

Thanks to Cummings Research Park



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar, Redstone Arsenal's senior commander, represents the Army and Redstone Arsenal with his comments on the 50th anniversary of Cummings Research Park during an anniversary luncheon Oct. 15 at the Jackson Conference Center.

Fifty years of support appreciated by Army

By KARI HAWKINS
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The Army was on stage Oct. 15 among local business leaders as well as local and state political leaders to show its appreciation for the industry partners who have helped to make Cummings Research Park the second largest research and development park in the world.

“Cummings Research Park continues to be our support network on a national and international scale to grow our space, missile, aviation and defense programs,” said Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar, Redstone Arsenal's senior commander, who spoke on behalf of Team Redstone at the research park's 50th anniversary celebration luncheon at the Jackson Conference Center.

“Our Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen deserve the best. And Cummings Research Park has striven to provide them with that decisive edge. The strength of our nation is our Army. The strength of our Army is our Soldiers.

The strength of our Soldiers is our families. Cummings Research Park is part of that family. It's you that keeps us Army Strong.”

On the occasion of the research park's 50th anniversary, Collyar also represented Team Redstone in accepting a proclamation honoring the anniversary. Besides Collyar, the Army was represented at the two events by Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton, AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Kyle Crump and acting AMCOM deputy commander Bill Andrews.

Although established in 1962, Collyar told the luncheon crowd that the roots of Cummings Research Park go back to 1950. That's the year that Dr. Wernher von Braun and a rocket team made up of 130 German scientists, 501 Soldiers from the Army's 9330th Technical Service Unit, 180 General Electric employees, and 120 Army civilian employees came to Huntsville from Fort Bliss, Texas. The group at Fort Bliss had been working on the V-2 and various versions of the Hermes missile initiated under contract with GE. The Redstone missile evolved from the V-2 studies and Hermes research and development effort.

The decision to move to Redstone Arsenal was viewed by the

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What are you going to be for Halloween this year?

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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Cassidy Hinkle
Mills Road Child Development Center
"A fairy."



Eileen Sheehy
Mills Road Child Development Center
"A butterfly. I'm gonna fly."



Jessica Harbin
"Princess Belle. My dress is yellow."



Zane Bradley
"I told my dad I want to be a Red Ninja, but my brother wants to be a Storm Trooper."

Letter to the editor

Motorcycle tragedy offered life lessons

As Air Force supervisors and mentors, we have enormous responsibilities and a strong sense of dedication when it comes to duty, honor and country. We hear all the time how airmen are really doing some remarkable things, and how airmen are making a difference all around the world. We also hear about protecting our loved ones and fellow airmen – it is a top priority whether it is down range or on the home front. Unfortunately, there are times when we lose airmen in the combat zone and to traffic accidents at home station. We must learn from these events and ensure they are not forgotten.

My friend and co-worker Senior Airman Juan Navarro lost his life due to an unfortunate motorcycle accident. I was his sponsor at our first duty station at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas. I remembered him from the first time he drove on base, checking into lodging, asking questions about the base and the unit, telling me his short-term and long-term goals. He was the type of guy who was always looking for a competition, whether it is on the track running, tasking at work, or even winning awards. From the get-go he always competed with me, and in a short period of time we became competitors. I had so many "best room" awards at Laughlin AFB until he finally beat me, instructor of

the quarter for our unit. Until he finally beat me, he was always competing. We even made crazy bets about who would make master sergeant first. Today, I still remember him every time I walk into a room to test for promotion.

One of Navarro's long-term goals was to represent the Air Force as a boxer during the Olympics. At work, he would brag how he grew up in a boxing family. He often brought up boxing techniques in discussions – even when the conversation had nothing to do with boxing. It was his passion.

One morning, during physical training, our superintendent gave us personal workout time. Navarro looked at me and said, "Let's spar a little." It was a moment I had been waiting for a long time just to see if he was any good.

We got boxing gloves from the front desk at the gym, and found a room, where he explained the rules of sparring. We started going round for round not giving up, no matter how tired and exhausted we were, we just kept sparring. I could tell we both shared a mentality of never giving up no matter what the situation was. I also recall how punching Navarro was like punching a brick wall – this guy never took a break, never gave up. We didn't want to be late to work so we had to stop; but in the back of my mind I was telling myself, 10 more seconds and I would have called it quits. He really was that good of a fighter.

In April 2007, a friend sent me a message asking if Navarro had died and I immediately said "No, I left him at Laughlin doing OK." So I called back to a friend when I heard of the tragic, accident. I was shocked; I didn't know what to say. He was young, ambitious and wanted to do well by the Air Force. On April 23, 2007, Navarro was doing what many of us do every day – taking his motorcycle to get some dinner off base. Despite some bad weather roll-



Air Force photo

Airman Eddie Cimmino salutes the U.S. flag as it is flown at half-staff for Senior Airman Juan Navarro, who died April 23, 2007 in a motorcycle accident in Texas.

ing in, he continued to go off base, and lost control going around a corner. In a flash, Navarro was gone. The next day, the flag on base was lowered to half-staff in his honor and a memorial service was held. The unit felt a great loss; and so did I. To this day I still have the email announcing that he passed away.

I know we cannot control who lives or dies but we should continue as leaders to make sure we are aware of what our airmen are doing on and off duty. As peers we should try to be aggressive in helping each other make the right decision. This article is not only about remembering my friend, Navarro, it's about us taking a few moments every day to think about the risks we take on a daily basis. Be bold with your safety programs, be a well-trained military rider, and continue to serve as an American airman.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Sadek O. Brandford

Quote of the week

‘Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.’

— Sir Winston Churchill

RedstoneRocket

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On this date in history: Oct. 24

By SKIP VAUGHN

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In 1911: Orville Wright remained in the air nine minutes and 45 seconds in a glider at Kill Devil Hills, N.C., setting a world record that stood for 10 years.

In 1954: Dwight D. Eisenhower pledged United States support to South Vietnam.

In 1962: In the Cuban missile crisis, the U.S. blockade of Cuba began.

In 1998: The Deep Space 1 comet/asteroid mission was launched.

In 2002: Police arrested spree killers John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo, ending the Beltway sniper attacks in the area around Washington, D.C.

Halloween Fun slated for Redstone Communities

It's that time of year again when kids of all ages have special permission to dress up in costumes and visit Redstone Arsenal neighborhoods in search of treats.

Halloween Trick-or-Treating festivities are encouraged in Redstone Communities neighborhoods from 6 to 8 p.m. on Oct. 31. Trick-or-treaters should only visit houses that have their exterior lights on.

In addition, Redstone Communities will have a Halloween Party from 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 31 at their office at 302 Hughes Road. All Arsenal residents are encouraged to attend and wear their Halloween costumes. There will be a costume contest for all ages.

Also, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 31, the Thrift Shop on Hercules Road will be giving candy to children who wear their Halloween costume into the shop.

Getting to know you

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

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Name: Steve Gray

Job: Rec aid, June M. Hughes Arts & Crafts Center

Where do you call home?

Huntsville, Ala. I was born in Rogersville.

What do you like best about your job?

I like the neat toys – I have two lasers, so I get to play with lasers, and I have the Wizard, which cuts intricate mats. I enjoy the work and I enjoy meeting the people too.

What are your goals?

My customer's goals are my goals. Completion times are important to me, and I want to meet everyone's goal for delivery time. People come in for the wow that you can give them.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I flip houses. We bought a house the last day of August and we have put new windows in, new doors in, painted half of it, ripped out the upper bedroom and are putting tile in the kitchen.

What's on your bucket list?

My wife and I traveled the United States quite a bit in our earlier days,



and I'd like to get back to more of that. We have a timeshare in Hilton Head, S.C. and we love going there in the winter. It allows you to just get back to why you are what you are. When you walk on that beach and that sun is in your face, and the wind is to your back, it puts you back to how miniscule you are in God's plan. It brings you back – my problems are not as bad as I thought they were. Everybody needs that getaway time.

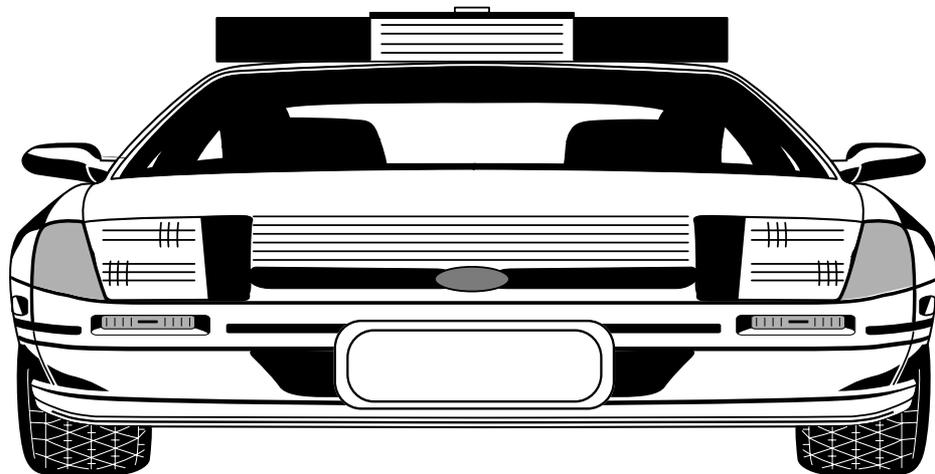
What college football team do you root for?

I'll watch Alabama if I have nothing else to do, and I usually take the time to sit down to watch the Alabama-Auburn game.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for Oct. 7-13:

- Police investigated a report of fraudulent use of a credit card at building 1500.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Vincent Drive at Spartan Drive.
- Police, along with the Madison County Sheriff's Office, served a civil protection order on a Soldier who was incarcerated at Redstone prior to being transferred to Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
- Police received a report of theft of a Redstone Arsenal security badge from a vehicle at a business in Huntsville.
- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Patton Road near Neal Road involving a deer.
- Police began investigating the theft of government property from a government pickup truck that was parked near the fitness track on Gray Road.
- Police arrested a driver for possession, distribution of a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia at Gate 8 when he was selected for a random inspection.
- Police cited a driver for a suspended license when she attempted access through Gate 9 and could not produce any identification.
- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident at Gate 9.
- Thirty-one U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.



AMRDEC worker injured in explosives accident

Building 5400 employees evacuated after mishap

By **KARI HAWKINS**

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A contractor employee was injured Oct. 16 while handling explosives in a laboratory at the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

Bill Barber, a Dynetics employee who has prior experience with explosives, was injured before 8 a.m. while handling an explosive in a lab at AMRDEC's headquarters in building 5400 on Fowler Road, just south of Martin Road.

"The employee was handling a small explosive device," AMRDEC director Eric Edwards said during a press conference at Gate 9 after the incident. "He received non-life-threatening injuries."

AMRDEC personnel, and Garrison emergency and safety personnel responded immediately to the accident; and Barber was transported via the Huntsville Emergency Medical Services to Huntsville Hospital. Family members later reported that Barber underwent surgery on

his left hand and "he is doing fine."

An investigation is being conducted by Redstone Arsenal's Police investigative agencies, and safety professionals from AMRDEC and Garrison safety offices. Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel from Fort Campbell, Ky., are assisting in the investigation. An inspector from the Birmingham Office of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration is also conducting an investigation.

"We will determine the cause so we can take corrective action," Edwards said.

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton visited the site soon after the accident.

"Damages and injuries were contained right to the immediate working area. Appropriate steps were taken to ensure the rest of the work force is safe," Hamilton said. "The area was cleared out and sealed off."

Employees were evacuated from the area.

Describing the area of the explosion as a "bench/desk type area," Hamilton said "it was a small contained area. You could tell how small the explosive was by how little damage was done to the work area."

Hamilton emphasized that a thorough



Photo by Grant Thompson

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton and AMRDEC director Eric Edwards address reporters at a press conference after the Oct. 16 injury.

investigation of the accident will be conducted.

"Our first priority is to the employee to make sure he's getting the medical care he needs and that's happening at the hospital. Our second priority is to determine how this happened to ensure that it doesn't happen again," he said.

Barber has supported AMRDEC for four years as an ordnance specialist and conducts safety training for his team.

Preliminary indications are that Barber was operating within the normal scope of his operations at the time of the incident.

Besides the cause of the incident, Edwards said the investigation will also determine the nature of the explosive, if the employee had the appropriate training for the type of explosive he was handling, and what occurred immediately prior to and after the explosion.

The director said investigators will put "all the rigor they need" into the investigation, and will ask questions such as "Are the right procedures in place?" and "Where did the breakdown occur?"

The accident will be recreated to "determine the nature of the small explosive device, how it came to be in that area and what the employee was doing," Edwards said.

It was unknown how long the investigation will take.

Hamilton said that Army technical support will be called on as needed in the investigation.

"Across the Army we have a great deal of expertise," he said. "They'll have the support they need to get to the bottom of what happened."

Redstone Arsenal then and now



AMCOM History Office photo

The ABMA activation ceremony is conducted Feb. 1, 1956, in front of the building.

Building 4488 opened in 1956

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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Building 4488, today's Garrison headquarters, was opened on Feb. 1, 1956, as the headquarters for the newly created Army Ballistic Missile Agency.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Building 4488 on Martin Road is the headquarters for the Garrison.

Commanded by Maj. Gen. John Medaris, ABMA came from the Ordnance Missile Laboratory's Guided Missile Development Division. The new agency inherited 1,600 people, 1.1 million square feet of space in buildings containing more than \$21 million worth of equipment, and support facilities (utilities and grounds) valued at \$2.5 million.

Famous occupants of what is today's Garrison command suite offices would include Medaris and Dr. Wernher von Braun.

Medaris later commanded the Army



AMCOM History Office photo

This is an aerial view of building 4488 in the 1950s.

Ordnance Missile Command, being responsible for development, acquisition and fielding of every Army rocket and missile system.

Building 4488 would subsequently house the Missile Command's Acquisition element, formerly known as Procurement and Production. In 1993, then MICOM commander Maj. Gen. Jim Link dedicated the building as the "Maj. Gen. John B. Medaris Center for Acquisition Excellence."

When the Aviation and Missile Com-



AMCOM History Office photo

Maj. Gen. John Medaris, then commander of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, sits at his desk in building 4488.

mand's Acquisition element moved out of the building into the newly constructed Sparkman Center, building 4488 was renamed the "Maj. Gen. John B. Medaris Center."

The Garrison, formerly known as the Redstone Arsenal Support Activity, moved into building 4488 from building 112 in 2002.

Editor's note: This information was provided by the AMCOM History Office, with appreciated assistance from historian Dr. Kaylene Hughes.

Garrison workers enjoy organization day outing

Photos by Ellen Hudson

Members of the Garrison had fun in the sun Oct. 16 at the recreation area on the Tennessee River.



From left, playing cards, are Anthony Morris, Sonya Morris, Lisa Brown, Gayl Glenn and Glen Reese.



Kathi Bestor and Jeff Kemp are among the last to get their food. Meanwhile, behind the tent, fellow employees are playing horseshoes and corn bag toss.



Roger Hare pitches horseshoes during the Garrison's organization day.



Playing bingo, from left, are Thomas Brown, Booker T. Terry and Norman Smith.



Starting a game of "Pig" basketball, from left, are Steve Holloway, Joshua Dobson, Reed Armstrong and Kevin Guthrie, all of the Directorate of Public Works.



Brenda Haynes and Paul Grosch are among those soaking up the sunshine.

Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events

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

R&B concert

Sights and Sounds of Redstone and their "Think Pink Partner" Dra'Karr and An Experience Band, Atlanta's nominated and reigning hottest R&B band, present their second CFC Pink Party. Come out and see Dra'Karr in concert Nov. 9 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

at the Firehouse Pub, building 114 on Hankins Road. There will be free hors d'oeuvres and drink specials. For more information, call 842-3070.

Jewelry sale

"Treasures of the Earth Sale" continues through Friday 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.

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October Slam invites kids of all ages

*Fourth annual event set
Friday at Youth Center*

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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When family, friends, faith and fun come together, it's sure to be a slammin' good time.

That's the promise of Bicentennial Chapel and Club H2O's fourth annual October Slam. The event for families of all ages is Friday from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at the Youth Center gymnasium on Youth Center Road. Last year's Slam drew 1,150 people, and this year chapel staff is planning for even more. Anyone with access to the installation is invited.

"It's just a time to have fun, clean fun, and it's a good environment for kids. They just have a blast," Darrell Good, director of youth programs at Bicentennial Chapel, said. "It's a time for families to hang out, have a good time with each other and get to know people from the Redstone community."

From hayrides to train rides, a Juggling Fire Show, bouncing blowups, carnival games, clowns, cotton candy, music from the youth band, free food, a 5-foot flying Goodyear blimp, John Deere Gator, local Christian motorcycle gang, radio controlled battleships and more, the event has something for all ages.

"The idea with these types of games is to help promote games that families would enjoy doing together such as flying radio controlled airplanes, ships and what have you," Good said.

In addition to a good time, the event also offers families a glimpse at what's available for them year-round at Bicentennial Chapel.

"We want the Redstone community to see what the Redstone Bicentennial Chapel has to offer families," Good said. "We want the community to also see that we have a great youth program, including summer camp, winter camp, discipleship weekends



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Like last year's October Slam, Friday's event will include rides on a homemade train that was the brainchild of the Bicentennial Chapel's Darrell Good, second from left. Several volunteers helped Good with the project, including, from left, Chandler Foster, and Michael Fitzgerald and his dad Mark Fitzgerald.

and a regular weekly youth program year-round. Our youth ministry is called Club H2O and our slogan is, 'Where Friends, Fun and Faith Connect.' That is also the slogan for October Slam. We have a great leader here in the chapel, Chaplain (Maj.) Paige Heard. She has demonstrated great leadership here and she loves people and that is our mission."

Secure messaging provides constant care, around clock

Fox health center puts system online

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

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No matter the day or the hour, if they're five miles or 500 miles away, Fox Army Health Center provides its beneficiaries with constant medical care.

As of Oct. 1, beneficiaries of Fox are now benefitting from secure messaging, a HIPAA compliant, secure web-based communication system available through www.relayhealth.com, which allows patients to interact their Fox health care providers online, whether it's scheduling appointments, refilling medication, receiving lab results or getting medical advice from their doctor. All patients have to do is access www.relayhealth.com from any computer or web-enabled device.

"We only see you for 100-some minutes a year to take care of your health care needs. Now we can see you 24/7, 365 days a year and provide you with health care services," Lt. Col. Timothy Talbot, deputy commander for clinical services at Fox, said of the service.



Courtesy photo

Fox Army Health Center beneficiaries can now communicate with their health care providers at Fox through secure messaging.

Patients visiting Fox in the weeks and months to come will receive an invitation to join the system and create their own account. Users will provide the system with an email address that will be used to alert them when they have a message in their Relay Health account, such as the facility is closed due to severe weather or their doctor has responded to their message.

Not to be used for urgent or emergency medical needs, the messaging system allows patients to communicate with Fox staff

online when it is convenient for them, not just when Fox is open. If they need a referral to their neurologist or just want to go over a symptom with their doctor, such as low back pain, to see if it's worth a visit in-person, all they have to do is send a message or schedule a chat with their provider online. Fox staff are required to respond to the patient within 72 hours, but are constantly trying to beat that standard, Talbot said.

"We have an extremely transient population here on Redstone Arsenal that is travel-

ing all the time," he said. "If you're traveling three, four days out of every week it's hard for you to book an appointment, get information, or try to get through on the phone lines while you're traveling. Now you can sit in your hotel room, shoot off a message to your provider or provider team and say, 'Hey I was curious about this,' and we can get right back to you. It allows you to have more free time in your daily life. You don't have to show up at the facility for us to take care of your needs."

The system also provides the user with educational resources, such as exercises a patient can do when they experience low back pain, or what warning signs they should watch out for to seek in-person medical help from their provider.

"It provides a great education resource as well for self-treatment," Talbot said.

As a result of those resources, access to care will actually increase for Fox patients, not only because of their ability to contact Fox whenever they choose, but also because they will no longer always need to come in for an appointment, thus freeing up space for the beneficiaries that really need to be seen in-person.

"It will increase access and satisfaction for the patients," Barbara Williford, chief of the clinical support division, said.

Here's your chance to create great American novel

Post Library encourages writers in November

By **HEATHER MORRIS**

Post Library staff

At midnight on Nov. 1, hundreds of thousands of people around the world are going to sit down at their computers and embark on a month-long, annual and slightly crazy quest: to write a 50,000-word novel – before the month is up.

November is National Novel Writing Month, a tradition begun in 1999 by a small nonprofit group now called The Office of Letters and Light. Every year, National Novel Writing Month hosts thousands of participants. More than 600 regional volunteers in more than 110 countries will hold write-ins, hosting writers in local coffee shops, bookstores, and libraries, to encourage each other to reach the magic 50,000-word goal.

There are no judges, no prizes, and no one will read these works unless the authors hand them a copy. So, what's the point?

“The 50,000-word challenge has a



Photo by Barbara McGroary

Library staff member Heather Morris is a veteran NaNoWriMo participant and is bringing the event to the Post Library for the first time this year.

wonderful way of opening up your imagination and unleashing creativity,” Chris Baty, NaNoWriMo founder (and 13-time NaNoWriMo winner), said. “When you write for quantity instead of quality, you end up getting both. Also, it’s a great excuse for not doing any dishes for a month.”

Although the event emphasizes creativity and determination over creating

a literary masterpiece, more than 150 NaNoWriMo novels have since been published, including “Water for Elephants,” a New York Times No. 1 best-seller by Sara Gruen.

This year, the Post Library is encouraging budding novelists to “Come Write In” during November. They will be hosting two write-ins on Nov. 3 and Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Nothing is required except your favorite writing tools and some free time, but registration on the NaNoWriMo website is encouraged. Free Wi-Fi, coffee and cookies will be provided to participants, as well as helpful writing handouts to get your imagination jump-started. If you aren’t able to make the write-ins, you’re still free to drop in to the library any time for a quiet place to work on your novel.

If you’ve always said you’d like to write a novel “one day,” now’s your chance to start. Sign up today at www.nanowrimo.org and join the Alabama North region to connect with Wrimos from your area and to get updates about local NaNoWriMo events. For more information, you can check out the official webpage or call the Post Library at 876-4741.

Here are some of the writing and publishing books the Redstone Library has:

“2011 Writer’s Market” edited by Robert Lee Brewer – Tips on writing, identifying your market and finding and dealing with publishers. A listing of literary agents, book publishers, magazines, newspapers, greeting card companies, etc.

“Elmore Leonard’s 10 Rules of Writing” by Elmore Leonard – Presents 10 fundamental rules for writers to avoid specific elements that can slow down the action and distract the reader.

“How to Write a Sentence and How to Read One” by Stanley Fish – Explains how to craft the perfect sentence, as well as how to appreciate well-written prose, with examples from William Shakespeare, Martin Luther King Jr., Elmore Leonard and others.

“On Writing: a Memoir of the Craft” by Stephen King – The author reflects on how writing has helped him through difficult times and describes various aspects of the art of writing.

“Write a Blockbuster and Get it Published” by Helen Corner and Lee Weatherly – An introduction to writing popular fiction. Covers plot, pace, action, character and also covers different genres.

Keep Halloween safe and fun for youngsters

Halloween is an evening of fun, costumes and candy. To make sure this spooky night is a safe one, the Garrison Safety Office has provided some information to help keep you safe.

Here are trick-or-treating safety tips:

- Know your route and accompany your children while trick or treating.
- Take a flashlight, glow sticks or put reflective tape on costumes.
- Ensure that costumes, shoes and treat bags are safe.
- Remind children not to enter strangers' homes or cars.
- Set rules about not eating treats until kids get home.
- Be sure to inspect all treats before allowing kids to eat them.
- Candy that has been opened should be thrown away.
- Any homemade treats or fruit should be inspected closely. And if you do not know the people they came from, you should probably dispose of it.
- Remember drivers have a hard time seeing people,

especially at dusk. And never cross the street from between parked cars.

- Make sure to have a plan for if you get separated from your child. Meet at a lighted corner, have them call you or use a buddy (or sibling) system.

It is also important to ensure that your home is safe and accessible to trick-or-treaters. As adults, there are some simple things we can do to make the evening safe everyone.

- Turn on your porch light.
- Move lit jack-o-lanterns off the porch where kids get bunched up if they are trick-or-treating in groups.
- Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard.
- Drive slowly all evening – you never know what creature may suddenly cross your path.
- Do not dispense homemade treats or fruits to children. Coins are always a good substitute.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to the police.
- Trick-or-treating in the housing areas is scheduled



Oct. 31 from 6-8 p.m., according to Redstone Communities.

For more safety information, visit http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/home/halloween.html.

Stress management groups plan evening hours

Behavioral Health Department groups at Fox Army Health Center will offer evening hours this winter.

The Posttraumatic Stress Disorder group will meet every Wednesday evening for 10 weeks. Upcoming start dates are Nov. 7 and Feb. 13 from 5-6:30 p.m. Call ahead for a screening appointment.

Frequent symptoms of PTSD include reliving the event, avoiding situations that remind you of the event, feeling numb and feeling keyed up. This group utilizes Cognitive Processing Therapy, a military endorsed evidence based treatment modality.

The Women's ACT Group is designed to help women who are struggling with anxiety,

depression or anger. This group utilizes Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. The treatment program meets every Thursday evening for 10 weeks, starting Nov. 29 and Feb. 21 from 5-6:30 p.m. Call ahead to sign up.

The Adolescent/Early Adult ACT Group, every Thursday evening for 10 weeks, also uses Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. Call ahead to sign up and to check the next available start dates.

Those eligible include active duty military, dependents, retirees (Tricare Prime or Standard) and their family members.

To reserve a space, call the Behavioral Health Department at 955-8888, ext. 1931. *(Fox Army Health Center release)*

Budget cuts will reshape military of future

Department of Defense official expects deal before early 2013

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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An expected last ditch effort to prevent sequestration in early 2013 will likely mean that cuts to the defense budget will be more manageable, said a top Pentagon official speaking to a group of business leaders at Technology Summit 2012 hosted by the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County on Oct. 16 at the Jackson Conference Center.

Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, said that sequestration – automatic spending cuts that include cutting the defense budget by nearly half a trillion dollars over the next decade (about \$55 billion in the first year) if Congress is unable to reach a compromise on how to solve America's debt dilemma – would put the Department of Defense in the impossible position of having to use the “meat ax approach” in cutting defense programs.

With that as a looming possibility, the pressure is on Congress to get an authorization bill passed before the end of 2012, he said.

“We’re not falling off the cliff here,” Kendall said. “There should be a deal at the last minute that will mean defense cuts of between zero and \$50 billion. The number I’ve heard is there will be defense cuts of \$10 billion a year.”

Yet, sequestration is still a possibility due to Congress’ inability to agree on a mixture of lower spending and higher taxes to balance the budget. Because of that inability, automatic spending decreases in early 2013 will hit the \$1.2 trillion figure or about \$109 billion in cuts to government spending every year for the next decade. For the Department of Defense, defense programs could be cut by about 10 percent, or \$55 billion, each year for the next decade, while Medicare will be reduced by 2 percent (\$11 billion) each year and non-defense spending would be cut by about 8 percent (\$43 billion) each year.

With such cuts in mind, Kendall said the leadership within the Department of Defense has discussed how to shape the military of the future.

In his position, Kendall is responsible

to the Secretary of Defense for all matters pertaining to acquisition; research and engineering; developmental testing; contract administration; logistics and materiel readiness; installations and environment; operational energy; chemical, biological and nuclear weapons; the acquisition work force; and the defense industrial base. He has been involved with drills within the Department of Defense that have been conducted based on different budget cutting scenarios.

“By year 2020, what do we want the defense department to look like and then how do we build the defense budget around that?” is the question Pentagon officials are trying to answer internally.

Unlike other wartime situations where defense spending lessened dramatically as wars came to an end, today’s defense cuts are coming at a time when the nation is still at war in Afghanistan.

“Today, the threat is not changing. In some ways the threat is getting worse,” Kendall said, mentioning the situations in Iran, Korea and terrorism throughout the world.

The military’s future force will be more agile, technologically superior, leaner and more efficient. “We will drawdown ground forces substantially, but we will retain the capability to respond,” he said. “There will be a fundamental change in force structure ... and all of that has got to come together within the constraints that we have.”

A tighter military budget will carry more risk, with no reserve in case of program overages, inflation and other cost escalations in things like medical insurance, fuel costs and facilities.

“It’s going to be an austere environment. But the world is not coming to an end. It is a difficult business environment because we spent 10 years of war growing the budget,” Kendall said.

There are concerns of what the impact of a substantially reduced budget will have on the Department of Defense’s industrial base.

“We want to preserve the industrial base as part of our technological superiority. ... We can act selectively if there are niche industries we want to preserve. But we can’t protect every business,” Kendall said.

To better manage an austere budget



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, talks about the tightening defense budget during Technology Summit 2012 hosted by the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County on Oct. 16. He reports directly to the Secretary of Defense.

environment, Kendall said the DoD acquisition community should fully implement the Better Buying Power initiative, which was introduced about two years ago and which includes 23 policy initiatives designed to get more efficiency in the DoD acquisition process.

Calling himself an evolutionary leader rather than a transformational leader, Kendall said it is best to change the acquisition system in stages rather than all at once.

“I’ve seen a lot of fads come and go in the acquisition environment,” he said. “It’s a very stubborn system to change. We need to change it in pieces, continually evaluating our progress. We need to incorporate continuous improvement because I think we can do a lot better than today ...

“There are a lot of laws that are incredibly complicated. We are trying to update them and make them more flexible. We are trying to get rid of laws that were built up piecemeal and replace them with something more coherent. We need to simplify things. We have a lot to do in terms of improving things.”

Kendall would like to see improvements in the quality and training of the

acquisition work force, and in setting clearer standards in how the government does business with industry.

“Strengthening the work force is probably the single most important thing we can do,” he said. “We really, really need to strengthen our work force. We have a lot of good people who don’t have the breadth and depth they need.”

He would like to see improvements in the way DoD chooses its programs, ensuring that it doesn’t choose programs it can’t afford in the long run.

“We have had to bring an end to programs that are just not affordable. We spend a lot of money on them in research and development, and then we have to stop them in production,” Kendall said.

“When programs start, we have to have an affordability cap. I want us to do an analysis so that we can get a realistic view of costs. The hard part would be enforcing affordability caps. So, we have to prioritize requirements and drop some we can’t afford before we get them established.”

Kendall would also like program managers to be more active in identifying opportunities to reduce costs, and for hardware to be designed with consideration of future needs and the needs of allied customers.

“Many of our international partners design new systems from day one for export,” he said. “We don’t do that. We design for our needs and then we look around and say ‘Gee, do we want to sell this to somebody?’ We need to design our systems up front with our international customers in mind.”

Kendall would also like industry to assist in reducing costs. He would like to increase the use of performance-based logistics; reduce the amount of time it takes to award contracts; reduce bureaucracy; implement a new emphasis on the superior supply award program; and increase competition with a better definition of what value means to DoD and with DoD making purchases based on cost and value.

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Photos by Ellen Hudson

Ribbon runners

Every year, the Liz Hurley Ribbon Run 5K brings 6,000 runners to downtown Huntsville to raise money for breast cancer research, and Saturday's 9th annual event was no different. Among those runners were members of the Redstone Roadrunners from Team Redstone. At top, prior to the run, several Redstone Roadrunners met with coordinator Donna Johnson of the Garrison at the

team's tent near Huntsville Middle School. In the middle photo, Donna Johnson, who is a breast cancer survivor, waves as she passes the crowds lined up along downtown Huntsville streets. At bottom right, members of the Redstone Roadrunners give a cheer in the fight against breast cancer. Redstone Roadrunners was the only Team Redstone entry in the event. The team had more than 50 members and raised about \$2,000 toward breast cancer research.



Project office enters pact with Alabama A&M

The Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office welcomed the Alabama A&M University Engineering Department to its family during a Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony Oct. 9 on the campus.

The memorandum between the project office and A&M formalizes an agreement that is expected to promote both organizations. The project office gets access to some of higher learning's top engineering talent and independent research needed to advance unmanned aircraft system technology and usage.

"The possible uses for UASs are nearly endless, and student creativity may discover application avenues previously unexplored," Lt. Col. Robb Walker, the project office's director of external programs, said. "It's amazing to see what these students think of and how they conquer problems.

"The success of this program with universities will help accelerate some of the technological advances we seek for Army UAS programs."

Alabama A&M president Dr. Andrew Hugine Jr. described the memorandum as "the type of collaborative agreement that postures our engineering students for future success through competitiveness."

"When entering into partnerships such as this, there are benefits on each side," Hugine said. "Our students will work on cutting edge technologies and the Army will reap the results of our gifted student talent pool."

Alabama A&M will join Middle Tennessee State University, as well as future partners Auburn University and Mississippi State University, as the UAS Project Office aims to refocus its perspective on defense and the way it has traditionally operated by adding more civil applications for UAS.



Army photo

Unmanned Aircraft Systems project manager Col. Tim Baxter and Alabama A&M University president Dr. Andrew Hugine Jr. sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

"Partnerships with universities such as Alabama A&M will ensure the Army maintains its UAS technological edge over those rogue entities that wish to do our nation great harm," UAS project manager Col. Tim Baxter said. "The Army, Redstone Arsenal and Alabama A&M will reap lasting benefits in the forms of information sharing, student job experience, and the sharing of lessons learned among respective partners."

In addition to their role in supporting troops in theater, the use of unmanned aircraft in non-conflict situations is growing. The aircraft and onboard sensor payloads can be used in domestic disaster response — humanitarian relief efforts; environmental, geological, agricultural studies and law-enforcement initiatives. *(UAS Project Office release)*

Nation's financial shape threatens national security

Congressman outlines issues in budget crisis

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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The nation's financial situation was pretty bad after the War of 1812. It was tough, too, following the Civil War and World War II.

But U.S. Rep. Mo Brooks of Alabama said the nation's current financial situation is the most threatening to its future.

"America is in probably the worst financial condition it's been in, in its history. The numbers are pretty brutal," he said.

Speaking to members of the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America at their membership luncheon Thursday at The Summit, Brooks said federal spending during the past four years has overrun revenues, building up an astronomical debt that now hangs over the American people.

In fiscal 2011, federal spending reached \$3.83 trillion while revenues were only \$2.57 trillion, leaving a deficit of \$1.3 trillion. In fiscal 2012, the federal government had a deficit of \$1.1 trillion.

Although the nation did reduce its deficit between the two years, Brooks said it was "not sufficient progress to avoid potential risk of financial insolvency and bankruptcy of the federal government. We've had four years of trillion dollar deficits in a row."

Calling it a "really bad and dangerous risk," Brooks said the nation's cumulative debt now stands at \$16 trillion, or \$51,000 per every American citizen (\$255,000 for a family of five).

"This is a real deep hole," he said, adding that it cost the nation \$25 billion to service the national debt in 2011-12.

"The overall picture is what's causing a lot of wailing and gnashing of teeth in the halls of Congress," Brooks said. "They're starting to understand there is a huge downside to our country from going down this path."

But Brooks doesn't think cutting the defense budget further is the answer to the crisis.

The Budget Control Act of 2011 required a reduc-

tion in defense spending by \$40 billion a year, what Brooks describes as "taking an ax to the military."

If sequestration – automatic spending cuts that include cutting the defense budget by nearly half a trillion dollars over the next decade (about \$55 billion in the first year) if Congress is unable to reach a compromise on how to solve America's debt dilemma – takes effect, national security will be threatened.

"This debt is a threat to our country," Brooks said. With Iran growing its nuclear threat, Korea shooting missiles, China building up its military, and the civil unrest in Africa and Asia, there are a "a lot of challenging national security issues around the world. But, as Navy Adm. Mike Mullin (who served as the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from October 2007 until September 2011) put it, the greatest threat is our debt."

If sequestration occurs, the Department of Defense will have the smallest Army since World War II and the smallest Navy since World War I, according to Brooks. From 500,000 to 700,000 servicemembers and civilians will be laid off from their jobs, he said.

"The national debt has become an impetus for cuts to the national defense structure," Brooks said. "What outside enemy can devastate our national defense like our debt can?"

Other solutions to the national debt crisis include raising taxes and pinpointing other spending cuts. Brooks would like to see the tax structure left alone and spending cuts focused on entitlement programs, which have grown 40 percent during the last five or six years. Although he would exclude "earned" entitlement programs such as Social Security, he would raise the age for receiving Social Security.

"I want to cut entitlements that aren't earned and that don't give back to the nation," he said. "Defense spending does give back by improving our national security. That's important to our country."

Brooks would also cut foreign aid ("We've got to get our financial house in order before helping others around the world); would cut \$4 billion received by illegal aliens through fraudulent reporting in relation to the Child Tax Credit; and would not allow the Federal Reserve to print money that devalues the rate of U.S. currency. Lastly, he would work to grow the economy by encouraging tax cuts and incentives that create jobs.

The congressman doubts that any compromises

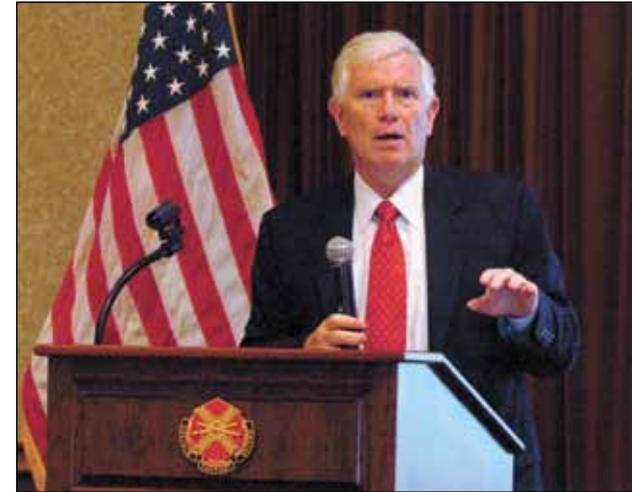


Photo by Kari Hawkins

Rep. Mo Brooks talks about the national debt crisis, sequestration and national policies during his presentation to the Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America held Thursday at The Summit.

will be reached during the upcoming lame duck session.

"I don't see a probability of fixing sequestration during the lame duck," he said. Rather, he believes there will be another continuing resolution that will keep spending at current levels for the next six months to get past the November general election.

But predictions that the federal government will run out of money in January 2013 and a planned 75 percent increase in payroll taxes will further endanger the economy, may cause Congress to move faster than expected.

In other issues, Brooks said the Benghazi, Libya, terrorist attack and how it was handled by the White House should be thoroughly investigated; going environmentally "green" for green's sake is not a sound strategy and not economically feasible; the Keystone Pacific pipeline from Canada should be developed so that the U.S. reliance on oil from the Persian Gulf can be diminished and so China doesn't get hold of the valuable oil reserves; the U.S. debt and trade deficit with China should be reduced; and China should be forced to abide by fair trade practices.

Community takes stand for homeless veterans

Photos by Ellen Hudson

The sixth annual Operation Stand Down was held last weekend at the Jaycees facility in John Hunt Park. Homeless veterans were given food, a place to sleep, help with employment, haircuts and other assistance.

From left, retired Col. Mike Vaccaro, Hal Meeker and Arno Hoerle of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 26, conduct in-processing for veteran Michael Smith.



At the breakfast table, from left, are veterans Columbus Cash Jr., Joe Bullard, Valerie Mitchell and Charles Hereford.



Operation Stand Down project officer Jane Dow talks with veterans, from left, Glen Coleman, Benny Fletcher and Ron Stocker.

Joe Shiver, left, a volunteer with the Redstone Chapter of the Warrant Officers Association, and volunteer Damon Templet, who works on Redstone Arsenal, provide security for the veterans' belongings in the sleeping area.

Letterkenny dedicates equipment to fallen hero

By LINDSAY BRYANT
Letterkenny Public Affairs

LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT, Chambersburg, Pa.— The new route clearance vehicle welding positioner at Letterkenny Army Depot was dedicated to the memory of Master Sgt. Benjamin F. Bitner, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) headquartered at Fort Bragg, N.C., in a ceremony at the maintenance facility Oct. 10.

“The piece of equipment that you see behind me from this day forward will be known as the Bitner Positioner and will serve as a daily reminder for our work force that our Soldiers are relying on Letterkenny to ensure we remain the best equipped Army in the world,” depot commander Col. Victor Hagan said.

Bitner joined the Army in 1991 before graduating from Greencastle Antrim High School in Greencastle, Pa. He attended Special Forces Assessment and Selection in 1999 and graduated from the Special Forces Qualification Course as an engineer sergeant. On his 10th operational deployment Bitner was serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan when his life was taken after sustaining wounds from an improvised explosive device on April 23, 2011.

A close family friend, Benjamin Thomas, asked everyone to celebrate Bitner's life. He shared stories of Bitner as a young child and his fonder memories of

riding bikes, building forts and working on his jeep.

From the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), Sgt. 1st Class Julian Kitching, spoke about his experience serving alongside Bitner. He was a leader by his example and had energy, focus and commitment to excellence every day.

“When I met Ben in 2007 he became my mentor. Ben got us ready and we trained hard. He wasn't just the builder on the team, he was the glue,” Kitching said. “When I took over for Ben as team sergeant I realized the massive responsibility I had, but I knew what to do by Ben's example, not by anything he told me.”

Hagan, acting depot sergeant major, Master Sgt. Joseph Schall along with Bitner's father Roger and mother Beverly unveiled the plaque reading, “We are proud to dedicate the Bitner Positioner in memory of Master Sgt. Benjamin F. Bitner, Greencastle, Pennsylvania, for his honorable service and for making the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of liberty and the cause of freedom.”

The Bitner Positioner will perform work on route clearance vehicles, which are equipped to detect, analyze and dispose of any explosively formed penetrator or improvised explosive device and will protect Soldiers from similar dangers that tragically took the life of Bitner. It will be a vital piece of equipment as it will allow the route clearance vehicle work force to substantially reduce pro-



Photo by Don Bitner, Letterkenny Army Depot

Depot commander, Col. Victor Hagan, acting depot sergeant major Master Sgt. Joseph Schall along with Bitner's father Roger and mother Beverly unveil the plaque reading, “We are proud to dedicate the Bitner Positioner in memory of Master Sgt. Benjamin F. Bitner, Greencastle, Pennsylvania, for his honorable service and for making the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of liberty and the cause of freedom.”

cess cycle times and return equipment more efficiently into the hands of the Soldiers. Welding can be conducted in position as opposed to in overhead or vertical positions and produce a greater quality weld by not fighting the effects of gravity on the molten weld.

The depot is the center of industrial and technical excellence and the Army's depot source of repair for the route clearance vehicle program.

With the dedication of the Bitner Positioner, Bitner will forever be a part of Letterkenny Army Depot.

“Let us never forget all that Master Sgt. Bitner did and stood for. May all who work in the shops, tour our facility and receive the product be touched and encouraged by his sacrifice,” Hagan said.

Bitner's military awards and decora-

tions include six Bronze Star Medals, Purple Heart, two Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals with “V” device, three Army Achievement Medals, four Army Good Conduct Medals, three Army Reserve Components Achievement Medals, two National Defense Service Medals, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, four Afghanistan Campaign Medals, two Iraq Campaign Medals, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, three Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbons, Army Service Ribbon, four NATO Medals, Special Forces Tab, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Parachutists Badge and Military Free-Fall Badge.



Photo by John Deemer

RTC town hall

Redstone Test Center commander Col. Steve Kihara addresses his employees during a town hall Oct. 16 in Bob Jones Auditorium. During the meeting, Kihara presented awards and length of service recognitions, discussed the Army Profession and Ethics campaigns, and provided an update on the state of the RTC.

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Soldiers from 115th receive family homecoming

Work improved communications throughout Afghanistan

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Specialist Troy Jones went to war with a computer in his duffle bag.

On Sunday, his four-year-old son Jake tried to carry that duffle bag for his daddy.

But the computer equipment inside made it too heavy for him, even with the help of his sisters, five-year-old Nicolet and three-year-old Elizabeth.

The Florence family, including mom Nicole, greeted their Soldier in a parking lot at the Huntsville International Airport. A group of 127 Alabama National Guard Soldiers from the 115th Expeditionary Signal Battalion returned home Sunday by charter flight into Signature Flight Support. Nearly 200 more Soldiers with the unit are expected home later this month.

The 450 Soldiers of the 115th, based in Florence with many of its members from Huntsville, have been headquartered at the Kandahar airfield, Afghani-

stan, for the past year. Its Soldiers were located at 37 different forward operating bases in the northern, southern and eastern regions of Afghanistan, to provide communications support to joint international commands including the International Security Assistance Force, said Maj. James Brannan, the battalion's executive officer. The unit, under the command of Lt. Col. Steven Grigsby, was responsible for ensuring that telephone and computer networks remained operable.

"It was hot, dusty and miserable at times," Brannan said of the conditions in Afghanistan.

And busy.

"We had over 100,000 subscribers on the computer network just in the southern region," Brannan said. "We handled a lot of help desk calls. We supported the phone networks and the computer networks

See Homecoming on page 21

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Alabama National Guard Spc. Eric Hannah of Madison holds his son, three-year-old Liam, while taking a book from his daughter Clarity, 4. Also greeting him at the airport were his wife Elaine, at right, and his 19-month-old daughter Evie.



Homecoming

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along with line-of-site radios between FOBs. We also did a lot of commercialization of the systems.”

Following guidance from the Army Network Enterprise Technology Command based at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., the 115th continued work started by a Nevada National Guard unit that replaced much of the military communications equipment used on the battlefield with commercial off-the-shelf technology that is easier to manage, maintain and interchange. The commercial equipment communicates using a military satellite dish on the battlefield.

Many of the Soldiers were greeted Sunday by young children. Elaine Harrah of Madison and her three children – Clarity, 4; Liam, 3; and Evie, 19 months – were glad to have their Soldier, Spc. Eric Hannah, home.

“It’s been a long year,” she said. “We don’t have any family here. So, we did it by ourselves along with the help of friends. We survived.”

Sgt. Jason Lebichak was greeted by several members of his family, including his cousin, nine-year-old Lauren, who held a “Welcome Home Jason” sign, and his 90-year-old grandmother Marie Pylant, all of Huntsville.

“The deployment was really rough and long. It was different this time because it was my first time being married and with a baby,” Lebichak said.

The Soldier has deployed previously to Iraq, Kosovo and Saudi Arabia in 15 years of service with the National Guard. During this deployment, he worked as an intelligence analyst for the French Tactical Operations Center in the eastern region of Afghanistan.

“We had some rocket attacks and we were shot at. But it was more of a nuisance than anything else,” Lebichak said of conditions at the FOB where he was located.

He plans to spend some quality time with his family before returning to work at Redstone Arsenal as a ManTech contractor at Von Braun III.

His wife of three years, Misty, and their two-year-old daughter Alyssa, are glad the deployment is over.

“I talked to him a lot on the phone and I cried. You just have to live day by day,” his wife said.

Lebichak was also greeted by his best friend, Jason Stinnett, and his new wife Loretta.

“They got married yesterday and I

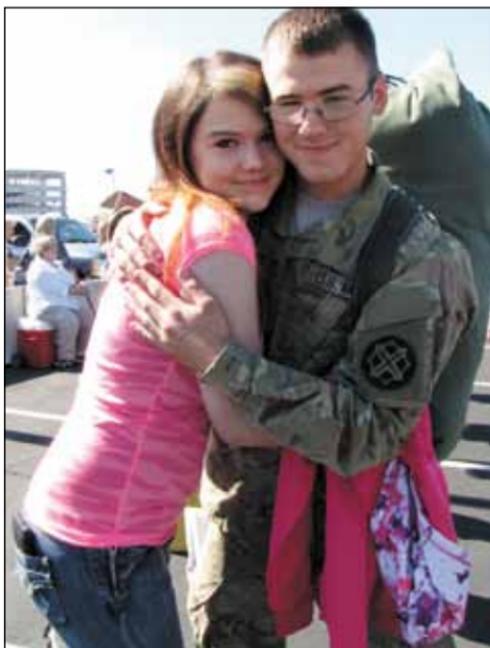


Photo by Kari Hawkins

Alabama National Guard Spc. Tory Boatwright gives his sister Autumn a big hug after returning home with the 115th Expeditionary Signal Battalion from a one-year deployment to Afghanistan.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Alabama National Guard Spc. Troy Jones gets a hug from his son, 4-year-old Jake.

was supposed to be the surprise best man. I even rented a tux. But I wasn’t there,” he said. “We were supposed to get back earlier than we did. I missed the wedding by 20 hours.”

Garrison's DES wins shooting competition

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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When the shot matters, Directorate of Emergency Services is right on target.

Six law enforcement agencies from across Madison County brought their best shooters to Redstone Arsenal Oct. 10 for the inaugural Law Enforcement Appreciation Pistol Competition, a chance for the agencies that regularly partner with one another in the field to come together for camaraderie, a challenge and a chance at bragging rights. Directorate of Emergency Services Officer Christopher Clemons hit the bull's-eye from 50 yards away in a one-shot winner take all tie-breaker with the FBI to claim the overall team event win for DES over Huntsville City Police, Madison City Police, NASA Security and UAH Police.

"This event reinforces the growing partnership we share with our fellow law enforcement agencies," Mike Sheehy, director of emergency services, said. "We're appreciative of CID's Military Procurement Fraud Unit for hosting it and for all those who par-

ticipated. All competitors represented their respective agencies superbly, so Redstone Arsenal officers winning the team title is a remarkable testament to the capability and commitment of the DES professionals that serve our immediate community. We're very fortunate to have such exceptional officers protecting us 24/7."

Each agency that competed was allowed to bring up to seven competitors, all of whom competed in the individual competition, five of whom qualified for the team score. Each shooter went through a timed tactical and combat course, where each miss added seconds to their overall time, and a paper qualifying course. Special agent Jonathan Sumner took home the win for the FBI in the individual course, while Madison City Police Officer Mike Enfinger was the only one to fire a penalty free round during the two timed courses. The course was designed by NASA Security officers Shawn Jayne and Josh Graff, who ensured it was something "that was going to be new and challenging, but fun at the same time," according to Capt. Robert York.

"A lot of it has to do with seeing it for the first time, it's new," York said



Courtesy photo

Officer Christopher Clemons, with Directorate of Emergency Services, stands with the winning target that broke the tie between the FBI and DES at the Law Enforcement Appreciation Pistol Competition at Redstone Arsenal Oct. 10.

of the challenge. "Shooting it for the first time and knowing that there's a penalty for each shot you miss, you put a lot of pressure on yourself."

While DES didn't expect to walk away from the event with the first place trophy, the fact that they did speaks to the level of training their officers receive, York said. DES selected their winning team by taking the top scorers from their last visit to the shooting range.



Courtesy photo

From left, Directorate of Emergency Services police officer Ronald Ewald, security officer Jacob Fales, security Lt. Aaron Hanson, security officer Johnny Kelley, security chief Kevin Dykema, police officer Christopher Clemons, and police chief Art Riley celebrate DES' team win at the Law Enforcement Appreciation Pistol Competition with NASA security trainer Shawn Jayne, who helped coordinate the event. Not pictured is DES team member Eric Moe.

"It tells me that our firearms training program is a great program, it validates what we do," York said.

Graff and Jayne with NASA Security; Tommy Yohe, Huntsville Police Department; John Tidwell, CID; Jason Simms, Madison Police Department; John Bestwick, UAH Police; and Vern Wilson and Tim Walters, DES, organized the first of what is to become an annual event.

Science for girls takes center stage



Photos by Ellen Hudson



A UH-60/L Black Hawk helicopter and lots of fun science projects made Girls Science and Engineering Day a special day on the campus of the University of Alabama in Huntsville on Saturday. The day started with the landing of the Black Hawk on the front lawn of the Shelby Center and continued as girls got to climb into the back of the cargo helicopter. The Black Hawk was flown in by a crew from the Redstone Test Center's Aviation Flight Test Directorate and enjoyed by girls like 5-year-old Anna Rhea McCombs, who sat in the helicopter with her mom Blair McCombs. Anna Rhea's father is a civilian on duty in Afghanistan. There was just as much fun going on inside the Shelby Center, where girls experimented with gravity and operated remote controlled Army vehicles. In photo at right, girls use the second story stairwell for their gravity experiences while in photo at left, hostess Becky Rice watches as her charges – from left, LaShante Davis, Tyler Boyd, Heather Anderson and Farrah Pearson – operate the vehicles.



Cummings

continued from page 1

Army as a way to save resources and become more efficient. The move allowed the Army to consolidate the management, and research and development of Army rockets and missile programs in one location that provided much-needed land for facilities and testing.

With the initial move of the Army's missile and rocket programs to Redstone in 1950, the area began attracting companies engaged in rocket development, and those companies needed office and research space. That industrial base continued to grow as the German/American rocket and Army missile development grew with the nation's interest in space exploration grew.

Initially, the German/American rocket team collaborated with the Navy on Project Orbiter, but interservice rivalries brought that to an end in July 1955 when President Eisenhower decided in favor of the Navy's Vanguard to launch a satellite. In September 1956, the Army achieved the first deep penetration of space by a man-made object with the Jupiter-C variant of the Redstone Rocket. In 1957, Vanguard failed in its mission and the Army at Redstone was tapped to develop a rocket to launch a satellite. In 84 days, the Redstone Rocket Juno variant powered the first Free World satellite into space. The Vanguard I satellite made it into space in March 1958 and is the only one of the first satellites still circling the planet today.

On July 1, 1960, the Army Ordnance Missile Command/Army Ballistic Missile Agency transferred all its space-related missions, 4,000 civilian employees and \$100 million worth of buildings and equipment to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. In September 1960, President Dwight Eisenhower came to Red-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Soldiers and civilians representing Team Redstone applaud during the proclamation signing ceremony in honor of the 50th anniversary of Cummings Research Park on Oct. 15. From left, Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Kyle Crump, AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell, acting AMCOM deputy commander Bill Andrews and Capt. Peter Thomas, aide to AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar. The ceremony was held at Adtran, one of the largest companies headquartered in the western section of the park.

stone to dedicate Marshall's headquarters building.

The Arsenal and Marshall were visited in September 1962 by President John Kennedy, during the heat of the U.S. and Soviet Union space race. In 1961, the Soviet Union had flown the first human spaceflight and the first manned orbital flight; and Kennedy pledged to the nation that the U.S. would land a man on the moon and bring him home safely by the end of the 1960s.

So, in 1962, Kennedy's visit to Marshall served to seek assurances from Dr. Wernher von Braun, and his German and American rocket team that the Saturn rocket could be built to take man to the moon.

That year also brought the beginnings of a Huntsville research park.

"For the next 30-plus years, Redstone Arsenal continued to partner with Cummings Research Park to provide the world's premier space and missile pro-

grams," Collyar said.

In 1973, the research park was renamed Cummings Research Park, in recognition of local businessman Milton Cummings who helped establish the park. The research park continued to grow and in recent years, first with the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure commission recommendations and then with the 2005 BRAC, the growth has paralleled the growth of space and missile programs at Redstone.

"Every single day, there are helicopters, airplanes and unmanned air systems flying over Afghanistan in support of our troops. There are missiles being launched with pinpoint accuracy. Our systems have the highest op-tempo in history," Collyar said.

"These systems are developed, tested and sustained by teams at Redstone Arsenal and with our industry partners in Cummings Research Park."

The major general went on to say that Cummings Research Park has had a major role in advancing technology at Redstone Arsenal.

"Having a research park allows the government and industry to work hand-in-hand and side-by-side providing solutions for our great nation," he said. "America's Army is the most capable Army in the world. No matter the task, no matter the environment, no matter the difficulty, America's Army will always be there to accomplish the mission."

In an era of budget tightening, Collyar said the Army will continue as a force that has the capability and versatility to "shape the conflict" and win the nation's wars.

"America's Army is a globally recognized symbol of our national resolve and commitment," he said. "We are and will remain the best manned, best equipped, best trained, best led and most decisive land force in the world. ... Our readiness is truly non-negotiable. Whatever its eventual size, the Army must remain highly trained, equipped and ready."

When von Braun and the German/American rocket team first came to Redstone Arsenal, they worked for the Army Ballistic Missile Agency. During those years and in the early years of NASA, von Braun "envisioned a research park where government, industry and academic could all collaborate together. I think von Braun said it best when he said 'I have learned to use the word 'impossible' with the greatest caution.' To take his advice, we can no longer look at what seems 'impossible' and be content. We must continue to press forward and imagine what the next 50 years can hold," Collyar said.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

A mockup of the Space Shuttle Endeavor, staffed by Ola Metcalfe of NASA on the left, is displayed at Bridge Street Town Centre on Oct. 15 as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of Cummings Research Park. Metcalfe is talking with onlooker Larry Grosberg, who is employed by the Army.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Celia Beck of the Missile and Space Intelligence Center hosts a display of the Scud-B, the most widely deployed ballistic missile in the world, at Bridge Street Town Centre.

Referring to his own life as an Army officer who has lived all over the world, Collyar said "nowhere is as great as this community. We work together because we have common goals to support this great nation's defense and to extend our reach beyond the holds of this planet."

Describing Huntsville as "Rocket City, USA," Marshall director Patrick Scheuermann told the luncheon audience that Cummings Research Park "remains critical to what we do at Marshall Space Flight Center. ... We couldn't accomplish our mission then or now without Cummings Research Park."

University, industry developed park concept

Need for research park stemmed from Redstone

University of Alabama-Huntsville release

Envision rolling hills, picturesque pastures with row crops dotting the landscape in an area that makes up the western boundary of Huntsville in the late 1950s. Today, in that same location, what you find is a collection of buildings and a network of roads that connect 285 companies and 25,000 employees. That is the transformation that has taken place since the creation of Cummings Research Park five decades ago.

Cummings is now the second largest research and technology park in the U.S., and fourth largest in the world. The internationally recognized research park is home to some of the most prominent high-tech businesses in the world, including 20 Fortune 500 companies as well as numerous local companies. The Association of University Research Parks recognized Cummings as the Most Outstanding Research Park in the world in 1997.

Companies located in Cummings Research Park have been involved in many of the world's most far-reaching technology developments during the past 50 years, and the trend continues today. The diversity of businesses includes software design, aerospace and defense, engineering services, computers and electronics, research and development and biotechnology.

The University of Alabama-Huntsville and its nonprofit foundation, the UAH Foundation, were instrumental in the es-

tablishment and nurturing of Cummings Research Park, and continue to play a major role today through enhancing and promoting the site, and providing the intellectual capital for future development.

It's a partnership that some said was overly aggressive when the park was developed a half century ago. It's also one that most people today concede as being the driving force behind Huntsville's growth and success as a community.

"Cummings Research Park has had a profound effect on our community," Ray Jones, the former longtime chairman of the UAH Foundation, said. "It's impossible to know for sure what Huntsville would be today without it, but it would be easy to speculate."

Jones points out that nearby Decatur "was much more advanced than we were at the time." Based on 1950 population data, Huntsville was the 13th largest city in Alabama with a population of about 16,000. Today, the Huntsville metropolitan area is the state's second largest with 417,593 residents.

The area literally began to take off as Huntsville became an important link to America's space program through NASA's presence. The Army brought Dr. Wernher von Braun and his team of rocket scientists to Huntsville to develop a national missile defense, and then later in efforts to help America win the space race with the Russians and land the first human on the moon.

As part of enhancing the area, von Braun encouraged local leaders to abandon the recruitment of smokestack manufacturing industries and focus more on



Courtesy photo

The University of Alabama-Huntsville has been at the heart of Cummings Research Park since the park's inception 50 years ago.

high-tech industries. It turned out to be an approach that forever changed Huntsville.

Milton Cummings, president of Brown Engineering at the time, had earlier suggested that Huntsville create and develop an industrial park. Von Braun, as director of the Marshall Space Flight Center, told local leaders they would be wise to establish a zoning district in the park to restrict development to research and development enterprises.

The strategy led to the creation of the UAH Foundation, a needed entity to

provide credibility and the all-important nonprofit status. Without the non-profit status for the organization that would oversee park operations, von Braun said the park would likely fail because potential investors would assume founders would be more interested in making money for themselves instead of establishing a park to serve the long term good of the city.

The UAH Foundation was born from that belief. The foundation was charged with developing the property and marketing it to potential economic development interests.

"It began as a group of businessmen who took the lead on developing the park," said Mike Ward, who is vice president of governmental relations for the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County. Ward has written a book outlining how the UAH Foundation helped shape Huntsville's history.

"Milton Cummings planted the idea, but this group of local leaders ran with the original idea," Ward said. "They saw something with much bigger potential. They convinced a lot of people, after the foundation was created, to donate property, buildings and other assets to the foundation. In return, they got a tax write off. They also purchased other property that was auctioned. By having control of the property and developing the park, they could market and sell it."

Cummings Research Park was established in 1962, known then as Huntsville Research Park. It was renamed after Cummings shortly after his death in 1973.

Governor applauds area's research triangle

Redstone, Cummings, Huntsville valuable to future for Alabama

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Every time the space station flies over Alabama, it reminds Gov. Robert Bentley of the accomplishments made by the scientists and engineers who work at Redstone Arsenal and Cummings Research Park.

The governor, speaking at the Cummings Research Park 50th anniversary luncheon at the Jackson Conference Center on Oct. 15, said the area's unique research triangle – consisting of Redstone Arsenal, Cummings Research Park and the city of Huntsville – can rival any other "research triangle" in the nation in terms of its employment, mission and national significance.

"There isn't any other greater research triangle than what we have here in Huntsville, Alabama," Bentley said. "And it certainly means a lot to me as I try to recruit industry to the state. This area is so easy to sell because you have so much to offer."

To build on the success of Huntsville and Cummings Research Park, and to spread that economic success throughout the state, Bentley formed the Alabama Economic

Developmental Alliance focused on recruiting 11 different types of industries to Alabama.

"Those industries include many of those companies in Cummings Research Park known for being innovative and entrepreneurial," he said. "We are trying to bring innovative industry that fit so well with what's going on here at Cummings Research Park."

Bentley recalled that in 1961, the state committed \$3 million to help begin a research park in Huntsville. Today, the companies in that research park have an annual payroll of \$2.4 billion, and pay \$280 million annually in state taxes. There are nearly 300 companies in Cummings Research Park that employ 25,000 people.

"That means so much to this state of ours," the governor said. "It's something we should all be proud of. Cummings Research Park makes Alabama a shining star not only for the present but for the future. We want to help continue to grow this research park."

Bentley said his administration would like to see the passage of Amendment 2 during the general election in November so that the state's industry incentive program is renewed.

"Incentives help us compete with other states to recruit new industry to Alabama," he said. "It's great to celebrate 50 years of Cummings Research Park. If we are going to extend this and expand this we have to have incentive money to do that."

Vietnam veteran continues service in Afghanistan

*30-year career about
Flying and Soldiers*

**By Capt. Christina Wright, 101st Combat Aviation
Brigade Public Affairs**

LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan
Ask Chief Warrant Officer 4 Walter Jones why he serves and he will tell you, "It's all about flying and Soldiers."

Jones, born in Mountain Home, Idaho, is serving in Afghanistan as an aviation maintenance officer with D Company, 5th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade. Jones enlisted in the Army at the age of 18 and after completing basic training in 1969, went on to Fort Rucker to become a UH-1 "Huey" crew chief. Soon after that he found himself assigned to the 162nd Assault Helicopter Company in Can Tu, Vietnam.

One day during a mission his aircraft started to receive small arms fire. Rounds struck the helicopter's fuel cell, and the aircraft immediately caught fire. The helicopter began to spin about 200 feet above the ground.

Jones braced for impact and was knocked unconscious.

He was injured and spent 10 months recovering in the hospital. During this time he made an important decision.

"That experience really made me focus on what I wanted to do with my life," Jones said. "I wanted to make a career out of the Army."

The Army re-classified him as a telephone line repairman and stationed him with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C. Having valuable combat experience as a Huey crew chief in Vietnam, he quickly found his way back into aviation.

This was also his first experience with the Cold War during the Arab-Israeli War in 1973. He remembers sitting on the green ramp being on standby to support Israel if needed, but Israel did not

require it.

While at Fort Bragg he saw the experimental balsa wood full scale model of the future UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter. He pointed to one of his buddies and said, "I am going to fly that one day."

"And I did," said Jones, now a veteran Black Hawk pilot.

In 1975, he graduated from flight school. The 101st Airborne Division was next on his horizon. Assigned to the D Company, 158th Assault Helicopter Battalion, it was here where with the "Ghostriders" that his dream of flying Black Hawks became a reality. D Company was the first unit in the Army to receive the UH-60, and in 1979 he became one of the first pilots to go through the UH-60 qualification course.

"The 101st set the standard as far as Army aviation goes," remarks Jones. "The 101st is the only way to go, it sets the standards for air assaults."

After assignments in Korea, Hawaii and Texas Jones, found his way back to Fort Campbell, Ky., when the 6th Attack Training Battalion returned to the home of the 101st to become the 2nd/101st Attack Battalion.

Jones retired from active duty service out of Fort Campbell in 1993. After his retirement, he went to work for contractors in Saudi Arabia, where he continued to fly.

In 1999 his wife, Diane, gave him an ultimatum.

"She told me, 'If you are going to leave again don't bother coming home,'" recalled Jones.

So he took a job working once again at Fort Campbell for DynCorp in 2001. Being back on a military base, working around Soldiers and only being responsible for the maintenance of aircraft, Jones saw significant differences between his life as a Soldier and as a civilian.

"Being around the [Soldiers] and working a nine to five job as a civilian is different," he said, "When you are work-



Army photo

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Walter Jones is a 61-year-old native of Clarksville, Tenn., who serves with D Company, 5th Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, in eastern Afghanistan. Jones is a Vietnam veteran with over 30 years of service.

ing as a civilian, nine times out of 10, the people you work with you don't associate with off the job; whenever your shift is done you are on your way."

Jones started to miss the camaraderie and sense of family that comes with military service. Diane could also sense that her husband missed his old life.

"When he retired, I did not think that he would serve again," said Diane, "but it wasn't long before I knew that he missed it and regretted retiring."

Jones and his wife, who just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, grew up in military families with both their fathers having served in the Air Force.

"To be honest, I had missed the military also," said Diane. "Growing up in the Air Force, the military is all we both had ever known."

In 2004, Jones decided it was time to make a change. He made a plan and decided to talk to Diane about the financial benefits of going back onto active duty service.

"I get emotional when I think about it," Jones said. "She looked me in the eyes and said, 'You want to fly again.'

If I ever mention going contract maintenance overseas again she will say no. But I can deploy as many times as I want. She is a military wife all the way through."

Jones applied to come back on active duty through the voluntary recall program.

One of the forms he was had to fill out was the Army "Dream Sheet." When asked to fill out his top three choices, Jones only had one place he wanted to go - Fort Campbell.

"I told them it was 101st, no ifs, ands or buts about it," said Jones.

In January 2005, Jones went to the replacement company at Fort Campbell and was sent to his unit. Jones was sent to the same unit he has served in almost 30 years before. It was something he did not expect to happen.

"When I came back in, I did not ask for any unit in particular I just wanted to get back into the air assault, back into the 'Hawks flying again,'" said Jones. "Whoever did it I thank them."

It was a homecoming for Jones and he could not have been happier about it.

See Veteran on page 30

New commander named for newest combatant command

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama has nominated Gen. David Rodriguez to succeed Gen. Carter Ham as the commander of U.S. Africa Command, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said here, Oct. 18.

U.S. Africa Command is the newest combatant command, and its headquarters is in Stuttgart, Germany. The command encompasses all of Africa and its adjacent waters except for Egypt.

The Senate must confirm Rodriguez, who currently is commander of U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg, N.C.

“He has served in a variety of key leadership roles on the battlefield,” Panetta said in announcing the nomination. Rodriguez was the first commander of the International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, the

corps-level command in Afghanistan. He was the commander during the surge into Afghanistan, “and was a key architect of the successful campaign plan that we are now implementing,” Panetta said.

Ham has served as the Africa Command chief since March 2011.

“Under his leadership, Africom has played a very central role in some very important missions,” the secretary said. “From the NATO campaign in Libya that led to the fall of Gadhafi to successful counter-terrorism efforts in Somalia [and] Yemen to efforts we are now involved in in Nigeria and Mali and elsewhere, General Ham has really brought Africom into a very pivotal role in that challenging region.”

The nation is “deeply grateful for his outstanding service,” he said.

Panetta also announced the nomination of Lt. Gen. John Paxton Jr. to receive his fourth star and serve as the next assistant commandant of the Marine Corps. He would succeed Gen. Joseph Dunford Jr., whom the president has nominated to command coalition and U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Paxton is commander of Marine Corps Forces Command, Marine Fleet Force Atlantic and U.S. Marine Corps Forces Europe. Paxton and Dunford also must be confirmed for their jobs by the Senate.

Army photo

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta announced that President Barack Obama has nominated U.S. Army Forces Command's Gen. David M. Rodriguez to succeed Gen. Carter F. Ham as the commander of U.S. Africa Command.



Redstone training to ensure employees ready for audit

The Army is accountable for managing the Army's dollars and resources. Accountability leads to a clean audit opinion and a stronger Army, demonstrating that the Army is a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars and justifies its request from Congress. Accountability and audit readiness are inherent to the Army's mission since they enhance support to Soldiers through better management of Army resources.

The 2010 National Defense Authorization Act mandates that financial statements are “validated as ready for audit” no later than Sept. 30, 2017.

In late October and early November, all Army activities on Redstone Arsenal will train for a March-April 2013 Army-wide examination of controls over financial reporting. This training entails producing supporting documentation for selected

transactions that are posted in the General Fund Enterprise Business System. This is “practice” for the real financial audit that will occur after the Army's Assertion of Audit Readiness in 2014. The training will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Bob Jones Auditorium, located in Building 5304 for AMC activities and for IMCOM and non-AMC activities from Nov. 6-8.

Audit readiness training of Army personnel is critical to the success of the Army's audit validation in the future. This training effort, support of the examination and the actual audit are essential to the Army's success in attaining audit readiness and obtaining a clean opinion during the actual CFO Act Audit. For questions, contact Wilmer Marshall at 313-1785, or Eric Lampkin at 313-1786.

Veteran

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Having served with the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade for the past seven years,

Jones has deployed with the 101 CAB four times. This current deployment is his third to Afghanistan.

With 32 years of active duty service under his belt, Jones will tell you that not much has changed since his days of serving in Vietnam.

“I look back and the biggest difference is that the equipment and technology is so much more complicated,” said Jones. “I think it was a simpler time back then. Young Soldiers have to be a lot smarter to do the same job we did back then. I admire these young Soldiers so much for

what they are dealing and working with.”

If anything, Jones is a shining example of someone doing what they love every day.

“He has been happy being back in the Army and doing a job that he loves,” said Diane. “I am happy that he has been able to do what he loves.”

Son of immigrants grew to love law, nation, family

Retiring command counsel appreciates life's journey

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**
AMC Public Affairs

The legacy began with a testimony of the “greatness that is America” – a land of hope and possibility as Vincent Faggioli, Army Materiel Command’s command counsel, calls it.

Faggioli shared his background and lessons learned with the AMC team during his retirement and award ceremony Oct. 1, during which he received a Department of the Army decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service.

“Today is about love for me: love of law, love of Army and love of nation,” he began.

Like many Americans, his story begins with immigration. His father’s parents and siblings crossed the Atlantic from Italy in search of a better future.

“None of the family went to college and to this day none of my cousins went to college. Heck, none of my uncles even darkened the door of a high school, but they all signed up for the military and most fought in Europe, many times against Italians,” Faggioli said.

It was the military that assigned Faggioli’s father to Utah, where he met his mother, an immigrant as well. Her family migrated across the plains with the Mormon pioneers in the 1850s settling in the farm country of Ioka, Utah.

“I am grateful to a country wherein descendents from such immigrants can become college graduates, lawyers, serve 30 years in the Army as a JAG (Judge Advocate General’s) officer and retire as an SES (senior executive service) command counsel – what a country!,” Faggioli proclaimed with pride.

Laced with humor, he continued, “Yep, I didn’t have to work in the mills or in the family business – I never was very good at carrying violin cases. Besides I am too disorganized to belong to organized crime!”

Faggioli’s career began as an infantry officer in 1971, serving with the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii. One day during maneuvers, he found himself sitting in a puddle with a mud-clogged weapon after a week in the Kahuku Mountains of Oahu and decided to go to law school.

And with those memories, he continues to train the lawyers under his tutelage.

“To this day, I have a boot scuffed and cut and almost destroyed by the lava. I

use that boot to in-brief new lawyers or to counsel lawyers who might want to keep ‘bankers’ hours’ as a teaching point as to just how bad things can be in the field,” Faggioli said. “It is prudent for us all to remember that we are supporting people for whom being in the field is tough work – never ‘time off’ – never late arrival, never early departure. Those who fight for us deserve our dedicated service.”

But why law school, one might wonder; no other answer than love for law will suffice as a response.

“I came to the JAG Corps and the practice of law because I love the law – that which civilizes us, that which makes life fair, that which punishes wrongdoing, that which organizes society. I love the law because in the law we see the foundation of our freedoms, of our rights (natural rights) and of our ability to be safe,” he explained.

Faggioli reflected on many case wins and some losses, but love of country remained the theme of his remarks.

“I was always proud to be representing the United States – to represent the people of the United States in ensuring that the law was obeyed,” he said.

The Army and the practice of law offered Faggioli many life lessons, for example compassion and the importance of understanding before you speak.

He recalled the power of compassion from a specialist in jeopardy of being chaptered out of the Army. He gave a second and third chance to the young man to continue serving. After 20 years, he received a note from the specialist’s son thanking him for giving his father a chance to succeed.

As a trial observer in Germany, Faggioli received the lasting lesson of listening and understanding before you speak.

He was assigned to offer relief and assistance to the defendant of a murder trial.

“I came to know this Soldier and understood a little of his background that led to this horrendous crime. So, being a neophyte German speaker and hearer, I listened intently when the sentence was delivered. We expected a sentence of 50 years, so I was happy for him when what I heard was only 15 years behind bars,” Faggioli explained. “I bounded up to congratulate the Soldier telling him he would be out in no time.”

It’s the dazed look on the prisoner’s face as he was led away that stuck with Faggioli.

“It was only a few minutes later when I discovered that his sentence was life



Photo by Doug Brewster, AMC

Vincent Faggioli, with his wife Karen, retired Oct. 1 as command counsel for the Army Materiel Command.

plus 15 years. I should have listened more carefully before speaking. I learned that lesson well and it has served me well,” he continued.

Faggioli assured the audience that he could fill many hours with accounts and experiences of his more than 41 years of service in boots or a tie.

“I could tell you tales of service in Fort Irwin, of the Pentagon, of White Sands Missile Range, of 2nd Infantry Division in Korea, of the Justice Department, of U.S. Forces Korea, of U.S. European Command, of Cavalese (Italy) cable car disaster and Kosovo bombing campaign, of Hawaii, Guam, Saipan, Japan, Alaska and Palau, of Fort Belvoir and now of Redstone. But I will spare you. Suffice to say that every single assignment, in uniform or suit and tie has been a pleasure,” he said with a smile.

Faggioli was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in April 2007, and became command counsel and technical leader for more than 350 attorneys throughout the world for AMC in April 2009.

“Since being deputy command counsel and command counsel for AMC, I have come to know and love AMC and had the opportunity to practice all I have learned about the law and leadership,” Faggioli

said.

“I am grateful to have served the finest generals in the Army while in AMC. (Retired) Gen. Griffin, (retired) Gen. Dunwoody and Gen. Via set the standard for dedication to duty and love of country,” he continued.

In closing, Faggioli remarked, “What a story – no, not the story of me – but the story of America. A story of all who serve her, of all who love her and in my case the son of recent immigrants, one who received mentoring from bosses and subordinates alike. I would not give up my experiences for a million dollars or relieve them for two million!”

With gratitude he gave appreciation to the nation for the opportunity it allows its residents and referenced the loves of his life: his wife Karen, a retired Army officer and elementary school teacher; his son, Vincent, a commercial pilot; and God.

“I love so much my wife of 41 years, Karen,” he said. “They followed me and my career over 25 moves and 41 years. I also appreciate God and all he has given to us. I recognize the freedom he gives us through this blessed land founded by wise men upon eternal principals,” Faggioli said. “I feel honored to have served America for 41 years and count myself as the luckiest man on the face of the earth.”

In this section...

NEW CHIEF PETTY OFFICER READY FOR NEW RESPONSIBILITY PAGE 32

New chief petty officer ready for new responsibility

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Navy Chief Petty Officer Curtis Aldridge has a story to tell.

Except, he's not telling it.

It's not that he doesn't want to. It's just that the physical and psychological testing that he went through recently to earn the rank (or "rating" as it's referred to in the Navy) of chief petty officer is not to be talked about in public circles.

"When you are inducted into the ranks of chief petty officer you've basically entered into the world's largest fraternity," Aldridge said. "In the enlisted ranks, everyone strives to be a chief petty officer."

"I really can't tell you what I did during the three weeks of instruction and training. But I can tell you that it tested my physical and mental abilities."

The newly appointed chief petty officer recently completed a three-week instruction and mentoring program required by this select Navy rank, the seventh highest ranking of non-commissioned officers followed only by senior chief petty officer, master chief petty officer and master chief petty officer of the Navy.

Aldridge, assigned to the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 24 compound located just north of Redstone Arsenal's Gate 8 on Arsenal property, is one of 14 active duty sailors and one of three chief petty officers assigned to Redstone Arsenal to provide leadership and administrative support for the 500 Navy reservists assigned to the Seabee



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley

Navy Chief Petty Officer Curtis Aldridge salutes his superiors during his induction ceremony at the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 24 compound.

construction battalion.

"A Seabee builds, trains and fights," Aldridge said.

As part of the U.S. Naval Construction Force, the reservists are trained in the construction of infrastructure facilities built in wartime environments. They are trained for both construction and combat, and work in support of combatant commanders by providing expeditionary engineering forces capable of general engineering and construction, limited combat engineering and geo-spatial engineering across the full range of military operations.

NMCB-24 reservists based out of the Arsenal's Navy compound perform construction project work, technical rate training and military field exercises, in-



Courtesy photo

Newly promoted Navy Chief Petty Officer Curtis Aldridge is pinned with anchors on his collar by his wife, Samantha, and 5-year-old son Jordan during his induction ceremony at the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 24 compound located just north of Redstone Arsenal's Gate 8. Aldridge is holding his 5-month-old daughter Sydney. Aldridge was promoted on Sept. 15 following three weeks of intensive instruction and mentoring.

volving Seabees from detachments in Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia. Their primary mission is to provide quality and timely construction in support of the armed forces, principally the Marine Corps, in a contingency environ-

ment. The battalion provides responsive construction capability for armed forces participating in military operations, construct and maintain base facilities, repair battle damaged facilities and conduct defense operations as required by deployment

See Chief on page 33



Photo by Kelley Lane-Sivley



Courtesy photo

Hail the chiefs

At left, Chief Petty Officer Selects Michael Morgan, James Landis, and Curtis Aldridge receive the hats that signify their new rank and status on Sept. 15. Right, Chief Petty Officer Select Curtis Aldridge receives motivation from Chief Ritchie Paris during his physical fitness qualification.

Chief

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situations. NMCB-24 is among 23 Seabee battalions in the Navy.

"We have Reserve detachments that report to NMCB-24 all over the area, including Louisville, Chattanooga and Atlanta. These reservists come here once a year for training," Aldridge said. "As an administrator, I support those 500 reservists by making sure everything is in order for their evaluations, fitness reports, awards, general correspondence and any other type of administrative work they need."

A native of Starke, Fla., the 29-year-old Aldridge joined the Navy at age 18 because of the opportunity it would provide him. He went to Navy boot camp on Nov. 17, 2001, just over two months after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

"I joined the Navy because my uncle was a retired master chief and another uncle was a retired chief," Aldridge said.

"I lived a rough childhood. I was raised by a single parent. There wasn't much money at all. I saw my uncles leave town, do something with their lives and make money, and I was drawn to that. With the Navy, I could travel the world and see places."

Unable to financially go to college, Aldridge saw the Navy as a way out of his situation.

"I decided one day that it was time to better myself, and get some guidance and leadership," he said.

"I was going to go in with my cousin. We were going to do the buddy system. But my cousin ended up changing his mind and he didn't want to go after Sept. 11th. But I had made my mind up. I was ready for a change. I had to give this at least four years."

Yet, boot camp in Great Lakes, Ill., was an experience that Aldridge hadn't planned for.

"Being a Florida boy, I was used to seeing the sun and burning up every day. The first week at boot camp it snowed," he recalled. "It was a challenge. It was different."

He then transferred to the Naval Air School at Meridian, Miss., where he was trained to be a yeoman, which has responsibility for the Navy's administration and clerical work dealing with protocol, naval instructions, enlisted evaluations, fitness reports, visitors and correspondence.

"They taught us how to draft a letter, how to format a naval message, how to do a fitness report and an evaluation," Aldridge said.

"My mother died when I was 8. My father worked hard labor jobs. And I was working those same types of jobs as I

was growing up. Any job where I could be indoors sounded good to me. The perfect job for me was the job of a yeoman."

But the Navy gave Aldridge much more than a steady "indoor" job with an income.

"I was proud that I joined the Navy," he said. "I had established myself financially and I was starting to generate some kind of retirement."

"I also really enjoyed the customer service part of the job. I could see how the work I did impacts other sailors. That's what I grew to love about my job. If something was missing from their files or if their pay got jacked up, I could help them, and I was thrilled that what I could do for them could make their day."

His service took him through a series of administrative assignments on ships, with squadrons and at the Navy Operational Support Command in Atlanta. His last assignment before coming to Redstone in late 2011 was in Iraq, where he was attached to the Army's 1st Infantry Division, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Stationed for a year at Forward Operating Base Kalsu (also known as COS Kalsu or Camp Kalsu) about 20 miles south of Baghdad, Aldridge was a member of a provincial reconstruction team that worked to build infrastructure in a combat environment.

"I volunteered to go to Iraq," he said. "I volunteered so that I could set myself up better to make chief. It was a tough assignment. We were trying to build infrastructure while we were also getting hit all the time. We were targeted a lot. Every day we went out, how much we were able to get done depended on what was going on in the area where we were working."

Aldridge and his team were among the last servicemembers to serve at FOB Kalsu. The FOB was closed on Dec. 12, 2011, as part of the Army's withdrawal from Iraq.

Besides wartime service, Aldridge has also obtained his associate degree all in the hopes of preparing himself for the leadership responsibilities of a chief petty officer.

"I'm ready for this new level of responsibility and for my next assignment with the Navy," he said. "I've achieved my goal and I'm ready to be the best leader I can be. As a leader, you have to work to know your people and they have to be able to trust you. You have to be a good listener and you have to give the best advice possible when your sailors come to you with problems and issues."

"Now, it's about my sailors. It's about my troops. I want to keep their best interests at heart, and make it so one day they, too, can walk in my boots and take my job."

Although he can't give particulars of his three weeks of chief petty officer instruction, Aldridge did say it helped him prepare for future leadership roles.

"The first two weeks, they tested my mental capacity by constantly drilling me with different assignments," he said. "You had to get tasks done in a certain amount of time. You had to learn to prioritize what you knew you could get done and what you didn't think you could get done."

"That prepares you for when you are in meetings with commanders and captains, and other high ranking officials. You have to know what actions you can accomplish and when you have to say 'No sir, I can't get that done today.' It's OK to be honest and give a timeline of when you can get things done. But you've got to know what your abilities are to give an honest assessment of the assignments."

Those weeks also included several fund-raising activities, such as washing cars, and preparing and serving meals. The money raised helped Aldridge buy the uniforms of a chief petty officer.

"They gave me a bunch of humiliating challenges. But if it brought in funds, I would do it," he said. "You spend about \$1,200 for the dress uniform and the khaki uniform needed to become a chief petty officer."

During the third week of instruction, Aldridge was joined by two Reserve chief petty officer candidates – NMCB-24 operational specialist Michael Morgan of Alabama and Navy Cargo Handling Battalion equipment operator James Landis of Ohio – for a week of field exercises, fund-raisers and mental challenges.

"These activities were about testing your abilities, testing your character and testing you as an overall individual," Aldridge said. "The experience prepared us for chief petty officer and built our trust in each other. Chief petty officers from around the Navy gave up their own personal time to come in and train us. We would have 12 to 15 chiefs here at any

given time. Some were active. Some were retired. But they all came in to help us earn chief petty officer."

At the end of the week, all three candidates were questioned by a panel of senior chiefs and master chiefs, who ultimately decided if they should be inducted as chief petty officers. In the end, all three were promoted.

"I've been through so much in my life that it's hard to break me. And that was really a problem for me because I was taking everything personal," Aldridge said. "One night, I finally realized it wasn't personal. They were preparing me for the next step."

"All through my Navy career, it's been about me, about where I am and where I want to go with this career. As you go up from first class petty officer to second class and to third class, you are focused on what you need to do to get to the next level. Now, I'm part of something bigger. It's no longer about the individual. It's about your sailors."

At the pinning ceremony, Aldridge's wife Samantha, a nurse, and 5-year-old son Jordan pinned on his anchors while Aldridge held his 5-month-old baby daughter Sydney in his arms. His sponsor presented him with his Navy combination cap. Aldridge will be reassigned in about a year, and he is looking forward to another challenging job where he can test his leadership abilities.

Aldridge is proud that he can give his family a better life because of the Navy.

"I want to provide my kids with the things they need in life," he said. "I want to give them better opportunities than I had. I want to give them good guidance and put them in the right direction to have a great life."

"My son already wants to join the Navy. He says to me, 'Dad, I want to wear your hat every day when I go to work.' And someday he might just do that."

Photo by Carrie E. David

Officer retires

Thomas Mack, chief of the Force Development Division at Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, presents Lt. Col. Willie Collins, force management officer, with a shadow box on behalf of the SMDC Future Warfare Center during Collins' retirement Oct. 17. Collins retires with 28 years of service.



Win or Lose

Ten-Miler team earns double repeat titles

Wins government division, all comers division again

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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WASHINGTON – Redstone Arsenal's Ten-Miler team did it again.

Team Redstone won the government division and the all comers division at Sunday's 28th annual Army Ten-Miler near the Pentagon. It was Redstone's sixth straight win in government and fourth straight in all comers.

"Well done, team," Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command, told the runners. "Enjoy your time here."

Redstone Two won the government division with a combined time of 3 hours and 50 minutes for its top four runners. Too Slow for APG was second with 3:55:34 and ATEC 2 placed third with 4:43:46 out of 30 teams.

Redstone One won the all comers division with 3:55:01, followed by Fort Lee AC Mil (3:57:23) and Operation Renewed Hope Foundation (4:09:27). Sixty teams competed in all comers.

Redstone Two runners included George Heesch (56:05), Brad Schroeder (56:46), Tim Vinson (58:31), Erik DeBolt (58:39), Sgt. Maj. Corey Small-

wood (1:19:32), coach Harry Hobbs (1:22:16) and Col. John Hamilton (1:44:54).

Redstone One runners included Brandon York (50:44), Rob Youngren (58:27), Tim Pitt (1:02:02), Rob Whitaker (1:03:49), Randy McFarland (1:06:12), Brett Wilks (1:07:11), Alex Gornik (1:07:57) and assistant coach Skip Vaughn (1:48).

"We appreciate all the support from AUSA, the Garrison and FMWR," Hobbs said. "Without their support, we could not have been able to be as successful as we have over the last couple of years. We didn't want to be complacent because of previous victories. So as a coach, I challenged the team to be better, challenged them to decrease their run times. And what we found out was we needed that motivation because we competed against more teams in each of the two divisions in which we run than we ever have in the past. We found out that we needed that extra push because of the close victories we were able to obtain in both of the categories we run in.

"Our goal is to continue our winning streaks in both divisions. We have made Army Ten-Miler history and we hope to continue keep making Ten-Miler history."

York, a mechanical engineer with Northrop Grumman, bettered his team-best 51:24 from last year's Ten-Miler. His 50:44 placed him 17th out of nearly 22,000 finishers. The 27-year-old from Tuscaloosa ran track and cross country for the University of Alabama-Huntsville in 2003-08.

"It's probably my best race ever, to be honest, as far as time and performance," York said. "I ran 40 seconds faster than last year. And I actually hit a negative split second half (with a 25:25 first five miles followed by a 25:19). If I come back next year, I'm going to try for 49."

Youngren, a computer scientist at Simulation Technologies Inc., had a successful comeback after not running in last year's race because of injury. "It's an incredible race, just all the crowd support," he said. "So I was happy, personal best. My first time racing this big race. Unfortunately I got out too fast so I had to back off. But it worked out."

At seven and a half miles, teammates Vinson and DeBolt caught up with him. Youngren, Vinson and DeBolt



Photo by Sofia Bledsoe

From left, in the front row, are Randy McFarland, assistant coach Skip Vaughn, Erik DeBolt, team captain Brad Schroeder, AMC commander Gen. Dennis Via and his wife Linda, AMC Command Sgt. Maj. Ron Riling and coach Harry Hobbs. In the back row are Rob Whitaker, Col. John Hamilton, Tim Vinson, Alex Gornik, Brandon York, Rob Youngren, George Heesch, Sgt. Maj. Corey Smallwood, Tim Pitt and Brett Wilks.

Photo by Grant Thompson

Team Redstone runners Harry Hobbs, left, and Brandon York, right, celebrate the first place victory with Redstone Arsenal's senior commander Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar. Team Redstone won first place in both the government and all comers divisions. York, who placed first among Team Redstone runners, came in 17th among nearly 22,000 finishers.

then ran together the rest of the way and finished within 12 seconds of each other.

"It doesn't get any better than that," said Vinson, deputy product manager for PM Air Warrior. "It was perfect teamwork. We pulled each other along."

Schroeder, who works in Joint Attack Munition Systems' systems engineering, serves as the team captain. "It turned out really well," he said. "I was excited."



Ten-Miler team member Joe Robenson missed the race because of illness. The overall winner was Tesfaye Senedeku-Alemyehu, a 28-year-old Ethiopian from Ellicott City, Md., in 47:48. The top female was Kerri Gallagher, 23, from Washington, in 56:09.



Photo by Grant Thompson

Tim Vinson, a member of Team Redstone's government division team, runs the Ten-Miler.

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Notre Dame picked to overcome Oklahoma

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Skip's Picks were 281-94 for 75 percent after seven weeks in the college football season. Here are my predictions for this week's games:

Notre Dame at Oklahoma – **Notre Dame**

Mississippi St. at Alabama – **Bama**
 Florida at Georgia – **Florida**
 Clemson at Wake Forest – **Clemson**
 Cincinnati at Louisville – **Louisville**
 Nevada at Air Force – **Nevada**
 Tennessee at South Carolina – **South Carolina**
 Texas A&M at Auburn – **Texas A&M**
 Washington St. at Stanford – **Stanford**
 California at Utah – **California**
 Oregon St. at Washington – **Oregon St.**

Temple at Pittsburgh – **Temple**
 Texas at Kansas – **Texas**
 Kentucky at Missouri – **Missouri**
 Ball St. at Army – **Ball State**
 Indiana at Illinois – **Illinois**
 Mississippi at Arkansas – **Arkansas**
 N. Carolina St. at North Carolina – **NC St.**

Maryland at Boston College – **Maryland**

Iowa at Northwestern – **Iowa**
 Southern Miss at Rice – **Rice**
 The Citadel at Wofford – **Wofford**
 BYU at Georgia Tech – **Tech**
 UCLA at Arizona St. – **ASU**
 Colorado at Oregon – **Oregon**
 Furman at Elon – **Furman**
 Memphis at SMU – **SMU**
 Navy at East Carolina – **EC**
 Duke at Florida St. – **Florida St.**
 Texas Tech at Kansas St. – **K-State**
 Purdue at Minnesota – **Purdue**
 TCU at Oklahoma St. – **TCU**
 USC at Arizona – **USC**
 Ohio at Miami (Ohio) – **Ohio**
 Kent St. at Rutgers – **Rutgers**
 Fresno St. at New Mexico – **Fresno**
 UAB at Tulane – **Tulane**
 Michigan St. at Wisconsin – **MSU**
 Boise St. at Wyoming – **Boise**
 Alabama A&M at Alabama St. – **A&M**
 Toledo at Buffalo – **Toledo**
 Murray State at Jacksonville St. – **Jax St.**
 UTEP at Houston – **Houston**
 Troy at FAU – **Troy**
 Ohio St. at Penn St. – **Ohio State**



Ga. Southern at Chattanooga – **GS**
 Syracuse at South Florida – **Syracuse**
 Baylor at Iowa St. – **Baylor**
 Massachusetts at Vanderbilt – **Vandy**
 South Alabama at La.-Monroe – **La.-**

Monroe
 Hawaii at Colorado St. – **Colo. St.**
 UCF at Marshall – **UCF**
 Michigan at Nebraska – **Nebraska**
 UNLV at San Diego St. – **San Diego**

U8 soccer Tigers roar to big win

Redstone's under-8 soccer Tigers had a winning outing Oct. 13.

Payton Benjamin scored two goals as they beat Valley Fellowship 4-1. Arianna Paschel and Janiya Dillard had one apiece for the Tigers (3-5).

"They played a great game and worked extremely well together and they are really starting to communicate to each other on the field," Tigers coach Maj. Dave Benjamin said.

The under-10 Green Vipers beat Redstone's other U10 team 6-2 on Oct. 16.

Zeeland Hays and Caity Carney scored three goals apiece for the Green Vipers (3-2-1), who led 2-1 at halftime.

Two of the Green Vipers weren't there, so the team played with only five players instead of six.

"We were actually down two players. And despite that, they played great," Green Vipers coach Patrick Wells said. "They really pulled through."

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

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Sports & Recreation

Run to remember

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

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 as-

sisting with a water station," a prepared release said. For more information, call Charity Watral 542-1208.

St. Jude walk

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

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Photo by Rick Scavetta

Space badge

During his recent visit to U.S. Army Garrison Kaiserslautern, Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, pins the Army's Space Badge on Pfc. Ryan Lesley, a satellite controller assigned to Company C, 53rd Signal Battalion.

to St. Jude. For more information, visit www.givethankswalk.org.

Volleyball league

North Alabama Christian Athletics will have tryouts for the 2013 volleyball season. Tryouts for 13U/14U girls are Saturday 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.

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) 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.

Conferences&Meetings

Weekly worship

The Contemporary Christian Worship Service is held each Sunday at 11 a.m. in the Bicentennial Chapel fel-

lowship 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. Nov. 1 is All Saints Day, a Holy Day of Obligation; masses will be at noon and 5 p.m.

Protestant women

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

Sergeants major

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

Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is invit-

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ed to attend the Research Park Club 4838, which meets Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Senator offices, 315 Wynn Drive, Suite 1. For information call Marva Morse 430-0860. The Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday from 11:30-12:30 at building 4488, room B-306. For information call Claudinette Purifoy 955-9422. The Redstone Toastmasters Club 1932 meets Tuesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. at the 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.

Catholic women's council

The Military Council of Catholic Women at invites all ladies with a civilian or military ID to its First Friday, Nov. 2 program at Bicentennial Chapel. Social starts at 9 a.m. in the general assembly room, with a short business agenda at 9:30. At 10 they will have the ladies that attended the MCCW Worldwide conference present what they learned. They will also be handing out their book club reading book, "Vatican II and its Impact on You," for their review in February. Consider joining them and staying 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.

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.

Artillery association

The Huntsville/Redstone Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association will hold its annual St. Barbara's Dinner on Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. at The Summit. The guest speaker is Maj. Gen. John Rossi, director, Army Quadrennial Defense Review Office, headquarters DA G8. For more information and reservations, call Anna Gamble 922-9300, ext. 100, or email anna.gamble@irtc-hq.com.

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.

Government accountants

The Northern Alabama Chapter of Government Accountants will hold its monthly meeting at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Lone Star Steakhouse, 5901 University Drive (near Madison Square Mall). The guest speaker is Scott Worsham, Madison County's emergency management officer. For reservations and more information, call Heather Smith 313-9285.

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or email heather.smith.ctr@mda.mil.

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.

Miscellaneous Items

Fraud hotline

The Huntsville Fraud Resident Agency (USACIDC) has implement-

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

Education test center

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

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

Senior volunteers

Madison County Retired & Senior Volunteer program is partnered with various nonprofit organizations in Huntsville and Madison County that utilize volunteers. R.S.V.P. recruits, places and trains individuals who are 55 or older to fill community service needs. For more information about R.S.V.P. or volunteer opportunities, call R.S.V.P. director Jennifer Anderson 513-8290 or email rsvp.dir@seniorview.com.

NASA surplus

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

Re-entry information

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

Lending closet

The lending closet is stocked with basic household items to use before your household goods arrive or after you have been packed for your new assignment. Items may be borrowed for 30 days. ID cards and a copy of your PCS orders are required. All newly assigned/attached military personnel, appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian personnel, contractors and spouses, as well as retirees are

welcome to call Mary Breeden 876-5397 or email mary.breeden@conus.army.mil. Stop by Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road, from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Computer classes

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

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

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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.

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.

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

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Sept. 1, 2008. For more information, call Kelli Wright 544-8609 or visit <http://mcdc.msfc.nasa.gov/>.

Save lids to save lives

In support of breast cancer awareness

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

Halloween décor

It's easy to find Mary Kight's office on the second floor of Garrison headquarters building 4488 because she's decorated for Halloween. "It's a holiday. It's Halloween," said Kight, a procurement technician in the contract management office at the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. "You're supposed to have fun with it. And I enjoy it."

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

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 Su-

zanne Wolf 955-0135.

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 Comicview, 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.

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.

Marriage workshop

A free Marriage/Relationship Workshop is being offered to anyone who has access to Redstone Arsenal. The

date is Saturday 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.

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.

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 Saturday 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 Society and the Kimberly Fails Jones Foundation Inc. Everyone is invited. For more information,

call Ellen Marie Cross 653-0911.

October festival

Bicentennial Chapel will host the annual October Slam on Friday evening 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."

Driver safety course

In honor of all veterans, AARP is again this year, waiving the tuition for veterans and their spouses and spouses of deceased veterans for their Driver Safety Courses offered during November. A course on Redstone is being offered Nov. 7-8 from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at the Garrison building 4488 on Martin Road. Completion of this six-hour classroom refresher, designed for the older driver, may qualify participants 55 and older for an auto insurance discount - check with your insurance agent. To register for the course at Redstone, call instructor Vince Guarin 880-6928. Class size is limited to 25. For other course locations, call AARP at 888-227-7669.

AMCOM business opportunities

The Aviation and Missile Command, in partnership with Team Redstone, is sponsoring the 2012 Advance Planning Briefings for Industry to be held Dec. 10-11 on Redstone Arsenal. This year's theme is "Partnering for Efficient Warfighter Capabilities."

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Photo by Paul Stevenson

USASAC stand down

Robert Brown, G6 director for the Security Assistance Command, leads a discussion with team members during USASAC's Suicide Prevention Stand Down held Oct. 5. In addition to small breakout sessions for each directorate, the command also hosted speakers on a variety of topics to increase awareness on suicide prevention, substance abuse, wellness programs, resiliency, financial health and spiritual health.



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Senior leaders will be sharing organizational long-range technology and capability development objectives during the event. Mark your calendars; event and registration information coming soon.

Korea veterans' flight

The Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation, "Revisit Korea" Project team, invites you and your family to see off nine Korean War veterans who will travel to South Korea for a weeklong trip, all expenses paid by our community members. Guest speaker Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of SMDC/ARSTRAT, will speak. Departure via Delta Airlines is scheduled Nov. 8 at 5:35 a.m. (be at Huntsville Airport by 4 a.m.); and they return Nov. 14 at 5:09 p.m. (be at the airport by 4 p.m.). For

more information, call KC Bertling 541-0450.

Fall festival

The annual Fall Festival, sponsored by the Children's Ministry of Southeast Church of Nazarene, will be held Saturday from 4:30-7 p.m. at the church, 2275 Cecil Ashburn Drive. There will be food, fun and fellowship. A costume contest starts at 4:45. For information call 881-3399 or visit childrensministry@southeastnaz.org.

Community fest

At Risk Children of North Huntsville will hold a Community Fall Festival on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Refiner's Community Center, 2117 Oakwood Ave. This free event features food, candy and

games. For more information, call DeAndrea Musoke 694-0021 or Theo Hollis 468-0116.

Salute grants

Oct. 31 is the deadline for the Redstone Arsenal Community Assistance "Salute Grants." All organizations that support military, veterans and their families and are in need of funds are encouraged to submit an application for a grant. The mission of the organization does not have to specifically focus on the military, just the project or event for which the funds are requested. To submit a "Salute Grant" application to the Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club, visit www.rsacwc.org and click on community assistance.

Thrift Shop news

The Thrift Shop is having its roof redone and there will be a time when you will need to park across the street. Please comply with the construction barricades for your safety. ... With Halloween happening soon, stop by the Thrift Shop for treats and bargains. On Saturday, Nov. 3, they will have a 50 percent off sale on all handwritten (TSP) tickets and Halloween items. ... If you are interested in volunteering or consigning, call or

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

Computer seminar

Watson's success on the "Jeopardy" television show, competing against Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter, showed it was possible to build a computing system that rivals a human's ability to answer questions posed in natural language with speed, accuracy and confidence. A free seminar titled "The Technologies Behind the Watson Jeopardy Challenge" will be presented Nov. 7 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Educator Training Facility. Check-in and continental breakfast are scheduled 8:30-9 a.m., and the speaker presentations from 9 until noon. For directions and parking information, visit <http://www.spacecamp.com/mu/directions>.