

Redstone Rocket

WWW.THEREDSTONEROCKET.COM

November 7, 2012

Vol. 61 No. 45

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

Redstone's rail spur back on track

Garrison works to again provide train transport

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

kari.j.hawkins2.civ@mail.mil

Redstone Arsenal's railhead is now doing business.

Recently, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center used the 3,000-foot railroad spur from the main Norfolk Southern railroad to deliver the first of several pieces of hardware that will be used in the construction of the Space Launch System.

On Oct. 24, a Solid Rocket Booster aft skirt that will be used to launch the system was moved from a cargo flatbed by crane to a truck flatbed for transport from the northwestern section of the Arsenal near Gate 9 to a NASA site off Rideout Road.

The Arsenal was the aft skirt's final destination in a train route that took it from the Kennedy Space Flight Center at Cape Canaveral, Fla., and to Redstone Arsenal. Once it made it to the end of the rail spur, two mobile cranes were used to lift it off the flatbed and load it on a truck flatbed. It was then escorted by Garrison police south on Rideout Road through Gate 9 using the northbound lanes, taking it around the inbound gate lanes and then returned to the southbound lanes.

"The delivery of this NASA hardware by rail is significant for Redstone Arsenal because it keeps active a critical fourth mode of transportation access to and from the Arsenal," Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton said. "Now that the rail spur is in use, our tenants can choose from road, air, water and rail shipping access."

Rail access to the Arsenal has been available since the 1940s, when the area first became a federal installation. But in recent years, the railhead's outdated condition did not make it a feasible transportation option.

As part of Arsenal upgrades associated with the Redstone Gateway enhanced use lease project, about \$900,000 in upgrades to the train track spur were completed earlier this year as part of the in-kind services provided by Redstone Gateway developer Corporate Office Properties Trust. The upgrade was contracted and managed on behalf of the Arsenal by the City of Huntsville.

Previously, the old spur was located in the center of the 468 acres designated for the Redstone Gateway. So, the spur was shortened, repositioned and upgraded.

"The rail was out-of-date, in disrepair and didn't meet current transportation standards," said Craig Northridge, chief of the Master Planning Division, Directorate of Public Works.



Photo by Reed Armstrong

Two cranes are used to move a Space Launch System Solid Rocket Booster aft skirt from a flatbed railcar to truck transport for movement from the Redstone Arsenal railroad spur to a site on the installation near NASA headquarters.



Photo by Reed Armstrong

Garrison and NASA workers check to ensure safe movement of the Solid Rocket Booster aft skirt from a railcar to a truck flatbed.

"We replaced up to 80 percent of the ties and upgraded the gauge of the rail so that it could accommodate larger and heavier cargo and meet current standards."

The spur was inspected and agreements signed with Norfolk Southern that were required to make it an active track. Once those agreements were in place, Norfolk Southern laid the

See Rail on page 4



COMMUNITY NEWS

Demolition Soldiers thanked for support.

PAGE 5



PEOPLE PROFILE

Madison recognizes outstanding veteran.

PAGE 11



TECHNOLOGY TODAY

Texas reset facility repairs helicopters.

PAGE 23

MILITARY SCENE

AMCOM chief of staff appreciates community.

PAGE 29

WIN OR LOSE

Army marksman captures title.

PAGE 35

RocketViews

What's your message to veterans and those still serving as we celebrate Veterans Day?

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com



Merrie Duncan

Disabled American Veterans, Gold Star wife

"I really appreciate everything that everyone's done, the sacrifices that they have made for freedom and for all of us. We wouldn't be here if it weren't for veterans and our service people. You can't thank people enough for that. It's a big sacrifice."



1st Lt. Sonya Burton

Army

"If it wasn't for them, we wouldn't be where we are today. That's what I think about every year when I think about Veterans Day. Somebody has to do it, and they did it for us."



Joe Turman

Marine Corps veteran and author
"We can be grateful to our country – we have a great country. We can continue to serve as veterans. When we get out of the service, we need to keep in mind that we need to keep on serving and doing all that we can to make our country the best country it can be. We need to try to have a positive witness to our

community and our friends with our lives and still remember that we did serve, but we want to continue to serve."



Joan Monroe

Disabled American Veterans, Gold Star wife

"I really do appreciate what they're doing. Right now over there they really need more backup."

Letter to the editor

Thank veterans for their service to this nation

On Veterans Day (this year Nov. 12), Americans pause in their daily routines to recognize our nation's veterans. It is the day set aside to recognize and honor the men and women who have served this nation and protected and defended our great Constitution.

In communities like the one Team Redstone calls "home," we are reminded daily of the efforts and sacrifices of our veterans. At the Army Materiel Command, 34 percent of our civilian work force have worn the uniform of one of our military services. We live and work among those who have served – and are still serving – today.

Our work force at Redstone Arsenal – military, civilian and contractors – work diligently every day to support the joint war fighter, both at home and in multiple theaters around the world. Our servicemembers know what it

means to sacrifice – to miss birthdays, anniversaries and holidays with their families.

America's patriots have selflessly gone off to war time and time again. From the Revolutionary War to Operation Enduring Freedom, from Gettysburg to Salerno, from Bastogne to Bagram – their commitment knows no bounds.

On Veterans Day and every day, I encourage you to provide our veterans the respect they have earned and the opportunities they deserve. Take time out of your day to thank a veteran for their service and their enduring sacrifices.

Army Strong!

Gen. Dennis Via

commander,

Army Materiel Command

State Parks to honor veterans through free admission

MONTGOMERY – In honor of Veterans Day, Alabama State Parks will waive the entrance fee for veterans at all of its 22 state parks this Saturday and Sunday. Anyone who indicates they are a veteran will be admitted into the park day-use areas without charge. No identification will be required.

Veterans have been leaders in the development of state parks and other public lands across the country. Several of Alabama's state parks were developed with help from the Civilian Conservation Corps, which employed numerous veterans. For example, DeSoto State Park is deeply steeped in CCC history. Some of the DeSoto cabins were built by the CCC with materials sourced from a quarry that can be viewed from one of the park's hiking trails.

"Many of our historic park leadership benefited from the military experience associated with our veterans," Greg Lein, Alabama State Parks director, said. "Our parks and public lands are places for reflection and serenity, and they stand as a tribute to those who have served our great nation."

N. Gunter Guy Jr., Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources commissioner, echoes Lein's salute. "We are deeply grateful to our veterans for their selfless service to the country," he said. "This is a small tribute to those who have given us the freedom we enjoy."

Alabama's 22 state parks are conveniently located throughout the state. From the mountain ranges of the north, to the beaches of Gulf State Park, recre-

ational options abound including lodges, camping, golfing, fishing, boating, hiking, biking, swimming and more. For more information about Alabama State Parks, visit www.alapark.com.

Several of Alabama's state parks have benefited from land additions through purchases by the Forever Wild Land Trust. Those additions directly benefit Alabama State Parks through additional access to public recreational lands. Alabama State Parks and Forever Wild lands are available to all citizens, many of whom rely on public lands for recreational activities to support a healthy lifestyle. To learn more about how Forever Wild complements Alabama State Parks, visit alabamaforeverwild.com.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources promotes wise stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through five divisions: Marine Police, Marine Resources, State Lands, State Parks, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. To learn more about ADCNR, visit www.outdooralabama.com. (*Alabama State Parks release*)

Quote of the week

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

— John Fitzgerald Kennedy

RedstoneRocket

The Redstone Rocket is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in the Redstone Rocket through the Public Affairs Office, Army Garrison-Redstone, Bldg. 4488 Room A-248, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

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

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

Email: skip.vauhn@theredstonerocket.com

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

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

Rocket Staff

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

Director of Public Affairs: Sharee Miller

Editor: Skip Vaughn

Assistant Editor: Kari Hawkins

Reporter: Amy Tolson

Photographer: Ellen Hudson

Copy Editor/Design: Kelley Lane Sivley

General Manager: French Salter

Advertising Sales: French Salter, 256-340-2463, or French.Salter@theredstonerocket.com

The Redstone Rocket is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by Tennessee Valley Printing Co., Inc., a private firm in no way connected

with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised within this publication.

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

Published by Tennessee Valley Printing, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense,

under exclusive written contract with the Department of Army. Everything advertised in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, creed, sex or national origin of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy of equal opportunity by an advertiser will result in refusal to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The Redstone Rocket is distributed free of cost to any personnel at Redstone Arsenal and Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates for off post for the Redstone Rocket are \$35 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual). We do not send subscription renewal notices.

Exchange spreads holiday cheer with refund policy

Nearly 20 percent of Americans will return at least one holiday gift item this holiday season, according to Lavi Industries, a provider of public guidance. To take the stress and confusion out of the return process, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service has extended the terms of its hassle-free return policy for the holidays.

"We want to make returns as simple as possible for our holiday shoppers," Redstone Arsenal general man-

ager Loraine Arbo said. "Our relaxed refund policy will guarantee customer satisfaction."

The Exchange's standard policy limits returns anywhere from 15 to 90 days with a sales receipt, but the holiday return/exchange policy extends these guidelines through Jan. 31 for any item purchased between Nov. 1 and Dec. 24.

As is the case year-round, refund requests with sales receipts are processed in accordance with original forms

of payment (cash for cash, credit for credit card). Refund requests without sales receipts receive an Exchange gift card.

In addition to returns on items purchased at the Redstone Exchange, shopmyexchange.com orders can be returned to the nearest Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy or Coast Guard exchange. Online returns due to an error on the exchange's part are reimbursed standard shipping charges as well. (*AAFES release*)

On this date in history: Nov. 7

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

In 1874: The Republican Party is first symbolized as an elephant in a cartoon drawn by Thomas Nast in Harper's Weekly magazine.

In 1944: Franklin D. Roosevelt wins his fourth term in office, defeating Thomas E. Dewey.

In 1954: U.S. spy plane is shot down north of Japan.

In 1973: U.S. and Egypt announce restoration of full diplomatic links.

In 1983: Bomb explodes in the U.S. Capitol, causing heavy damage but no injuries.

In 1985: Colombian troops end 27-hour siege of Bogota's Palace of Justice.

In 1987: Tunisian premier Zine al-Abidine fires president Habib Bourguiba.

In 1990: Mary Robinson is elected as first female president of Ireland.

In 2000: Al Gore wins the popular vote but loses the electoral vote to George W. Bush.

Getting to know you

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Name: Sgt. Albert Flores

Position: NCOIC for the Garrison chaplain and funds clerk

Hometown: Lubbock, Texas

How long have you been a Soldier?

A little over six years.

What do you love about being a Soldier?

I like ministering to Soldiers. Since I'm a chaplain's assistant, our primary role is to minister to them and provide them spiritual outlets, whether it be providing services to them, such as a marriage retreat, or just providing a shoulder for them to lean on when they're going through rough times and coming back from deployment.

What are your goals?

I want to make E-6, since I'm promotable; and finish my bachelor's degree and maybe eventually become a chaplain.



What do you like to do in your spare time?

Spend time with my family (wife Patricia, children Alexandria, Elijah, Abigail and Amariah), play guitar and watch sports.

What's on your bucket list?

I had Hawaii, but I'm going to be stationed there next year. I'd like to take the family to Disney World.

What college football team do you root for?

The Texas Tech Red Raiders, since I'm from Lubbock. I like others, but that's my team.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for Oct. 21-27:

- Police conducted a joint investigation with Madison Police into a single-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident along the western boundary fence.

- An employee turned in a government laptop computer that had been reported stolen, when it was found alongside a road in Madison.

- Police are investigating a theft report in the area of building 3495.

- Police cited a driver for driving with a suspended license after he was stopped on Patton Road for an expired tag.

- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the channelized right-hand turn lane on Goss Road onto Rideout Road.

- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the parking lot of building 5678 when a vehicle left the scene without reporting the incident.

- Police investigated another two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the channelized right-hand turn lane on Goss Road onto Rideout Road.

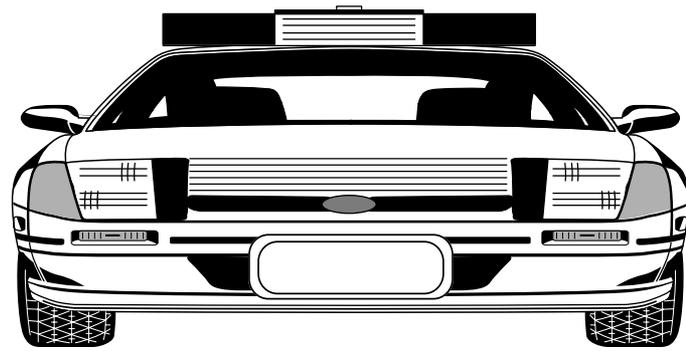
- Police are investigating a report of theft at building 5224.

- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Vincent Drive at Lacrosse Drive.

- Police collected a deserter from the Lauderdale County Jail and transferred him to his Fort Carson, Colo., unit.

- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, accident in the parking lot of building 1500.

- Fifteen U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.



Redstone Arsenal then and now

Hollywood actress attended Bankhead Hall dedication

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

The history of one of Redstone's former training buildings includes a starlet from Hollywood's golden era.

Bankhead Hall, building 3303, was dedicated in May 1963 in memory of the late Bankhead brothers who served in the U.S. Congress: Sen. John Hollis



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Building 3303, among the former training facilities used by the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, is being renovated to become office space for the Logistics Support Activity.

Bankhead of Alabama (who lived from 1872 to 1946) and Speaker of the House William Brockman Bankhead (1874 to 1940).

The House speaker's flamboyant daughter was Tallulah Bankhead, star of stage and screen, who was born in Huntsville in 1902 and died in 1968.

"She was quite the character," Dr. Kaylene Hughes, of the AMCOM History Office, said. "She was scandalous in her time. Of course she was doing a lot of this stuff back in the '30s."

Bankhead, who resided in New York, was among the guests of honor at Bankhead Hall's dedication on Armed Forces Day, May 18, 1963. She heard President John F. Kennedy deliver a speech that day at the Redstone Airfield. The building dedication took place just prior to Kennedy's arrival to Redstone on a gala day.

During the ceremonies, a sudden gust of wind stripped away the bunting covering the Bankhead Hall inscription seconds before Bankhead was to press a button and launch a miniature missile that would have removed the covering. However, the program proceeded as scheduled.

Col. William Macpherson, commandant of the then Ordnance Guided Missile School, sent her a letter in gratitude dated May 20.

"This is to tell you how deeply grateful all of us here are to you for the mag-



AMCOM History Office photo

Tallulah Bankhead signs an autograph while visiting Redstone on Armed Forces Day, May 18, 1963. Bankhead Hall, building 3303, was dedicated that day in honor of her late uncle Sen. John Hollis Bankhead and her late father Speaker of the House William Brockman Bankhead.

nificent way in which you helped us dedicate Bankhead Hall last Saturday," Macpherson wrote. "Your presence on Armed Forces Day helped us focus attention on some of the most important military training that the Army has ever conducted."

Bankhead made her theatrical debut in New York City and became internationally famous in London.

Building 3303 is being renovated to become office space for the Logistics Support Activity, according to the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works.

Rail

continued from page 1

connector track between the main rail that runs along I-565 between Huntsville and Decatur and the Arsenal spur.

"We had to work the agreement with the railroad that gave authorization for the spur to be active," Northridge said.

"There were liability agreements that had to be in place because Norfolk Southern is coming onto Arsenal property to make rail delivery. We worked to make this happen now so that the spur would be available to support the first movement of SLS hardware by NASA to Redstone."

Hamilton said the Redstone spur positions the Arsenal to fully support the transportation needs of its current and future tenants.

The rail spur is a viable transportation option for equipment that is too large



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Once loaded, traffic going in and out of Gate 9 on Rideout Road is halted for about 10 minutes so that the Solid Rocket Booster aft skirt can be transported around the gate in the northbound lanes.

to fit road requirements or too heavy to travel on highways.

In past years, Marshall Space Flight Center, Missile and Space Intelligence Center, the Space and Missile Defense Command, the Missile Defense Agency and the Garrison were primary users of the rail spur. It is hoped those tenants

and others will make deliveries to and from the spur more frequent.

"The decision to use the rail spur will probably be determined by cost and market conditions. It comes down to a business decision regarding what items are being transported, how costly other modes of transportation are and when the items are needed at the Arsenal," Northridge said.

For now, Marshall Space Flight Center is expected to be a frequent user of the upgraded spur. The loading pad parameters for the spur were designed to accommodate use for shipments in support of NASA's heavy lift rocket program, NASA officials have said. The 10 motors used by the Space Launch System – the next generation heavy lift rocket – will be shipped to Marshall Space Flight Center via rail for testing in the 2014-17 timeframe.

Future plans call for adding a loading ramp and dock to the end of the spur that will make it easier to load and unload train cars and flatbeds.

The Garrison also has a mobile crane that can be used to load and offload at

the spur, but Les Miller said a ramp will make the spur more easily accessible.

"We want to make the spur available to any of our tenants and a ramp does offer a way to move things off and on much easier than using a crane," he said.

With the outdated spur, maintenance was only done when its use was required by a tenant due to the costly nature of repairs and upgrades to an old track, Miller said. Prior to each use, the spur had to be inspected to ensure it was safe to carry loads.

But with the new spur, safety will not be as significant an issue because it is built to carry heavier loads, and maintenance will be conducted regularly and at less cost because the spur is already at current load standards.

"We must make sure it stays within regulatory requirements of the rail," Miller said. "We will meet with Norfolk Southern inspectors regularly, and any time the spur goes more than 30 days without movement Norfolk Southern will have to do a visual inspection of the railhead to determine if there are any deficiencies."

Reserve unit helps reshape Redstone

*Excess buildings removed
by demolition Soldiers*

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

kari.j.hawkins2.civ@mail.mil

A part of Burger King history has now been turned to dust.

The fast-food restaurant's old building, located on the northern edge of the Redstone Exchange parking lot just inside Gate 8, was demolished last weekend by heavy equipment operators with the Reserve's 663rd Combat Heavy Engineer Company. The building was closed about three years ago when Burger King opened its new restaurant on the southwestern side of the shopping center parking lot.

But before the 110 Soldiers of the 663rd got to work on Friday, they were thanked by Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton in a brief ceremony in the old Burger King parking lot, where he presented a plaque to the unit and coins to its Soldiers for their outstanding demolition work.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton and Command Sgt. Maj. Kyle Crump thank each Soldier of the 663rd Combat Heavy Engineer Company during an informal ceremony at the old Burger King demolition site.

"I appreciate the work you are doing for the Arsenal and the Army," Hamilton said. "You are making a significant difference for this installation."

The 663rd, based in Sheffield, has been working demolition on the Arsenal for about a year, using the demolition work to train its Soldiers in the skills of a heavy equipment operator. The unit has demolished 31 old and unneeded facilities, representing about 35,000 square feet and a savings of about \$350,000 in demolition costs for the Garrison.

Besides saving demolition costs, the work of the 663rd has also freed the Garrison from the costly expense of maintaining the old facilities and has freed up more acreage on the Arsenal for development.

"An Army base is like a little city, with professional buildings, housing and other types of facilities. It takes a lot of work to sustain it and run it so that those who work here can accomplish their mission successfully. ... When we have facilities that are beyond the ability to repair economically and aren't feasible for community use, then it's time to tear them down," Hamilton said.

The colonel related a conversation that he had about six months ago with a first-grader at Williams Elementary School, where he visited to read to the student's class. The class included several students who live on the Arsenal.

"When I asked them if they had any questions, one of the first-graders asked 'Are you ever going to tear down the old Burger King?' That's what he asked about," Hamilton said.

"A lot of folks are going to notice and appreciate what you are doing this weekend. It will really make a difference in the quality of our community."

Capt. Erik Waddell, commander of the 663rd, said the demolition work his unit has done on Redstone has been invaluable in preparing the Soldiers for the possibility of a 2014 deployment to Afghanistan.

The 663rd is a horizontal company



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Soldiers from the 663rd use backhoes to separate the metal from other materials at the old Burger King site during last weekend. Metal is moved from the site separately so it can be recycled.

with two platoons of heavy equipment operators, one platoon of dump truck operators and one maintenance platoon. Its Soldiers are learning how to operate heavy equipment such as backhoes, bulldozers and graders along with dump trucks in different situations, how to work together as a team and how to solve problems at a demolition site.

"These are the types of missions we would get in theater," Waddell said. "We do a lot of demolition work, road work

and clearing. This is realistic training for us and it helps us prepare in case we do get our orders to deploy."

The training arrangement with the 663rd came about after the Reserve unit moved its headquarters to Sheffield about two years ago. The new location didn't provide enough space for storing its combat heavy engineering equipment. So, they called the Arsenal for assistance.

Henry Millican, who is the Chugach

See Demo on page 10

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:

R&B concert

Sights and Sounds of Redstone and their "Think Pink Partner" Dra'Karr and An Experience Band, Atlanta's nominated and reigning hottest R&B band, present their second CFC Pink Party. Come out and see Dra'Karr in concert Friday from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Firehouse Pub, building 114 on Hankins Road. There will be free hors d'oeuvres and drink specials. For

more information, call 842-3070.

Start smart football

CYSS Start Smart Football, for ages 4-7, will be held through Dec. 15 from 10-11 a.m. at the Youth Center, building 3148. The \$35 fee includes T-shirt and all equipment. Start Smart introduces skills necessary to play organized sports in a fun and noncompetitive environment. Start Smart is a parent participation program. The parent works with his or her child under the direction of the Start Smart instructor. For more information, call 313-3699.

In this section...

HALLOWEEN PROCESSION LEADS TO MILLS ROAD CDC	PAGE 6
STRONG BONDS STRENGTHENS SOLDIERS, THEIR FAMILIES	PAGE 8
COMMUNITY'S ANNUAL FORUM CONFIRMS COVENANT	PAGE 8
READ ABOUT WHAT'S NEW AT POST LIBRARY	PAGE 9
SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM VISITS MIDDLE SCHOOL	PAGE 10

Halloween procession leads to Mills Road child center

Photos by Ellen Hudson

Youngsters brought out their best Oct. 31 at the Mills Road Child Development Center's Halloween parade.



Emory Allen ponders capturing treasures from trick-or-treating.



Sonya Dillard, left, shares the Halloween spirit with her daughter Dana. Behind them are parents Kemah Barnes and Kimberly Carter, carrying daughter Kaylah Carter.



Jessica Harbin surveys the royal scenery.



Blue fairy Cailey Cammack waves to her many admirers while Aru Chang is next in line.

Strong Bonds strengthens Soldiers, their families

By LARRY McCASKILL

ACC Office of Public and Congressional Affairs

A chaplain-led couples retreat is helping commanders build individual resiliency by strengthening the Army family.

Called Strong Bonds, its core mission is to increase individual Soldier and family member readiness through relationship education and skills training.

"The program's training materials provide the chaplain with tools designed to increase individual readiness," Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jose Herrera, Expeditionary Contracting Command, said. "By helping couples and families learn how to strengthen relationships, by developing their relationship skills, the program contributes to comprehensive Soldier fitness."

The retreat was conducted offsite to minimize day-to-day distractions and to maximize the training effect, he said. This retreat, a first for couples in the Army Contracting Command and ECC headquarters, was conducted in Nashville.

Co-located at Redstone Arsenal, the ACC and the ECC chaplain sections have been collaborating to provide comprehensive spiritual fitness for all personnel on the campus through activities like weekly Bible studies and monthly prayer luncheons.

Limited to married Soldiers, the training equipped couples with the tools to work through ordinary and extraordinary conflicts that could end a marriage, said ACC Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles "Chip" Fields.

"The itinerary is arranged in such a way as to balance time in training and time for couples to enjoy alone in order to practice the training," he said. "The training includes role playing, instructional videos and learning in a group environment. Most of all, they get to enjoy time together and can take advantage of one-on-one time with the command chaplain."

Herrera said some mistake the retreat as a few days off.

"To those who think it is a mini-vacation, I would say come and try it. You will come away with a different perspective," he said. "There are many testimonies of Soldiers regarding the impact that the Strong Bonds weekends have had on their personal lives and on their marital and familial relationships.

"As with anything, if you put nothing into it, it is difficult to get any good results. But if you put something into it, you will reap the rewards," he said.

Many participants had an idea of what to expect before arriving.

"I expected to receive tips and tools on how to better communicate with my wife; tools in general on ways to improve my marriage and better understand my life partner as well as interact with other military couples," Lt. Col. Jvon Hearn, ACC inspector general, said. "The retreat also gave couples some one-on-one time with each other to reflect on what they had learned and consider ways to implement those tools into their marriage and family life."

"It was a great event and the site that hosted it was top notch," Lt. Col. Steven Maddry, ECC, deputy chief of staff information management G6, said. "I've attended a similar event hosted by the chaplain in one of my previous assignments, but the material was along a different subject area. I think the material that Chaplain Fields taught is very beneficial to couples. It helps couples that want to keep their marriage and family relationships strong."

For one noncommissioned officer, the training seemed like any other training until she reached an epiphany.

"The couples talked about simple principles we had learned, but how they were presented made a light bulb go off," Sgt. Emanuela Smith, human resources NCO in the ACC Deputy Chief of Staff Human Capital G1, said. "The concepts, principles and techniques had a different impact on me and my spouse. My perception going in was slightly different



Photo by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles "Chip" Fields

The Strong Bonds Couples Retreat was conducted for couples in the ACC and ECC headquarters to increase individual Soldier and family member readiness through relationship education and skills training.

once it was over."

For Smith, the retreat gave her an opportunity to reflect on where she is and where she plans on going.

"I've noticed how I have grown and how I have changed as a person," Smith said. "Although change is constant, the consistency of wanting to make things better and learn more still remains the same. It is very interesting as I learn how my thought process of wanting better for me, my marriage and my family continues to grow and blossom."

According to Herrera, the command will conduct Strong Bonds events throughout the command monthly during the first quarter of fiscal 2013 and at least two events quarterly for the remainder of the fiscal year.

"Not only will we conduct more couple retreats, but we plan to host a robust number of retreats for our single Soldiers and some retreats designed for the entire family in mind," Herrera said. "In all

cases, child care will be provided.

"We are hoping that these training events will result in more resilient Army families as they put the skills and training they received this past weekend into action in their own lives. A more resilient Army family means a more resilient Soldier," Herrera continued. "A more resilient war fighter is always an asset to the nation and to the Soldier's family."

The inspector general agrees.

"I believe the Army will greatly benefit from the program because the training provided Soldiers and their spouses gives them the tools that will help them better understand one another and ultimately improve their marriage relationship," Hearn said. "In addition, I believe that as couples and families become stronger, it will eliminate many of the distracters that take Soldiers away from the job both physically and mentally, thus making for a better Soldier, better unit and ultimately a better Army."

Community's annual forum confirms family covenant

Members of the Redstone community are meeting today to discuss how to improve quality of life.

The Community Action Plan Forum is scheduled from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Heiser Hall. Its focus is the Army Family Covenant, which was unveiled by Army leadership in October 2007 and reaffirmed in October 2009. Redstone's current leadership signed the covenant on Sept. 18. The covenant expresses the Army's commitment to caring for Soldiers and families by providing a strong, supportive environment where they can thrive, and that enhances

their strength and resilience.

"CAP provides the community a voice in shaping their standards of living and identifying issues related to the current environment," Carie Green, quality of life program manager at Army Community Service, said.

Formerly called the Army Family Action Plan, the Team Redstone Community Action Plan is designed to improve quality of life. Leadership wants to know what's working, and what isn't – and what members of the community think will fix it. It alerts leaders to areas of concern that need their attention and it gives them the op-

portunity to quickly put plans into place to work toward resolving the issues.

"Although it is still technically the Army Family Action Plan, I really wanted to ensure our diverse community realizes they are a significant part of this process," Green said. "The process has always started at the Garrison level. As a matter of fact, 90 percent of issues are resolved locally. However, in its 28-year history, the Department of the Army has received and reviewed 691 issues. This has resulted in 128 legislative changes, 179 DoD or Army policy and regulation changes and 200 improved programs or ser-

vices and funding. By the way, these changes have impacted active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retirees, civilians and family members of all of the above. I would say that's a pretty good record. Things change, people are happy, but they rarely know how or who."

During this local forum, delegates identify and discuss issues they believe are important to maintain a good standard of living. They include active duty and Reserve Soldiers, retirees, surviving spouses, Army civilians, family members and representatives from tenant organizations.

Read about what's new at Post Library

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.

The library has the following new items:

Adult fiction: "Bared to You" by Sylvia Day – Eva Trammel, plagued by her own insecurities, is drawn into an intense, obsessive relationship with the wealthy and arrogant Gideon Cross. ... "Castro's Daughter" by David Hagberg – Former CIA director Kirk McGarvey tackles the deadliest and most bizarre mission of his career when the daughter of dying Fidel Castro, Cuban Intelligence Service Col. Maria Leon, forces him to help her find the fabled seven cities of gold.

Adult nonfiction: "Bullied: What

Every Parent, Teacher and Kid Needs to Know About Ending the Cycle of Fear" by Carrie Goldman – The mother of a bullied first-grader draws on research from experts in the field to provide specific advice on how to help children respond to bullies. ... "Wild : From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail" by Cheryl Strayed – Traces the personal crisis of the author, which prompted her to undertake a dangerous 1,100 mile solo hike that drove her to rock bottom and helped her to heal.

Young adult fiction: "The Diviners" by Libba Bray – In 1926, 17-year-old Evie O'Neill is thrilled when she is exiled from small-town Ohio to New York City even when a rash of occult-based murders thrusts Evie and her uncle, curator of The Museum of American Folklore, Superstition, and the Occult, into the thick of the investigation.

Children fiction: "Always Octo-

ber" by Bruce Coville – Best friends Jake and "Weird Lily" enter the monster filled land of Always October, made famous in Jake's grandfather's books, to save a foundling who becomes a monster during the full moon. ... "Olivia and the Fairy Princesses" by Ian Falconer – Olivia is having an identity crisis: There are too many ruffly, sparkly princesses around these days stealing her spotlight, so she embarks on a quest for individuality, to stand out and feel special.

Children nonfiction: "The Everything Kids Book of Outrageous Facts: Explore the Most Fantastic, Extraordinary and Unbelievable Truths About Your World!" by Beth L. Blair and Jennifer A. Ericsson – Presents weird, fascinating and strange facts about topics, including animals, science, space and American history, and includes quizzes and activities. ... "National Geographic

Angry Birds: 50 True Stories of the Fed Up, Feathered and Furious" by Mel White – Real world angry birds and stories with tips to avoid them, as well as facts about angry bird behavior.

DVDs: "Desperate Housewives: The Complete Eighth and Final Season" with Teri Hatcher, Felicity Huffman, Marcia Cross, Eva Longoria ... "The Dog Who Saved Halloween" with Gary Valentine, Dean Cain, Elisa Donovan ... "The Howling Reborn" with Lindsey Shaw, Landon Liboiron, Ivana Milicevic ... "Madagascar 3" with voices of Jada Pinkett Smith, Ben Stiller, David Schwimmer, Chris Rock ... "Rugrats: Halloween" with Melanie Chartoff, Michael Patrick Bell

Audio books on CDs: "Home Front" by Kristin Hannah (reader Maggie-Meg Reed) ... "The Sins of the Father" by Jeffrey Archer (reader Alex Jennings and Emilia Fox)

Substance abuse program visits middle school

Drug free the way to be, coordinator tells students

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

All the cool kids aren't doing it.

That was the culminating message for students as October, Red Ribbon Month, came to a close Oct. 31. Denise English, risk suicide program coordinator for the Army Substance Abuse Program, gave a presentation on drug and alcohol prevention to students at Williams Middle School, providing a wrap-up for what the students had learned in the classroom throughout Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 23-31. Capt. Alyssa Wood and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Cundiff, with the HHC, were both present to hand out red ribbons and goody bags to students.

"It is OK to be drug-free," English told students. "You are not uncool if you don't do drugs. When I was in high school, the people who were doing drugs were cool. Everybody wanted to be like them. They were the cool kids at school. Fast forward to today, those people are still doing drugs, and they're not cool anymore. You would look at them and call them a loser. That's what you would do if you were to see those same people today. It might be cool now, but

10 years from now you're not going to be cool anymore.

"Let me tell you what cool is. Cool is doing what you have to do at school to graduate. Cool is being respectful to your peers, your teachers and your family members, that's what being cool is. Cool is being a good sport and having a good attitude, and being drug-free."

The Red Ribbon campaign, the oldest and largest drug prevention program, promotes a drug-free America, whether it's in the nation's schools, workplaces or at home. In her presentation, English spoke to students about central nervous depressants, commonly known as "gateway drugs" – alcohol and marijuana – the drugs most commonly introduced to teenagers.

Speaking about the dangers of alcohol and drugs, English reminded students that they don't just mess with your mind and body; they can mess with your life.

"A lot of times we have all these dreams that we want to do, that we want to be, places that we want to go, and we're right there – it's coming at us. But as soon as you start doing drugs, that dream, it can't happen, because you're impaired," English said. "Being you, the best you can be, to accomplish your dreams, to accomplish your goals, you can't do that when you're under the influence of alcohol or drugs."

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Capt. Alyssa Wood, HHC commander, hands out goody bags to students of Williams Middle School, after a presentation on saying no to drugs, presented by the Army Substance Abuse Program.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Denise English, center, risk suicide program coordinator for the Army Substance Abuse Program, gives a presentation to students at Williams Middle School about the dangers of drugs and alcohol for Red Ribbon Month as Capt. Alyssa Wood and Sgt. 1st Class Jason Cundiff look on.



Demo

continued from page 5

base operations contractor at Redstone and a retired reservist of the 663rd, knew there was a building available and plenty of parking space for the 663rd's equipment. He also knew that the unit had a training need that would fit in with demolition work ongoing at Redstone as the installation continues to evolve, and improve facilities and services.

"The Garrison only has so much funding for demolition work and demolition contractors charge based on per square foot," Millican said. "These Soldiers need to learn how to use their demoli-

tion equipment. They need to be able to physically do what they are trained to do. The only cost it would be to the Garrison would be the cost of fuel to run the equipment."

So, Millican put the unit's command group in touch with Garrison leadership. The 663rd moved its equipment to Redstone and began talking to Garrison leadership about how they could provide demolition services as a training opportunity.

"In the course of discussions with them, we found out their capabilities, and figured out they could help us with demolition and we could help them with training," Joe Davis, director of the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works, said.

"They're getting a training opportu-

nity at the same time we're offsetting our costs. It's a double win for the Army as a whole."

Most of the Soldiers in the 663rd work as civilians in the construction industry throughout North Alabama and in Chattanooga.

"A lot of them grew up in the construction industry in the local area," said Waddell, a building inspector for the city of Athens.

Spc. Ross Breitreutz works as a civilian in calibration at the TMDE Activity and as a Soldier on the 663rd's 2nd Platoon (Demolition) during Reserve weekends. He said his weekend job "is a stress release that I really enjoy. Instead of doing the detailed work of calibration, I'm out here tearing things down."

As an equipment operator, Breitreutz

appreciates the training opportunities provided by the Arsenal.

"Learning in a simulator is one thing. But when you actually get out here and do it, that's a completely different experience," he said.

Reserve Spc. Aaron Cobb of Madison, who operates a dump truck as a member of the 663rd's 3rd Platoon, appreciates the "good training and experience" he gets when he works on demolition projects at Redstone. He knows it will make him a better and more capable Soldier if the unit is deployed to Afghanistan.

Raised in Madison, Cobb is familiar with the old Burger King facility, but he isn't sentimental about it.

"I remember when the building actually was a Burger King," he said. "So, I agree it's time to tear it down."

Hobbs named Madison's veteran of the year

Retired chief warrant officer 5 recognized by Rotary Club

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

Anybody who knows Dr. Harry Hobbs knows that this retired Soldier is still a Soldier at heart.

He's passionate about the Army and his corps of fellow veterans. He preaches and lives by the seven Army values – loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. He uses them in his civilian career as the Huntsville Police Department's communications relations officer and as a mentor for youth in the community. And the community in turn appreciates his service.

Hobbs has been named the 2012 Madison Distinguished Veteran of the Year. He was unanimously selected for this second annual honor by the Madison Rotary Club.

"I'm just really humbled and blown away," Hobbs, a retired chief warrant officer 5, said. "With as many great veterans as we have in this area, Madison County, I know there are many more deserving veterans out there than myself – that's for sure. I'm just humbled. And I want to always represent veterans in the most positive way."

He still "wears his Soldier hat" in his work and activities. Hobbs expressed his appreciation to Team Redstone and to the Madison Rotary Club.

"It's one of the highest awards I've ever received in my career," the Madison resident said. "I have high esteem for this award."

Last year's inaugural recipient was Troy Trulock, a veteran who has since been elected as Madison's mayor. The Madison Rotary Club launched the award program in October 2011.

Hobbs, 52, and his wife, Erica, have two daughters and two grandchildren. Their oldest, Shara Rivera, 31, who served six years in the Army, resides at Fort Drum, N.Y., with her husband Staff Sgt. Javier Rivera, daughter Cree, 9, and son Julian, 9 months. Their youngest, Shauna, 23, will graduate from the University of North Alabama in December as an Army nurse second lieutenant.

"Erica's the daughter of a 30-year enlisted Soldier," Hobbs said. "She supports me in everything that I do and I couldn't do it without her."

"My faith in God also drives me to help others because I am blessed to be alive today. Several Soldiers that I served with were injured or killed in combat. I always want to honor our Soldiers and their families any way possible."

Hobbs, a Louisville, Ky., native, holds a doctorate in human resources management from Pacific Western University, Honolulu,



Courtesy photo

Dr. Harry Hobbs and his wife, Erica, reside in Madison. He is the 2012 Madison Distinguished Veteran of the Year.

Hawaii; a master's in human services from Murray State University (Ky.); a bachelor's in resources management from Troy State; and an associate degree in missile and munitions technology from Calhoun College. He served in the Army from 1978 through 2007. His numerous military honors included the Legion of Merit Award, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

He began his career with the Huntsville Police Department as its communications relations officer in September 2010. He has been an adjunct professor at the Florida Institute of Technology since 2002. Hobbs was a professor of military science for JROTC at Columbia

High School from 2007-10.

Hobbs serves as director of Huntsville's annual Community Awareness for Youth event which draws thousands of youngsters and their families for a day of educational and fun activities. CAFY reminds the youth of four pillars of success: health, physical fitness, careers and education. Hobbs was selected as the Mentor of the Year in 2011 for the City of Huntsville by the 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville Chapter. He was selected based on his work with youth from all walks of life and his commitment to the success of all youth he interacts with on a daily basis.

The Madison Rotary Club will present its award to Hobbs at its breakfast meeting Thursday from 7-8 a.m. at the Hogan YMCA.



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Schroeder

Aviation honoree

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Joe Mosher, tactical operations officer, 3rd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment, Task Force Hammerhead, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade, is the winner of the 2012 Army Aviation Association of America Aircraft Survivability Equipment Award. He receives the award during the AAAA Aircraft Survivability Professional Forum in Huntsville on Nov. 6.

In this section...

AMRDEC CHEMIST RECEIVES DEFENSE RECOGNITION	PAGE 15
MADISON RESIDENT SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES BAR EXAM	PAGE 15
SOLDIER EARNS FOREIGN BADGE OF HONOR FOR FITNESS	PAGE 16
FATHER-SON BOND WITH JAMES BOND MOVIES	PAGE 18
TRULOCK ANSWERS CALL TO SERVE HIS COMMUNITY	PAGE 19
YOUNG ENGINEER GETS CHARGE OUT OF RESEARCH	PAGE 19
CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER WEARS UNIFORM WITH PRIDE	PAGE 20

AMRDEC chemist receives defense recognition

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

Dr. Greg Drake, a research chemist with the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, has been selected by his peers as the 2012 Investigator of the Year for the Joint Insensitive Munitions Technology Program.

The JIMTP is a research program funded by the Office of the Secretary of Defense to develop and mature Insensitive Munitions technologies. Defense officials define IM as munitions which reliably fulfill their performance, readiness and operational requirements on demand, and which minimize the probability of inadvertent initiation and severity of subsequent collateral damage to weapon platforms, logistic systems and personnel when subjected to unplanned stimuli.

“These improvements are becoming mandatory for many of our tactical weapon program offices for our emerging energetic based systems,” Drake said. “I don’t have to hit you. I can hit your weapon and take you out. Our fielded weapons contain a lot of energetics. They were designed to burn and blow up, and we’re trying to make them more resistant to that.”

IM research and development involves engineering design of many aspects of the system like casings and warheads, as well as the kind of research Drake does with the propellants. “We do energetic materials, which is trying to change the chemistry, because the weapon’s energy comes from chemistry. The engineers, as they say, squeeze it, push it, pull it to get the weapon to do it, which is very important, but we’re trying to use new energetic materials,” Drake said. These advanced technologies are integrated to make the overall weapon system more resistant.

Drake joined AMRDEC’s Weapons Development and Integration Directorate five years ago. Before that, he supported the



Courtesy photo

Dr. Greg Drake, left, receives the Joint Insensitive Munitions Technology Program Investigator of the Year award from William Ruppert, program manager, at the Fall Technical Meeting, China Lake, Calif.

Space Shuttle program at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center and applied research for space propulsion applications at the Air Force Research Lab at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. He has a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Asheville and a doctorate in inorganic chemistry from Clemson.

Drake said he was honored to receive the award and recognized also the efforts of his team.

“It’s not an individual effort. It’s a team effort,” he said. “I have two wonderful chemists, Sarah Bolden and Jami Dailey, that without whom none of this would have been possible, as well as the support around here from my boss, Mike Morrison, Dr. Jamie Neidert (chief scientist of energetic materials for the Army) and the WDI chain of command.”

He also credited librarians Ginny Navarro and Dianne Moore with the Redstone Scientific Information Center, and his fellow researchers with the Navy and Air Force.

Madison resident passes bar exam

Stephen Swain, son of retired Col. Anthony and Inell Swain of Madison, has passed the Alabama state bar exam.

Stephen, 24, graduated from Bob Jones High in May 2006 and earned his bachelor’s degree in business from the University of Alabama within three years in May 2009. He graduated from the University of Alabama’s Law School in May of this year and took the bar exam in July. After receiving his scores Sept. 28, he was presented his certificate for passing the bar in an official ceremony Oct. 24 at the Convention Center



Stephen Swain

in Montgomery.

“We were just ecstatic,” Inell Swain, who does internal controls for the Defense Finance and Accounting Service’s Redstone office, said. “We were praying that he would pass it the first time so he wouldn’t have to take it a second time. We’re very proud. That was not an easy task, especially going to school year-round without a break. He went right into law school after he received his undergraduate degree.”

His brother, Marcus, 16, is a junior at James Clemens High and plays soccer.

Soldier earns foreign badge of honor for overall fitness

By Sgt. BENJAMIN CRANE

100th Missile Defense Brigade

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Drive and determination are good qualities to have as a Soldier. It is what motivates many military members every day. Such is the case with 1st Lt. Michael Lacombe, who went above and beyond the call of duty to challenge himself.

Lacombe works in the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery of the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-Based Midcourse Defense) as the executive officer. He recently competed for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge and successfully earned the gold badge — the highest color badge a Soldier can get.

The German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge is among a few foreign badges recognized by the United States military and approved to be worn on the uniform; it is also among the most coveted awards.

The competition spans three days and requires participants to compete in several different challenges. The most basic challenges are running, jumping, swimming and ruck marching. Some events, like swimming, can take the place of one of the running categories.

On Lacombe's first day of the competition, he tested his strength and speed.

"We did the shot put where we used a 16-pound ball that you had to throw eight meters," Lacombe said. "There was also the high jump which was 54 inches that I had to clear and the 100-meter dash that I had to complete in less than 13.6 seconds for my age group."



Photo by Sgt. Benjamin Crane

1st Lt. Michael Lacombe, executive officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-Based Midcourse Defense), swims during the competition for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge Oct. 2. He will be awarded his gold badge in a ceremony in November.

On the second day of the competition, Lacombe participated in the 1,000-meter swim. The competitors had 26 minutes to complete the event, and Lacombe completed it in less than 17 minutes, a time that even he did not expect.

"I was surprised with the results," he said. "Nobody's telling you if you are going fast or slow, so you just keep on kicking off the wall going back and forth. When I got out, they said 16 minutes 28 seconds and I knew the hard time was more than 26 minutes, so I was shocked."

Lacombe will receive his gold badge in a ceremony Nov. 14 at Fort Carson.

UAH photo

University appointee

The University of Alabama-Huntsville has appointed Dr. Kathy Hawk as the director of the university's Global Understanding Initiative. Sigmatech, through a gift to the university, funded the Baba Budha Chair to promote global education and understanding, and to serve all facets of the student community, to include undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom are or will be government employees at Redstone Arsenal in the areas of security assistance and foreign military sales.



Father-son bond with James Bond movies



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Dan Walther, left, and his son Dane stand outside Monaco Pictures at Bridge Street Town Centre, where together, they will see the newest James Bond movie, Skyfall, which opens this weekend. Walther, a contractor with Teledyne Brown working on PAC-3, has seen every James Bond movie in the theater since the first film, “Dr. No,” was released in 1962.

*Agent 007 series
gold in their eyes*

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Just call him Walther – Dan Walther.

Whether it was fate or just a fluke that Walther and his buddies decided to buy tickets for some spy movie they knew nothing about at the Techwood Theatre in Atlanta, he’ll never know. But it was on that day in 1962 that the Georgia Tech student made a decision that introduced him to a man he’d follow his whole life long – Bond. James Bond.

“I just happened to go to the movies one day, and it was the start of a wonderful experience,” said Walther, who now works with Teledyne Brown on PAC-3. “I was hooked. There’s few characters that have held my attention like he has.”

Twenty-two movies later, soon

to be 23, Walther has seen every James Bond film in the theater, and the latest installment, Skyfall, opening Friday, will be no different. Together with his son Dane, he will buy a ticket to see the latest 007 adventure, “Skyfall,” just as he did 50 years ago to “Dr. No,” the first James Bond movie. And just like 50 years ago, he knows little about the film, except that it involves his now favorite spy.

“I don’t want to spoil it,” Walther said. “I’ve not read anything about it, so I’ll just go and I’ll be surprised.”

While he’ll never forget his first Bond movie, “Dr. No,” “From Russia with Love” and “Goldfinger” rank up there as some of his favorite movies in the series, with Sean Connery taking top honors as the best 007.

“He was Bond to me. He was so suave,” Walther said. “To be James Bond, it’s really the character. It’s not being really physical or super smart; it’s the character, the aura, that’s what I like about it.”

Walther has passed his love for Bond on to Dane, who saw his first Bond movie, “The Living Daylights,” in the theater in 1987. But Dane didn’t just

want to watch the movies, he wanted to be like Bond, and even applied to be a spy with the U.S. government. While his application wasn’t accepted, as an electrical engineer for Lewis Innovative Technologies, a defense contractor in Decatur, he likes to think that he now works for “Q,” the character in the Bond films that provides 007 with all his gadgets.

“I’ve always been into James Bond,” Dane said.

Between the two of them, they don’t own one of Bond’s trademark weapons, a Walther PPK, which they just happen to share a name with, or any James Bond memorabilia. In fact, they don’t even own a single Bond movie.

“There’s too many,” Dane said. “If you’re going to get Bond, you have to get all of them. Otherwise, which one do you pick? It’s like, ‘I have the letter C today, but I don’t have the whole alphabet.’ Why bother?”

Instead, they relish in that in-theater experience, where Bond legacy and Walther family tradition blends together.

“I hope they keep it up,” Walther said of the Bond film franchise. “Don’t let it die.”

Trulock answers call to serve his community



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Retired Lt. Col. Troy Trulock was inaugurated as mayor of Madison on Monday. He was the 2011 Madison Distinguished Veteran of the Year, and together with his wife Dana and children Whitney and Matt, were named the 2011 Madison City Family of the Year.

Retired lieutenant colonel becomes Madison mayor

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**
Staff writer
amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

When retired Lt. Col. Troy Trulock arrived in Madison, he had no idea he had come home.

After years of military service and duty stations around the world, upon his arrival at his newest assignment – Redstone Arsenal – in 2000, the Tennessee Valley was just another stopping point for the then major in his Army career. But all that changed as he and his family settled into sweet home Alabama.

“We went from not being sure about this area to it being the best place we ever lived – we retired from the military to stay here, we just absolutely love this area,” Trulock said. “It’s a passion. You want to make sure that for this generation, for our kids and our grandkids, that this city continues to be a great place, as it is for us, to grow up.”

Trulock was inaugurated as mayor of the city of Madison on Monday, continuing his duty to country through service to the city he and his family now call home.

It is a role he unknowingly spent 20 years preparing for while serving in the Army.

“What the Army teaches you is leadership,” Trulock said. “When you’re called to duty, which is what the mayor’s job is all about, leadership is what stands apart. The military builds that training in on purpose – they teach you leadership so it becomes second nature. It also includes teamwork – the military is not really strong on ‘I,’ it’s more ‘we,’ the team. It’s also about compassion and doing what’s right for your organization and your community.”

Trulock was commissioned into the Army as a second lieutenant from the University of Kansas, graduating from the top of his class as a distinguished military graduate. Together with his high school sweetheart and wife of 25-plus years Dana, and two children, Whitney and Matt, Trulock served his country from all corners of the world, including North Carolina, California, Kansas, Texas, the United Arab Emirates and Germany, as well as in the Gulf War where he was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

“We absolutely love the military,” Trulock said. “You see the world and you learn to adapt to new cultures, new societies and organizations.”

In addition to showing them the world, the Army also showed them a new way of life, where they grew accustomed to getting involved with each community the Army assigned them to.

“The military had a big part in our being active as a family, because when they move you from place to place you find that if you only have a two-year tour, you have to step up and get involved right away, because that’s what helps make it home,” Dana said. “All of the changes just give you opportunities to grow as a person. You always are put into new positions. It’s really very enriching. It’s a great way of life.”

In 2000, that way of life brought them to Redstone Arsenal, where Trulock led the multi-billion dollar Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missile program. Just as they had at other installations in the past, the family got involved in the community, becoming active members of Asbury United Methodist Church and youth sports in Madison, where Trulock has now coached 60-plus teams. But with three months left in Alabama with orders to PCS to the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., as the family prepared to move on to their next duty station, something happened to the Trulocks that had never

See Trulock on page 21

Young engineer gets charge out of electrical research

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

From a young age, Dr. Patrick Taylor was curious about electricity.

“When it came time for me to tear something apart and break it, when I was younger, I was more interested in tearing apart a VCR than I was a car engine,” Taylor said.

Taylor had an early fascination with lightning and electric fences. He wondered what made things like televisions, radios and VCRs work.

The Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center engineer remembers the first time he experienced a slight electrical shock from touching his grandmother’s VCR; he was fascinated by his hand being thrown back. “I had known of the concept of getting shocked by something, but I’d never actually really and truly experienced it before,” Taylor recalled. “Rather than run away, I kept doing it.”

An intelligent and industrious child, growing up in White House, Tenn., Taylor became bored with the fourth-grade. The middle son of three boys and a girl,

Taylor skipped fifth-grade, a move that turned out to be crucial to Taylor’s future educational and career paths.

“I was bored, and I knew that I could go beyond this,” said Taylor. “I knew I could work at a more accelerated rate than this. I even knew in the fourth-grade. I stayed in the fourth-grade, but I even knew at that time that it was too easy and I could do higher level work.”

Skipping a grade placed Taylor in the same class level as his older brother. The two graduated together – Taylor as valedictorian and his brother the salutatorian – and both chose to attend Vanderbilt University. Both were interested in mechanical and electrical engineering, but they didn’t want to study the same exact field. So they flipped a coin.

“I won the coin toss and I chose electrical,” Taylor said.

At Vanderbilt, Taylor took an interest in forensics, specifically working with professor Francis Wells to investigate the causes of electrical fires and other electrical failures.

“You’d go in and you’d look to see what happened, what was the cause electrically that created this thing to happen:



Photo by Ryan Keith, AMRDEC

Dr. Patrick Taylor describes electronic propulsion efforts at AMRDEC for Dr. Marilyn Freeman, former deputy assistant secretary for research and technology, during an April 12 tour at Redstone Arsenal.

What set the fan on fire that burned the house down? What caused the airplane to crash? You’d go to the accident and you’d get the evidence out, and sort through it. Then you’d testify or bring your evidence to court. I loved that kind of stuff.”

Taylor initially set his sights on the FBI

Academy, but did not meet the minimum age requirement. He decided to stay at Vanderbilt and pursue advanced degrees.

“My initial goal with getting my further education was to get bolstered up so I’d have enough credentials that when I went to the FBI Academy I could go straight to forensics and I could be a special agent or forensics scientist.”

That’s not how things worked out, though. Taylor enjoyed working in student media as head engineer at the student television station and a radio disc jockey and talk show host. These interests ultimately led to an opportunity with Redstone and AMRDEC.

A group of students were building a database for a video library for Dr. Jay Lilley, chief of the Weapons Development and Integration Directorate’s Propulsion Technology Function. The students called upon Taylor for his skills with digital media. “That’s how the initial connection was made. It wasn’t because I was looking at working with rocket scientists or working on military things, in particular. It was because of all my video work.”

See Taylor on page 22

Chief warrant officer wears uniform with pride

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Waldemar Ramirez III is proud to not just be an American Soldier, but a Hispanic-American Soldier.

“It means a lot to me. I feel proud being a Hispanic-American Soldier,” said Ramirez, an AMCOM employee, working for the Security Assistance Management Directorate in the utility helicopters division, currently deployed to Afghanistan with the Army Reserve 335th Signal Command. “We have so much history along the years of strengthening this great nation with diversity. It is sad that our country is not yet 100 percent racist free. We bring in diversity, get to share our culture, contribute to the fight. In the end, we are all Americans.”

An Army brat, Ramirez was born at Fort Bragg, N.C., and spent the first eight years of his life going wherever the Army called his father, until he left active duty to join the Army National Guard and return the Ramirez family to the place they call home, Puerto Rico, in 1992.

Compelled by a desire to be economically independent and do things by the “sudor de mi frente,” a Spanish proverb meaning the “sweat of my forehead,” Ramirez chose



Courtesy photo

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Waldemar Ramirez III, deployed with the 335th Signal Command, based out of East Point, Ga., in Afghanistan, proudly displays the flag of Puerto Rico, where he is from. Ramirez, a member of Team Redstone, works for AMCOM's Security Assistance Management Directorate in the utility helicopters division.

to follow in his father's footsteps and join the Army, a career he knew would provide him with on the job training, tuition assistance and a source of income, all while he served his country. Ramirez joined the Army Reserve in December 2002, after his first semester of college, taking a break to com-

plete Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training, before returning to the University of Puerto Rico, where he was a student at the time.

Since he put on the uniform for the first time, Ramirez's life has been a whirlwind of events. In May 2006 he deployed to Iraq for a year with the 35th Signal Battalion supporting the 3rd Signal Brigade out of Fort Hood, Texas. Upon his return to Puerto Rico, he finished his degree, re-enlisted with the Army Reserve, making it a career, got accepted into Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, accepted a job offer from AMCOM, moved to Huntsville in September 2009, and somehow found time amidst it all to get married. Now on a nine-month deployment to Afghanistan, where he is assisting with the drawdown, Ramirez finally has time to think about what the last 10 years have meant to him as a Hispanic-American, and as a Soldier.

“The Army has shaped me into a better husband, better son, a better Soldier, better citizen,” Ramirez said. “Being away from home, I get to appreciate more of the simple things in life. It's taking a time out of your life that you won't get back away from your loved ones, so I have to make the best out of this deployment. As a Soldier, it has 'built' me stronger, made me mentally stronger. You get to listen to stories of Soldiers that

actually go outside the wire and every day I feel fortunate and thank God for another day of life. I apply all the Army values to my life, both military and civilian.”

Although the Army has already helped him achieve much, both as a citizen and as a Soldier, Ramirez is aiming even higher, and hopes to complete his master's degree and become an Army aviator in the Guard or Reserves, goals that keep him focused even when times get tough.

“The different challenges we face in our day-to-day lives help us become who we are today,” he said. “These incidents give us a glimpse of reality and allow us to strive hard to become the best that we can be. As a child, I believed that someday I would be notable for doing something not only for my family, but for the benefit of my countrymen. Although sometimes we face struggles in life, I maintain my optimism and hard work.”

Regardless of where life or the Army takes him, one thing will remain for Ramirez – he will be proud to be a Hispanic-American Soldier.

“Hispanics should be proud of their ethnic background and educate others,” Ramirez said. “Realizing our common values and common way of life brings together all of us as one, no matter where you are from, forever.”

Trulock

continued from page 19

happened before. They realized they didn't want to leave.

"This is where we wanted to stay, to raise our kids and be a part of this community," Trulock said.

So with 20 years of service, Trulock retired from the Army, ensuring that his family could remain in the community that was the perfect fit for them, with its "great churches, great schools and great outdoor activities," all critical for their quality of life. Continuing their tradition of service and community involvement, Dana became involved with the Military Child Education Coalition, drawing on her years as a military mom and spouse to present Parent to Parent workshops in the community on topics such as homework hassles and early literacy, while Trulock participated in Leadership Huntsville/Madison County, an experience that drew him to the 2012 mayoral race.

"It inspired me to give back," Trulock said. "If you have a passion for something and you're called to do that, you need to step up and act on that."

For the first time Trulock will be able to participate in the Tennessee Valley's

Veterans Day activities this year not just as a veteran himself, but as a civic leader, representing the city of Madison's gratitude to those who have served and those who are still serving.

"It's a big deal," Trulock said. "I'm very excited for the opportunity to participate in the Veterans Day activities. All gave some, some gave all. That's what's important. We remember our veterans who gave, and those who were not able to return to us. Having been in a combat zone, I understand how important that is. We need to make sure we recognize and support all the spouses, the surviving spouses, all those folks that contribute to our freedom. Our veterans have given a lot to our country, and a lot of them in this area give a lot to our community. It's just an opportunity to say thank you to those who have served, and those who continue to serve."

For Dana, her husband, children and their military service is all part of her gratitude this Veterans Day.

"It makes me very proud," Dana said. "It has been such an honor and privilege and something I cherish in my life to be associated with the military. The military is a community, and it's a very warm and supportive community. It has just been something that has enriched my life. I wouldn't change a day of it."



Photo by George Lawrence

Saudi Arabia visit

The Security Assistance Command director of operations Conrad Bonner, left, provides an outbrief to Brig. Gen. Victor Petrenko, right, program manager, Saudi Arabia National Guard, and deputy program manager Col. Patrick Lyons following a USASAC staff assistance visit conducted in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. OPM-SANG is the Army organization that advises, assists, trains and manages the foreign military sales investment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's National Guard military modernization effort.

Taylor

continued from page 19

Taylor worked as a summer hire in the propulsion division at WDI in the summer of 2006, and after finishing his doctorate later that year joined the team full-time in the area of electrical propulsion.

Today, he works with cutting-edge battery and motor technologies, trying to get the maximum energy possible for the lowest weight. "When you're looking at electric propulsion systems for flight, you're trying to look for things that give a lot of power but don't necessarily have a lot of weight," Taylor said. "If you have a Soldier that has to carry 15 different batteries around for 15 different tasks, that's not as efficient as it needs to be. If they're going to have to do that, at least you want to make them as small and as light, as disposable and as cheap as you can."

Taylor is interested in electrical power because of its importance to nearly everything people do. "There are electrical devices that every single one of us uses, every single day, and we take them for granted," he said. "People develop these things, and just because we've been using something for 50 years doesn't mean that we've actually figured everything out about it or that there's not room for improvement."

One of the things Taylor is most proud of since coming to Redstone is developing a laboratory in which he can conduct research. "Showing up from scratch, I've been able to develop a laboratory now that gives me some freedom to do a lot of different types of work for a lot of different people here, both on the base itself as well as for the Army overall, in electric propul-

sion. There's not been a concentrated mass for a lot of electric propulsion work in AMRDEC, in general, or here at Redstone specifically, and I've now got a base on which I can build on a lot of that."

Taylor works on a wide range of Army projects from the very small – an aircraft the size of a piece of paper – to the medium sized 400-pound Shadow Unmanned Aircraft System.

For the Hybrid Electric Advanced Turbine Technology project, the lab is converting the Shadow UAS' gas-powered internal combustion engine to a completely electric model to demonstrate advanced technologies.

"It's to create, for the Army and the Unmanned Aircraft Systems office, a platform where we can try to demonstrate some of these new types of electric and hybrid electric technologies, going towards added reliability, green use, or stealth operations. It also gives us the ability to look at different technologies in manners that we can't normally examine them," he said.

For another project, the lab is investigating the effects of environmental conditions on the electric power systems on smaller aircraft.

Despite his busy schedule, Taylor also serves as an ambassador for the Army's education outreach program, mentoring students in AMRDEC co-op and summer programs. "I was in their shoes at one point," he said. "It doesn't take a lot to push a student toward an interest in something. Sometimes, it might just be seeing somebody doing something or saying 'what they said sounded neat; maybe I'll like to do those sorts of things.' I know I've had experiences like that from elementary school on up that have shaped how I have thought about things. I try my best to give back in those sorts of ways."

Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

SMDC retirement

Col. James Jenkins, chief of staff of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presents a certificate of retirement to Johnetta Graves, an equal employment opportunity manager, on Oct. 25. During the ceremony, Graves also received the Meritorious Civilian Service medal and a presidential certificate of appreciation. She retires with 35 years of service.



Texas facility returns damaged helicopters to flight

By MITCH DELK
For the Rocket

In 1989, Killeen Aviation Field Maintenance Activity began performing aircraft maintenance support and extensive structural repairs on newly fielded AH-64s that were damaged in what was known as “The Mother’s Day Massacre”—a microburst that seriously damaged many aircraft that were assigned to Fort Hood, Texas, tearing them from their moorings, rolling them over and smashing them into one another.

Soon after this unfortunate weather event, the first Gulf War broke out. Killeen AFMA worked to apply modifications to Army helicopters bound for service in the hostile Gulf War environment and later served as a Special Technical Inspection and Repair facility performing Reset activities as mandated by the Army for aircraft returning from combat operations. These Reset activities rapidly expanded to nearby Fort Hood and Temple, Texas, as well as other locations.

The primary focus at Killeen AFMA today is the OH-58 Kiowa Warrior – an airframe that has the highest in-theater op-tempo, with good examples being coveted by their owning units. Killeen AFMA is repairing crashed, battle damaged and fatigued OH-58’s in a quiet, consistent manner that belies their extreme commitment to excellence and can-do approach that sets them apart as a preeminent maintenance and repair facility.

A large number of crashed and battle damaged Kiowas are sent to Killeen AFMA where above AVIM repairs are carried out to bring these inoperable aircraft back to flying condition. In many cases a dynamic alignment fixture is utilized to ensure components align on the airframe as damaged structural beams and outer skins are replaced. CAT-B training aircraft from Fort Eustis, Va., have been converted into CAT-A combat ready aircraft at Killeen AFMA. By converting these maintenance training aircraft into combat ready aircraft and repairing formerly crashed or battle damaged aircraft, Killeen AFMA has used its deep knowledge and extremely skilled labor force to replenish the once depleted mission capable pool of Kiowa Warriors.

An OH-58 Reset program is executed at Killeen AFMA with up to six aircraft in work at a time, yielding more than 100 completions to date. Reset is performed on OH-58s at Fort Hood and Fort Bragg, N.C., as well, but when major repairs are needed and an alignment fixture is required, these aircraft are usually sent to Killeen AFMA. Once these extensive repairs are made, the rest of the Reset process is completed at Killeen, making the

aircraft fully mission capable. When sending aircraft to Killeen is not a viable option based on completion schedule or the inability to move the aircraft, repair teams from Killeen AFMA have been dispatched to helicopter maintenance sites throughout the Southeast and Central United States.

Modification Work Orders are also applied to OH-58s at Killeen AFMA, providing the upgrades and changes mandated by the program management office with the added benefit of configuration control for the fleet. Validation and Verification of MWOs for OH-58s have also been completed at Killeen AFMA. This effort assures MWO kits, instructions and installations are packaged and executed correctly so future installations go smoothly. A highly coordinated effort between the PMOs, Killeen AFMA and AMCOM assure MWO kits and personnel are on station to install the latest aircraft modifications. MWO teams from Killeen AFMA have supported and applied modifications to Apaches, Chinooks and Black Hawks throughout the United States.

Similar to Reset, Preset is being performed on training aircraft that have not seen action overseas. Many deficiencies requiring extensive structural repairs have been discovered during this much needed process. Cabin roof and main center beam replacements, oil cooler deck replacements, lower tub, longeron and various outer skin replacements have been needed to make these aircraft suitable for future training and combat missions. To date, 13 of 25 OH-58s from Fort Rucker have gone through Preset. Killeen AFMA is the exclusive site for this deep technical inspection, repair and repaint program.

OH-58 main rotor blade triage is an example of how Killeen AFMA is saving money and keeping vital main rotor blades in stock. Killeen AFMA determines the level of repair required of red tagged blades from theater, repairing or condemning the vast majority and sending a small percentage back to Corpus Christi Army Depot for higher level repair. A complete blade repair shop at Killeen AFMA takes on most of the repairs needed, increasing the number of blades in the system – saving time and money. All types of main rotor blades are inspected and repaired as part of Reset activities at this facility as well.

Since 1991, OH-58 Standpipes have been repaired at Killeen AFMA; at times serving as the only maintenance activity in the Army performing this difficult repair process. The Standpipe conduit that ties the Mast Mount Sight into the aircraft’s avionics and weapons systems is extricated during the Reset or Preset process. It is an excellent time to repair the item as it is rarely taken out of the aircraft during routine maintenance inspections. Approximately 120



Photo by Mitch Delk

A Reset aircraft nears completion. Main rotor blades will be installed later in the day and test flights will begin. Killeen AFMA uses its skilled work force to replenish the mission capable pool of Kiowa Warriors.

Standpipes are triaged and repaired at Killeen annually – saving about \$2 million a year.

Killeen AFMA fabricates a lot of repair parts that are not available in the supply system or that have extremely long estimated shipping dates from the OEM, which does not support the mission schedule. Almost any structural component for an OH-58 can be fabricated by the skilled artisans at Killeen AFMA; for example, cabin main center beams are a specialty. These often hard to source items have been fabricated at Killeen AFMA for many years, keeping aircraft in the repair process and reducing non-production time spent waiting on these long lead time, critical structural components. Approximately 40 OH-58 main center beams have been replaced since February 2008. Upper cabin roof replacements also stand out as a Major Maintenance Event at Killeen AFMA. More than 60 roof replacements have been completed to date. Longeron cracks have been found on several 58s in Reset or Preset and Killeen AFMA personnel have been proactive in helping develop an ASAM for inspections within the Kiowa community. In the future, this may help determine if longeron cracks are a systemic is-

sue. In short, Killeen AFMA has the ability to fabricate, heat treat and install most any structural component on the OH-58.

Numerous OH-58 related programs and initiatives have been undertaken by Killeen AFMA, resulting in extended sustainment and better quality aircraft for the war fighter. It should be noted that many other airframes have also been supported over the years as Killeen AFMA has been a go-to source for a myriad of repairs, fabrication of parts, training equipment and holding fixtures. Killeen AFMA falls under AMCOM and the Aviation Field Maintenance Directorate. Its work force is comprised of a handful of government personnel with oversight of approximately 250 contractors. As the future comes into focus, Killeen AFMA’s activities will be combined with operations at Fort Hood (Directorate of Logistics), increasing capabilities, enhancing efficiencies, streamlining management and providing a centralized source of maintenance for a range of customers – from CABs to foreign militaries.

Editor’s note: Mitch Delk works in the AMCOM Aviation Field Maintenance Directorate/AMCOM Logistics Center, Strategic Integration Office.

In this section...

CONTRACTING BRIGADE SUPPORTS EXERCISE

PAGE 26

IMCOM RECRUITS FORMER SOLDIERS

PAGE 27

MILESTONE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM MAKES DEBUT

PAGE 28

Contracting brigade supports partnership-building exercise

By **RACHEL CLARK**

409th Contracting Support Brigade

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Members of the 409th Contracting Support Brigade participated in Jackal Stone 2012, a Special Operations Command Europe multinational Special Forces partnership-building exercise conducted in Croatia in September.

The brigade, headquartered in Kaiserslautern, provided contracting support at five locations across Croatia in support of the mission.

The 409th CSB's 624th Contingency Contracting Team, part of the 903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion, Wiesbaden, started planning a year ago for JS12 and integrated with the SOCEUR logistics team to ensure all contracting requirements for the exercise were met.

“Getting our contracting teams engaged early in the planning stages ensures open communication and leads to better strategic planning,” Col. William Bailey, commander, 409th CSB, said.

The team, in conjunction with support provided by the 409th CSB's Kaiserslautern-based Theater Contracting Center,

awarded six contracts worth more than \$1.9 million.

“What we do as contracting specialists is critical to the mission,” Staff Sgt. Joshua Thompson, 624th CCT, said. “While supporting SOCEUR during this exercise, we weren't necessarily in the fight but our support kept them in the fight.”

The contracts provided logistical support for approximately 1,700 personnel from 18 NATO and Partnership for Peace nations; covering everything from food, vehicles, life support services, fuel, a boat lease and construction materials, but not without their own logistical challenges.

“Locating reliable vendors in the immediate area was a challenge. Most of the supplies that we are procuring are coming from sources that are located more than 100 kilometers from where we are running operations,” Sgt. 1st Class William Rawe, 624th CCT, said.

“This exercise has been an excellent opportunity for the team to gain experience with all aspects of the contracting process,” Maj. Jessica Kovach, contracting officer and team leader, 624th CCT, said.

IMCOM seeks to hire, retain former Soldiers

By **BILL BRADNER**

Installation Management Command

Army civilians serve alongside Soldiers every day, in every theater. From state-side garrisons to forward operating bases in Afghanistan, Army civilians write contracts, deliver goods, manage networks, operate ranges, manage business operations and provide support functions that would otherwise present distractions to training and wartime operations. From the sound of reveille to when a Soldier turns out the lights at the end of the day, Soldiers are supported by their civilian counterparts.

There are vacant positions throughout the Installation Management Command which need to be filled so IMCOM can provide world-class customer service and deliver programs and services to Soldiers, civilians and families. Throughout the command, about 40 percent of civilian employees have served in uniform.

For Soldiers considering taking off their uniform, continuing their career with the Army as a civilian is a logical transition choice, said Col. Francis Burns, at the office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management at headquarters, Department of the Army.

“Have you ever wanted to live in Hawaii? Or return to Europe to live and work, while still supporting Soldiers and their families?” Burns asked. “You owe it to yourself to consider using that training and experience you earned in uniform to help you land the perfect job as a civilian.”

Federal service may be an ideal opportunity for wounded warriors and disabled veterans through a process called “schedule A” appointment authority. Using schedule A, qualified candidates with disabilities can be hired non-competitively. This speeds up the recruitment process, helping wounded warriors gain employment while filling critical vacancies quickly.

Schedule A benefits both the employer and potential employee by assisting those with disabilities to gain federal employment and by shortening the hiring process — which averages 102 days using traditional methods.

For example, the IMCOM headquarters placed six interns in less than 45 days using the Schedule A appointment authority and the Wounded Warrior database.

“Schedule A cuts through a lot of the red tape,” Rufus Caruthers, the IMCOM EEO director, said. “The hiring action can take as little as two weeks, it can happen just that fast.”

There are many opportunities for Soldiers transitioning out of the Army, regardless of their status, to continue their service by joining the IMCOM team. Many of the benefits are obvious: paid job-related training and education, comprehensive benefits packages and leave accrual rates based on time-in-service. In addition to opportunities in the U.S., civilians serve around the world in locations such as Japan, Korea, Europe and Puerto Rico, among many others.

There are also many not-so-obvious benefits. The sense of camaraderie and teamwork is strong in the civilian work force, and is cultivated just as carefully as it is among active-duty Soldiers. Another similarity to serving on active duty is the emphasis Army civilians place on values.

“There’s not much difference in how you feel about your job and how you conduct business in and out of uniform,” retired Sgt. Maj. Willie Wilson, who today works for IMCOM and runs the Army’s World Class Athlete Program, said. “And in most Army civilian positions, you’re still taking care of Soldiers and their families. I’m glad that’s still part of my job description.”

The sense of accomplishment and value is high in the Army civilian work force. In a recent Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, 92 percent of Federal employees answered positively to the statement “The work I do is important.”

Training and leader development is also as pervasive in the civilian work force as it is in uniform. The Civilian Education System, modeled after the Army Non-commissioned Officer Education System, provides a full spectrum of continuing education and career development courses. Civilians are first exposed to the training at in-processing to their first duty station, and have access to schools and virtual classes to help them progress from entry-level to Senior Executive Service.

IMCOM leads the way in work force development initiatives that include yearly opportunities for developmental assignments, structured mentoring programs, and an academy dedicated to instruction of installation management professionals.

IMCOM has also developed the IMCOM Enterprise Placement Program to help ensure the command can keep employees in the organization once hired. IEPP matches job vacancies at Army installations around the world with qualified IMCOM employees already serving in another capacity. The voluntary referral

See IMCOM on page 28

Milestone air traffic control system makes debut

By **RANDY TISOR**

PEO Aviation Public Affairs

SAVANNAH, Ga. – Leadership from the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade and the Program Executive Office for Aviation cut the ribbon on the first completely new, mobile air traffic control tower system in nearly 50 years at a brief ceremony Oct. 25. The ceremony took place, appropriately, on the flight line at Hunter Army Air Field in Savannah.

The Air Traffic Control Mobile Tower System, or MOTS, brings a host of improvements to the air traffic control Soldier. The improvements include a significantly upgraded radio package, improved reliability of communication and surveillance equipment, improved power generation and larger and better climate conditions for its operators.

The previous tower system hadn't seen much in the way of upgrades since the 1970s.

MOTS provides a considerable increase in force protection with up-armored siding and protective windows. The system is also significantly easier to sustain and maintain, according to the product office for Air Traffic Control within the Aviation Systems Project Office under the Program Executive Office for Aviation.

More notably, the modern ATC system was delivered to the 3rd CAB almost a full



year ahead of schedule and has been field tested during two training rotations to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.

“We are breaking historic ground here today,” Lt. Col. Michael Rutkowski, product manager for ATC, said at the Savannah ceremony. “It’s very few and far between in acquisitions that we can actually field something in combat and make it combat ready before the actual first one rolls off (the production line). That is unheard of in acquisitions.”

The system, he said, noting the first engineering development model behind him belonging to F Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd

Photo by Randy Tisor

Cutting the ribbon on the first new ATC Mobile Tower System in nearly 50 years are, from left, Lt. Col. Michael Rutkowski, product manager for Air Traffic Control, Aviation Systems Project Office; Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation; Lt. Col. Michael Higginbotham, 2nd Bn., 3rd Aviation Regiment commander; and Capt. Evelyn Velasquez, F Company, 2nd Battalion, commander.

Aviation Regiment., 3rd CAB, 3rd Infantry Division, is “completely up-armored and ready to go into battle.”

“When F Company goes in (to Afghanistan), they’ll be ready,” Rutkowski said.

The ATC Product Office said they are already working to improve future systems with plans to add improved radios, communications commonality and a remote capability that would allow Soldiers to use the sheltered avionics from a location as much as

300 feet away.

While not as glamorous as most other Army aviation assets, the indispensable air traffic control system is expected to positively impact the aviation mission as a whole.

“We work real hard on the aircraft and keep them up to speed,” PEO Aviation Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby said, “but the ground support equipment and air traffic control systems often get ignored. So when we have people like Lt. Col. Rutkowski and his team grab hold of (a project) and apply their passion to something that the Soldier needs and that makes their burden in theater just a bit smaller, that gives us the good feeling of pride and success.

“We’re proud to bring this to you,” Crosby added, noting the contributions of industry partners also represented at the ceremony.

Low rate initial production is already under way and 10 additional aviation units are planned to be equipped with the new system throughout fiscal 2014.

IMCOM

continued from page 27

and placement program is designed to give employees affected by structure and resourcing changes the opportunity to relocate and find the best fit to continue serving the Army family. The IEPP enables the command to retain institutional knowledge and preserve its superior work force, all while continuing the Army’s “I will never quit” philosophy that so many Army civilians take to heart.

“That’s our version of leaving no Sol-

dier behind,” Lt. Gen. Mike Ferriter, IMCOM commander, said. “We owe it to our dedicated civilians and to the Soldiers we support to do everything we can to keep a highly-motivated, highly-qualified work force in place to maintain our infrastructure and sustain our Army.” Ferriter remarked that there are more than 2,000 positions available today worldwide throughout IMCOM.

To learn more about the IEPP or civilian job opportunities within the Installation Management Command, visit the IMCOM homepage at www.imcom.army.mil.

AMCOM chief enjoys supportive community

Focuses efforts on mission, employee development

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor
kari.j.hawkins2.civ@mail.mil

The Army has a way of putting Soldiers in the right mission.

After years of leading Soldiers in the operational Army and serving as an Army aviator, Col. Jay Macklin is now serving as the chief of staff for the Aviation and Missile Command, a position where he can positively impact the aviation and missile systems that give Soldiers the decisive edge on the battlefield.

Macklin hopes his combat experience will provide an insight that will take AMCOM to yet another level in its support to the war fighter. He has been part of an Army that has, during 11 years of war, proven over and over again that it can adapt and succeed in the face of changing enemy threats. He has been part of the Army during a time when Army aviation has become the key game changer on the battlefield.

“The Army’s aviation forces are the best in the world because of high exacting standards to air worthiness,” Macklin said. “It’s not supposed to be a fair fight out there. We’re supposed to have the advantage, and with the equipment we have we do have that advantage.”

Macklin believes Redstone Arsenal is the best place to develop aviation and missile systems that will maintain the nation’s military superiority. And, with the support of the local community, there’s no better place in the world where teams of civilians and Soldiers can make a difference for the war fighter.

“This community is absolutely fantastic,” he said. “Huntsville is the hidden jewel of the Army. I am amazed at the community support and involvement.

“I’ve been all over the world and I don’t believe I’ve seen the level of support that this community gives Redstone. It’s truly astounding. It’s really amazing. My family (including wife Macie, a daughter who is attending college in Auburn, and a daughter and son in Madison city schools) loves it here.”

In his short time at AMCOM, Macklin has a growing appreciation for the work of AMCOM employees.

“As an aviator and an operations guy at the battalion and brigade levels, I’ve always been on the receiving end of the AMCOM product and never really understood what



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Col. Jay Macklin is among the new members of the Aviation and Missile Command’s leadership. He came to AMCOM at the beginning of June at about the same time as commander Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar and Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell.

went on in Huntsville on the other end to support my brothers and sisters in the fight,” he said.

“What I have learned is that this is an extremely impressive operation here. The people are incredible professionals who work tirelessly every day in support of the war fighter. Every day, I see how they are absolutely dedicated to the war fighter, and how we all work together to sustain this extremely large and complex effort. There is an extremely wide scope of work that is our purview.”

The Aviation and Missile Command’s work force of 8,000 civilians and 175 Soldiers are responsible for developing, acquiring, fielding and sustaining more than 90 major aviation, missile and unmanned vehicle systems to ensure Army readiness with seamless transition to combat operations.

“When you’re out there in the operational force and you hit the start button you expect everything to work. And, when something breaks, you want to know that you have the part to repair it,” said Macklin, a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot. “When you get to a place like AMCOM, you get a real appreciation for everything it takes to make the aviation and missile mission work.”

Redstone’s AMCOM employees work with co-located tenants such the Avia-

tion and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, the program executive offices for Aviation and for Missiles and Space, Army Contracting Command-Redstone and the Redstone Test Center to sustain Army aviation and missile systems. In addition, AMCOM oversees industrial and technical operations in support of air defense and rotary wing aircraft at Letterkenny (Pa.) and Corpus Christi (Texas) Army Depots, and has contract oversight of all aviation logistics management functions (maintenance and supply of the aviation fleet) at Fort Rucker, home of the Army Aviation Center.

“It is an enterprise effort, a team effort. I am amazed at the fantastic relationship that AMCOM has with the PEOs, AMRDEC and RTC. When all these organizations come together in one effort, it all works,” Macklin said. “The employees here work together in a noble effort in support of our war fighters.

“We have people from this organization really all over the world. If it deals with aviation or missiles, we are involved. Our employees in the field and here at AMCOM give Soldiers a sense of confidence that goes with them when they are operating our systems. In a tough situation, they know there’s an AMCOM team supporting them.”

Macklin’s opinion of the AMCOM work force is pretty impressive in itself coming from a highly decorated war veteran – Legion of Merit, four Bronze Stars, two Air Medals and four Meritorious Service Medals, among several others – who has led Soldiers in Desert Shield/Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation New Dawn-Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan.

“It’s an honor to serve and be able to lead Soldiers, especially in combat. That’s really one of the highest honors,” he said. “It’s really about the people and the relationships you’ve made. There have been challenges along the way. There are good days in theater and some days when really bad things happen to good people. But you fight through those things and come home.

“The best job you could ever have is being out there and leading Soldiers, taking

care of families and being part of something bigger than yourself. Those experiences kind of shaped me and my family, and, hopefully, made me the leader I am today.”

One leadership lesson he has learned along the way is to never ask his subordinates to do a task that he as their leader is unwilling to do.

“You can ask them to fly that dangerous mission and they’ll do it. But you also have to be out there risking everything just like they are,” Macklin said.

He also believes that good leaders truly care about the welfare of those they lead.

“I’ve always had leaders who have had my best welfare at heart and who have mentored me. I try to pass that on to those I lead,” he said.

“Our command leadership at AMCOM is passionate about work force development, and about taking care of the work force in terms of recruiting, training and leadership development. I want to help provide a path of development for the work force. I’ve heard it said leaders aren’t born, they are made, and we have to remember that in providing opportunities to develop our work force. Great leaders take time to develop.”

The greatest reward for a leader is to see the people he has mentored move on to the next level in their careers, he said.

Macklin’s own professional development as a Soldier began with the Georgia National Guard as a way to pay for college. He attended Mercer University in Macon, Ga., where he was a distinguished military graduate in 1988.

“I was in the National Guard and also the ROTC program at Mercer, so all through college I could see both sides of what it means to be an enlisted Soldier and what it means to be an officer. I think that has helped me be a better leader,” he said.

He continued his career growth as an Army aviator. As a boy, he had learned a lot about the Army from his father, who was an air defense artillery Soldier. As a man, he learned that he enjoyed the physical and leadership challenges of a Soldier. He has served all around the world, including Korea; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Ga.;

See Chief on page 33

In this section...

‘BEING AWAY A YEAR IS LONG ENOUGH’

PAGE 30

ARMY SPACE SUPPORT TEAM LEAVES FOR AFGHANISTAN

PAGE 33

VETERANS WEEK KICKS OFF WITH PRAYER BREAKFAST

PAGE 34

'Being away a year is long enough'

Soldiers of 115th welcomed home

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
kari.j.hawkins2.civ@mail.mil

Darlene Upton of Harvest is usually a volunteer at events related to the Soldiers and families of the Alabama Army National Guard's 115th Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

But on Oct. 31 she was a recipient of the volunteer efforts of other caring people.

Upton was among many family members and friends who welcomed the return of about 150 Soldiers of the 115th from their deployment in Afghanistan. The Soldiers returned to Huntsville International Airport via two charter aircraft from Fort Bliss, Texas. They were the second group of Soldiers from the 115th to return. A group of about 125 Soldiers returned on Oct. 21.

"I helped with the first return," Upton said. "It's my time today."

Upton was joined by several family members and friends all waiting to greet

Staff Sgt. David Upton, a well-known employee with Huntsville Utilities.

"This was his second deployment. The first time he went to Iraq in 2004-05," Upton said.

"This time, we had a lot better technology. We had Skype (a software program that allows visual and voice communication through computers) and Facebook. But it's still been rough because we haven't been able to hold him."

While he was gone, David Upton's family experienced several happy occasions without him, including the graduation of one of his daughters from nursing school and the birth of his first grandchild, Alyvia Smyth, on April 3. He saw her for the first time when she was 2 weeks old during his rest-and-relaxation leave back home.

The family also experienced several hardships, including the recent home invasion at the home of David Upton's elderly parents.

"That really hurt him. We couldn't keep it from him and I'm glad we didn't try because he saw it on the news a few days after we told him," his wife said. "We just had to focus on taking care of things at home and he had to focus



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Soldiers of the Alabama Army National Guard's 115th Expeditionary Signal Battalion line up briefly in a parking lot at the Huntsville International Airport before being officially dismissed to rejoin their families.

on what he was doing there. We've had some trials. But we are strong. We are Army strong."

That Army strength was evident throughout the crowd who waited in an airport parking lot about an hour longer than expected due to flight delays. That strength was also seen in the acts of several veterans groups who provided support to the event, including Chapter 1067 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the local chapter of the Patriot Guard Riders.

"I wouldn't miss being here for anything," said Vietnam veteran and Patriot Guard rider Phillip Davis. "It's an honor to welcome our Soldiers back home. They deserve a welcome home like this. We didn't get a welcome home when we came back from Vietnam, so we're making sure that these Soldiers get the kind of welcome home that we didn't get."

The 115th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, which was 450-members strong, was based at the Kandahar airfield. Its Soldiers were assigned to 37 sites

throughout Afghanistan to provide communications support to joint international commands, including the International Security Assistance Force.

Many of the Soldiers who returned on Oct. 31 were with the battalion's Company C, based in Huntsville. Some were with the battalion's headquarters in Florence while others were from National Guard units throughout the U.S.

"We're happy to be home. It's great to be back home," the battalion's commander Col. Steven "Todd" Grigsby said. "We spent the year all over the country of Afghanistan providing communications support at the different military facilities."

"These Soldiers did a fantastic job. We were the largest tactical signal unit in the country. We stayed pretty busy and occupied the entire time."

The Soldiers worked together to keep morale up during the tough times when they missed their families, and the comfort and safety of home.

See Home on page 32



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Darlene Upton holds her granddaughter Alyvia Smyth while the family waits patiently for the return of their Soldier, Staff Sgt. David Upton.

Home

continued from page 30

“This is a strongly bonded unit,” Grigsby said. “They all did a good job of picking each other up when we got down. Now, we’re all ready for some sleep and rest, and we’re ready to enjoy the holidays with our families.”

As the families waited for their Soldiers, patriotic music was played through a sound system, and the Patriot Guard riders held flags around the perimeter of the crowd.

Huntsville police officer Capt. Mike Izzo, who is also a lieutenant colonel with the National Guard’s 203rd Military Police Battalion in Athens, expressed appreciation to the families on behalf of Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle.

“Thank you to your Soldiers, and to each and every one of you for giving them to us,” he said. “I know it’s been a big sacrifice. We can’t wait to have your Soldiers back in the community.”

Retired National Guard Master Sgt. Michael Montgomery of the state’s Family Readiness Support Assistance program encouraged the families to stay connected to their family readiness group even after their Soldiers are settled back into their daily work and Guard routines.

“The FRG can provide support and information during the deployment and



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Family members from Florence and Decatur get ready to greet their Soldier, Sgt. Dusty Harrison of Madison.

after the deployment,” he said. “When Soldiers return, the FRG can help with job opportunities and family issues that need support. FRGs are part of the state program to help accommodate Soldiers in their reintegration into society and their community once they return from a deployment.”

Retired Alabama Army National Guard state chaplain Col. Coy Hallmark thanked the family members and friends of the Soldiers.

“You have been chaplains in that you have prayed more intensely for these Soldiers than anyone else and for that we’re grateful,” he said. “Thank you for all the prayers that you have prayed that have

led the way for these Soldiers to serve and then to return home. Thank you for all the Soldiers and families who have been on the front lines.”

In his five years of service as the Guard’s state chaplain, Hallmark said Alabama deployed nine battalions to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan. That translates to more than 4,000 families affected by deployments.

The Afghanistan deployment was the second deployment that many of the families have endured during more than 10 years of war.

Christy Manders’ daughters were 2 and 6 when their father Capt. David Manders deployed for 18 months to Iraq. They are now 11 and almost 15.

“This time was much better than the first time,” Christy Manders said. “I got a lot of help from our daughters. They don’t like cleaning the kitchen. So, instead they cook a few nights a week and I clean up.”

For other families, the Afghanistan deployment was their first time being a “waiting family.” Sheila Shook, who works at Fox Army Health Center, said she had tremendous support from her co-workers while her son, Spc. Trevor Shook, was deployed. She can’t wait to have him home and safe.

“I just want to see him sleeping in his bed,” she said. “He can sleep as long as

he wants to. He’s told us all he wants to do is come home and be with his family. He’s coming home to momma. I want to hug him forever.”

And for still other families, the deployment meant the absence of two family members, like Sgt. Justin Moody who deployed with his dad Sgt. 1st Class Robert Moody.

“It was weird. It was good,” Justin Moody said. “You don’t expect to walk out of your CHU (container housing unit) in the morning and see your dad standing there. He always got up earlier than I did.”

During his leave in the spring, Justin Moody, a college student, proposed to his girlfriend, Sarah Simmons, while the two were visiting the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Now that he’s back, they will begin planning their wedding.

“It’s surreal to be back home,” Justin Moody said. “It’s going to take some time to sink in. But I have a lot to look forward to.”

For many of the Soldiers, returning home meant time with family, going out to eat at their favorite restaurant and relaxing at home.

“It’s awesome to be home,” Spc. Joey Montgomery of Haleyville said as he held his 20-month-old daughter Briley and hugged his wife Jo Beth. “We completed our mission. We did what we were told to do. Being away a year is long enough.”

Army space support team leaves for Afghanistan

By Capt. MICHAEL ODGERS

100th Missile Defense Brigade

CENTENNIAL, Colo. – The Colorado National Guard, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, friends and family honored the Army Space Support Team 25 before its departure to Afghanistan Oct. 26.

Maj. Gen. H. Michael Edwards, adjutant general, Colorado Army National Guard, and SMDC/ARSTRAT commander Lt. Gen. Richard Formica were both on hand to honor the team's departure.

"No other unit in the National Guard has had as many deployments as the 117th Space Battalion," Edwards said. "I am so proud of what you do."

Formica, and his deputy commander for operations, Brig. Gen. Timothy Coffin, and several other SMDC staff members were on hand for the ceremony.

"I can't say enough about the great relationship SMDC has with the Colorado National Guard, with both space and missile defense," Formica said. "We're both doing the same thing, providing support to the war fighters."

The six-member team includes Maj. Michael Lane, Capt. Erik Peterson, Staff Sgt. Brett Mills, Sgt. Julia Tallant, Spc. Jenny Thompson and Spc. Antonio Cordova.

"I am looking forward to doing my duty and making a contribution," Lane, the team leader, said. "I want to help with the heavy lifting, like so many of those who have gone before me."



Photo by Capt. Michael Odgers

Sgt. Julia Tallant, Army Space Support Team 25, wincs in anticipation of a feigned punch by Maj. Joseph Verser, commander, 217th Space Company. Verser was pinning on her recently earned Space Support Badge.

Chief

continued from page 29

Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Rucker, Europe and in theater.

"Throughout my career, I have taken it one day at a time, one assignment at a time," he said. "It's best not to over think it and to focus on doing the best you can where you are assigned."

"The goal is to make the mission. You can take care of people and make the mission at the same time, though sometimes a decision that is best for the organization isn't the best for the individuals. I've had a tremendous career. There's been a lot of sacrifice and it has been dangerous at times. In those times, I've fallen back on my training. But I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. It's been a heck of a ride."

AMCOM works closely in support of aviation commanders in the field who are responsible for combat readiness. Sustainment is key to keeping missiles on guard and helicopters flying.

"If we can't sustain them, they are just big green paperweights. It's important that we stay in contact with the aviation and missile forces, and that we are constantly reacting to their needs to ensure they have what they need," Macklin said.

Even as U.S. troops drawdown from Afghanistan, aviation and missile forces must sustain a footprint that supports those troops to the very end.

"Aviation is the last element to come out because it is aviation that gives our forces their maneuverability," he said.

"We have to rely on good logistical planning to make sure we have the right amount of aviation in theater as our troop numbers come down. We have to ensure we have the same level of support during the drawdown as we had when our force levels were larger. We have to maintain a high level of support to ensure they have what they need as long as U.S. troops are in Afghanistan."

Macklin isn't the only new Soldier at the helm of AMCOM and its command group. He arrived at AMCOM at about the same time in early summer as its commander

Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar and Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell.

"The employees who make up the AMCOM team have a lot of experience," he said. "We hope to bring new ways of doing things that will help and strengthen what we do. We want to be more creative in figuring out how to solve problems. We want to change with the world. We want to evolve."

"With the tightening of the defense budget, we are going to have to become more efficient. But we are also going to continue the mission and take care of our people. And I strongly believe we will have the resources to do that. At the same time, as the mission starts to evolve and change we have to change with it because we will be left behind if we don't stay

relevant. We need to do things smarter and keep systems as lean as can be."

As AMCOM's chief of staff, Macklin works with the command's leaders to synchronize the AMCOM mission across all of its divisions, the depots and Fort Rucker. He also works closely with Collyar in fulfilling his community responsibilities as the senior commander for Redstone Arsenal.

"We want to ensure that those strong relationships we have within the community are continued," he said. "Having a four-star command here (the Army Materiel Command) is absolutely value added. They are supporting us in the community role and in helping show the community that our level of involvement goes all the way to the top."

Veterans Week kicks off with prayer breakfast

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com

No matter the uniform they wore, be it jungle fatigues or today's ACUs, or how long they wore it, the nation salutes all of the men and women that at one time in their life raised their right hand and vowed to protect their nation from all enemies, foreign and domestic, this Veterans Week.

The Tennessee Valley kicked off the week's celebrations at the seventh annual Heart of the Valley YMCA Veterans Prayer Breakfast Monday in Madison, as local leaders, veterans, community members and representatives from Team Redstone gathered to remember and pray for all those who have served and are still serving the United States in the armed forces.

AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar gave the breakfast's keynote speech in Vietnam jungle fatigues, speaking about the differences between the life of a Soldier 50 years ago and what the 2012 war fighter experiences, such as the reception they received upon

their return from war and the draft versus today's all-volunteer force.

Regardless of how life has changed for those who serve in the armed forces, one thing remains the same – their duty, service and sacrifice for their country – and the great debt and gratitude their nation owes them.

"Once a Soldier, always a Soldier, a Soldier for life," Collyar said. "One of the things that we tend to forget sometimes is that to be a veteran doesn't mean you have to retire from the service. We have a lot of people out there today who have served a tour or two and are veterans just like those who have served 20 years, but don't necessarily feel like they're a part of that community. We need to bring them all in."

Collyar also encouraged attendees to remember those men and women that still put on the uniform today.

"Think about those Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, our civilians and our contractors serving overseas on the frontline for us every single day. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers that we can bring every one of them back home, because they are truly the ones



Photo by Ellen Hudson

AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar speaks at the seventh annual YMCA Veterans Prayer Breakfast on Monday in Madison, dressed in Vietnam jungle fatigues.

that are allowing us the freedoms we have today," Collyar said.

The event was an opportunity to not only thank all those who have worn the uniform, whether they be active duty, National Guard, Reserve or veterans,

but their family members as well, who in their own way have supported and sacrificed for their country.

"I ask that we continue to remember our families, of all of our veterans, of all of our military members, because, for those of us who have served in the military and continue to serve in the military, we all realize how critical those family members are," Troy Trulock, mayor of Madison, said. "When we are on the front lines doing what our country has asked us to do, to serve our country, defend our freedoms, we have the confidence that our family members are back at home, taking care of families, so that we can focus on the mission at hand."

In addition to Collyar's remarks, breakfast attendees enjoyed musical selections by the Army Materiel Command Brass Quintet, including the Armed Forces Medley, and vocalist

Lee Marshall. Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Max Bennett, president of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, was awarded the YMCA retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet Service to Veterans Award for 2012.

Win or Lose

Army marksman caps breakthrough year with open title

By MICHAEL MOLINARO
USAMU PAO

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Spc. Shane Coley, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, put an exclamation mark on a breakthrough year in the sport of action shooting, winning the U.S. Practical Shooting Association open division national pistol championship Oct. 18-20 at the Desert Sportsman's Rifle and Pistol Club in Las Vegas.

Coley's signature win of his young career came on the heels of winning the International Practical Shooting Confederation U.S. championship in September and his first two area championships in the summer, establishing himself as one of the sport's best for years to come.

"Winning this is indescribable," Coley said. "Going into the last stage I knew I was only a handful of points behind (the leader) and all I could do after I shot was wait. My heart was racing, I was biting my nails – I really wanted to win this one. Once I found out I won, I was on cloud nine. It was truly an amazing feeling."



Courtesy photo

Spc. Shane Coley, 21, is the youngest shooter to ever win the U.S. Practical Shooting Association open division national pistol championship.

The 21-year-old from Leland, Miss., became the youngest shooter to ever win the open championship. He dug himself a hole on the first day, receiving penalties on his first few stages to drop him 60-70 points off the lead. As all champions do, they learn

how to rebound from a bad day and get back into the chase for the title.

"I came back strong the second day, shot clean all day and made back a lot of points," Coley said. "This year I put a lot of focus into mental management – how my thought process worked, how to handle pressure. Since I was young I felt that I had the physical skills to compete with anybody but the mental game is where I was lacking. I never handled pressure well. Every time I got around the top guys in the sport my performance always changed."

Coley headed into the last day of the match bunched together with four other shooters who were all within 20 points of each other, setting the stage for a dramatic finish. The top heavyweights were all still there, including former USAMU stalwarts Max Michel and K.C. Eusebio, but on this day and in this match Coley overcame his slow start and made it to the top of the podium.

"I am really proud of Spc. Coley winning his first national championship," said Staff

Sgt. Daniel Horner, current and five-time multi-gun national champion. "He put the work in to become the youngest national champion. That's what it takes to be the best. You have to work hard. If you're motivated and driven to be a champion, the USAMU is the place you want to be. It says a lot when both national champions in our sport reside here."

After celebrating his win with family and friends, Coley had to hurry back to Fort Benning to prepare for the annual Action Shooting Junior Clinic his team hosts. Coley was once an attendee at the clinic and hoped that the instructors, all USAMU Soldiers, would notice him and offer him a spot on the team, the only job he said he has ever wanted. Now four years later, he is the national champion representing the Army.

"The resources we have are second to none," Coley said. "I am teammates with Daniel Horner, the best three gun shooter out there and can pick his brain. Everything I can possibly think of to better myself is accessible. I have access to everything I can possibly want right here at my fingertips."

Youngsters learn from Army marksman Soldiers

By MICHAEL MOLINARO
USAMU PAO

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Junior shooters from across the country descended on Fort Benning Oct. 26-28 for the fifth annual U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Action Shooting Junior Clinic at Krilling Range.

With the national champions in the sport's pistol and multi-gun divisions among the instructors, the opportunity to learn from the best was a chance 27 junior shooters couldn't pass up.

"It's a lot of fun," said Elizabeth Peel, 15, from Montgomery, Ala. "I always have a great time and even if you are already a good shooter you are definitely going to learn something new."

This was the fourth trip to the clinic for Peel, who has been shooting for six years, while others were making their camp debut after recently picking up a gun for the first time.

"I started shooting last January," said Seth Clagg, 14, from Clearwater, Fla. "It's great to learn from pros. I have never shot from the prone or kneeling positions and I am learning a lot."

Six Soldiers from the unit's Action Shooting section provided expertise and coaching for the junior shooters. Among

them were Spc. Shane Coley, U.S. Practical Shooting Association open class pistol national champion, and Staff Sgt. Daniel Horner, five-time USPSA multi-gun national champion.

"I love this clinic," Coley said, who won his first national title a week prior to the clinic. "It is a lot of fun to work with these youngsters and pass on our knowledge to them."

Coley can relate to the juniors since he, along with Spc. Matthew Sweeney, another USAMU instructor, attended the clinic as a junior. Both were recruited to the Army out of the clinic after strong showings and a desire to be the best, said Staff Sgt. Lee Dimaculangan, camp coordinator.

"Traditionally we have a very young team and we are influential with the juniors," Dimaculangan said. "I am the oldest of the instructors at 26 and (Spc.) Sweeney is the youngest at 22, so it is a lot easier for the juniors to relate to a younger group of instructors. We also use the clinic to assess the talent pool of the top up-and-coming shooters and see if there are any who may be able to make the Army stronger once they are a little bit older."

After introductions juniors were broken down into small groups. They



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Daniel Horner, five-time USPSA multi-gun national champion, helps a young attendee at the fifth annual U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit Action Shooting Junior Clinic.

learned techniques on drawing, accuracy, transitions, reloading and had a short introduction to the rifle. They also received an introduction to Scholastic Steel Challenge, which is an additional

shooting discipline geared to junior action shooters. The weekend concluded with a match.

"Most of the kids showed a huge improvement over the weekend," Dimaculangan said. "They made leaps and bounds over just two days, which tells us that they listened."

"The best thing we saw was how instinctive safe gun handling was for the kids. It's obvious their parents taught them the proper way to handle a pistol and rifle but they were comfortable around us and not nervous."

The parents' support was instrumental in making the camp a great event, Dimaculangan said. While the instructors concentrated solely on coaching the kids, parents coordinated lodging so all the campers stayed together. They cooked lunch and dinner at the range, painted targets and were timekeepers. The most important thing parents did was stay out

See Shooters on page 36

In this section...

GEORGIA BULLDOGS PUT BITE ON AUBURN TIGERS
WINNING PISTOL TEAM MEMBERS RECEIVE TRIBUTE

PAGE 37
PAGE 38

Shooters

continued from page 35

of their child's way and allow them to listen to their USAMU instructors.

"I brought my son because I thought it would help solidify some of the skills I have tried to teach him," said Don Kester of Marshalltown, Iowa, who brought his son Jack, 14. "Sometimes parents have a hard time getting through to their kids and they like to hear from somebody else. These young (Soldiers) are pretty

popular and pretty good role models. I thought it would be a great opportunity."

No other clinic held in the country can boast having Soldiers, the current USPSA pistol and multi-gun champions, and a small instructor-to-student ratio all rolled into one. It makes for an ideal chance that junior shooters simply shouldn't pass up, Dimaculangan said.

"This truly is one of the best things we get to do all year," Dimaculangan said. "There is no better audience to promote to than the youth. They are the future of the sport and will shape the competition, shape USPSA."

Photo by Bernadette Paschel

U8 Tigers

Redstone's under-8 soccer Tigers improved to 4-5-1 with their 9-1 win Oct. 27. From left are coach Maj. Dave Benjamin, Janiya Dillard, Arianna Paschel, Autumn Gollop, Joseph Lorenzo, Payton Benjamin and Grant Gage. In their last game, Payton Benjamin scored three goals, Paschel had two while Gage, Gollop, Lorenzo and Dillard had one apiece.



Georgia Bulldogs put bite on Auburn Tigers

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Skip's Picks were 356-123 for 74 percent after nine weeks in the college football season. Here are my predictions for this week's games;

Georgia at Auburn – **Georgia**
Texas A&M at Alabama – **Bama**
Alabama A&M at Jackson St. – **A&M**
Mississippi State at LSU – **LSU**
Kansas St. at TCU – **K-State**
Notre Dame at Boston College – **ND**
Bowling Green at Ohio – **Ohio**
Louisiana-Monroe at Ark. St. – **La.-
Monroe**
Florida State at Virginia Tech – **FSU**
Pittsburgh at Connecticut – **Pittsburgh**
Northwestern at Michigan – **Michigan**
Kansas at Texas Tech – **Tech**
Iowa State at Texas – **Texas**
Wisconsin at Indiana – **Wisconsin**
Arkansas at South Carolina – **SC**
Purdue at Iowa – **Iowa**
Missouri at Tennessee – **UT**
Louisiana-Lafayette at Florida – **Flori-
da**
Kent State at Miami (Ohio) – **Kent St.**
Chattanooga at Wofford – **Wofford**
Samford at Elon – **Samford**
Citadel at Virginia Military – **Citadel**
Howard at Georgia Southern – **GS**

Penn State at Nebraska – **Nebraska**
Air Force at San Diego St. – **Air Force**
Minnesota at Illinois – **Minnesota**
Navy at Troy – **Navy**
Furman at Appalachian St. – **Furman**
Wyoming at New Mexico – **NM**
Colorado at Arizona – **Arizona**
Austin Peay at Jacksonville St. – **Jax St.**
Marshall at UAB – **Marshall**
Tulsa at Houston – **Tulsa**
Vanderbilt at Mississippi – **Ole Miss**
UCF at UTEP – **UCF**
UNLV at Colorado St. – **Colo. St.**
Southern Miss at SMU – **SMU**
Tulane at Memphis – **Tulane**
Boise State at Hawaii – **Boise**
Idaho at Brigham Young – **BYU**
Fresno State at Nevada – **Fresno**
Utah at Washington – **Washington**
Georgia Tech at North Carolina – **UNC**
Wake Forest at N.C. St. – **N.C. St.**
UCLA at Washington St. – **UCLA**
Louisville at Syracuse – **Louisville**
Oregon State at Stanford – **Stanford**
Baylor at Oklahoma – **Oklahoma**
Maryland at Clemson – **Clemson**
Cincinnati at Temple – **Temple**
West Virginia at Okla. St – **Okla. St.**
Arizona State at USC – **USC**
Oregon at California – **Oregon**
Miami (Fla.) at Virginia – **Miami**
Army at Rutgers – **Rutgers**

Winning pistol team members receive tribute



Some of the members of the winning team include, from left, Aaron Hanson, Johnny Kelley (the top shooter), Tim Walters (security training officer) and Robert York.

Photos by Ellen Hudson

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton presented coins Oct. 31 to members of the Directorate of Emergency's pistol team.

The DES police and guard won the inaugural Law Enforcement Appreciation Pistol Competition held Oct. 10 at Redstone. Six law enforcement agencies from

across Madison County participated.

Each agency was allowed to bring up to seven competitors, all of whom vied in the individual competition, five of whom qualified for the team score. Each shooter went through a timed tactical and combat course, where each miss added seconds to their overall time, and a paper qualifying course.

Directorate of Emergency Services Of-



Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton addresses members of the Directorate of Emergency Services.

The DES pistol team members each received a coin from the Garrison commander.

ficer Christopher Clemons hit the bull's-eye from 50 yards away in a one-shot winner take all tie-breaker with the FBI to claim the overall team event win for DES over Huntsville City Police, Madison City Police, NASA Security and UAH Police.



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>.

Half-marathon

The Run to Remember chapter's runners will participate in the Huntsville Half-Marathon on Saturday. They invite others to wear blue at the event in honor of fallen Soldiers. To order a Wear Blue shirt, visit <http://www.wearblueshop.org/>. To register for the event, visit <http://www.huntsvilletrackclub.org/events.html> and click on "Huntsville Half Marathon." "If you do not want to run but would like to volunteer, we would love for you to help us on the course by holding a flag honoring a fallen Soldier or assisting with a water station," a prepared release said. For more information, call Charity Watral 542-1208.

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. Free tickets, for active duty military, retirees and Common Access Card holders, will be available Nov. 19 at Redstone's Community Activity Center, building 3711 on Patton Road, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Rocket Run 5K

The U.S. Space & Rocket Center will hold the Rocket Run 5K on Nov. 24. 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@spacecamp.com. Register online at <http://www.imathlete.com/events/RocketRunUSSRC>.

St. Jude walk

Epsilon Sigma Alpha International, Beta Pi Chapter, Huntsville, is sponsoring the fifth annual Give Thanks Walk to raise money for the children of St. Jude and to help St. Jude fight childhood cancer. A 5K Walk will be held Nov. 17 inside Madison Square Mall, at the food court entrance, upper level. Registration begins at 6:45 a.m.; the opening ceremony is at 8 and the walk starts at 8:30. There is no charge to participate in the walk. Registration for this family friendly event is free and all participants are encouraged to raise money to help save kids battling cancer and other deadly diseases. Participants that pre-register online with a donation of \$35 or more can choose their shirt size and will receive a shirt on

Rocket Announcements

walk day. A limited number of shirts and sizes will be available at Nov. 17 registration with \$35 or more donation to St. Jude. For more information, visit www.givethankswalk.org.

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

See Announcements on page 40

Rocket Announcements

Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sentar offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Marva Morse 430-0860. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 4488, room B-306. For information call Claudinette Purifoy 955-9422. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Huntsville Christian Church, 171 Indian Creek Road. For information call Dan Cutshall 684-2359.

Men's ministry

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

Federal employees

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Saturday at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshments and social time will start at 9:30 a.m. with the business meeting at 10 and program to follow. Marva May of Blue Cross, Blue Shield of Alabama will address many aspects of the Federal Employees Health Benefits program as related to Blue Cross coverage. Questions from the floor will be welcomed. Visitors are always welcome. For more information, call 519-3327 or 539-1333.

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.

Community women's club

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club invites you to its November luncheon on Nov. 13 at 10:30 a.m. in The Summit. The guest speaker is Rachel Faulkner. Signup deadline is noon Friday. For more information and reservations, visit www.rsacwc.org.

Achievement week luncheon

The Xi Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. will have its Achievement Week/Veterans Day Luncheon on Nov. 12 at 2 p.m. at the Holiday Inn-Downtown. The featured speaker is Jerry Demings, sheriff of Orange County, Fla., who was the first African-American sheriff in Florida. Tickets are \$25 for individuals, \$180 for a table of eight. Make checks payable to OMNA. For more information, call 852-4417 or 656-2741.

Parkinson's support group

The Parkinson's Support Group of Huntsville will meet Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at Willowbrook Baptist Church, 7625 Bailey Cove Road. There will be small discussion groups for persons with Parkinson's disease and separate groups for family, caregivers and friends. For more information, call Hank Geigle 859-6523.

Small business forum

Small businesses invited to discuss programs with Huntsville Center managers. The Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville will conduct its 13th annual Small Business Forum from 9 a.m. to noon Friday at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, University Center. This is an opportunity for small businesses to talk with contracting professionals, program managers and subject matter experts from Huntsville Center about their programs and upcoming opportunities. Pre-registration is encouraged to help ensure appropriate representation of subject matter experts. Registration is free with information available on the web at <http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil>. If you have questions or comments, email sbo-hnc@usace.army.mil.

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 non-profit organizations in Huntsville and Madison County that utilize volunteers. R.S.V.P. recruits, places and trains individuals who

are 55 or older to fill community service needs. For more information about R.S.V.P. or volunteer opportunities, call R.S.V.P. director 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

See Announcements on page 41

File photo

Top senior executive

Ronnie Chronister, deputy commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, has been selected for the Presidential Rank Award, Distinguished. The award recognizes excellent performance among members of the Senior Executive Service. In recognition of the award, Chronister received a certificate signed by the president and a bonus.



Courtesy photo

Awareness fund-raiser

Tammy Benjamin, wife of Maj. Dave Benjamin, says her neighborhood bunco group at Redstone gets together to play each month. Their theme for October is "Lite it Up Pink" for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. "We were inspired by the article on it a few weeks ago so I went out and bought up a bunch of bulbs. And now if you drive around on-post housing, you can see we've certainly 'lit it up,'" Benjamin said. "We had a great time and raised money for a great cause."



Rocket Announcements

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 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

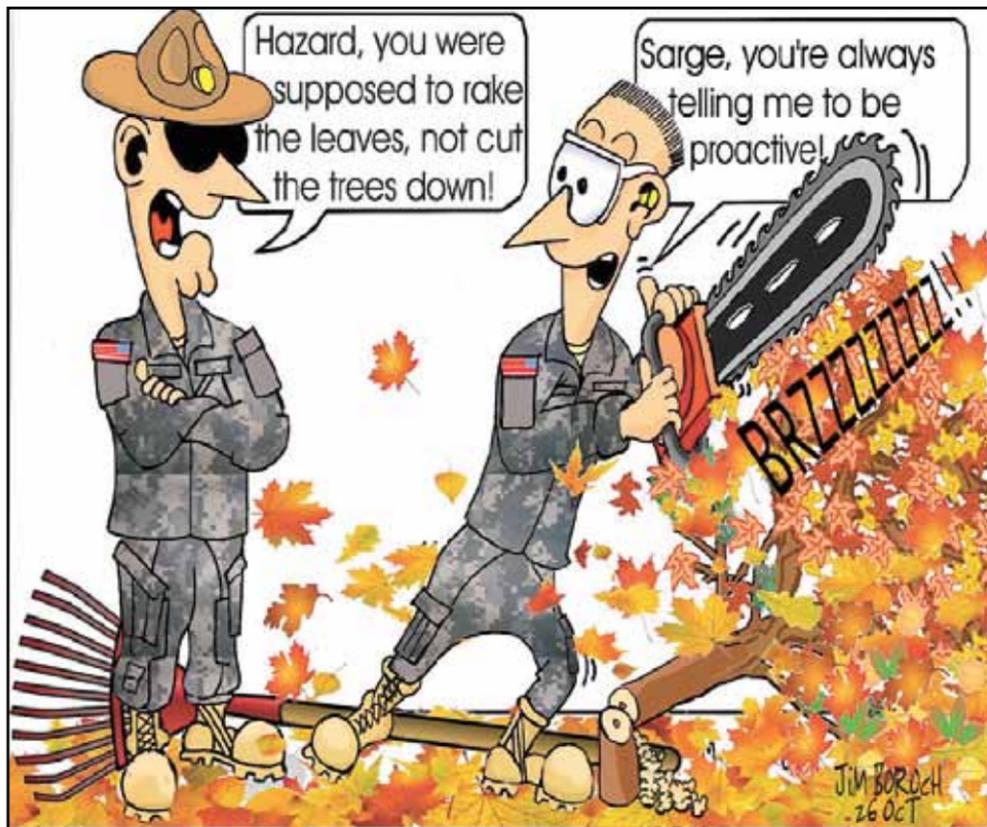
In support of breast cancer awareness and education, Zeta Tau Alpha is teaming up with Yoplait for the 2012 "Save Lids to Save Lives" campaign. Between now and Dec. 15, drop off your pink "SLSL" Yopliat lids in the pink collection box in the Sparkman Center Cafeteria (by the doors to the courtyard). For each lid collected, Yoplait will donate 10 cents to Susan G. Komen for the Cure to benefit breast cancer outreach programs and research.

Comedy show

McCloud Entertainment and Evenblack.com will present "Comedy and Camouflage/ Comedy Show and After Party" on Saturday at 725 Franklin St., downtown Huntsville. Doors open at 7 p.m., with comedy from 8-10 and the after party 10-until. This event features comedians Mike James, from BET Comicview, Hope Flood and is hosted by Sir Walt, from P'Diddy's Bad Boyz of Comedy.

See Announcements on page 43

Rocket Announcements



Rocket Announcements

Advance tickets for military with ID are \$10; general admission \$20 and VIP \$25. Tickets are on sale at James Records & Tapes or online at www.eventblack.com. For more information, call 693-2004.

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, is sponsoring the 2012 Advance Planning Briefings for Industry to be held Dec. 10-11 on 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. Mark your calendars; event and registration information coming soon.

Korea veterans' flight

The Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation, "Revisit Korea" Project team, invites you and your family to see off nine Korean War veterans who will travel to South Korea for a weeklong trip, all expenses paid by our community members. Guest speaker Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of SMDC/ARSTRAT, will speak. Departure

via Delta Airlines is scheduled Thursday at 5:35 a.m. (be at Huntsville Airport by 4 a.m.); and they return Nov. 14 at 5:09 p.m. (be at the airport by 4 p.m.). For more information, call KC Bertling 541-0450.

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 reopen Saturday, Jan. 5 from 10-2.

Veterans Day concert

A Veterans Day Concert, featuring the First Baptist Church Orchestra, will be held Sunday at 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 600 Governors Drive. This is a presentation of great American music by the 50-piece orchestra and includes selections by harp, organ, handbells and woodwind trio.

Fox health center news

Fox Army Health Center will close Friday and Monday in observance of training holiday and Veterans Day. On Friday, the Primary Care Clinic will open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. for scheduled appointments. The Pharmacy, Pa-

thology, Radiology, Medical Records Window, Call Center and the Tricare Service Center will be open until noon. All other clinics and services will be closed the entire day for a training holiday. On Monday, the entire facility will be closed. As a reminder: The health center is closed on the first Thursday afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

Community concert

The Army Materiel Command Band and the University of Alabama-Huntsville (Wind Ensemble and Concert Choir will perform Gustav Holst's famous orchestral suite, "The Planets" on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. in the Mark C. Smith Concert Hall at the Von Braun Center. "The Planets: A Gala Celebration of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences" is a free event and open to the public but attendance must be reserved by calling 824-6200 or emailing dean-la@uah.edu for free tickets.

See Announcements on page 44

Rocket Announcements

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 Decorations 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.

VFW celebration

In celebration of Veterans Day, "Hot Rod Otis" is playing on Sunday from 4-8 p.m. at VFW Post 2702, 2900 N. Memorial Pkwy, where Sparkman Drive crosses the Parkway. There's no cover charge. Veterans and their families are welcome. Call 852-4371 for more information.

Commissary news

The Commissary is open on Veterans Day, Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Red Cross blood drives

This month's American Red Cross blood drives include the following: Nov. 8 from 7 a.m. to noon at building 4488 and from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at MDA building 5222. ... Nov. 9 from 6:30-noon at Corps of Engineers. ... Nov. 16 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4487 ... Nov. 21 from 7-noon at the Sparkman Center. ... Nov. 29 from 7-noon at MDA building 5222. ... Nov. 30 from 7-noon at MDA building 5222.

Exchange update

The Redstone Exchange will have the following hours Monday for Veterans Day: Main Store open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Concessions - Alteration Shop, closed. Barber Shop, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Barber Shop at VBC, closed. Flower Shop, closed. GNC, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Laundry, closed.

Nail Shop, closed. Firestone, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Express, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Optical Store, closed. Optometrist Dr. Van Hartman, closed. Beauty Shop, closed. ... Food Court - Anthony's Pizza/Sub, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Charley's, closed. Cinnabon, closed. American Eatery, closed. Burger King, closed. Café (Fox), closed. HR, closed.

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.

Novel writing session

The Post Library is holding a Write-in for National Novel Writing Month on Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Drop in anytime. Bring your favorite writing tools and work on your novel with other writers. Refreshments and encouragement provided. For more information, call 876-4741. The library is located at building 3323 on Redeye Road.

Morgan County vets memorial

The new Morgan County Veterans Memorial Park, located off Highway 67 in Priceville, will be dedicated Sunday, Veterans Day, at 3 p.m. The day's festivities will begin with a parade at 2 p.m., beginning on Bethel Road, concluding at the park. All are invited to attend. For more information, or to submit a float, call Jane Train 612-1450 or Kelly Dean 355-5476.



Courtesy photo

Dark Knight visits

Batman - aka, quality engineer James Sommer - descended on AMRDEC's Prototype Integration Facility for a gadget upgrade Oct. 31.