

Redstone Rocket

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Barclay family tradition gets new life

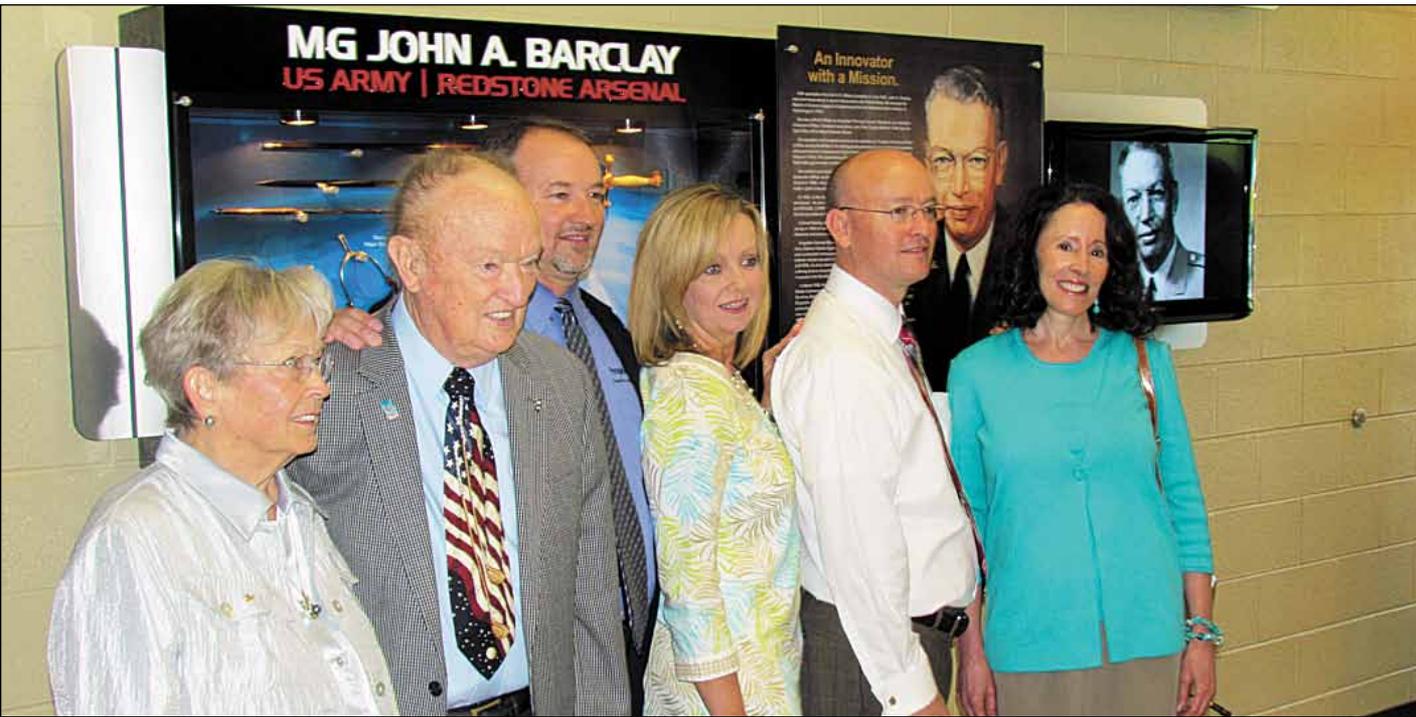


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Barclay family members attending the building's dedication ceremony April 25 include, from left, Marian and retired Col. Doug Barclay, son of the late Maj. Gen. John Barclay; grandson Doug II and his wife Christie; and grandson Alan and his wife Susan.

Former training building dedicated to engineering

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

The Barclay family's legacy of service has continued into the next generation with the rededication of a building.

Barclay Hall, which opened in 1988 in memory of Maj. Gen. John Barclay, was dedicated April 25 for AMRDEC's Prototype Integration Facility. The building was formerly used for Multiple Launch Rocket System training by the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, which moved to Fort Lee, Va., under base realignment and closure.

It becomes a second location on post for the Prototype Integration Facility and enables the PIF to consolidate multiple contractor leases. Barclay Hall was renovated for its new occupants.

Members of the Barclay family attended the dedication along with officials

from the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

"I certainly appreciate the efforts that have gone into this and making this what it is," Barclay's son, retired Col. Doug Barclay, said.

Danny Featherston, program manager of the Prototype Integration Facility, said the PIF worked in concert with the U.S. Space & Rocket Center and others to collect artifacts from Barclay's career. "Bringing this all together has been a fun activity," he said.

Barclay, who was born Aug. 27, 1909 and died May 28, 1983, was known as a driving force behind the nation's missile and space program. The late Dr. Wernher von Braun once said of Barclay, "Without him there would have been no Redstone missile, no Mercury-Redstone rocket, and no American astronaut in space."

Mementos of Barclay's life are displayed on the first wall to the right after entering the building. And a videotape of career highlights plays on a mounted screen.

"We have a lot of ties and connec-

tions with him," Patti Martin, director of AMRDEC's Engineering Directorate, said. "He was a huge innovator."

Family members who attended the dedication included retired Col. Doug Barclay and his wife Marian, their oldest son Doug II and wife Christie, and youngest son Alan and wife Susan. Their daughter, Karen Barclay Hughes, resides in St. Louis.

Doug II, 50, is vice president of PeopleTec, a subcontractor to the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

"This means a lot to us as a family and the legacy we've had here for a while," Doug II said.

AMRDEC executive officer Maj. Dan Thetford said he was impressed by the Barclay family's contribution over several generations. He has been at Redstone two years.

"From a new guy coming in, even I appreciate what they've done," Thetford said of the building's dedication. "It's pretty neat."



AROUND TOWN

Contractor writes book on self-improvement.
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Post chaplain retiring to civilian ministry.
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WIN OR LOSE

Renegades softball team benefits from experience.
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RocketViews

What's your favorite memory from prom night?

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com



Nakia Redmon

AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center

"I guess because I actually didn't want to go with my boyfriend, so I dumped him and went with my best friend. And we had a blast. We were actually there to have a good time."

We were actually



Scott Wilson

Army Contracting Command-Redstone

"Actually it was my first prom to go to. I was up all night long from start to finish - from the prom itself to the party afterward. I grew up in the Chicago area. It was basically up-all-night-into-the-next-day partying. So it was my first all-night partying."



Martin Lamey

Army Materiel Command G-6 (Information Technology)

"I didn't go. I was having fun with my friends so I didn't attend the function. I lived in Germany so I was doing German stuff."



Terese Penix

Army Materiel Command G-3/5 (Force Development)

"Being with friends. I lived in Montana then. It was a night out with friends."

Letter to the editor

Short story: Susie's prayer for her deployed father

"She met her prince, fell in love and lived happily ever after," said Nellie.

"Just like you and Daddy. Read it again, Mommy, read it again," Susie pleaded.

"It is time for you to go to bed, young lady. You have school tomorrow," Nellie explained to her daughter.

Susie scrunched her nose and sighed in resignation, as she scooted under the covers and pulled her brown plush bear close to cuddle. Susie yawned as Nellie pulled the covers up to her chin.

"When is Daddy coming home, Mommy?"

"It will be three more months, Sweetie. Tomorrow I will circle the date Daddy comes home. Every day, we will mark off that day with an X, so we know how long we have to wait. What do you think?"

"I want my Daddy now," Susie whined and started to cry, tears ran rivulets down her pink cheeks. She looked so tiny in her pink pajamas.

"I know, Sweetie, I miss him, too. If Daddy could come home, he would. He is helping little boys and girls in Afghanistan."

"I don't understand why Daddy is over there helping those kids, when I need him here. Does he love them more than me?" The thought that any other child might take her place blinded Susie's blue eyes in fear.

Nellie dried her daughter's cheeks with a tissue and smoothed her way blond hair away from her face. It was a caress of nurturance and reassurance.

"You are and always will be Daddy's No. 1 girl. Daddy is fighting for his country and doing his duty. We must be proud of him."

Susie poked out her lower lip, the gesture guaranteed to win her way with her father; only he wasn't present to see it. Nellie felt that hollow ache in her chest throb, as the need to cry worked its way into her awareness. She blocked it with a deep breath.

"I love you, Susie, and Daddy does, too. Don't you ever forget that, young lady. Now let's say our prayers."

Susie placed her palms together and looked toward the ceiling. "Dear God, please watch out for my Daddy and bring him home soon. Mommy and I miss him so much. Please help Mommy so she won't cry anymore when she thinks I'm asleep. Bless Buster, and keep him safe, so he won't chase cars and get run over again. He is walking real good in his cast. Oh, I nearly forgot Goldie. Keep her happy in her bowl. Mommy changed her water today and I'm not sure she put that stuff in to make the water safe."

"God, even though my Daddy is helping those kids in Af... Af... Afghan, please take care of them, too, so Daddy can come home real soon. Oh yeah, tell Jesus good night for me. Amen."

"That was a very nice prayer, Susie."

"Do you think God heard me, Mommy?"

"I'm sure he did. Now it is time to go to sleep. Remember, tomorrow you become a first-grader."

"I wish Daddy could take me to school tomorrow and meet my teacher."

"I'm sure he does, too. Now, time to sleep."

Nellie leaned down and kissed Susie on the forehead. When Nellie looked at Susie, it was like looking at Brad, with his blond good looks and mischievous blue eyes. Nellie reached over and closed the book she had read to Susie, and placed it on the table. Tears welled in her eyes as she walked through the door, to begin yet another sleepless night in her cold and empty marital bed. She too would say her prayers for Brad's safe return.

Shirley B. Garrett

Editor's note: Shirley B. Garrett is a local writer, professional speaker and licensed professional counselor. She serves the counseling needs of some of the local military families, active duty and retired. "I felt compelled to write this story, because not all who support our country are on the front lines," she said.



Photo by Chris Putman/AMC Public Affairs

Vice chief of staff

Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, right, vice chief of staff of the Army, and Gen. Ann Dunwoody, commander of the Army Materiel Command, view the Villar tribute plaque with Col. Daniel Williams, director of AMC Public Affairs, Friday at AMC headquarters.

Quote of the week

'Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.'

— Dave Barry

RedstoneRocket

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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

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Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for April 19-25:

April 19: A Soldier was arrested by Hamilton Police for desertion. He was later released to Redstone Police who transported him to Fort Campbell, Ky.

April 20: When a government worker was stopped for speeding on Rideout Road, it was revealed that his driver's license is suspended. He received two violation notices.

April 21: At the Redstone Exchange, a juvenile shoplifted two bottles of Lip Gel, valued at \$5.38. The juvenile was processed by Redstone Police and released to a parent.

April 22: A family member son was charged with damage to government property and domestic violence

third degree, resulting from an incident which occurred in the housing area.

April 24: An unexploded ordnance was unearthed at a construction site near Gate 7. Fort Campbell EOD responded and transported the ordnance to a training area for disposal. This incident resulted in the closing of Gate 7 and west Martin Road for most of the day.

April 25: A government worker reported that she has received several harassing phone calls while at her workplace.

Traffic accidents reported: None.
Violation notices issued: 30 speeding, 3 failure to observe traffic control device, 1 suspended driver's license, 1 no driver's license.

Social Security expands compassionate allowances

Michael Astrue, commissioner of Social Security, has announced 52 new Compassionate Allowances conditions, primarily involving neurological disorders, cancers and rare diseases.

The Compassionate Allowances program fast-tracks disability decisions to ensure that Americans with the most serious disabilities receive their benefit decisions within days instead of months or years. Astrue made the announcement April 11 during his remarks at the World Orphan Drug Congress near Washington, D.C.

"Social Security will continue to work with the medical community and patient organizations to add more conditions," he said. "With our Compassionate Allowances program, we quickly approved disability benefits for nearly 61,000 people with severe disabilities in the past fiscal year, and nearly 173,000 applications since the program began."

The Compassionate Allowances initiative identifies claims where the nature of the applicant's disease or condition clearly meets the statutory standard for disability. With the help of sophisticated new information technology, the agency can quickly identify potential Compassionate Allowances and then quickly make decisions.

Social Security launched the Compassionate Allowances program in 2008 with a list of 50 diseases and conditions. The announcement of 52 new conditions, effective in August, will increase the total number of Compassionate Allowances conditions

to 165. The conditions include certain cancers, adult brain disorders, a number of rare genetic disorders of children, early-onset Alzheimer's disease, immune system conditions and other disorders. In his speech that opened the congress, Astrue thanked the National Institutes of Health for research they conducted which helped identify many of the conditions added to the list.

The agency also is improving its online disability application process, which is already substantially shorter than the standard paper application. Effective April 21, adults who file for benefits online have the option to electronically sign and submit their Authorization to Disclose Information to the Social Security Administration (Form SSA-827). This improvement allows applicants to complete disability applications in a streamlined online session, rather than printing, signing and mailing paper authorization forms to Social Security offices.

In March, Social Security approved eight research projects through its Disability Determination Process Small Grant Program. This new program aims to improve the disability process through innovative research by graduate students focusing on topics such as the Compassionate Allowances program, Wounded Warriors initiative, homelessness and SSI, and disability enrollment issues.

For more information on the Compassionate Allowances initiative, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances. (Social Security Administration release)

Martin Road Gate 1 will close on weekends



GATE 1 - Martin Road (East)
5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday
Closed weekends & holidays

GATE 3 - Redstone Road
5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday
Closed weekends & Holidays

GATE 7 - Martin Road (West)
5:30 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Friday
Closed weekends & Holidays

GATE 8 - Goss Road
5:30 a.m. to midnight, 7 days a week

GATE 9 - Rideout Road
Open 24 Hours Daily

GATE 10 - Patton Road
5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday
Closed weekends & holidays

Redstone Arsenal officials have announced that the hours of operation for Gate 1, Martin Road East, will change effective Sunday.

The new hours will be Monday

through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and closed on weekends and holidays.

Previously, the gate was open from 5:30 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week.

Getting to know you

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Name: Samuel Sanchez

Job: Logistics management specialist, Army Materiel Command G-6 (Information Technology)

Where do you call home?

I'm originally from Bayamon, Puerto Rico.

What do you like about your job?

Just being able to interact with all the different commands and still make a difference for the war fighter.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Spend time with my family and going to the gym. My wife, Marilyn, and I

have three sons: Samuel Jr., 22, Javier, 19, and Gabriel, 15.

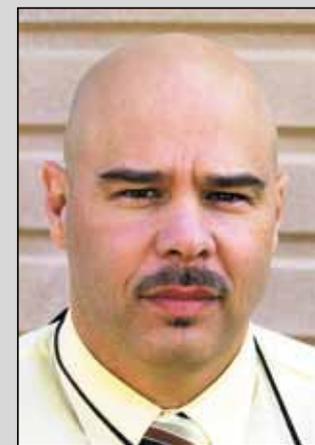
What are your goals?

Finishing my bachelor's degree (in supply chain management from Athens State).

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

I would have to say actually visit Italy. It's always been intriguing being able to go over

there to the Roman Colosseum where they used to have all those battles and all that.



Tax assistance center delivers return on investment



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Redstone senior commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, kneeling third from left, poses with volunteers and others after Friday's closing ceremony for the Tax Assistance Center.

Mostly-volunteer operation closes doors after tax year

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The Redstone community got another big tax refund this year.

Friday brought the closing ceremony for the Redstone Tax Assistance Center, a free service helping servicemembers on active duty, military retirees and their dependents prepare and file federal and state tax returns each year.

This year the center prepared 3,879 federal and state returns, producing \$1,942,857 in total federal refunds. These included 1,991 federal returns and 1,888 state returns. The value of its services – fees that would have been charged by a paid preparer – amounted to \$514,151.

Last year the center and its mostly-volunteer staff prepared 3,955 tax returns –

the most prepared in more than 10 years – and provided a value to the Redstone community of more than \$3.7 million on a budget of \$3,000. It is considered the largest and most efficient military Tax Assistance Center in the Southern region. The IRS has designated Redstone's TAC as a "model tax center for all military installations to follow."

Redstone senior commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers presented certificates and coins to the nine volunteers and five workers.

"I appreciate all you're doing," Rogers said. "Thank you very much."

Col. David Crawford, the staff judge advocate, also cited three volunteers – Emily Hsi, Diane Welch and Min Wallace – for their outstanding support throughout the tax year and for going above and beyond.

Crawford presented the Army Achievement Medal to the center's officer in charge, Capt. John "Caleb" Smith, for his service from Jan. 9 through April 30. The medal was awarded by Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton.

"Volunteers, you made me look sharper to my bosses than I probably am," Smith quipped. "Your checks will be in the mail."

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:

Summer camp

CYSS Summer Camp will be held June 4 through Aug. 3 at the School Age Center, building 3155, for grades 1-5 and at the Youth Center, building 3148, for grades 6-12. Registration is now open. For more information, call 876-3704.

Camper rental

Travel in style with Outdoor Recreation pop-up campers and hard side travel trailers. Campers can be rented for \$55 per night. Prices include: weekly pop-up \$330, daily rate \$55; weekly travel trailer \$450, daily rate \$75. Reservations can be made up to 90 days in advance. For more information, call 876-4868.

Flying open house

Do you want to learn how to fly? The free FMWR Flying Activity Open House is Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Flying Activity. Adults can take an introductory ride for \$30 each, and children 12 and under can fly for \$25. Certified flight instructors will be on hand to answer questions on becoming a pilot. There will be free food and drinks while supplies last. The Flying Activity is located off Rideout Road south after entering Gate 9. Turn right at Hale Road and follow it to the Fly-

ing Activity. For more information, call 880-9495.

Pool passes

Swimming pool passes are now on sale. Outdoor Recreation offers three well-maintained swimming pools, fully staffed with Red Cross certified lifeguards during all activities. Costs include \$60 for individuals, \$100 for families; \$30 for active duty individuals, \$50 for their families. You can purchase your passes at Outdoor Recreation now or poolside starting May 26. Credit card purchases can be made at both locations. Daily pool passes for individuals and guests are \$3 per person; \$2 for active duty and family with ID cards. Daily pool passes will only be available at the FMWR pools. For more information, call 876-4868.

Mother's Day brunch

The Mother's Day Brunch is May 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Summit. Cost is \$12 per person, children ages 7-11 (club member); \$22 per person, adults 12 and over (club member); \$30 per person, adults 12 and over (non-member); children 6 and under eat free. Tickets may be purchased at The Summit. When tickets are purchased, the patron must give the cashier the time they plan to eat. Reservations are taken per half hour beginning at 10:30-1:20. The buffet will contain breakfast and lunch items. For more information, call 313-3255.



Courtesy photo

Black widow

With the warmer weather, critters and crawlers are coming out. Redstone game warden Kelly Smith had a surprise when he flipped over a water shutoff cover and found a new "friend" that had set up a nursery on the underside of the lid. Don't place your hands or fingers into recesses you don't look at first, the Garrison Safety Office advises.

In this section...

BLOCK PARTY DRAWS CROWD ON SUNNY SATURDAY
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SOCIAL WORK, LEGAL BACKGROUND SERVE VICTIM ADVOCATE
GREEN THUMBS FLOURISH IN COMMUNITY GARDEN
CHILDREN JOIN PARENTS AT WORK FOR DAY
YOUNGSTERS GET CLOSE VIEW OF CONTRACTING MISSION
JOB SHADOW DAY TEACHES KIDS ABOUT REDSTONE

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Annual block party draws crowd on sunny Saturday



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Meaghan Drauch, 3, enjoys a wet rainbow slide during Saturday's annual Block Party at the activity field.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Two storm troopers take a Chick-fil-A cow captive in front of the crowd and an alarmed Jawa. The event-sponsoring cow along with other sponsor Papa John's Pizza escaped harm to feed more folks throughout the day.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Jay Smith, 5, shows to his father, Michael, the tile he just finished painting.

AER campaign seeks strong finish in May

Nearly \$100K short of last year's pace

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The stack of empty envelopes on Kerrie Branson's desk had contained from \$10 to \$1,000 apiece.

They were checks and allotments from military retirees contributing to Army Emergency Relief. The annual fund-raising campaign continues through May 31.

"The retiree letters went out from the (AER) headquarters office March 31, and just in the month of April we've had an outpouring of support from our retiree population from the surrounding areas," Branson, the AER officer at Army Community Service, said. "And it's wonderful we still have their support."

But Redstone's 2012 campaign needs more support from everyone. By Thursday it had collected about \$170,000, far short of last year's \$266,000 total. This year's goal was \$300,000.

"The end of the campaign's nearing. There are lots of opportunities to contribute going on in different organizations. We're just encouraging people in the final days to please contribute to a worthy cause," Branson said.

Army Emergency Relief provides emergency financial assistance when unforeseen situations happen in the lives of active duty Soldiers, retirees, National Guard and reservists on Title 10 orders, and widows.

"Thank you to the retirees for being so generous in supporting our campaign," Branson said. "It doesn't go unnoticed and we appreciate your support to the Soldiers,



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Army Emergency Relief officer Kerrie Branson says she has been overwhelmed at the generous support of military retirees in the surrounding areas.

retirees, family members and widows."

She also appreciates the work of campaign co-chairman Staff Sgt. James Thomas of the Aviation and Missile Command. "He comes in a few times a week to enter all the contributions into the AER campaign data base for us. And it takes a lot of time and he's been wonderful for us," she said.

Campaign chairman Capt. Alyssa Wood invites Team Redstone to the AER recognition ceremony June 21 at 10 a.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium to recognize directorates and organizations that have contributed to this year's campaign.

In 2011 Redstone AER provided \$292,000 in assistance to 268 people, which included 172 loans and 96 grants.

Army Emergency Relief represents 70 years of helping the Army take care of its own, and a strong tradition of Soldiers helping Soldiers.

Social work, legal background serve victim advocate

Perrar Joseph joins ACS as program manager

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

To make time for all the people he wants to help, Perrar Joseph just may need to add another 100 years to his life.

“I love helping people,” Joseph said. “It’s a gift that I think I have to simply sit down and present options, to understand what people are going through without judging them. To see somebody hurt and breathe life into them and just help them get from point A to point B is something that I thoroughly enjoy. When it’s all said and done, when my time has passed, I want to be remembered as someone who has simply helped other people.”

As Army Community Service’s new victim advocate program manager, Joseph will have plenty of opportunities to do exactly that, making a lasting impact on the Redstone Arsenal community.

Born and raised in Boston, Joseph came to Alabama 10 years ago to attend Oakwood University. Over the past decade he’s graduated from college, gotten

married and become a father, and enrolled in Birmingham School of Law, where he’s currently pursuing his law degree. As a social worker he’s worked with the Boys and Girls Club, Huntsville Housing Authority, Red Cross, Community Action Partnership of North Alabama, Huntsville Police Department and several churches in the area.

“One of the things I think I’m good at is helping people, recognizing obstacles and helping them overcome those obstacles,” he said.

As victim advocate program manager, it is Joseph’s job to provide victims of domestic violence and sexual assault with “the tools that they need to get out of the situation, or help them enforce a decision that they’ve come up with,” he said.

Drawing from his background in social work, Joseph is familiar with many of the different agencies in the commu-

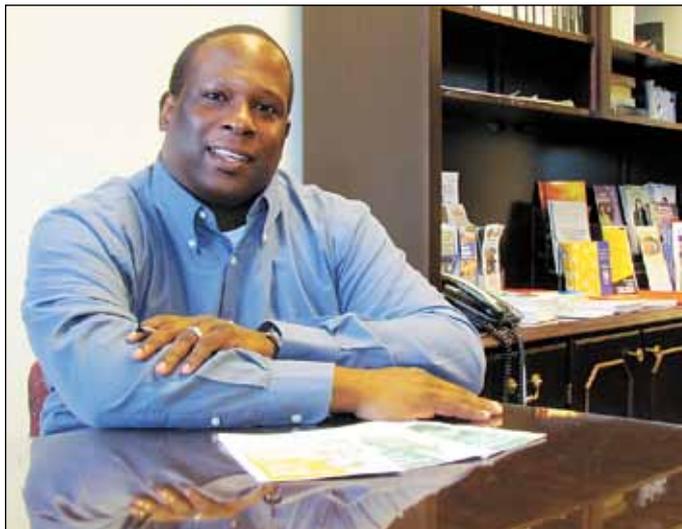


Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Perrar Joseph became Army Community Service’s victim advocate in April.

nity that are able to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Paired with his background in law, he’s able to provide clients with the whole picture, such as what may happen if a parent doesn’t report abuse, but rather just stands by and lets it happen.

In such instances, the courts may count that against parents, citing that they’re allowing the abuse to happen to their children.

“My background in social work has also allowed me to better understand my clients, to understand it’s not always a logical decision, but an emotional one,” Joseph said.

“Perrar has been a real asset because of his social work and legal background,” said Virginia Dempsey, family advocacy program manager for ACS. “That has given him an opportunity to provide services and insight to the program.”

Perhaps the greatest asset he brings to his new role however, is his listening ear. For those in need, he may be reached through ACS at 876-5397 or via the 24/7 emergency line, 508-6613.

“It never hurts to talk,” Joseph said. “It never hurts to actually have a conversation with somebody. All conversations are confidential. I’m bound by that confidentiality and I respect that. I’ll never judge. It never hurts to have a conversation and think about a plan of action. You may never need that plan of action, but it’s good to have it there just in case.”

Green thumbs flourish in Community Garden

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Come summer, Master Sgt. Robert Wyatt's table will literally be filled with the fruits and vegetables of his and his wife's labor.

What originally began as a place for the military community living on post to plant their own vegetables and flowers is now a place where active duty, retired military and all DoD/NAF employees can make their own garden grow at FMWR's Community Garden. Wyatt and his wife Melissa's plot, one of 54 available, is filled with seeds that within weeks will spring into potatoes, corn, beans, squash, zucchini, peppers, and onions, the ultimate reward for all the work they've put into their portion of the garden.

"The homegrown tastes so much better than anything you can buy in the store," Wyatt said. "Starting something from a little seed into something you put on your table is rewarding."

Cost for a plot is \$25. Each plot is 20-by-40 feet. Members can choose whether they want to purchase a plot for the season, from Feb. 15 to Nov. 25, or for the year. Seasonal members benefit from FMWR's service of having the plots bush hogged and harrowed each December, and bush hogged, harrowed, plowed and tilled at the beginning of February. Year-round members are responsible for their own bush hogging, harrowing, plowing and tilling.

Currently, 32 garden plot members are year-round members, leaving only 22 plots available for the season next year, but current season members have until Nov. 1 to opt for yearly membership.

"From talking with the garden plot customers most of them enjoy having a place to be able to grow their own crops, vegetables and some flowers because they do not have any other place to go to be able to have a garden," Chris Carter, membership coordinator for FMWR, said. "Some say their yards are too small, or it would just take up all of their yard entirely."



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Melissa Wyatt puts down fertilizer in her plot at FMWR's Community Garden, located off Vincent Road.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Master Sgt. Robert Wyatt unloads fertilizer from his truck to spread on his plot at FMWR's Community Garden.

Plot availability is based on priority. Plots are sold Feb. 15 through March 1 to Soldiers each year, and are then opened up to retired military March 2-16. DoD and NAF civilians are able to purchase remaining plots March 17-31. After March 31 any plots left are sold on a first come, first serve basis. Only one remains for purchase this year. For more information, call Carter at 313-4006.

Children join parents at work for day



Photo by Megan Cotton

Olivia and Sha'xaria Gordon enjoy playing on the UH-60 helicopter Thursday at AMCOM's Bring Your Child To Work Day. The twin 6-year-olds were visiting their dad, Clif Gordon, who works in AMCOM G-8.



Photo by Megan Cotton

Climbing out of a HIMARS, Natalie Paxton, 8, has a big smile for her dad, Jim Paxton, who works in Utility Helicopter. Along with Army equipment to play on, the kids got to enjoy pizza, snow cones, sodas and snacks as a fund-raiser for Army Emergency Relief.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Students from Huntsville Middle School await the start of a program called "FMA Live" at Marshall Space Flight Center's building 4316. NASA and Honeywell sponsored the program in which three young rappers, stage hands and producers took the stage to teach "Force Equals Mass Times Acceleration (FMA)."



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Thom Brown leads a tour group at the Prototype Integration Facility. His daughter Lilly, 9, is on his right.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Randy Tisor, public affairs for PEO Aviation, eats lunch with his daughter Audrey, 8, in the Sparkman Cafeteria.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Allen Dauh shows his daughters Megan, 7, and Mable, 5, part of a homeland security Black Hawk helicopter at the Prototype Integration Facility.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

During the NASA program, an Ed White Middle student is stuck on a wall by Velcro before being asked to jump back up onto this wall several times to show the effect of acceleration on mass.

Youngsters get close view of contracting mission

By GISELLE BODIN LYONS

Army Contracting Command Public Affairs

Nearly 50 children joined their parents Thursday during the Army Contracting Command's Bring Your Child to Work Day to learn what ACC employees do on a daily basis.

Members of ACC and the Expeditionary Contracting Command headquarters here held the event at the ACC campus on Wells Road as a part of the national Bring Your Child to Work Day observance.

Children ages 5 to 19 and their parents started the day with refreshments and a group photo. They then broke into groups and traveled throughout a variety of stations that demonstrated what Soldiers and different command offices do. The stations included physical training exercises, video interviews, camouflage face painting, a

K-9 presentation and a rucksack demonstration.

"The face painting and the vehicles are so cool," said Cayson Steward, 9, a Hazel Green Elementary School student and the son of Misty Steward, ACC-Redstone Pricing Directorate.

After a quick pizza lunch, the children split into two groups based on age. The younger group headed back outside to examine new displays, including a fire truck and K-9 dogs with trainers.

New Market School student Julie Lloyd, 10, daughter of Joy Lloyd in the ECC Policy Division, stayed at the PT station for a while.

"I love exercise, so this has been my favorite station," Julie said.

The older group experienced an abbreviated version of the Myers-Briggs personality evaluation and then participated in

mock job interviews and critiques to show them different things to do as they prepare for jobs later in life.

"I really think the cool part was the interview. You pick a job you would be interested in and interview. It's really educational," said Allison Gabbert, 15, daughter of Col. Jeffrey Gabbert, ACC chief of staff. She also said the first-aid station was her favorite because of her interest in the medical field.

Parents loved the event as well.

"This day has been amazing – great activities and so well-organized. We didn't know that all of these displays would be here," said Erika McPherson, ECC Office of the Command Counsel and mother of Erik, 13, Morris, 10, Jacob, 8, and Alicia, 6. "And the Myers-Briggs and mock interviews are just a great way to prepare them for their future. This event truly was spectacular."



Photo by Larry McCaskill

Dylan Crowell takes aim during the Army Contracting Command's Bring Your Child to Work Day event.

David Higginbotham, LOGSA contractor

LOGSA child

Jase Mungroo, son of Dale Mungroo of the Logistics Support Activity, visits Thursday for LOGSA's Bring Your Child to Work Day event.



Photo by Melody Sandlin

Young visitor

USASAC commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner welcomes Lyric Meikle-Ewing, granddaughter of Lori Cordell-Meikle, at the Security Assistance Command's Bring Your Child to Work Day held Thursday.

Job shadow day teaches kids about Redstone

Local students visit AMCOM for a day

By MEGAN COTTON

For the Rocket

A group of East Limestone High School juniors got to experience what life is like on Redstone Arsenal for a day. The group came out Thursday to the Arsenal as a part of AMCOM's Job Shadow Day.

The day started off with a welcome by AMCOM chief of staff Col. Skip Sherrell and an AMCOM overview briefing by Kara Wall from the public affairs office. The point of the day was to introduce the kids with what AMCOM does and to debunk the rumor that everyone on the Arsenal is an engineer.

"I thought I had to be a rocket scientist or work for NASA to live in Huntsville but that's not the case," Sherrell said. "We have so many different types of degrees and majors out here. You can do lots of different things or major in any-



Photo by Megan Cotton

Jessica Morgan and Hannah Harris practice their shooting on America's Army interactive videogame.

thing and work on Redstone.

"It's all about giving back to others and have a passion for what you do," he said. "At the end of the day we are all supporting the Soldier and that's what matters."

After the briefing, a panel of young professionals talked to the students



Photo by Megan Cotton

Staff Sgt. Jonathan Turner speaks to the group about his experience with college and the path that led him to the Army.

about their personal experiences with college, finding a job and what it's like to work for AMCOM. The group covered everything from intern positions, salary, military colleges, the importance of keeping your record clean and picking your major.

"Your paperwork is what gets you in the front door, it's your personality that will get you the job," Staff Sgt. Jonathan Turner said.

After the briefing, the group met with Security Assistance Management Directorate for a brief overview and then played Jeopardy on what they learned.

"I enjoyed playing Jeopardy the most," Jessica Morgan said. "I enjoyed being on the computers. I really like playing on computers and I hope to go somewhere in that direction with my future."

The day ended at the Software Engineering Directorate, where the kids got to learn about and play America's Army, fly a Kiowa Warrior simulator and more. John Stove said he enjoyed seeing the equipment in real life.

"You see these things in your videogames but it's cool to see them up close," Stove said about the Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

When asked about her favorite part of the day, Hannah Harris said she liked the young professional panel.

"I really liked getting to talk to them and see how they all got here," Harris said. "I learned at the Arsenal you don't have to have an Army background. You can do whatever and come out here and work, it's not just engineers."

AroundTown

Contractor gets righteous, teaches others to be godly

Self-improvement book designed to help women

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Rhonda Niemeyer isn't just living life for herself, she's living it for her son and daughter as well.

When Niemeyer's father passed away 10 years ago, one of the last things she told him was, "I hope one day I'm as good as you are." Now with two children of her own, leading a integrity filled Christian life just like her father has never been more important.

To get herself on the path to righteousness, and aid other women in their quest for godliness, Niemeyer penned the book

"Get Righteous, Godly Girl." The self-improvement book is designed to help women take a look at their own lives, identify with the struggles of women in the Bible, and better understand God's commands.

"We're not ever going to be perfect, but it's important to strive for righteousness," said Niemeyer, a contractor for MDA in human resources with Serco. "When we're adults we don't have someone keeping us in check, we don't get grounded, we don't get put in time out, so why is it important? Because God commands that we do those things."

Born and raised in Huntsville, while Niemeyer always considered herself to be a good person, it wasn't until she and her husband were going through



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Rhonda Niemeyer, a contractor for MDA with Serco, stands in the Self-Improvement section of Barnes & Noble, where her book "Get Righteous, Godly Girl" may one day appear on the shelves.

Christian premarital counseling a year ago that she realized she could do more.

"I thought I was a decent person – I go to work, I go to church, I take care of my children, I love them – and honestly, when I sat down, I thought I'm doing OK, but I'm not doing what I could

be doing," Niemeyer said. "I sat down and thought, 'what kind of woman do I want my daughter to be?' In thinking about what kind of woman do I want her to be, I want to be a good example for her. I want to be a good example for my husband, for my son."

So Niemeyer began researching scripture and the lives of biblical women, such as Leah and Rachel, to see how they handled the challenges life threw at them. Conscious of today's worldly views, she put a plan in place for her life to combat those choices that contradict God's commands. As she began to make more deliberate decisions, she realized how easy it was in the past to ignore a phone call and text her friend later to say she was asleep

when she had called, or to meet friends at the bar when they suggested a place to get together, instead of offering an alternative location. Today, she chooses honesty and avoids unhealthy environments.

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LAST YEAR'S TORNADO VICTIM REFLECTS ON LESSONS 'READY FOR SOME SORT OF NORMAL' AFTER STORMS

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Last year's tornado victim reflects on lessons learned

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**
AMC Public Affairs

One year ago last Friday, a series of tornadoes traveled through the Tennessee Valley, leveling homes, businesses and killing more than 200 people around the state.

The Army Materiel Command was not immune to this tragedy. Members of the staff suffered losses; one of them was Sue Tillery, congressional liaison for AMC.

She survived the storm unharmed with her sister, Mary, and her three dogs: Cody, Cricket and Skeeter and agreed to be interviewed to warn the community about the importance of remaining weather aware.

One year later, a fresh start has risen from the rubble of her Athens home.

After the storm, the Tillerys debated staying in Alabama altogether, with questions like "Is this something we could possibly go through again? And would we want to go through it again?" reflected Tillery.

"I felt very insecure when that (the storm) happened. That was the closest I've come to death in my life. I've never been in a car accident, nothing and to

know that it was that close. It was just very difficult," she said. "I felt like we lost everything we accrued over 30 years of life and there are some things that still bother me that we lost but they are just things."

In the end, rebuilding their home and life in Huntsville won out.

"We came here with the intent to retire and make this our home," Tillery said. "So we started looking for homes. We found a house that we fell in love with. It's in a totally different area. Actually, we like it a lot better than the one that we lost. I think it all worked out real well."

There are a few lessons Tillery wanted to share. For example: consider adding replacement costs to your homeowners insurance.

Adding replacement costs to your current homeowners insurance allows you to replace items lost due to an unfortunate event at current market value.

The devil is the details. Tillery explained how making small changes to your emergency plan can make all the difference during a weather emergency.

"I recommend that if you don't have a car charger, get one, that may be your only form of communication especially if



Photo by Sue Tillery

A catastrophic storm ripped through northern Alabama on April 27, 2011, killing more than 200 people around the state. This was Sue Tillery's damaged home after a tornado hit that day in Athens. She and her family survived unharmed.

you are trapped somewhere," she said. "I purchased a solar powered weather radio. It's a radio with a weather band and it has a USB plug that can plug into my BlackBerry or phone."

Lastly, ensure you have a go-to bag for the official documents that are difficult to replace, such as passports, birth certificates, etc.

In March, Huntsville got a small taste of tornado activity, but nothing like last year's storms.

"I was better equipped, but it was still scary. I can't say we are really back to normal yet," Tillery said. "I thank God it worked out in my favor in some ways."

She may have lost possessions, but she didn't lose any family.

"Watching some of these family members that lost a brother, sister, mother and children, they are raising their niece because there is nobody left in the family. That is very, very hard to watch," she said. "You've got to protect yourself."

She advises her co-workers to update their contact information in the headquarters AMC's Emergency Notification System. They can simply right click the ENS icon in their toolbar. This system is designed to notify all AMC personnel in the event of an emergency.

Also register with the Army Disaster Personnel Accountability and Assessment System, which standardizes a method for the Army to account, manage and monitor the recovery process for personnel and their families affected in a catastrophic event. Update your information at <https://adpaas.army.mil>.

'Ready for some sort of normal' after storms

Green family rebuilds lives after devastating tornado

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

Going through the rubble of his destroyed home after the April 27, 2011 tornadoes, Hal Green knew his family would not rebuild – at least not at that location.

His family – including wife Almeida, daughters Erica and Stacey, son Anthony “Jay” and granddaughter Sydney – did rebuild emotionally, psychologically and physically, picking up the pieces of their lives, finding a new way to live together in austere conditions and, eventually, moving on to a new home and a new chapter in their lives.

But the Anderson Hills lot where their house once stood remains barren today.

“It was my theory that tornadoes are like spinning tops and that they’ll follow the lowest point when spinning,” Green said. “They followed the same valley path through Anderson Hills that they followed in 1995 and, I later found out, that they are rumored to have followed in the 1970s.”

Hal, the director for requirements man-

agement at the Army Materiel Command, and Almeida, who works at the Space and Missile Defense Command, moved their family from Europe to Alabama in 2000, following Green’s Army retirement and six years as a Army civilian. They came to Huntsville because both found good job opportunities at Redstone Arsenal.

The couple knew about the 1995 tornado before moving into Anderson Hills, a north Madison County neighborhood in the Harvest area just off Highway 53. But they figured that tornadoes, like lightning, don’t strike the same place twice.

They were wrong.

The Green family survived the second tornado to blow through their neighborhood on April 27, 2011, by huddling in a downstairs bathroom. When they emerged seconds later, the EF-5 tornado had sucked up the second floor of their home and destroyed much of the first floor. The catastrophe took months to overcome, with the family moving from one location to another in those early days until finally finding a home they could rent and then, in November, buying a home in Madison, which they hope will keep them safe from future storms. Their story of survival was first told by the *Redstone Rocket* in its May 11, 2011, edition.

“We left our home in Anderson Hills in



Photo by Kari Hawkins

After months of recovery following the April 27, 2011, tornado that destroyed their home, the Green family now enjoys their new home in northern Madison County. The family includes, from left, daughters Erica and Stacey, and Almeida and Hal Green.

two broken down cars for our entire family and our worldly possessions,” Hal said.

“We recovered very little of our belongings because we had no place to put them and no place to secure them. What wasn’t taken or destroyed by the tornado was buried under debris, covered in insulation and rained on. What little we could save, we wrapped in wet clothes and put in plastic containers in the back of our cars. We probably recovered 1 percent of what we had.”

They still have many of the figurines from Almeida’s Lladro collection, a heirloom rocking horse, some family pictures and Almeida’s sewing machine. Most everything else blew away or was destroyed in the storm.

Eventually, they had the lot cleared of debris.

“Our whole life was pushed to the curb in a 10-foot pile of rubble that went all the way around the corner of our house. When we saw it, we broke out in tears. Our house, our life was crushed into rubble in seconds. It was devastating,” Hal said.

“We really had a difficult time going back to the house. Emotionally, it was just too much for us,” Almeida added.

The Green family has no plans to sell the lot. If that time comes, Hal said he would not sell it without ensuring the buyers know the lot’s history.

But during those first few weeks and months, even the family’s military background didn’t fully prepare them for the emotional and physical toll that tornado

recovery can spin.

“We are used to disassembling, going somewhere else and reassembling,” Hal said. “But we had to figure out how to deal with missing things that carried personal memories for us and that were irreplaceable.”

The first month after the tornado, the family focused on recovery and each other. Fortunately, Hal had a lot of leave from work. The only worry was making sure son Anthony, a senior at Sparkman High School, got back into his school routine so that he could graduate.

“We had a lot of difficulties putting it back together. We couldn’t go to work physically or emotionally for awhile and we didn’t even have any clothes to go to work in,” Hal said. “We were really concentrating on Maslow’s hierarchy of needs – food, shelter, clothing. Then, once we did get a place to stay, we had to buy so much just to have a home again. It was overwhelming.”

During the aftermath, the family made it a point to stay together, doing their shopping and other recovery activities as a group.

“The most important thing in our lives was family and God, and we couldn’t make it without either one,” Hal said.

But even so, there were times when the family could feel their lives spinning out of control.

“Everybody, at some point, had a breakdown. We were shell shocked by what happened. One by one, we had our breakdowns,” said daughter Stacey. “But we were there for each other when that happened. We are a strong family with a strong foundation. We went through the whole thing, I think, pretty gracefully.”

Today, the family can look back on the past year knowing they have made it through the toughest challenge of their lives. They have relied on God for strength, on the charity of neighbors and friends for a place to stay and a hot meal, and on each other for comfort and support.

It’s been a year, but the family finally feels it is once again settled and involved in getting on with their lives. Hal and Almeida are now fully engaged with the hectic demands of work at Redstone and enjoying the Madison neighborhood that is now home, daughter Stacey works for American Express, daughter Erica is taking

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college classes, son Anthony is now a college student at the University of North Alabama and 5-year-old granddaughter Sydney is happy to have a playroom in their new home. Their home features all new furnishings, thanks to the insurance settlement with USAA, along with a great view of the Tennessee Valley and a walkout basement with two storm shelters.

“We actually happened to find this house in May when we were driving around looking for a rental property. This house was for sale and we met the owners, and when they found out we were tornado victims, they invited us in. But we were so traumatized that we really didn’t capture what we were seeing,” Hal said.

“After we got settled in our rental home, we started looking around to make a decision about whether to buy or build our next home. We talked to some builders, but we were overwhelmed.”

Their search for a home led them to look at upwards of 75 houses in six months. In the end, they returned to that first Madison home after the owners called them, telling them they had lowered the price on their home and asked if they would consider buying it.

“In the course of looking at homes, we had developed a laundry list of things we wanted,” Hal said. “We had to have a tornado shelter, and we wanted a large



Courtesy photo

Friends and neighbors along with faith in God and a strong family bond helped the Green family recover from the devastation left by the April 27, 2011, EF-5 tornado that hit their home.

master suite, a guest bedroom, bedrooms for all of our family, a walkout basement and a large backyard in case we wanted a pool. This house had everything.

“And, of course, when we took a look at the view, we signed on the dotted line. The very first house we looked at after the tornado was the one we ended up buying.”

About a month ago, Hal built a new swing set for his granddaughter Sydney in the family’s backyard. It stands as a symbol of recovery for the family.

“After the tornado, Sydney had one question: ‘Where’s my swing set?’ All that was left was one piece of wood,” Hal said. “It’s taken a whole year, but she now has a swing set. It is one indicator that we are ready for some sort of normal.”

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“This is the bottom line – the sacrifice that Jesus made for us is so huge, that sacrificing those things that are going to get us into trouble anyway is something we have to do,” Niemeyer said.

Having put a plan in place for herself, putting it on paper for others to follow was easy for Niemeyer, who has enjoyed writing since she was a young child. In a span of just four months the book was written and ready for publishing with AuthorHouse. It is available for purchase online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, AuthorHouse and other book retailers.

“If one person gets the message and they take it and they make positive changes, then

that would be more than I could ask for really,” Niemeyer said.

It’s not easy to follow the path of righteousness in today’s world, Niemeyer said, where worldly views often don’t reflect those virtues found in the Bible.

“With advertisements, gossip, everywhere we go there are external factors that are very easy to get caught up in, and not just that, even our own emotions,” she said. “It’s not going to be easy, but it’s absolutely necessary.”

If a woman feels like something is missing from her life or separated from God, the book is a good starting place, the new author said, to getting godly and living a life of righteousness.

“For the first time in our lives we have an understanding of unconditional love,” Niemeyer said.

Missile defense gives edge on battlefield

Annual conference speakers update weapon technology

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

kari.hawkins@us.army.mil

In a career that spanned 34 years of active military service and 15 years of civilian service that culminated with the title of secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, retired Lt. Gen. Malcolm O'Neill said he has seen the Army shrug off advances in missile technology to stay with the tried-and-true.

In a way, it's the nature of the business – protecting Soldiers in theater and the nation's interest today takes priority over the development of future missile systems to defend against the threats of tomorrow.

"Our research-and-development focus is too short term. In the Army, unfortunately, we focus on helping the troops in contact today," he said. "On the one hand, we have a weapon system that

won't be ready for four or five years that could modernize the Army's capability to defend itself. At the same time, we have sitting there weapons like the Patriot and THAAD that have proven themselves."

O'Neill made his comments as the keynote speaker during the 14th annual Association of the U.S. Army Missiles Conference at the Von Braun Center on April 24, where about 400 local military and industry leaders met to discuss issues pertaining to future missile development. The theme for the conference was "Maximizing Capabilities and Targets of Opportunities in Austere Times."

While the Army continues to rely on missile technology from the 1970s and '80s, O'Neill said it has given low priority to energy directed projects in the form of high-energy lasers, such as a 10 mill watt that could take out a satellite and the 20 mill watt that could "hit Russian strategic missile in their stands."

Some of the delay in new missile defense and laser technology development has been caused by the Union of Concerned Scientists, a nonprofit science ad-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Malcolm O'Neill, a retired lieutenant general who has served as the secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, speaks about the future of missile defense at the 14th annual AUSA Missiles Conference on April 24.

vocacy group, "that said missile defense was impossible, that missile defense was too costly and, worst of all, missile defense would make our potential enemies nervous," O'Neill said.

In 1989, when the U.S. had a strong stance on missile defense, the world watched as the Soviet Union started coming apart and President Ronald Reagan called for the fall of the Berlin Wall.

"We want the world to know – then and now – that America has a decisive capability in missile defense and you don't want to start something with America because we can stop you and destroy you," O'Neill said.

And yet, the nation's current financial crisis is threatening the U.S. strength as a military powerhouse.

"DoD and the Army take it the worst," O'Neill said. "When the going gets tough, you put the Army in. But when we're at peace, it's whatever. I don't understand because the hardest system to produce is a Soldier. And our Soldiers need to be trained to be able to make real-time decisions between life and death.

"I know we have the best Army in the world. But the problem is the bad guys always pick us to fight. ... The Soldier, he's the one who is in trouble. This kid with no training needs to have decisive weapons when he goes to war and ex-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Maj. Garrett Verser of the Lower Tier Project Office, at right, talks to, from left, Dr. Charles Lind, chief of staff for the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, and Maj. Brad Pasho and Justin Bloom of the Close Combat Weapon Systems Project Office about the field performance of the Improved Target Acquisition System.

ecutes the strategy of the United States of America."

All Army decisions should come down to the Soldier in the field, he said, pointing out that the Soldier on the ground and the missile technology he has to defend himself always determines who has the decisive edge in battle.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ON UPSWING AT SMDC
AMRDEC CITES INTERNAL COMMUNICATION TEAMWORK
SMDC WORKER HELPS NATION PREPARE FOR EMERGENCIES
LEADER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM LIFTS ALL LEVELS

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Information technology on upswing at SMDC

By **CARRIE E. DAVID**

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

A combination effort by the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command G-6, or information technology branch, has led to a decline of customer helpdesk tickets of more than 50 percent.

In October-November, the helpdesk received an average of 700 tickets, and that number has now been reduced to about 300.

“By using modernization money provided by the command, we replaced IT customer facing equipment that was more than three years old and backend equipment that was more than five years old,” said Monica Booher, helpdesk and software development branch chief, G-6, located at SMDC’s Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., location. “The newer equipment provides more reliability and better performance to reduce the number of issues experienced by customers.”

Thin client network computers, laptops, desktops and some printers were included among customer facing equipment items replaced, and the backend equipment included infrastructure such as servers, routers and switches.

“The modernization efforts allowed the helpdesk to standardize the baseline configuration to better support our customers and implement better equipment to meet their needs,” Booher said.

In addition to hardware, a few other changes have been made that might also lead to an additional reduction in helpdesk tickets.

“The helpdesk has implemented an IT news section on SMDC’s internal website,” Booher said. “Here we communicate with customers about any upcoming changes, such as Enterprise email. We also publish to this page whenever we experience a network- or server-related issue that impacts the command.

“We hope to make this the first place a customer goes to learn about anything related to IT within the command. There is a customer survey link where customers can submit feedback to helpdesk management. The more feedback we get from our customers, the better we can support them.”

Bobby Everetts, information technology specialist and helpdesk lead at SMDC’s Redstone Arsenal location,



Photo by Carrie E. David

Avis Charley, an information technology specialist with the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, works the helpdesk answering calls and helping customers with IT problems.

said a new thin client server farm and the new Army Enterprise email are some other areas where the G-6 is moving forward.

“We are currently in the process of standing up a new thin client server farm,” Everetts said. “This will prepare the command for the (Army’s) Enterprise email migration and provide more stability and reliability for thin client users.”

The Army’s conversion to Enterprise email began in January. Instead of accessing email through local email servers at each installation, users will reach through the network to access email services from centralized servers known as the Department of Defense cloud. SMDC plans to begin conversion in June.

“SMDC has a worldwide operational mission supporting deployed war fighters, and we must approach everything we do with that same operational mindset,” said Col. Bennie Pokemire, SMDC’s deputy chief of staff, G-6. “One of my priorities for the G-6 is to expertly manage resources. These upgrades and improvements in the helpdesk and software development branch make the exchange of critical information in support of our mission much more efficient for the customer. I’m proud of the strides we’ve made thus far, and I look forward to many more accomplishments this year from the outstanding G-6 team.”

The G-6 office operates and sustains more than 3,000 workstations and almost 300 servers.

AMRDEC cites internal communication teamwork

By MERV BROKKE

AMRDEC Public Affairs

We do it every day, we do it verbally and nonverbally, we do it after great thought and oftentimes without thinking, and, according to Field Manual 6-22, Army Leadership, "Leaders cannot lead, supervise, build teams, counsel, coach, or mentor without the ability to communicate clearly."

So, with that in mind, Eric Edwards, director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, stood up the AMRDEC Internal Communication Team and charted its members to seek out new, better and different ways to communicate; to canvas the work force for their complaints and suggestions; and to then make recommendations to AMRDEC board of directors as to how they could improve communication throughout the center.

Tisha Guidry, program integration specialist, was nominated by her director to serve on the ICT and soon found herself as the team lead.

"It was exciting to lead a project that could directly impact the decision-making of AMRDEC leadership," Guidry said.

In all, there were 14 members on the AMRDEC ICT, with representation from all the AMRDEC directorates from California, Alabama and Virginia and they were given two months to accomplish their mission.

Ryan Keith, support contractor to AMRDEC Strategic Plans and Communication Division, was impressed with how his fellow ICT teammates attacked their mission.

"The team did an amazing amount of research for such a short time," Keith said. "Data was collected through surveys, interviews, observation and case studies. While recommendations tended to focus on the low hanging fruit, the team laid the foundation for future improvements."

In February, Guidry briefed the AMRDEC board of directors on her team's findings and recommendations.

"The BOD was appreciative of the effort our team put forth," she said. "They respected our findings and constructive criticism. We have already seen changes taking place and many of the team mem-



Courtesy photo

Eric Edwards, director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, recognizes Tisha Guidry, program integration specialist, for her leadership of the AMRDEC's Internal Communication Team.

bers look forward to the possibility of working on future communication projects."

Edwards has recognized each member of the AMRDEC ICT and thanked them for their support of the AMRDEC

leadership and their contribution to improving communication for the work force.

Members of the AMRDEC ICT included Jill Rich, Aviation Applied Technology Directorate; John Braswell, System Simulation and Development Directorate; Susan Flaherty, Aeroflight-dynamics Directorate, Moffett Field, Calif.; Tisha Guidry, Advanced Science and Technology Directorate; Brennon Meals, Software Engineering Directorate; Amanda Parkinson, Aviation Engineering Directorate; John Pace, Aviation Engineering Directorate; Gala Hory, Technical Management Directorate; Valarie James, Technical Management Directorate; Amanda Compton, Weapons Development and Integration Directorate; Mike Wilson, Weapons Development and Integration

Directorate; Ben Martin, Engineering Directorate; Martin Heimbeck, Weapons Sciences Directorate; Gabrielle Kelly, Center Support Directorate; and Ryan Keith, Center Support Directorate.

Missiles

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If the Army fails to modernize its missile systems, the U.S. will risk having an adversary who is undeterred, losing the faith of U.S. allies, losing confidence in our own military capabilities, losing the national will to protect our values and losing the next war, he said.

In its military strategy, the U.S., through the Office of the Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, needs to support forces engaged in overseas contingency operations, achieve affordable programs, develop better buying power, retain a strong industrial base, strengthen the acquisition work force and protect the future, he added.

And the U.S. needs to look at past victories to find the way to its future military and peacetime dominance.

"The Gulf War has already demonstrated that accurate, guided weapons are the basic firepower of high-tech warfare," O'Neill said.

New missile systems must offer advanced capabilities at affordable costs, and they must be part of an overall strategy to defend the U.S. and its allies.

"We are the only country on earth that can stop the growth of a significant im-

perial power," O'Neill said.

In the end, the U.S. might rest on the shoulders of its Army and the missile systems its war fighters depend on.

"An airplane is not going to win a war. A ship is not going to win a war. The Marines are great, but they are small. It will take an Army to win the war," O'Neill said.

Among the conference's other speakers, Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, said that advances in field level maintenance have made a big difference in overall readiness rates. In 2002, the readiness rate for missile systems was 78 percent. That readiness rate increased to 93 percent in 2011, surpassing the Army standard of 90 percent.

AMCOM is searching for efficiencies with its partnerships and through its processes.

"We believe the way ahead is about partnerships with industry," Rogers said. "The more we partner for the future the more we strengthen our industrial base and keep our technical capabilities."

AMCOM now has 17 working areas where improvements are being made to increase efficiencies. In the past five years, \$14.9 million has been saved on Hellfire missile systems just by eliminating unnecessary guidance system replacements, he said.

In missile development news, Col. Tony

Brown, project manager for THAAD at the Missile Defense Agency, said the Department of Defense has identified THAAD as the first major MDA program to transfer to the Army.

"THAAD is going through a huge transformation from a largely test, development and engineering office team to a full life cycle program office," Brown said. "AMCOM has helped with that because when a system is going out in the field you need all the logistical help you can get."

On Feb. 9, AMCOM commander Rogers approved conditional materiel release of THAAD and less than 30 days later there were Army orders to deploy a THAAD battery. That indicates the importance of the system to the war fighter, Brown said, adding that there will eventually be six THAAD batteries.

Brig. Gen. Ole Knudson, the program executive officer for missiles and space, said the Army's missile systems are proving themselves valuable every day on the battlefield.

"There's a lot of missile activity in supporting the war fighter," he said. "I don't think there's a question about relevance. But there is a question about money."

The program executive office's budget in 2009 for developing and acquiring missile systems was \$4.4 billion. Today, that budget is \$3.3 billion. While foreign military sales of about \$10 billion to 36



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Lt. Col. Tom Huff of the Joint Attack Munitions Systems Project Office talks with Marine Lt. Col. Sean Hayes about the operations of the Hellfire II AGM-114R guided missile during the 14th annual AUSA Missiles Conference.

countries this year keeps missile manufacturing "hot," there is concern that as budgets decline so will industry's capabilities in the area of missile development and production.

Funding needs to be available, Knudson said, to implement the Army's integrated missile defense strategy, maintain a viable missile industrial base, maintain missile system developmental expertise, continue better buying power and cost savings efficiencies, and generate foreign military sales volume.

"The number one challenge is funding uncertainty," he said.

SMDC worker helps nation prepare for emergencies

By JASON CUTSHAW

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

One Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command team member is using technology developed by the command to help direct emergency responders during natural disasters.

Justin Novak, of the SMDC/ARSTRAT Future Warfare Center Innovative Ventures Office, traveled across the nation from January through April to help different geographical locations prepare for emergencies using the Eagle Vision/ROVER Responsive Exploitation of Space Products for Tactical Use system.

"We traveled to all the Eagle Vision ground stations from here at Redstone Arsenal, to ones near San Diego, Hawaii, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., and Germany to help get them up and running,"

Novak said. "Eagle Vision provides commercial satellite imagery tasking and downlink capability to war fighters and first responders. The Eagle Vision system was developed out of an Air Force program and they looked at different sensor programs and integrated them all together.

"At the sites, a lot of the people had misconceptions about the system. They all speculated on what EVER2ST could do and what it couldn't do. For the most



Photo by Drew Ballance, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Justin Novak, of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Future Warfare Center Innovative Ventures Office, works on the Air Force's Eagle Vision direct down-linked commercial satellite imagery displayed on the National Guard Bureau's Geospatial Information, Integration, Exploitation Portable in 2011.

part, after they saw what it could do, they were pleased and very happy their data could get out there to more users than they previously thought possible. They were overall excited to have a new capability in their quiver."

EVR2EST allows the rapid distribution of space-based imagery and radar products generated by Eagle Vision program deployable satellite ground stations. In conjunction with these systems, satellite imagery and radar products can be generated in mere hours after the sa-

tellite has collected the information allowing for timely and accurate operational support to troops in the field.

"Eagle Vision is a deployable commercial imagery ground station that can downlink imagery directly from a satellite," Novak said. "They do all of the imagery processing right there at the station. They have all of the hardware to take the images from the binary format and convert it into a usable product.

"They also have the commercial geoprocessing software that takes it from the raw product and makes it into something usable they can send out to emergency responders," he added.

For civilian emergency personnel and first responders, EVR2EST is used to process, web-optimize and share information with federal, state and local emergency managers, as well as using the newly available imagery to refine damage paths. EVR2EST is used to disseminate Eagle Vision commercial satellite imagery to remote locations in a timely, bandwidth-efficient manner.

"It's rare that an engineer can work on a program from concept to reality," Novak said. "I am proud of the fact that I came up with the idea and I actually took it from a pie-in-the-sky idea, to building and demonstrating a prototype, then finding funding to build a system, then getting it fielded and hopefully have the longevity throughout the years. The system

has also been submitted as a patent."

In the disaster relief and humanitarian assistance roles, EVR2EST supports civil authorities by rapidly providing critical space-based information to emergency personnel. Information is critical to disaster mitigation planning, search and rescue, and recovery. This allows for timely access to state and federal aid as well as clearer communications of need through better information gathered from space-based products.

With EVR2EST, SMDC has helped make space-based imagery and radar products available to Warfighters and first responders at the tactical level. The requirement for larger bandwidth networks has always been a concern and EVR2EST addresses this operational need, not by purchasing more costly bandwidth but, by optimizing the information on those networks and reducing the time and size requirements while maintaining the precision and fidelity of the information. This leads to enhanced situational awareness through timely, accurate and network-friendly information.

"As a fireman myself, I have a little different perspective than most people," Novak said. "It definitely helps out having that imagery and having that oversight for planners and emergency managers throughout the nation. To have that near-real-time information and then having the updates come in can be the difference between life and death."

Leader development program lifts all levels

AMCOM G-1 hosts and delivers classes providing leader development for various levels of Team Redstone employees.

The Leader Investment for Tomorrow program was started in 2005 to build Team Redstone's leadership bench. There are three levels of LIFT programs: UpLIFT is for employees up through GS-11; LIFT targets GS-12/13s; and Advanced LIFT classes have participants in grades GS-14/15 or equivalent. Students meet once a month for eight hours over the course of nine months from March through November.

In early April, AMCOM's Advanced Leader Investment for Tomorrow class received a welcomed visit from their class sponsor, Mario Coronel, AMC deputy, G-3/5 Strategy and Concepts (G-5), who is himself an Advanced LIFT graduate. A LIFT program sponsor serves as a class mentor, a visible leader with whom the students can talk freely to and ask questions of.

"Leadership by Example" was the theme of Coronel's thoughts and experiences that he shared with class participants. First he described his personal journey through his 26-year active-duty Army career from which he retired as a colonel and his two years (so far) as a civilian. Then Coronel engaged everyone in an interactive, energetic discussion of leadership examples.

Some student takeaways were, "Very enlightening, informative; thought involving. He gets the whole leadership thing."

Would you like to know a little more about this leader development program? The LIFT Program contact is Jamie Candelaria who also instructs the UpLIFT classes and may be reached at 876-5080 or jamie.candelarial@us.army.mil. LIFT class facilitator is Roger Kitchen, and Advanced LIFT is facilitated by Heidi Collier. All are members of the Aviation and Missile Command's G-1 staff. (AMCOM G-1 release)



Photo by Lt. Col. Jeffery G. Bouma

Afghan pilot milestone

Seven Afghan Air Force student pilots participate in a "dunk tank" tradition marking the accomplishment of their first solo flights on the MD 530 helicopter and Cessna-182 airplane. The pilots are part of the Rotary Wing Flight Training Program at Shindand Air Base in Afghanistan. Soldiers from Fort Bragg's U.S. Army Security Assistance Training Management Organization, a subordinate command of the Security Assistance Command, are on site conducting pilot instruction and logistics.

Scouting shapes Marine's life of achievement

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

From floor to ceiling, the walls of Nick Skoglund's Scouting room are covered with plaques, patches and medals, a testament to the success of his 57-year-plus career with the Boy Scouts of America. But Skoglund's biggest achievement can't be found anywhere within those four walls, but rather, in the hearts and minds of Boy Scouts young and old across the United States.

Dedicating his life to the Boy Scout Oath, Skoglund does his best to serve God and his country, as a trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent Scout. Through his membership in the organization, Scouting has not only shaped Skoglund's life, but in return, has allowed him to shape the lives of countless boys as well. His impact has been so great, that it's actually hard for him to go anywhere without getting stopped by someone who knows him as Mr. Skoglund, or Gray Beaver, his Scouting name.

"They were kids this high when I knew them and now they're grown and have kids of their own," Skoglund said. "I personally think it's an outstanding program. There are a lot of kids that need a lot of help, and some of them learn a lot of things that they don't really expect to learn."

Sometimes that learning has occurred in the most unexpected of places. When Skoglund was sent to Kwajalein in 1981 for work, he brought more with him than his expertise in electrical engineering and designing systems – he brought the Boy Scouts. When an old buddy discovered he was on the island, he informed Skoglund they needed to start a troop. Putting an article in the newspaper, they expected only three or four boys to show up to the first meeting, never anticipating that 37 boys would cite an interest in the troop that is still active today.

"I tried to make a program that every week we did something entirely different," Skoglund said. "I must have started something that was worthwhile."

Throughout Skoglund's four years on



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Nick Skoglund a.k.a. Gray Beaver, stands in his Scouting room at his Huntsville home, which holds various plaques, patches, medals and other memorabilia from his 57-year-plus career with the Boy Scouts.

Kwajalein the Scouts went on hikes, got their badge in fingerprinting, learned first aid, went swimming and did a lot of camp outs. Many are still in touch with Skoglund through email and Facebook, just a few of the thousands of Scouts he has made an impact on over the years.

"The biggest thing in Scouting is the challenge, and I like challenges personally," Skoglund said. "I hope they learn to live with and accept a challenge. To do the best you can with what you've got. I'm not rich and I'm not famous, but the fun part about it is what little bit I've got is a hobby and things I've learned and things I've done. I like to think I've set a good example for somebody."

Skoglund joined the organization as a Cub Scout when he was 10 in 1944, where he and his fellow troop members helped the war effort, collecting metal and on occasion assisting with traffic control.

"I thought Boy Scouts was a lot of fun," said Skoglund, who learned about knots, rope and braiding, as well as other talents he still uses today. "I grew up with it. The challenge, I think that was the major part of it, I'm into challenges."

It was also the love of a good challenge that led him to the military. While his father wanted him to go into the Navy to guarantee his son a warm bed and a hot meal, Skoglund wanted to go for what he thought was the best branch – the Marines. Making private first class

right out of boot camp, out of the 74 guys in his platoon only four weren't sent to the infantry, Skoglund being one of them. Taking advantage of his interest in electronics he was sent to a communications outfit, where he was a communications maintenance repairman. Making the rank of corporal, he served three years active duty with the Marines, five years Reserve, for a total of eight years of service.

Upon his return to the civilian world, he also returned to the Boy Scouts and got his degree in electrical engineering, which allowed him to go into designing systems and working with NASA on the Apollo program. With his wife Joan, he moved to Huntsville in 1977, where he began working with Troop 364 and joined the Order of the Arrow, Scouting's National Honor Society, which recognizes those that best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Today he typically spends from 20-25 hours on Scouting per month, primarily doing boards of review and courts of honor.

"It's a constant," Joan said. "This is

what he does and always has."

As the son of a career Coast Guardsman, Scouting allowed Skoglund to meet new friends easily as he transitioned into new communities across the country, just about everywhere between Miami and Los Angeles, but it was ultimately moving that prevented him from achieving the highest rank possible, that of Eagle Scout. While he completed the requirements, refurbishing a hiking trail in California for his service project, he was unable to complete the board of review due to an automobile accident that hospitalized his parents for nine months, and sent the young Skoglund to live with his grandparents in Illinois until he was 18, past the age of eligibility.

While he can't call himself an Eagle Scout, all the commendations, paired with the years and hours he has spent making a difference in the lives of young men has well made up for the one badge he is unable to add to his Scouting room.

"I think that's what's pushed him to stay in Scouting," said wife Joan.

"I think I've made up for it, to be honest with you," Nick added.

Organization takes steps toward better health

Workers participate in lunchtime walk

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

This wasn't your typical lunch break.

Some members of the Product Director for Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment walked a mile April 25 at Vincent Park. This was in conjunction with National Walk at Lunch Day.

"The most important thing about walking is consistency," logistics specialist Gregory Knight, the walk's organizer, said. "Walking 15 minutes a day five days a week can really do a lot about your health."

Knight suggested getting a pedometer and walking at least 10,000 steps a day.

About 25 people participated in the event on the walking trail and finished with refreshments and food.

"You always try to find opportunities for people to commit themselves to exercise," product director George Mitchell said. "Whenever I'm in town I try to get over to Pagano Gym to exercise."

"This event sort of provides focus to people that you actually can do some-



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Clockwise from left are PD TMDE workers Pennie Martin, Lisa Townsend (obscured from view), David Webb and Pat Curry.

thing (for exercise)," he added. "You've got to decide what's important – fitness or lack thereof."

PD TMDE has about 100 people, including its core and matrix. Most are in their 50s, according to Mitchell.

"Some things you've got to do to keep your health going," he said. "Otherwise you won't be coming to work."

Knight said this was the first of an annual event. Throughout May, PD TMDE will have a "Fit and Fine" competition in which teams will monitor the steps they walk each week. The number of steps walked will be compared at the end of the month and a winning team will be declared.

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AMC workers get environmental lessons

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**
AMC Public Affairs

From the parking lot to the sixth floor, the Army Materiel Command joined the rest of the nation in celebrating Earth Day on April 20 by increasing awareness one employee at a time.

The Environmental branch of AMC orchestrated stations on each floor of the building to discuss topics related to Earth Day.

In the lobby, information on household hazardous waste was discussed with examples and subject matter experts to encourage alternatives. Employees in the basement focused on clean, bio-based products.

Denean Summers, environmental protection specialist, offered tools for making one's home energy efficient on the second floor.

"I want to do the right thing (for the earth) but I want to save money, too," Summers said as she explained a Home Energy Projects guide.

The Home Energy Projects guide with easy to complex, step-by-step instructions to making your home energy efficient includes price comparisons between tack-



Courtesy photo

Jennifer Patterson, a general engineer, gives a briefing on air pollution. Using a simple experiment, she displayed the effects of automobile pollution.

ling the project on your own vs. hiring a contractor. The guide is available at: <http://www.southface.org/ez/media/homeenergy-projects.pdf>.

The third floor offered a booth on southeast flora and fauna and tree and shrub

identification, to include giving away baby trees.

On the fourth and fifth floors, respectively, subject matter experts discussed AMC's environmental initiatives and renewable energy.

AMCOM invests in training for supply chain managers

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

The tried and true Army adage "Train as we fight, fight as we train" doesn't just apply to war fighters.

A 13-member team at AMCOM is tasked with pulling together the training requirements identified by the 16 teams in the Supply Chain Management Enterprise. This collaboration should benefit the item managers in the Aviation and Missile Command.

"Right now, we have 44 training requirements from 10 of the Value Stream Mapping teams," Alma Morgan, leader of the Supply Chain Management Enterprise Training Team, said. "Plus, we have 10 supply chain management training courses scheduled and ready to go next month."

Among these, coding Ownership Purpose Codes on Purchase Requests, coding secondary items for de-militarization and repair buy coding will focus on the continuous improvement of business processes that is the key to standardizing and maintaining



the enterprise's Band of Excellence goal.

"The knowledge and understanding of policies, processes and tools in the Logistics Modernization Program will produce procedures for sustaining effective supply chain operations," Morgan said. "New training and guidance in all business areas across the chain will not only address current needs, but also implement process improvements."

The command has been using the Logistics Modernization Program since May 2009.

Other returns on the investment in training should include AMCOM's ability to meet mission goals by increasing system readiness, conserving limited resources and decreasing ownership costs.

The training team is using classroom, workshop, webcast and online methods. Efforts are also under way to use the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center's Visualization lab for the creation of online training modules, similar to the course work at the Defense Acquisition University. Morgan's training teammates

include Reba Adkins, Michele Andrews, John Haley, Theletha Diane Harris, Eddie Mays, Ben Otey, Darlene Pate, Tanya Purcell, James Ella Troupe, Terry Wheatley, Ben White, Keith Witherspoon and Cyndi Ysasi.

All members of the AMCOM workforce 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>.



Courtesy photo

Poster contest winner

Abigail Helser, 12, of Madison, won the American Society of Safety Engineers' 10th annual ASSE kids' "Safety-on-the-Job" poster contest. Abigail, a sixth-grader at Heritage Elementary, won for her poster titled "Safety Sam Wants You." This is the fifth time she has placed in this contest, out of thousands of entries from around the world. Her father, Chris Helser, is an explosive safety manager at the Redstone Test Center.

New contract ensures continued innovation

Prototype Integration Facility extends support to Soldiers in field

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

Business as usual – in terms of supplying innovative hardware solutions to address aviation and missile war fighter capabilities – is going on today at the Prototype Integration Facility thanks to a new five-year, \$4.6 billion contract signed April 23.

The contract signing between the Army and Redstone Defense Systems represents nearly five years of work to obtain high-level Department of Defense and Office of the Secretary of Defense endorsement for the mission of the Prototype Integration Facility, said Danny Featherston, program

manager for the Prototype Integration Facility, which is managed by the Engineering Directorate of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

“It’s been nearly a five-year process from the development and approval of the acquisition strategy to awarding the contract,” Featherston said.

So, it was a day of celebration April 23 when AMRDEC and Army Contracting Command-Redstone officials joined with officials from Redstone Defense Systems to sign the new PIF contract, a three-year base contract with two additional renewable years.

“A contract is executed within minutes by the simple stroke of a pen. However, it takes inordinate amounts of time and effort on the part of government personnel and contractor personnel to reach this very critical stage in the acquisition cycle,” said ACC-Redstone contracting officer Leslie Lancaster, who oversees the PIF contract.

“I was fortunate to have the honor of signing such an important contract and I consider this action one of the most important actions I have been associated with in my nearly 30-year career in contracting. I would have never been able to reach the point of signing this contract without the tireless dedication and professional endeavors of a very large cast of players. This contract award is a tribute to all of those individuals who worked tirelessly to reach this point and to whom I respectfully and endearingly refer to as my very closest friends.”

The team approach to the new contract is indicative of the team approach that has made the PIF successful in finding hardware solutions for its customers, said Cathy Dickens, ACC-Redstone executive director/principal assistant responsible for contracting.

“This shows it does take a team to really make things happen and that’s true for performance also,” she said.

AMRDEC’s PIF was established in 2002 to fulfill an Army need for rapid response hardware solutions to challenges faced by the war fighter in theater.

“We’ve achieved great success here at the PIF,” Feath-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Army Contracting Command-Redstone contracting officer Leslie Lancaster, left, and Darrell Harrison, general manager of Redstone Defense Systems, sign a \$4.6 billion contract that will continue the operation of the Prototype Integration Facility for five years. With them are Aviation and Missile Research and Engineering employees, including PIF program manager Danny Featherston standing at left, who worked to make the contract possible.

erston said. “We’ve been in operation for 10 years. We started out small and grew with demand.”

Today, the PIF provides solutions for hardware issues to all branches of the military and homeland security organizations. At any given time, the PIF is managing more than 200 projects involving hardware improvements, from developing new technology capabilities for helicopters to designing hand protection gear for operating machine guns in cold temperature environments.

“A lot of the requirements that come into us aren’t even forecasted,” Featherston said. “We address immediate needs that arise from new threats in the field, or new conditions and challenges experienced by the war fighter. We provide a solution in days or weeks or months, rather than years. We integrate new technology on existing systems or change technologies to meet new uses by the war fighter.”

The PIF has become a model for other AMRDEC operations throughout the U.S., which are part of the Army’s Research Development and Engineering Command. It is funded 100 percent by government customers, and works with more than 2,000 companies that participate as PIF team members as required to develop hardware solutions. The PIF includes about 120 government workers and 900 contractors located at the Arsenal headquarters facility as well as other facilities on the Arsenal, at the Jetplex and Madi-

son County Executive Airport and the contractor’s location.

“We do everything from large complex system level hardware development to engineering piece parts,” Featherston said. “Because of our wide range of capabilities and projects, we need to have access to a lot of subcontractors who can add their expertise to what we are doing.”

The new contract took effect immediately, although work started under the previous contract will continue for up to 18 months with the previous contractor, JVYS or Joint Venture Yulista/SESI. Redstone Defense Systems assumed contractor responsibility for all new projects that began on or after April 23. It is one of the most significant contracts signed in this fiscal year by the Army.

“This is a huge contract, not only in size but also in the impact it has on our war fighters and our nation,” Lancaster said.

While the PIF focuses primarily on developing hardware solutions for aviation and missile systems, its reputation has led to its involvement in work for other branches as well as the Department of Homeland Security and foreign military sales.

“We provide economical solutions and we are concentrated on rapid delivery of quality solutions,” Featherston said. “It’s all about effectiveness and efficiencies for the war fighter. As long as we continue to do that, we will build on our capabilities for the future.”



Photo by Ellen Hudson

April 23 was a day of “congratulations” as executives of AMRDEC’s Prototype Integration Facility and Army Contracting Command-Redstone finalized the details of a new five-year PIF contract. Standing outside the PIF are, from left, Cathy Ray, former director for AMRDEC contracting who was involved with contract development; Cathy Dickens, executive director of Army Contracting Command-Redstone; PIF program manager Danny Featherston; Patti Martin, director of AMRDEC’s Engineering Directorate; Scott Campbell, deputy director of ACC-Redstone; and Leslie Lancaster, ACC-Redstone contracting officer overseeing the new PIF contract.

PeopleProfile

Ministry 'sweet spot' leads chaplain to civilian service

Lieutenant colonel retires his military stole Sunday

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

When Redstone Arsenal chaplain Lt. Col. Marvin Luckie takes off his Army stole on Sunday in a symbolic ritual of retirement, he won't be leaving the ministry.

Rather, he will be replacing it with the stole of a United Methodist minister ready to serve a congregation outside of the Arsenal's gates.

After 26 years as an Army chaplain, Luckie will leave military service and take on new opportunities and challenges as the executive pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church, the largest Methodist church in Southeast Huntsville. He will preach for the last time as an Army chaplain in the pulpit at the 11 a.m. Protestant service Sunday at Bicentennial Chapel.

His new ministry is not quite what Luckie had envisioned, at least not at first. "I am a qualified hospital chaplain and I thought that's where God would lead me," he said.

"But being called into the ministry means being a follower and you need to follow where God opens the door. By God's grace, the Lord has changed my perspective. Ministry is fulfilling no matter what you do in your ministry, who you serve with or where you serve, and I thought I had some gifts and graces that I could implement at Trinity. I am excited about this new chapter of ministry where God is leading me."

The changing of the stole will take place just before Luckie's last sermon as an Army chaplain. His message will be based on the "I am the vine and you are the branches" message of John 15:1-8.

Three ministers will officiate at the stole ceremony - retired Chaplain (Col.) Tom Carter, who is Luckie's endorsing agent within the United Methodist church and who will remove his Army stole; Rev. Dale Cohen, district superintendent for the Northeast District of the North Alabama Conference, who will place Luckie's original ordination stole on his shoulders; and Dr. Rick Owen, the new senior pastor at Trinity UMC, who will welcome Luckie into his new role as a civilian pastor and lead a prayer for Luckie and his wife, Karen.

"It is really going to be a wonderful service and very symbolic," Luckie said.

Luckie's new role will bring together for him all the aspects of being a minister.

"Ministry is a calling and a lot of times

we divide that calling into what, who and where," he said. "Some leaders focus on what they do in ministry. Others focus on who they serve alongside. And others focus on where they are serving, such as a specific church or community. There is a danger with being affiliated with just one of these.

"As leaders, if we love what we do, who we serve with and where we are serving, then we are loving the Lord and loving where He leads us. Ministry is the most fulfilling when you are passionate about the what, who and where."

Not only will his new ministry provide opportunities to do God's work, it will also keep him and his wife, Karen, in Huntsville. Karen is the director of the Mills Road Child Development Center. They have two sons - Army airborne ranger Capt. John Luckie, who is stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., with his wife, an Air Force Reservist and personnel director for the Joint and Special Operations Command, and their two daughters; and Michael, who is a business management major at the University of Alabama-Huntsville and who will be married this August.

As the Garrison's chaplain the past three years, Luckie said he has been honored to serve with the staff and congregation of Bicentennial Chapel, and to serve as the chaplain at Arsenal ceremonies and events. Not all his Army assignments have been as comforting.

Luckie's career as an Army chaplain began in 1986 with the Alabama National Guard. Raised in Greenville, Ala., he is the grandson of a preacher and the great-grandson of a Soldier in the 44th Alabama Infantry during the Civil War. He served the United Methodist Church for seven years before becoming an active duty chaplain in 1988. Besides an Army career as a chaplain, Luckie also trained as a parachutist and air assault Soldier. He is one of only a few chaplain jump masters in the Army.

He has served as a chaplain in Desert Storm/Desert Shield in 1990-91, in Bosnia in 1995-96, and twice in Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan, first in 2002 with the 82nd Airborne Division and then in 2005-06 with the 12th Aviation Brigade, and at the Fourth Psychological Operations Group at Fort Bragg; Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and Darnell Army Medical Center at Fort Hood, Texas. At Darnell, Luckie was the chief of the Department of Ministry and Pastoral Care, leading efforts to serve the spiritual needs of 1,200 wounded warriors in the wounded warrior battalion.

"I have seen Soldiers sacrifice for their

country, their unit and their fellow Soldiers," Luckie said.

"I've had the honor and privilege as a chaplain to serve alongside Soldiers and to help them work through the tragedy that war brings and to turn it into triumph. It has been an opportunity to contribute my gifts, graces and talents. Working with Soldiers has given me a heart of gratitude, graciousness and thankfulness for the opportunity to worship and live in a land that gives us the freedom to pursue our personal faith."

Yet, memories from his days at war still haunt Luckie.

"As a chaplain, I provided the calm assurance in the midst of emotionally charged and clinical environments," he said. "Soldiers looked to me when it was time to honor the dead and comfort the living. It was not easy to go out to a helicopter crash site, and search for the dying and injured. I spent my days helping evacuate the wounded and honoring the dying. I cared for Soldiers in difficult times."

But in the midst of tragedy, Luckie has also gotten to witness "how the Lord has worked in the hearts and lives of Soldiers and their families."

He has been blessed by his work with the Arsenal's Gold Star wives and moms, who he has watched "take devastating trauma and tragedy, and slowly turn it into triumph as they return to school for a degree, bond with each other and encourage one another."

He has enjoyed working with leaders at Redstone and in the Huntsville/Madison County area, particularly during the challenging days after last year's April 27 tornado outbreak, and working with the Bicentennial Chapel's youth and men's ministries, and Protestant Women of the Chapel.

At Trinity, Luckie will use his training and experience as an Army staff officer to implement the vision and goals of the senior pastor, first with the staff and then with the congregation.

"The priorities will be for worship, smaller group discipleship and missions," he said. "The emphasis will be on quality worship where all can experience God's love and learn how to love each other and develop into disciples for Christ. We will encour-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie wears his Army stole as he holds the stole that once belonged to his grandfather, who was also a minister. Luckie will be leaving his ministry as an Army chaplain this Sunday and will begin his ministry as a civilian pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church in Huntsville in June.

age involvement in small groups, such as Sunday school classes, and focus on quality spiritual development and growth so that we can reach out to others in Huntsville and throughout the world in ministry."

Luckie will begin his ministry at Trinity on June 11, and will preach the first time as a civilian pastor at the church's contemporary service June 17. He will work with a staff of about 30 to implement spiritual programs for the church's members.

"I want to love the Lord and love the people," Luckie said.

"I've been in the ministry for a long time, and I've followed the call for the what, who and where. But I'm more than that. My calling goes deeper into who I am than the uniform I wear. Loving what you do, whom you serve with and where you serve is such an amazing ministry sweet spot. It's where I hope to stay."

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Army recognizes unmanned aircraft systems civilian

By SOFIA BLEDSOE

PEO Aviation Public Affairs

WASHINGTON – The deputy for common systems integration in the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office was recognized as one of the top six Army civilians for exceptional civilian service at the 2012 Secretary of the Army Awards Ceremony April 24.

Ed Gozdur is the only Army civilian recognized from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and Redstone Arsenal.

“Today the Army is driven by innovation and by our strategic environment,” said undersecretary of the Army Dr. Joseph Westphal, who presented the awards and represented secretary of the Army John McHugh. “Our Army leads in innovation because of the people we honor today. They are instruments of transformation, pioneering and fundamentally changing the way the Army does business. They have pushed the envelope and gone far beyond what is expected or what we could hope for. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to be standing here today.”

Twenty-two people representing various categories such as diversity and leadership, small and disadvantaged business utilization, editing and publications, exceptional civilian service and “suggester of the year” were recognized at the ceremony. Gozdur is lauded for his “unrivaled” technical abilities and program management skills that have ensured the most innovative and cutting edge capabilities to the war fighter and have delivered them both efficiently and effectively. Most notably, he is credited for his innovation and pioneering efforts that launched the RQ-7B Shadow, the RQ-11B Raven Small UAS, and the One System Remote Video Terminal.

He began working on unmanned aircraft systems programs in 1994 and has been an integral part of the UAS program for 18 years.

“I fell into that (program), and I fell in love with it,” he said. There was a separation of only one year when he was on special assignment in the Aviation and Missile Command G-3. Even then he supported UAS by coordinating the building of the Shadow runway and ran the fly-off for the Extended Range Multi-Purpose UAS, which is now the MQ-1C Gray Eagle, the largest UAS in the Army fleet. “UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) from the beginning have always been in my blood and in my heart,” he said.

Gozdur ran the Shadow program, then



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

From left are undersecretary of the Army Dr. Joseph Westphal, honoree Ed Gozdur, assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and Reserve affairs Thomas Lamont and undersecretary of the Army for office of business transformation Lt. Gen. William Grisoli.

called the Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle program in the early 2000s. Before the TUAV, the Army did not have any UAV assets in the division, corps or brigade level since the Hunter, one of the first UAV programs, was canceled.

“There was a great need for a tactical UAV at the brigade level so that the Army would have eyes on targets. So we focused on the tactical UAV and worked with Fort Huachuca (Ariz.), our user at the time, to write the requirements,” Gozdur said.

He oversaw the first fly-off of the TUAV in which the Army brought four competitors to Fort Huachuca for the competition. “We spent three months there and chose the best of the best, and Shadow was that best value,” he said.

Since there were no UAS operators in the beginning, Gozdur and his team took Soldiers who had never trained on a UAV, and trained them for a year. They became the first UAS operators in the Army. The next step was to pass the Initial Operational Test and Evaluation in order to field Shadows at full rate production. “The first operational assessment was a disaster,” Gozdur said. They crashed numerous times during test, so the Army stopped the IOTE. “They made us go back to the drawing board to fix some problems,” Gozdur added.

After a year of training at Fort Hood, Texas, and a lot of perseverance to iron out the wrinkles in the program, Gozdur and his team took the Shadow back to IOTE. “We passed with flying colors,” he said. The 4th Infantry Division became the first unit trained and equipped with the Shadow system which was quickly deployed to the Gulf War.

Today, the Army has 102 Shadow systems (four UAVs in each system) and is

described as the “workhorse” in the Army’s UAS fleet. The Shadow has exceeded 700,000 combat hours in Iraq and Afghanistan since it was introduced to the Army fleet in 2001. One of the most advanced aspects of the Shadow is its ability to transmit live video feed to ground and aviation forces simultaneously, providing the brigade commander dedicated flexible, responsive, over-the-horizon near-real-time reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition, intelligence, battle damage assessment and force protection. This technology also allows rotary wing assets, such as the combat aviation brigades, to conduct covert operations by specifying a target prior to visual contact.

Gozdur was also the first deputy product manager for small UAS. The Raven was one of few small UASs flying at the time, and again, Gozdur and his team took this system through the acquisition milestones and successfully executed the IOTE. “We took it from ground zero right after selection and took it to fielding,” he said. The first 30 systems were fielded to the 1st CAV that took the Raven to Iraq for the first time in 2006. Today there are 1,705 Raven systems and they have flown almost 400,000 hours.

Skepticism for the value of UASs quickly turned to enthusiasm, with ground and air units calling for the need of more UASs in the field to provide not only the eyes for the ground Soldier but also to be the “hunting dog in front of the hunter” for aviation units. Today Army UAS are not just another product in the intelligence gathering tool, they have become “wingman” assets for Army aviators.

One of the most successful milestones in employing UASs in the fight was the development and integration of the One System Remote Video Terminal, which Gozdur also helped to pioneer. OSRVT is a device that allows Soldiers and commanders in the field to view the video from various platforms. One of the outcomes of OSRVT is the incorporation into the Army’s manned airplanes, which has enabled manned-unmanned teaming.

Today both AH-64 Apaches and OH-58 Kiowa Warriors have integrated the OSRVT into their systems.

“Now, the pilot can see the environment he or she may be flying into before he even takes off from the ground, before he gets into a hostile environment, before he gets into danger. He knows what is going to be there,” Gozdur said.

Gozdur and his team also developed interoperability standards across Army aviation by which the AH-64 Apache Block III for example, is now able to perform Level Four interoperability. Before the develop-

ment of these interoperability standards, manned-unmanned achieved level two interoperability which meant a pilot was able to receive video images and other sensor information from a UAS. Now, that Apache pilot is able to control the flight path and payloads such as the sensors on a UAS and has achieved interoperability four.

“That has allowed the pilot greater flexibility on his control of the UAS and its payloads. It can designate targets before he even comes in. So now you have a real manned-unmanned team. It has truly revolutionized the way the Army fights,” Gozdur said.

The Manned-Unmanned Systems Integration Capability exercise held at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, in September became one of the crowning achievements in proving interoperability across manned and unmanned platforms. MUSIC was the largest integration test ever conducted and showcased the sharing of products, reduction of training with the universal operator, and the cost effectiveness of reducing resources while simultaneously becoming more effective in the employment of Army weapon systems. All UAS platforms including the Hunter, Gray Eagle, Shadow, Raven and Puma participated. On the manned side, two Apaches and a Kiowa Warrior participated in the exercise.

“MUSIC was the next generation or iteration of UAV employment,” Gozdur said. “The next MUSIC will show how we can fight interoperable.” The UAS project office also plans to expand that into the joint community.

Gozdur feels his greatest achievement is having been part of the introduction of the unmanned aircraft systems into the Army. “That has to be the thing I’m most proud of,” he said. “I wish this was a team award, because it really is a team accomplishment. The team that I’ve worked with over the years and the UAV family has made this possible.”

Gozdur also credits not one mentor but all the PMs and colleagues with whom he has had an opportunity to work and serve with supporting the Soldier. They have various attributes that Gozdur admired. “But I’ve learned from all of them, and they have helped me be a better contributor to the Army, a better Soldier and a better civilian,” he said.

“I want my team to know that they have made a difference in the UAV community, in Army aviation. There were no UAVs 15 years ago. Then there were a bunch of folks who needed information, and we figured out how to get it. It’s a testament to the UAV community to go from nothing to where it is today in such a small time. And I’m glad I was part of it.”

Service runs in this ACS volunteer's family

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

beth.skarupa@theredstonerocket.com

Volunteerism is a family affair for Kim Anton and her husband, Dale.

A decision they made years ago led to Kim on April 18 receiving the Emma Baird Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service, a Department of the Army Award for exceptional volunteers in Army Community Service.

When Kim was dissatisfied with her job several years ago, she and Dale decided it was not worth the unhappiness or the hassle for her to keep working. They cut back on their spending and she quit. Ever since then, she has enjoyed serving as a volunteer instead.

Dale, who retired from the Army after 20 years of service, works as a technical writer supervisor for Yulista Management Services at the Prototype Integration Facility.

"I'm envious. Not because she doesn't have to be on the schedule I do, but because the greater accomplishment is doing this. Money isn't everything," he said.

"No it isn't," Kim agreed. "I enjoy coming here (to volunteer at ACS). I look forward to it and I wish I could do it every day, but I've got to give other people the opportunity to volunteer here, too."

Kim first began her volunteer service on the Arsenal with the American Red

Cross, volunteering at Fox Army Health Center in the physical therapy and optometry clinics. She also volunteered at Huntsville Hospital. Over time, she decided to look for more volunteer opportunities and came across information about volunteering for Army Community Service on a bulletin board at the Redstone Exchange. She decided to give it a try. Six years later, she's still enjoying volunteering for ACS.

"Everybody is so nice to work with and so easy to work with here. They're not afraid to ask me to help with anything, whether it's phone calls or making copies or getting volunteers. I love the atmosphere, the people, everything about it," she said.

Her enthusiasm and love for volunteering has resulted in more than 4,000 hours of helping the Army and Redstone community. Over the past six years she has served in various capacities: as a volunteer coordinator, deployment/mobilization assistant, and front desk receptionist. She also participated in many ACS volunteer events including Special Olympics and Operation Christmas Bear.

When the devastating tornadoes hit our area in April 2011, she volunteered to help with the cleanup efforts and removed trees and debris and separated victims' personal items. She also helped support various teams that arrived from different states to assist with the cleanup

efforts. She helped prepare meals, assisted with laundry and made the teams feel welcome and appreciated.

She originally volunteered every day at ACS, then cut back to three times a week. She currently volunteers at ACS two days a week so other people have a chance to give their time there. She now volunteers as a part-time secretary at Hope Church in Madison and enjoys going to a Bible study in the fall and bowling with her husband on a league. She also occasionally babysits her grandchildren.

The Antons have two sons: Scott and Kenny. Scott lives in south Huntsville and is in the Army Reserves. Kenny is on active duty in the Army. He recently returned from deployment in Japan and will leave for Qatar at the end of this month. He and his family live in Warner Robins, Ga. The Antons have two grandchildren, ages 3 and 12, one from each son.

"We have borrowed grandkids, too. We serve as adopted grandparents for several of our friends' children. Everyone should have a grandparent close by," Dale said.

Dale and Kim have a hobby that is not typical of most grandparents. They ride motorcycles. Kim said she was afraid of motorcycles for a long time until she saw a smaller motorcycle, or scooter, and mentioned to Dale that she might like riding one. Within a few days, they decided to buy two 250 CC Honda Reflexes. That was in August 2006. Now they have two 600 CC Silverwings. They plan to give those up soon for one bigger bike which they will ride together.

Kim and Dale are originally from Minnesota. They lived about seven miles apart from each other, met in high school, and ended up married in 1976 after Dale joined the Army. They spent their years in the Army going back and forth between being stationed in Germany and at Redstone Arsenal several times.

"In Germany I worked at the Army hospital as a nurse's assistant. I saw people come in after having motorcycle accidents and it scared me," Kim said. "But I decided life's too short to worry about everything. And I pray a lot. ... I really enjoy riding. It's just being out in the open, feeling the fresh air and being out in nature. It's very relaxing. We don't go for speed, we go for fun."

Riding motorcycles, like volunteerism, runs in the family. The Antons' sons both like riding too. Kenny has a motorcycle and Scott is contemplating getting one. Dale's aunt and brother and his brother's girlfriend will be meeting Dale and Kim in Hannibal, Mo., for a big trip



Photo by Beth Skarupa

Dale and Kim Anton are firm believers in volunteerism. Kim on April 18 received the Emma Baird Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

in August to ride their motorcycles and explore the area for a week.

Dale and Kim also have ridden their motorcycles as members of the Patriot Guard Riders of North Alabama to provide honor at the deployment and return of troops and providing escort and flag lines for fallen veterans of current and past service. They both see her volunteerism as an asset rather than a sacrifice.

"The first U.S. Army was a volunteer Army. For the most part our country was built on volunteerism. It's part of our country's DNA and part of what makes us a great country," Dale said. "I don't think unhappy people volunteer. Or maybe volunteering makes people happy."

Although Kim said she does not volunteer in hopes of receiving awards—she does it because she really enjoys it—she was honored to receive the Emma Baird Award this year. She has never regretted her decision to leave the work force because she likes helping others and being appreciated for doing it.

"I am thrilled that she was chosen for this award," Sue Paddock, ACS director, said. "It's a very high level award and not many ACS volunteers receive it. It's a big achievement for Kim and for the Redstone ACS. It has very stringent criteria. You have to work a certain number of hours and meet strict standards. We're lucky that throughout the years we have had three honorees from Redstone."

Paddock noted that ACS volunteers Lorraine Kraus and Sharon Samuelson are the only two other recipients of this award in previous years.

"Kim deserves this award for all her work with Soldiers and their families and all our ACS clients. It's a nice honor and a tribute to Kim as well as to the Redstone ACS," she said.

Post volunteers contribute thousands of hours in year

Redstone's volunteers contributed more than 30,000 hours to Team Redstone programs, area schools, shelters and various other projects in the community from April 2010 through April 2011, according to Army Community Service.

More than \$35,000 in fund-raising was provided for area schools' supplies, scholarships, shelters and other worthy causes.

Members of the volunteer corps were recognized during the 27th annual Team Redstone Installation Volunteer Luncheon on April 18 at The Summit. Redstone senior commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers and his wife, Reba, presented 24 certificates of recognition to Helping Hand honorees and the Emma Baird Award.

National Volunteer Week was April 15-21.

Courtesy photo

Helping Hand honoree Frank Thonus refurbishes a bench at the Links. He contributed more than 100 hours of volunteer service to the golf course during 2011.



Longtime laser expert to retire in June

His father was member of von Braun's team

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

beth.skarupa@theredstonerocket.com

As the son of one of Dr. Wernher von Braun's original team of rocket scientists, Bert Heusinger witnessed the growth of Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville while growing up himself.

Now, after 39 years of government service, he is ready to retire.

Heusinger was born in El Paso, Texas, but moved to Huntsville when he was 3 months old. His father, Bruno, was part of the Von Braun rocket team that came to the United States after developing the V-2 rocket for the German military during World War II. The team had worked on high altitude firings of the captured V-2 rockets at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, and a guided missile development unit at Fort Bliss, Texas. Then the team was transferred to the Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Redstone Arsenal in 1950.

"We moved to Redstone when Huntsville had a population of about 15,000. That's all it was. It was just a cotton town," Heusinger said.

He attended Blossomwood Elementary School, Huntsville Junior High School, and Huntsville High School. He remembers growing up with his parents as part of a tight-knit community of fellow German families that would socialize when they had the time to do it.

"It was very unusual, like having an island of Germany here because all the Germans had worked together over in Peenemünde, moved over here to Fort Bliss, White Sands and then to Redstone," he said.

Heusinger's father died in 1968 when he was only 18. Did he ever ask his father any questions about being part of Von Braun's rocket team?

"Actually, I wish I'd had more time to ask him questions like that. But you know, in your teenage years you're out running around on your motorcycle with the other guys. And during that period of time Marshall Space Flight Center was really active trying to get to the moon, so everybody was working long hours and me, being a typical teenager, I wasn't around a whole bunch either," he said.

At first, Heusinger thought he wanted to become a dentist. He attended the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa for a while, but ended up coming back home to attend the University of Alabama Huntsville. He then decided to major in electrical engineering. Looking back, he said he is sure that his father's work influenced his decision.

His first job was working as a cooperative education student at building 7290 for the Test and Evaluation Directorate which was then part of the Army Missile Command. Later, the T&E Directorate became part of the Army Test and Evaluation Command and then the T&E Directorate was later renamed Redstone Test Center.

Although the T&D Directorate's name changed, Heusinger's loyalty to it did not. He stayed with the same organization his entire career. He was a co-op for four school quarters, then moved to the Electro-Optics Test Branch in the T&E Directorate in 1974. He gradu-



Photo by Beth Skarupa

Bert Heusinger is retiring in June from the Redstone Test Center.

ated from UAH in 1975 and became the lead tester of the laser designators and rangefinders. He has been the laser designator focal point for over 35 years. He only recently transferred the lead tester position to Beth Mosher, an engineer at RTC, after 5 years of mentoring and training her.

He noted that his own unofficial mentor was Charlie Crocker, a GS-9 engineer at the time he started working in the Test and Evaluation Directorate.

"He was the one I tried to mimic or follow. He was very creative," he said. "I think I was just trying to emulate him, like a goal I was trying to pursue, and his knowledge of the instruments."

Through the years, Heusinger has been involved with a wide variety of programs and has made several significant contributions. One of his main contributions is the development and execution of the Automated Laser Instrumentation Measurement System.

"Charlie Crocker came up with the idea of the AL-IMS, but then he got involved with other programs. So I took the concept and turned it into a reality and have worked with it since. It goes way back to 1980, I think that's when it was validated and online," Heusinger said. "So that's probably my initial large investment and then I've been involved in so many different things."

He was involved with laboratory testing of missile seekers and weapon sensors including the Hellfire seeker, Stinger seeker, EuroMissile Milan missile tracker and thermal imager, the TOW missile tracker, and the Dragon missile.

He also was involved with field testing of the Stinger missile firings under the Reliability Assessment Firing Test program, as well as the Hellfire missile firings and Javelin missile firings. In addition, he was involved in initial field testing capabilities for dirty battlefield transmissometry measurements and infrared target thermal signature collection measurements.

Heusinger also served as an information systems security officer, which included maintaining networked PC patches and troubleshooting, and as the database point of contact for RTC's SACS database which houses surveillance test data collected for Hellfire, Stinger and Javelin missiles.

He said he especially enjoyed the traveling he has

been able to do as part of his job. His overseas travel includes Greece, Korea, Germany, Luxembourg, Sweden, Norway and England.

"It's with the Stinger project office that I can say I didn't have to join the Army to see the world, as the old recruiting saying used to go. I worked for the Army and got to see the world. Because with Stinger I got to go to Crete, Korea, Germany, and other countries," he said.

As a member of the International Test Operations Procedure, he visited England and became friends with one of his colleagues there. When that friend brought his wife to visit the U.S., his wife and Heusinger's wife Renee immediately became friends. Now the couples travel to see each other as often as possible. Large prints of Heusinger's photos from a vacation they took together touring San Francisco and the west coast hang on the walls of his home.

"I've enjoyed very much working with all aspects of the laser designators and imaging instrumentation, hence my liking for cameras and my own personal cameras," he said. "Photography is a hobby of mine. I just try to capture family events and whatever nature when we go traveling."

Heusinger's wife worked as a nurse at Huntsville Hospital for 20 years before retiring. Now she works as a volunteer for their daughter's dental practice. After retiring, Heusinger expects to be working there as a volunteer too.

The Heusingers have two daughters who both live in town: Heather Carlton is a speech therapist and Amy Peltier is a prosthodontist. Peltier recently opened her own practice in Huntsville called North Alabama Prosthodontics. She specializes in implants, dentures, partials, TMJ disorders, esthetics and dental reconstruction.

"One thing I'd like to do after I retire is for my wife and I to be able to travel. Numerous times we'll go to Arkansas to see her family, her brother and his wife, and travel to see friends, and then one of these days we'll move to the lake out in Arkansas," Heusinger said. "We've got two more years for my grandson to graduate and hopefully within those two years my daughter's practice will be jumpstarted and then we can move."

He already has one big trip planned after his retirement. He will be traveling to England and Germany with his only grandson, Evan, in June. He and his daughter Heather's son will be able to visit relatives and friends in Europe and experience the culture by staying in homes instead of hotels.

Heusinger still has family in Huntsville besides his wife and his daughters' families. His mother Brigitte lives in Huntsville, as well as his brother Ralph, who works for NASA, and his sister Vickie Rainey.

He observed that although some friends and co-workers seem somewhat envious that he is retiring, retirement comes with a price.

"There's a penalty for that. You age. So if you're 40 years old and you want to retire, you've got 20 or 25 years to go. So the cost is, be careful what you ask for. At least, the bottom line is, enjoy your life where you are in the moment," he said. "I'm really thankful for everything I've been exposed to, I'm very appreciative of it and it's all about not taking it for granted. ... I happen to be quite fortunate because I fell into a niche that quite suited me. I count my blessings because not many people have that."

Win or Lose

Renegades still running wild after all these years

Experienced team improves to 2-0

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

This longtime NASA softball team isn't quite ready for a nursing home or mothballs.

The Renegades, who have played 20 years in the league, improved to 2-0 this season by beating ESTS Jacobite Rising 22-5 on April 24 at the Army's Linton Field. They compete in Division C for coed beginner teams.

"We scored 13 runs in the third inning this week," Allison Young, Renegades assistant manager and occasional right fielder, said. "And we actually scored 13 runs in the fourth inning last week."

The Renegades beat the EVengers 21-14 in their opener April 16 at the NASA field.

Against Jacobite Rising (1-1), the Renegades were led on offense by left center Joel Anderson who had eight hits and scored four runs. Randy Reed, the shortstop, had a triple and scored three runs. Zeke Aguilera also scored three runs.

Renegades coach and pitcher Dan Mullane, among about five charter members of the team, struck out the side in

the third inning.

"He did such a good job in holding them back," Young said. She played right field in the first two innings.

Jacobite Rising, which beat the Misfits 16-11 in its opener April 16, represents Jacobs Engineering Sciences and Technical Services Group.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Joel Anderson reaches first base on a single during the Renegades' 13-run third inning. At right is Jacobite Rising's first baseman Jason Cronin.



Wounded warrior softball team coming to Redstone

By **KARA WALL**
For the Rocket

"Life without a limb is limitless." For the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, this is not just their slogan – it's their reality.

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton will host a meet-and-greet social with WWAST coach David Van Sleet, as well as shortstop Matt Kinsey and first baseman Josh Wege, on Thursday at 5 p.m. at The Summit. All members of Team Redstone are invited.

Kinsey, of the Army, and Wege, of the Marines, were wounded in combat dur-

ing Operation Enduring Freedom and are both amputees.

Members of the team will visit other venues in Huntsville on Thursday to publicize games they will play locally in June during Armed Forces Celebration Week.

The entire team will return June 15-16 to play three games against a Redstone Leadership team, a Community All-Star team and a City of Huntsville team at the Metro Kiwanis Sportsplex.

The WWAST represents some of our nation's bravest and most determined heroes whose mission is to raise awareness about the military's sacrifices and resiliency

to overcome any challenge.

The cost of the meet-and-greet social is \$10 per person. To RSVP, call Julia Story at 842-7954 or email julia.story@us.army.mil.

For more information about the WWAST, visit its website at www.woundedwarrioramputeesoftball-team.org.

WWAST website photo

Wounded warrior Josh Wege makes a putout at first base.



Coed soccer teams earn middle school titles

A member of the Corps of Engineers managed two youth soccer teams which won their divisions this year.

Raul Alonso, a project manager at the Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville, managed the teams from Holy Spirit Regional School which swept the middle school coed division. The Holy Spirit Tigers A (Blue) and B (White) teams won their respective coed divisions in the Middle School Soccer League.

Holy Spirit A, coached by Jim Bridges and Rich Gautreaux, finished with nine wins, no losses and two ties. Seventeen of the 18 players will attend Pope John Paul II High this fall.

Holy Spirit B, coached by Chris Long and Paolo Longo, beat Buckhorn Middle School 3-1 in the B Division championship March 15 at Bell Mountain Park. The team, of sixth-

and seventh-graders, finished with seven wins and four losses.

This was the first time Holy Spirit won the A Division and the first sweep by one school in both coed divisions since the league's formation. Players from both Huntsville Catholic schools Holy Family and Holy Spirit formed an alliance for the second consecutive year under Holy Spirit.

Middle School Soccer League, a non-profit organization, is not associated with Huntsville public schools or the Huntsville Independent School League. The league provides an opportunity for players to compete in the next level of soccer against public and private middle school students and fosters enthusiasm for soccer at the high school level. The program is open to sixth- through eighth-graders.



Holy Spirit Tigers A (Blue)



Holy Spirit Tigers B (White)

Reneau races to AER 5K victory

The RAM Engineering and System Assessment Division conducted a 5K Run and Fun Walk on April 19 to benefit Army Emergency Relief.

There were 164 participants; and the event raised \$1,870 for Army Emergency Relief.

Winners included the following:

Team – WDI

Male, overall – Jason Reneau (17:38). Age 18-29, Jackson Wilson (23:40). 30-39, Tim Pitt (18:38). 40-49, Mark Speer (21:30). 50-over, Gerard Tamez (18:46).

Female, overall – Shelley Sanders (22:48). 18-29, Stefanie Smith (25:34). 30-39, Toshi Dailey (29:49). 40-49, Evelyn Teats (26:28). 50-up, Susan Osterlund (30:10).



Jason Reneau

Rocket Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Bass tournament

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

Wounded Warrior project

The Wounded Warrior Project golf tournament and fund-raiser is May 25 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Links. The best-ball scramble has a shotgun start. Cost is \$300 for four-person teams or \$75 per person. To register call 527-4031.

Bowling league

The Summer Bowling League at Redstone Lanes will be a Thursday night mixed league with Peterson Point scoring system. All skill levels are welcome; and there will be three-person teams. Bowling starts May 10. An organizational meeting will be held Thursday at 6 p.m. Sign up at the lanes or call Ray Fuller 585-4814.

Alabama Hammers night

Alabama Hammers arena football "Military Appreciation Night" is June 2 at the Von Braun Center. See the Hammers play the Richmond Raiders at 7 p.m. All active military components are asked to wear their duty uniforms. Free tickets, provided by the Association of the U.S. Army, are available at the Community Activity Center for all military ID and CAC card holders. Tickets will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis; limited to four tickets per family.

Huntsville Stars night

Huntsville Stars baseball "Military Appreciation Night" is June 16 at Joe Davis Stadium. See the Stars play the Montgomery Biscuit at 6:45 p.m. All active military components are asked to wear their duty uniforms. Free tickets, provided by the Association of the U.S. Army, will be available May 9 at the Community Activity Center for all military ID and CAC card holders. Tickets will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis; limited to four tickets per family.

AMC golf tournament

A golf tournament will be held Friday at the Links in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Army Materiel Command. Registration is from 6:30-7:30 a.m., the AMC Rock Band performs 7:30-8:30 and the opening ceremony is 8-8:15. The shotgun start is 8:15. All proceeds benefit the Chaplains' disaster relief fund, Operation Helping Hands. For more information, email Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Timothy Sowers at timothy.sowers@us.army.mil.

Run to remember

A Redstone Arsenal chapter of Run to Remember is meeting every Saturday at 9 a.m. at

the Vincent Park walking trail. The group is walking and running a 5K (3.1 miles) together as a living memorial to fallen Soldiers. The Redstone chapter will participate together in the Cotton Row Run on Memorial Day and continue their activities with other area running events. Members are encouraged to wear royal blue T-shirts or the Run to Remember T-shirt that can be ordered from <http://www.wearblueruntoremember.org>.

Senior baseball

The local Huntsville/Decatur men's recreational baseball organization, the Southern Senior Baseball League, is looking for new players to participate in its upcoming season. The SSBL has two age divisions: Veteran's Division, with players from age 25 to early 40s, and Master's Division, with players from age mid-40s through 60s. Its weekly spring training practices are being held each Sunday afternoon at Butler High through late May (start times vary). The league plays a 20-game season from late May through August, normally with two games played per week (one weeknight and one Sunday afternoon or evening game). Games are played in the Huntsville/Decatur area. For more information, call Bill McArdle 876-9867 or email joinsbbl@comcast.net.

3-on-3 tournament

The Jack's Rick and Bubba 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament and Family Fun Zone is Saturday at the Madison Square Mall. "While it is a day of basketball, it is also a day where families can enjoy a day of fun activities in the Family Fun Zone," a prepared release said. "So whether you are looking to play basketball or looking for something fun to do with your family, this event is for you." The event includes \$2,000 cash prize, Win Jack's Meals for a Year, \$10,000 Hot Shot Contest and more. Register today at www.rickandbubba3on3.com.

County golf championship

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

Hobson memorial golf

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity 14th annual George H. Hobson Memorial Golf Tournament is May 26 at 7:30 a.m. at Colonial Golf Course, 400 Colonial Drive, Meridianville. Cost for this two-person scramble is \$80 per person. Proceeds benefit the Academy of Leaders Pursuing High Academic Standards. For more information or to register, call LeRoy Daniels 651-8518, Charlie Barnes 653-5797, Alvin Odoms 714-4354 or Bob Richardson 603-8555.

Hazel Green golf tourney

The Hazel Green High School Touchdown

Club will hold a golf tournament May 12 at 1:30 p.m. at the Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville. This four-man scramble will benefit the Hazel Green Trojans football program. Cost is \$80 per person, \$320 per team. Entry deadline is May 8. If paying with checks, make checks payable to HGHS TDC. For more information, call Beler Watts 509-2219.

Valor Flight benefit

The Valor Flight Golf Classic will raise money to fly local Korean War veterans to see their memorial in Washington, D.C. The golf tournament is June 1 with a shotgun start at 8 a.m. at RTJ Hampton Cove (Highlands Course). This is an 18-hole, four-person scramble. For more information, call Tony Thomas 466-2959 or email Valor1@Valor-Flight.com.

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.

Cyber security summit

The North Alabama Chapter of the Information Systems Security Association and Cyber Huntsville will hold the fourth annual Cyber Security Summit on June 7 at the Von Braun Center under the theme of "Next Generation Cyber: Developing Capabilities and Minimizing Vulnerabilities." With the expansion this year to the VBC, more than 500 attendees are anticipated to join in the separate Management and Technical Tracks and hear industry recognized speakers, as well as see exhibits from major security vendors. For more information, email sponsors2012@northalabama.issa.org or visit www.cyber-security-summit.org.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at The Summit. Breakfast is available at the club. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active,

retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. "Let's try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area." For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 955-0727.

Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comp-trollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter, will hold its annual chapter picnic May 10 at 11 a.m. at the NASA Picnic Area. Plans include introduction of 2012-13 board members, bingo and a cake walk. For ticket information, call Audrea Edwards 313-2382 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

Toastmaster clubs

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

Parkinson's support

The Parkinson's Disease Support Group for patients, family members and caregivers, will meet Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at Willowbrook Baptist Church, 1625 Bailey Cove Road, Youth Building (enter from back parking lot). Judy Castrichini, licensed founder/co-owner of Orthopedic Massage Associates Inc., will demonstrate various massage techniques to alleviate many Parkinson's problems. For information call 837-6577.

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.

AMCOM town hall

The AMCOM Town Hall is May 10 from 1-2 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. AMCOM commander Maj. Jim Rogers will provide an update on the AMCOM transformation efforts.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet May 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. The speaker Dr. Kenneth Noe, alumni professor and Draughton professor of Southern history at Auburn University, will discuss "Reluctant Rebels: The Confederates Who Joined the Army after

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1861." Optional chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$8.95. Visitors are welcome. For information call 539-5287.

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.

Holocaust remembrance

Team Redstone's "Holocaust Days of Remembrance Commemoration Program" is Thursday at 10 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. The theme is "Choosing to Act: Stories of Rescue." The guest speaker is Alex Grobman, a historian from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Space society

Huntsville Ala. L5 Society (HAL5) will have a free program on "Solar Effects on Space and Terrestrial Systems" with Dr. Qiang Hu, University of Alabama-Huntsville. This public event is Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Huntsville-Madison County Main Public Library. For more information, visit the website www.HAL5.org.

Small business council

The NDIA-TVC Small Business Council will have a continental breakfast May 16 from 7:30-9 a.m. at ManTech International, 655 Discovery Drive. The speaker is AMCOM deputy commander Ronnie Chronister. This is free; however, seating is limited to the first 200 registrants. To register visit www.ndiatvc.eventbrite.com.

Unmanned aircraft systems

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

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

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

Senior volunteers

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

NASA surplus

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

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.

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.

Re-entry information

Just back from an overseas assignment and new to the Redstone Arsenal community? Feeling like a stranger in your own homeland?

Contact the Relocation Readiness Program, Army Community Service, for a re-entry briefing to learn about community programs and services. All newly assigned/attached military personnel, appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian personnel, contractors and spouses, as well as retirees are welcome to call Mary Breedon, relocation readiness program manager, 876-5397 or email mary.breedon@conus.army.mil.

Lending closet

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

Big giveaway

The Gethsemane House of Prayer of Meridianville will hold a Big Giveaway event for needy families on May 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Crossroads Plaza, 11065 Highway 231/431 in Meridianville. The church is gathering donated clothing, appliances and household goods to give to these families. Donations of items will be accepted. For more information, call 450-7082 or Pastor Mack or First Lady Carlotta Maneice 693-5093.

Parenting classes

"Parenting 101," free classes presented by the National Children's Advocacy Center, will be held on the second Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. upstairs in the ChildWise Building, 1413 Nike St. Topics include Just for Dads (fathers only), May 8; Keeping Your Kids Safe, June 12; and Positive Discipline, July 10. Space is limited; child care is provided with reservations. To preregister call Army Community Service 876-5397. This is sponsored by the New Parent Support Program, for birth through age 3.

Parent workshop

"Assistive Technology," a parent workshop sponsored by the Huntsville City Schools Special Education Department, will be held May 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Annie C. Merts Center, executive dining room. For more information, call Linda Rass 428-6872 or email lrass@hsv.k12.al.us.

Computer classes

Free self-paced computer classes are offered at Army Community Service from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Classes are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access. **See Announcements on page 36**



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QuickBooks and SharePoint. Each class has about three levels and will take about three hours to complete each, but you can work at your own pace. Certificates of completion are issued after you successfully complete each course. Call 876-5397 to pre-register.

Federal contractors

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs will hold a free event for federal contractors in Huntsville on May 10 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. David White, Montgomery's employment services program services manager, will present this seminar. Space is limited. For more information, call OFCCP compliance officer John Ambrose (205) 731-0820 or email ambrose.john@dol.gov.

Alliance fund-raiser

The Alliance for Opportunity and Development is a new 501(c)(3) non-profit in the Huntsville area. AOD is raising scholarship funds to send low-income adults to J.F. Drake State Technical College to obtain technical training that will lift them out of poverty. AOD's reception and fund-raiser is May 18 from 7-9 p.m. at Cooper House of Central Presbyterian Church, 405 Randolph Ave. southeast. There will be refreshments, presentations and a silent auction. Attendance is free. RSVP to staff@aod-alabama.org. For more information about AOD, visit www.aod-alabama.org.

Flying open house

Do you want to learn how to fly? The free FMWR Flying Activity Open House is Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Flying Activity. Adults can take an introductory ride for \$30 each, and children 12 and under can fly for \$25. Certified flight instructors will be on hand to answer questions on becoming a pilot. There will be free food and drinks while supplies last. The Flying Activity is located off Rideout Road south after entering Gate 9. Turn right at Hale Road and follow it to the Flying Activity. For more information, call 880-9495.

Brewfest

The fourth annual Brewfest is May 11-12 at the Historic Depot Roundhouse, 320 Church St. There will be hundreds of craft beers, fine local foods and live entertainment. This event is presented by Free the Hops. Visit www.rocketcitybrewfest.com.

Fellowship graduation

The Senior Service College Fellowship graduation and reception is May 23 at 1:45 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. The keynote speaker is Lt. Gen. Bill Phillips, principal military deputy to the ASA (ALT). Formal invitations will be sent in April; dress is business formal. RSVP to Ann.Lee@dau.mil.

Volunteers wanted

The Redstone/Huntsville Chapter of American Society of Comptrollers' Community Projects Committee plans to support the EarlyWorks Museum again this year by providing

volunteers to help with the 2012 Whistle Stop Barbecue Festival which is scheduled Friday and Saturday at the Historical Depot downtown at Church and Monroe streets. Volunteers are needed to help in the Coke or beer stations, entrance gates, volunteer check-in and volunteer hospitality (assist with snacks). The shifts are three hours, starting at 3:30 p.m. Friday or starting 9:30 a.m. Saturday. If interested in volunteering, call Eura Reaves 842-7093 or email eura.reaves@us.army.mil.

Community youth event

The second annual Community Awareness For Youth event is Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jaycees Building and Fairgrounds, 2180 Airport Road. Its goal is to inform youth in Huntsville, Madison and Madison County about various career opportunities and four "Pillars of Success," which include health, physical fitness, careers and education. There will be free food and entertainment, with inflatables for the youngsters. The first 1,000 kids will receive a free backpack with school supplies. For more information, call Dr. Harry Hobbs 425-5307.

Exchange holiday hours

The Redstone Exchange will have the following schedule for Memorial Day, Monday, May 28: Main Store open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Concessions: Alteration Shop, closed; Barber Shop, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Barber Shop at VBC, closed; Flower Shop, closed; GNC, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Laundry, closed; Nail Shop, closed; Firestone, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Express, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Optical Store, closed; optometrist Dr. Van Hartman, closed; Beauty Shop, closed. ... Food Court: Anthony's Pizza/Sub, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Charley's, closed; Cinnabon, closed; American Eatery, closed; Burger King, closed; Café (Fox), closed; and HR, closed.

Garden tour

The Hidden Gardens of Old Town Tour is June 3 from 1-5 p.m. in Huntsville. The rain date is June 10. Tickets are \$10 and will be available the day of the tour on Walker Avenue, Holmes Avenue, Clinton Avenue, White Street and Steel Street. Advance tickets may be purchased at In Bloom, Harrison Brothers Hardware, and Brooks and Collier. There will be free parking at Holmes Street Methodist Church. This garden tour is a walking friendly tour. Water, lemonade and snacks will be available. The Hidden Gardens of Old Town Tour is sponsored by the Old Town Historic District Association. For more information, call 534-7083.

Auction benefit

The Grace Lutheran School charitable auction is Saturday from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20. For reservations call 881-0553.

Engineer scholarships

The Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers, is accepting applications for its \$1,500 (two), \$2,000, \$3,000, \$4,000 and \$5,000 scholarships for school year 2012-13.

The two \$1,500 scholarships are designated for a UAH student and an Alabama A&M University student. For more information, visit the Huntsville Post SAME website at www.samehsypost.org, call the scholarship chairman at 450-5332 or email cajoynerjr@aol.com.

Commissary case lot sale

Commissary shoppers can get "bargains by the case" on Thursday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be savings up to 50 percent on popular items. Visit the webpage at www.commissaries.com under the "locations" link.

Fox health center

Fox Army Health Center has 1,329 open enrollment slots for Tricare Prime. Priority will be given to active duty and active duty family members, but retiree and retiree family members are welcome as well. Any beneficiaries over age 65 will be considered on a case by case basis. Become a member of the Fox family. For more information, call 1-800-444-5445.

Space Camp for special kids

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

Yard sale benefit

The Spay/Neuter Clinic Yard Sale is May 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 701 Andrew Jackson Way. Sponsors include A New Leash on Life, Greater Huntsville Humane Society and the Spay/Neuter Action Project. To donate items for the sale, call 534-4566.

Exchange sidewalk sale

The Redstone Exchange will have a Family Fun & Fitness Festival Sidewalk Sale from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. Authorized shoppers can join in the "fun" by visiting the Exchange entrance to the store and entering to win a bike to get "fit" with a variety of specials on outdoor toys for kids, hanging plants and assorted furniture. "We anticipate a terrific turnout and an even better time at this year's festival," Exchange general manager Lorraine Arbo said. "We just want to ensure a great couple of days for the community to come together to shop, dine and just have some fun."

Union cookout

AFGE Local 1858 will sponsor a Lunch and Learn cookout Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in building 3202 on Mauler Road. They will be serving barbecue chicken, hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad and sodas. "So come out and learn about your rights, what AFGE is doing in Washington, and get all of your questions answered while eating a free delicious meal," a prepared release said.

Workshop papers

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

Embry-Riddle classes

Embry-Riddle's Huntsville Campus says classes are forming now for its summer term, which starts May 28. It offers nine week on-site evening, online and video-conferencing classes to accommodate working professionals. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University offers undergraduate degrees in Aviation Business Administration, Aviation Maintenance, Professional Aeronautics and Technical Management; master's in Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Project Management, Leadership, Management, Aeronautical Science and Systems Engineering. For more information, call the Embry-Riddle Huntsville Campus 876-9763, email Huntsville@erau.edu or visit www.embryriddle.edu/huntsville.

Quarterly retirement ceremony

The next Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is June 19 at 4 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6 months are encouraged to participate in one of the quarterly retirement ceremonies. To make arrangements for participation, call Sgt. 1st Class Michael Tilley or Spc. John Hill 842-3032 by June 1.

A&M logistics registration

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

Animal adopt-a-thon

Huntsville Animal Services' "Adopt-a-Thon" is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Huntsville Animal Services, 4950 Triana Boulevard (south of Airport/Johnson roads). There will be moon bounce, door prizes, free food and drinks. For information call 883-3782.

Thrift shop

You can find that perfect beach outfit at the Thrift Shop. 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 to 2. Drop by this Saturday for you summer items. The shop's located in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Consignments are taken 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. Donations are always welcome and tax deductible. Remember, if you have access to the Arsenal, you can shop at the Thrift Shop.