

Redstone Rocket

WWW.THEREDSTONEROCKET.COM

March 7, 2012

Vol. 61 No. 10

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

Ex-Navy captain lifts space legacy

U.S. Space & Rocket Center director plans new exhibits

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

Her life may be firmly grounded on Earth, but Dr. Deborah Barnhart dreams of space travel, stars and planets, and the next space habitat.

What else could be on her mind when she has an up-close view of the space shuttle right outside her office window?

This retired Navy captain is “living outer space” these days as the chief executive officer and executive director of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. But while visions of space dance in her head, Barnhart is focused on bringing the center back from the edge of financial ruin; working on an aggressive marketing and development campaign to increase the center’s attendance numbers; developing new permanent space, military and energy exhibits; and building partnerships in the local defense and aerospace community.

“I am so thrilled to be here,” she said on a recent afternoon as she looked through drawings for future center exhibits.

“Our job is to be a showcase of technology for NASA, the Army and the corporate aerospace world. Dr. Wernher von Braun (internationally recognized German rocket scientist who began the nation’s space program at Redstone Arsenal and who worked to establish the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in 1965) said he wanted this museum to be a showcase for what is happening in Huntsville and that continues as my focus.”

That focus is broad and inclusive of the science and technology research and development of space and military systems in Huntsville that have taken man to the moon, led the nation’s military dominance and made the U.S. the world’s technology leader. The rocket technology developed at Redstone Arsenal by von Braun and his team of German and American scientists is the basis for a museum collection that makes the U.S. Space & Rocket Center home to the world’s largest collection of space artifacts. Currently, an exhibit titled “100



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Dr. Deborah Barnhart, a retired Navy captain who now leads the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, shares future plans for center exhibits showcasing advanced technologies in space and defense systems as well as a focus on energy technologies.

Years of Von Braun: His American Journey” is on display through May 15. And as the center prepares to celebrate von Braun’s 100th birthday on March 23, Barnhart fully grasps the importance of her role in building on the center’s legacy for the future.

“This center belongs to the state of Alabama and to the people of Alabama, and I am von Braun’s handmaiden to continue the work,” Barnhart said.

“Redstone Arsenal donated the land for the Space & Rocket Center. That donation made it possible for the state to build the museum that von Braun envisioned. He wanted this center to educate and to inspire interest in science and technology, and rockets. My favorite quote of his is ‘All one can really leave one’s children is what’s inside their heads. Education, in other words, and not earthly possessions, is the ultimate legacy, the only thing that cannot be taken away.’ The Space & Rocket Center is a place to inspire that legacy.”

This is the fourth time Barnhart’s ca-



Courtesy photo

The rocket park at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center is a testament to the Army’s early years in rocket development. Since 1965, the space museum has showcased advancements in both space and defense hardware and technologies.

reer has brought her to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. She came to Huntsville as a young girl when her father took a job at Marshall Space Flight Center. Barnhart attended elementary school just a

See Space on page 27



COMMUNITY NEWS

Arts & Crafts Center offers varied palette.

PAGE 4

PEOPLE PROFILE

Engineer contributes mane to Locks of Love.

PAGE 12



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Security assistance enterprise shows its face to the world.

PAGE 32



WIN OR LOSE

Army, NASA partner for softball league.

PAGE 38

RocketViews

What actor should play you in a movie about your life?

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com



Mike Ackerman
FMWR Information, Tickets and Reservations
“I’m going to say Kevin Smith, just for the simple fact I’ve got to have a Jersey boy to play a Jersey boy. He’s the writer and director for ‘Clerks,’ ‘Clerks II’ and ‘Mallrats.’ He’s a writer/director and actor.”



Larry Keel
FMWR Information, Tickets and Reservations
“Billy Burke. He played Bella’s father in the ‘Twilight’ movie series. My wife says I look just like him and I act just like him.”



Danny Herron
Army Materiel Command Operations Center
“I think Jackie Chan because I feel we’re both energetic, we both hopefully have a nice smile and we both seem to like people. And I do like people.”



Carol Lowman
Army Contracting Command
“I would love it if it were Meryl Streep because I think she’s the best actress in my generation. And I saw her once at Tiffany’s in New York City. And she’s a great mom, a great actress and a wonderful person so I would love it if she would play me.”

Letter to the editor

Reader appreciates Rocket’s 60th anniversary edition

This (past) week’s *Rocket* was awesome – of course, they always are, but this one was extra special. Thanks for bringing back lots of memories.

Karen R. Bender
Garrison

Quote of the Week

‘Acting is the most minor of gifts and not a very high-class way to earn a living. After all, Shirley Temple could do it at the age of 4.’

— Katharine Hepburn
U.S. actress (1907-2003)

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for Feb. 23-29:

Feb. 23: Someone removed hand tools from a jobsite at building 3494. Investigation continues by the DES.

Feb. 23: A family member was apprehended for shoplifting two items at the Exchange. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Feb. 23: A government employee reported that her vehicle was scratched while it was parked at building 5224.

Feb. 24: A government contractor reported that his pullover jersey and hat were taken after he left the items unsecured at the front lobby desk of building 5302. Investigation continues by the DES.

Feb. 25: A civilian was apprehended for shoplifting a videogame at the Exchange. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Feb. 25: Two undocumented persons approached Gate 9 lost. The driver could not produce a valid license. A check through NCIC and ICE revealed no license and neither individual was wanted. The driver received a violation notice and both were released.

Feb. 25: Police responded to the Links Clubhouse for a report of a disorderly person. He was found to be threatening people with his golf club. He was apprehended and brought to the police station where he was given an administrative breath test, with a result of .29 percent blood alcohol content. The Redstone Fire Department was notified and found that he needed to be transported to Huntsville Hospital due to other medical conditions. He was evaluated, returned to Redstone and placed in the detention cell for his safety. He was released the next morning. He received three violation notices for disorderly conduct, harassment and public intoxication.

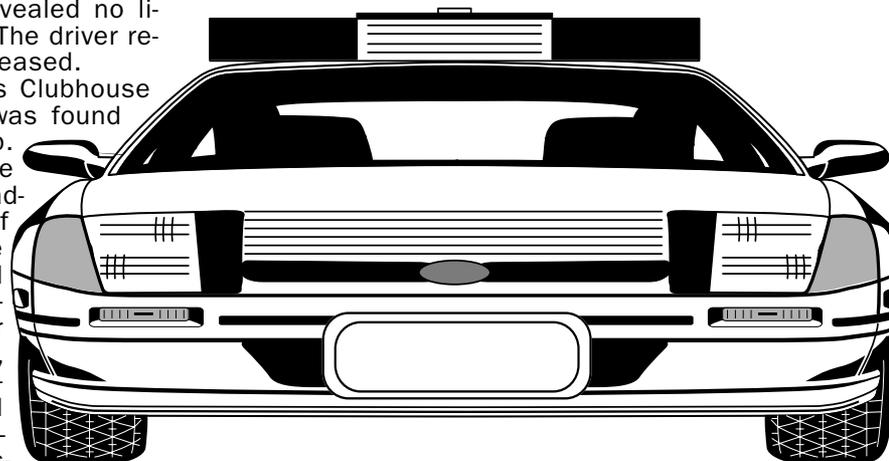
ment and public intoxication.

Feb. 28: A government contractor fell while working at building 5224. He sustained a broken wrist and arm. He was transported to Crestwood Hospital for treatment. Investigation continues by Garrison Safety.

Feb. 29: A contractor approached Gate 10 for access to the post to go to his jobsite. He could not produce a valid driver’s license and was found to be driving with a suspended license. He was issued a violation notice and released.

Traffic accidents reported: Three without injury, one with injury, including a deer strike.

Violation notices issued: 27 speeding, 1 failure to stop at stop sign, 1 failure to signal intent, 2 no proof of insurance, 1 inattentive driving, 1 failure to yield right of way, 2 failure to move over for emergency vehicle, 2 driving while unlicensed, 1 driving while license suspended, 2 shoplifting, 1 trespassing, 1 disorderly conduct, 1 harassment, 1 public intoxication.



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

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

Rocket Staff

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

Editor: Skip Vaughn

Assistant Editor: Kari Hawkins

Reporters: Amy Tolson, Beth Skarupa

Photographer: Ellen Hudson

Copy Editor/Design: Kelley Lane Sivley

General Manager: French Salter

Advertising Sales: Shelia Smith, 256-260-2212

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

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

Printing Co., Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised within this publication.

The Redstone Rocket is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Redstone Rocket newspaper are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, or the Public Affairs Office.

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

Published by Tennessee Valley Printing, a private firm

in no way connected with the Department of Defense, under exclusive written contract with the Department of Army. Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, creed, sex or national origin of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in refusal to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The Redstone Rocket is distributed free of cost to any personnel at Redstone Arsenal and Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates for off post for the Redstone Rocket are \$30 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. “Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time.” (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual). We do not send subscription renewal notices.

RedstoneRocket

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

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

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

Email: skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Letterkenny depot earns seventh Shingo prize

Top manufacturing medallion awarded

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. – Letterkenny Army Depot has celebrated the winning of its seventh Shingo Medallion for Manufacturing Excellence for the Aviation Ground Power Unit value stream.

Guest speakers included Sen. Richard Alloway II, Pa.-33; Nancy Bull, field representative for congressman Bill Shuster; Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command; and Gen. Ann Dunwoody, commander of the Army Materiel Command.

Depot commander Col. Cheri Provanča recognized the employees of Letterkenny that made the recognition possible.

“This is the second medallion award-



Courtesy photo

AMC commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody, Letterkenny commander Col. Cheri Provanča and AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers celebrate Letterkenny's seventh Shingo Prize with the Aviation Ground Power Unit work force.

ed to the depot during my tenure here at Letterkenny,” Provanča said. “I am proud of LEAD employees’ commit-

ment to the war fighter, the flexibility and adaptability of the work force, and their pride in workmanship.”

for improvement in their processes. (*Letterkenny release*)

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Name: Fred Lloyd

Job: Logistics management specialist, Army Materiel Command G-6

Where do you call home?
Linden, Ala.

What do you like about your job?

What I like most about my job is seeing the old way we did processes integrated into the new Enterprise Resource Planning. Being enterprise integration, we work with all personnel – so I like the interaction with people from all levels.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Golf and fish.

What are your goals?

My primary goal is to see my oldest graduate from college, and to prepare my youngest for college. As a mentor to young African-American men, continue to see them grow to become effective citizens in society. Career-wise, I want to continue to grow and be more efficient in whatever posi-



tion I will hold. My wife, Patricia, and I have two daughters: Keaira, 18, and Faith, 6.

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

Swim with the dolphins and visit Hawaii and Italy. Hawaii has always been a place I want to go because of the reputation it's gotten because of the waters and entertainment. And Italy, it still has that feel, the old Italian buildings that were built in those days. I guess I want to go to Italy and I want to go to Hawaii.

Garrison policy helps protect motorcyclists

With springtime rapidly approaching and gas prices soaring, motorcycle enthusiasts are taking to the roadways. As a reminder to all Redstone Arsenal motorcyclists: Garrison Policy 385-57 was written and implemented to reduce motorcycle accidents and provide a safe riding environment for Arsenal employees.

It is Department of Defense policy to eliminate vehicle-related mishaps and the resulting deaths, injuries and property damage by applying risk management strategies. The spirit and intent of Garrison Policy 385-57 is to ensure the safety of all motorcycle riders.

In paragraph c(2) and (3), the policy says “Access Control Point guards will deny installation access to riders not wearing the (following) listed mandatory Personal Protective Equipment:

- Helmets certified to meet Department of Transportation standards and fastened under the chin.

- Impact or shatter-resistant goggles, wrap-around glasses, or a full-face shield properly attached to the helmet that meets or exceeds American National Standards Institute Safety Code

Z87.1 requirements for impact and shatter resistance. A motorcycle windshield alone is not proper eye protection.

- Sturdy footwear: Riders must wear over the ankle, full-toed boots/shoes.

- A long-sleeve shirt or jacket, long trousers and full-fingered gloves or mittens designed for motorcycle use.

- At all times, all riders and passengers will wear as an outer garment, a reflective and brightly colored safety vest or reflective belt. If a reflective belt is worn, it will be worn diagonally, over the shoulder (bandolier style) to provide front and rear visibility. If back packs are worn, riders will strap a reflective belt or safety vest around the back pack to provide visibility and reflective illumination.

Safety is everyone's responsibility in Team Redstone. A safe Arsenal commuting environment is achieved by all motor vehicle operators (cars, trucks, RVs, etc.) following traffic and policy rules, being courteous to one another and sharing the roadways with motorcycles. (*Directorate of Emergency Services release*)

Arts & Crafts Center draws variety of hobbyists

By BETH SKARUPA

Staff writer

beth.skarupa@theredstonerocket.com

The June M. Hughes Arts & Crafts Center is now open for business – and recreation of course.

After several years of renovations were finished in June, the Arts & Crafts Center is ready for its next chapter in providing a variety of classes, arts and crafts items and services to Team Redstone. Although it was never closed completely during any of its renovations, different areas of the center closed for short periods.

“We only had partial shutdowns and rarely a full day. I think woodshop had a shutdown a couple of days because of the electrical, but still the rest of the facility was operating,” Lori Connors, manager of the Arts & Crafts Center, said. “We’re now at that level where we’re going to figure out what we’re going to add. Because operating at that level for that period of time, it’s hard to have a lot of production or offer a lot of classes.”

Dealing with the renovations encompassed most of the time Connors has served as the center’s manager. She will have been with the center three years this June. She is looking forward to figuring out what happens next.

“So now all that’s behind us, we’re getting to the point where we can look at what’s next. We can plan ahead now. Now we can relax a little bit and start focusing

on necessary things like visual merchandising and our marketing and long-term planning for classes and events.”

Currently, classes are being offered in basic drawing, mixed media, digital media, basic framing, and woodworking. Connors also plans to offer a sewing class soon.

FMWR focus Part 5 of series

“We have classes in the evening but classes vary based on instructor availability and enrollment. If enough people don’t register for a class, we don’t have it,” she said.

Classes are usually scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday nights between the hours of 5:30 to 9:30. Most classes run from 6-8 p.m., but the woodshop classes are four hours long. A framing basics class is usually offered once a month on Saturday morning. Both basic woodworking and basic framing are certification classes. They have to be taken in order to use the Arts & Crafts Center during dedicated Do-It-Yourself hours.

Classes offered vary monthly. High interest classes are repeated often. A list of classes is published on e-Happenings as well as being sent out in an e-blast via email. Those



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Arts & Crafts Center director Lori Connors conducts a basic drawing class at the center.

interested in being notified of classes can stop by or call the Arts & Crafts Center to have their name put on the list.

“The maximum number of people in classes is about six. The minimum is three. Classes are small with a lot of personal attention. Any bigger and we don’t have enough room. For example,

in woodworking there’s not enough work stations. The maximum capacity for my drawing class is about eight ... any more than that and I don’t have room because we have to set up a still life and have room for easels,” Connors said.

Services available at the Arts & Crafts

See Center on page 9

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 March 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Challenger Activity Center, building 1500. Doors and registers will open at 10:15. 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 in-line 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 March 17 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 March 16 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 March 16 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.

Family action process addresses quality of life

By DOTTIE WHITE

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. – The Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command participated in the Army Family Action Plan Conference here Feb. 27 through March 2.

“This is the platform for us to address quality of life issues and concerns from our communities with Army leaders,” KC Bertling, AFAP program manager for SMDC, said.

This year’s conference consisted of four working groups to include 53 delegates from across the Army to discuss and recommend solutions to numerous issues important to Soldiers, family members, civilians and retirees.

The working groups fall under four categories: family support; medical, dental and wounded warrior; personal well-being; and Soldier support.

Staff Sgt. William Jungerman, a satellite network controller assigned to Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, 1st Space Brigade, in Fort Detrick, Md., represented SMDC as a delegate in the medical, dental and wounded warrior working group.



Photo by Dottie White

Staff Sgt. William Jungerman, center, a satellite network controller assigned to Alpha Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, 1st Space Brigade, in Fort Detrick, Md., participates in a group discussion addressing issues that impact quality of life for Army families during the Army Family Action Plan Conference in Arlington, Va.

“Within our groups, all the different demographics are represented,” Jungerman said. “You have not only Soldiers, families and retirees, but you also have DA civilians, wounded warriors and sur-

vivors. So you get everybody’s opinions and experiences.

“With some of the issues that were brought forward, we had individuals who it directly affected, so we heard per-

sonalized experiences of these particular issues.”

The working groups began the week with a total of 51 issues, which were narrowed down to the top eight.

“At this conference, each working group is authorized to prioritize the top two issues that are most critical,” Bertling said.

The top eight issues were presented to Army senior leaders on the final day of the conference.

Jungerman found the conference very beneficial.

“I can take this experience back to my Soldiers and families in my unit and tell them Army leaders do care,” Jungerman said.

Said Bertling, “The AFAP program is not only for the Army military families, it is also for civilians and retirees, wounded warriors and survivors of fallen Soldiers. It is for the total Army family. If anybody has ideas or concerns, they can address that with me or their local AFAP representative. AFAP shows that the Army leaders do care.”

The SMDC AFAP conference is scheduled May 8-11 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Inspirational author fulfills dream with television movie

MDA system analyst helped special education students

By **LEAH GARTON**

Missile Defense Agency Public Affairs

A dream over 10 years in the making has finally paid off for Missile Defense Agency employee Michael Kersjes. He works as a senior system analyst supporting THAAD flight test for MDA, and is the proud author of the book “A Smile as Big as the Moon,” which was recently made into a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie.

Kersjes is a former Michigan football coach and teacher of special education students for 22 years. “A Smile as Big as the Moon” is the autobiographical story of how Kersjes helped his special education students to attain their impossible dream to attend Space Camp at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

Previously, Space Camp attendance had been reserved for gifted and talented students, who were considered the best and brightest from America’s most prestigious high schools. However, Kersjes and his students, who had disabilities including Tourette syndrome, Downs syndrome, dyslexia, eating disorders and a variety of emotional problems, made history as the first ever special education students to attend Space Camp, and in doing so, they opened the door for countless other kids to attend. Since that time, Kersjes has help to send more than 3,000 special needs students to Space Camp.

Back in 1988, Kersjes says he remembers talking to his students at the time about how they were making history.

“I told them not only are we making history, but we’ve got to tell everybody about this,” Kersjes said. “I promised them two things. That I would write a book about them and that I would get it made into a movie.

“I wanted to let the world know about how unique it was that we had finally given the kids with special needs a chance, and they were able to experience this kind of opportunity along with other regular education kids.”

Kersjes said he has always enjoyed keeping a journal and writing, and was able to fulfill phase one of his promise to his students in 2002 when “A Smile as Big as the Moon” was first published. He knew phase two of his promise, getting the book made into a movie, would be much more difficult. Over the next several years, Kersjes says he had many ups and downs along the way and endured a very cumbersome process that



Courtesy photo

Michael Kersjes wrote the book “A Smile as Big as the Moon,” which was recently made into a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie. “A Smile as Big as the Moon” is the autobiographical story of how Kersjes helped his special education students to attain their impossible dream to attend Space Camp.

included lots of highs and lows.

“After over 10 years of waiting, we finally got the green light with Hallmark Hall of Fame,” he said. “It was a real moment of redemption for me that we could finally get this movie made.”

Actor John Corbett was hired to play Kersjes in the movie. “Working with John Corbett was like heaven,” Kersjes said. “He really took the kids in the movie, some of which were really special needs kids and some weren’t, and he really hugged them and embraced them all.”

Kersjes said the movie had fabulous actors and actresses all the way around, and they all really embraced the story and motivated one another throughout the movie making process.

The movie first aired on ABC on Jan. 29 and reached approximately 7.31 million viewers. Kersjes says the ABC executives told him afterward that it was their largest viewing audience during prime time since November 2011. Since the movie first aired, it has been on Hallmark Channel six times and has been shown at various venues all over the country. Kersjes added that the Hallmark stores cannot even keep the DVDs on the shelves, as it keeps selling out.

“It’s an impacting story that can carry a strong message,” he said. “I believe all teachers, parents of kids with disabilities, administrations, schools, and colleges, should see this film and have it as a part of their curriculum because of the impact it could have on future teachers and students.”

“A Smile as Big as the Moon” shows viewers that there’s no limits. Kersjes

See Author on page 10

FMWR workers focus on serving

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

No matter how good your organization is, you can't do business without you-know-who: Customers.

Members of the Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation were reminded last week to focus on the people they serve. Operation Excellence Customer Service Training was provided at the Community Activity Center by Jerry Haskell, a customer service program coordinator for the Installation Management Command.

"I'm responsible for providing customer service coordinator guidance and training for Redstone Arsenal, Fort Gordon, Ga., and Anniston Army Depot," Haskell said.

On Feb. 28 he instructed the Sustaining the Employee Covenant for Managers Workshop for all FMWR supervisors. On Feb. 29 he led the one-day team member orientation for the directorate's new employees. And on March 1 he conducted the Operation Excellence Refresher Training for nonsupervisory employees.

FMWR director Derrick Gould was among the 25 managers attending the workshop Feb. 28.

"I'm a big supporter of this training, scheduled to take the class along with all the other managers," Gould said.

Tom Pyburn, assistant business manager for Outdoor Recreation, also consid-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Jerry Haskell, a customer service program coordinator for the Installation Management Command, conducts a workshop for managers Feb. 28.

ered the day well-spent.

"It's good to get away from your facility and interact with the other managers so we can all focus on the goal of serving the community," Pyburn said. "It allows us to step away from our day-to-day tasks and focus on the big task of serving the Redstone Arsenal community."

Haskell returns quarterly from Fort Gordon to conduct the training. About 20 people attended his class last November. He plans to return March 19-23 for a refresher class and to provide training on individual development plans to ensure compliance with IMCOM regulation 315-1.

This is the second year of providing the Army's customer service program which started in January 2010.

Center

continued from page 4

Center include custom framing; promotional services and items such as steins or mugs, T-shirts, banners, plaques or trophies; and woodworking services and items such as rocking horses and pen kits.

The Freedom Pen Project occurs monthly. People donate their time to lathe turn and assemble the pens in the center's workshop. Once completed, an insert informs the recipients of the materials' donor, the name of the person who crafted the pen, and contact information for the Arts & Crafts Center. The handcrafted pens are then donated to active duty military serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as to veterans at Walter Reed and Brooke Army hospitals. To date, more than 6,000 pens have been donated.

Compassionate Commemoratives is another volunteer project at the Arts & Crafts Center. Displays are created to give to families of fallen Soldiers, to honor the memory of the Soldier killed in action. The Warrant Officers Association partners with the Arts & Crafts Center and the marketing division of the Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation to donate their time, talent and materials for this effort.

One drawback to the renovations is that the Arts & Crafts Center no longer has the capacity to offer stained glass or ceramics because of the space required for the equipment. However, the center will be adding four regular sewing machines and two surgers for sewing classes. A youth summer camp at the Arts & Crafts Center also is being planned through Youth Services.

"Having the reconfiguration was probably one of the hardest things. It was necessary because we had all of our partitions reorganized, our workspaces, our equipment moved, new electrical outlets put in. It was a lot of stuff that had to happen to get it to where it is right now," Connors said.

The Arts & Crafts Center, located in building 3615 on Vincent Drive, is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Wednesday noon-8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is closed on Sunday and Monday. DIY hours, principally in woodshop and framing, are 1:30-8 p.m. Wednesdays and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Anyone with a military or civilian badge and access to the Arsenal can use the center.

For more information about classes, DIY hours, or services, call the Arts & Crafts Center at 876-7951 or go to the FMWR website at www.redstonemwr.com/recreation.

Gum disease linked to coronary heart disease

Gum disease is common among adults in the United States and is a possible source of chronic, or constant, inflammation. Gum disease can cause gums to be red, swollen and bleed easily. If it is not treated, gum disease can get worse and damage the tissues that hold your teeth in place.

Gum disease is also called gingivitis or periodontal disease, depending on how bad it is. Gingivitis is usually seen as red, swollen and bleeding gums. Periodontal disease is an advanced form of gum disease that can lead to tooth loss because the tissues that hold your teeth in place, such as bone, are destroyed.

So, are people who have periodontal disease more likely to have or develop coronary heart disease? In order to answer this question, a group of researchers looked at seven studies. The studies involved from 175 to 170,000 people. The researchers noted that people who had periodontal disease were also likely to have coronary heart disease. They also found that the risk of illness or death related to coronary heart disease increased in people who had 10 or fewer natural teeth. The researchers found this association whether any other known risk factors of coronary heart disease, like smoking, were present or not.

The researchers found that people who

have periodontal disease or a history of periodontal disease are also likely to have coronary heart disease. At this time, it is not known whether one causes the other. It is important to practice good oral hygiene in order to help prevent the development of gingivitis and periodontal disease.

Here are some tips for good oral hygiene:

- Brush your teeth twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste.
- Replace your toothbrush every three to four months or sooner if the bristles are frayed. A worn toothbrush won't do a good job of cleaning your teeth.
- Clean between teeth daily with floss or an interdental cleaner. Bacteria that cause cavities can be found between teeth where toothbrush bristles can't reach. This helps remove the sticky film on teeth called plaque and food particles from between the teeth and under the gum line.
- Eat a balanced diet and limit between-meal snacks.
- Visit your dentist regularly for professional cleanings and oral exams.
- Contact your dental treatment facility for additional information. The Redstone Dental Clinic, at Fox Army Health Center, can be reached at 876-5200. (*DENTAC release*)



Author

continued from page 8

said he didn't care about the kids' tests scores, and got tired of hearing what people said they weren't or what they couldn't do.

"As a football coach, I wanted to know what these kids can do and put them in the right position so they can succeed," he said. "Right away you should start them out positive, and show your faith in them and that you believe in them.

"I tell my kids that the crime is not to have failure; the crime is to not give triumph a chance. And I really believe that."

According to Kersjes, the other thing that was stressed in the movie that has really come across to so many people from the emails and contacts he's made is the fact that he didn't treat the special needs students any different than he did

any other student.

"I didn't see them as any different, and I think that gave them a lot more strength and courage within themselves," he said. "The kids started to realize the labels other people had placed on them were wrong and that they were just as good as anybody else.

"That's why I'm so glad this movie is so successful and I hope to be able to in the future give speeches around the country to share this story with a lot more people and to motivate them.

"You have to be a risk taker in life," said Kersjes. "Everyone has a risk of fear or failure, and if you're not a risk taker then you are going to be stuck right where you've been for a long time and probably won't go anywhere."

Kersjes said he encourages everyone he comes in contact with to persevere over their shortcomings in life and to take risks in order to fulfill their own dreams.

Engineer wants to grow support for community efforts



Photo by Ellen Hudson

James "Kody" Henley is donating his hair to Locks of Love, having it cut off ceremoniously Feb. 29 at Helion Lodge on Lincoln Street in downtown Huntsville.

Contributes his hair to Locks of Love

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

beth.skarupa@theredstonerocket.com

Just one person can make a difference.

When James "Kody" Henley, a Redstone Test Center Test Area 1 mechanical engineer, met a boy who was bald due to a medical condition called alopecia areata, he wanted to help in some way. He discovered that something as simple as growing his hair long enough to donate to Locks of Love, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing hairpieces to children suffering from long-term medical hair loss, was one way to do it. So he did.

Henley cut and donated his hair this year at a special event that he coordinated at the Freemason's Helion Lodge in Huntsville on Leap Day, Feb. 29. He chose Leap Day because it only happens every four years, about the time it takes most people to grow their hair long enough to donate the required 10-inch

ponytail to Locks of Love.

"It kind of sets your goals. If you start on leap year and grow your hair out, then you know in four years you can have a hair-cutting party and donate again," he said.

Finding ways to help others is a big part of Henley's life. He is a member of the Freemasons, the Jaycees, and the Elks. He not only wants to help others, he also wants to encourage more people to join him in helping. Each one of us can make a difference. That's why he organized the Leap Day event.

This was the second time Henley donated his hair to Locks of Love. The event at Helion Lodge inspired Teresa Rigsby, whose uncle is a Freemason, to donate her hair for the first time. The organization requires that donated hair is clean, pulled into a ponytail or braid, and measures 10 inches from tip to tip.

"I came for the kids. I wanted to do it for them. It was my first time donating and I felt good about doing it," Rigsby said.

She and Henley both had their hair cut



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Cosmetologist Chandy Hovis gives a haircut to James "Kody" Henley during the Locks of Love event.

by hairstylist Chandy Hovis at the Leap Day event. Hovis volunteered her time because she shares Henley's passion to give back to the community. She has cut people's hair to donate to Locks of Love many times over the past 10 years, and whenever she finds someone who wants to do it she cuts their hair for free.

See Hair on page 40

Childhood curiosity leads to a historic letter

By **LARRY McCASKILL**

Army Contracting Command Public Affairs

At age 12, Deborah Hunter's curiosity would lead her down a path resulting in a brush with a significant historical figure.

A military family member, Hunter lived most of her youth in Germany in the culturally and ethnically diverse world of the U.S. military.

"My father was in the Army and all I knew was that I was always around different people and we all got along," Hunter, special assistant to the executive director of the Army Contracting Command, said. "I have to say, looking back I was pretty naive about a lot of things."

Having never experienced racism, Hunter couldn't make any sense of it.

"My father was reassigned to Korea so my mother and I went to live in Farmville, Va., where I was born. I couldn't believe how things were."

Farmville was the home of R. R. Moten High School, one of the five plaintiffs that challenged segregation in public schools and would become part of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision, *Brown vs. Board of Education*. This decision declared segregation in public education unconstitutional.

Living in a world filled with segregation and injustice, Hunter asked her mother for answers. Her mother told her to write a letter to someone who might be able to answer her questions better than she could. The response she got lit a fire from within.

"I have received and greatly appreciate your very kind letter. I am gratified in your interest in our work," the reply read. "It is an inspiration to me and all who are committed in the struggle for human rights and dignity." The letter was signed by Martin Luther King Jr.

"Back then, I didn't understand the relevance of it, but it did make me feel better about some things," she said. Not much later, Hunter attended a civil rights march with her mother that in-



Photo by Larry McCaskill

Deborah Hunter, ACC special assistant to the executive director, displays her signed letter from Martin Luther King Jr. She rediscovered the letter while going through her mother's papers following her death in 2002.

cluded Stokely Carmichael and other civil rights leaders.

In 2002, Hunter lost her mother. Going through her mother's important papers she made a startling discovery. Her mother had saved the letter.

"I was pretty shocked. It had been decades since I had seen it," she said. "Not only had she saved the letter, she saved the envelope with some notes she had scribbled down."

Decades later, Hunter's involvement with civic organizations continues and she sees no reason to stop.

"As a nation we've come a long way. Many people my age never thought they'd see a black president. My mother would be so proud and happy if she could have seen that," Hunter said. "We still have some room to grow and I am certain we will."

Army Contracting Command goes on five-mile march

By DAVID SAN MIGUEL

Army Contracting Command Public Affairs

Taking full advantage of the mild, spring-like temperatures, 60 military and civilian members of the Army Contracting Command and the Expeditionary Contracting Command took to Vincent Park to participate in the command's five-mile road march Feb. 23.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Murray, ACC command sergeant major, said the road march is part of a series of activities hosted by the command to help build morale and camaraderie.

Every month, the command tries to conduct an esprit de corps-building event, he said, to bring everyone together and out of the office for some type of physical activity.

Murray added that in previous months, the command had conducted some fun runs.

"We wanted to take it up a notch," he said. "So this time, we conducted a five-mile fun run/walk with a 30 pound rucksack on our backs."

Though the civilian employees were invited to participate in the road march, most opted out of carrying the rucksack and ran or walked the five-mile course.

The sergeant major said the activity brought back many fond memories for some Soldiers and those ACC/ECC employees who've previously served in the military.

For the Soldiers, Murray added, these road march memories may soon become



Photo by David San Miguel

Karina Haddix, ACC executive officer, runs the five-mile course as part of the command's esprit de corps-building initiative to bring its military and civilian work force outdoors for some type of physical activity.

a part of their future as the Army raises its endurance standards to meet current and future contingency requirements.

Next month, he said, the command will conduct an urban orienteering course.

Historic photo

Space pioneer

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center is celebrating the March 23rd anniversary of the birthday of Dr. Wernher von Braun. Its ongoing exhibit titled "100 Years of Von Braun: His American Journey," which opened Oct. 21, showcases the space pioneer's life.



Huntsville Center engineers mentor college students

By JO ANITA MILEY

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Local engineering students visited the Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville for an opportunity to discuss careers in engineering with professional engineers during Engineers Week Feb. 23.

National Engineers Week was started in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers in conjunction with the birthday of President George Washington, who is considered the nation's first engineer.

The purpose of National Engineers Week is to call attention to the contributions engineers make in society. It is also a time for engineers to emphasize the importance of mentoring the next generation of engineers.

To recognize Engineer Week at the center, Engineering Directorate invited students from Alabama A&M University's Changing Lanes Mentoring Program to participate in a mentoring opportunity.

Boyce Ross, director of engineering at



Photo by James Campbell

Bryant Marshburn of the Engineering Directorate discusses education and career planning with Alabama A&M University student Michael Wallace during an informal mentoring session Feb. 23.

Huntsville Center, acted as host for the event. Engineering Directorate employees Roderick Bridgeman, Jeff Coulston, Kimberly Edwards, Ray Hall, Betina Johnson, Bryant Marshburn, John Nevells, Terry Patton, April Rafael-Adams, Tony Torres and Roy Wright spent the

afternoon with Alabama A&M students during two mentoring sessions. The sessions were An Overview of Huntsville Center and Hands-On Mentoring. Topics included Corps of Engineers history, Huntsville Center history and business model, Huntsville Center programs, advances in the engineering field, education and training, and how to best approach a future at Huntsville Center.

Huntsville Center deputy commander Lt. Col. William Burruss gave the group a brief overview of the center, and shared personal experiences from his engineering career. Atidya Williams, work force development specialist in the center's Business Management Office, provided the group information about the Co-op and Internship programs at Huntsville Center.

The students said they learned a lot during the mentoring activities. It will help them gain a better understanding of what engineers do.

"I participated in the event because I think this is a great opportunity to speak with someone who is actually working in the engineering field," Michael Wal-

lace, a freshman in the Changing Lanes program at Alabama A&M, said. "I can learn a lot from my mentor, Bryant Marshburn."

Marshburn said he thinks that taking the time to mentor a student is the best way for any engineer to inspire future engineers. He will do all he can to guide his student's decisions to expand his career opportunities as an engineer.

"I like mentoring a student because when I look back on the professors and career counselors that guided me, I realize that they helped me make the decisions that developed my career opportunities," Marshburn said. "I feel that it is time for me to give back."

Ross said the engineers within his directorate have an enormous workload. It was difficult to find time to organize an activity to celebrate National Engineers Week, but he felt it was significant to acknowledge this event.

"It is very important that we take the time to recognize those within our profession during Engineers Week," Ross said. "I can't think of a better way to do this than have some of our best engineering professionals mentor future engineers. We'd like to do this more often."

Have the will to prepare for your family's future

Estate planning, investment fraud covered in workshop

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

You can't take it with you – but you can decide how your earthly treasures are allocated after you're gone – and you should get it down on paper, according to Capt. D. Garrett Hooper, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

Hooper spoke Feb. 29 at the first Financial Matters 2012 workshop of the year at The Summit on the basics of estate planning and the services offered through the Legal Assistance Office. Funded by a grant by the Investor Protection Trust, the workshop is part of Army Community Service's Financial Readiness Program, headed by Kathleen Riester, a certified financial counselor.

Offering an overview on the basics of estate planning, Hooper encouraged attendees to visit the Legal Assistance Office, building 111 on Goss Road, or to call 876-9005 for assistance in estate planning. Active duty members and their families, as well as military retirees are eligible to use the legal services offered; other individuals seeking assistance in estate planning may obtain



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Capt. D. Garrett Hooper, with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, gives an overview of estate planning at the Financial Matters 2012 workshop Feb. 29.

a referral list of recommended attorneys in the area from the office.

"Estate planning is what you do with everything you own and how you allocate it after your death," Hooper said. "Write a will. We can write it for you. Come see us. It's easy."

Hooper shared a piece of advice he offers to many clients – rather than putting your will in a safety deposit box, put it in a Ziploc bag in the freezer, where loved ones can easily access it after your death – and advised individuals against writing their own will or creating a trust.

"Unless you have a lot, a lot of money, or a special needs issue, you do not want a trust," Hooper said. "Simple is better. If you can make it simple, keep it simple. Don't complicate things if you don't need to."

Hooper also encouraged individuals to remain aware of estate tax laws. The current estate tax cap is \$5 million, at which point anything over that is taxed at 35 percent. The cap is anticipated to decrease to \$1 million in 2013.

Daniel Lord, education and public affairs manager for the Alabama Securities Commission, also spoke at the workshop, reviewing how ASC can protect individuals from fraud and making costly decisions that could cause them to lose their estate. The Alabama Securities Commission is the



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Daniel Lord, education and public affairs manager for the Alabama Securities Commission, advises workshop attendees on ways to avoid fraud in their investments.

main street investor regulator.

"The only thing you need to know, it's not guaranteed protection, but it's strong protection – everybody that offers you investment product, whether they call from California or wherever, has to be registered with us," Lord said. "Before you invest, you need to call us and check it out."

Individuals can reach the Alabama Securities Commission at 1-800-222-1253.

"I want you to take the time to learn to make an informed decision," Lord said. "Before you invest check it out, check it out, check it out. Call us."

The workshop was just the first of four to be held as part of Financial Matters 2012. In

addition to the workshops, Riester provides one-on-one, couples and family financial counseling, including budget development, financial planning and money management. All servicemembers, including reserve and guard, as well as Army civilians and their families are eligible for the program's free services. For more information, call 876-5397.

Financial lunch-and-learn, assistance available

Financial Matters 2012 will hold a lunch-and-learn April 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Topics covered will include how to repair your credit report, presented by Kathleen Riestter, and understanding the Department of Defense Homeowner's Assistance Program, presented by Kenneth Carter. Active duty and retired military personnel, Army civilians, family and friends are invited to attend the free workshop. Bring your own lunch. To register, email Riestter at kathleen.riester@us.army.mil or call ACS at 876-5397. Seating is limited; registration is due by March 29. For more information call 876-5397.

The Homeowner's Assistance Program provides monetary relief to eligible servicemembers, federal employees, non-appro-

priated fund employees and Coast Guard homeowners who suffer financial loss on the sale of their primary residences when a base closure or realignment announcement causes a decline in the residential real estate market, and they are not able to sell their home under reasonable terms or conditions. In addition to discussing HAP, Carter will also address the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which authorized the expansion of HAP benefits to assist servicemembers and DoD employees who are wounded, injured, or become ill when deployed, surviving spouses of servicemembers or DoD employees killed while deployed, servicemembers and civilian employees assigned to BRAC 2005 organizations, and servicemembers required to permanently relocate during the home mortgage crisis.

Local students learn financial literacy

By JO ANITA MILEY

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Students at Huntsville's Holy Family Catholic School experienced "Junior Achievement-in-a-Day" Feb. 3 where they explored financial literacy, workplace readiness and entrepreneurship with the help of volunteers from the Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville.

Junior Achievement programs help students understand the world of economics and help prepare them for life-long learning and achievement.

Resource Management Directorate employees Rhonda Brown and Darrell Davis helped students to understand financial literacy, workplace readiness and entrepreneurship.

Davis and Brown both said although they have not been in an elementary school classroom for a while, they were up for the task. They received the necessary training needed to provide classroom instruction well in advance. Materials for each program are packaged in a kit containing detailed session plans, informative workbooks for students and additional learning materials to ensure a successful experience for students, teachers and volunteers.

Brown said she didn't realize how much fun the experience would be, especially with first-grade students.

"It was lots of fun," Brown said. "I enjoyed myself and learned from the kids. I hope they learned something from me. We used hands-on experiences to help them



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

Huntsville Center accountant Rhonda Brown speaks to Holy Family Catholic School students after giving a presentation to first-graders. She joined Darrell Davis in presenting the fundamentals of financial literacy. Both appeared as part of the Huntsville Center Speakers Bureau.

understand the economics of life."

Davis said he's willing to participate in another JA event, whenever another opportunity arises and his schedule permits him to do so. He said the experience proved to be very rewarding for him and was an excellent opportunity for him to inspire youth. The students also kept them very busy during the day.

Leah Amos, president of Junior Achievement North Alabama, said JA programs are developed with a primary emphasis on social studies content, while providing a strong secondary emphasis on mathematics, reading and writing skills. Students learn fundamental business and economic concepts, explore career interests and opportunities and learn important principles of financial literacy.

See Students on page 24

Lieutenant colonel traces his journey to priesthood

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

As Friday's storms raged around him and the tornado sirens blared, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jose Herrera gave it up to God, knowing all too well that the Lord's plans for him haven't always involved sunny skies.

It was nearly 23 years ago on the U.S. Virgin Island of St. Thomas that Herrera was ordained to the Catholic priesthood, on a similarly stormy day. With only 30 minutes before the ordination mass was to begin, a terrible earthquake struck the island, so hard that it catapulted members of the children's choir into the air and left people wondering if a cruise ship had jumped the dock and hit the church. "The bad weather is kind of a mark of my priesthood," Herrera said.

He recalled that fateful day that welcomed him to a lifelong vocation to the priesthood to the Military Council of Catholic Women at Redstone Arsenal's First Friday program March 2 at Bicentennial Chapel.

"That was when I was sure that that was what I was going to be, because that's what I was," Herrera said of his or-



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jose Herrera speaks Friday about his journey to the Catholic priesthood to the Military Council of Catholic Women.

Until that day in April 1989, Herrera wasn't quite sure what God was calling him to be. Growing up in Santa Fe, N.M., the son of devout Catholic parents, faith was always present in his life, but more a matter of routine than anything else. Every Saturday evening he'd go to confession, and attend mass on Sunday morn-

ings, saying his prayers before meals and before bed, but for the cross country star and typical teenage boy, that was as much thought as he gave to God.

"I never wanted to be a priest," Herrera said. "It's not something that you really think about as a teen."

It wasn't until he attended a Christian Leadership Experience weekend that he

realized what direction he wanted his life to take. When a priest asked him to list the five things most important to him, coming up with five was easy. When he asked him to prioritize them, it was an even easier answer to put God at number one. But when the priest asked him to break down his day and determine how much time he actually devoted to each item on his list of values, the amount of time he spent devoting to his number one value astounded and embarrassed him.

"God has been in my head as this important thing, but if God is number one in my life than I better start giving God more time," Herrera said.

So the teen started going to daily mass at a nearby Carmelite monastery and "little by little the Lord began to move in me and work in me," Herrera said. One day kneeling before the chapel's statue of Santo Nino, the holy child of Jesus, Herrera recited the words that would decide the course of his life, "dear Jesus, through the blessing of the Virgin Mary, I dedicate myself to you."

Even after it was decided however, God had other plans. Excited to go to a Franciscan seminary in Ohio, Herrera discovered in all his discerning he had missed

See Priest on page 39

Classroom surprise makes homecoming fun



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Retired Master Sgt. James Massey is no longer deploying with Soldiers. But his family, including wife Nichole, have just made it through a four-month separation caused by a civilian work deployment to Afghanistan where Massey assessed and repaired security towers.

Afghanistan deployment ends with happy reunion

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

Kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

Classroom surprises are always fun – at least for kindergarteners.

It was a party atmosphere in 6-year-old Jamari Massey's classroom at Madison Crossroads Elementary on Feb. 9 when his dad, retired Master Sgt. James Massey, walked in unannounced after returning from a four-month deployment to Afghanistan.

All the kindergartener could do was drop his pencil, exclaim with joy "Daddy? Daddy!" and run into his dad's arms.

But the response wasn't quite the same from Jamari's brother, fifth-grader Xavier Hopkins.

Just a bit earlier, Xavier had been called out of his classroom. He was told he was in trouble for something he had done on the school bus that morning. As punishment, he had to go to his brother's classroom and help the kindergarteners with their math work.

A mischievous and fun loving boy,

Xavier often gets in trouble for minor problems on the school bus. But on this particular morning, he hadn't done anything out of line.

"He kept thinking, 'Man, I didn't do anything this morning,'" said the boys' mom, Nichole Massey.

But to Jamari's classroom he went. Funny thing was there were also TV news crews setting up in Jamari's classroom.

"They had an earthquake drill earlier in the week and the teacher told the children they were going to have another earthquake drill and the TV stations were going to film it," Nichole said.

The drill never happened. Instead, their dad walked in.

"Man, you called me out of class for this?" Xavier said to his parents, putting on a tough act in front of the class before giving his father a hug.

Massey, a contractor working on elevated systems for the Program Executive Office for Intelligence and Electronic Warfare & Sensors, went on a mission to Afghanistan in October to conduct assessments and minor repairs on the 107-foot towers that provide security for



Photo by AMCOM Army Education Outreach Program

James Massey and his wife, Nichole, enjoy surprising their sons, Xavier, 12, and Jamari, 6, during a visit to their school after Massey returned from a deployment to Afghanistan.

contingency operating bases and forward operating bases in Afghanistan. Massey is among a group of several employees working on sensor and sensor data equipment in building 7425 on Warehouse Road near Gate 3 who are asked periodically to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

See Soldier on page 40

Contractor sings and strums in spare time

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Matt Prater didn't choose music – music chose him.

Coming from a musical family, the Athens native always had an inkling he could sing, but never really took an interest in performing, a bashful country boy at heart. While his parents wrote their own songs and played, his father a bass guitar, his mother a variety of instruments, Prater was content to fool around with the guitar as a child, away from the limelight.

"I always thought I was OK at it, but I was extremely shy," Prater said of his singing ability. "I've always been a kind of quiet person and I'm really still that way. But once I started doing it I gained confidence in it, and thought, 'This is what I should be doing.'"

Today, the soulful sounds of the construction superintendent by day, musician by night have been heard across North Alabama, all the way up to Nashville, down to Florida, and even on the installation, where he performed at the Firehouse Pub in January, and Outdoor Recreation's Wild Game Cookout in February.

"I enjoy playing out here, it's been really fun," said Prater, a contractor for the Garrison.

The realization that performing was actually fun, however, didn't necessarily come early in life for Prater. It wasn't until his daughter was born seven years ago and he was so overcome with the

blessings God had given him that he decided to start singing in church, much to the surprise of his parents.

"They always wanted me to do it when I was little and I never would," Prater said. "They used to halfway make me and I hated it. One day it was like a light switch, and I just decided I was going to do that."

As he sang the Lord's praises, the gift of musical ability he had been given began to transform him. Going from singing in church, Prater started writing his own songs and dabbling in other genres, going from gospel to country and even rock.

Breaking out of his shell, he started performing outside the comforting confines of his church, in places like The Bluebird Café in Nashville, Swampers in Florence and the Jim Parker's Songwriter Showcase in Huntsville. Armed with just his guitar and sometimes a harmonica, today Prater takes to the stage about twice a week, singing and strumming songs about Southern life across the Tennessee Valley.

"Just the art of all of it is really my thing," Prater said. "I want to keep working hard and becoming a great solo guitar singer, because there's not a lot of people that can blow your mind, just them, their guitar and their vocals."

As his audience has evolved, so has his music, expanding to meet the demands of his audience. In addition to his own songs like "Ten Years Two Kids" and "Fertile Ground" from his

album "Small Town Son," Prater mixes in popular favorites into his music sets, including everything from Merle Haggard to Bruno Mars.

"If it's good music I love it. It doesn't matter what kind it is, if it's soul, pop, rock, country, gospel – if it's good, it's good in my opinion," Prater said.

For Prater, good is the goal. While he would one day like to play the Grand Ole Opry, fame and fortune is not what he aspires to in his music career, but rather, the satisfaction of knowing he is playing and singing to the best of his ability.

"I'm not necessarily trying to be the next big thing or anything," he said. "I really like performing. I really like writing. I really like the relationship of playing live music and people getting it. It would be great to have some songs that other artists might want to use. But I write them mainly for myself at this point."

"If I keep getting better, whatever is supposed to happen with it will happen with it. I'm not quitting my job – I love my job, I love working out here. The people out here are great. If I can write really good songs and play really good songs, that's great. I just really want to write good songs, play very well, and be respected as an artist and singer."

Fans can listen to and download Prater's music on iTunes, Amazon,



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Matt Prater, a construction superintendent for the Garrison and singer/songwriter, performs at the Wild Game Cookout in February.

Rhapsody, eMusic and MySpace Music. It is also available on Spotify. For more information, visit www.mattprat-ersmusic.com. His second album will be released this year.

Housing staff cited for tornado relief efforts



Courtesy photo

From left are Ian A. “Sandy” Clark, deputy for the privatization partnership division, Office of the Army Chief of Staff for Installation and Management; Redstone Communities director Brenda Haynes; and Kenneth Carter, Redstone’s government deputy asset manager.

The Redstone Communities housing staff has been recognized for its support in the aftermath of Alabama’s deadly tornadoes last April.

Its members received the Army’s Deborah O’Brien Unsung Hero Award for 2011 during the annual Professional Housing Management Association Symposium held in San Diego, Calif.

The Redstone Arsenal government’s housing chief, Ray Zapata, nominated the Redstone Communities staff for this recognition. Brenda Haynes, Redstone Communities director, accepted the Unsung Hero award on behalf of her staff.

“April 25-27, 2011 the Southern and Eastern United States saw the largest outbreak of tornadoes ever recorded,” the narrative said. “On April 27, 2011 Northern Alabama was hit by 55 confirmed tornadoes and 239 people were killed; many more were left homeless. A number of military and federal civilian employees who

worked on the Arsenal lost their homes or where temporarily displaced by the tornadoes.

“Redstone Communities played a significant role in offering immediate housing/shelter to displaced families. A total of 66 families were assisted by Housing Services Office and seven families accepted housing in Redstone Communities. The staff of Redstone Communities worked alongside the RCI government staff after hours for over a week to ensure that families needing assistance received it immediately. In addition to their tireless efforts, Redstone Communities offered the families two-weeks free stay which could be extended for less than the standard one-year lease. Half of the families assisted so appreciated the assistance they have chosen to remain with Redstone Communities for the long-term.

“Redstone Communities exemplifies what it means to be a partner and a part of the Redstone Arsenal Garrison family.”

Students

continued from page 19

Amos said the school had a great turnout for the event. The students were excited about spending the day with JA volunteers. She appreciates the effort Huntsville Center makes to provide volunteers for JA events, and hopes to continue to work with center volunteers on future JA endeavors.

“Thank you so much (Huntsville Center) for volunteering and making a difference in our students’ lives,” Amos said.

This is not the first time Huntsville Center has participated in a Junior Achievement of North Alabama community relations event. Center employees sponsored a “Young Minds at Work” activity at the center in 2009 and provided speakers for local schools during a career day in 2010.

Theme baskets, music help kick start AER

Campaign opener raises donations

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

This year's Army Emergency Relief campaign got straight to business Thursday by combining the kickoff with a fund-raising event.

"It was a great success," Kerrie Branson, AER officer at Army Community Service, said. "We want to thank all the people who came out and supported such a great cause through the bake sale,

silent auction and massages."

The kickoff, held in the Sparkman Cafeteria, featured several opportunities to donate to AER along with a performance by the AMC rock band.

"I encourage you all to take a look at your own donation plans and consider giving to AER," Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton said after signing the first allotment form donating to AER.

The event raised more than \$2,600 between the bake sale, silent auction for theme baskets and neck massages.

"AER has a huge impact on our community and really helps to take care of our Soldiers," Hamilton said.



Photo by Megan Cotton

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton and AER campaign chairman Capt. Alyssa Wood sign the first donation allotment form. Looking on are Staff Sgt. James Thomas, Huntsville Havoc mascot Chaos and Sgt. 1st Class Joseph Kimbrough.

Photo by Megan Cotton

Bidders look at silent auction baskets, put together through donations made by the Garrison, which have themes ranging from date night to European getaway.



Photo by Megan Cotton

Katherine Pillsbury, the Garrison's key representative for AER, gave neck and back massages for donations to Army Emergency Relief. She said next year's event will be even bigger and better.



Photo by Megan Cotton

AMC Band vocalist Staff Sgt. Renatta America performs "Proud Mary" to kick off the fund-raiser.



Photo by Megan Cotton

The AER bake sale raised more than \$2,600 by selling homemade goods in the Sparkman Cafeteria hallway.

Space

continued from page 1

quarter of a mile from the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, and graduated from Butler High School and the University of Alabama-Huntsville in 1973.

During her last year of college, Barnhart worked in public affairs and marketing at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center. A few years later, she was again on the center's staff, managing publicity for the newest addition to the center's museum – the space shuttle.

"That's when I became interested in satellites. At that time, the Navy was in charge of all satellite programs. My father had been a Navy Seabee in World War II and my brother attended the Naval Academy. So, at the age of 27, I joined the Navy to work on satellites," Barnhart said.

She attended Officers Candidate School, graduating at the top of a class of about 500 and receiving the Navy's top assignment – sea duty. Realizing the opportunity to be one of the first women to serve at sea, Barnhart shifted her interest in satellites to commanding ships.

"I was the seventh woman to be certified to fight on and drive Navy vessels," she said. "I drove ships on the west coast and the east coast. I loved the Navy, and the ability to see the world as a finite place. I've heard it said that everyone joins the military to get away from something, to 'get out of Dodge.' And maybe I did want to get out of Dodge, but I also joined the military to go toward something, to pursue an interest and an opportunity."

Though she was a member of a prestigious group of women who opened doors for women's equality in the military, she doesn't consider herself a trailblazer.

"When I think of a trailblazer, I think of all those nurses who served on the battlefield in World War I or World War II's Rosie the Riveters (American women who worked in the factories to produce munitions and war supplies). I think of Rear Admiral Grace Hopper, whose work led to the development of the first modern computer program languages," she said.

"There are trailblazers who have come before all of us. But, for me, the Navy wasn't about trailblazing. It was about the experience of a lifetime."

The Navy taught her that "time is a precious resource." It taught her about the world and about technology. It taught her how to command, lead, persevere and overcome challenges.

"The Navy provided the broadest opportunities," she said. "I went around the world three or four times, and I came

to understand the other two-thirds of the world, the waters that surround us. In the Navy, you can experience submarines, the amphibious and ground maneuvers of the Marine Corps, surface ships, Navy air and space aspects, Aegis (ballistic missile defense system) and missile defense. And the Navy still has a large role in space as well."

Barnhart said ship and submarine living mirrors living in space.

"Just like in a big space station, when you live at sea you are totally self-sustained," she said. "You have to take everything you need with you and you are working in a hostile environment. You are self-contained and disconnected from the rest of the world. It's the closest analogy to a lunar base that you can get on Earth."

During her 26-year military career, Barnhart also served as a Navy reservist. Along the way, she had two children, pursued a doctorate in education at Vanderbilt University and found her way back to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center for a third time. From 1986-90, Barnhart served as the director of Space Camp and Space Academy, working with the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's first director, Ed Buckbee. She also wrote curriculum for the center's Space Academy II, the teachers' program and the Aviation Challenge program.

She left the center to pursue a career in private industry, working as a vice president at Hamilton Sundstrand Space, Sea Systems International, and Honeywell Space and Defense.

"At Honeywell, I did become involved in classified satellite work that was largely associated with spacecraft," she said, finally realizing her earlier aspiration of a career in satellite technology.

After retiring, Barnhart lived in Florida, where she owned and managed two thoroughbred training centers and did management consulting until she was sought out by members of the Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission to replace retiring U.S. Space & Rocket Center director Larry Capps. She became the center's fourth director in January 2011.

"When the board called me, my first reaction was they could get somebody better," she recalled. "But they kept calling me and then they finally told me the financial situation."

At the time, the center was \$19 million in debt, much of which had overshadowed the center since 1998 when then director Mike Wing launched large-scale initiatives that were largely unfunded. The center's financial situation presented Barnhart with a challenge she couldn't ignore.

"There was nothing to lose. We were

in extremis, and in the Navy that means we were about to hit something and that's not good," she said. "I said 'I'll fix it or I'll die trying.' This facility is worth spending my life to save."

She brought sweeping change to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center with three missions in mind – to be a NASA showcase, to be a showcase of Army programs and defense technology, and to be a showcase for energy education and technologies. Besides getting the center's financial situation under control, she has also restructured the organization to consolidate positions, launched a new marketing program that includes heavy use of social media, began the development of new exhibits for the center that will also be leased as traveling exhibits, and began work on new features, such as a simulator for lunar, planetary and Mars missions, that will set the center's future path.

"My number one imperative since I've been here is for us to be self-sustaining and to get operational equilibrium that will help us reduce the debt," she said.

"In my first year here, we reduced the debt by \$1 million. It's a start that puts us on the right path. And we are really improving and firing up our marketing, and re-knitting with the community and corporate world here as well as with international partners."

The results of Barnhart's dedication have come quickly for the \$22 million-a-year-business that attracts more than 500,000 visitors each year. Besides reducing debt, attendance grew by about 13 percent in 2011 after 10 years of decline and is expected to grow another 10 percent this year. The center has been featured on four television shows and in the Hallmark movie "A Smile as Big as the Moon." The U.S. Space & Rocket Center is once again the state's top tourist attraction.

"In everything that we do, we want to inspire that next generation of explorers," Barnhart said.

The biggest challenge facing the center is to develop new exhibits that keep the science and technology, and the story of space "current, relevant and inspirational." The center is home to the largest collection of space artifacts in the world, including two Saturn 5s, the full space shuttle stack with the external tank and solid rocket booster and 13 aircraft.

"We want to be a regional and national science center, not just an artifact museum. We want to keep the exhibits fresh and keep the inspiration strong," Barnhart said. "Building on our robust artifact base, I want to create a science center like no other that stimulates scientific and technical education with hands-on exhibits that include NASA,

the Army and companies located here."

The center's audiences are threefold – the tourists who want to view the museum's artifacts and exhibits, the Space Camp and Aviation Challenge participants who want a full range of simulated space travel experiences, and the local community who want a reason – new exhibits, events and social gatherings – to revisit the center over and over again.

Toward that end, the center will open an Earth Day exhibit on April 20 that will include exhibits on everything from helio-physics to energy efficient cars. Later this year, the center will host the "Math Alive!" exhibit for school groups. A master plan for the center's 432 acres includes an advanced technology and future war fighter permanent exhibit in the main building, as well as an expansion of its outdoor displays and exhibits.

"I want people who come here – children and adults – to discover this small planet and its relationship in the galaxy and the cosmos," Barnhart said. "I want to crack that cosmic egg so that visitors here realize how fragile this tiny, blue world is, and that we better take care of it and that we need to find other planets like it."

"I hope to influence future voters and keep the space legacy alive."

With 500,000 Space Camp alumni and many thousands of others who visit the U.S. Space & Rocket Center every year, there's no doubt that von Braun's dream for a space museum is still relevant while also evolving with space development. For Barnhart, she hopes to someday be her own space exhibit by actually flying into space on a commercial spacecraft.

"The fundamentals of space exploration don't change. Propulsion, communications and life support don't change. But how we go about exploring space does change," she said. "The space shuttle has graduated, and now we are working toward having a space launch system for deep space exploration. And we will have more commercialization of space. I fully expect that I will be able to fly into space around the Earth someday. I'm saving my money to pay for that trip."

Editor's note: The U.S. Space & Rocket Center will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Dr. Wernher von Braun's birthday March 23 with cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7 in the Davidson Center for Space Exploration. Dr. Margrit von Braun, von Braun's daughter and a college dean at the University of Idaho, will be the guest speaker. There will be German cuisine, and music and dancing. For reservations, call Jennifer Crozier at 430-6702 or email jenn@c@spacecamp.com.

Home envelope improvements save energy

By **PATRICK HOLMES**
DPW Energy Office

Improving your home's insulation and sealing air leaks are the fastest and most cost-effective ways to reduce energy waste and make the most of your energy dollars. Be sure to seal air leaks before you insulate, because insulating materials won't block leaks.

Sealing air leaks

Air leaks can waste a lot of your energy dollars. One of the quickest energy- and money-saving tasks you can do is caulk, seal, and weather strip all seams, cracks and openings to the outside.

Here are tips for sealing air leaks:

- Test your home for air tightness. On a windy day, carefully hold a lit incense stick or a smoke pen next to your windows, doors, electrical boxes, plumbing fixtures, electrical outlets, ceiling fixtures, attic hatches and other places where air may leak. If the smoke stream travels horizontally, you have located an air leak that may need caulking, sealing or weatherstripping.

- Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows that leak air.

- Caulk and seal air leaks where plumbing, ducting or electrical wiring comes through walls, floors, ceilings and soffits over cabinets.

- Install foam gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on exterior walls.

- Look for dirty spots on your ceiling paint and carpet, which may indicate air leaks at interior wall/ceiling joints and wall/floor joists, and caulk them.

- Cover single-pane windows with storm windows or replace them with more efficient double-pane low-emissivity windows.

- Use foam sealant on larger gaps around windows, baseboards and other places where air may leak out.

- Check your dryer vent to be sure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire.

- Replace door bottoms and thresholds with ones that have pliable sealing gaskets.

- Keep the fireplace flue damper tightly closed when not in use.

- Seal air leaks around fireplace chimneys, furnaces and gas-fired water heater vents with fire-resistant materials such as sheet metal or sheetrock and furnace cement caulk.

- Fireplace flues are made from metal, and over time repeated heating and cooling cycles can cause the metal to warp or break, creating a channel for air loss. To seal your flue when not in use, consider an inflatable chimney balloon. Inflatable chimney balloons fit beneath your fireplace flue when not in use, are made from

durable plastic, and can be removed easily and reused hundreds of times. If you forget to remove the balloon before making a fire, the balloon will automatically deflate within seconds of coming into contact with heat.

Insulating

Checking your home's insulation is one of the fastest and most cost-effective ways to use a whole-house approach to reduce energy waste and make the most of your energy dollars. A good insulating system includes a combination of products and construction techniques that protect a home from outside hot or cold temperatures, protect it against air leaks, and control moisture.

Insulate your home when:

- You have an older home and haven't added insulation. Homes built before 1950 use about 60 percent more energy per square foot than those built in 2000 or later.

- You are uncomfortably cold in the winter or hot in the summer – adding insulation creates a more uniform temperature and increases comfort.

- You build a new home or addition or install new siding or roofing.

- You pay high energy bills.

- You are bothered by noise from outside – insulation muffles sound.

First, check the insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors and crawl spaces to see if it meets the levels recommended for your area. Insulation is measured in R-values – the higher the R-value, the better your walls and roof will resist the transfer of heat. DOE recommends ranges of R-values based on local heating and cooling costs and climate conditions in different areas of the nation. For more customized insulation recommendations, check out the Zip Code Insulation Calculator at <http://www.ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html>. This tool provides insulation levels for your new or existing home based on your zip code and other basic information about your home. Although insulation can be made from a variety of materials, it usually comes in four types; each type has different characteristics.

Rolls and batts – or blankets – are flexible products made from mineral fibers, such as fiberglass and rock wool. They are available in widths suited to standard spacing of wall studs and attic or floor joists: 2x4 walls can hold R-13 or R-15 batts; 2x6 walls can have R-19 or R-21 products.

Loose-fill insulation is usually made of fiberglass, rock wool, or cellulose in the form of loose fibers or fiber pellets; it should be blown into spaces using special pneumatic equipment. The blown-in material conforms readily to building cavities and attics. Therefore, loose-fill insulation

is well suited for places where it is difficult to install other types of insulation.

Rigid foam insulation typically is more expensive than fiber insulation. But it's very effective in buildings with space limitations and where higher R-values are needed. Foam insulation R-values range from R-4 to R-6.5 per inch of thickness, which is up to two times greater than most other insulating materials of the same thickness.

Foam-in-place insulation (spray foam) can be blown into walls and reduces air leakage, if blown into cracks, such as around window and door frames. This type of insulation increases in volume after it is applied.

Here are insulation tips:

- Consider factors such as your climate, building design and budget when selecting insulation R-values for your home.

- Use higher density insulation on exterior walls, such as rigid foam boards, in cathedral ceilings and on exterior walls.

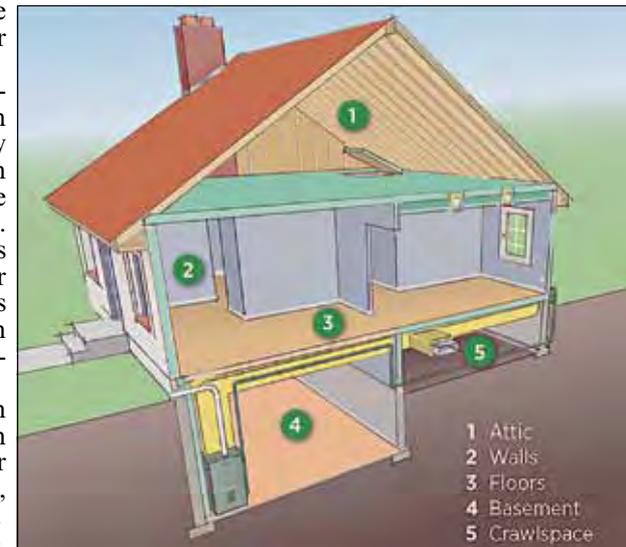
- Ventilation helps with moisture control and reducing summer cooling bills. Attic ridge vents can be installed along the entire ceiling cavity to help ensure proper airflow from the soffit to the attic to make a home more comfortable and energy efficient. Do not ventilate your attic if you have insulation on the underside of the roof. Check with a qualified contractor.

- Recessed light fixtures can be a major source of heat loss, but you need to be careful how close you place insulation next to a fixture unless it is marked IC – designed for direct insulation contact.

- As specified on the product packaging, follow the product instructions on installation and wear the proper protective gear when installing insulation.

One of the most cost-effective ways to make your home more comfortable year-round is to add insulation to your attic. Adding insulation to the attic is relatively easy and very cost effective. To find out if you have enough attic insulation, measure the thickness of the insulation. If it is less than R-30 (11 inches of fiber glass or rock wool or 8 inches of cellulose), you could probably benefit by adding more. Most U.S. homes should have between R-30 and R-60 insulation in the attic (R-38 for the North Alabama region). Don't forget the attic trap or access door.

If your attic has enough insulation and your home still feels drafty and cold in the winter or too warm in the summer, chances



Courtesy graphic

Adding insulation in the areas shown here may be the best way to improve your home's energy efficiency. Insulate either the attic floor or under the roof. Check with a contractor about crawl space or basement insulation.

are you need to add insulation to the exterior walls as well. This is a more expensive measure that usually requires a contractor, but it may be worth the cost if you live in a very hot or cold climate. If you replace the exterior siding on your home, you should consider adding insulation at the same time. You may also need to add insulation to your crawl space or basement. Check with a professional contractor.

New construction

For new homes in most climates, you will save money and energy if you install a combination of cavity insulation and insulative sheathing. Cavity insulation can be installed at levels up to R-15 in a 2x4 inch wall and up to R-21 in a 2x6 inch wall. The insulative sheathing, used in addition to this cavity insulation, helps to reduce the energy that would otherwise be lost through the wood frame.

Today, new products are on the market that provide both insulation and structural support and should be considered for new home construction or additions. Structural insulated panels, known as SIPs, and masonry products like insulating concrete forms are among these. Check online at www.energysavers.gov for more information on structural insulation. Radiant barriers (in hot climates), reflective insulation, and foundation insulation should all be considered for new home construction. Check with your contractor for more information about these options.

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

Family moments make video visit special

Love for Soldiers of the 115th sent through teleconference

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor
kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

Mary Johnson and her family “skype” with her son, Spc. Michael Johnson, quite often, using personal computer video capabilities to see and talk to each other over the Internet while he is deployed to Afghanistan.

But a video teleconference set up for about 25 families of the National Guard’s Company C of the 115th Signal Battalion at Lockheed Martin on Saturday gave her son a chance to talk with one young boy who had a special message for the Soldier.

Logan Nichols waited patiently as Johnson and three of her granddaughters told 27-year-old Michael – lovingly nicknamed “Baby J” – that they missed him and loved him. They talked about the care packages filled with honey buns, fudge rounds and Swiss rolls Johnson sends to her son and his buddies every few weeks. They reminded Michael that they would be skyping him later that day at niece Kalisscia’s 5th birthday party.

And then it was Logan’s turn to shyly say the words he had been waiting to say: “Thank you for the skateboard.”

“No problem at all. Glad we could do it,” Michael replied.

Hanging over Logan’s shoulder was a brand new skateboard and helmet, a gift from a Soldier who wanted to share his blessings with his military family.

“Michael saw on Facebook (at the group page for the 115th) that Logan wanted a skateboard. He had a skateboard in his closet with a monkey on the bottom of it and he wanted to give it to Logan,” Johnson explained later. “But it was too long for Logan. So, Michael asked me to find a shorter skateboard



Photo by Kari Hawkins

The Harrah family greets Spc. Dan Harrah during a video teleconference. The family includes, from left, 4-year-old Clarity (being held by family friend Christy Manders), nearly 1-year-old Evie and 2-year-old Liam, being held by their mom Elaine.

with a monkey on the bottom and get it for Logan. We brought it today to give it to him.”

Johnson is proud of her son’s generous nature.

“He was brought up like that,” she said. “If there is anything that you can do for someone else then the blessings will come back to you.”

There were plenty of those sentimental moments during the video teleconference.

The Harrah family, including mom Elaine and nearly 1-year-old Evie, 2-year-old Liam and 4-year-old Clarity, told their Soldier, Spc. Dan Harrah, that they had a slumber party the night before at the home of another Soldier family. They also showed him the pink cast Clarity now has on her left arm after falling on a playground.

Darlene Upton had a special message for Soldier, Staff Sgt. David Upton, and all who were gathered. “Everyone,” she said, “this is my Soldier that I love and that I’m proud of.” The group responded with a round of applause.

Monica West joked around with her Soldier father, 1st Sgt. Jim West, known as “Papa Bear” and told him to “Hurry home so we can drink Yoo-Hoos and hang out on the back porch.” He assured he would “be home in no time.”

Shelia Shook, a nurse educator at Fox Army Health Center, noticed that her son, Spc. Trevor Shook “had a short haircut going on. And that’s dip in your chin, too, isn’t it?”

When it was Wanda Snipes’ chance to tell her Soldier husband that she loved him, 1st Sgt. Brad Snipes said he loved her, too. And then he had some words for the entire group of loved ones. “These

places in Afghanistan, and this deployment is safer than the one my husband did to Iraq in 2004,” said Christy Manders, wife of Capt. John “Damon” Manders, commander of Company C of the 115th.

“But they have heightened security because of the risks there right now. They are having to be more diligent.”

Manders and her daughter, Sarah, 14, and Lily, 10, often talk to their Soldier via the computer from home. Many of the other Soldier families have that capability, too. But the families still wanted to participate together in the skype hosted by Lockheed Martin and Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle because it gave them a chance to come together as a group. Several organizations, including Still Serving Veterans, Madison County Blue Star Mothers and Army Community Service, were on hand to provide information to Soldier families. Domino’s donated pizza for the event, clowns from the Cahaba Shrine made balloon animals for the children, and the Army Materiel Command Band’s Dixieland Jazz Band entertained during and after the teleconference.

“I was really excited about this. It meant a lot to me that the mayor would take the time to do this and that other community organizations would help,” Manders said. “It’s good for the young Soldiers’ families who might not know about all the support that is available to them.”

During the program, Battle presented an honorary colonel proclamation to Venetta Bonds from Gov. Robert Bentley in recognition of the work she has done to support the unit. He also helped present a 42nd birthday cake surprise to commander Manders, who was serenaded with a bluegrass rendition of “Happy Birthday to You!” by AMC’s Dixieland Jazz Band.

“This is our way of saying ‘Hey, we love you. We’re with you. We want to help you,’” Battle told the families and Soldiers during the teleconference. “Everybody is working together in this. We’re here today for you.”

Besides talking to their families, the Soldiers of Company C of the 115th also conducted a promotion ceremony for two of their Soldiers during the teleconference.

Organizer Dave Carney, a retired National Guard sergeant, said the video teleconferencing event was scheduled for March in hopes it would be a morale booster for both the deployed Soldiers and their families.

“Studies have shown that the emotional level of these families can plummet at the third or fourth month of separation,” he said. “This is our way of trying to help these families get through these difficult months until their Soldiers return.”



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Spc. Michael Johnson receives a greeting of love from his family via teleconference. His family includes, from left, niece Jamia Johnson holding niece Kalisscia Johnson, and mom Mary Johnson holding niece Danaya Townsend. Also with the family is Logan Nichols, who thanked the Soldier for the gift of a skateboard.

Soldiers do not share,” he joked with them. “When you send care packages, you’ve got to put notes on those boxes that say they need to share with the first sergeant.”

The Company C of the 115th left for Afghanistan in early December, following several weeks of training in Washington state. The unit’s 100 Soldiers are headquartered in Huntsville and Moulton, and include Soldiers from all over Alabama, including Gadsden, Arab and Mobile, and from as far away as Pensacola and Orlando, Fla. During their yearlong deployment, the unit is charged with sustaining and managing communication capabilities for military stationed at Kandahar Air Base.

“They are more secure than in other



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Company C of the 115th Signal Battalion conducted two Soldier promotion ceremonies during the family video teleconference Saturday.

International military officers see Army's face to world

USASAC provides tour of capabilities

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

Military representatives from nearly a dozen countries converged on the Security Assistance Command last week for an overview.

"This event is for our security assistance liaison officers," USASAC public affairs officer Kim Gillespie said.

As the Army's face to the world, USASAC works out agreements between the United States and other countries for foreign military sales. After the agreements, the various Army commands involved do the actual procurement of the equipment they will sell to those countries.

The security assistance liaison officers met with USASAC officials in the command's new headquarters building on Martin Road. They visited a room filled with vendors that provide Army equipment in support of the Program Executive Office for Simulation Training and Instrumentation.

John Daniele, deputy to the assistant program executive officer for customer support and international programs, is



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Aaron Sagan, a software engineer with Intelligent Decisions, exhibits the Dismounted Soldier Training System which the company provides for the Program Executive Office for Simulation Training and Instrumentation.

responsible for the international programs that PEO STRI manages in Orlando, Fla.

"Our objective is to build partner capability," Daniele said of the relationships with other countries.

Chile army Lt. Col. Rafael Mesa, who resides with his family in Huntsville, was among the security assistance liaison officers visiting USASAC. He arrived in Huntsville last December from Santiago with his family, which includes a 12-year-old daughter. An infantry officer in weapon engineering, he coordinates acquisitions for artillery weapon systems for Chile.

"I like Huntsville very much because it's a very good city," Mesa said. "It's very quiet and it's very safe for us. It's a nice place."

The security assistance liaison officers' more than two-day visit culminated the afternoon of Feb. 29. "The reaction and the feedback have been extremely positive," USASAC commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner said.

According to Turner, "Throughout the world the U.S. Army's equipment is recognized as the gold standard."

The Army's business relationships are growing worldwide with more than \$15 billion in foreign military sales this year.

"Foreign military sales are going through the roof at a time when other aspects of our military are being cutback," Turner said.

The countries represented last week included Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Grecia, Israel, Jordan, Korea, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Maj. Gen. Del Turner is commander of the Security Assistance Command.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

John Daniele, deputy to the assistant program executive officer for customer support and international programs, is responsible for the international programs that PEO STRI manages in Orlando, Fla.

Supply chain management team pursues savings goal

By **DAN O'BOYLE**
For the Rocket

"We have an ERP, run by SAP, and we call it LMP," Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, quipped.

Translation: the command's Enterprise Resource Plan uses the Systems Analysis and Program Development software in its Logistics Modernization Program.

Making the Enterprise Resource Plan efficient and effective is the goal of the command's Supply Chain Management effort overall, and the inventory reduction team in particular.

"Our 14-member team is using Value Stream Mapping to identify ways to reduce on-hand excess inventory," team

lead Carmen Hess said. "Specifically, we are focusing on the Army Budget Stratification, or STRAT, for opportunities to reach our goal of reducing the current \$12.1 billion, on-hand inventory by 30 percent or \$3.6 billion for both aviation and missile assets."

The current inventory reduction tally is \$903 million, or 25 percent of the \$3.6 billion team goal.

The team uses Weapon System Support Reviews to analyze demands, calculated projections to arrive at actual inventory requirements. Plus, they are crafting a step-by-step procedure sheet, or desk guide that will help item managers to deal with excess in the areas of contingency retention, economic retention, potential foreign military sales and DoD on-hand excess.

Additionally, Demand Planning and Materiel Requirements Planning data are budget forecasting tools that are integral to moving from the current state to an improved future state.

The team members include Melissa Peebles, Karen Chandler, Leah Trusley, Tammey Lavack, Gary Kennedy, Tony Harris, Tom Ray, Laura Sitko, Terry Wheatley, Narda Johnson, Jennifer Lynch, Karen Phipps, Becky Davis and Rodrick Coffey.

All members of the AMCOM work force 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>.



Photo by Dan O'Boyle

Carmen Hess, right, conducts a value stream map session with, from left, Karen Phipps, Rodrick Coffey and Narda Johnson.

Military services jump at training opportunity



Photo by Lt. Col. Martha Brooks

Navy Cmdr. Steven Glover, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition and Procurement, safely exits a mine resistant ambush protected training vehicle during the Joint Dawn 2012 Warrior Skills training.

By ANN JENSIS-DALE
Army Contracting Command

Several U.S. sailors were among more than 250 military and civilian contracting officers who participated in the Army Contracting Command's Joint Dawn 2012 exercise Jan. 19 to Feb. 3 at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"This is the first time that the Navy was invited to participate in Joint Dawn and I am here with seven other Navy supply corps officers all going through this training," Navy Cmdr. Michael Curran said. All the naval participants are assigned to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition and Procurement.

The Navy digital blue camouflage work uniform stood out among the sea of green camouflaged Army service uniforms.

"The Army and Navy have very different cultures, but we all wear the uniform. We all serve our country," Curran said. Navy personnel are trained to work alongside Army, Air Force, Marines and civilian employees in deployed environments.

"This is great for us because usually in the Navy Reserve we don't get to experience training like this. Joint Dawn has given us the great opportunity to train and

learn about how the Army conducts business because we'll be working side-by-side with the Army when we go down range," said Curran, who attended the training in his capacity as a Navy Reserve officer.

The Joint Dawn 2012 exercise was designed to develop contracting expertise in an environment that simulates joint operations down range and serves as a precursor to deploying in support of the U.S. Central Command, according to Col. Jeff Morris, commander, 412th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

In its third year, Joint Dawn has grown from an Army-only exercise with less than 50 Soldiers and civilians trained in 2010 at Fort Riley, Kan., to 115 Soldiers and civilians trained at Fort Campbell, Ky., in 2011. Joint Dawn 2012 attendance more than quadrupled and included members from each of the military services.

"This is actually a great opportunity for me, at the Pentagon level, to come out here and to see what is going on at the ground level with our joint forces," said Rear Adm. Allie Coetzee, executive director, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition and Procurement. "The Army did a phenomenal job of organizing this exercise and when we first became aware of it at the Pentagon; we were all over it from the Department of the Navy perspective."

Budget analyst gives perspective on new finance system

Redstone preparing for April start date

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

Redstone budget analysts can expect a major change in their routine beginning in April.

That's when the General Fund Enterprise Business System will be adopted here. It's being implemented throughout the Army in waves; and Team Redstone goes online April 2.

"It changed everything," Jonathan Hargrove, a budget analyst in AMCOM's Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity, said. "It's a whole new way of doing business now. It is nice that it's web-based.

"It replaced several systems. Everything's under one system now. It seems as though it's easier to navigate than the legacy systems. A lot of the functions are now down to the lower levels. Functions that were (previously) spread out amongst more of a hierarchy level – multiple stages with the Army, specific commands. A lot of things are done at the lower levels, a lot of the responsibilities, actions."

The new system is currently being used at TMDE Activity elements at White

Sands Missile Range, N.M., including its West region headquarters element and the TMDE support center. It is also being used at most of the activity's overseas operations in Europe and the Pacific.

The White Sands elements went on-board with GFEBS in wave 4 in January 2011; and the overseas operations joined in last April as part of wave 5.

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.



Boeing photo

Flight line

Four AH-64D Apache Block III helicopters and a CH-47F Chinook helicopter takes off from the Boeing flight line at their production facility plant in Mesa, Ariz. Piloted by newly-trained U.S. Army aviators from 1-1 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion at Fort Riley, Kan., the aircraft flew to Fort Irwin, Calif., in anticipation of the start of the Army's Initial Operational Test and Evaluation to certify the technologies and capabilities of the new helicopter. Successful completion of the IOT&E is a critical milestone in obtaining authority for a full rate production. The Army's current acquisition objective for the Apache Block III program is 690 helicopters.

Army helicopters being built in Huntsville

Three Kiowa Warriors on production line

By **RANDY TISOR**
PEO Aviation Public Affairs

MERIDIANVILLE – The top leadership from the Program Executive Office for Aviation, along with project officers for the Project Office for Armed Scout Helicopter's Kiowa Warrior Product Office, announced Feb. 28 that three OH-58F Kiowa Warriors will be built at an Army facility in the Huntsville area.

Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, the program executive officer for aviation, and Lt. Col. Matthew Hannah, project manager for the Kiowa Warrior, presented the first airframe to be transformed into a new model at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Prototype Integration Facility at the Madison County Executive Airport.

"Most of the aircraft in the portfolio of Army aviation are upgrades or a remanufacture of old systems," Crosby said. "Our country's in an austere budget environment," he added, emphasizing the fiscal reasons behind the OH-58F upgrade program officially known as the Cockpit and Sensor Up-



Photo by Grant Thompson

Dave Aterburn, technical chief for the Armed Scout Helicopters Project Office, discusses an OH-58F airframe with Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jim Wright of Redstone Test Center at the Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Prototype Integration Facility Feb. 28.

grade Program. Efforts to replace the Kiowa proved to be too costly, he said, adding that the decision was made to sustain the current platform.

The OH-58D on display in the AMRDEC PIF, representing the first vehicle to undergo the transformation

process, had been stripped bare of its interior components and exterior accessories, reducing the helicopter to a literal shell of its former self.

The "de-population" of the vehicle is just the start of its journey. At the other end of the production line, the D model will have evolved into a state of the art F model.

The simplicity of the barren airframe belied the important role it has played in support of the war fighter in overseas contingency operations. The Kiowa Warrior has been heavily utilized and relied upon to support the troops on the ground and routinely maintains the highest operational tempo of any Army aviation asset in theater.

Developed in the 1980s and introduced in the 1990s, the OH-58D is beginning to show its age. Its dramatic overhaul will provide not only a much needed life extension for the Kiowa Warrior, but a positive economic impact on the Huntsville community.

Upgrades to the new Kiowa Warrior OH-58F will include a nose-mounted Common Sensor Payload, a Dual Channel Full Authority Digital Engine Controller, an upgraded Control and Display Subsystem with three all-color displays,

integrated Aircraft Survivability Equipment displays, a Digital Intercommunication System, an Emergency Standby Instrument System and improved side/transverse beam assemblies.

The airframe will also receive a new wiring harness designed and built by team members of the AMRDEC PIF.

"The first three conversions will all happen here at the Meridianville PIF facility and the next three will happen at Corpus Christi Army Depot," Hannah said. He said the decision as to where to produce further OH-58Fs will be made at a future date.

The building of the OH-58F is the first time that the Army has built aircraft as the lead systems integrator, meaning that the Army is in charge of managing all of the activities necessary to integrate and build the aircraft. By managing the project internally through the Armed Scout Helicopters Project Office, a significant cost savings, estimated to be approximately \$37 million, will be realized during the research, development, test and evaluation phase. An additional \$55 million is estimated to be saved during the procurement/production phase of the project.

The Kiowa Warrior CASUP is designed to extend the operational service life of the helicopter through fiscal 2025.

Approximately 27 local government organizations and contractors are involved in the upgrade program.

Army leaders advocate dynamic equipping solutions

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**
AMC Public Affairs

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. – "Getting the right equipment to the right people at the right time takes some dynamic thinking and dynamic decision support tools," Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, commander of the Army Sustainment Command, said during an AUSA panel presentation Feb. 23 at its winter meeting.

The Army's challenge is that there are more equipment requirements than there is supply, which means equipment has to be shared, she said.

But how does one determine who gets what in a timely manner? The Lead Materiel Integrator, or LMI, under the Army Materiel Command is that solution. It became fully operational Feb 15.

Previously, coordination with multiple Army organizations was required to fill equipment needs for training and deployment.

With LMI's decision support tool, Army Sustainment Command, which is a major subordinate command of AMC, will provide sourcing solutions to the entire Army.

"The LMI decision support tool, the better analytical processes, will help us gain and share visibility of all our demand signals," McQuiston said.

"As we continue the DST's (decision support tool's) development it will be transparent. It will allow Army commands at different levels to be part of the recommendation process. It will build trust as units can visualize how equipment will be fielded to them overlaid against their training and deployment schedules," she continued.

Like any information system, the decision support tool is only as effective as the data entered, she said, adding that it "won't fix our current gaps in property accountability."

"We have to get the authoritative source of logistics information LOGSA (Logistics Support Activity) and the Lo-

gistics Information Warehouse to be the most complete repository of equipment information possible," McQuiston said.

LOGSA, a direct reporting unit to AMC, manages Logistics Information Warehouse, or LIW, a repository for Army logistics data, and provides a single repository for all Army materiel stakeholders to access, acquire and deliver data and information for managing Army materiel.

As the LMI DST and LIW are further developed, accurate and timely information, along with better planning for the future is expected.

"We will be able to plan years out and still change on a dime, if necessary," McQuiston said. "It will allow us to easily change parameters as we refine Army force generation, or change deployment periods, or develop new op-



Photo by Cherish Washington

Panel members discuss dynamic equipping solutions for Soldiers during a panel presentation Feb. 23, at the winter meeting of the Association of the United States Army.

tions for theater-provided equipment. And very importantly, it will give us all ways to track execution of the Army's equipping decisions."

200th Lakota helicopter delivered to the Army



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Utility helicopters project manager Col. Thomas Todd, left, presents Brig. Gen. Daniel Nelan, operational support assistant to the director of the Army National Guard, the logbook and keys to the 200th UH-72A Lakota helicopter. The 200th aircraft is the first to be delivered with the Security & Support Mission Equipment Package and will be operated by Army National Guard units across the country to conduct counter-drug, law enforcement, border patrol and Homeland Security missions as well as respond to natural disasters both at home and abroad.

By **SOFIA BLEDSOE**
PEO Aviation Public Affairs

COLUMBUS, Miss. — Leadership from the Program Executive Office for Aviation participated in the delivery of the 200th UH-72A Lakota Light Utility helicopter during a ceremony Thursday at the EADS North America American Eurocopter production facility in Columbus.

Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, the program executive officer for aviation, joined Phil Bryant, governor of Mississippi; Marc Paganini, American Eurocopter president and chief executive officer; and Sean O'Keefe, EADS North America chairman in the handover ceremony.

The latest Lakota is the first production aircraft to be delivered with the new Security and Support Battalion Mission Equipment Package. Lakotas equipped with the S&S Battalion MEP will be operated by Army National Guard units across the country and will support counter-drug, law enforcement, border patrol, and Homeland Security missions across the U.S., Hawaii and in Puerto Rico.

The UH-72A helicopters are also

used by air crews to respond to natural disasters both at home and abroad.

Brig. Gen. Daniel Nelan, operational support assistant to the director of the Army National Guard, and Col. Louis Carmona from the California National Guard accepted the logbook and keys of the 200th Lakota aircraft during the ceremony from Col. Thomas Todd, project manager for utility helicopters.

Emphasizing the significance of their jobs to approximately 300 EADS employees in attendance, Crosby commented on their collective importance to the Army and the defense of the nation.

"I made the trip solely to say 'thank you' to you for what you do," Crosby said.

He further noted that the LUH program had been touted as a model program in the Army in terms of meeting cost, schedule and performance requirements while delivering every aircraft on time.

"The entire country recognizes what a successful program it is," he said.

Bryant also expressed his deep appreciation to the employees for their hard work and dedication to make the LUH program a success and commented that 53 percent of the employees that work in the facility are veterans.

The importance of the program was echoed by the other speakers as well.

"We live in an era where national security, and particularly homeland security, takes on increasing importance with every passing day," O'Keefe said. "All of us have a responsibility to contribute to that important effort."

The LUH mission requirements have grown since its inception and will likely spur further developments.

"The Lakota was originally built to replace a certain fleet and conduct a certain mission. The S&S is a growth out of that, the realization that it can do more than VIP or medevac missions," Todd said. "The deployment of this aircraft in this package that the National Guard is going to have to support missions in our southwest border is going to yield results."

The Lakota is replacing the aging UH-1 and OH-58A/C Kiowa Warrior helicopters currently in use by the Guard and at Army test and training centers across the U.S. and Germany. The rapid production of the UH-72A is also allowing the Army to transfer some Kiowa models to Fort Rucker.

In all, the Army plans to acquire 345 Lakotas, including the S&S configurations through 2015.

Iraq veterans honored at White House dinner

By **KAREN PARRISH**
American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — Like the military branches they represent, the Iraq veterans who gathered here Feb. 29 are diverse. More than 60 troops and veterans of both sexes and a range of ages, backgrounds and experiences came together at a local hotel as they prepared to receive an honor they have all earned: the nation's thanks for their service.

That evening, as guests of President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama at a White House dinner, they represented the million-plus U.S. troops who served in Iraq and the families who supported their service.

The event was titled "A Nation's Gratitude: Honoring the U.S. Troops of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn," but veterans who spoke to reporters Feb. 29 overwhelmingly expressed their own thanks for the honor.

"It's kind of surreal, because in my heart, I just feel like little Heather Wunderlich, a simple, plain girl who's a wife and mother," one National Guard sergeant said. "I'm very excited about it."

Sgt. Heather N. Wunderlich, 28, a flight

medic with the Nebraska National Guard, said in a telephone interview earlier in the week she's honored to represent her fellow Guard members, and particularly all the Iraq vets who didn't return from combat there.

"All of us who are still alive, and came home alive, we owe those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice the highest debt of gratitude," she said. The United States lost 4,409 servicemembers in Iraq, according to Defense Department officials.

Some family members of fallen troops attended the dinner, and Wunderlich said she wants them to know "that we know, and we will never forget them."

Wunderlich deployed as a flight medic from 2006 to 2007 and from 2010 to 2011. She married her husband of just over one year, Sgt. Jeremie Wunderlich, 34, just before they both deployed in 2010, she added. He attended the dinner as her guest.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ron Riling, Army Materiel Command sergeant major, said he represented his home state of Michigan and his current state of assignment, Alabama, at the White House event.

The 48-year-old Riling deployed from 2003-04 as an infantry brigade sergeant major, and from 2005-06 as an infantry divi-

sion sergeant major. He earned a Silver Star and two Bronze Stars during his deployment, and more than once led his troops in firefights.

"I really don't talk about that — I'm trying to put that behind me," he said.

Riling said he served as "another Soldier on the battlefield, just like anybody else."

"I just did my duties and did what my Soldiers would have done, taking the fight to the enemy," he added.

The worst experience he had in Iraq was losing Soldiers for whom he, as a leader, felt responsible, Riling said.

"These are young American sons and daughters over there fighting for their country," he added. "Nobody wants to lose a Soldier."

His best memories of Iraq involve restoring services to the Iraqi people, bringing peace and building schools, he said.

"You meet great Iraqi people over there. Those are the good memories," he added.

Riling said he tells today's Soldiers to prepare for future deployments by learning the basics, practicing their skills and holding themselves to high standards and strict discipline.

"If you have discipline and standards, and you know your basics and you know



Photo by Kari Hawkins

AMC's Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling, standing near a Soldier statue in the reception area at the Army Materiel Command, was among the Iraq veterans who attended the Feb. 29 dinner at the White House.

how to Soldier, then you're going to do pretty (well) in combat," he said.

Riling said as an Iraq veteran, he appreciates the support the nation's civilians give their military members.

"The great Americans out there are always thanking the Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen. I think America receives us pretty well," he said.

Budget interns value their career opportunity

By JASON CUTSHAW

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Interns at Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command help move the command into the future.

The SMDC/ARSTRAT G-8, the command's budget and finance office, is using the Department of the Army Intern Program to help groom the leaders of tomorrow and to develop motivated, competent government employees for the Army.

"The interns really reflect the 'seed-corn' that we have for the financial management career field," Col. Karl Kraus, SMDC deputy chief of staff, G-8, said. "These are, in many cases, younger, fresh out of college program people who come to our organization. They then plug in and they bring in a new sense of energy, in some cases, and a greater appreciation of some of the commercial-based analytical tools that are out there."

Kraus talked about the importance of the intern program at SMDC and its importance to the G-8.

"The pros of the program are that the interns come in with the technical expertise that they just picked up in their college programs, or are picking up, which is some of those more business-case and analysis types of backgrounds that they bring in along with new and fresh ideas," he said. "What we try to do is temper that by offering them practical experience of the government financial management work force and what some of the different career paths are within the career force and give them a good solid foundation of what it means to be an accountant or resource manager within the Army and Department of Defense.

"The cons are that the intern's knowledge of the military is usually very limited and they have to learn the Army as an institution. And here at SMDC, they have to learn the command as an organization and then they have to learn a variety of systems we use within the finance and accounting work force for the military. While I say they have a lot of learning to do, frankly right now is a great time to be getting them in.

"The Army is fielding a new accounting system, General Fund Enterprise Business System, and they are coming right at the leading edge of this and they are now learning the state-of-the-art system," Kraus added.

Interns are brought in at the GS-7 level and spend two years in a program that exposes them to the online/



Courtesy photo

Members of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command financial management team work together as permanent employees as well as 17 future financial managers. Members of USASMDC/ARSTRAT include, from left, seated, Edletha Owens (Tuskegee University), Julia Park (University of Alabama-Huntsville), Irene Lloyd (Comptroller Program-11 program manager), Col. Karl Kraus (SMDC/ARSTRAT deputy chief of staff, G-8), Greta Wiley (Columbia University) and Jackie Cantrell (UAH). In the middle row are Janice Dotson (SMDC Program and Policy Division chief, G-8), Wanda Tucker (SMDC Program Support Team B Division chief, G-8), Niesha Glass (DeVry/Keller Graduate School), Alisha Lee (Alabama A&M University), Sharry Gilliam (Athens State University), Derek Hunt (Alcorn State University), Britany Suttles (Alabama A&M), Jesse Lecroix (ASU), Tajale McClam (UAH) and Mark Daniel (SMDC Program Support Team A division chief, G-8). In the back row are Lt. Col. Frederick Corcoran (SMDC Force Structure Division chief, G-8), Janette Joseph (ASU), RiShard Robinson (Alabama A&M), Jeffrey Hedrick (ASU), Caitlyn Glynn (UAH), Donna Mears (ASU), Wayne Bracy (UAH), Ray Steele (SMDC Management Division chief, G-8) and Donna Bowden (SMDC Accounting Division chief, G-8).

in-class and on-the-job training needed to develop the appropriate skill sets necessary to execute the functions of key SMDC positions. While serving as an intern, the Army pays their salary during the two-year program.

The intern program benefits SMDC in that it provides a training platform for new hires who, once graduated from the program, produce mid-grade employees who can satisfy critical functions in support of the war fighter.

"What we are doing is investing in the work force-at-large through these interns," Kraus said. "It is certainly an investment worth making. I think we have our interns in a good position for G-8 and for SMDC in that we have made a sizable commitment, about a quarter of G-8 is interns, and I think we have it about right for the command.

"The interns are valuable, contributing members of G-8. We couldn't do what we do without them and their contributions are invaluable."

SMDC has 17 future financial managers; and all of them are in the Comptroller Career Program. They include eight DA interns and nine lo-

cal SMDC interns.

"SMDC wants to highlight the achievements of our future leaders," Irene Lloyd, SMDC G-8 Comptroller Career Program manager, said. "It is important for us to let everyone in the Team Redstone area and beyond know that we still believe in growing people.

"Working for the government is still a highly sought after career for those who aim high and want to give back to their country and this is a win-win environment," she added.

One of SMDC's senior interns will be graduating in March with one more following later in the year, and then the next ones will graduate in 2014.

The interns come from various backgrounds and educational institutions which include Athens State University, University of Alabama-Huntsville, Tuskegee University, Alabama A&M University, Columbia College, DeVry/Keller Graduate School and Alcorn State University.

Upon completion of the internship program (DA or local), these individuals can be assigned anywhere across the Army.

"Our interns have a mentor who volunteers and spends time with them as they matriculate throughout the program," Lloyd said. "There is a good mixture of formal and on-the-job training."

One intern in the program spoke of how he enjoys the chance to learn, as well as better himself personally and professionally.

"I heard about the intern program through my school's career administrator," said Derek Hunt, G-8 intern, who graduated from Alcorn State University in December 2010 with a master's in business administration. "He emailed me about several positions and I thought this one would be the most interesting. This program has given me the opportunity to succeed in the accounting and budgetary world career paths. It has given me the opportunity to venture out and see how the government functions as a whole and the training classes I have received, especially the Army Comptroller Course, has given me an opportunity to see how the Army funds its different commands and has given me a chance to see what each command does. The capstone course, ACC, opened my eyes and put everything that I learned in the intern program together.

"My intern program in accounting has given me the opportunity to excel in my career path," he added. "Throughout this program, I have taken several classes that have given me the opportunity to increase my briefing techniques, network with other people all around the world, and increase my expertise in accounting."

Hunt, who began the intern program in April 2009 and will finish next month, talked about how the program helped him and other students as they begin their professional careers.

"The intern program is a great opportunity for people because it is a great learning experience and gives them a chance to explore what the government has to offer," Hunt said.

"It also gives interns a chance to travel and see what other agencies have to offer. It is also a great chance to meet other people and network. This program will give interns the ability to see how the government functions on a day-to-day operation. They will also have the capability to build their skills and network with other people.

"SMDC has been a great place to be and I have learned a lot since I have been here," he added. "Most of all the intern program is a great way to explore different career paths, so you can define which one best fits you."

'That's just like my dad'

Surprise reunion reminds father of all he missed while deployed

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

On the eve of her 17th birthday, Elizabeth Villanueva was all set for the trip to Chattanooga. She was packed, prepared for the weekend's Bible verse competition and smiling for a group picture in the midst of friends just before loading up in a church van.

But, then, out of seemingly nowhere she heard the question "Hey, is there room for one more?"

She turned to those standing next to her and said "That's just like my dad to say something like that."

And then she realized, it was her dad.

Home from a one-year deployment, Elizabeth's father, Air Force Maj. Alan Villanueva, pulled a fast one, surprising his daughter and her three siblings on Feb. 17 as they were getting ready to leave for a regional Awana Bible verse quizzing competition. After a big family hug, Villanueva joined his wife Carmen, Elizabeth and their three other children – Alan, 15, Sara, 12, and Ruth Ann, 10 – for the fun-filled trip.

"I got to spend the weekend seeing them participate in quizzing and sports games, like tug-o-war, relay races and basketball," Villanueva said. "I got to see them win and I was there for Elizabeth's 17th birthday on Saturday."

The Air Force officer, who works for the Missile Defense Agency, left this time last year for Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan, which has been a crucial supply hub for the U.S. since the war in Afghanistan began in 2001. It's the only one of its kind in Central Asia.

"It is a transit center," Villanueva explained. "It's a staging base for the Air Force, Marines, Navy, Army and our coalition partners being sent downrange from Germany or Italy."

Villanueva did not volunteer for his deployment. Rather, he was chosen to head a 14-person team including civil engineers, contracting officers and medical personnel to provide humanitarian assistance to the country of Kyrgyzstan under a security cooperation agreement between the country and the U.S.

"Kyrgyzstan is a Third World nation," he said. "We are working to rebuild the nation, much like we did in Iraq and like we are doing for Afghanistan. We've established a partnership with Kyrgyzstan so that we can continue to operate from there."

Recently, news from the Central Asian country has reported that its new president, Almazbek Atambayev, will seek to close the American military base when the U.S. lease runs out in 2014. The president is concerned that the U.S. base will become a security risk for his country, expressing the fear that Iraq, Afghanistan or Iran could launch a retaliatory strike on the military base. Other Kyrgyz officials are fearful of a possible security vacuum if the U.S. leaves the region.



Photo by H. Andrew Hall
Carmen Villanueva watches as the Villanueva children mob their airman after he surprised them with his return from a one-year deployment to Kyrgyzstan.



Photo by Kari Hawkins
Air Force Maj. Alan Villanueva is happy to be home with his family after a one-year deployment to the country of Kyrgyzstan, where he led a team that provided humanitarian assistance to the Third World country from Manas Air Base. With Villanueva are, from left, Alan, Ruth Ann, wife Carmen, Sara and Elizabeth.

At the same time, there is pressure from Russia, which has its own military base in Kyrgyzstan and has reportedly been uncomfortable with the idea of an American military installation in a region it deems its sphere of influence. It is the only country in the world with both a U.S. and Russian air base.

"As part of our community partnership with Kyrgyzstan, we are building and renovating schools, hospitals, clinics and other buildings. We are donating books, blankets, coats and other things as well as having our troops going out in the communities to play and mentor with the kids," Villanueva said. "We have helped

their economy. And we are helping them with border patrol to try to stop the flow of drugs through Kyrgyzstan to Russia. Our number one goal is to keep the U.S. transit center open. But our longer term goal is to leave a lasting and positive impression of Americans in the country.

"With the U.S. strategy, we don't know if we want to stay there or not after 2014. It will depend on the condition and the stability of the area. Who knows what the U.S. president will decide? But, for now, there are still plans and programs for the next two or three years."

In his 19 years of military service – eight of those with the Navy as a medical lab technician and the last 12 with the Air Force as an acquisition officer – the tour in Kyrgyzstan was the first overseas deployment for Villanueva.

It was also a long deployment by Air Force standards.

"Most deployments in the Air Force are four to six months long," Villanueva said. "But since this was a leadership position, it called for a year. The length of time provides for

continuity, which is especially important when you are working on construction projects that can take three to five years to complete."

Most of Villanueva's work involved overseeing construction management, including ensuring that construction permits were obtained, coordinating with the U.S. embassy on new projects, securing funding from the U.S. government, negotiating contracts and making sure contractors abided by construction standards.

"I loved what I did and I liked the people I was working with. It made it all worthwhile to know we were doing something positive for the people of Kyrgyzstan," he said. "It was a blessing to have that kind of job and to be able to work with the U.S. embassy in doing diplomatic work in the country."

Before his deployment, Villanueva was a project manager for integration and synchronization at the Missile Defense Agency.

"The job involved looking at the architecture of missile defense, and coordinating research and development and operations to make sure they were in sync," he said.

"My next assignment is also with the Missile Defense Agency. It will involve satellite tracking and surveillance, and relaying information from Colorado Springs, Colo., to headquarters here at Redstone. I will be looking at satellite results and how we can use that information to help Soldiers."

Villanueva's family knew their airman was coming home soon, but the date kept slipping back and forth.

"Initially, I was coming home Feb. 22 and be here by Feb. 24. But my replacement came early and I got a pass to leave on the 14th," he said.

His family had already made plans to leave for Chattanooga on the 17th, so Villanueva was hoping he

See Reunion on page 39

Redstone-wide softball league makes first pitch



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Travis Roop bats for HHC 59th against Headquarters & Alpha on April 19, 2010 at Linton Field. Softball will return for all Redstone civilian and military members under a new partnership between NASA and the Army.

Army and NASA become partners

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

It's time for Redstone workers to play ball again.

NASA and FMWR have reached an agreement to partner for softball, according to Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation sports and fitness director Gaylene Wilson.

"It will be a great opportunity to open up to the Redstone work force," she said. "We will take all military teams as well."

Opening day for the 2012 MARS/Redstone Softball Club season is April 16. A preseason coaches' meeting was scheduled March 6; and the official kickoff and team sign-up meeting is March 27.

The NASA Exchange sponsored Softball Club has partnered with 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.

"I'm very happy about it," Jim Lomas, president of the Marshall Athletic Recreational Services Softball Club, said of the NASA-Army partnership. "We've been wanting to do this a while. We have shared our fields with each

other. We are looking forward to getting a little new blood in the club."

The softball club will be playing this year on their 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.

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.

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.

Priest

continued from page 20

the deadline, and would have to enroll at Eastern New Mexico State University for a year, where he could live his dream of running cross country in college. But even after he was enrolled, something still wasn't quite right, so he decided to go to a Capuchin Franciscan seminary in Pennsylvania instead, that would be able to take him that September. But even that didn't seem to be the direction God was calling him, so after time in the seminary, he chose to teach high school religion and Spanish.

"I think God never stops calling. He's still calling," Herrera said. "You never

know how he's going to do it, but he's going to send somebody and that somebody could be you."

That call came quite literally from Bishop Sean O'Malley, the coadjutor bishop of the diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. Asking Herrera what he was doing and why he was teaching high school, he invited him to come to St. Thomas, where there was a need for Spanish speaking priests. Despite Herrera's resistance to the priesthood, he took O'Malley up on his invitation, and after four years teaching on the island, when the bishop proclaimed it was time for Herrera to become a priest, Herrera agreed.

"God always sends you somebody or something to show you the way," Herrera said. "It's just not always what you

expect it to be."

The unexpected continued after his ordination in 1989, when the first hurricane in 50 years – Hurricane Hugo – hit the Virgin Islands. In the storm's aftermath, not a leaf was left on a tree, homes were destroyed and boats thrown from the water to the streets, but not a shingle was touched on Herrera's Catholic church. As he explored the Shrine of Cassi Hill in the days that followed the storm, he found a tree that had been blown into the shrine, and in the middle of that tree that was otherwise devoid of life, a tiny green leaf remained, serving as a message from God.

"We cannot lose hope," Herrera said. "God is the author of life. I cannot lose hope. We will make it through this."

Since his ordination, Herrera has de-

voted his life to serving the Lord and his people, a calling he heard on his ordination day as the bishop recounted to him the story of Jesus washing his apostles' feet at the Last Supper.

"The task of the priest is not to fight for the highest position, but to fight for the towel. The mark of the priesthood is service," Herrera said.

It is a priesthood that is not entirely his, he says, but rather the one who has called him to it.

"There's no such thing as my priesthood, because it doesn't belong to us – it belongs to Jesus," Herrera said. "We only share in it. Sometimes I catch myself saying that, 'my this, my that,' but it doesn't belong to me. It belongs to Jesus. He is our high priest."

Reunion

continued from page 37

would be able to get home the day before they left. With the change in date and the help of his wife, Villanueva made plans to surprise his children.

"My mom is really good at keeping secrets," Elizabeth said. She and her mom were volunteering at the Redstone tax center on the 16th when her mom's cell phone started buzzing.

"I had to go out of the room to answer the text messages on my phone," Carmen said. "I told her it was phone calls about the trip. It was very difficult keeping it a secret."

Villanueva stayed overnight in a local hotel. The morning of the 17th, he arrived at the location where the church group was meeting just as they were lining up for a group picture.

"They had them facing away from where I was parked," Villanueva said.

When Elizabeth realized her dad was there, she almost fell getting to him. She and her siblings mobbed their loved one with hugs. And in those hugs, Villanueva was reminded of all he had missed while he was gone.

"I really missed home-cooked meals," Villanueva said. "I felt like I missed out on a lot because I like to play with the kids. We play a lot of games and sports, and we wrestle around. I like doing projects at home. Since we home school, I missed a big part of their education, and I missed a lot of their sports, especially their soccer games.

"But, mostly, I missed just talking to them and being a part of their everyday lives."

While he was gone, Elizabeth got her driver's license, which helped out a lot with the transportation needs of the family. Son Alan grew five inches while he was gone and now stands three inches taller than his dad. Sara

and Ruth Ann got braces on their teeth while Elizabeth got hers taken off. And the family became a more democratic unit with the children helping to make decisions and sharing responsibilities for the household. Neighbors, friends and their church family pitched in to help when the four children's schedules conflicted.

"Since there was only one of me, I couldn't be everywhere. Sometimes, one child would have to go to a sporting event with friends while I went with the other child," Carmen said. "We have a really great network of support here. People were more than happy to help out. So often you want to do it all on your own and not ask for help. I made myself ask for help."

The children are home-schooled through their church program at Friendship Baptist in Huntsville. During the deployment, they put in extra effort to help each other while their mom focused more on their education than on household tasks.

"My expectations had to relax a little bit. Things weren't as orderly as they were when Alan was home," Carmen said. "In their rooms, I told the kids I expected three things – no clothes on the floor, no trash on the floor and their beds made. We had a lot of family meetings over the year about the way things were going and how can we make things better. The kids really pitched in and helped out so much. I think they did a lot of growing up over the year."

While the home front was maintained, Villanueva worked 12 to 16 hour days in Kyrgyzstan. Now, he's ready to get back to being a dad and serving his country closer to home.

"A lot has changed since I've been gone. I've changed. The kids have changed. I know that I can't just come in and take over. I've got to ease back into their lives," he said.

"I am glad to be home. My thoughts, though, are still back there at times. I think about the good we did and some of the unpleasant things we did. Being gone for a year is hard, but knowing the home is in order helped me a lot. It would have been even harder if I would have had to worry about my kids and wife. Knowing they were OK physically and emotionally made me be able to do my job better."

Though the deployment took him away from family life, Villanueva said

it was "an honor to be deployed and serving my country. Being among Soldiers and knowing what you are doing makes a difference, knowing you are deterring the enemy over there makes a difference.

"I have a better appreciation for the military who are gone a lot and for the leaders who have to make the tough decisions. I have more appreciation for Soldiers who truly sacrifice, and for the families and kids who remain strong when their Soldier is gone."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Safety conscious

Some of the attendees at the Installation Safety Council quarterly meeting Feb. 28 at the Challenger Activity Center include, from left, Bill Stadlander of Coast Guard Auxiliary 2406, Ralph Langford of the Garrison Directorate of Logistics, Monique Mixon of Garrison Equal Employment Opportunity, Larry McFall of the Coast Guard and Joe Kleri of the Coast Guard.

Hair

continued from page 12

"It's rewarding to help people," she said. "We had a great turnout at the event even though we had bad weather. So many people came to give their support and that's what it's all about, coming together as a community. There are going to be some happy kids because of this, they're going to benefit so much. It meant a lot to me to be a part of it."

A representative of the mayor's office attended the Leap Day event and presented Henley with a proclamation from Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle. Feb. 29 was proclaimed Leaps of Love Day in the city of Huntsville in honor of the underprivileged children that Locks of Love helps by providing them with hairpieces that give "a sense of everyday normality that is critical to the healing process."

The first time Henley donated his hair, he was president of the Jaycees. That time he had an event, "Donate Your Hair at the Fair." It coincided with the Jaycees'

annual North Alabama State Fair in Huntsville and anyone who donated hair was given free entrance and ride passes.

"This thing is certainly not about me. I'm trying to promote the idea of donating, whether it be your hair or anything else. Giving back is what I want people to do, whether it's giving blood or giving money for Toys for Tots or blankets for the homeless. It's whatever you can do, whatever you can give," he said. "I'm a firm believer that if you give of yourself, you're doing good and good things will come back to you."

Henley is employed by ERC Inc. at RTC's Test Area 1 as a test technician. He appreciates that his supervisors have been understanding about why he was growing his hair long. He said Ernie Wu, president and CEO of ERC Inc., is very much involved in giving back to the community and the company reflects that.

"I'd like to encourage all the people that work on the Arsenal to find a way to give back to the community," he said.

For more information about donating to Locks of Love, go to their website at <http://locksoflove.org>.

Soldier

continued from page 21

"I volunteered when the mission came up," Massey said. "When you take this job you are told you may deploy. So, I knew that was part of it."

Massey and his family are used to separations. During the last seven years of his 24-year military career, Massey, who married Nichole during that time, endured a one-year assignment to Japan without his family, a one-year deployment to Iraq, a one-year assignment to Fort Monroe, Va., without his family and several training assignments that also caused separations.

But with a mission that had to be done, Massey stepped up to deploy again, this time as a contractor.

"These towers are a force protection asset that incorporates radar and cameras for base security," Massey said. "I was part of

a seven-man team that had a mission and a set time frame to accomplish the mission."

The team traveled by helicopter and convoys throughout Afghanistan in support of U.S. troops.

"We needed to make sure these towers were functioning properly," Massey said. "We saw a little bit of everything with the towers. We did overall assessments and some repairs, or we turned the repair over to a field representative if it required more than we could do or new parts that we couldn't carry with us.

"We went everywhere. Even the smallest FOB out there that doesn't have anything has a force protection system with towers that have to be checked."

Massey also made sure each base had a certified trainer and a certified crew to operate the towers. If training was needed, he supplied it.

"It takes a minimum of five Soldiers to operate a tower. You need 30 hours to

train on tower operations and that doesn't include the payload. With the payload, you have 40 to 50 hours of training," he said.

The deployment wasn't Massey's first since he retired from the Army in 2008. While his civilian work at Redstone as a warrant officer instructor for the 59th Ordnance Brigade and then at the Warrior Training Exercise Site kept him at home, other work as a reset class instructor for the Aviation and Missile Command led to a one-year deployment to Iraq to teach reset in theater.

During this recent deployment, Nichole, who works as a staff action control specialist for AMCOM's G-3 Operations Demil, and the couple's three school-age sons once again managed without Massey, although there were a lot of phone calls back and forth.

"The 12-year-old kept telling me I needed to come home when we'd talk on the phone. The 6-year-old would get on the phone and say 'Hey, dad. How you doing?

When are you coming home?' Or he didn't want to talk to me at all," Massey said. "I really enjoyed calling home. There was nothing to look forward to but calling my wife and my kids.

"Sundays were the hardest day for me because we were usually back at the home base and everyone only works a half day. I knew Sundays would be long days. But when I was out doing the mission the time went by fast because we were working all the time."

Massey enjoyed the reactions of his sons and their classmates. But the most memorable reaction was that of his oldest son, 15-year-old Deion Hawthorne.

"He goes to Sparkman High School and he's too cool for surprises," Massey said. "But he was the most surprised when I walked into the house. He saw me come in the door and he said 'Dad, dad, dad!' and then he grabbed me and pulled me and squished me in a bear hug."



Redstone Test Center members recognized

At left, Staff Sgt. Francis Bagley receives an award from Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco. In the right photo, Doris Ray receives an award from the major general. Dellarocco, commander of the Test and Evaluation Command, visited Redstone Test Center on Feb. 24. A highlight of his visit was awarding Program Support Office lead Doris Ray with her Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification. Ray identified non-value-added elements and activities within Redstone Test Center, resulting in cost avoidance for the center. Dellarocco also recognized Staff Sgt. Francis Bagley for his selection as ATEC's Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter. Bagley was honored for his frequent crewmember flight duties on the CH-47D/F helicopters and his outstanding performance on various test programs, all in support of the war fighter in the field.

Courtesy photos

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 champion 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.

5K training program

Have you been thinking about starting to run to lose weight or get in better shape? If so, then it's time to get off your couch and get moving with the No Boundaries 5K training program. This program is designed for minimally active or inactive people who want to start running. No Boundaries is for the beginner who needs a supportive, non-competitive environment in which to learn to love walking, walk/running or running. The program starts at one mile and gets you to the finish line of a 5K (3.1 miles) in 10 weeks. And this year, for the first time, one of the classes will have its weekly meetings on Redstone Arsenal. In a joint effort between FMWR Sports & Fitness and the NASA Exchange, meetings will be held at both the NASA Wellness Center and FMWR fitness centers to run. This will give a change of scenery for your training runs and no membership is required in the fitness centers for participation in the training program. The 10-week program will graduate at the Cotton Row 5K race May 28 downtown. The kickoff meeting is March 13 at 7 p.m. at Fleet Feet Sports, 2722 Carl T. Jones Drive (phone 650-7063).

Bass tournament

The third annual Homeland Security Bass Tournament is May 18-19 at In-galls 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.

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.

phies 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 March 15 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 and March 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. Players ages 13 to 18 as of May 1, 2012 are invited. Registration forms will be accepted after March 17 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 Country Club. The tournament will be a four-women scramble with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. To register or

Rocket Announcements

be a sponsor of this event, call Lupi Rodriguez 883-7035 or email lrodriguez@stillservingveterans.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.

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.

Federal employees

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Saturday at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshments and social time will start at 9:30 a.m., with the business meeting at 10. Bill Yell, communications director for Huntsville Utilities, will speak on the utility's new billing system and also the soon to-be revamped meter reading schedule. Guests are always welcome – active or retired. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

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.

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 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,

See Announcements on page 42

Rocket Announcements

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/>.

Southern elegance

An annual benefit dinner at The Summit club on Friday will be hosted by the Redstone Arsenal's Community Women's Club. The event's theme is "Evening of Southern Elegance," and it will feature a silent auction, live auction, giveaways, music by the AMC Jazz Band and a chef-inspired dinner. Tickets are \$40 each. Proceeds will go toward Merit Awards (scholarships) and Community Assistance grants. The community women's club is a non-profit organization. This event is open to the public. For ticket information, call 489-3009 or email rsacwclstvicepresident@gmail.com.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter, will hold its monthly luncheon Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. Joy McKee, director of Operation Green Team, Huntsville, will be guest speaker. For ticket information, call Audrea Edwards 313-2382 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

Engineer society

Huntsville Post Society of American Military Engineers meets March 15 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.

Blacks in government

Blacks In Government, Huntsville-Madison County Chapter, will hold its monthly meeting Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at The Summit at Redstone, ballroom V. The speakers will be Sandra Brazelton, broker, CRS, GRI, MBA, A-REO, and Alex B. Cothron, associate broker/realtor, ABR, listing specialist, REO listing agent. The public is invited. Those eating lunch should arrive early and go through the lunch line and return to the meeting room. For more information, call Ronnie Hawkins 886-6001 or email programs@hsvbig.org.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Peggy Allen Towns, North Alabama historian and author, will speak on "Duty Driven: North Alabama African-Americans during the Civil War." Optional chicken buffet is available at 5:30 for \$8.95. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call 541-2483.

Parkinson's support

Caneta Hall, assistive technologist and environmental access consultant, will speak to the Parkinson's Support Group on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in the Youth building at Huntsville's Willowbrook Baptist Church, 7625 Bailey Cove Road - enter from the back parking area. Family, friends and caregivers are encouraged to attend, as well as participate in the group discussion. For more information, call Rono Prince 837-6577.

Special Forces group

The North Alabama Chapter (Chapter 92) of the Special Forces Association will meet at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant, 209 West Grand Ave. (Highway 77), Rainbow City. "All Special Forces qualified and personnel who served with or contributed in a unique and definable way to Special Forces units are invited to attend," a prepared release said. For more information, visit <http://www.chapter92sfa.com/>.

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.catholicwomenoffaithconference.com.

University women

The Huntsville Branch of the American Association of University Women will hold its annual Breaking through Barriers fundraiser luncheon Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Carrabba's at Parkway Place. Sarah Savage, president/CEO of Leadership Huntsville/Madison County, will address "Walking the Tightrope: Women in Leadership." Tickets are \$30. Call 852-4802 or email elienau@yahoo.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.

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.

Professional development

The Air Force Association Tennessee Valley Chapter 335 is co-sponsoring with CyberHuntsville, the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, Women in Defense and with the National Defense Industrial Association a professional development luncheon Thursday. Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert Elder Jr. will speak on cyberspace from a war fighter's perspective. The luncheon is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Von Braun Center's North Hall. Tickets are \$30 per person and \$350 for corporate tables of eight. Tickets may be obtained using PayPal at www.hsv-afa.org. For more information, call 651-5862 or email AFAAFCEA@att.net.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

Army civilian volunteers are needed to support Aviation and Missile Command missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn. Skill sets needed include acquisition, maintenance, supply, quality assurance, operations, logistics and automation, among others. The new personnel deployment website is at the AMCOM homepage or <https://apdw.redstone.army.mil>.

Volunteers must be currently employed by AMCOM or AMC. Contractors or military personnel cannot be considered. Army civilians interested in deploying should notify their supervisor and visit the deployment website or call Cindy Gordon 313-0369 or Nicole Massey 313-0365. Contractors and others interested can access www.cpol.army.mil for openings and opportunities for overseas employment.

Fraud hotline

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

Education test center

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

Benefit dinner

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

See Announcements on page 43

Rocket Announcements

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.asmc certification.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.asmc certification.com/> under the Education/Training tab. If assistance is needed, contact Archer.

Business workshops

The UAH Small Business Development Center and Procurement Technical Assistance Center will hold the following free workshops: "Government Contract Accounting Made Easy – Meet the Expert," with Miriam Ezell, a certified public accountant with Solvability Inc., will be held March 13 from 9-11 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County, 225 Church St. The Procurement Technical Assistance Center will give "An Overview of the Army SBIR Program" from 9 a.m. to noon March 28 at the UAH Salmon Library, room LIB 111. "Financing Options for Entrepreneurs," with DeMarco McClain and Jennifer Bryant, will be held March 29 from 10-11 a.m. at the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County, 225 Church St. To register for any of these workshops, call 824-6422 or email SBDC@uah.edu.

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. March 16 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.

AER 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 Center's building 5300 on the first floor, in the corridor between 5303 and 5304. They are accepting donations of books, tapes-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.

Spring break camps

Sci-Quest, Hands-on Science Center, is registering for its Spring Break Camps, March 12-16 and March 26-30. Camps offer children ages kindergarten through eighth-grade an informal and hands-on learning experience in subjects such as deciphering hieroglyphics, photography and game developing on iPads. Participants in the Spring Break Camps must be preregistered prior to the requested program. There is no registration the day of the programs. Class sizes are limited, and enrollment is on a first-come, first-served basis. Sci-Quest members receive a 10 percent discount. For a complete list of programs offered and registration directions, call 837-0606 or visit www.sci-quest.org.

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 March 15. The SSCF is a 10-month leadership and acquisition program for GS 14-15 level 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 March 14 from 5-8 p.m. in its gymnasium, 7301 Old Madi-

son 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.

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.

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

See Announcements on page 44



Photo by Carrie E. David

Retirement memento

Dr. Steven Messervy, deputy commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, prepares to present a Swiss army knife to each of his four sons and his father during his retirement ceremony Feb. 24 at Bob Jones Auditorium. Looking on are SMDC's Command Sgt. Maj. Larry Turner, left, and commander Lt. Gen. Richard Formica. Messervy retired from civilian service after 36 years. He retired from the Army Reserves in 2008 with 30 years of service.

Rocket Announcements

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 March 17 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.

Drill competition

Team Redstone is invited to the largest JROTC competition on Madison County when the Sparkman High School JROTC, known as "The Senator Battalion," holds a drill competition Saturday from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. The competition is at Sparkman High School, 2616 Jeff Road in Harvest. The competition will consist of 13 schools and about 500 JROTC cadets from Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and Louisiana. Cadet teams will compete in armed and unarmed drill, exhibition armed and unarmed drill, and armed and unarmed color guard.

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.

YMCA memberships

The YMCA in the Huntsville area offers free memberships to servicemembers and to military families whose servicemember is deployed abroad. The YMCA also offers free summer sessions at Camp Cha-La-Kee in Guntersville for children of deployed Soldiers and respite child care to families of deployed Soldiers. Participating YMCAs in Huntsville include the Southeast Family YMCA, 1000 Weatherly Road, 882-9622; Downtown Express YMCA, 101 Church St., 319-9622; Southeast Child Care Center, 1000 Weatherly Road, 880-8400; Huntsville Child Care Center of the YMCA, 2000 Vernon Ave., 536-8131; and Northwest Child Care Center, Blue Spring Road, 852-6700. In Madison, contact the Hogan Family YMCA, 130 Park Square Lane, 705-9622. And in Guntersville, contact Camp Cha-La-Kee, 883-9622.

Vietnam veterans

Vietnam veterans and the public are invited to the first Welcome Home Vietnam

Veterans program on 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.

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 mcswainr@us.army.mil or Deitra Floyd at msstang92@hotmail.com.

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. 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.

Scholarship program

The 100 Black Men of America's Greater Huntsville Chapter announces its 2012 Scholarship Awards. As a part of its "Four for the Future" cornerstone programs (mentoring, education, economic development and health and wellness), the 100 BMOA-GHC is committed to the growth and development of America's youth. Scholarships will be awarded to individuals who maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 point system. The program is for high school graduates who plan to enroll in the fall at an accredited two- or four-year college or university, regardless of race, sex, creed or religious preference. Scholarship applications must be received

or postmarked in the 100 BMOA-GHC business office by March 22. Notification of awards will be sent by March 31. Scholarship awardees will participate in the 100 BMOA-GHC Scholarship Awards program scheduled April 22 at Calhoun Community College-Huntsville Campus. Applications can be obtained from local high school counselors or by calling Freeda McDowell 536-8050 or Gerald Moore 233-2334.

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.

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.

Outreach awards

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will present outreach awards to deserving Redstone community federal employees. Awards will be presented March 21 during the chapter's professional development seminar luncheon plenary session. Deadline for submitting awards has been extended to March 12. 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.

Red Cross blood drives

Red Cross blood drives this month include the following: March 8 from 7 a.m. to noon at the Sparkman Center and at MDA's building 5222. ... March 9 from 6:30 a.m. to noon at the Corps of Engineers and from 7-noon at MDA's building 5222. ... March 15 from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at building 5400. ... March 16 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316.

