a lot of confidence so we could go to our customers and say we know that this system is going to work. Our customer believed in us, we moved forward and it was a great, resounding success. We couldn't be happier."

Stop blowing money through inefficient heating/cooling

By PATRICK HOLMES

DPW Energy Office

Heating and cooling uses more energy and costs more money than any other system in your home – typically making up about 50 percent of your utility bill.

No matter what kind of heating and cooling system you have in your house, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. But remember, an energy-efficient furnace alone will not have as great an impact on your energy bills as using the whole-house approach. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing, and thermostat settings, you can cut your energy use for heating and cooling – and reduce environmental emissions – from 20-50 percent.

Heating and cooling tips

Set your programmable thermostat as low as is comfortable in the winter and as high as is comfortable in the summer, as well as when you're sleeping or away from home.

Clean or replace filters on furnaces and air conditioners once a month or as recommended.

Clean warm-air registers, baseboard heaters, and radiators as needed; make sure they're not blocked by furniture, carpeting or drapes.

Place heat-resistant radiator reflectors between exterior walls and the radiators.

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing; when replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

During winter, keep the draperies and shades on your south-facing windows open during the day to allow the sunlight to enter your home and closed at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows. During summer, keep the window coverings closed during the day to block the sun's heat.

Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and, therefore, unnecessary expense.

Consider using an interior fan along with your window air conditioner to spread the cooled air through your home without greatly increasing your power use.

Avoid placing appliances that give off heat such as lamps or televisions near a thermostat.

If your air conditioner is old, consider buying an energy-efficient model. Look for the ENERGY STAR and Ener-

gyGuide labels – qualified room air conditioners are 10 percent more efficient, and qualified central units are about 14 percent more efficient than standard models.

Select energy-efficient products when you buy new heating and cooling equipment. Your contractor should be able to give you energy fact sheets for different types, models and designs to help you compare energy usage.

For furnaces, look for high Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency ratings. The national minimum is 78 percent AFUE, but there are ENERGY STAR models on the market that exceed 90% AFUE. For air conditioners, look for a high Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio. The current minimum is 13 SEER for central air conditioners. ENERGY STAR models are 14.5 SEER or more.

Air ducts

Your air ducts are one of the most important systems in your home, and if the ducts are poorly sealed or insulated they are likely contributing to higher energy bills.

Your home's duct system is a branching network of tubes in the walls, floors and ceilings; it carries the air from your home's furnace and central air conditioner to each room. Ducts are made of sheet metal, fiberglass or other materials.

Ducts that leak heated air into unheated spaces can add hundreds of dollars a year to your heating and cooling bills. Insulating ducts that are in unconditioned spaces is usually very cost effective. If you are installing a new duct system, make sure it comes with insulation.

Sealing your ducts to prevent leaks is even more important if the ducts are located in an unconditioned area such as an attic or vented crawl space. If the supply ducts are leaking, heated or cooled air can be forced out of unsealed joints and lost. In addition, unconditioned air can be drawn into return ducts through unsealed joints. You can think of conditioned air as having a dollar value, as there is a fuel cost associated with it. Any leaks in ducts are effectively blowing money.

Although minor duct repairs are easy to make, qualified professionals should seal and insulate ducts in unconditioned spaces to ensure the use of appropriate sealing materials.

Minor duct repair tips

Check your ducts for air leaks. First, look for sections that should be joined

but have separated and then look for obvious holes.

If you use tape to seal your ducts, avoid cloth-backed, rubber adhesive duct tape – it tends to fail quickly. Ironically, duct tape is not for use on ducts. Instead, use mastic, butyl tape, foil tape, or other heat-approved tapes. Look for tape with the Underwriters Laboratories logo.

If both the ducts and the basement walls are not insulated, consider insulating both and any water pipes in the area. Check with a professional contractor.

Hire a professional to install both supply and return air registers in the basement rooms if converting your basement to a living area.

Be sure a well-sealed vapor barrier exists on the outside of the insulation on cooling ducts to prevent moisture condensation.

Be sure to get professional help when doing ductwork. A qualified professional should always perform changes and repairs to a duct system.

Heat pumps

Heat pumps are the most efficient form of electric heating in moderate climates. A heat pump can reduce your electricity use for heating by 30-40 percent compared to electric resistance heating such as furnaces and baseboard heaters.

A heat pump does double duty as a central air conditioner by collecting the heat inside your house and pumping it outside.

There are three types of heat pumps: air-to-air, water source and geothermal. They collect heat from the air, water or ground outside your home and concentrate it for use inside.

Geothermal (or ground source) heat pumps have some major advantages. They can reduce energy use by 30-60 percent, control humidity, are sturdy and reliable, and fit in a wide variety of homes. The upfront installed cost and locating an experienced contractor are some of the major hurdles for installing this type of system. Redstone has one ground source heat pump system located at building 3644 on Patriot Drive.

Do not set back the heat pump's thermostat manually if it causes the electric-resistance heating to come on. This type of heating, which is often used as a backup to the heat pump, is more expensive and may result in electric demand charg-

es if you electricity is bought on a time of use rate. If purchasing a new or replacement heat pump, consider a hybrid unit that uses natural gas as a backup heat source instead of electric-resistance.

Install or have a professional install a programmable thermostat with multi-stage functions suitable for a heat pump.

Passive solar heating, cooling

Using passive solar design to heat and cool your home can be both environmentally friendly and cost effective. In many cases, your heating costs can be reduced to less than half the cost of heating a typical home.

Passive solar design can also help lower your cooling costs. Passive solar cooling techniques include carefully designed overhangs and using reflective coatings on windows, exterior walls and roofs. Newer techniques include placing large, insulated windows on south-facing walls and putting thermal mass, such as a concrete slab floor or a heat-absorbing wall, close to the windows.

A passive solar house requires careful design and siting, which vary by local climate conditions. If you are considering passive solar design for a new home or a major remodel, consult an architect familiar with passive solar techniques.

Natural gas and oil

If you plan to buy a new heating system, ask your local utility or state energy office about the latest technologies on the market. For example, many newer models have designs for burners and heat exchangers that are more efficient during operation and cut heat loss when the equipment is off.

Consider a sealed-combustion furnace – they are safer and more efficient.

Look for the ENERGY STAR and EnergyGuide labels to compare efficiency and ensure quality. As always install a programmable thermostat.

Programmable thermostats

You can save as much as 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by simply turning your thermostat back 7-10 degrees Fahrenheit for eight hours a day from where you would normally set. If you have a heat pump, don't do this without a programmable thermostat. You can do this automatically by using a programmable thermostat and scheduling the times you turn on the heating or air conditioning. As a result, the equipment doesn't operate as much when you are asleep or not at home.

Programmable thermostats can store multiple daily settings (six or more temperature settings a day) that you can manually override without affecting the

See Energy on page 31.



Chemical agent destruction plant nears completion

By DEBRA VALINE
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

In the desert near Pueblo, Colo., a chemical agent destruction plant that will destroy more than 2,600 tons of stockpiled chemical munitions is nearly complete.

Construction of the \$1.1 billion facility on the Pueblo Chemical Depot started in 2002 and is expected to be complete this summer.

The destruction of the chemical munitions was mandated by Public Law 99-145 and an international treaty by the Chemical Weapons Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction.

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant is the eighth of nine chemical demilitarization facilities designed and built by the Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville. The ninth facility is under construction in Richmond, Ky.

The first seven plants were designed and constructed and the stockpiled chemical weapons at each location were safely destroyed using incineration as the means for destroying the weapons.

In response to the public's concern about safe destruction of chemical weapons during operation of the incineration plants, the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives program asked Huntsville Center to design and build a chemical weapons destruction facility using a neutralization followed by bio-treatment process, rather than incineration.

Once construction is complete, the plant will go into the next phase that will be managed by ACWA for systemization and ultimately operation, destruction of chemical weapons and

closure. The Pueblo Chemical Depot stores 2,611 tons of mustard agent, about 8 percent of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile, in projectiles and cartridges.

One of the reasons the project has been successful is that all the partners are located in the same building: ACWA is the government program assigned to destroy the stockpile; Huntsville Center is the Corps of Engineers' agent for design and construction of chemical demilitarization facilities; The U.S. Army Field Support Command, Rock Island, Ill., is the contracting agency; and Bechtel is the system contractor.

Resident engineer Lee Seeba being collocated allows for frequent open and transparent communication on all aspects of the project. He said when issues arise, they can be resolved quickly and efficiently, and that having all the partners in one place is unique for the Corps.

"The customer gets the Corps of Engineers' expertise and what we do well: assisting others in getting the construction accomplished," Seeba said. "We are embedded into this program in a very unique way for the Corps. We will leave after construction and allow ACWA to operate the facility. It gives the government the best bang for the buck."

The Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant is a first-of-its-kind facility to destroy chemical weapons using neutralization followed by bio-treatment processes. The facility incorporates a special cascade ventilation system to ensure clean air flow and detection in the unlikely event of a leak, specially designed robots for han-

dling and transporting the munitions throughout the process to avoid human exposure to agent, a special flowable concrete used in the explosive containment rooms, and unique facility control systems with security monitoring to control the complex.

The facility design incorporates lessons learned from the previous plants, design, construction, processes and closure.

"We have been able to use lessons learned when designing this facility," Steve Light, the program manager for the Huntsville Center, said. "For instance, rebar in the explosive containment rooms required us to come up with a new way to use concrete. Concrete could not flow well around the rebar because of the design, so we learned to use 'flowable' concrete.

"Power reliability and redundancy



Photo by Kenneth Young

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Energy

continued from page 30

rest of the daily or weekly program. There are systems on the market now that can be controlled from a smart phone or tablet computer (there is an app for that).

Air conditioners

Buying a bigger room air conditioner won't necessarily make you feel more comfortable during the hot summer months. In fact, a room air conditioner that's too big for the area it is supposed to cool will perform less efficiently and less effectively than a smaller, properly sized unit. Central air-conditioning sys-

tems need to be sized by professionals.

If you have a central air system in your home, set the fan to shut off at the same time as the compressor, which is usually done by setting the "auto" mode on the fan setting. In other words, don't use the system's central fan to provide air circulation — use ceiling fans in individual rooms.

Instead of air conditioning, consider installing a whole-house fan. Whole-house fans work in many climates and help cool your home by pulling cool air through the house and exhausting warm air through the attic. Use the fan most effectively to cool down your house during cooler times of the day: your home will stay cooler through the hotter times of

the day without using the fan.

Cool roofs

If you've ever stood on a roof on a hot summer day, you know how hot it can get. The heat from your roof makes your air conditioner work even harder to keep your home cool.

A cool roof uses material that is designed to reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat than a standard roof. Cool roofs can be made of a highly reflective type of paint, a sheet covering, or highly reflective tiles or shingles.

By installing a cool roof, you can lower the temperature of your roof by up to 50 degrees F and save energy and money by using less air conditioning. Cool roofs

make spaces like garages or covered patios more comfortable.

As cool roofs become more popular, communities will benefit from fewer power plant emissions and less demand for new power plants. Cool roofs can lower local outside air temperatures, reducing heat island effects in urban areas.

Nearly any type of home can benefit from a cool roof, but consider climate and other factors before you decide to install one. Visit energysavers.gov to learn more about cool roofs.

Editor's note: Patrick Holmes is the quality assurance and engineering contractor in the Directorate of Public Works' Energy Office.

Win or Lose

Army, NASA look forward to softball season

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

NASA is ready to play ball with the Army.

That was the consensus of a softball preseason meeting March 6 at Marshall Space Flight Center. NASA has reached an agreement with Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation to partner for softball starting this season.

Jim Lomas, president of the Marshall Athletic Recreational Services Softball Club, held last week's informal gathering as preparation for the official kickoff and team signup meeting March 27 at noon in building 4601, conference room 2014 on the second floor.

"There's a couple of Army teams that have called me," Lomas said. "At least two have called me and I'm hoping we'll have more."

The NASA Exchange sponsored Softball Club has partnered with FMWR's Sports and Fitness to allow all Department of Defense/Redstone employees and dependents to join in the fun. There will be a 10-team limit this first year for the Redstone work force to sign up before all the spots are taken.

The league expects the 20 teams from last year to return so this is a 50 percent increase in the size of the club. Opening day for the 2012 MARS/Redstone Softball Club season is April 16.

"I think it'll be good," league commissioner Scott Ringel said. "We're always looking for new teams and new competition. A lot of teams have been around for a while, and we're always looking for new players and new teams as a whole."

The softball club will be playing this year on its new field and also using the Army's Linton Field, at the intersection of Patton and Gray roads. The

NASA field is located near the intersection of Morris and Neal roads, across from the Medical and Child Day Care Centers.

Games will be played on the NASA field Monday through Thursday and at the Redstone field on Tuesday and Thursday at 5 and 6 p.m. Each team typically plays one game per week. The season will end in August with a double-elimination tournament. The club will also sponsor a yearly Charity Softball Tournament during the two-week break for the Fourth of July. Last year's tournament raised about \$1,500 for the tornado victims in Phil Campbell, according to Lomas.

All Marshall Space Flight Center civil servants, Redstone civilians, on-site contractors, approved off-site contractors, military and family members are eligible to participate. The team fee for Redstone teams (non-NASA) is \$300 per team.

The three divisions include: Division A for intermediate/competitive, mixture of skilled/intermediate players; Division B for coed intermediate skilled players, minimum of two females on the field; and Division C for coed beginner league, minimum of two females on the field.

Last year's champions included Hit Circus in Division A, TBE (Teledyne Brown Engineering) Integrators in Division B and Fireballs in Division C.

The softball club is looking for new players and teams. If interested in playing or for more information, call Lomas at 544-8305, email jim.lomas@nasa.gov or call vice president Victor Pritchett at 544-5771, email victor.e.pritchett@nasa.gov.

"If it's an individual, we will find them a team," said Ringel, who can be reached at 544-4195.

"At one time we had 60 teams out here," Lomas said. "So we're trying to get back to that."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Jim Lomas, president of the Marshall Athletic Recreational Services Softball Club, conducts last week's preseason meeting. At left is league commissioner Scott Ringel.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

This will be the third year of play on NASA's new field near the intersection of Morris and Neal roads. The league will also use the Army's Linton Field.

Landry volunteers his services to Tennessee in 2013



Photo by Ed Worley

The starting point guard for Bob Jones High's Patriots, Travon Landry has made a verbal commitment to play for the University of Tennessee.

Basketball player commits to UT

By ED WORLEY

Army Contracting Command Public Affairs

MADISON —Travon Landry doesn't consider himself to be a bluegrass music fan. He's into rap and hip-hop. But he's got a lot of the bluegrass standard, "Rocky Top," in his future.

He officially committed to play basketball for the University of Tennessee and will get plenty of chances to hear the song played by the Volunteers band at sporting events.

Landry, a 6-foot-1 junior point guard for the Bob Jones High basketball team, made a verbal commitment to the Vols in December. The 16-year-old is the son of John and Tracy Landry. John Landry is a logistics management specialist in the

Army Contracting Command directorate of installations and logistics.

He chose Tennessee over several other universities — including fellow Southeastern Conference schools Alabama, Auburn, Florida, Georgia and Vanderbilt — because Tennessee's program "fits my style of play," he said.

"I'm a leader on the court," he explained. "I push the ball up the court and get it into the hands of the shooters. Coach (Cuonzo) Martin (Tennessee's basketball coach) expects his point guard to be a leader on the floor. I lead by example. I don't care about the stats; only that we win."

Bob Jones coach Danny Petty said Landry's two biggest assets are his speed and his basketball IQ.

"Travon is really quick and he can 'D up' with anyone," Petty said. He often assigns Landry to defend the opposing team's best player.

College basketball scouts agree. The website Insider.ESPN.Go.Com, says, "Landry is a pass-first point guard that knows how to run a team and is an extension of the head coach on the floor. He is more concerned about winning than stats, but has shown the ability to take over a game when his team needs him."

Alabama.247.sports.com says, "The best one-word description of Landry is quick. Quick decisions, quick feet, quick hands. Lock-down defender who loves to play defense and to play the game, truthfully. He's a pesky defender, and what he lacks in range, he makes up for with his feet."

Landry's journey to Rocky Top began when he was about 10. He played on an AAU team that won a national championship for his age group. He said that was his first taste of a big-time victory.

See Basketball on page 33

Huntsville Havoc hockey night scores big for AER



Players' jerseys auctioned as campaign fund-raiser

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

Army Emergency Relief was a winner Saturday on the Huntsville Havoc's eighth annual Military Appreciation Night.

After the Havoc's hockey game, their players' jerseys were auctioned and \$14,500 was raised for AER. Right wing

Photo by Megan Cotton

AMC's Command Sgt. Maj. Ron Riling does the ceremonial puck drop at Military Appreciation Night.

Dennis Sicard's No. 18 jersey was purchased for the highest amount by Jonathan Byrd for his wife, Emily.

"We've purchased two every year for the past six years," Byrd said.

Many with Redstone connections were among the 6,121 people at the game in the Von Braun Center. The Havoc lost 5-3 to the Knoxville Ice Bears.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ron Riling, the Army Materiel Command sergeant major, did the ceremonial puck drop during pregame ceremonies. AMC Band vocalist Staff Sgt. Renatta America sang the national anthem.

"I just want to say thanks to the community for all you do for our Soldiers," Riling said.

The 2012 AER fund-raising campaign continues through May 15 with a \$300,000 goal.

Basketball

continued from page 32

That's when he decided basketball was something he could play well.

"Anytime I do something, I want to do it to the best of my ability," he said.

He applies the same principal to his academics, carrying a 3.6 grade point average. He plans on majoring in sports management at UT "so I can always stay involved in the game."

The journey has had some obstacles. When he was living in Texas he said he would "shoot baskets in the driveway all night." But the lighting was poor – no

streetlights – so his dad installed a light over the backboard so Landry could see well.

Then, in the summer of 2011, the family moved to Madison after John Landry joined the Army Contracting Command headquarters staff.

Petty said Landry couldn't practice with the team over the summer because he had not transferred schools. Once Landry got on the court, Petty said he knew after the first practice who his point guard would be for the 2011-12 season.

"We're a fastbreak team," explained Petty, who notched his 600th career win in January. "We push it up the floor every

chance we get. This is the best fastbreak team I've ever had."

Petty said Landry pushes the ball up the floor, sees the defense and knows where to pass the ball. Landry leads the team in assists. He can also shoot when it's needed, scoring a season-high 21 points against Huntsville High.

Landry has had one huge supporter along the road to Rocky Top. He credits his dad with having the biggest influence on his basketball career.

"He's supported me all the way, driving me to tournaments and working out with me. We still work out together," Landry said.

He hopes his journey to Knoxville ta-

kes him to an SEC championship, a trip to basketball's Final Four, and after college, to the National Basketball Association. But at 6-1, he knows he's at a height disadvantage.

"I hope I grow a lot in the next few years," he said with a chuckle.

For now, Landry is focused on academics and basketball. Bob Jones finished its season at 27-2 after being upset 56-50 by Decatur Feb. 10 in the opening round of the Class 6A Area 15 tournament. Landry and the Patriots will have to wait until next year to add another state championship to its 2010 title. And somewhere along the way, the hip-hop fan headed to Tennessee will learn "Rocky Top."

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Planting loblollies

Gerardo Castillo with Superior Forestry works with a crew of landscapers planting loblolly pines on a 30-acre tract of land behind Hotel Redstone on Goss Road. The company was contracted to plant trees on 139 acres across the Arsenal. The program, supervised by Kevin Guthrey and Matt Kachelman of the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works, involves planting trees to reduce ground maintenance by 10 percent on the Arsenal. Treed acres do not require grass cutting, and they provide privacy and cut down on traffic noise for the residents living just north of the hotel and Goss Road.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Tailgate fund-raiser

AMCOM G-4 (Logistics) held a "Tailgate Cookoff and Wear Your Rivals Paraphernalia" to raise money for Army Emergency Relief. The ones that collected the most money by taking votes didn't have to wear their rival team's jersey. They raised \$1,100 by taking votes. From left are DeWayne Goss (in Ole Miss jersey), G-4's AER chairman Joan Bean, Leslie Trippe (Boston Red Sox), Eric Hunnicutt (Alabama Crimson Tide), Gerri Rogers (Auburn Tigers) and Joe Mai (Crimson Tide).

Rocket Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Ten-Miler tryout

Redstone Arsenal's Ten-Miler Team, which will compete in the 28th annual Army Ten-Miler on Oct. 21 near the Pentagon, will hold an open tryout for runners March 31 at 7 a.m. The course begins at the Sparkman Fitness Center, continues south on Patton Road past Buxton Road to the five-mile point and then back to the fitness center. Redstone is the five-time defending champion in the government agency division and three-time defending champ in the all-comers division. The team has members from the entire post community – including active and retired military, civilians and contractors. For more information, call assistant coach Skip Vaughn 876-1500 or coach Harry Hobbs 425-5307.

Bass tournament

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

Senior softball

This is an opportunity for men 55 and over, of all skill levels, to participate in slow pitch softball. Practices are 10 a.m. Monday, Thursday and Saturday and 5:30 p.m. Monday at field 4, Brahan Spring Park. The regular season starts April 7 with games being played Monday and Thursday at 6 and 7:30 p.m. For more information, call David Camp 468-2913 or Gary Wilkison 880-9663.

Soccer season

The MARS Soccer Club will have a spring season beginning in March. Participation in the MARS Soccer Club is available to anyone with access to Redstone Arsenal. Games will be played at the NASA soccer field near the Marshall Exchange Wellness Center on Digney Road. Informal pickup games began at that site March 8, and the regular season will begin March 19 with games starting at 5:30. Prospective new players should call Jon Patterson 961-5870 or David Wells 213-2206.

Golf benefit

Delta Zeta Sorority seventh annual "Tee Off With Delta Zeta," benefiting speech and hearing impaired, will be held April 21 at the Becky Pierce Municipal Golf Course. Morning and afternoon tee times are available. For more information, email Shelby Lindley, Delta Zeta annual philanthropy chairwoman, at Shloo2@uah.edu.

Bowling benefit

AMRDEC's Industrial Operations is

holding a Singles "No Tap" Bowling Tournament at Redstone Lanes at 1 p.m. April 12. Cost is \$15 for three games of bowling. There will be trophies and medals for the top three male and female High Series and High Game. To register call Paul Sieja 842-9408, email paul.sieja@us.army.mil, by April 10. There will also be some door prizes so come on out and support Army Emergency Relief.

Golf league

The OMMCS Golf League will have its 2012 season meeting Thursday at 4:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse of the Links at Redstone. The league will begin play April 3 and run through the first week in September. There are openings for several teams in the league, as well as for individual golfers to participate with some of our teams that have lost a player or two. The league plays nine-hole matches each week, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons starting between 3:45 and 4:45. Each team will play one day per week, fielding a team of four players. Each team must have a minimum of six players to a maximum of 12 players. A team entry fee of \$120 is charged to all teams, which is used to pay winning teams for the first and second parts of the season, as well as for weekly individual and team prizes. For more information call Dave Parker 313-4196, email david.k.parker@us.army.mil, or Lee Foster 529-7103, email ldfjmt@comcast.net.

Babe Ruth baseball

The Huntsville Babe Ruth League will hold registration for the spring season Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. Players ages 13 to 18 as of May 1, 2012 are invited. Registration forms will be accepted after Saturday on an individual basis upon park approval and team availability. A copy of the player's birth certificate is required for all new players. Persons interested in coaching a team are encouraged to apply as well. Contact one of the park representatives for registration locations and other information. All coaches interested in entering a team in either the 13, 14 or 15-year-old competitive division should contact Tim Harrison for more information. The Babe Ruth parks and their primary contacts are: Southern Division, Sandhurst Park, Tim Harrison 544-3180, email timothy.t.harrison@nasa.gov; Northern Division, Mastin Lake Park, Emile Jones 990-5902, email ejones@wilsonlumber.net; and Eastern Division, Optimist Park, Jeff Abbott 653-5752, email jeff.abbott@adtran.com.

Ladies golf tourney

Still Serving Veterans will host its first Ladies Golf Tournament to honor women warriors April 23 at the Huntsville Coun-

try Club. The tournament will be a four-women scramble with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. To register or be a sponsor of this event, call Lupi Rodriguez 883-7035 or email lrodriguez@stillsservingveterans.org.

Golf association

The North Alabama Interdenominational Golf Association will tee off for its 2012 golf season with a membership signup meeting March 19 at 6 p.m. at Holy Cross-Saint Christopher Church, 3740 Meridian St. The golf season play will begin April 10. Men and women are invited to join the golf league. For more information, call Melvin Mayo 721-9336.

Basketball bus trip

Bus trips are planned to the Atlanta Hawks games. Games included are April 20 vs. Boston Celtics, April 22 vs. NY Knicks, April 24 vs. LA Clippers and April 26 vs. Dallas Mavericks. Price is \$155 per person which includes roundtrip transportation to the game and ticket into the game. Total cost needs to be paid as soon as possible. First come, first serve. For group rates or more information, call 693-2004.

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, set for 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 club. Breakfast is available at the club. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. "Let's try and make a difference

in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area." For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 955-0727.

Logistics society

The International Society of Logistics, Tennessee Valley Chapter, will have a luncheon March 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Summit. Scheduled speaker is Eric Edwards, executive director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

Marshall director

Gene Goldman, acting center director for Marshall Space Flight Center, will make one of his first public appearances as center director when he speaks before the Madison Chamber of Commerce members at their March monthly luncheon Thursday. The event is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Inn at Madison, formerly Holiday Inn West, 9035 Madison Boulevard. Cost is MCC members \$20, non-members \$25. RSVP is required. Call 325-8317 or email Felecia@madisonALchamber.com.

Toastmaster clubs

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

Men's ministry

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

Space society

Huntsville Ala. L5 Society (HAL5) will have a free program April 5 at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Main Library downtown. Richard B. Hoover, of the University of Buckingham, United Kingdom, will speak on "Microfossils, Biomolecules and Biomarkers in Carbonaceous Meteorites: Evidence for the Existence of Extraterrestrial Life." For more information, visit www.HAL5.org.

Tricare briefings

Humana Military Healthcare Services, the Tricare managed care support contractor

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for the South Region, holds informational briefings on Tricare every Monday at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Tricare Service Center, Fox Army Health Center, second floor.

Meeting professionals

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

Engineer society

Huntsville Post Society of American Military Engineers meets Thursday for lunch at the Holiday Inn on University Drive adjacent to Madison Square Mall. Check in begins at 11 a.m. with lunch at 11:30. Keynote speaker Bryan Ancell of the Eaton Corporation will discuss "Smart Grids: A Viable Solution for Power Reliability and Power Security." The spotlight speaker is from CH2M Hill. To reserve a spot, email rsvp@samehsvpost.org. Cost of the lunch is \$15.

Unmanned aircraft systems

The 2012 UAS Symposium, "Breaking Through the Barriers of Fielding the Technology," will be held May 14-16 at Mississippi State University. Symposium topics include "Policies and regulations of operations" and "Flight demonstrations." For more information, email Jo McKenzie at mckenzie@raspet.msstate.edu.

Faith conference

The seventh annual Catholic Women of Faith Conference is March 24 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Philip Church, 113 2nd Ave. South, Franklin, Tenn. Exhibits are scheduled 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and mass at 8:30 a.m. with Bishop Choby. Speakers include Tim Staples, "What Made Me Catholic"; Derby Schlappizzi, "The Splendor of You"; and Leah Darrow, "From Top Model to Role Model, Leah's Witness Talk." Adoration, reconciliation and benediction will be included. Register at www.catholicwomenoffaith-conference.com.

Contracting workshop

The Army Contracting Command's Office of Small Business Programs has a workshop March 29 on Market Research. Registration and more information is available at www.facebook.com/USArmyContractingCommand.

Federally employed women

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will hold a luncheon in celebration of Women's History Month and to present the chapter's outreach awards of deserving individuals in the Redstone community. The luncheon is March 21 at noon in the Bob Howell Room at The Summit. The guest speaker will be Georgia Thomas, national FEW vice president for diversity. The cost of the luncheon is \$15 per person. Reservations for tickets may be made by emailing erica.thompson@us.army.mil or mary.peoples@smdc.army.mil. The deadline for reserving a seat is March 15. For more information, call Mary Peoples 955-4275.

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Redstone residents

Redstone Communities Housing has scheduled their residents' Community Information Meeting for March 22 at 5:30 p.m. at the Welcome Center, 302 Hughes Drive. "We will have light snacks for our residents to enjoy," a prepared release said. "We hope to see you there!"

Air defenders

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association will have a Fires Luncheon March 20 from 11:30 to 1 p.m. at the Huntsville Marriott. Featured guest speaker will be Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command. Cost is \$23 per person; corporate tables (seats eight) for \$170. For reservations and information, call Brittany Jeffers 325-4483 by March 16 or email brittany@globaldefenseassoc.com.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

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

Fraud hotline

The Huntsville Fraud Resident Agency (USACIDC) has implemented a fraud hotline. It is designed to help you, the taxpayer, to report incidents of suspected fraud involving government contract companies, government employees or government

agencies. If you suspect or know someone who either is committing, or has committed any type of fraud against the government on Redstone Arsenal, or surrounding area, report it by calling 876-9457. You do not have to leave your name – all information will remain confidential and anonymous. Please leave enough information so any followup investigation can be completed.

Women's program

The Alabama Veterans Museum and Archives in Athens will honor March as Women's History Month with a March 24 program featuring World War II Army nurses Carmen Montgomery and Alice Rogers and guest speaker Maj. Gen. Heidi Brown, director of test for the Missile Defense Agency. The program will begin at 11:30 a.m. For more information, call the museum 771-7578.

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 Edu-

cation 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.

Financial management training

There are two Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training courses being offered in Huntsville during fiscal 2012. These courses are an opportunity to prepare you for the testing required to obtain CDFM status. The first class is scheduled March 19-23 and has open enrollment for everyone, including contractors. To enroll go to the Graduate School USA website at http://www.graduateschool.edu/course_details.php?cid=FINC7060D. The second class is scheduled April 16-20 and is for government employees only. The link for this course is <http://www.asmccertification.com/> under the Education/Training tab. The registration for this class has slightly more confusing navigation, so email Rob Archer at rob.archer@us.army.mil for assistance if necessary. Go one step further and become a CDFM-A (certified defense financial manager with acquisition specialty). To enhance your CDFM status, consider taking Module 4 (Acquisition Business Management). A class will be held for government employees in Huntsville May 3-4. The link is <http://www.asmccertification.com/> under the Education/Training tab. If assistance is needed, contact Archer.

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Photo by Ellen Hudson

Guest reader

AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers reads a story Friday to first-graders at Hampton Cove Elementary as a part of the Parade of Readers program. His host was Amy George, committee member for the Parade of Readers. Reading to about 85 students and four teachers, Rogers chose the book "Clifford Goes to Washington." He told the children that his choice of books was influenced by a visit he had in Washington, D.C., with his brother in 2005. During the trip, he met the president, and his children played with the First Family's dogs at the White House. Rogers gave the students many reasons why it is so important to read throughout their childhood and as adults. And he gave medals to the four teachers, and expressed the importance of their work.



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Senior volunteers

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

CFC applications

The Tennessee Valley 2012 Combined Federal Campaign is now accepting applications from potential recipient agencies. They should be non-profit charitable human health and welfare organizations in Madison, Morgan, Marshall, Limestone, Cullman or Lawrence counties. Applications are due by 4 p.m. Friday at the principal combined fund organization, the United Way of Madison County, 701 Andrew Jackson Way. On behalf of federal donors, the CFC is responsible for the overall management, collection and disbursements of donor designations from federal, military and postal personnel within the Tennessee Valley area to charities that have applied and been approved to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign. For a copy of the 2012 CFC package, call 876-9143 or 518-8209 or visit ams8.redstone.army.mil/cfc.

AE book sale

The AMCOM G-3/Command Analysis Directorate's annual book sale for Army Emergency Relief will be held April 16-27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Sparkman Cen-

ter's building 5300 on the first floor, in the corridor between 5303 and 5304. They are accepting donations of books, books-on-tape, CDs, DVDs and videotapes until April 25. If you have items to donate, call Brian Barry 876-8563.

Korea veterans fund-raiser

Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation, 501 (c) (3), is a non-profit organization that will hold its inaugural charity fund-raising event with a MASH theme April 13 from 5:30-9 p.m. at The Summit at Redstone. The wine and whiskey tasting event will also feature live/silent auction items including signed MASH memorabilia, signed footballs, a patriotic quilt handmade by a group of ladies in the New York Quilters Guild, gift baskets and a room full of items that will be waiting for your bid. For more information, or to purchase event tickets, call KC Bertling 541-0450, Anna Pastorelli 489-5673, Still Serving Veterans 883-7054 or The Summit at Redstone 830-2582. All proceeds will be used for the sixth annual luncheon honoring the Korean War veterans and their guest, provide assistance to those veterans wishing to participate in the "Korea Revisit Project 2012" and to support the Korean War veterans and their families, and veterans organizations within the Tennessee Valley.

College fellowship

The Army's announcement to attend the FY 2012-13 Senior Service College Fellowship, managed by the Defense Acquisition University, is open until Thursday. The SSCF is a 10-month leadership and acquisition program for GS 14-15 lev-

el civilians. SSCF is now centrally funded by the Army Acquisition Support Center. For more information, email ann.lee@dau.mil or visit http://asc.army.mil/docs/announcement/dausscf_2012-2013_current_Announcement.pdf.

Program manager course

PMT401 Program Manager's Course is designed to improve DoD acquisition outcomes by strengthening the analytical, critical thinking and decision-making skills of potential leaders of major defense acquisition programs and program support organizations. Students come from all services, DoD agencies and industry. Class will be conducted in Huntsville April 16 through June 22. For more information, email Ann.Lee@dau.mil or apply at www.dau.mil.

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.

College fair

Pope John Paul II Catholic High School will hold a College Fair on today from 5-8 p.m. in its gymnasium, 7301 Old Madison Pike. The public is invited. For a listing of colleges and universities, visit jp2falcons.org.

Association scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the Army Warrant Officers Association will present two \$1,000 scholarships in 2012. The application deadline is April 29. For details, eligibility and an application form, visit www.redstonewarrants.com.

Civilian of year awards

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the United States Army will sponsor the Department of the Army Civilian of the Year awards dinner April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center, North Hall. This award and dinner recognizes local Army civilians who have demonstrated exceptional performance as members of the Army team. Plan to support these outstanding civilian nominees by attending the awards dinner. Individual ticket cost is \$38; corporate tables of eight are \$304. Make your reservations by visiting www.ausaredstone.org/Events.aspx. Reservations must be made by April 3. For more information, call the AUSA event coordinator Jerry Hamilton 652-7437 or email AJH72USMA@mchsi.com.

Heart walk

The Fox Army Health Center staff and its commander Col. Elizabeth Johnson invite the Team Redstone community to the 2012 North Alabama Heart Walk on Sat-

urday at the Westin at Bridge Street Towne Center. Festivities begin at 8 a.m. and a three-mile walk begins at 9. For more information, visit www.northalabamaheartwalk.kintera.org. To find the Fox team, click on the "Find a Team" link under information and type in Fox Army Health Center. The Fox team is registered under Mary Bouldin.

Symphony auction

The Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild's 39th annual Crescen-Dough Auction is April 13 from 5:30-11:30 p.m. in the Von Braun Center's South Hall. More than 500 items will be yours for the bidding, including fine jewelry, one-of-a-kind parties, vacations and local merchandise. The event's theme is "Under the Big Top." Tickets are \$60 per person.

Vietnam veterans

Vietnam veterans and the public are invited to the first Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans program March 29 at 2 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial, located in downtown Huntsville on Monroe Street between Jefferson and Washington streets. The program is being organized by the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Steering Committee, Vietnam Veterans of America-Huntsville Chapter. The event will consist of a wreath laying ceremony and a ceremonial firing. The Army Materiel Command Band will perform. For more information, call Chris DeCourley 313-0783 or visit <http://www.vietvethsv.org>.

JROTC awards dinner

The Sergeants Major Association will hold its first Gary L. Littrell JROTC Leadership Award Dinner on April 12 at 6 p.m. at The Summit. Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Littrell, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam era, will present an award in his name to 13 top cadets from local high schools. For more information, email Michael McSwain at micswainr@us.army.mil or Deitra Floyd at msstang92@hotmail.com.

Ride wanted

Curtis Tucker and his dog guide are looking for someone to ride with to and from work. His hours at building 5304 are 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and he resides at Whitesburg Estates in southwest Huntsville. If interested call 842-9289 or email curtis.tucker@us.army.mil.

IAAP scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals, will award two scholarships of \$500 each, one to a graduating high school senior and one to a college student majoring in business. Merit awards may apply toward tuition, books and fees for undergraduate or graduate level studies. The deadline for applications is April 13.

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For more information or a scholarship application, call Elise McWilliams 313-1709, email elise.mcwilliams@us.army.mil, or call Ellen Mahathey 842-9888, email ellen.mahathey@us.army.mil, or visit the Redstone Arsenal Chapter website <http://www.iaaprsa.org>.

Comedy show

McCloud Enterprises will present a comedy show March 31 at the Holiday Inn-Research Park. It features comedian Cocoa Brown, from Tyler Perry's hit show "For Better or Worse," and will be hosted by Bo P from BET's Comicview. The show also features G. Quinney. The night's two performances are scheduled at 7 and 9:15. Advance tickets are \$20 for general admission, \$25 VIP. Buy 10 tickets and get two free. Ticket outlets include Mr. Shoes or James Records & Tapes. For group rates, VIP and more information, call 693-2004.

Professional development

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will sponsor a professional development seminar March 21 at The Summit. The seminar will consist of career enhancing workshops centered around the theme "Career Advancement Strategies: Keys to Success." For more information, call Mary Peoples 955-4275.

Omega cruise

The Omega Q-Rooze with the Ques was established in 1998 as an excursion for the members and their guests to have a weekend getaway. Since its inception it has always been held in downtown Chattanooga during the local venue called Riverfest. Traditionally, attendees stay at the Marriott Chattanooga Hotel and Conference center. This year's event is June 9-10. Cost is \$80 per person and the hotel cost is \$109 plus tax. It includes transportation

to and from Chattanooga, food and drinks en route, a 2.5-hour midnight cruise, heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks during the hotel hospitality hour and light hors d'oeuvres during the cruise. For more information, call Mike Sims 599-6612 or Gerald Vines 682-1071.

Sheriff's rodeo

The Morgan County Sheriff's Office will hold its annual Morgan County Sheriff's Rodeo this year at the Morgan County Celebration Arena, 67 Horse Center Road, Highway 67 in Priceville. The rodeo will be March 30-31 at 7 p.m. For ticket information, call the Sheriff's Office 351-4800.

Trail closure

Due to upcoming construction in the vicinity of the Von Braun Complex, the asphalt walking trail is closed to through traffic between Burose Road and the southwest side of the southern entrance to the Von Braun Complex beginning March 19 and will remain closed for approximately 24-30 months. The Garrison's Directorate of Public Works apologizes for the inconvenience and will work diligently to complete construction in a timely manner and reopen the entirety of the walking trail for your convenience. DPW asks that you obey all construction signage and direction in the area during this time, as safety is its No. 1 priority.

Veteran employment

The Women's Business Center of North Alabama, in partnership with Still Serving Veterans, is offering a training and networking event for veterans seeking to become entrepreneurs, seeking employment and employers seeking to recruit a veteran work force. The event is March 20 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Embassy Suites, Huntsville. It will feature a business expo and job fair, and a lun-

cheon featuring keynote speakers retired veterans Mike Durant and Paulette Risher. Registration is \$50 for veterans, \$75 for spouses of veterans and \$150 for all others. All veterans who register and check in at the event will receive a full refund of the ticket price, thanks to the generosity of J.F. Drake State Technical College and the Nexus Energy Center. For more information, call 535-2038 or visit www.wbcna.org.

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.

Green to gold

April 1 is the deadline for interested enlisted Soldiers to apply this year for Green to Gold, which enables enrollment in Army ROTC. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.army.mil/article/75305/>.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop is starting to look like spring as it has St. Patrick's Day and Easter items. Stop by and find a new spring outfit. Consignments are taken at the shop from 9-11:45 a.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Call the NO-LIST number 881-6915 before bringing your consignments. The list changes each week. The shop's hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9 to 5, and the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It's located in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Donations are always welcome and tax deductible. If you have access to the Arsenal, you can shop at the Thrift Shop.

Zumba party

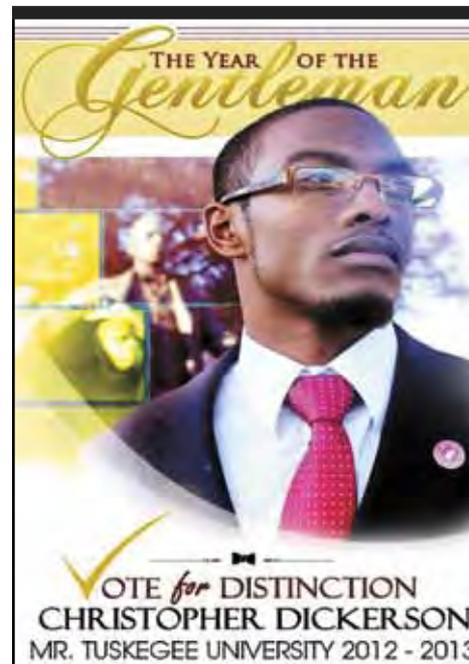
Christmas Charities Year Round will hold its third annual Zumba Party to kick-off its 2012 Schoolhouse Fitness Initiative. The party is March 24 at 11 a.m. at the UAH Fitness Center, 500 John Wright Drive. The \$10 donation to attend the event can be paid at the door. The event will last for an hour and a half. For more information, call CCYR at 837-2373 or visit www.christmascharitiesyearround.org.



Courtesy photo

Teacher of year

State Sen. Bill Holtzclaw made a surprise visit Feb. 27 to Bob Jones High and the Engineering Internship Senior Class to award Jeremy Raper with a resolution from Alabama secretary of the Senate Patrick Harris. The resolution commended Raper as recipient of the 2011 Milken Family Foundation National Teacher of the Year Award. From left are Holtzclaw, Raper and Bob Jones principal Robby Parker.



Courtesy photo

Tuskegee honoree

Christopher Dickerson, son of Redstone workers Henry and Janet Dickerson, has been elected Mr. Tuskegee University for 2012-13. A junior majoring in chemical engineering with pre-med, he is a graduate of Columbia High and has been an AMCOM student hire the past four years. His father works in the Army Contracting Command-Redstone; and his mother works for AMCOM G-2.