

Redstone Rocket

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One Stop outshines weather with grand opening

Post honors commitment to customer service

By KARI HAWKINS
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Not even rain clouds could dampen the excitement among the crowd who gathered Sept. 18 to usher in a new era of customer service during a ribbon cutting at the One Stop.

Though the ribbon cutting was moved inside, there were plenty of smiles, laughter and words of “congratulations” to seemingly keep the threat of rain at bay and bring a ray of sunshine inside for a ceremony that officially opened Team Redstone’s One Stop for human resources services.

Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton described the gathering of Team Redstone and community officials as a “real reflection” of leaders who care for the well-being of the Arsenal’s Soldiers, civilians, retirees and their families. Many of those in attendance were involved in bringing the renovated 23,000-square-foot facility to fruition.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Yellow ribbon flies through the air as members of Team Redstone join, fifth from left, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Kyle Crump, Aviation and Missile Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell, Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton and Linda Via, wife of Army Materiel Command Gen. Dennis Via, to cut the ribbon that officially opened the One Stop on Sept. 18.

“This facility is a reflection of just how big and diverse the team is that has been brought together in this building,” Hamilton told the gathering.

“This is not about the building, but about the services that we provide here.”

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Launcher system gets 30-year sendoff

Retirement ceremony brings back alumni

By SKIP VAUGHN
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The guest of honor remained quiet throughout the retirement ceremony as the speakers described accomplishments from 30 years of service. No one expected a word from the honoree, who earned the nickname “Steel Rain” out of respect from Iraqi troops during Operation Desert Storm.

After all, an artillery launcher does its talking on the battlefield. The M270 Multiple Launch Rocket System, or MLRS, was honored in a 30th anniversary and retirement ceremony Sept. 19 in front of the Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office headquarters, building 112. Its successor is the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, a wheeled vehicle rather than a tracked vehicle like the M270.

“Today really marks the end of an era,” Col. Gary Stephens, the project manager for Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems, said.

See Launcher on page 3



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Larry Seggel, who served as the MLRS deputy program manager during his 32-year career, speaks during the retirement ceremony Sept. 19 for the Multiple Launch Rocket System.



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Soldier triathlete runs, bikes, swims.
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RocketViews

What gives you strength, comfort and hope in times of trouble?

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer
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Linda Scroggins
Goss Road Child Development Center
“The Bible and prayer, friends and family.”



Cheyenne Mansfield
Pre-K student
“My puppies, Bear, Rocky and Cowbell.”



Rebecca Franz
Goss Road Child Development Center
“My husband and God, church, family, close friends, and a big hug from my two boys.”



Col. Timothy Mallon
Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences
“I rely on my wife, who is my best friend, my friends and prayer.”

Letters to the editor

AMC promotes comprehensive Soldier, family fitness

AMC’s most important assets are its people – the men and women who work tirelessly to ensure America’s war fighters are provided with whatever they need, anytime and anywhere. The success of our mission depends upon you and your families remaining healthy and strong, not only physically, but also psychologically, emotionally and mentally.

To help us reach that goal, the Army established the Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness program as a long-term strategy to prepare our Soldiers, civilians and their families for the challenges of Army life. This program represents the Army’s investment in the readiness of the force and the quality of life of our Soldiers, civilians and their families by giving the same emphasis to psychological, emotional and mental strength that was previously only given to physical strength.

The CSF2 program develops holistic fitness in multiple dimensions for a variety of challenges that may be faced in one’s personal and professional life. CSF2 marks a new era for the Army by equipping and training Soldiers, civilians and families to maximize their potential and face the physical and psychological challenges of sustained operations.

Nearly three decades of scientific research supports this program and assessments clearly show its effectiveness in increasing psychological fitness, reducing negative behavior and increasing optimism.

The AMC Wellness Division offers multiple initiatives like educational classes, health screenings and fitness activities, all of which provide tools for the enhancement of the five dimensions of the CSF2 program: physical, emotional, social, spiritual and family fitness.

I encourage all Soldiers, civilians and their families to take advantage of this great program. Moreover, supervisors should dedicate blocks of time for resilience and wellness programs by coordinating with your local Wellness and Resilience points of contact.

We commend your efforts and encourage you to continue pursuing initiatives within AMC to augment and support total fitness across AMC. Your hard work and dedication helps AMC provide the decisive edge that keeps the Army Strong!

AMC commander Gen. Dennis Via
AMC Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling

Citizens reminded of Absentee Voters Week

The Army Voting Assistance Program and the Federal Voting Assistance Program have designated the week of Sept. 27 to Oct. 4 as Absentee Voters Week. During this week, leaders should remind Soldiers and all other eligible voters to complete and return ballots to their state election office prior to the state estab-

lished deadline.

Voting Assistance Officers should focus on assisting eligible voters in completing and mailing absentee ballots for the 2012 general election. Absentee voters who have not received their regular state absentee ballot can complete the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (Standard

Form 186) and send it to their state’s local election office during Absentee Voters Week.

Copies of the FWAB are available on all installations/units or online at <http://www.fvap.gov/reference/forms.html>. Voting Assistance Officers can also provide assistance with completing any voting form or ballot, and have on-hand state deadlines and recommended mailing dates for voters regardless of state of residence.

Voting is a privilege that we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America. Leader involvement remains essential to ensuring our eligible voters are familiar with their right to vote.

Brig. Gen. Jason T. Evans
Adjutant general

Quote of the week

“It’s important to vote to make sure that the best candidate according to your beliefs gets into office. It’s important to consider the current issues and state of affairs more than your party affiliation. The critical thing is you have to consider the issues rather than the party to help drive your decisions to the candidate of choice.”

— *Col. A. Carl Williams*
Army Materiel Command

RedstoneRocket

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Launcher

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Attendees at the outdoor ceremony – under a tent with a retired MLRS launcher from the Florida National Guard parked behind the speaker's podium – included alumni from throughout the three decades.

Larry Seggel, 77, of Hazel Green, was the deputy program manager and occasionally the program manager for the launcher's development from its start until he left the project office in 1987. He retired in 1988 with 32 years of service. During his tenure, he was the U.S. negotiator for memorandums with France, Germany and later Italy, who all became MLRS partners.

"It's incredible," Seggel said of the ceremony. "It pays tribute to the people who started the MLRS program. It pays tribute to the contractors, the users, the various staff levels in the Department of Army. And it did a job for 30 years."

Col. Dave Brost, TRADOC capabilities manager-Fires Brigade, came from Fort Sill, Okla., to deliver remarks. "I'd like to thank all of those responsible for

the M270 launcher," Brost said. "What a great legacy you have created."

Said Lt. Col. Fred Hughes, product manager for field artillery launchers: "This day is truly about each and every one of you."

The many alumni included Clem O. Rhodes Jr. of Vero Beach, Fla. "I think it's great but I've never heard of anything like that," Rhodes said of the ceremony. "Normally you hear when you launch a system. You normally don't hear of a retirement. So I think it's great. That's why I got my airline ticket together and came here."

Henry Oldham worked in the then MLRS Project Office from 1976-82. "We fielded it in 66 months," Oldham said. "And that was unusual then; it's even more unusual now."

Jerry Grider retired in 2006 – after he figures he put more than 450 of these systems in the field – and he currently works at Red River Army Depot, Texas, as a contractor in support of the project office.

"I think it was great," Grider said of the ceremony. "I really enjoyed it. I think it brings back a lot of memories for a lot of people that have been on this thing for so many years."

On this date in history: Sept. 26

By SKIP VAUGHN

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In 1789: Thomas Jefferson was appointed America's first secretary of state.

In 1820: Frontiersman Daniel Boone died in Missouri.

In 1914: The Federal Trade Commission was established.

In 1950: United Nations troops recaptured Seoul, the capital of South Korea, from the North Koreans.

In 1960: Richard M. Nixon and John F. Kennedy took part in the first televised presidential debate.

In 1986: William H. Rehnquist was sworn as the 16th chief justice of the Supreme Court.

In 2010: Thirty Kurds are killed when the Army of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution crossed the border into Iraq.

Redstone Exchange salutes with 'Still Serving' weekend

As part of its annual "Still Serving" weekend, the Army & Air Force Exchange Service will salute former Soldiers and airmen by offering unique specials and events at the Redstone Exchange Oct. 5-11.

"Still Serving" sales and benefits information are arriving in mailboxes of approximately 700,000 Army and Air Force retirees. The flyer features exclusive savings on a wide variety of products including 25 percent off Chaps menswear, a 46-inch Samsung LED Smart HDTV for \$849, the Mr. Coffee single-serve brewing system for \$79.99, an iPad2 for \$389 and several food court meal deals.

Additionally, the Redstone Exchange will honor the service of retirees with "Still Serving" celebrations to include serving

cake at 11 a.m. Oct. 5, with door prizes and makeovers by the cosmetic reps.

"Retirees account for roughly 20 percent of the exchange's 12.4 million shoppers," Redstone Exchange general manager Loraine Arbo said. "The specials offered in the flyer, combined with 'Still Serving' events and festivities here at Redstone Arsenal, should provide plenty of incentive for retirees to come and re-discover the value of their exchange."

In addition to the savings at the brick and mortar exchange, www.shopmyexchange.com will offer 10 percent off any order of \$100 or more to shoppers who sign up for the "Online Savings Club E-newsletter," which offers online savings and exclusive discounts. (*Exchange release*)

Getting to know you

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Name: Maj. Debra Murray

Position: Chief, Preventive Medicine, Fox Army Health Center

Where do you call home?
Mullins, S.C.

How long have you been a Soldier?
I've been in the Army for 26 years, 14 years enlisted. I got commissioned in 2000. My daughter, Capt. Ludrena Rodriguez, is also an Army Nurse Corps officer. We've been stationed together twice.

What do you enjoy most about your job?
It's helping the Soldiers. It's all about the Soldiers.

What are your goals?

My goals are to retire at 30 years. I'm currently attending UAB online, I'm doing the nurse practitioner adult and women's health program. I want to work at a military installation when I retire, I haven't decided if I'm going to do the adult or women's health part. When I retire I'll decide what my passion will be.



What do you like to do in your spare time?
Thrift shops. It just relaxes me.

What's on your bucket list?
Learn how to play the piano.

What college team do you root for?
Texas Longhorns and the South Carolina Gamecocks.

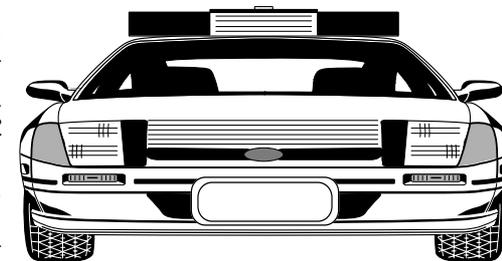
Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for Sept. 9-15:

- Police investigated a single vehicle/deer, without injury, traffic accident on Patton Road.
- Police are investigating the theft of copper wire at building 3303.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident on Patton Road at Mills Road.
- Police collected a deserter from the Lawrence County Jail and transported him to Fort Campbell, Ky.
- A subject was cited for driving without a license at Gate 8 and later charged with giving false information to police when their true name was discovered.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle,

without injury, traffic accident in the channelized right-hand turn lane on Goss Road onto Rideout Road.

- Police and firefighters responded to a fire at building 5645 when a frontend loader caught fire.
- Police cited a driver for a suspended license when he arrived at Gate 9 requesting a visitor pass.
- Eight U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.



Opening

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This building is an important resource for that.”

The One Stop includes the Garrison's Military Personnel Office, Security Division, Retention NCO, Headquarters & Headquarters Company-Garrison, Defense Military Pay Office, Defense Finance and Accounting Services, Housing and Equal Opportunity/Equal Employment Opportunity Office. It also includes a State and County Tag License Office. The tenants moved in with an unofficial opening of the building at the end of July.

“There is a cascading effect of bringing old buildings back into use,” Hamilton said. “We have gutted this building and brought it back to use as a phenomenal facility. All those family and Soldier support programs located here will become the crossroads for this community. This is about the programs and employees here delivering services to families.”

The facility, building 3494, is not a new address for all its tenants. Prior to the renovation, it was home to the Military Personnel Office. But MILPO is now a major tenant in a building that consolidates human resources services that were once located in buildings throughout the installation.

Building 3494 is a cornerstone in the development of a social services corridor, Hamilton said, that will touch up against an area of renovated buildings to be used by employees of various Arsenal tenants.

“We are consolidating office space, and research and development space. Services for Soldiers and families will be consolidated, too,” Hamilton said.

“The vision we have for this area is to turn it into a services corridor.”

That services corridor begins with the One Stop and will expand to include the 22,000-square-foot Welcome Center and an historical park that connects the two facilities.

“Army Community Service will be the heart and core of the programs we offer at the Welcome Center,” Hamilton said. “They will be linked together by a walking corridor that will highlight Redstone's history.”

The Welcome Center, which will be located in the renovated dining facility, will also include Child Youth and School Services, travel and leisure services, and the Java Café.

Hamilton said the reshaping of the area near Gate 10 is “really a result of BRAC 2005 (Base Realignment and Closure commission recommendations). It's a huge team effort that has significant second and third order by-products.”

When the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School closed its doors a year ago to complete its move to Fort Lee, Va., the Garrison began work on a plan to renovate and reutilize the build-



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Kyle Crump and Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton hold up the Army Family Covenant that was signed during the One Stop grand opening.

ings emptied by the move. The renovation plans for the area have been coordinated by several employees of the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works, led by Joe Davis.

“The OMEMS departure was a loss for our community that provided this opportunity,” Hamilton said. “There are hundreds of thousands of square feet within 400 meters of this building.”

Those facilities are being renovated for administrative, and research and development space for a wide variety of tenants, including the Redstone Test Center, the Logistics Support Activity and the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space.

In addition, the area is home to the Army Education Center, Pagano Gym, Travel Office and Photo Lab facilities, the Thrift Shop, the Army Substance Abuse Prevention Program facility, 2nd Recruiting Brigade and the 2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion, Redstone Bowling Center and Community Activity Center. It will also soon be the new home of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, the Civilian Human Resources Agency and the Staff Judge Advocate office as well as the renovated Redstone Fitness Center.

The One Stop is a “physical manifestation of a well-oiled and well-resourced machine that provides services for our families,” Hamilton said. “Every day we commit ourselves to taking care of our Soldiers, our civilians and our families. Our people are our most important resource.”

While the One Stop is a physical representation of that commitment, Team Redstone and community leadership at the ribbon cutting ceremony also showed that commitment in their re-signing of an Army Family Covenant. The covenant was first signed by leaders of Team Redstone in 2007, and is required by the Army to be re-signed periodically.

Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell, of the Aviation and Missile Command, thanked Redstone and community leaders who were present for the ribbon cutting and the covenant signing, saying their presence “demonstrates how dedicated this commu-

nity is in caring for our family.”

While ribbon cuttings for new buildings may seem commonplace to some, Glidewell said they are a celebration and recognition of what the Army has done to reshape itself into an organization that supports its families.

“For most of us who have served this nation, we can remember when facilities and services were not as nice on our installations, a time when many leaders claimed that if the Army had wanted you to have a family they would have issued you one,” he said.

“Thankfully, however, we have moved beyond that way of thinking and our leaders have made quality of life a top priority.”

Glidewell said Team Redstone's relationship with Huntsville, Madison, Madison County and the entire Tennessee Valley is an example of how communities come together to support the military and its families.

“We are fortunate to enjoy a relationship between the leaders of Team Redstone and the Tennessee Valley that work tirelessly to make this a better community,” he said.

“These leaders have the business sense to realize that when you provide quality services and facilities that you can retain a motivated and quality work force. They continuously look at ways to provide better quality of life at the best cost to the American taxpayer

while meeting the needs of those who work and play at Redstone and the surrounding Tennessee Valley community.”

The Army Family Covenant is a continuation of a pledge to provide military families with world-class services and facilities, a covenant that is embodied in the One Stop, Glidewell said.

“Today, our Army takes another in a series of steps to reconfirm its commitment to our Soldiers, civilians, their families and this community to ensure that quality of life remains commensurate with their service to the nation,” he said.

Employees who work at the One Stop agreed with the comments made by Hamilton and Glidewell.

“This facility gives us a lot of efficiencies, and is new and bright and fresh,” said Robert Hambrick, a Equal Employment Opportunity specialist, who has put Army Values posters on the walls in his office.

Teneka Burks of the Garrison Security Office said the consolidated location has made her customers much happier.

“I love it. This is exactly what the name says – a One Stop. Our customers are no longer frustrated when they come in here because they've had to run to five different places to get processed. Instead, they just come here, and when they come in our office, they're happy,” she said.

Every Mother has a Story

Gold Star Mothers honor her job as the mother of the fallen Soldier

GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY • 30 SEPTEMBER 2012

Join Sweet Home Outreach Services in honoring Gold Star Mothers on this special day

TAKE TIME TO LISTEN

ARMY STRONG. FAMILY STRONG.

Screenings, shots and a healthy dose of appreciation

Fox Army Health Center offers retiree health fair

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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To show their appreciation for the sacrifices of the beneficiaries they serve, Fox Army Health Center will hold a health fair at The Summit Friday from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

"Retiree Appreciation Day is a great opportunity for us to reach our heroes, retirees and their family members, to inform them about new initiatives, changes in services and wellness educational topics provided at Fox," Col. William Darby, commander of Fox Army Health Center, said.

Drive thru flu shots will be available in the parking lot of The Overlook, across the street from The Summit from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for participants of Retiree Appreciation Day, ages 17 and up. Flu outbreaks have already been reported in the community, and

with fall and the holiday season around the corner, now is the time to vaccinate, Fox staff said.

"The retirees are more at risk for the development of flu complications," Maj. Debra Murray, chief of preventive medicine at Fox, said.

If you cannot attend Retiree Appreciation Day, flu shots will be available to retirees and their dependents, of all ages, Saturday, Oct. 13 from 7:30-11:30 a.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 7 from 4-6 p.m. at Fox Army Health Center. Shots for adults only will be available Friday, Oct. 26 and Friday, Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Commissary. To download the flu shot screening forms and vaccine information statements, visit www.redstone.amedd.army.mil.

In addition to the flu shots, a variety of health screenings will also be available at the health fair. Fox Army Health Center staff will be on hand Friday to offer bone density, blood pressure and basic eye screenings. The dietitian will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to offer nutritional counsel-

Military retirees thanked through event

Retirement services officer Ed Adams emphasizes the importance of Redstone Arsenal's 41st annual Retiree Appreciation Day set for Friday and Saturday.

Scheduled Friday and Saturday, the event serves retired servicemembers and their families with informational speakers, a health fair and other activities.

"First of all, the reason we exist is because of them," Adams said of military retirees. "They are the catalyst. They have gone and set the pathway for others to follow. This is the legacy that has been left behind from generation to generation. We are trying to do what is right. When a person has placed their lives at risk for our country, it is only fair that we show them our appreciation.

"Someone has died for the right for me and you to do what we do now. We owe

them this."

This year an inaugural golf tournament has been added Thursday, the day before RAD, at 8 a.m. at the Links. Registration starts at 7 for the four-person scramble. Individual entry is \$50, which includes greens fee, cart, lunch, contests and prizes. For more information or to sign up, call Arno Hoerle at 837-6253 or Bruce Robinson at 450-2252.

The health fair is Friday 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 Saturday 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.

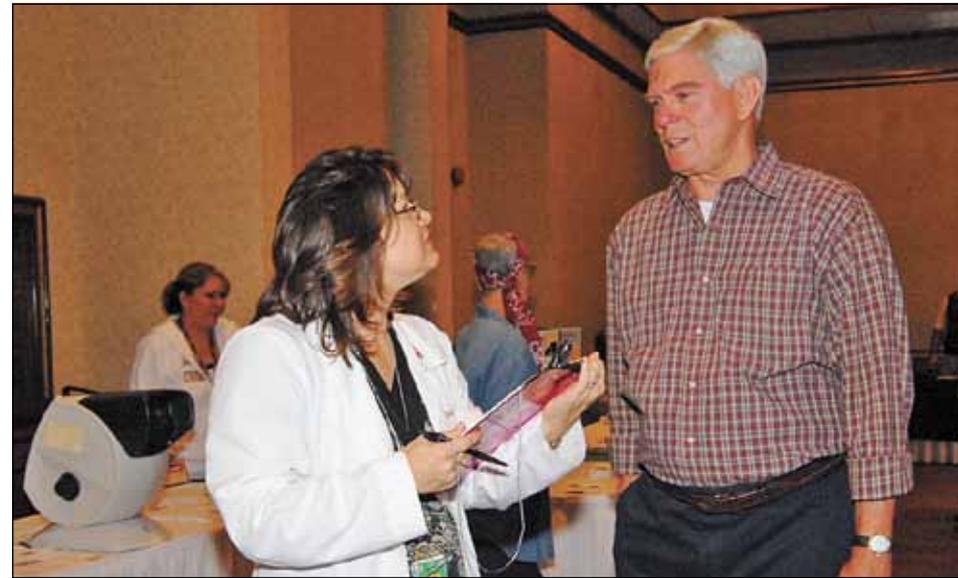


Photo by Ellen Hudson

Mary Bouldin, the Welcome to Wellness program manager at Fox Army Health Center, discusses screenings with Donald E. Woodard at the 2011 Retiree Appreciation Day Health Fair.

ing, in addition to wellness staff who will be available all day to discuss nutrition and exercise education. Patient Administration will also be present to assist patients in obtaining and updating their white insurance verification cards. Tricare will hold briefings at 8 and 10 a.m.

"It's a one-stop shop," Mary Bouldin, the Welcome to Wellness program manager, said. "Health and wellness is really important, no matter what age you are. Usually, when you get to the retiree stage, you've had some chronic diseases, so if you learn how to manage those better or

have a screening to show where you are, you'll know whether it's time to go back to the doctor or if your medication is still working OK."

In addition to Fox Army Health Center, approximately 40 vendors will also be on hand Friday, including Huntsville Hospital and Crestwood Medical Center, to offer other screenings including blood sugar and cholesterol screenings, and other health-related information. Educational information about Fox and its services will also be available on Saturday at the Sparkman Center, but there will not be any health screenings at that time.

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:

Hunter safety orientation

The Redstone Hunter Safety Orientation, a free mandatory class for hunters, is Oct. 9, Oct. 23, Nov. 6 and Nov. 20 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. at building 5139, Outdoor Recreation. All new hunters are required to take Hunter Safety. Individuals who previously hunted on Redstone may take the Hunter Safety Course online at www.redstonemwr.com. Bring a certificate of completion to Outdoor Recreation when obtaining a

hunting permit. Items required to hunt on Redstone Arsenal include: Alabama state hunting license; any states' Hunter Education Certificate (more information can be found regarding local classes at www.outdoorAlabama.com or call 1-800-245-2740); and the Redstone Arsenal Hunting Orientation, Redstone Arsenal Hunting Permit. The Redstone hunting permit fee is \$50. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at 876-4868.

Fitness open house

Pagano Gym will have an open house Thursday from 10-2. For more information, call 876-6701.

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Vietnam veterans pause to remember, recognize

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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Side by side they fought in battle. Five decades later, the Vietnam Veterans of the Tennessee Valley will honor and remember those comrades that never made it home alive.

The Association of the U.S. Army's Redstone-Huntsville Chapter will hold a Vietnam Veterans Tribute Friday at 5:30 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial. All are invited.

"This is a program by Vietnam veterans, for Vietnam veterans, recognizing Vietnam veterans," Jeff Wishik, chairman of the event, said.

The evening, held rain or shine, will include prelude selections from the Army Materiel Command Band, beginning at 5:10 p.m., concluding at 5:25 when a number of area churches will participate in the ringing of the bells until the program and the reading of the 1,207 names of Alabamians who lost their lives in the Vietnam War, and the 16 who remain unaccounted for, begins. The program will also include the playing of Taps and the mourning widow, who represents all those families who grieve for their loved one that was lost.

"We've been welcomed home, now it's time, on the 50th anniversary, to pay tribute to our fallen brothers and sisters," said Wishik, who served in the Army in Vietnam. "What we're trying to do is recognize those who served during that period of time, those who sacrificed so much as the families, but particularly, respectful

recognition of those that we've lost."

After each name is read, a bell will be tolled in their memory. After every 35 names, a single candle will be lit. The reading of the names is expected to take from two and a half to three hours. Attendees are not expected to stay for the duration of the event. There will be no chairs provided, but rather, people are encouraged to walk around the memorial.

"Everybody will have the opportunity to move around and spend time with each other as Vietnam veterans," Wishik said. "There's comfort in that, as well as the ability to turn around and comfort others."

It is unknown how many Vietnam veterans are living in the Tennessee Valley today, as it is not typically something they openly share, said Wishik, who said it wasn't until 25 years after he had returned from war that he had come to terms with being a Vietnam veteran. With that closure has come a calling to support veterans and servicemembers of all ages and wars.

"Vietnam was known as the NAM – not about me," Wishik said. "If you look at the Vietnam veterans who are part of the Patriot Guard and the Vietnam veterans who are out there supporting the Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines today, a lot of the impetus comes from not about me. And that's a war. It was a sad time, the disappointment and the shame that the country felt for its Soldiers, where today, you look at a Soldier, you're proud of them. It hasn't always been that way. One of the roles of the Vietnam veteran is to say today, 'you will never treat an American servicemember again in the way you treated us.'"



Photo by Ellen Hudson

The Vietnam Veterans Tribute will be held this Friday, beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Memorial.

For more information about the event, email Wishik at jwishik@yahoo.com or call 468-9499.

WWII veterans of 71st Infantry Division reunite in city

By ADORATIA PURDY
AMC Public Affairs

World War II veterans and family members from all around the country came to Huntsville to enjoy an evening of camaraderie and remembrance at the 71st Infantry Division Association reunion Sept. 15 at the Huntsville Marriott.

Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command, served as the guest speaker for the event and conveyed his pride and gratitude to the Soldiers of the 71st.

“Thank you for coming home and building a great country for my generation to inherit, to care for and to pass on. You gave us a world that was safer, you gave us a country that was greater and you gave us an Army that was stronger,” Via said.

He went on to share how the 71st service in Europe and the Pacific still plays a role in the strength of the Army’s 9/11 generation serving in the Middle East.

“(The Army’s) strength can be seen in the tightly woven experiences that bind Soldiers together... a bond built through



Photo by Adoratia Purdy

Dr. Robert O. Fisch gives a powerful testimonial at the 71st Infantry Division Association reunion in Huntsville. He shared how the 71st Infantry Division Soldiers liberated himself and others from a Nazi concentration camp.

shared sacrifice, shared service and shared commitment,” he said.

Via recounted how in March 1945, a 71st Soldier fired the first howitzer against the enemy while deployed to the far eastern region of France.

“That sound was more than just the

thunder of artillery, it was a message, ‘The Red Circle’ had arrived and they weren’t leaving until the job was done,” Via said.

The Huntsville reunion was coordinated through the 71st Infantry Division Association, with the help of Security Assistance Command chief of staff Col. Bob Pastorelli, whose father, retired Sgt. Jim Pastorelli, 91, served with the 71st and who was also in attendance.

The four-day event was aimed at honoring the veterans, preserving history and sharing knowledge. Approximately 100 veterans and their family members attended.

World War II veteran Art Kramer, Bravo Battery, 609th Artillery Battalion of Jeannette, Pa. shared his thoughts on this year’s reunion.

“We were excited to come to Huntsville... seeing old friends, renewing old stories and just being here, we’ve gone to many reunions and our bond is very strong,” Kramer said.

Dr. Robert O. Fisch shared his powerful testimony about how the 71st liberated himself and others from a Nazi concentration camp.

“Eighty-seven years, five months and 11 days I was liberated by the 71st. ... I don’t think I can have any words, what can I say to them? I can’t thank them because that would be nothing. I consider them my second parents. Had they not come I would have been dead within days. ... What they did is beyond comprehension, they gave me my life back,” Fisch said.

Jennifer Heublein, one of the reunion organizers and daughter of 71st veteran, retired Col. Bob Funke, 89, explained the impact Huntsville has had on the attendees.

“Bringing them to the Arsenal that was behind a lot of the war effort during World War II has been very meaningful to them. And they are saying Huntsville is one of their most favorite reunions, they really enjoyed the technology and the collaboration between the city, NASA and the Arsenal,” Heublein said.

The evening closed with dancing, laughter and the reaffirmation of a bond made between Soldiers, survivors and loved ones forged more than 67 years ago.

Top R&B entertainment, barbecue slated Saturday

Second annual festival brings Benet and more

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The Redstone Arsenal Activity Field is again the place to be Saturday for public entertainment.

On the heels of this summer's country music concert and the Sept. 13-16 Oktoberfest is the second annual Rhythms, Brew and Barbecue Festival. The show, featuring top rhythm-and-blues artists, starts Saturday at 3 p.m.

"Come out for good food, great entertainment and a full day of fun at the Rhythms, Brew and Barbecue Festival," event director Kenneth McDonald, chief of FMWR's support services division, said.

He emphasized that this is a festival – "a more laid-back, relaxed environment" – open to the entire public.

Access onto Redstone Arsenal begins at noon; and the gates into the field open at 2 p.m. Non-Redstone visitors should enter the post through Gate 10, Patton Road. But those with Redstone IDs can enter through any perimeter gate. "That way we have easy flow of traffic," McDonald added.

The activity field is behind the Community Activity Center, building 3711, off Patton Road. Entertainment is scheduled from 3-10 p.m.

Performers include headliner Eric Benet, Mint Condition, Frank McComb and Rick Ward.

"It's the biggest R&B concert to come to this area in a long time," McDonald said.



Courtesy photo

Eric Benet, a three-time Grammy-nominated R&B singer and songwriter, is the headliner for the second annual Rhythms, Brew and Barbecue Festival.

"Our goal is to provide Class A entertainment in a safe and comfortable environment and at a value that everyone can afford."

Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 on Saturday. This includes general admission, free parking and access to various barbecue vendors on-site.

FMWR ticket locations include the Sparkman Center ticket office, the Community Activity Center, the Redstone Exchange and online at Ticketmaster.com.

"You can also do local Ticketmaster through the two Publix grocery stores in Madison, and at Better Days Barber Shop on Bronco Circle at the corner of Jordan Lane and Sparkman Drive," McDonald said.

For more information, call the Community Activity Center at 313-5224 or visit redstonemwr.com.

Courtesy photo

Seabees appreciated

Redstone Test Center chief of staff Frank Atkins presents RTC coins to Navy Seabees construction electrician Kamiriel Wall and senior chief builder Will White in recognition of

their support in constructing a watch tower for Test Area 6 at the Entry Control Project. Wall and White are part of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 24 in Huntsville. Under the supervision of Jody Roberts, the battalion has a long history of supporting construction projects for RTC from grading roads to rebuilding a damaged wall for the water test stand and working on other jobs such as the TA-3 road repairs, TA-5 security light repairs and TA-5 test stand rip-rap installation. Being involved with construction projects keeps these active reservists in top condition for later activation and makes them a valuable asset to RTC.



Read about what's new at Post Library

The Post Library, building 3323 on Redeye Road, is open Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday from 10-4. Its phone number is 876-4741.

To see the library's catalog, visit www.redstonemwr.com, click on Recreation, click on Library and then click on online catalog.

The library has the following new items:

Adult fiction: "Deadlocked" by Char-laine Harris – When telepathic waitress Sookie Stackhouse investigates the body of a woman discovered in vampire Eric Northman's yard, she has no idea the murderer is an enemy out to get her. ... "Trickster's Point: A Novel" by William Kent Krueger – Discovering he has been set up for murder, Cork O'Connor struggles to clear his name and find the real killer.

Adult nonfiction: "Giant George: Life with the World's Biggest Dog" by Dave Nasser with Lynne Barrett-Lee – Giant George, the runt of the litter but later named by Guinness World Records as the Tallest Dog in the Word, causes chaos, is scared of the water and other dogs, but mostly of being alone. ... "Life After the Military: A Handbook for Transitioning Veterans" by Janelle Hill, Cheryl

Lawhorne and Don Philpott – Discusses some of the issues, from finding employment to finances, veterans face when transitioning to civilian life.

Young adult fiction: "All the Right Stuff" by Walter Dean Myers – Working at a Harlem soup kitchen the summer his father dies, Paul DuPree struggles with a cook's constant questions until he realizes that their discussions are imparting key lessons about empowerment. ... "Matched" by Ally Condie – Cassia has always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her, so when Xander appears on-screen at her Matching ceremony, Cassia knows he is her ideal mate – until Ky Markham's face appears for an instant before the screen fades to black.

Children fiction: "Captain Underpants and the Terrifying Return of Tippy Tinkletrousers: the Ninth Epic Novel" by Dav Pilkey – Having changed the course of human history after unwittingly wondering what could be worse than going to prison, George and Harold are catapulted through time back to their kindergarten days, where they are subjected to a sixth-grade bully and a clueless school principal. ... "Kizzy Ann Stamps" by Jeri Watts – Taking things in stride is not easy for Kizzy Ann, but with her border

collie, Shag, at her side, she sets out to live a life as sweet as syrup on cornbread.

Children nonfiction: "What Do We Know About the Solar System?" by Ian Graham – Covers the planets, moons, space rocks and the beginnings and future of the solar system. ... "Astronaut Firsts" by Sue L. Hamilton – A history of manned space flights firsts including the first animal in space, first man to orbit earth and the first man to walk on the moon.

DVDs: "Chimpanzee" – directed by Alastair Fothergill and Mark Linfield

... "Hatfields & McCoys" with Kevin Costner and Bill Paxton ... "Lion King II" with the voices of Matthew Broderick and Neve Campbell ... "Lockout" with Guy Pearce and Maggie Grace ... "Three Stooges: the Movie" with Sean Hayes, Chris Diamantopoulos and Will Sasso

Audio books on CDs: "The Godfather" by Mario Puzo (read by Joe Montegna) ... "Tiger's Claw" by Dale Brown (read by William Dufres) ... "Zoo" by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge (read by Jay Snyder)

Post Library encourages budding novelists

Oct. 2 is the Kickoff Party for local writers participating in National Novel Writing Month. Starting at 6:30 p.m., published Alabama authors will speak on the subject "How I Write" in the second floor Events Room at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library, 915 Monroe St,

National Novel Writing Month is an international event held annually since 1999 by a charity based in California. Participants are challenged to write a 50,000-word (approximately 175-page) novel between Nov. 1 and midnight

Nov. 30. Participation is entirely free and online at www.nanowrimo.org.

The Post Library is holding two Write-Ins on Nov. 3 and Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. 3:30 p.m. Stop by any time during November to work on your novel. Free Wi-Fi is provided to update your word count. Anyone may use the library facilities, but a government ID and library account are required to use the computer lab. For more information, call 876-4741. The library is in building 3323 on Redeye Road. (*Post Library release*)

Prepare for food safety in emergencies

This is week five of AMCOM's Preparedness Pledge to Prepare – Awareness to Action campaign.

Each week throughout September, AMCOM has been taking steps to help employees better prepare for emergencies. If you missed the previous preparedness activities, go to the *Redstone Rocket* archives (www.theredstonerocket.com) or call the AMCOM EM/COOP Office at 876-5662 or 842-4821.

This week's preparedness focus is Food Safety during a Power Outage. Remember the April 27, 2011 tornadoes? Were you wondering if the food in the refrigerator was safe to eat or not? Hopefully, you followed the "if in doubt, throw it out" instructions. Getting food poisoning during an emergency is something nobody wants to gamble with.

Take the guess work out of food safety during the next power outage. The link that follows is a handy seven-page reference on food safety from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Simply print out the information and keep on the side of your refrigerator as a handy reference and guide for use during the next power outage. And yes, do purchase and install thermometers for your freezer and refrigerator today to help assess the food temperatures during

power outages. These simple preparedness steps today will help relieve guessing about your food safety following the next power outage.

The web link is: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fact_Sheets/keeping_food_Safe_during_an_emergency/index.asp.

Don't forget the AMCOM Employee Preparedness Expo this Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. This is an open invitation to AMCOM and Team Redstone employees, to help you, your family, the command and the community to take steps to prepare and become resilient in times of emergencies. Remember, AT&LWF employees who attend the expo are eligible for 0.5 continuous learning points for each hour in attendance.

AMCOM has Pledged to Prepare and has taken steps from Awareness to Action throughout September as an organization to become better prepared and informed. The command urges you to take time to do the same at home and in this community. Although the National Preparedness Month is coming to an end, preparedness never ends. It is never too late for you to embrace the Pledge to Prepare – Awareness to Action campaign. (*AMCOM G-3 EM/COOP Office release*)

Longtime locksmith likes labor's challenges

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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The locksmith carefully made copies of the keys as requested by the Soldier preparing for an inspection. And then he made copies for the next awaiting customer, a civilian who needed extra keys for his new office location.

Elmore Wise, longtime locksmith at the Chugach Carpenter Shop, made sure each extra key had an engraved number for inventory. Among his daily duties, he cuts keys from noon to 1 p.m. Some days there's a long line so he'll work longer. And if people can leave their keys, he'll make copies the first thing the next day.

He has been the locksmith at this shop at building 5412 for nearly 27 years, since October 1985.

"I really enjoy it. There's challenges with it," Wise said.

He repairs locks that are currently installed, installs newer locks to replace obsolete hardware, sets up keying systems for buildings, and of course he cuts keys. Challenges come when there are lockouts with the electronic systems, or "when you have doors shifting or buildings settling, you get problems there, then what you get with the standard everyday hardware being hard to operate," he said.

His work area is filled with his tools,

including key machines. There are no diplomas on the walls because Wise keeps his certificates of training, all 17 or 18 of them, in a ringed notebook binder. The first was to then Sgt. 1st Class Wise for completing a course in recoding locking devices Jan. 20-22, 1976 at Homestead Air Force Base, Fla. His last two certificates were for training in Feb. 24-25, 2011.

Wise is meticulous about his work and his routine, but he also takes time for others.

"I've worked here a couple of years," Paige Edwards, administrative clerk in the Chugach Carpenter Shop, said. "I love Mr. Wise. He's very involved with his co-workers, which is unusual for a shop like this where everybody does their own thing. Mr. Wise came to my wedding. He was the only co-worker who came to my wedding — he and his wife — which was very touching. He's just a really touching, sweet man."

The Linville Falls, N.C., native served in the Army from November 1962 until May 31, 1983, retiring as a master sergeant after more than 20 years. He worked with the Nike Hercules missile system. He volunteered for a courier assignment in Vietnam in 1969 and spent 3-4 days in country.

"Sometimes I work around the house, watch a bit of TV and read," he said of his spare time. He's also a football fan and he



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Elmore Wise, of the Chugach Carpenter Shop, has been Redstone's locksmith since October 1985.

roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide, the Oakland Raiders and the New York Jets.

He and his wife, Pamela, had three children, son Paul, oldest daughter Mary and youngest daughter Julia. Julia died at 24 from leukemia on Jan. 9, 2007.

Wise, 69, said he'll probably work "another five years or so."

"Somewhere on down the road I'll retire and probably travel a little bit," he said. "There are still a few places around the country I'd like to visit."

DIA hall of fame inducts Redstone retiree

The Defense Intelligence Agency will induct Clyde Walker and four other DIA alumni into its Torch Bearers Hall of Fame today at its headquarters on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C.

The DIA Torch Bearers award was established in 2011 to coincide with the agency's 50th anniversary and recognizes former employees who have made exceptional contributions to the agency's

mission. Presided over by DIA director Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, the ceremony reflects the agency's commitment to excellence and its professional obligation to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the agency's success.

Walker led a distinguished career in intelligence, culminating as director of the Missile and Space Intelligence Cen-

ter at Redstone Arsenal. His extraordinary performance exemplified DIA's core values of teamwork, integrity, excellence and service. His unwavering dedication to supporting the military commander and weapons developers built an enduring foundation for defense intelligence in support of U.S. national security objectives.



Clyde Walker

His recognition of the necessity for scientific and technical support to military operations led to the creation of a program that supported combatant command requirements, providing both the "smart-push" of time-sensitive intelligence and forward deployment of intelligence analysts. His inspirational leadership, remarkable management, technical skills, unparalleled expertise and passionate concern for the work force transformed his organization and executed its mission

with one clear, shared goal: responding to and supporting the war fighter, force developer and policy maker.

A graduate of Cliff High School in Opelika and Auburn University, Walker also holds a master of science degree from the University of Alabama-Huntsville. His other notable achievements include work on the Saturn V rocket at Marshall

Space Flight Center from 1963-68 and his service as deacon among other service at Huntsville's First Baptist Church.

His father, WWII veteran Clyde Walker, his brother Ed Walker and his sister Gina Janney live in Opelika. His sister Tricia Dudley lives in Raleigh-Durham, N.C. His brother Dr. (DVM) Lamar Walker lives in Groveton, Ga., and his sister Anna Rhoden lives in Nahunta, Ga. They all survive his mother, the late Annie Hickox Walker of Opelika. (DIA release)

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Bertlings honored as Volunteer Family of the Year

Advance to compete for national honor

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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The Bertling family gives, so that whether a Soldier gives some or all, their sacrifice never goes without a thank you.

The Bertling family – Sam, KC and their son Sam Jr. – has been selected as the Army Volunteer Family of the Year for the AUSA Redstone-Huntsville Chapter. They will compete for the national honor in October.

“We’re nobody important or nobody special, but by being recognized in such a way, it shows the people that they can also do it too,” KC said of the award. “If we can do it, they can do better. It’s just an honor and a privilege to be an American, and it’s by the expense of the other military members who sacrifice every day.”

Providing service to both Soldiers and veterans has been a lifelong calling for the Bertlings, who not only support the Army in their volunteer work, but professionally as well. Sam Sr. retired as a

first sergeant from the Army in 1996 after more than 24 years of service, and both currently work full time as Army civilians, program analysts at the Space and Missile Defense Command. They both actively volunteer with the Survivor Outreach Services program and Tragedy Assistance Program through Army Community Service. Sam Jr., who served in the Navy, is active in his community of Virginia Beach, Va., where he volunteers for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the state governor’s and senators offices, and at the city visitors center.

“The Bertling family has demonstrated their strong commitment to serving others and various veterans organizations through their highly involved community services,” Jim Rountree, vice president, Army Family Programs, of the Redstone-Huntsville chapter, said. “They are all absolutely passionate in their total support in these efforts. Their love for American values, and their obvious pride to be an Army family exemplifies their distinctive patriotism and love



Photo by Ellen Hudson

From left, Association of the U.S. Army’s Jim Rountree and Kris McBride present the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter’s award to the Bertling family, Sam, KC and Sam Jr. The two video-teleconferencing screens in the background show SMDC’s Huntsville scene and Colorado Springs scene.

of country.”

The family’s list of volunteer efforts is extensive, but also includes preparing and serving Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for Soldiers stationed at Hohenfels, Germany where they were assigned in the 1990s, assisting in the days following the April 27, 2011 tornadoes and

serving in various capacities at the churches in the communities where they have lived.

“We are very proud of KC, Sam and Sam Jr. and all the efforts that they have put in,” Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of SMDC, said. “We’re proud as can be that you have selected one of SMDC’s own to compete in October. Thank you for all you do on duty and off duty to support our Soldiers.”

Perhaps best known for her work with Korean War veterans, together with her husband, KC, a native of Korea, is passionate in her work in support of those veterans, and established the Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation in January 2011. The 501(c)3 not only supports the veterans at home here in the Tennessee Valley, but raises funds to send any that

are interested back to Korea for a week, where they are able to see how the country has changed as a result of their labors six decades ago.

“It’s a great opportunity for nine Korean War veterans to go back and see what they actually did,” Formica said.

Speaker tells why generations should work together

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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By 2020, half of the American work force will be comprised of Generation Y or younger, and they're not just a fresh crop of recruits filling the shoes of those who went before them, they're creating a whole new blueprint for the business world.

"If you begin to think about what kind of world they are going to create... there are going to be changes in this country," Karen McCullough said.

Through a mix of humor and facts, McCullough, a business keynote speaker, presented "Change is good... You go first" at the Sept. 19 Tomorrow's Army Civilian Leaders/Leader Investment for Tomorrow seminar at The Overlook. The seminar focused on the four generations that comprise today's work force in America, how those generations can better understand one another, and what needs to be done to foster and train the youngest in the bunch, Generation Y, those between 18 and 30, who are bringing an entirely different perspective to the office.

"Open your minds to the possibilities of what the world will be like in 2020," McCullough advised.

With plenty of laughs and some hard truths, she explained the major differences between Generation Y and the three generations that helped shape the world we live in today. As opposed to their older counterparts,

the "Traditionalists," age 66 and older, who fueled the post-WWII economic boom, the baby boomers who took corporate America to new heights through their highly motivated and competitive work ethic, and Generation X, now in their 30s and 40s, who sparked the technology that is enjoyed today, Generation Y has never lived in a world where the Internet or cell phones didn't exist. And as a result of that ever changing world and their upbringing, the way they approach work is vastly different from every other generation in the work force.

"We have to step aside and grow the talent," McCullough said. "We have to do training."

They're generalized as being multitaskers, impatient, the most educated, "can-do kids," proficient in technology, spoiled and adored by the generation that raised them, and strong in their belief that the world is there to help them. But despite their high level of education, the lessons previous generations already knew coming into the work force – like how to talk on the phone or dress appropriately for work – have never been learned, or even taught to many members of Generation Y. The only way to change that, McCullough said, is to teach them.

"We're just so used to not managing people because the baby boomers and Generation X got it, but we've got a very different generation now," McCullough said. "We've got to go back to managing people."



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Karen McCullough presents "Change is good... You go first" at The Overlook Sept. 19.

Generation Y workers aren't the only ones with learning to do, however, McCullough said. Social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, is the language of the up and coming generations, and it's not just a fad, it's here to stay, and may require many workers to open their minds to that change. Through an understanding of each other's background, the

older members of the work force can teach the younger members the ins and outs of the workplace, and Generation Y can usher the older generations into the future.

"I don't care how old you are, you've got to be open to change. If you're going to be on this earth for 10 more years, what will the technology be like 10 years from now?"

ACC historian creates Zombie Apocalypse board game

By LARRY McCASKILL

ACC Office of Congressional and Public Affairs

If you're trying to survive the latest zombie apocalypse, you might want to ask the Weitzel clan for a tip or two.

Inspired by his son, Mikhael Jr., and assisted by his wife, Faith, Mikhael Weitzel, Army Contracting Command historian, has developed a board game, *Zombie Apocalypse Survivor*, for those who are looking for ghoulish fun.

Weitzel said, like a lot of 7-year-olds, his son enjoys anything that involves fighting zombies. After playing a few of the board games on the market, Weitzel said his son had a better idea than buying another game he didn't really enjoy.

"My son asked me to help him make a game and then went on to describe a zombie survival game that was part board game and part videogame," Weitzel said. "He wanted different kinds of zombies and wanted survivors who were killed to be able to come back as a zombie. I told him I would see what I could do."

The next night, while driving home from a friend's house, Weitzel said ideas

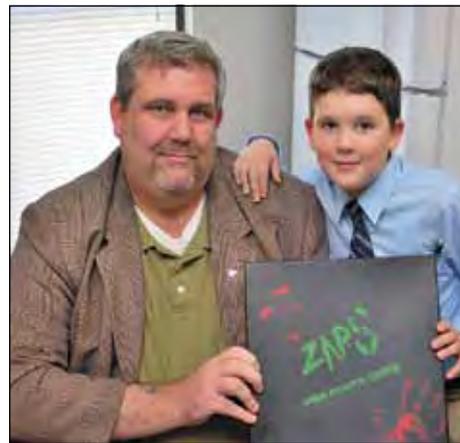
for the game began to creep into his head.

"I jotted down some notes when I got home and the next morning took them and started expanding them," said Weitzel, who has been playing and collecting board games and miniature games for 33 years. "I sketched the board designs and talked about it with my wife and son. They shared their excitement, enthusiasm and ideas. Over the next week, my wife and I discussed what materials we would need and began making the components."

Making the game from scratch became a family affair while Weitzel developed most of the rules himself.

"It took about two weeks to make the first playable prototype and a total of five weeks to get to the third prototype," he said. "We originally used wooden cube beads for dice. My wife and I filled the holes through the beads with wood putty, sanded them flat, spray painted them and then numbered them by hand. We found we could make translucent green resin dice with glow-in-the-dark skull beads inside to represent special zombies."

The game has more than 650 dice, numerous bags and boards but the biggest



Courtesy photo

Army Contracting Command historian Mikhael Weitzel and his son, Mikhael Jr., show the board game they developed titled "Zombie Apocalypse Survivor."

challenge for Weitzel was ensuring the rules were balanced and the game would be fun.

"I want the game to be fun, but still challenging and something people would want to play again," he said.

In developing the rules, Weitzel had

to be conscious of making the rules simple enough to understand but flexible enough to allow creative thinking.

"I had to write the rules in a way that someone could pick them up and learn how to play. It is easy to tell someone how to play, but converting that into a rulebook was an unexpected challenge," he said after having a friend's 10-year-old son read them and try to play.

The game itself includes zombies, dice and strategic player placement, a combination Weitzel said he hasn't seen before.

"The game requires a player to make tough choices on what your survivors should do each day and finding the right balance for your strategy," he said. "It also requires each player to make moral choices. And the game requires a little bit of luck as you roll the dice."

Over the next few months, Weitzel said he has two public play-tests scheduled and welcomes others who want to play the game to take a shot at it.

"I have already identified three board game publishers that are accepting designs. Then we will keep our fingers crossed. Right now we dream about seeing our game on shelves before Christmas 2013," he said.

Photo by Pat Corkery,
United Launch Alliance

SMDC satellites

A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket blasts off from Space Launch Complex-3 at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., on Sept. 13 with two Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command nanosatellites on board. The SMDC/ARSTRAT nanosatellites were launched as part of the Army's continuing effort to provide low-cost, tactically responsive space capabilities through the use of small satellite technologies. This is the second launch of Army-built nanosatellites. SMDC is the Army lead for the small satellite program.



Photo by Merv Brokke, AMRDEC Public Affairs

System engineering grads

AMRDEC director Eric Edwards, center right, joins recent graduates of a system engineering program sponsored by RDECOM at the Naval Postgraduate School. Six employees from AMRDEC's Engineering Directorate and Technical Management Directorate completed all requirements for the master's of science degree. Graduates include, from left, Billy Driver, Wesley Trousdale, Vic Doumar, Melesia Love, Shezarae Washington-Orr. Not pictured is Bill Jacobs. "This is an example of RDECOM's commitment to further the system engineering competency and develop future leaders in system engineering," Jackie Langhout, TMD director, said. During the two-year program, students from across RDECOM completed 48 academic quarter credits through distance learning.



Hunter stalks the ultimate big game – alligator

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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There's always the one that got away. Marshall Jones has hunted dove, duck, turkey, deer, rabbit, squirrel, anything you'd rustle up for dinner after a long day in the woods, and has found relaxation with a rod, reel and watering hole. But when it came time to purchase his 2012 Alabama hunting license, Jones discovered there was one animal he had yet to claim as a conquest – the American alligator.

A federally protected species, it's illegal to hunt and kill alligator in Alabama, except for two weekends in August, when winners of a special lottery are able to take to designated waters of South Alabama from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. Thursday through Sunday to hunt for one prized catch. His first year with his name in the running, Jones, with his father Ken and brother Luke, found themselves trolling the waters of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta for gator.

"We really didn't know what to do," said Jones, an air vehicle senior engineer, UH-60 modernization, for SAIC. "You ride up and down the banks of the river and you shine a spotlight. Their eyes grow bright orange, small little green eyes are snakes, and frog eyes glow mostly white. You see everything at night. Once you see their eyes, you go past them

and circle back around and determine whether they're worth foolin' with or not."

Hunters are allowed to capture and kill one alligator, 6-foot or larger, per hunting season. Baiting is not allowed, but rather the gator must be hooked with a bow and arrow equipped with a line, or hooked with a snare or treble hook, which don't penetrate the skin. The idea is to get the gator tangled up in the line, and once it is pulled up next to the boat, determine its size by measuring how many inches are from the center of the eye to the center of the nostril, representative of how many feet it is. If it is 6-foot or larger, the hunter must shoot the gator through the back of the head, behind the eyes, severing the spinal cord. If it's not 6-feet, the gator is released unharmed.

"Five foot is a big enough alligator to anybody, but when they're 6 feet they're sexually mature, so they're trying to take those out of the system and keep it from being a nuisance," Jones said.

Unsure of whether they'd actually find gators, or how to find them at night, Jones



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Marshall Jones, air vehicle senior engineer, UH-60 modernization, SAIC, participated in the 2012 Alabama alligator hunting season.

and family were delightfully surprised at how plentiful they actually were, at times a mere 50 feet away from a home's pier. Every night they saw gators, and even witnessed an alligator jump out of the water and devour a snake before it hit the surface again.

"I had never seen that before," Jones said. "I've seen them in a zoo, seen them on TV, but until you really see it – they jump half their body out of their water and eat something – it's pretty neat."

Over the course of the two weekends, the hunting family hooked a few gators from their 20-foot flat bottom duck boat, including a 3-footer that decided to

make a go of it for awhile, but none large enough to bring home with them.

"It was fun, we hooked him, played with him for about 20 minutes – he went up and down and pushed the boat around – when he got tired of it, he flung his tail, the hook went above the boat and that was it," Jones said. "He just swam off. It was just neat."

The ultimate prize prey would come on the last day of their hunt.

"We finally got one right after midnight, it came right out into the middle of the open creek and it was big enough to take, and we were fixing to start, had the boat lined up and went to crank the motor to pull up just a little bit closer to it, about 5 feet from it, and the motor went duh-duh-duh-duh," said Jones, who hadn't brought extra batteries for the boat, knowing their trip would soon be over. "There was enough juice to run the trolling lights, but not enough to crank the motor. That was it. That last one we saw was actually going to be it. It was perfect. Open water, no stumps, no trees, no nothin'. You could've jumped off the boat and tackled it. It was the one that got away, which is always the case."

Rather than gator for dinner and a set of jaws for his desk at the Sparkman Center, Jones and his family walked away with a greater appreciation for the alligator – and a desire to do it all over again next year.

"It was exciting, but we really didn't know what to expect," he said. "It actually seems a lot easier, but we haven't killed one yet, so that may be another part of the story that we don't know yet."

"Every time we go to Gulf Shores now for vacation or even fishin', you look over and go, 'yeah, that water...' You always knew it had snakes in it, you never knew it had that many alligators in it. I never thought about that."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Cargo helicopters PM

Col. Bob Marion is the Cargo Helicopters project manager under the Program Executive Office for Aviation. He and his wife, Lisa, have four children: daughter Sydney, 20, and sons Derek, 15, Joshua, 10, and Caleb, 5.



Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Retirement honor

Dr. Mark Swinson, director, Space and Cyberspace Technology Directorate, Technical Center, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, pins the Meritorious Civilian Service medal on Stephen Cayson, deputy director, SCTD, during Cayson's retirement Sept. 17. He retired after 25 years.

AMC leader visits Security Assistance Command

Army Materiel Command's commander Gen. Dennis Via made his first official visit to the Security Assistance Command Sept. 17 since taking command in August and saw AMC's vision as a "Globally Networked Logistics Enterprise" already in place at USASAC.

After noting that USASAC is already supporting the Army chief of staff's Prevent, Shape and Win strategy, he summarized his expectations for the command.

"I need you to help 'shape' who I need to meet with to help you with your mission. ... You know better than anyone else that it's all about relationships," Via said.

USASAC's commander Maj. Gen. Del Turner showcased initiatives developed to improve how the command leads the AMC Security Assistance Enterprise and co-leads the Army enterprise with the deputy assistant secretary of the Army for defense exports and cooperation.

Turner, along with the directors from each of USASAC's regional operations directorates, which include PACOM/SOUTHCOM, EUCOM/AFRICOM (which includes NORTHCOM), CENTCOM, and the Intensive Management Office (dedicated to Afghanistan and Pakistan cases), provided an overview of their foreign military sales cases and how they are supporting the combatant command's priorities.

"We are continuously engaged with the COCOMs and ASCCs (Army Service Component Commands)," Turner said.

But the main focus, as Turner explained, was "aggressively pursuing improvement initiatives."

Via was shown demonstrations of an internally developed "dashboard" that

will allow enterprise members to "see" the "Common Operating Picture" and follow critical metric data for the life cycle of a case. This is intended to improve efficiencies so the many enterprise members can track the process schedule in real-time and be prepared to execute their portion as expeditiously as possible, or even provide support if needed.

Similarly, training and training tools have been developed that will facilitate a greater shared understanding and help integrate new employees. USASAC's GI demonstrated its "Desk Side Reference," which makes FMS operational training available to enterprise members anytime via their computer by accessing USASAC's portal.

"We are building the work force bench for the future," Turner added.

Via emphasized that USASAC has laid the groundwork for its success, "but you can't rest on your laurels."

Via also complimented USASAC on its support and planning for Excess Defense Articles, which are items no longer in inventory that are designated to be sold through FMS.

"This is helping us keep our organic industrial base hot," he said in reference to refurbishment of items such as tanks purchased by Iraq that were then funded for work at Anniston Army Depot.

"Times of conflict go in cycles, but we must keep our capability to Reset and sustain," he added.

Via concluded his visit by thanking the USASAC work force for providing "power to the Army and power to the nation," and supporting AMC in providing "the decisive edge to the war fighter." (USASAC release)



Photo by John Pearson

Education outreach

Mary Epps, logistics management specialist at AMCOM, speaks with students about career opportunities at Redstone Arsenal. She and the AMCOM Army Educational Outreach Program participated in the Junior Achievement College and Career Fair at the University of Alabama-Huntsville. The event was for Huntsville and Madison County schools.

Veterans hiring program benefits TMDE Activity

By MIKE LUCENTO

TMDE Activity

Over the past year, the Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity has filled 14 vacancies with veterans using the Veterans Recruitment Authority.

The positions filled have included calibrators, packing inspectors, logisticians and engineers.

"VRA is indeed an excellent way to go when you have a position and an individual that fit each other," Tom Chaffee, director of the Engineering, Acquisition and Logistics Directorate, said. "All of our VRA selectees have received high praise and recognition for their accomplishments since their hire."

The Army Primary Standards Laboratory has used the Veterans Recruitment Authority to hire two veterans in the past year. David Jones works in the Customer Support Division as a packing inspector; and Donald James is an engineering technician in the Army Dosimetry Center.

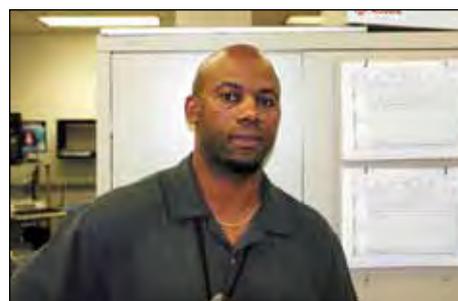
"The VRA authority gave us a chance to hire these veterans, and the results



David Jones

have been outstanding," Larry Tarr, director of the Army Primary Standards Laboratory, said. "The knowledge, discipline and motivation they bring to the workplace have been a true asset. The program is a win-win opportunity for everyone."

Worldwide, the TMDE Activity employs a work force of more than 600 Army civilians ranging from calibration technicians, scientists and engineers to logisticians and program administrators. The activity is charged with executing the Army's test measurement and diagnostic equipment calibration and repair



Donald James

support program for more than 757,000 items of TMDE. Support is provided through a network of calibration laboratories located in 26 states and 10 countries.

The activity's strength comes from its diverse, multi-talented work force. The activity particularly values the knowledge, training and practical work force experience veterans bring to the organization.

"Veterans understand accomplishing a mission and they have demonstrated the ability to work efficiently and effectively in a multicultural environment,"

TMDE deputy executive director Ron King said. "USATA needs employees with good communication skills and positive attitudes. They need the ability to adapt to change, become team players and solve problems. Veterans learn these skills while serving their country."

The Veterans Recruitment Authority has become a valuable tool in selecting candidates for employment at the activity and it is only one of the many ways available to managers to bring veterans onboard.

This authority allows a manager to fill positions quickly by appointing eligible veterans to positions for which they are qualified, up to and including GS-11 or equivalent, without issuing a vacancy announcement. The candidate does not have to be on a list of eligible people but must meet the basic qualification requirements for the position. Veterans must have been separated under honorable conditions and meet all VRA eligibility requirements.

More information on VRA and other veterans hiring programs can be found at Feds Hire Vets at <http://www.fedshirevets.gov/Index.aspx>.

Courtesy photo

Process improvers

Joining the ranks of the Lean Six Sigma's Green Belt cadre are, from left, standing, Todd Wilkerson, Latoya Adams, David Busby, Fred Rice and seated, Toni Hamilton, Nicole Olbricht and Jenny Hess. This distinction culminates two weeks of effort on such topics as Process Control and Balancing, Streamlining, Failure Modes and Effects Analysis. "This is a journey," Danita Brooks, AMCOM's Office of Continuous Improvement, said. "This is your first milestone in process improvement efforts."

Making a difference for today's Soldiers

AMCOM's senior enlisted Soldier brings 31 years experience to job

By **KARI HAWKINS**
Assistant editor
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Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell would like to share something from Redstone Arsenal with the Army's youngest Soldiers.

And that something would be the community's tremendous hospitality for those serving in uniform.

Glidewell, who has served as the command sergeant major for the Aviation and Missile Command since May, knows that recent changes and consolidations within the Army have taken away Redstone's youngest Soldiers, moving them from advanced individual training at what was formerly the Arsenal's Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School to its new location at Fort Lee, Va. But still, he's convinced that Redstone and the surrounding community is one of the best places in the nation to raise the Army's forces.

"In my career, I've been to Redstone Arsenal several times and it has always been a professional place," he said. "But, since I've gotten here, I've truly been impressed with this awesome community and the people here who really care about Soldiers and their families. I wish more Soldiers could come here and experience that."

For now, a much smaller group of active duty Soldiers are continuing to benefit from the great relationship between Redstone and the surrounding community. And Glidewell is growing into his new role as a senior enlisted Soldier supporting the primarily civilian work force that makes up AMCOM and the rest of Redstone's tenants.

"Many of the civilians here are somehow connected to the military. They are

military retirees who are now working civilian jobs, or family members of military retirees or current Soldiers," Glidewell said.

"When I talk with civilian groups, I try to answer every question I get and I try to join the military to what we are doing here today. I want to be approachable and help them to understand who the Army Soldier is."

This Soldier's Soldier and two-time Iraq war veteran has served in uniform for 31 years, with many of his positions related to helicopter maintenance. Before his current assignment, he served as the command sergeant major for the Combat Readiness/Safety Center at Fort Rucker for two years and then as the command sergeant major for the Aviation Branch Command at Fort Rucker for three years.

The Aviation Branch Command is charged with producing aviation Soldiers for the world's premier aviation force. Its Combat Readiness/Safety Center is one of the largest, most comprehensive safety programs in the world, designed to create safe air and ground operations, and to promote safe practices by military and civilian personnel on and off duty.

Those two previous assignments have particularly prepared Glidewell in his role today as the senior enlisted adviser to AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar. His experience at Fort Rucker helps to further solidify the working relationship between that installation and AMCOM, and especially with the Aviation Center Logistics Command, which is a subordinate command to AMCOM. ACLC is responsible for maintaining aircraft for Fort Rucker's aviation training mission.

"While I was at Fort Rucker, I learned about the training aspects of training aviation Soldiers. Understanding the roles of the different elements involved in training aviators and sustaining the aviation fleet allows me to help guide the commander on the sustainment piece,"



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell of the Aviation and Missile Command represents Soldier concerns as the senior enlisted adviser to AMCOM commander Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar. He has 31 years of experience in helicopter maintenance and logistics.

Glidewell said.

His Fort Rucker experience built upon many years of leading the Army's helicopter maintenance Soldiers.

"I've worked with maintenance and logistics my whole career," Glidewell said.

After basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C., in 1981, he served as a crew chief at Fort Devens, Mass. He went on to serve as a section sergeant with the 210th Aviation Battalion at Fort Kobbe, Panama; an instructor/writer for the 1/10th Aviation Battalion at Fort Rucker; and a platoon sergeant for the 2/2nd Aviation Battalion at Camp Stanley, Korea, and for the 9/101st Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, Ky.

While at Fort Campbell, he also served as the equal opportunity adviser for the Garrison, and as the first sergeant for Alpha and later Delta companies of the 4/101st Aviation Regiment. Duty then took him to El Gorah, Egypt, where he served as the first sergeant for the Aviation Company of the 1st Support Battalion. He then returned to Fort Campbell, where he served as first sergeant for Bravo Company and later as operations sergeant for the 8/101st Aviation Regiment.

After attending the Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas, Glidewell went on to serve as battalion command

sergeant major for the 8/101st Aviation Regiment and then as brigade command sergeant major for the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, both at Fort Campbell.

During his first deployment with the 101st Airborne, Glidewell oversaw a 1,400-Soldier maintenance battalion supporting 270 aircraft that deployed through Jacksonville, Fla., to Kuwait into theater.

"After Desert Storm, we realized the 101st was quite a heavy division and when we deployed again we would have to have a way to deploy quickly," Glidewell said. "During about nine years, we developed tactics and techniques to load aviation assets on boats for transport."

"With Iraq, all that training came together. We loaded up 200 aircraft and all equipment in 19 days and we downloaded it in Kuwait in nine days. We delivered 6,600 pieces of aviation equipment quickly, and it made a big difference in the war effort."

Shortly after arriving in theater, he was selected to take on maintenance responsibility for the 101st Aviation Brigade (attack), consisting of 72 Apaches, 24 Kiowa Warriors and 24 Black Hawks responsible for aerial fires and reconnaissance for the 101st Aviation Brigade in northern Iraq.

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Wind tunnel tests future aircraft designs

By **HEATHER R. SMITH**

AMRDEC Public Affairs

The Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center, in partnership with NASA, completed a wind tunnel test program examining two future aircraft designs: the Army High Efficiency Tilt Rotor and the NASA Large Civil Tilt Rotor.

The tests were conducted in the 7-by-10-foot wind tunnel, located at NASA Ames-Moffett Field, Calif. Data from the tests of the two airframe models, without rotors, are being used to generate validation data for computational fluid dynamics tools and for the development of flight dynamics simulation models.

The similarities between the Army and the NASA aircrafts allowed a significant amount of hardware to be shared, thus reducing costs. The models used the same support system and shared the same wing and nacelles; the fuselages, tails and wingtips were different but interchangeable between the two models. According to test director Ashley Pete, using common hardware made it possible to carry out both tests with significantly less cost and time than would be necessary for two independent test programs.

Jeff Sinsay, principal investigator within AMRDEC's Aviation Development Directorate, said the Army's High Efficiency Tilt Rotor model is based on designs being evaluated for the intra-theater lift mission, as part of the ongoing Air Force and Army Joint Future Theater Lift technology study.



Photo by Brian Chan,
Army Aviation Development Directorate

Ultraviolet light is used to fluoresce oil during wind tunnel tests to aid in the visualization of surface flow and to identify flow transition and vortex locations. The approximately 1/20th scale models were tested in airplane mode at various angles of attack and yaw. The NASA model was tested also in hover mode at various nacelle tilt angles and at yaws of up to plus and minus 180 degrees.

The wind tunnel activity gathered sub-scale force and moment data that will be used to validate performance predictions made during the conceptual design process. Additional data was gathered on the flow behavior over a novel natural laminar flow tilt rotor wing airfoil, which promises improved cruise efficiency and reduced fuel burn, Sinsay said.

The 7-by-10-foot wind tunnel is used for basic and applied research in aeromechanics on advanced and unique technology rotorcraft. It supports research on advanced concepts and on problem-solving for current rotorcraft. The test section of this wind tunnel has a maximum speed capability of 100 knots.

AMC Band receives the Army Superior Unit Award

By **CHERISH WASHINGTON**
AMC Public Affairs

The Army Materiel Command Band received the Army Superior Unit Award in an official streamer ceremony Thursday for its exemplary record for 2011.

AMC commander Gen. Dennis Via presided over the ceremony and fastened the ceremonial Army Superior Unit Streamer to the unit flag before an audience of band members, family and friends.

“While I’m sure the Huntsville community is glad to have AMC here, they are really glad the AMC Band is here,” Via said. “You are ambassadors for this command, as well as our Army.”

Via said the award symbolizes the professionalism of not only their musical talents, but of their professionalism as Soldiers as well.

During 2011, the band completed its musical mission in multiple locations while simultaneously preparing for and executing relocation from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., to Redstone

Arsenal, despite having significant personnel shortages.

“On the stage or on the field, your presence is always impeccable,” Via said.

The AMC Band provided musical support to changes of command, full performances and promotions in Maryland, Alabama and AMC installations across the country.

The recommendation for the award stated that the AMC band maintained a rigorous training and performance schedule, moved from the Aberdeen Proving Ground training facility, and endured critical personnel shortages among other obstacles. By successfully overcoming all these challenges in such a short time, the band qualified for the Army Superior Unit Award.

“It’s an honor to receive this award, but now the real work begins,” Chief Warrant Officer 4 Peter Gillies, commander of the AMC Band, said. “Awards and recognition are nice, but they reflect the past. We need to continue to improve and build our reputation.”



Photo by Cherish Washington

The Army Materiel Command Band receives the Army Superior Unit Award in an official streamer ceremony Thursday.

Redstone Test Center simulates harsh environments

By LEAH CUNNINGHAM

Director, Environmental and Component Directorate, RTC

Imagine all the bumps, bruises, drops, temperature fluctuations, rain exposure, sea salt accumulation, sand and icing to which a weapon, sensor or aviation system or component is exposed. All of these environments can be simulated at the Redstone Test Center during developmental and qualification testing. Environmental tests are routinely conducted on all types of weapon systems, aviation systems, subsystems and sensors.

The test environments replicate transportation and storage conditions which are encountered from the time of missile manufacture to its destruction of a target and everything in between. Data collected during these tests enable RTC to provide their customers with information needed to make final design decisions. Choosing the best design results in fewer functional, quality and safety issues for a weapon or aviation system as it is fielded to U.S. troops.

“RTC’s ultimate goal is to assist our customers in building the best systems possible so that our Soldiers are equipped

Overview of RTC Part 2 of series

to successfully execute their mission and return home safely,” Leah Cunningham, director of the Environmental and Component Directorate, said.

RTC’s Environmental and Component Test Directorate is responsible for developing and conducting environmental testing to replicate the full-spectrum of conditions a system is likely to encounter from initial manufacture to its use in war. This range of environmental conditions is referred to as the Life Cycle Environmental Profile. The LCEP of a weapon, ground or aviation system consists of a variety of environmental factors that revolve around dynamic (e.g. vibration and shock effects), various electromagnetic environmental effects, and a number of climatic conditions (e.g., temperature extremes, exposure to humidity, salt fog, wind, rain and altitude).

The three ECTD test divisions which play a primary role in environmental

testing at RTC are the Dynamic Test Division, Electromagnetic Environmental Effects Test Division and the Climatic Test Division. Each of these test divisions feature specialized facilities and highly trained personnel to support this testing.

The Dynamic Test Division features five large test bays for conducting dynamic testing. Test items range from small components such as a small aviation box up to full systems such as the Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile flight vibration conducted via dual shaker.

To replicate dynamic conditions encountered during logistic supply portion of the LCEP, systems are tested to environments such as wheeled and tracked vehicle vibration, road shock, and handling drops/impacts. Later, to replicate conditions during the tactical deployment portion of the LCEP, systems are tested to various environments associated with conditions such as engine induced vibration, helicopter or fixed wing aircraft vibrations, captive carry (acoustic) effects, catapult launch and arrested landing shock, road and off-road shock, weapons firing shock, handling drops and impacts, takeoff and landing maneuver and acceleration effects. Finally, a weapon system has to be tested to emulate its exposure during launch and delivery to target, i.e., testing for launch shock, flight vibration, acoustic vibration, pyroshock and launch acceleration. In addition, many of these tests are conducted at temperature extremes. As each test is conducted, the system or relevant subsystems are inspected through techniques such as X-ray or functional tests to determine whether



Courtesy photo

Test items range from small components such as a small aviation box up to full systems such as this Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missile flight vibration conducted via dual shaker.

any environmental test has had an adverse impact on the system.

“Recent upgrades to the dynamic test facilities include an increased capability in addressing multiple degree-of-freedom testing,” Dr. Michael Hale, senior electronics engineer at the Dynamic Test Division, said. “MDOF testing allows for the simultaneous excitation of multiple linear and rotational motions, yielding a significant increase in test fidelity via improved correlation to actual measured field events. In addition, schedule and cost efficiencies are achieved through reduced testing time as compared to traditional serial single degree-of-freedom techniques.”

In addition to the capabilities to address MDOF testing, RTC is an active participant in the standardization of MDOF testing at both national and international levels.

RTC Electromagnetic Environmental Effects Test Division provides a full spectrum of E3 testing for missiles, aviation

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AMC developed communications technology in 1990s

By SHERRI HEADRICK

AMC contributing writer

The Army Materiel Command in the 1990s was known for its support to humanitarian efforts worldwide. But how AMC communicated internally was transforming, thanks to the perspective of employees willing to be the catalysts for change.

John Goodman, chief of the AMC Media Center, was part of this transformation. He has always had an interest in transforming technology.

“As a young kid, I was always pulling old radios, lawn mower parts and other stuff out of the trash can – anything with electrical or mechanical parts – just to see how things worked and see if I could make something new,” he said.

Goodman came to AMC in 1973 and was active duty until 1975. After leaving the Army, he worked at the Pentagon for four years at the Army Audio Visual Center. He returned to AMC in 1980.

It was during the ‘80s that Goodman would be part of a team that brought videoconferencing technology to AMC and to the DoD.

“AMC was the first videoconference facility in DoD in the 1980s. Planning started in 1981 and was implemented in April 1986,” he said.

As he describes, the ‘80s began the transformation from traditional graphics and presentations to electronic and

AMC: Then and Now 50 Years of history Part 9 of series

computer-generated presentations. He recalled speakers who were used to carrying stacks of viewgraphs looking at him suspiciously when he would hand them a disc and tell them it contained their presentation.

“It was a huge cultural shift to get things done and to get people comfortable with new technologies,” Goodman said.

The 1990s brought rapid expansion of and competition around computer systems, computer graphics, video conferences, videos and other technologies. Goodman wisely recognized the importance of assembling a top-notch team at AMC.

“I helped bring in our talent pool,” he said. “I specifically hired people for their in-depth knowledge of presentation skills. We brought in degreed professionals such as digital imaging professionals who had a sustained interest in the technology as a career field as opposed to a hobby.”

The team’s expertise paid off. They found ways to imbed videos before it became standard. They developed what was considered “extravagant” multimedia presentations in the 1990s.

This RTC facility tests equipment and high explosive ordnance against transient effects ensuring military assets are safe against electrostatic and lightning effects. It is a one-of-a-kind capability for the U.S. and its allies.

Lightning effects can be divided into two major categories, direct strike lightning and near strike lightning. A direct lightning strike is a high current event in which up to 200,000 amps of electricity is discharged. This significant electrical current can cause structural damage to equipment, especially when explosive ordnance is involved. Near strike lightning, which is typically more benign than a direct strike, can scramble and potentially damage equipment due to the high electromagnetic fields induced near the high current event.

“It is important for the safety and operational success of our armed forces that the effects of lightning on military equipment are designed for and understood,” Mark Walker, chief of the E3 Test Division, said.



Army photo

The Army Materiel Command’s John Goodman, left, and his colleague Arthur Stone prepare for an official event.

An informal competition developed between AMC, TRADOC and FORSCOM, with AMC leading the pack. During the ‘90s, AMC was recognized in “Technical Photography” and other national trade magazines for its technological excellence.

Goodman and team still maintain that commitment to excellence today.

In the current media office, there are more than 200 years of combined professional experience.

“We do things that hopefully impact our customers’ programs in a positive manner,” Goodman said. “The bottom line, I am pleased when I see positive results. I’m happy when the customer is happy. That’s my reward.”

RTC

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systems and their components. Some of the most highly visual testing that occurs at RTC involves testing for near lightning strikes, direct lightning strikes and electrostatic events.

One of the most powerful and destructive phenomenon in nature is lightning. There are approximately 40-50 lightning strikes per second worldwide, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Of particular interest and concern to the Department of Defense is the potential for destruction of explosives and surrounding equipment as a result of a lightning event. It is for this reason that the DoD built a facility at RTC during the 1980s – a facility capable of not only creating a simulated lightning strike, but also capable of containing any resulting explosive event should the item under test explode as a result.

The Climatic Test Division operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week conducting climatic testing on weapon systems, aviation subsystems and components. Test environments include extreme temperatures, humidity, altitude, solar radiation, salt fog, freezing rain/icing, blowing and dripping rain, immersion, blowing sand and blowing dust. Field services include LCEP development, field conditioning, instrumentation and test specification development.

The Climatic Test Division operates and maintains the Tactical Test Facility, a Joint Attack Munition System Project Office-funded Hellfire test facility. The TTF provides the capability to functionally test Hellfire and Longbow missiles at their operational temperature extremes. Functional testing at the extreme temperatures validates the system performance in the anticipated environment. The TTF was designed to facilitate two test bays separated by a firewall. Each test bay contains two chambers connected by a common door. One cham-

ber provides temperature conditioning while the other contains the functional test set. Several missiles can be conditioned in one chamber while simultaneously conducting functional tests on missiles in the adjacent test chamber. The test item temperature is maintained by transferring each round from chamber to chamber through the common door. The overall temperature extreme capability ranges from 160 degrees Fahrenheit to minus-100 F.

RTC environmental testers are dedicated to providing technical expertise and state of the art facilities to conduct and analyze environmental and functional tests on aviation and missile systems, subsystems and components. In short, their experts can design a test that is able to recreate various storage environments the weapon systems or components will be exposed to in their lifetime. Cradle to grave testing at RTC – working to meet customer’s test needs and helping to deploy systems for our Soldiers in the field.

PIF modifications flown on Mi-17s

The Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center's Prototype Integration Facility supported the Non-Standard Rotary Wing Aviation Project Management Office by upgrading a fleet of Mi-17 helicopters.

The AMRDEC PIF has fabricated and delivered 40 cargo ballast systems for installation on the Russian-built Mi-17.

James Curtin, PIF government project lead, said the cargo ballast system improves the helicopter's center of gravity, which then allows for a wider range of mission profiles. The new and expanded capabilities include the ability to carry more cargo or more troops and the inclusion of weapon systems on the aircraft.

In this collaboration, the NSRWA PMO provided development and design of the system while the PIF led drawing development, fabrication, integration and structural substantiation. Curtin added that one

of the more unique tasks for the PIF was stenciling onto the components in a foreign language.

Established in January 2010, the NSRWA PMO's mission is to procure, field and sustain non-standard rotorcraft for the Department of Defense, allied countries or as directed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense in support of other contingency operations. In particular, the PMO was chartered to address immediate and long-term safety and sustainment issues for the Mi-17, and to develop and maintain the standard of support for all Mi-17 operations involving U.S. and coalition forces. (AMRDEC release)

The AMRDEC's Prototype Integration Facility has fabricated and delivered 40 cargo ballast systems for installation on the Russian-built Mi-17.

Army photo



Soldier

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When he returned to the U.S., Glidewell was assigned to oversee maintenance activities for an attack brigade of the 101st that at first consisted of 72 Apache helicopters, 24 Kiowa helicopters and 24 Black Hawk helicopters. After redeployment to Fort Campbell, that unit transformed into the first medium-sized multi-functional aviation brigade and then deployed once again to Iraq. The combat aviation brigade grew to 160 aircraft and more than 4,000 Soldiers during the deployment and flew more than 132,000 hours in support of operations in northern Iraq.

"In maintenance, we supported all the aircraft," he said. "We performed all aviation maintenance sustainment for the 101st Airborne Division. We supported attack helicopters that went out on aerial fires and reconnaissance for the 101st Aviation Brigade in northern Iraq. We were multi-functional and we supported all aviation assets north of Baghdad."

After completing that deployment, Glidewell reported to Fort Rucker as the command sergeant major of the Army Safety Center, where he applied his combat experience to reducing aviation accidents across the Army, and then to the Aviation Branch Command.

Now at AMCOM, Glidewell agrees that his experience reflects quite a journey for someone who first started out wanting to be a carpenter and cabinet maker. Glidewell grew up on the family farm in Pennsylvania, and attended vocational school.

"I was the oldest of four boys. My dad was a steel worker and my mom worked third shift. So, I was responsible for a lot

while I was growing up," Glidewell said. "My parents knew they couldn't keep me around. I was going to go do something. I had too many ideas to stay on the farm."

But, in the late '70s and early '80s, the steel industry was going bust and unemployment was high. The military seemed like a good option.

"I first thought I would go into Navy subs," Glidewell recalled. "But one of my dad's friends was an airborne Ranger and he told me helicopters were the future."

"So I went to talk to an Army recruiter and he tried to make me a Pershing missile crewman. But I asked for aviation and I was lucky to get Black Hawk when it was a new military occupational specialty."

He first flew as a crew chief and a standardizing instructor. But it wasn't long before he realized that the Army's greater need was for good maintainers.

"My niche was that I was able to fix things that other people didn't want to," Glidewell said. "On the farm, I had to fix a lot of things myself because we couldn't afford to get things repaired. So, I started working helicopter maintenance in large maintenance companies, and I got promoted quickly."

During those early years, he met his wife, who was also a Soldier.

"We pushed each other and she supported me," Glidewell said. "When I went to the war fighters leadership course, I practiced by marching her around and gave her commands for physical training. She helped me with boards. She got out of the Army when she got pregnant. But we pushed each other to get an education, and she's gone on to have her own career as a civil servant. When our daughters came along we pushed them to go to college."

And he discovered that mentoring oth-

er Soldiers was a rewarding experience.

"It's about the people," he said. "My work with Soldiers has been a two-way street. Soldiers have taught me a lot and I've tried to teach them as well. I have enjoyed leading Soldiers in combat and watching them grow as individuals."

"I believe everyone should find a way to serve their country. It teaches them about public service and about values. It teaches the value of our freedom and what makes our country great."

Along the way in his career, he started taking on logistics assignments in support of the maintenance mission.

"Learning how to support and sustain helicopters was difficult. It made the maintenance side seem easy. But I knew it would make me a better leader if I understood logistics as well as maintenance," Glidewell said.

"All throughout my career, the Army and my mentors pushed me to be the best. They pushed me to try new things. And it does pay off, making you a well-rounded non-commissioned officer."

At AMCOM, Glidewell hopes to rely on his experience to support the organization's mission during a time of budget tightening.

"Our challenge is to provide the best assets to the war fighter at the best cost to the taxpayer," he said. "We have to be able to sustain these systems that we've fought hard the last 11 years."

Though that's a difficult mission, Glidewell knows the Army's helicopter fleet is designed for long life cycles as long as maintenance is kept up to date. The 1971 Huey helicopter he first flew with as a crew chief back in 1981 is still flying. The second aircraft he crewed in Panama – a 1984 Black Hawk – is now being used by the Air Force for training exercises at Fort Rucker.

"Every day we are learning how to get

more out of these aircraft," Glidewell said. "Condition-Based Maintenance is the key to unlocking how much our aviation fleet can take."

The command sergeant major is especially concerned that as the Army downsizes, so, too will maintenance capabilities.

"During the last 10 years, we have brought on a lot of contractors down-range to help maintain our helicopters because of increased flying hours," he said. "We have to bring those contractor numbers down while at the same time bringing up the experience of our Soldiers. If we don't do that right, then our Soldiers will lack the experience to maintain the fleet in theater."

He said there are always plenty of opportunities for Soldiers who "are eager to learn and grasp new ideas, and who work long hours."

"Growing up in the Army, we didn't work off a training schedule. Our life was dictated by operational readiness requirements. We worked 14 and 16 hour days. If they stay motivated, Soldiers will do well. But they have to be able to balance their military occupational specialty with the Army requirements. First, they are Soldiers. Then, they are helicopter mechanics and then they have their professional requirements."

While Glidewell mentors Soldiers at work, he is also mentoring them at home. Two of his three daughters are married to enlisted Soldiers – one a military police officer at Fort Knox, Ky., and the other a unmanned aircraft system repairman at Fort Campbell.

"I tell them and all Soldiers I talk to that they have to stay in the top 10 percent of their peer group," he said. "If you push yourself to be in the top 10 percent then you'll never be overlooked for a promotion."

Taking stand against suicide



An Armywide Suicide Prevention Stand Down involves Garrison chaplain Maj. Paige Heard and the entire force.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

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Suicide prevention stand down slated Thursday

By J.D. LEIPOLD

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – On Thursday the Army will conduct a suicide prevention stand down worldwide to focus on promoting good health, teammate involvement, risk reduction and resilience training.

Army vice chief of staff Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III ordered Thursday's stand down following the release of July suicide figures, which confirmed two suicides and another 36 potential suicides presently under investigation. To date, 120 active-duty Soldiers are confirmed to have taken their lives while another 67 deaths are under investigation.

"Suicide is the toughest enemy I have faced in my 37 years in the Army," he said, adding that he believes its preventable through solutions aimed at helping individuals build resiliency to help strengthen their life-coping skills. Austin said the Army must continue to address the stigma associated with asking for help.

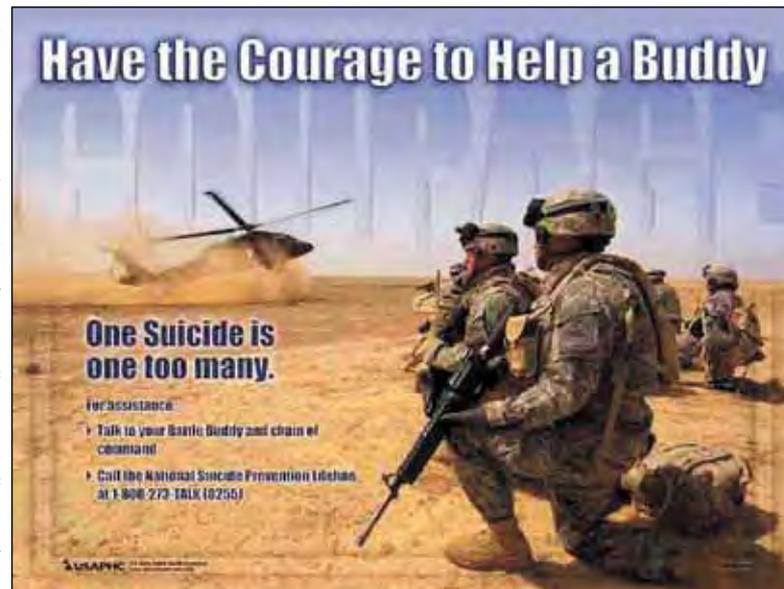
"Ultimately, we want the mindset across our force and society at large to be that behavioral health is a routine part of what we do and who we are as we strive

to maintain our own physical and mental wellness," Austin said.

The last suicide prevention stand down the Army had was in 2009 and followed the train-the-trainer concept and how to recognize potential suicides, but this year's program brings a more holistic approach to beating the epidemic, said Walter Morales, chief of the Army Suicide Prevention Program. Morales said Army suicides have more than doubled since 2004.

"I think the big difference between 2009 and now is this time we've focused all across the Army, even here at the Pentagon we're going to stand down with the Army chief of staff leading a personal session by talking with the general officers and senior executives," Lt. Gen. Howard Bromberg, Army G-1, said.

"This is absolutely a battle that we have to engage in every single day," Bromberg added. "I'm asking all Soldiers this entire month and moving forward just to think about that as military members, family members, teammates, civilians, neigh-



Army graphic

The Army will conduct an Armywide Suicide Prevention Stand Down on Thursday to focus on promoting good health, teammate involvement, risk reduction and resilience training.

the challenges we have," Glaze added. "We have the Army substance abuse program that gets after the dependencies on alcohol and drug abuse and we have for those Soldiers who are geographically dispersed the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK."

bors and friends to look out for each other in our community."

Said Morales, "We're looking at health promotion – establishment of good eating and sleeping habits, different ways of exercising and that leadership must be involved and accountable, so we'll be looking at many resources and not just those resources specifically for suicide prevention. Our goal is to let Soldiers, leaders, family members and Army civilians know we have resources to help them remain risk-free."

Several of those resources include Army Strong Bonds, a program led by the Chaplain Corps which seeks to build resiliency by offering individual Soldiers and families relationship education and skills training, explained Col. George Glaze, chief of the Health Promotion Risk Reduction Division of G-1.

"We have Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness which is about building resiliency and learning coping life skills that you need to handle with some of

Morales said programs like ACE – Ask, Care, Escort – teaches skills on how to intervene, and what questions to ask to get Soldiers the help they need. The key, he said, is to have the courage to intervene by stepping in with alternative solutions.

"There can be no bystanders in this battlefront," Glaze said. "The stand down is an opportunity to heighten awareness by offering a menu to commanders, those leaders down to the unit to figure out what is specific to their communities and populations – relationship challenges or financial challenges – then making sure the assets are available to them."

In the end, he said, the solution to Army suicides rests with Soldiers asking for help and recognizing that it's OK to come forward and ask for help without repercussion.

"Seeking help when needed is a sign of strength, help is out there, it's available and it works," Glaze said. "The quicker you get help, the quicker you get back into the fight."

Team Redstone plans suicide prevention stand downs

By **TERRI STOVER**

For the Rocket

Redstone organizations have scheduled activities for the Army's worldwide Suicide Prevention Stand Down on Thursday.

During the observance, the annual mandatory training materials will be presented to Army civilians and Soldiers. This year's theme is "Shoulder to Shoulder, We Stand Up For Life." The Army has instructed commanders to provide a two-phased stand down. Phase one is awareness and education, which will include discussions on risk, protective factors, resilience and support services available in the local area. Phase two will review and validate training learned in phase one, and will promote and support physical resilience through various activities.

Many commands across Redstone will be observing this stand down day, while others will stand down on different dates.

• PEO Missiles and Space, PEO Aviation, and the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center have already observed their

stand down day earlier this month.

• Fox Army Health Center, Hazardous Devices School, Army Materiel Command, Logistics Support Activity, Space and Missile Defense Command, and the Garrison will observe the stand down Thursday.

• The Security Assistance Command will observe the event Oct. 5. The Army Contracting Command will stand down Oct. 10, as well as the supervisors at the Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville, morning only. The work force at Army Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville will stand down Oct. 11, morning only.

• Both the 2nd Recruiting Brigade and 2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion will stand down Oct. 12.

• The Aviation and Missile Command will stand down Oct. 18.

During these stand down days, many services and offices will be closed or at minimum capacity. However, all food establishments, emergency services, child development centers, school age services, Army Community Service, and Army Substance Abuse Program will remain open.

Suicidal behavior continues to be

a concern for the Army. It affects every segment of the force – active duty, National Guard and Reserve, civilians and family members. Army leadership continues to place emphasis on the well-being of members of the Army family in the context of health promotion, risk reduction and suicide prevention.

There are numerous resources available online, on post, and in the local

community ready to help. The Army has the www.preventsuicide.army.mil website, where anyone can find videos, public service announcements and tip cards. Army Community Service has counselors ready to talk to anyone, but they also have a network of area service providers and counselors they can refer patrons to should an employee or Soldier need to go off post.

Garrison event agenda announced

For the Garrison's stand down Thursday, Garrison workers should report to the Community Activity Center, building 3711 off Patton Road, by 7:45 a.m. The annual mandatory suicide prevention training will run from 8:30 to 2:15 p.m. Registration is from 7:45-8:25 at the CAC Annex, building 3704.

Designated parking will be across Patton Road at the Y-Barracks parking lot, on the corner of Aerobee and Zeus roads. Lunch will be available at the CAC main hall for \$1 to the Garrison employee attendees from 11:50 a.m. to 12:50 p.m., or you may bring your own lunch.

The agenda is as follows: Town hall with leader led discussion, 8:30; Suicide prevention training, 9:15; Master Resilience training, 10:15; Lunch, 11:50; Presentation of available support resources, 12:30; Ask-Care-Escort scenarios, 1:15; Employees return to offices, 2:15; and Soldiers/civilians complete self-assessments at their desks, 2:30.

This training is for the employees of the Garrison. Other Army commands on post will hold stand down events and training on other days and at other venues. Contact the administration offices of your command to find out what is planned for your organization.

Army suicides by the numbers

Armywide statistics this year on suicide include the following:

120 active-duty Soldiers are confirmed to have taken their lives.

67 additional deaths are under investigation.

2 times the number of Army suicides since 2004.

Counselor urges early intervention to prevent suicide

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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The best time to prevent suicide isn't when intervention is necessary. That may be too late to save a life.

Richard Lewis, employee assistance program coordinator in the Army Substance Abuse Program, part of the Garrison's Human Resources Directorate, wants people to offer help when someone is having trouble coping with everyday problems. When a friend or co-worker is struggling at length with things that most people can handle, offer to go with them to a counselor to help with coping skills.

"People who (attempt or commit) suicide their intent appears to be most often they're trying to get away from the pain," Lewis said. "Suicide is not a desire to die; it's a desire to quit hurting."

And this means they can be stopped if they can get help early in relieving their pain, according to Lewis. He doesn't want to wait until the person is actually suicidal to offer intervention.

"Suicide is really the end of a process," he said. "And if we have the opportunity when that person is in the suicidal crisis or when they're exhibiting behavior – the



Richard Lewis

threat, the statement or movement toward suicide – we can intervene. We have a good chance of being successful in intervention. And the reason is most of the time the desire is not to die but to stop the pain.

"So if we can meet them while they're in their point of crisis, if we can intervene at that point, then we have a good chance of being successful in that intervention because most of the time they don't want to die. They want to eliminate pain."

Statistics show the magnitude of the suicide problem nationwide. Suicide is the 11th leading cause of death in the United States. It is the eighth leading cause of death for men. Four times as many women will attempt suicide as will men. And four times as many men will complete suicide as will women.

"I think it's a major issue in our culture," Lewis said. "Your chances of expiring from suicide are greater than your chances of being a victim of homicide. Statistically, suicide kills more people every year in America than does homicide."

He wants people to recognize that someone needs help in developing their coping skills and offer to go with them to a counselor. He encourages taking action and caring to listen.

"It's like people are afraid to ask people 'Are you thinking about hurting yourself?' That's a good question to ask," Lewis said.

In other words, try to recognize when

someone is having trouble with their coping skills.

"Then we're actually preventing the suicide before it becomes an ideation for that person," Lewis said.

With his office in building 3466, at the corner of Snooper and Hercules, he can be reached at 842-9897.

Suicide intervention resources include:

- For active and retired military personnel – Fox Army Health Center behavioral medicine at 955-8888, ext. 1930; Chaplain's Services at 842-2965, 842-2176 or 541-6359; Military One Source at 1-800-342-9647.

- For Army civilians – Employee Assistance Program, Lewis at 842-9897, Ruby Turner at 842-9895, Gina Koger at 313-6255 and Patricia Johnson at 313-6977.

- Local public resources – Madison County Mental Health Services at 533-1970, Huntsville Hospital emergency room at 265-8133, Crestwood Medical Center at 429-4000.

- National resources – Hope at 1-800-SUICIDE (7842433), National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-TALK (2738255), VA Readjustment Counseling Services at 1-800-827-1000.

- Emergency situations – Call 911.

Total fitness includes minding your mental health

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

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Living a lifetime of wellness doesn't just mean eating your fruits and vegetables and getting enough exercise – it all starts with the mind.

"It's the core," said Dr. Danette Garces-Webb, a clinical psychologist at Fox Army Health Center. "If your core is not strong, or if your foundation is not strong, then everything else kind of falls apart."

Fox's behavioral health division provides individual, marital, family and group therapy for those individuals who are dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, alcohol and substance abuse, as well as family advocacy issues, stressors that may leave an individual at risk of suicide.

Just like eating the right foods, exercising on a regular basis and getting enough rest, there are steps you can take to put yourself on the pathway to mental wellness. Behavioral health staff recommends:

- Make sure you have the support in place to deal with life's stressors, whether family, friends or Fox behavioral health staff.

- Be mindful of your health, physi-

cally, mentally and spiritually.

- Try to find balance in your life. "Don't put all your eggs into one basket," Dr. David Ferguson said.

- Be proactive and ask for what you need, no matter your age, occupation or rank. If you're afraid or hesitant to come in, call Fox's Behavioral Health at 955-8888, ext. 1930, to start the conversation over the phone.

The new model of health care, patient centered medical home, which provides Fox beneficiaries with a "one stop" for their primary care, will soon be served by Garces-Webb, who will take care of patients' acute behavioral health concerns. The medical home concept emphasizes that you "cannot separate mind and body," Fox commander Col. William Darby said. Having a clinical psychologist in the primary care clinic will give patients a holistic approach to their healthcare, caring for both mind and body in one visit.

"Usually you'll find with physical concerns there are mental health concerns. Mental health concerns impact the physical," Garces-Webb said. "If we're giving that holistic comprehensive care, we're better treating the patients that are coming to us."



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Dr. Danette Garces-Webb, a clinical psychologist at Fox Army Health Center, talks about the importance of taking care of your mental health.

Relationships, balance and faith in fight against suicide

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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It's a handshake or a hug, a listening ear or a friendly smile that just might bring the stranger or loved one sitting next to you back from the brink of suicide.

"It takes a human relationship to save another human being," chaplain Maj. Paige Heard said. "It takes us being in relationship with each other. We need to value life, value that we are put here for a



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Garrison chaplain (Maj.) Paige Heard talks about the importance of balance in life and one's spiritual dimension when it comes to preventing suicide.

reason, to help that next person out. We are our brother's keeper."

Heard's mission and ministry extends to all of Team Redstone as the new Gar-

risson chaplain, a role that allows her to interact with her brothers and sisters every day, whether it be through her sermons on Sunday, meetings at the chapel or special events like the One Stop grand opening. Wherever she goes, Heard serves as the hands and feet of Christ, reaching out to others in joy and sorrow, sharing the good news, a calling that she answered after a summer mission trip to Holland while attending Auburn University.

"Giving of myself for one summer and acknowledging what God has given me, I just said, 'hey I really want to serve you full time,'" Heard said. "The message that I believe in, the gospel of Jesus Christ, is worth sharing with others, and sharing the idea that all of us are created by God, and He has a plan and a purpose for each one of us. I don't think we can fully understand that plan and purpose unless we have a belief in Jesus Christ."

Part of her plan and purpose as chaplain has turned out to be suicide prevention. Through her ministry as chaplain, Heard offers training to organizations like LOGSA and Redstone Test Center, serves as a listening ear to those that just want to talk, and provides advice through her preaching and interactions with others on the importance of keeping the varying aspects of your life in check. Just as you might work out to keep your body healthy, do something every day to work on the other parts of your life, such as your marriage, your job or other relationships, Heard said.

"You have to keep your life balanced," she said. "If you get so overwhelmed with one area of your life, then that means you've neglected another area. Are you physically fit? Are you spiritually fit? Are you emotionally fit? Are you morally fit? We have to be aware that life is something we have to keep in balance."

Whether you attend church or not,

Heard said, you have to care for your spirit, the essence of what makes you who you are.

"The spiritual component is very important, it helps keep balance," she said. "A spiritual dimension to a person, even if we tend to ignore it, it's always still there. People always say, 'Well I'm not religious.' It's not religion we're trying to stress, it's your spirit and emotional tank that we're trying to keep filled. Knowing who you are, and possibly where you go in the afterlife is important. It can give people assurance, give them hope, give them a purpose for living. It depends how deep you want to take it, but all of us have a spiritual dimension to ourselves. We help people acknowledge that."

Through her training, Heard not only explores what warning signs to watch out for and what to do if you see a Soldier, co-worker or loved one exhibiting those symptoms, but also why a person may consider suicide and what you can do to help that person in that moment. Ask if that person is suicidal, care for that person, and escort them to professional help.

"One crisis to somebody may just be a piece of cake to somebody else," Heard said. "We all deal with loss and hardship in different ways."

With the groups and individuals she meets and trains, there is hope in her message. With feedback from her audiences, Heard explores the reasons for living, such as family, being there for your children's future, love for your job and the faith that something bigger out there brought you into this world.

"Our problems are temporary, but suicide is a permanent solution," Heard said. "We're just trying to encourage people to take suicide off as an option to deal with pain."

Coming from a suburb south of Atlanta, it wasn't until Heard reached her 30s that she actually joined the Army, attracted to the military by the chance to serve as a chaplain, after serving as a prison chaplain at a maximum security women's prison. In her 15 years as a Soldier she's served her country and the spiritual lives of its Soldiers at Fort Hood (Texas), Fort McPherson (Ga.), West Point, Fort Bragg (N.C.), Germany, Kosovo and Iraq, and most recently in Savannah, Ga., with the 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade.

"It wasn't something I ever dreamed about doing," Heard said of the Army.

To contact Heard, call Bicentennial Chapel at 842-2176.

Seeing the face of suicide in mother's picture

Daughter shares story to help others cope

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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This is not a pretty story.

But it is a story about a beautiful woman whose hurt ran so deep that she chose to end her life. And it's a story about her daughter, who has dedicated herself to helping others struggling with depression, difficult circumstances and thoughts of suicide.

Antronette Pitts, a contract specialist with Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office, Program Executive Office for Aviation, is speaking out these days about her mother, Idella "Dee" Pitts, and the troubled life that led her mother to commit suicide on Aug. 29, 2010. She will share her story during the Aviation and Missile Command's Suicide Prevention Stand Down on Oct. 18.

"It's still an awful thing to think about," Pitts said of her mother's death. "Sometimes it just doesn't seem real. The world saw my mother as someone who was always smiling, always happy. I saw what was behind that smile."

Pitts' mother lived in Kentucky, just outside Fort Campbell. After 28 years of a troubled marriage to a Soldier, the couple divorced and Pitts' mother was trying to restart her life. But on a Sunday afternoon, she had a confrontation with her ex-husband. She was later found with a bullet to the head in her car in the garage. She had used her own gun to kill herself. She was 50 when she died.

"There was a full investigation. They didn't know if it was a homicide or a suicide," Pitts said. "A month ago, they finally determined it was a suicide."

"But I knew all along it was a suicide. I knew my mother struggled with thoughts of suicide because we talked about it all the time. Everything leaned toward this being a suicide."

The divorce and an estrangement from her son had made her mother heartbroken. Pitts wanted her to move to Huntsville, but a stable job as a teacher's aide, paid insurance and homeownership kept Pitts' mother in Kentucky. Pitts' mother, who loved caring for children and enjoyed physical fitness, had even recently completed training as a massage therapist.

"She and I were working through it. We talked a lot on the phone. She was making choices to live and she was doing so well. She was making progress,"

Pitts said. "But something happened during my parents' argument that set her off."

Pitts also knew her mother had a handgun and she tried to convince her mother that having a gun was not a good idea. But her mother felt safer alone in the house with a gun.

"She made me so mad that she'd keep it in the house," Pitts said.

"It was all so hard because I couldn't be there on the days when she was struggling. I would text her words of encouragement. I would call her. But I couldn't be there with her."

Pitts started working for the Army about four years ago, coming in as an Army Materiel Command Fellow. She thrived in a job that let her rotate into different job responsibilities in different offices. She graduated from the Fellows program this past summer, and now does contract work in support of the Gray Eagle unmanned aircraft system.

"It's very challenging and it's the first time in my life where I've had a job that after a year I still don't know everything," she said. "I'm still asking questions, and enjoying learning new things."

As a child, she didn't remember her parents fighting or arguing much. There was some verbal abuse in the home, but Pitts always felt her dad loved his family.

Whatever happened between the couple, Pitts said her mother's "spirit was broken and she felt like she was nothing."

And yet, no one outside of the mother and daughter knew how dark the mother's days had been the three or four years before her death.

"She had 17 brothers and sisters in her family," Pitts said. "My mom was close to a couple of her sisters. But they did not know she was struggling with suicide. It was hard for her to relate to her sisters because they all thought she was so successful."

Her mother also refused to get counseling.

"We discussed every possibility. She would only talk to me," Pitts said.

Pointing to a picture of a beautiful, smiling woman all dressed up for her 30th high school reunion, Pitts said "I want this to be the face of suicide. The way you see her in this picture is the way everyone saw her and her life. She was always smiling. She was the life of the party."

"I saw all the signs and we talked about it. Her family and co-workers didn't see the signs because she didn't want them to see."



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Antronette Pitts gets comfort from some of her mother's special keepsakes, including her Bible and a picture taken before her 30th high school reunion. Pitts' mother committed suicide two years ago.

So, her death at her own hand was devastating news for all those who knew her.

"It was hard for them to believe," Pitts said. "It was a huge responsibility for me to convince everyone of what I knew. After the funeral, I even read them the suicide letter. They still couldn't believe it."

Pitts has struggled herself with her mother's death. But she said she is convinced that her mother loved her and her family, and that her death doesn't change that.

"She, in her pain, didn't realize how much she would be missed," Pitts said.

"I know without a doubt that my mother loved her some Antronette. She loved me. She was hurting so bad that she would rather leave this earth than deal with the pain."

Pitts shared her story publicly for the first time in a photograph taken by local photographer Richie Carter for The 50/50 Project, which involved telling 50 stories in 50 days. Pitts' story was Day 29 and is titled Searching.

In her photograph, she is looking directly at the camera and is holding a handgun to her temple. The words featured with her entry are: "Incapable of waking from this nightmare - I should have died or at least lost my mind on Aug. 29, 2010. The death certificate says she died of a gunshot

to the head, but the real culprit was her broken heart. I couldn't save her. ... Searching for a new reason to live, I discovered God's plan for my life is entwined in my Mommy's death. And on the other side of my ugly story ... is someone waiting to hear my testimony."

Because of the loss of her mother and the family she grew up in, Pitts has had to redefine what family means to her. She has built a new family with friends in Huntsville.

"I decided I just needed to keep moving," Pitts said. "I should have lost it. But instead I reached outward. I decided I would become an advocate for suicide prevention and abuse prevention. If I don't share my story, nobody else will be helped. And, by reaching out, I've been so amazed how people have shared with me their own struggles with suicide and abuse."

Pitts has started a part-time lingerie business, which allows her to connect with all types of women outside of her work and home life. She attends Fellowship of Faith Church, and is eager to share her story at such events as AMCOM's Suicide Prevention Stand Down.

"I'm not plagued with 'should haves' or 'could haves' because I did my best every step of the way," she said. "She would have been gone long before Aug. 29, 2010, if I hadn't helped her."

For others who know someone who is struggling in life, Pitts said they should do what it takes to be there for their troubled loved one.

"Be nonjudgmental. Be a listening board," she said. "Take yourself out of whatever situation you are in and put yourself in their place so you can feel what they feel and see things the way they are seeing them. They are not thinking rationally. Encourage them to get help and don't stop."

"And, mostly, don't take it personally. They're hurting so bad that nothing else is worth staying here for."

Pitts still feels her mother's love. She has some of her mother's keepsakes, including a 1966 red Mustang, a mirror and her Bible.

"We had so many intense discussions. I would go into her room and she would be sitting there reading her Bible, and we would just talk," Pitts recalled.

"I don't have my mother to talk to anymore, but I am telling her story. We were raised to not tell our business. But that ends here. I'm not sweeping anything under the rug. I hope that my story will help someone else. I want to reach as many people as possible."

Personal story about suicide, and suicide prevention

By Maj. KELLI HOOKE

409th Contracting Support Brigade, Kaiserslautern, Germany

The last day of school of my freshman year in high school, I woke up to the phone ringing. It was very early and I heard my mom's voice talking to the person on the other end.

"No, he's not here. He should be there already. I'll go check the roads and see if his car broke down and get back with you. Thank you," she said.

She then came back to my room and explained that dad didn't make it to work so she was going to go drive his route and find him. She needed me to be up by the phone in case he called and then to get everyone ready for school if she was not back by then. So, I did just that. Mom did not get back in time, so we all got on the bus that morning unsure of where dad was.

The day was only half over when a voice on the intercom announced that my sisters and I needed to report to the school administrative office. My grandmother was there and was taking all of us home. It was the last day of school, so we really were not missing anything but it was very weird and now I was worried.

Long story made short: My dad had

attempted suicide and his young family was left reeling. I was 15, and my sisters were 13 and 11. He was the primary provider for our family. As we dealt with the aftermath of this serious and very public event, we also had to deal with all sorts of financial, social and emotional issues.

My dad was hospitalized for a week and it was a while before he could work again. He was placed on medication and started attending a lot of counseling. Through the treatment, he slowly began to recover. It took a long time for him to look at the events and realize that he had made a poor decision. As he started to get a handle on the past and his emotions, he began to realize that there were all sorts of ways he could have received help; if he only had asked.

As a teenager dealing with all of the pain and distress of a suicidal dad, it was very hard. But through these circumstances I was able to learn important lessons.

I learned that I am responsible for my mental health. Specifically, I needed to pay attention to it and do things to keep me strong. In the Army today, we call it resilience.

Second, I learned to have more compassion for others. We do not know the extent of the burdens others are carrying



Maj. Kelli Hooke

and it is important to be there for people so they know that we can help.

Finally, I learned that there is no real shame in asking for help. It is far worse to cause tragedy for your family instead of seeking professional assistance. And there is a lot of help available. Today, my

dad is doing great. After receiving extensive treatment, he was not only able to address past issues, but learned coping skills for future challenges. His example shows that no matter how bad things get, there is a path to a better way.

Needless to say, whenever I attend training on suicide prevention, I take it seriously. However, I have been hesitant to share my experiences. It is one thing to attend training, listen attentively and then resume normal life. It is a wholly different thing to actually tell people that your dad attempted suicide. Even as I volunteered to help this year, the thought went through my mind, what if they think my dad is crazy and then what if they think I might go crazy, too?

Too many people have died this year alone for me to be silent and to allow my perception of a stigma to keep me from speaking up. I hope that by sharing this personal information about my past, those Soldiers who are struggling gain the strength to ask for help. Please do not wait until life is so overwhelming that death seems like the only answer. Your death will not solve any problems, just cause more. And your life can get better. No matter how desperate your circumstances are, someone wants to help.



Photo by Melody Sandlin

Ready, aim, fire

Command Sgt. Major Rodger Mansker, of the Security Assistance Command, receives a flu shot Sept. 17 from a Fox Army Health Center representative. Mansker recently assumed responsibility as the first command sergeant major in USASAC's 47-year history.

Soldier athlete does triathlons for rush of success

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor
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In June, Joshua Pierson wasn't much of a swimmer.

In August, he competed in his first triathlon.

This chief warrant officer turned triathlete is taking on new challenges by competing in triathlons, half-distance triathlons, marathons and half-distance marathons. He spends time daily running and bicycling, and benefits from the guidance of running coaches at Fleet Feet. He has improved his freestyle stroke with the help of a swim coach so that he can compete.

And yet, Pierson isn't aiming to win a race.

"I consider myself an average athlete. I'm not necessarily competitive in these races," he said. "I am literally a regular guy and a Soldier who is looking to decompress, and triathlons are leading that

objective."

Pierson grew up playing soccer and was on the soccer team in high school. He enlisted in the Army in 2000, and began playing soccer with Army teams throughout the world. "I played with the Army in places like Honduras, Thailand, the Philippines and Japan," he said. "We would form a base team and play other teams in the area. I played a lot of pickup games all over the world. We had a mini-league in Iraq that was particularly fun."

But as he got older, injuries started to bother him.

"No matter how hard I tried to stay limber and loose, I kept getting hurt," Pierson said. "I'd get ankle injuries and back injuries. I had to go to a chiropractor to help with the injuries. But the worst injury was a bad concussion in 2005.

"Recovery time was getting harder. It was harsh. I was tired of getting hurt, tired of getting beat up. I stopped playing soccer last year."

Photo by Kari Hawkins

Triathlete Joshua Pierson spends a lot of time training both on his feet and on his bike in preparation for the races he has on his calendar through late 2012 and into 2013. He is a chief warrant officer assigned to Redstone Arsenal.

But this 31-year-old didn't want to give up on being an athlete.

In 2011, Pierson was stationed at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., where he and a buddy did Cross Fit workouts that involved a 150-pound tire, 25-pound and 45-pound kettle bell and a 15-pound fitness ball, when he learned about a duathlon in the area.

"It was a two-mile run, a 10-mile bike race and a two-mile run. It didn't involve swimming, which was good because I was only able to not drown when it came to water," Pierson said.

While Cross Fit training does build core strength, muscle endurance and stamina, it isn't usually the main choice of training for a distance athlete.



"I literally did no serious training before the duathlon," Pierson said. "My buddy said I might need some endurance
See Triathlete on page 40

Fixed Wing team captures aviation softball title

By TRACEY AYRES

STRATCOM specialist, FW Project Office

The Program Executive Office for Aviation held its annual Team Day at the Col. Carroll Hudson Recreation Area on Thursday. The event provided an opportunity for all of the aviation project and program offices to build teamwork in an informal setting.

Volleyball, softball and spades tournaments were held as part of Team Day activities. And in its rookie year, the Fixed Wing Project Office took home the trophy in softball. PM Fixed Wing won four games to claim the title.

Beating PM Utility and PM UAS put PM Fixed Wing in the semifinal game with IMMC. The win over IMMC allowed PM Fixed Wing to compete with PM Apache for the championship. PM Fixed Wing won that game 15-10 to claim the title of Commander's Cup Softball Champion.

PM Fixed Wing players included Col.



Photo by Tracey Ayres

Members of Fixed Wing's championship team pose together on the field.

Brian Tachias, Lt. Col. Jon Frasier, Brian Sabourin, coach Chris Webb, coach Jonathan Johnson, Shanna Keith, Mackeisha Wilson, Freddy Thompson, Josh Borgert, John Pace, Mike Switzer, Sam Lamb, Phil Haas, Barry Solomon, Derek Long, Terry Carlson, Sean Hayes, David Keith, Dave Wilson, Anthony Vizzini and Bill Morse.

Georgia should take bite out of Volunteers

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
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Skip's Picks were 149-37 for 80 percent after three weeks in the college football season. Here are my predictions for this week's games:

Tennessee at Georgia – **Georgia**
Mississippi at Alabama – **Bama**
Grambling at Alabama A&M – **A&M**

Stanford at Washington – **Stanford**
Hawaii at BYU – **BYU**
Virginia Tech at Cincinnati – **Tech**
Florida St. at South Florida – **FSU**
Louisiana Tech at Virginia – **Virginia**

N. Carolina St. at Miami (Fla.) – **NC State**
Clemson at Boston College – **Clemson**

Baylor at West Virginia – **West Virginia**

Missouri at UCF – **Missouri**
Indiana at Northwestern – **Northwestern**

Penn St. at Illinois – **Illinois**
Minnesota at Iowa – **Iowa**
Buffalo at Connecticut – **Connecticut**
Stony Brook at Army – **Army**
Arkansas at Texas A&M – **Texas A&M**

Duke at Wake Forest – **Wake Forest**

Colorado St. at Air Force – **Air Force**

Tulsa at UAB – **Tulsa**
Idaho at North Carolina – **UNC**
Marshall at Purdue – **Purdue**
Ohio St. at Michigan St. – **Ohio State**

Ohio at Massachusetts – **Ohio**
Houston at Rice – **Rice**
San Jose St. at Navy – **San Jose St.**
La.-Monroe at Tulane – **La.-Monroe**
Arizona St. at California – **ASU**
UCLA at Colorado – **UCLA**
Chattanooga at The Citadel – **The Citadel**

Boise St. at New Mexico – **Boise St.**
South Carolina at Kentucky – **S. Carolina**

Towson at LSU – **LSU**
TCU at SMU – **TCU**
M. Tenn. St. at Georgia Tech – **Tech**
UTEP at East Carolina – **EC**
Montana at Eastern Washington – **Montana**

Texas at Oklahoma St. – **Texas**
Texas Tech at Iowa St. – **Tech**
Wisconsin at Nebraska – **Nebraska**
Louisville at Southern Miss – **Louisville**
Oregon St. at Arizona – **Arizona**
San Diego St. at Fresno St. – **Fresno St.**

Oregon at Washington St. – **Oregon**

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YOUTH SOCCER SONIC ALPHADOGS EARN FIRST WIN

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Youth soccer Sonic Alphas earn first win



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Liam Crisp, 7, shown practicing Sept. 11, scored five goals in the Sonic Alphas' 12-10 win over Valley Fellowship on Sept. 15.

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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This was an under-8 youth soccer game with a double-digit football score. The Sonic Alphas, one of Redstone's three U-8 teams, beat host Valley Fellowship 12-10 on Sept. 15. There were so many goals that coach Don Steelman was unsure of the final score.

"But we did win. We definitely won," he said.

Four members of his six-member team were there, and all but three scored. Abraham Hayes had six goals, Liam Crisp had five and Josee Steelman, the coach's daughter, scored one.

The Sonic Alphas improved to 1-1. They lost their opener 7-4 to the Redstone team coached by Jason Johnson on Sept. 8 at the fields on Goss Road.

Maj. David Benjamin's team lost 13-9 to Johnson's squad Sept. 15.

"I think they're starting to play with increased confidence," Benjamin, of the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, said of his Tigers. "Being only the second game, they're starting to get back into the groove of playing soccer. And the fundamentals of soccer – passing and shooting – they're developing in those areas also. They're showing increased skills."

The Tigers got two goals apiece from Benjamin's daughter Payton and Janiya Dillard. Arianna Paschel, Autumn Gollop and Joseph Lorenzo also found the back of the net.

On Sept. 18 at Redstone, Payton Benjamin scored two goals and Dillard had one for the Tigers (0-3) in a 7-3 loss to Valley Fellowship.

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

Triathlete

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training as a runner and biker. I said "Whatever. I'll go rent a mountain bike and see what happens."

He went to Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, and rented a mountain bike for \$30 for 30 days. He did a bit of bike riding before the race, but not much else to prepare himself.

The day of the event, his wife KatieBeth went with him to the starting line. Both were shocked to see bikes worth upwards of \$5,000 lined up for the race.

"My bike was a real clunker. The brakes on the front and rear scraped and I only had three gears because the rest didn't work. I thought 'What am I getting into?'" Pierson recalled.

He finished the race in one hour and 15 minutes, with about 45 minutes of that on his bike. His time was encouraging.

"They told me that was a pretty quick time to post on the kind of bike I rode. And it was my first event," he said.

Soon, Pierson had his own race bike. He started training, getting to where 25 miles on a bike was more exhilarating than tiring, and running faster at the end of a 90-minute run than at the beginning. But he didn't enter another race until after he and his family moved to Redstone Arsenal. In June 2012, he took on Hunts-

ville's Heel and Crank, which combined a 2.5 mile run, 10 mile bike ride and 2.5 mile run. He completed it in one hour and 23 minutes.

"It was nothing stellar, nothing to write home about. But I thought 'This is exciting!'" Pierson said.

The only thing holding Pierson back from a triathlon was his swimming. He went to a friend who works as a lifeguard at the Madison YMCA, and got a couple quick lessons in freestyle swimming.

"I told him we had a month to get me swimming. I learned how to swim freestyle 400 meters in a month," he said.

He joined Fleet Feet's training program, choosing the 70.3K (also known as the half-Ironman) consisting of a 1.2-mile swim, 56-mile bike and 13.1-mile run for his training regimen.

Then, the races started coming quickly. He competed in the Wet Dog triathlon in July in Decatur, and the Huntsville Sprint in August where he placed seventh in his bracket. He competed in the Rocketman Triathlon on Redstone at the end of August, finishing in the upper half of the competition in two hours, 51 minutes and 20 seconds.

Pierson was impressed with the Rocketman race not only because of his time, but also because of the location, and the 500 participants in a race that included a swim against the current of the Tennessee River.

"Redstone Arsenal is the only installation that actually runs a triathlon that

invites out-of-town individuals and those who do not have consistent base access. This race demonstrates the goodwill of the installation command group and reflects on the relationship that the installation has with both Huntsville and Madison," he said.

"There were at least 25 active duty servicemembers who competed in this event as well as athletes from colleges throughout the Southeast that used the race to showcase their talent. The University of Georgia, Auburn University, Clemson University and the University of Alabama all competed in the triathlon. There were at least 54 college students in the event. This race definitely is a place where different cultures cross paths for a day."

He also competed in the Surf City Triathlon in North Carolina in early September. But that event became a duathlon when hurricanes made the ocean too rough for swimming.

"Overall, in my races I'm a middle of the place finisher," Pierson said. "Nothing too exciting. But I'm hooked. There's just something about endurance that a person's body just screams to want."

Pierson will compete in the Goose Pond half-distance triathlon (1.2-mile open water swim, 56-mile bike and a 13.1-mile run) on Oct. 7 and another one in Miami on Oct. 28. He is planning his first full marathon for the Rocket City Marathon on Dec. 8, and is planning on racing in a triathlon event in March 2013 in Ocala, Fla. He is also considering

an Olympic-distance race in Huntsville, a half-Ironman in North Carolina and a full Ironman in Louisville, Ky., along with other races for 2013.

"This has been a couple of years of firsts for me," Pierson said.

"I have really learned a lot from my coaches at Fleet Feet and I would suggest that anyone trying anything above an Olympic-distance race to have a coach that knows about training programs, nutrition plans and building endurance. It takes a lot of dedication and time to get ready for these races. You are literally working a second job when you are training. And you have to have sheer determination to finish a race."

He has even gotten his family involved in racing, with his wife, KatieBeth, a disabled veteran, racing in a three-wheel recumbent bike and his nearly seven-year-old daughter Samantha running in shorter distance races. Their 2-year-old daughter Christina rides along with her mom in an enclosed trailer.

"When you are in training for these races, you learn a lot about yourself," Pierson said. "You learn about your ability. You learn to like yourself because you have to be with yourself for long periods of time."

"There's more to it than how good you look or how far you can run or how fast. It just makes you feel good about yourself and what you've accomplished. All in all, it's been a heck of an adventure."

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 Thursday 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.

Breast cancer run

All members of Team Redstone are invited to join the Redstone Roadrunners team for the ninth annual Liz Hurley Ribbon Run 5K on Oct. 20 in downtown Huntsville. Proceeds from the fund-raiser go to the Liz Hurley Breast Cancer Fund at Huntsville Hospital Foundation. Redstone Roadrunners run or walk the 3.1-mile event with Donna Johnson, a Garrison employee and military spouse who is a breast cancer survivor. Participants can run/walk in honor of, or in memory of, their loved ones. Those who can't participate can still make a donation or purchase a luminary. Those who do sign up as a Redstone Roadrunners team member will receive a free T-shirt. The Redstone Roadrunners' goal is to have 50 runners/walkers on the team and to raise \$2,000 toward breast cancer research. This is the sixth year that Team Redstone has participated through the Redstone Roadrunners in the Liz Hurley Ribbon Run. For more information or to sign up, visit <http://www.lizhurleyribbonrun.org>. Participants must sign a waiver before joining the Redstone Roadrunners. The cost is \$20 to participate in the run. Online registration ends Oct. 12 and late registration continues until Oct. 18.

Boating safety

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is offering another boating safety class on Redstone Arsenal. Boating Skills and Seamanship will start Oct. 11 and continue for six sessions on Thursday evenings from 6:30-9. The only cost is \$25 for the textbook. For more information call Tom Kunhart, flotilla staff officer for public education, at 830-6621 (home) or 527-4475 (cell). Email him at tkunhart@knology.net.

Air defenders' golf

The Huntsville/Redstone Chapter of the Air Defense Artillery Association will have its annual Golf Tournament on Oct. 12 at the Links. Lunch will be at 11 a.m.,

shotgun start at noon and social at 5. Cost is \$45 per person. This event is open to all Team Redstone. Trophy and prizes will be awarded. For information and registration forms, email Ralph Merrill at ralph.merrill@irtc-hq.com or Rick DeFatta at richard.defatta@kratosdefense.com.

Benefit at Colonial

The Limestone County Chapter of NAACP will hold its inaugural Golf Tournament fund-raiser Saturday 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.

Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

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

Catholic mass

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

Protestant women

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

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

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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.

Community women's club

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club will hold a luncheon Oct. 9 at 10:30 a.m. in The Summit. The program is a murder mystery "Killing for the Crown." Signup deadline is noon Oct. 5. For more information or reservations, visit www.rsacwc.org.

Men's ministry

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

Civilian leadership summit

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

Sons of revolution

The Sons of the American Revolution will meet Oct. 8 at 11 a.m. at the Library Auditorium in downtown Huntsville. Joe Fitzgerald will speak on his experiences with World War II veterans. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, call 751-2913 or visit SAR1776.com.

Federal employees

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Oct. 13 at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshment and social time will start at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting following at 10. Chapter 443 will hold a candidates forum for the Fifth Congressional District of Alabama. The candidates are Rep. Mo Brooks and Charles Holley. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

Military officers association

The Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will hold

its monthly luncheon today at 11 at The Summit. The guest speaker is Mike Kersjes, author of the book "A Smile as Big as the Moon," which has been made into a movie that was shown on the Hallmark Channel. For more information about MOAA, visit <http://huntsvillemoaa.org/home0.aspx>.

Mechanical engineers

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, North Alabama Section, will meet Oct. 3 at the University of Alabama-Huntsville's Von Braun Research Hall to hear Jeb Orr of the Charles Stark Draper Laboratory. He will talk about challenges inherent to modeling and analyzing launch vehicle flight mechanics. For information and reservations, visit <http://sections.asme.org/NorthAlabama> or email lisatunstill@asme.org.

Air defenders

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

Resource managers

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

Small business forum

The Engineering and Support Center-Huntsville will conduct its 13th annual Small Business Forum from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 9 at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, University Center. This is an opportunity for small businesses to talk with contracting professionals, program managers and subject matter experts from Huntsville Center about their programs and upcoming opportunities. Pre-registration opens Oct. 1 for the Small Business Forum and is encouraged to help ensure appropriate representation of subject matter experts. Registration is free with information available on the web at <http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil>. If you have questions or comments, email sbo-hnc@usace.army.mil.

Contract management association

The Huntsville National Contract Management Association, a nonprofit organization providing professional resources for those in the field of contract management, will have a luncheon Thursday at 11:30 a.m.

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at the Redstone Federal Credit Union conference room on Wynn Drive. Cost is \$15 for members, \$20 non-members. The speaker is Lora Drewer, vice president of contracts at CACI. For more information, call Sherry Trowbridge 450-1552 or visit www.ncmahsv.org.

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 follow-up investigation can be completed.

Education test center

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

Senior volunteers

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

NASA surplus

NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center's

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

Re-entry information

Just back from an overseas assignment and new to the Redstone Arsenal community? Feeling like a stranger in your own homeland? Contact the Relocation Readiness Program, Army Community Service, for a re-entry briefing to learn about community programs and services. All newly assigned/attached military personnel, appropriated and non-appropriated fund civilian personnel, contractors and spouses, as well as retirees are welcome to call Mary Breeden, relocation readiness program manager, 876-5397 or email mary.breedden@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.breedden@conus.army.mil. Stop by Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road, from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Computer classes

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

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.

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 Friday 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. 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 Friday 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 Thursday. 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

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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 through Friday 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, Saturday at the Tax Assistance Center, building 3489. For more information, call 876-9005.

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 inaugu-

ral 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. Deeja's 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.

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. Horse-shoe, 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.

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 checkups, 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 Thursday at 8 a.m. at the Links. The health fair is Friday 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 Saturday 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 Saturday 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 Council 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.

Army aviation ball

The sixth annual Army Aviation Ball is Oct. 12 at the Von Braun Center's South Hall. Social hour starts at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 and music with dancing at 8. Cost is \$45 per person. To register call Tonya Galindo 799-5901, email tonya.galindo@vt-group.com or visit <http://vtcevents.countmein.com>.

galindo@vt-group.com or visit <http://vtcevents.countmein.com>.

Gold star luncheon

Gold Star Mother's Day is Sept. 30. Army Community Service will honor Gold Star Mother's Day with a luncheon on Oct. 2. For more information, call Kerrie Branson 876-9579 or email kerrie.branson1@us.army.mil.

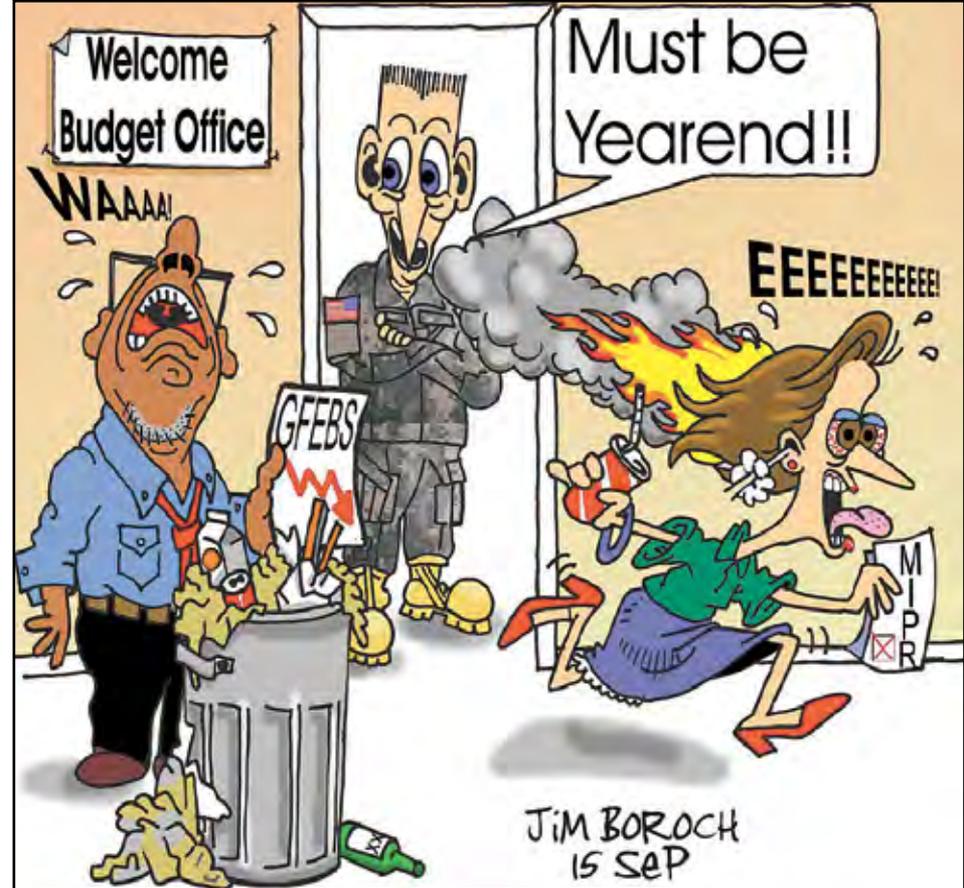
Employment briefing

An employment briefing, designed to help participants to understand the federal application process, will be held Oct. 4 at 9 a.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. Topics will include how to search for vacancies on USAJOBS, different types of recruitment sources, how candidates are evaluated and the referral process. This session is open to the Redstone Arsenal community (with own access to enter the installation). To reserve a seat, call 876-0446 or email debra.d.jefferson.civ@mail.mil.

Newcomer orientation

The next Team Redstone Newcomers and New Employee Orientation for civilian employees, Soldiers and military family members will be held Oct. 30 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at The Summit.

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Participants will receive training to orient them to federal employment and the installation, which will include: Garrison deputy commander and CPAC director remarks, Army Community Service, FMWR, Fox Army Health Center, Legal/JAG, Security, Management and Employee Relations, American Federation of Government Employees, Classification/Staffing, Benefits, Payroll, Workers Compensation, Training and Workforce Development, Equal Employment Opportunity, Tomorrow's Army Civilian Leaders, and Safety. For more information on how to participate in Team Redstone Newcomers/NEO, call Jessie McCray 313-0714, Mary Breeden 876-5397 or Eugene Folks 313-0713. To obtain a space in this course, you must register by Oct. 29 in TIP at <https://tip.redstone.army.mil/>.

Child care center

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

Madison veteran award

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

Flu shots for military

Fox Army Health Center says Active Duty Flu Shots will be given on the following dates in Preventive Medicine, located in the modular building next to Fox: today from 7-11 a.m., Oct. 22 from 7-10 a.m. and Nov. 6 (makeup day) from

1:30-3:30 p.m. During this time any active duty servicemembers (Army, Air Force, Marine, and Navy) or Reserve or National Guard servicemembers should report for their seasonal flu shot. Army and Air Force personnel will be entered into MEDPROS; Navy and Marine Corps personnel will be given proof of immunization for their unit. As a reminder, seasonal flu shots are mandatory for active duty Army personnel unless medically exempt. Tricare Prime with providers at Fox will be offered flu shots during scheduled appointments beginning Oct. 1. All other beneficiaries may receive shots as follows: Oct. 13 from 7:30-11:30 a.m. at Fox (all ages); Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Commissary (adults only); Nov. 7 from 4-6 p.m. at Fox; and Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Commissary (adults only). For more information call Maj. Murray 955-8888, ext.1442, or Ms. Miller at ext. 1441.

AMCOM inspector general

The AMCOM Inspector General Office will be moving from building 111 to building 3215, Hercules Road, a half a block from the Thrift Shop. This move will be from Oct. 1-4. There will be no break in service, and all current telephone numbers will remain the same. For more information, call 876-9701.

Food dialogue

The inaugural Local Food Dialogue will be held Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Ridley Hall at Church of the Nativity, 208 Eustis Ave., at the corner of Eustis and Green St. Consumers, retailers, producers and distributors will be on hand at this free event to discuss local food challenges and success. For more information, call Anita Daniel 539-2256, ext.107.

Blessing of animals

Bicentennial Chapel will host the annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday at 10 a.m. in front of the chapel. Participants are encouraged to bring pets to be blessed and to receive St. Francis medals and holy cards. There will be a representative from the Veterinary Clinic with information on what is offered to authorized animals. Refreshments will be served to humans and animals for a delightful day.

USASAC stand down

The Security Assistance Command will hold a Suicide Prevention Stand Down Oct. 5 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the USASAC headquarters for its employees. This event is mandatory for all USASAC personnel. For more information, call Norman Fernaays 450-5870.

Breast cancer fund-raiser

The Alabama International Girl Pageant is sponsoring a beauty and talent pageant Oct. 7 in the Chan Auditorium at the University of Alabama-Huntsville, to promote breast cancer awareness and raise money for the Susan G. Komen Race for the Foundation. Deadline for entering the pageant is Oct. 1. All entries must be postmarked by this date. All contestants may compete in two competition categories: Overall and Beauty (\$65 registration fee) and Pink Wear (\$25 registration fee). Registration will be from 2-3:30 p.m. on the day of the event. Door entries will also be accepted. Several local women who are breast cancer survivors will speak during the pageant to help raise money for this cause. For information call Lequita Craig, Tennessee Valley director, 457-5198 or email Lequita.Craig@hotmail.com.

Autism workshop

Parents, if you have a child on the autism spectrum, come out and participate in an upcoming workshop and learn about the Autism Resource & Knowledge Center in Huntsville. This agency provides a variety of services for families, to include in-depth counseling by peer parents, mentors, parent networking group, etc. The workshop is noon to 1 p.m. (brown bag welcome) Friday at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. To register call ACS at 876-5397 or email Natalie Taylor, ACS Exceptional Family Member Program manager, at natalie.taylor@us.army.mil.

Personal finances

"How to Repair Your Credit Report," a session open to the entire Redstone community, will be held Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Army Community Service, building 3338 on Redeye Road. RSVP by emailing Kathleen Riestter at kathleen.k.riester.civ@mail.mil. Put "Repair Your Credit Report" in the subject line.

Public Lands Day

The Corps of Engineers has announced it will waive day-use fees at its more than 2,400 USACE-operated recreation areas nationwide in recognition of National Public Lands Day, Sept. 29. On this day, fees normally charged at boat launch ramps and swimming beaches will be waived. USACE does not charge entrance fees to its parks. The waiver does not apply to camping and camping-related services, or fees for specialized facilities such as group picnic shelters. Other agencies and partners that manage recreation areas located on USACE lands are encouraged but not required to comply with this waiver of day-use fees in the areas they manage. In addition, volunteers who par-

ticipate in one of USACE's National Public Lands Day activities will be issued a fee-free coupon if the volunteer site is participating in the coupon program. Volunteers should check with the local USACE event manager for more information. The fee-free coupon is valid for one year from date of issue and may be used for one day of entrance or day-use fees at any participating federal agency park, forest or recreation area that charges either of these types of fees. For more information on the fee-free day and coupons, visit <http://www.publiclandsday.org/highlights/fee-free-day-and-coupons>.

Save lids to save lives

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

Drug turn-in day

Redstone Arsenal's Army Substance Abuse Program, Fox Army Health Center and the Redstone Police will give the Redstone community an opportunity to prevent medication abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous, expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your medications for disposal to the Redstone Exchange. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Pancake breakfast benefit

The C Company 115th ESB Family Readiness Group is having a pancake breakfast fund-raiser Saturday from 7-9:30 a.m. at the Applebee's on South Memorial Parkway, near Joe Davis Stadium. Cost is \$5 a plate, which includes three pancakes, two sausage links and a drink. For more information, email Christina Harris at cannharris@hotmail.com.

Cookbook fund-raiser

Charlie's Cooks is a cookbook written as a fund-raiser to obtain enough money to do a "Welcome Home Event" for an Alabama National Guard unit, C Company 115th ESB, that is about to return from serving a year in Afghanistan. Each book is \$15; add shipping of \$3.75 per book if you are not able to pick it up on or near Redstone Arsenal. Send check or money order made out to "FRG" to: FRG, c/o Christina Harris, 678-B Dyer Circle, Huntsville, AL 35808.