

# Redstone Rocket

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## AMC commander shares philosophy, opportunities

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**  
AMC Public Affairs

The Army Materiel Command held the first town hall and recognition ceremony under its new leadership Thursday at the Von Braun III auditorium.

AMC commander Gen. Dennis Via gathered his work force to express gratitude, share his leadership philosophy, and explain the opportunities and challenges ahead for the AMC team.

“First thing I want to tell you is thank you for what you do every day,” Via said. “I want to thank you because of the accolades I receive everywhere I go. No matter where I visit, folks thank AMC for what they do, for what you do.”

He expounded by saying what a great reputation AMC has everywhere he has gone and that meant AMC has earned the trust of the Soldiers they support.

Via also offered his expectations for the leaders of the command when he shared his command philosophy with the assembled crowd.

“I believe in positive leadership – setting the conditions for success – that’s what we’re paid to do. That’s what I’m paid to do,” he said. “We are responsible for setting the conditions for

**See AMC on page 4**



Photo by Cherish Washington

**AMC commander Gen. Dennis Via addresses members of the Army Materiel Command during a town hall Thursday in the Von Braun III auditorium.**



### COMMUNITY NEWS

Charity campaign needs your support.

**PAGE 5**



### PEOPLE PROFILE

Marine Corps veteran receives Gold Medal.

**PAGE 11**

### AROUND TOWN

Cummings research park celebrates 50th year.

**PAGE 17**



### MILITARY SCENE

Army chaplain serves in trenches with troops.

**PAGE 23**

### WIN OR LOSE

Ten-Miler team has roll call.

**PAGE 35**

## Community lends hand for homeless veterans

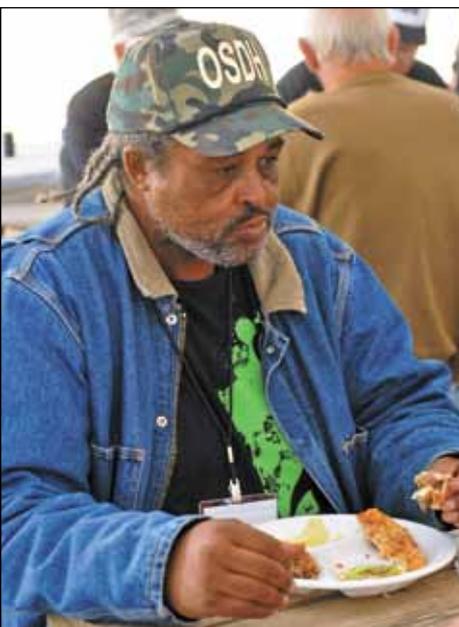


Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Homeless veteran Jerry Haynes enjoys a hot meal at the 2011 Operation Stand Down in Huntsville.**

### Operation Stand Down scheduled Oct. 19-21

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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They dedicated their lives to protecting the life, liberty and freedom of their country. Now their country is standing up for them.

In 2011, 67,495 veterans were without a home, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; 144,842 spent at least one night in a shelter. Here in the Tennessee Valley, an estimated 150 are homeless. But for one weekend, Oct. 19-21, that will change, as a warm bed, hot meal, shower and plenty of helping hands await them at the sixth annual Operation Stand Down.

“As long as there’s one veteran out there who needs help, we’re going to continue to do these,” Harry Bakken, spokesperson for this year’s Stand Down, said. “However these young men and women

get into these positions is not our concern. We’re trying to provide them with the resources and facilities needed to get back out of it and reintegrate into the community. As long as there’s one, we still have a job to do.”

A nationwide effort to give homeless veterans access to community, state and federal resources, this year’s local Stand Down will kick off at 7 a.m. Friday, Oct. 19 at the Jaycees facility, 2180 Airport Road in Huntsville. Homeless veterans from across the area will have the opportunity to catch a ride from Tennessee Valley Outreach and the Salvation Army in Decatur and the Salvation Army, Downtown Rescue Mission and the Rosie Soup Kitchen in Huntsville. The opening ceremony, which Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command, will take part in, is Saturday at 10 a.m. The weekend closes around noon Sunday.

Throughout the weekend, the veterans will receive more than just the basic necessities in life – hot meals, a safe

**See Homeless on page 4**

# RocketViews

*In the spirit of Columbus Day, what area of the world would you most like to explore?*

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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**Robert Poole**  
Madison City Schools  
“Ireland. I have ancestors from there.”



**Charles Wright**  
FMWR, The Summit  
“I’d go back to Australia. I’ve been there twice and I loved it. The weather is great, the people are nice and the water is so blue.”



**Ed Ragland**  
FMWR, Child Youth and School Services  
“Hawaii.”



**John Pearson**  
Contractor, Technology Management Training  
“Jamaica. I’ve only seen the resort area, so I’d like to see more of the country.”

## Letter to the editor

# Vote to determine this country’s future

On Nov. 6, Americans will have the opportunity to exercise the most important responsibility we have in a democracy – the right to vote. Voters will choose from candidates at every level – from the commander-in-chief, to legislative representatives, to county commissioners, city council members and others.

I don’t have to tell you that your vote can determine the future. It really counts. And that’s why it’s so important to participate in this process – no matter where you are in the world, no matter who you plan to vote for. Please exercise the very privilege that you’re willing to fight and die for in order to protect.

But there isn’t much time. If you’re overseas or away from home, request your absentee ballot immediately, and mail it back

in time so that your vote will count. And if you need help, visit your installation Voter Assistance Office, or see your unit’s Voting Assistance Officer, or visit the website [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

Every day, your efforts make this country safer and its people more secure. You have more than earned the right to vote. So please participate in the democratic process that sustains the blessings of liberty that we work so hard to protect.

This Election Day I encourage you and your family to play an important part in our great democracy. Your vote will help determine the future of our nation, and the future of a government of, by, and for all people.

**Leon Panetta**  
Secretary of Defense

## On this date in history: Oct. 10

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor  
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**In 1985:** U.S. fighter jets force an Egyptian plane carrying hijackers of Italian ship Achille Lauro to land in Italy. The gunmen are placed in custody.

**In 1990:** The U.S. 67th manned space mission STS-41 (Discovery 11) returns from space.

**In 1994:** Lt. Gen. Raoul Cedras resigns as dictator of Haiti.

**In 1995:** Israel begins a West Bank pullback and frees hundreds of Palestinian prisoners.

**In 2002:** The U.S. House of Representatives votes to authorize President George W. Bush to unilaterally declare war against Iraq. This allows the U.S. to use force against Iraq in a manner “necessary and appropriate” to protect U.S. national

security and enforce United Nations resolutions. The Senate is expected to endorse this. A multinational coalition composed of United States and United Kingdom troops supported by smaller contingents from Australia, Denmark, Poland and other nations invades Iraq on March 20, 2003.



Courtesy photo

## Tandem jump

A member of the Army’s Golden Knights parachute team does a tandem jump last week with Dr. Harry Hobbs, Huntsville Police Department’s communications relations officer and a retired chief warrant officer 5, at the St. Clair County Airport near the Talladega race track. They jumped at 13,500 feet. Hobbs was selected by Army ROTC as a recruiting center of influence in the areas of outreach/public advocacy, education, business and medical.

## Quote of the week

‘By prevailing over all obstacles and distractions, one may unflinchingly arrive at his chosen goal or destination.’

— Christopher Columbus

# RedstoneRocket

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# Getting to **know you**

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**  
Staff writer  
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**Name:** Matthew Dubé

**Position:** Systems programmer – website design and development for the Garrison

**Where do you call home?**  
Brindlee Mountain, Ala.

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

I like to meet with customers, hear what they are looking for, listen to their ideas, give them some ideas and then build an organized, user-friendly, very flexible website.

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

I like to be with my family, I like to be outside: bush hog in the woods, bush hog with my tractor, do landscaping, watch old '50s movies, watch football, watch golf, read, study and discuss the word of God.

**What are your goals?**

To serve others, be honorable and fol-



low the Lord.

**What's on your bucket list?**

Visit U.S. national parks.

**What college team do you root for?**

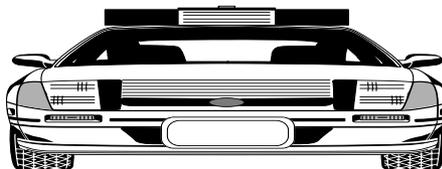
Alabama Crimson Tide

## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for Sept. 23-29:

- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident that occurred in the parking lot of the Redstone Exchange.
- Police cited a driver for a suspended license when he arrived lost at Gate 9.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, with injury, traffic accident on Mills Road. The injured driver refused medical treatment.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the channelized right-hand turn lane on Goss Road onto Rideout Road.
- Police investigated another 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 the Redstone Exchange.
- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Honest John at Patton Road.

- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in Test Area 6.
- Police received a report of a single-vehicle traffic accident resulting in the death of a Soldier in DeKalb County.
- Police arrested a driver for DUI and a suspended license when he was observed driving northbound on Rideout Road in the southbound lanes near Gate 9.
- A citizen reported his cell phone was stolen from his unlocked car while it was parked at the post gas station.
- Police cited a driver for a suspended license when she arrived lost at Gate 9.
- Police received a report that two children were detained by Exchange security for shoplifting.
- Twenty-three U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.



# Commissary Rewards Card available for customers

FORT LEE, Va. – The Commissary Rewards Card is now available in the Redstone Commissary. The card allows customers to access digital coupons online and redeem them in any commissary by scanning the card at checkout.

“We’re very excited about this new initiative,” DeCA director and CEO Joseph Jeu said. “These cards allow our customers to reduce the number of paper coupons they have to clip and carry. That saves our customers time, effort and money.”

The cards, available only from a commissary, are easy to use. As an introductory offer, customers who pick up their card by Oct. 24 receive preloaded digital coupons that can be used immediately in the commissary, even before the card is registered. To register their card and add more digital coupons, customers can visit the commissary website at <http://www.commissaries.com/rewards/index.cfm>.

Once a card is registered, customers can print a list of their digital coupons to carry with them to the commissary and help keep track of their savings. New digital coupon offers are typically posted online every two to three weeks.

Customers who register their card by Oct. 24 can enter the 2012 Commissary Rewards Card “Home for the Holidays Sweepstakes” sponsored by Dr Pepper-Seven Up for a chance to win roundtrip airline tickets for four to anywhere in the states, lodging in a hotel room that accommodates four for six days and five nights, and \$1,000 spending money. The sweepstakes entry form appears at the end of the registration process online.

Just like their paper counterparts, digital coupons have expiration dates and other terms and conditions that must be followed for redemption. However, Commissary Rewards Card digital coupons will not be accepted in commissaries overseas for up to six months after expiration, as paper coupons are. This is because the coupons are distributed digitally and instantly available to all customers worldwide. Once a coupon expires, it will disappear from the customer’s account.

DeCA’s coupon policy limits coupons to one per purchase, so these digital coupons cannot be combined with manufacturer coupons, including paper coupons and military or commissary coupons.

Future enhancements to the card are expected to enable DeCA’s industry partners to target savings based on the customer’s specific usage, alert patrons to available sales promotions at their local stores and reward consistent shoppers with specific incentives.

“Digital couponing is the first of many innovative programs that are part of our Commissary 2020 vision to deliver a 21st century benefit,” Jeu said. “We are always working with our industry partners to negotiate the lowest possible prices and identify new ways for our customers to save even more.”

For more information on this card, visit [www.commissaries.com/faq](http://www.commissaries.com/faq) and click “Commissary Rewards Card.” Help is also available through the customer service hotline at 855-829-6219 or through email at [commissarysupport@inmar.com](mailto:commissarysupport@inmar.com). (DeCA release)



Photo by Ellen Hudson

## Time capsule delivery

The Veterans Memorial downtown was a center of activity Thursday evening as people brought items to be placed in a time capsule during an open house. From left are Joseph Snow, his mother Letitia Snow, her father Joe Bergantz, Joseph’s sister Anastasia Snow, and Joe’s wife Helen Bergantz, all of Madison. The three

generations gathered to support the children as they turned in items for the time capsule. Their father is in Afghanistan, and Anastasia is turning in his Bronze Star and citations from Afghanistan. Joseph brought a letter and his own first Lego military figure.

# Walk raises awareness for breast cancer

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Together they will walk for awareness.

Fox Army Health Center staff and all of Team Redstone are invited to lace up their sneakers and take a walk for breast cancer awareness today at noon, beginning at the Fox flagpole.

"We are here today to help raise awareness of breast cancer risk, a risk for all women, and to increase the possibility of early detection through self-exams, clinical breast exams by your health care provider and mammogram screenings," Fox commander Col. William Darby said.

In addition to today's walk, to educate their beneficiaries and raise awareness for breast cancer, Sandy Cross, an RN and breast health specialist with Huntsville Hos-

pital, will present a lunch and learn on breast cancer awareness Oct. 19 from 12-1 p.m. in the Fox Den.

"We feel it is important for women to be aware of the impact breast cancer has on their lives and how early detection, through preventive screenings, can save lives," Capt. Nicole Sarabia, RN, nurse educator at Fox, said. "Early treatments always bring better results, so the earlier we can detect breast cancer, the better the outcome for the women involved."

While Fox itself does not provide mammograms, as part of their primary care screening process for preventive health care needs, all women over the age of 40 are encouraged to schedule their annual mammogram. Working with local network facilities that provide mammogram screenings, such as Huntsville Hospital and Crestwood Medical Center, if a patient has not already scheduled their annual mammogram, Fox will contact the patient to ensure they get in for an appointment.

## Homeless

continued from page 1

place to sleep, showers and clean underwear – but also a chance to receive help from a community that cares about them, whether it's free legal advice, assistance finding a job, a haircut, or mental health, medical and dental screenings.

"What's really important is they get

connected with the right people who can help them re-energize and get re-integrated into society," Bakken said. "Maybe that's the one missing piece that's kept them from becoming self-sustaining or self-sufficient."

There are ways for members of the community to help as well. Throughout the Stand Down, donations of items such as coats, scarves, hats, gloves, pants, shirts, socks, sleeping bags and tents, anything "to keep them from freezing to death," according to event

coordinator Jane Dow, will be accepted. "They seriously have needs and there's not a whole lot that any one person can do, but there's a whole lot a community can do."

At the conclusion of the Stand Down, the veterans will receive the items donated. Individuals can also give of their time at the Stand Down. To volunteer, email Dow at jane.dow@knology.net.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for both the homeless veterans to come

and get all of their services, all their needs met, and it's also a great opportunity for people in the community to come out and show their support," Dow said.

"We'll find a place for you to plug in and a time that fits your schedule, where your heart's at, and what you'd like to do," Bakken said. "You'll be able to do something that really moves your heart."

For more information about Operation Stand Down, visit [www.osdh.org](http://www.osdh.org).

## AMC

continued from page 1

success, come what may, and we face challenges because that's what leaders and managers do."

For those not in supervisory roles, Via offered: "You can fight to get resources, but if you don't have people to execute the mission, it will not get done."

"Our people are our most valuable resource and they should be treated with individual dignity and respect. I have no tolerance for anything other

than that," he said. First and foremost, Via stressed the importance of the Army values.

"Character, integrity and trust, we have to have that. Good organizations become great organizations when they have those three things," he said.

Via also shared his initial priorities for the command, the first of which is providing support to the joint warfighter. "We can never forget that's the reason we exist," he said.

The remaining are as follows: setting conditions for transitioning from war to sustainment; prioritize and balance resources; optimize AMC regional alignment with combatant commands;

focus science and technology, research and development and energy investments; shape AMC to support Global Force 2020; care for and develop our work force and emerging leaders; and optimize contracting capabilities.

Via continued by addressing the opportunities that face the Army as it transitions to having more dwell time

stateside.

"We have an opportunity to sustain AMC's reputation of excellence. It took a long time to win the reputation this command has and it doesn't take a long time to lose it. We can't become complacent, that's the enemy for us. We have to remain relevant and build on that reputation every day," he said.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

## HHC-AMCOM begins

Headquarters & Headquarters Company, Garrison became HHC, AMCOM (Provisional) during a re-flagging ceremony Oct. 1. Unfurling the HHC, AMCOM colors are, from left, company commander Capt. Alyssa Wood, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Cundiff and AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar.



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# Making a difference for brighter tomorrow

*Area's federal employees urged to donate to CFC*

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

It took a community of givers to help Fariba Tabarrok escape a life-threatening relationship.

From the police officer and domestic violence counselor who rescued her from an abusive home situation, to the judge who issued a protection order and the sheriff's deputy who arrested her husband multiple times, Tabarrok leaned on the support of Huntsville/Madison County's social services to take control, and rebuild her life and the lives of her two children.

To this day, she remains thankful to people who have made her life possible through their donations to the community's social services agencies. She brought her personal message of appreciation – and her story of hope and challenge – to Team Redstone on Oct. 3 as the guest speaker during the Combined Federal Campaign kickoff. The theme for this year's campaign is "Give Today. Make a Bright Tomorrow."

"If it wasn't for your investment, I wouldn't be here today," she told an audience of about 200 who attended the kickoff in Bob Jones Auditorium. "My children attend Auburn University on academic scholarships. I have two kids who have good mental health and who have had the opportunity to succeed in school. More importantly, they've got their dreams back. I've got my dreams back."

She said those who donate their time, talents and money to local community organizations are the reason America is still a place where people can "achieve their dreams, where hopes run rampant and success is a given."

The CFC kickoff started a fund-raising campaign to raise \$2.5 million for local and national charities and social services working to improve the lives of the less fortunate and those who are facing trying times in their lives. Last year's Tennessee Valley CFC raised nearly \$3 million, which is channeled through the campaign's fiscal agent, the United Way of Madison County, to the receiving charities.

"It's really humbling to see what Redstone gives and the impact it has on the community," Col. Jim Macklin, chief of staff for the Aviation and Missile Command and the host for the kickoff, said. "Fifty percent of the funds raised for United Way agencies locally last year came from this campaign. ... There are a lot of national charities that you can give to. But if you give to the local charities listed in the CFC brochure then your donations will go right into this community, and you will be able to see where your precious dollars will make a difference."

Campaign volunteers will deliver CFC forms and brochures to Redstone Arsenal employees and other federal employees throughout the Tennessee Valley in the upcoming days. The campaign is being coordinated by volunteer chairman Capt. Justin Strom and volunteer co-chairman Maj. Terry Butler, who are working with hundreds of CFC ambassadors to reach 19,000 federal employees in the Tennessee Valley with the CFC message. The campaign will go through Dec. 14.

Tabarrok, who is the campaign director for the United Way of Madison County, said it typically takes six different social services to help a person recover from a tragedy, find stability in their life and regain their place in society. True to form,



Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Fariba Tabarrok speaks words of appreciation for the donations that participants in the Combined Federal Campaign have made over the years to social services agencies in Madison County. Tabarrok was able to escape an abusive marriage thanks to the strength of those social services.**

that's how many services she used once she decided to leave her abusive marriage.

There are times in life when people find themselves beaten down, overwhelmed and at a loss, where their situation makes it difficult and even impossible to climb the ladder of success and freedom.

"I've seen freedom everywhere I've been today in this building and on Redstone Arsenal," Tabarrok said. "People who get help really want to get better. Your donations focus on programs that are the strategies that help the victim climb the ladder to empowerment and freedom. The programs are the rungs of the ladder. Your investments are the solid ground that helps keep the ladder sturdy. The organizations you help fund are doing the work that anyone of us could need at any given time. You are helping those who can't help themselves."

Tabarrok reached out for that ladder of programs when, as a mother of a 14-year-old

**See Campaign on page 9**

## 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:

### Golf tournament

The eighth annual Chili Cookoff and Golf Scramble is 9 a.m. Oct. 20 at the Links. Cost is \$30 per person, plus greens fees. Each group must enter a pot of chili for the contest. There will be tournament prizes, closest to pin, tee gifts and beverages. Four-man

teams compete in a scramble format and then enjoy homemade contest Chili. For more information, call 847-7977.

### Jewelry sale

"Treasures of the Earth Sale" is Oct. 23-26 from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sparkman Center Cafeteria. You'll see custom gemstone jewelry designs, including turquoise, coral, jade, jasper and more. For more information, call 876-8741.

## In this section...

**SMDC TAILGATE CONTRIBUTES TO CHARITY DRIVE**  
**READ ABOUT WHAT'S NEW AT POST LIBRARY**

**PAGE 6**  
**PAGE 10**

# SMDC tailgate contributes to charity drive



Photo by Carrie E. David

**Male employees of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's G-2 office rally a cheer in response to the G-2 women's reply during the command's tailgate fund-raising party Oct. 3 in support of the Combined Federal Campaign. The G-2 staff received an award for the best tailgate cheer. From left are Robin Stuart, William Ransom (partially covered), Reed Carpenter and Maj. Michael Meskunas.**

By **CARRIE E. DAVID**

*SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs*

The Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command employees sponsored a Combined Federal Campaign fund-raising tailgate party and car show Oct. 3 and surpassed previous figures.

Nearly \$1,600 was raised during this event, a 25 percent increase over the last CFC tailgate fund-raiser in 2010.

"There was an increase in participation over the previous fund-raiser," KC Bertling, SMDC CFC financial chairperson, said. "People prepared better because they knew what to expect this year. There was such enthusiasm and team spirit for supporting the CFC. SMDC's employees lived the campaign's motto this year, 'give today, make a bright tomorrow.'"

There were seven tailgaters set up and nine entries in the car show. Phillis Reid, deputy inspector general, won the category of best car story.

"I was so excited to receive the 'best car story' award at the SMDC CFC Tailgate kickoff," Reid said. "Owning a Jaguar convertible has been a dream of mine since I was a little girl. As I grew older, it became a goal, and six years ago I found the exact model, color, and everything for sale out in the middle of nowhere. It was a dream come true!"

In addition to the car awards, awards were given for best tailgate display and best tailgate cheer. SMDC's G-2, or security office, earned first place for a rousing cheer.

"It's not often the intelligence and security staff earns points for making a lot of noise," Col. James Wetzel, deputy chief of staff G-2, said. "So when there is an opportunity to channel the incredible talent and commitment we have into a cause like CFC, it's really no surprise that our G-2 staff would carry the day in the spirited cheering contest and fund-raising effort."

**See Tailgate on page 8**

# Tailgate

continued from page 6

The best tailgate display was awarded to the G-1 office, with honorable mentions going to G-2 and the command group.

“We may have been the G-1 superheroes at the tailgate party today, but the real superheroes are the war fighters we support every day and all of you superheroes who have contributed to the CFC fund-raising efforts,” said Lt. Col. Gregory Ash, deputy chief of staff G-1, whose entire staff dressed in superhero costumes.

The CFC was established in 1961, and has since become the world’s largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign. This year’s CFC fund-raising began Oct. 3 and will end Dec. 14.

“Each organization will conduct a host of smaller fund-raising efforts during the campaign,” Bertling said. “CFC raises millions of dollars each year, and it truly makes a difference in the lives of so many people.”

The winners in the car categories included:



**Commanding general’s choice:** Pink Barbie Jeep, Bob Leffler

**Chief of staff’s choice:** 1923 Ford T-Bucket, Laura Ralph

**Deputy to commander’s choice:** 1967 Corvette, Joe Stiene

**Command sergeant major’s choice:** 1923 Ford T-Bucket, Laura Ralph

**People’s choice (voted by command employees):** 1967 Corvette, Joe Stiene

**Veteran’s choice (Korean War veteran’s choice):** 1983 Pontiac Firebird, James “Sam” Lee

**Best car story (told in 100 words or less):** 1999 Jaguar XK8, Phillis Reid

**Highest mileages:** 1983 Pontiac Firebird, James “Sam” Lee

# Campaign

continued from page 5

son and a 12-year-old daughter, she took the steps to leave her abusive marriage. A college-educated woman married 18 years, Tabarrok became a participant in an “evolving domestic violence situation. Before you knew it, the abnormal was normal and I couldn’t figure out a way to get out.”

The police were frequent visitors to the family’s home. But after her children told their mom “he is going to kill you,” Tabarrok finally found the courage to press charges against her abuser and walk away from the abusive situation.

“The domestic violence advocate who came to the house was powerful. She said ‘We’ll get you the help you need. He’s not allowed to treat you this way,’” she recalled.

Crying, distraught and worried she would get into trouble, Tabarrok agreed to seek a protection order against her husband.

Yet, she had doubts about her situation even in the Madison County Courthouse. She kept thinking “Why will the judge believe me? I’m nothing.

I’m nothing. I’ve never had anyone on my side.”

But she did that day and for the months ahead. Before they allowed her to return home, the sheriff’s department arrested her husband and confiscated nine weapons that he had planned to use on his wife. During the next months, her husband was arrested some 12 times before he realized he had to stay away from his family or he would be put in jail for a long time.

“I’m one of those people who thought I would never need help,” she said. “I’m proud you were there to help me find it.

“You created a better path for me. When you believed in a stranger who didn’t believe in herself, you empowered her and gave her freedom and the opportunity for success and growth. The stronger our people become, the stronger our community becomes, one individual at a time. Your sharing for a stranger saved not just one life, but the lives of those two children who are now at college.”

Strom, the campaign organizer, said he hopes all federal employees in North Alabama will respond to the CFC.

“Our community and our nation need us more today than ever before,” he said. “Give for a better tomorrow.”

# 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. Its phone number is 876-4741.

To see the library's catalog, visit [www.redstonemwr.com](http://www.redstonemwr.com), click on Recreation, click on Library and then click on online catalog.

The library has the following new items:

**Adult fiction:** "Friends Forever" by Danielle Steele – Meeting the first day of kindergarten and becoming inseparable through their teen years, two girls and three boys go their separate ways as adults and encounter tragedies and transformations. ... "One Last Thing Before I Go" by Jonathan Tropper – Struggling with his ex-wife's imminent marriage to a nice guy and his Princeton-bound daughter's unplanned pregnancy, a bewildered Drew Silver tackles difficult family dynamics and refuses to undergo a life-saving operation.

**Adult nonfiction:** "American Sniper: the Autobiography of the Most Lethal Sniper in U.S. Military History" by Chris Kyle – A member of Navy SEAL Team 3 describes his life as a father, husband and the serviceman with the most confirmed sniper kills in the United States military while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. ... "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot – Documents the story of how scientists took cells from an unsuspecting descendant of freed slaves and created a human cell line that has been kept alive indefinitely, enabling discoveries in such areas as cancer research, in vitro fertilization and gene mapping.

**Young adult fiction:** "Tempest" by Julie Cross – After his girlfriend Holly is fatally shot during a violent struggle, 19-year-old Jackson uses his supernatural

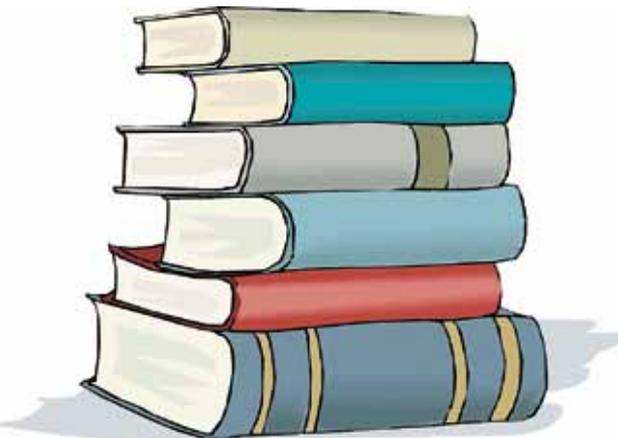
abilities and travels back in time two years, where he falls in love with Holly all over again, learns that his father is a spy, and discovers powerful enemies of time who will stop at nothing to recruit him for their own purposes.

**Children fiction:** "The Tiptoe Guide to Tracking Mermaids" by Ammi-Joan Paquette – While following instructions for spotting mermaids, the reader is introduced to marine life found along the seashore. ... "Earth to Clunk" by Pam Smallcomb – For a school assignment, a boy reluctantly writes a letter to Clunk of the planet Quazar, sending his older sister with it, but as more letters and packages are exchanged, he realizes that having an alien pen pal can be fun. ... "A Mutiny in Time" by James Dashner – Time has gone wrong, and best friends Dak Smyth and Sera Froste, together with the young Hystorian Riq, must use the infinity ring to travel back to one of the Great Breaks – a mutiny on the Santa Marãia – to correct history and defeat the SQ.

**Children nonfiction:** "Machines Go to Work in the City" by William Low – In this book, toddlers learn about city machines – from a bucket truck to a tower crane to an airplane.

**DVDs:** "Battleship" with Liam Neeson, Rihanna, Brooklyn Decker ... "The Five Year Engagement" with Jason Segel, Emily Blunt, Rhys Ifans ... "The Good Wife: the Third Season" with Julianna Margulies, Christine Baranski ... "October Baby" with John Schneider, Rachel Hendrix, Jason Burkey

**Audio books on CDs:** "Catching Fire" by Suzanne Collins (read by Carolyn McCormick) ... "8" by Dustin Lance Black (voices George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Martin Sheen)



# Medal ceremony brings back memories of integration

*Marine Corps veteran served in 1940s with all-black unit*

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Whenever Ray Williams sees an African-American servicemember in uniform, he proudly remembers what he and his fellow Marines did to integrate the Marine Corps in the 1940s.

Just like the Army's Buffalo Soldiers and the Army Air Corps' Tuskegee Airmen, the Montford Point Marines have a place in the annals of history for their role in ending segregation in the U.S. military.

And Williams is Huntsville's very own Montford Point Marine.

"In 1942, the Marine Corps started accepting blacks," the 84-year-old Williams recalled. "Before Montford Point opened they didn't have any black Marines. In 1947, it was decided to integrate the Marine Corps."

Williams is one of about 20,000 African-Americans who were trained as Marines at Montford Point between 1942 and 1949. In November 2011, the Montford Point Marines were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal – the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress for distinguished achievement – for service that led to minorities and women being integrated into the Marine Corps. It recognizes the contributions the Montford Point Marines made to the Marine Corps and to American society.

Because of illness, Williams was unable to attend the awards program hosted by President Barack Obama in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 23, 2011. Instead, his medal was awarded to him by members of Kilo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines in Huntsville on Sept. 15. Among those who attended was Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command and an African-American, and his wife, Linda.

"I thought it was great. I was so excited I didn't know what to do," Williams said. "I appreciated it so much."

"It was long overdue because African-American Marines served their country and they put their lives on the line for the love of country. A lot of them were killed in World War II. They are in the same category as the Buffalo Soldiers and Tuskegee Airmen, and they should be awarded equally."

In June 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order No.



Photo by Kelly DeWitt

**History met the future at the Congressional Gold Medal award ceremony for Ray Williams, who is standing next to a portrait of himself as a young Montford Point Marine. Williams is wearing the award he received during a ceremony conducted by Kilo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 14th Marines in Huntsville. The Montford Point Marines integrated the Marine Corps.**



Photo by Kelly DeWitt

**Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command, and his wife Linda, congratulate Ray Williams on receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.**

8802, establishing the fair employment practice that began to erase discrimination in the armed forces.

Williams, who was born and raised in poverty in New Orleans, voluntarily enlisted in the Marines in 1946.

"I went in because I wanted to get the G.I. Bill. I wanted to go to college," said Williams, who was 18 at the time. "My mother died when I was 2, and my father and sisters raised me. We didn't have much. I saw the Marines and the G.I. Bill as opportunities to make a better life for

me and my family."

He joined the Marines partly because his older brother joined the Navy.

"I thought the Marines was such a terrific armed service to be in. I thought the Marines were great," Williams recalled. "And I loved those uniforms."

He was shipped to Montford Point, Camp Lejeune, N.C., for segregated recruit training rather than receiving training at the traditional Parris Island, S.C., or San Diego, Calif.

In 1947, he was trained at Onslow Beach at Hadnot Point, Camp Lejeune, as a crewman for the 90 millimeter heavy anti-aircraft gun. But missile and rocket technology diminished the use of the 90 millimeter, so Williams was retrained as a military police officer, moving up in the ranks to corporal.

Also that year, Williams' military police unit was moved from Montford Point to the all-white Hadnot Point, taking over guard and military police duties

at the location.

"There was some tension the first night we were there. But then they accepted us," Williams said of the white Marines at Hadnot Point.

While at Hadnot Point, the differences in living conditions for white and black Marines became evident to Williams. At Montford Point, Marines lived in wooden barracks with concrete floors, had out houses for bathrooms, no washing machines and pot belly stoves for heat. At Hadnot Point, living conditions included brick buildings with tile floors, bathrooms in the buildings, and air conditioning and heating units.

"I've seen the hard part and the good part of the Marine Corps. Believe me, there was a difference," he said.

Williams later reported with his platoon for military police duty at the Naval Ammunition Depot Marine Base in Earle, N.J., helping to also integrate that installation.

As a military police officer, Williams helped to guard the installation, search and guard ships entering the port and oversaw prisoners at work details. Integration and what that meant for the future was far from Williams' mind in those years.

"We were just trying to do our jobs. That's what we were trained for. We weren't thinking about integration. We just wanted to do our jobs," Williams said.

"Integration went so smoothly and quietly in the Marines. I've gone through a lot of books about the history of the Marines, and it's hard to find out about the 1946 integration."

Initially, when African-Americans were first allowed to serve in the Marines, leadership had planned to discharge them at the end of World War II and go back to an all-white Marine Corps. But African-Americans proved themselves in war and, with attitudes changing, it became impossible to deny the right of service to anyone based on race, color, creed or national origin.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981 negating segregation. Montford Marine Camp was deactivated in September 1949 – ending

**See Medal on page 16**

## In this section...

**HELICOPTER PRODUCT MANAGER LEAVES MILESTONE LEGACY PAGE 14**

**SOLDIER SAYS VOLUNTEERING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY PAGE 15**

**RTC MEMBERS REAFFIRM SOLEMN PROMISE**

**PAGE 16**

# Helicopter product manager leaves milestone legacy

*Bailey retires from the Army with 20-plus years service*

By **SOFIA BLEDSOE**

For the Redstone Rocket

After going through three major acquisition milestones, battling through challenges such as a Nun-McCurdy breach, and countless days of travel associated with the job and being away from the family, the product manager for Apache Block III is retiring from the Army after more than 20 years in service.

Lt. Col. Dan Bailey relinquished his position as the product manager for Apache Block III during a change of charter and retirement ceremony Sept. 28 in one of the hangars at Redstone Airfield.

Assuming responsibility as the new product manager is Lt. Col. Brian Stehle, who recently came from the Technology Application Program Office at Fort Eustis, Va., where he managed Special Operations Aviation Helicopter Avionics Systems.

Bailey assumed responsibility for the Apache Block III Product Office in 2009. He has led the team to achieve major milestone acquisition decisions that led to the Limited User Test and the Initial Operational Test and Evaluation of the AH-64D Apache Block III, the Army's newest version and the world's most lethal attack helicopter.

During the ceremony, Bailey succumbed to his emotions about saying goodbye to a service and duty he has loved and believed in all his life.

"I've always been one of those guys that could not be defeated. I never thought I'd ever be here, even last night. This has been my life," he said.

Col. Jeff Hager, project manager for Apache Attack Helicopters and who



Photo by Henry Norton

**Lt. Col. Dan Bailey, product manager for the Apache Block III program over the past three years, receives a gift from the product office team during his retirement ceremony Sept. 28.**

was Bailey's predecessor, said that Bailey was the right man for the job at the right time. Bailey's experience and expertise as an experimental test pilot and education in mechanical engineering were instrumental in the success of the Block III program.

"Rotation brings new blood and new ideas," Hager said, adding that he knew the program, which was in its infancy at the time Bailey took the charter, could not have been in more capable hands. Bailey is also a Master Army Aviator with time in over 25 different aircraft, and is also airborne and air assault qualified.

"What I'm going to take away from me is what we as a team of professionals have accomplished," Bailey said. "But at the end of the day, it is all about the same motivation to protect and serve the war fighter today. I took the job and never expected so many opportunities to succeed."

Bailey summarized the last three years with the following accomplishments by his team. The Apache Block III Product Office has successfully completed or executed: more than \$1.4 billion in contracts; 53 major contract actions with three prime contractors; more than 1,000 minor contract actions; almost 1,500 contract deliveries; more than 100 different airworthiness releases; and three major acquisition decisions that led to the Limited User Test and Initial Operational Test of the Apache Block III.

"I have been honored to serve as your leader, and I want to thank you all as a team," Bailey said.

Bailey and his family will remain in the area in New Market, where he will have the opportunity to spend more time with his wife Dawn and three children. He received the Legion of Merit at his retirement ceremony.



Photo by Henry Norton

**Incoming product manager Lt. Col. Brian Stehle, right, receives the Apache Block III charter from Col. Jeff Hager, Apache project manager. Stehle succeeds Lt. Col. Dan Bailey, who retired.**

# Soldier dad says volunteering is everyone's responsibility

*Major serves as coach for youth soccer team*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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When his daughters' school needs help with a project, he's ready to give his time. After the deadly tornadoes of April 27, 2011, he helped clear neighborhood debris.

And he coaches his oldest daughter's under-8 soccer team at Redstone.

Maj. Dave Benjamin believes volunteering is everyone's duty.

"I just think it's civic responsibility," he said. "If you want to live in this country then you need to be willing to give something back to this country without expectation of payment or advancement."

Benjamin coaches the Tigers, a U8 team of two boys and four girls, including his 7-year-old daughter Payton. He's on the field with them probably 3-4 hours each week.

"I get to spend time with her," he said. "Second (reason for coaching) would be I love sports. I love athletics. If I can share that love with not only my daughter but the other kids, that's what I'm really trying to do – that spirit of competition."

Benjamin, assistant project manager for Integrated Air and Missile Defense integration in the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, has been at least assistant coaching since 2009 when his daughter started playing sports.

He and his wife and three children arrived in December 2008 from Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., where he served for two years as the maintenance officer for the Army Sustainment Command.

His wife, Tammy, volunteers as a nurse at their daughters' school, the Academy for Arts and Academics. Payton is a second-grader and Joanna, 5, attends kindergarten. The Benjamins' son, DJ, is 3.

Benjamin has served in the Army 12 years, starting at Fort Bragg, N.C., from where he deployed to Afghanistan from 2002-03 and received a Bronze Star. Next he was assigned to Fort Drum, N.Y., as a company commander. And he deployed to Iraq from Fort Drum in 2005-06 and received another Bronze Star. His Rock Island Arsenal tour led to Redstone where

he'll stay "I'm hoping at least another year or two, but you never can tell with the Army."

His parents are both retired colonels, so he was raised in various locations, but he calls Chicago his hometown. "I'm a White Sox and Chicago Bears fan," he said. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Loyola University in 1999. And he hopes to pursue a master's of business administration at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

"My dad retired after 26 years military service, Col. (retired) David J. Benjamin Jr., so I'm the third," he said. "And my mother, Marcia, is also retired (colonel), Army nurse. They reside in Barrington, Ill."

Benjamin has two brothers: Colin, 33, works in Chicago in security at the Hilton Hotel; and 1st Lt. Sean, 24, is stationed in Afghanistan with the 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

For leisure, Benjamin enjoys spending time with his children outdoors in the Huntsville area looking at historic sites or Monte Sano. And when the children are asleep, he likes to read – anything from science fiction to nonfiction, which is usually military related. He also likes playing with his Xbox and watching mixed martial arts.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Maj. Dave Benjamin, of the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, coaches his oldest daughter's under-8 soccer team at Redstone.**

# RTC members reaffirm solemn promise

With more than a decade of continuous conflict in the world, Soldiers and civilians at Redstone Test Center were asked to reaffirm their Army values with Operation Solemn Promise.

The reaffirmation will contribute to increased accountability, along with re-energizing the focus on Army values, by asking all servicemembers and the Army civilian employees to reconsider what it meant when they first took the oath of office upon entering the military or federal service, RTC said in a prepared release. By restating the oath, they pledge to support and defend the Constitution and the foundation upon which this country was built.

Photo by John Deemer

**RTC's Plans and Operations staff members reaffirm their oath of office. From left are physical security specialist Joe Nugent, Mission Operations Control Center lead Wesley Widner, spectrum manager Willie Loper, security manager Blake Stewart and Plans and Operations chief Mike Criss.**



## Medal

continued from page 11

seven years of segregation.

In 1974, Montford Point Camp was renamed Camp Johnson, in honor of the late Sgt. Maj. Gilbert "Hashmark"

Johnson, who was one of the first African-Americans to join the Corps, a distinguished Montford Point drill instructor, and a veteran of WWII and Korea. The camp remains the only Marine Corps installation named in honor of an African-American.

Williams left the Marines after two years of service with a World War II

Victory Medal and sharpshooter badge to his credit, and hearing damage in his left ear caused by the firing of the 90 millimeter anti-aircraft gun. He left the Marines to pursue his dream of a college education, although he considered re-enlisting.

"Everything turned out good in the Marine Corps. I loved the Marine Corps," Williams said. "I am so proud of the Marine Corps and what they have done."

He went on to get his business and secondary education degrees from Xavier University in New Orleans in 1952. He taught in New Orleans schools, and worked at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, where he supervised the space program's command center. He was also an entrepreneur in the grocery business.

Williams was married to his college sweetheart for 53 years until her death. They had seven children, who are all college graduates and working professionals. One son is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel. He has 11 grandchil-

dren and three great-grandchildren.

In 1999, Williams moved to Huntsville, where one of his daughters, who is married to NBA Hall of Famer Alfonso "Buck" Johnson, also lives. He has been an entrepreneur in Huntsville and even made an unsuccessful run for the Alabama Senate.

With the Congressional Gold Medal award ceremony at Kilo Battery, Williams now has closure to his time serving as a Marine during the corps' integration. As part of the award, the Marine Corps is now implementing initiatives to teach today and future Marines about the contribution of the Montford Point Marines.

"The Marines and all the services have improved so much. I am so proud to be a part of that improvement," Williams said. "It's different now. They're all together, and I can see (African-American) Marines like 1st Sgt. Jonathan Dillard of Kilo Battery and Army Soldiers like Gen. Via and know that in some way I've helped them along the way."

# AroundTown

## Cummings Research Park celebrating 50th anniversary

*Army and NASA  
part of tradition*

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

The Huntsville/Madison County community and all of the Tennessee Valley are set to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Cummings Research Park on Oct. 15-16.

And Team Redstone will be right there with them.

The Army and NASA will have front row seats as participants in the celebration of the nation's second largest research park. Both have been instrumental in the beginnings of Cummings Research Park as well as its growth over the years.

"Cummings Research Park was actually opened to support the programs at Redstone Arsenal," John Southerland, director of Cummings Research Park, said.

"The Army Ballistic Missile Agency and the Army Ordnance Missile Command were all part of those early years. When Dr. Wernher von Braun and the German rocket team came here with the nation's missile defense program and then started the nation's space program here, that started the need for a research park."

Several events have been organized to recognize the park's 50th anniversary.

On Monday, there will be a proclamation signing at 10 a.m. at Adtran in the western section of Cummings Research Park, 901 Explorer Boulevard. Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and Madison County Commission Chairman Mike Gillespie will sign the proclamation. Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, and Patrick Scheuermann, the new director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, will accept copies of the proclamation. Those in attendance will include members of the Cummings Research Park board of directors.

Following the proclamation, Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley will speak about the economic impact Cummings Research Park has had on the state at a Chamber of Commerce luncheon hosted at the Jackson Conference Center in the research park. Collyar will speak on behalf of Team Redstone and Scheuermann will speak on behalf of MSFC at the sold-out event.

Beginning at 11 a.m. and extending throughout the day will be an equipment fair at Bridge Street Town Centre that will feature a HIMARS, Javelin Simulator, Scud Launcher, Scud Cutaway and Manpads Simulator, among other military hardware. The Aviation and Missile Command, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, Redstone Test Center and the Missile and Space Intelligence Center are among the Army organizations slated to participate in the event.

That evening, an Outdoor Concert at Bridge Street from 5-9 p.m. will feature music by DiscOasis, Unknown Lyric and Mambo Gris-Gris. Concert Stroll Dinner Specials will be provided by participating restaurants.

Then, on Oct. 16, the anniversary will be recognized at a 2012 Technology Summit Luncheon beginning at 11:30 at the Jackson Conference Center. The Technology Summit and its luncheon are designed to facilitate partnerships between federal organizations, contractors and commercial businesses focused on emerging technologies in the Tennessee Valley.

The keynote speaker at the luncheon is Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics.

Cummings Research Park opened in 1962, and was developed for industry and academia in support of the aerospace and defense missions of Redstone

Arsenal.

"Ever since the rocket team in Huntsville provided the rocket technology to launch Explorer I and the world's space race, it was obvious that Huntsville was going to play a central role in the development of the nation's rockets and missiles," Southerland said.

"To support that work, von Braun had a vision and the leaders of Huntsville were part of that vision. They knew the way to support the challenge of taking man to the moon was through a research park where private industry could grow technology."

The University of Alabama-Huntsville opened in 1950 on land that would eventually be incorporated into Cummings Research Park and would make the university the park's first tenant. The university's role as a high-tech powerhouse in support of Army and NASA technology needs began in 1961 when von Braun requested funds from the Alabama Legislature for the university's research institute.

In 1962, when the research park was established, UAH and then Brown Engineering were the foundation of the new technology neighborhood. The UAH Foundation was instrumental in buying land for the park, and then "populating that land with companies designed to help the national space program," Southerland said.

"Cummings Research Park is intertwined with both the beginnings of NASA and the Army Ballistic Missile Agency."

Today, Cummings Research Park is home to 300 companies and 25,000 employees who work primarily in support of the defense and aerospace industry. It is the second largest research park in the world, only surpassed by Research Triangle in Raleigh-Durham, N.C., in terms of land size and number of employees. Cummings Research Park is the largest such park in the world in terms of the number of companies in residence.

Together, Cummings Research Park and Redstone Arsenal are home to 60,000 employees working in high-tech defense and aerospace industries.

"As the Army's presence has grown, so, too has the park. The technology in the park has really changed the world. It started as a park focused more on aerospace

than defense. Today, it is a park more focused on defense than aerospace," Southerland said. "It does have some diversity in terms of telecommunications and computer science companies.

"But its history will always have it as the fine tipping point operating in support of the national space program and the Army Ballistic Missile Agency. Today 85 percent of the nation's missile defense work force is here at Redstone."

Fifty years of history for Cummings Research Park also represents 50 years of economic growth for Huntsville and the entire North Alabama region.

"Our economic drivers are Redstone Arsenal and then Cummings Research Park," Southerland said. "Cummings Research Park is tied to Redstone Arsenal and together they are fuel for a huge economic engine. The vision of von Braun and others like (business leaders) Milton Cummings and Joe Moquin brought us to this 50th anniversary, and every single day that vision is the fuel that drives the economy of all of North Alabama."



## In this section...

**SMDC SHOWS 'AWESOME' SCIENCE TO STUDENTS**

**PAGE 18**

**REDSTONE, EDUCATORS PARTNER FOR OPPORTUNITIES**

**PAGE 20**

**TEAM EFFORT GENERATES EFFICIENT ENERGY IDEAS**

**PAGE 22**

# SMDC shows 'awesome' science to area high school students

By **CARRIE E. DAVID**

SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

The Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command once again joined with other tenant organizations on Redstone Arsenal to show local area high school juniors the fun side of science.

During the all-day event, called Adventures in Engineering, on Sept. 26, the students were shuttled across the installation for briefings and demonstrations by various organizations including SMDC, NASA, the Missile Defense Agency, the Missile and Space Intelligence Center, and Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, and even off post to the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

“Adventures in Engineering is a fantastic way for us to show the exciting opportunities the Army has for students,” said third-year demonstrator Shannon Berry, operations and research analyst for SMDC’s Future Warfare Center Innovative Ventures Office. “You don’t have to wear a uniform to serve your country. That’s one of the questions I get most often. I always emphasize how proud I am to serve my country and support the war fighter, while working in a field I love and doing things that are interesting and challenging. It’s important to let these students know opportunities like the one I had are out there.”

Stephanie Cleveland, an engineering assistant in SMDC’s Technical Center Concepts Analysis Lab, agreed.

“Adventures in Engineering is important for SMDC because it is growing our potential work force,” Cleveland said. “Government engineers and scientists tend to fall under a bad stereotype that is not appealing to younger generations. This gives SMDC an opportunity to change that stereotype and show students that SMDC can be a great place to work.”

Cleveland, who has participated in the event for five years, said her favorite part of Adventures in Engineering is the excitement from the students.

“You can tell that many of the students view becoming an engineer or scientist as an unrealistic goal for their lives,” Cleveland said. “When they see people not much older than themselves working on these amazing projects, they realize they can do the same.”

Lindsay Ackridge, a junior at Buckhorn High, said she enjoyed the demonstrations.

“I liked how they talked about how they analyze stuff and how it’s hands-



Photo by Carrie E. David

**Tammy Cottam, an aerospace engineer student in the SMART program who works in the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Concepts Analysis Lab, tells high school juniors during Adventures in Engineering day, Sept. 26, about working on space and science projects.**

on,” Ackridge said. “The demonstrations were really neat. I definitely want to major in engineering, and I would love to do something like that.”

Kirsten Mullican, a junior at Hartselle High, already knew she wanted to major in astrophysics, but said she really enjoyed the Simulation Center’s demonstration.

“The 3-D printer was super awesome,” she said. “It’s really cool to be able to print a part to fix something that’s broken and make it work again.”

Cleveland and Berry both discussed some of the many entry points and scholarship programs available to math and science students in college. Berry advised students not to get tangled up trying to decide what to become.

“What I like to tell the students is that I’m a physicist employed as an analyst doing the work of an engineer,” Berry said. “Any degree with a foundation in math, science, technology or engineering can open up an array of possibilities with the Army and the government. You might not end up doing exactly what your degree is in, but that foundation in critical thinking is what’s really important.”

Cleveland’s parting words to the students were to find what they love doing.

“The best advice I can give the students, is to figure out what they are passionate about, and then work hard to accomplish that dream,” Cleveland said. “If you sit back and wait for life to just hand you opportunities, they will never come.”

# Redstone, educators partner for outreach opportunities

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Today they are students in a Tennessee Valley classroom. In a not so distant future, they will be its leaders.

“I want to thank all of you who are engaged every single day in educating our children,” Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton told local educators last week. “What you do, it’s impossible to measure the impact you have on their lives, and the impact you have on our community, because you are responsible for educating our future leaders. One of you out there right now has a student who will be the superintendent of Huntsville city schools one day, or Madison city schools. One of you has a kid who will be the Garrison commander or the commanding general of AMC.”

Educators from across North Alabama met with Redstone Arsenal leadership Oct. 3 at the Garrison Quarterly Education Luncheon, an opportunity for the installation to foster partnerships with the local schools that will have an impact on students today and the Arsenal’s workforce in the years to come. A concrete ex-

ample of those partnerships is the Team Redstone Education Outreach Catalog, a listing of the many programs and opportunities Arsenal organizations offer to local schools, which Hamilton debuted at the event. “It is my hope that the catalog will prove beneficial in helping all of you equip our children to become career and college ready,” Hamilton said.

“Our expectation is that the future leaders working on Redstone Arsenal 10, 15, 20, 30 years from now are kids that are in your schools right now,” he added. “They are kids that are going to be born and raised right here in Huntsville. We recognize that getting there has got to be a partnership between Team Redstone and the community. You’re not going to get there by yourselves, and we’re not going to get there by ourselves. The reality is that we need to partner with you and do everything we can to provide the resources to help you in that process. We want to have an active, healthy relationship and partnership with your senior leadership as well as all your schools.”

Educators can bring students in for tours at Redstone facilities, or if they prefer to keep it in the classroom, numerous

**See Education on page 21**



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton gives an overview of Redstone Arsenal and ways the installation can collaborate with area schools at the Garrison Quarterly Education Luncheon Oct. 3 at The Summit.**

# Education

continued from page 20

organizations provide speakers, such as AMCOM, PEO Aviation, the Army Contracting Command, and the Engineering and Support Center. Other organizations offer Adopt-A-School programs, to include AMC, MSIC and the Garrison. From job shadow days to activities in the community, such as the Oct. 20 Girls Science and Engineering Day at UAH, the catalog provides area teachers with a variety of ways to get their students interested and excited in the work that is done inside Redstone Arsenal's gates.

"The schools are critical to work force development, and this is a very specialized workforce at Redstone Arsenal," Dr. Casey Wardynski, superintendent of Huntsville city schools, said. "One of the things that drew me to Huntsville was the community and the military get along really great here, so we can have a really deep partnership. Getting the kids excited about science, math, technology, is easy with the Arsenal here, and getting them excited about that is good for the Arsenal, because the Arsenal needs a well-prepared work force."

More than 70 educators from the Arsenal's 13-county area of responsibility, including representatives from Huntsville and Madison city schools, Madison county schools, and Decatur city schools attended the luncheon, which also included a driving tour of the installation and education fair.

The fair gave attendees the chance to speak with organizations about the opportunities available in the catalog, opportunities that may influence the way a student thinks about their future. Participants included AMC, AMCOM, AMRDEC, Engineering and Support Center, Garrison, MDA, NASA and the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

"I think you have the hardest jobs in Huntsville," Hamilton said. "I'm not with 25 kindergartners every day; I don't deal with 25 freshmen that don't want to open their science book. God bless you all for the work that you do. We can't possibly thank you enough, but we certainly want to find ways to better assist you and get you access to the resources we have."

That commitment to assisting schools and providing teachers with the resources available gives peace of mind not only to local educators, but parents as well.

"As a military spouse and head of a military family for some 29 years, we've always been very interested in what happens in the communities with which we live, work and play," said Linda Via, wife of Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command. "I'm still a mom that's raising two children that are in the educational process, and we all know our children are our future. Our children are growing up in a different world and different society, it's not an isolated or insulated world, it's one in which we really need to work together as partners, as members of a team. I think this is a tremendous job that the Garrison did in ensuring that our



Photo by Ellen Hudson

**Dr. Jeanne Payne of Decatur city schools talks with Saronda Conley, a Missile Defense Agency contractor supporter, at the Garrison Quarterly Education Luncheon. As part of the luncheon, educators attended an education fair, which gave them the opportunity to speak to education outreach representatives from organizations across the installation.**

community leaders and educators are coming together to be of one accord and move together from that perspective."

# Team effort generates efficient energy ideas

By **PATRICK HOLMES**

*Garrison Energy Office*

Since October is Energy Awareness Month, the Directorate of Public Works Energy Office would like to take time to ask you to support your command's Building Energy Monitor and Unit Energy Coordinator.

This program is mandated under OPORD SE 11-015: Region and Garrison Actions in Support of IMCOM Energy Efficiency and Security Implementation Strategy section 3.B.2. This applies to all Soldiers, civilians, contractors and other personnel who work at Redstone. If you do not know who your building's BEM is, ask your facility manager.

The BEM program requires that directorates appoint one person in their organization to be the UECO and also appoint a BEM for each of the buildings that are occupied by that directorate. The BEMs will report to the UECO who in turn reports to the Garrison energy manager.

The UECO and BEM's primary responsibility is to help the installation energy manager achieve the objective of an energy efficient installation without an adverse impact on the mission or quality of life. UECOs and BEMs will need to work with the DPW Energy Office to focus efforts toward a common goal. A team effort will yield far more benefits than

individual action.

When initially appointed, UECOs and BEMs should discuss duties with the appointing officer and the energy manager. This can be done either one on one or in team building meetings. Collaboration is a great way to find solutions to common problems. There is a brief training session presented by the Energy Office that will need to be completed as well as handbooks and checklists that are available to log information as problems are discovered.

Some of the BEM responsibilities may include:

- Serving as building's point of contact/facility manager
- Calling in work orders for low cost maintenance and energy conservation opportunities
- Monitoring the operation of your building
- Recommending energy saving changes to your building's operating procedures
- Meeting with the Energy Office
- Reporting problems with the building's heating and cooling systems

If opportunities for energy projects in your building or area are identified, they should be discussed with the Energy Office for further analysis or project development. If your organization or building has not yet appointed a BEM or UECO, contact the Garrison Energy Office for details. For more information or to sign up for training, call the Garri-



son Energy Office: Mark Smith, energy manager, at 842-0014 or Patrick Holmes, quality assurance and engineering contractor, at 313-0884.

# 'We are right in the trenches with our Soldiers'

*Chaplain connects through shared military experiences*

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

There's a reason why Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Leon Kircher wears the combat action badge, airborne and air assault pins on his uniform. And it has more to do with his Soldiers than with his own accomplishments.

Kircher wants Soldiers to know – with one glimpse at those pins – that this chaplain walks in the same boots worn by Soldiers.

Kircher firmly believes it's difficult for a minister to connect with their parishioners if they haven't been through similar life experiences. So, too, does he believe it is difficult for an Army chaplain to relate to the trials, fears and challenges that Soldiers face if they haven't faced those same types of experiences.

"Chaplains go where Soldiers go," he said. "We are right there in the trenches with our Soldiers."

So, all during his Army chaplain career, Kircher has taken the same risks as the Soldiers he ministers to. When Soldiers were jumping out of airplanes, he wanted to jump, too. When they were facing enemy fire, he wanted to be there with them. When they took up arms, he wanted to be close enough to understand what it was like to fight in theater.

"You have to know what the Soldiers are going through if you are going to minister to them. You have to be able to identify with your Soldiers, and you do that by sharing their experience. Shared experiences matter to the Soldier. Those experiences draw them together, bind them together. And, as their chaplain, you can use those experiences to bind yourself to them and to earn their respect," Kircher, the chaplain for the Aviation and Missile Command, said.

He shared that philosophy as the training execution director for the Army's Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson, S.C. During three years in that position, he ensured that instructors and students had the supplies and resources for the day-to-day operations of the school's training events.

"We simulated a lot of the stressful kinds of situations that chaplains find themselves in," Kircher said. "You can never be fully prepared for a dangerous

situation until it happens. But preparing for it with simulated training lets you know what you are made of. That training can test your mettle."

As part of the chaplain training program, Soldiers learned how to conduct military religious ceremonies, including funerals; lived through nighttime simulations of improvised explosive devices attacks and gas attacks; discussed experiences with family members who have lost loved ones; and experienced being on an Army aircraft as the chaplain charged with bringing the bodies of fallen Soldiers home to their loved ones.

"We brought as much realism into the classroom as we could to show chaplains what is happening now with our Soldiers," Kircher said.

About 12,500 chaplain candidates went through the chaplain's career course while Kircher was assigned there. Training was also provided for chaplain's assistants, senior chaplains and Reserve chaplains. Kircher received an Army Meritorious Service Medal for his work at the school, which was presented to him recently by AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar at an AMCOM town hall.

"It's a very high visibility job," Kircher said of his work at the chaplain's school. "You are definitely under the microscope. Some of those in training are just off the streets as civilians. Some are prior military. They represent over 150 denominations that the Army recognizes, including the Jewish faith, Muslim faith and Buddhism. As a school representative, you have to ensure that you don't step on any of the faiths represented in the classroom.

"When they came to us, we trained them to be Soldiers first and then to be chaplains. It was basic training for chaplains. And it never stopped. One class would graduate and another would start."

In his 40 years of military service, Kircher has done a lot of counseling and preaching. Twenty-seven of those years have been on active duty with the other 13 years with the Pennsylvania National Guard's 28th Infantry Division, known as the Bloody Bucket Division for the deaths sustained by the division during the World War II's Battle of the Bulge.

Kircher, native of Scranton, Pa., first joined the Army in 1973, enlisting in a military police battalion at Fort Meade, Md. He was assigned to West Berlin, Germany, where he helped to guard one

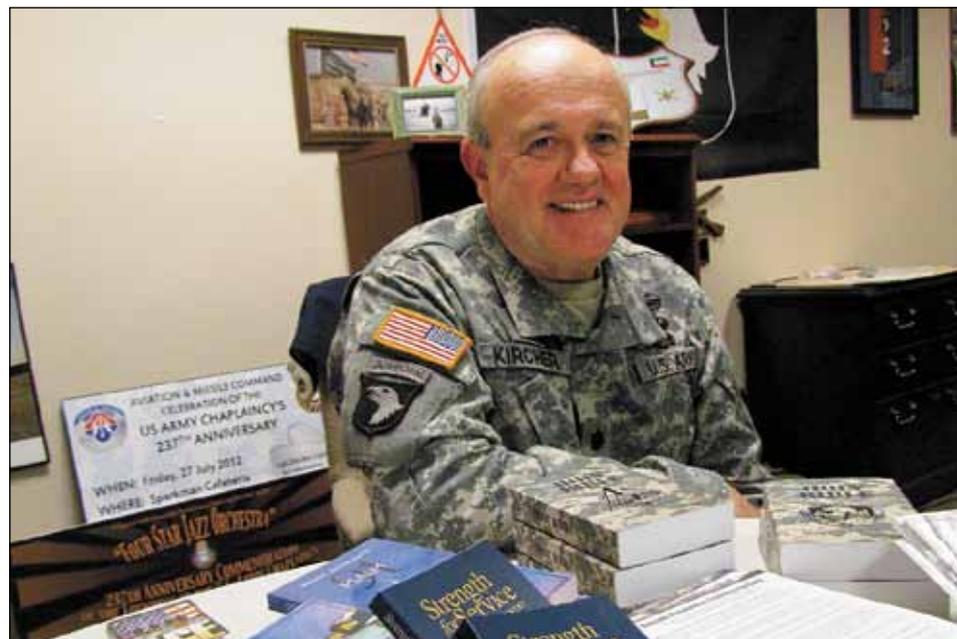


Photo by Kari Hawkins

**Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Leon Kircher provides spiritual leadership and counseling for the Soldier and civilian employees of the Aviation and Missile Command. He received an Army Meritorious Service Medal recently from AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar for his work at the Army's Chaplain Center and School.**

of the gates – the infamous Checkpoint Charlie – going into East Berlin.

"Soldiers wanted to go into East Berlin just for the experience of being in East Berlin," Kircher said. "They had to wear Class A uniforms. Our job was to keep Soldiers out of trouble. We were making sure they didn't do anything crazy in East Berlin. Soldiers would trade for stuff with the East German Army and the Russians."

While in Berlin, Kircher felt a strong calling to the ministry, a calling that he'd heard faintly all his life.

"I just wanted to be a pastor," he said. "My mom took all six of us kids to church every Sunday no matter what when I was growing up. I just wanted to be part of the faith."

He left the regular Army for the Nation-

al Guard so that he could attend college and then seminary at Drew University in New Jersey. He was ordained as a Methodist minister, and served in two Pennsylvania churches and as a Guard chaplain's assistant from 1976-89. In 1982, he became a chaplain candidate in the Guard.

"As a minister, I loved the interaction with people, and I really liked preaching. I had a good time preaching," he said. "As a military chaplain, I liked being responsible for a church filled with every denomination in the world."

In 1989, he returned to the active Army, and was assigned to oversee the work of 89 chaplains at Fort Bliss, Texas, who were serving Soldiers in the 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment (Patriot Missile).

**See Chaplain on page 28**

## In this section...

<b>WORKER REFLECTS ON AMC'S ERA OF TRANSITION</b>	<b>PAGE 26</b>
<b>MILITARY POLICE SOLDIERS TRAIN WITH UNMANNED AIRCRAFT</b>	<b>PAGE 30</b>
<b>SOLDIERS GET 20 DAYS TO VOTE ON NEW PT UNIFORM</b>	<b>PAGE 31</b>
<b>BUSINESS LEADERS WITNESS COMBINED MILITARY MIGHT</b>	<b>PAGE 32</b>
<b>SPECIAL FORCES COURSE TO ADD MILITARY FREE-FALL TRAINING</b>	<b>PAGE 33</b>

# Worker reflects on AMC's era of transition

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**

AMC Public Affairs

The Army Materiel Command during the 2000s was known for its efforts in supporting two wars, contingency operations and relocating nearly 11,000 employees.

Rudy Chavez, a specialist with nearly 25 years of AMC experience, currently assigned to the AMC Current Operations and Plans Division, shared his perspective on the successes of AMC during a time of transition.

In the late 1990s to the 2000s, Chavez was assigned as the chief of the AMC Operations Branch in Seckenhiem, Germany.

From there he deployed to the Balkans, Hungary, Bosnia, Croatia, Albania and Kosovo in support of numerous peacekeeping operations, which included moving and recovering AMC assets and materiel to and from operations in the Balkans.

"AMC had a huge mission there, because U.S. Army Europe needed equipment and AMC had it. The lesson learned in that mission was how to introduce equipment into units temporarily and set up a return process,"

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## AMC: Then and Now *50 Years of history* *Part 11 of series*

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Chavez said.

During his deployment to Kuwait in March 2002, he supported Operation Enduring Freedom missions.

"I was a part of the first elements supporting Operation Enduring freedom," he said. "We took the AMC elements, force providers, the multimedia communication systems, materiel, equipment and with AMC personnel and provided it to the war fighter. We did it with a small element, because we didn't have the Army Field Support Brigades at that time."

Having a forward element, such as the Logistics Assistance Office and the Logistics Support elements, to support logistics and materiel distribution was a good idea, but it was made better with the creation of AFSBs.

"AMC has a huge mission that is necessary for the combatant commanders to understand AMC's capa-



Courtesy photo

**Rudy Chavez, assigned to the AMC Current Operations and Plans Division, has 25 years experience with the Army Materiel Command.**

bilities," Chavez explained. "The combatant commanders don't want to go to a multi number of organizations to get the support. They should go to one and that one is AMC. That's why the AFSBs were created."

Chavez noted the creation of the AFSBs as one of his most memorable experiences. Currently, there are seven AFSBs providing direct support to the war fighter in Afghanistan, Kuwait, Korea, Alaska,

**See Worker on page 27**

# Worker

continued from page 26

Hawaii, Germany and locations in the United States.

“I was not only engaged on the implementation plan and getting it through the Department of Army to approve these brigades in 2005. I was also engaged in deploying and setting up the first AFSB in 2006, which was the 401st AFSB,” Chavez said.

Another call for Chavez was in support of contingency operations.

Chavez, who was a part of a planning team, took the lead in the support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts – providing temporary life support, living space and movement of supplies.

Also in 2008, AMC was in the process of relocating its headquarters. Chavez served as the lead operator for AMC Forward Plans and Operations division, a position that assisted in transitioning roles, missions and functions to Redstone.

In January 2010, he deployed to serve in Operation Unified Response, also known as Haiti earthquake relief efforts.

Soon after, Chavez volunteered for deployment to Kuwait as the deputy director of the Joint Program Office Mine Resistant Ambush Protected. The office was charged with the mission of providing MRAP vehicles to war fighters in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait.

He credits AMC’s success in supporting two wars, contingency operations and conducting one of the largest relocations in Army history to the lessons learned by the personnel.

“For example, it was necessary to stage materiel ahead of time, like the Army Prepositioned Stock. And knowing there is going to be a lot of materiel you’ve got to recover is why the (Responsible Reset Task Force) R2TF was formed,” Chavez said. “AMC’s footprint in the battlefield is not only parts and systems, it’s all the other logistics involved in it.”

As the command’s unofficial motto states, “whenever, wherever... AMC provides.”



Courtesy photo

## International visitors

Huntsville Police Department communications relations officer Dr. Harry Hobbs, a retired chief warrant officer 5, gives an overview of HPD to an Open World delegation from Moldova on Sept. 27.

# Chaplain

continued from page 23

“Nine months later we were in Desert Storm. We were deployed full scale with divisions fighting the war,” Kircher said. “At Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), we shot 66 Patriots and became known as the Scud Buster Battalion.

“When it started, we thought Scuds were landing in our compound. But the explosions were the Patriots taking off. Nobody had been that close to them when they were fired. We had always been a mile away. Now, we were right there less than a football field away, and there were very large explosions when the Patriots were fired and pieces of Scuds flying all over the place. We hit every single Scud fired at us.”

**S**ome of those hits made contact just with the Scud warhead, with the Scud rocket itself falling to the ground.

“After a night of explosions and pieces of medal falling down on us, we’d come out of our bunkers the next day and find Scud parts. Some were completely intact with just the warhead gone,” Kircher said.

“That first night of the attacks, we were diving into our bunkers with our

chemical suits on. I looked up in the sky and I could see as clear as day, and it looked like falling stars. Those were the Scud missiles.”

**S**erving Soldiers in theater is much different that providing them with services at peacetime, he said. In war, everyone is busy and focused on the mission, and the chaplain is consumed with supporting the commander’s mission, providing comfort to those suffering and dealing with the unit’s losses. In peacetime, the chaplain is also supporting the commander’s mission, but a lot of time is spent in counseling Soldiers through rocky marriages, family problems or other personal issues.

After Desert Storm, Kircher deployed two more times to Saudi Arabia with the Patriot unit, and then he was assigned to Fort Clayton, Panama. But though the assignment did give him a reprieve from war that allowed him some down time with his wife and two daughters, Kircher also made it a priority to attend airborne school at Fort Benning, Ga.

“I got my airborne wings on my 40th birthday. I was older than anybody else there,” he said. “I’ve done more than 100 jumps. It’s very dangerous. Every jump could be your last jump. I made most of my jumps in my 40s.”

In 1999, he was assigned to the

101st Airborne Division (air assault), “Screaming Eagles,” as the 2nd Brigade chaplain. Again, to be closer to his Soldiers, Kircher attended air assault school at age 43.

“I was in an air assault unit so I wanted to be air assault,” he said. “It mattered if I was going to be part of the band of brothers. We had shared experiences, shared dangers.”

He then was promoted to be the division’s deputy chaplain, and was deployed at the age of 47 with the division and its leader – Gen. David Petraeus – to Iraq. A few months later, in 2003, he was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Infantry Brigade, “Sky Soldiers.” The brigade made the Army’s last official combat jump into northern Iraq, opening a northern front in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Kircher also served as the chaplain of the Fort Benning infantry training brigade before his assignment at the chaplain’s school. While at Fort Benning, Kircher supervised chaplains who served 65,000 Soldiers in five battalions.

“A chaplain serves everybody in their unit, regardless of their faith,” he said. “As a chaplain, I’m responsible for the Soldier’s spiritual welfare, no matter what that welfare looks like.”

**T**hrough the years, he has served at close to 1,000 Soldier funerals. He has dealt with the hardships of a Soldier’s life and with his own issues related to post traumatic stress disorder. He has counseled Soldiers and their families through tragic times, celebrated with Soldiers and their families during the good times, and hoped that he has made a difference to the Soldiers who have looked to him for assurance and peace.

“A good chaplain is a firm believer in their faith,” he said. “He has a solid faith and knows what he believes. He stands up for what’s right and he’s a good Soldier. A chaplain has to keep the right balance between being a Soldier and being a chaplain.

“Chaplains have direct access to the commander. They have to be able to tell the commander when something is wrong, even if the commander doesn’t want to hear it. I’ve been chased out of many commanders’ offices because they didn’t like what I said.”

**A**t AMCOM, Kircher’s main focus is providing instruction in suicide prevention awareness. He also counsels both Soldiers and civilians, and supports the commander’s initiatives.

“I want to give Soldiers and civilians hope and encouragement,” said Kircher, who will retire in 2013. “I’m glad I chose to be an Army chaplain and to lead other Army chaplains in their ministry. I’ve enjoyed training men and women of faith on how to be a Soldier at the same time. As a chaplain, you’ve got to learn your job as a Soldier and you’ve got to remain strong in your faith.”

Kircher said chaplains are drawn to the Army for the same reasons of other Soldiers.

“It’s about being part of history. It’s a sense of duty,” he said.

“And chaplains have to have the same kind of strength of any Soldier. It’s that inner strength that gets you through tough times. It’s something outside of ourselves and something deeper inside ourselves that makes Soldiers continue in their service despite the troubles along the way.”



Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

## Superior service

Col. Bennie Pokemire, SMDC's deputy chief of staff G-6, pins the Superior Civilian Service Award to Deborah Gilbert, an information management specialist, during her retirement Sept. 28. Gilbert also received a certificate of appreciation and a three-star note. She retires with 34 years of service.



Photo by Anner Lynch, SMDC/ARSTRAT

## Davis concludes career

Col. James Wetzel, deputy chief of staff G-2, Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presents intelligence specialist John Davis with his retiree pin during his retirement Sept. 21 while Davis' wife, Jane, looks on. Davis received the Superior Civilian Service Award, certificate of appreciation, certificate of retirement and a three-star note. He retires with 37 years of service.

# Military police Soldiers train with unmanned aircraft

By Sgt. JAIME AVILA  
Army News Service

PHOENIX – Soldiers' safety in combat zones is a top priority for the Army, and state-of-the-art technology is often used to minimize the risk. One such technological aid is the small unmanned aerial vehicle known as the Raven.

At the helm of the small battery-powered remotely controlled aircraft are dozens of Army Reserve military police teams assigned to the 200th Military Police Command.

Raven teams assigned to the 56th Military Police Company from Mesa, Ariz., spend battle assembly weekends in remote locations fine-tuning their flying skills.

"This is excellent training," Brig. Gen. Scottie D. Carpenter, commander of the 11th Military Police Brigade, said. "They're out here with all their equipment using it like they would be using it in a real combat environment."

In operations, remote-controlled unmanned aircraft systems, or UAS, have played a huge role by relaying real-time visual battlefield information to assist commanders in making their decisions, without sending pilots or Soldiers into danger.

The Raven is a small, hand-launched UAS capable of traveling up to 10 miles, and transmits both images and video in real time. It only requires one person to launch and a two-person team to operate.

"It's packed into two parts so the two-man team can carry it anywhere on their backs," said Staff Sgt. Don Griffin, one of the company's Raven team leaders. "Once it comes time to use the equipment, the team should be able to get the plane up and flying within five minutes."

Griffin said it is important for the four-person team to conduct aerial operations with the Raven.

"We usually do hands-on training every three months and when we can't we use our flight simulator to get our training time in. This helps us keep our skill up on flying and it gives us practice on specific skills like surveillance techniques," Griffin said.

Flying the Raven is no easy task, with multiple features and controls; it takes a trained and certified Soldier to accomplish the task. Before they are able to fly the Raven, Soldiers must first go through a two-week course where they receive both hands-on instruction on the equipment and class time. Once a Soldier has mastered the



Photo by Sgt. Jaime Avila

**Reserve military police with 200th Military Police Command spend their battle assembly weekends in remote locations fine-tuning their unmanned aerial vehicle flying skills.**

controls, he or she can program the Raven to fly in a set path or control it manually.

The Raven has safety features set in place in case the controller loses communication with the plane or the plane crashes. If communication is lost between the controller and the Raven, the UAS will come back to a predesignated coordinate and fly over that coordinate until communication is restored or until the battery dies and it conducts a controlled crash landing. A built-in GPS helps in locating the Raven in case of an unexpected landing.

The complexity of the system makes the training 56th MP Company Soldiers received that much more important, according to Griffin.

"The training is important because when you have squads of Soldiers out in theater where it's dangerous, we can launch these planes into the area that they can't see instead of having to send them in without some type of intelligence," Griffin said.

Carpenter agreed. "I can definitely see the benefits and the positive effects this type of equipment would have out in the field," he said.

*"I can definitely see the benefits and the positive effects this type of equipment would have out in the field."*

**Brig. Gen. Scottie D. Carpenter**  
commander of the 11th Military Police Brigade

# Soldiers get 20 days to vote on new PT uniform

By C. TODD LOPEZ

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Back in February, the Army gave Soldiers a chance to weigh in on the Improved Physical Fitness Uniform. The Army took those Soldier suggestions and developed a possible replacement uniform. Now Soldiers can vote on which one of those they think looks the best.

More than 76,000 Soldiers responded to the initial survey. Among other things, Soldiers commented about uniform fit, moisture wicking and anti-microbial properties and how much the uniform weighs. The Army listened to Soldiers and has developed a new Improved Physical Fitness Uniform, or IPFU.

Now the Army wants Soldiers to weigh in on color options and graphic patterns for the uniform. There are six candidate uniforms – they are all the same in terms of fabrics, capabilities and durability. What's different is the color of the fabrics and the size, color and shapes of the graphic designs.

All Soldiers have the option to log on and choose which uniform option they

like best. The poll goes live beginning Oct. 9, and will be available for 20 days.

Stylistic variations include different colors for the jacket and pants – black or gray, for instance. Soldiers can also choose among graphic elements and colors for graphic elements.

With the jacket, for instance, there is a chevron emblazoned across the chest. That can be in yellow, grey or black, and it can be thick or thin. On the shorts, there's the option to have colored piping on the sides. For the long and short-sleeve T-shirts, there's both fabric color options and the option to have either the word "Army" emblazoned across the chest or the Army logo over the left breast.

Soldiers will have 20 days to make it known which they think looks best.

Perhaps more important than how the uniform looks is how the uniform will perform and feel. Improvements in the IPFU include reduced fabric weight, tagless labels, anti-microbial properties, quick-dry capability, removal of reflective properties in the uniform, the removal of the liner and elastic bottom on the pants, and overall pattern adjustments to provide a better fit.

**See Uniform on page 34**



PEO Soldier photo

**This is one of six candidates for the Improved Physical Fitness Uniform design and color configuration.**

# Business leaders witness combined military might

By WALTER T. HAM IV

*Eighth Army Public Affairs*

RODRIGUEZ LIVE FIRE COMPLEX, South Korea – Business leaders in South Korea witnessed the combined might of the Republic of Korea-United States Alliance during a live-fire exercise Oct. 4.

Members of the American Chamber of Commerce, Good Neighbor Advisory Council and Korea International Trade Association watched a combined arms exercise at this range close to the Korean Demilitarized Zone.

The group also visited the Humvee and mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle, or MRAP, roll over training facility, tried on body armor and got an up close look at ROK Army K1A1 tanks, U.S. Army Bradley Fighting Vehicles and small arms.

To get a taste of military life, they also ate Meals, Ready-to-Eat, with U.S. troops at the range dining facility.

Earlier on Yongsan Garrison, the group was briefed on U.S. Army operations in South Korea by Eighth Army Deputy Commanding General for Operations Maj. Gen. Walter M. Golden.

Golden thanked the leaders for their

support of Eighth Army and the ROK-U.S. Alliance.

At the live-fire range, Golden and Eighth Army Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Harris explained the training scenario to the visitors as it unfolded.

During a simulated scout mission, the 4-7th Cavalry's 2nd Platoon, C Troop practiced scouting a route and marking obstacles. The 4-7th Cavalry is part of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team in the South Korea-based 2nd Infantry Division.

The platoon was backed up by Apache attack helicopters from the 2nd ID, 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 4-2nd Attack Battalion and by tanks from the 4-7th Cavalry's sister unit, the ROK Army's 26th Tank Battalion.

According to 4-7th Cavalry commander Lt. Col. Mike Adams, this was the biggest combined exercise for the 4-7th Cavalry and 26th Tank Battalion to date.

The visitors watched as the platoon discovered a concertina wire obstacle on the route and called in a sapper unit. An elite group of U.S. Army engineers, the sappers used 40 pounds of explosives and a Bangalore torpedo to blast a hole through the wire, rattling the windows on the third floor of the observation tower.

Bradley Fighting Vehicles, Apache he-



Photo by Pvt. Shin Seokha, Eighth Army Public Affairs

**Members of the American Chamber of Commerce, Good Neighbor Advisory Council and Korea International Trade Association watched a combined arms exercise at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, South Korea, Oct. 4.**

licopters and artillery guns then lit up the business end of the range with a thunderous salvo of missiles, artillery shells and 50-cal. rounds. They were later joined by ROK Army K1A1 tanks that pounded their targets with earth-shaking 120mm rounds.

As an Apache attack helicopter swooped

in on its target, American Chamber of Commerce member Nathan McMurray said he was humbled to see the “raw power” of the U.S. military firsthand.

“I’ve never seen anything like that before, except on television,” said McMurray, a Seoul-based attorney who is originally from Buffalo, N.Y.

# Special Forces course to add military free-fall training

By Maj. JAMES BRANCH

1st Special Warfare Training Group (Airborne)

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – In today's global environment, areas of conflict are becoming increasingly difficult for military forces to access. Through advances in technology, tactics and training, potential adversaries are prepared to prevent unwanted forces' physical presence, and the U.S. military must adapt to face these challenges.

A collective military free-fall, or MFF, capability throughout the Army's Special Forces regiment will ensure the Army's unconventional warfare force can effectively enter and perform within the operational areas of today and tomorrow.

Traditional forced-entry techniques such as low-altitude, static-line airborne operations have lost viability as a clandestine entry technique, especially in special-operations missions where silence and accuracy are crucial to mission success. Discreet, low-visibility free-fall infiltration complements the mission and structure of a Special Forces operational detachment-alpha, or ODA.

As a 12-man unit armed with the cultural and tactical expertise to work alongside a partner force, one ODA is small enough to maintain its MFF qualification, and use the capability to enter a remote area where a larger, conventional Army presence would not be feasible, necessary or cost-effective.

As written in the Department of Defense's Joint Operational Access Concept dated Jan. 17, 2012, "Operational access does not exist for its own sake, but rather serves our broader strategic goals. Joint forces must be able to project military force into any operational area ... This is not a new challenge, but it is one that U.S. joint forces have not been called upon to face in recent decades. That condition is likely to change, and may prove to be of critical importance in the coming years."

To meet this challenge, the Special Forces Regiment has re-evaluated its training methodology to ensure its Soldiers have an expansive skill set to meet the demands of our current and future operational environment. This reevaluation has established that while Army Special Forces units do include select MFF-capable ODAs, the force lacks a formal, wide-spread clandestine infiltration capability; such that would be available through regiment-wide military free-fall qualification.

To improve the Army Special Forces Command (Airborne) units' pro-

iciency in MFF, the Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School is prepared to incorporate military free-fall training into the Special Forces Qualification Course, or SFQC. This initiative will increase the regiment's collective forced-entry and global response capabilities.

This initiative will institutionalize MFF operations by investing in the Military Free-Fall School at Yuma Proving Ground in Yuma, Ariz., which is the U.S. Special Operations Command's proponent for military free fall.

The school is restructuring the Military Free Fall Parachutist Course, or MFFPC, so that it will offer sufficient annual training slots for all SFQC candidates while maintaining allocated slots for qualified Special Forces personnel already assigned to operational units. Beginning in February 2013, the MFFPC will transition from a four-week to a three-week course.

The first week will remain the same, consisting of vertical wind tunnel body stabilization training, MC-4 parachute packing and an introduction to MFF operations. The remaining two weeks will encompass a jump profile of three airborne operations per training iteration, totaling 30 MFF operations per course encompassing various conditions and equipment loads.

In fiscal year 2013, SWCS plans to host up to 358 Special Forces Soldiers through the MFFPC. By fiscal year 2015, with the addition of 18 MFF instructors and dedicated aircraft, the MFFPC will reach its optimal throughput of 1,026 MFF parachutists, including 766 Special Forces Soldiers. When fully manned and equipped, the Military Free Fall School will conduct 19 MFFPC classes each fiscal year with 54 students in each class.

Simultaneously, the MFFPC continues to evolve its program of instruction, or curriculum, to send the highest-quality MFF parachutist into the military's special-operations forces. The course incorporates the use of body-armor carriers and modular integrated communications helmets as the baseline equipment load for all jumps. Instructors use this communications technology to interact with their MFFPC students while under canopy to foster proper canopy-control techniques. As a result, MFFPC graduates are capable of landing as a group on a designated point, fully prepared to execute follow-on missions.

The Special Forces Regiment ability



Army photo

**The Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School is prepared to incorporate military free-fall training into the Special Forces Qualification Course. This initiative will increase the regiment's collective forced-entry and global response capabilities. A Military Free Fall Parachutist Course instructor (back) falls through the sky alongside an MFFPC student, teaching him to maintain proper body position and deploy his parachute at the appropriate time.**

to train and sustain a MFF infiltration capability, which is critical to forced-entry operations, is not only completely possible, but can become the norm vice the exception. In addition to the vertical wind tunnel at Fort Bragg, a new vertical wind tunnel at the MFF School in Yuma is projected for completion in the fall of 2013. Furthermore, the latest technological advancements have been incorporated into MFF equipment, such as night-vision, high-glide canopies, on-demand oxygen systems, inter-team MFF communications and para-navigation equipment. Most importantly, 11 years of multiple MFF combat infiltrations by the operational force have left us with invaluable lessons, which have been incorporated into MFF training and procedures.

High-altitude, high-opening, known as HAHO, operations now encompass nearly 50 percent of the jumps conducted by students during the MFF-PC.

As the MFF School transforms the MFFPC to meet the evolving needs of the operational force, the school's cadre will continue to conduct the Military Free Fall Jumpmaster Course, the Military Free Fall Advanced Tactical Infiltration Course and the Military Free Fall Instructor Course. All MFF courses are continually updated to ensure the safest and most relevant MFF

tactics and techniques are addressed. Through innovation and a relentless desire to excel, the school is fully prepared to provide an overwhelming infiltration capability to the regiment, one required to gain entrance to tomorrow's areas of operation.

Tomorrow's battlefields will not reappear in a linear or predictable manner. Now is the time to build a collective MFF capability across the Army's Special Forces groups, so that all Soldiers wearing a green beret are more capable of clandestinely entering into denied territory. The SWCS MFF expansion will meet this need by providing the regiment with SFQC graduates who are ready to conduct military free-fall operations immediately upon reporting to their first ODA assignment.

The Special Forces Regiment, armed with a collective MFF capability, will maintain its ability to gain access to operational areas around the world and serve the United States as its premier unconventional warfare force.

The Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School is responsible for special-operations training, leader development, doctrine and proponentcy for the Army's Civil Affairs, Psychological Operations and Special Forces Soldiers.

# Uniform

continued from page 31

Those changes came as a result of Soldier input as well. Command Sgt. Maj. Emmett Maunakea, Program Executive Office Soldier, said Soldiers were asked to weigh in on the IPFU, and are being asked now to vote on which uniform they like best, because it is Soldiers who are the end users.

"Nobody can tell you better what needs to happen with it than the user of that piece of equipment," Maunakea said. "We need the feedback from Soldiers and leaders in the field to tell us what is wrong with it, what is right with it, and how can we make it better and work better for them."

Maunakea said Soldiers know what's available to civilians in the way of fitness gear, and brought that knowledge with them when they commented on the Army's uniform.

"Our Soldiers are smart," he said. "They are out there spending a lot of money in the economy as they buy their civilian workout clothing. And they are buying the newest, latest and greatest type of stuff."

Maj. Mia Bruner, assistant product manager for initial issue uniforms, said Soldiers came into the February survey

with well-informed ideas about their physical fitness uniform.

"They knew what they wanted that uniform to do," she said. "They knew that they wanted it to have sort of high-performance capabilities within the fabric. They know when you go out on the commercial market, you see tags that say anti-microbial and quick-dry and all of these high-speed, high-performance terminology – they knew what characteristics and features they wanted to see in the uniform."

To save on cost, the reflective elements of the IPFU have been removed, Maunakea said.

"Everybody is going to be wearing a PT belt anyway, so it doesn't make sense to have it on the uniform, if you are already wearing a reflective belt."

On the long sleeve T-shirt, the "mock collar" has been removed, as well as the sleeve cuffs, to make the uniform more comfortable for Soldiers.

"We made it more like a crew neck collar to allow more air in for the Soldiers to cool down as they are working out," Bruner said. "It won't be as constricted around the neck area."

In the February survey, Soldiers had said they felt the liner in the pants was too thick and "got in the way," Bruner said. The liner has been removed. "We included re-enforcements along the knee area as well."

Also a possibility with the new uniform is "possible female sizing that will be developed," Bruner said.

Maunakea and a team from PEO Soldier will travel around the Army to show off to Soldiers the new uniform options. The dates and locations include Fort Bragg, N.C., Oct. 8-10; Fort Hood, Texas, Oct. 11-15; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Oct. 16-18; and Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, Oct. 19-26.

Locations for those demonstrations were chosen for density of Soldiers.

After Soldiers vote on which uniform they like best, there will be a "series of steps" that must take place before the uniforms reach Soldiers. Included in those steps are wear testing by a sample group of Soldiers, additional improvements as a result of that testing, and a final approval by the chief of staff of the Army.

Courtesy photo

## Logistics luncheon

**The Tennessee Valley Chapter of the International Society of Logistics held a luncheon Sept. 26 at The Overlook with guest speaker U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks, Alabama District 5. Brooks, left, receives a token of appreciation from SOLE chapter chair Brian Mathy.**



# Win or Lose

## Meet the Redstone Arsenal Ten-Miler team runners

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Here are individual profiles of the runners who will represent Redstone Arsenal at the 28th annual Army Ten-Miler on Oct. 21 in Washington, D.C.

**Name:** Brandon York  
**Job:** Mechanical engineer, Northrop Grumman  
**Highlights:** In his second year with the team, York, 27, from Tuscaloosa, ran track and cross country for the University of Alabama-Huntsville from 2003-08. ... Ran a team-best 51:24 in last year's Army Ten-Miler.



**Quote:** Here's a quote from one of my favorite books: "Running to him was real, the way he did it the realist thing he knew. It was all joy and woe, hard as diamond; it made him weary beyond comprehension. But it also made him free." – John L. Parker, Once a Runner

**Name:** Dr. Harry Hobbs  
**Job:** Communications relations officer for Huntsville Police Department  
**Highlights:** Hobbs, a retired chief warrant officer 5, coaches Redstone's team. ... He was 1999 coach/runner for Fort Rucker's active duty open mixed champions at the Army Ten-Miler, 2003 coach/runner for the Fort Sill (Okla.) civilian open mixed champions, and coach/runner of Redstone's five-time defending government agency division champions



and three-time defending all-comers division champions. His goal for the team this year is to defend both championships. ... His personal goal is to run under 85 minutes. He is 52 years old and has had more than 15 surgical operations due to his military career. ... His best time was 1:02:37 in 2000. ... He finished a 5K at Fort Rucker in 17:39 in 1999. ... His motivation for running is to honor all the Soldiers who can't run anymore due to being injured while serving our country.

**Running tip:** Drink a gallon of water a day, stay positive, stretch and keep running.

**Name:** Alex Gornik  
**Job:** Budget analyst for the Missile Defense Agency  
**Highlights:** Finished a recent 10-miler in 1:15. ... Career bests include 15:47 for 5K and a 4:17 mile. .. This is his first year with the team.



**Quote:** If it is to be, it is up to me. I'm very excited to participate in my first Army Ten-Miler race.

**Name:** George Heeschen  
**Job:** Traffic management specialist, AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center

**Highlights:** Been running for nine years. ... Competed in cross country at Division-III Hampden-Sydney College and currently a member of the Fleet Feet Huntsville Racing Team. ... Enjoys running road races of all distances from 5K to the marathon. ... Personal bests include 16:29 for 5K, 56:44 for 10 miles, 1:15.4 for the half marathon



and 2:39.59 for the marathon.

**Quote:** "If ever there was a day to take a risk, today was the day. Hopefully I made it exciting for a while." – My best friend Kelly Watt

**Name:** Randy McFarland  
**Job:** Materials engineer, AMRDEC's Aviation Engineering Directorate

**Highlights:** McFarland has run for Team Redstone every year since 2002. ... His fastest Army Ten-Miler time was 1:01:16 in 2002.



... His best finish place was 164th male in 2006 in 1:01:36. ... McFarland did a 2:47 marathon in 1997 in Huntsville. ... He began running in junior high school and has run every year since – with the exception of a four-year break.

**Quote:** Most running issues can be addressed by more mileage.

**Name:** Tim Pitt  
**Job:** Electrical engineer, Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center

**Highlights:** This summer completed the Chattanooga Mountains Stage Race, which is a three-day, three-mountain, 60-mile trail running event in Chattanooga. ... Ran the 2011 Rocket City Marathon in a personal best 3:05:35.



**Quote:** I am so honored to be a part of such an epic team, not just from a running perspective! These guys are stellar athletes and even better friends!

**Name:** Joseph Robenson

**Job:** Systems engineer, Aircraft Survivability Equipment Project Office

**Highlight:** In his fourth year with Redstone's team. ... Considers it an honor and a blessing to have been a part of championship teams in 2008, 2010 and 2011.



**Quote:** I would like to dedicate my run this year to my family: to my mom, who is making a full recovery from a major surgery, and to my twin brother who has returned home safely from deployment to Afghanistan.



**Name:** Brad Schroeder  
**Job:** Joint Attack Munition Systems' systems engineering

**Highlights:** Finished 55th out of 22,073 finishers in the 2011 Army Ten-Miler with a time of 54:57. ... Serves as

the team captain.

**Quote:** Run as if your quality of life depends on it – because it does!

**Name:** Rob Whitaker  
**Job:** System engineer, Cruise Missile Defense Systems Project Office

**Highlights:** Set the one-mile Alabama state record for age 53 and holds four state running records. ... This is his first year with the team.



**Quote:** You're never too old to get faster.

See Runners on page 36

## Alabama keeps rolling past Missouri

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Skip's Picks were 212-62 for 77 percent after five weeks in the college football season. Here are my predictions for this week's games:

Alabama at Missouri – **Bama**  
Alcorn St. at Alabama A&M – **A&M**  
Auburn at Mississippi – **Auburn**  
South Carolina at LSU – **LSU**  
Tennessee at Mississippi St. – **Miss. St.**  
W. Kentucky at Troy – **W. Kentucky**  
UTEP at Tulsa – **Tulsa**  
Arizona St. at Colorado – **ASU**  
Navy at C. Michigan – **C. Michigan**  
Louisville at Pittsburgh – **Louisville**

Syracuse at Rutgers – **Rutgers**  
Texas at Oklahoma – **Texas**  
UAB at Houston – **Houston**  
Kansas St. at Iowa St. – **K-State**  
Kent St. at Army – **Kent St.**  
Iowa at Michigan St. – **MSU**  
Northwestern at Minnesota – **Northwestern**

Wisconsin at Purdue – **Wisconsin**  
Duke at Virginia Tech – **Virginia Tech**  
Temple at Connecticut – **Connecticut**  
SMU at Tulane – **SMU**  
Chattanooga at Furman – **Chattanooga**  
Akron at Ohio – **Ohio**  
North Carolina at Miami (Fla.) – **Miami**  
Maryland at Virginia – **Maryland**  
Utah at UCLA – **UCLA**

Oklahoma St. at Kansas – **Oklahoma St.**  
West Virginia at Texas Tech – **West Virginia**

Oregon St. at BYU – **Oregon St.**  
Stanford at Notre Dame – **Notre Dame**  
Southern Utah at Montana – **Montana**  
Illinois at Michigan – **Michigan**  
Fresno St. at Boise St. – **Boise**  
Utah St. at San Jose St. – **Utah St.**  
Memphis at East Carolina – **EC**  
Boston College at Florida St. – **FSU**  
Florida at Vanderbilt – **Florida**

Colo. St. at San Diego St. – **San Diego**  
USC at Washington – **USC**  
Kentucky at Arkansas – **Arkansas**  
TCU at Baylor – **TCU**  
Air Force at Wyoming – **Air Force**  
Southern Miss at UCF – **UCF**  
Ohio St. at Indiana – **Ohio State**  
FAU at La.-Monroe – **La.-Monroe**  
Texas A&M at Louisiana Tech – **Texas A&M**  
California at Washington St. – **California**  
New Mexico at Hawaii – **Hawaii**

## In this section...

REDSTONE'S U10 SOCCER TEAMS MAKING PROGRESS

PAGE 36

# Redstone's U10 soccer teams making progress

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

As he prepared to leave for Afghanistan, Fred Bundy said he was proud of his youth soccer team at Redstone.

Bundy coached the Orange Cobras, an under-10 team, for its first four games of the season. He stepped down Friday because of his deployment to Afghanistan. Bundy is an analyst with the Aviation Missile Resource Assessment and Analysis Team under AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center.

The former Soldier's tour is for an un-

determined duration.

"They have a great attitude," Bundy said of his soccer players. "And they're bound and determined to be good sportsmen and have fun at the game."

Joseph Schmitt and Jacob Sanchez have scored a goal apiece for the Orange Cobras (0-4). The team includes three girls and five boys.

The Patriots, from Huntsville's Bell Mountain Park, beat the Orange Cobras 6-0 on Sept. 29 at the Goss Road field.

Redstone's other U10 team, the Green Vipers, lost 5-2 to the Mustangs on Sept. 29 at Goss Road. Bobby Graham and

Jeremiah Leatherwood scored for the Green Vipers.

"They've come a long way from where we started," coach Patrick Wells said of his team. "They've learned a lot about the game. They play well as a team. They've got a good attitude."

They rebounded by beating International 5-0 on Thursday night at Goss Road. Leatherwood scored three goals and Graham had two.

The Green Vipers (2-2-1) have four girls and four boys. Their assistant coach is Kristine Moore.

The under-8 Tigers, coached by Maj.

Dave Benjamin, beat host Oak Park 9-3 on Sept. 29. Janiya Dillard scored three goals for the Tigers (2-3). Benjamin's daughter Payton and Arianna Paschel had two goals apiece while Autumn Gollop and Joseph Lorenzo each had one. The Tigers led 5-1 at halftime.

"I was real excited about the way they played," Benjamin said. "There was a tremendous amount of passes. They've really started to gel and work together as a team so it was a real great win."

Redstone has five under-6 teams, three under-8 teams, two under-10 teams and one under-14 team.

## Runners

continued from page 35



**Name:** Brett Wilks  
**Job:** Aerospace engineer at AMRDEC  
**Highlights:** Ran 1:02:25 at last year's Army Ten-Miler.  
**Quote:** Don't take advice from a runner that is injured.

**Name:** Rob Youngren  
**Job:** Computer scientist at Simulation Technologies Inc.



**Highlights:** Recently set new 5K personal best in 16:44.2. ... Won the 9.11K Commemorative Run on Redstone Arsenal in 32:06. ... Earlier this year finished the infamous Barkley Marathons "Fun Run" after many failed attempts. ... Has finished almost 150 ultramarathons (races longer than the standard 26.2 mile marathon) including the Badwa-

ter Ultramarathon, several Hardrock Hundred finishes and the Grand Slam of Ultrarunning.

**Quote:** After being unable to compete in the Army Ten-Miler last year due to injury, I'm extremely fired up and ready to go this year. I'm in the best shape of my life and ready to roll!



**Name:** Erik DeBolt  
**Job:** Logistics Support Activity, Support Operations Office

**Highlights:** DeBolt started running seriously about five years ago. ... He has run in race distances all the way up to 50K. ... Finished the 2011 Rocket City Marathon in 2:49. ... This is his third year with Redstone's team, with a personal best of 58:37. ... He hopes to finish this year's race with another personal best.

**Quote:** Establish achievable goals and find the time and motivation to accomplish them.

**Name:** Tim Vinson  
**Job:** Deputy product manager, PM Air Warrior  
**Highlights:** Vinson ran 2:45:26 at the 2012 Houston Marathon and 59:21 at the 2011 Army Ten-Miler. ... He did

2:41:20 at the 2010 Boston Marathon, 1:17:32 at the 2009 Mercedes Half Marathon, 58:23 at the 2010 Army Ten-Miler and 35:34 at the 2010 River City 10K.



**Quote:** After a one-year hiatus, I am pleased to rejoin the Redstone team for the Army Ten-Miler, which is an awesome event. We'll do everything in our power to proudly represent the Redstone community and keep the team's winning tradition going strong.



**Name:** Skip Vaughn  
**Job:** Public affairs specialist, Garrison  
**Highlights:** Vaughn has completed more than 30 marathons, with a personal best 3:28. ... He has run with Redstone's Ten-Miler Team for at least 17 years, the past several years as assistant coach. ... He completed the 2009 race despite major knee surgery.

**Running tip:** Always finish the race.

*Editor's note: The other members of Redstone's team include Col. John Hamilton and Sgt. Maj. Corey Smallwood.*

# Rocket Announcements

## 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 Nov. 10. 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.

### Breast cancer run

All members of Team Redstone are invited to join the Redstone Roadrunners team for the ninth annual Liz Hurley Ribbon Run 5K on Oct. 20 in downtown Huntsville. Proceeds from the fund-raiser go to the Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Fund at Huntsville Hospital Foundation. Redstone Roadrunners run or walk the 3.1-mile event with Donna Johnson, a Garrison employee and military spouse who is a breast cancer survivor. Participants can run/walk in honor of, or in memory of, their loved ones. Those who can't participate can still make a donation or purchase a luminary. Those who do sign up as a Redstone Roadrunners team member will receive a free T-shirt. The Redstone Roadrunners' goal is to have 50 runners/walkers on the team and to raise \$2,000 toward breast cancer research. This is the sixth year that Team Redstone has participated through the Redstone Roadrunners in the Liz Hurley Ribbon Run. For more information or to sign up, visit <http://www.lizhurleyribbonrun.org>. Participants must sign a waiver before joining the Redstone Roadrunners. The cost is \$20 to participate in the run. Online registration ends Friday and late registration continues until Oct. 18.

### Volleyball league

North Alabama Christian Athletics will have tryouts for the 2013 volleyball season. Tryouts for 13U/14U girls are Oct. 27 from 9:30 a.m. at 1 p.m.; and for 15U/16U girls, Nov. 6 from 5:15-8 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. The club season is January through April. The \$600 club fee for the season includes two practices per week and up to six tournaments. The fee is due Nov. 12. For more information, call director Michelle Clay 270-8146 or email [director@nacav.com](mailto:director@nacav.com).

### Bowling benefit

Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Alabama will hold its annual Bowl for Kids Sake on Nov. 4 at Plamor Lanes in Huntsville. This year, more than ever, BBBSNA needs community support to keep the organization up and running. So, if you like to bowl, sign up on Big Brothers Big Sisters' website ([bbbsna.org](http://bbbsna.org)) and participate Nov. 4. Put a team together and challenge your friends and co-workers to do the same. A recommended donation of \$25 per bowler is suggested. For the \$25 donation, you get free bowling, shoes, food, a BBBSNA T-shirt and a goodie bag. There are other gifts for folks raising \$100, \$250, \$500 and \$1,000. Anyone raising \$1,000 or more will also be eligible for one of three grand prizes, which include a Caribbean cruise for two, a weekend in Las Vegas for two or a weekend in Gatlinburg, Tenn., for two. For more information, call 880-2123 or visit [bbbsna.org](http://bbbsna.org).

### SSV golf tournament

Still Serving Veterans' seventh annual golf tournament is Monday at 9 a.m. at Cherokee Ridge Golf Course, 4000 Cherokee Ridge Drive in Union Grove. Register by Oct. 13. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Prizes will be awarded for first through third place, putting contest, closest to the pin, longest drive and hole-in-one. Sponsorship levels include individual golfer \$150, hole \$250, silver \$1,500, gold \$2,500 and platinum \$5,000-plus. To register call 883-7035, email [lrodriguez@stillservingveterans.org](mailto:lrodriguez@stillservingveterans.org) or visit [www.stillservingveterans.org](http://www.stillservingveterans.org).

### Boating safety

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering another boating safety class on Redstone Arsenal. Boating Skills and Seamanship will start Thursday and continue for six sessions on Thursday evenings from 6:30-9. The only cost is \$25 for the textbook. For more information call Tom Kunhart, flotilla staff officer for public education, at 830-6621 (home) or 527-4475 (cell). Email him at [tkunhart@knology.net](mailto:tkunhart@knology.net).

### Air defenders' golf

The Huntsville/Redstone Chapter of

the Air Defense Artillery Association will have its annual Golf Tournament on Friday at the Links. Lunch will be at 11 a.m., shotgun start at noon and social at 5. Cost is \$45 per person. This event is open to all Team Redstone. Trophy and prizes will be awarded. For information and registration forms, email Ralph Merrill at [ralph.merrill@irtc-hq.com](mailto:ralph.merrill@irtc-hq.com) or Rick DeFatta at [richard.defatta@kratosdefense.com](mailto:richard.defatta@kratosdefense.com).

## Conferences & Meetings

### Weekly worship

The Contemporary Christian Worship Service is held each Sunday at 11 a.m. in the Bicentennial Chapel fellowship hall. For more information, call 842-2964.

### 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](mailto:Redstone@pwoc.org).

### Catholic women

The Military Council of Catholic Women invites all ladies with a civilian or military ID to its Second Friday program at Bicentennial Chapel. Social starts at 9 a.m. this Friday in the General Assembly Room, with a short business agenda at 9:30; and at 10, they will be watching the documentary "Cosmic Origins." Movie and food are included. Consider joining them and stay for an optional Holy Hour at 11, followed by noon Mass. For more information, call Phyllis Gibat 842-2175 or Beverly Thetford (254) 371-2265.

### 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

# Rocket Announcements

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

## Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invited to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the 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.

## 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.

## 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. Refreshment and social time will start at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting following at 10. Chapter 443 will hold a candidates forum for the Fifth Congressional District of Alabama. The candidates are Rep. Mo Brooks and Charles Holley. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

## Contract professionals

Huntsville chapter for the National Contract Management Association will hold the Government Contracts Law Seminar featuring Steve Feldman, attorney-advisor for the Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville, and John Callahan, attorney at law, Calla-

han PC, Huntsville. The seminar is Friday from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, with registration at 8, at the Redstone Federal Credit Union on Wynn Drive; and breakfast is provided. ... On Oct. 16, the chapter will start a Contracting Professional Boot Camp, a 10-session series of some of the hottest topics in contracts. It's scheduled from 8:30-11:45 a.m. at QinetiQ North America, 890 Explorer Blvd, Building 2, Huntsville. ... On Oct. 18, the chapter's monthly luncheon will feature Kathy Harvey, special adviser to the AMC commander on contracting matters, who will present "Direct Sales." The luncheon is 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with registration at 11, at the Redstone Federal Credit Union on Wynn Drive. For more information on these events, call Sherry Trowbridge 450-1552 or visit [www.ncmahsv.org](http://www.ncmahsv.org).

## Air defenders

The Huntsville/Redstone Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association will have its annual dinner Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. at The Summit. Invited guest speaker is Maj. Gen. John Rossi, director, Army Quadrennial Defense Review Office, G-8. For more information and reservations, call Anna Gamble 922-9300, ext. 100, or email [anna.gamble@irtc-hq.com](mailto:anna.gamble@irtc-hq.com).

## Resource managers

The American Society of Military Comptrollers, Redstone/Huntsville Chapter, will hold its monthly luncheon Oct. 18 at 11:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church. Robert Turzak, deputy chief of staff for resource management, AMC G-8, is the guest speaker. For ticket information, call Audrea Edwards 313-2382 or Lisa Lowry 876-7086.

## 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.

## Admin professionals

Members of the Redstone Arsenal Chapter, International Association of Administrative Professionals, will honor their bosses Oct. 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Summit. Stacey Brewer, executive assistant at Redstone Federal Credit Union, will be the guest speaker. He will highlight the IAAP organization and the benefits it affords bosses, organizations and administrative professionals. "We would be most honored to have you and your boss in attendance," a prepared release said. RSVP today to June Pock-

rus at [junepock@centurytel.net](mailto:junepock@centurytel.net), 656-4333, or Vicky Caylor at [vicky.caylor@us.army.mil](mailto:vicky.caylor@us.army.mil), 876-1335. You and your boss may submit your lunch payments to Alphadella McRae by calling 876-2834 or mailing to P.O. Box 8232, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35808. Cost of the buffet luncheon is \$18.

## Reliability conference

The Society of Reliability Engineers, Huntsville Chapter, is sponsoring the fifth annual Reliability Affordability and Maintainability Conference, Oct. 16-17 at the Westin Hotel at Bridge Street, 6800 Governors West. The conference is open to all professionals from government and industry as well as engineering college students. For more information and to register or to submit abstracts, visit the website at <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=46uhokgab&oeidk=a07e5u2zcowz655c92ff>.

## 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 Nov. 9 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](mailto: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 nonprofit organizations in Huntsville and Madison County that utilize volunteers. R.S.V.P. recruits, places and trains individuals who are 55 or older to fill community service needs. For more information about R.S.V.P. or volunteer opportunities, call R.S.V.P. director Jennifer Anderson 513-8290 or email [rsvp.dir@seniorview.com](mailto: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](http://www.gsaauctions.gov), search by state of Alabama, and there you will find items located at MSFC and other federal agencies in Alabama to bid on. For more information, call 544-1774.

## Re-entry information

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

**See Announcements on page 40**

# Rocket Announcements

## Lending closet

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

## Computer classes

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

## Reserve openings

The 375th Engineer Company (Army Reserve) in Huntsville offers the opportunity for promotion while simultaneously enhancing project management, construction and leadership skills. The unit has immediate openings for sergeant through chief warrant officer 2 and first lieutenant (Engineer specialties preferred) who want to make a significant contribution to the readiness of the Army. The 375th conducts vertical construction operations in CONUS and OCONUS during Extended Combat Training Exercises. All prior servicemembers are welcome to contact the unit. For more information, contact Staff Sgt. Walker at miranda.walker@usar.army.mil, phone 535-6232 or Sgt. 1st Class Stumpe at roy.marcus.stumpe@usar.army.mil, phone 535-6229 or Capt. South at william.south@us.army.mil.

## Photo contest

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table is holding its first photo contest through Nov. 1 with categories for middle and high school students, and for adults age 19 and above. Winners will be announced in January. Individuals may enter two of their photos in each category – print and digital – with potential subjects pertaining to the Civil War. For more information, visit <http://sites.google.com/site/tvcwrt/>.

## Fraud prevention

Medicare fraud is big business for criminals who steal more than \$60 billion of Americans' tax dollars every year. Protecting personal information is the best line of defense against con artists that depend on Medicare numbers to make false claims. Another safeguard is remembering to review Summary Notices for possible mistakes or errors in billing. TARCOG Area Agency on Aging and the Senior Medicare Patrol program are working hard to protect seniors and beneficiaries by investigating suspected forms of fraud and abuse. If you suspect errors, fraud or abuse, report it to your local SMP office at 830-0818.

## Civil War history tour

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will hold its 2012 Campaign Tour, Friday through Sunday – a bus tour of the final round of battles that sealed Atlanta's fate in the Civil War. It features military historian Greg Biggs as the tour guide for "Johnston's Rubicon: The Fall of Atlanta and the Rise of John Bell Hood." The tour is three days and two nights, with accommodations and breakfasts included. Visitors are invited but space is limited. For reservations and more information, call 890-0890 or email kdwr@netzero.net.

## Thrift Shop update

The Thrift Shop is getting a new roof, and its staff members say they couldn't be happier. They ask that their customers and consignors abide to the contractor's rules for safety. The shop will be open during this time and customers can park across the street if needed. The staff is always looking for volunteers to join their team. If interested, visit building 3209 on Hercules Road or call 881-6992. ... The Thrift Shop's "Tips for Troops" program is thriving, as the staff members have mailed out 26 boxes this month. "We want to thank everyone who has been generous in donating items to mail and monetary donations," a prepared release said. "We were given seven free postage and your donations were used to mail out 18 boxes. Postage is \$13.95 for each box. We are always in need of donations. We have emails and letters from the Soldiers who have received our boxes and they are so grateful."

## Christmas Charities applicants

Christmas Charities is taking applications for Christmas. Every year, Christmas Charities provides toys for less fortunate children in Madison County, plus gifts for seniors, the disabled and less fortunate teens, plus food boxes for families in need. Take applications to

2840 Jordan Lane from 12:30-3 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Applicants must bring the following: proof of food stamps; a recent utility bill (must be a Huntsville/Madison County resident); recent rent receipt; Social Security card for everyone in household (or old Medicaid card); and proof of income, if available. The last day for applications is Nov. 2. Seniors age 60 and over can apply by phone at 837-2373 from 12:30-3 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

## Fall fest

Pinnacle Affairs will hold its inaugural Fall Fest on Friday at the Roundhouse in downtown Huntsville, 398 Monroe St. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. This event will be hosted by comedian D'Militant, and will feature the "King of Prank Calls" and comedian Roy Wood Jr. Deejays Ghon Bomb and Chief Rocka will provide music. Advance tickets are \$35, tables of four are \$170, and tables of eight are \$320. For more information, call 508-8674. For tickets visit the Style Bar at 2601 Leeman Ferry Road, Suite C, or go to [www.pinnacleaffairs.com](http://www.pinnacleaffairs.com).

## Homeless vet aid

The annual Operation Stand Down-Huntsville is Oct. 19-21 at the Jaycees Building located at the corner of Airport Road/Johnson Road and Leeman Ferry Road. The event provides health check-ups, Veterans Affairs assistance, food and clothing, job counseling and other types of aid to homeless veterans from throughout the area. To volunteer with this effort or to donate, call Dan Hamrick 864-9635 or email [drhamrick@west.com](mailto:drhamrick@west.com). The Operation Stand Down website is <http://www.operationstanddown.org>.

## Army aviation ball

The sixth annual Army Aviation Ball is Friday at the Von Braun Center's South Hall. Social hour starts at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 and music with dancing at 8. Cost is \$45 per person. To register call Tonya Galindo 799-5901, email [tonya.galindo@vt-group.com](mailto:tonya.galindo@vt-group.com) or visit <http://tvcevents.countmein.com>.

## Newcomer orientation

The next Team Redstone Newcomers and New Employee Orientation for civilian employees, Soldiers and military family members will be held Oct. 30 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Summit. Participants will receive training to orient them to federal employment and the installation, which will include: Garrison deputy commander and CPAC director remarks, Army Community Service, FMWR, Fox Army Health Center, Legal/JAG, Security, Management and Employee Relations, American Federation of Government Employees, Classification/Staffing, Benefits, Payroll,

Workers Compensation, Training and Workforce Development, Equal Employment Opportunity, Tomorrow's Army Civilian Leaders, and Safety. For more information on how to participate in Team Redstone Newcomers/NEO, call Jessie McCray 313-0714, Mary Breeden 876-5397 or Eugene Folks 313-0713. To obtain a space in this course, you must register by Oct. 29 in TIP at <https://tip.redstone.army.mil/>.

## 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/>.

## Madison veteran award

The Madison Rotary Club sponsors the Madison City Veteran of the Year program. To qualify for VOY, candidates, at a minimum, must meet the definition of a "veteran" as defined by the Alabama state code 31-5-1, have been honorably discharged from service, and be a resident of the city of Madison. Nomination information provided in this application should place emphasis on community service contributions during the last 12 months and may optionally include a summary of contributions made over the two prior years. Once chosen, the Veteran of the Year will be asked to provide a copy of a DD form 214 for confirmation of service and honorable discharge. The application deadline is Oct. 19. The Madison Rotary Club will donate \$1,000 in the recipient's name to the Wounded Warrior Fund. The application can be found at [www.madisonrotary.org](http://www.madisonrotary.org) under the "Events" heading.

## Flu shots for military

Fox Army Health Center says Active Duty Flu Shots will be given on the following dates in Preventive Medicine, located in the modular building next to Fox: Oct. 22 from 7-10 a.m. and Nov. 6 (makeup day) from 1:30-3:30 p.m. During this time any active duty servicemembers (Army, Air Force, Marine, and Navy) or Reserve or National Guard servicemembers should report for their seasonal flu shot. Army and Air Force personnel will be entered into MEDPROS; Navy and Marine Corps personnel will be given proof of immunization for their unit. As a reminder, seasonal flu shots are mandatory for active duty Army personnel unless medically exempt. Tricare Prime with providers at Fox will be offered flu shots during scheduled appointments. All other beneficiaries may receive shots as follows: this Saturday from 7:30-11:30 a.m.

**See Announcements on page 42**

# Rocket Announcements

at Fox (all ages); Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Commissary (adults only); Nov. 7 from 4-6 p.m. at Fox; and Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Commissary (adults only). For more information call Maj. Murray 955-8888, ext.1442, or Ms. Miller at ext. 1441.

## Save lids to save lives

In support of breast cancer awareness and education, Zeta Tau Alpha is teaming up with Yopliat 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, Yopliat will donate 10 cents to Susan G. Komen for the Cure to benefit breast cancer outreach programs and research.

## Cookbook fund-raiser

Charlie's Cooks is a cookbook written as a fund-raiser to obtain enough money to do a "Welcome Home Event" for an Alabama National Guard unit, C Company 115th ESB, that is about to return from serving a year in Afghanistan. Each

book is \$15; add shipping of \$3.75 per book if you are not able to pick it up on or near Redstone Arsenal. Send check or money order made out to "FRG" to: FRG, c/o Christina Harris, 678-B Dyer Circle, Huntsville, AL 35808.

## Logistics awards luncheon

The 2012 Ernest A. Young Logistics Achievement Award Luncheon/Ceremony is Nov. 8 at 11 a.m. at The Summit. The two awards are the Management/Executive Award to GS-13s and above (or military equivalents) and the Professional/Technical Award to GS-13s and below (or military equivalents). These awards are presented annually to recognize Team Redstone individuals who have provided outstanding service in the field of logistics support, made notable contributions to the efficiency and quality of logistical support, and demonstrated excellence and professionalism in his or her assigned duties. Tickets are on sale; and the final day to purchase tickets will be Nov. 1. Cost is \$17. For tickets call Karen Atchley 842-4781, Barbara Harris 876-3805, Kim Lund 842-5586, Darlene Readus 876-2392, Alisa McBride 842-

8665, Kelly McDaniel 313-1641, Shannon McNatt 842-6637 or Suzanne Wolf 955-0135.

## Pink ribbon gala

Huntsville's inaugural "Phi Beta Sigma Pink Ribbon" Gala is being sponsored by the Beta Epsilon Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. The formal event, with the theme "Forever Fighting to Knock Out Cancer," is Oct. 20 from 7 p.m. until midnight at the Von Braun Center's North Hall. "Our mission is to raise the community's awareness by educating and providing information about cancer and the importance of preventive measures that can be taken; such as yearly testing, screenings and exams that would give us early detection of this very serious disease," a prepared release said. "With your help this 'Pink Ribbon' Gala will also make a meaningful difference in the lives of cancer survivors and their families as well." Tickets, on sale until Saturday, are \$50. Proceeds will benefit the Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Foundation. Send checks to Beta Epsilon Sigma Chapter/Pink Ribbon Gala, P.O. Box 3381, Huntsville, AL 35810. For more information, call Willie Walker III 904-707-1115 or Tom Randolph 603-6552. Email williewalkerthe3rd@yahoo.com or tom.randolph27@yahoo.com.

## Comedy show

McCloud Entertainment and Eventblack.com will present "Comedy and Camouflage/Comedy Show and After Party" on Nov. 10 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 Com-icview, Hope Flood and is hosted by Sir Walt, from P'Diddy's Bad Boyz of Comedy. 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.

## Project lifesaver

The Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center will hold a free community demonstration of Project Lifesaver on Oct. 24 at 1 p.m. in the Senior Center Auditorium. Project Lifesaver is equally advantageous for those with Alzheimer's, and related mental dysfunction disorders such as autism. To learn more about Project Lifesaver or its partnering organizations go to www.projectlifesaver.org, www.co.madison.al.us/services/sheriff.com or www.pilotclubofhuntsville.com. For more information about the community

**See Announcements on page 43**



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Bingo!

Sarah Deshpande of AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center announces winning bingo numbers during the IMMC Octoberfest held Thursday at the Col. Carroll Hudson Recreation Area. Mabel McGhee, at right, served as the bingo chairman.



USASAC Public Affairs photo

## Keep on pulling

Employees and family members of the Security Assistance Command enjoyed a day of barbecue, kickball, three-legged races, tug-of-war competitions and bingo at their annual Organization Day. This year's event was held Thursday at Huntsville's Metro Kiwanis Sportsplex.

outreach event or to RSVP, call Paula Hamlett 895-6466 or Linda Baucom 772-0488.

### Car show

Cruise-In for Kids will be held Oct. 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hope Church parking lot, 1660 Balch Road in Madison. Registration is free. Donations will go to Harvest Youth Clubs. Sponsors are welcome. There will be family fun and food. For more information, call Juston 497-3253 or visit [www.hopechurch-madison.com](http://www.hopechurch-madison.com).

### Cyberbullying program

Dr. Lourencia Collins, associate professor of educational leadership at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, will present the program "Cyberbullying" on Monday at 11:30 a.m. at the Redstone Federal Credit Union training facility at the Wynn Drive location. The presentation is sponsored by the Mid-South Chapter, NCMS, the Society of Industrial Security Professionals and the North Alabama Chapter, ASIS International. For registration information, email chapter chair Stan Miller at [stanta.miller@gmail.com](mailto:stanta.miller@gmail.com) or visit <http://ncmsmidsouthchapter.eventbrite.com/>.

### Test flights

Residents may see and hear flares being dispensed from low flying rotary and fixed wing aircraft through the end of October, according to the Redstone Test Center. Coordination with all necessary agencies has been conducted to ensure these flights are contained over the test ranges of the Arsenal. Redstone Test Center thanks you for your ongoing cooperation as it continues to test equipment for America's Soldiers and military.

### Health fair

The Women of the Church auxiliary at Liberty P.B. Church, where Elder Johnny Jones is pastor, will sponsor a Health Fair on Oct. 27 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Huntsville Hospital's Mobile Medical Unit will give free cholesterol/glucose checks and blood pressure checks. Physical therapist Amorita Jones will do a fitness seminar and free muscular/skeletal screening. Herbert Reid of the Madison Fire Department will instruct on CPR; and Dr. Melissa DeBerry of Mountain View Family Medicine will do seminars on hypertension and cancer. Proceeds from the health fair will be divided between the American Cancer

# Rocket Announcements

Society and the Kimberly Fails Jones Foundation Inc. Everyone is invited. For more information, call Ellen Marie Cross 653-0911.

### Marriage workshop

A free Marriage/Relationship Workshop is being offered to anyone who has access to Redstone Arsenal. The date is Oct. 27 from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bicentennial Chapel. The facilitator is Chaplain Timothy Sowers, deputy AMC command chaplain and marriage and family life chaplain. The interactive workshop includes a continental breakfast, lunch and handouts. Child care is provided. Pre-registration is required by calling Army Community Service 876-5397 or by emailing [perrar.a.joseph.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:perrar.a.joseph.ctr@mail.mil).

### 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.

### Career expo

The Military Career Expo is coming to Huntsville on Oct. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Veterans will be able to meet with representatives of top companies from all industries, including government contractors, national corporations and local companies. The expo will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel at the Huntsville International Airport. Register at <http://www.military.com/career-expo/2012-huntsville-career-fair/>.

### October festival

Bicentennial Chapel will host the annual October Slam on the evening of Oct. 26 at the Youth Center. The festival will include hay rides, train rides, bouncing blowups, free food, carnival games, a youth band, a hobby booth with remote controlled vehicles, a flight simulator and more. The theme is "Promoting Family Hobbies. Promoting Family Togetherness."

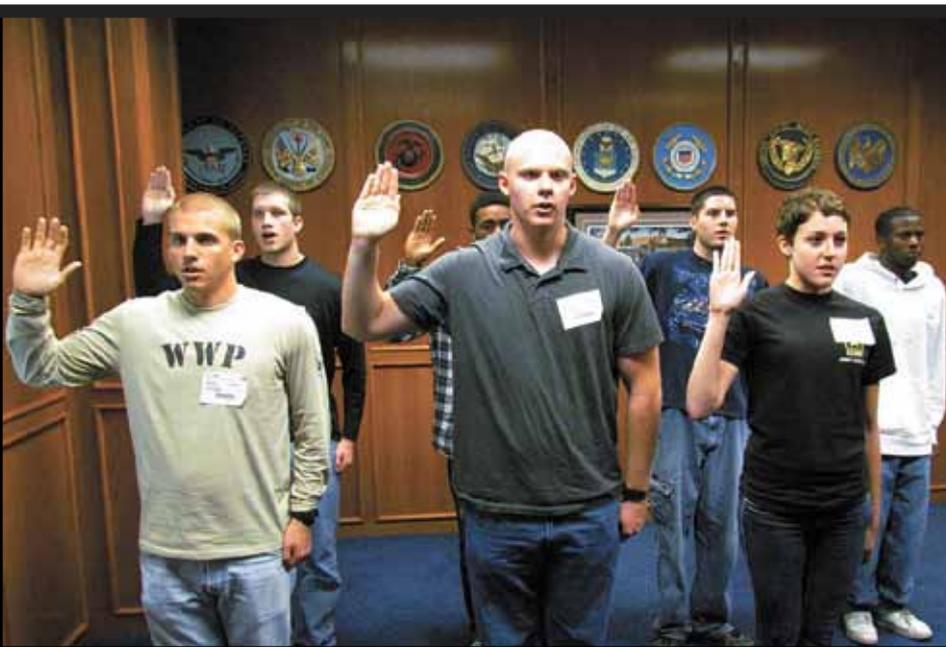


Photo by Kari Hawkins

## Future Soldiers

Tucker Hawkins, center, the son of *Rocket* assistant editor Kari Hawkins and NASA contractor Boyd Hawkins and a former Redstone Garrison-NAF employee, takes the oath of service at the U.S. Military Entrance Processing Center in Nashville on Oct. 2. He is now at basic training at Fort Benning, Ga., as an infantry Soldier. He will also receive airborne and Ranger training at Fort Benning. MEPS is known as Freedom's Front Door. The Nashville MEPS is in the 8th Battalion serving recruits in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky. It is part of the joint U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command.

