

Redstone Rocket

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Undersecretary lauds Redstone's synergy

Westphal sees growth since last year's visit

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Undersecretary of the Army Joseph Westphal is optimistic that sequestration will be averted.

"We're not planning for sequestration," Westphal said of the automatic budget cuts that would go into effect in January. "We're hopeful and believe Congress and the president will find a way to avoid that type of cut. I'm more optimistic that most that our leadership will find a way forward."

Westphal was interviewed at the end of his visit Nov. 14 to Redstone Arsenal.

Asked about his level of concern about the defense budget, he said, "I'm very concerned about it. We're funded one year at a time, so every year poses new challenges."

He was asked how sequestration, if implemented, would impact the Army. "Sequestration is an unknown," Westphal said. "We know that it will have a significant impact, but how that impact will affect us is very, very difficult to foretell."

With budget cuts looming, Westphal said the Army will try to ensure the least impact to its work force.

"Our biggest priority is to do this in a way that first of all we

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

Army undersecretary Joseph Westphal, right, meets Barry Pike, the program executive officer for missiles and space.



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Heroes Week concludes for wounded warriors.

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Army takes marathon armed forces title.

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National Capital Region contracting center closing next year

By ED WORLEY
ACC Public and Congressional Affairs

The Army has announced it will close its National Capital Region contracting center next year.

Army Contracting Command-National Capital Region, located in Alexandria, Va., will be closed July 20, 2013, and its workload distributed to other contracting centers operated by the Army Contracting Command.

The workload redistribution affects 260 civil service positions and six military positions. All ACC-NCR civil service employees will be offered their current position at the new locations. Soldiers will be reassigned through the military personnel system.

"This was a difficult decision," Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols, commander of the Army Contracting Command, said. "But as good stewards of the taxpayers' money, we must make the most effective

and efficient use of our resources, including our people. We have a position for all of our valued employees and will work diligently to make their transition to their new job locations as easy as possible."

High employee turnover and operating costs were the primary factors for closing the center and redistributing its workload to other ACC contracting organizations, according to Gene Duncan, acting chief, Operations Division, ACC Operations Group, and project officer for the transition. ACC-NCR employee turnover was more than 30 percent between Oct. 1, 2010 and June 30, 2012, compared to normal work force attrition of between 8 and 10 percent. By moving the organization from a highly competitive area, turnover will be reduced, the work force will stabilize and the already strong customer service and contract quality will improve, he said.

The Army predicts the move will save about \$13 million annually, once the

transition is complete, through increased efficiencies, reduced facilities and information technology costs, reduced turnover and reduced locality pay as the positions are moved outside the National Capital Region.

ACC-NCR's workload will be distributed to ACC contracting centers at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. (87 positions), Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. (79 positions), Warren, Mich. (10 positions), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. (32 positions), and Redstone Arsenal (22 positions) as well as to the Mission and Installation Contracting Command offices at Fort Knox, Ky. (10 positions) and Joint Base San Antonio, Texas (12 positions). An element of 14 positions will remain in the National Capital Region at Fort Belvoir, Va., to handle support functions including customer support, coordination and Government Purchase Card oversight.

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RocketViews

What are you thankful for?

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Truelove Sandifer

Fox Army Health Center
 “I am thankful for everything. A lot of times we don’t think about the little bitty things, like just being able to walk, being able to breathe, being able to see. My brother recently had a stroke and he’s been in rehab for two months, was going home last Tuesday, and had another stroke. Now they’re having to restart that rehab because he lost all that two months of work. It’s given me a new perspective on how to look at things. We all think we’re thankful – we’ve got family, we can go visit people – but we need to be more thankful for just everyday things.”



Barbara Williford

Fox Army Health Center
 “I am thankful for my life, for my family and that I wake up every morning and I come to work and that I have a job to come to. I’m very grateful for that. I’m thankful for my life, health and strength.”



Charles Williams

Education Center
 “I am most thankful for the very small things that we have a tendency of taking for granted. Life, liberty and our pursuit of happiness, the freedoms that we have, and of course my health, my family and the relationship that I have with God, family and my country.”



Monica Moran

Corps of Engineers
 Huntsville Center
 “I’m thankful for being a United States citizen. I love this country.”

Letters to the editor

Power of the press makes impact

Thirty years ago in November 1982, the parade honoring Vietnam veterans in our nation’s capital was almost led by the state of Alaska if not for an Associated Press dateline out of Montgomery reporting there would be no official state delegation from Alabama attending the weeklong welcome home and salute to Vietnam veterans that ended with the dedication of the “The Wall” memorial on Nov. 13.

Newspapers and radio and television news picked up the story, and with donations of cash, airplane and bus tickets, an RV, personal vehicles, out-of-pocket expenses, and even a chartered bus, more than 100 vets from all across Alabama led the parade on Nov. 13, 1982 and marched proudly behind the Color Guard, Gen. William C. Westmoreland, and Medal of Honor recipient Col. Robert L. Howard. They also participated in events on Capitol Hill, the reading of the names of the fallen heroes at the National Cathedral, and paid their respects at the Gold Star Mothers and Wives reception.

In Huntsville, the 1982 Veterans Day Parade on Nov.

11 was dedicated to Vietnam veterans and the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America acted as the grand marshal.

Twenty years ago in November 1992, an article in the then *Huntsville News* by Budd McLaughlin reported “No parade for veterans” would be held in the city or Madison County. In two days, again with extensive news coverage by *The Huntsville Times* and other news outlets, a grassroots effort resulted in the announcement that a parade would be held to honor veterans if it was only “one man and a flag.” Instead, local businesses, citizens, civic and fraternal groups, and veterans from all across North Alabama and even Tennessee, Georgia and Mississippi banded together and a parade “of veterans and for veterans” made its way through downtown Huntsville on Nov. 11.

Both events most likely would not have had the same result without “the power of the press.”

Glenn Bracken
 Madison

Photograph brings memories from Redstone’s past

In the Nov. 7 *Redstone Rocket*, there was an article about Tallulah Bankhead’s visit to Redstone in 1963. On the picture Tallulah is shown giving an autograph; the man she is giving the autograph to is Mr. R. C. Adams. Mr. Adams is 98, still very alert and active. We attend the same church and he is there every Sunday, usually for both services. He is a World War II vet and was very active in the civil rights movement in the early days here in Huntsville. I just wanted to share that info with you.

Gregory D. Miley
 Software Engineering Directorate

On this date in history: Nov. 21

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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In 1789: North Carolina ratifies the U.S. Constitution and is admitted as the 12th state.

In 1963: John F. Kennedy flies to Texas.

In 1973: President Nixon’s attorney, J. Fred Buzhardt, reveals presence of 18-minute gap in a White House tape recording related to Watergate.

In 1979: The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, is attacked by a mob and set on fire, killing four.

In 1980: Fire kills 84 at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas.

In 2009: A mine explosion in Heilongjiang province, northeastern China, kills 108.

Quote of the week

‘On Thanksgiving Day, all over America, families sit down to dinner at the same moment – halftime.’

— Author unknown

RedstoneRocket

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AMCOM History Office photo

Thanksgiving back in the day

In the early 1950s, Soldiers of the 9330th Technical Service Unit serve Thanksgiving dinner to their families and friends. Many of these Soldier scientists went on to work as civilians in the Army missile and rocket program when their military service ended.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Melinda Garcia

General office visit

Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command, shakes hands with Sgt. 1st Class Alexander Torres during a visit to the Security Assistance Training Management Organization office at Fort Bragg, N.C. Torres is SATMO's strength manager and master resiliency trainer. SATMO, a subordinate of the Security Assistance Command, deploys teams from its engagement and aviation branches throughout the world to provide training tailored to a country for equipment and other services purchased through the foreign military sales program.

Getting to know you

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Name: Michele Maxson

Position: Geophysicist, Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center

Where you do call home?

Here, Huntsville. I'm from the East Coast originally.

What do you like about your job?

I feel like I can actually contribute to society, because when you're going to a lot of these places you know that there's munitions in the ground and there's kids playing around it. When we get done, they're not going to be in harm's way anymore.

What are your goals?

I do plan on staying here with the Huntsville Center for quite some time. I really hope that I'm going to be able to help them with a lot of the new advanced technologies, because we're doing a lot of research and development. I really hope that I'll be here long enough to see all that come to fruition and being used out in the



field on a daily basis.

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

I do a lot of running and a lot of rock climbing, and taking care and playing with the dogs. (A hound dog, pit bull and a corgie mix.)

What's on your bucket list?

I want to see all of the National Parks before I die. I've seen a bunch of them, but there's hundreds of them.

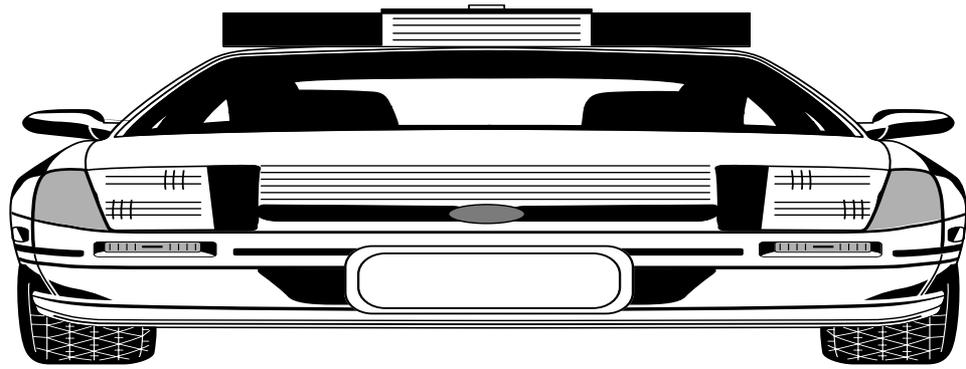
Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for Nov. 4-10:

- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident at Gate 8.
- Police received a report that an employee's Common Access Card was stolen from a vehicle while it was parked in Huntsville.
- Police are investigating the theft of scrap copper from a renovation site at building 3305.
- Police are investigating the theft of a cell phone from building 4400.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, with injury, traffic accident in the chan-

nelized right-hand turn lane on Goss Road onto Rideout Road.

- Police received a report that a military identification card was stolen from a vehicle while it was parked in Huntsville.
- Police are investigating the theft of a brief case containing money from a vehicle at the bowling center.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Fowler Road at building 5405.
- Police cited a driver for a suspended license when he was stopped for speeding on Rideout Road.
- Police arrested a driver for DUI when she arrived lost at Gate 9.
- Sixteen U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.



FMWR, Exchange and Commissary set holiday hours

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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While families around the Tennessee Valley pause to give thanks Thursday, so too will Team Redstone.

All Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation operations will be closed Thursday for the Thanksgiving holiday, with the exception of Outdoor Recreation. Hunting hours will be from 4 a.m. to noon, with equipment rental hours from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The Post Library and Redstone Lanes will both close at 2 p.m. today in preparation for the holiday; the Arts & Crafts Center at 4 p.m.

The Summit, Firehouse Pub, Challenger Bingo, the Sparkman Fitness Center, all Child Youth and School Services, Arts & Crafts Center, Post Library and The Summit will remain closed through the weekend, including Friday, resuming normal operations Monday. To work off your turkey Friday, Pagano Gym and the Col. Stephen Scott Fitness Center will both be open from 5 a.m. to 4 p.m., with Redstone Lanes reopening for family fun Friday at 4 p.m., resuming normal hours throughout the rest of the weekend.

Shoppers at the Exchange will be able to get a jump on their holiday shopping Black Friday. The mall area opens at midnight Friday to allow customers to wait inside to shop at the Exchange, which will open at 4 a.m. The Exchange will also open early Saturday, at 6 a.m.

Looking forward to the rest of the holiday season, the Commissary will remain open for Christmas Eve, Monday, Dec. 24, closing at 4 p.m. that day, and will remain closed for Christmas, reopening at normal hours Dec. 26. It will be open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. New Year's Eve and be closed New Year's Day, reopening with normal hours Jan. 2. The Exchange will operate with normal hours for the holidays, closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

All FMWR activities will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. The Summit and the Firehouse Pub will be closed Dec. 22-31. Redstone Lanes will also close early for the Christmas holiday, Dec. 23 and 24. All Child Youth and School Services facilities, as well as the Community Activity Center, will be closed Dec. 24.

The Summit will host Comedy Night on New Year's Eve from 5:30 to 10 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6 and the show begins at 7. Tickets are \$25 each. For more information, call 313-3255.

Pagano Gym, Sparkman Fitness Center and the Col. Stephen Scott Fitness Center will all be open Christmas Eve from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. Outdoor Recreation will also remain open Dec. 24 with hunting hours from 4 a.m. to noon, and equipment rental from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The Auto Skills Center and Challenger Bingo will remain closed the day after Christmas, Dec. 26, with the Arts & Crafts

Center remaining closed through Dec. 29. Redstone Lanes will be closed Dec. 30 and 31.

New Year's Eve activities will follow a similar schedule with Outdoor Recreation open for hunting from 4 a.m. to noon and equipment rental from 9:30 a.m. to noon. The Sparkman Fitness Center and the Col. Stephen Scott Fitness Center will be open from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pagano Gym will be open from 5 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Community Activity Center will be closed Dec. 31, as well as Challenger Bingo, which will also be closed Jan. 2. The Auto Skills Center and Sparkman Fitness Center will also be closed Jan. 2, but Col. Stephen Scott Fitness Center and Pagano Gym will be open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. to help patrons start the new year on a healthy note.



Photo by Ashley Crick

Mo awareness

The fearless men of Redstone Test Center take razors to their faces in order to participate in "Movember." During November each year, "Movember" is responsible for the sprouting of mustaches on thousands of men's faces in the U.S. and around the world. With their Mo's, these men raise awareness and funds for men's health issues, specifically prostate and testicular cancer initiatives. From left are Blake Stewart, Mike Criss, Thomas Brooks, Weston Jones and Carl Riester.

Synergy

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don't undermine the critical security needs of this country," he said.

Regarding possible work force reductions, Westphal said officials would try to use natural attrition and find ways that are "the least painful to people." At

the same time, the Army's aging work force "requires us to think about being able to recruit and retain as we go forward."

Westphal met with leaders, Soldiers and civilians at the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, Army Materiel Command and the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.

"I think it's fantastic," he said of Red-

stone Arsenal. "The synergy and the assets that are all collocated here really complement each other so well. It's a great community, tremendous support."

After going through an extensive Base Realignment and Closure process, "I think we've landed in a good place," Westphal said.

The undersecretary said he sees more growth and more activity since his previous visit about a year ago. "I think it's a

terrific, perfect place all the way around," he added.

Redstone's role in the nation's defense is "huge," according to Westphal. "What you have here are the elements necessary to lead us to the future."

Westphal, who became the 30th undersecretary of the Army on Sept. 21, 2009, has had a distinguished career of service in both academia and government.

Center

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Employees will have until Jan. 8 to accept or decline the management-directed reassignment. Employees who decline transfer will be eligible to register in the Priority Placement Program, a Department of Defense system designed to help

displaced employees. In addition, ACC will provide relocation and transition assistance. Employees may also be eligible for placement through the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan for positions outside the Department of Defense.

"There will be another option within ACC," Duncan said. "Under the ACC Command Assistance for Placing Employees Program, employees who decline

the management-directed reassignment will have the opportunity to indicate interest in other ACC locations. Selecting officials will receive information regarding those employees' skills and certification levels. The gaining selecting official will make the selection. Employees selected under this program will receive travel orders and must report to the gaining location no later than July 20, 2013."

Army Contracting Command pro-

vides global contracting support to Soldiers through the full spectrum of military operations. ACC consists of about 6,800 civilians and Soldiers at more than 100 locations worldwide. In fiscal 2012, ACC awarded and managed more than 228,000 contract actions valued at more than \$74 billion.

In fiscal 2012, ACC-NCR executed more than 4,600 contract actions valued at \$1.84 billion.

Korean War veterans gain new memories from Korea

Nine vets return home after weeklong trip

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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The frame of pictures Robert McCall carried said it all. They were nameless faces, Korean citizens who didn't necessarily know the Alabamians who visited their country Nov. 8-14, but rather, knew of the sacrifices they had made on their behalf six decades ago, evidenced by the signs each of them held for their photo op with two simple words – thank you.

"It was just outstanding," McCall said, holding the frame of pictures that each veteran received on the trip. "People took such pride in what they have accomplished and wanted to show their appreciation that we had made all this possible."

Nine Tennessee Valley Korean War veterans returned from their trip to Korea Nov. 14, after an all expenses paid weeklong journey to the country they defended 60 years ago, made possible through the Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation.

"I'm proud I got to go to Korea and witness the prosperity that they had, just to see the people that we were over there fighting for, I'm just proud to have gone. It makes you proud to be an American," veteran Billy Neal said.

The group received a hero's welcome home Nov. 14 from the moment their plane touched down on Huntsville soil, where a water cannon salute greeted the veterans, as their plane taxied in to the airport to the excited family members, community leaders and fellow travelers who were anxiously anticipating their arrival. With a single American flag in hand, Travis Stewart sat and waited expectantly for her husband



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Billy Neal speaks to the crowd of well-wishers about the trip to Korea and what it meant to the veterans.

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Photo by Ellen Hudson

AMC Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling welcomes Glenn Phares home after his trip to Korea with the Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation.

Harvey to return home.

"I encouraged him to go," Stewart said. "When a group like that gets together, who have shared an experience that's had such an impact on them in their early years, it's good for them to get together to do something like this."

Over the course of their trip, the veterans participated in a variety of sightseeing activities, including visiting the Korean War Memorial and demilitarization zone in Panmunjom, and joined with veterans from other countries, including Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Belgium and France, for a portion of their trip. While the men left a devastated land six decades ago, the country they returned to was practically unrecognizable, evidence of the incredible impact they made in the war.

"You can't really associate the two together, because in the time I was there everything was torn up," McCall said. "Now, such modern buildings and everyone looks prosperous, they look very happy."

"I didn't see anything that brought back any memories, because it's all new – the streets, the roads, the buildings," Neal said. "When I left I saw muddy roads and bombed out burned up buildings. Now it's new. It's great."

See Korea on page 6

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:

community. For more information, call 313-3255.

Book sale

The "Books-R-Fun Book Sale" is Nov. 27-29 from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sparkman Cafeteria. On sale are fiction, nonfiction, cook books, children's books and more. For more information, call 876-8741.

Tree lighting

The Redstone Arsenal tree lighting is Nov. 29 from 4:30-7 p.m. at The Summit. The ceremony starts at 5:15. This free holiday event is open to the entire Redstone com-

Korea

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Even for those who had not fought in the war, the strides the country had made were astounding.

“The difference in the country from when they left and when they came back, what they were able to accomplish – the Korean people were very grateful to them for what they had enabled them to do,” said Rick Williams, McCall’s son-in-law, who accompanied him on the trip. “It was a lot of appreciation, a lot of memories from veterans from all over the world.”

Even though she had no blood relation to any of the Korean War veterans on the trip, Janet Marino was united with them in heart – her father, John Charles Kirby, having served in the Navy during the war. Together with the First Patriot Support Corps, Marino turned out to welcome the nine men home. Kirby, who had gone to Korea early to set up communications so the rest of the troops could go in, always wanted to return



Photo by Ellen Hudson

George Painter and his wife celebrate his return home from Korea Nov. 14.

to Korea, where seven of the nine men he was serving with lost their lives, but died from cancer in 1993. For Marino, who excitedly walked around the airport taking pictures of the welcome home, it was almost like her own father was with them.

“I’m thrilled for these guys,” Marino said. “This is a healing thing for them



Photo by Ellen Hudson

The plane carrying the nine Korean War veterans receives a water cannon salute upon their return home from their trip to Korea.

and for everybody who had a Soldier over there.”

For the men that made the journey, it is an experience that is sure to impact them for the rest of their lives.

“I love the Korean people. They have made such strides for their economy and in rebuilding their country,” Neal said. “They are a world class country and a world class people.”

Fall canvas

Photos by Ellen Hudson

Autumn brings in cooler temperatures and colors the landscape with hues of brown, yellow, red and orange. An example can be found on the grounds of the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, outside the David G. Harris building 5250 on Martin Road.



Read about what's new at Post Library this week

The Post Library, building 3323 on Redeye Road, is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10-4. The phone number is 876-4741.

To see the library's catalog, visit www.redstonemwr.com, click on Recreation, click on Library and then click on online catalog.

Some of the library's new items include the following:

Adult fiction: "The Berrybender Narratives" by Larry McMurtry – A single-volume anthology of the four-part story about the Berrybender pioneer family. ... "Rapture: A Novel of the Fallen Angels" by J.R. Ward (fourth in the Fallen Angels series) – Mels Carmichael helps a mysterious stranger claiming to be a fallen angel after hitting him with her car outside a nearby cemetery.

Adult nonfiction: "Manhunt: The Ten-Year Search for bin Laden From 9/11 To Abbottabad" by Peter L. Bergen – Based on research and access to White House officials, CIA analysts, Pakistani intelligence, and the military, this is an account of the ten years in pursuit of bin Laden and of the twilight of Al-Qaeda. ... "The Oath: The Obama White House and the Supreme Court" by Jeffrey Toobin –

Presents an account of the ideological war between the John Roberts Supreme Court and the Obama administration, tracing several landmark cases and the strong views that will be shaping the court of the near future.

Young adult fiction: "Long Lankin" by Lindsey Barraclough – Cora and her little sister Mimi are sent to stay with their elderly aunt, whose life was devastated the last time two young girls were with her. ... "The Raven Boys" by Maggie Stiefvater – Blue Sargent's gift seems to be that she makes other people's talents stronger, but sometimes that is a dangerous mix.

Children fiction: "Thanksgiving Graces" by Mark Kimball Moulton – Last minute guests for a Thanksgiving meal multiply. ... "The Pilgrims' First Thanksgiving" by Jessica Gunderson – Tells the story of the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving. ... "Turkey Trouble on the National Mall" by Ron Roy – KC and Marshall convince the president of the United States to pardon more than one turkey for Thanksgiving, but all 117 of them are stolen off the National Mall. ... "Katie Saves Thanksgiving" by Fran Manushkin – When a snowstorm causes the power to go out, Katie and her parents

think their Thanksgiving dinner with JoJo and Pedro is ruined. But by being a good neighbor, Katie saves the day.

Children nonfiction: "Chicken Soup for the Kid's Soul 2" – A collection of short stories, anecdotes, poems and cartoons presenting a positive outlook on life for ages 6-10. ... "Fields of Fury: The American Civil War" by James M. McPherson – Examines the events and effects of the American Civil War with personal anecdotes from Soldiers and civilians.

DVDs: "Another Happy Day" with Demi Moore, Diana Scarwid, Ellen Barkin ... "The Interrupters" with Ameena Matthews, Cobe Williams, Eddie Bocanegra ... "Midsomer Murders, set 19" with John Nettles, Jason Hughes ... "Tales of an Ancient Empire" with Kevin Sorbo, Melissa Ordway, Michael Pare ... "War Horse" with Benedict Cumberbatch, David Thewlis, Emily Watson

Audio books on CDs: "Treasures Lost, Treasures Found" by Nora Roberts (reader Thérèse Plummer) ... "Victims" by Jonathan Kellerman (reader John Rubinstein)

Here's advice for safe cooking on Thanksgiving

Fire prevention office release

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home. The Redstone Fire Prevention office wants to pass along these tips for Thanksgiving.

Safety tips

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.

- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.

- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.

- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.

- Keep knives out of the reach of children.

- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.

- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.

- Never leave children alone in a room with a lit candle.

- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

Turkey fryers

The National Fire Protection Association continues to discourage



the use of outdoor gas-fueled turkey fryers that immerse the turkey in hot oil. These turkey fryers use a substantial quantity of cooking oil at high temperatures, and units currently available for home use pose a significant danger that hot oil will be released at some point during the cooking process. The use of turkey fryers by consumers can lead to devastating burns, other injuries and the destruction of property. NFPA urges those who prefer fried turkey to seek out professional establishments, such as grocery stores, specialty food retailers, and restaurants for the preparation of the dish, or consider a new type of "oil-less" turkey fryer.

Hot oil may splash or spill at any point during the cooking process, when the fryer is jarred or tipped over, the turkey is placed in the fryer or removed, or the turkey is moved from the fryer to the table. Any contact between hot oil and skin could

result in serious injury. Any contact between hot oil and nonmetallic materials could lead to serious damage.

A major spill of hot oil can occur with fryers designed for outdoor use and using a stand as these units are particularly vulnerable to upset or collapse, followed by a major spill of hot oil. Newer countertop units using a solid base appear to reduce this particular risk. NFPA does not believe that consumer education alone can make the risks of either type of turkey fryer acceptably low because of the large quantities of hot oil involved and the speed and severity of burn likely to occur with contact.

In deep frying, oil is heated to temperatures of 350 degrees Fahrenheit or more. Cooking oil is combustible, and if it is heated beyond its cooking temperature, its vapors can ignite. This is a fire danger separate from the burn danger inherent in the hot oil. Overheating can occur if tempe-

rate controls, which are designed to shut off the fryer if the oil overheats, are defective, or if the appliance has no temperature controls.

Propane-fired turkey fryers are designed for outdoor use, particularly for Thanksgiving, by which time both rain and snow are common in many parts of the country. If rain or snow strikes exposed hot cooking oil, the result can be a splattering of the hot oil or a conversion of the rain or snow to steam, either of which can lead to burns. Use of propane-fired turkey fryers indoors to avoid bad weather is contrary to their design and dangerous in its own right. Also, moving an operating turkey fryer indoors to escape bad weather is extremely risky. Fires have occurred when turkey fryers were used in a garage or barn or under eaves to keep the appliance out of the rain.

The approximately 5 gallons of oil in these devices introduce an additional level of hazard to deep fryer cooking, as does the size and weight of the turkey, which must be safely lowered into and raised out of the large quantity of hot oil. Many turkeys are purchased frozen, and they may not be fully thawed when cooking begins. As with a rainy day, a defrosting turkey creates the risk of contact between hot cooking oil.

There is a new outdoor turkey cooking appliance that does not use oil. NFPA believes these should be considered as an alternative. NFPA understands that this appliance will be listed by a recognized testing laboratory.

If you deep fry a turkey at home over the holidays, keep this safety information in mind. If you have any questions, call your Redstone Fire Prevention office at 876-7005.

Air Force widow shares joy of deep faith



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Rachel Faulkner shares her story of faith and redemption during the November luncheon of the Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club. She is a Gold Star widow who is raising two children on her own.

*Despite loss, she knows
God is source of strength*

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Rachel Faulkner shared a sad story of loss with members of the Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club at their monthly luncheon Nov. 13 at The Summit.

And yet, it was a story told with joy in her heart.

This Gold Star widow has grown deeply in her faith through the sudden deaths of both her first and second husbands. Her first husband died a few days after the U.S. terrorist attacks of 2001. Her second husband, Alabama Air National Guard Maj. David Blair Faulkner, died April 23, 2008, in a T-38 crash on landing at Columbus Air Force Base in Mississippi. He was an instructor pilot for the 43rd Flying Training Squadron.

"As sad as my story is, I have a joyful heart," said this Florence native who now lives in Huntsville with her two children.

"I want to give you a glimpse of my life, my joy, my struggles, my comfort. The real story is about how much God loves me."

Her happiness comes from her relationship with her savior, Jesus Christ.

"I am overwhelmed at who Jesus is. My strength is not a

strength without Jesus," Faulkner said.

"My whole life is a life of redemption. No matter what you see, there is an answer to your pain, to your desire, to your wounds. He has a name and it is Jesus."

Faulkner feels compelled to share her story because she knows there are many people dealing with personal hurts and tragedies who need to hear God's message of love, hope and peace.

Energetic and upbeat, Faulkner began her story by telling the club's members that she grew up in a loving home. Her father was in the Alabama National Guard. Yet, the family seemed untouched by military concerns even though they endured many separations caused by her father's service. Without realizing it, as Faulkner and her sister grew up, their parents grew apart.

When Faulkner was 16, her father left the family for another woman. Faulkner was angry and heartbroken. Yet, God worked a miracle in her family.

"My dad found Jesus through his affair. He came back to us and mom forgave him," she said. "They have been married for 35 years.

"God just didn't do that for my family. He can do that for yours. He will rescue you if you let him."

Faulkner met her first husband while a student at the University of North Alabama. They married, moved to Tuscaloosa, and enjoyed their careers and their new church family. In 2001, personal tragedy struck – not on 9/11 – but on 9/16

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Redstone Arsenal then and now

Facilities carry on general's legacy

By SKIP VAUGHN

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A building, road and park are named after the first commanding general of Redstone Arsenal.

The late Brig. Gen. Thomas Vincent arrived in June 1952 as the first general officer to command Redstone. He retired on Aug. 31, 1954; and he died from a heart attack on Sept. 9, 1956.

On June 12, 1957, Vincent Hall was dedicated in his honor at the Ordnance Guided Missile School. The ceremony came during the three-day conference of the American Ordnance Association's Guided Missile Branch at Redstone Arsenal.

Vincent Drive and Vincent Park are also named in his honor.

He was born in Dayton, Ohio, on Oct. 3, 1895. Vincent moved to Baltimore, Md., and attended Baltimore Junior College, a secondary school from which he graduated in 1912. He then attended the



AMCOM History Office photo

Brig. Gen. Thomas Vincent, left, compares notes with then Brig. Gen. Holger Toftoy, who would succeed him as Redstone's commander in 1954.

Kansas State Agricultural College and graduated with a bachelor of science degree and an Army commission in 1916. He was commissioned in artillery, transferring to the Ordnance Department in 1920. Vincent also earned a degree in mechanical engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1932.

During his 36 years in the Army, Vincent spent his spare time writing textbooks and keeping abreast of the



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Vincent Hall, building 3301, was formerly used for Soldier training. It is being renovated for its future occupants, the Joint Attack Munition Systems Project Office.

scientific advances in the Ordnance Corps as well as industry.

He served in the Philippines, Hawaii and Germany and commanded the Griesheim Ordnance Depot, Frankfurt, Germany, from June 1947 to August 1948. He commanded Erie Proving Ground, Lacarne, Ohio, during World War II, and both the Ordnance Training Command and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., before his assignment at Redstone.

Vincent Hall, building 3301, is among



AMCOM History Office photo

Dedicating Vincent Hall on June 12, 1957, are from left, Maj. Gen. Holger Toftoy; Col. Henry Newhall, commandant of the Ordnance Guided Missile School; Lt. Gen. E.L. Cummings, chief of Army Ordnance; and Frank Higgins, assistant secretary of the Army.

the former Ordnance school buildings being renovated for new occupants – in this case, the Joint Attack Munition Systems Project Office.

Editor's note: Dr. Kaylene Hughes of the AMCOM History Office provided information for this article.

Widow

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while her 27-year-old, physically fit husband was playing a game of pick-up basketball.

"I got a call from a friend who said Todd had broken his leg," Faulkner recalled. "When I got there, he was lying on the concrete and he was all blue. I was 23 years old and married 3 1/2 years. All I saw were shattered dreams on that concrete."

An aneurysm had caused Todd to fall to the concrete. The impact severed his spinal cord and he died instantly.

That evening, after spending time with family and friends who came to Faulkner's side in her time of grief, Faulkner was peacefully sitting alone with a friend who commented about her composure and inner calm during the grief-stricken day.

"I knew where my hope came from and I knew where my husband was," she said. "My friend Melanie had a religion, a place she went on Sundays. But she did not have a friend in Jesus.

That night, I sat on my bed with her and shared. She met Jesus that night, and she knew she would spend eternity in heaven and where her hope comes from. Because Todd died, Melanie will live forever and generations who come after her will be changed forever."

Just over a year later, Faulkner went on a first date with an old friend named Blair Faulkner. They were married seven months later in July 2003. Marriage to an Air Force fighter pilot meant enduring a long separation caused by a deployment to Afghanistan.

Ten months later, they had a baby boy. During the pregnancy, the couple, who were living in New Orleans, were forced to flee because of Hurricane Katrina. They returned to their native Florence. Blair Faulkner re-



File photo

Maj. David Blair Faulkner, known as Blair to his friends, gives a thumbs up during an Air Force flying mission. Faulkner was killed in a T-38 crash at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., on April 23, 2008.

turned to the Alabama Air National Guard and took a civilian job with a commercial airliner that took him away from home more than Faulkner could endure, and led them both into marriage counseling.

"The root of all marital problems are spiritual problems," Faulkner said. "Whenever he was away, I remember thinking 'I did not sign up for this.' Through marriage counseling we learned we had to work on the issues. I had these expectations that were so ridiculous. I had to stop my stomping around and thinking 'I did not sign up for you to do this to me.'"

The couple endured through the hard times, and their faith in God grew. They had their second baby, a daughter, in October 2007 and Faulkner's husband left his commer-

cial pilot's job to be a T-38 Talon instructor pilot with the 43rd Flying Training Squadron at Columbus Air Force Base.

"He was teaching kids how to be fighter pilots," Faulkner said. "His students loved him. He was an amazing pilot. He knew what he was doing and he loved to impart that knowledge. He was invested in the rise of his students, who were not only American, but also Saudi, Polish, Japanese. He taught students from all around the world."

Blair Faulkner was an accomplished and highly decorated pilot with 2,735 flight hours, and the recipient of numerous instructor awards. He had served as a member of the Alabama Air National Guard from 1989-94, as a KC-135R navigator with the 117th

Air Refueling Wing in Birmingham from 1996-99, as an A-10 fighter pilot with 706th Fighter Squadron in New Orleans from 2000-05 and, lastly, as a T-38 instructor pilot.

He was teaching a student – 2nd Lt. Matthew Emmons – when their T-38 crashed on landing on April 23, 2008. The Air Force temporarily grounded T-38 aircraft after a second such accident occurred on May 1, 2008.

On the day of the crash, Faulkner was driving her children from swimming lessons when her chaplain called and told her she needed to come home.

"I put a movie in for the kids and I remember looking at them in the rearview mirror and thinking 'Your life will never be the same,'" she said. "And when I got home, the chaplain was waiting for me. Matt's wife was pregnant with their first child. And there I was with a 5-month-old and a 2-year-old."

Again, she found her solace and peace in her faith.

"God said what you intend for harm, I intend for good. I use my pain for His glory. My life's mission is to tell people how good God is regardless of our circumstances," Faulkner said. "God wants to use your pain to redeem you."

She described her faith much like the trials the retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Chuck Yeager, now 89, went through in nine attempts to be the first human to break the sound barrier 65 years ago. On Oct. 14, 1947, he accomplished the goal of flying at the speed of sound, enduring the tremendous buffeting and shaking experienced in his X-1 aircraft.

"There's a lot of shaking in the process of maturing into the person God wants you to be," Faulkner said. "I want you to be thunderstruck at who Jesus is in me. I want you to think 'Wow, that story was sad, but Jesus is bigger.' That's why I want the opportunity to tell my story."

Air Force vet beats odds against pancreatic cancer

Difficult diagnosis, treatment keeps survival rate low

By KARI HAWKINS

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This Thanksgiving, Ricardo Pearson has a lot to be thankful for – his family and friends, his home in Harvest, a great job as the assistant veterans service officer at the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs in Huntsville and a successful Air Force career.

He also is grateful for his life.

Pearson, 46, has beaten the odds, surviving pancreatic cancer, a disease that is difficult to diagnosis and nearly impossible to treat. According to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, pancreatic cancer is the 10th most commonly diagnosed cancer, but also the fourth leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S.

In 2012, an estimated 44,000 people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Only 6 percent of those diagnosed with pancreatic cancer make it to the five-year survival mark and, unlike many other cancers, the survival rate has not improved substantially in the past 40 years. At the same time, the number of new pancreatic cancer cases is increasing, with a projected increase by 55 percent between 2010 and 2030. Of those diagnosed with the disease, blacks have the highest incident rate than any other ethnic group, coming in at 34 to 67 percent higher than other groups.

With those sobering statistics in mind, it is easy to understand why many doctors consider pancreatic cancer a death sentence. Even so, for some, like Pearson, diagnosis meant the beginning of a medical battle that ended in the reaffirmation of life.

“I believe God was the light and the way to my survival,” he said. “I am thankful that life was still on my side, and I still had an opportunity to be on this earth. Through His mercy and His mercy alone I am still here today.”

Pearson was assigned to Patrick Air Force Base in Melbourne, Fla., in 2010, working as a first sergeant in the missile wing and thinking about retiring.

“It came out of the blue. I had no indication that I was having problems with my pancreas,” he recalled.

“Around the first part of August, I started feeling ill. I was hungry, but my stomach felt weird and I didn’t want to eat. I had heartburn. I went golfing with

friends and then I just felt very drained. I went home and slept all weekend.”

Over the weekend, he noticed that his urine was very dark and his fecal matter a gray color. On Monday morning, he went to sick call, where doctors ran a series of tests that definitely showed something was wrong.

“They thought it looked like I might have hepatitis (a swelling and inflammation of the liver) or maybe a gallstone,” Pearson said. “I went to a gastroenterologist where they did an MRI and more blood work.”

That was a Wednesday. Not hearing anything back from the specialists, Pearson returned to work on the following Monday.

“I was still feeling kind of weird. I had that feeling of being hungry, but I wasn’t hungry. And I was pretty much drained,” he said.

“My primary care physician at Patrick called to check on me and was surprised to hear that I was back at work. I said ‘Why shouldn’t I be at work? I’m the first sergeant. I’m supposed to be at work.’ He said I should be home resting and that whatever I had could be contagious.”

Still without a diagnosis, Pearson underwent an endoscopy Aug. 25, which involved placing a flexible tube with a light and camera attached to it in his digestive tract so that a surgeon could view it on a television monitor. The surgeon found a collapsed bowel duct and repaired it with a stent. He also discovered what he described was “some black goo” and took a sample of it.

“I was ready to get the procedure over with. I wanted to get back to my life and to work and to my golfing,” Pearson said.

He returned to work Aug. 26, thinking his medical problem was cured. Again, his primary care physician called and told Pearson he had to go back to the gastroenterologist to discuss the results of the endoscopy.

“The gastroenterologist said ‘I am going to be quite frank with you. Some doctors have trouble telling patients information that is unfavorable.’ I was not overly anxious. I was just waiting for him to tell me the news.

“Then, he did. He said ‘You’ve got cancer. The cancer you have, I’m sad to say, is pancreatic.’ It went over my head. I was calm and thought ‘OK, let’s take care of it.’ But then he said to me ‘You don’t understand. This is the type of cancer that kills you.’”

Again, Pearson took the news in



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Ricardo Pearson is the picture of health, a survivor of the often deadly diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. An Air Force veteran, he is now the assistant veterans service officer at the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs in Huntsville.

stride.

“I was not, for whatever reason, upset for me,” he said. “But then it dawned on me that I had to tell my wife and my sons (one who was then 15 and the other who serves as a Navy officer). That’s when it really set in, when things got dire. I didn’t think it was a big deal. But then it took me for a loop because I needed to tell my wife.”

Pearson’s family was living in Huntsville at the time. The family, which had enjoyed living in places like Biloxi, Miss.,

and Mobile during Pearson’s Air Force career, had already decided they wanted to eventually settle in the South. But Hurricane Katrina had convinced them that a home in a gulf port town wasn’t the place for them. They visited Huntsville at a friend’s suggestion and, in 2008, built a home in Huntsville where his wife and youngest son were living as Pearson finished out the last years of his 26-year Air Force career.

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Brandt receives top civilian service award

Former Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems product manager Cliff Brandt received a Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award, the highest award given to a DoD civilian, during a Pentagon ceremony Nov. 7.

The prestigious award is presented to a small number of civilian employees whose careers reflect exceptional devotion to duty and significant contributions of broad scope in policy, scientific, technical or administrative fields of endeavor that have led to increased effectiveness in the operation of the DoD.

“I credit my team,” Brandt said of the SUAS office members. “They’re the reason for this recognition. It’s really more a reflection of their dedication and hard work than anything.”

In his role with SUAS Product Office, Brandt made significant contributions throughout the evolution and proliferation of multiple unmanned aircraft systems. Along these lines, the award citation states that Brandt “demonstrates visionary leadership and unwavering determination in support of the DoD and its use of SUAS. This support, in the form of SUAS, reduces injuries and deaths and allows America’s military forces to engage the enemy using technology previously unimagined.”

The SUAS Product Office provides the smallest elements of the tactical force with dedicated unmanned aircraft reconnaissance and surveillance support. Over the past 18 months, this product office has responded to three Joint Operational Needs Statements, resulting in the procurement of more than 300 Puma systems (each system consists of three aircraft) to support route clearance patrols, Brigade Combat Teams, and SOCOM elements. During that same timeframe, the office also planned and executed a Department of the Army-directed surge of Raven assets in Afghanistan, adding 180 Raven systems (three aircraft per system) to the effective combat power of deployed Brigade Combat Teams.

Brandt, who relinquished responsibility for the SUAS product office in August, is the deputy program manager for the Long Endurance Multi-intelligence Vehicle Product Office. (*Program Executive Office for Aviation release*)



Photo by Glenn Fawcett

Dr. Ash Carter, deputy secretary of defense, presents Cliff Brandt with the DoD Distinguished Civilian Service Award on Nov. 7 at the Pentagon.

Research chemist dabbles in creative writing

Adventure novel has rocket theme

By **HEATHER R. SMITH**
AMRDEC Public Affairs

By day, Richard Hatcher is one of the men responsible for making things go “boom” on Redstone Arsenal. By night, he coaches soccer and writes Christian adventure novels, the first of which was published this year.

A research chemist with the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, Hatcher said creative writing is an escape from his high-tech career.

“I’m a career chief within the Weapons Development and Integration Directorate, and specifically I manage the explosives test branch, so a lot of the booms you hear around the Arsenal during the day, those are my guys down there blowing things up,” he said. “Writing has become like reading. If you like to read stories about adventure and far off places, writing really does the same thing for you.”

His first novel, “The Genesis Con-

spiracy,” is the debut story in the planned Origins Trilogy. “The Genesis Conspiracy” tells the adventures of an American man and a Russian woman who meet in the Gobi Desert and risk their lives to find the truth about a mysterious space capsule found there.

Hatcher grew up in the Rocket City and his father worked for NASA Marshall Space Flight Center and the Army, which influenced both his career and his writing. “The Genesis Conspiracy” begins with a Gemini capsule found in the desert and a later scene takes place at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

“Rockets and space travel and all that stuff have always been a part of my life,” the 47-year-old father of three said. “It certainly ties into my past, growing up in the Rocket City, that I would have a Gemini capsule in the story.”

The Gemini capsule around, which the fictional story begins, is based on a bit of actual space history. The spacecraft found in the desert by the two main characters is the Gemini 1 capsule, launched April 8, 1964. “It’s the only capsule that NASA didn’t reclaim;

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Photo by Heather R. Smith

Richard Hatcher, a research chemist with the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, draws inspiration for much of his creative writing from subjects in the Rocket City, including a Gemini capsule on display at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

Writer

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they allowed it to burn up in the atmosphere,” Hatcher said. “From a writer’s perspective, you can look at something like that and go ‘well, what if it didn’t really burn up in the atmosphere? What if they actually had a secret Soviet camera onboard and they were evaluating it and they were hoping to take film off this camera later?’”

The story is part action, part adventure, part mystery and part science, patterned after Hatcher’s favorite author, Clive Cussler.

The various locales where the story takes place are based on Hatcher’s travels throughout his career and personal life. “Right after the collapse of the Soviet Union, in the early ‘90s, I went as part of a group to develop a dialogue with Russian researchers in rocket propulsion, and that was a unique opportunity. The imagery of the former Soviet Union is still fresh in my mind even after all these years. It’s a very dramatic place to go, a good backdrop for a story.”

The desert scenes are based on Hatcher’s experiences on paleontological digs in Glendive, Mont., with the Foundation Advancing Creation Truth. “I’ve

never been to the Gobi Desert but I have been on dinosaur digs out in Montana and places that are like the Gobi Desert,” he said. “If you really want to have two protagonists meet and wind up in a sand storm and have a lot of adverse things happen, the Gobi Desert is a good backdrop for that sort of thing.”

Another part of the book takes place in the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains where Hatcher and his wife Tracey adopted their daughter, Elizabeth. The Hatchers also have two sons, Jacob and Samuel.

Hatcher was shocked that he could actually write an 80,000-word manuscript and how quickly the book came to him and developed. He was also surprised to receive offers from the first two – and only two – publishers to which he sent his query. “I heard all these horror stories about how hard it is to get published, you can’t find a publisher that wants your manuscript and this sort of thing. I selected publishers that accepted unsolicited manuscripts or proposals. The only two that I sent it to both made me offers within a couple of weeks and said they wanted the book. I was really pleased, and that was a surprise. I thought it would be a long process, but it was not.”

Hatcher is currently writing book two, which is scheduled for release in 2013.



Photo by James Campbell, Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Career awareness

John Mayes, director of center contracting at the Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center, speaks to Future Business Leaders of America students from Buckhorn High School Nov. 7 during an education outreach at the center. Mayes partnered with Daniel Heinzelman, director of resource management at Huntsville Center, to coordinate the career awareness event targeted to reach out to Madison County high school students to teach them about possible careers in the business industry. William Livermore, career technical teacher and FBLA coordinator at Buckhorn High, attended the event with 39 of his students.

Cancer

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"I asked the doctor to call my wife. I knew I wasn't able to explain what was happening without getting emotional," Pearson said. "Through it all, she was supportive and upbeat. She was up to the fight. Her strength really helped me."

Pearson then briefed his commander and was removed from duty.

"They didn't want me in a position where I could cause more harm to myself," he said. "And I really needed someone else to take over because there was no one in the local area that could help me with my problem."

His primary care physician referred him to the Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa, where he met with Dr. Pamela Hodul, a gastrointestinal oncology surgeon.

"My doctor was my angel. She was kind and compassionate, and she was always available. We still stay in contact with each other," Pearson said. "She told me from the beginning if it's treatable, we'll treat it, and we believe we can help you with what you are facing. If we don't believe that, then we will tell you."

On Sept. 11, Pearson underwent an eight-hour surgery known as the Whipple procedure (pancreaticoduodenectomy). It is the most commonly performed surgery to remove tumors in the pancreas. The procedure involved removing the head of the pancreas, the gallbladder, part of the duodenum which is the uppermost portion of the small intestine, a small portion of the stomach called the pylorus, and the lymph nodes near the head of the pancreas. The surgeon then reconnected the remaining pancreas and digestive organs so that pancreatic digestive enzymes, bile, and stomach contents would flow into the small intestine during digestion. After surgery, Pearson was scheduled for chemotherapy and

radiation.

"The main thing about the entire experience was to keep a healthy attitude," Pearson said. "At no time did I feel like I was being punished by God. I felt like if this is my time, it's my time. I didn't ask 'Why me?' I didn't smite God. I just believed that it was what it was."

"The blessing was simply the fact that it was caught in time and it was treated by a group of people who were very interested in saving my life. The right doctor and team were given to me. I don't know if it was luck or divine intervention."

Without any complications, Pearson was released to go home Sept. 27. Then, on Sept. 28, he was awakened in the night by pain in his left leg.

"It felt like a cramp in my leg. I thought I had a blood clot. The pain was so excruciating that I really couldn't walk," he said.

He went to the local hospital in Melbourne, Fla., where the medical staff put him on blood thinners even though Pearson had told them he had just had major surgery.

"Between Moffitt and Melbourne, I experienced the whole spectrum of Florida's medical treatment from good to bad," he said. "On Sept. 29, my birthday, all of a sudden I felt weird and then I passed out. I opened my eyes just as they were ready to shock my heart."

He spent the next several weeks in the hospital's intensive care unit, where he vomited countless blood clots and had more than 12 blood transfusions. Medical procedures at the hospital damaged his thoracic artery, which led to an aneurysm; and caused superficial thrombosis, which made his veins hurt. Eventually, he was returned to Moffitt where he remained hospitalized until late November.

"This whole process made me a lot smarter about my body and who was working on me," Pearson said. "My procedure made my anatomy totally

different. If a doctor didn't know that, they could hurt me even further. My situation seems horrible because of what happened to me after surgery."

Once his condition was stabilized, Pearson then had to go through five weeks of chemotherapy and radiation. The entire experience left him emaciated, going from 200 pounds to only 157. But he was determined to go on with life. He returned to the Air Force and retired in March 2011 as a master sergeant, and then rejoined his wife Karen and now 17-year-old son R.J. in Alabama.

"I was very fortunate that I was still on active duty when all this happened. The Air Force would not let me go until I was medically cleared," he said.

"Because of that, there was never a question of whether I could afford medical treatment. The amount of medical attention that was given to me was beyond anyone's wildest imagination. Nothing I needed was denied."

Although the picture of health, the tall and lean Pearson still has to be cognizant of the need to stay healthy. His white cell count remains low, which means he must keep his distance from others who have a contagious disease.

"I'm now in my five-year recovery cycle. I have to go to the Kirklin Clin

ic in Birmingham every three months for a checkup, and that will continue through 2015," he said.

Many others have not been as fortunate as Pearson. Pancreatic cancer claims the lives of about 37,000 Americans each year. It claimed the lives of actor Patrick Swayze and Apple co-founder Steve Jobs.

"I thank God that my cancer cells were on the head of the pancreas and not in the body of the pancreas. The cancer was not deeply embedded," Pearson said.

These days, this cancer survivor is more focused on his family and faith, and living a quality life than he is on material things. Pearson wants his story to be an example to others to not take their health for granted.

"Whenever something is not right, have it looked at. Don't think it will just pass, especially if it is out of the ordinary," he said.

"Be observant of your body when it changes. Don't be afraid of what you might be experiencing. If it feels like something is wrong, go to the doctor — if not for yourself, then for your loved ones. All through this, I was not caught up in what would happen to me. I was caught up in what would happen to my family if I'm not here."

November sheds light on often deadly disease

November is Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. Little is known about the risk factors that can lead to pancreatic cancer and there are no early detection methods.

Most symptoms of pancreatic cancer — abdominal or back pain, weight loss, jaundice, loss of appetite, nausea, diabetes and changes in stool — are so vague they can be attributed to other health conditions. Pancreatic cancer is one of the deadliest cancers, with treatment being very costly. Here are some facts about pancreatic cancer from the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network and the American Cancer Society:

- Pancreatic cancer is the 10th most commonly diagnosed cancer, but the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States. Pancreatic cancer is anticipated to move from fourth to the second leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. by 2020. While overall cancer incidence and death rates are declining, pancreatic cancer and the death rate for pancreatic cancer have been increasing. The number of new pancreatic cancer cases has been projected to increase by 55 percent between 2010 and 2030.
- About 43,920 Americans (22,090

men and 21,830 women) will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2012. Of those, about 37,390 (18,850 men and 18,540 women) will die of pancreatic cancer.

- Seventy-four percent of patients will die within the first year of diagnosis.

- The lifetime risk of developing pancreatic cancer is about 1 in 71.

- Of all the cancers tracked by both the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute, pancreatic cancer is the only one with a five-year relative survival rate in the single digits, coming in at only 6 percent. The 1- and 5-year survival rates are 26 percent and 6 percent, respectively. Unlike many other cancers, the survival rate for the disease has not improved substantially in the more than 40 years since passage of the National Cancer Act.

- Of all the racial/ethnic groups in the United States, blacks have the highest incidence rate of pancreatic cancer, between 34 percent and 67 percent higher than the other groups. Men are 20 percent more likely to get pancreatic cancer than women and the majority of cases occur in people over age 65.

NCO call at pub

Photos by Ellen Hudson

Noncommissioned officers throughout Redstone gathered Thursday to share ideas and supper at the Firehouse Pub. They plan to meet monthly.



Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Kyle Crump organized Thursday's NCO call at the Firehouse Pub.

Retiring colonel set new standard as project manager



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Col. Bert Vergez, right, receives the Legion of Merit from Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, during his retirement ceremony Friday.

By SOFIA BLEDSOE
PEO Aviation Public Affairs

The Program Executive for Aviation honored the Army's first project manager for the Non-Standard Rotary Wing Aircraft during a retirement ceremony Friday at Bob Jones Auditorium.

After 25 years of service, Col. Bert Vergez bid farewell to colleagues, mentors and friends whom he considers part of his family. Vergez relinquished his responsibility as project manager to his deputy, Kelvin Nunn, during the change of charter ceremony. Nunn will serve as acting project manager until a new colonel is selected.

"I begin with the hardest part," Vergez said during his remarks, "and that is thanking you, my wife Gail. You've always been there to support me, and I am forever indebted to the sacrifices you and the girls have endured whenever I've been away, deployed or in harm's way.

"You were taking the bullets at home and keeping it all together."

Nunn thanked the Army for entrusting him with his new responsibilities. "I commit to you and to the rest of the non-standard team that I will endeavor every ounce of strength to aggressively pursue the successful completion of this mission," he said.

To Vergez, Nunn said, "There have

been very many historical accomplishments over the past two years, and they would not have been possible without your leadership and your drive."

Vergez thanked many people who have influenced and mentored him throughout his career. He singled out a few, one of them Keith Webster, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for defense exports and cooperation. He credited Webster for "having the courage to do something different" with the Non-Standard Rotary Wing program.

To the members of the Russian delegation, many of whom attended the ceremony, Vergez thanked them for their leadership and friendship, calling them his "brothers-in-arms."

"You had many of the same challenges we did throughout this process, and you exemplified courage. Because of you, we have aircraft flying in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said.

Vergez served as the Army's first project manager for NSRWA in January 2010 when the undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics signed an acquisition decision memorandum designating the Army as the lead service for the Department of Defense Mi-17 helicopter and other non-standard rotary wing aircraft. NSRWA Project Office's mission is to procure, field and sustain non-standard rotorcraft for DoD, allied countries, or

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Vergez

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as directed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense in support of Security Force Assistance missions.

Through Vergez's leadership, the Army successfully procured, delivered and sustained Mi-17 helicopters and other non-standard rotary wing aircraft to include the AH-1 Cobra, MD-530F and Mi-35 helicopters.

"We are all benefactors of your leadership including our Soldiers and

our allies for what you have done," Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, said.

Crosby summed up Vergez's military career in one word – passion. "You can't buy that. That comes from family. That comes from upbringing that his parents raised somebody who wanted to give back to his country."

Vergez came on board at a time when the Army needed him most, Crosby said. There was no doubt in his mind that Vergez was the right man for the daunting task of standing up the first NSRWA Project Office and for making history. Building the blocks

for the project office from the ground up, Vergez started with nothing, "not even a secretary," Crosby said. By his resourcefulness, leadership and drive, Vergez built the office in record time.

"He put the discipline, the rigor and the passion that Vergez and his team have brought forward. Since he started the program, everything has just been straight up done right," Crosby said.

Crosby lauded Vergez for the trust he has built with the Russian delegation. "He has established a rapport as we deal with this myriad of aircraft that we have out there, getting our arms around the safety and airworthiness of these platforms, and the confidence that we've built with our Russian comrades to do this. That has been based on the establishment of the personal relationships."

Vergez received several awards during his retirement ceremony including the Legion of Merit, Certificate of Appreciation, letters of appreciation from Sens. Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions and Rep. Mo Brooks; the Honorable Order of St. Michael from the Army Aviation Association of America, Silver Award; a star note from Lt. Gen. Bill Phillips, principal military deputy to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology; and the U.S. flag.

His wife Gail was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Army chief of staff and the Our Lady of Loreto Award from the AAAA.

A retirement luncheon was held Thursday where the project office, defense contractors and the Russian delegation paid tribute to Vergez and praised his leadership.

Vergez was first commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Defense Artillery branch. He transferred to the aviation track and flew Hueys, Cobras, Apaches and Black Hawks. He began his acquisition career as the assistant TRADOC system manager for Apache Longbow. Prior to becoming the NSRWA project manager, Vergez was the product manager for UH-60 A/L/M Black Hawk within the Utility Helicopters Project Office.

"It is with a great sense of pride that I stand before you today knowing that this non-standard team accomplished so much," Vergez said. "I leave today absolutely certain that under the leadership of Kelvin, you will continue to set new standards well into the future."

"There is no greater honor for me than leading great Americans in this great organization of professionals. You make me proud to wear this uniform. I will miss wearing it, and I will miss you."



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Middle school youngsters learn geographic technology

Corps of Engineers provides workshop

By JO ANITA MILEY
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Students from the Ed White Middle School saw up close what it is like to be part of a GIS team Nov. 14 during GIS Day at the school led by employees from the Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center.

The goal was to give sixth-grade students a basic geography lesson using Geographic Information System technology.

Huntsville Center Engineering Directorate employees Michele Maxson, Molly Richardson, Beverly Richey and Kacey Tyra spoke about everything from their daily use of GIS to how the organization utilizes this technology on project sites during natural disasters around the globe.

GIS Day is part of an annual education initiative that shows how GIS works. Users open their doors to schools, businesses and the general public to showcase real-world applications of GIS. GIS Day is held the third Wednesday in November during National Geography Awareness Week, a geographic literacy initiative sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

The day's activities at the school included online resources, maps and discussions related to geography.

Richey, a geographer and GIS specialist at Huntsville Center, led two 90-minute discussions she said were intended to give students an introduction to geography that focused on spatial perspective and how to use maps as stories.

"When you write a story, the author (which is you) needs information. For example, your main character in the story needs

a name, or an age or a certain color hair," Richey said. "Well, it's the same with maps. Maps need information – this is what makes GIS. 'G' is a map front end or the 'picture' and the 'I-S' is the information, which is data, whether it is a road name or name of a neighborhood."

Christine Hunt, a sixth-grade teacher at Ed White Middle, attended the GIS event because she wanted to show her students the relevance of the subject matter.

"I think having a geography lesson using GIS technology is important because the students have been allowed to look at maps from textbooks, but today they are allowed to look at maps and research using technology," Hunt said. "The overall goal of the lesson was to help students integrate this lesson using a digital curriculum."

Students also had a chance to ask questions during a fast-paced mapping exercise challenge as part of the workshop. The students were divided into teams and asked to construct their own "spatial map" by finding a library, post office, hospital, movie theater and mall. Afterward they loaded this information onto an online map.

The students said they enjoyed the day's activities.

"Kayla Black, who took part in the first session, said participating in the day's workshop has changed the way she looks at geography.

"The GIS people showed me how we learn different things every day that help us to make our own 'mind maps,'" Black said. "I didn't know we actually store these maps in our brain and use them to get around later. I want to learn more about how GIS works."

The school administrators said they were pleased with the career awareness part in the workshop.



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

Beverly Richey, geographer and GIS specialist at Huntsville Center, helps a sixth-grader at Ed White Middle School use an online map Nov. 14 during a Geographic Information System activity at the school. More than 150 sixth-graders participated in the GIS Day workshop led by the Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center employees. The school was among six schools in Alabama that observed GIS Day.

Assistant principal Hovet Dixon said middle school age is where students either start getting involved in the mathematics and the science, or they get discouraged with it.

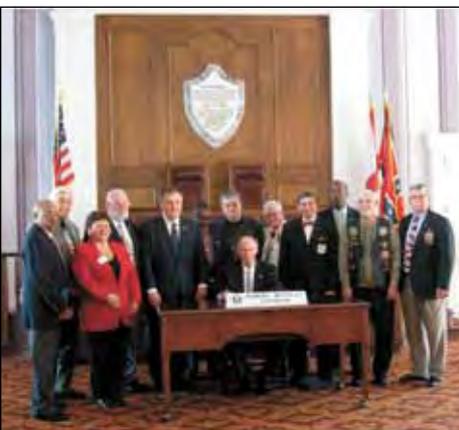
"The middle school age is that decision point when students decide what courses they're actually going to take in high school," Dixon said. "We want our students to know about unique STEM careers like geographers, geophysicists and GIS professionals. We include some of this into their school

curriculum. However, it's always a plus for us when we can bring in outside resources to help reinforce this."

Richey said the Huntsville Center employees are more than happy to share their experiences working with GIS, to encourage the students to follow in their footsteps as GIS professionals.

"I'm excited to join in on the worldwide celebration today saluting geospatial technology and its power to better our lives," Richey said. "GIS is for everyone."

Vietnam vets chapter cited as commemorative sponsor



The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1067-Huntsville has been recognized by the Department of Defense as a commemorative sponsor of the Vietnam War Commemoration.

The local chapter was awarded the designation in recognition of its willingness to assist

Courtesy photo

Gov. Robert Bentley signs a proclamation Nov. 13 announcing the State of Alabama and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1067-Huntsville as commemorative sponsors of the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War at the State Capital in Montgomery.

and support a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam War veterans, their families, and those who served with, or in support of, the armed forces. The designation was officially presented before Gov. Robert Bentley on Nov. 13 at the State Capital in Montgomery. Bentley also signed a proclamation recognizing the local Vietnam veterans chapter for its support of the commemorative event and making Alabama the first state in

the United States to become partners with the DoD Vietnam War Commemoration.

The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans organizations and other nongovernmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring Vietnam veterans and their families. As a commemorative partner, VVA Chapter 1067

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In this section...

WARRANT OFFICERS CHAPTER CAPTURES NATIONAL HONORS PAGE 30

Warrant officers chapter captures national honors

The Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the Warrant Officers Association swept the awards at their recent national convention.

The national association held its annual meeting of the members Oct. 29 to Nov. 2 in Harrisburg, Pa. The local chapter received the "2012 Outstanding Chapter of the Year Award" competing against 52 other warrant officer chapters worldwide.

"What an honor," retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Johnnie Walters, the Redstone Arsenal Chapter president, said. "We don't actually try to receive these accolades, but it's hard not to recognize the thousands of volunteer hours our guys and gals put into this community."

The chapter also won the "Community Affairs Award for Sustaining Programs" and was the runner-up for "Community Affairs Award for Donations." The chapter's wins also contributed to the USAWOA Southeast Region winning the distinction of the "2012 USAWOA Best Region." Eight chapter awards are awarded annually with the "Outstanding Chapter" award sitting at the top of all chapter recognitions. The



Courtesy photo

Warrant Officers Association national president, retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Pete Hill, left, makes a presentation to Redstone Arsenal Chapter president, retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Johnnie Walters.

Redstone Arsenal Chapter has won an unprecedented five times in the past eight years and the past two years consecutively.

Individual recognitions were also pre-

sented to Redstone Arsenal Chapter members. Annually, the national association awards one Warrant of the Year Award, one Lifetime Achievement Award and one National President's Award.

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Max Bennett, a Madison resident, received the "Don Hess Lifetime Achievement Award." Don Hess was the founding father of the Warrant Officers Association in 1972. Bennett serves as the president of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition and is a defense contractor at General Dynamics, C4 Systems in Huntsville.

The WOA National President's Award was presented to retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Johnnie Keeter, a Harvest resident. Keeter serves as the secretary (10 years) and community affairs coordinator of the Redstone Arsenal Chapter. He is a primary organizer of the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Day parade and he works at Dynetics Inc. in Huntsville.

Bennett and Keeter were also inducted into the "Honorable Order of the Eagle

Rising" at the gold (national) level. This order is the Warrant Officers Corps recognition equivalent to the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe and the Artillery's Order of St. Barbara.

Chapter members inducted at the silver (regional) level were retired Chief Warrant Officer 3 Ivy "Joe" Shiver for his work with the Warrant Officers, building wheelchair ramps with CASA of Madison County and work in the community; and retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Richard Christian for serving as chapter treasurer for more than a decade.

Bronze (chapter level) inductees included retired Chief Warrant Officer 3 Al Reed for his work with the Patriot Guard Riders, Operation Christmas Bear, the Freedom Pen Project and in the community; retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Holmes "Steve" Seamen, for his work with the development of the chapter web page, IT solutions, the Freedom Pen Project, and community services; and chapter president Walters for leading his team to success two years in a row. (*Warrant Officers Association release*)

Chapter

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will participate in the commemoration by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize Vietnam veterans and their families' service, valor and sacrifice. Several events will be planned starting in 2013 and continuing through Nov. 11, 2025.

The Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War was officially announced on Memorial Day 2012 with the support of President Barack Obama and the Congress.

In his proclamation statement, Obama noted, "Beginning on Memorial Day 2012, the federal government will partner with local governments, private organizations and communities across America to participate in the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of

the Vietnam War—a 13-year program to honor and give thanks to a generation of proud Americans who saw our country through one of the most challenging missions we have ever faced. While no words will ever be fully worthy of their service, nor any honor truly befitting their sacrifice, let us remember that it is never too late to pay tribute to the men and women who answered the call of duty with courage and valor. Let us renew our commitment to the fullest possible accounting for those who have not returned."

"The members of VVA Chapter 1067 are honored to have the unique position of being the first veterans organization located in the first state to become a commemorative sponsor," VVA Chapter 1067 president Warren Harmon said. "Our organization is already implementing a strategic plan for commemorative events to be held in the Huntsville area over the next 13 years, which will meet the mission

of the DoD Vietnam War Commemoration."

Planned events will include the annual "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day" held on March 30, with additional events that meet the congressionally-mandated objectives of the commemorative program which include the following:

- To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States, and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

- To highlight the service of the armed forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the armed forces.

- To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

- To highlight the advances in technology, science and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

- To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

Vietnam Veterans of America is a national organization formed in 1979 to serve as a new veterans advocacy organization dedicated exclusively to the needs of Vietnam veterans. Huntsville is the home of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1067, the home chapter of Medal of Honor recipient retired Col. Leo K. Thorsness, life member. They are seeking new charter members, as well as members at large, to join the chapter. For more information about the organization and the membership drive, call membership chair Richard Knight at 722-3027 or visit the organization's website at <http://www.vietvetsv.org>. (*North Alabama Vietnam Veterans of America release*)

Heroes Week reunites Cheshire (Conn.) natives

By DOTTIE WHITE

SMD/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

Every November, the Semper Fi Community Task Force of Huntsville brings 30 wounded warriors, representing all service branches, to Huntsville for a week of fun, relaxing activities and recognition.

Known as Heroes Week, this year from Nov. 7-12, the servicemembers are honored at numerous events throughout the community.

This year's highlights included a Veterans Day breakfast and parade, a Marine Corps Ball, a fishing tournament, a University of Alabama football game, a parade of boats, and numerous lunches and dinners hosted by community groups and businesses.

Cheshire, Conn., native Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, along with local veterans groups, other military representatives and several members of the community, was there to greet these wounded warriors as they arrived at the Huntsville International Airport Nov. 7.

"This is a great opportunity to greet our wounded warriors and welcome them to Huntsville," Formica said. "When you

Photo by Dottie White

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, greets Spc. Josh Budd, a fellow native of Cheshire, Conn., upon his arrival to Huntsville for Heroes Week.

look around and see all the moms and dads and the children cheering, there's just no place I'd rather be."

There was one wounded warrior in the group Formica has met and spent time with before Heroes Week. Formica first met Spc. Josh Budd, also a Cheshire native, during a visit to Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., where he has been recuperating for the past year and a half after being injured in Afghanistan.

Budd said Formica has visited him three or four times at Walter Reed.

"It means a lot that we have top-ranking officials caring about the little guys," Budd said. "I've been to a lot of places as a wounded warrior, and this is the best welcome we've ever received.

"The first time I stood and saluted (since being injured) was for Lt. Gen. Formica," he added. "He has been a huge help in my recovery and making me feel closer to home."

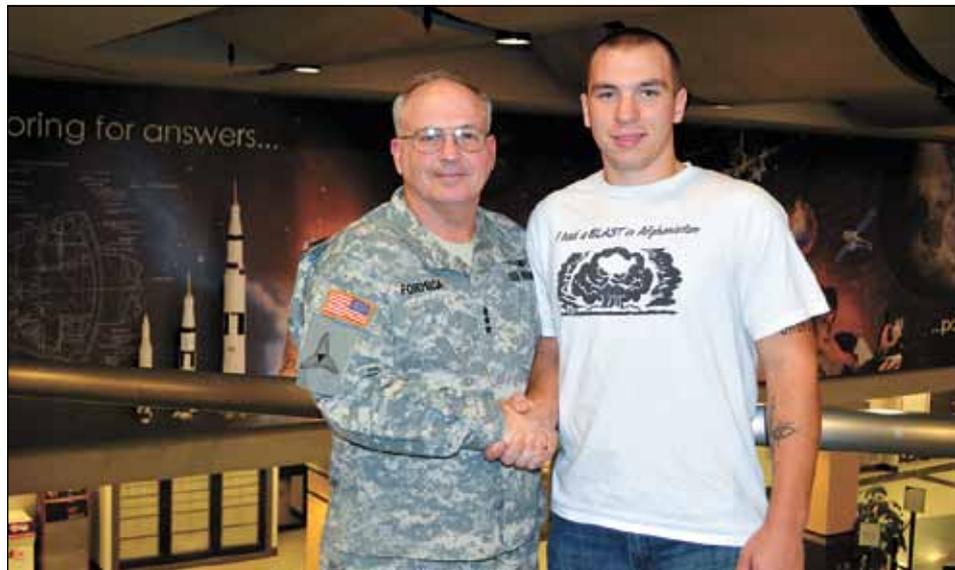


Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Sincere thanks

Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, shakes hands with one of the wounded warriors during a farewell event Nov. 12 at the Rocket City Harley Davidson. During the program, Crosby, who represented Team Redstone at the event, expressed his heartfelt thanks for the sacrifices made by the wounded warriors and their families. He told the Soldiers that they will always have a special place in the Tennessee Valley community and recognized the community's efforts to honor veterans and their families, especially during Heroes Week. Surprise guest Easton Corbin, a popular country music singer, provided the entertainment at the event.



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

Help for Heroes Week

Hank Rexing, left foreground, presents a \$2,200 check to David Bonwit at the Rocket City Harley Davidson during the Heroes Week farewell to the wounded warriors event Nov. 12. The funds were donated by the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 28-2 to the Semper Fi Community Task Force to help support the various wounded warrior programs that the task forces supports. Rexing, the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter commander, is an operations officer with the Cargo Helicopters Project Office. Bonwit is the co-chair for Heroes Week in the Semper Fi Community Task Force. For information about how you can help with the wounded warrior program through Semper Fi, visit www.semperfi.org.

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Swedish military buys Black Hawk helicopters

USASAC release

FORT BRAGG, NC – Providing the “total package” through foreign military sales is not just about providing equipment or materiel, it’s about providing international partners a capability that supports U.S. combatant commands. And that’s exactly what the Security Assistance Training Management Organization, or SATMO, a subordinate command of the Security Assistance Command and its major command, Army Materiel Command, is doing.

This past January, SATMO’s Swedish Technical Assistance Fielding Team located in Linköping, Sweden, deployed in support of the Swedish Armed Forces’ procurement of 15 UH-60M helicopters. The SwAF is scheduled to deploy to the Afghanistan AOR in March 2013 and will provide critical Medevac support for coalition forces. SATMO selected and deployed three of the most experienced Army aviation UH-60 crew members to facilitate the timeline. The team’s mission is to ensure the SwAF is able to meet the demanding requirements in

the extremely short time frame and to simultaneously garner the proficiency needed to reduce operational risk.

“Having a TAFT in Sweden is a very efficient method to provide flexible training to the customer,” Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bobette “Bobi” Mcgettigan, the TAFT’s lead, said. Mcgettigan is one of the most senior UH-60A/L/M maintenance test pilots and maintenance test flight examiners in Army aviation, according to Col. Joe Boy, SATMO’s commander.

“Our TAFT has a high level of experience in combat environments with the UH-60 and the M version of the Black Hawk,” Mcgettigan said. “This enables us to fit the proper topics into the Swedish Command Team’s training plan to meet the mission requirement as part of ISAF (International Security Assistance Force).”

The TAFT trains and advises on all aspects of the UH-60M Black Hawk to include logistics, maintenance, flight and staff preparation.

“Many of the systems are a brand new concept to the Swedish Armed Forces to include Aircraft Survivability

See Sweden on page 33



Courtesy photo

Four UH-60M helicopters delivered to the Swedish Armed Forces fly over Malmen Air Base, Linköping, Sweden. The Security Assistance Training Management Organization’s Technical Assistance Fielding Team provided UH-60M training as part of a foreign military sales case.

Army strengthens ties with Indian tribes



By **DAVID VERGUN**
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – As Soldiers and all Americans celebrate Native American Heritage Month, the Army has consulted with leaders of federally recognized tribes to provide new policy for Army-tribal relations.

Secretary of the Army John McHugh signed a new policy for the Army, setting that work into motion. The “American Indian and Alaska Native Policy” was signed Oct. 24. The Army’s intent, according to the policy, is to “build stable and enduring government-to-government relations with federally recognized tribes in a manner that sustains the Army mission and minimizes effects on protected tribal resources.”

It continues: “The Army will communicate with federally recognized tribes on a government-to-government basis in

recognition of their sovereignty.”

“The policy establishes Armywide guidance for Soldiers at all levels, as well as Army civilians, on communicating with and understanding the concerns of tribes, including their rights, lands and resources,” Katherine Hammack, assistant secretary of the Army for installations, energy and environment, said.

Hammack, whose office has been working with McHugh to draft and implement the policy, is scheduled to speak in a policy-signing ceremony at the Pentagon on Nov. 28 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Guests will include Les Lobaugh, a Navajo attorney, whose work included drafting the Endangered Species Act, followed by the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act, which in turn led to the formation of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Also attending and performing will be Joanne Shenandoah, Ph.D., an Iroquois vocalist and Grammy Award winner.

Sweden

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Equipment, Communication Security Equipment, Aviation Mission Planning System and many maintenance systems,” Mcgettigan said. “The Swedish military is very advanced and has established effective systems, regulations and practices that these new systems must fall in line with.”

Finding a way to bridge the systems to the culture is what makes SATMO’s

TAFTs unique to the Army. The TAFT tailors the training to the specific country’s needs.

“The ability to draw on TAFT members that have established relationships through prolonged time spent with the unit, and the incorporation of new equipment and practices, aids in the implementation to the ‘Swedish way,’” Mcgettigan explained.

The TAFT also fills in other needs, such as providing makeup training when other priorities call, supplementing contractor training with UH-60M specific operator level details from per-

sonal experience in-theater and shaping future training.

“This is a real advantage to the customer, providing technical training combined with mission experience, while providing flexibility and savings in both time and money,” Mcgettigan said.

The SwAF helicopter squadron accomplished numerous firsts with the TAFT in lead. These include establishing the ability to communicate securely across the battlefield and utilizing ASE. In addition to meeting several of the initial training requirements, the TAFT also assisted in the modification of sev-

eral SwAF existing doctrines. These will provide for the domestic employment of the Black Hawk in Sweden.

Continuous communications with other U.S. agencies and throughout all rank structures in the Swedish government is another result of the TAFT and its partner.

“TAFT is on the ground, in the hangar, in the cockpit, around the break areas with our counterparts, allowing easy access to our experiences and resources to complete the end state which is to provide Medevac services to ISAF,” Mcgettigan said.

IMCOM looks to expedite hiring at garrisons

By IMCOM Public Affairs

SAN ANTONIO – Garrison commanders are recruiting for about 2,000 job openings. And while the competitive process can be time-consuming, exceptions to the process allow for noncompetitive selection of current IMCOM employees, transitioning Soldiers, disabled veterans and certain others.

At the same time, the Army still faces a new fiscal environment that could require more civilian work force reductions in the future, so the headquarters will continue to closely oversee the filling of critical vacancies to ensure the command stays within sustainable end strength numbers.

The Installation Management Command started fiscal 2012 facing a mandatory reduction of more than 4,000 civilian positions including the headquarters, the regions and the garrisons. In the interest of retaining a highly experienced and specialized work force, the command approached the necessary reduction with a commitment to meet the end strength target through attrition and judicious filling of critical vacancies.

This proactive approach to human resources management has succeeded to the extent that IMCOM has exceeded its reduction target through voluntary separations, retirement and cross-leveling through reassignment. The new personnel outlook is good news for protecting the work force, but the garrisons are now anxious to fill these nearly 2,000 openings to sustain their operations.

“It’s great to see that we could continue to meet our mission requirements while still taking care of our civilian work force,” IMCOM commander Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter



said.

The federal hiring system is a competitive process, designed to evaluate applicants fairly, but not necessarily quickly, especially in recruiting from outside the government. But federal regulations allow for noncompetitive consideration of the very populations IMCOM seeks to help – including current employees, transitioning Soldiers and disabled veterans.

“As we look at ways to expedite the approval process, there are steps the garrisons can take to speed the process, including streamlining the recruiting process, working in ad-

vance with the CPAC on determining the level of competition, getting job assessments ready, considering noncompetitive selections of the current IMCOM work force, and hiring veterans and family members,” Karen M. Perkins, IMCOM director of human resources (G1), said.

Most hiring actions still must go to the headquarters IMCOM Human Resources Management Board for initial screening and a recommendation to the commanding general. When the commander approves a hiring request, he specifies whether a vacancy must be filled by a current IMCOM employee or whether it can be recruited outside the command and even outside the federal work force.

The first step remains the IMCOM Enterprise Placement Program, which may provide a reassignment opportunity for a potentially vulnerable IMCOM employee who is willing to relocate. While the IEPP process is working, managers can begin their recruitment process to be ready to select if IEPP does not provide an eligible candidate.

If managers want to consider using one of the special hiring authorities laid out under Title 5 of the Code of Federal Regulations, there are many ways to hire transitioning Soldiers,

disabled veterans and persons with disabilities noncompetitively.

“These are excellent ways to select qualified people noncompetitively, and they help disabled veterans and transitioning Soldiers, which we want to do anyway,” Lois Keith, chief of Civilian Personnel in the IMCOM G1, said.

One such authority is the Veterans Recruitment Authority, which allows for noncompetitive appointment to positions in grades up to GS-11 of disabled veterans or veterans who served on active duty during a war, a recognized campaign or expedition, or certain other military operations. The VRA also extends to recently separated veterans.

Another opportunity is to appoint a veteran retired from active duty with a disability rating of 30 percent or more. These appointments are 60-day temporary or term to start with, but may be converted to career or career-conditional at any time. There are no grade limits with a 30 percent disability appointment, as long as the applicant meets all qualification standards.

Another talent resource is Army spouses, who normally won’t qualify for noncompetitive appointment, but often come with wide experience and varied skill sets that might not be readily available in the local talent pool. And former government employees eligible for reinstatement can be selected noncompetitively in any grade up to their former highest grade, as long as they meet qualifications.

The installation Civilian Personnel Advisory Center is the local resource for all civilian hiring, but especially when trying to expedite hiring through the use of noncompetitive appointments, so every action should be in consultation with them.

With the need for balance between expedited hiring and sustainable end strengths, garrison commanders need access to more than one option when filling a critical vacancy. The headquarters will likely stay very involved in the hiring process for the foreseeable future in the interest of sheltering the work force from future adverse actions due to civilian reductions.

Options do exist, however, and using the hiring authorities provided can help garrisons fill their critical vacancies while also providing opportunity for some very deserving candidates.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Thanksgiving fellowship

Bicentennial Chapel's Protestant congregation held a Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner on Sunday at The Summit following its 11 a.m. service. Youngsters include, from left, Penelope Miller, 4, Caleb Marion, 5, Joshua Marion, 10, and Django Sarow, 8.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Holiday stocking

Commissary worker Tammy Medley stocks turkeys for Tyson and Shady Brook.

Team Redstone delivers increased rocket range

By **HEATHER R. SMITH**
AMRDEC Public Affairs

The Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System achieved the farthest range to date after modifications were investigated and instituted by the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

Given the task of trying to extend the range of this weapon system, engineers from the AMRDEC's Weapons Development and Integration Directorate quickly realized that a solution would be complex and include weight-reduction initiatives, trajectory manipulation and flight software techniques.

During this study, it was obvious that other measures needed to be investigated to extend the range because too much weight would need to be removed from the current warhead to accommodate a range extension, said Amanda Horton, GMLRS systems engineer.

Achieving success would also take a team effort – a Team Redstone effort.

AMRDEC used data previously gathered from flight tests for the Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems

Project Office in determining what measures would achieve the desired ranges.

“AMRDEC has supported PFRMS and GMLRS for many years,” Horton said. “We have an all-digital six degrees of freedom simulation that utilizes actual GMLRS flight code and is constantly updated to reflect the current versions of GMLRS. The knowledge that the AMRDEC team has of this system is top-notch.”

The GMLRS team investigated methods to reduce the weight and instituted a material change from steel to aluminum. “All in all, we shaved 4.1 kilograms off of the existing detent ring through a material change from steel to aluminum and removal of excess material,” Horton said. “Structural analysis showed that this would not cause an issue during flight and would function the same as the original.”

Another 4.4 kilograms were removed from the nose section, also by replacing steel with aluminum. A thermal ablative was also added to this section as thermal analysis showed weakening of the material due to GMLRS flight environments.

Once the machined parts were com-



Photo by Heather R. Smith

Engineers at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center gather in front of a M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System. The AMRDEC team that worked to increase the range of the Guided Multiple Launch Rocket System includes, from left, Jerry McGhee, Clay Tucker, Matthew Leopard (NTA), Amanda Horton, David Bittle, James Suggs (NTA), Mike Turner, Shannon Fields (NTA) and Monica Lewis.



Photo by John Deemer

Tactical test facility

Col. James Romero, left, project manager for Joint Attack Munition Systems, and Redstone Test Center commander Col. Steve Kihara participate Nov. 12 in the grand opening of the Tactical Test Facility. They spoke about the importance of this dedicated test facility and its ability to support multiple test programs.

plete, AMRDEC developed a procedure for removal of the internal components and their reinstallation into the new aluminum skins. This is the first time that all of the internal components have been removed and re-installed in new skins, Horton said.

AMRDEC's Guidance Integration Facility tested these sections after final assembly to ensure that nothing was damaged during the procedure and re-installation, and everything checked out, Horton said. “The GIF is used in pre- and post-flight performance analysis and is utilized for almost every GMLRS flight test mission flown at White Sands Missile Range (N.M.) by PFRMS. Having these capabilities and knowledge at AMRDEC was crucial for this flight mission success.”

The weight of the rocket was reduced further by changing to a competitively-selected Increment 3 warhead as well as a composite case solid rocket motor, which AMRDEC supported with flight testing and integration.

After final assembly, the total weight reduction was approximately 30 kilograms. In addition to reducing the weight, engineers looked at vertical trajectory shaping, which was known to give a slight increase in range, and initial launch angle. “Pre-

vious tests have been conducted with a GMLRS M270A1 launcher parked on a ramp and actually achieved a higher launch angle,” Horton said. “We wanted to find a way to achieve this higher launch angle without the need for an incline.”

WDI partnered with launcher experts in AMRDEC's Software Engineering Directorate to develop and test a version of rocket software that allowed for a greater angle of launch. The software was tested during a flight test in 2011, and simulation studies showed the change in angle extended the range by a few kilometers.

Once all of the components were complete, they were shipped to the Redstone Test Center for final assembly, in which AMRDEC assisted. An Increment 3 warhead was furnished by PFRMS, and Horton noted that this was the first time an Increment 3 warhead was flown on a composite case motor.

On Aug. 14, flight tests of two lightweight GMLRS rockets were conducted at White Sands Missile Range and reached a range of approximately 107 kilometers. Both missions were considered a resounding success, Horton said, and are the farthest a functioning GMLRS round has been flight tested at White Sands.

Fort Rucker facility goes Net Zero energy

By NATHAN PFAU

Army Flier staff writer

FORT RUCKER – Waste not. It is a common adage that many people have heard throughout life, but Fort Rucker is taking the saying to heart as it implements its first Net Zero energy facility, slated for completion by the end of December.

Hatch Stage Field is installing a 51-kilowatt Photovoltaic array, which are solar panels that will be used to collect energy from the sun to convert into electricity, according to Candy Vaughan, Directorate of Public Works branch chief of utilities and energy management.

“The idea is for the field to be Net Zero, which means for us to generate more electricity than we use over the course of the year,” she said. “That will be the first place on Fort Rucker to go to Net Zero.”

The ultimate goal is complete Net Zero, according to Trevor Marshall, DPW energy engineer, which is in three components: Net Zero energy, Net Zero water and Net Zero waste.

“Net Zero energy is producing as much energy as is consumed, which we’re going to do at Hatch,” he said. “Net Zero water is turning water from aquifers, rainwater and

things like that into useable water for irrigation purposes; and Net Zero waste is making sure that we don’t put any waste into landfills by recycling or reusing what we can and turning any waste we can into energy.”

Vaughan said that the solar array is directly connected to Alabama Power’s electrical grid, so any energy that is generated at the facility that isn’t used can be fed back onto the grid.

“We will still have a monthly fee (with the power company), but what we will not pay is the avoided cost,” she said. “As we put electricity back on their grid, they will credit us the amount that the (power company) doesn’t have to spend to create that electricity.”

The amount of electricity being fed back onto the grid should offset the electrical cost and more, according to Marshall.

“The solar panels create the electricity in direct current and then an inverter will convert that electricity in alternate current,” he explained. “The electricity will then go to Alabama Power’s transformer and step it up to their distribution voltage, and from there it can go anywhere on their distribution system. They will look at how much we’re sending out versus how much we’re receiving and be able to credit our bill accordingly.”



Courtesy photo

Solar panels installed at Hatch Stage Field on Fort Rucker convert energy from the sun into usable electricity that can also be fed back onto Alabama Power’s electrical grid. The facility will be Fort Rucker’s first Net Zero facility, which means it produces more electricity than it consumes.

The solar array will generate about 73,000 kilowatt-hours per year, while Hatch Stage Field uses about 20,000 kWh per year, according to Vaughan.

The new system will save Fort Rucker thousands of dollars a year in energy costs in an area that has a high rate of energy consumption, according to Marshall.

“It was decided that Hatch Stage Field (receive the solar array) because there is a higher rate there,” Vaughan said. “Solar ar-

rays are high-cost projects, so it just made a lot more sense to use it where the rates are higher, and Hatch has its own electrical account and the rate was significantly higher than the main post.”

She added that the installation of the solar array at Hatch could be a preview of what’s to come at other facilities on post.

“We would like to do it in areas that makes sense like the stage fields where the energy cost is high,” Vaughan said. “As the cost of these solar panels are coming down, we’re getting closer to being able to do this in more locations.”

Although the cost of solar panels is still high, Vaughan said the project at Hatch cost Fort Rucker nothing.

“We had some equipment at one of the main electric substations that were damaged in 2004,” she said. “It was determined that repairs needed to the equipment were not cost effective and Alabama Power, along with other companies, removed the generators and credited Fort Rucker with the equipment to apply to this project.

“This is important from an energy perspective because it increases our (sense of) security,” Marshall said. “If we can produce our own renewable energy, then we’re not relying on outside sources to supply us.”

Wisconsin War Eagle on 101st Airborne Division patch

By Capt. JAMES A. PAGE
Army News Service

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. – The Screaming Eagle insignia of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) is perhaps the most recognized and famous shoulder sleeve insignia in the United States Army.

However, the history and symbolism of the patch is often forgotten. The eagle on your shoulder is not just any American Bald Eagle, but instead, it commemorates the most famous animal mascot that ever served in the United States Army.

In 1861, an American Indian named Ahgamahwezhig – or Chief Sky – a member of the Flambeau band of the Chippewa tribe, cut down a tree in an attempt to capture two American Bald Eaglets in their nest. Chief Sky later traded the surviving eaglet to Daniel McCann of Eagle Point, Wis., for a bushel of corn.

McCann took the bird to Eau Claire, Wis., and briefly kept it as a family pet. Caged inside a modified oaken cask, the bird grew larger and quickly became too expensive to feed. McCann actively sought to sell the as yet unnamed bird to the many units of Wisconsin troops passing through the area en route to their muster site at Camp Randall in Madison, Wis.

After many unsuccessful attempts to rid himself of the bird, McCann eventually sold the eagle for \$2.50 to Capt. John E. Perkins, commanding officer of a militia company called the “Eau Claire Badgers.” Part of the money was, reluctantly, given by local tavern-keeper S.M. Jeffers.

In light of their newly acquired mascot, the unit renamed themselves the “Eau Claire Eagle.”

Perkins’ unit entered federal service and was re-designated as Company C, 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The Eau Claire Eagles’ mascot was adopted by the new 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment which was quickly nicknamed the “Eagle Regiment.” After much deliberation, the mascot was named “Old Abe,” in honor of President Abraham Lincoln.

During its time awaiting muster into federal service at Camp Randall, the 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment purchased a special, shield-shaped perch on which to carry their mascot. It was here, in Madison, Wis., where “Old Abe” was named in honor of our 16th president, Abraham Lin-

coln.

The 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment spent its entire military service in what was then known as the Western Theater of the American Civil War comprising: Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. “Old Abe” was present during all of the 8th Wisconsin’s battles and was carried into combat by a sergeant on a special perch alongside the 8th Wisconsin’s national and regimental colors.

Seeing “Old Abe” atop his perch during the battle of Corinth, Miss., Confederate Gen. Sterling Price remarked, “that bird must be captured or killed at all hazards, I would rather get that eagle than capture a whole brigade or a dozen battle flags.”

During “Old Abe’s” service, the 8th Wisconsin participated in many battles, expeditions and pursuits of Confederate forces. Among these were the battles of: Iuka, Corinth, Island Number 10, Big Black, Champion’s Hill, the Red River and Meridian expeditions, and the Battle of Nashville. “Old Abe” was there every step of the way.

The 8th Wisconsin’s most famous fight came in June of 1863, when the regiment participated in a futile frontal assault along Vicksburg’s Graveyard Road. “Old Abe” and his regiment, then part of Mower’s Brigade, failed to penetrate the center of the Confederate fortifications near a 90-degree bend in the Confederate defensive positions known as Stockade Redan.

Their enlistments having expired, the men of the 8th Wisconsin were mustered out of federal service in late-1864. The 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment was no more. On Sept. 26, 1864, a contingent of 70 8th Wisconsin veterans marched “Old Abe” to the state and presented him to Gov. James Lewis. “Old Abe” was donated to the people of Wisconsin by the loving comrades alongside whom he had fought for four years.

In 1865 an enterprising Chicagoan, capitalizing on “Old Abe’s” fame, sought to enlist him in support of the United Sanitary Commission’s efforts to provide aid and comfort to wounded veterans. Thus the “Army of the American Eagle” was formed. Children were “enlisted” to sell paper photographs of “Old Abe” in much the same way that schools raise funds today. Proceeds from the sale of these photographs went to benefit local veteran’s charities.



Courtesy photo

Here are “Old Abe” and the 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment Color Guard in 1863.

The Wisconsin War Eagle’s post-war life was punctuated by frequent nationwide travel in support of veteran reunions, patriotic gatherings, Soldier relief benefits, and special exhibitions during which he achieved a rock star-like status. In 1876, “Old Abe” again toured the country as part of America’s Centennial Exposition.

“Old Abe” lived out the remainder of his life in an aviary in the Capitol building. In 1881, a fire broke out in a paint and solvent storage area near “Old Abe’s” aviary. A month later the famous Wisconsin War Eagle, weakened by fumes, died in the arms of his handler, George Gilles.

Many newspapers and veterans groups wondered aloud “what would become of this famous, flesh and blood war relic?” Upon his death, “Old Abe” was preserved and exhibited in the Capitol building’s Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall until a fire destroyed the display in 1904. Sadly, only a few of “Old Abe’s” feathers survive, carefully preserved by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison.

Today, large sculptures of “Old Abe” stand atop the Wisconsin monument at Vicksburg, Miss., and atop the entrance to old Camp Randall, now the main entrance to the University of Wisconsin’s football stadium. Since 1865, Wisconsin-based J.I. Case farm implement company has used “Old



Abe” as part of their corporate logo. “Old Abe” also serves as the mascot of several Wisconsin high schools.

Since 1921, “Old Abe’s” head, in profile, has served as the shoulder sleeve insignia of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). A large-scale diorama of the 8th Wisconsin’s Color Guard, complete with “Old Abe,” is on exhibit in the atrium of the division headquarters building on Fort Campbell, Ky.

Win or Lose

Army's Maiyo wins Marine Corps Marathon

Army men, Air Force women cruise to team gold victories

WASHINGTON – First time marathoner, Army Spc. Augustus Maiyo raced across the finish line and broke the ribbon of the 37th Marine Corps Marathon earning first place honors in the overall men's marathon as well as in the Armed Forces Marathon competition with a time of 2:20:20 on Oct. 28.

The 2012 Armed Forces Marathon Championship is held in conjunction with the Marine Corps Marathon and featured runners from each branch of service. Maiyo (Fort Carson, Colo.) captured the overall marathon honors and shared the podium as Army Capt. Kenneth Foster (Fort Carson) placed second with a time of 2:22:39. Army men dominated the championship with all scoring runners placing in the top 12 of the overall Marine Corps Marathon. The defending champions earned team gold once again, with the Navy taking the silver.

"I'm proud to run with the U.S. forces, it's really exciting. I feel like I really accomplished something," Maiyo, a native of Kenya, said.

Maiyo's teammate Foster admitted, "The conditions were ideal aside from



Armed Forces Sports

Spc. Augustus Maiyo finishes his first marathon in 2:20:20 for first place.

the wind. The temperature was great and the crowd support was great, plus you're running in the nation's capital with all four military branches here, so it's pretty significant."

U.S. Coast Guard Lt.j.g. Patrick Hernandez (TISCOM Alexandria, Va.) joined Maiyo and Foster on the armed

forces medal stand earning the bronze with a time of 2:25:25.

Men's team placing: Army – 1st, Navy – 2nd, Marines – 3rd, Air Force – DNP.

Air Force Capt. Elissa Ballas (Ramstein, Germany) earned the women's Armed Forces Marathon gold with a time of 2:53:51, placing seventh

overall in the Marine Corps Marathon women's division. Veteran Air Force runner Brenda Schrank (Andrews AFB, Md.) took silver with Army Capt. Nicole Solana (Korea) earning bronze. Schrank and Solana both finished in the overall women's top 10 at ninth and 10th respectively.

The Air Force women defended their Armed Forces Marathon gold over the Army by less than seven minutes. The Air Force and Army had their top scorers all place in the top 11 of the Marine Corps Marathon women's division.

Women's team placing: Air Force – 1st, Army – 2nd, Marines – 3rd.

The Marine Corps Marathon has been the host of the Armed Forces Marathon Championship since 1998. The 2012 Marine Corps Marathon was the largest with 23,515 finishing, featuring runners from every state and 54 countries.

"The Marine Corps Marathon is proud to have achieved record participation despite a looming storm as large as Hurricane Sandy," MCM director Rick Nealis said. "It just demonstrates the importance the runners place on this patriotic mission."

The Marine Corps Marathon will host its 38th edition and the Armed Forces Championship on Oct. 27, 2013. (Armed Forces Sports release)

Crimson Tide rolls past rival Auburn Tigers

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Skip's Picks were 429-155 for 73 percent after 11 weeks in the college football season. Here are my predictions for this week's games:

Auburn at Alabama – **Bama**
 Tuskegee at Alabama St. – **Tuskegee**
 TCU at Texas – **Texas**
 Syracuse at Temple – **Syracuse**
 Nebraska at Iowa – **Nebraska**
 Marshall at East Carolina – **East Carolina**

LSU at Arkansas – **LSU**
 Utah at Colorado – **Utah**
 West Virginia at Iowa State – **W.Va.**
 Washington at Wash. St. – **Washington**
 South Florida at Cincinnati – **Cincinnati**

Arizona State at Arizona – **ASU**
 Ohio at Kent State – **Kent State**



Rutgers at Pittsburgh – **Rutgers**
 Tulsa at Southern Methodist – **Tulsa**
 Michigan at Ohio State – **Ohio State**
 UAB at UCF – **UCF**

Illinois at Northwestern – **Northwestern**

Georgia Tech at Georgia – **Georgia**
 Connecticut at Louisville – **Louisville**
 Indiana at Purdue – **Purdue**
 Kentucky at Tennessee – **Tennessee**
 Texas Tech at Baylor – **Texas Tech**
 Idaho at Utah State – **Utah State**
 Brigham Young at New Mexico St. – **BYU**

Troy at Middle Tennessee – **MT**
 Air Force at Fresno State – **Fresno**
 Tulane at Houston – **Houston**
 Oklahoma St. at Oklahoma – **Oklahoma**

San Diego State at Wyoming – **San Diego St.**

Wisconsin at Penn State – **Wisconsin**
 Michigan State at Minnesota – **MSU**
 Florida at Florida State – **FSU**
 Southern Miss at Memphis – **Memphis**
 S. Alabama at La.-Lafayette – **La.-Lafayette**

South Carolina at Clemson – **S. Carolina**

Mississippi State at Ole Miss – **Miss. St.**

New Mexico at Colorado St. – **Colorado St.**

Missouri at Texas A&M – **Texas A&M**

Rice at UTEP – **Rice**
 Notre Dame at USC – **Notre Dame**

UNLV at Hawaii – **UNLV**
 Vanderbilt at Wake Forest – **Vanderbilt**
 Virginia at Virginia Tech – **Virginia Tech**

Boston College at North Carolina St. – **NC St.**

Louisiana-Monroe at FIU – **La.-Monroe**

Stanford at UCLA – **Stanford**
 Maryland at North Carolina – **UNC**

Miami (Fla.) at Duke – **Miami**
 Oregon at Oregon State – **Oregon**

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Sports & Recreation

Run to remember

A Redstone Arsenal chapter of Run to Remember is meeting Saturday mornings to jog together as a living memorial to fallen Soldiers. For meeting locations and times, call Charity Watral 542-1208. Members are encouraged to wear royal blue T-shirts or the Run to Remember T-shirt that can be ordered from <http://www.wearblueruntoremember.org>.

UAH hockey game

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army is sponsoring the UAH vs. USA National Team hockey game on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center.

Rocket Run 5K

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center will hold the Rocket Run 5K on Saturday. The first 150 registered will receive a T-shirt. The \$15 fee includes admission to the museum with a race bib. Proceeds go to the Space Camp Scholarship fund. For more information, email Ruth Marie Oliver at rutho@space-

camp.com. Register online at <http://www.imathlete.com/events/Rocket-RunUSSRC>.

Conferences & Meetings

Catholic mass

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

Protestant women

Protestant Women of the Chapel holds Bible Study classes every Thursday at 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. Child care is available at the Child Development Center on a first-come, first serve basis for the 9:30 study. PWOC also provides supervision for the home-schooled children at the Youth Services building. For more information, call Bicentennial Chapel 842-2176. You can also email PWOC ladies at Redstone@pwoc.org.

Sergeants major

The Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at 6:30 a.m. at The Summit. Breakfast is available at the club. The Sergeants Major Association meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is a one-time lifetime fee of \$30. “We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us,” a prepared release said. “Let’s try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in the Tennessee Valley area.” For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 955-0727.

Advent potluck luncheon

The Military Council of Catholic Women will hold its 43rd annual Baby Jesus Shower and Advent Potluck Luncheon on Dec. 7, beginning with a Holy Hour at 11 a.m., followed by noon luncheon at 12:45 p.m. and presentation by Sarah Shontz on the canonization of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. Items received will be given to adopted babies, foster care babies and mothers in need through Catholic Family Services. Baby items most needed are clothes. If you cannot at-

tend the luncheon but would like to contribute, drop your gifts off in the bassinette located in the vestibule of Bicentennial Chapel by Dec. 6.

Reserve officers association

Reserve Officers Association, Chapter 20, will hold a quarterly business meeting Dec. 7 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Java Café, building 3711, on Aerobee Road. For information email ruby.lardent@us.army.mil or call 799-1246.

Special Forces group

The North Alabama Chapter (Chapter 92) of the Special Forces Association will meet at 11 a.m. Dec. 8 at the China Grill Buffet, 9016 Madison Boulevard, Madison. All Special Forces qualified and personnel who served with or contributed in a unique and definable way to Special Forces units are welcome to attend. For more information, visit <http://www.chapter92sfa.com/>.

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

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Photo by Randy Tisor, PEO Aviation Public Affairs

Aviation talk

Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, speaks at the AAAA Aircraft Survivability Professional Forum on Nov. 6 at the Von Braun Center. The forum brought together industry and Aviation Soldiers to discuss the current and future view of capabilities relating to aircraft survivability equipment, tactics, techniques and technology. The yearly forum is designed to promote real world solutions in support of Army aviation. The theme of this year's forum was “Integrating Technology and Tactics to protect the Warfighter.”



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Education open house

Education service officer Charles Williams welcomes college representatives at the Education Center's open house Nov. 14. From left are Russ Darracott of the University of North Alabama, and Saralyn Mitchell and Rodney Stevens, both of Athens State University. Other educational institutions represented included Bellevue University, Ashford University, Strayer University, Institute for Defense and Business, University of Alabama-Huntsville, Columbia Southern University, Columbia College, Heritage Christian University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, University of Phoenix and the University of Alabama.

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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 Huntsville Christian Church, 171 Indian Creek Road. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359.

Parent advisory council

All parents with children enrolled in the Child Youth and School Services childcare facilities are invited to the next Redstone PAC meeting. CYSS childcare facilities include Goss Road Child Development Center, Mills Road CDC, School Age Center and the Youth Center. The PAC meeting will be held Nov. 27 at 11:15 a.m. in building 4488, room D103. There will be a brief training session on Childhood Obesity by Donna Smith, CYSS nutritionist. Afterward, elections will be held to fill recent officer vacancies and there will be discussion/planning for CYSS caregiver and staff appreciation, budget approval and the upcoming fall school pictures and book fairs at Mills Road CDC and Goss Road CDC. Parents who would like to serve as a PAC officer should email redstonepacpresident@gmail.com or plan to attend the meeting. The PAC is a private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

Parkinson's support group

The Parkinson's Support Group will meet Dec. 4 from 4-6 p.m. at the Hudson Alpha Conference Center. Dr. Ray Watts, dean of the Medical School at UAB, and three other researchers will talk about their latest findings. The public is invited. For more information, call 859-6523.

Government accountants

The Northern Alabama Chapter of Government Accountants will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 29 at the Lone Star Steakhouse, 5901 University Drive (near Madison Square Mall). The guest speaker is Dr. Gregory Stargell, president and founder of the Von Braun Speakers Group. Stargell, who works in Missile Defense Agency's Models and Simulation Division, give a presentation on leadership. For reservations and more information, call Heather Smith 313-9285 or email heather.smith.ctr@mda.mil.

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.

Civilian leadership summit

The second annual AUSA sponsored, Department of Army Civilian Leadership Summit will be held Jan. 31 at The Summit. A leadership panel will share their insights on leadership challenges and civilian opportunities. Mark your calendars, and look for registration information coming soon.

Miscellaneous Items

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 Jennifer Anderson 513-8290 or email rsvp.dir@seniorview.com.

NASA surplus

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

Re-entry information

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

Lending closet

The lending closet is stocked with basic household items to use before

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

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.

Fraud prevention

Every hour Medicare loses \$6.8 million to waste, fraud and abuse. These costs are ultimately passed down to the beneficiaries and taxpayers. The federal government is cracking down on abusers but they cannot do it alone; they need the help of all current beneficiaries, including you. The Senior Medicare Patrol program, which is made up of beneficiaries within our community, was created

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in 1997 to help detect and report the red flags of Medicare fraud. Local SMP volunteers can help Medicare stop the loss. For more information on reporting concerns or being a part of the program, call your SMP coordinator Patricia Rogers at TARCOG 830-0818.

Child care center

The Marshall Child Development Center on Redstone Arsenal accepts all members of the Redstone family with Arsenal access. The MCDC currently has openings for children in the Preschool A area with birthdates ranging from Sept. 2, 2007 through Sept. 1, 2008. For more information, call Kelli Wright 544-8609 or visit <http://mcdc.msfc.nasa.gov/>.

Save lids to save lives

In support of breast cancer awareness and education, Zeta Tau Alpha is teaming up with Yopla it for the 2012 "Save Lids to Save Lives" campaign. Between now and Dec. 15, drop off your pink "SLSL" Yopliat lids in the pink collection box in the Sparkman Center Cafeteria (by the doors to the

courtyard). For each lid collected, Yopla it will donate 10 cents to Susan G. Komen for the Cure to benefit breast cancer outreach programs and research.

Gift-wrapping benefit

Christmas Gift Wrapping at the Redstone Exchange is a great way to raise funds for your school or organization. If you're interested, call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Mike McSwain, of the Sergeants Major Association, 313-1598.

AMCOM business opportunities

The Aviation and Missile Command, in partnership with Team Redstone, will hold the 2012 Advance Planning Briefings for Industry on Dec. 10-11 at Redstone Arsenal. This year's theme is "Partnering for Efficient Warfighter Capabilities." Senior leaders will be sharing organizational long-range technology and capability development objectives during the event. Registration is open until Dec. 3. Register at <https://conference.redstone.army.mil/>. For information call

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842-9967 or email usarmy.redstone.amcom.mbx.g3-apbi@mail.mil.

Thrift Shop news

If you are interested in volunteering or consigning, call or stop by the Thrift Shop for more information or to pick up a packet. The shop is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 9-5 and the first Saturday of the month from 10-2. Consignments are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-11:45 a.m. unless otherwise stated on the No-List recording at 881-6915. The Thrift Shop is in building 3209 on Hercules Road. The phone number is 881-6992. ... Holiday closings are Nov. 20-22 and Dec. 25 through Jan. 3. The shop will re-open Saturday, Jan. 5 from 10-2.

Nashville bus trip

Pack your bag and travel to Nashville with the Pilot Club of Florence on Dec. 4-6. See a little bit of something new and a whole lot of something wonderful. Itinerary includes: Gen. Jackson Christmas Lunch, show and cruise; tour and dinner at Belmont Mansion; Opry Mills shopping; tour of Schermerhorn Symphony Center in downtown Nashville; Rockettes Christmas show; Christmas Dec-

orations at Opryland; Uptown Art Uncorked; lunch at Loveless Café; and a chance to explore Downtown Franklin's Victorian Christmas. For more information, call Judy Grady 810-8899 or Allene Belew 766-4579.

Merit award applications

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club is taking applications for Merit Awards. These financial awards are available to graduating high school seniors, college students and spouses who are family members of military and DoD civilians whose primary residence is located within the Redstone Arsenal community, and who meet the eligibility requirements. All information and applications are available at www.rsacwc.org. You may also contact the merit award chair for more information at www.rsacwcmeritawards@gmail.com. Applications will be accepted through Jan. 31. The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club is a non-profit, private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

Harassment/assault prevention

Redstone's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program will hold a SHARP Military

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Training Team course Nov. 26 to Dec. 7. To inquire about participating in the 80-hour training, email Sgt. 1st Class Jason Cundiff at jason.b.cundiff2.mil@mail.mil. Under the SHARP program, all Army commands, service component commands and direct reporting units are to appoint a command-level SHARP point of contact to attend the training.

Arts and crafts sale

The Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center's annual art and craft sale, "Crafts Around the Christmas Tree," will be held at the Senior Center on Nov. 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Nov. 30 from 9-2. The sale, in the Twickenham Ballroom, will feature entertainment and demonstrations of heritage arts such as quilting, caning and weaving. There will also be holiday desserts for sale, many homemade. For more information, call Doris East 880-7084 or Pam Donald 513-8294.

Alabama A&M extension

Alabama A&M University has an office at the Education Center, build-

ing 3222, room 13, on Snooper Road. Office hours are Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Available is program information leading to the undergraduate degree in Logistics and Supply Chain Management, credit evaluations (prior academic and military), advising, and information for other degree programs offered at Alabama A&M. Academic advisement is ongoing for the spring semester; classes begin Jan. 7. The Logistics and Supply Chain Management degree is available to active duty servicemembers, their spouses and adult children, retirees, civilians employed on Redstone Arsenal, and on a space-available basis for all others. Classes are taught in the evenings to allow working professionals the opportunity to earn their degree without career interruption. For more information, contact retired Lt. Col. Samuel Scruggs at samuel.scruggs@aamu.edu or 372-8216 or 479-2730 and Kris Reed at kris.reed@aamu.edu or 372-5753. Those interested may also visit <http://www.aamu.edu/business>.

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

Annual flu shot

Rodger Lesniak, a logistics management specialist with the Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity, receives his flu shot from public health nurse Sonya Roberts on Friday at the Commissary. Fox Army Health Center provided flu shots to active duty and retired military, their family members and Defense Department civilians.

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Holiday social

The public is invited to a "Christmas Social," sponsored by CWB Television, on Dec. 12 from 5-8 p.m. at Watercress at Bridge Street, 365 The Bridge Street northwest, Suite 125. RSVPs are requested at cwbtvtelevision@gmail.com, phone (202) 421-0840.

Fox health center news

Fox Army Health Center will close Thursday and Friday in observance of Thanksgiving and a training holiday. Normal operating hours will resume Nov. 26. As a reminder, the health center is closed on the first Thursday

afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room.

Gala fund-raiser

The 100 Black Men of America-Greater Huntsville Chapter's annual Holiday Gala is Dec. 29 at the Von Braun Center's North Hall. The reception starts at 6 p.m. with the program at 7; and the event continues with dining and entertainment through midnight. "The theme for

the event is 'The 100 as One: Mission-Vision-Cause,' and the program will reflect the organization's emphasis on mentorship and their commitment to growing and developing community youth," a prepared release said. "The gala is one of two annual fund-raisers that support academic scholarships and the organization's 'Four for the Future' cornerstone programs (mentoring, education, economic development and health and wellness). The scholarships are awarded to area youth who meet prescribed requirements without regard to gender, race or religious preference." Tickets are \$62.50 per person and reserved tables for eight can be purchased for \$500 through Dec. 1. After that, ticket prices will go up to \$75 and \$600 for a table. For more information, call Kenneth Anderson 679-4241, James Matthewson 714-8921, or Freeda McDowell at the 100 BMOA-GHC Business Office 536-8050 where credit card purchases can be processed.

Social Security office

Effective Nov. 19, the Huntsville Social Security office is open to the public Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – a reduction of 30 minutes each weekday. In addition, beginning Jan. 2 the office will close to the public at noon every Wednesday. "While agency employees will continue to work their regular hours, this shorter public window will allow them to complete face-to-face interviews and process claims work without incurring the cost of overtime," a prepared release said. "The significantly reduced funding provided by Congress under the continuing resolution for the first six months of the fiscal year makes it impossible for the agency to provide the overtime needed to handle service to the public as it has done in the past. In addition, on Nov. 23, the day after Thanksgiving, all Social Security field offices will be closed to the public. As we did last year, employees working that day will focus on reducing backlogged workloads." Most Social Security services do not require a visit to a local office. Many services, including applying for retirement, disability or Medicare benefits, signing up for direct deposit, replacing a Medicare card, obtaining a proof of income letter or informing officials of a change of address or telephone number are available at www.socialsecurity.gov or by dialing the toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call the TTY number, 1-800-325-0778. Many of the online services also are available in Spanish at www.segurosocial.gov.

Commissary news

The Commissary has the following schedule for the holidays: Thanksgiving – closed Nov. 22, reopen Nov. 23. ... Christmas – open Dec. 24 but closes at 4 p.m., closed Dec. 25, reopen Dec. 26. ... New Year's – open Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Jan. 1, reopen Jan. 2.

Employment briefing

An Employment Briefing, designed to help participants understand the federal application process, will be held Dec. 6 from 9-11 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Topics will include how to search for vacancies on USA-JOBS, different types of recruitment sources, how candidates are evaluated and the referral process. This session is open to the Redstone Arsenal community (with own access to enter the installation). To reserve a seat, call 876-0446 or email debra.d.jefferson.civ@mail.mil.

Post Library offer

Come in to the Post Library Dec. 4-15 and get a free commemorative "The Hobbit" bookmark with your checkout, in anticipation of the release of "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," in theaters Dec. 14.

Exchange holiday hours

The Redstone Exchange will be closed Thursday for Thanksgiving, but the Express is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Here's the weekend schedule: Friday – Main Store is open from 4 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Express 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Alteration Shop, Flower Shop, GNC, Nail Shop and Optical Store are all open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Barber Shop and Laundry are open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Anthony's Pizza/Subs open 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Charley's 3 a.m. to 4 p.m., Church's 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., American Eatery 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Burger King 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. ... Saturday – Main Store 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Express 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Alteration Shop, Barber Shop, Flower Shop, Nail Shop and Optical Store are all open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; GNC 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Laundry 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Anthony's Pizza/Subs 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Charley's 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Church's 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., American Eatery is closed and Burger King open 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. ... Sunday – Main Store 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Express 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Alteration Shop, Flower Shop, Laundry, Nail Shop, Optical Store, Anthony's Pizza/Subs, American Eatery and Burger King are all closed; Barber Shop is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; GNC noon to 5 p.m.; Charley's 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Church's 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



JIM BOROCH
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