

# Redstone Rocket

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## Wounded warriors living the dream

*Softball team coming to town to play in armed forces week*

By **SKIP VAUGHN**  
Rocket editor  
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Sgt. Matt Kinsey was on a night patrol June 2, 2010 in southeastern Afghanistan when he stepped on a landmine. He lost his right leg.

Today, equipped with a prosthetic leg, he's the power-hitting shortstop for the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team. He bats third in the lineup of this team of combat veterans who lost limbs in the war against terrorism.

"It's amazing," Kinsey, 27, from Rockville, Ind., said. "All these guys have been through the same traumatic things you've been through."

"It's been a dream come true for me."

Kinsey, first baseman Josh Wege and coach David Van Sleet participated in a press conference Thursday to announce that the team will play in Huntsville June 15-16 for Armed Forces Week.

The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team will play a Redstone Team at 5 p.m. June 15 at the Kiwanis Sportsplex. It will play the Senior All Stars "Rockets" that night at 7. And it will face the City of Huntsville Team at 4 p.m. June 16. All

**See Warriors on page 35**



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Participating in Thursday's press conference, from left, are Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton, Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team shortstop Matt Kinsey, coach David Van Sleet, first baseman Josh Wege and Armed Forces Week chairman Joe Fitzgerald.**



### AROUND TOWN

Volunteers cut lawns for deployed troops.

**PAGE 18**

### MILITARY SCENE

Army seeking recruits with higher standards.

**PAGE 24**



### TECHNOLOGY TODAY

New Black Hawks arrive at brigade.

**PAGE 30**

### PEOPLE PROFILE

Contracting assistant writes fantasy novel.

**PAGE 33**

### WIN OR LOSE

EVengers softball team strikes with vengeance.

**PAGE 38**

## USO honors Army Materiel Command's leader



USO courtesy photo

**Honorees at the USO Woman of the Year Luncheon include, from left, Air Force Capt. Gina Fasciani, Marine Corps Sgt. Sheen Adams, Army Sgt. Julia Bringle, Marillyn Hewson of Lockheed Martin Corporation, AMC's Gen. Ann Dunwoody, Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Katherine Ustler, and Navy Lt. Katherine Worstell.**

AMC Public Affairs staff report

Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Ann Dunwoody was honored by the USO during a May 1 luncheon in New York City.

Dunwoody shared the honors with Marillyn Hewson, executive vice president, electronic systems, Lockheed Martin Corporation.

At the beginning of the presentation, Dunwoody spoke with Ann Curry, co-anchor of NBC's "Today" show about what our servicemembers have accomplished in the last decade and the challenges faced by today's generation of veterans.

"It has been a tough decade, fighting on two fronts, while responding to contingencies around the globe. When we remind ourselves that only one percent of Americans serve in uniform you can understand the kind of heavy lifting we've asked our servicemembers and their families to do." Dunwoody said. "I absolutely think today's servicemembers and veterans will be remembered as our next greatest generation."

One female servicemember from each branch of the armed forces also received Military Leadership awards from the USO during the luncheon. Those awards were presented to Air Force

**See Honor on page 35**

# RocketViews

*How did you choose your career?*

By SKIP VAUGHN

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**Sheila Crutcher**

Network Enterprise Center-Redstone

"I'm a system administrator. I work at the NEC-R service desk. Actually it was my father. He worked on televisions. He had his own business where he did television repair. I was interested in what he was doing.

So I went to a two-year college and got my associate degree (in electrical engineering) and ended up here at Redstone."



**Lt. Col. Ron Jackson**

Command and General Staff School

"My career's been the military. I've been in it about 26 years. In fact I'm retiring in January. I came in the Army in '83 and it was primarily to get money for college. So I was enlisted and I went through ROTC when I was in college, and came back on active duty as an aviation officer."



**Jeff Terry**

Recreation specialist, FMWR Sports and Fitness

"I did what I enjoy doing. Basically just loving to help people feel better and look better. Their whole personality changes. They have more self-esteem and feel more confident. It just increases their quality of life."



**Gleria Edwards**

Army Materiel Command G-4 (Logistics)

"I'm retired military but I've worked with the government for the past eight years (in logistics). I knew right out of high school that I wanted to leave the country and pursue an Army career. I chose that career because out of a family of 12, I had four siblings in the military and I wanted to follow that path. Starting with my father, I wanted to pursue his Army path. I went into Army logistics, warehouse management. I don't know about the youth today. They don't seem to be focused. We need to provide more mentoring and help guide them toward a career path, because school is not for all kids and sometimes the military may be the way for them to go."

## Letter to the editor

### Natural-lifestyle enthusiast sprouts from rainforest

To say that I'm the "outdoorsy" type would be a lie. I relish the cool, gentle current from air-conditioning vents on hot days and crave my warm bed at night. The thought of an insect makes me itch from head to toe, and I am a firm believer that wildlife should be restricted to paintings in dentists' offices and photographs in National Geographic magazines.

All of that notwithstanding, I loved spending time with Puerto Rico – the real Puerto Rico, with all of her rolling green mountains, rainforests, caves, beaches, rain showers and hurricanes. I grew to appreciate the beauty of the unadulterated landscapes tinged with ancient Taino Indian history and pride.

There was something different about this island. Or, perhaps, there was something different about me since coming to this island.

It was a hot, humid day in November – the type of day that can only exist in the Caribbean – as we trekked our way up the side of the mountain. Hiking deeper and deeper into El Yunque rainforest, the foreign exchange adviser, five other foreign exchange students and I took in the scenery that surrounded us.

Giant trees canopied high above us, sheltering us from the unforgiving sun. The sound of calls from exotic birds and coqui frogs served as the soundtrack for the excursion. Exotic flowers bloomed at our feet as we continued the trail toward our destination.

"You guys excited to see the waterfall?" our coordinator, Ricardo, asked in his Portuguese accent as we hopped over fallen logs.

"Totally," we said with waning enthusiasm. By this point we had been hiking uphill for 40 minutes and were beyond ready to be there.

"This had better be worth it," one student mumbled under her breath as we stumbled across an area with mossy rocks. The rest of us silently agreed.

Finally we heard the sound of splashing water as we topped another hill. "Here we are!" Ricardo said with a wide grin stretched across his face. "You're gonna love this."

We looked up to see a waterfall that was approxi-

mately 50 feet high, with water streaming powerfully into a pool of water with big, flat rocks. There were close to 25 other people at this particular spot, some swimming in the pool of shallow water, others sitting on rocks under the flow of the waterfall.

The waterfall was smaller than expected, but no less amazing to behold. We stripped down to our bathing suits and began to cautiously traverse the slippery wet rocks. Much to our surprise, the water was extremely cold. Not just cold, but bone-chillingly frigid. It felt like I was dragging my feet through ice water.

As we made our way into the pool, bodies shivering and teeth chattering, we wondered how the other people in the pool were not experiencing hypothermia.

As if she had read our minds, a dark-haired woman said, "Just dip your head in. You'll be fine. Do it!"

One by one we moved toward the deeper sections of the pool and began dipping our whole bodies in the water. I breathed shallow, raspy breaths in anticipation of the torture I was about to put myself through. After many breaths and a quick prayer, I finally got the courage to dunk my body under the water.

The frigid water shocked my system like a bolt of electricity. For the split second that I was immersed in the water, my body and mind were screaming for help. When I re-emerged from the water, the air hit my cold, wet body like a ton of bricks. All of the hairs on my body were raised as my body struggled to regulate its temperature.

After what seemed like a lifetime – but had actually just been a few seconds – I did start to feel a bit better. The water seemed less unbearable and my body was showing less disapproval.

In the cold water my mind was clearer than it had been in months. I could hear every sound and smell every scent. In a way it had been like a rebirth — like I had shed all of my fears and everything that was holding me back, and was reborn as a new and improved version of myself. My renewed awareness of myself was more than enough compensation for the discomfort I had felt beneath the water.

I had begun that trek as one person and left as someone new. A deep appreciation of the landscapes and appreciation for the earth began to grow inside of me where cold indifference used to reside.

Life felt different after I left the waterfall. Although the chill from the frigid water would eventually wear off, the awakening I experienced never did.

**See Letter on page 3**

### Quote of the week

**'C**areers, like rockets, don't always take off on time. The trick is to always keep the engine running.' — Gary Sinise

## RedstoneRocket

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## Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN  
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**Name:** Keisha Nelson

**Job:** Aerobics instructor,  
FMWR Sports and Fitness

**Where do you call home?**

Chicago, Ill., but I've been here forever (since 1988).

**What do you like about your job?**

I love helping people feel great about themselves. And I love helping them accomplish things they never thought that they could.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

I enjoy spending time with my family (my husband, Robert, and our 6-year-old daughter, Alexa). I love working out. And spending time with my par-

ents and (two) youngest brothers.

**What are your goals?**

I want to go back to school and get my master's (in procurement and contracts). I want to raise my child to be a good Christian and educated and successful young lady.

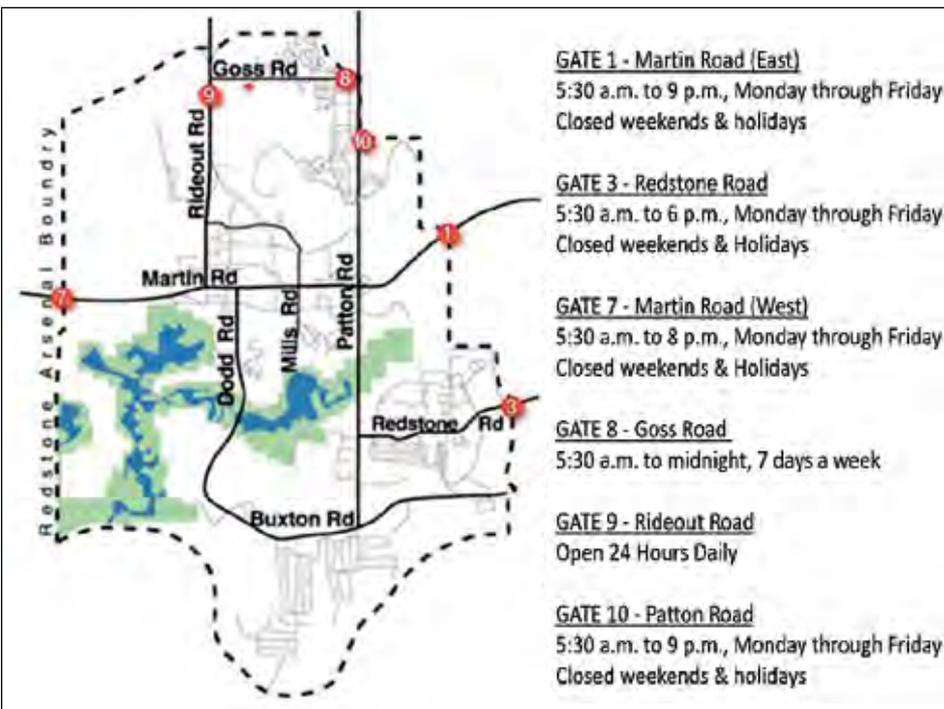
**What's at the top of your "bucket list" of things you want to do before you kick the bucket?**

I would really, really love to go to other countries and start fitness programs for people

who are less fortunate than others. Because I know what it feels like to be unhealthy and not fit. And I know what it feels like to need someone to give you that extra push and not know where to get it from and not be able to afford it. I'm passionate about it.



# Martin Road Gate 1 will close on weekends



Hours of operation for Gate 1, Martin Road East, changed May 6.

The new hours are Monday through Friday from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and

closed on weekends and holidays.

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

## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services provided the following list of reported incidents for April 26 through May 2:

**April 30:** Three contractors driving three separate vehicles arrived at Gate 9 Visitor Center to wait for their sponsor to take them to work. When asked, they could not produce a valid driver's license. A check through NCIC showed all three drivers to have suspended licenses. They were cited and released to their sponsor. Their vehicles were towed to a local storage lot.

**April 30:** An undocumented female driver approached Gate 9 lost. She could not produce a valid ID. An NCIC and ICE check revealed she had no license and was scheduled for a deportation hearing in May. She was cited and released.

**April 30:** An unexploded ordnance was found in the wooded area behind building 8002. Garrison safety removed the 105 mm round and it was secured for EOD disposal.

**April 30:** A contractor was stopped by Redstone Police for speeding on Goss Road. He was found to have a suspended license. He also had several traffic warrants issued by the City of Madison. Upon a search of his person, he was found to have drug paraphernalia (glass pipe). A consent search of his vehicle revealed several packages of "spice." He received four citations and was released to Madison Police.

**May 1:** A contractor reported that she had been harassed at the Saddle Club. Investigation continues by DES.

**May 2:** At 6:04 p.m., a vehicle was exiting Gate 3 and had just driven

over the grab net system. The guard then raised the net. The driver, for unknown reasons, made a U-turn in the roadway and drove toward the net, striking it and then proceeding onto Redstone. The driver did not stop to report the accident. Guards were not able to follow him because the net had been damaged and would not go down. The vehicle was not located on Redstone.

**May 2:** A government employee, while entering Gate 9, called 911 to report an erratic driver. When she attempted to move out of his way, he struck the rear of her vehicle. During his police interview, he appeared to be impaired. He could not perform field sobriety tests. He admitted to taking prescription pain medication the night before. During a consent search of his vehicle, the prescription bottle was found. It was dated May 1, 15 pills, and it was empty. He was transported to Huntsville Hospital for a possible drug overdose. He was cited for DUI and released to a family member at the hospital.

**Traffic accidents reported:** 1 with injury, 3 without injury.

**Violation notices issued:** 29 speeding, 9 parked in a no parking zone, 2 parking in a fire lane, 1 using cell phone while driving, 1 inattentive driving, 1 failure to yield right of way, 3 driving with a suspended license, 1 possession of drug paraphernalia, 1 possession of a controlled substance, 1 reckless driving, 1 failure to register vehicle, 1 no insurance, 1 driving without a license, 1 driving under the influence.

## Letter

continued from page 2

When my plane had landed in Puerto Rico in August, I never would have guessed that it was the beginning of a love affair with the beauty of nature that would last a lifetime. What I learned about the benefits of natural herbs and whole foods in Puerto Rico has transformed my life and benefited me in more ways than I ever would have imagined. I became a vegetarian only weeks after arriving on the island, and I have not looked back since.

While I may still be attached to my Blackberry and appreciative of the amenities of a five-star hotel, I now understand the beauty of being born from and connected to the earth. I am infi-

nately appreciative that the earth grows our medicine and provides everything we need for sustenance. My four-month journey on the island of enchantment set the direction of my life on another path – a better path – and for that I am eternally grateful.

**Kasondra Adams**

*Editor's note: Kasondra Adams, from Huntsville, is a senior public relations major at UAB. Her father retired from the military in 1996 and worked at Redstone Arsenal as a logistics specialist for many years; and her mother currently works at the Sparkman Center in personel.*

*Last semester she studied abroad in Puerto Rico and she has written this story about a particular experience she had in the El Yunque rainforest. "The piece details my transformation from a spoiled homebody to a natural-lifestyle enthusiast," she said.*

# Home-school students have place to learn, belong

## Youth Services gives support

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Just because it's called home schooling doesn't mean all the learning has to happen at home.

Around 30 home-schooled children, ages 6 through high school, meet on the Arsenal each Thursday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. to participate in FMWR's Child Youth and School Services' home school support program, which gives students from across the Tennessee Valley the chance to come together for fun, fellowship and learning, an extension of the curriculum they are being taught at home.

"It gives home-school students an opportunity to interact with other students and build on some skills that they've already started," said Barbara Williams, school liaison officer for CYSS, who oversees the program. "We try to make sure that they're building on skills. Like dodgeball for example, we want to be able to teach them the rules of the game,

we want them to play the game, and we want them to figure out how to win, so that when they leave or go on to something else, they'll have built some skills on that particular sport."

For those two hours each week, home-school students develop their skills in physical education, arts and crafts, and computers and technology, under the direction of Child Youth and School Services staff, while having fun with kids that also call their mom or dad "teacher."

"It's mainly just so they can socialize with other kids that are walking the same life as they are," said Becca Watkins, who home schools her 10- and 16-year-olds. "We're retired military so it's nice to link back up with the military. You feel safer in a post environment."

The educational support program is held at School Age Services and the Youth Center, facilities that boast a



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Charles Suddler, educational technical, and sports and fitness instructor, guides home-school students through a physical education session at CYSS' home-school support program at School Age Services.**

basketball court, computer labs, activity rooms and spacious commons areas. From writing poetry to riding their bikes, the program is a place home-schoolers can call their own on the Arsenal, as well as a chance to meet up with the same friends week after week.

"We come here for the consistency in the kids for socializing. You go to the park, and every time you go to the park

it's somebody different, but here you've got the same kids," said Kathy McFetridge, whose 9- and 10-year-olds attend the program. "They can play on a team sport and learn about it, whereas at home with two or three you can't make up a baseball team. They love it."

CYSS educators that teach and interact with the students are given training on the concept of home schooling, as well as the advantages and challenges associated with the teaching method, to best serve the children they work with on a weekly basis.

"We wanted to make sure that they have the correct tools to serve the home-school families," Williams said.

While anyone in the Tennessee Valley can take advantage of the service, regardless of their affiliation with Redstone Arsenal, many of the families that come to the program each week are military connected. Through home schooling, military parents are oftentimes able to have more control over their child's educational experience, which can vary as they move from state to state. Parents choose from a wide variety of home schooling curriculum available to them based on their child's individual needs, and can take the books wherever they go – taking advantage of learning opportunities wherever they are, whenever they can.

"I do it for the freedom," said McFetridge, who often travels with her sons to be with her parents who are ill. "I can pack up the books, we're there, and we're not missing out on school."

For more information about the home school support services available on Redstone Arsenal, call Williams at 842-9642.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Writing instructors Beverly Marchelos, left, and Jean Arndt help home-school students compose poetry as part of CYSS' home-school support program.**

## Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events

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

### Summer camp

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

### Camper rental

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

### Pool passes

Swimming pool passes are now on sale. Outdoor Recreation offers three well-maintained swimming pools, fully staffed with Red Cross certified life-

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

### Mother's Day brunch

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

## In this section...

**ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE FOSTERS LOVE OF FLYING**  
**DAY SHEDS LIGHT ON MILITARY SPOUSES, THEIR SERVICE**  
**NURSES DO THEIR JOBS WITH HEAVY DOSE OF CARING**  
**DON'T LET ENERGY WASTE TAKE YOU TO CLEANERS**  
**TEAM REDSTONE REMEMBERS HOLOCAUST**  
**AUSCHWITZ SURVIVOR, CAMP LIBERATOR VISIT DEPOT**  
**AREA SCHOOL CHILDREN HAVE DAY IN COURT**  
**THRIFT SHOP GRANTS SUPPORT TO REDSTONE**

**PAGE 6**  
**PAGE 8**  
**PAGE 9**  
**PAGE 10**  
**PAGE 12**  
**PAGE 13**  
**PAGE 14**  
**PAGE 16**

# Annual open house fosters love of flying

*Activity undeterred by brief rain, wind*

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Stephen Case and his teddy bear have quite the tale to tell.

As the star student of the week in Willowbrook Baptist Church's lion class, Case was the proud owner of the class's teddy bear for the weekend, toting the stuffed animal everywhere he went – including to FMWR Flying Activity's Open House Saturday.

"I'm a star student at school," said Stephen, almost 5. "We keep him for the weekend. I'm supposed to have fun with him and take pictures of him."

Fun was definitely on the menu for Stephen and his brown bear, who didn't just get to watch the planes take off at the activity's open house, but got to go for a ride high in the sky and have their picture taken in the cockpit, the ultimate adventure for the little boy whose room is decorated in airplanes. Once the duo returned to school, Stephen had the opportunity to show and tell his friends all about their airplane ride and other weekend adventures.

"I just thought it would be a fun activity," said Stephen's mom Jennifer. "I'd like to learn to fly eventually."

Pilots and flying enthusiasts from across the Tennessee Valley came out for FMWR Flying Activity's Open House Saturday, where all ages, including Stephen's little sister, Sydney, 2, and their father Steve, a pilot himself who's in the Army Reserves, were able to mingle with the club's pilots and instructors and take to the air for a scenic trip around North Alabama. While the open house was the club's annual event to attract new mem-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Stephen Case, son of Steve and Jennifer Case, takes his teddy bear on his flight during the Flying Activity's open house Saturday.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**One of the airplanes heads for takeoff in front of the Flying Activity where guests enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers, nachos, pizza and soda.**

bers, the day was also the perfect opportunity for families to come out and just learn more about flying.

"It's something to do and something enjoyable for the kids," Tim Thompson, business manager for the Flying Activity, said.

While they had to deal with a little rain, ominous clouds and high winds at times, that didn't stop the crowds from lining up for their chance in the air, and ask questions of the instructors while they waited for the OK to take off. Pilots were able to get around 22 flights in in the morning before the weather put a temporary stop to the fun, but once the clouds cleared the air adventures for all ages resumed.

"The winds have died down, the ceiling has lifted and the planes are in the air," Thompson said as the sunshine returned.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Waiting out the rain are volunteer pilots, from left, Lou Spencer, Trent Banks and Kevin Banks.**

# Day sheds light on military spouses, their service

By **BETH SKARUPA**

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A special day is set aside annually to make more people aware of military spouses and the sacrifices that they make.

Team Redstone will celebrate Military Spouse Appreciation Day with cake, a fruit tray, and other surprises Friday from 10-11 a.m. at the Redstone Exchange lobby.

“Last month it was Month of the Military Child. Now we’re celebrating military spouses. The reason we have all these awareness times is not that they’re not important the rest of the year, but these are times for everyone to realize that these people are out there,” Carie Green, quality of life program manager for Army Community Service, said.

As both a former servicemember and a military spouse herself, Green can relate to the feelings a spouse may have at different stages of the military career. She was in the Army for six years and met her husband, retired Sgt. 1st Class Lance Green, while serving in Germany. Although he continued on active duty in the Army after their children were born, she did not. Now that her husband retired in March, she also understands what it is like to be the spouse of a military retiree.

Using herself as an example, Green

said she thinks military spouses tend to be visible, invisible or just disappear when it comes to being recognized. She explained that when she was on active duty she did not think of herself as a military spouse. Then she left the Army and went home to New York when her husband was sent to Korea less than a year later.

“To me it’s like you can be invisible. The spouses of National Guard/Reservists can be invisible if no one knows that they are military spouses. Even they don’t know they need support sometimes, or that they need help from the Army community. If they go home like I did, they might just rely on their family,” she said.

It was not until she and her husband transitioned to a new duty station – Fort Bragg, N.C. – that she saw herself become visible as a military spouse.

“I realized I was a military spouse and that resources are there to reach out to you, to try to access you more. That’s when FRGs (Family Readiness Groups) come alive and they are doing all kinds of things. You might not want to reach out, but it’s important to know that those resources are there,” she said.

Now that her husband retired, she finally realizes why spouses of military retirees will sometimes call ACS and ask her if they are still considered military spouses.

She always answered that of course they are, but now she understands why they might think they are not. That, she said, is the disappearing part of it.

“You can disappear if you don’t realize that we are all military spouses no matter what stage you’re in. It’s a bond that we have,” she said. “We have to remember that here at Redstone Arsenal. I’ve seen it from three different sides: wearing a uniform, being an active duty spouse, and now as a retiree spouse. She or let’s not forget he – military spouses can be men, too – can reach out to the Army community here. There are so many programs and services available. It’s a beautiful thing.”

She encouraged military spouses to use the fitness centers and to join the email list for Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation at [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com) to ensure that they are aware of all that is available to them on post.

She also noted that ACS is a hub of information. So even if something is not offered through ACS, the people working there will try to point inquirers in the right direction. ACS also offers tools to achieve empowerment ranging from finding fulfillment through volunteer opportunities to financial management courses.

“There are so many ways to connect to this community, it’s beautiful. And the



Photo by Beth Skarupa

**Carie Green, quality of life program manager for Army Community Service, is in charge of the Military Spouse Appreciation Day celebration this Friday. As a military spouse herself, she understands why they deserve to be recognized.**

military community extends beyond the Arsenal gates,” she said.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day is always the first Friday before Mother’s Day. It is a good time to remember that military spouses and their families make sacrifices every day to support their servicemembers.

“So stop by and say hello at the celebration Friday. We’ll have information for military spouses and maybe some surprises,” Green said. “Whether a military spouse feels visible, invisible or like they are disappearing, we’ll be able to see them. And we want to say thanks.”

# Nurses do their jobs with heavy dose of caring

*Annual week celebrates important role in life*

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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On an average day, they are the silent warriors of healthcare, but from May 6-12, nurses across America are celebrating the contributions they make to patient care loudly and proudly.

“We are the silent warrior,” said Veronica Rodgers, an LPN at Fox Army Health Center. “We do the things behind the scenes that nobody really recognizes. We’re the quiet ones that get everything done. We are a key member of the patient care team.”

Fox Army Health Center, with healthcare providers across the country, is making sure the actions nurses take day in and day out are recognized as part of National Nurses Week, celebrated annually in May. To honor the approximately 60 nurses on Fox’s staff, the health center is holding special events all weeklong, including a luncheon, special treats in the break room and a prize basket drawing. The nurses are also collecting items to be donated to the Salvation Army as part of Nurses Week.

“We do things for others without expecting anything,” Maj. Debra Murray, chief of preventive medicine, said of the importance of Nurses Week. “We just do it, it’s just who we are. This is a chance to let everybody know nurses are important.”

“The profession of nursing offers those who chose this career vast opportunity to care for people throughout the continuum of their lives,” said Col. Elizabeth Johnson, commander of Fox Army Health Center, and a nurse herself. “There are so many different types of specialties within nursing and it’s a career that can certainly take you anywhere. I’m very proud of the nurses who work at Fox Army Health Center. They truly do have the best interest of each and every beneficiary they care for. They are important members of the patient care team and the mission would not be as successful without them. Every day I’m glad I chose to be a nurse. You never know the impact you have on someone’s life.”

A deep sense of caring is the No. 1 thing needed to be a good nurse, Fox RNs said, and is what drew many to the profession.

“I love taking care of people,” Allison Fuller, preventive medicine nurse, said. “I want to fix everything, so that’s



Courtesy photo

**Members of the nursing staff gather in front of Fox Army Health Center. Fox honors them during National Nurses Week, May 6-12.**

what drew me to healthcare. If someone is healthy, they’re able to do the other things they need to do. It’s one of the basic necessities, just like food and water.”

On the average day, a Fox nurse may see 20-plus patients during their eight-hour shift, with the reason for their visit ranging from a sore throat to diabetes and more serious ailments. Being prepared for anything is just part of the job description, Fox nurses said.

“In nursing, every day something can change,” said Alicia Hightower, an RN at Fox. “Everybody’s symptoms are different and everybody can take the news of a sickness different from others, so you always are adapting to a patient’s care and needs.”

Fox nurses are tasked with the unique opportunity to not just care for another human being, but to care for the nation’s Soldiers, who come with their own set of medical concerns. Caring for the warrior is something the RNs do happily, and with a great level of responsibility.

“When we take care of Soldiers, we not only care for common ailments but, also unique health issues related to the current conflicts such as PTSD and depression,” Murray said. “The nurse may be the only person a Soldier talks to about health concerns. He might say, ‘I feel like I can’t go on.’ We’re there. We may be the difference between life and death.”

The observance of National Nurses Week began in 1954, which recognized the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s mission to Crimea. The week always ends on May 12, Nightingale’s birthday. President Richard Nixon issued a proclamation in February 1974, designating a week to honor nurses. Patients will have an opportunity throughout the week to thank the nurses that care for them.

# Don't let energy waste take you to cleaners

By **PATRICK HOLMES**  
DPW Energy Office

Appliances account for about 13 percent of your household's energy costs, with refrigeration, cooking and laundry at the top of the list.

When you're shopping for appliances, think of two price tags. The first one covers the purchase price – think of it as a down payment. The second price tag is the cost of operating the appliance during its lifetime. You'll be paying on that second price tag every month with your utility bill for the next 10 to 20 years, depending on the appliance. Refrigerators last an average of 12 years, clothes washers about 11 years, dishwashers about 10 years, and room air conditioners last about nine years.

When you shop for a new appliance, look for the Energy Star label. Energy Star products usually exceed minimum federal standards by a substantial amount.

To help you figure out whether an appliance is energy efficient, the federal government requires most appliances to display the bright yellow and black EnergyGuide label. Although these labels will not show you which appliance is the most efficient on the market, they will show you the annual energy consumption and operating cost for each appliance so you can compare them yourself.

## Dishwashers

Most of the energy used by a dishwasher is for water heating. The EnergyGuide label estimates how much power is needed per year to run the appliance and to heat the water based on the yearly cost of natural gas and electric water heating.

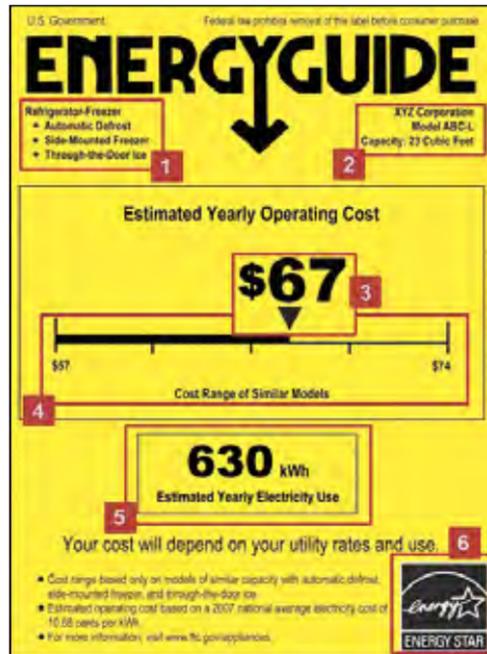
Here are dishwasher water-saving tips:

Check the manual that came with your dishwasher for the manufacturer's recommendations on water temperature; many have internal heating elements that allow you to set the water heater in your home to a lower temperature (120 degrees Fahrenheit).

Scrape, don't rinse, off large food pieces and bones. Soaking or pre-washing is generally only recommended in cases of burned- or dried-on food.

Be sure your dishwasher is full (not overloaded) when you run it.

Avoid using the "rinse hold" on your machine for just a few soiled dishes. It uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use.



Courtesy graphic

**The EnergyGuide label includes the following information: 1. Key features of the appliance and the similar models that make up the cost comparison range; 2. Maker, model number and size of the appliance; 3. Estimated yearly operating cost (based on the national average cost of electricity), and the range of operating costs for similar models; 4. Cost range comparison to similar models; 5. Estimated yearly electricity consumption; 6. The Energy Star logo indicates that this model meets strict criteria for energy efficiency.**

Let your dishes air dry; if you don't have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the control knob after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so the dishes will dry faster.

When shopping for a new dishwasher, look for the Energy Star label to find one that uses less water and energy than required by federal standards. They are required to use 5.8 gallons of water per cycle or less – older dishwashers purchased before 1994 use more than 10 gallons of water per cycle.

## Refrigerators

The EnergyGuide label on new refrigerators tells you how much electricity in kilowatt-hours a particular model uses in one year. The smaller the number, the less energy the refrigerator uses and the less it will cost you to operate. A new refrigerator with an Energy Star

**See Energy on page 15**

# Team Redstone remembers Holocaust

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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It only takes one person to make a difference in the world.

That message from Alex Grobman left plenty of food for thought after Team Redstone's Holocaust Days of Remembrance ceremony Thursday at Bob Jones Auditorium.

"You do not have to be a super human being, a moral hero or a saint to help someone," Grobman said, citing the actions of 23,788 individuals who reached out to help the Jews during the Holocaust. "Helping was difficult, and at times you could be killed, but not impossible."

Over the course of the Holocaust, "the systematic, bureaucratically administered destruction by the Nazis and their collaborators of six million Jews during the second World War," Grobman said, 1.5 million children were killed, 9 out of 10 European rabbis were murdered, and 2 out of every 3 Jews living in Europe were murdered.

While the Jews were annihilated, countless individuals didn't just stand by and watch, they helped, Grobman said. Well-educated, otherwise upstanding citizens, turned into "competent barbarians." Lawyers, judges, military and police enacted laws and legislation that discriminated against the Jews, architects and engineers built concentration camps, railroad workers transported the Jews to their inevitable death, and physicians conducted medical experiments on those held captive. The theme of this year's ceremony was not about those that committed such heartless crimes however, but those who rose up against them, "Choosing to Act: Stories of Rescue."

"Amidst this assault on civilization, there were thousands of ordinary men and women, who made a critical decision to help Jews," Grobman said. "They were from all walks of life and denomination. They were ordinary people who did not see themselves as heroes or saints. They do not want to be put on a pedestal. Their heroic actions were at a specific date and a specific time. Afterwards, they returned to their normal, daily lives. If we want to sensitize others to understand the need to help other people, we should not make the rescuers into heroes. If we do, it is quite difficult to live up to those standards. They were merely



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

**Alex Grobman, a historian with a master's and doctorate in contemporary Jewish history from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, speaks at Thursday's Team Redstone Holocaust Days of Remembrance ceremony.**

acting as human beings – that's what they will tell you. And I'm sure there are stories here that we could tell about members of the military who have been involved in heroic acts and feel the same way."

Congress established the Days of Remembrance to commemorate the Holocaust.

"The question remains has Auschwitz become a warning or merely the first station on the road to the extermination of all races and the suicide of humanity? A colleague reminded me, the Holocaust occurred because the number of perpetrators far surpassed the numbers of righteous Gentiles, and that is why tragedies happen, and continue to happen to this day," Grobman said.

"The rescuers show us that one individual can make a difference, and that we are traveling in the same boat.

"This is not an issue of victimhood. These Jews were witnesses to what Western society is capable of doing, and they feel an obligation to tell their stories, to warn us about the dangers inherent within Western civilization," he said.

"There is no guarantee that such an effort will not be repeated against some other group. Racial and religious hatred is a luxury in which no nation or group can indulge, without the danger of setting its own house on fire."

# Auschwitz survivor, camp liberator visit depot

*Share Holocaust message with high school students*

By Tech Sgt. JULIE LOZINSKI

Letterkenny Army Depot Public Affairs

CHAMBERSBURG, Pa. — In honor of Holocaust Days of Remembrance, a 90-year-old Holocaust survivor and a concentration camp liberator visited Letterkenny Army Depot on April 19 to share their stories with depot employees and Chambersburg High School students.

Severin Fayerman was 17 when his home country of Poland and his city were invaded by Nazi Germany in 1939. He saw 70 percent of Bendzin, the entire Jewish population, removed from the city and sent to Jewish ghettos, forced labor camps and concentration camps.

Letterkenny's Holocaust Days of Remembrance program manager, Becky Chilcote, said that this was a unique opportunity that will not be available in years to come.

"In the near future, we won't have these firsthand witnesses and accounts to listen to; they are increasingly precious as every day goes by," Chilcote said. "It's critically important that these survivors tell their stories, and that we make sure that their stories remain and resonate, because it's a lesson not only for Jews, but it's a lesson for all humanity."

Elaine Etter, a sophomore at Chambersburg High School, attended the event and echoed Chilcote's sentiments, noting that his story would stay with her for the rest of her life.

Another student, sophomore Allison Reinhardt, was equally moved.

"Fayerman's life was inspiring and really

gave me a better understanding of the Holocaust and the true horrors he and his family had to endure," Reinhardt said. "Severin spoke in a way that allowed you to place yourself in his position to understand not only the physical tolls he faced, but also the mental struggles that can only be displayed by a true survivor."

Fayerman's family business, a small tool and die company, was taken over by the Germans and his family was eventually forced out and separated. Fayerman ended up at Auschwitz Concentration Camp while in his early 20s.

After the war, Fayerman and his family immigrated to the United States in the spring of 1945 and in 1946 bought a Newark, N.J.-based tool and die company, Baldwin Hardware.

"The rest of this story is the story of the American Dream," Fayerman said. "I came to America and married an American girl. I wanted to become an American and forget about it."

But Fayerman did not forget about his time in the camps or his experiences there. Fayerman eventually wrote a book and began speaking to school groups and organizations about how he survived the Holocaust.

Fayerman told the approximate 50 high school students that there are three main reasons that he survived the Holocaust, because of his education, his ability to speak several languages and his skills.

He had the chance to share that message with the high school students that attended the event.

"Educate yourselves, learn a second language and learn a skill," he told the students.

He said that any skills such as sewing, cooking and skilled labor can be helpful.

In Fayerman's book, "A Survivor's Story: A Personal History: Memoirs of Severin Fayerman," he talks about why it is important for him to share his experience.

"I do so now so that present and future generations will not forget the horrors of war, and to honor the countless number of innocent victims who did not survive."

Also at the event was a concentration camp liberator, Verne Baker of Chambersburg. Baker, now 85, was a private with the 42nd Division, commonly referred to as the Rainbow Division, and participated in the liberation of the Dachau Concentration Camp in Dachau, Germany.

According to Baker, on the  
**See Survivor on page 16**



Courtesy photo

**Verne Baker, a Dachau Concentration Camp liberator with the 42nd Division, shares a private moment with Holocaust survivor Severin Fayerman.**

# Area school children have day in court

*Office of Staff Judge Advocate celebrates Law Day, May 1*



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**In the mock trial are, from left, Andie Sieja, Annie Hardin, Mary Catherine Kelly, SJAG's Capt. Dimitri Facaros and Ella Raver.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate held a Law Day event May 1 at J.E. Williams Middle School and Huntsville Middle School, followed by a barbecue at Vincent Park.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Students hold a mock trial in the sixth-grade class of teacher Michelle Steed at Huntsville Middle School. From left are Crosby Loftin, Mary Catherine Kelly, Allie Henshaw, Capt. Garrett Hooper of the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and Marc Logan.**

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# Energy

continued from page 10

label uses at least 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards and 40 percent less energy than the conventional models sold in 2001.

Here are refrigerator-freezer energy tips:

Don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37-40 degrees for the fresh food compartment and 5 degrees for the freezer section. If you have a separate freezer for long-term storage, it should be kept at zero.

Check the refrigerator temperature by placing an appliance thermometer in a glass of water in the center of the refrigerator. Read it after 24 hours. Check the freezer temperature by placing a thermometer between frozen packages. Read it after 24 hours.

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight. Test them by closing the door over a piece of paper or a dollar bill so it is half in and half out of the refrigerator. If you can pull the paper or bill out easily, the latch may need adjustment, the seal may need replacing, or you may consider buying a new unit.

Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture and make the compressor work harder.

Regularly defrost manual-defrost freezers and refrigerators; frost build-up decreases the energy efficiency of the unit. Don't allow frost to build up more than one-quarter of an inch.

## Other kitchen help

Look for a natural gas oven or range with an automatic, electric ignition system, which saves gas since a pilot light is not burning continuously.

Look for blue flames in natural gas appliances; yellow flames indicate the gas is burning inefficiently and an adjustment may be needed. If you see yellow flames, consult the manufacturer or your local utility.

Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean; they will reflect the heat better, and you will save energy.

Use a covered kettle or pan or electric kettle to boil water; it's faster and uses less energy.

Match the size of the pan to the heating element.

## Laundry

There are two ways to reduce the amount of energy used for washing clothes – use less water and use cooler water. Unless you're dealing with oily stains, the cold water setting on your

machine will generally do a good job of cleaning your clothes.

Here are more laundry tips:

Wash your clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible.

Wash and dry full loads. If you are washing a small load, use the appropriate water-level setting.

Dry towels and heavier cottons in a separate load from lighter-weight clothes.

Don't over-dry your clothes. If your machine has a moisture sensor, use it.

Clean the lint screen in the dryer after every load to improve air circulation and prevent fire hazards.

Periodically, use the long nozzle tip on your vacuum cleaner to remove the lint that collects below the lint screen in the lint screen slot of your clothes dryer.

Use the cool-down cycle to allow the clothes to finish drying with the heat remaining in the dryer.

Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent a fire. Manufacturers recommend using rigid venting material – not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages.

Consider air-drying clothes on clothes lines or drying racks. Air drying is recommended by clothing manufacturers for some fabrics.

Look for the Energy Star and EnergyGuide labels. Energy Star clothes washers clean clothes using 50 percent less water and 37 percent less energy than standard washers.

When shopping for a new clothes dryer, look for one with a moisture

sensor that automatically shuts off the machine when your clothes are dry. Not only will this save energy, it will save the wear and tear on your clothes caused by over-drying.

Energy Star does not label clothes dryers because most of them use similar amounts of energy.

## Smart appliances

Some manufacturers are now offering "smart" appliances – appliances that can be connected to smart electric meters or home energy management systems to help you shift your electricity use to off-peak hours. Air conditioners, refrigerators, dishwashers and other appliances may be available as smart appliances.

Smart appliances don't just turn off during times of peak electricity demand – instead, they use subtle ways to shift energy use. You might not even be aware of it. For example, your air conditioner may run slightly less often. Or your refrigerator might delay its defrost cycle until the middle of the night. If your utility charges lower rates for electricity at night, also called time-based rates; you could save on your utility bill. Such changes may be unnoticeable to you, but could add up to significant savings for your utility – savings that can be shared with you. Your utility provider can tell you more about the availability of smart grid technologies and time-based electricity rates in your area and how they can benefit you.

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

# Thrift Shop grants support to Redstone

The Thrift Shop is in the business of giving back to the community.

This consignment store is a non-profit organization. And the income it generates, after paying its bills, flows back to the military community.

In April, the shop gave \$25,500 in grant money.

Each prospective recipient must submit an application requesting a grant, which states the reason for their need. A committee evaluates these applications and determines the monetary amounts to award.

"This is a great time to thank all of our customers who patronize the shop," a pre-

pared release said. "Without you, we would not be able to give as much as we do. Thanks to the many folks who come by and leave donations or come in and consign items, as this keeps us in business. Finally, thanks to all the volunteers who work at the shop to keep it running! They are all connected to the military and it warms their hearts that, in a small way, they are helping to give back to their own."

The Thrift Shop is located in building 3209 on Hercules Road. Its hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9 to 5, and the first Saturday of the month from 10 to 2.

## Survivor

continued from page 13

morning of April 29, 1945, Baker and his company were told they would be approaching some sort of jail or prison work camp. What they found was what Fayerman referred to as "purgatory."

"We knew as soon as we saw Daschau that it was not a prison camp," Baker said. "We knew what we were looking at and we were horrified."

Baker recalled what it was like to see prisoners at the camp.

"We could see all of these people coming out of the barracks and they were dressed in striped pajamas," Baker said. "The more that came out, the thinner and weaker they looked; you couldn't tell men from women, they looked like ghosts."

Baker went on to say that after the barracks were empty, more horrors awaited the liberators.

"One of our buddies told us not to go behind the barracks, that's where the crematorium was," recalled Baker. "They had run out of wood and the bodies, they just piled them up on top of each other, there were hundreds of them."

Photo by Irene Smith  
**The Thrift Shop presents a community assistance grant Thursday to Redstone's Ten-Miler Team. From left are Thrift Shop community assistance committee chairman Lisa Loew, chairman of the board Evelyn Teats, Ten-Miler Team coach Harry Hobbs, assistant coach Skip Vaughn, Randy McFarland, Alex Gornik, Rob Whitaker and Tim Vinson.**

*Editor's note: This article was adapted from a Thrift Shop release.*



Baker said he was grateful for his comrade's warning but was not able to avoid other horrors at Dachau. Baker's eyes filled with tears as he talked about other atrocities he witnessed that day.

Baker was witness to the discovery of at least 30 boxcars that contained the remains of 1,500 people who had never made it into the camp.

"They had been in those cars for 27 days without food or water. They (the Nazi soldiers) had just left them there to die," he said. "All of those people. Men, women, babies. All of them, gone."

There was one survivor, a young man,

among the box cars that was saved by the liberators that day.

When Baker returned from the war he went to work in his father's grocery store, Baker's Food Market, what is now the Route 5 Gift Shop. Baker still lives in Chambersburg with his wife of 61 years, Mary.

Fayerman, who turned 90 in March, sold Baldwin Hardware in the early 1980s and now lives in Reading, Pa., with his wife, Toni Hunter.

Holocaust Remembrance Week runs beginning the Sunday before the Day of Remembrance, April 19, and was established in 1980.

## Greencare for Troops helps with growing problems

*Volunteers cut lawns for deployed troops*

By **BETH SKARUPA**

Staff writer

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It only takes one person doing something as simple as cutting grass for a deployed Soldier to make a difference in someone's life.

Don Mattox, a disabled military retiree, volunteers for GreenCare for Troops as a way to support the military and give back to the community. He has several people who have stepped up to help him with the task so he can help more families. Now he wants more people to know that they can make a difference, too.

"If you ever wanted to give back, here's a way. You don't have to be a professional to do what we do. If you can push a mower, pull weeds, or use a rake, you can help. There's no reason you can't volunteer and be paired up with another volunteer," he said.

GreenCare for Troops is a national outreach program that provides free lawn and landscape service to military families with a servicemember overseas. The program is run by Project Evergreen, an organization committed to preserving and enhancing green spaces throughout the nation. The cost to manage the program is underwritten by Cub Cadet.

More than 3,500 volunteers are helping about 13,000 military families that are registered with the program. In Alabama, 27 volunteers are helping 24 families. More military families need help, but volunteers in their locations are needed before they can get it.

"There's a problem. As more families sign up for the program, the need is outweighing the support," Mattox said. "Families have signed up, military fami-



Photo by Beth Skarupa

**Don Mattox, a GreenCare for Troops volunteer, shakes hands with Kimberly Adams, a military spouse whose husband is deployed in Afghanistan, as volunteer Derick Ayers stands by. The GreenCare volunteers cut lawns for several military families in the area.**

lies of National Guard or Reservists, in some rural areas where there are no volunteers right now. We just don't have the support. It's not feasible for me try to run out 100 miles, although I'm not one to turn anybody down."

That's why Mattox is trying to spread the word about GreenCare for Troops, along with members of families that he has helped. Both his neighbor Tara Buller and Kimberly Adams, who was matched to Mattox through GreenCare for Troops because she lived nearby, want to do their part.

"I've been telling everybody about it. It's been a godsend for us, but now I want to help on the other side and get other people interested in volunteering," Adams said. "I want to get others, especially

**See Lawns on page 22**

## In this section...

**YOUTH CONFERENCE SHARES CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**  
**EVENT PRESENTS OPTIONS FOR AT-RISK YOUNG MEN**  
**CIVIL WAR BATTLE TEACHES LESSON FOR TODAY**  
**ALABAMA A&M COMMISSIONS GRADUATING CADETS**

**PAGE 20**  
**PAGE 20**  
**PAGE 21**  
**PAGE 22**

# Youth conference shares career opportunities

Students at Alabama A&M University looking for career guidance met with local professionals during the annual Youth Motivational Task Force conference at the university in April.

Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville employees represented the diverse work force and career opportunities at the Huntsville Center.

The event supported Huntsville Center's efforts to recruit qualified employees, contribute to the local community and expand partnership with local schools.

Workers who served as consultants to enlighten students regarding career opportunities in the Corps of Engineers and the

federal government included Arthur Martin, Installation Support and Programs Management; Terry Patton, Engineering Directorate; Darrell Davis, Resource Management; Betty Batts, Corps of Engineers Learning Center; Felicia McBride, Contracting Directorate; and Angela Morton, Equal Employment Opportunity Office. They discussed how the work world operates and shared their personal career experiences.

The National College YMTF program has helped more than 5 mil-



**Felicia McBride, Huntsville Center Contracting Directorate, receives an award for 14 years of service as a consultant for the Alabama A&M University's Youth Motivational Task Force. The annual conference helps students become aware of the variety of careers available in the private and public sectors.**

Courtesy photo

lion students become aware of the variety of careers available to them in the private and public sectors. "YMTF is just as wonderful and reward-

ing today as it was 14 years ago, when I participated in my first conference as a consultant," said McBride, who received a certificate of appreciation for her support. "It is so gratifying to help students prepare for their future by providing information, resume preparation, mock interviews, mentoring and just being available to listen to their questions and concerns."

"The students are very serious about their futures," Davis said. "Many students contacted me the very next day. I was blessed to be given the opportunity to speak to the students, giving them career guidance and hopefully changing lives for the better." (Huntsville Center release)

# Event presents options for at-risk young men

A seminar held April 28 in Huntsville was aimed at helping at-risk young men in the community.

EMBODI – Empowering Males to Build Opportunities for Developing Independence – is a signature program of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.'s 24th national president, Cynthia M.A. Butler-McIntyre.

"It is designed to refocus the efforts of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., with the support and action of other major organizations, on the plight of African-American males aged 13-17," a prepared release said.

"Both informal and empirical data suggests that the vast majority of African-American males continue to be

in crisis and are not reaching their fullest potential educationally, socially and emotionally," the release said. "EMBODI is designed to address these issues through dialogue and recommendations for change and action.

EMBODI was created out of an urgent sense that 'bold action is needed to save our young males from the perils of academic failure, low self-esteem, and crippled futures.'

"Our program will focus on workshops to assist the young men reach their fullest potential educationally, socially and emotionally. With that in mind, we've designed a program built around the following themes: self-esteem, building financial wealth, leadership, community service,

non-traditional careers and much more."

Courtesy photo

**Dr. Harry Hobbs, Huntsville Police Department's communications relations officer and a retired Army chief warrant officer 5, speaks during the EMBODI seminar April 28.**



# Civil War battle teaches lesson for today

## *AMCOM staff ride visits Chattanooga*

Civil War battle history came to life for a group of Aviation and Missile Command employees during a staff ride to the battlefields of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge on April 26.

Hosted by AMCOM's Historical Office under the leadership of historian Russ Rodgers, the staff ride enabled members of the Competition Management Office to examine aspects of leadership, logistics, operational planning and personality conflicts that culminated in the defeat of the Confederate forces near Chattanooga in November 1863.

"I never knew there was so much history this close," participant Ernie Robinson said.

Another participant noted that the trip made "the battle come to life," as if he had been there in late November 1863. Another pointed out that the experience provided an understanding of "why the leadership of both the Confederacy and the Union made strategic,

tactical, operational, as well as, life and death decisions."

Shelley Muhammad, chief of the Competition Management Office, said the "trip served its purpose in our understanding of the war fighter, the hardship they endure to protect us and our way of life, and our responsibility to ensure we are doing everything within our power to support them."

The staff ride involved driving to the Chattanooga area and examining specific sectors of historic Civil War battlefields, including Point Park, Sunset Rock, and Cravens House on Lookout Mountain, and Orchard Knob at the base of Missionary Ridge.

The battle for Lookout Mountain occurred Nov. 24, 1863, and saw Union forces under Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker advance along the west side of the mountain to drive Confederate defenders back toward Missionary Ridge. The battle of Missionary Ridge occurred the following day, with the entire Union army under Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant attacking along the entire ridge, causing panic in the Confederate army under Gen. Braxton Bragg and forcing their



Courtesy photo

**Checking out the historic battlefields from atop Lookout Mountain, Tenn., employees of the Aviation and Missile Command's Competition Management Office learn about the challenges of Civil War battles fought in the Chattanooga area from AMCOM historian Russ Rodgers, right.**

retreat back toward Atlanta. The battles are considered to be the culmination of a campaign that led to the Union drive on Atlanta, followed by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's drive across Georgia.

Muhammad said visiting the battle-

fields gave him a new appreciation for the hardships and difficulties of war.

"There is no substitute for being in the elements," he said, adding that it was critical to "understanding and seeing the terrain and what difficulties it causes the Soldiers with their lines of communication and logistics."

The employees of the Competition Management Office agreed the trip was worthwhile for their future development as Army civilians.

"This staff ride should definitely be considered a part of professional leadership development," said participant Sharon Adams, indicating it helped her to redress "some of the past misunderstandings of key elements and vital facts about war, and that men and women are only human with strengths and weaknesses."

As participant Ruby Hughes explained, the staff ride "gave me the opportunity to walk the same trails of the Soldiers and to get a feel of what it was like to fight on such difficult terrain."

Those interested in going on a staff ride can call Rodgers at 842-0564 or email russell.g.rodgers@us.army.mil.

# Alabama A&M commissions graduating cadets

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Seven ROTC cadets became Army second lieutenants in Thursday's commissioning ceremony at Alabama A&M University.

The Bulldog Battalion graduates included Bryant Adams, William Battle, Lloyd Bonner, Jasmine Clay, Dumars Franklin, Jared Jones and Lance McLaughlin.

They received leadership advice from guest speaker Brig. Gen. John Wharton, chief of staff for the Army Materiel Command.

"Stepping forward in a time of war takes uncommon courage and uncommon commitment," Wharton said. "And my hat's off to you."

Lt. Col. Johnnie Richardson, professor of military science, gave closing remarks at the event held in the Ernest L. Knight Center on the A&M campus.

"Each and every one of them is ready to go," Richardson said of the new officers. "It's game on, game on."

Photo by Skip Vaughn

**The new second lieutenants include, from left, Bryant Adams, William Battle, Lloyd Bonner, Jasmine Clay, Dumars Franklin, Jared Jones and Lance McLaughlin.**



## Lawns

continued from page 18

companies who have tons of support, to help. Because it's easy if you have one family that needs the help and a hundred volunteers, but it's hard if you have 100 families needing it and only one volunteer."

When she first found out that her husband, Sgt. Lloyd Adams with Charlie Company of the 115th National Guard, was going to be deployed to Afghanistan for a year, she got angry. She never thought about him leaving her and their 14-year-old daughter Tuesday for that length of time.

"I work the weekend shift at Huntsville Hospital and my husband is a Reservist. It never affected me physically until I knew he wouldn't be around. In my angry phase I wanted to know what was available to me," she said.

**S**o she searched the Internet for services available to the family members of deployed Soldiers and came across the GreenCare for Troops website. She registered online once the growing season was approaching and was matched with Mattox.

"I am not able to cut the lawn due to surgeries I've had. My parents are not able to do it for me. I would have had to hire a company or a service or a teenager from up the block. I could have done that, but it would have been an added expense," she said. "I am beyond thankful. I keep telling everyone that hey, this is great, and it is available to your family members, too."

Tara, wife of Staff Sgt. Lee Buller, has a different story. Her husband is deployed in Germany, but will leave today for Afghanistan. He is not due back un-

til January 2014. The couple have two daughters: 3-year-old Harlee and 2-year-old Mia. They moved into Mattox's neighborhood from Fort Rucker before Lee deployed so Tara could be closer to her extended family. When Mattox welcomed them to the neighborhood and heard that Lee would soon be deploying, he offered to take care of their lawn.

"The last time my husband deployed I tried to be Super Woman and take care of everything. This is just one less role that I have to play now," Tara said. "At first I thought I could do it all. Now I'm grateful I don't have to do it. It's nice to come home and see the yard and think, oh OK, that's taken care of."

She already has her hands full with not only taking care of her young children, but working for an insurance company as well as taking classes online toward her bachelor's degree after recently receiving her associate degree from the University of Phoenix. She also helps take care of her grandparents two days a week.

The Bulls had never heard of GreenCare for Troops until they met Mattox, even though Tara's brother is in the military and her parents both work on the Arsenal. Now she hopes others will get involved, too.

Mattox emphasized that although it only takes one person to volunteer and get the ball rolling, many people have helped him to be able to volunteer to do as much as he does. He has fellow volunteer Derick Ayers, a family friend who agreed to help him cut lawns each week. He also has friends who are the owners of Proficient Carpentry, Ivan Vuckovic and Josh Templet, who help him whenever they can.

He also appreciates the help he gets from Darrel Whited, his son Philip Whited, and Jim Reeder of Greenbriar Power

Tool Repair and Backyard Products. They are veterans that help him whenever his equipment needs servicing. Glenn Talley, a huge supporter of the military who rides his Harley motorcycle with the Patriot Guard, lends him his trailer whenever he needs it, too.

"That's the community coming together to make sure they take care of each other. If it wasn't for Glenn, Greenbriar, a supportive wife (Robin), Ivan, Josh, and Derick I wouldn't be able to do this," he said.

**M**attox soon will be taking his support of GreenCare for Troops to another level. He already tells lawn care professionals about the program whenever he sees them while they are working, letting them know that their services are needed and their time and money spent volunteering is tax deductible. But now he will be speaking about GreenCare at the upcoming Alabama Turf Grass Association's convention at Joe Davis Stadium and the University of Alabama-Huntsville May 14-15. He hopes his talk will inspire others to volunteer like he has for the past several years.

Mattox and Ayers spend one and a half or two days a week cutting lawns as part of the GreenCare for Troops program. They have five military families' plus the American Legion in Morgan City's lawns. But Mattox said even if a volunteer only has time to help one family, that is enough.

"Don't be afraid to cross over the line in the sense of offering your help to someone. If you know a spouse is going to be deployed, male or female, ask if you can help. You can help rake if all you have is a rake, or you can mow their yard with their lawn mower or your own. Neighborhood-wise, we've got to get people to step over the line and help out,"

he said.

Who matches volunteers with military families? Joy Westenberg coordinates the program for Project Evergreen out of Minnesota. Mattox and Adams both sing her praises. Adams explained that when she registered online for the service, Westenberg called her within a few days.

"She's just one lady with a spreadsheet, as she says, and she's on top of it all, too," Adams said.

"She's awesome at what she does on a national level. She pairs up volunteers with needy families and there are tens of thousands," Mattox added.

Westenberg explained that GreenCare for Troops and SnowCare for Troops (offered in the Midwest, underwritten by Boss Snowplows) are both part of Project Evergreen. She has been with the program since it started six years ago. She enjoys matching the volunteers with families.

"I am truly blessed to be able to provide community service every day," she said. "From where I sit, we live in a great nation. Whatever's happening, there are always people to step up and help."

**G**reenCare for Troops is one of the top volunteer services for servicemembers, as voted by Joining Forces, Michelle Obama's national initiative to "mobilize all sectors of society to give our servicemembers and their families the opportunities and support they have earned."

For more information, Westenberg encouraged volunteers and/or military families to call her toll free at 888-611-2955. Volunteers can sign up at online at <http://projectevergreen.com/gcft/volunteer/>. Military families requesting help with lawn care and landscaping can register online at [http://projectevergreen.com/gcft/get\\_greenecare.html](http://projectevergreen.com/gcft/get_greenecare.html).

# Strength of Army relies on future Soldiers

*Recruiters zone in on qualifications*

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Just as the Army's weapons and equipment keep getting better, so, too, does its Soldiers.

"Army Strong" is built on a Soldier force that is highly qualified, trainable, capable, motivated and committed to serve the nation. "Army Strong" is built one Soldier at a time through a recruiting and transformation process designed to introduce the nation's "best and brightest" to military service.

## In this section...

**DEPOT'S RADAR CAPABILITIES EARN TECHNOLOGY AWARD**

**PAGE 26**

**REDSTONE EXERCISES ANTITERRORISM VIGILANCE**

**PAGE 26**

**LONESTAR HEADLINES AMERICAN FREEDOM FESTIVAL**

**PAGE 28**

And it all starts with Army recruiters, and the relationships they build with young men and women.

"We are working at the grassroots level in recruiting," Col. Mike Faruqi, commander of the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, said.

"Our Soldiers are interacting with potential recruits at a much greater level than ever before."

The 2nd Recruiting Brigade – known as "Team Eagle" – continues to be the Army's top recruiting organization among its five recruiting brigades. It is responsible for recruiting activities in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and portions of Tennessee as

well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Island. The brigade oversees eight battalions, 48 companies, one district and about 310 recruiting stations, with more than 2,000 Soldiers and civilians working in recruiting activities.

In fiscal 2010, the brigade recruited more than 19,000 Soldiers for active duty, reaching 106 percent of its goal; and about 3,500 Soldiers for the Army Reserves, reaching 103 percent of its goal. In fiscal 2011, the brigade recruited more than 16,000 Soldiers for active duty, reaching 121 percent of its goal; and more than 3,900 Soldiers for the Army Reserves, reaching 101 percent of its goal. So far in fiscal 2012, the brigade has recruited more than 9,100 Soldiers for active duty and more than 1,400 for the Reserves, with expectations of meeting or



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Col. Mike Faruqi, commander of the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, leads the Army's top recruiting brigade. As the Army draws down its forces, Army recruiting is being more selective to ensure to enlist the nation's "best and brightest."**

exceeding its goals for the year.

"The brigade, at large, is the center of

**See Future on page 27**

# Depot's radar capabilities earn technology award

TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, Pa. — Wide-ranging and expanding radar missions for the armed forces have earned Tobyhanna Army Depot first place in the 2012 Pennsylvania Technology Awards “Best Application of Technology” category.

The awards, which recognize Pennsylvania's technology leaders and innovators, were presented at the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg by TechQuest, a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing technology for humanity. Tobyhanna topped 56 other competitors to win its award.

Tobyhanna's team of design engineers, technicians and support personnel were recognized for their innovative use of modeling, simulation and mapping technologies to transform an available depot mountain ridge into a web of radar test sites. The new sites will optimize the process of radar system repair and testing.

“Tobyhanna has been repairing and testing radars since the 1960s,” Tobyhanna commander Col. Charles C. Gibson said, “so we have extensive capability and experience in this critical commodity.”

Depot personnel support a wide va-

riety of radar systems including air defense, air traffic control, ground surveillance, airborne, shipborne, range threat systems and critical counter fire systems for the Army, Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy. (*Tobyhanna release*)

Photo by Steve Grzezdziński

**Electronics mechanic John Herr performs a First Article Test on a receiver circuit card of an AN/TPS-63B Medium Range Surveillance Radar at Tobyhanna Army Depot. Herr works in the depot's Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate.**



# Redstone exercises antiterrorism vigilance

By DAN O'BOYLE  
For the Rocket

Team Redstone's annual Antiterrorism Full-Scale Exercise will culminate May 16 with an Active Shooter and Weapons of Mass Destruction scenario “Vigilant Guard.”

This year's exercise will assess the installation's preparedness capability to respond to a realistic incident.

Exercise participants include Redstone Arsenal ma-

ior tenants and numerous agencies, including the Army Materiel Command, the Security Assistance Command, the Aviation and Missile Command, the Army Contracting Center, Fox Army Health Center, Huntsville/Madison County Emergency Management Agency, Crestwood and Huntsville Hospitals, the Criminal Investigation Directorate, the FBI, the Garrison's directorates, AMRDEC, AAA, Huntsville Emergency Medical Services Inc., Safety Office and Public Affairs.

In order to evaluate installation response plans, poli-

cies and procedures, personnel may experience delays at selected installation access control points, roads and facilities as the exercise continues.

Employees should be aware of the exercise and cooperate with first responders during this time.

The exercise will be conducted in accordance with Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation and Federal Continuity Directives.

Exercise controllers are Josette Paschal of AMCOM and the Garrison's Mark Olson and Dan Huber.

# Future

continued from page 24

gravity for the nation's Army recruiting efforts," Faruqui said. "We meet our goals and surpass our goals because of the tremendous patriotism and hard work of the citizens in the Southeastern United States."

Nowhere does that patriotism and hard work seem greater than in Huntsville and North Alabama, he said. The relationship shared between Redstone Arsenal and the community works in favor of local recruiting efforts. Community-based organizations that work toward developing good citizens – veterans organizations, scouting groups, churches, YMCA programs, school clubs, JROTC/ROTC programs, sports clubs and leadership development groups – can all have a positive influence on young people considering military service.

But when it comes to recruiting their target market – citizens within the ages of 17 to 24 – the heart of recruiting begins in local schools and within the family unit.

"The local school districts are strong here and that helps us in recruiting quality young people who do well on tests, and who are mentally, physically and morally correct," Faruqui said.

**And yet, nationwide, recruiters** do face challenges in their efforts to bring young adults into the Army.

"Only one in four kids in the nation are fully qualified to serve their nation," Faruqui said. "In 2015, that number will be one in five."

What's standing in the way of successful enlistment? A national high school dropout rate of 20 percent. An obesity rate of one in five between the ages of 12 and 19 that is projected to grow to one in four by 2015. A rise in criminal and moral misconduct among youth.

The problems of society also affect recruiting.

"We have to encourage our kids not to fall in with the wrong crowds. There needs to be a lot of mentorship applied to help them understand that poor decisions will affect them later," Faruqui said. "Army qualifications are some of the toughest we've ever had. If they can't meet those qualifications, they can't serve."

At the same time, Army recruiting numbers are falling, making it more competitive for young people who want to serve. In fiscal 2011, the recruiting goal for active duty Soldiers was 64,000 and for Army Reserve it was 19,320. In fiscal 2012, the Army recruiting goals are 58,000 for active duty and 16,320 for Army Reserve.

As the Army draws down, so too does its recruiting stations.

"The Army recruiting force is getting smaller," Faruqui said. "We are decreasing the number of recruiting stations in our footprint. So, it's harder for us to contact and meet students, and to go out and talk to people. Our recruiting focus is shrinking. We have to be much better stewards of the total resources available."

Recruiters are relying more on electronic media – websites, email communication and Facebook (goarmy.com) – and the popular media – movies and videogames – to tell the Army story. But they aren't foregoing the personal touch of recruiting.

"As we get smaller, one of the things we are working to do is build a network of people who can talk about the Army in our footprint. We want to share our story with the help of veterans, teachers, retirees and members of the community," Faruqui said.

JROTC and ROTC programs are essential to that mix, the colonel said, because they "communicate an understanding that the military does care for them, and they emphasize that leadership component and civilian aspect about staying in school and getting an education. They help kids understand what the future can hold for them."

Even within Army recruiting stations, the culture has changed from a numbers game to a teamwork approach. Instead of focusing on top recruiters, the brigade and its lead organization – the Army Recruiting Command – encourages the team approach where recruiters work together in recruiting young people who will be "Army Strong."

"The culture of the Army Recruiting Command has changed dramatically in the last 10 years," Faruqui said.

"In 2000, Army recruiting was more of a sales organization. It was more transactional. Now, we are transformational. We provide an opportunity for recruits to transform themselves into the kind of leader they want to be and into a more qualified citizen of the nation. Army Strong is based on the strength of our Soldiers, and that strength comes from transforming that individual Soldier into a better person, a better citizen."

**With a leaner Army comes** a more stringent selection process. Tougher qualifications translate into a better crop of future Soldiers.

"Service truly is a privilege in this environment," Faruqui said. "We have some of the best young men and women serving in recruiting today. They are motivating kids with the strategic purpose of finding the best for the Army, and maybe even building the next command sergeant major of the Army or the next four-star general. Our recrui-

ters are more successful today because of the quality of kids we are recruiting. We will have a much more refined and qualified Army of the future because of our recruits today."

Even though the future Army will be smaller, it will be more diverse, calling on its Soldiers to be able to work with new technologies. The opportunities are more limitless today than ever before, the colonel said.

This year, the Army has reached a 30-year high in the number of recruits with a high school diploma. More recruits are scoring high in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math, which gives them greater opportunities in the military.

"North Alabama is a quality market for us in the number of students who score in the upper percentile of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test. This area is number one in the Southeastern United States for high scores," Faruqui said.

**In return, the Army offers** a multitude of careers to fit the plans of any aspiring Soldier. There are especially new opportunities for recruits who aspire in science and technology fields, who want to be leaders or who are driven to take the Army experience all the way into the elite forces.

"At one time, the Army was not

thought of as elite as the Marines. But now we have the Special Forces. There is an elite Army today. And if it happens on the ground, it's got to be the Army. The Army leads at the tip of the spear," said Faruqui, a Bronze Star medal recipient who has served in Special Forces and Special Operations, and who is a veteran of Operation Just Cause-Panama, Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"The Army is a young man's game. We expect a lot out of our kids. But the Army also has a lot to offer kids in our target range of 17 to 24. It's an opportunity to mature, to become a better person. The Army makes them better citizens with values that benefit the nation. We imbed values into our training."

Young people who are educated and teachable, who have high moral values and who offer unique skill sets are the target for Army recruiters.

"We are a profession of arms charged with finding the best qualified young men and women to aspire to serve their country," Faruqui said. "We want young people who want to serve, who aspire to serve, who have a passion to serve, and who are physically, mentally and morally in line with our values."

# Lonestar headlines Huntsville's American Freedom Festival

*First time fundraiser to become tradition for helping veterans*

By Jason Cutshaw  
USASMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

While supporting service members and veterans, Lonestar not only entertained Huntsville, the band left them "Amazed."

The American Freedom Foundation hosted its first American Freedom Festival on Saturday at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall featuring country band Lonestar, better known for its smash hit "Amazed." The concert for veterans and service members helped benefit Still Serving Veterans as well as other Huntsville-area veteran organizations.

"Tonight's event is part of a national movement to help our veterans around the country," said retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley, American Freedom Foundation co-founder. "There are more than 30,000 wounded veterans and we are thinking about all of the families that are affected by that. This is a way for us to give back and help our veterans. Shows like the one we are doing tonight in Huntsville will make a tremendous difference because we are going to come back year after year after year and make this a festival for this great community.

"One of the important things I would like to say is 'don't talk about helping veterans, help a veteran.' Help a veteran and their family."

**A**fter retiring from the Army in 2004, Tilley began American Freedom Foundation, Inc., to honor the men and women of America's armed forces, raise awareness for their service and sacrifice, and raise money for organizations that serve and support veterans, active-duty military and their families. Special emphasis is directed to the welfare of those wounded in action, those disabled and the family members of those killed in action.

For more information, go to the foundation's website at [www.americanfreedomfoundation.org](http://www.americanfreedomfoundation.org).

Tilley also spoke of how proud he is that the American Freedom Foundation has teamed up with Kaplan University and been able to give away \$1.5 million in scholarships for military spouses and dependants.

"We are proud to have partnered with the American Freedom Foundation to create a scholarship program for military families," said Patrick Milligan, Kaplan University assistant vice



Photo by Dottie White, SMDC/ARSTRAT

**Members of the band Lonestar perform Saturday at the American Freedom Foundation's first American Freedom Festival in Huntsville on Saturday at the Von Braun Center Concert Hall. Lonestar includes, from left, Michael Britt, lead guitar; Dean Sams, keyboards and guitar; and Richie McDonald, lead vocals, keyboard and guitar.**

president of military affairs. "Our ability to help service members and veterans is a small thing we can do to give back to those who have sacrificed so much. Tonight's concert is a way to not only raise money, but also awareness for local and national organizations that are helping out our men and women in uniform as well as their families."

For more information, visit the university's website at [www.kaplan.edu](http://www.kaplan.edu).

One of the local organizations that American Freedom Foundation has teamed up with is Still Serving Veterans.

After being founded in 2005, Still Serving Veterans has helped more than 5,000 veterans and their families in the local area connect with the services they need to deal with life-changing injuries while reintegrating into civilian lives and careers.

During Saturday's concert, Still Serving Veterans received a donation of \$25,000.

"Still Serving Veterans is a veterans' service organization that helps veterans reintegrate into meaningful new careers and post-military lives," said William Webb, Still Serving Veterans president. "We help them primarily through professional counseling to help them make new careers and help them receive all the benefits and services they have earned.

"Last year we did 2,404 one-on-one counseling sessions and in this economy we helped 130 veterans get new jobs. We were able to bring back to our veteran clients new benefits, services and salaries, more than \$9.2 million. And since we began in 2005, we have

been able to get our veterans more than \$64 million in services and benefits."

Based in Huntsville, Still Serving Veterans helps veterans assess their vocational and counseling needs and then connecting those veterans with existing federal, state and local support services. For more information, go to SSV's website at [www.stillservingveterans.org](http://www.stillservingveterans.org).

"The important thing for us to remember tonight is that we are a military community," said Sheila McFerrer, Still Serving Veterans director of program development. "It is very important for us to be able to reach out to our more than one million veterans nationally who are unemployed. Our mission is to help look out in our local community and get our local businesses and employers, and bring the people together to support our local veterans.

"Tonight's event is our inaugural event and we want to be able to do even more next year."

**T**he American Freedom Festivals are a series of concert events that take place across the country featuring music performers, actors, athletes, dignitaries and other supporters, joining together to help support and fulfill the mission of the American Freedom Foundation. Besides the Huntsville show, the American Freedom Foundation is also hosting shows in San Diego and Washington, D.C., along with three job fairs in Washington, D.C., San Diego and Chicago.

"Tonight is another great opportunity in the Huntsville area to recognize and celebrate veterans, wounded war-

riors and their families," said Lt. Gen. Richard P. Formica, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command commanding general. "The American Freedom Foundation is hosting this concert to help raise money that will support local veterans organizations and the whole purpose is to recognize our veterans, wounded warriors, service members and their families who serve here in our community.

"And we are looking forward to a great concert."

Opening up for Lonestar was local favorite The Jason Albert Band, who mixed country with southern rock and roll music.

Founded in 1992, Lonestar's members include Richie McDonald, lead vocals, keyboard and guitar; Dean Sams, keyboards and guitar; Michael Britt, lead guitar; and Keech Rainwater, drums. The band has released eight studio albums and one greatest hits album. They have sold more than 10 million albums worldwide and nine of their 28 singles have reached number one on the Billboard country singles charts.

Shortly before performing at the American Freedom Festival, the band performed for the troops in Qatar. As they prepared to take the stage in Huntsville, they talked about the importance of supporting those who serve the country and continue to keep the nation safe.

**"Tonight is a great thing because we** are going to be saluting a lot of our men and women who have served this great country of ours and just knowing that we have songs like 'I'm Already There,' that have gone way beyond what the song originally meant and has touched people in a much deeper way means a lot," Sams said. "The fact that our veterans have deployed for a year or more and are put in harm's way every single minute of every day is incredible. And to know that we can come here and put on a little show and put a few smiles on their faces while raising money for our veterans is pretty dang cool."

As the song "I'm Already There" became more than just a song about the band being on the road, McDonald talked about how proud he was that so many people could connect with the song.

"I concur," McDonald said. "How can you top that? Just knowing that we performed a song that could connect families who were away from one another for a year or more is something special. To be a part of a song that has made a difference in so many lives is something we are all proud of."

# Brigade receives UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters

By MICHELLE KENNEDY  
Army News Service

FORT DRUM, N.Y. – While ground troops scour the terrain, helicopters provide security, transportation and support overhead.

The 10th Combat Aviation Brigade received the first of many UH-60M Black Hawk helicopters to ensure they can continue to support servicemembers deployed overseas.

During a brief ceremony April 10, Col. Pedro Almeida, 10th CAB commander, officially received the computerized “logbook” for the first of several new aircraft the unit will receive.

“The brigade is now transitioning from the older model UH-60 Black Hawk ‘Lima’ model to the ‘Mike’ model aircraft,” he said. “(The new aircraft provides a) significant increase in capability for the brigade ... particularly in the



Photo by Michelle Kennedy

**Jeff Gregg, UH-60M instructor with Science and Engineering Services Inc., and Capt. Kristian Mroczko look at the outside of a new UH-60M Black Hawk.**

medevac platform.”

Some of the new features include a digital “glass” cockpit, improved rotor blade function, different seating options and other conveniences for pilots, crew members and passengers, according to Maj. John Watwood, UH-60A/L/M as-

sistant product manager for the Program Executive Office for Aviation from Redstone Arsenal.

“We want to give aviators the best aircraft we can,” Watwood explained. “We look at survivability, performance (and) modernization. A digital cockpit is what every piece of aircraft is going to, (especially) with the whole modern battlefield and the situational awareness that goes along with it.

“(The new aircraft) is much more a mental workload than a physical workload,” he continued. “The physical workload goes down, but because of the modernization, the mental workload goes up.”

The UH-60M has a whole new cockpit setup with four multifunctional display screens where the older models have analog gauges, Watwood said.

“All the information a pilot needs is contained on those screens,” he noted. “If you look at the younger generation, everything is geared toward digitization and technology. The younger generation is more technologically savvy and that’s what we’re aiming for.”

The body of the new helicopter also boasts a “monolithic” design, a sleek upgrade to the older model Black Hawk’s more segmented look, Watwood added.

The 10th CAB is the fourth combat aviation brigade to receive the UH-60M

since the Army began fielding it in 2007.

Four of the brigade’s five Black Hawk-specific companies will transition to the UH-60M during the next six months, Almeida explained. Previously, 10th CAB units were flying UH-60 A/L models.

“For our pilots, as well as everyone else involved with the aircraft, receiving the Mike model will entail additional training requirements – essentially another aircraft qualification,” Almeida said. “In order to do that, we actually have the fielding process taking place right here at Fort Drum.”

Instead of sending pilots and crew members to Fort Rucker, Ala., or Fort Eustis, Va., representatives from PEO Aviation and Science and Engineering Services Inc. will provide all of the academic and hands-on training required.

Providing the training is not only more cost-effective, but it’s better for aviation Soldiers and their families, Almeida added.

“It’s a huge morale booster for families,” he said. “Otherwise, we would essentially have about a battalion and a half worth of aviators, air crew members and maintainers who would have to ... spend anywhere from a month and half to two months ... to go through those courses. That’s a lot of Soldiers when you look across the entire brigade.”

**See Helicopters on page 31**

## In this section...

<b>AMCOM SUPPLY TEAM MAKES CHANGES FOR BETTER</b>	<b>PAGE 31</b>
<b>SOLDIER TECHNOLOGIES DISPLAYED AT STATE HOUSE</b>	<b>PAGE 32</b>
<b>LOGISTICS MANAGERS LOOK TOWARD STRATEGIC FUTURE</b>	<b>PAGE 32</b>

# AMCOM supply team makes changes for better

By **DAN O'BOYLE**

For the Rocket

“Kaizen,” a word created in Japan following World War II, means “continuous improvement.” It comes from the Japanese words “kai” which means “change,” and “zen” which means “good.”

Kaizen is a system that can be used by any employee and encourages employees to initiate suggestions for process improvements. Japanese companies, such as Toyota and Canon, focus on sharing and implementing employee suggestions to improve productivity and effectiveness while reducing waste.

Kaizen is based on making changes anywhere that improvements can be made. Historical Western philosophy may be summarized “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it,” but the

Kaizen philosophy of “do it better, make it better, improve it even if it isn’t broken, because if we don’t, we can’t compete with those who do” is starting to take hold throughout the U.S.

To Lisa Terrell and the 15 members of her Acquisition Strategy and Sourcing, Supply Chain Management Enterprise Team, a recent Kaizen event on the Long Term Contracting Process has produced a marching order that equals 29 opportunities for improvement.

The opportunities include training, standardization, collaboration, processes and policies that emphasize advanced planning. For example, standardizing the non-live buy process, where technical data packages are completed before the buy or repair action is initiated, and early formation of integrated process teams

to improve collaboration by stakeholders, leads to reduced administrative lead times and lower wholesale inventory pipeline requirements.

Another major goal of the team, Terrell said, is “to maximize the number of aviation and missile secondary items that are on Long Term Contracts so that LTCs result in much shorter administrative lead times because the terms for years two through five of the contract are negotiated up front.”

Measured in financial terms, during the period March 9 through April 20, the team achieved a cost avoidance of \$105 million by reducing administrative lead times for parts on long term contracts.

In conjunction with the Army Materiel Command Supplier Relationship Management

Enterprise Integrated Process Team, also led by Terrell, another opportunity for improvement is to develop a concept of operations document that will institutionalize to all of AMC the supplier relationship management process.

Acquisition strategy team members include Karen Balch, Nathan Wolfe, Tonya Smith, Eric Kilianski, Nakia Redmon, Chad Reaves, Paul Zachary, Jeff Jenkins, Carla Crawford, Jeanie Clark, Kenya Rucker, Bud Weiser, Suzanne Spielman, Lori Mosely and Reba Adkins.

To learn more, all members of the AMCOM work force are encouraged to visit the Supply Chain Management Enterprise “War Room” on the second floor of building 5301, as well as visit <http://tinyorl.com/TransformingAMCOM>.



## Helicopters

continued from page 30

Providing home-station training is a system that the Army as a whole has begun using to field the new aircraft, Almeida noted.

“It is more cost-effective and more efficient and overall, (offers a higher) level of effectiveness, to bring the training

team to the brigade ... at our home station,” he explained, adding that any Soldiers who arrive at the brigade who are not UH-60M-qualified will have to go to the schoolhouse training.

The presence of aviation support can often determine the success of a ground unit’s mission, especially those in Afghanistan, according to Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jeffrey Fitzgerald, 10th CAB command chief warrant officer. Fitzger-

ald has heard from ground force commanders who have said their Soldiers “can’t live without” aviation support.

“In Afghanistan, aviation (assets are) critical,” he said. “This new aircraft allows us to get from Point A to Point B a little more safely because the pilots have more situational awareness (while flying) in combat.”

Although Almeida will soon relinquish command, he said he is happy he

can leave the brigade knowing that its pilots and crew members will deploy with state-of-the-art utility helicopters.

“(The UH-60M) is a significant added capability for the brigade,” he said. “It has taken us into a more modern aircraft that has more features that can enhance the safety and mission-readiness of the brigade and our ability to affect the guys on the ground. That’s a great feeling to have as we turn around and modernize the organization.”

# Soldier technologies displayed at Massachusetts State House

By **BOB REINERT**

*Garrison-Natick Public Affairs*

BOSTON – Visitors usually come to the Massachusetts State House to watch the legislature in action, not to learn about what Soldiers wear, carry and eat.

May 2 was no ordinary day on Beacon Hill, however. It marked the sixth annual Natick Soldier Systems Center Showcase, hosted by Sen. Karen Spilka of the 2nd Middlesex and Norfolk district in which NSSC is situated.

Each year, NSSC gives legislators, their staffs and the public a look at the technologies their tax dollars have helped develop to keep service members safe, comfortable and effective. This year's displays continued that tradition.

"Since 1954 – nearly 60 years – the U.S. Army has conducted its most advanced research on Soldier equipment

at the Natick Soldier Systems Center," Spilka said. "Its mission is very simple, yet also very powerful: to provide America's Soldiers with the best equipment in the world.

"You just have to look around and see the incredible things that the Soldier Systems Center is doing, and it truly exemplifies the spirit that we hold so dear in Massachusetts – the spirit of innovation and ingenuity – to reach new heights in technical advances to protect our servicemen and women in combat. This is just a sampling of what goes on there."

Massachusetts Lt. Gov. Timothy Murray followed Spilka to the podium and pointed out that NSSC's workforce of 1,880 includes recipients of 1,200 advanced degrees that range from aerospace engineering to zoology.

"What's displayed here saves lives," Murray said as he looked out on booths

bristling with technology. "It protects the men and women who serve in some of the most treacherous conditions that you can imagine. It also provides a role in making sure that our first responders here in Massachusetts and in this country also have state-of-the-art equipment.

"It's a vital national security mission, a vital public safety mission that goes on here in providing first-class equipment."

Murray said that improving the Massachusetts work force through science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, training is a necessity.

"And Natick and the leadership at the base have really redoubled their effort in that regard," Murray said.

"Not only is the work that they do going to be reinforced, but it helps the entire commonwealth compete and win."

Greg Bialecki, Massachusetts Secretary of Housing and Economic Development, said that work done at NSSC helps U.S. war fighters deployed around the world.

"It's very important work that they do in protecting our country and protecting those who serve, and we thank them for that," Bialecki said. "These displays that you see today just begin to touch on and give you a sense of the remarkable research and development that is going



Photo by David Kamm, NSRDEC photographer

**Visitors examine displays May 2 at the sixth annual Natick Soldier Systems Center Showcase at the Massachusetts State House in Boston, which brought Soldier technologies to Beacon Hill. Visitors learned about what Soldiers wear, carry and eat.**

on there."

Other speakers included Sen. Richard Ross, Rep. David Linsky, Rep. Alice Peisch, Sen. James Timilty, Sen. Thomas McGee, Rep. Linda Dean Campbell, Rep. Michael Brady, and Brig. Gen. John J. McGuinness, NSSC senior commander.

McGuinness urged those in attendance to visit the displays, examine the technology and ask questions of those who provide service members with the world's finest equipment.

"We're a joint force. We're a joint base," McGuinness said. "We solve joint problems."

## Logistics managers look toward strategic future

By **OLIVIA COWART**

*For the Rocket*

AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers set the tone for the Integrated Materiel Management Center commanders' conference.

"Think about the strategic future," Rogers said.

Participants included IMMC executive director Keith Roberson, Corpus Christi Army Depot commander Col. Chis Carlile, Letterkenny Army Depot commander Col. Cheri Provancha, Letterkenny deputy Anita Raines, Aviation Center Logistics commander Col. Rick Crogan, aviation director John Jensen, missile director Debbie Daniel and their logistics chiefs. They gathered in the Sparkman Center's electronic meeting systems facility.

Their primary focus was on driving business performance at the depots

and the command to an optimal state through strategic processes. This includes the need to reduce overhead and increase operating efficiencies at both depots while leveraging the full capabilities of enterprise resources planning.

Roberson discussed the need for the enterprise to identify and prioritize areas where the Logistics Modernization Program affects the enterprise's capability to operate most efficiently, and to address key areas according to budget constraints.

"While we have become a budget driven Army, readiness cannot take a back seat," Roberson said. "We must leverage enterprise resources planning and communication across the enterprise to better support the Soldier."

Future events will include follow-up on topics that were discussed as well as addressing any new issues that arise.

# Self-discovery inspires author's fantasy novel

By LARRY McCASKILL

Army Contracting Command Public Affairs

These days Deborah Van Heest finds inner peace and contentment filling blank pages with words that create images and emotions.

She has followed her childhood dream of becoming a published author with the recent publication of a fantasy/science fiction novel.

"I started writing when I was in fifth-grade," said the executive assistant to the Army Contracting Command executive director. "I started out writing poetry and soon began making up short stories in junior high involving my friends. I like to write. I write every chance I get and when I'm not writing I'm thinking about writing."

"I suppose if I were a serious writer I would quit my job to follow my dream, but I can't do that so for now writing is a hobby."

Van Heest said growing up was difficult. Admitting to having a hard time working through her feelings of being adopted, she took her self-worth and turned it inside. Writing for her turned out to be therapeutic and enjoyable.

"I live mostly in my head and writing helps me feel normal," she said with a chuckle. "I wrote then and now for the fun of it. I'd have my friends taking these crazy adventures in foreign lands and it always made us laugh. I suppose my goal

was entertaining people with my stories and that's still my goal."

Reading the diverse works of writers such as Dean Koontz, Anne Rice, Patricia Cornwell and James Patterson, the main thing Van Heest discovered is to stay true to herself and write about something she loves.

"I know the popular genres today are politics, war, terrorism, financial planning, and health and fitness, but I veer far away from real life. Reality is brutal, unkind and something we have no choice but to face every day. When I read my favorite authors, they take me away from all that and that's what I try and do with my writing," said the Chapin, Ill., native.

After not writing for years, Van Heest began developing her recent work after going through a series of life-changing events.

"I went through a divorce and finding out more about my birth family really opened my eyes and changed my life. I learned more about myself and decided I needed to start making decisions based on what I felt was truly in my best interest."

"My writing was a juvenile pastime that I never took seriously, but the older I got, the more I wondered what was holding me back. Why was I not going for my dream when it was something I've kept with me all these years? Finally, I decided to go for it and put my book out there. Af-

ter all, you never know what will happen. I write because I love doing it and even if no one ever reads these stories I would still continue to write them," Van Heest said.

The result of her new self-discovery was "Secret of the Kings," a more than 400-page e-book that can be found on the Internet.

"I created the characters in this book when I was back in college and the storyline kept coming back to me. I started writing it in the spring of 2009 and finished the fall of 2011," said Van Heest, who decided to publish her book online after a friend's suggestion.

One day she hopes her books will be published by a publishing house, but for now she's content that it is out there for people to read.

"I have submitted my book to several different publishing companies and to date, have received two rejection letters, but I am still hopeful," she said. "I haven't come this far to stop now. I've a story to tell and I am going to tell it."



Photo by David San Miguel

**Deborah Van Heest, executive assistant to the Army Contracting Command executive director, has written the "Secret of the Kings," a more than 400-page e-book that can be found on the Internet.**



Photo by Carrie E. David

## Four more years

Sgt. Nelson Villanueva, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, recites the oath of Enlistment during his re-enlistment ceremony April 27 at Marshall Space Flight Center. Villanueva re-enlisted for an additional four years, bringing his total service to 10. The oath was administered by HHC commander Maj. Shawn Geib.

## In this section...

<b>ENGINEER CALLED UP TO HELP REBUILD AFGHAN ARMY</b>	<b>PAGE 34</b>
<b>EMPLOYEE OF QUARTER DOES INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS</b>	<b>PAGE 36</b>
<b>SUNDAY CELEBRATED AS CHAPLAIN LUCKIE DAY</b>	<b>PAGE 37</b>

Courtesy photo

## Citadel Night

The Redstone Composite Squadron conducted its first Citadel Night on April 23. Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Doug Kelley, volunteer recruiter for The Citadel, speaks April 23 during the CAP Redstone Composite Squadron's first Citadel Night. Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 61,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft.



# Engineer called up to help rebuild Afghan army

By HEATHER SMITH  
AMRDEC Public Affairs

At the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, Michael Richman is director for systems within the Weapons Development and Integration Directorate. He's responsible for planning, management and execution of advanced technology and system demonstration of missile components and systems. But his responsibilities as a lieutenant commander in the Navy Reserves currently have his "boots on the ground" in Kabul, Afghanistan.

A native of Anderson, Ind., Richman joined AMRDEC in December 2006. His primary focus is science and technology, research and development for new missile systems to provide advanced capability in the areas of protection, fire support, ground tactical and aviation missile systems.

In addition to civilian responsibilities with the Army, Richman has had a 15-year career in the Navy Reserves through the Navy's direct commission officer program.

In late May 2011, he received a phone call from the Navy Reserve Engineering Duty Officer community manager, informing him that he was being involuntarily recalled to active duty to support Operation Enduring Freedom in Kabul

for 330 days. In November, he participated in Navy individual augmentee combat training at Fort Jackson, S.C., where for three weeks the Army trained nearly 250 Navy officers and enlisted on basic combat skills, convoy operations, combat first-aid, improvised explosive device detection, land navigation and law of war.

Richman arrived in Kuwait around Dec. 20. From there, he and three other Navy engineers traveled to Camp Eggers, Kabul, arriving on Christmas Eve.

This is Richman's first deployment, and he said it has been very different from his formal Navy training and reservist duties. His current reserve assignment is as the director for the Disruptive Technology Wargame effort within the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Research and Development). Previous reserve assignments have included tours of duty as commanding officer with Naval Sea Systems Command Bangor and Miami SURGEMAIN units, Norfolk Naval Shipyard as a project superintendent for guided missile cruiser and 688 attack submarine overhaul and repair, special projects officer with the Naval Sea Systems Command Ship Technology Directorate, theater nuclear warfare program management support unit, and department head coordinating Navy Reserve support to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center Amphibious



Courtesy photo

**AMRDEC's Michael Richman is in Afghanistan on a yearlong deployment helping to rebuild the Afghan army.**

Assault Ship waterfront operations.

In Afghanistan he is chief of integration for the Engineering Directorate within the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan/Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan. The command is building \$10 billion worth of infrastructure for the 195,000-member Afghan National Army and 157,000-member Afghan National Police force throughout the country. In addition, 3,500 facilities engineers and tradesmen are being

trained to operate the ANA and ANP bases as the coalition handover occurs.

"Serving in a land-locked country supporting infrastructure development and training for the Afghanistan National Security Force is a bit of a departure" from his previous assignments, Richman said. "Specifically, I'm working with the ISAF Joint Command, U.S. Forces Afghanistan and coalition partners to coordinate the ANA/ANP buildup with the strategic drawdown of operational forces as the mission shifts to training the Afghans."

Back here in Huntsville are Richman's wife, Jennifer, who is also an AMRDEC engineer in Weapons Development Integration, and his three sons, 10-year-old Jacob, 8-year-old Luke and 7-year-old James. "I miss my wife and three boys tremendously but am comforted by the fact that we are a part of something much bigger than any individual, providing a future of hope for the people of Afghanistan," Richman said.

"I am proud to serve alongside the best and brightest Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines here at Camp Eggers. Each and every day I stand in the shadow of so many men and women who are sacrificing more than I in service to their country, providing not only security for our great nation but peace for the Afghan people."



Photo by Henry Norton

## Sustained excellence

Program executive officer for aviation Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby presents the Bob Wylie award to Staff Sgt. Joe Morales during the Apache Users' Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, on April 25. Morales, a maintainer from the 3-101st Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, Ky., was recognized for continuously excelling in all aspects of Apache helicopter maintenance and ensuring the safety of the AH-64D pilots and crewmembers. Spc. Christopher Parker, a crew chief in A Company, 4-227th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, was also recognized for excellence in maintaining the Apache helicopter fleet.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Teddy Wade

## Training center visit

Army chief of staff Gen. Raymond Odierno speaks to Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, during his visit to the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk, La., May 1.

# Honor

continued from page 1

Capt. Gina Fasciani, Marine Corps Sgt. Sheen Adams, Army Sgt. Julia Bringloe, Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Katherine Ustler and Navy Lt. Katherine Worstell.

“Today – what was once a band of brothers truly has become a band of brothers and sisters and you don’t have to look any further than these five great American service-members to see why,” Dunwoody said.

During her question and answer session with Curry, Dunwoody highlighted the obligations the military has to care for returning veterans.

“We’ve made strides in care for wounded warriors and support to their families, but we have to do more,” she said. “We owe

today’s vets a quality of life that’s equal to their quality of service.

“As we reshape our armed forces for a complex and uncertain future – one thing is certain – we’ll need the dedicated men and women of the USO standing by our side wherever we serve.”

Brian Whiting, CEO and president, USO of Metropolitan New York, said it was an honor and a privilege to present the USO Woman of the Year Award to Dunwoody.

“Being the first female four-star general in the United States military, she is a trail-blazer and true American hero,” he said.

This event was established to recognize those women, both civilian and military, who have played important roles by providing direct or indirect support for our military during some of the most challenging times in our nation’s history.

# Warriors

continued from page 1

games are free to the public. The wounded warrior team will throw out the first pitch at the Huntsville Stars baseball game on Military Appreciation Night at 6:43 p.m. June 16 at Joe Davis Stadium.

“America’s newest favorite team is coming to Huntsville for Armed Forces Week,” Joe Fitzgerald, chairman of Armed Forces Week for the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce and state president for the Association of the U.S. Army, said.

“The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team, better known as WWAST, inspires and demands respect by all.”

At one-year-old, this is a young team of veterans from ages 22 to 50. They had never played softball before but were elite athletes in high school and college before their war injuries. And they compete to win.

“The team is getting better,” Van Sleet said.

Kinsey, who had pitched in college for one year, said he didn’t know the wounded warriors’ won-loss record. “I know we’re above .500,” he said.

The wounded warriors last played in Washington, Pa. “We played in the rain all

nine innings. It was horrible,” Kinsey said laughing. “We lost.”

Wege is a Marine veteran from Wisconsin with two prosthetic legs. Like Kinsey, he expressed appreciation for the local hospitality.

“The hospitality we’ve seen already has just been phenomenal,” Wege said.

He said he loves playing softball and, like Kinsey, said “this is a dream come true.”

“I’m not a quitter by any means,” Wege said. “I now snowboard which is something I didn’t do before.”

He said he can’t wait for June when they’ll return to face the local competition. “Somebody’s got to lose,” he said. “Hopefully it’s not us.”

The Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team represents some of this nation’s bravest and most determined heroes whose mission is to raise awareness about the military’s sacrifices and resiliency to overcome any challenge.

The team’s visit will culminate Armed Forces Week which begins June 11 with a proclamation signing at 9:30 a.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial.

“You’re coming at the end of Armed Forces Week,” Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle said. “You’re the exclamation point of that week. You honor us by coming here.”

Photo by Ellen Hudson

## Meet the team

Members of the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team participate in Thursday afternoon’s meet and greet at The Summit. The team will play in Huntsville in June during Armed Forces Week. From left are staff judge advocate Col. David Crawford, coach David Van Sleet, first baseman Josh Wege and shortstop Matt Kinsey.



# Employee of quarter does international business

By KIM GILLESPIE

USASAC Public Affairs

The Security Assistance Command's first-quarter fiscal 2012 Employee of the Quarter has a simple philosophy – she looks after the billings of our foreign partners just like she looks after her own personal finances to ensure they are accurate.

As USASAC serves as “The Army’s Face to the World,” foreign partners can appreciate Christina Pinkard’s attention to detail. She serves as a financial specialist with the command’s G8, and many of her duties are focused on transportation and contract reconciliation.

USASAC’s foreign military sales program is based on promises and processes, and once a letter of offer and acceptance has been made between the U.S. and an authorized FMS country, the country sends funding through the Defense Finance and Accounting Services so billings are made as agreed upon. Prior to coming to USASAC, Pinkard worked at DFAS in St. Louis so she coordinated with the USASAC finance office that was located there at that time. She joined USASAC as an accounting specialist intern in 2007, and moved to Huntsville last year when USASAC’s St. Louis office relocated to Redstone Arsenal as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act.

“My first big project when I joined USASAC-St. Louis was to do a reconciliation for the transportation accounts,” Pinkard said. “I had to work with DFAS, DSCA (Defense Security Cooperation Agency), SDDC (Surface Deployment and Distribution Command), and others to get more accurate baseline estimates for transportation costs. The transportation cost is always an estimate, but FMS

cases can remain open for many years because unlike 1206 (FMS funding authorized through Congress) which is a different pot of money, the funds provided by other countries do not expire so we are projecting costs for years ahead.”

Pinkard was commended by Ronald Adams, chief of the G8 support branch, for her willingness to support other commands in the Security Assistance Enterprise. “AMCOM (Aviation and Missile Command) SAMD (Security Assistance Management Directorate) asked us to provide training on Fair Share Sustainment Program processes training to one of their employees. The FSSP is for items no longer in the Army inventory, such as helicopters, like the Cobra, that have been purchased through FMS and are still used by other countries,” he said.

Adams also noted that during the first two weeks of fiscal 2012, Pinkard processed 680 Operation Maintenance Army adjustments valued at \$7 million, 218 Funded Reimbursable Authority requests valued at \$63 million, and 172 Obligation Authority pulls valued at more than \$10.6 million.

“I was returning excess money that was not used, and expiring funds, but I had never done OAs before,” Pinkard said. “That really was my proudest moment – I was able to complete something I had never done before.”

Pinkard admits she thrives on challenges and prefers the “hands-on” work. “I call myself the ‘reconciliation queen.’”

Pinkard has also proposed numerous ways to improve processes, such as creating a year-end data base, and creating a new Microsoft database to replace the old transportation databases and reduce manual efforts. These proposals are being worked by the systems accountant. “I’m always



Photo by Melody Sandlin

**USASAC commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner presents Christina Pinkard with a Certificate of Appreciation for her selection as USASAC’s Employee of the Quarter for the first quarter of fiscal 2012.**

looking for ways of doing things that are more efficient and effective and that can better help us close out FMS cases,” Pinkard said.

Pinkard has also represented USASAC headquarters as a guest speaker at the Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management’s Security Assistance Management-CONUS course, where she presented to students about the functions of USASAC’s Financial Operations Division.

“She did an excellent job,” Adams said. “A DISAM instructor informed her division chief on how well she represented USASAC.”

Pinkard credits an early mentor, former USASAC employee Sarah Eichelberger, for teaching her the fundamentals needed in financial management

and sharing the types of institutional knowledge that make understanding an organization and its relationships easier. “She took the time to explain how things work. She really taught me a lot and encouraged me in my career path.”

But Pinkard also admits to asking a lot of questions and making sure she understands how things work. “That allowed me to take on a task I’d never done before and be successful,” she said.

Pinkard’s success at reconciliation is important to USASAC for accounting purposes, but more importantly, by accurately handling the funding of international partners, she enhances the reputation of the Army for honesty and integrity.

# Sunday celebrated as Chaplain Luckie Day



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie gestures during his final sermon Sunday as an Army chaplain.**

## *Retiring Army chaplain enters civilian ministry*

**By SKIP VAUGHN**

*Rocket editor*

*skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com*

In his final Sunday service as an Army chaplain, Lt. Col. Marvin Luckie ensured a hymnal was retrieved for the front of the sanctuary, picked up a fallen microphone and helped a speaker who had forgotten her program.

All were examples that his passion for giving and helping hasn't ended with his retirement after 26 years in the military. Luckie's new venue for service will be the Trinity United Methodist Church, the largest Methodist church in southeast Huntsville, where he will become its executive pastor.

At Sunday's 11 a.m. service at Bicentennial Chapel, Luckie re-

ceived retirement certificates and other honors and exchanged his military stole for a civilian one. City councilman and retired Col. John Olshefski read a proclamation naming that day as Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie Day in Huntsville; and Mayor Tommy Battle presented Luckie a key to the city.

"It was great, it was wonderful," Luckie said afterward. "I enjoyed it very much."

More than 300 attendees helped recognize Luckie and his wife, Karen, for his three years of service as the Garrison chaplain and his 26 years of ministering to Soldiers and their families.

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presented the retirement awards.

"It's an honor for me to have an opportunity to participate in some small way in this ceremony," Formica said.

Of Luckie, he said, "He is a perfect and ideal chaplain."

Other speakers included Dr. Harry Hobbs, who leads men's ministries at the chapel; Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton; retired Chaplain

(Col.) Tom Carter, director of endorsement and pastoral care in Nashville; Rev. Dale Cohen, superintendent of the Northeast District of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church; and Dr. Rick Owen, director of strategic ministry and the new senior pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church.

"Thank you all for loving me," an emotional Luckie told the congregation.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**SMDC/ARSTRAT commander Lt. Gen. Richard Formica presents the U.S. flag to Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie in honor of Luckie's retirement.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**From left are retired Chaplain (Col.) Tom Carter, director of endorsement and pastoral care in Nashville; Rev. Dale Cohen, superintendent of the Northeast District of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church; Dr. Rick Owen, United Methodist Church director of strategic ministry; and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Marvin Luckie and his wife, Karen, leave the stage after his changing of the stole. Behind them are United Methodist Church director of strategic ministry Dr. Rick Owen, left, and retired Chaplain (Col.) Tom Carter, director of endorsement and pastoral care in Nashville.**

# EVengers avenge earlier losses in softball



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**EVengers right fielder Carlos Gomez bats during the win against Jacobite Rising.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**EVengers catcher Kristy Hill takes her turn at bat.**

**By SKIP VAUGHN**

*Rocket editor*

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After two losses to start the season, the EVengers softball team came back with a vengeance last week.

The EVengers beat Jacobite Rising 15-4 on April 30 at the NASA field. Both play in Division C for coed beginner teams in the NASA/Army softball league.

"Everything just kind of clicked out in the field and we finally got the bats going," EVengers pitcher/coach Austin Decker said.

The EVengers, a NASA team, lost their opener to the Renegades and the following week to the Misfits. But they beat Jacobite Rising (1-2) in five innings last week.

Bob Schrader went 2-for-2 with two doubles and a walk. Third baseman Rick Bishop had a two-run triple during the EVengers' 12-run fourth inning.

"Rick had a really neat double-play ball he fielded (in the top of the third). He caught a line drive and made a 5-3 putout so that was pretty good," Decker said.

Decker pitched the first four innings for the win and Jason Marske went the fifth.

"Their pitcher struggled in the fourth inning," EVengers shortstop/assistant coach David Bishop said. "He just got a little wild and started walking some of us. And then we started hitting the ball in that same inning. When he threw it in there we hit it well. And outside of that, we probably played our cleanest game defensively. We didn't have as many errors in the field as normal. We played a lot better all around really."



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Jacobite Rising shortstop Robert Smith throws to first baseman Marcus Williams for an out.**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Players from both teams exchange high-fives after the EVengers' 15-4 win over Jacobite Rising.**

## In this section...

**OFFENSE EXPLODES AS ARMY SWEEPS BLOOMFIELD**

**PAGE 39**

**NASA/ARMY SOFTBALL LEAGUE STANDINGS**

**PAGE 39**

**RAPTORS EARN FIRST WIN OF YEAR ON DIAMOND**

**PAGE 40**

**JASMINE TAKING HER HOOPS SKILLS TO ROCKY TOP**

**PAGE 40**

# Offense explodes as Army baseball sweeps Bloomfield

WEST POINT, N.Y. – Kevin McKague combined to go 5-for-7 with five runs batted in and three runs scored, and Dakari Cooke went 5-for-6 with three RBIs and three runs scored as the Army baseball team swept a non-conference doubleheader from Bloomfield on an overcast Saturday afternoon at Doubleday Field.

Cooke went 4-for-4 with a pair of doubles, two runs scored and two RBIs to lead Army (37-12) to an 11-5 victory in the opening game. McKague, meanwhile, powered the Black Knights to a 7-1 win in the nightcap, going 2-for-3 with a home run, a double and two runs batted in.

McKague was 3-for-4 with three RBIs in the opener as Army broke free from a 4-all deadlock by scoring seven runs over its final three times at bat. Zach Price and Daniel Cortes combined to go 4-for-9 with five runs scored in that contest as both players

collected two hits apiece.

Nick Dignacco (7-2) allowed just one run on three hits over four innings of relief to pick up his sixth straight victory. The sophomore left-hander struck out three and did not yield a walk.

Harold Earls registered three hits in the nightcap, going 3-for-4 with a double as Army wrapped up its 13th doubleheader sweep of the season. The Black Knights took a 2-0 lead in the first inning and never looked back as Logan Lee (6-2) limited Bloomfield to four hits over five scoreless innings. The senior lefty struck out five and did not issue a walk en route to the win.

Gunnar Carroll worked three scoreless frames to nail down his team-leading sixth save of the season. He allowed just one base hit, while striking out two.

Bloomfield (21-19) was led by Ra-

fael Medina, who combined to go 4-for-7 with two doubles and three RBIs in the twinbill. Jonattan Fernandez collected two hits in both games and finished the doubleheader 4-for-9.

“Bloomfield is definitely one of the stronger offensive teams that we’ve seen in a while,” Army coach Joe Sottolano said. “They’re physical, they’re big, they’re athletic and they can run. They brought a variety of things to the table today, which forced us to perform.”

“Our guys did a good job of answering back when we fell behind in the first game, and I thought our offensive approach was consistent throughout the doubleheader,” he added. “We certainly had a nice day offensively, and we made some good adjustments on the mound to silence them after the first couple of innings.”

The Deacons took a 1-0 lead in the first inning of the opener on Medina’s RBI single. Emilio Fernandez doubled into the gap in left center field, and he scored from second base when Medina grounded a base hit through the right side of the infield.

Army responded with two runs in

the bottom of the second inning to move in front, 2-1. Cody Murtle drew a leadoff walk, stole second base and scored when Cooke hammered an RBI double down the left field line. Cooke then scored the go-ahead run on Alex Jensen’s run-scoring single to right center field.

Bloomfield answered Army’s rally in the top of the third, scoring three runs on three hits and one Army error to assume a 4-2 advantage. Medina’s RBI double tied the game, and Jason Luzzi’s two-run single gave the Deacons their largest lead of the contest.

The Black Knights fought back in the home half of the third inning, plating a pair of runs to tie the score at 4-all. Price ignited the uprising by blasting a leadoff double into the gap in left center field. Then, after Cortes reached on an infield hit, McKague drove an RBI single up the middle to score Price from third base. Mark McCants followed with a sacrifice fly to plate Cortes with the second run of the inning.

Army moved in front for good in the sixth inning as the Black Knights pushed across two runs on three hits.

## NASA/Army softball league standings

Here are the standings entering this week’s games:

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

Division B	Wins	Losses	Ties
Spaceballs	3	0	0
WYLE Coyotes	1	0	0
TBE Integrators	1	1	0
Redstone’s Step-Children	1	1	0
A-Team	0	0	1
Fireballs	0	2	1
Space Cowboys	0	2	0

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

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# Jasmine taking her hoops skills to Rocky Top

*Tennessee basketball signee learned game at Redstone*

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer  
amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

MADISON – Jasmine Jones' skills on the basketball court speak for themselves.

The Bob Jones High School senior and 2012 Miss Basketball knows her way around the court, lessons she no doubt learned from her mother, Reserve retired and Arsenal civilian LaTrish Jones, who played for the Crimson Tide in college. But her born and raised Alabama daughter isn't following exactly in her footsteps. Rather, she'll be taking all she's learned and using it against her mother's alma mater when she hits the court as a Lady Volunteer come basketball season.

"To see Jasmine run out of the tunnel in a Lady Vol jersey will probably have me choked up for the first game or two, because in my opinion, there is no greater honor in women's basketball in the south than to be chosen to play basketball at the University of Tennessee. I bleed crimson, but Jasmine is all Lady Vol," said LaTrish, a logistics manage-

ment specialist for the Global Support Center, customer assistance division at LOGSA.

"I'm excited to play with the players and in a new environment," said Jasmine, who will join her new team at the University of Tennessee May 31.

Topping out at 6-foot-2, Jones spent her first two years of high school playing at Sparkman, but the highlight of her basketball career came at Bob Jones just a year later, where as a junior she, with her fellow Lady Patriots, claimed the Class 6A state championship in 2011.

While the team lost the championship game this year, Jones was named Miss Basketball, an honor bestowed on her by the Alabama High School Athletic Association. In addition, her accolades include titles as the state Gatorade Player of the Year and Class 6A Player of the Year, as well as selection for the Women's Basketball Coaches Association All-America Game. Jones averaged 21 points, 12 rebounds, four steals and three blocked shots for the 2011-12 season with the Lady Patriots. She signed with the Lady Vols back in November.

"Being a student athlete playing at or on a certain level, either in high school or college is not an easy task," LaTrish said. "She was able to balance school and good grades with basketball, travel and

a lot of weekends lost. It is a job that she loves and I can only be proud and appreciate the great deal of effort that she has put forth on and off the court. She has had to overcome a lot and just drive on, but it all made her stronger and wiser. She is my pride and joy."

Just weeks away from joining the team she's dreamed of playing for her entire career, Jones hasn't forgotten where she started playing ball – right here on post for the Redstone League.

"My mom played," Jones said of how she got started. "I got good at it, so I kept playing."

While she did consider other schools, when the opportunity presented itself to attend Tennessee, Jones said she "couldn't resist," attracted by the school's academic reputation, as well as its renowned women's basketball program led by former head coach Pat Summitt.

"I'm a dedicated player and I know she would push me to the next level," Jones said of Summitt's coaching style, which attracted her to the program. "She's a really hard coach and I like that."

Even though Summitt stepped down from her role as head coach in April, due to her diagnosis of early onset Alzheimer's disease, Jones remains faithful to her decision to attend UT. As she worked on her shooting with the assistance of friend



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

**Jasmine Jones, a senior at Bob Jones High School, will play for the University of Tennessee Lady Volunteers come next basketball season. She is the daughter of LaTrish Jones, Reserve retired, who works at the Logistics Support Activity.**

and rebounder Dez Dennis during physics at Bob Jones, come May 31 Jones said she will be ready to take her basketball career to the next level, and it is her grit, her mother said, that will lead her to success as a Lady Vol.

"I'm excited to go," Jones said.

## Raptors earn first win of year on diamond

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The Redstone Raptors youth baseball team earned its first win of the season April 30.

The Raptors, playing in the minor league (ages 9-12), beat Northern 10-6 at Stoner Park in north Huntsville. They improved to 1-3 this year.

"We're kind of off to a rough start," coach Lt. Col. Spencer Guida, assistant project manager for systems integration at Utility Helicopters Project Office, said. "But some of the lessons are hopefully starting to sink in and we're starting to swing the bats a lot more."

Nick Seal, 11, pitched two innings and got the win. "One inning I think he threw

about nine straight strikes – three straight strikeouts," Guida said.

Left fielder Jazmyn Jackson, 9, one of two girls on the team, nearly made a triple play in the bottom of the first. With the bases loaded and no outs, she caught a high fly to left field, sprinted in to make another out at second base and nearly got the final out at third.

First baseman Jesse Soto, 10, got at least two hits, including an inside-the-park home run, and a handful of RBIs. Catcher Jacob Carney, 11, caught the entire game and did a fine job behind the plate.

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



## Sports & Recreation

### Bass tournament

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

### Wounded Warrior project

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

### 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 every Saturday at 9 a.m. at the Vincent Park walking trail. The group is walking and running a 5K (3.1 miles) together as a living memorial to fallen Soldiers. The Redstone chapter will participate together in the Cotton Row Run on Memorial Day and continue their activities with other area running events. Members are encouraged to wear royal blue T-shirts or the Run to Remember T-shirt that can be ordered from <http://www.wearblueruntoremember.org>.

### Senior baseball

The local Huntsville/Decatur men's recreational baseball organization, the Southern Senior Baseball League, is looking for new players to participate in its upcoming season. The SSBL has two age divisions: Veteran's Division, with players from age 25 to early 40s, and Master's Division, with players

from age mid-40s through 60s. Its weekly spring training practices are being held each Sunday afternoon at Butler High through late May (start times vary). The league plays a 20-game season from late May through August, normally with two games played per week (one weeknight and one Sunday afternoon or evening game). Games are played in the Huntsville/Decatur area. For more information, call Bill McArdle 876-9867 or email [joinssbl@comcast.net](mailto:joinssbl@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.

### Hobson memorial golf

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

### 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](mailto: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.

### 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,

# Rocket Announcements

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.

### Resource managers

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

### Toastmaster clubs

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

### Men's ministry

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

### AMCOM town hall

The AMCOM Town Hall is Thursday from 1-2 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. AMCOM commander Maj. Jim Rogers

will provide an update on the AMCOM transformation efforts.

### Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Elks Lodge, 725 Franklin St. The speaker Dr. Kenneth Noe, alumni professor and Draughton professor of Southern history at Auburn University, will discuss "Reluctant Rebels: The Confederates Who Joined the Army after 1861." Optional chicken dinner buffet is available at 5:30 p.m. for \$8.95. Visitors are welcome. For information call 539-5287.

### Federal employees

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet on Saturday at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshment and social time will start at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting following at 10. The speaker is Anita Daniel, volunteer coordinator for the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Members are requested to bring non-perishable food items to support the non-profit Huntsville Area Assistance Program. Active federal employees and retired non-members are invited to visit at any time. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

### Tricare briefings

Humana Military Healthcare Services, the Tricare managed care support contractor for the South Region, holds informational briefings on Tricare every Monday at 1 p.m. and Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Tricare Service Center, Fox Army Health Center, second floor.

### University women

The Huntsville Branch of the American Association of University Women will hold its third Cocktails and Convos women's networking event at Monaco Theater's Privé Lounge today 5-7 p.m. It's a great chance for members and potential members to mix and mingle. For more information, call 464-0469.

### Engineer post

The Huntsville Post of the Society of American Military Engineers will hold its monthly meeting May 17 at 11:30 a.m. in the Madison Square Holiday Inn. Check in begins at 11. This month's corporate spotlight speaker is John Rivenburgh, speaking on SAIC. The keynote speaker will be Steve Wright of the Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center, speaking on "Updated DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings." Wright will describe recent updates to DoD's

See Announcements on page 42

# Rocket Announcements

Antiterrorism Force Protection design and operational requirements for DoD facilities. The cost for the luncheon is \$15, and a 1 PDH/contact hour certificate will be provided to those who desire. Make your reservations by May 14 online at <http://samehsvpost.org/>.

## Small business council

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

## Unmanned aircraft systems

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

## Miscellaneous Items

## Civilian deployment

Army civilian volunteers are needed

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

## NASA surplus

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

## Ride wanted

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

## Omega cruise

The Omega Q-Rooze with the Ques was established in 1998 as an excursion for the members and their guests to have a weekend getaway. Since its inception it has always been held in downtown Chattanooga during the local venue called

Riverfest. Traditionally, attendees stay at the Marriott Chattanooga Hotel and Conference center. This year's event is June 9-10. Cost is \$80 per person and the hotel cost is \$109 plus tax. It includes transportation to and from Chattanooga, food and drinks en route, a 2.5-hour midnight cruise, heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks during the hotel hospitality hour and light hors d'oeuvres during the cruise. For more information, call Mike Sims 599-6612 or Gerald Vines 682-1071.

## Re-entry information

Just back from an overseas assignment and new to the Redstone Arsenal community? Feeling like a stranger in your own homeland? Contact the Relocation Readiness Program, Army Community Service, for a re-entry briefing to learn about community programs and services. All newly assigned/attached military personnel, appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian personnel, contractors and spouses, as well as retirees are welcome to call Mary Breeden, relocation readiness program manager, 876-5397 or email [mary.breeden@conus.army.mil](mailto:mary.breeden@conus.army.mil).

## Lending closet

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

## Big giveaway

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

## Parenting classes

"Parenting 101," free classes presented by the National Children's Advocacy Center, will be held on the second Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. upstairs in the ChildWise Building, 1413 Nike St. Topics include Keeping Your Kids Safe, June 12; and Positive Discipline, July 10. Space is limited; child care is provided with reservations. To preregister call Army Community

**See Announcements on page 43**



Photo by Stefanie McCrary

## Cafeteria cake

Brig. Gen. Ole Knudson, program executive officer for missiles and space, cuts the cake celebrating the reopening of the building 5250 cafeteria. Joining him, from left, are deputy PEO Barry Pike, Maria Fields and Celeste Shows.

Service 876-5397. This is sponsored by the New Parent Support Program, for birth through age 3.

### Parent workshop

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

### Computer classes

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

### Federal contractors

The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs will hold a free event for federal contractors in Huntsville on Thursday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. David White, Montgomery's employment services program services manager, will present this seminar. Space is limited. For more information, call OFCCP

compliance officer John Ambrose (205) 731-0820 or email ambrose.john@dol.gov.

### Alliance fund-raiser

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

### Brewfest

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

### Fellowship graduation

The Senior Service College Fellowship graduation and reception is May 23 at 1:45 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. The keynote speaker is Lt. Gen. Bill Phillips, principal military deputy to the ASA(ALT). Formal invitations will

# Rocket Announcements

be sent in April; dress is business formal. RSVP to Ann.Lee@dau.mil.

### Community youth event

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

### Exchange holiday hours

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

### Garden tour

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

### Engineer scholarships

The Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers, is accepting applications for its \$1,500 (two), \$2,000, \$3,000, \$4,000 and \$5,000 scholarships for school year 2012-13. The two \$1,500 scholarships are designated for a UAH student and an Alabama A&M University student. For more information, visit the Huntsville Post SAME website at www.samehsvpost.org, call the scholar-

ship chairman at 450-5332 or email cajoynerjr@aol.com.

### Space Camp for special kids

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

### Yard sale benefit

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

### Workshop papers

This is a call for papers for the Hyperspectral/Polarimetric Community Collaboration Workshop scheduled July 18-20 at Redstone Arsenal. For more information, email angie.cornelius@us.army.mil or visit the workshop website at <http://smapcenter.uah.edu/SMAP-CENTER/Conferences/Hyper-Polar2012/index.html>.

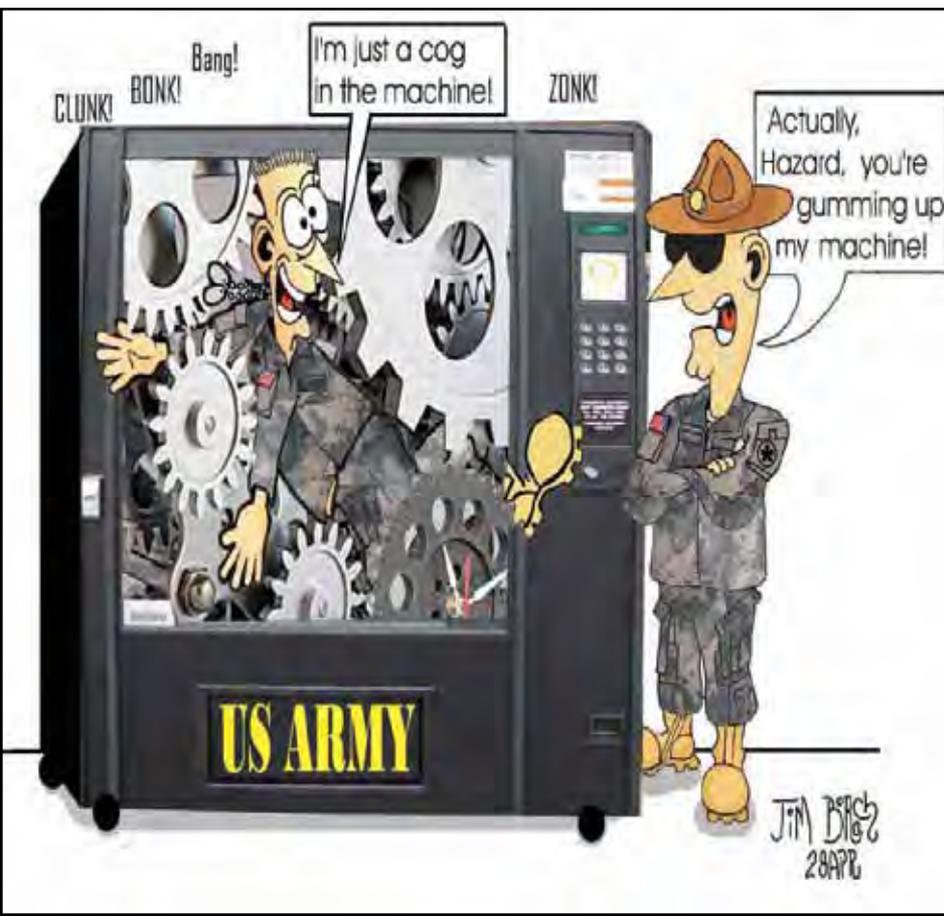
### Embry-Riddle classes

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

### Quarterly retirement ceremony

The next Quarterly Retirement Ceremony is June 19 at 4 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. All military personnel who are scheduled to retire within the next 3-6

See Announcements on page 44



# Rocket Announcements

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 Lane' will be the host for the evening. There will be performances by comedian 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 Lee-man Ferry Road, Suite C, or visit [www.allwhiteevent.com](http://www.allwhiteevent.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 Bevell 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](mailto:hpc-stamps@att.net).

## Red Cross blood drives

American Red Cross blood drives this month include the following: May 10 from 7 a.m. to noon at the Sparkman Center and from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at building 5400. ... May 11 from 6:30 a.m. to noon at the Corps of Engineers. ... May 17 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Missile Defense Agency's building 5222 and from 7-noon at the Garrison's building 4488. ... May 18 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316. ... May 24 from 7-noon at Army Materiel Command building 4400. ... May 31 from 7-noon at MDA building 5222.

## Rose show

Huntsville Twickenham Rose Society's annual Rose Show is May 26 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. 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](mailto:sponsors2012@northalabama.issa.org) or visit [www.cyber-security-summit.org](http://www.cyber-security-summit.org).

## Record management workshop

NCMS Mid-South Chapter invites you to the "We Tell You How" Workshop - Back to Basics Series on May 22 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at Dynetics Inc. The workshop will provide information on record management, preparing for a DSS audit and report requirements. Three CEU credits are awarded for this workshop. For more information, email

chapter chair Stan Miller at [stanta.miller@gmail.com](mailto:stanta.miller@gmail.com) or visit <http://ncmsmid-southchapter.eventbrite.com/>.

## 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.



Courtesy photo

## Outreach program

Scottie Smith, of the Program and Contracts Office, AMCOM G-4, talks with fourth- and fifth-graders at Goldsmith-Schiffman Elementary School. The presentation was the precursor to the school's tree planting later in the day as part of an environmental program. Smith spoke as part of the AMCOM Army Education Outreach Program.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

## Another one down

Construction workers demolish an old Army barracks building along Aerobee Road. The Garrison's Directorate of Public Works is overseeing the demolition of outdated buildings on the Arsenal to make room for future construction projects.