

Redstone Rocket

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Contracting command 'indescribable honor'

ACC welcomes first commanding general

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols has come a long way since enlisting in the Army in 1975 in her hometown of Niagara Falls, N.Y.

On Thursday she reached the pinnacle of her career by becoming the first commanding general in the four-year history of the Army Contracting Command.

"It's hard to describe," Nichols said after her assumption of command ceremony on the Activity Field. "It's really such an honor, something totally unexpected. It's very emotional in some ways because of where I started in the Army to reach this level and assume this responsibility."

She succeeded Dr. Carol Lowman, who became ACC's second executive director in September 2011. Lowman, who previously served as deputy director, is now the command's deputy commander.

In 2007 the secretary of the Army formed an independent commission on Army Acquisition and Program Management in Expeditionary Operations, also known as the Gansler Commission, to review recent lessons learned and recom-

mend improvements to future military operations. In compliance with these recommendations, on Oct. 1, 2008, the Army recognized the formal establishment of the Army Contracting Command as a major subordinate command of the Army Materiel Command.

"I'm an Army civilian," Lowman said. "I'm very proud and honored to have led the Army Contracting Command."

Nichols, who was commissioned as an engineer officer upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1981, said becoming ACC's commander is an "indescribable honor."

Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody officiated at the ceremony. During the ceremonial passing of the colors, the organizational flag was handed from ACC's Command Sgt. Maj. John Murray to Lowman to Dunwoody to Nichols and back to Murray.

"Today we get to thank Dr. Lowman for the incredible job she's done leading the command this past year," Dunwoody said.

She said Lowman is "one of our AMC superstars" and Nichols is "a trailblazer in her own right."

An international business enterprise, the Army Contracting Command awarded more than 198,000 contracts in fiscal 2011 valued at more than \$86.9 billion, which is equal to 68 percent of the Army's contract dollars and 16 percent of the total dollars

spent on contracts by the entire federal government. ACC accomplishes this with more than 6,300 military and civilian employees at more than 115 locations worldwide.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

From left are Army Contracting Command deputy commander Dr. Carol Lowman, Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody and ACC commander Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols.



AROUND TOWN

Events celebrate Memorial Day.

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Wounded warrior keeps on serving.

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Expendables rally against RTC team.

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RocketViews

What does Memorial Day mean to you?

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
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Dan O'Boyle
 AMCOM/Garrison
 Public Affairs Office
 "A time to pause and reflect on the contributions of all those who have gone before us and upon whose shoulders

we stand and honor the legacy that they have contributed to all of us personally, professionally and as good citizens trying to do good things in the universe."



Maj. James Locklear
 Army Special Operations Command,
 Fort Bragg, N.C.

"It's just a day to reflect on the sacrifices that not only the current Soldiers make that are presently in the military but in the past for some the ultimate sacrifices they have made. And for me it's just a time for reflection."



Sandy Merritt
 Army Contracting Command G-1 (Personnel)

"It means military, to honor the military for their service. It's kind of like looking back at what they've done for our country to keep us safe."



Barbara Sadler
 ACC Quality Assurance Directorate
 "It's a day to remember and give thanks to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom."

Letters to the editor

Professor remembered for leadership qualities

His passion was teaching but not by typical lecturing or preaching.

In class he set a tone with lots of humor as if with family at home.

Forget the books; though we'll occasionally reference for a score.

Rather let's talk about what you think makes a leader and more.

He asked more questions when discussing leader theories and traits.

"What makes a good leader to you and in your organization so great?"

His approach was personal in connecting to our personality types.

"I'm an ENTJ," he'd say. Understand this and you're on your way.

He'd emphasis teambuilding in teaching to follow even when we lead.

Recognize, use and reward the strengths of others and you will succeed.

Each VSM built on the leader attributes of the Army's BE-KNOW-DO.

Live by the core values through your actions and others will follow you.

Every exercise and discussion promoted development of a leader skill.

"Use your critical thinking for good decision making," he would instill.

He drew from real life situations in teaching the dangers of paradigms.

"Be aware of this phenomenon in order to influence change over time."

His philosophy emphasized flexibility in leading and managing change.

Focus on the process but especially the people which you must engage.

Remember effective leaders include sensitivity to others' points of view.

This will gain their trust, loyalty and promote their confidence in you.

In a class all his own Richard A. Watts exemplified all that he taught.

His legacy will continue as past students apply what they never forgot.

Across the U.S. Army many great decisions and visions are being made.

We are grateful to you Rich for teaching us to be leaders the Army way.

Debbie McLemore-Baugh

Editor's note: Debbie McLemore-Baugh, acting chief of the logistics information and communications division, strategic integration office, in AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center, wrote this tribute to the late professor Richard A. Watts. It was in memory of his death and the fifth anniversary of the last Sustaining Base Leadership and Management Program class, which was replaced by the Civilian Education System in 2007. Watts died from cancer two months after McLemore-Baugh's class graduated April 25, 2007.

Soldier's desire to serve began in grade school

What makes a person want to serve his country? I have come to understand that we have a unique way of life here in the United States. America is a land full of opportunities and the freedoms to pursue them. Those opportunities and freedoms are not without a toll, however.

Our country and our way of life is one we must defend from those who would see it otherwise. In this understanding, I

realize I must do my part to ensure we can continue to live as we have. As to the question of why I chose to serve, the answer spans almost the entirety of my life.

I would have to say that my desire to serve my country started as young as grade school. Although my concept of government service was limited to running around with toy guns and defending forts my friends and I had made or racing across the oceans on makeshift boats. The thought of being a Soldier or sailor was common in my daily life. I loved to watch all sorts of war movies and TV shows.

In addition to the movies, the efforts of military recruiting catered to my idea of a military life. I knew from an early age that I wanted my life to head in that direction. In addition to the military ideations, I remember other things that inspired me to serve my country. Saying the Pledge of Allegiance during school or listening to the playing of the Star Spangled Banner

at baseball games. I do not know if other kids grasped the significance of what they were saying, but I did. I remember being very proud to be an American. As such, a military life appealed to me and I never really imagined the idea of doing anything else.

As I grew, I never really lost the fascination and romanticism with being a part of the military; however, the more practical side of me began to prevail. Although I did not enlist in the military immediately following high school, it was only a matter of time. I courted recruiters, went on tours of local military bases, took numerous entrance exams and overall kept heading in the direction of military service. To me, military service offered a myriad of opportunities for a young adult starting his life. For one, it offered the chance to see other places to include other countries. It is important to note that I had spent

See Letter on page 4

Quote of the week

‘Although no sculptured marble should rise to their memory, nor engraved stone bear record of their deeds, yet will their remembrance be as lasting as the land they honored.’

— Daniel Webster

RedstoneRocket

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AMC to have conference for senior civilians

By **KELLY A. DeWITT**
AMC Public Affairs Office

The Army Materiel Command's senior civilians will gather in Huntsville June 4-7 for a Senior Executive Service conference.

"The time is right for AMC's civilian leadership to share ideas and discuss how to best support the commanding general's vision as we navigate the next round of budget cuts, personnel reductions and changes across our Army," said John Nerger, executive deputy to the commander and AMC's senior civilian leader. "Insight gained will position us towards accomplishing

our AMC 2020 goals."

The conference will focus on "Bold, Adaptive and Innovative Leadership for 2020," and will introduce AMC's SES employees to AMC's Vision 2020, and discuss upcoming transitions and initiatives within AMC. AMC has 73 SES's assigned.

Discussions on the Army's and AMC's strategic direction, as well as current and future challenges are on the first day's agenda. Day two brings a discussion of strategic communications efforts and the positive impact on supporting the Army vision and mission; as well as an afternoon panel discussion on executive professional development and shaping the future work force. The

third day will introduce the SES's to the headquarters building and the global operations center, as well as a demonstration of the Lead Materiel Integrator Decision Support Tool.

"The goal of the conference is to galvanize AMC's senior civilian leadership to prepare for 2020 and the challenges ahead by leveraging lessons learned, fostering innovation, furthering technology and developing skilled leaders," Nerger said.

It is the first time in at least a decade that AMC has conducted an SES-level conference. AMC's work force is 97 percent civilian, and represents 25 percent of the total Army civilian work force.

Rideout/Goss intersection changes next week

Garrison release

As part of the ongoing improvements to the Rideout Road Gate 9 area, the traffic pattern at the Goss Road intersection will be temporarily modified.

Beginning May 29, the existing off ramp from Rideout Road north to Goss Road east will be closed. In order to access Goss Road, the right lane of Rideout Road will be channelized with barriers, and a temporary right-turn lane will be created at the intersection. The left and middle lanes of Rideout Road will accommodate north-

bound traffic. The right-most lane of Rideout will be committed to eastbound Goss Road traffic.

The eastbound ramp will be reconstructed to accommodate the additional lane widening on Rideout Road. This phase of the project should be completed in three weeks, at which time the ramp will be reopened. The ramp from Goss Road west to Rideout Road north will not be affected at this time.

Drivers should be cautious and observe posted speed limits in the construction zone.



Getting to know you

By **SKIP VAUGHN**
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Name: Maj. Aquiller Cole

Job: 51C (Contracting) professional development officer, Army Contracting Command

Where do you call home?
St. Augustine, Fla.

What do you like about your job?

It's always changing. You're always learning something new. The policies are always being updated. So you never have a chance to get bored.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I like to read. I like scrapbooking. I just started a small business (in image consulting) so I've been busy with that. And I like watching comedies on television or at the theater.

What are your goals?

I want to become a certified federal contracts manager through NCMA (National Contract Management Association). I want to get my business up and running and to go out and speak to people about personal branding. And just continue to hone my skills in the technical arena. When I retire from the Army, I want to become a college professor and teach and continue to work my consulting business.



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

I would love to travel – on leisure travel – to Greece, to Italy and to Paris to see those areas. Just to travel to different areas and experience different cultures – without a mission.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for May 10-16:

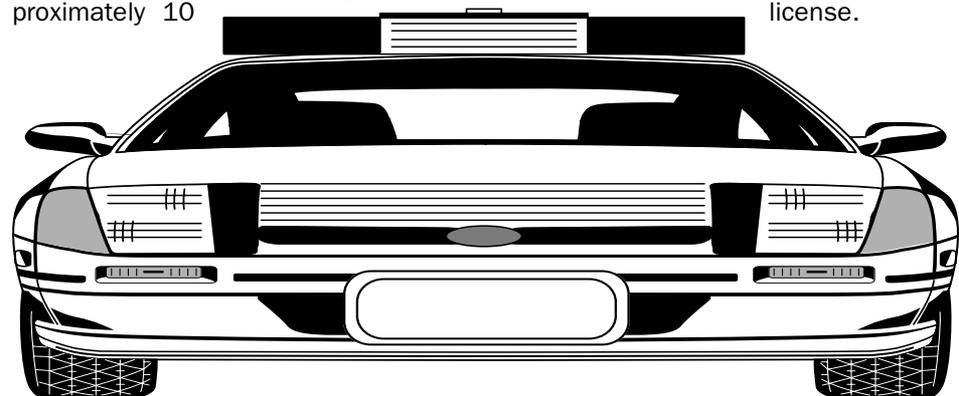
May 10: A contractor damaged an underground gas line which resulted in the temporary closing of the intersection of Patton and Buxton roads.

May 13: Someone damaged approximately 10

feet of chain fence on Rideout Road near Goss Road.

Traffic accidents reported: Two with injury, three without injury.

Violation notices issued: 20 speeding, 1 following too closely, 2 seatbelt violations, 2 no proof of insurance, 1 no driver's license.



Housing office ready to serve community



Courtesy photo

From left are Redstone Communities Initiative financial manager Robert Lovett, housing management specialist Minnie Rhoden and deputy housing manager Kenneth Carter.

By **MINNIE RHODEN**
Housing management specialist

In order to better assist all service-members, Defense Department civilians, federal contractors, NAF employees and military families, the Housing Services Office is the most important single point-of-entry for all housing assistance at Army installations worldwide.

Military members' PCS orders instruct the servicemember to contact the Housing Services Office before negotiating any rental agreements for off-post housing. Rent, security deposits and utility costs can vary. The Housing Services Office provides the following services:

- Individual off-post counseling and

referral assistance.

- Maintain up-to-date listings of homes for rent or sale.
- Review, clarify or explain lease contracts upon request.
- Mediate disputes between tenants and landlords.
- Inspect off-post rental housing for adequacy and obtain assurance of non-discriminatory rental practices.
- Maintain a display of handout material, including area maps, rental/sales booklets, brochures, etc.
- Brief personnel on the local area.
- Provide military/civilian relocation assistance.

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

Expeditionary contracting commander visits troops

By **Lt. Col. MARTHA K. BROOKS**
ECC public affairs officer

Expeditionary Contracting Commander's Brig. Gen. Ted Harrison, commander, visited the 409th Contracting Support Brigade, Kaiserslautern, Germany, May 6-10 to meet the work force and gather information about the organization.

During his visit Harrison conducted a town hall meeting, had breakfast with 409th CSB noncommissioned officers, held an officers luncheon, co-chaired sev-

eral command briefs, toured the training installation and distributed commander's coins to deserving employees.

"There are huge demands across the Army and the joint services around the world," he said. "Contracting is a worldwide command with Soldiers and civilians in support around the globe and we must continue to train our contracting professionals to ensure they get the experience they need, so we can deploy down range and around the world in support of those missions."

Photo by Lt. Col. Martha K. Brooks

Brig. Gen. Ted Harrison conducts a town hall meeting with members of the 409th Contracting Support Brigade.



Letter

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most of my life in one place. The thought of seeing new places greatly appealed to me. Second, I knew that military service would allow me almost limitless opportunity to excel and to do different things. I remember thinking how horrible it would be to be stuck in a job where you had to do the same thing day after day. Finally, the military offered a secure future. I knew I would have a job for as long as I wanted one. I still have vivid memories of going to MEPS and saying my oath

of enlistment. It turned out to be a decision that still affects me today.

As I grow older, my desire to serve my country continues to take on new meaning. Foremost is the realization of what freedom and prosperity really mean. Over the last decade, the deployments I have undertaken have dramatically influenced my appreciation of the freedoms we as Americans enjoy. It is difficult not to appreciate all that I have when faced with a war-torn Iraqi village full of starving children or seeing families living in mud huts without power and running water. To witness deplorable conditions brought on by a government who cares nothing for its people. In short, to have no

means and no hope for a better life. I remember specifically seeing a child of about 3 years old standing on the side of the road begging for food as we rolled by in a convoy of large vehicles. This occasion hit close to home, my son at the time was about the same age as the little boy on the side of the road. As a parent, I cannot fathom a world in which my children would be in the same predicament. America represents freedom and the ability for every person to succeed no matter what his or her station in life. I realize our way of life comes at a price. There must be those who will stand and defend our country and all it represents. I like being one of those people.

Sometimes it is hard to believe that 17 years ago I committed myself to the service of our country. I look back over my career and think about how some of my reasons for serving have changed and how some have remained constant. I have never lost the pride in being an American and I continue to be proud of the ideals the United States represents. America was and continues to be a noble enterprise of freedom and opportunity. As a member of the military, I like to think I had a small part in the furtherance of those ideals and freedoms. I love my country and will continue my service on her behalf.

Maj. Fred Grant

Splish, splash the swimming pools are back

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Start summer with a splash at one of FMWR's three swimming pools on post.

Just in time for climbing temperatures and summer vacation, FMWR's three pools will open Saturday for the 2012 season. Staffed by Red Cross certified lifeguards, each pool has a 1 meter and 3 meter diving board, slide, separate wading pool and watering mushroom. With plenty of space to unwind, all at an affordable price, the choice is clear where to go to cool down and relax this summer.

"You still can't beat our prices anywhere for swimming lessons or family season passes," Kati Reeb, pool manager, said. "We're open seven days a week, holidays included."

Pool 1, located at building 3469 at Vincent Park, is available for recreational swim, Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sunday 1 to 7 p.m. Pool 2, located at building 1501 on Weeden Mountain Road, is used for adult water aerobics, adults lap swim, water walking and jogging, as well as for the Redstone Arsenal Launchers Swim Team practice and meets. It is also available to rent for private pool parties. Pool 3, located at building 126 on Goss Road, hosts recreational swim Monday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Swimming lessons are also held at Pool 3.

Cost of admissions is \$50 for a family season pass, \$30 for an individual, and \$2 for a daily pass for active duty; \$100 for a family season pass, \$60 for an individual and \$3 for a daily pass for all others. Season passes are currently available at Outdoor Recreation, building 5139 on Sportsman Drive, and will be available poolside beginning May 26.

Credit card purchases may be made at both locations. Anyone with access to the Arsenal is eligible to use the pools.

A variety of activities are available at the Arsenal's three pools this summer. For those that already have a love of swimming and knowhow to stroke their way to success, the Redstone Arsenal Launchers Swim Team practices and meets at Pool 2. For more information about the team, call Child Youth and School Services at 842-6629.

Newbies to the water can learn the basics and more at swimming lessons, which begin May 29. Cost is \$30 per student per session. Each session consists of eight 45-minute lessons. Lessons are held Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. For more information or to register, visit Pool 3, Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

You don't have to be a kid to enjoy the water, and Pool 2 boasts adult water activities for ages 18 and up on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Adult water aerobics begin May 29 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Cost is \$3 a class; Punch Card Passes are available for a reduced rate. Lap swim, water walking and jogging also opens May 29 from 6 to 9 a.m. Users must have a current season pass, or pay \$3 per visit.

And for anyone that loves a good pool party, private parties are available at Pool 2, call 876-6713 to make reservations. Cost is \$150 for two hours and up to 50 people, additional fees apply for more time and more people.

Reeb is currently in search of American Red Cross certified lifeguards to help man the pools and teach swimming lessons at Pool #3; to apply visit usa-jobs.gov. If the position is not currently listed, Reeb said, check another day as it will be posted as needed throughout the summer.

For more information about the pools, visit www.redstonemwr.com/recreation/swimming.html.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Redstone Arsenal Launchers swimmer Christina Tarsitano competes in the 50-meter breast stroke for the medley relay June 15, 2011 against Valley Hill Country Club.

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:

Dueling pianos

Dueling Pianos will be presented live for the first time Friday at The Summit. The show will include performances on 176 piano keys with audience participation, singing and musical antics. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. with the show beginning at 7. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$25 non-members. Reserve seating will be for members only. Members will also receive a free wine glass. Those who sign up for membership at the event will receive an etched Summit wine glass and MWR Bucks. Members can also sign up for a chance to win a weekend stay in Atlanta with one free pair of tickets to see the Atlanta Braves provided by Candlewood Suites. For more information, call 313-3255.

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.

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.

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Aviation wonders await at Vacation Bible School

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Fasten your seatbelts and prepare for an adventure – Bicentennial Chapel’s “Amazing Wonders Aviation” Vacation Bible School has been cleared for takeoff.

This year’s VBS, open to any child with access to the Arsenal age kindergarten through sixth grade, will be June 4-8 from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the chapel on Goss Road. Parents can pre-register their children by calling 876-6874. Children may be registered through the first day of VBS, June 4. The weeklong faith experience is free.

“It’s all based on aviation in the ‘30s and ‘40s, so it’s historic,” said Rad Reavis, the chapel’s religious education coordinator.

LifeWay’s “Amazing Wonders Aviation” provides children with the opportunity to learn more about God, the Bible and their Christian faith, through music, crafts, recreation, missions, Bible study and worship centered around the motto of, “Awesome God! Amazing Power!” Inspired by Psalm 147:5, “Our God is



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Rad Reavis, religious education coordinator at Bicentennial Chapel, prepares for this year’s Vacation Bible School, “Amazing Wonders Aviation” June 4-8, organizing a variety of pencils, stickers, airplanes, erasers, aviation goggles, suncatchers and more to help transform the chapel into this year’s theme.

great, vast in power; His understanding is infinite,” each day of VBS will focus

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Lending closet opens doors to military families

Borrow needed household goods

By **BETH SKARUPA**
Staff writer
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The Army Community Service lending closet is not just a good place to borrow pillows, blankets, high chairs or car seats. It also ensures that ACS can continue to serve military families with a personal touch.

"You can't email pots and pans," Mary Breeden, ACS relocation assistance program manager, said. "The biggest thing about it is that it's nice for us to get to meet new arrivals. Anyone who walks through the doors gets a strong dose of Southern hospitality. It's a great tool for us to get to know families and talk to them in a non-threatening situation."

Once families come in, they can get information about the area and learn about a variety of ACS programs such as financial readiness, new parent support, exceptional family member, quality of life, ACS volunteer, and more. Since ACS is a "one stop shop," they can also get information and referrals for many other services available to them both on and off post.

"We can tell them about schools in the area and the school liaison. If a spouse is looking for employment, we can help them with that. It gives us an opportunity to meet with them," Breeden said. "We give them welcome packets if they're new and we can tailor those to what they're interested in."

When ACS was established in the 1960s, it focused on relocation assistance, information referral and Army Emergency Relief. The lending closet, part of relocation assistance, was one of the first



Photo by Beth Skarupa

Army Community Service volunteer Lorraine Kraus arranges items in the lending closet.

programs created and is still going strong today. About 100 families per year use the lending closet here. The lending closet is stocked with basic household items that can be used by active duty military, retirees, and even civilians when they are relocating or just need something for a short period of time.

"You don't have to be arriving or departing to use the lending closet. You don't have to have travel orders. We try to help whenever we can," Breeden said.

Although the lending closet at each Army installation is required to stock basic household items, the interpretation of household goods is left up to the program manager, the needs of the population being served at the installation, and the space available.

"We focus on the basic household items needed such as pots, pans, dishes, linens, futons, a lot of car seats, portable playpens, and high chairs," Breeden said. "We also loan these items out to retirees if they have family com-

ing to visit and it's something they do not need to have around all year." Civilians can check items out, but priority is given first to active duty military and then to military retirees. Items are checked out for an initial 30 days, with an extension of 30 days available when requested. After that, extensions are decided on a case-by-case basis.

The checkout process simply requires one person from the family to come to ACS and fill out an intake form, check off the items needed on a supply list, and then receive the items from the lending closet.

"We also will tailor our own supplies to what they need. If they only need four forks, we will check out four forks instead of making them take an entire family pack of silverware for a family of four. They can take what they need rather than taking what we have," Breeden said. The lending closet is funded through the Office of the Secretary of Defense and is stocked with all new items. Anything lost or damaged must be replaced by the person who borrowed the item. Most items can be replaced easily because ACS purchases items for the lending closet from the Redstone Exchange or local stores.

Although donations of used items are not added to the lending closet, Breeden

said that ACS will take them to the Thrift Shop where military families can get them free of charge.

"One time a woman donated a KitchenAid stand mixer. She had ordered it, but it came with a plug for a European outlet. So she donated it to us and we were going to take it to the thrift store. But the next family that came in was on its way to Europe and they were just packing up, so we gave it to them," Breeden said. "It all worked out. The woman was happy to give it away and the family was thrilled to get it. There's always something interesting going on here." She noted that here in Alabama "Click it or Ticket" is strongly enforced, so families with young children need to make sure that they always have car seats.

"We do have lots of car seats, so there's no excuse. Come by and get one from the lending closet," she said.

All newly assigned or attached military personnel, appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian personnel, contractors and spouses, as well as retirees are welcome to stop by the lending closet at ACS, building 3338, on Redeye Road from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or contact Breeden at 876-5397 or mary.breeden@conus.army.mil.

School

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on activities and studies to help children better understand God's amazing power over things like nature, death and their very own life.

"They get as much instruction at Vacation Bible School as they would get in an entire quarter during the regular church year," Reavis said of the education value. "This is probably the most important thing for the children because of how much they get out of it. This gives them a concentrated view."

Following the theme of aviation, Bicentennial Chapel will be transformed into a hangar for the week, where the

children, the "passengers" on their Amazing Wonders journey will worship with their teachers, the "pilots," and their assistants, the "co-pilots" who will lead them through various activities around the world - Bible study at Victoria Falls, missions under the Northern Lights, music at the Matterhorn, crafts at the Great Barrier Reef, recreation at the Grand Canyon and snacks at Paricutin volcano. Large scale backdrops, stickers, pencils, aviation goggles, a cockpit and other props and decorations will transform the chapel into this year's theme, with each child wearing their own airplane as a name tag and getting their own flight log to take notes on their adventures.

For more information about VBS, call Reavis at 876-6874.

Total Tots program quickly cares for children

Short-term services given when needed

By BETH SKARUPA

Staff writer

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It's all about the children.

When a military family experiences a crisis and needs short-term childcare assistance, the Total Tots program can step in and help. The program is funded entirely through unsolicited private donations from organizations both on and off the Arsenal.

"It's military people helping military families with short-term childcare services," Pam Stieglitz, Total Tots volunteer chairperson, said. "No. 1, short-term is a very important word. Assistance is needed because the family sort of falls through the cracks of everything else that is offered."

Although Army Community Service offers several programs that provide help for military families, sometimes individuals or families do not qualify for programs or they need assistance immediately due to an emergency situation.

"The program started back in 1986 when Chaplain (Capt.) Bill Meyers came to me because he needed a way to help these families," Stieglitz said.

Meyers, then chaplain at Bicentennial Chapel, was counseling Soldiers and their spouses. He realized that they often brought their children with them to their counseling sessions because they could not afford childcare and did not have family or friends to provide it.

Meyers and Stieglitz, then president of the Officers Wives Club, created the Total Tots program to provide free emergency and respite childcare. The program uses the Child Youth and School Services, including the Child Development Center, School Age Services, and Family Child Care Homes.

"ACS does such a wonderful job of offering services, this program allows the military spouse or Soldier to take advantage of them," Stieglitz said. "If a spouse is TDY or goes into the hospital and does not have a

partner or anyone there to help with the children, this program can help. It can also help if there is a possibility of abuse or endangerment to the children."

The seed money for the program initially came from the Officers Wives Club and then the NCO Wives Club made a donation. The Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation assisted with setting up the financial mechanics of the donation program. Childcare is usually provided through the CDC on Goss Road or School Age Services.

"There keeps being a great need for this. People keep thinking that the Soldiers have left the Arsenal, but the troops haven't all left. There is still this need," Stieglitz said. "At Christmas time there was a family in need and we were not able to help them the way we wanted to due to lack of funding."

Virginia Dempsey, ACS family advocacy program manager, agrees that the service that Total Tots provides is still very much in demand. She has worked with Stieglitz and the Total Tots program since its early years.

"Even though people say the Soldiers have left Redstone Arsenal, we still have Soldiers here on post and in the community that need help. We have Reserve, National Guard, Army, Navy and other servicemembers who are in war zones and we are here to help their families," Dempsey said. "We are the upside down umbrella of childcare."

Stieglitz stressed that every penny of every donation made to the program goes directly to providing childcare for military families.

Referrals for the program can come from command, chaplains, counselors, other social service agencies including Army Community Service, as well as the Soldier and/or family members themselves. The Total Tots program stresses sensitivity and confidentiality. Each family's situation is handled on a need-to-know basis with a respect for the family's privacy. "Occasionally we have had to use off-post childcare centers. Sometimes space is not available at the CDC or the family lives off post far away and it does not make sense to have the childcare on post," Dempsey said. "CYSS have been very sup-

portive in helping us take care of our families."

Stieglitz added that the program is really a group of people and organizations working together to help military families. Sometimes families simply need respite care, she said. This might happen when a mother is experiencing severe postpartum depression or when there is an overwhelming family need and not enough time to arrange childcare quickly.

"This is that program that's for an emergency. It's fast and immediate," Stieglitz said.

The type and amount of childcare provided depends on the needs of the family. The childcare may only be needed for a few hours a week, all day for a few weeks or even 24-hour care.

Decisions on providing care are made by the Total Tots committee members by simple majority rule during their monthly meetings or by telephone. When there is an immediate need, approval can occur within one hour. Services are granted when no other resources are available to the family.

"The whole idea is what's in the best interest of the child. We want parents to take care of their responsibilities and things they need to do and we make that possible by providing an appropriate, safe environment for their children," Dempsey said. "We have helped all ranks because even though many



Photo by Beth Skarupa

Virginia Dempsey, family advocacy program manager for Army Community Service, and Pam Stieglitz, Total Tots volunteer chairperson, work together to provide emergency and respite childcare for military families through the Total Tots program.

of us think that it's young Soldiers who have problems, anyone any age can experience problems. And we are here for all of our families."

"We want people to know that this program is out there," Stieglitz said. "We've had it for 26 years and it has never ceased to exist. We hope it continues to exist until the need is no longer there."

For more information about the Total Tots program, call Dempsey at 876-5397.

Outdoor Recreation opens its house



Photo by Ellen Hudson

This is the inside of the General Store during Outdoor Recreation's open house Thursday at building 5139 on Sportsman Drive.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Skeet shooting on the range next to the main office are, from left, Ed Poniatowski, Karen Rogers, Jay Cossentine and Lauren Haynes. They are gathered on their lunch hour from their Precision Fires office.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Carl Pierce, left, and Kyle Hamlin finish their pizza and look over the recreation center's brochure in the main office.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Recreation assistant Walter Evans walks in front of the General Store, passing an R-Pod travel trailer, boat and trailer which are available for rent.

Books from Big Nate to ‘Hunger Games’

The Post Library provided the following list of its new books, DVDs and audio books:

Children’s books: Big Nate series by Lincoln Peirce, four books – “Big Nate on a Roll,” “Boredom Buster,” “In a Class by Himself” and “Strikes Again.” ... “I’ve Lost My Hippotamus” by Jack Prelutsky – More than 100 funny poems, most with black-and-white illustrations. Many of the poems are about animals, some real (the elephant) and some not (the wiguana). ... “The One and Only Ivan” by Katherine Applegate – Ivan is an easygoing gorilla who lives at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade. He is used to being watched by humans and rarely misses life in the jungle. Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant, and Ivan starts to see things in new eyes. ... “Son of Neptune” by Rick Riordan – The second book in “The Heroes of Olympus” series.

Fiction: “11/22/63” by Stephen King – A teacher travels back to 1958 to stop Lee Harvey Oswald. ... “Apocalypse Star Wars: Fate of the Jedi” by Troy Denning – The final book in the “Fate of the Jedi” series. ... “Betrayal” by Danielle Steel – The dark side of fame and fortune. ... “Legend” by Marie Lu – This story takes place in a dark future, when the United States has split into two warring nations. ... “The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection” by Alexander McCall Smith – The 13th book in the popular “No. 1 Ladies’ De-

tective Agency Novel” series. ... “The Thief” by Clive Cussler and Justin Scott – An Isaac Bell Adventure.

Non-fiction: “Below Stairs: The Classic Kitchen Maid’s Memoir That Inspired Upstairs, Downstairs and Downton Abbey” by Margaret Powell – Powell’s memoir of her time as a kitchen maid in the 1920s. ... “Shiloh, 1862” by Winston Groom – Describes the Civil War Battle of April 6-7, 1862. ... “Space Chronicles: Facing the Ultimate Frontier” by Neil DeGrasse Tyson – The author discusses the future of space travel and its importance for the United States’ economy, security and morale. ... “Top Dog: Choose the Perfect Breed for You” – Profiles more than 400 dog breeds, helping people choose the best match for them. Also gives information on dog care and training. ... “The World of Downton Abbey” by Jessica Fellows – A behind the scenes look at the PBS series “Downton Abbey.” ... “The World of Hunger Games” – A full-color guide to Panem.

DVDs: “Hugo” ... “Boardwalk Empire” series ... “Cinderella” with Brandy, Jason Alexander, Whoopi Goldberg, Whitney Houston and Bernadette Peters ... “In Time” ... “Iron Lady” ... “Navy Seals: The Untold Stories” ... “The Way” ... “We Bought a Zoo” ... “War Horse.”

Audio books: “The Hunger Games” ... “Game of Thrones.”

AroundTown

Memorial Day celebrated with local events

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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They are gone, but never forgotten, and to continue the legacy of those who valiantly died serving their country, North Alabama will remember those who gave all at programs across the Tennessee Valley on Memorial Day, May 28.

"The whole world should stop and honor America's fallen heroes on Memorial Day in honor of the brave men and women who gave their lives for others," said Theresa Groves, commander of the Patriotic Organizations of Morgan County, recalling her favorite words from a speech made on Memorial Day more than 10 years ago. "These brave Soldiers, sailors, fliers and Marines died protecting their country and what it stood for. They died defending a way of life that they felt was worth dying for – families, children, freedom, morality, values, responsibility."

The following events are free and open to the public:

Maple Hill Cemetery, 202 Maple St. in southeast Huntsville, will hold its annual program by the memorial in the northeast corner of the cemetery at 11

a.m. Monday. Selections from the Huntsville Concert Band begin at 10:45, followed by the ceremony, which includes a laying of wreaths, rifle salute, military service medley and comments by special guests Huntsville mayor Tommy Battle, AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers and Phil Williams, Alabama state representative.

The Combined Patriotic Organizations of Morgan County will sponsor the annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Roselawn Cemetery, 709 Memorial Drive in southwest Decatur at 10 a.m. All area veterans, as well as Gold Star family members, will be honored. Guest speaker is Melvin Duran, mayor of Priceville.

The Limestone County Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at the Alabama Veterans Museum, 100 W. Pryor St. in Athens, beginning at 10 a.m. Guest speaker is Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, SMDC/ARSTRAT commander. The traditional ceremony will also include a roll call of all the veterans in Limestone County that have passed away since last Memorial Day.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Services will be held across North Alabama Monday to honor the nation's fallen servicemembers for Memorial Day.



Redstone career fair will help fill local positions

By AMELIA FLANIGAN

FMWR Marketing

Even when other areas are still losing positions, Redstone employers offer new opportunities. The Redstone Arsenal Defense Technology & Intelligence Career Fair is Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Community Activity Center on the corner of Patton and Aerobee roads.

The fair is open exclusively to those with access to the installation and it is helpful for candidates to already have an active security clearance. The event is organized by Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation and Transition Careers, who facilitates career fairs for the defense and intelligence community nationwide. They expect around 15 employers, both government and contractor, Thursday at the Community Activity Center, so candidates should bring

plenty of resumes to distribute.

"Considering that many of the organizations attending are government or work on government contracts, having an active security clearance makes job seekers more marketable," Jason Semerakis, CEO of Transition Careers, said.

Employers are also looking for translators, aviation professionals, network administrators, linguistic specialists, communication specialists and more.

"It's an opportunity for prospective employees to have face-to-face contact with local and international companies all in one day. You can't beat that," Semerakis said.

Stephanie Stone, corporate partnerships coordinator for Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, said: "While most prospective job seekers



stick with the traditional methods of finding a job by answering ads posted in the newspaper or an online board, our career fair puts job seekers in front of the decision makers from the various companies that need your skill set."

This event is also a great way for those approaching retirement, individuals coming to the end of their current contract or "transplants," to see what kind of opportunities are available to them and their family.

"We have been extremely fortunate here in North Alabama that we are still seeing organizations hiring when some places in the country have seen record job losses," Stone said.

Job fair tips for prospective attendees include the following: Dress for success; bring plenty of resumes; be prepared for on-the-spot interviews; and research companies you are interested in and what positions they offer.

If you can't attend the career fair, do the following two steps: Create your job seeker account and post your resume on the Transition Careers job board at <http://www.TransitionCareers.com>. Email a copy of your resume (Microsoft Word format only) before the career fair takes place to Resume@TransitionCareers.com so it will be presented to employers at this event. In the subject line of the email, write, "Name of military installation where the career fair is taking place and the date of the function"; for example, "Redstone Arsenal – 24 May 2012."

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UTILITY HELICOPTERS OFFICE REACHES OUT TO HIGH SCHOOL PAGE 17

Utility helicopters office reaches out to high school



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Students from the Sparkman High School Special Education class stand with Soldiers, civilians and contractors from the Utility Helicopters Project Office, and SESI employees, in front of a UH-60M Black Hawk during a community outreach event May 9 at one of SESI's hangars in Huntsville. The two-hour event allowed the students to see a UH-60M Black Hawk and an Iraqi 407 and helped to create a stronger association between technology and the Army.

By **SOFIA BLEDSOE**

PEO Aviation Public Affairs

For the past two years, the Utility Helicopters Project Office has taken several opportunities to share its passion and experiences with the Special Education class at Sparkman High School. Pilots have visited them in their classrooms, talked to them about their work, showed them the gear they wear, and told stories about what it's like to be a helicopter pilot.

This time they partnered with SESI and took the community outreach program to another level.

Eleven students from the Special Education class had an opportunity May 9 to see what an actual helicopter looks like. For many, it was their first time to see an Army helicopter in person.

"We've been bringing our pilots in for a couple of years to talk to them," Greg Gore, deputy project manager, said. "We've left models of the Black Hawk and Lakota in the classroom, so they can see it and remember what they just learned from these pilots."

The program first began with the office interacting with Sparkman Junior High School. Gore's daughter, Terry, is a student in the class, and he saw a great opportunity to provide the same type of learning experience with the rest of the class as he has done for his daughter.

"What I've always noticed is that they don't have the same opportunities for some of the field trips and career days like the other students," Gore said. The idea of bringing the students to see an actual Black Hawk came to mind. "So that is what the purpose of today is ... to let them see what they've been hearing about in the classroom."

An exception by the principal was

made for the field trip to happen, according to Amy Alsup, who teaches the class. The school did not typically allow field trips in May.

"They've seen the models but they haven't actually seen the real thing, so they were so excited," Alsup said.

The students climbed in and out of the two helicopters, asked many questions of the employees from the project office, and posed for photos. Smiles radiated from their faces, and they demonstrated a strong association between the high level of technology in the aircraft and the Army.

"This gives us a chance to reach out to our local community and give back to the kids, many of whom have parents that work on Redstone," project manager Col. Thomas Todd said. "If nothing more, this gives them a sense of what their parents, their friends or neighbors, what Army Soldiers and what we actually do for a living every day."

He noted that one of the students had asked him when the Soldiers were coming home from Afghanistan. "That's a very mature question. So you have to understand that even though they have special needs and limitations, they're very aware of their surroundings and know much more than what we give them credit for," Todd said.

The class is among the same group of students from Sparkman High School who have provided several hundred care packages to the Soldiers in the field for the past few years. The community outreach event allows both the Army and the school to engage with each other and increase transparency between the students' experiences and Army life.

"At the end of the day, we're the ones who are blessed by their presence," Todd said.

Army leader goes back to school for students

Retired colonel succeeds in role as superintendent

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

During the past year, Dr. Casey Wardynski has brought his Army management strategies to bear on Huntsville City Schools.

As he works to build and shape the future of the school system, to recruit the best teachers to lead in the system's classrooms and to set a standard of excellence for the system's staff and students, Wardynski's philosophy and values remain rooted in one of the nation's top leadership institutions. His commitment to the development of the nation's young people – witnessed on a national level with his work to implement one of the nation's most popular military computer games managed at Redstone Arsenal – is being realized in Huntsville as the first senior class under his tutelage graduates this week.

To many local residents, Wardynski was not a known commodity when he was appointed by Huntsville City Schools Board of Education in June 2011 as the new superintendent of Huntsville City Schools, a school system that at the time was ravaged by financial woes, a lack of staff accountability, poor facilities, insubstantial technology initiatives, and a growing lack of confidence expressed by parents and teachers.

But the Army knew Wardynski and his abilities to make a difference.

"I went from major to colonel in the same job (as director of the Army's Office of Economic and Manpower Analysis at West Point for 15 years)," he said during an interview in his spacious office at the system's main office in downtown Huntsville.

"I reported and advised on policy to senior Army leaders, including the assistant secretary of the Army of Manpower and Reserve Affairs, the Army G-1 (Human Resources) and G-3 (Operations), and commanders of major subordinate commands. My mission came from the Pentagon. The Army gave me a lot of freedom

to do my job, and that came with a lot of pressure and responsibility, especially when talking policy with national media."

In that role, Wardynski led change in areas ranging from Army human capital development to managing the development, retention and employment of the Army's 60,000 officers. Along the way, he also pioneered the use of game technology and new media to support Army marketing, serving as the project originator and director of the well-known America's Army computer game.

"In 2004, I started going on TDY once a month to work on America's Army and to work with the Software Engineering Directorate at Redstone. I was here working on the Army game on 9/11. I had to drive back to West Point," he recalled.

Those trips weren't his first association with Huntsville. As an Army ordnance officer, Wardynski was stationed at Redstone in 1980 to participate in the nuclear weapons school and then in 1985 to take the captains' course. His oldest son was born in Huntsville.

"I had a good impression of Huntsville," he said. "There were a lot of things to do here. The people were friendly and there was nice weather."

When he retired in 2009 after 29 years of service, Wardynski was one of 14 executives chosen for development by The Board Superintendents Academy, a Los Angeles-based organization that trains executives to lead urban public education systems. His sights were set on leading only one school system – Huntsville City Schools.

But the job wasn't available.

Instead, Wardynski served for about a year as the chief financial officer for Aurora, Colo., Public Schools, where he guided financial, food service and risk management activities for a district of 51 schools with revenues of more than \$320 million

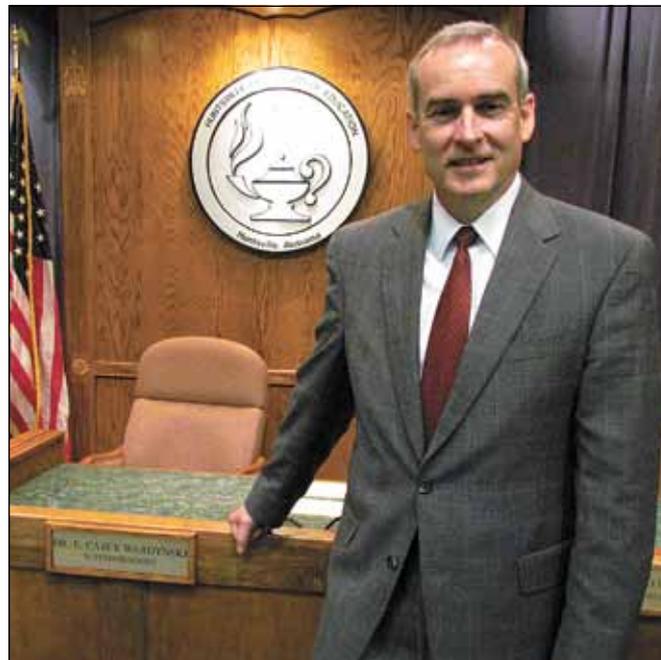


Photo by Kari Hawkins

The meeting room for Huntsville City Schools Board of Education is where Dr. Casey Wardynski's vision for the school system is becoming a reality as it develops with a strong set of professional values and culture reminiscent of the new superintendent's years as an Army leader.

and more than 35,000 students.

"Timing really is everything," he said. "I waited and when the superintendent's job did open up for financial reasons, I applied."

He applied for a top leadership position in a school system that was \$20 million in debt, and that had a \$240 million mainte-

nance backlog and a host of issues that needed to be addressed. Those issues, though, didn't make Wardynski hesitate from the challenge.

"It was not surprising what was going on here," he said. "I knew money was going to be an issue no matter where I went. Every school system is facing the same picture. Finances permeate everything. When money is plentiful, school systems don't do the things they are really forced to do when money is harder to get, and they have to be more efficient and effective. That's what I did for the Army, and school systems aren't much different."

In conversation, Wardynski comes across as matter-of-fact, straightforward and relaxed. But when he speaks about the school system and education, he takes on a passionate, non-comprising position of providing quality education, no holds barred.

"This job is about talent management. It's mostly about labor, just like in the Army," he said. "It's about putting the best people to work in our classrooms."

"Just like the Department of the Army is focused 10 or 20 years out, the school system is focused on the educational needs of kids along a 13-year horizon. We are building programs that unfold over long periods of time. We are measuring success, building capacity. It takes a long time to build effective principles,

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Courtesy photo

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Greatest generation

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution presents World War II Service medals to seven veterans. From left are chapter president George Royer and veterans Elmer "Spike" Field, Alex Black, Bill Pittman, Dewey Lusk, Chris Gender, Frank Moring and Ray Van Orden.

AMRDEC engineer has lofty interests

*Flight of balloons
a holiday tradition*

By RYAN KEITH

AMRDEC Public Affairs

If you don't have Memorial Day plans, you might want to consider the Alabama Jubilee Hot-Air Balloon Classic in Decatur.

One person who plans to be in attendance, and participating from several thousand feet above the ground, is AMRDEC's Jeff Maddox. Maddox is one of more than 60 hot-air balloon pilots planning to fill the skies above the River City for this annual event.

This will be Maddox's 17th year participating in the Jubilee, and his 18th year as pilot.

"I love to fly balloons," Maddox said. "I love to share my passion with others. In all my years of flying, I've never had someone say they didn't enjoy the experience when we were done.

"My first balloon flight was in Orlando, Florida, in 1994 as a gift to my wife for our first anniversary. On the trip home, we talked about how much fun it was and how we were looking for a side business. We decided to investigate the possibility of starting a bal-

loon ride business in Huntsville. Two months later we purchased our first balloon."

Eighteen years later, and they're running a family business. While 2-year-old Kayleigh has a few years to wait, 15-year-old Marissa is learning to fly and 12-year-old Noah is anxious to get started.

Even on the ground, working as an electrical engineer at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, Maddox remains focused on the skies. As the team lead for technology integration and demonstration in the System Simulation and Development Directorate, he manages a test bed for advanced research of aviation, missiles and unmanned systems. One such effort is the Joint Aviation, Missile and Unmanned System campaign, which provides a relevant, repeatable simulation environment capable of representing future missile and Army aviation airspace.

Through his work at AMRDEC, Maddox supports the safety and success of our Soldiers and war fighters. And on Memorial Day, he is able to honor our fallen heroes and enjoy his passion for ballooning.

For details on the Jubilee, visit www.alabamajubilee.net.

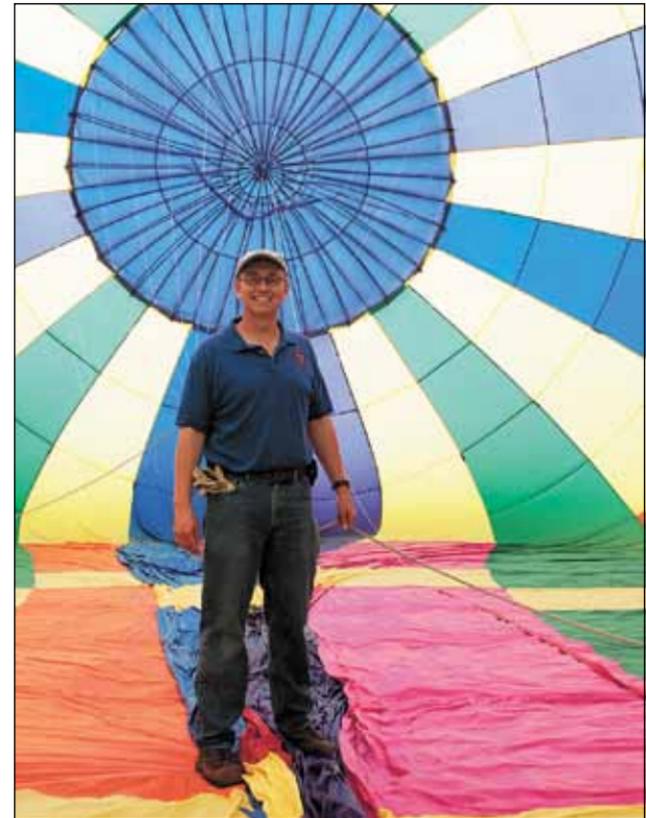


Photo courtesy of Michael Hansberry, Madison Living

AMRDEC electrical engineer Jeff Maddox enjoys time away from the lab piloting hot-air balloons.

Superintendent

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effective teachers and effective students. And it takes strong, persistent leadership to make change.”

It wasn't long after he took on his duties as superintendent that Wardynski was embroiled in controversy. There was an incident where a popular teacher and coach was arrested driving drunk on city school property. Wardynski fired him. He then fired a principal that was caught in fraudulent activity involving school records. A second teacher was reassigned after failing to report for duty during the first week of school.

“Teaching is a profession. It's a special calling. It's not just a job. It's a profession that has an enduring effect on people's lives,” Wardynski said. “It's a profession that puts the needs of kids first. And my job as a leader in this profession is to create incentives, measures of accountability, vision and overall strategy, and then work through the board and school leaders to bring that to fruition.

“The Army has a strong culture based on the warrior ethos and values. Educators need to have values, too. They need to keep focused on the higher purpose and what's best for kids. That builds a strong culture about this profession, a profession that creates pathways for people to grow.”

Wardynski has made several staff changes both in the school's administrative offices and in the classroom; shifted or revamped school programs such as moving New Century Technology School to the new Lee High and establishing a ninth-grade academy at Butler High School; addressed the system's financial troubles; introduced accessible computer technology for students; implemented a teacher selection and tenure program; started a program that will put 20 pre-kindergarten classrooms in the system; and made school maintenance a top priority. Today, the system has not only overcome its debt, but is now \$7 million in the green. Its maintenance backlog has been replaced with an \$80 million construction and renovation



plan.

“These are changes that lead us toward better education,” Wardynski said. “They are purposeful and directed toward growth and improvement.”

Along the way he has reintroduced staff, teachers and students to higher educational standards, and reached out to the community by speaking about those educational standards at various local gatherings, including Parent/Teacher Association meetings and civic clubs.

“As the superintendent, I have to set the conditions for success. We have to grow a culture of success where educational opportunities can grow in a safe environment,” he said.

“There has to be a certain level of expectations. The Army had to do the same things to take the ‘hollow Army’ to the Army of today in regards to managing talent, putting standards in place, and developing a professional work force of Soldiers and civilians. Hard choices were made to really change the way the Army did business. At Huntsville City Schools, we are setting the expectations for the education of the next generation.”

High standards don't account for much if employees aren't held to those standards. Wardynski likes to not only set those standards, but also likes to surround himself with talented people who live those standards and who are highly motivated to make a difference. Coincidentally, many of the terms Wardynski uses to describe the school of the future and the best teachers of today could have been pulled from an Army strategic report.

“The best leaders are the ones who can adjust on the fly, who are adaptable and flexible. They think of new ways to do business,” he said.

“The best teachers are agile and flexible in their approach to learning. They are lifetime learners themselves. They adapt with

their students, and use today's technology in their classrooms and in their educational approach. They use new techniques and new approaches, and value diverse viewpoints in the classroom.”

With the school system now headed in the right direction, Wardynski looks toward new challenges, including incorporating leading edge educational initiatives, such as the virtual school system where all lessons are taught with the use of computer technology in the place of textbooks, and students become comfortable with online and distance learning. He wants to incorporate technologies that allow teachers and parents to see where students are on the educational spectrum and what is needed to help them advance on that spectrum. He understands the importance of quality facilities and how they impact neighborhoods, and the need to be a school system that is flexible enough to support growth with new and improved schools.

“I can walk through the door of a school and tell you if it is a high-performing school or not just by first impressions,” he said. “Those first impressions do matter.”

As an Army colonel, Wardynski wrote several papers on talent management, based on the premise that success happens when leadership puts the right person at the right place at the right time. So, too, is it for education, where leaders “match the right teacher with the right kids to create relationships that motivate kids to learn,” he said.

Wardynski does admit he has faced some criticism in relation to his management style. But he said the results prove that Huntsville City Schools is now going in the right direction.

“A lot of people are invested in the old ways of doing business,” he said. “I have had to persevere and articulate and secure

buy-in. Basically, I have worked to overcome the old ways in securing the goal of creating a system with effective teachers in every classroom and learning situation. A lot of people just don't like change. But life is change.”

Wardynski will continue overcoming obstacles on the way to improving Huntsville City Schools. And he hopes the system's record of performance will overcome naysayers.

“We are putting the right educators in our schools, we are adding technology, we are working for success. How can you argue against that? Doesn't everyone want their schools and their kids to be successful? I hope people see me as an advocate for great education for their children,” he said. “I hope they see Huntsville City Schools as a provider of education and future employees for the needs of this growing community. And I hope our students leave here well-prepared for the next stage in life and to be lifetime learners.”

Just like commanders on the battlefield, students should know how to analyze conflicting information to make choices. They should be taught how to look at problems critically, and know how to work toward goals. Teachers are the leaders who “can help guide and coach kids to acquire and synthesize information, and to be critical consumers of information; and to ask questions and develop the practice of thought,” Wardynski said.

Students educated in good local school systems are key to the future of Redstone Arsenal.

“We are an enabler of success. We want to help kids understand opportunities and raise their probability of success,” Wardynski said.

“Redstone Arsenal has situational awareness of what we are doing. Redstone needs us to educate students so they have a resource of educated employees to fill jobs. If we are not a high performing school system, then Redstone would have to import employees and pay more for those employees. The military is a discerning consumer of education, and that customer expects high performing schools.”

Spindle handles overseas travel for her co-workers

By **MICHELLE HARLAN**
USASAC Public Affairs

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – There are many factors to line up for a smooth trip overseas. The Security Assistance Command has a constant rotation of personnel visiting foreign countries as part of the Army's foreign military sales program. But many people don't realize the efforts of one co-worker taking place behind the scenes to ensure employees are able to travel.

"You can't go overseas without going through me," Mary Spindle, USASAC's administrative officer for passports and visas at the command's Washington Field Office at Fort Belvoir, Va., said.

Spindle has processed just over 100 passports and 200 visas since joining USASAC in 2010. Even though USASAC is a relatively small command with approximately 400 employees, it currently manages more than 4,600 FMS cases with 145 countries throughout the world providing security assistance and FMS requirements.

Keeping up with the time frame to have documents in a traveler's hand is always in the back of Spindle's mind. Due to the nature of USASAC's mission, all overseas trips can't be projected far enough in advance to allow for the lead time necessary to secure an official passport and visa. Typically, a passport takes eight to 10 weeks to receive. Visas, which more countries are also requiring for entry, take 45 days.

"We try to make sure new people get a passport when they come on board," Spindle said, "just to avoid a last minute request."

A large majority of USASAC employees work directly with partner nations throughout the FMS process and there is an increased opportunity for a trip overseas to attend meetings or materiel delivery ceremonies.

"You are at the mercy of a lot of other people," Spindle said. To get the job done, she stays organized and upholds a good relationship with the Department of Defense Passport and Visa Office in Crystal City and the Special Issuance Agency of the State Department. Spindle says it is important to maintain a good rapport with the people handling and approving applications to avoid jeopardizing someone's travel plans.

She enjoys her job because it's differ-



Mary Spindle

ent every day and she has the opportunity to meet a variety of people. If she's not at her desk verifying forms are submitted correctly and headshots meet specific photo requirements, she's calling the State Department and DoD for status checks. Two to three times a week she drives to the DoD office in Crystal City to personally deliver passport application packets. And as needed, she'll visit various embassies in downtown Washington to drop off visa applications and return a few days later for pick up.

"It's more efficient for me to drop off applications," Spindle said. "There are a lot of factors that are out of my control that influence the process, this way I know it arrived, they have it in hand and it's not sitting at the bottom of a stack in a mail room."

At the end of the day, Spindle knows she's done a good job if no one had to cancel or change a trip because they didn't have the proper documents in time to travel.

"I like the work that I do," she said. "I get people where they need to go."

Despite having handled passport applications at her job with USASAC and at a former agency for the past six years, Spindle does not own a passport.

"In 33 years of government service, I haven't needed one for my job or had the opportunity to go anywhere overseas," she said.

AMC civilian wins patriotism award

Spirit of America honorees named

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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DECATUR – They are selfless in their service to country, united by their patriotism, and humble in their lives as humanitarians, but that doesn't mean area leaders are about to let their contributions to the community go unrecognized.

Spirit of America Festival organizers announced the winners of the festival's 2012 awards in a press conference May 16 at City Hall. Laura Ayers, an engineer for the Army Materiel Command, was named the 2012 recipient of the Audie Murphy Patriotism Award, the festival's oldest and original award. Previous distinguished winners include Johnny Cash, Jesse Owens, Paul "Bear" Bryant, the New York City Police Department and Fire Department of New York City, and Homer Hickam. Ayers is the first female to win the award in its 46-year history.

"The Spirit of America is giving of yourself, and no one person I've ever met exemplifies giving of yourself and helping others as much as her," said Dave Carney, a member of the festival committee.

Ayers arrived at the event thinking organizers would be announcing her name as the recipient of the Humanitarian Award, but instead heard her name join the ranks of other recipients considered to be "an outstanding American patriot or an outstanding group of individuals who best exemplify the true spirit of America."

The Humanitarian Award was just a ploy to make sure the woman who spends 40 hours a week taking care of Soldiers, in addition to her day job at AMC, showed up.

"I'm just overwhelmed," Ayers said, moments before the announcement, unaware of the honor soon to be bestowed on her.

"I'm just shocked. I really am. We do everything so quietly, and when the needs from the Soldiers and families come in, we just address the need. Sometimes you call this friend, or that friend, but we make a real point to do it quietly, with dignity, with respect. For them to have nominated me and then selected me, oh my goodness."

Ayers' many ways of reaching out to the war fighter include sending care packages to deployed Soldiers and their families, and reaching out to Soldiers in financial need, such as when a Soldier needed the money to go home to see an ill family member. She is also the co-author of the Reintegration Action Plan workbook for returning Soldiers.

Wiping tears from her eyes upon the announcement, Ayers was left nearly speechless as she approached the podium.

"I'm humbled for y'all's selection, I truly am," Ayers said.

Carney also announced the winners of the Barrett C. Shelton Sr. Freedom Award, given to an Alabamian for their outstanding service to their community and state and the CSM John and Brenda Perry Award for Support for Military Families, given to an individual or group that has significantly supported military families.

Retired Lt. Col. James Walker was named the recipient of the Barrett C. Shelton Sr. Freedom Award. Walker established the Army JROTC program at Austin High School in Decatur in 1995. The program has earned 15 consecutive Honor Unit with Distinction ratings from the Army, and 21 cadets from the program have been selected to attend one of the nation's elite military academies or Ivy League schools.

"We're in good hands," Walker said. "You may see drug dealers, rapists and murderers every night on television, but I see the true heroes every day. Every day I walk into a classroom of 150 kids and I see the best that America has to offer. There is no need for you to worry about this coun-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Laura Ayers, an engineer for the Army Materiel Command, wipes tears from her eyes after being named the winner of the 2012 Spirit of America Audie Murphy Patriotism Award May 16. Ayers will receive her award during the Spirit of America Festival in Decatur, July 3-4.

try. It's in good hands."

The Blue Star Mothers of Morgan County received the CSM John and Brenda Perry Award for their constant support of military families. The group of 34 women who proudly call themselves mothers, stepmothers or grandmothers of a service-member not only serve as a support to each other as Blue Star mothers, but also reach out on a regular basis to the war fighter,

World War II bandsman tours AMC Band building

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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A World War II bandsman visited memory lane May 14 at Redstone Arsenal.

Rudy Nashan, 88, from Belfast, Maine, toured the AMC Band building with members of his family. Sgt. Gokben Boothby, a flutist in the band, is married to Nashan's grandson Sgt. Eben Boothby, a reservist.

"Wow," Nashan said while viewing the facilities. "We never had that in 1941."

He was a member of the 740th Military Police Band in Skokie, Ill., during the war. Afterward he played second trumpet for 13 years in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

During his visit, he told about his experiences, played old tapes and listened to the AMC Band's brass quintet.

Patricia Dorsey, his wife of 12 years, said five of the 740th MP bandsmen are alive today and in their late 80s or early 90s.

"Do you have an old-time tune?" Nashan asked the brass quintet while visiting their rehearsal room. The five Soldiers played him a few tunes and he

sending care packages to troops deployed all over the world. In addition to their care package ministry, the group participates in military ceremonies, marches in local parades and holds fund-raisers throughout the year to ensure their children's sacrifice and service is not forgotten.

"We're in awe that you're recognizing us for something that we take great pride in doing," said Terasa Driggers, financial secretary of the group. "It is our great honor to continue to send packages to the men and women in our military and to be a support for the families here at home struggling with the separation of their loved ones."

The Spirit of America Festival is July 3-4 at Point Mallard Park in Decatur. The festival will include the Awards Ceremony and Miss Point Mallard Pageant, which will come together in the spirit of a USO show, as well as a fireworks show and more.

"The United States of America is the land of diverse traditions, stories, hopes and beliefs, and despite our differences we share a common bond as citizens of this proud nation, knowing that we are at our best when we work together as one," Melinda Dunn, president of the festival, said. "The 2012 Spirit of America theme is 'America: We Are One,' and it celebrates the unlimited possibilities of what can be accomplished when we work together to build a brighter future for this land."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Rudy Nashan, 88, listens to the AMC Band's brass quintet. Seated with him is Sgt. Gokben Boothby, who is married to his grandson.

gave them advice about playing concerts for children – start out soft and then get loud. "They (the children) thought we were doing something special for them," he said of how that technique would capture the youngsters' attention.

Nashan quit the Chicago orchestra in 1963 and said he hasn't played a note on the horn since 1973.

"Overwhelming," he said of his tour at the AMC Band's modern building on Patton Road. "The facility is overwhelming. And the band is a good band. It's always fascinating to hear new guys play."

Research center engineers develop electronics package

By HEATHER R. SMITH
AMRDEC Public Affairs

The challenge to be smaller, lighter and cheaper often requires Army engineers to take non-traditional approaches. Such was the case with the recent design, fabrication and hardware verification testing of the first generation electronics power system for the Aviation Multi-Platform Munition.

The personnel in the AMPM Science & Technology Program at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center develop missile technologies for a diverse set of aviation platforms. These include manned helicopters like the AH-64D Longbow Apache and OH-58D

Kiowa Warrior, and unmanned aerial systems like the RQ-7B Shadow and the MQ-1C Gray Eagle.



Courtesy photo

Chris Lofts, right, Aviation Multi-Platform Munition program lead, speaks with Brian McIntosh about the AMPM Program objectives, and McIntosh's responsibilities concerning the system's electrical modularity and the power electronics design.

Chris Lofts, program lead for AMPM, said one of the objectives of the program is to develop a core set of munition sub-

systems that can be used to construct a forward firing rocket-propelled missile and a drop/glide munition.

"The subsystems have been modularized so that they can be 'stacked' in any order without modification to achieve the desired configurations," Lofts said. "The AMPM concepts are small and very lightweight so as to increase load-out options for armed reconnaissance without adversely impacting platform 'on-station' times."

Achieving smaller and lighter munitions requires more-dense electronics and presents a challenge with heat dissipation, Lofts said. Also, the diameter of the AMPM missile body is just 2.75 inches, and the program wanted a design that would address both munition variants in the same set of electronics.

Demanding AMPM system constraints like these resulted in a non-traditional approach to power system design.

"Designing an electronics power system to address either of these munition variants is challenging enough," Lofts said. "Designing for both munition variants in the same set of electronics takes

that challenge one step higher."

Brian McIntosh, from the Controls & Electronics Function of AMRDEC's Weapons Development & Integration Directorate, is responsible for the AMPM system electrical modularity and the power electronics design. To address the AMPM's unique requirements, McIntosh said AMRDEC used a non-traditional design approach involving the elimination of connectors from the power supply board and merging the power supply and main harness functions of the Guidance Electronics Unit into a single piece of hardware.

Other key technologies for the success of this electronics power system include unique Direct Current-Direct Current converters, remote power control, voltage feedback monitoring, robust voltage filtering and various power protection features.

Successful completion of the verification tests not only marks a significant milestone in the development of the AMPM variants but also has positive implications for the development of future Army missile systems.

Engineering upgrade reaps savings at depot

By HEATHER R. SMITH and MARK A. VELAZQUEZ
AMRDEC

In April the Aviation and Missile Command and the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center faced a confluence of opportunities when a production demand for serviceable T700 engine turbine blades was recognized at AMCOM's Corpus Christi Army Depot.

Mission accomplished.

AMRDEC's Engineering Storage, Analysis, Failure Evaluation and Reclamation Program engineers and technicians collaborated with AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center and Corpus Christi item and program managers to resolve the parts demand issue. Their solution entailed shipment of 1,598 reparable turbine blades from SAFR to Corpus Christi's T700 engine maintenance program for inspection, repair and return to service in accordance with T700

Depot Maintenance Work Requirements and Maintenance Engineering Call guidance.

This solution facilitated Corpus Christi's continued T700 production, while providing AMCOM IMMC with critical parts supply relief and saving the Defense Department from having to purchase \$1.6 million in new parts or possibly suffer part delivery delays and reduced readiness levels across the US Army's fleet of Blackhawk and Apache helicopters.

SAFR is part of the Maintenance Engineering Division of AMRDEC's Aviation Engineering Directorate. The program has been supporting the AMCOM IMMC depot maintenance programs at Corpus Christi since 1989. SAFR program team members provide aviation parts failure analysis, repair development and remediation solutions to military aviation maintainers worldwide in support of critical supply needs and readiness.

"The program collects 'select mission essential' candidate parts that are rejected from maintenance programs that no longer meet current maintenance repair or program criteria to support engineering damage tolerance relief analysis, repair development and parts reclamation," Mark A. Velazquez, chief engineer of the SAFR program, said.

Most important, he added, the SAFR team ensures "that airworthiness requirements are met first and foremost."

SAFR repair development solutions typically reclaim 50 to 75 percent of the parts stored, with more than 2,000 parts transferred to maintenance activities for repair and return to service on an annual basis. In addition to the cost avoidance realized under this effort, the success of SAFR is also evidenced by Value Engineering command cost savings, which typically range between \$50 million and \$100 million over the fiscal year. In fiscal 2011 alone, the SAFR program exceeded a total VE savings threshold of \$1 billion.

The team achieved these savings while completing SAFR facility warehouse renovations which included a new roof system, installation of a 20-ton dehumidification system, an electrical service upgrade to 400



Army photo

Robin Bonham, T700 engineer in the AMRDEC's Engineering Storage, Analysis, Failure Evaluation and Reclamation Program, conducts an engineering evaluation of a T700 engine inlet part. Bonham was integral to identifying and shipping 1,598 reparable turbine blades from the SAFR facility to AMCOM's Corpus Christi Army Depot's T700 engine maintenance program for inspection, repair and return to service and achieving \$1.6 million in cost avoidance.

amps, and a 28,000 square foot paved material staging and delivery area to further enhance SAFR operations in support of the war fighter.

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SOUND ADVICE: WHEN LIGHTNING ROARS, GO INDOORS
CARGO OFFICE DELIVERS ALASKAN CHINOOKS

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Sound advice: When lightning roars, go indoors

By WILLIAM J. EGGLESTON III

Corps of Engineers

According to the Weather Channel, lightning kills or injures hundreds of people every year, mainly because the victims are not aware of the danger they face. Myths and misperceptions about lightning can add to the confusion. Take this short quiz from weather.com and let's test your lightning knowledge:

True or false? Lightning always strikes the tallest object.

False. Lightning strikes the best conductor on the ground, not necessarily the tallest object. In some cases, the best conductor might be a human being.

A car's rubber tires give protection from lightning.

False. Actually, the car itself is very well-insulated and offers more protection than being outside in the storm. Of course, the exception to this is the convertible, which provides virtually no protection.

Lightning never strikes the same place twice.

False. Tell that one to the Empire State Building, which is struck by lightning many times every year.

The first step to reduce the risk of being struck by lightning is education. Sadly, many people don't realize the dangers of lightning. There are several ways to prepare yourself for a thunderstorm: keep a watchful eye to the sky, listen to a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio or local radio or television for current forecasts, and watch for lightning flashes.

Lightning is the result of the build up and discharge of electrical energy. If you

can see lightning or hear thunder, you could be in danger. You can tell how close you are to a lightning strike by counting the seconds between seeing the flash and hearing thunder. For every five seconds you count, the lightning is one mile away. If you can see a flash and instantly hear thunder, the lightning strike is very close and you should seek shelter immediately.

The two most common types of lightning are cloud-to-ground and intra cloud. Cloud-to-ground lightning is the most dangerous form of lightning. This type of lightning occurs during the dissipating stage of a thunderstorm. Intra cloud lightning is the most common. It occurs between opposite-charged centers within the same cloud.

The 30/30 rule relates to the duration between the flash of lightning and clap of thunder, which describes the proximity of a storm cell. It's used as a measure of the imminence of the storm and therefore as a denominator in deciding whether to suspend outdoor activities. The rule of thumb is that every three seconds of delay between a lightning flash and the audible thunder associated with the flash equates to a distance of approximately one kilometer. Accordingly, the 30 seconds flash-to-thunder time interval suggests that the lightning activity is approximately 10 kilometers away.

The safest location during a thunderstorm is inside a large enclosed structure, preferably with electrical/telephone wiring and plumbing (to provide a safe pathway to the ground for any current), but keeping away from doors, windows, metal fittings and devices connected to the electricity supply. Also, an enclosed metal vehicle (such as a car, van or bus) is a safe location if an

enclosed structure isn't available.

Avoid unnecessary exposure to the lightning during thunderstorm activity. Follow safety recommendations to reduce the overall number of lightning casualties. An individual ultimately must take responsibility for his or her own safety and should take appropriate action when threatened by lightning. A weather radio and the use of lightning detection data in conjunction with an action plan are prudent components of a lightning warning policy, especially when larger groups and/or longer evacuation times are involved.

The seemingly random nature of thunderstorms cannot guarantee an individual absolute protection from lightning strikes, however, being aware of, and following proven lightning safety guidelines can greatly reduce the risk of injury or death.

A Soldier was injured while conducting motor pool operations during a lightning storm, for example. Lightning struck approximately 30 feet from the Soldier and he was shocked while holding onto a metal pole. He felt electricity throughout his body.

The Red Cross reports that every year, people are killed or seriously injured by severe thunderstorms despite advance warning. While some do not hear a warning, others do but they don't pay attention to it. The following information, combined with timely thunderstorm watches and warnings about severe weather, may help save lives.

During thunderstorms, always remember to:

- Listen to local news or NOAA Weath-

er Radio for emergency updates. Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning flashes or increasing wind.

- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur. Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.

- If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or in a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.

- If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors. The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.

- Avoid electrical equipment and telephone. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.

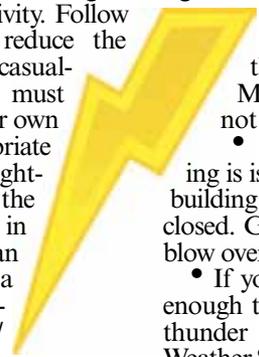
- Shutter windows and close outside doors securely. Keep away from windows.

- Do not take a bath, shower or use plumbing.

- If you are driving, try to safely exit the roadway and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.

- If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are not safe.

For more information on how to prepare before a thunderstorm and what to do afterward, visit www.redcross.org.



Cargo office delivers Alaskan Chinooks

*Helicopters journey
3,4K nautical miles*

By **RANDY TISOR**
PEO Aviation Public Affairs

The signature sound of the tandem-rotored Chinook was multiplied by four as Sortie 2 took to the early morning air over Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Ga. The new helicopters had been flown to the airfield just a couple of weeks earlier in mid-March from the Boeing production facility in Philadelphia. And though new, the helicopters were far from shiny; their mid-toned, flat green paint was well-designed to offer concealment against terrains in theater operations where most F models would fly.

It was now April, and the Chinooks were departing on what would likely be the longest mission they'd likely ever be tasked to do; fly from the eastern seaboard of the southern U.S. all the way to Fairbanks, Alaska. Once in Alaska, the new F models would be turned over to the aviators of the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade.

The mission sounded easy enough. But the nearly 3,400 nautical mile route to Alaska would take almost two weeks with multiple fuel stops and overnight breaks for the crews along the way. They would be trailing in the wake of Sortie 1, also consisting of four new F models and a combined crew of about 22, by just a day. The sorties were separated by at least a day so that some of the smaller airfields used along the way would not be overly taxed in terms of fueling capabilities or ramp parking spaces.

Four more CH-47 F model Chinooks would follow a couple of weeks later to comprise Sortie 3 for a total of 12 new aircraft delivered to the 16th CAB in Fairbanks.

The route was lengthy and well-planned out.

The new F models and their crews would fly from Savannah, Ga., to St. Louis then on to Rapid City, S.D., with a quick stop for fuel and lunch at Campbell Army Airfield at Fort Campbell, Ky. From Rapid City, the route continued north to Helena, Mont., and, from Helena, north across the Canadian border to Edmonton in Alberta. From there, stops included Fort Nelson in northern British Columbia, a brief fuel stop at Whitehorse in the Yukon, and, finally, the immense state of Alaska and the final destination of Fairbanks.

All of the major stops were conducted as an overnight stay to allow the crews needed rest and downtime as well as to



Photo by Randy Tisor

A new CH-47F Chinook helicopter flies high above the Al Can highway during a ferry trip from the southern U.S. to the interior of Alaska. A river can be seen far below winding its way through the Northern Rocky Mountains.



Photo by Mark Markus/Cargo Helicopters Project Office

Lt. Col. Brad Killen, left, product manager for the CH-47F, and Col. Bob Marion, Cargo Helicopters project manager, stand on the Ladd Army Airfield parking ramp near eight new CH-47F model Chinooks. The two officers lead the effort to ferry a total of 12 new aircraft to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment at Fort Wainwright.

allow for required maintenance on the Chinooks.

Amazingly enough, the ferry mission to Alaska was to be a first of sorts for the venerable airframe. In its 50 years of production and hundreds of thousands of hours of flight time as a fleet, a ferry of this magnitude across the breadth of North America had never been done before.

“From an operational standpoint, or a logistical, planning and actual execution standpoint, it’s been a big challenge,” Col. Bob Marion, Cargo Helicopters project manager, said. Marion spoke during a weather delay in Helena that held up the mission for two days. The delay wasn’t part of the extensive planning, of course, but the plans were necessarily flexible due to the complexity of the mission.

A team of Boeing technicians was traveling along to handle issues that might have come up during the long flight. They didn’t travel light. One of the four helicopters was the “maintenance bird,” so-called because, in addition to the technicians, it carried a couple of large tool boxes as well as spare parts and other items they might need along the way.

Marion elaborated on the long history of the Chinook, noting that the basic design may be old in terms of military vehicles, but it was a completely up-to-speed aircraft. “If you go back in time and look at the fact that the Chinook has been around for over 50 years now, flying in the Army, from the big picture standpoint, it shows how reliable, how sustainable, how effective operationally the system is. The physics of the aircraft have remained the same for 50 years.

“We’ve done a lot of things like upgrading the engine, the gearboxes, the transmission, to make it more and more reliable as we’ve gone through these last generations of aircraft from A through F. We’ve improved the aircraft over 50 years, but the fact that it’s continued to be a part operationally of the Army’s inventory of aircraft shows just how reliable it is,” Marion said. “Engines have been upgraded over the years, as have the most of the other major components. What really sets the F model apart is its greatly upgraded avionics.”

Marion added that Chinooks in theater have flown anywhere from 50 to 100 hours in per month. “And that’s been ongoing for the last 10 years,” he emphasized, noting that the airframe was originally designed to fly just over 14 hours per month with a life span calculated on those flight hours. “The aircraft has done great.”

The first couple of days covered familiar ground for most of the CH-47F crews. And though the scenery was entertaining from 1,200 feet in the air, the days were fairly uneventful.

The battle rhythm was developed.

Get to the airfield and the aircraft early in the morning. Pilots had already completed their pre-mission planning and all crew members assisted in getting the aircraft ready to fly for the day. The ramp at the back was lowered to allow access to

the interior. Covers were removed from the engines, rotor hubs and other sensors that needed protection overnight. Blade ropes that had secured each rotor’s four large blades were taken off. Luggage was stowed and tied down within. The pilots worked through their checklists while the flight engineer coordinated external checks from the ramp near the opened right side door as the engines started and the rotors began the first of their revolutions for the day. After a short taxi to the runway, the pilots would perform a hover check, then other final checks. The air mission commander in the lead helicopter would confirm a go for all aircraft in the sortie then the pilots in the four birds would increase air speed and elevation and take off.

The day’s flight had begun.

The trip from Savannah to St. Louis was punctuated only by the fuel stop at Campbell Army Airfield.

The overnight in St. Louis was nearly uneventful except for having to wait for an avionics software update on one of the F models. The delay slowed the day’s mission by a couple of hours, putting off the arrival of the four Chinooks at the National Guard facility in Rapid City by a couple of hours.

Departing from Rapid City the next morning, the sortie crews saw the first of several crowds drawn to the attraction of four Army Chinooks passing through had gathered just inside a National Guard hangar out of the reach of the morning’s drizzle. The 30 some-odd men, women and children were just in time to witness the morning hover check and launch for the day.

The weather had been clear flying into Montana and the crews had the first glimpse of the Rocky Mountains. By the next morning, however, the clouds had settled into the valleys and low areas to the north along the planned route to Edmonton. Traveling through the mountain passes had become a major safety concern which resulted in a two-day weather delay and the biggest single setback on the road to mission complete. But, as Lt. Col. Brad Killen, Cargo office product manager for the F model, explained that the mission was to get the Chinooks to the Soldiers of the 16th CAB in as safe a way as possible.

“We can see to certain ridge lines, but we can’t see over other ones. If you do punch in (to the clouds), then you would proceed to altitude and fly instruments. The problem here is, as we can see with all the snow capped mountains, once you get to altitude, then you’re dealing with icing. And that’s something you don’t want in a helicopter.

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Helicopters

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“In an aviation unit, we focus on getting the mission done and getting it done safely. We have weather conditions such that we’d probably be really close on whether or not we should launch or not and, in our case, we don’t have troops that we need to go save, we don’t have an injured Soldier that we’re trying to go rescue on a mountain top somewhere. We’re trying to get these eight 47Fs to Fairbanks, Alaska, safely. So we’re going to wait until we’re certain that we have good weather between here and our next stop in Alberta,” Killen said.

Once given the go ahead, the trip north was uneventful considering that eight Army Chinook helicopters, separated by just about an hour, were traveling into the heart of the Canadian province of Alberta and the cosmopolitan city of Edmonton.

But it was a friendly invasion and the helicopters continued to draw at least a small crowd of onlookers and well-wishers.

Several of the support staff at the Edmonton City Centre airport just north of downtown took a look inside one of the F models of Sortie 1 shortly after the sortie landed. They were joined by several others the next morning to watch the four Chinooks take off for the day.

The Chinooks of Sortie 2 had landed at Edmonton International Airport situated south of the city. When they departed the next day, airport support crews with bucket trucks had lined up several hundred yards away against the edge of the airfield with buckets raised high to allow their occupants the best view of the departing Chinooks. The truck crews held their pseudo salute as the Chinooks climbed away and departed for the Canadian province to the west.

A little over five hours later, the four helicopters in the sortie had arrived at Fort Nelson in northern British Columbia. The small town on the Al Can Highway served as a hub for the oil drilling activities in the region and had its fair share of air traffic as evidenced by busy regional airport nearby.

A lot of things passed through Fort Nelson on the Al Can, but most of them were not new F model Chinooks.

This stop along the route drew the attention of the students and faculty of the R.L. Angus Middle School who wasted no time in inviting themselves to the airport for a tour of the Chinooks.

A few volunteers waited for the students and kept one aircraft open and ready and a short while later, the mid-



Photo by Mark Markus/Cargo Helicopters Project Office
Chief Warrant Officer 5 Matthew Carmichael, a Chinook pilot from the 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, Fort Drum, N.Y., pulls a blade rope into position for removal at an airport in St. Louis. He joined a small task force consisting of active duty Army, National Guard and civilian crew members to ferry 12 CH-47F model Chinooks to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment in Fairbanks, Alaska, in April.



Photo by Randy Tisor
A Chinook cargo area side window frames a snow covered peak located on the mountainous route flown by pilots ferrying new CH-47F model helicopters for the Cargo Helicopters Project Office. The nearly 3,400 nautical mile route included following the Al Can Highway through the Northern Rocky Mountains from Fort Nelson, British Columbia, to Fairbanks, Alaska.

dle-schoolers were on the parking ramp where the four F models sat and talking to the pilots and flight engineers. The ramp extensions were lowered to allow easier access and soon the cargo helicopter was full of 15 students with iPads taking photos and video. The main attraction in the helicopter, however, was the cockpit.

Since a little seat time was called for, one of the pilots offered some basic instructions on how to successfully enter the busy cockpit and briefly occupy a seat.

“Put your left foot in first if you’re going in the right seat, and your right foot in first if you’re going in the left seat,” Chief Warrant Officer 5 Matt Carmichael instructed. Carmichael

was a pilot from 10th CAB at Fort Drum, N.Y., temporarily assigned to the ferry task force.

The experience of getting in to the cockpit for the first time wasn’t easy for everyone.

“No, your other right foot,” Carmichael scowled jokingly toward a student who didn’t yet grasp his directions. “Now pull your other foot over,” he said, adding a “there you go” when the student figured it out.

“And remember, if you break it, you buy it,” he announced to all of the students in the cargo bay of the F model. He then broke a smile to cue them in and added “they’re actually pretty hard to break. They’re Army tough.”

After everyone had a chance to sit up front, Carmichael, along with Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jack Tartaglia, a pilot with the Cargo Helicopters Project Office, handed out CH-47F patches to them as parting souvenirs, and then posed for photos with the students and the other pilots and crew in front of the aircraft.

The following day, the four CH-47F models of Sortie 2 followed the Alcan Highway through mountain passes too numerous to count. Following the highway below was not only the most direct route through the endless mountains, but a reliably open offer for a good spot to put one or more of the helicopters down should the need to land arise. Options for emergency landing zones were nearly non-existent in the otherwise craggy and forested area below. Options in any terrain are a necessity, but even more so in this unforgiving and remote part of the world. Fortunately, the need never arose.

The scenery was impressive and downright spectacular.

The rugged, snow covered mountains stretched from horizon to horizon and then some. Sporadic clusters of cabins along with an occasional airstrip could be seen from the crew’s varying vantage points of between several hundred to 1,000 or 2,000 feet above ground level. Traces of wildlife could also be seen by the tracks they left in the snow below, and at one point, an eagle flew across the field of view.

The need for the airstrips was obvious. Although an occasional car or truck could be spotted on the lonely road, the best way to get in or out of here was by air. Wheels on the ground took too much time and the distances between pockets of civilization were too vast.

After a few more hours of solidly dramatic scenery, the four F model Chinooks in Sortie 2 stopped at Whitehorse to refuel, and then were

off to Alaska once again. As the sortie neared the final destination on the ferry trip, the terrain below opened into the broad geologic basin that was the home to Fairbanks and Fort Wainwright. More signs of civilization followed and the Chena River, displaying the broken ice chunks of spring along its banks, joined the Alcan in leading the crews of Sortie 2 to the airfield destination ahead.

Ladd Army Airfield was populated with a few D model Chinooks on skis instead of wheels. The D models stood out due to their darker green paint color against the snow in the middle of the air field where a few of them were parked. The four Chinooks in Sortie 1 were there, too, having arrived just the day before.

It was a long way from sunny Savannah, Ga., but the weather was surprisingly not much different. The sun was out and Fairbanks was enjoying a mild 57 degrees Fahrenheit.

And for Sorties 1 and 2, it was mission complete. Some of the pilots and crew members would travel back to Savannah to ferry the remaining four F models to this same spot.

From an operational standpoint, Col. Marion pointed out the first two deliveries were a success. He then elaborated on the abilities of the Chinook.

“We’ve used this aircraft in so many different roles. When we did the 50th anniversary of the first flight of the Chinook in Philadelphia where they build the Chinooks, the original design engineers came to the ceremony,” Marion said. “I know that they had no idea that we’d be using this as an air assault platform and all the other missions that we’ve asked this aircraft to do. It’s a testament to the folks who designed the aircraft and the Soldiers who are flying and maintaining the aircraft today that every time we ask it to pick up something else, to do something more, to take on a new mission, it’s always done more than we asked it to do.”

The eight new CH-47F models parked on the ramp near a 16th CAB hangar were home. Not just home, but tested and proven. Not battle tested, maybe, or hooking a truck or Humvee from below proven, but they had just traveled 3,400 nautical miles by rotor without a major hitch.

Four more new F models would join them in early May. Over the next few months, they would be turned over to their new crews in the 16th CAB with the help of the New Equipment Training Team pilots who will instruct them on the finer points of the latest model Ch-47F Chinook.

The 16th CAB will, no doubt, have much to add to the storied legacy of the multi-capable cargo helicopter.

'We found a community that we love'

Armed forces celebration grew wounded warrior's love for area

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
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North Alabama's celebration of the armed forces showed Howard Andrews that life had a lot more to offer for a wounded warrior who wanted to still serve his country.

Andrews, a medically retired staff sergeant who lost his left foot in 2004 when an improvised explosive device exploded in Iraq, experienced his first Armed Forces Celebration Week in 2005. At the time, he was still on active duty despite his injury, serving with the Missile Defense Agency.

"That first celebration was epic for me," he recalled. "It motivated me to join the local chapter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and before I knew it I was helping (retired Brig. Gen.) Bob Drolet and others put together Veterans Day and Memorial Day events, and then the next Armed Forces Celebration."

Andrews decided to medically retire in 2008. He now works for the Aviation and

Missile Command's Integrated Materiel Management Center, where he supports the war fighter by providing equipment for command tactical operations centers in theater. He's only missed one Armed Forces Celebration Week since 2005, due to a work conflict. He is looking forward to this year's celebration, set for June 10-17.

"Helping with Armed Forces Celebration Week is a way that I can give back," Andrews said.

"When we Soldiers join, we don't join to be given accolades or to be showered with affection and ticker-tape parades. But, boy, it sure is nice when we get it. The patriotism here all year and especially during the Armed Forces Celebration Week is just awesome for veterans like me."

It was the patriotism of the area, a sense of belonging to the local veterans community and a few other things, such as the friendly people, the nice weather and the beautiful area, that convinced Andrews and his wife, who is from Germany, that Huntsville was the right place to retire.

"This is a great place to retire," he said. "I was seriously taken away with the amount of support I received and that my family received when I arrived here. North Alabama's love and patriotism for Soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen is the best."

"In this area, we found a community that we love. We found a community of like-minded veterans dedicated and still continuing to serve, and we don't want to leave. Nowhere in my experience have I come across a place like this. Everyone you talk to here has an enormous love for the military."

It was his injury that brought Andrews to Redstone Arsenal.

"My wife and I look back, and we are thankful that I was wounded because if I hadn't been wounded I wouldn't have been given the chance to come to Redstone," said Andrews, who lives in Hazel Green.

As a combat engineer, Andrews would have not been stationed at Redstone Arsenal. But his injury forced him to change his military occupational specialty, and that change led him to Redstone, and

the life he and his family now enjoy.

Andrews' Soldier career as a combat engineer – or sapper – involved light infantry tactics, long range patrol and scouting. Sappers are trained for hit-and-run operations involving lots of explosives.

"Combat engineers are different from explosive ordnance Soldiers because EOD is trained to handle one or two items of explosive and to use a very deliberate approach to assess explosives before they go in and detonate them," Andrews said.

"A combat engineer is trained to walk right in and destroy explosives. We are trained to blow through a minefield."

The rough and tumble world of sappers fit this edgy, 21-year-old from south-

west Alabama, who, in 1993, was looking for a way out of his small hometown and

See Warrior on page 39



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Howard Andrews, a wounded warrior, continues to support Soldiers through his work with the Aviation and Missile Command, and through volunteering to assist with such events as the upcoming Armed Forces Celebration Week.



Courtesy photo

This photo from January 2004 in Schweinfurt, Germany, shows Staff Sgt. Howard Andrews on the morning he and the 1st Infantry Division left for Iraq.



Courtesy photo

Test area tour

Lt. Gen. Bill Phillips, principal military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army and director of Acquisition Career Management, visits Redstone Test Center's Test Area 1 on May 8. From left are Brig. Gen. Ole Knudson, program executive officer for missiles and space, Phillips and Tracy Magnusson of Close Combat Weapon Systems.

In this section...

RECREATION AREAS ACCEPT MILITARY PASSES NATIONWIDE PAGE 39

Recreation areas accept military passes nationwide

WASHINGTON – The Army Corps of Engineers has announced it will begin accepting the America the Beautiful Federal Recreation Pass Program's new Interagency Annual Pass for Military (military pass) at its more than 2,500 USACE-managed recreation areas nationwide.

Beginning on Armed Forces Day on May 19, service men and women – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and activated National Guard and Reserves – and their dependents who present the new Military Pass will receive a fee waiver to USACE-managed day-use areas (boat launches and swimming areas). The military pass, which is free, may be obtained in person at U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service facilities. Additional information on the Federal Recreation Pass Program is available at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/annual.html>.

Military members and their dependents may also present a Department of the Defense Identification Card or Common Access Card (CAC) to receive the day-use fee waiver at USACE-managed day-use areas.

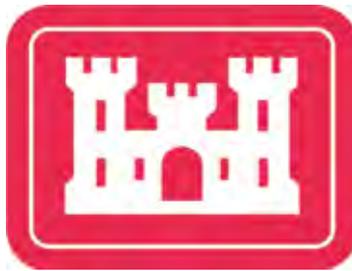
In a separate effort, USACE will continue to waive camping fees for active duty military members and their dependents on mid- or post-deployment leave. To qualify for a camping fee waiver at a USACE-managed campground, a member or depen-

dent must present the new military pass or CAC and a copy of their mid- or post-deployment (reintegration) leave orders. Camping fees are waived on a walk-up and space available basis, as well as for reservations made through the National Recreation Reservation Service call center at 1-877-444-6777. However, fees will not be waived for online reservations made through the online Recreation.gov website.

Acceptance of USACE fee waivers is encouraged, but not required, at the more than 1,800 nationwide recreation areas managed by other entities on USACE lands.

“Our military servicemembers and their families sacrifice so much for our country. The waiver of day-use fees at USACE lakes and recreation areas will make it easier and more affordable for them to get to the great outdoors with their families and relax,” Maj. Gen. Michael J. Walsh, USACE deputy commander for civil and emergency operations, said.

USACE is the nation's largest federal provider of outdoor recreation, managing more than 400 lake and river projects in 43 states and hosting more than 370 million visits per year. With 90 percent of these recreation areas within 50 miles of metropolitan areas, they provide a diverse range of outdoor activities close to home and to people of all ages. For more information on USACE recreation sites and activities, visit www.CorpsLakes.us. (*Corps of Engineers release*)



Warrior

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a way to support his young family. In 1994, he deployed to Idaho to help fight forest fires, and in 1996, he deployed to Arizona to build fences along the U.S. border.

“My first wartime deployment was to Kosovo in 1999,” he said. “Prior to that, it had all been sort of fun. But Kosovo really woke me up and showed me the reality of serving in the Army. We spent our time getting ready to invade Serbia. We were locked and loaded, and it made me realize my mortality.”

“Kosovo woke me up and my priorities changed. I had to make sure I got out alive and the Soldiers serving with me got out alive.”

In 2001, he volunteered for a one-year deployment to Sarajevo, Bosnia, where he was embedded with the British Royal Army and NATO forces.

“It was a dangerous mission to clear minefields and to supervise clearings by Bosnia and Serbia armies,” he said. “We cleared minefields for tanks and infantry to come through.”

And in 2004, Andrews went to Iraq with the 1st Infantry Division.

“We relieved the invasion forces,” he said.

During a patrol on July 28, 2004, Andrews and his men were on a mission to secure routes north of Samarra when they located an IED. They were making plans to destroy the device and Andrews was making sure all his Soldiers were positioned on the safe side of their vehicle. He was about to get back in the vehicle when the IED blew up.

“The shrapnel went under the vehicle and sliced through my ankle, taking off my left foot and boot,” he said.

“Even though I saw my boot flying through the air, I still managed to keep my Soldiers safe. My training kicked in. I thought ‘Don’t think about that. You have a job to do.’ I wanted to make sure everyone was OK and they did their job. I was on the ground. But I was giving orders as they gave me an IV, put the tourniquet on me and tagged me for the medevac. I was barking out orders like I was in charge.”

Thirteen surgeries later and with his foot buried by his unit in Iraq, Andrews can look back on those tough days and be grateful for the top-notch care and rehabilitation that he received. Today, he has no noticeable limp from his prostheses.

“One thing I like about the Army is that it teaches you not to blame people. You blame yourself when something goes wrong. You take responsibility. When something bad happens, you think about what you did that made it happen,” he said.

“You go through the mental checklist to figure out what you could have done differently. Sometimes it just comes down to, well, this is war and things happen in war.”

After seven months of recovery at Walter Reed, Andrews received a medical retirement. He appealed it and won, becoming one of 12 Soldiers to participate in a test pilot to show that wounded warriors can remain on active duty despite their injuries.

But being stationed in Germany with his unit made it difficult to receive the continued care he needed through Tri-care. After about six months, Andrews

was assigned to Redstone, where, at first, he struggled with depression and the slower pace of a career that was much different from the high-stress and busy life of an Army sapper. But after three months, he began to realize the assignment was indeed a gift, providing him with time to spend with his wife and young son along with his two teenage children.

“I didn’t want to leave here. The community is so wonderful to troops and there was work here that I could do in support of the troops,” he said.

“My wife and I look back a lot and wonder what would have happened if I had been inside that vehicle when the IED went off. I would probably be on my ninth deployment, burned out and divorced. We look back and we’re thankful that I was wounded. What happened to me brought us to Redstone Arsenal.”

He plans on being an active volunteer

for many years to come, enjoying the satisfaction of being involved with the Armed Forces Celebration Week and other patriotic events.

“I like giving back because that’s what you do here and it gives you a great feeling,” Andrews said.

“Once you have a near death experience, you have time to think about things. Have you made the right decisions in life? Are you making a mark in the world? When you do leave this world will it matter? I do take one day at a time. You can plan and you can dream about the future. But there’s always going to be something that changes it, and for me that change was Iraq. Life threw me a curve ball, so I take it one day at a time now.”

One day at a time working for the Army at Redstone is just about the right pace for this wounded warrior, who still loves the Army “for raising me into the man I am today.”

Photo by Carrie E. David
of SMDC/ARSTRAT

Meritorious service

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, pins the Legion of Merit medal on Col. Kevin Fagedes, the command's inspector general, during Fagedes' retirement ceremony May 4 at Von Braun III. Fagedes retires with 31 years of service.



Win or Lose

Expendables explode for 10 runs to beat RTC



Seventh-inning rally brings 22-17 victory

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Two Army teams squared off on a pleasant evening May 16 at the NASA softball field.

Jeremy Schreiber's three-run double capped a 10-run seventh inning as the Expendables rallied to beat RTC 22-17. The Expendables trailed 15-12 when they came to bat in the top of the seventh. With seven runs in, Schreiber doubled with the bases loaded and two out.

"We hit the ball," Expendables coach/second baseman

Mike Behr said. "We woke the bats up late in the game, a team effort."

Jason Bradshaw, Derek Ahmad and pitcher Eddie Curet scored three runs apiece for the Expendables (3-2) in the Army/NASA league's Division A.

The score was tied 12-all when RTC (0-5) came to bat in the bottom of the sixth. With runners on first and second, Dan Paseur hit a three-run homer over the fence in right center to give RTC its last lead.

"Luck, it was all luck," Paseur said in the dugout after rounding the bases. "I thought it was a long out is what I thought. Honestly."

But the Expendables rallied and ended the game on a force out at third base after RTC had scored two runs in the seventh.

"Errors beat us," RTC coach/shortstop Mark Calhoun said. "They (the Expendables) played good."

Photo by Skip Vaughn

RTC's Stanley Deerman pitches while So Ihara plays second base against the Expendables.



Utility Helicopters Project Office photo

Benefit golf

The Utility Helicopters Project Office held a charity golf scramble May 10 at the Links which raised \$7,000 for Army Emergency Relief. With the tournament's proceeds are Capt. Audrey Boenker, the project office's AER officer, and Col. Thomas Todd, Utility Helicopters project manager. Members of the winning team were Raymond Hayes, Jay Horne, Scott Coy and Rusty Savage. The more than 155 participants included several industry members of the community who made contributions to AER.

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WELLNESS PROGRAM LEADS TO BOSTON MARATHON

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COTTON ROW RUN ON MEMORIAL DAY

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NASA/Army softball league standings

Here are the standings entering this week's games:

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

| Division B | Wins | Losses | Ties |
|--------------------------|------|--------|------|
| WYLE Coyotes | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Spaceballs | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| TBE Integrators | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| A-Team | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Fireballs | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Redstone's Step-Children | 1 | 3 | 0 |
| Space Cowboys | 0 | 3 | 0 |

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

Wellness program leads to Boston Marathon

By DAVID REED

AMRDEC Prototype Integration Facility

Two members AMRDEC's Prototype Integration Facility caught the fitness bug and took full advantage of wellness policy that led them on a path, stride-by-stride, to the 2012 Boston Marathon.

Steven Carr, mechanical engineering lead, and Whitney Montgomery, government project lead, learned of the AMRDEC policy and their leadership's endorsement of a voluntary physical fitness program for full-time civilian employees to ensure their health and help balance personal wellness initiatives with the work environment.

For Carr, who participated in the fitness program from June to November 2010 and then ran the Rocket City Marathon, the

AMRDEC gave him a push to accomplish more.

"I am really thankful for programs like the one that helped jump start my active lifestyle and discover my passion for running," Carr said.

Montgomery's road to the Boston Marathon went through Joplin, Mo., as she qualified in the Mother Road Race.

The two PIF teammates competed in temperatures that were the second highest ever recorded for the race; 2,000 runners received medical attention and about 100 were taken to local hospital.



Carr and

Courtesy photo
Steven Carr, mechanical engineering lead in the AMRDEC Prototype Integration Facility, competes in the 2012 Boston Marathon.

Montgomery gave it their all to overcome mental and physical obstacles to complete the mission.

"I had been in Boston for two days and was a bit familiar with the area and when I saw a huge CITGO sign I felt I was almost there. The excitement helped push me," Montgomery said.

The sign she recognized didn't put her where she thought she was in the race. Inspiration had to come from

another source and the great Boston Marathon fans gave her what she needed.

"I realized the home stretch was further than I thought, but the crowds were cheering everywhere. Each runner had their name on their arms so people were calling your name and encouraging you, which was a boost," Montgomery said.

A little more than a month after the 26.2 mile race, Carr reflected on his journey to improve his health and offered his own inspiration to fellow AMRDEC teammates.

"Regardless of your current health status or personal health goals, you should consider taking advantage of employer provided wellness programs to improve your health and lifestyle. Any type of positive change will benefit the employee and employer," Carr said.

Cotton Row Run on Memorial Day in Huntsville

Run the Cotton Row 10K (6.2 miles), run/jog/walk the 5K Run (3.1 miles) or the 1-Mile Fun Run through the historic downtown area of Huntsville.

For the past 31 years Cotton Row Run has been the premiere Memorial Day running event in the South. The Cotton Row Run is conducted by the Huntsville Track Club.

Remember to wear red, white and blue on Monday's race day on Clinton Avenue. The 10K starts at 7 a.m., with awards at 8:30 in the north VBC parking lot. The 5K starts at 9 a.m., and the one-mile fun run for youngsters begins at 10. At 10:02, there will be a one-mile Huntsville Police Fallen Officers Memorial Walk.

"It's a good American celebration of all

the men and women that have served in the armed forces and the police and firefighters," Sean Allan, an assistant manager at Fleet Feet Sports and a volunteer with the Cotton Row Run, said.

Packet pickup, an expo and registration will be held Sunday from 1-6 p.m. at the Von Braun Center. Registration fees for

the 10K and 5K will be \$40, and \$15 for the one-mile fun run and one-mile memorial walk. There is no race-day registration.

For more information, email Cotton Row race director Suzanne Taylor at suzanne@fleetfeethuntsville.com or visit the Huntsville Track Club website at www.huntsvilletrackclub.org.

Sports & Recreation

Wounded Warrior project

The Wounded Warrior Project golf tournament and fund-raiser is Friday 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.

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, are available at the Community Activity Center for all military ID and CAC card holders. Tickets will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis; limited to four tickets per family.

Run to remember

A Redstone Arsenal chapter of Run to Remember is meeting Saturday mornings to jog together as a living memorial to fallen Soldiers. The Redstone chapter will participate in the Cotton Row Run on Memorial Day and continue their activities with other area running events. For meeting locations and times, call Charity Watral 542-1208. Members are encouraged to wear royal blue T-shirts or the Run to Remember T-shirt that can be ordered from <http://www.wearblueruntoremember.org>.

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 joinsbl@comcast.net.

County golf championship

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

Iron Mike golf tourney

The Iron Mike Tournament, presented by the Association of the U.S. Army during Armed Forces Week, is June 12 at the Links. It's named after the 27-inch trophy, with the "Iron Mike" bust on top, which is awarded to the winning team. Registration begins at 7 a.m. with a shotgun start at 8:30. This is a non handicap, three flight tournament. Cost is \$45 for serving military and current DoD civilians, \$75 for all others. Entries are due by June 6. Send an email to tournament chairman Mike Kelley at mkelley@knology.net.

Hobson memorial golf

The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity 14th annual George H. Hobson Memorial Golf Tournament is Saturday 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.

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@ValorFlight.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.

Rocket Announcements

Protestant women

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

Catholic mass

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Community at Bicentennial Chapel invites the Redstone community to its mass services, set for noon Monday through Thursday, 5 p.m. Saturday and 9:30 a.m. Sunday. For baptisms, weddings or any questions, call 842-2175.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at The Summit. Breakfast is available at the club. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and

the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. "We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us," a prepared release said. "Let's try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area." For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 955-0727.

Toastmaster clubs

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

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ARE YOU CLEANING UP AFTER YOUR PET?

Pet Waste and Storm Water Quality

Pet waste can:

- Enter streams and rivers during storms.
- Harm fish and degrade water quality.
- Transmit diseases to children.
- Make recreational water unsafe.

Tips for proper disposal:

- Flush it.
- Bury it.
- Trash it.

Contact the U.S. Army Garrison - Redstone at (256) 876-6122.

Improving Storm Water Quality

Keep your drain clean for those downstream

Rocket Announcements

in Madison. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359.

Men's ministry

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

Civil War discussion

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet June 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. Historical re-enactor Daniel E. Hughes will speak on "Was Thomas Really Slow at the Battle of Nashville?" Optional chicken buffet starts at 5:30 for \$8.95. Visitors are welcome. For information call 539-5287.

Meeting professionals

The 2012 Society of Government Meeting Professionals Southeast Regional Conference, "Navigating

through Government Meetings," will be held Sept. 16-19 in Mobile. Information regarding the educational workshops can be found at <http://sgmpcentralflorida.com/srec>. The conference is geared for administrative/technical professionals who plan/execute meetings, seminars, tutorials, etc. TIP information is: course title, SGMP Southeast Conference; vendor, Society of Government Meeting Professionals; catalog number, F124SGMP. For more information, call Barbie Baugh 876-7135 or Sherry Hilley 479-0198.

Special Forces chapter

The North Alabama Chapter (Chapter 92) of the Special Forces Association will meet June 9 at 11 a.m. at Bill Dansby's Team House on Silver Creek Road off of Highway 31/7 north of Elkton, Tenn. All Special Forces qualified and personnel who served with or contributed in a unique and definable way to Special Forces units are welcome to attend. For more information, visit <http://www.chapter92sfa.com/>.

Federally employed women

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will hold its monthly meeting Thursday at 11:15 a.m. at The Summit in ballroom 5. For those eating lunch, you may use the snack bar or buffet line. This is a general membership meeting and visitors are welcome. For more information, call Kenya McLin 955-2233 or (334) 444-6959.

Miscellaneous Items

Civilian deployment

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

Fraud hotline

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

Education test center

Thinking of changing your military occupational specialty or entering a commissioning program and need to take an Army Personnel Testing examination? If so, call the Army Education Center Testing Office 876-9764. Tests offered include the Armed Forces Classification Test, Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test and the Defense Language Aptitude Battery

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

Senior volunteers

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

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



Courtesy photo

Aviation safety

Mike Criss, left, chief of plans and operations at the Redstone Test Center, meets with NASA employees at NASA's Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Day on May 2. He and Carvil Chalk, chief engineer at AFTD's Flight Test Support Office, served as subject matter experts and answered questions relating to the Aviation Life Support Equipment on display.

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

Lending closet

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

Parenting classes

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

Computer classes

Free self-paced computer classes are offered at Army Community Service from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Classes are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, QuickBooks and SharePoint. Each class has about three levels and will take about three hours to complete each, but you can work at your own pace. Certificates of completion are issued after you successfully complete each course. Call 876-5397 to pre-register.

Community youth event

The second annual Community Awareness For Youth event is Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jaycees Building and Fairgrounds, 2180 Airport Road. Its goal is to inform youth in Huntsville, Madison and Madison County about various career opportunities and four "Pillars of Success," which include health, physical fitness, careers

and education. There will be free food and entertainment, with inflatables for the youngsters. The first 1,000 kids will receive a free backpack with school supplies. For more information, call Dr. Harry Hobbs 425-5307.

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.

Space Camp for special kids

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

Workshop papers

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

Comedy show

Pinnacle Affairs will hold its second annual All White (Attire) Event on June 1 at the Roundhouse downtown, 398 Monroe St. Advance tickets are \$25, tables of four are \$135 and tables of eight are \$250. Jamel Lanee' will be the host for the evening. There will be performances by comedienne B-Phlat, from Philadelphia, Pa., and the disc jockey duo 5D (Ghon Bomb and Chief Rocka). For more information, call 508-8674. Tickets are available at the Style Bar, 2601 Leeman

Ferry Road, Suite C, or visit www.all-whiteevent.com.

Stamp exhibition

The 45th annual Huntsville Philatelic Exhibition, billed as Northern Alabama's biggest stamp collectors' marketplace and sponsored by the Huntsville Philatelic Club, is June 2-3 at the UAH Tom Beville Center, second floor, 550 Sparkman Drive. Huntsplex 2012 admission is free. Times are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 2 and 10-4 June 3. For more information, call Art Cole 882-9951 or email hpc-stamps@att.net.

Rose show

Huntsville Twickenham Rose Society's annual Rose Show is Saturday at Parkway Place Mall. Competition is open to all rose growers and entries must be made 7-10:30 a.m. on the first floor of the mall. Arrangements and rose pictures will also be displayed. All roses, arrangements and pictures will be on display until 3:30 p.m.

Ability-Plus day

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

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at the Friendship United Methodist Church, 16479 Lucas Ferry Road, Athens. Ability-Plus is a 501(c) non-profit organization that maintains residential homes for individuals in North Alabama with intellectual disabilities. Ability-Plus operates 26 homes and serves more than 70 special needs citizens in North Alabama providing 24-hour care, supervision and supportive services. Fun Day is sponsored by the Decatur-Athens Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. and the Central North Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. For more information, call Willie Boyd 842-3111.

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.

Civilian supervisor training

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2010, Section 1113, established the requirement for services to provide mandatory training for all new and experienced supervisors. New supervisors must complete the initial training within a year of their assignment. Experienced supervisors must complete refresher training at least once every three years. Topics include performance management, conflict management and prohibited personnel practices. The training is required for all military and civilian supervisors of Army civilians by June 30. TRADOC's Army Management Staff College administers the online Supervisor Development Course. Training is documented in the Army Training Requirements and Resources System and the Defense Civilian Personnel Data System. Learn more and register at <http://www.t3ac.army.mil/leader/Pages/SDC.aspx>.

A&M logistics registration

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

Thrift Shop jobs

Applications for summer hire are now being accepted at the Thrift Shop. Applications may be picked up at building 3209 on Hercules Road, Tuesday through Thursday during normal business hours. Applicants must be at least age 16. This is a great opportunity for either high school or college students to come and learn about the retail industry. Hours and salary will be discussed during the interview. For more information, call 881-6992.

Military Sunday

Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church will hold its second annual Military Sunday Event on June 3 at 11 a.m. with Pastor Timothy Rainey. The church is at 380 Indian Creek Road, Huntsville (through the traffic circle, behind Providence Main). Servicemembers are asked to wear their uniforms if they desire. All will be recognized during the 11 a.m. worship service for their service to this nation. The church's theme for 2012 is "Making Ministry Matter." For more information, email Renee Kelly at renee.kelly@knology.net, Cynthia Hughes at chugh1@hotmail.com or call the church office 837-2335 from 8-noon daily.

AER campaign

The annual Army Emergency Relief fund-raising campaign continues through May 31. 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.

Dueling pianos

Dueling Pianos will be presented live for the first time Friday at The Summit. The show will include performances on 176 piano keys with audience participation, singing and musical antics. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. with the show beginning at 7. Tickets are \$10 for members and \$25 non-members. Reserve seating will be for members only. Members will also receive a free wine glass. Those who sign up for membership at the event will receive an etched Summit wine glass and MWR Bucks. Members can also sign up for a chance to win a weekend stay in Atlanta with one free pair of tickets to see the Atlanta Braves provided by Candlewood Suites. For more information, call 313-3255.

Alabama A&M alumni

Tickets are on sale for the Alabama A&M University alumni association's

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Courtesy photo

Breakfast meeting

AMCOM deputy commander Ronnie Chronister was guest speaker May 16 at the continental breakfast meeting of the National Defense Industrial Association, Tennessee Valley Chapter's Small Business Council. At right is retired Col. Bob English.



Photo by Judy Wilson

Engineer society

At the May meeting of the Society of American Military Engineers are, from left, Jake Roth, Steve Wright and Zinnah Hellman. Wright, of the Corps of Engineers' Huntsville Engineering and Support Center, was the keynote speaker on the topic "Protective Design Center of the Army."

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annual scholarship fund-raiser. For ticket information, call Clarene Teague Johnson 694-2038 or visit the Alabama A&M University Huntsville-Madison County Alumni website at www.thehillalums.com.

U.S. flag birthday

Celebrate the 235th birthday of the U.S. flag at the Main Library on Monroe Street in Huntsville on June 14. Included are activities for young children from 9:30-11 a.m., flag ceremony by Boy Scout Troop 400 at 11, historical re-enactors at 11:15, patriotic concert by the Crestwood Sunshine Singers at 11:30, and the DVD story of the flags that have flown over our land, "The Many Faces of Old Glory," at 1 p.m. The public is invited to bring a brown bag lunch and share in the festivities. Drinks and birthday

cake will be furnished by Learning-QUEST. For more information, email tuckmo1935@aol.com.

Reserve openings

The 375th Engineer Company (Army Reserve) in Huntsville offers the opportunity for promotion while simultaneously enhancing project management, construction and leadership skills. The unit has immediate openings for sergeant through chief warrant officer 2 and first lieutenant (Engineer specialties preferred) who want to make a significant contribution to the readiness of the Army. The 375th conducts vertical construction operations in CONUS and OCONUS during Extended Combat Training Exercises. All prior servicemembers

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

Military job fair

A job fair for military, military family members and veterans, including financial services workshops, will be held June 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Optimist Park, 703 Oakwood Ave. This is sponsored by the American Red Cross in partnership with the Joint Family Support Assistance Program, Madison County Vet Center, Army Community Service, Still Serving Veterans and the West Corporation. Mili-

tary ID is required; pre-register by calling 536-0084, ext. 310.

Fox Army Health Center

Fox Army Health Center will be closed Friday and Monday in observance of a training holiday and Memorial Day. Normal operations will resume May 29. "We apologize for any inconveniences that this may cause and thanks for choosing Fox," a prepared release said. As a reminder, the health center is closed on the first Thursday afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

