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Redstone Rocket
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World War II vets bring reunion to Huntsville

Infantry division association has Redstone connections

By KARI HAWKINS
Assistant editor
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A small group of members of World War II's 71st Infantry Division Association will be in Huntsville this week for what could be the last of their annual reunions.

Retired Col. Bob Funke, 89, will lead the group of about 100 reunion attendees – 25 WWII veterans and their family members – with the help of Redstone Arsenal's Col. Bob Pastorelli, whose own father, retired Col. Jim Pastorelli, 91, is a member of the group.

"Last September, at our reunion in Cincinnati (Ohio), no one volunteered to host our reunion. Bob Pastorelli told me that if I volunteered that he would get people to help with it. Usually, the host will have a committee of veterans from that area who will help plan it. But I'm the only one in Huntsville that is active with the association," said Funke, the association's secretary.

"So, I went ahead and volunteered. I felt this could be our last reunion. It's just getting harder every year to get together."

Funke, himself, is finding it more difficult to get around. In 2009, he went skydiving. In 2010, he was still bench pressing 250 pounds. But health issues have now made him dependent on a walker. Age is catching up with him and his fellow WWII veterans.

"I am glad we are having this reunion here because it could be our last," he said. "This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce all these people to our nation's space and missile history."

The group's four-day reunion will include visits to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville/Madison

See Reunion on page 4

Photo by Kari Hawkins

World War II veteran Bob Funke shows some of the honors that have been received by the 71st Infantry Division, which fought across Europe and helped to liberate the Gunskirchen Concentration Camp in Austria. About 25 members of the division will meet with Funke in Huntsville this week for a reunion.

Federal impact aid surveys due by Sept. 26

By SHARONDA PEARSON
For the Rocket

Today, all students from Madison and Huntsville city schools and Madison County schools will bring home federal impact aid forms for parents to complete and return by Sept. 26.

The surveys should be filled out for any child of parents working or living on federal property, including U.S. military and government civilians and contractors.

Federal Impact Aid is an education grant program that provides funds to school systems that are financially burdened or impacted by federal activity populations. The funding is provided to school districts to offset the loss of property taxes on federal property.

Overall Enrollment Growth								
School Systems	Pre-BRAC 2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Since BRAC
Huntsville City	22656	22580	22887	23081	23260	23615	23291	635
Madison City	6907	7242	7653	8033	8553	8591	8691	1784
Madison County	17077	17685	18443	19207	19878	20065	21516	4439
Growth	46640	47507	48983	50321	51691	52271	53498	6858
	% Growth	1.86%	5.02%	7.89%	10.83%	12.07%	12.61%	12.61%

Since 1997, local school districts have received more than $10 million as a result of the federal impact aid program. For example, an average year might generate funds equal or greater than: $500,000 for Huntsville city schools; $250,000 for Madison city schools; and $150,000 for Madison County schools.

And it only takes about five minutes to complete the form.

Why is impact aid important? The Tennessee Valley has experienced unprecedented growth, placing tremendous demands on school administrators to ensure local schools are prepared. Base Realignment and Closure contributed to the current growth, bringing more students to local schools through 2011 and into 2012.

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VB Phase IV construction starts with groundbreaking.
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Helicopter project office honors fallen aviators.
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Longtime volunteer loves serving others.
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WIN OR LOSE
Run commemorates Sept. 11 victims.
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RocketViews

With Labor Day behind us, and fall right around the corner, what's your favorite part of autumn?

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

Karen Smith-Todt
Redstone Exchange
"The colors of the leaves and the cooler weather."

Gabriel Graham
Redstone Exchange
"Fall sports. Alabama football and Dallas Cowboys – who won last night by the way. I just love it – fall sports."

Dennis and Patricia Doty
RVers on the road from Florida
"The color change – and the cooler weather."

Jocelyn Bridgett
Redstone Exchange
"I just like that it begins to cool down."

Letters to the editor

Take time to study our nation's Constitution

Within a week, it will be Constitution Day. That's right – Monday, Sept. 17, is the big day. However, before you stock up on burgers and charcoal for the grill you might want to read on. First, don't expect to see marching bands, baton twirlers or to enjoy a federally mandated day off. It's more important than that.

Formally established in 2004 and also appropriately referred to as Citizenship Day, it is a day set aside to recognize and learn about our most important document. On that day in 1787, 225 years ago, our birth certificate as a nation was signed by some very brave and bold people who formed the Constitutional Convention.

The day as a holiday was first recognized as Constitution Day in 1911 by Iowa schools but did not become the law of the land until 2004 when the date was established as a holiday by Congress' 2004 Omnibus spending bill.

Over time, many cities and states established various celebrations, recognitions and proclamations to recognize the most important political document ever established. But still, no nationwide federal formal recognition existed.

In 1939, William Randolph Hearst pushed the holiday through his newspaper empire and the next year Congress established the third Sunday in May as "I am an American Day." This perpetuated a movement which spread to all 48 states, with their governors issuing official Constitution Day proclamations. In February 1952, Congress established Sept. 17 as Citizenship Day.

Then, along came the 2004 passage of an amendment by Sen. Robert Byrd formally renaming the holiday "Constitution Day and Citizenship Day." Further, the act directed that on that day all publicly funded educational institutions provide educational programming on the history of the American Constitution.

So what is this all about? After all, it is only a 225-year-old piece of parchment – the oldest national constitution in continuous use, written by some 16th century radicals, dressed in funny clothes and now locked away in some vault. Right? WRONG!

In response my best advice to you is to ask you to read this cherished and vital document. Really read – and study it. Ponder its meaning. Ask yourself, how does this "most important of political documents" apply to me?

Too many of us take this most important political document for granted. Actually it is a brilliantly written document and, some would argue, divinely inspired. The best advice I can give you is to read and study it.

Appreciate and honor it not only on Monday, Sept. 17, but every day as you enjoy the freedoms, privileges and responsibilities it spells out, and be thankful you live in the greatest nation in the history of mankind.

Scott Hubbartt
Retired Air Force
chief master sergeant

Quote of **the week**

'Like every American, I'll never forget how I heard the terrible news (Sept. 11, 2001), on the car radio on my way to work in Chicago. Yet like a lot of younger Americans, our daughters have no memory of that day. Malia was just 3; Sasha was an infant. As they've grown, Michelle and I faced the same challenge as other parents in deciding how to talk with our children about 9/11.

'One of the things we've told them is that the worst terrorist attack in American history also brought out the best in our country. Firefighters, police and first responders rushed into danger to save others. Americans came together in candlelight vigils, in our houses of worship and on the steps of the U.S. Capitol. Volunteers lined up to give blood and drove across the country to lend a hand. Schoolchildren donated their savings. Communities, faith groups and businesses collected food and clothing. We were united, as Americans.'

— President Obama

Let's reflect on 9/11: A poem for the families

I look back at that day.
Not knowing what to say.
I could only pray, pray and pray.
Please God make a way.
Lives were lost, elderly and the young.
Take a moment to reflect, by the early dawn.
To the survivors, let us all pray.
Each and every day.
As we go along our daily routine.
We won't forget that terrible scene.
With tears in my eyes.
Let's not say, goodbye.
My heart goes out to the families, to say.
Let us all take time to reflect and pray.
Thank you God, thank you God.
For another day.

Rosie Douglas

Redstone**Rocket**

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Oktoberfest on tap with carnival fun

It's been a family tradition here for nearly two decades.

Oktoberfest, Redstone's annual German festival, has been held every year since 1995 except 2001 (because of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks).

This year's Oktoberfest is Thursday through Sunday at the Redstone Activity Field off Patton Road. As always the public is invited.

Hours are 5-11 p.m. Thursday, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, noon to 1 a.m. Saturday and 1-8 p.m. Sunday. Prices are $12 for Thursday and Sunday, and $15 for Friday and Saturday. That covers admission and all the rides, but doesn't include the chance games.

"It's family fun," Christal Howard, administrative management specialist in the Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation office, said. "And it's safe on the Arsenal. They need to come for the great food, too – great German food."

There will be carnival rides for the young and young at heart. The Soldatenstube restaurant returns with its German cuisine.

Terry Cavanagh and the Alpine Express Band is back at its oompah best. The band performs 6-10 p.m. Thursday, 7 p.m. until midnight Friday, 6 p.m. until midnight Saturday and 2-6 p.m. Sunday.

Entrance will be through Gate 10 on Patton Road. In case they're asked, people should have their vehicle registration, proof of insurance and a valid driver's license.

For more information, call 313-5224 or visit redstonemwr.com.

One Stop has grand opening next week

By TERRI STOVER
For the Rocket

Tuesday will bring the grand opening of Team Redstone's One Stop facility, located at building 3494 near Hercules Road.

The ribbon cutting ceremony is at 10 a.m., which will include cake, refreshments and a tour of the new facility.

Everyone is invited to help open the new One Stop, where all the personnel needs of Soldiers, civilians, military retirees and family members will be housed in one convenient location.

The 23,000-square-foot One Stop is part of a long-term plan to consolidate customer-service type activities in one location. Presently, Team Redstone employees can find services at the new facility that include Common Access Card badging, retirement planning, and housing.

"Locating these services together in building 3494 will make them more accessible to customers who need these services," Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton said.

Other support services will be located in the next year across from the One Stop at a new Welcome Center. These services will include child and youth services, Army Community Service, and leisure travel services.

Getting to **know you**

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

Name: Brad Smith

Title: Senior sales associate, firearms at The Exchange

How long have you been working on the Arsenal?
Two months. I just retired from the Army in August of the last year after 23 years as a Soldier.

What do you like best about your job?
I get to play with guns, and I get to take care of the customers' needs when they want to purchase a weapon that's hard to get outside post. We can get it in a lower price.

What are your goals?
I'm going to be starting back to school here soon. I want to complete my degree in criminal justice.

What do you like to do in your spare time?
Golf and road cycling.

What's on your bucket list?
Whitetail deer hunting in South Texas.

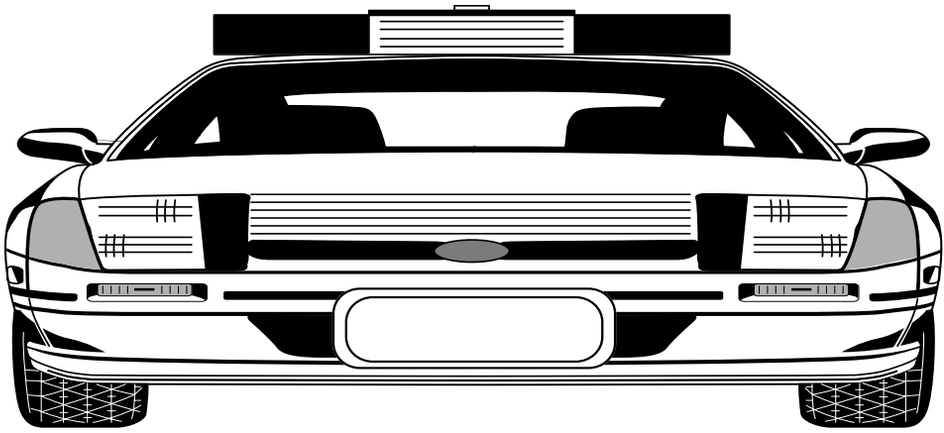
What college football team do you root for?
Georgia Bulldogs

Are you going to Oktoberfest this week?
Yeah. I spent a lot of time in Germany so I remember doing the Oktoberfest in the towns that I was in. I've never been to the one on the Arsenal, I just moved here in December, so I'm looking forward to seeing what different types of beers will be here.

Crimes, accidents **& other occurrences**

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for Aug. 26 through Sept. 1:

- A driver was cited for a suspended license and criminal trespass when he made an illegal left turn onto Goss Road, off of Rideout Road, avoiding Gate 9.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Constitution Drive.
- Police arrested a subject for harassment and two additional subjects for disorderly conduct in a parking lot on Zeus Drive.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident near building 7319.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident at building 4100.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the channelized right-hand turn lane on Goss Road onto Rideout Road.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Mills Road at Neal Road.
- Police recovered a deserter from the Sevierville County (Tenn.) Jail and transferred him to PCF in Fort Knox, Ky.
- Police arrested a subject for DUI when he was selected for a Random Antiterrorism Measures inspection at Gate 8.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the channelized right-hand turn lane on Goss Road onto Rideout Road.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident in the parking lot of the Shoppette.
- Twenty-seven U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.



On this date in history: Sept. 12

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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In 2001: Following the terrorist attacks on the United States, President George W. Bush called the attacks "acts of war" against the United States and announced a war against terrorism, vowing to "find those responsible and bring them to justice" and told the nation that a search for those responsible was already under way. NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, supported the president's call for military action.

In 2006: California passed a new emissions control bill. This piece of legislation became one of the most extensive carbon dioxide fume regulation documents in the U.S.A. that was drafted into law. One aspect of this new legislation called for a 25 percent decrease of carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2020.

In 2008: Twenty-five people died and 135 others are injured when a passenger train collided with a freight train in Los Angeles.

In 2011: Six oil workers who had been floating on a raft for three days in the Gulf of Mexico were rescued by authorities. The workers had to evacuate their offshore vessel after being hit by Tropical Storm Nate; four others were still missing.

Reunion

continued from page **1**

County Veterans Memorial, Veterans Museum and Redstone Arsenal. Funke has been aided in planning the event by Pastorelli and his wife Anna, the AMCOM/Garrison Public Affairs Office, NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Huntsville Mayor's Office and the Madison County Commission.

Funke, a 30-year Army veteran who served in WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, was attending the University of Dayton when Pearl Harbor was attacked in December 1941.

"Everybody had to do something and I enlisted at the time," he said. "Everybody became involved in the war. Men went off to war and women worked in the ammunition plants, and the airplane and tank factories. It was a national effort that you won't see happen ever again. You won't see anything like it today."

Funke completed tank destroyer basic training at then-Camp Hood, Texas. He then was recruited and joined the Army Air Corps as a pilot. He learned to fly the Piper Cub and then the Stearman biplane. But with 50,000 too many pilots, the Army sent Funke on yet another assignment.

"On a Wednesday, I was flying a plane. On a Saturday, I was grooming a mule in the light division of the 71st Infantry Division," he said. "I was back in the ground forces at Hunter Liggett Military Reserve in the Sierra, Nev., mountains. We had no vehicles, except one jeep for the division commander. The rest were all mules. We carried everything – ammunition, water, food, 75mm pack howitzers – on the back of mules and with two-man carriages."

Some 10,000 men had to care for and manage 5,000 to 7,000 mules in training in Nevada in preparation of joining Gen. Joe Stilwell's fighting troops in the jungles of Burma. But, during practice maneuvers against the 89th Infantry Division, the mission failed and the mules and Soldiers were sent packing.

The 71st was sent to Fort Benning, Ga., in 1943. Now 17,000 men strong, they were modernized with vehicles and tanks. In January 1945, they were shipped to Europe. Funke was 24 years old.

"There was no doubt about it – we were going over to fight the Japanese or we were going over to fight the Germans," Funke said.

The division landed in La Havre, France, at Camp Old Gold. They joined the 7th Army in combat.

"We took rail cars down to about the middle of France and went into combat with the Germans along the French/German border," Funke said. "I was a rifleman and one of two scouts with a 12-man rifle unit. Our job was to find the enemy, to draw the enemy out. It was not a good job to be in because you usually didn't last very long."

Funke's unit crossed the Rhine River and joined Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army.

"One of our biggest jobs was taking out the 10th Mountain SS Panzer Division," he said. "We fought them every day and we lost a lot of people. Some of it was hand-to-hand combat. We fought them all through the villages.

"When we joined the 3rd Army, we had a hard time keeping up with Patton's armor because we were all on foot. We had to ride in the back of jeeps and the sides of tanks so that we could stay with them.

"Everybody said not to worry about the villages because Patton's Army had already been through them. But they just flew through on their tanks and jeeps. When we got to every village, everything blew up at us. We had to fight through every village. A lot of people I knew got killed. I lost a lot of buddies. We lived one day to the next."

The 71st helped in the liberation of Gunskirchen Concentration Camp, Austria, in May 1945, which was a satellite camp of the infamous Mauthausen death camp in upper Austria.

"I was there the first or second day," Funke said. "The prisoners were forced to march across Europe on foot and were held there until they could go to the gas chambers or the ovens at Mauthausen. They were mostly Jewish people from Poland, Latvia, Estonia and the Ukraine. There were also some German political prisoners there.

"They were living in tar paper shacks with crude bunks that had straw mats. People were starving to death. Some were lying on top of dead people in their bunks. So many people were dead. There must have been 5,000 dead in the woods. You could smell it for miles. It was just a terrible smell."

Funke, who came from German ancestors who had immigrated to the U.S., was shocked by what he saw.

"I just couldn't believe it. I come from a German family. I couldn't believe the German people let this happen," he said.

The 71st moved on after aid was brought in to help the war prisoners. They fought deeper into Austria, meeting the Russians at the Enns River. They accepted the surrender of German Army Group South on May 7, 1945, one day prior to V.E. Day.

"We were the farthest eastern American unit during the war," Funke said. "We were almost to the Czech border. After Germany surrendered, we guarded German prisoners for a few months and then I went on to serve in a military government unit in Munich, Germany."

In March 1946, Funke came home, met and married his wife Teresa, returned to college and then returned to the Army in 1947. He went on to serve in both the Korea and Vietnam wars before retiring in 1972. He and his wife had seven daughters and two sons, and today have 22 grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

In 1986, Funke helped start the 71st Infantry Division Association. At the time, 3,500 of the original 17,000 men joined the group. Today, there are about 1,300 members. Those at the reunion this week will include a few of the concentration camp survivors.

When asked about his service, Funke said he and his fellow Soldiers were doing what they were ordered to do.

"We felt we were there because that was our job. Our job was to fight the enemy and that's what we did," he said. "They call us the greatest generation. But we weren't. We were in the Army. We were at war. Our job was to fight and that's what we did. We faced the enemy – and it was either us or them."

Photo by Jo Anita Miley/Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville

Career expo

Mary Epps, left, and John Pearson, with AMCOM's Army Educational Outreach Program, talk with students about careers in the federal government Sept. 7 during the Madison County College and Career Expo sponsored by Junior Achievement of North Alabama. More than 6,200 juniors and seniors from the Huntsville and Madison County school systems, and several local private schools, attended the two-day educational outreach event Sept. 7-8 in the Fitness Center at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

Arsenal hunters schooled on safety in the field

Outdoor Recreation emphasizes caution during hunting season

By KARI HAWKINS
Assistant editor
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From well-marked and game-rich hunting areas to thorough safety measures, the hunting season on Redstone Arsenal provides one of the area's best and safest environments for hunting a variety of game.

And with hunting season just now getting under way, employees at Outdoor Recreation on Sportsman Drive along with the Garrison's federal wildlife officer have stepped up to meet the demand for hunting orientation classes and hunting licenses, equipment and supplies for the field, information about hunting areas and patrols to ensure hunter safety.

"We are now in our busy season. We have a lot of activity on the weekends and even during the week. It will get even busier as deer season opens," Bill Moreland, manager of Outdoor Recreation, said.

About 500 hunters enjoy the hunting areas on Redstone Arsenal each season, which begins with Canada goose, raccoon, teal and mourning dove hunting in early September, continues with rabbit, squirrel, deer, woodcock, quail, rail, gallinule, moorhen and waterfowl through the winter months, and comes to a close with turkey in April.

As hunting season ramps up, so too do concerns that nature enthusiasts and hunters will cross paths while enjoying the outdoors on the Arsenal.

"This is the time of year when we really want to educate Redstone Arsenal residents and employees that we are hunting in hunting areas," Moreland said.

"Each and every year, we've had folks who have gone into the woods for nature walks and other reasons, and have been in areas that are marked for hunting. During hunting season, the public needs to stay in recreational areas."

Those recreational areas include Vincent Park and the walking/jogging/biking trail that extends from the park to the Tennessee River, the Col. Carroll D. Hudson Recreation Area and the Easter Posey Recreation Area. Residential and business areas are also off limits to hunters.

Hunting orientation classes are open to the Arsenal's military, veterans, retirees, civilians and contractors, and have already begun with about 50 hunters in attendance at the first class. The class will again be offered Sept. 18, Oct. 9 and 23, and Nov. 6 and 20. Outdoor Recreation will offer additional classes if needed.

"Newcomers, those who have not hunted on Redstone Arsenal, must attend an orientation," Moreland said. "The orientation covers things like procedures for hunting on Redstone, information on unexploded ordnance, a biological briefing of restrictions on what can be hunted, how to hunt in ranges and how to identify mature game."

Those hunters who have hunted on Redstone Arsenal during previous seasons are required to complete an online orientation course at redstonemwr.com.

Besides completing the orientation class, hunters must also have an Alabama state hunting license and hunter education certificate from any state. Contractors must have a contractor form on file

See Hunters on page 8

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Kelly Smith, the Garrison's federal wildlife officer, and Bill Moreland of the Family and Morale Welfare Recreation's Outdoor Recreation, look over paperwork and game charts as they prepare for another busy season of hunting on Redstone Arsenal.

Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Farewell serenade

Mickey Beavers sings "Forever Friends" to Laveda Lofton, supervisory information management specialist, Space and Missile Defense Command/ Army Forces Strategic Command G-6, during her retirement in a ceremony Aug. 30. Lofton retired with 32 years of service. Beavers and Lofton have been friends since college.

In this section...

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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:

Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest, Redstone's annual German festival, is Thursday through Sunday at the Activity Field off Patton Road. As always the public is invited. Hours are 5-11 p.m. Thursday, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, noon to 1 a.m. Saturday and 1-8 p.m. Sunday. Prices are $12 for Thursday and Sunday, and $15 for Friday and Saturday. That covers admission and all the rides, but doesn't include the chance games. Entrance will be through Gate 10 on Patton Road. In case they're asked, people should have their vehicle registration, proof of insurance and a valid driver's license. For more information, call 313-5224 or visit redstonemwr.com.

Rhythms/Brew/Barbecue

"Rhythms, Brew and Barbecue" will be held Sept. 29 at the Activity Field. Doors open at 2 p.m. with the show at 3. Performing in concert are Eric Benet, Mint Condition, Frank McComb and Rick Ward. Tickets are $25 advance, $30 day of show and $65 premium. For more information, call 313-5224 or visit redstonemwr.com.

Life Center keeps up with latest exercise trends

By JO ANITA MILEY
Huntsville Center Public Affairs Office

In the past year, the number of Huntsville Center employees registered for fitness classes in the Life Center has increased by more than 30 percent – with 57 new members being added since January – and the principal reason behind the increase is due to the latest exercise trends.

"We've had a recent explosion of employees who are coming to the Life Center to work out," said Marsha Russell, Life Center director, said.

"We are excited to see a real burst in participation in all our fitness programs," she said. "I think it's largely due to our dealing with different fitness styles – Zumba, Pilates, Yoga, pump, cardio blast – we offer them all here."

Russell said she and fitness instructors Crystal Huddleston and Ashley Russell offer Huntsville Center employees a multitude of exercise activities for all ages and can cater classes to meet employee's individual needs as well. She loves that her job allows her to positively impact the lives of employees at the center.

According to Russell, exercise groups within the Life Center are like family. Members form close bonds over a period of time that filter over into the work environment, creating a unique camaraderie that fosters great work relationships. Recent fitness challenges have also inspired members to push themselves beyond their normal workout to achieve excellence or work together as a team to reach their fitness goal.

When center employees make the decision to eat right and start an exercise routine, Russell said she knows she is doing her job well.

"It's amazing to watch the different groups work out, due to the vast difference in workout styles," Russell said. "We (fitness staff) are willing to design a workout routine to fit any particular exercise style. There are many different ways to stay fit."

According to Russell, diverse groups like the "Pumpers," the Yoga and Pilates group, the p90Xers, the Combat fans, Cross Fit guy, the Zumba girls and the "Million Pushups-in-a-Year" Club," and the Olympics Corps Contest all come with totally different fitness needs. She is there to monitor the groups and make sure everyone's fitness needs are met.

Courtesy photo

Robert Jackson lifts weights in the Life Center as a workout partner spots him. The Life Center has seen an increase of use by more than 30 percent.

"I love the way the groups have taken off," Russell said. "For instance, 'The Olympic Corps Contest,' one of our newest fitness events, is going very well. Some Life Center members are going for the gold and some for whatever they can fit in. The main thing is more of them are getting active. They are challenging each other to work harder to stay fit."

Russell said she and her staff will continue to keep up with current fitness trends. Her goal is to make sure center employees are made aware of what fitness options are out there and expose them to it.

Robert Jackson, Engineering Directorate, has been a part of the Life Center for more than two years. Jackson said his overall health has improved largely due to starting a fitness plan with Russell. According to Jackson, Russell helped him to stay on task when he wanted to begin a fitness program. He also said Russell is the ultimate fitness trainer.

"Having a fitness center on site is a great perk for Huntsville Center employees," Jackson said. "More employees than ever are now joining the Life Center – Marsha's enthusiasm about health fitness is contagious."

Library has Army chief's recommended books

By BARBARA McGROARY
Post Library reference librarian

Army chief of staff Gen. Raymond Odierno has issued a challenge – and the Post Library stands ready to help you meet it.

In his Professional Reading List preface, Odierno challenges "each of you to tackle these books and improve your power of critical thinking and understanding of the profession of arms."

The 82-book reading list is organized into four sub-lists: The Army Profession, The Force of Decisive Action, Broadening Leaders, and The Strategic Environment. The selections range from well-known classics including "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by Ernest Hemingway and "Band of Brothers" by Stephen Ambrose, to more targeted works such as "The Quest: Energy, Security and the Remaking of the Modern World" by Daniel Yergin.

The Post Library has a section devoted to Odierno's professional reading list books. The library has an annotated list of all the books and has grouped the books into the general's four categories. All books are available for checkout.

Visit the library, building 3323 on Redeye Road, from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10-4 Saturday. To see the library's catalog, visit www.redstonemwr.com, click on Recreation, then Library and then Online Catalog.

"There is simply no better way to prepare for the future than a disciplined, focused commitment to a personal course of reading," Odierno said.

Are you up to the challenge? The library can help you meet the general's challenge.

To see an annotated list of the general's books online, visit the following website: http://www.history.army.mil/html/books/105/105-1-1/CMH_%20Pub_105-5-1_2012.pdf.

Photo by Barbara McGroary

Maj. Margie Deck and Maj. Jey Jeyasingam are Intermediate Level Education students from the Command and General Staff School.

Courtesy photo

Safety video winners

John Wachs, center, is part of a team of three students at Huntsville High who won several first-place awards for a texting and driving video they created for a competition in the category of Digital Video Production for the Future Business Leaders of America. They won first place at the state level in April, and then went on to win first place at the national level in July at the FBLA conference in San Antonio. They were judged on the merits of their video against other texting and driving videos, along with their presentation to judges describing the project and the process they used to create it. John is the son of Kathy Wachs, director of enterprise integration in the Lead AMC Integration Support Office at the Aviation and Missile Command, and John Wachs of SMDC/ARSTRAT.

Hunters

continued from page 5

with Outdoor Recreation. Then, they can purchase an Arsenal hunting permit for the entire season for $50. The permit allows them to bring their hunting rifle onto the Arsenal only for the period when they will be hunting.

Each day during hunting season, Outdoor Recreation will supply hunters with a map of the Arsenal that shows the available hunting ranges. Range availability changes depending on the mission requirements of such organizations as the Redstone Test Center, the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, and the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works.

"These organizations communicate with us to let us know if testing or other mission requirements are occurring in the Arsenal's test ranges," Moreland said. "We are increasing these communications to ensure that all lands we're hunting in are open, and free and clear for hunting. The ranges are open for hunting unless otherwise specified to us by these organizations. They must let us know if they have mission requirements that would cause their test areas to be closed to hunting."

The Garrison's federal wildlife officer, Kelly Smith, said keeping areas open for hunting is essential to keeping the Arsenal's wildlife population at a controllable level.

"We are giving hunters more areas to hunt in this year," Smith said.

During the past 20 years, the number of facilities on the Arsenal has grown, causing a reduction in hunting lands. For that reason, Outdoor Recreation is emphasizing the need to keep hunting areas open if they are not needed for mission requirements.

"Even with the reduction in lands, we still have 500 hunters who enjoy the privilege of hunting on Redstone Arsenal and the camaraderie of our hunting community," Moreland said. "We still have about 27,000 huntable acres on the Arsenal."

Hunters prefer hunting on Redstone Arsenal because of the low cost of the license, the management of the hunting areas, and the convenience, access, familiarity and safety aspects of the Arsenal.

"If you work out here and hunt here, you know the Arsenal pretty well," Moreland said. "It offers a convenient location, and there's a sense of camaraderie among hunters out here. And we have an excellent safety record."

Smith said several hunters have commented to him about the Arsenal's hunting safety record.

"Even though we have more procedures that they have to go through to hunt out here, a lot of hunters feel safer hunting on the Arsenal," he said.

Every hunter must check-in at Outdoor Recreation to choose their hunting area for the day. They must carry a cell phone at all times, and provide phone numbers for both their cell phone and their home phone to Outdoor Recreation. Once they are finished hunting, they must then check-in again with Outdoor Recreation before leaving the Arsenal.

If a hunter does not check-in at the end of the hunting day, Outdoor Recreation will call their cell phone and then their home phone to try to locate the hunter. If they are unsuccessful, then Smith will travel to the assigned hunting area to search for the hunter.

"We assign them to a hunting area and get them out in the woods. Once they are in their hunting areas, they fall under the game warden's jurisdiction," Moreland said.

Added Smith: "Knowing the hunting range they are assigned to helps to narrow the search grid if a hunter gets lost or is missing."

Smith spends quite a few hours checking on hunters to ensure they are licensed, wearing the proper gear and maintaining safe practices. Hunters must wear orange caps and vests, use a safety strap when climbing into a tree, and hunt only in the area where they are assigned. Those areas are well-marked by natural boundaries and metal signs.

Outdoor Recreation also offers practice fields for hunters who want to try out their shotgun, muzzle loader, or bow and arrow before taking to the field.

Outdoor Recreation relies on a crew of volunteers who mark hunting areas, assist in maintaining the areas, scout out game for hunters and, sometimes, help search for missing hunters. Volunteers also help with the Arsenal's youth hunts.

"The hunting population is not as strong as it once used to be, and that's true throughout the state," Moreland said. "That's why we put a lot of emphasis on our youth hunting programs."

For more information on hunting seasons and hunting on Redstone, call Outdoor Recreation at 876-4868. Outdoor Recreation is located in building 5139 on Sportsman Drive.

Von Braun Complex begins fourth addition

VB Phase IV construction starts with groundbreaking

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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By the end of 2014, more than 5,700 people will work in the completed Von Braun Complex.

Groundbreaking for construction of the fourth building, Von Braun Phase IV, was held Sept. 5 near VB III off Martin Road. Von Braun IV will have offices for about 850 members of the Missile Defense Agency.

"I think it'll be nice," Steve Owens, a senior analyst with MDA contractor Harlan Lee & Associates LLC, said while attending the ceremony. "We've got people scattered all over town. We're trying to get everyone at one location. I think it'll work out well."

The ceremony's attendees filled the folding chairs under a large white tent. MDA director Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly served as the host and gave opening remarks followed by remarks from Sen. Richard Shelby, Sen. Jeff Sessions and Rep. Mo Brooks.

"This will truly be the epicenter of missile defense expertise in the world," O'Reilly said.

Said Shelby, "Although Dr. (Wernher) von Braun has been long gone from Huntsville, his spirit is with us today. It has to be."

Sessions called the beginning of the completion of the Von Braun Complex "a really great day."

"Here today," said Brooks, "we're continuing von Braun's reputation for exceptional-ism for what we're doing with the Missile Defense Agency."

Construction should be completed by August 2014 with tenant move-in by December 2014. The building will have five floors and 225,000 square feet.

"Construction will begin immediately," John Gromos, president of Turner Universal Construction Company, Huntsville, said. From 200-300 construction workers will be employed on this project; and the current schedule is to finish in about 20 months.

The initial contract cost was $53 million and the contract value will likely exceed $57 million, Gromos said.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Participants in the groundbreaking ceremony Sept. 5 include, from left, MDA director Lt. Gen. Patrick O'Reilly, Sen. Richard Shelby, Sen. Jeff Sessions, Rep. Mo Brooks, Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton, Corps of Engineers' Mobile District north regional area engineer Wade Wooley and Turner Universal Construction Company president John Gromos.

Help keep storm drains clean for those downstream

Garrison Environmental release

Pollutants from animal wastes can be washed into streams and storm drains during rain. Storm drains around your housing area and elsewhere on the installation usually discharge directly into streams, ponds or rivers. Are you cleaning up after your pet?

Pet waste left to decay on the street or grass, or waste washed into storm drains, is a threat to water quality and public health. When pet waste enters a stream with storm water runoff, it consumes oxygen upon decay. The oxygen reduction can harm aquatic life and adversely affect overall stream health. Pet waste also contains nutrients that encourage weed and algae growth. In addition, pet waste may carry infectious organisms, bacteria and other pathogens that can make streams and ponds unsafe for recreation.

Improper disposal of pet waste is not just a water quality issue. Pets, children who play outside, and adults who garden risk infection from the bacteria and parasites found in pet waste. Fortunately, there are some simple things you can do to help keep the installation and our streams clean and healthy.

Cleaning up after your pet can be as simple as taking a plastic bag or paper cup along on your next walk. But what should you do with the waste you collect? Here are some tips for proper disposal:

- Flush it down the toilet. The water from your toilet goes to a wastewater treatment facility. Special processes there can remove animal waste prior to discharging the water to a stream, pond or river. Remember to prevent plumbing problems by not flushing rocks, sticks or kitty litter down the toilet. Cat feces may be scooped out and flushed down the toilet, but used litter should be put in a closed bag for disposal as household garbage.
- Bury it in the yard. Dig a hole or trench that is about 5 inches deep, and away from vegetable gardens, ponds, streams, rivers, ditches or wells. Fully cover the waste with soil. When the waste begins to decay, valuable nutrients are released as fertilizer for nearby plants.
- Put it in the trash. Bag the waste and place the closed bags in the trash.

For yard pet waste, be sure to clean up areas near drainage ditches, waterways and storm drains. Promptly remove pet waste from areas where children play. To prevent possible contamination, thoroughly wash hands with soap and water, after any contact with pet waste.

Pet waste left to decay on the street or grass, or waste washed into storm drains, is a threat to water quality and public health.

For more information call the Garrison Environmental Office, Storm Water Program Manager, at 955-8501.

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FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS SHINE ON MILITARY **PAGE 10**

Friday night lights shine on military

At halftime, the combined bands of Bob Jones High and James Clemens play songs from each branch of the service in honor of Military Appreciation Night.

Photos by Ellen Hudson

Madison City Schools Stadium was filled Friday night for Bob Jones High's football game against new crosstown rival James Clemens. Bob Jones won 72-0 on Military Appreciation Night.

Fireworks brighten the sky over Madison City Schools Stadium during halftime.

AMCOM chief of staff Col. Jay Macklin and SMDC/ARSTRAT chief of staff Col. James Jenkins shake hands with Bob Jones High's Dustin Haraway after the opening coin toss. At right is Haraway's teammate Drew Davis (34) while Madison Mayor Paul Finley looks on in the background.

Helicopter project office honors fallen aviators

By RANDY TISOR
PEO Aviation Public Affairs

The weather was appropriately somber as members of the Armed Scout Helicopter Project Office gathered outdoors Aug. 30 to commemorate fallen OH-58D Kiowa Warrior aviators. The ceremony was held near the base of the OH-58D static display in a grassy area near the project office headquarters.

Following a brief opening prayer offered by a chaplain and remarks from project manager Col. Robert Grigsby, the roll call containing the names of all fallen OH-58D aviators was announced.

Fifty-seven names were called. Eleven had been added in just the past year or so since the previous ceremony. A plaque near the base of the Kiowa display listed all of them in the order of the date on which they died.

Whether the aviators were lost to training accidents, accidents while in theater or to hostile actions, the plaque didn't indicate.

"It's important that we remember that this is not just a machine," Grigsby said, noting the aircraft on a pedestal behind him and emphasizing the importance of the ceremony. "There's someone flying the aircraft and going into harm's way and there's a cost associated with that."

The commemorative plaque, he explained, was added for just that reason. Those who drove by or walked past the OH-58D display on a daily basis would have the chance to be reminded that what they do is integral to the overall effort.

Photo by Randy Tisor

Staff Sgt. Lawrence Henry of the AMC Band plays Taps during the ceremony held near the Armed Scout Helicopter Project Office headquarters commemorating fallen Kiowa Warrior aviators.

"Everything that somebody does," Grigsby explained, "whether it's pushing a piece of paper or pushing a part out to the war fighter, somewhere in that chain, they're making a difference. It gives all of us an incentive to do our jobs even better. In the long run, it's for the war fighter. It's to give them the capability to do what they do and hopefully come back home."

The 11 names added in the past year to the memorial include Chief Warrant Officer 2 Bradley J. Gaudet, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Terry L. Varnadore II, 1st Lt. Thomas J. Williams Jr., Chief Warrant Officer 3 Kenneth R. White, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Daniel Cole, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Frank A. Buoniconti III, Capt. Anne M. Montgomery, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Shan J. Satterfield, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Lucas D. Sigfrid, Capt. Scott P. Pace and 1st Lt. Matthew G. Fazzari.

Photo by Denise DeMonia, Armed Scout Helicopter Project Office

Participants in the Aug. 30 ceremony, from left, include Maj. Jamie Bluman, assistant product manager for the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter Office; Col. Robert Grigsby, project manager for the Armed Scout Helicopter Project Office; and Capt. Nicholas Stachler, assistant product manager for Fielded Systems Product Office.

Held at the conclusion of the ASH PMO Users Conference, the ceremony gave representatives from various air cavalry units stationed around the country a chance to participate as well.

"I think it was a fitting end to the conference to remind everybody of what these guys are going out and doing every day," Grigsby said.

The OH-58D, according to the ASH PMO, has the highest operation tempo of any airframe in the Army fleet in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Contracting battalion has new commander

Lt. Col. Mark Moeller is the new commander of the 915th Contracting Support Battalion, the only contracting battalion in the Army Reserves.

He succeeded Lt. Col. Ruby Renee Lardent in a change of command ceremony Aug. 25 at The Summit.

Courtesy photo

From left are 915th outgoing commander Lt. Col. Renee Lardent, DCMA 14th Detachment Brigade commander Col. Sean Cassidy, 915th incoming commander Lt. Col. Mark Moeller and senior enlisted adviser Master Sgt. Nicole Turner.

The guest speaker was Brig. Gen. Theodore Harrison, commander of the Expeditionary Contracting Command. The Army Reserve Sustainment Command incoming commander, Col. (promotable) Phillip Jolly, attended the ceremony.

The 915th CSB provides expeditionary contracting teams throughout the full spectrum of military operations for Army service component commanders and the joint war fighter. The 915th is assigned to the Defense Contract Management Agency which falls under the ARSC located in Birmingham. The higher command is the 377th Theater Support Command located in New Orleans. *(915th Contracting Support Battalion release)*

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Testing takes center stage at Redstone Test Center

By Chuck Gibbs
Director, Missile and Sensors Directorate, RTC

Courtesy photo

This is the Redstone Test Center's new headquarters on Martin Road, across from the Army Materiel Command.

The Redstone Test Center traces its origins on Redstone Arsenal back to 1956 when missile testing first started at RSA. In 2011, RTC completed a new $53 million Rotary Wing Center on Redstone Army Airfield and opened up a new headquarters facility on Martin Road, across from the new Army Materiel Command building. Today, RTC employs a staff of 1,200; two-thirds of which are technical staff. The center itself is comprised of test ranges on the Arsenal that date back more than 50 years and occupy roughly 14,000 acres.

Part of the Army Test and Evaluation Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., the RTC's mission under the 2005 BRAC was broadened to establish it as a world-class test center for aviation, sensors and missile testing. Many in the Huntsville community know of Redstone Test Center, but don't know their mission. Huntsville residents know RTC as one of the reasons they hear loud booms coming from the direction of the Arsenal, hear and see helicopters flying overhead, or why they occasionally see dark smoke clouds high in the air over south Huntsville.

Overview of RTC
Part 1 of series

Redstone Test Center is about testing. Their mission is to conduct developmental testing on missiles, rockets, sensors and rotary wing systems, or helicopters – which includes all their subsystems and components. This means RTC tests these systems in their developmental stages using the most current safety procedures – testing whole systems or the components and subsystems of each to work out as many problems or kinks before it is ready for operational testing. Operational testing is the final step before a system is deployed in the field to support Soldiers.

RTC tests for all the armed services including Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines as well as for Department of Justice and commercial industry. RTC added the aviation component of testing as a result of BRAC when it merged with the Aviation Technical Test Center from Fort Rucker. Since that time, RTC has aggressively pursued developing relationships with other RSA organizations to promote the RTC brand and educate them on "who we are" and "what our mission is." Overarching is another RTC goal, to be the best stewards of valuable resources through prudent investment and judicious modernization. The bottom line for RTC is to conduct testing programs that help provide the Army with aviation and weapon systems that ensure confidence in and readiness for Soldiers in the field.

Redstone has supported Army weapon system development since the mid-1950s when the Army Corps of Engineers constructed most of RTC's test ranges. Today, those ranges support destructive performance flight testing of missiles, rockets, warheads and gun systems from both ground and airborne platforms. RTC test ranges and facilities have served for many years as a test bed for technology programs leading to the development of many of today's generation of Army tactical missile systems and RTC continues to maintain the advanced test methodologies, test facilities and personnel expertise required to support development of future weapons systems.

RTC's small developmental testing range is 8 kilometers long from firing pad to its western boundary. Among the rocket and tactical missile systems tested by RTC at this range are the Javelin and the Tube launched, Optically tracked, Wire guided or TOW missile. These systems are regularly tested in controlled scenarios for system performance. Test data is collected on the system's performance and evaluated by test range personnel to assist weapons' system program development.

RTC also conducts warhead testing where the warhead or destructive section of a missile system is tested as a stand-alone component. This test can be performed

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PEO delivers world's best missiles to troops

Knudson honored to have worked with professionals behind systems

By KARI HAWKINS
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Brig. Gen. Ole Knudson's tenure at the helm of the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space has been a time of integration, modernization and enhanced system efficiency.

With nearly two years as the organization's program executive officer, Knudson has managed a steep learning curve while building a foundation of integration that will take the Army's missile and space systems well into the future in support of war fighters.

"This has been about working with our teams within PEO Missiles and Space and throughout Team Redstone to find the best ways to support the war fighters' needs both in the near term and future capabilities," Knudson said.

"The Team Redstone concept has us working with the Aviation and Missile Command, the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, the Space and Missile Defense Command, the Security Assistance Command and the Army Contracting Command to develop an integrated system of missiles. It's a good marriage of all these organizations."

Knudson will be leaving PEO Missiles and Space today during a 1 p.m. change of charter ceremony in Bob Jones Auditorium. The next day, he will assume new responsibilities as the program executive for Programs and Integration at the Missile Defense Agency, overseeing work on the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense and other systems with a focus on ballistic missile defense at the strategic level.

"It's time to shift over and take on a new challenge," Knudson said. "It will be very interesting and challenging work.

"Barry Pike (deputy to the PEO Missiles and Space) will take over as acting PEO. He's been a great partner in everything that we've done. There won't be a knowledge gap with my transition. There will be great continuity with Barry taking over."

At Knudson's side during the ceremony, will be his wife, Elizabeth, who has also had a positive impact on the PEO Missiles and Space organization, and who hopes to add her capabilities to the Missile Defense Agency family.

"You want to try to be there and be supportive as much as you can," said Elizabeth. "As an Army wife, I want to support our families and support our Soldiers."

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Brig. Gen. Ole Knudson and his wife, Elizabeth, will be going on to a new Army assignment that will keep them here at Redstone Arsenal. Knudson will shift gears from being the program executive officer for Missiles and Space to becoming the program executive for Programs and Integration at the Missile Defense Agency. A change of charter ceremony for the PEO will be today at 1 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium.

Serving as the leader of an organization with the legacy of PEO Missiles and Space has been a privilege for Knudson.

"What we do in this PEO along with our partners is develop, produce and sustain a very unique capability for our country," he said. "More than 30 countries in the world use our systems. There are no other systems that have the capability of systems managed and built right here.

"Our employees have a unique set of skills and expertise that has developed over time to build systems that keep responding as threats change and technology changes. It's an honor to have served with all these dedicated professionals and our industry partners as we've worked to support what the war fighters need. It's a team effort to work with these complex systems. It requires people working together at a high degree of cooperation."

The PEO for Missiles and Space is an organization of more than 1,000 Soldier, civilian and contractor employees, seven project offices and a $3 billion annual budget with an additional $15 billion in foreign military sales.

Much of the focus at PEO Missiles and Space during Knudson's tenure there has been on the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Program, which uses a battle command

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AMC worker recalls early years of change

Command's programs grow during the 1980s decade

By KARI HAWKINS
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Even as the Army's big five military systems – Apache helicopter, Black Hawk helicopter, Abrams tank, Bradley Fighting Vehicle and Patriot missile system – were making a name for themselves in the 1980s, Lance Wiltshire was establishing himself as an Army civilian with the Army Materiel Command.

Wiltshire, who now works for AMC's Office of Small Business Programs, started his career with AMC in October 1981. So, as AMC celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, Wiltshire is finishing up his 30th year with the organization. He may be 20 years behind on the birthday count, but he's made up for that in his experience with helping AMC through an era of expansions, reorganizations and leadership changes.

Wiltshire was an 18-year-old clerk typist in 1981, working in support of what AMC was at that time – the Development and Readiness Command – and its 2,000 employees located in the Eisenhower Avenue high-rise in Alexandria, Va.

Courtesy photo

Lance Wiltshire, second from right, meets with his co-workers in AMC's Office of Small Business Programs. In October, he will celebrate his 31st anniversary with the Army Materiel Command.

"When I started, the headquarters was undergoing a major realignment," he said. "We were building up. There were a lot of job opportunities in the '80s."

AMC: Then and Now
50 Years of history
Part 7 of series

That major realignment translated into a lot of paperwork for Wiltshire, who was tasked with managing the applicant supply file for vacant positions for the headquarters' seven-member realignment team. As a member of the Civilian Personnel Office, Wiltshire was assigned to the recruitment and placement branch.

"Over a period of three months, 30,000 applicants were received for the vacant positions at headquarters DARCOM," he said. "As a result, we screened the applicants for submission to the personnel specialist for vacant positions.

"Working with the 30,000 applications for the 1981 realignment was memorable because I was coming right out of high school and had no idea how things worked in the government. And to be told I would be responsible for all those applications was overwhelming at first, but ended up being a good experience."

The task was completed in about two years. By 1984, DARCOM was once again AMC, and Wiltshire had gone on to work for the deputy chief of staff for supply, maintenance and transportation in the AMC Administration Office.

"I handled civilian personnel matters to include recruitment actions, processing awards, and all other required personnel actions," he said. "In the '80s, unlike today, the Civilian Personnel Office was not regionalized and was located in the headquarters and back then actions were performed manually."

Manually meant with typewriters, and with all the red, pink and blue carbon copies that were the way business was conducted back then.

"Every time you made a mistake you had to type it all over," Wiltshire recalled. "We really didn't have anything automated."

During the '80s, Wiltshire also experienced four command changes within the

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JTAGS Japan Soldiers bring America to life

By CARRIE E. DAVID
SMDC/ARSTRAT Public Affairs

MISAWA, Japan – The Joint Tactical Ground Station Soldiers stationed at Misawa Air Base in Japan participated this summer in a fund-raiser and fun day shared with the local community called "American Day."

The Soldiers of Delta Detachment, 1st Space Company manned a booth representing Arkansas and sold "Arkansas Mud Pies" for the festivities. The Soldiers and spouses baked about 400 cakes, which sold out in less than three hours raising more than $2,000 for the unit.

Spc. Keith Prater became a main attraction in a Chewbacca costume.

"He had a line wrapping around the block to get a picture with him," Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Johnson, Delta Detachment first sergeant, said. "When he teamed up with Darth Vader from another unit the crowd was uncontrollable."

Other attractions for the day included a parade; demonstrations by the fire

See Japan on page 23

Courtesy photo

Spc. Keith Prater, Joint Tactical Ground Station, Delta Detachment, 1st Space Company, as the Star Wars character Chewbacca, poses for photos with Darth Vader, from another unit, and a local child during a Misawa Air Base, Japan, fun day called "American Day."

RTC by the numbers

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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The Redstone Test Center turned three years old as of Aug. 20.

Its mission is "to provide state-of-the-art testing for missiles, aviation, and associated sensors component subsystem and systems," according to RTC commander Col. Steve Kihara.

He provided the following statistics about RTC:

1,250 people work at the center.

65 aircraft are in its inventory.

606 test programs are currently being executed, of which 50 are DoD oversight and five are rapid initiative (meaning as soon as the testing is completed, they will go to the field).

RTC

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either as a static (stationary) or dynamic (moving) configuration and offers a method of evaluating a missile warhead performance without the cost and complexity of full missile system flight testing.

RTC has the capability to conduct testing on missile propulsion systems such as solid rocket motors, warheads and other munitions at its 375-acre Insensitive Munitions and Hazard Assessment Testing area. Although the term "insensitive munitions" sounds like a contradiction of terms, it is not. To explain, munitions such as missiles, rockets, bombs or other ammunition should only react when the user wants it to react. Munitions are being designed to be insensitive to external stimuli such as heat, shock, bullet and fragment impacts often encountered during operational use.

One of the areas at the Insensitive Munitions and Hazard Assessment Test area is set up with various test pads and equipment to evaluate munition insensitivity.

Capabilities include a fragment impact gun that can fire a 1-inch projectile to simulate a fragment from an explosion impacting a rocket motor, as well as .50-caliber guns and others. A reinforced containment pan is used to evaluate a missile system's insensitivity to a fuel fire by suspending a rocket motor over burning jet fuel or fast cook-off pad (i.e., the dark smoke often seen in south Huntsville). Special single-use ovens have been constructed to slowly cook a rocket motor to reaction points. A drop containment pad for drop testing evaluates the effects of a missile system being dropped. Favorable test results are achieved if the munition does not react and if it does, it can be contained with limited collateral damage and not propagate to other munitions that may be stored or in use nearby.

Another capability is hazard assessment testing which is conducted on munitions such as warheads and rocket motors to provide data for assignment of proper hazard classifications for transportation and storage and include similar tests as those conducted for insensitive munitions testing.

The Army's primary test facility for static firing solid propellant rocket motors, as well as liquid propellant rocket engines, was built in the 1960s at RTC. This large test campus (575 acres) contains 37 test support buildings and earth-covered magazines for explosive storage. Five static test stands are configured to restrain rocket motors during firing in either the horizontal or vertical position to evaluate their safety, reliability and performance characteristics. A wide variety of rocket motor sizes, configurations and propellant types can be tested at this highly-instrumented test facility. One horizontal test stand built in 1962, Test Stand C, is structurally capable of withstanding 10 million pounds of thrust from a solid rocket booster. A second test stand with two vertical test positions, Test Stand B, is capable of withstanding 150,000 pounds of thrust from rocket engines which use storable liquid propellants such as hypergolics. A water deluge system delivers 10,000 gallons of water per minute at high pressure through a 30-inch line from a 500,000 gallon water tank for the exhaust deflector cooling system during the motor firings.

A propulsion test capability added with the movement of the aviation community to Redstone is testing helicopter turbo-shaft engines such as those used on cargo and utility helicopters. Two fully-instrumented test cells at the propulsion test facility allow for ground operational tests of turbo-shaft engines. Each engine under test can be subjected to the full range of operational power loads experienced during flight to allow for an evaluation of engine performance under varying conditions.

RTC supports a large variety of missile and propulsion test capabilities, but their most important mission is to support the Soldier. To the staff at RTC, whose motto is "Test for the best!" nothing is more important than that.

Editor's note: Next week's part 2 will cover environmental testing at RTC.

Knudson

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system to provide new capabilities to the war fighter by allowing missile systems to deploy together and communicate simultaneously with Soldiers.

"The Integrated Air and Missile Defense Program is at the heart of this improvement strategy for air and missile defense capabilities going into the future," Knudson said.

"This program brings together several systems that have been stand-alone systems. We are bringing all of them together and making synchronized changes to five different programs simultaneously so that we have a much better capability for the war fighter."

The mission to integrate missile systems was pinpointed during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We want to prevent any chance of our missiles accidentally shooting down friendly aircraft in theater, and we want to have missile systems that can effectively counter much more stressful threats and more robust threats," Knudson said. "Our missile systems have been developed to be interoperable, but not highly integrated to do real time operations and engagement scenarios against ballistic and air-breathing targets.

"An integrated missile system will bring data together in a short period of time so that air defenders can deliver on what to shoot and what not to shoot. They will have enough fidelity and enough time to make the decision of what to shoot."

The IAMD Project Office is working to develop, acquire, field and sustain the IAMD's battle command system component, and to integrate externally developed sensors and weapons to provide effective capability. Those sensors and weapons will include the Surfaced-Launched Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile fire units, Improved Sentinel, Patriot radar, Patriot launchers and Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor.

Another area of major focus at the PEO has been a growing partnership with the Space and Missile Defense Command that involves the transitioning of three technology development programs to PEO Missiles and Space.

"All three could be very important in providing more affordable space capabilities for the Army and DoD in the future," Knudson said. "They show great promise. SMDC has brought them forward."

One new program that the PEO is working with is the Joint Tactical Ground Station, a transportable information processing system which receives and processes in-theater, raw, wideband infrared data downlinked from Defense Support Program sensors. The system disseminates warning, alerting and cueing information on tactical ballistic missiles, and other tactical events of interest throughout the theater using existing communications networks. Under Knudson's leadership, PEO Missiles and Space has also continued to modernize and upgrade the capabilities of Hellfire, HIMARS, Guided MLRS, ATACMS, Javelin, TOW and ITAS, Sentinel, Stinger, Avenger and Patriot, and expand to include such new systems as the C-RAM, JLENS and the Joint Air to Ground Missile.

"This job has allowed me to work with dedicated professionals, and to team with government teams and industry to solve hard problems," Knudson said. "It's been about providing better capability for the future, and better capabilities in theater with an emphasis on an affordable strategy. We have focused on how to bring forward capability that's affordable."

Although Knudson is confident that the Army's missile systems will be maintained through an era of reduced budgets, he said they will not go unaffected.

"Everything is probably subjected to some degree of cuts," the one-star general said. "There's a lot of uncertainty about the budget and funding going forward. Most of the systems in this PEO will be needed in the future in one way or another. They will all go forward, but there may be some reduced levels, some delays because of the tighter budget."

Knudson has also overseen many of the steps in the PEO's move to consolidate its facilities. Three project offices – C-RAM, CMDS, IAMD – and the engineering group are now located together at the PEO's headquarters in building 5250, and will soon be joined by Army Contracting Command employees dedicated to the PEO's programs. The JAMS project office will eventually be located in a facility vacated by the Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School, and other moves will involve building 111.

"What we are doing will help with coordination and synchronization," Knudson said. "It is an ideal situation because being co-located gives the employees a perspective on how their systems fit into the integrated missile defense paradigm, and it will help the organization to stay focused on cost, schedules, performance and the delivery of capability to the war fighter."

Knudson's 30 years of service have included experience with field artillery and in acquisition. His assignment before coming to Redstone was as the director for the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Operations Forward in Iraq supporting Multi-National Forces Iraq from August 2009 to January 2010, and then as the deputy director for the Security Assistance Office Afghanistan within the NATO Training Mission Afghanistan/ Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan from February to August 2010.

Knudson's new assignment at MDA will keep him and his wife at Redstone and in the Huntsville community, something both are happy about. They arrived in Huntsville shortly before Veterans Day 2011.

"It's Veterans Week here. It's probably the only place around that has a whole week for veterans," Knudson said. "It's an indication of the support of the greater community for what we do here at Redstone Arsenal, and for the Army and all of DoD. This is a unique community."

The couple have also enjoyed the annual Armed Forces Celebration Week and other community events that support the military. Elizabeth Knudson, a former teacher, has recently become involved as a volunteer at Williams Elementary School. She is also an adviser for Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club, Legacy for Korean War Veterans and the Army Volunteer Corps, Army Community Service. She is active in the prayer shawl ministry at Bicentennial Chapel.

"This community is phenomenal," she said. "It's amazing. The people are so nice, so great. It's rewarding for me to be able to give back to this community. We are glad to be staying here."

Money saved on Bradley reactive armor tile sets

By ANN JENSIS-DALE
ACC Public Affairs

The Value Engineering Change Proposal program is a legacy cost saving program used in government contracting for many years and the Army Contracting Command-New Jersey and General Dynamics Armament and Technical Products have used it to save $38 million with more savings to follow.

Mariah Hazlett, contract specialist, ACC-NJ, learned about VECP when she was assigned as an intern for the Bradley program.

"The initial VECP proposal from GDATP was submitted to us (ACC) in 2009. However, a final valid proposal that we used to negotiate the VCEP action was submitted in June 2011," she said.

According to Hazlett, the VECP proposal submitted by GDATP requested to change the tile box material from titanium to aluminum for more than 800 reactive armor tile sets for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle. This change would decrease the production cost substantially and cut the lead time required producing the tile kits. More importantly, she said the aluminum must perform just as well or better than titanium to support the demands of the Soldier.

Hazlett said a technical team that included contracting officers, engineers and personnel from the requiring activity performed an extensive analysis of the proposal and continued to work with GDATP to determine if the material switch serves the form, fit and function specified in the technical data package. Prototypes were developed by GDATP and samples were provided to the technical team for analysis and testing to determine if the initiative was worth pursuing.

"Through implementing the VECP we were able to keep the performance of the Bradley reactive armor tiles the same while reducing the overall production cost and lead time. By switching the material from titanium to aluminum, we were able to reduce production time and field the systems quicker to the Soldiers," Hazlett said.

Courtesy photo

Mariah Hazlett, a contract specialist at Army Contracting Command-New Jersey, saved the government $38 million through her persistence working a Value Engineering Change Proposal for the Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

After extensive audits and negotiations with GDATP, a savings of $38 million was achieved for this firm fixed price contract – $19 million for both the government and GDATP. To date, this VECP is the biggest cost saving VECP achieved by ACC-New Jersey.

Hazlett said this may have been a long process but a very rewarding one.

"With budgets being reduced, there has been a push to reduce cost and pursue more competitive actions. VECP gives us another tool to reduce costs for the government and taxpayers," she said.

Although significant cost saving for current programs can be obtained by using VECP, the process could be daunting and time consuming.

Nine contracting interns complete three-year program

By JO ANITA MILEY
Huntsville Center Public Affairs Office

Nine Huntsville Center contracting interns received certificates marking the completion of their three-year intern program at a ceremony Aug. 16.

John Mayes, chief of contracting, presented certificates to Lequita Byrd-Craig, Sentrae Davis, Brandalyn Fox, Jill Freeman, Melody Hinkle, James Long, Nicholas Moore, Paul Wiggins and Katrena Winchester. Jacqueline Woodson, deputy principal assistant responsible for Contracting-Winchester, attended the event that also recognized employees marking service milestones.

Mayes challenged the interns to use their current jobs to learn as much as possible and add as much value as possible to the teams where they will be assigned. Woodson shared wisdom and lessons learned through her own career path, encouraging them to do their very best.

"As a leader in the contracting profession, it is significantly important to me that we train and mentor these interns into outstanding contracting professionals who understand why we do what we do, and who uphold the highest level of integrity," Mayes said. "In the days of shrinking budgets, it is critical that our interns understand the importance of achieving the best value for the government, as well as how to get the team to a successful end. This is our ultimate goal for all who go through this program."

For Wiggins, graduating the Huntsville Center intern program is a career milestone.

Wiggins said he took advantage of all training opportunities that were available to him. He successfully maneuvered rotation on the Furniture team, managed the 852 Program during a three-month rotation at the headquarters Corps of Engineers National Contracting Organization, served as the lead contract specialist on a suite of high visibility acquisitions with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller, and led the team of contract specialists that prepped, planned and hosted the 2012 Intern Summit in Huntsville.

"It has definitely taken a lot of sacrifice and hard work on my part, but was well worth the effort," Wiggins said. "It was a great experience. I came, I saw, I conquered!"

Terrence Hamil manages the intern program for the Contracting Directorate. Hamil said this is the directorate's fourth formal intern graduation.

"To date, approximately 16 interns have graduated from this program. We have an additional 34 interns remaining in the program," he said.

The CP-14 intern program prepares individuals to assume positions as journeymen contracting professionals. Interns gain experience through on-the-job training, formal classroom training, and rotations through different teams within the Contracting Directorate to learn skills related to procurement of services, supplies, construction, and oversight and policy functions.

Interns can also be selected to fill rotational assignments outside of Huntsville Center at headquarters USACE, the PARC offices and other districts/centers.

Courtesy photo

Nine interns graduated from the CP-14 program Aug. 16. From left are John Mayes, Jackie Wilson, Nicholas Moore, Paul Wiggins, Melody Hinkle, Jill Friedman, Katrena Winchester, Lydia Tadesse, Monte Long and Sharon Butler. After this graduation, 34 interns remain in the program.

Upon completion of the intern program, each individual graduates with a Level II Defense Acquisition Certification in Contracting.

To be eligible for the intern program, candidates must have a bachelor's degree in any discipline, 24 hours in business-related courses such as accounting, finance, management, economics, marketing, contract law, higher level mathematics such as calculus, etc., and a 2.5 grade point average.

Japan

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department, explosive ordnance disposal unit, and the local security forces working dogs; several cover bands, topping off with a Journey cover band called Open Arms; bounce houses; carnival games; a motorcycle rally, and more.

The local Japanese citizens also participated with several people selling cuisine and crafts.

"All in all, I have to give credit to the Soldiers of Delta Detachment, 1st Space Company for their efforts in making this event successful at our level," Johnson said. "They spent an awful lot of hours out of their time off to plan, prepare and execute this event."

Change

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top level of the organization's leadership. Gen. Donald Keith commanded from 1981 to 1984; Gen. Richard Thompson, 1984-87; Gen. Louis Wagner, 1987-89; and Gen. William Tuttle, 1989-92.

His work was in direct support to Wagner and then Tuttle when, in 1988, Wiltshire began working in the Secretary of the General Staff's Office.

"I got to work on preparing trip books for them when they went on travel," he said.

"Everything that goes to the command group comes through the SGS office, and that was a big deal for a 26-year-old. As a staff action control officer, you are responsible for certain offices and major or subordinate commands so you get to learn what they are responsible for doing. In addition, I learned everyone's functions in the headquarters."

Wiltshire enjoyed the job so much that he remained in that position for 20 years, before going on to his current job.

"I'll never forget those early years with AMC," he said. "The atmosphere was tremendous. There was a lot of transition and transformation going on. It was a fun atmosphere.

"Overall, AMC has been very good to me for over 30 years. As a high school graduate with no college experience, I could have not asked for more. Even though I am looking forward to retirement in a couple of years, I will miss the people that I work with now and have worked with in the past."

Huntsville Center's emerging leaders attend conference

By WILLIAM S. FARROW
Huntsville Center Public Affairs Office

Two Huntsville Center team members selected as emerging leaders attended the USACE Emerging Leader Conference and Strategic Leader Conference in Little Rock, Ark.

Braden Preston, a structural branch engineer, and Jordan Miller, Contracting Directorate procurement analyst, attended the conference which focused on moving the Corps of Engineers into 2020 and potential future problems senior USACE leaders will likely have to resolve.

Preston and Miller both said the event was a great opportunity. Preston said the first three days were spent with other emerging leaders attending leadership training and group exercises.

"The leadership training provided by the Flippin Group was by far the best leadership training I have experienced," Preston said. "The Flippin Group instructor's main focus was on the importance of mentoring and relationships, building on this with topics of encouragement, experiences and commitment vs. compliance. The ELC was a great opportunity to network with my peers in other USACE districts. Sitting at the table with peers from headquarters, divisions, districts and centers provided me with several different perspectives and a greater understanding of USACE as a whole."

Miller said he came away understanding that USACE plays a vital role in mitigating many of the nation's toughest challenges such as developing sustainable energy solutions, leading overseas and domestic contingency operations, and energizing the economy.

"This made me proud to work for USACE, because the projects that we execute matter to our nation and allies, and have a lasting impact on our war fighters and citizens," Miller said. "For me, this drove the fact that what we do is much bigger than the individual and that it truly takes a dedicated and diverse organization of people to get the job done."

During the SLC, each emerging leader was assigned a senior leader to shadow for three days allowing the emerging leaders to see how senior leaders worked with their peers.

Preston spent his time with Afghanistan and Iraq war veteran Nate Self who was representing the Flippen Group.

As an Army Ranger captain in 2002, Self led a group of Soldiers atop Takur Ghar Mountain in Afghanistan to rescue a missing-in-action Navy SEAL. What ensued was the highest-altitude battle ever fought by U.S. troops – and seven of the first 10 men to die in the War on Terror fell there. The effort was dubbed "Rescue on Roberts Ridge." Self was widely recognized as a national hero, awarded a Silver Star, Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, and he was invited by President George W. Bush to be a guest at the 2003 State of the Union Address.

"I got to spend some time personally talking with Nate and it was awesome to witness his humility and sincerity," Preston said.

Preston said he was also allowed to sit in on a press conference with Katherine Hammock and Gen. Thomas Bostick as they released the RFP for the $7 billion MATOC that Huntsville Center has been working on.

Courtesy photo

Jordan Miller and his mentor James Hearn, Northwest Division regional business director, meet during the Senior Leader Conference in Little Rock, Ark.

"It was pretty cool to see these folks firsthand working under pressure," Preston said.

Miller was paired with James Hearn, director of regional business for the Northwestern Division. "He provided great insights on leadership and career development," Miller said.

"I gathered that successful personal development and leadership development is dynamic and continuous – it never stops. I am appreciative that he took the time to engage me and answer all of my questions. I could tell he had a love for teaching and mentoring, so I consider myself blessed to have that experience with him and hope to continue talking with him in the future," Miller said.

PeopleProfile

'I just think it's important to share with others'

Longtime ACS volunteer happy to contribute time

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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The phone rings at the front desk. And she answers. Someone walks in the front door looking for help. And she greets them and offers assistance.

Lorraine Kraus has been volunteering at Army Community Service since 1996. And she wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

"I enjoy helping and just helping people," she said. "Sometimes the staff here is short so I can come and fill in."

She helps answer the phones, greet visitors, do the welcome packets and so on. "Whatever needs to be done, that's what I do," she said.

In 2005 Kraus became Redstone's first recipient of the prestigious Emma Marie Baird Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service which recognizes one honoree from ACS nominees throughout the Army. Redstone's subsequent winners were Sharon Samuelson in 2006 and Kim Anton in 2012.

"I thought that was quite an honor," Kraus said. "I couldn't believe it. I said I didn't do anything."

She volunteers at ACS, building 3338 on Redeye Road, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and whenever else she's needed. She often gets the call to come in on other days, sometimes four days in one week. "But I enjoy it," she said.

"I just love being here," said Kraus. "If I can help the staff doing anything and if I can help the clients."

She's also taught Sunday school at Bicentennial Chapel for as long as she's been volunteering at ACS and shares information with people at both locations.

Her husband, Donald, died in 2007 – one month before their 50th anniversary – and the ACS staff helped her through that difficult time. "So now they became my family," she said.

She and her husband had adopted two children. Their son, Paul, is a sergeant major in the Marines Reserves and also a Detroit, Mich., police officer. Their daughter, Loriann, died in 2000. At one time Kraus, her husband and daughter all volunteered at ACS and received a family award for their service.

"I just think it's important to share with others," Kraus, 74, said.

The Detroit native and her husband came to Redstone from Michigan at the end of 1995 when he was an Army civilian. Donald, who had Alzheimer's in his later years, was "a special guy," she said. When they arrived at Redstone, he encouraged her to find something to do "because you'll go crazy" and she's been an ACS volunteer ever since.

"My hobby is here," she said when asked about hobbies. "My hobby is just serving. I think that was my calling – serving."

Kraus has overcome some challenges – she had paralysis on her right side and now keeps a gluten-free diet because of celiac disease. Of volunteering, she said, "I love it. That's what keeps me going."

And the ACS staff members appreciate her efforts and dependability.

"She's always here when she says she'll be here," Kathleen Riester, ACS financial readiness program manager, said. "You can always rely on her. She's just extremely dependable, reliable. And she's very knowledgeable about all of our programs. So she can speak to all our visitors and callers about all our various services and programs.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Lorraine Kraus has been volunteering at Army Community Service since 1996 and says ACS has become her family.

"And of course ACS was founded on volunteers. So Lorraine is keeping that tradition alive."

Editor's note: If you'd like to suggest a volunteer or other human interest story, call Rocket editor Skip Vaughn at 876-1500 or email skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com.

Neel selected for fellowship program

By WILLIAM S. FARROW
Huntsville Center Public Affairs Office

Deborah Neel, a project manager in Huntsville Center's Installation and Support Programs Management's Central Furnishings Program, has been invited to be in the fourth group of the U.S. General Services Administration Sustainability in Procurement Fellowship Program.

Nineteen people were selected from an open solicitation and they came from various federal agencies. Neel is the only candidate selected from the Army.

Deborah Neel

According to the GSA website, the SPF program is a professional development program that provides employees in-depth training on sustainability. The program covers regulatory requirements, industry trends, systems thinking concepts and provides hands-on sustainability project experience. As part of the fellowship, each employee will receive training in relevant sustainability in procurement topics, perform substantive work on sustainability initiatives and assume an active role in the government-wide sustainability community.

President Barack Obama, in the Executive Order on Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance, committed the federal government to leading by example in making ambitious and broad improvements in the overall sustainability of the federal government.

GSA understood the importance of procurement in meeting this requirement and as a result, the Sustainability in Procurement Fellows program was launched in February 2011.

Each candidate participates for six months for 20 hours per week. The program begins in late September.

This intensive program aims to empower its alumni to serve as tomorrow's federal sustainability leaders and enable them to serve as knowledge resources for staff government-wide.

A background in sustainability, environment or procurement is not required. However, successful candidates are individuals with the ability to communicate clearly and concisely, think critically, work corroboratively and who hold themselves and their work to a high standard of excellence.

Successful fellows are those who have a desire to leverage procurement to increase the sustainability of the federal government and are persistent in achieving this goal.

In order for fellows to gain the professional knowledge and experience necessary to become sustainability change agents, they are expected to: Work on at least two projects; read a book a month and lead one weekly book discussion; participate in various interagency meetings by phone and engage in work groups as appropriate; engage in web training exercises; actively engage with fellows from the current and past cohorts on sustainability in procurement topics/initiatives and participate in two mandatory training seminars in the Washington, D.C., area.

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'Find what you love and then do it'

University professor's career follows husband's Army track

By KARI HAWKINS
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Photo by Kari Hawkins

Dr. Erica Slate Young enjoys the challenge and independence of her career as a college math professor. Her career provides options for herself, her Soldier husband and their two children.

Military Spouses at Work
Part 9 in series

For Dr. Erica Slate Young, the military lifestyle has surprisingly provided plenty of opportunities for her career as a math professor.

Yet, these days, as her husband gets closer to retirement and she gets even further in her work as a professor in the Department of Education at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, Young is making plans that, on the surface, go against the nomadic life of a military officer and his family.

"I've had some really good breaks with opportunities in my career. But I've also looked for those breaks. I've been able to leverage connections," Young said.

"In the academic world, to be a professor, moving around is just not good for your career. You need stability. If your resume has a lot of moving from one job to the next, you'll be questioned about it. People will wonder why you are moving all the time."

So, during the past 10 years of marriage to a Soldier, Young has always been up front with the variety on her resume, explaining her status as a military spouse in her cover letters. Yet, now, the couple has decided it's time to settle down, with Young continuing her work at UAH and her husband – Maj. Wes Young, secretary to Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command – assigned at Redstone for at least two more years. After that, the couple may be separated for a few years with her Soldier either deployed or, hopefully, reassigned to an installation within driving distance of home.

"Chances are he will go elsewhere. With an academic job, I have more flexibility with time off, and we can go to him," Young said, referring to visiting her husband with their two children.

"We have to make a choice. Family is the number one priority absolutely. But my career is another priority for me. When he retires, my career will allow us to have choices. We've had to ask ourselves: 'What do we give up? What do we gain?' It's been a challenge, but we've figured out a way to keep our options open."

That sense of teamwork in charting their career paths has followed the couple throughout their marriage. The two have officially known each other since second-grade in Boone, N.C., although their parents' association may take the friendship back even further.

"When his mother went back to work, she was hired by my father. They worked together for years, so we might have seen each other or been around each other even as younger children," Young said.

"As we were growing up, we were friends. We shared the same set of friends. We hung out together with friends. Because our last names came at the end of the alphabet, we always seemed to sit near each other in class. We've been friends close to 40 years."

College separated them, with Young going to Appalachian State University in Boone, and her Soldier going to West Point. During those years, the two stayed in touch, getting together as friends and with other friends whenever her Soldier came home for a visit.

"Our first date was the Ring Weekend at West Point in the fall of 1995. It's a weekend with a formal when the senior cadets get their West Point rings. He asked me to go with him because he thought I would enjoy going to see West Point and getting all dressed up for a formal event," Young said.

See Spouse on page 30

Retiree conjures novel, opens publishing business

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
Staff writer
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It started with a bedtime story, was fueled by a bucket list, and is now available at a bookstore near you.

When Steve Gierhart retired as the business director for PEO Missiles and Space's Cruise Missile Defense Systems in September 2010, his mission moved from supporting the Soldier to crossing items off his bucket list – traveling to Australia, Europe, road tripping with his wife Bonny and their dogs out west, and publishing a book. Two years later, Gierhart can boastfully check one of those items off that list – "Shadow of the Conjurer," is ready for sale.

"I don't have any illusions about being a giant seller, what I do have is a bucket list, and this is checking off my bucket list," Gierhart said of his debut novel.

What Gierhart says is a cross between Stephen King and J.K. Rowling, "Shadow of the Conjurer" begins and ends in modern day Huntsville with Jared and Melissa McNally, Redstone Arsenal civilians, whose marriage is in disarray. As they try to mend their relationship, they discover something in the slave cemetery on their property that brings the novel back to the 1800s. The story's climactic scene takes place in the Arsenal's very own Sparkman Center.

The novel took nearly three years for him to complete. Taking guidance from Stephen King's book, "On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft," Gierhart took six months to proofread his work, cutting out 35 percent as King suggested. Once he was done, he did what any other hopeful author would do – began sending it out to publishers in hopes of seeing his work on the shelves – and even got an answer back from one. Yes.

But as Gierhart soon discovered as he looked over the contract that would turn him from an aspiring writer to a published author, it may not have been the answer he was looking for.

"A new author has no leverage," Gierhart said.

With his background in contracts on the Arsenal, as he identified items in the book deal that weren't in his best interests, he found that there wasn't any room for negotiation, and in the end walked away from the opportunity, but not away from the hope of getting published. Instead, he set his sights on a new venture – his own publishing business, Ardent Writer Press, founded in July, which aims to "keep the Southern and literary type genre that we are familiar with here in the South going," Gierhart said. "Harper Lee, here in Huntsville Homer Hickam – there's just a lot of great authors that are the base for what we're trying to do, and we want to continue that. Maybe we'll find the next Harper Lee. You never can tell."

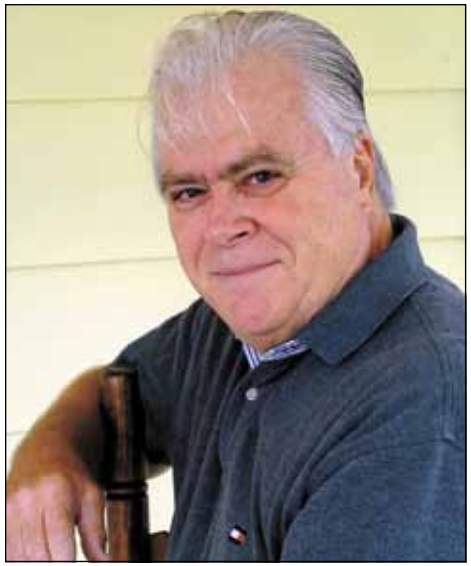

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Retired Army civilian Steve Gierhart promotes his new book "Shadow of the Conjurer" and publishing business, Ardent Writer Press.

Aside from publishing his own novel July 27, Gierhart is also pursuing other authors, such as the recently signed Annie Laura Smith, whose book, "Twilight of Honor," a tale of a single mom and widow whose husband is MIA in the Vietnam War, will be released later this month. While he is focusing on signing authors of fiction at the moment, in the future he does plan on signing some nonfiction authors as well.

"You can't jump into something and run," Gierhart said. "I want to take this next year to do things right, to do them slow, and then I'll pick up some steam later."

Once that steam picks up, the publisher may potentially release more of his own works. "Shadow of the Conjurer" leaves the reader with some open-ended questions that give Gierhart the option of writing a follow-up novel or a prequel. In the meantime, as he builds his new business, the publishing process is something that brings him great reward in his so-called retirement.

"How do you define success? To anybody else, success says you're making a ton of money. There's just no way that's going to happen," Gierhart said. "You have to do it for more than money, because there's no money in it. If you're a small publisher, you've got to have a little bit more – you've got to have heart. "

A writer his whole life, one of his most concrete memories of his childhood is of his father reading to him at bedtime, moments that fueled his love for writing as he got older. He recalls penning a time travel story when he was just 13, and winning an essay contest in high school. Now a published author himself, he wants to pass along that love to other young writers, who he is hoping to inspire through the Huntsville Literary Association's Young Writers' Contest, which he is helping to promote this year.

"I enjoyed writing even a long time ago," Gierhart said. "Writing's got to be the backbone. It was absolutely critical in my career at the Army. In the current day, everything's become so 'let's do it quick.' So much gets lost in the translation. I want students to realize there's more to this than Twitter and Facebook. People, especially kids, need to understand that you just can't put a 'u' for y-o-u and write like that. You've got to use adjectives, you've got to use adverbs, especially if you're going to be a writer. The translation of emotions is absolutely critical in a book. That's what writers are all about. It's about being heard through your emotions, putting them down on paper."

Editor's note: "Shadow of the Conjurer" is available for purchase at the Sparkman Center Gift Shop. If you have a nook or Kindle, the book is available for e-book at www.amazon.com or www.barnesandnoble.com.

Story contest encourages student writers

In partnership with the Huntsville Literary Association, Ardent Writer Press has established the Dorothy Diemer Hendry Award for Literary Achievement, a short story contest for students in grades 9-12.

Part of the 46th annual HLA Young Writers Contest, submissions will be accepted from Feb. 1 through March 22 from students in Huntsville and Madison County and neighboring counties for the Senior Short Story Division, classified as 1,500 to 3,000 words. The first prize winner will receive $500, second prize winner $250 and third prize winner $100. Twenty-two honorable mentions will also be awarded, and those stories, along with the top three winners, will be published by Ardent Writer Press in an anthology and sold on Amazon.com. All proceeds from the book will go toward funding next year's contest.

"Writing is the backbone of communication, regardless of your career," said Steve Gierhart, publisher of Ardent Writer Press, who is underwriting the awards. "I'm not looking for the J.K. Rowlings, although if we found one, great, but rather to excite them about being published. We think it can open doors for them."

Student artists are also encouraged to submit their artwork for consideration for the front cover of the anthology. The winner will receive $200. For more information, visit www.ArdentWriterPress.com.

Security Assistance Command adds leadership experience

By KIM GILLESPIE
USASAC Public Affairs

Kevin Richardson, deputy director for the CENTCOM Regional Operations Directorate, is a new employee of the Security Assistance Command, but he's not new to the Security Assistance Enterprise.

USASAC oversees the foreign military sales process for the Army, and it co-leads the Security Assistance Enterprise, which includes more than 10,000 people from various Department of Defense and Department of the Army organizations, agencies and even industry that provide support to foreign military sales cases.

Richardson came to USASAC in late May after working for the Program Executive Office for Aviation's Apache Project Office, where he was the deputy assistant program manager for International Apache Programs. USASAC is the common link for all Security Assistance Enterprise organizations because it oversees the FMS process from start to finish.

"In the PMO, the contract is between the USG (U.S. government) and the manufacturers," Richardson explained. "In USASAC, the 'contract' (Letter of Offer and Acceptance) is between the USG and the foreign customer."

Because USASAC oversees cases for 145 countries, it handles cases by country which fall under directorates that support the Geographic Combatant Commands. The COCOM's Theater Engagement Plans shape priorities for FMS cases in their regions. Organizations that work with materiel, or commodities, such as the PEOs and Army Materiel Command life cycle management commands' Security Assistance Management Directorates, provide support to USASAC FMS cases through their systems or platforms.

When Richardson worked for PMO Apache, "I worked only with the Apache helicopter and its associated systems," he said. However, ensuring that international partners got the capability they needed by managing contracts for military hardware also put him in contact with representatives for those countries. "I also had the opportunity to speak to customers from Europe, Asia and the Middle East about the management of their programs."

In addition to communicating with partner countries, Richardson also sees other connections that made his transition to USASAC seem natural.

"Both positions allow me to use my background and other resources at my disposal, to help ensure that the customer receives the equipment he actually needs; while at Apache by ensuring the aircraft were built to the same exacting standards as the USG, and at USASAC by working with him to shape the LOR (Letter of Request)/LOA to best suit his unique defense requirements," he said.

The position in USASAC's CENTCOM directorate also has a personal benefit.

"I am also quite interested in the history and culture of the Middle East, which makes my current position even more enjoyable," Richardson said. As the deputy director, his responsibilities are not only supervising a staff of more than 30 people (largely comprised of country program managers), but also ensuring that the capability a country requests is well-defined.

That includes developing a LOA that accurately reflects inputs not only from the country, but from other members of the Security Assistance Enterprise.

"During my time in the Apache office, I was fortunate enough to work with many of the USASAC CPMs. Those working relationships showed me the need for good communications between our offices to guarantee that the customer's requirements were translated into a workable contract, and that all of the needed services were provided to the customer's complete satisfaction," Richardson said.

The importance other members of the Security Assistance Enterprise play in the FMS process cannot be emphasized enough by Richardson.

"Both organizations (USASAC and PEO Aviation) work extensively with the AMCOM SAMD organization, and most of the communication between them passes through the SAMD as well," he said.

While Richardson must maintain a strong relationship with each of the countries in his region, he must also ensure that his staff has the skills they need to ensure countries receive the products and services they've been promised. Richardson is committed to providing training, "as well as the mentoring required to help them progress as security assistance professionals."

That being said, he is a huge supporter of the training initiative that USASAC commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner has championed as part of a larger "Portfolio of Initiatives" to increase understanding of what each of the enterprise members bring to the FMS process and to also give them the knowledge and tools to most efficiently and effectively perform their role. The training initiative includes a Developmental Assignment Program that is currently in the beta test stage.

Courtesy photo

Kevin Richardson serves as deputy director for the CENTCOM Regional Operations Directorate at the Security Assistance Command.

The program is based on the concept of "cross-training" by having USASAC personnel (primarily at the more junior level) work at the PEOs and the AMC LCMC SAMDs for 30 to 60 days, and vice versa.

"Most CPMs do not realize that something as simple as a request for Pricing and Availability data has to go through SAMD, to one or more PM offices, then out to the prime contractor, who must in turn go to their subcontractors and vendors, all just to get a rough cost estimate," Richardson said. He sees similar advantages to employees outside of USASAC learning about how the command uses and develops security assistance policies, and works with security cooperation officers and the COCOMs to establish what is needed in their regions of the world, or just seeing the oversight and follow through these agreements.

"Spending a month in New Cumberland would allow them to see the day-to-day activities necessary to order and ship the hardware to the customer," he said.

Richardson currently has an employee participating in the beta test at the PM Patriot office."She will learn more about the system, which is important in developing the LOA," he said.

According to Richardson, learning more about various weapons systems and their sustainment can assist CPMs in developing a "Total Package" capability for a country. Rather than just providing the equipment itself, the capability is ensured through provisions for spare parts, training, publications, technical documentation, facilities, maintenance support and other services, which are important to successfully building partner capacity.

Richardson is proud to serve as "the Army's Face to the World," and cites the numerous benefits that FMS provides.

"Most people don't realize how FMS benefits our own Army when another country spends its money on our equipment. The most recent block of Apache would not have been possible without the FMS orders – it's the economies of scale, and the more helicopters that are produced means it reduces the cost per unit for our Army," he said. "It also keeps the industrial base hot, and improves interoperability with our partners and allies."

Photo by Frank Simon

Forum agreement

Eric Edwards, seated left, director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, and Abner Merriweather, seated right, president, American Federation of Government Employees, Local 1858, sign the AMRDEC Labor/Management Forum Charter. The AMRDEC LMF's objectives are to enhance the relationship between AMRDEC management, employees and the AFGE Local 1858 representing AMRDEC employees to promote satisfactory labor relations, to improve the productivity and effectiveness of the AMRDEC, and to improve the satisfaction of employees and managers. In pursuit of these objectives the forum will identify problems and craft recommendations to provide a higher quality of work, increase productivity, streamline operations, encourage cost efficiency, and accommodate the needs of employees. Forum members present for the signing include, standing from left, Kelly McGuire, Jennifer Heflin, Jim Redmon, David Cripps, co-chair Renee Moore, union volunteer Thomas Geoffrey, Char'Karia Giraud, Walter Sewell and co-chair Sharon Powers.

Spouse

continued from page 26

"And I was really impressed. It was something to be there with all those cadets in uniform. It was really a magical weekend. But I came home thinking I couldn't be married to a man in the military because of all the moving and the separations."

After graduation, Young's Soldier went to an assignment in Germany while Young continued her graduate studies and taught math at Appalachian State.

"I was perfectly happy and thought I would always be at Appalachian State," Young said. "For my master's graduate party, my mom said there would be a surprise guest. It was Christmas break and Wes was moving back from Germany and going on to Fort Knox (Ky.). He ended up being the surprise guest."

Because they had been friends for so long, when the two realized they were attracted to each other on another level they had a discussion about the changes that were happening in their relationship.

"We decided to give it a try. It wasn't too long before we knew that we were meant to be together," Young said.

"At our 10-year high school reunion, we thought we'd make a big splash by announcing we were a couple. But no one was surprised. They all just said 'Well, it's about time. You were flirting all through high school.'"

The couple dated for about three months when Young decided to pursue her doctorate. After looking at different schools, one of her top choices was the University of Texas-Austin. Coincidentally, a week later, her Soldier was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas.

"I guess it was just meant to be. We married a year later in 2002," Young said.

Yet, it wasn't all easy. While in Texas, Young learned what it would take to be married to a Soldier.

"Right before our wedding, he moved to a cavalry unit. It turned out to be an operational unit that was out in the field every weekend," she said. "It was my first real experience with him in the Army. I experienced what it was like to not have him come home on the weekend because there was a field problem he had to take care of. I was learning about the true nature of the Army and being married to an armor officer in the cavalry."

During their first year of marriage, Young's Soldier took command of a unit that deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Young found herself busy leading the unit's family readiness group.

"As the commander's wife, I didn't have to lead the FRG. But I thought it would be a good way for me to meet all the new wives and to learn from the more experienced wives," she said. "It was a great experience. I learned all the tricks of how to survive as an Army wife."

At the same time, Young was pursuing her doctorate and working full-time as a research assistant at UT-Austin.

"That actually helped me a lot. The wives who had a tough time with the separation didn't have their own identify. They were completely wrapped up in their husband's world," Young said. "The ones who were independent had it much easier.

"The FRG and everything else I was doing gave me a lot of purpose. With the FRG, we worked to keep the families together so the guys in the desert wouldn't have to fret about what was going on at home. We had 70 Soldiers and our FRG had the most number of children than any of the other unit FRGs. So, we did a lot of things that brought us together and that provided emotional support. We had monthly meetings and things for the kids to do. We held fund-raisers that paid for a trip to Sea World in San Antonio. It all helped to keep our minds off of what was happening."

Since it was the beginning of the Iraq war, there was no infrastructure in place to support the troops in theater. The families did not receive emails or Skype messages, letters took about five weeks to be delivered, phone calls were infrequent and very brief, and there were no mid-tour leaves. Their Soldiers were living on the Iraq border in the middle of nowhere, eating MREs and not getting a full shower for five months, and not knowing when they would return home.

"It was rough at home because it was new to a lot of people. We were all kind of making it up as we went," Young said. "It was really hard because there was a lot of not knowing. We were not together for our first anniversary. I got a letter from Wes on our first anniversary."

Through it all, Young realized she was strong enough to be a Soldier's wife.

"I had never thought that I could do it, all the moving around and not being with my husband. But, then you read the writing on the wall and you realize this is what we do. We have to deal with it and move on," she said. "We had a really strong foundation as a couple. We had a lot to fall back on."

Upon his return, the couple moved to West Point, where Young's Soldier was the armor branch representative in the Department of Military Instruction. Young was able to finish her dissertation for her doctorate while there and got a job as a civilian assistant professor in the math department.

"It really couldn't have worked out any better," she said. "We lived right in the middle of campus. I had a 10-minute walk to my job. Wes and I could have lunch every day."

After three years at West Point, Young's Soldier attended the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery. Young chose to stay at her position at West Point during that year, rejoining her husband when he was assigned to Colorado Springs, Colo.

Young had thought to pursue her career with the Air Force Academy. But she became pregnant with twins and decided it was time to be a stay-at-home mom.

"I thought 'I can take a year off and figure out how to be a mom and then work into being a working mom,'" she said. "I never imagined myself as a stay-at-home mom, but for three years I was home with the twins."

Well, not quite. When her children were 4 months old, Young attended a math conference and landed an ideal job – working from her home office with flexible hours analyzing data for the Air Force Academy's physics department.

"I was able to stay professionally active, but still manage to be a mom," she said.

Now, in Huntsville, with the twins aged 4 and attending a Montesorri School, Young teaches math classes at UAH to future math teachers and is the director of accreditation activities for the Department of Education. The assignment to Redstone about a year and a half ago has put them closer to their families, and given the couple jobs they are both happy with.

"The key to being a working military spouse is to be flexible. What might not look like the ideal job on paper can be made into the ideal job in reality," Young said. "You have to make the best of what the Army gives you, and you will be amazed at all the different things you'll get to do.

"Find something that you love to do. It's easy to be good at a job you love. For some, that may be staying at home with the kids. But, for me, I needed my career, my professional life. You have to find what you love and then do it."

Win or**Lose**

Youngren couple sweep titles at 9.11K

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Ironically, a light rain started falling soon after the start of Saturday's second annual 9.11K (5.66 mile) race behind the Sparkman Center building 5302. It was like tears in remembrance of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

"I would just encourage you to think about what happened on that day," Redstone firefighter Capt. Robert Simmons told the runners. After running last year's race in full firefighting gear, he served as this year's starter.

Rob Youngren won Saturday in 32 minutes and 6 seconds, a 5:45 per mile pace, and his wife, Kathy, was the female winner in 38:10, a 6:50 pace.

"Great, it was good," Rob Youngren, 38, who works for contractor Simulation Technologies, said. "I've never run a 9.11K so that was a PR (personal record)."

He said he's trying to get back into good shape after being out last year because of injury. He and second-place finisher Tim Pitt (34:24) are both members of Redstone's Army Ten-Miler Team.

Kathy Youngren, 38, successfully defended her title from last year. "She's the tough one," Rob said.

Said Kathy, "I don't feel like I'm in as good shape as I was last year."

With 152 people registered and 132 finishers, participation was down slightly from last year's 165. But the event's organizer, FMWR sports and fitness director Gaylene Wilson, was pleased.

"I thought it was fabulous," Wilson said. "I was pleased with the turnout, especially with the weather."

Fortunately the rain held off for the most part and didn't start falling steadily until the awards ceremony.

Sponsors included Fleet Feet, Boeing, Sergeants Major Association, Chick-Fil-A, Knology, and HealthSource. The AMC Band performed, Vets With Vettes served as road guards, the Army Ten-Miler Team helped with the timing, and the Sports and Fitness staff provided support.

Here are the overall and age-group results:

- **Male:** Overall – 1. Rob Youngren (32:06). Age 19-29: 1. Tim Wood (36:06), 2. Daniel Kelly (40:32), 3. Peter Thomas (42:48), 4. Gavin Grantham (44:09), 5. Jamal Stoute (45:09). 30-39: 1. Tim Pitt (34:24), 2. Will Barnwell (34:56), 3. Craig Smith (39:34), 4. Grant Baird (44:09), 5. George Gurley (44:11). 40-49: 1. Jeff Hager (39:53), 2. Mark Speer (40:12), 3. Steven Vanriper (41:58), 4. Mark Smalley (42:55), 5. Joey Butler (43:13). 50-59: 1. Paul McConnaughey (40:42), 2. Steve Fisher (42:48), 3. Ricky Dickens (45:52), 4. David Howell (47:15), 5. Tim Baxter (47:25). 60-over: 1. Bruce McIntire (47:03), 2. James Champion (48:41), 3. Stephen Seniuk (52:51), 4. Ken McGee (55:21).
- **Female:** Overall – 1. Kathy Youngren (38:10). Age 19-29: 1. Andrea Dickason (43:54), 2. Mallory Morring (44:42), 3. Nicole Reed (44:47), 4. Jodie Ewald (46:40), 5. Gabriela Hodges (51:16). 30-39: 1. Kristin Deaton (45:50), 2. Laura McCrain (46:19), 3. Amanda Sticker (47:07), 4. Maria Engle (52:48), 5. Tegen Minor (54:31). 40-49: 1. Shelley Sanders (41:52), 2. Beth Adams (46:48), 3. Audrey Ransom (47:27), 4. Lisa Burger (47:29), 5. Anne Baxter (48:31). 50-59: 1. Sara Green (56:53), 2. Carol Eaton (58:07), 3. Katherine Stephens (58:32), 4. Karen Manecke (1:02:13), 5. Theresa Weigartz (1:05:12).

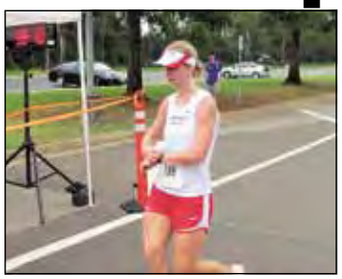

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Kathy Youngren is the top female finisher in 38:10, a 6:50 pace.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Rob Youngren wins the race in 32:06, a 5:45 pace.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Runners start Saturday's second annual 9.11K race near the Sparkman Fitness Center.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

A sponsor's mascot gives high-fives at the finish line.

Tennessee gets rocky edge over Florida

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

Skip's Picks went 60-6 in the first week of the college football season. Here are my predictions for this week's games:

Florida at Tennessee – **Tennessee**
Alabama at Arkansas – **Bama**
Rutgers at South Florida – **Rutgers**
Washington St. at UNLV – **WSU**
Bethune-Cookman at Miami (Fla.) – **Miami**
Northern Illinois at Army – **N. Illinois**
Arkansas St. at Nebraska – **Nebraska**
W. Michigan at Minnesota – **Minnesota**
California at Ohio St. – **Ohio St.**
Virginia Tech at Pittsburgh – **Virginia Tech**
E. Michigan at Purdue – **Purdue**
Wake Forest at Florida St. – **FSU**
TCU at Kansas – **TCU**
La.-Monroe at Auburn – **Auburn**
Connecticut at Maryland – **Connecticut**
Presbyterian at Vanderbilt – **Vanderbilt**
Richmond at VMI – **Richmond**
Tennessee Tech at Oregon – **Oregon**
Furman at Clemson – **Clemson**
Virginia at Georgia Tech – **Tech**
North Carolina at Louisville – **Louisville**
Massachusetts at Michigan – **Michigan**
Navy at Penn St. – **Penn State**
Boston College at Northwestern – **Northwestern**
Texas A&M at SMU – **Texas A&M**
East Carolina at Southern Miss – **EC**
Liberty at Montana – **Montana**
The Citadel at Appalachian State – **ASU**
Northern Iowa at Iowa – **Iowa**
FIU at UCF – **UCF**
Miami (Ohio) at Boise St. – **Boise**
James Madison at West Virginia – **W. Virginia**
South Alabama at N. Carolina St. – **NC State**
Ohio at Marshall – **Ohio**
M. Tenn. St. at Memphis – **Memphis**
Rice at Louisiana Tech – **Rice**
Alabama State at Grambling – **Grambling**
North Texas at Kansas St. – **KSU**
Prairie View A&M at Alabama A&M – **A&M**
W. Kentucky at Kentucky – **Kentucky**
UAB at South Carolina – **South Carolina**
Bowling Green at Toledo – **Bowling Green**
Mississippi St. at Troy – **Miss. State**
New Mexico at Texas Tech – **Tech**
Arizona St. at Missouri – **Missouri**
Northwestern State at Nevada – **Nevada**
Fla. Atlantic at Georgia – **Georgia**
USC at Stanford – **USC**
Colorado at Fresno St. – **Fresno**

Colorado St. at San Jose St. – **Colorado State**
Idaho at LSU – **LSU**
Notre Dame at Michigan St. – **Michigan St.**
Utah St. at Wisconsin – **Wisconsin**
New Mexico St. at UTEP – **UTEP**
Ball St. at Indiana – **Indiana**
Western Illinois at Iowa St. – **Iowa St.**
Texas at Mississippi – **Texas**
BYU at Utah – **BYU**
South Carolina State at Arizona – **Arizona**
Houston at UCLA – **UCLA**
Lamar at Hawaii – **Hawaii**

Rocket Announcements

Sports&Recreation

Run to remember

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

Golf tournament

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold its inaugural Retiree Day Golf Tournament on Sept. 27 at the Links. This shotgun scramble starts at 8 a.m. The $50 entry fee includes golf cart, golf, lunch and door prizes. For information and registration, call Arno Hoerle 837-6253. All profits will go toward scholarships for military dependents.

Autism benefit golf

GM Financial is sponsoring the 2012 Par 3 Shootout Charity Golf Tournament, benefiting the Autism Resource Foundation, Friday at 1:45 p.m. at RTJ Golf Trail at Hampton Cove, 450 Old Highway 431. The $75 entry fee includes golf and cart, prizes, lunch and shrimp boil. For information call 975-1579 or visit www.theautismresourcefoundation.org.

Benefit at Colonial

The Limestone County Chapter of NAACP will hold its inaugural Golf Tournament fund-raiser Sept. 29 at the Colonial Golf Course. Onsite registration starts at 6:30 a.m. The tournament will be a four-man scramble and cost is $60 per player. Prizes will consist of first, second and third place, longest drive and closest to the pin. For more information, call Robert C. Bess Sr. 278-8347, email bess_robert@hotmail.com or Douglas Smith 808-561-8526, email dshank4@yahoo.com.

Sergeants major tourney

Redstone Arsenal's Sergeants Major Association third annual Golf Tournament will be held Friday at 8:30 a.m. at the Links. Open to the public, the cost is $60 per person which includes lunch, team and hole prizes. For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 509-2473 or email reginald.c.battle.ctr@mail.mil.

Conferences&Meetings

Weekly worship

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

Catholic mass

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

Sergeants major

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

Toastmaster clubs

Anyone interested in improving their public speaking ability is 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.

Meeting professionals

The 2012 Society of Government Meeting Professionals Southeast Regional Conference, "Navigating through Government Meetings," will be held Sunday through Wednesday in Mobile. Information regarding the educational workshops can be found at http://sgmpcentralflorida.com/srec. The conference is geared for administrative/technical professionals who plan/execute meetings, seminars, tutorials, etc. TIP information is: course title, SGMP Southeast Conference; vendor, Society of Government Meeting Professionals; catalog number, F124SGMP. For more information, call Barbie Baugh 876-7135 or Sherry Hilley 479-0198.

Logistics society

The International Society of Logistics, Tennessee Valley Chapter, will have a luncheon Sept. 26 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Overlook at Redstone. The scheduled speaker is Rep. Mo Brooks, Alabama District 5. Make your reservation by noon Sept. 21. The cost is $15 for members, $20 nonmembers. The student rate is $10 for student members, $15 for student nonmembers. RSVP with DeAnn Brower at deann.brower@mtsi-va.com. Include your name, phone number, company or organization and visitor pass requirement.

Leadership program alums

AMCOM LIFT Alumni and TACL will present Karen McCullough speaking on "Change is Good, You Go First" on Sept. 19 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Community Activity Center, building 3711 at Aerobee and Patton roads. This presentation will cover Communicating with the Generations, 5 Drivers of Change, Doing More With Less, and Teamwork. Bring your whole office to this team building opportunity. Register through TIP, code F124CIG.

Missile launcher alums

The Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office (formerly known as the Multiple Launch Rocket System Project Office) invites all past alumni/retirees, former MLRS unit personnel, and close program associates to a ceremony and reception commemorating the MLRS M270 Launcher's 30 years of service and retirement from the Army. The brief ceremony (which includes an M270 Launcher display dedication) will be held Sept. 19 at 3 p.m. outside the PFRMS Project Office, building 112. A small reception will follow at the neighboring Firehouse Pub, building 114. RSVP to Christina Hall 876-4809 no later than today.

Business workshop

The Army Contracting Command's Office of Small Business Programs will hold a workshop titled "The Rule of Two" Sept. 19 at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce. Registration and more information is available at facebook.com/ArmyContracting or 955-5402.

Economic expo

The North Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce will hold its 17th annual Business & Economic Opportunity Conference & Expo on Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hear presentations from Microsoft Corporation representatives, key economist from the University of Alabama Center for Business and Economic Research, and others. Attendance is free. For more information, call event manager Alfred Adams 564-7574 or to register visit http://naaachamber.org/.

Small business council

NDIA-TVC Small Business Council will hold a free event Tuesday from 7:30-9 a.m. at the Dynetics Solutions Complex, 1004 Explorer Boulevard. Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, will speak on "Managing the Budget Transition." Members of the small business community are encouraged to attend. Please register at www.ndiatvcmgcrosby.eventbrite.com. The event is posted on NDIA TVC website http://www.ndia-tvc.org/.

Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will hold its 2012 Sesquicentennial Dinner on Thursday at 5 p.m. at the Roundhouse, Historic Huntsville Depot, 398

See Announcements on page 33

Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Retirement pin

Norven Goddard, director, Future Warfare Center Innovative Ventures Office, watches as Dr. Larry Burger, director of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command FWC, presents Cleo Goddard her husband's retirement pin during his retirement Aug. 30. Goddard retired with more than 40 years of service. During the ceremony, he received a Certificate of Appreciation, Certificate of Retirement, the Alabama Commendation Medal, and a Meritorious Civilian Service Award.

Monroe St. Keynote speaker Edwin C. Bearss, a Civil War historian, will discuss the "First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas – A New Face on the War."A reception and social begin at 5, followed by a catered sit-down dinner at 6:30, period music and keynote speaker. Cost is $30 per person. Business casual attire, but period dress, is encouraged. Visitors are invited but tickets are limited. For more information, call 539-5287 or email jha@knology.net.

Miscellaneous**Items**

Fraud hotline

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

Education test center

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

Veterans memorial fund-raiser

The Huntsville Veterans Memorial asks for support by purchasing a brick paver. Send your tax deductible payment of $100 to Huntsville Veterans Memorial, P.O. Box 16030, Huntsville, AL 35802. Make checks payable to HMCVMF; and credit cards are accepted. Include the message you want to appear on your brick paver – three lines of 20 spaces apiece; all letters, spaces and punctuation count as one space each. Send your order by Oct. 31 for installation by Christmas. For information call 604-3896 or visit www.HuntsvilleVeteransMemorial.org.

RocketAnnouncements

Senior volunteers

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

NASA surplus

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

Re-entry information

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

Lending closet

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

Computer classes

Free self-paced computer classes are offered at Army Community Service from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Classes are available in Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, QuickBooks and SharePoint. Each class has

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

Championship form

Dee Emswiler pitches the Hard Noc Hitters to its Division C championship Aug. 28 at the NASA field. This year's other winners in the Army/NASA league included the Division B champion WYLE Coyotes and the Division A champion Hit Circus.

Photo by Randy Tisor, PEO Aviation Public Affairs

Product charter

Unmanned Aircraft Systems project manager Col. Tim Baxter presents Lt. Col. Tony Davila with the charter for the Medium Altitude Endurance Product Office during a change of charter ceremony Sept. 4 at Bob Jones Auditorium. Davila was most recently assigned to the Defense Science and Technology Center-Europe in Wiesbaden, Germany, as the executive officer/operations officer.

Photo by Merv Brokke, AMRDEC Public Affairs

Afghanistan veteran

Lt. Col. Timothy Gearhart, military deputy to AMRDEC's aviation development director, receives the Afghanistan Campaign Medal and NATO International Security Assistance Force Medal for participation in combat operations in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Making the presentation is Eric Edwards, director of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

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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.

A&M logistics registration

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

Reserve openings

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

Photo contest

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

College evaluation

Columbia College is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The college will host a visit Oct. 1-3 with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Columbia College is accredited by the commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the commission's criteria for accreditation. The public is invited to submit comments regarding Columbia College to: Public Comment on Columbia College, The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411.

Contract managers support

The Huntsville Chapter of the National Contract Management Association will participate in the 2012 Walk to End Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's disease is the nation's sixth-leading cause of death and this annual walk is held in more than 600 communities nationwide to raise awareness, funds for care, support and research. The Huntsville Walk will take place Saturday at the Botanical Garden and NCMA is seeking participants of all ages and abilities to join it on this walk. If you wish to walk or volunteer with NCMA in support of this cause, call Amy Donlin 876-0500 and Kevin Powell 450-4675.

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.

Vietnam veterans' tribute

A Vietnam Veterans Tribute will be held Sept. 28 at 5:30 p.m. at the Huntsville Veterans Memorial. The names of 1,223 Alabama Vietnam veterans, 1,207 killed-in-action and 16 missing-in-action will be read by various community and Redstone Arsenal leaders during the event. Everyone is invited to attend and take part of this tribute to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice as the Huntsville community marks the 50th anniversary since the United States' entry into the Vietnam War. Community members are encouraged to respectfully walk around the memorial as the names are being read. The Association of the United States Army is hosting the event. Details on parking and street closings will be available at a later date. For more information, call Jeff Wishik 468-9499 or email jwishik@yahoo.com.

A&M athletic banquet

Alabama A&M University Athletic Hall of Fame will hold its 21st Induction Ceremony and Banquet on Sept. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Ernest Knight Center on campus. The tickets are $40. To purchase tickets, call Shirley Alexander 372-5654. For banquet information, call Sandra Lyles-Jackson 426-5458.

Housing update

All Soldiers reporting to Redstone Arsenal with authorized permissive temporary duty orders for house hunting must report to the Housing Service Office, building 3494, room 115, on Honest John Road, the One-Stop center. The Soldier will need to bring their DA Form 31 to the HSO for signature before their PTDY begins, or the Soldier will be charged. PTDY will end on the date specified on your DA Form 31 or the date you sign into your new duty station, whichever comes first. For more information call Minnie Rhoden, housing referral specialist, at 842-9902 or email minnie.s.rhoden@us.army.mil.

Health center news

Fox Army Health Center will conduct a mandatory Army Suicide Prevention Stand-Down in support of health of the force Sept. 27. All services will be closed on this day in order to conduct required training. Normal operating hours will resume Sept. 28. "We apologize for any inconveniences that this may cause and thank you for choosing Fox," the health center said in a prepared release. 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.

Civil War history tour

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will hold its 2012 Campaign Tour, Oct. 12-14 – a bus tour of the final round of battles that sealed Atlanta's fate in the Civil War. It features military historian Greg Biggs as the tour guide for "Johnston's Rubicon: The Fall of Atlanta and the Rise of John Bell Hood." The tour is three days and two nights, with accommodations and breakfasts included. Visitors are invited but space is limited. For reservations and more information, call 890-0890 or email kdwrt@netzero.net.

JAG Office move

The Judge Advocate General Office will be closed Sept. 24-28 to accommodate its move from building 111 to the trailers behind 3494 on Honest John and Mauler roads. These are the temporary buildings previously occupied by the Military Personnel Office. The JAG Office will move in mid-to-late December to its permanent building 3439 on Honest John Road. The JAG Office will provide services on Retiree Appreciation Day, Sept. 29 at the Tax Assistance Center, building 3489. For more information, call 876-9005.

Breakfast trolley tours

Enjoy a light breakfast and coffee aboard a 1920s vintage-inspired trolley, while touring downtown Huntsville and the Twickenham historic district. Tours continue to leave from Alabama Constitution Village at 9 a.m. on Saturdays through September. Narrated by historic interpreters, you'll learn historical, and sometimes hysterical stories, about people and places from the past.Tickets are $12 and may be purchased Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Confectionary Shop or by calling 535-6564 and using a credit card. Advance reservations are recommended.

Thrift shop

The Thrift Shop is now accepting Halloween and fall items/clothing. For information on consignments, stop by and pick up a packet. The shop takes consignments Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9-11:45 a.m. unless stated otherwise on the No-List recording at 881-6915. The shop, building 3209 on Hercules Road, 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. Its phone number is 881-6992.

Christmas Charities applicants

Christmas Charities is taking applications for Christmas. Every year, Christmas Charities provides toys for less fortunate children in Madison County, plus gifts for seniors, the disabled and less fortunate teens, plus food boxes for families in need. Take applications to 2840 Jordan Lane from 12:30-3 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Applicants must bring the following: proof of food stamps; a recent utility bill (must be a Huntsville/Madison County resident); recent rent receipt; Social Security card for everyone in household (or old Medicaid card); and proof of income, if available. The last day for applications is Nov. 2. Seniors age 60 and over can apply by phone at 837-2373 from 12:30-3 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Fall fest

Pinnacle Affairs will hold its inaugural Fall Fest Oct. 12 at the Roundhouse in downtown Huntsville, 398 Monroe St. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. This event will be hosted by comedian D'Militant, and will feature the "King of Prank Calls" and comedian Roy Wood Jr. Deejays Ghon Bomb and Chief Rocka will provide music. Advance tickets are $35, tables of four are $170, and tables of eight are $320. For more information, call 508-8674, For tickets visit the Style Bar at 2601 Leeman Ferry Road, Suite C, or go to www.pinnacleaffairs.com.

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Red Cross blood drives

American Red Cross blood drives for the remainder of this month include the following: Sept. 13 from 7 a.m. to noon at building 4488 … Sept. 14 from 6:30-noon at the Corps of Engineers … Sept. 21 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at NASA building 4316 … Sept. 28 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at MDA's building 5222, Von Braun II Complex.

Financial matters workshop

Did you know that your security clearance is at risk if you have financial issues? Most servicemembers and Army civilians know that criminal conduct, foreign influence and foreign preference can result in losing one's security clearance, but what about what's harboring on your credit report? Ever wonder what will happen to your family when you pass on? Who will handle your estate? These issues will be discussed at AMCOM's Financial Matters Workshop, Sept. 18 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. Discussion leaders include Wayne Arrowood, AMCOM G-2, Personnel Security Branch chief; Kathleen Riester, ACS financial readiness program manager; and Melanie Bradford, estate planning lawyer. Sign up for this course by logging into TIP: https://tip.redstone.army.mil and using the catalog number FINW. For more information, call Kemah Barnes 876-6013 or email kemah.r.barnes.civ@mail.mil.

IMMC organization day

AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center will hold its annual Organization Day at the Col. Carroll D. Hudson Recreation Area on Oct. 4 at 8 a.m. The rain date is Oct. 10. All IMMC employees, including retirees and matrix personnel, are invited. Tickets are $15 which includes food and events. The theme is "IMMC October Fest 2012." Festivities will begin at 8 with bingo and the softball tournament. Horseshoe, volleyball, golf and other activities are planned. A deejay will provide music; and many vendors will be there. The lunch menu includes grilled teriyaki chicken and pulled pork with all the trimmings along with desserts. Lawn chairs are encouraged. For ticket information, call Jan Pickard 842-6625.

Military appreciation days

Lyon Family Farms, 130 Bellview Road in Taft, Tenn., will have Military Appreciation Days this Saturday and Sunday. There will be free admission with Military ID Card. For more information, call (931) 438-9938 or visit www.lyonfamilyfarms.com.

Homeless vet aid

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

Retiree appreciation day

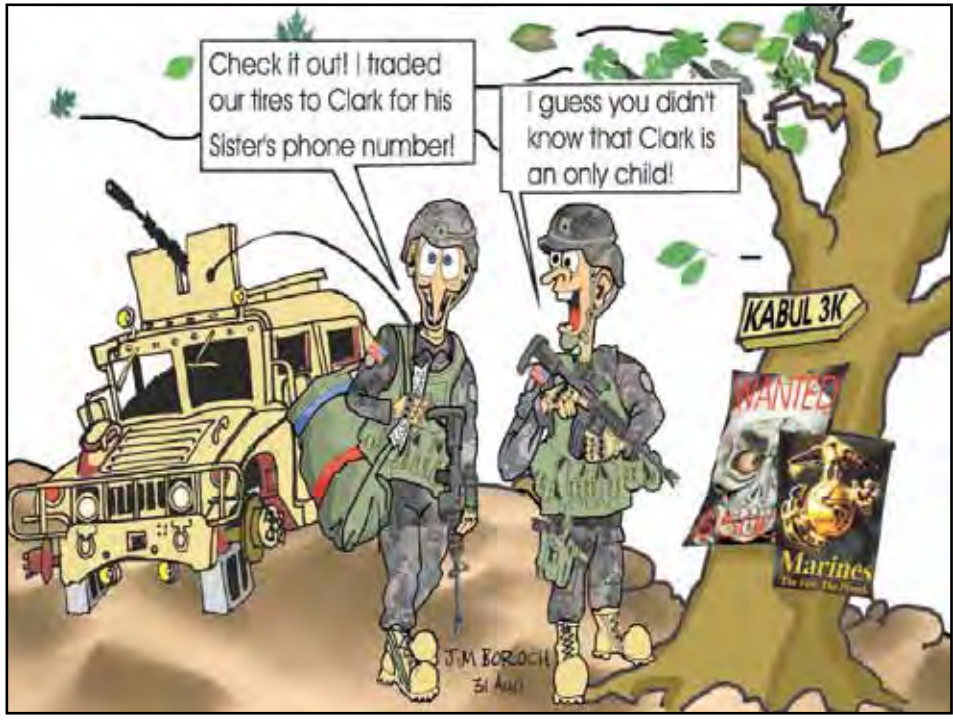
Retiree Appreciation Day is a three-day event this year. The event begins with a Golf Scramble on Sept. 27 at 8 a.m. at the Links. The health fair is Sept. 28 from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Summit. Flu shots will be available to the RAD attendees from 7:30-11:30 a.m. at the health fair. Slated Sept. 29 is the Speakers Program from 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium, with breakfast from 6:30-8 a.m. Estate and legal services will be available at building 3489, corner of Ajax and Zeus.

Health/wellness fair

The 100 Black Men of America, Greater Huntsville Chapter, is sponsoring a free Community-wide Health and Wellness Fair on Sept. 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Alabama A&M University Student Health and Wellness Center, 4011 Meridian St. There will be a combined 100BMOA GHC and William Hooper Councill Walk, Run and 1876 Steps for Health event from 8:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the upstairs indoor track. The Health and Wellness Fair, featuring various local health care organizations, including Huntsville and Crestwood Hospitals, will be available to provide free health care screening, consultation and counseling. It will also provide an opportunity to "Ask a Doctor." There will be door prizes and entertainment.

Cha-Cha classes

Cha-Cha, a spicy Latin dance, will be taught for adult couples on six Thursdays from Oct. 4 through Nov. 8 from 8-9 p.m. at Pagano Gym. Tuition is $66 per couple. No experience necessary. This course is also available as a five-week, $55 review course (by eliminating the first class only) for those who have taken this course previously at Redstone. You may call the ITR Ticket Office 876-4531 and register using your credit card or stop by building 3711 at the intersection of Patton and Aerobee roads. Class size is limited to 25 couples. Instructors are Mary Jo Blount and Vince Guarin.

Blue and Gray concert

Huntsville Community Chorus Concert will present "Blue and Gray" on Saturday at 3 p.m. and at 7:30 p.m. at Thurber Arts Center Auditorium, Randolph School, Garth campus, 4915 Garth Road. The concert will commemorate the Civil War sesquicentennial. It will include a presentation of flags featuring the 19th Alabama Regiment Color Guard. Music will include renditions of the "Battle Cry of Freedom," "Barbara Allen," "Dear Sarah," "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," "Ashokan Farewell" and the humorous "Goober Peas." Members of the Olde Town Brass will also perform. Tickets are $18 for adults and $5 for college students. High school students and young children can attend for free. Tickets are available at the HCCA office, 3312 Long Ave. For more information, call 533-6606 or visit www.thechorus.org.