

Redstone Rocket

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PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL



Photo by Ellen Hudson
Adriana Gadowski, in foreground, participates in Friday's Halloween parade at the Goss Road Child Development Center. The angel behind her is Bella Garrett. See more photos on page 14.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Volunteers support Special Olympics.

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MILITARY SCENE

Garrison's senior enlisted enjoying career journey.

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Center conducts tests with telemetry, sensors.

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WIN OR LOSE

Youth soccer scores update.

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SPECIAL SECTION

Money management advice offered.

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RocketViews

Trick or treat?

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer
amy.tolson@theredstonerocket.com



Natalie Crawford
FMWR
“Treat – I like caramel apples.”



Cindy Loeckler
Java Cafe
“Trick – I like scaring the kids, so I dress in my gorilla costume to hand out candy.”



Jerry Hazlitt
Java Cafe
“Treat – Smarties.”



Riana Trahan
Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization & Security, Garrison
“Treat – a candied granny smith apple with nuts.”

Letter to the editor

Help prevent domestic violence in Army

In recent years, there has been an upward trend in substantiated cases of domestic violence in the Army. It is important to realize that many causes and conditions contribute to domestic violence, and it takes more than the usual effort to reduce the risk. We should never assume that someone else is solving the problem for us.

Everyone in the Army community needs to know that whether you are an offender, a victim or a bystander, you can act to make a difference. The Army Family Advocacy Program is here to help.

The message to everyone in the Redstone Arsenal community is: Don't turn your back on domestic violence!

Who is supposed to end domestic violence, reduce other stressors, and help eliminate the hopelessness and isolation that many victims caught up in a domestic violence cycle may feel? If we want these things gone from our personal life, and the lives of our friends and family, if we want these things gone

from the Army, then we all have to do some of the work.

Ask yourself: If I see these things in other people's lives, what can I do to help? All of us are supposed to help prevent domestic violence. What can you do to help prevent domestic violence?

Prepare – by recognizing and solving problems early.

Prevent – by reducing risks and seeking help.

Protect – by taking personal responsibility and reporting abuse.

Contact the Family Advocacy Program at our Army Community Service center, building 3338 on Redeye Road, at 876-5397. They are here to help.

Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar
Redstone Arsenal's senior commander

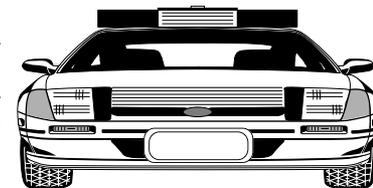
Editor's note: October is Domestic Violence Prevention Month in the Army.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for Oct. 14-20:

- Police investigated a report of found contraband at building 4400.
- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the parking lot of building 5681.
- Police arrested a subject on a Madison County warrant for failure to appear on an assault charge and released him to the Madison County Sheriff's Office.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Rideout Road north of Homestead.
- A deserter surrendered to police at Gate 8. He was later transferred to his Fort Bragg, N.C., unit.

- Police investigated a three-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Redstone Road east of Patton Road.
- Police and Fire responded to a medical emergency where an explosive had injured a contractor.
- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, accident in the Burger King drive-through.
- Police collected a deserter from the Franklin County, Ala., Jail and returned him to his Fort Sill, Okla., unit.
- Police received a report that a government laptop had been stolen from an unlocked car at a Soldier's Huntsville home.
- Police investigated a single-vehicle, without injury, accident on Buxton Road involving a deer.
- Police cited a driver for a suspended license when he arrived lost at Gate 8.
- Police received a report of theft of a Military Identification from a vehicle in St. Louis, Mo.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the parking lot of building 5301.
- Thirty-eight U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.



Quote of the week

“On Halloween, the parents sent their kids out looking like me.”

— Rodney Dangerfield

RedstoneRocket

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Contracting command consolidates operations functions

By LARRY McCASKILL

ACC Office of Public and Congressional Affairs

The merger of the Army Contracting Command's Deputy Chief of Staff Operations G3 and the Contracting Operations Directorate will provide the commanding general a single touch point for operations, integrating command operations with contracting operations, said ACC officials. "We anticipate a fusing of many functions in the ACC operations center with the merger of these two organizations, especially where complementary functions are merged to gain greater efficiency and synergy," Col. James Fiscus, deputy director of

the newly established Operations Group, said. "One example is in tasking. Allowing more cross-talk and vetting of taskings will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the tasking system."

According to Fiscus, many taskers previously sent to the field will now be answered within the consolidated group, thus eliminating the need to task the field. He said this process mirrors the Army Materiel Command's support to the combatant commanders and will allow for better planning.

"Building data mining and process improvement capabilities will improve our customer service," Fiscus said. "The end result of the consolidation is improved

communications, responsiveness, utilization of our resources across the command and support we provide our customers."

J.R. Richardson, formerly the director of ACC ConOps, will serve as the director, ACC Operations Group, while Fiscus assumes the deputy director and G3 roles.

Before the consolidation, there were a total of 95 personnel. The new organization will have 77 employees with the remaining personnel and positions migrating to the ACC Deputy Chief of Staff Human Capital G1 or into the newly established Expeditionary Contracting Command Operations G3.

"With the standup of any new organization there will be an adjustment period for

all to understand how the new organization functions," Fiscus said. "However, in most cases, it will be transparent to most of the command as the same points of contact will remain under the new structure."

The transformation and realignment of some functions has already begun and others will continue to realign over time. Fiscus said the plan is to have all personnel operating under the new structure this week.

"Everyone should see a positive impact across ACC, ECC and the Mission and Installation Contracting Command as the fusion occurs in operations and a greater efficiency is achieved through the synergy of the new organization," Fiscus said.

Redstone Soldier convicted for domestic abuse

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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While today may be the last day of October, ending Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the abuse doesn't stop just because the month does, and neither

does the help.

The Army takes domestic violence very seriously, as evidenced by the recent conviction of Redstone Soldier Sgt. 1st Class Rasheen McCullers for assault. McCullers appeared before a general court-martial Oct. 2-4, where he was found guilty of multiple counts of as-

sault consummated by battery upon his wife; disobeying a lawful order; assault upon a law enforcement officer and child endangerment. He was sentenced to confinement for 48 months at the Joint Regional Correctional Facility at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. McCullers was reduced to the rank of E-1 and received a dishonorable discharge, according to the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

"Domestic violence is incompatible with Army values," said Perrar Joseph, victim advocate at Army Community Service. "Once they know about it they will not tolerate it, and they will prosecute it as it should be."

One in four women will be a victim of domestic violence in their lifetime, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and an estimated 1.3 million are physically assaulted by their intimate partner each year. Joseph, together with ACS and community resources, such as Crisis Services of North Alabama, works

with victims of domestic violence to provide them with the resources they need to handle and survive the abuse. If you are the victim of domestic violence, or know someone who is, give Army Community Service's 24/7 response line, 508-6613, Joseph, 617-3204, or Crisis Services, 716-1000, a call, whether you just want to talk or are looking to find a way out of the situation.

"Call me, call Crisis Services, call someone," Joseph said. "Chances are if you're a victim of domestic violence you're isolated. Chances are, no one knows your secret, and a secret is only powerful when it's a secret. When it starts getting out and you start reaching out to people, the power that person has over you starts to diminish. They seem all powerful at the moment, but once you start accessing services, that power will begin to decrease. The very first step to getting out of an abusive relationship is talking to someone."

Getting to know you

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Name: Perrar Joseph

Position: Domestic violence victim advocate and SHARP sexual assault victim advocate, Army Community Service

Where do you call home?

Boston, Mass. I am a Yankee – Boston Red Sox, Boston Celtics, Boston Bruins.

What do you like best about your job?

I like helping people. I like finding solutions out of problems, getting them to see it a different way and realizing that there is hope, there is something that can be done.

What are your goals?

I want to be an attorney. I want to teach – be a college professor and mold the minds of the next generations. I'd love to write a book.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I'm a full-time student and a dad of a



3-year-old, so I don't have spare time, I really don't. I do love to play chess, but I don't have anyone to play with. Every month I have a new board that I showcase here in my office.

What's on your bucket list?

Skydive, scuba dive. I want to be in the air and get under the water. I'd love to travel and meet a few presidents.

What college football team do you root for?

Now that I'm here in Alabama, I hopped on the bandwagon.

On this date in history: Oct. 31

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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In 1914: Great Britain and France declare war on Turkey.

In 1922: Benito Mussolini becomes premier of Italy.

In 1941: Mount Rushmore is completed.

In 1959: Years before the Kennedy assassination, Lee Harvey Oswald is featured in local papers when he applies for Soviet citizenship.

In 1979: A U.S. DC-10 crashes at Mexico City, and 74 are killed.

In 2011: According to the U.N. Population Division, the world population has reached 7 billion people.

Redstone Arsenal then and now

McMorrow Laboratories named for late general

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Many people who see the McMorrow Laboratories name on building 5400 may not know its origin.

The new building for research and development was dedicated in March 1964 in memory of Maj. Gen. Francis J. McMorrow, who served as the commander of the then Missile Command from June 1962 until his death from a heart attack in August 1963. He remains the only Redstone commander to die during his assignment, according to Dr. Kaylene Hughes of the AMCOM History Office.

Building 5400 houses the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, which is under the Research Development and Engineering Command, based at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

McMorrow was born in New York City on Aug. 27, 1910. He graduated from West Point and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Coast Artillery Corps in June 1933. He and his wife, the former Catherine V. Fox, had two daughters and one son. He died Aug. 24, 1963 and was buried in West Point, N.Y.

The McMorrow Laboratories dedication ceremony in March 1964 included Alabama Gov. George Wallace and the



AMCOM History Office photo

Maj. Gen. Francis J. McMorrow served as commander of the then Missile Command from June 1962 until his death from a heart attack in August 1963.

keynote speaker Lt. Gen. Frank Besson, who commanded the Army Materiel Command. It marked the opening of a \$4.4 million facility for research and development.

Maj. Gen. John Zierdt, the then MCOM commander, welcomed the dignitaries and guests to the ceremony, which included the late general's widow and daughter.

Zierdt accepted a giant key from the Corps of Engineers which symbolized the official turnover to the Missile Command. Wallace spoke briefly, stressing Alabama's role in the national defense effort.



AMCOM History Office photo

Army Materiel Command commander Lt. Gen. Frank Besson and Catherine McMorrow dedicate the newly opened building 5400 in the name of her late husband, Maj. Gen. Francis J. McMorrow, in March 1964.

Besson presented Catherine McMorrow with the Distinguished Service Medal, awarded posthumously to her late husband. She and Besson unveiled a bust of her late husband which was to be emplaced permanently near the laboratory's entrance.

After the ceremony, Catherine McMorrow snipped a ribbon at the building's entrance officially opening the laboratory. Following the ribbon cutting, visiting officials and other guests toured the facility.



AMCOM History Office photo

Building 5400, McMorrow Laboratories, is home of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, which is under the Research Development and Engineering Command.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

This is the main entrance for the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center at building 5400.

Post shoppers deliver payoff to community services

Exchange revenues fund MWR programs

By KARI HAWKINS
Assistant editor
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All the shopping that servicemembers, veterans, military retirees and their families do at the Exchange is paying off for the entire Redstone community.

On Oct. 23, Redstone Exchange general manager Loraine Arbo presented Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton and Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation business manager Mark Germonprez with a \$1.827 million check. The funds, which are the "profits" after the Exchange pays its costs, are donated to the Garrison's MWR programs on an annual basis. The Exchange is part of the Army & Air Force Exchange Service.

"MWR receives money every year from our local AAFES facilities," Hamilton said. "A portion of that is specifically for family programs and recreational programs. It is an important addition of money to sustain our budget so we can continue to provide family, Soldier and recreational programs here at Redstone."

Those funds are used to help pay for such services as Outdoor Recreation facilities, Child Youth and School Services, Challenger Bingo, Army Community Service, the Child Development Centers, veterinarian services, the Bowling Center and the Links. AAFES funds help maintain the Arsenal's fitness centers, swimming pools, jogging trails and camp grounds.

"After we pay utilities, personnel costs and all our bills, all the rest goes back to MWR," Arbo said. "The proceeds benefit everyone on the installation. We're proud to be able to give this money

back." Arbo said the past year has been a fairly stable year for the Exchange. While sales overall are down 5 percent due to the Base Realignment and Closure recommendations that caused the loss of the Army Soldier training component in the past year, sales of some large ticket items have offset that loss.

"Soldiers bought a lot of electronics,



so that is down. But our firearms sales are up and account for almost 10 percent of our sales," Arbo said.

The funds given to MWR are about the same as what was given last year, she said.

"We really appreciate their financial support. We couldn't do what we do without their support," Hamilton said.

Volunteers keep torch burning for Special Olympics

Photos by Ellen Hudson

High school JROTC cadets and other volunteers from throughout the Tennessee Valley supported the annual Special Olympics track and field competition Oct. 23 at Milton Frank Stadium.

Some 460 athletes, from ages 8 to 65, competed for the opportunity to advance to the state meet scheduled for May in Troy. There were two volunteer escorts for each athlete. Altogether there were about 1,200 volunteers from throughout the community, according to Natalie Taylor, the Exceptional Family Member Program manager for Army Community Service.

Taylor served as a volunteer and is a member of the Special Olympics committee. She helped wherever needed, including distributing water, assisting the other volunteers and answering questions.

"I also made time to cheer some of the athletes on," she said.



Athletes compete during a heat of the girls 100-meter dash at Milton Frank Stadium.



Veronica Gordillo, left, and Keyondra Foreman from the Columbia High School JROTC Eagles Battalion share lunch with Special Olympian Amanda Stolz as they await their turn for the wheelchair races.



Maiya Cole of Lee High accepts her blue ribbon for the standing long jump.



Casey Smith of Hazel Green High does the standing long jump.

With the help of an Alabama A&M University volunteer, Athens High JROTC students Jacob Morris, left, and Andrew Saavedra play football with Special Olympian Billy Mason of Butler High.



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:

call 842-3070.

Start smart football

CYSS Start Smart Football, for ages 4-7, will be held Nov. 3 through Dec. 15 from 10-11 a.m. at the Youth Center, building 3148. The \$35 fee includes T-shirt and all equipment. Start Smart introduces skills necessary to play organized sports in a fun and non-competitive environment. Start Smart is a parent participation program. The parent works with his or her child under the direction of the Start Smart instructor. For more information, call 313-3699.

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,

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Zentangle workshops offered at Arts & Crafts Center



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

The June M. Hughes Arts & Crafts Center will offer free informational workshops on Zentangle, the art of creating images through drawing structured patterns, throughout November. Lori Connors, supervisory art specialist at the Arts & Crafts Center whose art is shown here, is one of less than a thousand certified Zentangle teachers worldwide.

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Relax your mind, “one stroke at a time,” with Zentangle.

The Redstone community is invited to give the artistic method of creating images through drawing repetitive, structured patterns, a try at one of three free informational workshops at the June M. Hughes Arts & Crafts Center, building 3615 on Vincent Drive. Workshops will be held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and Nov. 7 from 11 a.m. to noon and 6-7 p.m. Space is limited to 12 people per session. To reserve your seat, call 876-7951. Supplies are included.

“You don’t have to have any drawing experience,” Lori Connors, supervi-

sory arts specialist at the Arts & Crafts Center, said. “It’s a matter of doing designs. It’s elemental strokes. There are no mistakes in Zentangle; you don’t have an eraser in your kit.”

The art form, Connor said, is easy to learn and relaxing, allowing users to increase their focus and reduce their stress, all the while creating a beautiful image they can be proud of.

“It is really enjoyable,” said Connors, one of three certified Zentangle teachers in the Huntsville area. “It gives your brain a little vacation – you focus on one thing, not three things.”

The Arts & Crafts Center will also hold a wine glass painting class Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and a placemat making class Nov. 17 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. These classes are not free. For more information, call 876-7951.

AMC wellness fair delivers proactive care for workers

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**
AMC Public Affairs

The Army Materiel Command held a wellness fair for its headquarters employees Oct. 24.

“In the spirit of Health of the Force (a Department of the Army program), we’re trying to get employees to be more proactive when it comes to their psychological and physical wellness,” Roderick “Skip” Johnson, a Substance Abuse/Suicide Prevention program manager for the AMC Wellness Division, said.

Health of the Force is an Armywide program designed to maximize the readiness, morale and quality of life for personnel and their families. The program includes physical and mental well-being programs, such as the Army’s Suicide Prevention Stand Down.

“Typically, we don’t go to the health care provider unless something is broken,” Johnson said. “So why not bring the providers to them.”

The wellness fair offered: blood pressure screenings, vascular/vein screenings, breast cancer awareness, family support services, health and fitness activities, home care and hospice services information, hiking and biking information, employee assistance information, substance abuse resources, crisis resources, veterans’ services and spiritual fitness.

The Huntsville Hospital mobile unit was onsite offering blood glucose, cholesterol, bone density and body mass



Photo by Cherish Washington

AMC worker Sheila Harris, right, picks up information from the Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation table presented by Sabrina Forrest, left, and Whitney Myers, center.

index screenings.

“Together, the wellness division called their contacts from installation and community health care providers,” Anthony Arcuri, AMC’s Business and Wellness Division chief, said. “It turned into a first class event for the AMC employees.”

Participating in the wellness fair were: Crestwood Medical Center, Crisis Center of North Huntsville, Comprehensive Soldier Fitness-Performance and Resilience Enhancement Program, Redstone Arsenal’s Army Substance Abuse Program, Fleet Feet, Fox Army Health Center, Gentiva Home Care, Huntsville Hospital Breast Center, Land Trust of North Alabama, Morale Welfare Recreation, Sterling Health and Wellness Inc., Tricare, Veterans Center, Huntsville Hospital Mobile Unit and Wiregrass Hospice by Gentiva.

Software engineering workers enjoy their organization day

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

The key to making a good organization great is the people.

Dr. Bill Craig, director of the AMRDEC's Software Engineering Directorate, shared that message with the 3,000-plus work force in his organization at the 22nd annual SED Org Day, Oct. 18.

"What the Org Day is about is improving our cohesiveness," Craig said. "It gives each of you the chance to interact with a part of the work force you don't normally get to interact with. It increases trust. The greatest method to increase productivity is the people."

The first SED Org Day was in 1990 after an announcement from the Army recognizing the importance of team-building events. From its inception, SED Org day has been a day of team building and fun. Activities this year included tournaments in volleyball, basketball and ping pong, a car show, the SED Idol contest, board games and Family Feud.

Proceeds from the event go to Army Emergency Relief. AER is a private non-



Photo by Kimberly Cook

One of the many things to do during an Org Day, employees and family members take time out for lunch served in the high bay of building 6264 in the AMRDEC's Software Engineering Directorate complex. Outside of the high bay, SED workers display their pride and joy: their automobiles.

profit organization incorporated in 1942 by the Secretary of War and the Army Chief of Staff. AER's mission is to help Soldiers and their dependents.

For more information on AER, visit its website <http://www.aerhq.org/dnn563/>.

Suicide prevention focus for health fair

Dr. Amy Lawrence, with Health Source Chiropractic, gives a massage to an employee at the health fair.

Photos by Ellen Hudson

A Suicide Prevention Health Fair was held Oct. 23 in the Sparkman Cafeteria.



Brooke Berg, Huntsville Hospital's manager of Business Development Imaging Services, provides an employee with information.



A health fair attendee, left, receives information from Sheila Shook and Kellie Krause of Fox Army Health Center's Wellness Center.

Survivor shares hope for victims of domestic abuse

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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It's a new day.

For years she woke up each morning, never knowing what abuse would follow from her Soldier husband. But thanks to the help of Army Community Service, Team Redstone and the surrounding community, today every sunrise gives the survivor of domestic violence reason to smile.

"I'm glad I'm here at this moment," said the military spouse, preferring to remain anonymous.

When she met her soon to be ex-husband more than 10 years ago, she never imagined what a cruel turn her newfound love's personality would take once she became his bride.

"He was very charming, he was nice, he was funny," she said. "I will admit, I did get a vibe, but I just brushed it off as me being picky. I figured he's a nice guy, he's fun to be around, so I ignored the little things. There wasn't any physical abuse, and there was very little emotional and verbal abuse. There were incidents, but you could just chalk it up as an argument, and that's what I did."

After a year of dating, the couple married, but there was to be no honeymoon period. The abuse started immediately.

"I didn't want to believe it," she said. "I wanted it so bad – I couldn't believe that. We just got married, what is this? My marriage was going to work, it was going to make it, and that was my mentality for years."

It started with the emotional and verbal abuse, him telling her that she was worthless, stupid or fat. Shortly thereafter, the verbal turned physical, beatings with his own hand, oftentimes when he was intoxicated, but not always. He cheated on her, abusing the other women as well. The apologies always came, but the abuse always followed. It wasn't until a decade after the abuse had started that she realized the next time could be her last.

"In particular the last time, I started in my mind thinking, 'Who's going to raise my kids? What do I have in place?' I really thought that was it," said the mother of three. "I wasn't going to report anything at first. I just wanted it to end, for things to be calm, but looking at my daughter I realized that I was almost not going to be there to raise her. I wasn't trying to ruin his career. I just wanted a normal life, for my children and for myself."

After years of physical and emotional abuse, she came to Army Community Service, where she began a journey filled with hope for a life without domestic violence. With the help of Perrar Joseph, victim advocate, she was able to access the resources she needed to cope with and escape from the abuse, such as counseling at Fox Army Health Center, connecting with the JAG office, working with her husband's commanding officer to make sure her no-contact order was not only in place, but enforced, and pulling from other community resources to "try to create some peace, safety and a sense of security," Joseph said. Thanks to him and the Redstone community, she received help, justice and safety.

"Everybody has been awesome," she said through tears of gratitude. "I thank God for Perrar and everybody at JAG, Octavia at Crisis Services. I don't know if I could've done everything without everybody. I'm just hopeful. The kids are excited, and I can't even describe the feeling I get to see them be happy. They're just looking forward to a normal life. It's been a long time since I've seen my older two and just felt that they're happy. They're relieved."

If you are the victim of domestic violence, or know someone who is, give Army Community Service's 24/7 response line, 508-6613, Joseph, 617-3204, or Crisis Services, 716-1000, a call, whether you just want to talk or are looking to find a way out of the situation. There is hope at the other end of the line. No one deserves to be abused.

Editor's note: An average of three women lose their lives every day due to domestic violence, President Barack Obama said in a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

CID interview room comforts crime victims

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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It's a sigh of relief, a moment of sleep, a place of peace.

When a victim of sexual assault, abuse or other tragic event comes in for an interview at Redstone Arsenal's Criminal Investigation Division, the trauma has already occurred, but the aftermath is far from over for the victim, who must then retell their story to law enforcement. Knowing the pain that entails, to make that experience a little less painful, the CID brings them to the victim interview room, known as the "soft room."

A quiet refuge awaits victims in the soft room, which is decorated with calming colors and inspirational artwork, and is home to two chairs that not only seem to hug the body, but recline, so that victims can sleep or simply rest as needed throughout the interview process. The room aims to make the CID as comforting as a law enforcement agency can be.

"After the trauma, especially when you get in a place of comfort and all of that adrenalin has lessened, you just feel very sleepy and tired," outgoing special

agent in charge Michael Parker said. "Rather than force them into talking, we like to give them some time, a little bit of a break from life. We wanted to make this as calming of a room as possible to help take away the events they've been through."

In existence for close to two years, the room was created with victims of sexual assault in mind, but is used for victims of any traumatic event, such as having your vehicle stolen, as well as for witnesses of traumatic events who need to be interviewed. While the room provides a peaceful environment for victims, it also aids law enforcement in the interview process, by allowing them to work with victims who are more relaxed, which increases their ability to recall information. A window in the room allows law enforcement to communicate with the interviewer, to guide them on the questions that need to be asked.

"It minimizes the re-interview process and the re-victimization process," incoming special agent in charge Corrie Woodcox said. "It's a sense of civility. When you come in here you don't think of it as a typical police station. You think of it as a place of comfort."

The CID received \$2,500 from the



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Corrie Woodcox, left, incoming special agent in charge at the Redstone Arsenal Criminal Investigation Division, and Mike Parker, outgoing special agent in charge, sit in the soft room at the CID, where victims and those who have experienced a traumatic event, are interviewed.

Garrison commander to put what was needed into the room. With help from his wife Jodie, Parker was able to create a safe haven for anyone in need of the space. The proof of that, he said, is watching as a victim goes from being on guard to relaxed, some even surrendering

to much needed sleep.

"It goes a long ways to show that we as an agency are evolving, understanding that there's better ways to do things and to make the experience they've already had less traumatic," Parker said. "We do what has to be done."

Little angels come out for Halloween parade

Photos by Ellen Hudson

Youngsters dressed up for Friday's Halloween parade at the Goss Road Child Development Center.



From left are Abrie Ragan, Jordan Dawson, Adriana Gadowski and Timothy Howell.

Isaiah Dykes parties like a rock star with a Soldier-style flavor.



Jarrett Webb, left, and Nashaun Owens dance to the music.



Keep Halloween safe and fun

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 for 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 tonight from 6-8, according to Redstone Communities.

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

Whooping cough reaches epidemic level nationally

Fox Army Health Center release

Whooping cough cases in the United States have risen from an estimated 3,000 cases to well over 27,000 cases per year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Nearly 32,000 cases of pertussis were reported to the CDC through Oct. 8. Secretary of Health Mary Selecky has announced that pertussis (whooping cough) reached epidemic levels in Washington in 2012 as 640 cases have been reported over 23 counties. This compares to 94 cases during this same time period last year.

What is happening in Washington is a reflection of the larger national picture of the whooping cough epidemic. The total reported pertussis cases in Alabama was 305 in 2009, 205 in 2010, 90 in 2011 and now 90 in 2012. It's more likely that waning immunity from the pertussis vaccine is the driving force behind these late increases in cases.

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. Pertussis usually starts with cold-like symptoms, a runny nose, a mild cough, and a low-grade fever. After 1 to 2 weeks, severe coughing can begin. Bursts of coughing may end with an inspiratory "whoop" sound as the individual gasps for breath. This severe coughing can cause vomiting and exhaustion and can last for weeks. In infants, the cough can be minimal or absent. Infants younger than 6 months may not have the strength to have a whoop, but they can have bursts of coughing. Infants may gag, gasp or have a symptom known as "apnea," which is a pause in breathing. Pertussis is most dangerous for babies. More than half of infants younger than 1 who get the disease must be hospitalized.

The best way to prevent pertussis is to get vaccinated. The recommended pertussis vaccine for infants and children is called DtaP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis) and the series of shots is completed by the time a child enters school. Vaccine protection for pertussis, tetanus and diphtheria fades with time but

adults can protect themselves and the children they are in close contact with by getting a booster vaccine. Adolescents and adults up to age 64 should receive the one-time booster for protection against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap), preferably at age 11-12. Pregnant women in need of the booster should receive it late in the second trimester or during the third trimester. Adolescents and adults of any age (including those 65 and older), who have close contact with an infant under 12 months old, should be vaccinated with Tdap as soon as possible.

To stop the spread of germs like the flu and pertussis, good hand hygiene and covering coughs and sneezes is important. Covering the mouth and nose with a tissue during a cough or sneeze, and then throwing the tissue away can help stop the spread of germs. If you don't have a tissue, you can cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands. Frequent hand washing and always washing your hands after a cough or sneezes can prevent the spread of germs.

Pertussis is generally treated with antibiotics and early treatment is very important. Treatment may make the infection less severe if it is started early, before coughing fits begin. Treatment can also help prevent the spread of the disease. Treatment begun after three weeks of illness is unlikely to help because even though symptoms persist, the bacteria are gone from one's body. Children, childcare workers, and healthcare workers with suspected or confirmed pertussis should stay home from work, school or daycare for at least the first five days of antibiotic treatment.

In summary, pertussis (whooping cough) is a disease that can affect infants, children and adults; however, the disease is most severe in children and can be fatal in infants. Protection from childhood immunization does not last into adulthood. Therefore, all adolescents and adults should protect themselves by receiving a one-time pertussis booster vaccine (Tdap), especially those who have close contact with an infant less than 1 year old.

For more information, call Fox Army Health Center's Preventive Medicine at 955-8888, ext. 1026.

Girls explore science and engineering for day

By AMC Public Affairs

“Hooah!” the girls exclaimed as Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston concluded her remarks kicking off the fourth annual Girls Science & Engineering Day held Oct. 20 at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

The girls gathered at the Shelby Center for Science and Technology quickly incorporated “Hooah” into their vocabulary and into their thinking about the future. The deputy commander of the Army Materiel Command taught the girls the term acknowledging agreement and support during her opening remarks.

“There are so many opportunities out there. Don’t limit yourself in your thinking about what’s possible,” McQuiston said. “Your participation in days like today and pursuing your dreams will take America to even greater accomplishments than Huntsville and the Rocket City have given to our nation over the past years.”

More than 470 third- through fifth-grade girls from Madison County took that advice to heart as they participated in 40-minute workshops presented by volunteers from the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, Raytheon, Boeing, the Redstone

Test Center, Huntsville Botanical Garden, Crestwood Hospital, UAH graduate students and others. There were roughly 200 volunteers who supported this event.

The girls participated in hands-on activities including homemade play dough propellant, strawberry DNA extraction, and simulated laparoscopy. They learned about electrical circuits as they made robot jitterbugs and learned the importance of teamwork as they built rocket models, space suits and communication gear together. They improved their math skills as they participated and won prizes in the math bowl. The activities were designed to pique the young girls’ interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM.

Girls Science & Engineering Day was started four years ago by the UAH Women’s Leadership Council to ramp-up community efforts to ensure an adequate future supply of technologically literate employees. The Council for Advancement and Support of Education awarded the event a 2010 Bronze Medal for Program Excellence.

“It is cool to be smart,” Emily Vandiver, chair of the Women’s Leadership Council, said. “Girls need to see successful female role models right here in their community.”

The girls interacted with professional



AMC photo

Army Materiel Command deputy commander Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston talks with fourth-grader Dyani Peters about what it's like to be an Army general at the Girls Science & Engineering Day, Oct. 20. At right is Emily Vandiver, chair of the UAH Women's Leadership Council.

women from Raytheon, Crestwood Hospital, HudsonAlpha, AMRDEC and with other scientists and engineers, including Dr. Grace Bochenek, Army Materiel Com-

mand chief technology officer.

“Science is my favorite subject in school,” fourth-grader Betty Timmons said. “I like it even more after today.”

Still having fun after 28 years in uniform

Garrison's senior enlisted Soldier enjoys relationships built throughout Army

By KARI HAWKINS
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One of the best ways to experience the Army is in the boots of an enlisted infantry Soldier.

Looking over the highlights of Command Sgt. Maj. Kyle Crump's career, it's obvious he could be called a military "jack of all trades," a Soldier who has fully experienced the career challenges and responsibilities the Army has to offer.

From Fort Benning, Ga., to Germany; from Korea to Fort Wainwright, Alaska; from Fort Hood, Texas, to Iraq, Crump has been all around the world in his Army career in roles that have tested his capabilities as an infantry Soldier and a leader of Soldiers. For 28 years, Crump has followed the infantry Soldier's journey, serving in every enlisted position from rifleman through all the ranks, including drill sergeant, ROTC instructor and brigade command sergeant major.

And that career journey won't be ending anytime soon.

"It doesn't matter the assignment, more than likely I will still be in this uniform long after I leave this assignment. They'll have to kick me out someday," the decorated Iraqi war veteran said.

"From the beginning, I took it one reenlistment at a time. I wasn't much at looking at the big picture in those early years. Then, 12 years have gone by and I decide to go for 20. Then, 20 years came, and I was still having fun and here I am, really having fun eight years later."

For now, Crump is enjoying one of the most interesting leadership assignments of his career. Although the Garrison command sergeant major does not have many Soldiers under his supervision, he does help lead an organization of civilians committed to providing services in support of Team Redstone and its tenants' missions.

"This is a nice installation," he said. "I think we've got a great leadership team here, and I am glad to be part of that. Working with Redstone tenants and also out in the community with our community partners shows me another side of Army leadership."

Back in Springfield, Mass., in the mid-1980s, Crump was at a crossroads in his life. He had chosen two different paths to follow after high school—one was to serve as a police officer and the other was to join the Army.

"I took the police test. But I didn't hear anything back from that," he said. "I really believed in that commercial 'Be All You Can Be' in the Army. No one thought I would do it, but I signed up. Once I got to basic training, the letter finally came that said I scored a 94 on the police test and I could go to the police academy. But by then I was on my way to being a Soldier."

Basic and Advanced Individual Training for infantry Soldiers at Fort Benning, Ga., offered the kind of challenge that Crump welcomed.

"It was great. They still had those real tough drill sergeants back then who got in your face a lot more than they do now," he said.

"I was in shape when I went to basic. I could run. I could accept the challenge. Everything just seemed exciting. I stuck with it and it was good."

After Fort Benning, Crump's entire platoon of 53 Soldiers was assigned together and stationed in Berlin, Germany, from 1984-87, where they patrolled "the wall" between west and east Germany, and were the last Soldiers to guard Nazi war criminal Rudolf Hess, who died in 1987.

From those first years and throughout his career, Crump said his most rewarding assignments were those that involved mentoring young Soldiers. His next assignment took him to Fort McClellan, where he trained Soldiers in mapping and communications as part of the Basic Training Committee Group. Soon he was assigned to be a drill sergeant.

"It was rewarding to turn those young kids into Soldiers. You could see the huge strides they made as they went from feeling fear to being motivated Soldiers. They grow up at basic and turn into really good Soldiers," Crump said.

While at Fort McClellan, Crump also met his wife, Kimberly, who was also a Soldier. She eventually left the Army, the two got married and now have three grown children.

"I've always had super support from my family," Crump said. "I don't think I would still be doing what I'm doing today if it wasn't for my family. My parents, my brothers, my friends and my mentors, my wife—they've all had an impact on me that has allowed me to be where I am today."

His experience in training and mentoring Soldiers that he first gained at Fort McClellan has followed Crump throughout his career. His role as a trainer continued in Hohenfels, Germany, where he was assigned in 1988 to the Combat Maneuver Training Center, 7th Army Training Command.

"We did a lot of field training where we were dressed up as bad guys and we had to fight the good guys. We had our own special



Photo by Kari Hawkins

The Garrison's Command Sgt. Maj. Kyle Crump is now part of the work force making a difference for tenants at Redstone Arsenal. He joined the Garrison command about two months ago.

uniforms and ranks and we fought against units that came in for training," Crump said.

From there, Crump took on a series of unit leadership positions, all focused on preparing Soldiers for combat. He served with units at Fort Drum, N.Y.; Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; Fort Benning; Camp Casey, Korea; and Fort Wainwright. Other assignments had him serving as a ROTC instructor at the University of California in Santa Barbara and as the Scorpion team command sergeant major at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

"I was training Soldiers, but I was also learning how to lead Soldiers. In Hawaii, I was a platoon sergeant and then the battalion S3 NCOIC who planned training events. While I was there I learned how things run at the battalion level. While at the University of California, I started

taking online college courses to get my degree," said the recent magna cum laude business administration graduate from the University of Trident in Cypress, Calif.

"At the National Training Center, I was involved in mentoring and evaluating Soldiers on the basic techniques and procedures during simulated situations in Iraq and Afghanistan. That experience made me capable of being a battalion command sergeant major in combat. I had some good information in my tool kit to take with me on a deployment."

In 2008-09, while at Fort Wainwright, Crump deployed with the 3-21 Infantry Stryker Battalion to Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was the battalion command sergeant major at Forward Operating Base Normandy, located on the edge of Muq-dadiyah and the Diyala River Valley.

"We had our own FOB with 1,800 military and civilian," Crump said. "The Operations S3 sergeant major stayed at the FOB and ran it just like an installation garrison, with responsibility for the airstrips, chow hall, PX, fuel trucks and anything else supporting the FOB's Soldiers."

"I went out in theater with the battalion commander, and participated in engagements and missions. We went to the battlefield to check on the troops."

Crump was most proud of the way Soldiers conducted those missions and for the work he did to help bring all those Soldiers home.

"Even though we did have some injuries and loss of limbs, we didn't lose not one Soldier. All our Soldiers came home, and that was awesome," Crump said.

"Towards the last four months of our deployment, we started turning things over to the Iraqis. On missions, they would take the lead and we would follow them. We told our Soldiers over and over again to not get complacent, that it only takes a second for something to go wrong, that it's not over until it's over. We were really good at repeating that message over and over again."

Crump's most recent assignment was

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Local community prepares to welcome heroes

Wounded warriors arrive for events

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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They do not know their names, but they know of their sacrifice, and for that, they want to say thank you.

Wounded warriors from across the country will arrive Nov. 7 for the sixth annual Semper Fi Community Task Force's Heroes Week, the Tennessee Valley's opportunity to thank the warriors, their loved ones and their caregivers for their service and sacrifice, in both word and deed.

"It's just a patriotic community, and I think people want to be a part and involved in honoring these wounded warriors," Joe Bongiovanni, SFCTF vice chairman, said. "In essence we're honoring all the veterans, not just the wounded ones, but everyone who has served."

Once their planes touch down at Huntsville International Airport Nov. 7, for a full week the local community will

embrace the wounded warriors, taking care of their every want and need as they are given time to relax at their four-star accommodations at The Westin, in between the many activities the community has planned to say thank you.

Well-wishers are invited to bring signs, flags and their smiling selves to The Westin at 3:00 p.m. Nov. 7 to welcome the heroes to Huntsville. The outpouring of support means more to the warriors than the community could possibly know, Bongiovanni said.

"When they leave here they go home and tell their friends," he said. "They let their buddies know that their country and the people care about them."

Sure to be a highlight of this year's all-expenses paid trip is the Nov. 10 Alabama vs. Texas A&M game in Tuscaloosa, which DRASH generously donated tickets for so the wounded warriors can attend. Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley will greet the group at the game. The following day, Sunday, Nov. 11, the public is invited to stop by to support the wounded warriors at their fishing tournament at Ingalls Harbor in Decatur with Bassmaster champion Chris Lane from 10



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Wounded warriors from across the country arrive at Huntsville International Airport for the Semper Fi Community Task Force's Heroes Week in 2011. This year's wounded warriors will arrive Nov. 7.

a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Other activities include a parade of boats on Lake Gunterville, a private plane aerial tour, visits with local school children, the Marine Corps Ball, Veter-

ans Day Parade downtown, and for the women, a Day of Beauty at The Westin.

Editor's note: For more information about Heroes Week, or to get involved, visit www.semperfi.org.

Community renews patriotic spirit in Veterans Week

Events planned
from Nov. 5-17

By SKIP VAUGHN
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The local community will render its annual salute to veterans in November. A full slate of activities fills Veterans Week in Huntsville, Madison and Madison County. Organizations involved include the Association of the U.S. Army and the North Alabama Veterans Coalition, among others. Max Bennett is president of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition. AUSA state president Joe Fitzgerald is the overall chairman for Veterans Week on behalf of the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter.

"It's a renewal of patriotic spirit," Fitzgerald said. "This is the only national holiday we have that honors all military veterans – both living and dead. Veterans Day honors all military veterans – those currently serving, those who have served and those who are deceased."

The Veterans Week theme is "Courage, Sacrifice and Duty – Honoring Our Military Veterans." There will be special recognition to all Vietnam veterans during the Veterans Day Dinner on Nov. 9 and the Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 12. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Vietnam War.

Bennett is helping with the Veterans Day parade on Monday, Nov. 12 in downtown Huntsville. He will be emcee for the Veterans Prayer Breakfast on Nov. 5 from 7:30-9 a.m. at the Hogan YMCA, 130 Park Square Lane off of



Hughes Road in Madison.

Tickets for the breakfast are available at ymcahuntsville.org. "They're free for veterans," Bennett said. "They're \$20 for non-veterans but that pays for a veteran as well. That allows a veteran to eat for free."

Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, is the breakfast speaker. Music will be provided by singer Lee Marshall, news anchor for WHNT News 19, and the Army Materiel Command Band.

On Nov. 8, nine Korean War veterans will depart the Huntsville International Airport for a weeklong visit to Korea. The organizer is the Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation, "Revisit Korea" Project team, led by

KC Bertling. All expenses are paid by members of the community. The veterans are scheduled to depart via Delta Airlines at 5:35 a.m. Nov. 8 and return at 5:09 p.m. Nov. 14. The public is invited; well-wishers should be at the airport by 4 a.m. Nov. 8 and by 4 p.m. Nov. 14.

The Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Day Dinner is scheduled 5:30 p.m. Nov. 9 at the Von Braun Center's North Hall. New inductees will be added into the Madison County Hall of Heroes. The Huntsville/Madison County Veteran of the Year will be announced; and a veteran will receive the Huntsville/Madison County Lifetime Achievement Award. Dinner tickets are available. For information call Linda Crutcher at 722-4260 or email linda.crutcher@lmco.com.

On Nov. 10 at 6 p.m., the Marine Corps Birthday Ball at the Westin will celebrate the 237th birthday of the corps. Tickets for this event, sponsored by Kilo Battery, are \$55. For information call 213-9683, ext. 108.

The Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial charter ceremony will be held Nov. 10 at 10 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial Park downtown. Youngsters will help dedicate the memorial's time capsule and agree to return in 2062 for its reopening and appoint their successors.

"We are gathering children to agree to open the time capsule down at the park in 50 years. These kids are called ambassadors," Bennett said.

A Veterans Day concert will be held 5 p.m. Nov. 11 at the First Baptist Church on Governors Drive. Everyone is invited.

A Veterans Day Breakfast, by invitation-only, is scheduled 9-10 a.m. Nov. 12 at the Huntsville Depot Round

House. Madison and the local AUSA chapter are co-hosts for this VIP event for the parade sponsors.

The 2012 Veterans Day Parade starts at 11 a.m. Nov. 12 at Veterans Memorial Park. It will be telecast live on WAFF 48 with co-hosts Liz Hurley and Bennett. Pre-parade activities are planned from 10-11 at the park. Parade floats start organizing at 8:30 at Lot K, on the corner of Clinton Avenue and Woodson Street, with assistance from members of the Warrant Officers Association. From 150 to 175 entries are expected; and 85 had registered by Oct. 15. Floats should preregister at waff.com.

"We will accept walkups that morning but they will be placed at the end of the line," Bennett said.

The two-mile route, approximately a square, goes from Holmes to Monroe, then in front of the park on Monroe, then south on Greene Street, west on Williams Avenue, north on Monroe past the Von Braun Center, and then finally west on Clinton and ends at the starting point on Lot K.

"I would guess 15,000-20,000 (spectators along the route)," Bennett said.

The Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial's Phase 2 dedication is scheduled 10 a.m. Nov. 17 in Veterans Memorial Park. The day's events include unveiling for the Courage statue, lighting for the eternal flame, burying the time capsule, and dedicating the Patriot walkway – an educational path behind the park.

The Courage statue, by local sculptor Dan Burch, depicts three World War I Soldiers, including one ascending from a foxhole. The local models for the sculpture included National Guard Maj. Russ Spry and Maj. Jeff Owens, and Reserve Sgt. 1st Class Chad Perry.

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serving as the brigade command sergeant major for the Warrior Transition Brigade at Fort Hood.

"That was a very rewarding time. It's really great to see a wounded Soldier go from wounded in combat to back on his or her feet so they could either transition out of the Army or be found fit for duty," he said.

The largest warrior transition brigade in the Army, the Fort Hood unit worked with Soldiers wounded in war or in accidents,

and Soldiers with either physical injuries, or with the more complicated prognosis of illness or post traumatic stress disorder. Besides ensuring they received the proper medical care, the brigade also provided wounded Soldiers with training for transitioning out of the Army, including resume writing, budgeting and interviewing.

"It was a challenging job that required me to be available 24/7. I really felt like I was helping to make a difference because the Army has an obligation to help these Soldiers get the medical care and treatment they need, and the transitioning skills they need if they are leaving the Army," Crump said.

"The Army is getting better and better

at taking care of these wounded Soldiers."

Now at Redstone for about two months, Crump is getting used to going from an installation of 40,000-plus Soldiers to one that's quite the opposite. Even with the small number of Soldiers at Redstone, Crump is determined to find ways to bring unity and cohesiveness to the installation's enlisted ranks. Toward that end, he is planning an NCO Call for Nov. 15 at 4:30 p.m. at the Firehouse Pub.

"We need to get together and get to know each other and socialize. It's also part of mentoring the younger Soldiers," he said.

Although he has the honors – a Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Meritorious

Service Medal (sixth award), memberships in the Sgt. Morales and the Sgt. Audie Murphy clubs, and the Order of St. Maurice – that are earned by long-term dedicated Soldiers and combat heroes, it's the relationships with Soldiers and civilians, and the chance to make a difference that Crump has found most rewarding in his Army experience.

"All through my career, I've loved being with other Soldiers and being an infantryman. I've loved the team work and the opportunities to lead. I like building good teams," he said. "I loved training in the field. That was great. You just can't beat that. And there's no way I would have all the friends I have if it hadn't been for the Army."

Fox health center groups help with coping

Fox Army Health Center release

Whether it's traumatic memories from war or just coping with kids, aging parents or day to day living, Fox Army Health Center has the tools to help its beneficiaries face life's challenges.

"Our goal is to provide folks with tools to overcome those challenges whatever they may be," Fox commander Col. William Darby said.

Fox now offers evening group classes for individuals dealing with posttraumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, or general life stress. The PTSD group utilizes Cognitive Processing Therapy, which has been shown to be one of the most effective treatments for PTSD. For this reason, it is one of two recognized treatments for PTSD by the Department of Defense. Traumatic events, particularly those occurring in combat, often cause Soldiers to struggle with memories and thoughts about the events. Soldiers may have difficulty making sense of what happened. Soldiers may find themselves getting "stuck" in thoughts about the trauma. This feeling of being unable to make sense of the trauma can make him or her want to avoid thinking about or dealing with the trauma memories. CPT helps by giving the Soldier a new way to handle these distressing thoughts and to gain an understanding of the events. CPT helps the Soldier learn how going through a trauma has changed the way he looks at the world, himself and others. The goal is not to erase the trauma, but to modify the thoughts around it while gaining better control of the memories.

PTSD group sessions are held Wednesday evenings from 5 to 6:30. Upcoming start dates are Nov. 7 and Feb. 13.

The Women's Group focuses on how to deal with life stressors utilizing Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. ACT is a new, scientifically based psychotherapeutic modality that has been proven effective for many life stressors such as depression, anxiety, relationship difficulties, addictions and many others. ACT is based on the fact that stress and struggle are an inherent part of life, but suffering is optional. ACT teaches participants a shift in thinking to deal with personal experiences that cause emotional pain. Participants learn many concepts that can help them live a life they value, even with the stress. ACT holds that not all forms of stress can be eliminated, such as difficult relationships, occupational stress, or even depression/anxiety. It suggests that a person can take action toward living that life without first changing or eliminating the stress. You do not have to win the battle before you can begin to live. Women's Group meets Wednesday evenings from 5 to 6:30. Upcoming start dates are Nov. 29 and Feb. 21.

Fox also offers an adolescent/early adult ACT group. To inquire about start dates, call Behavioral Health at 955-8888, ext. 1931. The group is broken into two age groups, one for early teens, and another for participants closer to adulthood.

All groups meet for 10 weeks at Fox's Behavioral Health Department, on the second floor of the facility. To reserve a space or simply inquire about a group, call 955-8888, ext. 1931. All active duty



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Dr. Jana Lovelace speaks with Jeannie Johnston, licensed social worker, at Fox Army Health Center's Behavioral Health Department, where they lead group sessions for posttraumatic stress disorder, as well as acceptance and commitment therapy for women and teens coping with life struggles such as anxiety, depression or anger.

military, dependents and retirees (Tricare Prime or Standard) and their family members are eligible for group services.

"If what you're doing isn't working, then what do you have to lose?" Dr. Jana Lovelace, with the Behavioral Health Department, said. "It can't hurt to learn more. It can't hurt to gain some insight. If you don't think you can use it, OK, but you've learned a little more. We do find most people get something out of it and leave the groups with new tools."

The groups are not support groups, but rather, interactive class environments, where individuals are taught tools

and concepts to help them understand the challenges they may be facing.

"Sometimes we find that people are hesitant to come to groups, both males and females because they do not want to become emotional while sharing their life story. However, this is not a support group. Our goal is to help gain insight into PTSD or other stressors and provide alternate ways of coping," Lovelace said.

"You do not have to share your story. There will be opportunities for that if desired, but this is not a requirement," added Jeannie Johnston, a licensed social worker at Fox.

Before starting the 10-week sessions, participants are seen individually by Lovelace or Johnston to discuss the class, ensuring that the group is a good fit for the individual. Those interested in attending the PTSD group must have a PTSD diagnosis, which will be discussed in the initial individual assessment. For the women and adolescent/early adult ACT groups, no diagnosis is necessary. If you are struggling with anxiety, depression, or general life stress, the group may be the right fit for you.

"Everyone has something to cope with, we all have something – whether it's marriage, family, kids, neighbors, the death of a parent, or a bad day," Johnston said. "If you don't right now, one day you will, and it just can't hurt to be a little more prepared than you were before. The ACT group teaches participants to live their life instead of being stuck in an ineffective pattern."

To inquire about groups or to sign up, call 955-8888, ext. 1931.

Huntsville Center welcomes internal review chief

By JO ANITA MILEY

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Ohio native Lori Cordell-Meikle is the new internal review chief for the Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville.

Cordell-Meikle comes to Huntsville Center from the Security Assistance Command where she was an accountant.

She is a business administration graduate from Athens State University, and

began her federal career in 2008 in the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Office of the Chief Financial Officer in Washington, D.C., where she served as the lead auditor and audit liaison representative. From 1999 to 2007 she served as the senior federal accountant at Oakwood University in Huntsville. She also held a position as the sponsored programs director at the school from 1999-2004.

Cordell-Meikle said being at the helm of Huntsville Center's Internal Review Office for the past several months has been very rewarding. She is confident that the Internal Review Office is moving forward in the right direction.

Cordell-Meikle has a positive attitude about her new position at the Huntsville Center and hopes to accomplish a lot for the Center during the next few years.

"Individuals often make the assumption that internal review always focuses on what is being done incorrectly," she

said. "I want everyone at the Center to know I will be asking for their Best Practices, because all of what is done in internal review is not bad."



Lori Cordell-Meikle

Redstone's committed work force has growing mission

Senator says investment builds Arsenal's future

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
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Redstone Arsenal is on solid ground for the future.

Speaking to a crowd of about 1,000 business leaders at a Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Washington Update luncheon on Oct. 24 at the Von Braun Center's North Hall, Sen. Jeff Sessions emphasized that the investment the nation has made in facilities at Redstone is an indicator that the installation is well-established within the nation's military community.

"There's no better place in America that has so committed people," Sessions said of the Huntsville and Madison communities, and the Tennessee Valley area.

Sessions saved his most passionate words for the Arsenal's Von Braun Complex, and its Missile Defense Agency and Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command employees.

"It's hard to say how fulfilling this has been," Sessions said, referring to the recent groundbreaking for Von Braun IV. "I've been working on this the whole time I've been in the Senate."

He said the first Von Braun facility, housing the Space and Missile Defense Command, is home to 600 employees. Von Braun II, which was MDA's first facility in the complex, is home to 900 employees. Von Braun III, which opened in 2011 to accommodate employee moves associated with the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure commission recommendations, is home to 2,640 MDA employees. Von Braun IV will provide space for 850 more MDA employees.

"That's a pretty good investment by the United States of America in one of the most unique and fabulous communities," Sessions said. "The Von Braun Complex was a long-term goal and it's wonderful to see it become a reality."

Of MDA, specifically, he said "You can be assured of its importance to national missile defense."

The senator also mentioned new Marshall Space Flight Center director Patrick Scheuermann, saying he was confident that Scheuermann will bring a new sense of purpose and direction to the center at Redstone.

"He knows Huntsville. He knows rockets. He knows Marshall. I hope that spirals into a degree of commitment than what we've seen before," he said. "I believe a great nation should be involved in



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Sen. Jeff Sessions speaks about Redstone Arsenal and national budget issues during his comments to about 1,000 business leaders who attended the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Washington Update luncheon.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Sen. Jeff Sessions spends a few moments with Brig. Gen. Darrell Williams, Army Materiel Command chief of staff, after his speech to members of the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce during a Washington Update luncheon Oct. 24. Sessions is proud of the infrastructure investment that the U.S. taxpayers have made to grow Redstone Arsenal and its missions.

some things that excite and unify – and that can be found in space exploration. The U.S. does not need to be slipping by in its space programs."

Elaborating on his comments after the luncheon, Sessions said Redstone Arsenal "stands very solidly" and that new facilities on the Arsenal are "brick and mortar confirmation of the incredible importance of what we do here."

Sessions expressed pride in the Arsenal's personnel, and said the success of the Arsenal and its missions can be attributed to "good people doing good work at reasonable costs."

He described the Arsenal as having "fabulous infrastructure in a fabulous place. It is confirmation of your perfor-

mance and our position here."

Six percent of Alabama's gross domestic product results from the work done at Redstone Arsenal, Sessions said.

"It is an exceedingly important entity for our region and our state," he said.

But, the senator also expressed a word of caution, saying that Redstone Arsenal isn't immune to reductions caused by federal budget woes.

"We are going to have to tighten our belts," he said. "With the numbers the way they are, nobody can be exempt from doing their duties more efficiently."

"I believe the technology of missiles and space is totally critical to America's defense and I only see that becoming more clear as time goes on. We have to dominate space and not have that mission eliminated during a time of conflict."

Sessions is a member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and a ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee. He is also a member of the Senate committees on the Judiciary, and on Environment and Public Works. He has served in the Senate since 1997.

But Sessions told his Washington Update audience that he has recently been frustrated by the Senate's members and its inaction. This year was the first time in 50 years the Senate didn't pass a defense authorization bill. The Senate also failed to review what Sessions called a "bi-partisan bill on the budget" that would have provided funds for a 1.7 percent Soldier pay raise, \$1.5 billion for Army missile programs and increased funding for the THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) missile program along with moving closer to a balanced budget within 10 years. Sessions hopes the bill will be brought up during the upcoming lame duck session.

"We are facing some very grave and serious problems," Sessions said. "But I believe with the right decisions, we will usher in growth and prosperity. This country is not dead economically."

He said the nation's leaders need to set an economic course that is "clear and permanent," and that "breeds confidence, encourages investment and creates jobs for millions."

Calling it the "least productive Senate in history," Sessions also expressed his dismay in the Senate not passing even one appropriations bill. In previous years, the Senate would pass all 13 appropriations bills. Then it got to where the Senate only passed six to eight appropriations bills every year with other items placed in continuing resolutions.

"This year not a single appropriations bill was passed," he said. "Everything was all piled together in 16 authorized

continuing resolutions."

This stalemate along with economic growth that is slumping, a \$15-16 trillion gross debt that is larger than the entire U.S. economy and the threat of sequestration – automatic spending cuts that will take place in January because of Congress' inability to pass a balanced budget – is causing uncertainty in both the private sector and government, Sessions said.

"In six years, the interest on the national debt will exceed the amount we spend on the Defense Department. ... One hundred percent of revenue that came into this country last year was spent on mandatory spending and the interest on the debt. It's a formula for failure in any organization," he said.

No matter who sits in the White House, Sessions said "it is a responsibility of the president of the United States to identify threats of the future to our republic and lead the nation in a way it can be successful."

Even though the Budget Control Act of 2011 allowed an increase in spending by adding \$1.4 trillion to set the 2012 budget at \$3.7 trillion, actual spending increases this past fiscal year totaled \$1.8 trillion, Sessions said, and the total federal debt now stands at about \$16.4 trillion.

Besides government overspending, the gross domestic product continues to drop, Sessions said. In 2010, gross domestic product was \$2.4 billion and represented a 2.4 percent growth. In 2011, the GDP dropped to a 1.8 percent growth, and this year, in the first six months, the GDP was down to 1.4 percent with it expected to fall to 1.3 percent during the last six months of 2012.

"I'm concerned about where we are financially," Sessions said. "If we can get our house in order financially, then we can move this country forward ..."

"We need to do the things that don't cost money while causing jobs to be created and our economy to move forward."

Those measures would include simplifying the tax code, eliminating requirements and codes that discourage economic growth, and defending trade interests and fair trade in the world, he said. Another measure would be dismissing the threat of sequestration, which would cause an 11 percent cut in defense spending as part of overall budget cuts.

"I was pleased the president made it clear (during the debates) that we would fix sequestration, that it won't happen," Sessions said.

"It would have been much better if we had addressed it earlier. But I do believe we will get that fixed."

See Sessions on page 27

AMC and DLA share logistic milestones, efficient solutions



Photo by Teodora Mocanu

Senior leaders from the Department of the Army, Army Materiel Command and the Defense Logistics Agency gather at Army/DLA Day Oct. 25 at McNamara Headquarters Complex. Attendees heard from senior leaders on logistic milestones and efficient solutions to support servicemembers.

By **AMANDA NEUMANN**

For the Rocket

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – Top officials from the Defense Logistics Agency, Department of the Army and Army Materiel Command discussed recent logistic milestones at Army/DLA Day Oct. 25 at the McNamara Headquarters Complex.

“We have a lot of great stuff to talk about,” DLA director Navy Vice Adm. Mark Harnitchek said in his opening remarks. “I think there are a lot of great things we will do on your behalf. We exist to serve you. We write checks on the Army’s accounts so we’re always going to be effective in terms of supporting the customer no matter what that is or where that is.”

AMC commander Gen. Dennis Via agreed, adding that the partnership between the agencies is integral when it comes to supporting war fighters.

“This is one of the most important events we have throughout the year,” Via said. “We do not enjoy a more important relationship and strategic partnership than we do with DLA. And I think that relationship will grow even more important as we continue to support combat operations in Afghanistan and as we begin to retrograde and reset equipment that we brought out of Iraq. The role that DLA plays in the supply chain in getting the parts that we need to be able to ensure we are very effective in regenerating and rebuilding combat readiness across our Army after 11 years of war is critically important.”

Via said Army/DLA Day is a start to forming a transparency between the agencies, both of which work to ensure war fighters’ needs are met.

“While you’re here, the work never ends; the sun never sets over the AMC or DLA either,” Via said. “We’re mobile; we’re worldwide. We won’t address every issue in this one day. This relationship is continual. And my intent and my guidance to my team is I want to build on this great relationship that we have. I want to have a great transparency and work in a collaborative manner to meet the needs of our servicemen and women.”

Cost and effectiveness go hand-in-hand, Harnitchek noted, adding that with recent drawdowns and budget constraints, DLA is facing historic times in the field of logistics.

“We will let whoever our customer is define the outcome and effectiveness. On the back end, we’re going to figure out delivering that for the best value,” Harnitchek said. “We are almost exclusively a working capital fund activity, and a big one, so we are ever mindful how much being effective costs. Our strategy here is to get out in front of these fiscal challenges. You are here as an example of fortifying partnerships with our service customers.”

During the roundtable discussion, attendees heard updates from DLA Finance and DLA Energy. Representatives from the Army also presented on topics including Army Campaign Plan milestones, depot storage audits and Army/DLA organic industrial base initiatives.

Most-decorated Black Hawk pilot honored

By **SOPIA BLEDSOE**
For the Rocket

WASHINGTON – A UH-60 Black Hawk pilot from the 25th Combat Aviation Brigade was honored at a recognition event with military leaders and industry members at the Renaissance Hotel on Oct. 23.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Joe Roland, 25th CAB standardization officer, was presented the Sikorsky Combat Flight Award by Team Black Hawk. Roland was being recognized for the number of UH-60 Black Hawk flight hours he has flown so far, which includes 6,507 total flight hours, 2,250 hours of which were flown with night-vision goggles; and 1,700 of which were flown in combat.

“We talk about life taking and life savings skills in our business,” Roland said. “I’d like to thank the Black Hawk team for putting together an aircraft and a system that for the last 6,000 hours has allowed me to come home to my family.”

Roland served combat tours during Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn. Before joining the Army, Roland served six years in the Marine Corps as a UH-1N Huey crew chief and AH-1W Cobra repairer.

Roland was joined by his family, friends and peers at the recognition event.

“I’ve thrown everything at it,” Roland said of the Black Hawk, “from brand new students sitting next to me,

to the Taliban chasing me around with RPGs (rocket propelled grenades) and machine guns. Every single time, it has allowed me to get back home in one piece.”

Roland recently returned to the United States from Afghanistan in order to be with his family and accept the award. He will return to Afghanistan in a few days to finish his deployment.

Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, was the guest speaker at the event where he spoke about the accomplishments of Team Black Hawk and why, no matter how budgets will be affected, the team needs to remain steadfast in their support for the Soldier.

Crosby pulled a message from Col. Frank Tate, 25th CAB commander that read: “Joe Roland is hands down the best warrant officer I have had the honor and the privilege to serve with. He is tactically brilliant, technically without peer, courageous under fire, and a leader that officers, warrant officers and Soldiers enthusiastically follow. He is also a devoted husband, loving father and a cherished friend of all of those fortunate enough to know him. He has found balance in his personal and professional life and that we should all hope to emulate.”

“These kinds of notes are what continue to give us acquisition folks that steadfast commitment to get the job



Courtesy photo from Sikorsky

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Joe Roland, right, 25th Combat Aviation Brigade standardization officer, received the Sikorsky Combat Flight Award during a recognition event Oct. 23. He stands with Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, left, program executive officer for aviation, and Command Sgt. Maj. James Thomson Jr. of the Army Aviation Branch at Fort Rucker.

done right for the Soldiers we need to be taking care of every day,” Crosby said. “This note and what you’ve just seen and heard should get everybody in this room to give everything you have to make it better for him because he is on the pointy edge of that sword every day doing this for our country, and we owe him everything that we can.

“Passion for the Soldier is what makes all of this work,” he said.

The UH-60 Black Hawk has flown more than 452,000 hours in the past year. In light of the current fiscal environment, Crosby reminded the audience that the team has to think in broader perspectives, referring to the foreign military sales program that will become more important as the budgets go down.

“How do we balance that,” Crosby said. “This is not new to us. We’ve been through this before. We manage it by partnering, by openly sharing and communicating, and we as community leaders have to drive those walls down as we work through all these issues. We have to stay on that edge, or we will fail Soldiers like Mr. Roland.”

Crosby recognized the team for their accomplishments and told them that although Soldiers may not know who Team Black Hawk is, they know that great Americans are back home working to design, build, test and deliver the aircraft. “When they pull on that collective or when they’re being shot at, that airplane does what it is supposed to do. And you should be very, very proud of that,” he said.

Utility Helicopters project manager Col. Thomas Todd also spoke at the event and provided a brief update on the status of the UH-60 program. “The UH-60 is truly a multi-service, multi-mission platform,” Todd said. “We take a lot of great pride in servicing our customers.”

Sessions

continued from page 23

Sessions went on to say that entitlements – payments made directly to individuals based on rights or legislation – have to be cut. Currently, \$1 trillion in the budget is spent on welfare programs, \$480 billion on Medicare and \$725 billion on Social Security. Defense spending is \$540 billion. Sixty percent of the budget is spent on entitlements and that is expected to rise 6 to 7 percent each year, he said.

“It’s unsustainable. Programs can’t be sustained at this rate,” Sessions said.

“We can help people in need. We can move people from dependence to independence. We can help those who can’t help themselves. But we’ve got to start talking honestly about the situation. We’re not managing the taxpayers’ money well. I’ve seen no improvement,

no commitment to bring these programs under control.”

Although most leaders in Washington agree with such an assessment, conflict arises when discussions revolve around how to raise more tax revenue to pay the cost of the federal government. For Sessions, the answer is no new taxes, at least for now.

“I’m not for new taxes until we get on the right path,” he said. “We should have had two years of full rigorous debate in the Senate of America on the touch choices we have to make. If we had a full discussion then the American people could have been more prepared to talk about this and figure out the path to get out of it. But it has not been publicly discussed. And, I believe, if we had been discussing this then the American people would be more responsive, and more willing to confront reality and fix it and move forward.”

Courtesy photo

MDA deputy

Air Force Maj. Gen. Samuel Greaves has become the deputy director for the Missile Defense Agency. He succeeded Rear Adm. Randall Hendrickson on Oct. 18.



Corps of Engineers classes sharpen quality assurance

By JO ANITA MILEY

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

The Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center's Project Delivery Team (PDT) University started the fiscal year end off right Oct. 9 with its first class session focused on quality.

George Sledge, chief and administrative contracting officer in the Center's Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, taught the hour-long Quality Assurance Format, Content, and Responsibilities class to 66 employees from various project delivery teams across the Center.

The Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan is a government-developed document used to determine if a contractor's performance meets the performance standards contained in the contract. The QASP provides the structure for the government's surveillance of the contractor's performance to assure that it meets contract standards. Authority for issuance of the QASP is provided under Part 46 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

Through a mix of humor and facts, Sledge taught participants how to better utilize QA/QASP to control specification deviations, fairly evaluate contractor performance and consistently deliver quality results on contracts. Doing so identifies problems early on and ensures quicker resolution of performance issues to minimize impact on mission performance.

According to Sledge, Quality Assurance also ties into the Corps commitment to delivering quality products within USACE Campaign Plan. An added focus on quality means they are making an effort to make sure the government is getting what it has paid for on a contract. It also helps the Center to identify, develop, maintain and strengthen its technical competencies.

"Our efforts will show we are doing what is necessary to meet the goal of making sure the government is getting

what it paid for" Sledge said. "We want to make sure we are providing good quality products. Whether you're dealing with difficulties or simple nonconformance on a contract, following a continuous quality assurance oversight process and having a Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan provides a systematic process to manage them."

Charles Ford, deputy for programs and technical management at Huntsville Center, agreed. Ford attended the class and urged Center employees who are involved in post award contract administration to participate in the class for professional development. He said QA and QASP training is important.

Todd Watts, a civil engineer in the Engineering Directorate at Huntsville Center, said he attended the training to keep abreast of how he can better do his job of making sure the government is getting what it has paid for on a contract. He anticipates seeing more quality-orientated training being offered at the Center.

"Having a quality/QASP class is good for the Center because it shows that we are training our employees to take an active role on our projects," Watts said. "There are a lot of employees at the Center who are new project managers who need to understand from more experienced project managers about quality. We can learn from these individuals what we should look for when building a QASP, how to identify something that's a good measurement of quality and how to define when a contractor is not meeting this goal."

With plenty of feedback from the audience, Sledge gave an overview of a QASP plan emphasizing the roles of the contractor and product delivery team during the life of a contract. Sledge told participants the only way to assure quality is to know their project. This can be done by following a simple process: Plan (for Quality), Do (work the Plan - build Quality in), Act (revise procedures) and



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

Col. Robert Ruch, center, Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center commander, and staff listen intently during Quality Assurance training. The class taught participants how to better utilize quality assurance to control specification deviations, fairly evaluate contractor performance and consistently deliver quality results on contracts.

Check (for problems). He used examples of QASP format, content and responsibilities and showed participants how a Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan is developed and managed on a contract and explained QASP purpose, authority, roles and responsibilities, performance requirements and method of surveillance, and performance reporting were included in the discussion.

Sledge discussed the role of the contracting officer's representatives and how discrepancies are reported and resolved on a Corrective Action Report and explained the role and authority of the contracting officer and contracting of-

ficer representative when problems occur on a contract. He also stressed how important it is for a contractor to have a quality plan. The QASP can be used as a second checkpoint beyond the contractor's quality control plan.

Sledge said it is the contractor's responsibility to assure the quality of his product using its Quality Control Plan. It is the PDT's responsibility to assure the government is getting what it paid for using the Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan.

"Quality assurance is the government's management tool establishing organization, staffing, training, pre-award activities and surveillance of construction. Using this tool (QA) helps the government fulfill its responsibility to be certain the contractor's quality control system is functioning and the specified end product is realized," Sledge said. "However, it's a tool that isn't being used enough. The only way to assure quality is to know your project. Everyone has a role in quality."

The Huntsville Center PDT University is open to all PDT members. The one-hour sessions about specific topics of interest are held every other Tuesday, from 9-10 a.m., in the HNC Cafeteria. For more information about the HNC PDT University, call Laura Quick at 895-1431.

Upcoming Huntsville Center PDT University sessions include: Nov. 6 at 9 a.m., Conducting Effective Meetings; Nov. 20 at 9 a.m., Acquisition Strategy, Acquisition Plan and Format; Dec. 4 at 9 a.m., Writing Performance Work Statements; and Dec. 18 at 9 a.m., Government Travel Charge Card program.

Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Knowledge management

Jonathan Long, military analyst with Army Operational Knowledge Management Proponent, teaches content management specialists at the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command about the fundamentals of knowledge management Oct. 17. Specialists in Colorado Springs, Colo., were trained Sept. 18-20.



Center uses sensors to test systems of systems

By CHARLES GIBBS

RTC's Missile and Sensors Test Directorate director

At Redstone Test Center, employees can have a hard time explaining what it is they do for a living. A conversation here in Huntsville often goes like this, "Who do you work for?" "The Army," is the reply or maybe even more specifically, "Redstone Test Center." The next question is always the kicker, "What do you do?"

When you work for the RTC Telemetry and Data Management Test Division, you answer "Telemetry." And even in a high-tech city like Huntsville, the usual reply is a blank stare and then perhaps the follow up question, "What is telemetry?" Things aren't much better for members of the Field and Laboratory Sensors Test Division, with nearly as many blank looks and inevitable followup questions.

Here's a hint for telemetry: broken down to its Greek roots (tele = remote and metron = measure), it means "measurement from a distance." In the late 1800s, French engineers constructed one of the first telemetry systems, in which snow depth data on Mont Blanc was transmitted real-time to Paris, 300 miles away. Early users of telemetry systems included the Commonwealth Edison electrical grids (1912) and the lock systems in the Panama Canal (1914).

By the 1930s, wireless telemetry transmission was being used in weather balloons and the amount of data being transmitted was increasing. It became necessary to begin multiplexing data sets to decrease the number of lines or wireless links. When the Germans began testing the V2 rocket, a multiplexing scheme known as Messina was used, and telemetry made its way into military testing. During the Apollo space program, most of the stations where the Houston control room engineers were sitting displayed real-time telemetry data from the Apollo capsule. Sensors on the capsule remotely showed everything from oxygen on hand, heart rates of the astronauts, and the position of the capsule, giving real-time measurements to make decisions.

The Telemetry and Data Management Test Division has two primary missions: design, develop, and fabricate custom telemetry systems for use in airborne missile systems and provide telemetry ground station support, both fixed and mobile, for missile flight testing. Their customer base includes all three uniformed services and private industry. Fifteen years ago, Telemetry and Data Management was



Courtesy photo

The Redstone Test Center utilizes this sensors test range.

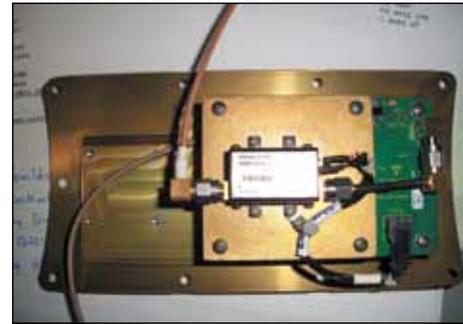
Overview of RTC Fifth and final part of series

primarily a system integrator that purchased commercially available hardware and integrated it into telemetry systems.

"Today, Telemetry and Data Management is designing and developing custom signal telemetry equipment to collect and deliver data to their customers" Corry Cox, RTC Telemetry and Data Management Test Division chief, said. "Telemetry has fixed ground stations throughout RTC, as well as five mobile telemetry ground stations that are called to support missions on test ranges throughout the United States and overseas."

"Sensor characterization is usually easier than 'telemetry,' but that belies the range of activities that sensors encompass," Richard Brown, Field and Laboratory Sensors Test Division chief, said. "Sensors cover a wide array of systems, including acoustic, daytime cameras, night vision cameras, laser rangefinders, laser designators, radar and more."

Each type is a complex sensor system requiring the planning, testing and analysis capabilities of RTC's experienced personnel. The division does not test outdoor and indoor sensors. Rather, with both laboratory measurement equipment and field test ranges, they shepherd a sensor test from a controlled laboratory environment into a representative field environment. For example, a laser designator will undergo lab testing to ensure safety and confirm the specification sheet values; but then it will also be placed in a tower or on



Courtesy photo

This is a telemetry hardware kit on a Hellfire missile.

an airborne platform and tested at the laser range at RTC. From the laboratory to field, a sensor system may also undergo controlled environmental testing at RTC's Climatic Directorate which includes rain, dust, sand, heat, cold, humidity and more. A sensor may also undergo electromagnetic testing at RTC to ensure a system's function neither interferes with, nor is affected by, other electronic systems critically important in today's high-tech military.

However, even relatively simple systems can become quite complex when integrated into systems-of-systems, as is being

increasingly done, especially with sensors used in surveillance and base defense. In August, Field and Laboratory Sensors Test Division conducted a demonstration at their Entry Control Point site, an exercise including Unmanned Ground Vehicles, Unmanned Aircraft Systems, and multiple surveillance towers, each of which is already a system-of-systems. It may be more appropriate to say RTC tests from the component level, all the way up to testing systems-of-systems-of-systems.

Organizing all the testing which occurs throughout the RTC organization is a small group of highly qualified engineers who provide the bridge between customer test requirements and RTC's extensive test capabilities. RTC's Systems Engineering Directorate's mission is to enable horizontal integration across the center in the planning, reporting and execution of test programs. Additionally, the SED maintains command-level situational awareness of all test programs.

This bridge is critical because it is RTC's systems engineers who support test customers in defining test requirements and design. They also coordinate the many moving parts necessary to successfully execute complex testing of complex weapons systems.

"In order to effectively implement a systems approach to testing, the systems engineers have to be equally adept at understanding test program cost, schedule, and performance requirements; have a vast knowledge of RTC test capabilities; and the systems under test," Michael Krause, Systems Engineering Directorate director, said. "Operationally, systems engineers are often the primary face of RTC to test customers."

In short, RTC provides a cohesive and highly-trained cadre of test officers, test engineers, subject matter experts and systems engineers that effectively employ all of RTC's test capabilities. Despite the blank looks, all RTC personnel can be proud of the important role they play in the execution of the Army's vital test mission.

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'Gold Eagle 6' leads contracting command

By **LARRY McCASKILL**

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

The phrase "Gold Eagle 6" doesn't draw a lot of attention in everyday conversations unless you're part of the Army Contracting Command and see it at the bottom of a note.

Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols, ACC commander, uses the "Gold Eagle 6" call sign on her internal communications with the work force as a way of identifying herself and of her pride in the command.

"I decided to use a call sign when I was assigned to the Expeditionary Contracting Command – a tactical unit – (and for me) the first time in 22 years," said Nichols, ECC's former commander. "I wanted us, ECC, to be proud of being a military, tactical unit. I also wanted folks to know the note was a personal one from me to them.

"I used this approach again in the CENTCOM (U.S. Central Command) Contracting Command for the same reasons. Now that I am in the ACC, I wanted us to be proud of our identity – the gold eagle – as well as let folks know the note is from me, not the staff."

Call signs vary from command to command but the numeric designations assigned to positions remain the same.

"Each major unit usually has a communi-

cations SOP (standard operating procedure) that outlines the call sign matrix, so they can vary from unit to unit," said Command Sgt. Maj. John Murray, ACC command sergeant major.

Gold Eagle is the fixed call sign, or verbal designation for ACC, so as the ACC command sergeant major, Murray's call sign is "Gold Eagle 7." The public affairs officer is "Gold Eagle 37." The "7" represents the command sergeant major position and the "37" is the public affairs officer.

"Black Sword" is the fixed call sign for the Expeditionary Contracting Command so ECC commander Brig. Gen. Ted Harrison is "Black Sword 6" while Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis is "Black Sword 7."

The Mission and Installation Contracting Command's MICC 6 and MICC 7 are Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke, MICC commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades, MICC command sergeant major.

According to Mikhael Weitzel, ACC historian, the use of call signs originated with the use of the telegraph.



Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols

"Nineteenth century telegraph stations needed unique identifiers because there was only one telegraph line linking all railroad stations. Thus, a unique call sign was needed to address a specific station or operator," Weitzel said.

"The call sign was usually a two-letter code," he said. "This pattern continued in radio telegraphy operation; radio companies used two-letter identifiers for coastal stations and ship-borne radios.

"In 1912, an international standard was adopted to be used to identify a country, and the rest of the call sign an individual station in that country," he said.

"When radio telegraphy and later wireless operations were developed during and after World War I, the use of call signs became routine," Weitzel said. "Signal doctrine included the development of signal plans and orders. By 1925, the signal plans were studied in detail including the assignment of radio call signs and wave lengths."

The call signs quickly established the

identity of subunits and leaders, reduced the length of transmissions and eliminated some of the confusion often caused by the ever-changing signal operation instructions, he said.

Nichols' call sign identifies the figure on the ACC distinctive unit insignia and the 6 designates her as the commanding general.

Today, while many commanders use "6" to designate their leadership role, Weitzel said the practice of using "6" didn't begin until World War II.

"There is no official origin of the '6' designation, but it is believed that its origin dates back to World War II when the regimental combat team was the lowest level radio nets were pushed down to," Weitzel said. "The regimental commander was usually a colonel, O-6, and he would be the '6' on the radio. Being a former communications guy myself, I find this origin the most credible."

Call signs tend to refer to different aspects of a unit's lineage, distinctive unit insignia and in some instances, battles.

During World War II, Gen. George S. Patton's call sign was "Lucky Forward." "Lucky" represents the Third U.S. Army and "Forward" for his position as the unit's commanding general. Gen. Douglas MacArthur simply went as "Bataan."

Huntsville Center observes disability awareness month

By ANGELA MORTON

Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville

The Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville recognized National Disability Employment Awareness Month Oct. 24.

"Huntsville Center has made great progress and given a concentrated effort to integrating individuals with disabilities and our disabled veterans into the HNC work force," Lt. Col. William Burruss, the center's deputy commander, said.

According to the discussion panelists, realizing the disabled have overcome their disability and are capable of joining the work force is the easiest way to recognize their value.

Panelist Issac Beavers, a case manager for the blind and visually disabled at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind Huntsville and Shoals Regional Centers, cited a recent hire of 20 of 40 blind participants from the Southeast Rehabilitation Center as one example.

"What you can do is put people with disabilities to work," Beavers said. "We're not talking about charity, we're talking about opportunity."

Panelist Linda Cole, a deaf and hard-of-hearing case manager with the AIDB Huntsville Regional Center, explained with statistics how people with disabilities are a significant portion of the population and therefore should also represent a significant portion of the work force.

The third panelist at the event was retired 1st Lt. Jeffrey Adams, a Soldier who lost his leg in Iraq.

Now working as a flight test engineer for the Army, Adams remains an active member in wounded warrior projects. Adams explained the effects of war injuries over the last decade and how hiring disabled veterans can be advantageous to employers.

"You can learn from them," Adams explained.

He said many of the military personnel who became disabled while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan have a lot of skills to offer. He said prior to their injuries, many military disabled gained valuable skills employers desire – from building schools and libraries to negotiating with community leaders and providing security, military personnel gained problem solving skills and a strong work ethic.

However, after their injury is when many gained greater skills employers should value even more.

"They don't quit – they suck it up and move forward," Adams said. "If they are there interviewing for a job, they've already overcome their obstacle."

Said Burruss, "We will continue to strive to hire and accommodate individuals that bring a wealth of talent to accomplishing the mission of this great organization."

Also participating was the Army Materiel Command



Photo by Bruce Hudgins

Panel participants and Huntsville Center officials gather Oct. 24. From left are Sonja Rice, Huntsville Center Equal Employment Opportunity Office; Linda Cole and Issac Beavers from the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind; Shirley Thaler, Center Installation Support Directorate; Lt. Col. William Burruss, Center deputy commander; Terrence Hamil, Center Contracting Directorate; retired 1st Lt. Jeffrey Adams, wounded warrior; and Angela Morton, chief of the Center EEO Office.

Band with their "Salute to the Wounded Warrior" and the Buckhorn High School JROTC who served as color guard.

Editor's note: Angela Morton is chief of Equal Employment Opportunity at the Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville. William Farrow contributed to this article.

Ballistic missile defense system engages five targets

The Missile Defense Agency, Soldiers from the 94th and 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, Navy sailors aboard the USS Fitzgerald and airmen from the 613th Air and Space Operations Center have conducted the largest, most complex missile defense flight test ever attempted resulting in the simultaneous engagement of five ballistic missile and cruise missile targets.

An integrated air and ballistic missile defense architecture used multiple sensors and missile defense systems to engage multiple targets at the same time. All targets were successfully launched and initial indications are that the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system successfully intercepted its first Medium Range Ballistic target in history. And the Patriot Advanced Capability-3 nearly simultaneously destroyed a Short Range Ballistic Missile and a low flying cruise missile target over water.

The live-fire demonstration, conducted at Army Kwajalein Atoll/Reagan Test Site, Hickam AFB, and surrounding areas in the western Pacific,

stressed the performance of the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense, THAAD and Patriot weapon systems.

An Extended Long Range Air Launch Target missile was airdropped over the broad ocean area north of Wake Island from an Air Force C-17 aircraft, staged from Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The AN/TPY-2 X-band radar, located with the THAAD system on Meck Island, tracked the E-LRALT and a THAAD interceptor successfully intercepted the Medium-Range Ballistic Missile. THAAD was operated by Soldiers from the 32nd AAMDC.

Another short-range ballistic missile was launched from a mobile launch platform located in the broad ocean area northeast of Kwajalein Atoll. The Patriot system, manned by Soldiers of the 94th AAMDC, detected, tracked and successfully intercepted the target with a PAC-3 interceptor.

The USS Fitzgerald successfully engaged a low flying cruise missile over water. The Aegis system also tracked and launched an SM-3 Block

1A interceptor against a Short-Range Ballistic Missile. However, despite indication of a nominal flight of the SM-3 Block 1A interceptor, there was no indication of an intercept of the SRBM.

FTI-01 was a combined developmental and operational test. Soldiers, sailors and airmen from multiple combatant commands operated the systems and were provided a unique opportunity to refine operational doctrine and tactics. Program officials continue to assess and evaluate system performance based upon telemetry and other data obtained during the test.

Ballistic Missile Defense System programs have completed 56 successful hit-to-kill intercepts in 71 flight test attempts since 2001. (Missile Defense Agency release)



Courtesy photo

A Patriot Advanced Capability-3 interceptor is launched from Omelek Island during MDA's historic integrated flight test Oct. 24.

Upgraded Apache helicopter OK'd for production

The Defense Acquisition Board decision regarding full-rate production for the Apache Block III helicopter program was announced Oct. 24 by Army officials at a briefing in Washington, D.C. Additionally, Apache project manager Col. Jeffrey Hager confirmed that the Apache Block III is being redesignated as an AH-64E model.

The announcement event was attended by 20 media members representing national and industry related publications.

According to the Apache Project Office, the DAB granted approval for FRP in August and the Air Force communicated the model designation change in a September memo to the Army. Actions are under way to begin implementation of the E model designation for subsequent use by the military and industry.

"The DAB's decision really secured Apache production for the next several years," Hager said. "We've got fiscal requirements, but securing that production through a full rate production decision

was just huge for this program. It's probably the single largest decision that we've had since Block I's and Block II's went into production. It's that monumental."

One of the other key components, Hager said, that resulted in the DAB decision is the fact that the Block III had been designated an ACAT C program.

"We're no longer a D program and therefore don't need DoD oversight. Our Army acquisition executive, Ms. Heidi Shyu, is in charge of the Apache program and the development production that we have for Block III as we go forward from this point. So that was a big designation for us," Hager said.

The designation of the E model, he added, accurately recognizes the aircraft's advancements including an Improved Drive System, increased engine capabilities, technologically advanced composite main rotor blades and sensor enhancements.

Col. John Lynch, Attack/Reconnaissance TRADOC capabilities manager,



Courtesy photo

The Apache Block III helicopter, unveiled in October 2011, has been redesignated the E model. The Apache Project Office announced the name change during an Oct. 24 press conference in Washington, D.C.

said, "At the end of the day, the only real measure of how well a system is performing falls to the user and how

easy or difficult the aircraft is to maintain. Basically, the Block III exceeded expectations that were laid out on the sustainment side."

Upgrades to the aircraft over previous models include advanced rotor blades and significantly increased aircraft handling, performance and agility at higher altitudes. Situational awareness is enhanced with electro-optical and infrared sensors for the operational benefit of aviators and battlefield commanders.

"The Apache fleet continues to do very well in Afghanistan and Kuwait," Lynch said. "It's has maintained an over 80 percent readiness rate while averaging over 60 flight hours per month. We're almost at one million combat flight hours with the Apache."

First delivered in October 2011, Apache Block III helicopters are in production at the Boeing Company in Mesa, Ariz. Fielding of the AH-64E will occur over the next decade. (*PEO Aviation release*)

Improved Kiowa Warrior helicopter ready for test

PEO Aviation release

Officials from the Armed Scout Helicopter Project Office, together with the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center's Prototype Integration Facility, have announced the first OH-58F Kiowa Warrior helicopter completed production and was released to the Army for test and evaluation.

The completion and release of the first OH-58F KW marked an important first for the Army.

"In May 2009, the Army authorized the Armed Scout Helicopter Project Office to begin examining methods to upgrade the aging OH-58D KW," Kiowa Warrior helicopter product manager Lt. Col. Mathew Hannah said. "The Army also assumed the role of system integrator for the KW upgrade effort, a first in Army aviation. Traditionally, a manufacturer would assume the development, integration and production role. This is a whole new approach to modifying and upgrading Army aviation assets."

This approach to development, integration and production keeps government and contracted engineer developers working directly with military and government program management, allowing significant cost savings for the taxpayers. By the Army taking on the SI role, over \$37 million will be saved during the research, development, test and evaluation phase, and over \$551 million during the



Photo by Denise DeMonia, Armed Scout Helicopter Project Office

Lt. Col. Mathew Hannah, product manager for OH-58F, stands in front of the first F model Kiowa Warrior at the AMRDEC Prototype Integration Facility in Meridianville on Oct. 24.

procurement/production phase. The government will also own many of the data rights necessary to foster full and open competition for production.

"With this success, the Army is poised to improve competition throughout the acquisition process, for the OH-58F Kiowa Warrior, and for future platforms to come," ASH project manager Col. Robert Grigsby said.

Completing the first OH-58F KW is also a critical evolutionary milestone for the OH-58 helicopter, an aircraft that many consider the most demanded platform in the Army's inventory. The OH-

58D KW has flown continuously for nearly 25 years, and may be required to fly for another 20 years or more. In all theaters of operation, the OH-58D KW performs the armed reconnaissance mission to collect critical information for ground troops and serves as the eyes and ears of the ground commanders on the battlefield across the globe.

The OH-58D KW also maintains the highest operational tempo of any Army aviation asset in theater, with a monthly op-tempo average of 80 hours per airframe. Throughout 2012, Kiowas have routinely flown over 100 hours a month. This pace is even more impressive considering that the aircraft has not had comprehensive, depot-level modernization since the upgrade from the unarmed OH-58D Army Helicopter Improvement Program to the armed OH-58D Kiowa Warrior in 1990.

The OH-58F, originally known as the Cockpit and Sensor Upgrade Program, is the first designation change since 1990, and provides the Army air cavalry with significantly increased capabilities, including an improved sensor, and redesigned digital cockpit with upgraded cockpit display software, an additional full-color display and the ability to simultaneously view and compare different sources of video. Other modifications include an upgraded and flexible weapons suite, and improvements to engine performance as well as the communications and naviga-

tion systems. Perhaps most importantly, the OH-58F configuration provides these critical improvements while weighing less than the OH-58D, allowing commanders more flexibility with mission endurance and lethality.

"The new OH-58F cockpit provides KW pilots with a wider variety of real-time information," TRADOC capabilities manager Col. John Lynch said. "Pilots can choose how that information is displayed or hidden according to what is needed for that mission. Tailoring data displays and providing live video comparison during a mission improves performance and response time, and when it comes to getting information to division commanders or Soldiers on the ground, seconds count."

The first official flight of the OH-58F KW is scheduled for April 2013, after clearing test and evaluation. Aircraft 2 is also in production, and is scheduled for release to the Army in March 2013. Low rate production will begin in the spring-summer of 2015, with full rate production scheduled for the late winter of 2017.

The CASUP effort supports Madison County/Huntsville employers with 27 local government organizations and contractors participating in the OH-58F development and build process. In fiscal years 2011 and 2012, OH-58F/CASUP infused approximately \$32 million into the local economy, with an additional \$7 million planned for fiscal 2013.

Win or Lose

U8 youth soccer teams battle to tie



You know what they say about tie games – it's like kissing your sister.

Well, two of Redstone's three under-8 teams played to a 6-all tie on Oct. 20. The game featured the Tigers, coached by Maj. Dave Benjamin, against the Sonic Alphas, coached by Don Steelman.

Payton Benjamin scored five goals and Janiya Dillard had one for the Tigers (3-5-1). The Sonic Alphas led 6-3 before Payton tied the contest with three straight tallies. "It was a hard fought game," coach Benjamin said.

The under-10 Green Vipers lost 4-1 to the Spartans, a team from Huntsville's Patriot league, on Oct. 20 at Bell Mountain Park (just outside Gate 3 off Redstone Road).

Jeremia Leatherwood scored the lone goal for the Green Vipers (3-3-1). The Spartans led 1-0 at halftime.

"The team played well," Green Vipers coach Patrick Wells said. "The other team we were playing was a very skilled team. We still played strong and we put up a good fight."

The Green Vipers are playing this week in a postseason tournament. Redstone has five under-6 teams, three under-8 teams, two under-10 teams and one under-14 team.

Crimson Tide should survive trip to Louisiana State

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Skip's Picks were 323-102 for 76 percent after eight weeks in the college football season. Here are my predictions for this week's games;

Alabama at LSU – **Bama**
 E. Michigan at Ohio – **Ohio**
 Virginia Tech at Miami (Fla.) – **Miami**
 Washington at California – **Cal**
 Iowa at Indiana – **Iowa**
 Penn St. at Purdue – **Penn St.**
 Oklahoma at Iowa St. – **Oklahoma**
 Texas A&M at Mississippi St. – **Miss. St.**
 Texas at Texas Tech – **Tech**
 Nebraska at Michigan St. – **Nebraska**
 Illinois at Ohio St. – **Ohio St.**
 TCU at West Virginia – **W. Virginia**

Oklahoma St. at Kansas St. – **K-State**
 Michigan at Minnesota – **Michigan**
 Mississippi at Georgia – **Georgia**
 Missouri at Florida – **Florida**
 Troy at Tennessee – **Tennessee**
 Syracuse at Cincinnati – **Syracuse**
 Vanderbilt at Kentucky – **Vandy**
 Temple at Louisville – **Louisville**
 Houston at East Carolina – **EC**
 Air Force at Army – **Air Force**
 Tulsa at Arkansas – **Arkansas**
 Virginia at N. Carolina St. – **NC State**
 New Mexico St. at Auburn – **Auburn**
 Georgia Tech at Maryland – **Tech**
 Stanford at Colorado – **Stanford**
 Appalachian St. at Ga. Southern – **Ga. So.**
 Memphis at Marshall – **Marshall**
 Southern at Alabama A&M – **A&M**
 Washington St. at Utah – **Utah**

Texas State at Utah St. – **Utah St.**
 Wofford at Samford – **Wofford**
 Boston College at Wake Forest – **Wake**
 Kansas at Baylor – **Baylor**
 Montana at Weber State – **Montana**
 FAU at Navy – **Navy**
 Rice at Tulane – **Rice**
 Pittsburgh at Notre Dame – **ND**
 La.-Lafayette at La.-Monroe – **Monroe**
 Colorado St. at Wyoming – **Wyoming**
 Connecticut at South Florida – **Conn.**
 Oregon at USC – **Oregon**
 Clemson at Duke – **Clemson**
 SMU at UCF – **UCF**
 Hawaii at Fresno St. – **Fresno**
 UAB at Southern Miss – **UAB**
 Arizona at UCLA – **UCLA**
 San Diego St. at Boise St. – **Boise**
 Arizona St. at Oregon St. – **ASU**

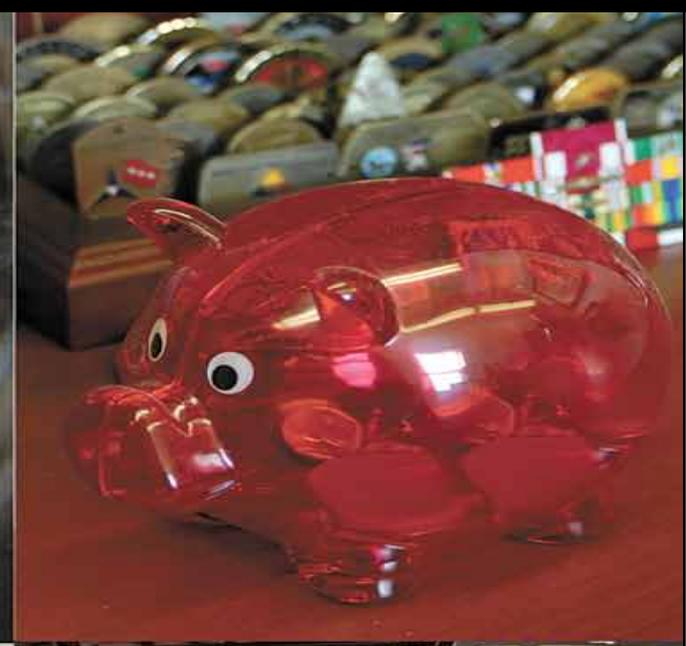


Photos by Ellen Hudson

Scenes from Pineapple Open golf tournament

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club held its annual Pineapple Open on Friday at the Links. Bill Newby, left, and Tom Hutt test their skill on the putting green. At center, members of the Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club include, seated from left, Nancy Waldron, Michelle Nash and Karen Cushman. Standing are Tiffany Kraus and Robin Gerrish. At right, Rob Black hits off the tee.

SpecialSection




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Photo illustration by Ellen Hudson

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ACS financial coach keeps her clients accountable



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Kathleen Riester, a certified financial counselor and financial readiness program manager at Army Community Service, speaks to a group of Soldiers about financial matters.

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**
Staff writer
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She was \$33,000 in debt, \$18,000 of that to the IRS, had a tax lien on her home and was in danger of losing her security clearance due to her delinquent debt. With nowhere else to go, the AMCOM employee turned to Kathleen Riester, financial readiness program manager at Army Community Service, for help.

“Finance impacts all phases of everyone’s life, it’s just one part of it,” Riester said. “What I’m seeing due to the economic times we’re in, is many, many people have overextended themselves, and I think they’re now recognizing that. A lot of people have been living beyond their means and they want to make a change. They just need a coach to help them along the path, to help them change their habits and behaviors.”

As of today, that AMCOM employee has reduced her debt to \$28,000, and is working to lower that number even more, all with the help of ACS’s financial readiness program’s services offered through Riester, which include individual, couple and family counseling, budget development, financial planning, development of spending

plans, debt liquidation services, assistance with reading credit reports, and classes in personal financial readiness and consumer affairs, including Dave Ramsey.

“Kathleen has helped me in my financial life with establishing a household budget that allowed me to live within my means, meet my financial obligations on time, and reduce old debt,” the employee said. “Her innovative and creative approach to debt management was refreshing, eye opening and sensible. She did not judge me. She held everything that I shared with her in total and complete confidence. Ms. Riester provides a valuable service to the work force here at Redstone Arsenal.”

Help is available for civilians, active duty, Guard, Reserve and their families, and is just a phone call away. Whether you’re in financial distress now or feel it coming, call Riester at 876-5397 to get your spending and saving habits on track. Clients that come to see Riester complete a financial fitness worksheet to determine exactly where their money is going and identify what behaviors are creating the financial distress, such as ignoring bills, or spending more than what they earned. Once they have a clear view of where they stand financially, they

can set goals and move forward, such as saving \$1,000 for emergencies or getting their debt paid down. Clients check in with Riester once a month to assess how they’re doing and acknowledge the changes and improvements they’ve made. But it’s not as simple as saying you’re going to save more this month and spend less – actions make more changes in the bank account than words.

“I’m looking for a behavior change and it doesn’t happen overnight,” said Riester, who keeps her clients accountable. “For some people it takes months, others it will take years. I act as a coach to help them develop skills and discipline, and give them guidance and direction.”

For the AMCOM employee, it was her inability to tell friends and family “no” when they asked for money, not paying enough federal income taxes for three years and not being disciplined with her money management that led to her troubles.

“My number one tip to anyone regarding money is learn to say ‘No, I cannot give and/or lend you any money at this time,’” the employee said. “Open your mail every day, pay your debt on time, and don’t wait until the ‘wolf’ is at the door – go see Ms. Riester as soon as your problem begins.”

Here’s advice on creating a financial plan

By **KATHLEEN RIESTER**
Army Community Service

Divide your financial life into six categories: assets, liabilities, property and casualty risk (house, car, personal injury and so on), personal risk (life, health, disability and so on), education (for children, if applicable) and retirement.

Put a dollar figure to each category. Add up all assets, then add up all liabilities.

Subtract liabilities from assets to calculate your net worth.

Evaluate your lifestyle if the net worth is negative, and investigate ways to pay off debt.

Develop ways to build on your existing budget. If your net worth is positive, your priority will be to evaluate your lifestyle, transfer “insurable risk” to insurance companies, and invest more to create more wealth.

Lifestyles change, so make your financial plan flexible. Revisit your plan at least once a year.

Unless you have the time and incli-

nation to do it yourself, seek qualified professional advice on matters involving taxes, business and estate planning.

Integrate your personal values into your financial plan.

When opportunities and challenges arise, use your financial plan as a standard against which to make decisions.

While free seminars, workshops and course work may be helpful, don’t waste your time on schemes that promise shortcuts to wealth.

Carefully evaluate prepackaged financial plans that only require filling in dollar amounts and produce simplified solutions to complex financial issues.

Try not to rely on family members or close relatives for professional advice, especially if they have a vested interest in your financial plan.

Flexibility is important. But without specific goals, supporting objectives and action steps, you have no plan.

Editor’s note: Kathleen Riester is the financial readiness program manager at ACS.

Workshops build financial readiness

To help Redstone community members take a proactive stance in their financial lives, Army Community Service offers the following financial classes:

- In partnership with the Garrison housing office, ACS hosts free monthly financial readiness/housing monthly sessions one Wednesday each month, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at ACS, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Topics include:

- Nov. 7, reverse mortgages;
- Jan. 16, taxes;
- Feb. 6, estate planning;
- March 13, housing service office and credit repair;
- April 3, personal financial management and foreclosure/refinancing;
- May 1, buying, selling and renting.

For more information, call ACS at 876-5397.

- Kathleen Riester, a Dave Ramsey facilitator, will hold weekly Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University sessions in 2013. Anyone with access to the installation will be able to at-

tend a preview of the Dave Ramsey sessions Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to noon at Bob Jones Auditorium. AMCOM employees may RSVP to the event by emailing kemah.r.barnes.civ@mail.mil. PEO Aviation employees may RSVP by emailing darryl.doty@peo-avn.army.mil or arnetta.manuel@peoavn.army.mil. A schedule of dates will be available at the free preview.

To participate in the 2013 sessions, participants must purchase an \$89 Financial Peace University kit by calling Chris Woodard at 800-227-3223, ext. 5339 and RSVP to Riester at kathleen.k.riester.civ@mail.mil with the words “Dave Ramsey 2013 registration” in the subject line.

- Riester is also available to give financial readiness workshops to organizations across the Arsenal based on their need and interest. To schedule a workshop, call Riester at 876-5397.



Credit reports, reverse mortgages topic of seminar

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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When it comes to real estate, buying a home and a good credit score go hand in hand. Learn how to repair yours and whether or not a reverse mortgage is the right choice for you at Financial Matters, 2012's November lunch and learn.

Army Community Service, in partnership with the Housing Office, will present the free seminar Nov. 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Registration is due by Nov. 6. To register, email kennith.e.carter.civ@mail.mil or kathleen.k.riester.civ@mail.mil.

"It's free, it's information – it's knowledge for the community so they can make smart decisions in their investments and in their homes," Ken-

nith Carter, deputy housing division chief, said.

Jen Minyard, an associate broker/buyer specialist with RE/MAX Alliance, will speak on reverse mortgages – what the process is, how it works, who is a good fit for one and where to go if you're interested – and will answer any questions attendees may have about the local market. Kathleen Riester, financial readiness program manager at ACS, will cover how to repair your credit score, important information for buyers interested in an FHA loan, which will soon require a credit score of 640 or higher, according to Minyard.

Minyard noted that many people are waiting to find out the results of the election before purchasing their home, but cautions potential homebuyers against it. Rather, they should take advantage of home prices before they rise, a trend she is witnessing to-

day, and low interest rates. Last year the interest rate was 4.11 percent, Minyard said, today it is 3.47. The difference of just 1 percent may make or break the American dream for some.

"People with an interest should make their purchase now before prices go up much further, because those prices are going to increase. And all of a sudden, they may be priced out of a market," Minyard said. "They need to make a decision now. They need a home today, they're going to need a home tomorrow, and they're going to need a home six months from now. The only thing that's going to change is the interest rate and the price."

For more information about the November Financial Matters seminar, call Riester at 876-5397 or Carter at 876-1445.



Photo by Amy Guckeen Tolson

Jen Minyard, associate broker/buyer specialist with RE/MAX Alliance, will present information on reverse mortgages at the November Financial Matters lunch and learn Nov. 7 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Army Community Service.

Resource managers oversee organizational budgets

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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Resource management is big business for an organization as massive as the Army Materiel Command.

Bobby Turzak is the deputy chief of staff for resource management at AMC. The Deputy Chief of Staff G-8 (Resource Management) has about 127 people at the command's Redstone headquarters.

"I'm the principal adviser to the commanding general (Gen. Dennis Via) for all resource matters AMC-wide," Turzak said.

The G-8 manages a budget of approximately \$30 billion for all of the Army Materiel Command.

Kristina Strobach is the Garrison's director of resource management. The Garrison's resource management office has 20 people, including Strobach.

"The Directorate of Resource Management provides sound stewardship of financial and manpower resources for the Garrison," she said. "We provide professional analysis, advice and assistance on use of financial and manpower resources; coordinate and process formal support agreements on behalf of Garrison operations; and conduct related analyses. Our mission is to ensure effective stewardship of the resources entrusted to us and to operate in a cost culture



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Kristina Strobach is the Garrison's director of resource management.

environment enabling well-informed resource management decisions to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and responsibly."

The headquarters Installation Management Command provided approximately \$181 million for the Garrison to execute common levels of support and "we resourced 584 manpower authorizations," Strobach said. "The amount of funds we executed during FY '12 is much higher as the customers fund for above common level and customer-unique requirements, such as renovations to their buildings. Adding the customer funds to our IMCOM funds, the RM managed over \$332 million during FY '12."

Use life's milestones to prepare for retirement

Right financial plan helps in later years

By **KARI HAWKINS**

Assistant editor

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Financial planning for retirement starts today.

No matter your age or income, knowing what your goals are for retirement and outlining a plan to reach them is important for federal employees from all walks of life, said Vanessa Midgett, director of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

"Life milestone events can serve to remind you that you need to have a plan for retirement," she said.

"Getting married, having a family, getting a new job or promotion, seeing your children graduate, the passing of an elderly loved one – such life milestones should all be part of a financial plan that will lead you to a comfortable retirement. You should want to plan out your life financially so that when you do retire you can afford the kind of lifestyle that you desire."

And, yet, many employees are not considering the importance of having a financial plan.

"We are not as diligent because we take things for granted. It's never too early to consider financial planning," Midgett said. "As young people, the last thing we want to think about is a retirement date. But that retirement date will be here sooner than you think.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Vanessa Midgett, director of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, encourages employees to think about financial planning for retirement.

"The Army as an agency has excellent benefits. But you do need to be a participant in your planning. You have to be active and you have to make certain decisions that no one else can decide for you."

Army civilians can obtain assistance

with financial planning for retirement at three different web sites – the Army Benefits Center-Civilian at <https://www.abc.army.mil>; the Army Employee Benefits Information Systems at <https://ebis.army.mil>; and the Office of Personnel Management at www.opm.gov. In addition, information concerning Social Security benefits can be found at www.ssa.gov. And, if needed, CPAC can assist employees who have questions.

"All government agencies have an office to provide retirement counseling," Midgett said. "You can easily look at benefits online, and there is a lot of information online that can help you make decisions about your financial planning. For those who need additional assistance or have difficulty with the websites, as a courtesy we will help. There's a lot of good information on the websites to help us plan so that all the pieces come together."

Many employees go to commercial financial counselors for financial planning.

But Midgett said federal employees can also take advantage of the federal programs – such as the Thrift Savings Plan (<https://tsp.gov>) – to make it easier to plan for retirement.

"You can go online and calculate how much you would have to invest in the Thrift Savings Plan to get at a certain level at retirement," she said. "It will show you what you will have at retirement based on what you are putting into the plan.

"I don't discount getting professional help, but you can use government tools to map out a good sound plan for retirement. There's a self-education process on the government websites that will teach you how to manage your own financial planning."

The Thrift Savings Plan web site provides retirement planning and tools that can help with investment strategies and maximizing Thrift Savings Plan benefits.

For those who don't plan ahead for retirement, Midgett said that at least five years before retirement day, employees should review their financial situation and make changes that are necessary to meet their financial goals

for retirement.

"That five-year mark is critical because you want to make sure you have certain benefits in place before retirement," she said. "That five-year window is critical for eligibility for some benefits."

At one year from retirement, employees should review their employment, military and retirement records, and their eligibility for continuation of benefits.

Retirement counseling and classes can help employees with their financial questions.

"You need to go over your financial plan and make decisions about your life using the benefits and other retirement plans you are enrolled in or that you want to enroll in," Midgett said.

Some Redstone organizations actually offer retirement classes to their employees, and assistance is also available through Army Community Service.

"Management within each organization has to think about the retirement readiness of their employees. As a manager, you do want your employees to make the right decisions," Midgett said. "The critical issue is an aging workforce and what do they want to do in terms of retirement. We work too hard for our money to not get rewarded with a retirement that we can enjoy."

Even with the best laid financial plans for retirement, often times retirement dates don't jive with the desire to retire.

"Eligibility for retirement doesn't mean you are ready to go," Midgett said. "Retirement readiness means more than having the money to retire. One of my former supervisors told me before they retired that you don't need to be retiring from something, you need to be retiring to something.

"If you've been active and enjoyed the workplace and people you've associated with at the workplace, then you need to think how that will translate into your future plans for retirement. You also want to be healthy enough to enjoy the things you want to do. All that should be incorporated in your plan to retire."

With about 50 percent of the Arsenal work force at or nearing the retirement age, Midgett expects questions about retirement to come more frequently. Yet, when and how to retire is a decision unique to each individual.

"Even though the decision to retire is very personal, the transition goes much smoother when you've planned for it and given yourself the time to participate in your own retirement plan," Midgett said.

Who will get grandma's favorite quilt? Her farm?

Estate planning ensures assets go to loved ones

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
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It doesn't matter how many assets you have or how much money is in your bank account, every American citizen should prepare for the inevitable by setting up an estate plan.

The biggest myth believed by many is that estate planning is only for the rich. In reality, any American with any kind of asset – a house, a car, a boat, a savings account or even just cash – should make plans for what will happen to that asset when they die, said Capt. Dimitri Facaros, the chief of Legal Assistance in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

"You've worked your whole life to build your assets," Facaros said. "Estate planning gives you the best chance to continue what you've done in life in caring and giving to those you love."

Redstone Arsenal's large military retiree community keeps Facaros, legal assistant attorney Capt. David Coates and the rest of the JAG office busy with estate planning. At the recent Retiree Appreciation Day, the JAG office provided retirees with information on wills, trusts and other legal documents that together represent estate planning.

"For most, when they pass away, their individual assets will automatically go to their spouse. If their spouse is already deceased, then those assets will go to their children or other family members," Facaros said.

"If there are no relatives, then those assets can go to their favorite charity or their church or to other loved ones. But, to ensure those assets go to those you want them to go to, you need to do estate planning."

Often, older Americans don't want to think about what will happen with their assets once they die. But Facaros said not doing your own estate planning means your relatives or loved ones will have to contend with the issue upon your death.

"When you lose a loved one, it is an emotional traumatic event," he said. "It makes it easier on those loved ones if you have made those decisions before you pass away."

"If you have done your estate planning, then the probate court only has to ensure that your wishes are followed. If you haven't done your estate planning, then the probate court has to determine what your last wishes were. If you don't plan, your property might go to people you, frankly, don't want it to go to."

Besides eliminating the uncertainty of disposing of assets, estate planning can also help to reduce taxes and other expenses associated with an estate.

Estate planning, though, should go well beyond assets, Facaros said, to include legal documents such as powers of attorney and living wills. A thorough estate plan involves a will, trusts, beneficiary designations, powers of appointment, property ownership, gifts, powers of attorney (the durable financial power of attorney and the durable medical power of attorney) and living wills. If young children are involved, then it also includes guardianship designations.

The JAG office provides active duty Soldiers, military retirees and deploying Department of the Army civilians with an estate planning worksheet that asks all the questions related to an individual's death, including executor designation, letter of intent for personal property, disposition of remains, guardianship of children, living will, health care power of attorney and power of attorney.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

The JAG's chief of Legal Assistance, Capt. Dimitri Facaros, and paralegal Wyketa Teixeira, left, and claims examiner Wendy Digennaro are ready to help active duty Soldiers, military retirees and deploying Department of the Army civilians with estate planning and other legal services.

Each state does have laws that govern a deceased person's estate. In most states, including Alabama, if there is no will, then property will automatically go to the closest relative. If there are no relatives, then property will go to the state.

"You want to have documents in place that focus on and target exactly how, when and where your assets will be distributed," Facaros said. "You've worked hard all your life. So, where do you want your assets to go upon your death? The probate court will rely on the will and other legal documents to create a free flow of assets and property based on the last wishes of the individual. If you want a choice, you have to have these documents."

When planning for the eventual disposition of their estate, an individual should list all their assets, and determine how they want them to be disposed. They should also list a

secondary person on their bank accounts so that the family can have access to their funds upon their death. The estate plan can also include a letter of intent that involves the distribution of personal and sentimental items.

"Estate planning ensures there are no conflicts among your loved ones," Facaros said.

"If you think there will be a conflict regardless, then give things away before you pass away or at least make your desire well-known to all involved. I've seen families deteriorate because estate planning wasn't done or didn't go well. Emotions can often get involved when a loved one passes away, and estate planning helps to lessen that conflict or even eliminate it."

The benefits of estate planning are often most obvious when there is a sudden or accidental death, or when there is the death of both married individuals at the same time, Facaros said.

"Estate planning makes you deal with the 'Now what?' of life," he said. "It allows you to take the 'Now what?' and make those hard decisions if the worst does happen."

Once estate planning documents are completed, they should be notarized.

Many older Americans have difficulty discussing estate planning because it involves making decisions that can be very personal. Yet, the more personal those decisions, the more important it is to make those decisions known, Facaros said.

"It involves your personal preference on everything concerning your person, and your finances and your assets," he said.

For more information about estate planning, call the JAG office at 876-9005. The office is currently located in temporary trailers next to the One Stop, building 3494, on Honest John Road.

By the numbers: Eleven investing tips

1. Work on your life goals.
2. Know where the money goes.
3. Spend less than you make.
4. Maximize matching contributions.
5. Build an emergency fund.
6. Expand your approved list.
7. Rebalance your portfolio.
8. Review your banking relationships.
9. Simplify.
10. Freeze your credit file.
11. Write/update a will and health care directive.

Editor's note: Army Community Service provided this information.

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

UAH hockey game

The Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army is sponsoring the UAH vs. USA National Team hockey game on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. at the Von Braun Center. Free tickets, for active duty military, retirees and Common Access Card holders, will be available Nov. 19 at Redstone's Community Activity Center, building 3711 on Patton Road, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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 to St. Jude. For more

information, visit www.givethankswalk.org.

Bowling benefit

Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Alabama will hold its annual Bowl for Kids Sake on Sunday 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 Sunday. 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

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. This Thursday 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, re-

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

Toastmaster clubs

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

Men's ministry

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

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.

Federal employees

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

Civilian leadership summit

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

Community women's club

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

Artillery association

The Huntsville/Redstone Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association will hold its annual St. Barbara's Dinner on Saturday 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.

Small business forum

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 sbhnc@usace.army.mil.

Miscellaneous Items

Fraud hotline

The Huntsville Fraud Resident Agency (USACIDC) has implemented a fraud

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

Education test center

Thinking of changing your military occupational specialty or entering a commissioning program and need to take an Army Personnel Testing examination? If so, call the Army Education Center Testing Office 876-9764. Tests offered include the Armed Forces Classification Test, Alternate Flight Aptitude Selection Test and the Defense Language Aptitude Battery test. If you speak a language and want it annotated on your records, call and make an appointment to take the Defense Language Proficiency Test. All Soldiers and qualified DA civilians are eligible to take the DLPT. In addition to APT exams, the Education Center offers the ACT, SAT, Test of Adult Basic Education and GT Improvement exams. If you are taking college classes and need a proctor, proctoring services are free and

available to the Redstone Arsenal community (military/government ID card holders). Call 876-9764 to see if you are eligible to test and to schedule an appointment.

Senior volunteers

Madison County Retired & Senior Volunteer program is partnered with various nonprofit organizations in Huntsville and Madison County that utilize volunteers. R.S.V.P. recruits, places and trains individuals who are 55 or older to fill community service needs. For more information about R.S.V.P. or volunteer opportunities, call R.S.V.P. director Jennifer Anderson 513-8290 or email [rsvp.dir@seniorview.com](mailto: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 Breedon, relocation readiness program manager, 876-5397 or email mary.breedon@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 Breedon 876-5397 or email mary.breedon@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

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Photos by Kari Hawkins

Slammin' good time

Kids came out with their parents for the annual October Slam Friday night at the Youth Center. The evening of fun was brought to Redstone Arsenal by the Bicentennial Chapel. In left photo, Michael Williams, far right, tries to catch a remote controlled Goodyear blimp flown by Jacob Carney while, from left, Paul Goode, clown John Scott and Grace Scott watch the show. In photo at right, Natalie Moore helps her nephew, Jeremiah McDonald, get some candy. And no Halloween party would be complete without a bumble bee. This cute one is Alexa Morris, the daughter of Britta and Sydney Morris, who works for the Aviation and Missile Command.

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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 Thursday with categories for middle and high school students, and for adults age 19 and above. Winners will be announced in January. Individuals may enter two of their photos in each category – print and digital – with potential subjects pertaining to the Civil War. For more information, visit <http://sites.google.com/site/tvcwrt/>.

Fraud prevention

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

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 Friday. Seniors age 60 and over can apply by phone at 837-2373 from 12:30-3 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Child care center

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

Save lids to save lives

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

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 Thursday. Cost is \$17. For tickets call Karen Atchley 842-4781, Barbara Harris 876-3805, Kim Lund 842-5586, Darlene Readus 876-2392, Alisa McBride 842-8665, Kelly McDaniel 313-1641, Shannon McNatt 842-6637 or Suzanne Wolf 955-0135.

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 Comi-cview, 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.

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.

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." 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

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Photo courtesy AUSA

Asia and Pacific discussion

Maj. Gen. Del Turner, seated on far left, commander of the Security Assistance Command, participates in the "Army and Asia-Pacific Engagement Rebalancing" panel Oct. 23 at the annual meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army held in Washington, D.C. Turner discussed the security assistance enterprise's role in the PACOM region.



Photo by Collin Magonigal, AFTD

Wearing Pink

Redstone Test Center workers participate in "Wear Pink" on Oct. 18 in observance of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. These are employees of RTC's Aviation Flight Test Directorate.

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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.

Thrift Shop news

The Thrift Shops is having its roof re-done 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 tonight, 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 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.

Bake sale benefit

The Thrift Shop will be sponsoring a bake sale Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sparkman Center building 5300. Proceeds will be used to mail Christmas care packages to our military serving in remote areas. If you cannot get to the bake sale but would like to

contribute, monetary donations are welcome as well as small games and batteries. Stop by the Thrift Shop on Tuesday or Wednesday from 9-4 or Thursday from 9-5 to learn more about the Tips for Troops program and to pick up some "spooktacular" deals.

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>.

Arts and crafts class

The Arts & Crafts Center will offer Zentangle, free one-hour information workshops with supplies included. Classes are 9-10 a.m. Nov. 3, 11-noon Nov. 7 and 6-7 p.m. Nov. 7. Zentangle is an easy-to-learn, relaxing and fun way to create beautiful images by drawing structured patterns. If you can use a pencil and pen, you can create beautiful images using the Zentangle method. Space is limited to 12 people per session, so call 876-7951 to reserve your seat. The Arts & Crafts Center is in building 3615 on Vincent Road.

Veterans Day concert

A Veterans Day Concert, featuring the First Baptist Church Orchestra, will

be held Nov. 11 at 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 600 Governors Drive. This is a presentation of great American music by the 50-piece orchestra and includes selections by harp, organ, handbells and woodwind trio.

Fox health center news

Fox Army Health Center will close Nov. 9 and Nov. 12 in observance of training holiday and Veterans Day. On Nov. 9, the Primary Care Clinic will open from 7:30-11:30 a.m. for scheduled appointments. The Pharmacy, Pathology, Radiology, Medical Records Window, Call Center and the Tricare Service Center will be open until noon. All other clinics and services will be closed the entire day for a training holiday. On Nov. 12, the entire facility will be closed. As a reminder: The health center is closed on the first Thursday afternoon of every month, Saturday, Sunday and all federal holidays. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

Community concert

The Army Materiel Command Band

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

Nashville bus trip

Pack your bag and travel to Nashville with the Pilot Club of Florence on Dec. 4-6. See a little bit of something new and a whole lot of something wonderful. Itinerary includes: Gen. Jackson Christmas Lunch, show and cruise; tour and dinner at Belmont Mansion; Opry Mills shopping; tour of Schermerhorn Symphony Center in downtown Nashville; Rockettes Christmas show; Christmas Decorations at Opryland; Uptown Art Un-corked; lunch at Loveless Café; and a chance to explore Downtown Franklin's Victorian Christmas. For more information, call Judy Grady 810-8899 or Allene Belew 766-4579.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Resurfacing road

The Goss Road resurfacing project began in mid-October and is expected to finish by the end of November. The limits of the project begin near McDonald Creek at Gate 8 and extend westward to a location near Rideout Road. Golf Course Road leading to The Summit and The Overlook are also included in the scope of work. Traffic delays are expected to be a minimum when they occur. Weekend work is scheduled in order to complete the requirement during favorable weather conditions.

