

Redstone Rocket

www.theredstonerocket.com

September 5, 2012

Vol. 61 No. 36

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

Run commemorates Sept. 11 attacks

Second annual 9.11K has race-day sign-up

By SKIP VAUGHN
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The second annual 9.11K (5.66 mile) race, in memory of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, is Saturday at 7:30 a.m., starting and ending at the Sparkman Center parking lot at building 5302.

Check-in time is from 6:30-7:15. Last year's race drew 165 runners, more than doubling previous running events, according to FMWR sports and fitness director Gaylene Wilson.

The preregistration deadline has passed but runners can still register Saturday for \$20, with a limited number of T-shirts available. For more information, call 876-6701 or 876-2943.

"We ended our preregistration (Aug 27). We got about 100 that are preregistered," Wilson said. "I think based on preregistration it'll be our biggest (turnout). I think it'll be a good one. I'm hoping for 175.

"It's a commemorative run in honor of all the people who were touched by 9/11 in some way," she said.

Last year Redstone Fire Department's Capt. Robert Simmons ran the first 9.11K in full firefighting gear in honor of the 343 firefighters who died in the terrorist attacks.

"It's not about me," he said. "It's about the 343. They did a lot more than I did that day."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

The runners, including Redstone firefighter Capt. Robert Simmons in full gear, assemble for last year's 9.11K near the Sparkman Fitness Center.

Simmons will again be at Saturday's race in full firefighting gear, but this time as the starter rather than among the participants. He said he wants to "remind them of the reason that we're there."

See Run on page 4

Lessons from a true patriot on Patriot Day



Courtesy photo

Mike Durant, local veteran and New York Times bestselling author, will speak on leadership and teamwork at "A Patriot's Story" at the Huntsville Museum of Art Sept. 11.

Bestselling author veteran speaks on his experiences

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON
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As the nation pauses to remember the lives that were lost 11 years ago, one local veteran will share the lessons he learned through the horrors of war to inspire another generation of patriots and leaders in the Huntsville community.

Mike Durant, local veteran and New York Times bestselling author, will use the events of the day his Black Hawk crashed in Somalia in 1993 and the 11 days he spent as a prisoner of war as the framework to speak on leadership and teamwork at "A Patriot's Story," Tuesday, Sept. 11, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Huntsville Mu-

seum of Art. Tickets are \$30 for active and retired military and DoD employees with ID, \$45 general admission and \$20 for members of the Huntsville Young Professionals. To purchase, call 850-3233 or visit www.gethyp.net. A portion of ticket sales and proceeds will go to the Wounded Warrior Project.

"We were thrilled when Mike accepted our offer to speak on Sept. 11. He is a true American hero, and one that our generation in particular respects and admires," said Bronwen Murray, chairperson of the event, hosted by Huntsville Young Professionals and Art Krewe. "We couldn't be happier to host an event like this where Huntsville can come together and hear a patriot's story while honoring those that serve and defend our country."

The events of the day the helicopter that Durant was piloting was shot down and crashed

See Patriot on page 4



COMMUNITY NEWS

Motorcycle safety focus for course.

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AROUND TOWN

Search/rescue dog team serves North Alabama.

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PEOPLE PROFILE

Civilian of the Year works at Redstone.

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MILITARY SCENE

Retired sergeant first class receives Purple Heart.

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WIN OR LOSE

Softball divisions crown champions.

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RocketViews

Where were you Sept. 11, 2001?

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer
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Anna Arwood
The Summit:
"Right here."



Ronald Bolen
contractor, Yulista:
"I was down in Florida
in my office and the
broadcast came over
TV that it happened.
Every year we say a
prayer for the ones that
were lost and their families."



Keisha Love
The Summit:
"I think I might have been
at home. I had an aunt
that worked in the Penta-
gon, she works for the IRS,
so she was in that particu-
lar building Sept. 11, but
thankfully didn't get hurt. Her husband, a
retired commander in the Navy, called and
emailed us to let us know she was OK."



Maj. Theotis Clemons
PEO Aviation:
"I was in Korea. The
Monday Night Foot-
ball game went off
and I saw one plane
hit the tower, and I saw
the other one flying
into it. They said, 'We interrupt this
to show you a special bulletin.'"

Letters to the editor

Children learn value of giving back to Soldiers

My name is Melisa Wentz and I am a couponer. A few weeks ago, I had extra coupons for toiletries. My children and I thought it would be a good idea to use them to buy items for our Soldiers.

At the grocery store, each of the children used their own little shopping carts to collect items from the shelves. The store was having a great sale and we used the coupons to get all of the items for free.

My children learned some valuable lessons that day. The most important one was how important it is to give back – especially to those who help make it possible for us to enjoy our freedom.

Melisa Wentz

Courtesy photo

Danica, 5, and Kacey, 3, are daughters of coupon-collector Melisa Wentz.



Father's poem to his deployed Soldier son

As I write to you on this late December day,
My heart holds you close, though you're so far away.
On a dangerous mission in a distant land,
Because you had the guts to take a stand.
Your life is on the line, both day and night,
Because freedom over terror is worth the fight.
You endure deadly battles, yet you persevere,
While safely in the U.S. we welcome the New Year.
A message to you from the land you call home,
Thank you My Soldier, you'll never be alone.
And for those who don't share your point of view,
Let's pray they know you're fighting for them too.

Freedom for all Americans is what you stand for,
We're united behind you for doing your part,
As you earn a special place in the American heart.
Although I miss you and sometimes feel sad,
There is no greater honor than being called your dad.
I look forward to the day with a tear in my eye,
When we stand hand and hand looking up to the sky.
Giving thanks that you're home and your mission is done,
My God, I'm so proud of you, My Soldier, My Son.

David Shannon

Editor's note: Shannon, owner of a business in Madison, wrote this poem for his son, Sean, who serves in the Army.

Quote of the week

'I fear that all I have done is awakened a sleeping giant and filled him with a terrible resolve.'

— Admiral Yamamoto after the Pearl Harbor attack, Dec. 7, 1941

RedstoneRocket

The Redstone Rocket is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in the Redstone Rocket through the Public Affairs Office, Army Garrison-Redstone, Bldg. 5300 Room 5144, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the Redstone Rocket is Tennessee Valley Printing Co., Inc., located at 201 1st Ave., SE, Decatur, AL 35603.

Retail advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday before Wednesday publication. Classified advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

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Editorial office: 256-876-1500 Editorial Fax: 256-955-0133 Retail Advertising: 256-340-2463 Classified Advertising: 256-260-2218 Advertising Fax: 256-260-2211

Rocket articles are available at:
<http://www.theredstonerocket.com>
<http://pao.redstone.army.mil>

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Getting to know you

By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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Name: Maj. Ronald Gesaman

Title: Deputy commander for nursing, Fox Army Health Center

Where do you call home?

Winona, Ohio – middle of cornfields and cows

How long have you been a Soldier?

26 years

What do you enjoy most about Army medicine?

Taking care of Soldiers and their families. That's pretty generic, but it really is. Our surgeon general has put out our new theme – Serving to Heal, Honored to Serve. It really is the bedrock for why everybody stays in military medicine.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Hike on the trails, spend time with my wife in Huntsville.

What are your goals?

There's short-term and long-term goals. My short-term goals are to be an asset to the team here at Fox, support Col. Darby's vision of providing wellness healthcare to our beneficiaries. My ultimate goal is to be a commander of a large



medical treatment facility.

What's on your bucket list?

With my wife I'd like to do a self-guided driving tour across Ireland, ultimate destination – the Guinness brewery. On my own I'd like to through-hike the Appalachian Trail.

What college team do you cheer for?

Ohio State. I did my graduate work at Baylor, so they're a close second.

Where were you on Sept. 11, 2001?

San Antonio, at the Officer Advanced Course getting ready to go to Korea.

Experience IEEE at RSIC

Whether you are researching robotics, sensor networks, or unmanned vehicles, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers is a gateway to literature on aerospace and defense technology. On 19 September the Redstone Scientific Information Center is providing a training opportunity on the IEEE Explore database. All interested Redstone employees are invited. Two 45 minute sessions are available, at 10:30-11:15 or 12:00-12:45. Training will be held in

the RSIC conference room, Bldg 4484. Space is limited so please call 256-876-5195 or go to usarmy.redstone.amrdec.mbx.rsic-gov@mail.mil to register.

Take advantage of this opportunity to ask questions from an experienced IEEE trainer. The library will provide water and soft drinks, so bring your lunch and join us for an informative lunch-time presentation. If you have any questions about this program, contact the library staff at 256-876-5195.

PAC-3 missile intercepts test target

DALLAS – A PAC-3 missile destroyed a tactical ballistic missile target Aug. 29 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., in an operational test conducted by the Test and Evaluation Command.

The test involved three incoming targets: two Patriot-as-a-target TBMs and one MQM-107 drone. A ripple launch of two PAC-3 missiles successfully engaged the second TBM. Preliminary data indicated all test objectives were achieved.

"The PAC-3 missile continues to perform as expected under very stressing conditions," Richard McDaniel, vice president of PAC-3 missile programs in Lockheed Martin's Missiles and Fire Control business, said. "This was our third consecutive successful PAC-3 mis-

sile flight test this year. With each successful test, the PAC-3 missile adds to its legacy of proven performance."

Three additional PAC-3 tests are scheduled for the second half of 2012, including flight tests that will demonstrate the Missile Segment Enhancement capability in both the Patriot and MEADS systems.

Lockheed Martin's Dallas facility is the prime contractor on the PAC-3 missile segment upgrade to the Patriot air defense system. The PAC-3 missile segment upgrade consists of the highly agile, combat-proven PAC-3 missile, the PAC-3 missile canisters, the Fire Solution Computers and the Enhanced Launcher Electronics System.



Photo by Carrie E. David, SMDC/ARSTRAT

Suite dedication

Lt. Gen. Richard Formica, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and Micki Costello reveal a plaque dedicating a suite of video-conference rooms in the command's headquarters to Costello's husband and former SMDC commander retired Lt. Gen. John "Jack" Costello, who died December 2010, during a ceremony Aug. 17.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

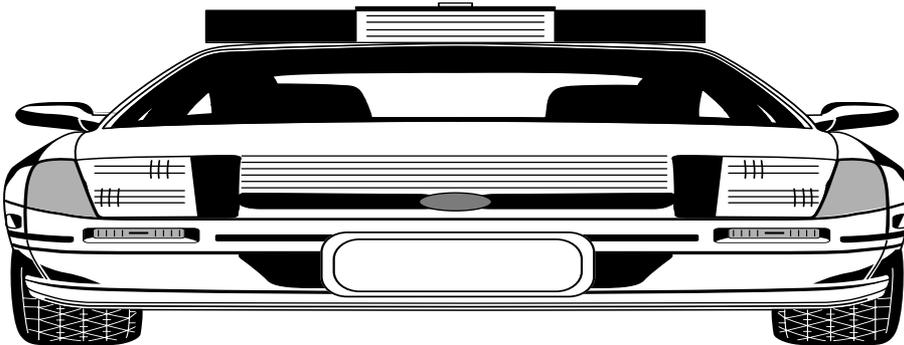
The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents for Aug. 19-25:

- Police arrested a man for warrants out of the city of Madison. He was turned over to Madison Police.
- Police investigated a two-vehicle, without injury, traffic accident at Rideout and Goss roads.

• Police recovered an Army deserter from Cullman County Jail and returned him to his Fort Campbell, Ky., unit.

- Eight U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.

• Eight U.S. District Court violation notices were issued.



Numbers sum up Sept. 11th terrorist attacks

- 4** coordinated suicide attacks
- 3,000** deaths approximately (including 19 hijackers)
- 6,000** injuries exceeded
- 2** hijacked planes crashed into Twin Towers of the World Trade Center
- 3rd** hijacked plane crashed into the Pentagon
- 1** hijacked plane crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pa., after passengers tried to take control of the aircraft.



Photographer's Mate 2nd Class
Jim Watson, USN
Rescue workers conduct search and rescue operations at the World Trade Center site in New York City following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Workers encouraged to prepare for emergencies

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

In collaboration with the National Preparedness Month Ready campaign, each week throughout September AMCOM is taking steps to help employees prepare for emergencies. Read the weekly emails, *Redstone Rocket* articles, and participate in the preparedness activities to ensure you and your family are taking steps from awareness to action. Missed last week's article? No problem, it can be accessed in the *Redstone Rocket* archives (www.theredstonerocket.com) or call the AMCOM EM/COOP Office at 876-5662 or 842-4821.

This week's Pledge to Prepare – Awareness to Action activities are: Make a Plan and Emergency Financial First Aid Kit.

Here are three questions to consider when making your family emergency plan:

- How will you get in contact with your family members in an emergency (do you have an out-of-state contact)?
- Where will you go (meeting place)?
- What will you do (plan to evacuate or shelter in place)?

Take a few minutes after dinner tonight to discuss your plan with all family members. For more information, including a family emergency plan template, visit <http://www.ready.gov/make-a-plan>.

Once you and your family have de-

veloped your family emergency plan, be sure to share it with your out-of-state contact. Review and update your family plan at least annually.

Have you ever wondered what documents you would need following a disaster? FEMA has developed an Emergency Financial First Aid Kit that can assist you with this task. The EFFAK is accessible at <http://www.ready.gov/insurance-vital-records>.

The old adage “photos are worth a thousand words” is also true and an easy way to take an inventory of your household items. Save the photos on a disk or zip drive and keep it with your Family Emergency Plan. Make sure a duplicate copy is shared with your trusted out-of-state contact or securely stored in a local safety deposit box.

Appropriate security measures should be used in storing your completed documents as it will contain Personal Identifiable Information PII (SSN, DOB, etc.), all needed to facilitate your recovery after a disaster. Be sure to review and update your EFFAK at least annually and be sure to keep the most recent version, destroying all previous versions.

AMCOM is Pledging to Prepare and taking steps from Awareness to Action as an organization to become better prepared and informed.

The AMCOM Employee Preparedness Expo is Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. (*AMCOM G-3, EM/COOP Office release*)

Run

continued from page 1

A captain at Station 2 on Vincent Drive, Simmons elaborated on the importance of honoring the memory of the firefighters who died responding to the terrorist attacks that day 11 years ago.

“9/11 was a tremendous loss for the American fire service, and firefighters consider ourselves brothers and sisters,” he said. “I felt that my brothers and sisters suffered and lost so much, really I figured it (running last year’s race in full gear) was something I could do to honor their sacrifice.”

Of running the race in full gear, he said, “to be honest, really I wouldn’t call it tough. It was hard and it was physically demanding. Every time I started feeling that it was hard I went back to the memory (of the loss firefighters). Their memory helped me continue.”

Simmons, 31, from Fayetteville, Tenn., has been with federal firefighting for 13 years. Before becoming a civilian firefighter at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., he



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Redstone firefighter Capt. Robert Simmons finishes last year's race in honor of the 343 firefighters who died Sept. 11, 2001.

was a firefighter in the Army there. He was a Soldier for four years, including one year (2003) in Iraq when the war started. He has been at Redstone since 2007.

He and his wife, Kristi, a security analyst at the Missile Defense Agency, reside in New Market with their two sons: Baylor, 5, and Cash, 2.

Patriot

continued from page 1

were famously detailed in the book and movie of the same name, “Black Hawk Down,” as well as Durant’s own bestseller, “In the Company of Heroes.” In the years that followed, Durant has turned the traumatic events he experienced in

Somalia into lessons for personal and professional growth, which he shares with audiences across the country.

“We thought our membership would be interested in hearing from a true leader, true patriot and true hero,” Murray said. “We hope that they’ll walk away uplifted about the work we do here in Huntsville, and be reenergized.”

For more information on the event, visit www.gethynp.net.

Course certifies Soldiers in motorcycle safety

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

Staff writer

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To the average person it may have looked like a bunch of guys enjoying their motorcycles on a nice Alabama summer day, but for the Soldiers behind the wheel, it wasn't just a joyride – they were learning how to protect their own lives on the road.

Six active duty Soldiers from across the installation gathered last week to refresh their motorcycle driving skills at the Experienced Rider Course on Redstone Arsenal. The Garrison Safety Office coordinates the motorcycle safety courses as part of the Army Traffic Safety Training program. All active duty Soldiers who own a motorcycle are required to complete the Basic Rider Course, Experienced Rider Course, or, if applicable, the Sport Bike Course. To register for a course, call safety specialist Bobby Taylor at 313-3294.

“Demographic wise, younger Soldiers are the ones who are buying motorcycles, even though we know there are more experienced riders out there, but the risks and the fatalities are occurring with the younger Soldiers,” said Mike Moore, Garrison safety manager.

The courses cover the basic skills

needed to safely maneuver the vehicle, through both classroom and actual driving on the Arsenal's motorcycle range, located across the street from the Bowling Center on Zeus Road. The Motorcycle Safety Foundation certified course allows cyclists the opportunity to master their skills in important areas such as proper braking, slow speed motorcycle operations and avoiding obstructions or obstacles. Experienced riders should renew those skills every three years.

While Army regulation states that the Garrison is to provide training within 30 days of the request for a course, with a few number of Soldiers on the installation achieving that objective becomes challenging. When courses are held is determined by how many Soldiers are registered for a particular course; a minimum of six participants is required for the course to be held. Senior commanders may authorize motorcyclists to ride on the installation if a course is not available to them within 30 days. Once a Soldier obtains training here on the Arsenal, it is good at other installations as well.

If you are an active duty Soldier with a motorcycle who has not completed the course, or if you are thinking of purchasing a bike, call Taylor at 313-3294.



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Sgt. Erdulfo Miguel Cervantes navigates his motorcycle at the Experienced Rider Course, coordinated by the Garrison Safety Office, as part of the Army Traffic Safety Training Program.

Courtesy photo

Lego winner

Tre Kitchen – son of Roger Kitchen Jr., human resources development specialist, AMCOM G-1 – was selected in August as one of five winners worldwide in the LEGO Super Heroes Avengers Building Challenge. The contest was featured in the June LEGO Club magazine. Contestants were challenged to build the Avengers a new vehicle for special missions – land, sea, or air transport using pieces from their LEGO collection. Entries were judged based on originality (50 percent) and creativity (50 percent).



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Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation events

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

Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest, Redstone's annual German festival, is Sept. 13-16 at the Activity Field off Patton Road. As always the public is invited. Hours are 5-11 p.m. Sept. 13, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sept. 14, noon to 1 a.m. Sept. 15 and 1-8 p.m. Sept. 16. Prices are \$12 for Sept. 13 and Sept. 16, and \$15 for Sept. 14 and Sept. 15. That covers admission and all the rides, but doesn't include the chance games. Entrance

will be through Gate 10 on Patton Road. In case they're asked, people should have their vehicle registration, proof of insurance and a valid driver's license. For more information, call 313-5224 or visit redstonemwr.com.

Rhythms/Brew/Barbecue

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

Community gardeners plant seeds for changing season

Photos by Ellen Hudson

By Aug. 28 most of the gardeners at Redstone Arsenal's community garden had already harvested their summer crops such as beans, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers and corn.

Some are planting their winter crops such as turnip greens, carrots, kale, collards, beets and radishes. Most of their flowers are nearly gone.



Kalen Keelon takes care of her tomato plant that is putting out its second crop.



Bobby Hollis picks his cayenne peppers.



Eugene Lawler uses a rototiller to prepare the soil for winter vegetables.



In the foreground are some newly planted turnip greens (of Bobby Hollis') coming up; and in the background are waning summer crops.



The freshly picked okra belongs to Kalen Keelon.



This is one of the last of Bobby Hollis' zinnias.

Read about what's new this week 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: "Double Dexter" by Jeff Lindsay – Forensic analyst and nighttime vigilante Dexter Morgan discovers that he is being followed by a killer. ... "A Hundred Flowers" by Gail Tsukiyama – A tale set during the Chinese Cultural Revolution follows the struggles of Kai Ying to safeguard her family when her teacher husband is arrested and sent to a "re-education" labor camp for criticizing the Communist Party. ... "The Kill Order" by James Dashner – This prequel to Maze Order Trilogy traces the fateful period after the earth is decimated by catastrophic solar flares and reveals the stories behind the formation of WICKED.

Adult nonfiction: "Gravity's Engines: How Bubble-Blowing Black Holes Rule Galaxies, Starts and Life in the Cosmos"

by Caleb Scharf – An astrophysicist describes black holes, explains how they not only suck in everything around them, but also spit out clouds of matter.

Children fiction: "Otto the Book Bear" by Katie Cleminson – Otto lives in a book where he comes to life to read his favorite stories, until he is left behind and must set out in search of a new home. ... "Three Hens and a Peacock" by Lester L. Laminack – Life on the Tucker farm is disrupted for everyone by the arrival of a shrieking and strutting peacock.

Children nonfiction: "Dog Heroes: A Nonfiction Companion to Magic Tree House #46: Dogs in the Dead of Night" by Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce – Discusses the history and behavior of dogs and true stories of dog heroes.

DVDs: "Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance" with Nicolas Cage ... "Hunger Games" with Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson.

Audio books on CDs: "Creole Belle" by James Lee Burke (read by Will Patton) ...

"Darkness Under the Sun" by Dean Koontz (read by Steven Weber) ... "The Wind Through the Keyhole" by Stephen King (read by Steven Weber).

Oktoberfest returns with carnival fun for all ages

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

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

This year's Oktoberfest is Sept. 13-16 at the Redstone Activity Field off Patton Road. As always the public is invited.

Hours are 5-11 p.m. Sept. 13, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Sept. 14, noon to 1 a.m. Sept. 15 and 1-8 p.m. Sept. 16. Prices are \$12 for Sept. 13 and Sept. 16, and \$15 for Sept. 14 and Sept. 15. That covers admission and all the rides, but doesn't include the chance games.

"It's family fun," Christal Howard, administrative management specialist

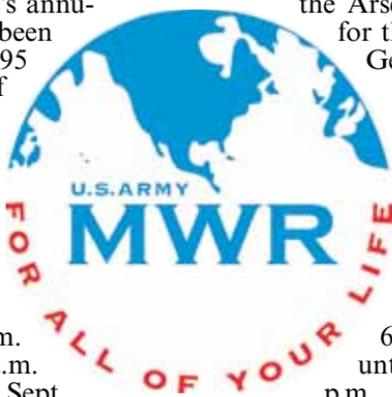
in the Family and Moral Welfare and Recreation office, said. "And it's safe on the Arsenal. They need to come for the great food, too – great German food."

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

Terry Cavanagh and the Alpine Express Band is back at its oompah best. The band performs 6-10 p.m. Sept. 13, 7 p.m. until midnight Sept. 14, 6 p.m. until midnight Sept. 15 and 2-6 p.m. Sept. 16.

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

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



Prevention the key for West Nile virus



By **AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON**

Staff writer

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When it comes to the West Nile virus: prevent, don't panic.

Thirteen cases of the mosquito borne illness have been reported in the state of Alabama, according to data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Aug. 28. Six people have tested positive for the virus in Montgomery County, with one fatality. Four cases have also been confirmed in Mobile County, one in Baldwin County, one in Jefferson County and one in Tuscaloosa County. Others are being investigated statewide.

"The number one way to prevent it is to not get bitten, and the way to not get bitten is to not have places where mosquitoes breed," said Cherie Miller, environmental health and safety coordinator at Fox Army Health Center. "Mosquitoes can breed in the smallest of areas. The key thing is to keep stagnant water away and your vegetation cut."

There are no medications for treatment or vaccines for prevention, therefore taking proactive measures to avoid mosquito bites in the first place is key.

Photo by Ellen Hudson

Cherie Miller, environmental health and safety coordinator at Fox Army Health Center, advises individuals to take a proactive stance in protecting themselves from mosquitoes, which may carry West Nile virus.

"People should take good preventive measures all the time because there are other mosquito borne illnesses, such as encephalitis," Miller said. "It's important to keep good mosquito protection all the time."

Fox recommends the following for good mosquito protection:

- Whenever going outdoors, use insect repellent with DEET on your skin. Follow recommendations on the label for use and application. Don't just spray it on, rub into the skin. On clothing, you may also use pyrethrin, a repellent designed for clothing.

- Wear long sleeves and pants whenever outdoors. Dawn and dusk are peak times, but mosquitoes feed at all times of the day.

- Empty any standing water from outside your home, such as in buckets, flowerpots, children's pools, etc. If you have a tire swing, drill holes in the bottom so they can drain.

- Check all screens on windows and doors to make sure mosquitoes can't get into your home, and repair where necessary.

- Keep your grass and other vegetation cut.

While 80 percent of individuals that contract the disease will never develop symptoms, signs to watch out for are fever, headache, body aches, joint pains, vomiting, diarrhea or rash. Less than 1 percent of the infected population will develop a serious neurological illness as a result of the virus, such as encephalitis or meningitis. Individuals at greater risk for serious illness as a result of the virus are over 50 years old or have pre-existing medical conditions, such as cancer, diabetes or hypertension.

Search team handles rescue missions

Soldier works with dog to help find the lost

By KARI HAWKINS
Assistant editor
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Linus is a dog who knows how to pay attention.

He's also a dog with a lot of energy, a need to please and a love for treats.

And his handler, Chris Snipes, knows how to use those "talents" to put his nearly 6-year-old Golden retriever to work helping in emergency situations.

Snipes, an Army major stationed at Redstone Arsenal, and Linus are active members of the North Alabama Search Dog Association, a group founded in 1996 to train and use dogs for search and rescue operations. It's a "hobby" that keeps the handler-and-dog team physically active, mission focused and at the top of their game.

"Linus likes his treats and rewards. He'll do anything for his treats," Snipes said. "He likes to get out and run. We have a good relationship, a good connection, that makes him easy to work with when we are out on search and rescue missions."

Snipes and his wife, Traci, a registered nurse working in home health care, first met Linus as a puppy. The couple trained Linus for a year for a seeing-eye dog program and then sent him back to the program in June 2008, only to find out a month later that he didn't pass the program's initial training course. The couple didn't hesitate when they were asked if they wanted to keep Linus.

At the time, the couple didn't realize that all the early training Linus received as a seeing eye dog-in-training, including basic commands and some sign language commands, laid the foundation for another career that had the potential to save lives. In 2009, Snipes was studying at the Naval Post Graduate School in California when he met volunteers for a canine search and rescue organization at a local fund-raising event. It wasn't long before Snipes had Linus evaluated to become a search and rescue dog.

"I was told that Linus was going to make a great search dog," Snipes said of the evaluation. "He has a lot of drive and he likes to please. He is always mindful and looking to me to see what's going on. I can use sign language to commu-

nicate with him, and he has his own way of communicating with me when we are on a search.

"Being a search and rescue dog gives Linus a job. It gives him something to do, and something we can do together. Besides going on search and rescue operations, we practice two times a week in all kinds of conditions and environments. That gets us out together doing something and out with other handler-and-dog teams."

Dogs working with the North Alabama Search Dog Association are all cross-trained in live searches and human remains searches, and in water searches. They are trained with air scent or trailing techniques, and, once trained, can work with or without a scent article.

The dogs can be any breed, but the most successful breeds at search and rescue are medium-sized, high-stamina dog breeds such as Labradors, German shepherds, Golden retrievers, Border collies, Belgian malinois and other sporting, herding and working lines of dogs that have a good work ethic, good trainability, good attitude and lots of confidence.

"We don't specify a breed," Snipes said. "It's just what the owner's preference is. It can be a pound puppy. It doesn't matter just as long as they have the drive."

Snipes and Linus have participated as members of the search dog association since 2010. Snipes' wife also joins in on the training.

"I do search and rescue, and Traci is one of our professional hidiers for our practices," Snipes said.

Association members and their dogs train in all kinds of environments. Practices have been in fields, buildings, schools and other locations in places like Moulton, Harvest, the Browns Ferry area, Huntsville and Decatur. They've practiced on the University of Alabama-Huntsville campus as well as in the Priceville High School in Morgan County. The association trains in live searches on Saturday mornings and in human remains searches on Tuesday nights.

"We try to practice in almost any situation we might find ourselves in," Snipes said. "Hills, rough terrain, barb wire fences, thick vegetation, swamps, anything that gives us a challenge."

In 2011, Snipes and Linus put in more than 200 hours of training and attended an annual four-day search and rescue seminar. With searches, the year included about 400 hours in the field for the work-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Maj. Chris Snipes and his dog, Linus, share a moment together in their front yard on Redstone Arsenal. As members of the North Alabama Search Dog Association, the handler-dog team spends a lot of time participating in practices, live searches and remains searches for lost people in Alabama and south Tennessee.

ing team. The amount of hours they put in this year will be about the same.

When they are called out on a search and rescue, a trained dog goes on the mission with its handler and a backup person who assists the handler. Usually, the situation is dire.

"Chances are a lot of time what happens is a local sheriff's department will use all the resources available before they call us in for help," Snipes said. "We usually don't get called out until day three or four of a search, and chances are the person we are looking for is no longer alive."

The search dog association's members have participated in searches throughout Alabama and south Tennessee.

Snipes and Linus spent four days following the April 27, 2011 tornadoes

searching through the rubble left by the F-5 tornado in Tuscaloosa.

"We went through neighborhoods, checking under things," Snipes said. "It was a pretty devastated area."

On another search, Linus helped find an elderly lady who was missing in Buckhead National Forest in November 2011.

"They had used a helicopter and horse teams to look for her," Snipes said. "But it was one of the search dogs who found her trying to climb a hill less than 100 or 200 yards from where she had last been seen."

Their most recent case was in Geneva, Ala., where they helped the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation with a

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Dog

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cold case. The search involved 20 dog handlers.

“We cleared a lot of area and that’s generally what a dog team does is clear a lot of area so that resources can be more focused on recovery areas,” Snipes said. “Dogs can cover so much area quickly, and that can really speed up the search process. They work well at night and in dense brush.

“A lot of searches that we do we don’t find anything, but we’re clearing areas. We are called in when the authorities need to rule out a lot of area.”

When they go to “work” as a search and rescue team, Linus wears an orange vest and a bell, which helps Snipes locate his dog in the woods.

“With the bell and vest on, he knows he’s working and also I give him certain commands to let him know he is working and not playing,” Snipes said. “For live searches his command is ‘Go Find’ and for human remains it is ‘Search.’ But to him it is all play, and he is looking for certain smells and once he finds them he knows he is going to get a special treat and time to play with his special toy.”

During a search, Linus is given the freedom to roam an area. He alerts Snipes that he found something by trying to tackle his

handler. Snipes will then give him the command “Show me” and Linus will take him to the spot where he has found either a lost person or some remains.

As a handler of a search and rescue dog, Snipes had to be certified by the National Association for Search and Rescue. Then, both he and Linus had to be certified as a team.

Linus isn’t the only dog in the Snipes household. There is also Nougat, a 6-year-old chocolate Labrador retriever that is not trained in search and rescue, and a 3-month-old German shepherd named Shelby that they are puppy raising as a search dog for a friend.

Most search and rescue dogs begin training at 8 weeks old, and participate in two years of training that leads to certification. Training continues through the dog’s search and rescue career.

“It’s a huge commitment. Not only are you doing the training, but you have to document the training, especially for human remains searches, so that your search can’t be discredited in the legal system,” Snipes said.

Even handlers get mentoring and training, and must pass a physical fitness test every year. Handlers must be trained in navigation, clue awareness, first aid and other searching skills.

“A handler has to be able to carry a 20-pound backpack,” Snipes said. “The handler and their dog have to be able

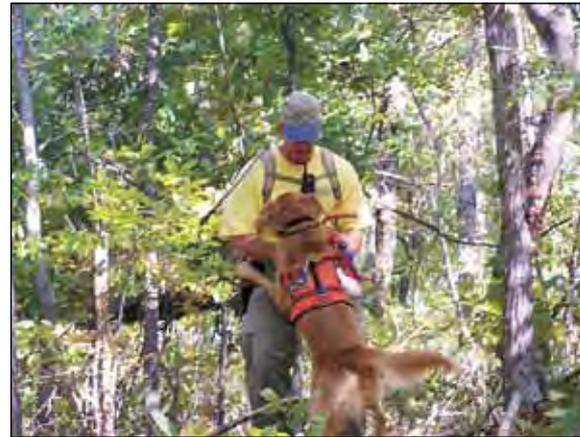
to cover two miles in a certain amount of time. And they’ve got to have good group dynamics with other handlers and their dogs.”

Snipes and Linus also participate in the search dog association’s Lost in the Woods program, a presentation that gives children survival tips if they find themselves lost.

“During this program, we bring the dogs to local schools, and Boy and Girl Scout meetings and brief the kids on what actions to take if they become lost in the woods,” Snipes said. “After the program, we do a demonstration on how the dogs work.”

The pair did a Lost in the Woods demonstration at the 2012 Bring Your Child to Work Day event hosted by PEO Missiles and Space’s Joint Attack Munition Systems Project Office. Their next Lost in the Woods event with other association members is Nov. 10 at Joe Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center in Decatur.

Snipes serves as the assistant product manager for Aviation Rockets and Small Guided Munitions, Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space. He will soon be reassigned to serve as the deputy director of Model and Simulation for the Ground Based Missile Defense, Missile



Courtesy photo

Linus tells his handler, Chris Snipes, that he found a “lost” person during a Live Area Practice in an open field in the Moulton area. The “lost” person was lying in very tall grass, and Linus found him by scent from about 300 feet away.

Defense Agency.

His new assignment will keep him and Linus at Redstone, and in a community that benefits from the expertise of this search and rescue handler-and-dog team.

Editor’s note: For more information on the North Alabama Search Dog Association or to schedule a program with the association, contact Snipes at chris.snipes@us.army.mil or 690-4351. The association’s website is www.nasdak9.org/ and it can be found on Facebook.

University of Alabama trustees tour post

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

The University of Alabama System's Board of Trustees visited Redstone on Aug. 28 to gain an understanding of how the post fits into the bigger picture both in Huntsville and statewide.

The University of Alabama System includes university locations in Tuscaloosa, Birmingham and Huntsville as well as the UAB Health System.

The trustees' first stop was at Army Materiel Command where they were greeted by Brig. Gen. Darrell Williams and the deputy chief of staff for personnel William Marriott. AMC provided a command history and overview briefing including a focus on human resources with presentations from AMCOM, LOGSA, ACC, AMRDEC and USASAC.

The briefing helped connect the board with the career fields that the Army will be looking to fill in the future, some of which included engineering, logistics, technology and contracting. The briefers wanted students in the Alabama systems to understand that it is not just Soldiers that work for the Army.

"When your students hear about working for the Army we don't want them to only think of our war fighters," Marriott said. "If that is not their calling we want them to know that there are other ways and opportunities to serve your country as a civilian."

After AMC the board received the Team Redstone update briefing from Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton and then toured several AMRDEC facilities.

At AMRDEC Eric Edwards, the director, along with several other members of AMRDEC leadership showed the group around various labs and projects including the Prototype Integration Facility and Software Engineering Directorate.



Photo by Brad Easterwood

The University of Alabama board members visit AMRDEC's Prototype Integration Facility on Redstone Arsenal, one of 20 PIF facilities in Madison County. PIF project manager Danny Featherston, right, highlights some of the projects they have developed for joint servicemembers over the 10 years of PIF operations.

Army's civilian of the year works at Redstone

AUSA honors Roberson with national award

By **KARI HAWKINS**
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Being a Gadsden area boy with a middle class background, it was assumed back in the '80s that Keith Roberson would spend his engineering career working for one of the area's tire companies.

Instead, he took advantage of an opportunity to work in the maintenance directorate at the Anniston Army Depot, an opportunity that eventually led him to Redstone Arsenal, where his work in various organizations and now as the executive director of the Aviation and Missile Command's Integrated Materiel Management Center has led to his selection as the Association of the U.S. Army's Department of the Army Civilian of the Year for 2012.

"It's an honor to be selected for an award like this, especially from an organization like AUSA that does so much for Soldiers and their families and for DA civilians," he said.

"I was humbled about this award. It was not expected. I think it's a reflection not so much of me but of the people here who work for IMMC. This should be a team award for this well-established directorate made up of people who execute and make things happen. I owe a lot to the people here who do the work."

Roberson, who was named IMMC's executive director in the spring of 2011, was nominated in early 2012 for the local AUSA award by then Aviation and Missile Command commander Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers. He received the award at the local level, went onto win at the regional level and recently was named as the national winner. He will be presented as the DA Civilian of the Year at the AUSA annual meeting Oct. 22-24 in Washington, D.C.

"There was a tremendous amount of talented people who were nominated for this award from Redstone Arsenal," Roberson said. "They really represented strength in leadership through their broad contributions to the Army as a whole. I looked at some of the people in the nomination pool, and I didn't think that I could win."

But he did, and he follows in the footsteps of another DA civilian from Red-

stone – Rick Turner of the Test Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity, now retired – who won the national award in 2010.

Even if he is surprised he received this year's honor, Roberson is not surprised that the national winner has, once again, come from Redstone Arsenal.

"Redstone is the center of gravity for DA civilians who are working in support of the war fighter and readiness," he said. "We have two large commands here, we have aviation and missile organizations here, and our employees do a lot of fine work. The body of contributions toward supporting readiness of aviation and missile systems that is done here is tremendous."

The Integrated Materiel Management Center's 2,500 civilian employees and 60 military employees at Redstone and throughout the world provide logistics support to AMCOM systems and associated support equipment to ensure the Army's weapon system readiness worldwide.

"We are responsible for providing readiness to the war fighter through supply chain activities and maintenance enterprise activities," Roberson said. "We are responsible for buying spare and repair parts, secondary items and ammunition for aviation and missile systems, and we're responsible for fielding maintenance activities."

"IMMC provides the combat power to the Army war fighter. What makes IMMC so good at its job are the people who understand the urgency of the need and have the strength of excellence to give the war fighter what they need."

IMMC employees work in the field with other AMCOM employees as well as employees from Fort Rucker on aviation systems; Fort Sill, Okla., on missile systems; and at reset sites worldwide.

Roberson graduated with a degree in industrial engineering from the University of Alabama in 1982. Following his time at the Anniston Army Depot, Roberson's assignments have included working for the Missile Command's Acquisition Center; Program Executive Office for Tactical Missiles, Special Projects Office (Brilliant Anti-Tank Sub-Munition); and the Joint Tactical Missile Defense Project Office. He was the deputy project manager for the Program Executive Office, Intelligence Electronics Warfare's, Forward Area Air Defense Sensors Product Office (Sentinel), from 1991-95. He served as the chief engineer for



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Keith Roberson is proud of the AMCOM Integrated Materiel Management Center's employees, who made it possible for him to become, first, the recipient of the Department of the Army Civilian of the Year award from the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, and then the regional and national winner of the award. He shows the trophy he received from the local AUSA chapter.

the Program Executive Office, Cruise Missiles/Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Joint Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Project Office from 1995-97; and as deputy project manager for Utility Helicopters, Program Executive Office for Aviation, from 1997-2010. He was accepted into the Army Acquisition Corps in January 1994 and became a member of the Senior Executive Service nearly three years ago. "My career has far outpaced my dreams and aspirations," Roberson said. "I worked my way up through various jobs in program management offices. In my career, I've had the leadership and background in both acquisition and sustainment that gave me the skills to lead a large organization like IMMC."

"As a member of the SES, you are provided with extensive leadership, communication and management development training that helps you do your job more effectively. We are trained and given opportunities so that when the time comes

we can step into positions like this one at IMMC and provide the leadership that is needed."

At IMMC, Roberson hopes he offers the type of leadership that allows the organization's employees to succeed in their mission.

"I want to make an environment where they have the opportunity to excel through learning, training and recognition," he said. "We are working to create an environment that is inclusive and diverse, an environment where employees have the ability to serve the Army's needs and requirements."

"We can be trained technically to do the job if we are willing to learn. But it's a fundamental desire and determination from the employee that creates success. We have to give them the environment and the tools to do the job, and they will be successful."

The IMMC executive director must establish a vision, and set goals and objectives

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LIFELONG CARPENTER CAPS CAREER AS SPARKMAN MANAGER PAGE 16

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MILITARY SPOUSE ENJOYS RIDE WITH CAREER, FAMILY PAGE 22

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for employees that align with what the Army needs, he said, “so employees can go out and do the heavy lifting for those accomplishments in terms of supply and maintenance support.”

While the core mission of AMCOM and IMMC remains the same, new initiatives are being implemented to help the organization be more effective and efficient.

Under Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar’s leadership, AMCOM and IMMC employees must learn to work in the new normal, “spending less than we’ve been accustomed to in the last three or four years while providing the same level of service,” Roberson said.

It’s important for employees to perform the mission while also meeting initiatives to become more efficient.

“The current environment is going to require some tough decisions,” Roberson

said. “We have to keep balanced to meet the war fighter’s needs, but some areas will have to take risks. The biggest issue is how do we balance spending cuts while supporting the war fighter who will be in the fight until at least 2014 or 2015? We have to ensure to maintain the right level of readiness for the Army.”

As IMMC moves forward with AMCOM, Roberson will focus on growing its people. He believes an organization can only get stronger by developing its personnel, and refining and focusing on its mission.

As he accepts the AUSA award in October, Roberson said he will be honored and humbled to stand before his peers and customers as the DA civilian of the year.

“Probably the most satisfying reason to win this award is to be able to accept it in front of my peers and our customers – the Soldiers – who make all this worthwhile. I am receiving an award from an organization that means a lot to me and that really makes a difference for our Soldiers,” Roberson said.

Photo by Tracey Ayres

Product charter

Michael Switzer becomes the first product director for Fixed Wing Mission Support Aircraft under the direction of Col. Brian Tachias, the Fixed Wing project manager. He receives the charter from Tachias

on Aug. 29. With more than 30 years combined experience in government service both as a civilian and as a military professional, Switzer’s most recent roles include deputy product manager for the Fixed Wing Product Office within PEO Aviation’s Aviation Systems and as the product manager for Scout Attack Helicopters which included supporting more than 120 OH-58D Kiowa Warriors in theater. In May, Switzer graduated from the ASA(ALT) Senior Service College Fellowship at the Defense Acquisition University.



Lifelong carpenter caps career as Sparkman Center manager

Largen planning to retire Oct. 1

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Merlon Largen first came to work at Redstone as a carpenter in September 1984. Nearly three decades later he's retiring as manager of one of the largest office complexes on post, the Sparkman Center.

"It's just been a great career, it really has," Largen, chief of the Sparkman Management Office, said.

He will retire Oct. 1 with 31 ½ years service, including 1978-83 for Tennessee Valley Authority at the Bellefonte Nuclear Plant in Hollywood, Ala.

"Having 31 ½ years at age 56, I'm presented with the opportunity to explore other possibilities and I want to pursue it to its fullest," he said. "And also I have two grandsons."

Largen has managed the Sparkman Center since April 2010 under the Aviation and Missile Command's G-4 (Internal Logistics). He leads an 11-member office.

"The group of people that I supervise right now is the best group that I've ever been around," he said. "Just an outstanding group of people."

His plans are "to seek employment as a contractor in some type of facilities support." And Redstone would be a possibility.

Largen, 56, followed in his late father's footsteps as a carpenter and he still enjoys construction work and building houses. In 1956 his father was building houses on Redstone Arsenal when Largen was 6 weeks old. While leaving work, Eugene Largen had a car wreck that left him crippled until his death in 1980. The family of five boys and two girls lived on a farm in New Hope.

"I was too young, all the older boys had to pitch in and continue farming and had to sell off all the farm equipment and stuff to pay the (father's) hospital bill," Largen said.

While a 10th-grader at New Hope High in 1972, Largen worked nights as a janitor on post for a Redstone contractor to make extra money. Building 4488, now the Garrison headquarters, was among the buildings that he recalls cleaning. He graduated from New Hope High in 1974 and signed a basketball scholarship with Snead State. But he injured his knee the day before a scrimmage game against Alabama A&M and subsequently left



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Merlon Largen, who arrived at Redstone as a carpenter in 1984, will retire as manager of the Sparkman Center, where more than 4,400 people work.

school.

Largen became the athletic director at the New Hope YMCA for about a year and then went to work for TVA. Five years later he came to Redstone.

His first project as a carpenter here was tearing down a small building on the southeast corner of Patton and Martin roads, basically across the street from an open field on which the Sparkman Center would eventually stand. More than 4,400 people work in this sprawling complex.

"And being given the opportunity now to manage one of the largest complexes on post has been a dream come true," Largen said.

Asked what he will miss the most after retiring, he said, "The people. I love coordination with people. I'm a huge fan of face-to-face discussion to resolve issues, and there's so many people here in the complex. Just the friendships I've developed over the years. I've had an unbelievable career – just unbelievable."

The highlight of his career, he said, was witnessing the coordinated efforts by Redstone leaders in the aftermath of the deadly tornadoes of April 2011 that left much of North Alabama without electrical power for several days.

"During the disaster of the April (2011) tornadoes, it was observing the professionalism, commitment and communication between the AMCOM Operations Center and the Garrison's Installation Operations Center in a tremendous effort to restore power to the Sparkman Center complex and surrounding areas," Largen said. "It was one of the most professionally coordinated efforts I've ever witnessed."

He and his wife, Tenien, who is originally from North Dakota, have three daughters: Bridget Moorefield, a program

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AMCOM worker named Poet of the Year

By AMY GUCKEEN TOLSON

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Lyrical beauty is in the eyes and ears of the poetic beholder. For poetry lovers around the world, the words of Marc Lacy are music for their eyes and ears.

Lacy was named the 2012 Poet of the Year at the National Poetry Awards in St. Louis Aug. 19. He was also nominated for Most Influential Poet of the Year, but took home the top honor, Poet of the Year, by popular vote from his peers and his fans, after spending the past eight years of his life writing and traveling the country doing book signings, workshops and performances as a poet and spoken word artist.

"It was a victory for all those out there that are working hard, striving, still working when the chips are down, still working through the doubts," said Lacy, contingency planner for the AMCOM G-3 Emergency Management/Continuity of Operations team. "Having received the award, it was very gratifying because as soon as I stood up to receive it, all those countless hours of working in the trenches, and burning the midnight oil, all that was flashing before me and that gave me an immediate feeling of gratitude."

Lacy has always been into creative writing, growing up in a household where his parents emphasized the importance of reading. While he didn't at first appreciate the lesson his parents were trying to bestow, once he got into his creative writing courses in high school and college, he realized that he could potentially make a



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Marc Lacy, contingency planner for the AMCOM G-3 Emergency Management/Continuity of Operations Team, is the National Poetry Awards 2012 Poet of the Year.

difference in the world he lives in through the written word, but was discouraged by the lack of platform to do so while he was in school.

"I had the ability, but wasn't really motivated to try and take it to the next level," Lacy said.

In 2001 when HBO's Def Poetry gained popularity, and in the wake of Sept. 11, all that changed.

"A lot of people were going through this age of expression," Lacy said. "A lot of people were saying, 'I've got to get this off my chest. I have got to express myself.' It turns out that a lot more people were writing poetry than you could ever imagine."

Lacy was among them, but it wasn't until others began asking him to write and perform for different occasions, such as church events and other community

events, that he really called himself a writer. Once he realized he had a knack for it and people were receiving it, there was no going back.

After collecting his work for three or so years, Lacy decided to self-publish his work and began touring the nation, to places like New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles and Dallas, where he not only performs but also gives writing and spoken word workshops. His latest work, "Rock & Fire," is a collection of love poetry.

"My mind is constantly going, and in that book, 'Rock & Fire,' I pull no punches. I talk about everything under the sun concerning love and relationships," Lacy said. "To me you can either experience something, or listen to a friend's experiences or what have you, and you can gain inspiration to write on those subjects. It doesn't necessarily have to be something where you have to do tons of research. Creative writing is what it is. I can base it on my experiences, the experiences of friends, observations that I make. You can go to another city and see a couple get into an argument in the mall and you're inspired from that."

Every chance he gets, Lacy is writing from that inspiration around him, whether it's poetry, his column for Radar magazine, a lifestyle magazine based in Huntsville or writing on his blog. He isn't just a poet, he said, but simply, a writer.

"Inspiration is all around," Lacy said. "I don't have to think of a plan to go out and get inspired to write. It's all around me."

In 2001 he founded ArtNSoul Society of Expression, a spiritual and social platform to cultivate healing through arts. The society has become a venue for artists to express themselves in the Tennessee Valley, through open mike nights, poetry slams and other events. He also mentors other poets, including Katina Walton, a student at Alabama A&M University, who also received an honor at the awards ceremony, Poetry/Author of the Year, an accomplishment Lacy delights in as much

as Walton. An unselfish author, no matter what format he's writing in, whether it's poetry or short stories, Lacy hopes his words inspire others to action.

"I want people to be uplifted, I want people to be influenced to reach deep down inside themselves and pull out some ability that people have been telling them that they've had, but they've just not had an opportunity or they've not had that influence that has pushed them enough to reach deep down inside," Lacy said. "I want for the next person what I want for myself. Winning this award, I'm hoping that this is an inspiration to a person out there struggling."

"Phases" poem by award winner Marc Lacy of AMCOM

Phases like stories have beginnings
and ends,
Comprised of fads, styles, changes
and trends...

Evolution occurs when growth gets
a chance,
When knowledge is born, wisdom
starts to dance...

Insane is the word when old habits
are engaged,
Comfort zones help rationalize as
mediocrity takes the stage...

To face one's self when tensions are
high,
Means blessings manifested are
close and nigh...

When petty is me and significant is
you,
Phase I has been passed, now on to
Phase II.

Military spouse enjoys ride with career, family

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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Antoinette Pelt's face lights up when she talks about her job.

That's understandable, considering that her duties allow her to share the excitement of space exploration in her work supporting NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center exhibits, special events, dignitary tours and foreign national visits.

But Pelt's face also lights up when she talks about her family, specifically her Soldier husband Sgt. Maj. Donell Pelt who works for the Aviation and Missile Command, and their three grown children and their families.

That's the way Pelt's life has been during her nearly 25 years of marriage. It's been a balance between partnering with her husband to raise three children and holding down jobs that, looking back, have turned into a career.

She has worked at Marshall for 12 years as a contractor for Schafer Corp. She currently is a management support assistant assigned to the Office of Strategic Analysis and Communications.

"All through my career and my mar-

Military Spouses at Work Part 8 in series

riage, I've learned to adapt and face challenges with confidence. I've learned how to be a military wife and a military mom, and I've learned how to stay focused on my career and what I want to accomplish," she said.

"It's been a great ride. I'm so glad I bought the ticket. I've learned so much about myself, and I've enjoyed the opportunity to support my husband and his Army career, and to work for NASA and to share the NASA mission with others."

Pelt met her Soldier, an Alabama native from a large family in Boligee, when he was the best man at the wedding of a mutual friend in her hometown of Forrest City, Ark. At the time, he was stationed at Fort Campbell, Ky., with the 101st Airborne Division Air Assault. During their four years of dating, he was assigned in Germany. The couple had two sons, and the family lived together in Germany before Pelt agreed to marry her Soldier.



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Antoinette Pelt, a management support assistant for a contractor at NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center, has been married to Sgt. Maj. Donell Pelt for nearly 25 years. Those years have included two war-time deployments, a few moves, and both a family and a career that have enriched Pelt's life.

"I just wasn't sure I wanted to be involved in that kind of life," she recalled about marrying her husband. "To me, it was a scary life. I knew others who married Soldiers and their Soldiers were gone on assignments. I was nervous

about that.

"But, him, being the man that he is ... He's an awesome man and a true Soldier. Being a Soldier was in his blood. And that made me realize 'OK, this journey

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Largen

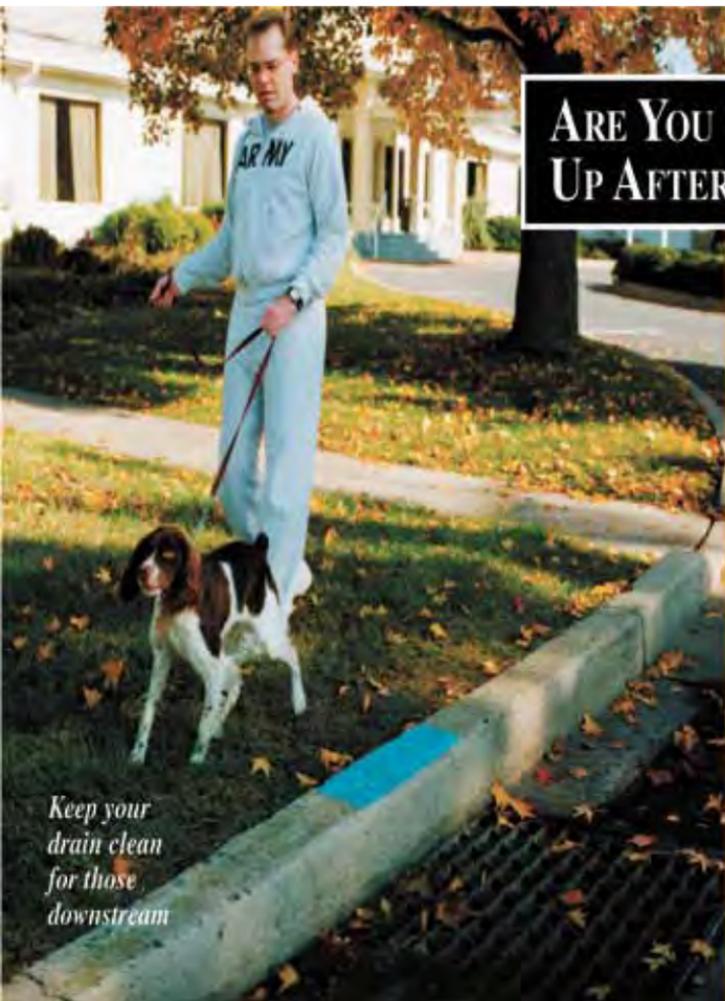
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analyst for the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space; Brooke, a logistics management specialist for AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center; and Autumn, who is taking online classes through Gadsden State. Their two grandsons are Dallas, Bridget's 5-month-old, and Konner, Autumn's 7-month-old.

Largen plans to finish building his family farm in Grant, with homes

for all three daughters and his house, and spend time with his new grandsons. He is also a fan of girls basketball – he helped coach the DAR High girls team in 2010 and coached all three daughters in little league. All three signed basketball scholarships: Bridget with West Alabama in 2000, Brooke with Gadsden State in 2004 and Autumn with Snead State in 2009.

“Thinking about it,” he said when asked if he might return to coaching. “But now I’m more interested in boys basketball because I’m trying to prepare my two grandsons.”



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Spouse

continued from page 22

will be a pretty good journey as long as we're together."

They married Jan. 2, 1988. The next day, the couple and their two sons, Shedrick and Derrick, arrived at Fort Riley, Kan. They soon found themselves among the Army family.

"I enjoyed meeting the other Army wives. I started learning as well about the Army and about being an Army wife. It helped me a lot to know the other spouses. They taught me about military spouse protocol," Pelt said.

The community of Army spouses not only helped her learn to be a supportive military spouse, but they also became a support network when their Soldiers were all deployed suddenly to Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Not only did she learn what it was like to be worried about her deployed Soldier, but also what it took to run the household on her own, hold down a job and take college courses. Like her mom, Pelt was driven to have her own career and to contribute financially to her family.

"It was hard because, at the time, the boys were young, 6 and 8. I had to get them dressed and ready for school and then get ready for work. If they were sick, I was the one who had to take off work because their dad was deployed," she said.

"It was a challenge. But I know how I was raised, and how strong my parents were, and how they taught us to be independent. They told us many times 'There will not always be someone to help you, so you have to learn how to manage on your own.' Donnell had 72 hours to get everything in order and then he was gone. I had to manage. I had to make sure the bills got paid, the car

was maintained, and the children were cared for. I had to be strong so I could support my Soldier and take care of my family while he was gone."

Pelt's first job as a military spouse was at a local grocery store. But her second job took into the realm of communications and media relations, and down a career path she is still following today.

"I was the administrative assistant at local radio station KJCK," she said. "That job branched out into other opportunities.

"I was writing some commercials and doing some other things when one day I walked into the studio of the country deejay and said 'Good morning! I have some documents for you to sign!' I didn't realize we were on the air. When he pointed it out, I said 'Good morning, everybody!' That got the station a few calls and for the next three or four months I was on the air wishing everyone a 'Good morning!'"

Besides her cheery attitude and exuberant on-air personality, Pelt also brought to the air the voice of the military spouse. She shared her words of encouragement for local listeners on the country station in the morning and then on the company's rock station in the afternoons.

"People were interested in how spouses and kids were doing when our Soldiers were deployed," Pelt said. "I would tell them how things were, and I would always say something about how 'You've got to go on and still take care of things.' The radio station was like a family to me. I really enjoyed the work and the environment."

Her expanding job also took her out to meet the public at special promotional events.

After her husband returned from the deployment, life settled into a routine and Pelt eventually moved on to another job where she felt she could make a difference for oth-

ers. She became a case worker for the American Red Cross.

"Even though I changed jobs, I was blessed in learning that truly I was happiest in a job that allows me to be a communicator. Being in a more public outreach type business became interesting to me. I felt I could touch lives in a bigger, more significant way by reaching out with the American Red Cross," Pelt said.

Yet, the job was also emotional and took its toll on Pelt. There were many sad days when she had to inform Soldiers about a death or sickness in their family or about problems at home. After about a year, she left to take a job with a title insurance company and then a rental company.

The seven years the family was stationed at Fort Riley gave Pelt time to explore her career options while also enjoying the stability and amenities of raising a family on an Army post.

"Our boys attended school on base. We were living on base, and I really loved that," Pelt said. "I made so many friends there. We became a family with other Army families because when you don't have your immediate family there with you, then you have to make a family with others who you can depend on and who can depend on you."

After 14 years in the Army, Pelt's Soldier decided in 1994 that it was time to leave active duty and join the Alabama Army National Guard's 1117th Ordnance at Redstone. The family, now including daughter Breanna, moved to Huntsville to be closer to their relatives, including Pelt's Soldier's two daughters Latonya and Celeste from an earlier marriage, who lived with their mom in Forkland, Ala.

But Pelt's Soldier's responsibilities as a "citizen Soldier" soon took him to Fort Bliss, Texas, for nine months of training to be a Patriot system evaluator, Patriot Missile System Repair. He became a senior electronics supervisor and senior logistics supervisor with the 167th Theater Sustainment Command in Birmingham.

When they first came to Huntsville, Pelt stayed home to care for their family. But, when her daughter turned 3, Pelt was ready to go back to work.

"I thought 'OK, what do I do now?' She's a baby, but she's walking and talking. I have a lot of respect for stay-at-home moms because that's a full-time job. But I wanted to go back to work. I felt like I was missing something and I needed to go back to work," she said.

As her Soldier's career continued with the National Guard and with Lockheed Martin, Pelt took up her career again by working as a temporary personnel assistant.

"I didn't know a lot of people, but I learned to acclimate and find job opportunities," Pelt said. "I worked for Kelly's Temp Service to get to know what was offered in Huntsville and to enhance my skill set."

She first worked as a customer service manager for Waste Management, and then landed a temporary job at the U.S. Space & Rocket

Center as a human resources assistant.

"It was a one-year job but I stayed there for 16 months. It was really a wonderful job for me," Pelt said. "One of the people I worked with recommended that I apply with a NASA contractor. In 2001, I went to work with AI Signal Research Inc. as a human resources assistant. After about a year, I took a job with the company as a management support assistant here at Marshall. The company was really good to me and gave me lots of opportunities."

In 2007, the contract was rebid and, although AI Signal Research/Schafer Corp. won the contract, Pelt's position fell under the Schafer part of the contract.

While Pelt's career continued at Marshall, her Soldier was deployed in 2009 with the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command to Afghanistan as the unit's operations sergeant major. In 2010, while in theater, he was diagnosed with cancer and returned to the U.S. to receive the treatment he needed.

"When something like that happens, you take care of your family," Pelt said. "I drove to meet him at Fort Gordon, Ga. I left our daughter with one of our grown sons so that I could be there. My first response was I wanted to take him home. I wanted us to go where I had my support."

Eventually, Pelt's Soldier was assigned as a wounded warrior with Redstone's Community Based Warrior Transition Unit. He is now cancer free and, in a few months, he will retire with 32 years total military service and will return to a civilian job that he has with Lockheed Martin, where he tests components of the Patriot missile system.

"I counted it up once and his military career has taken him away from his family for nine years," Pelt said.

"Like every military spouse, when your Soldier is gone you have to maintain. You have to maintain a household, and you have to be strong. You have to do what needs to be done because your Soldier is not gone by choice. They are a Soldier who signed on the dotted line to protect our country and, as a military spouse, you sign with them. You have to make things work. This has been a great ride for us. I remember the journey and it's been awesome."

Pelt, along with her husband, are proud of the children they have raised in a military family. Son Derrick has also served in the Alabama National Guard, and all have been successful both in their careers and with their own families. Derrick and his girlfriend, Angelica, are expecting a baby in March and are making plans to get married. Daughter Latonya and her husband George have a daughter named Jaztany.

"Seeing my children strive and do well in their careers is rewarding for me. I am very proud of the tone that Donnell and I have set for our children," Pelt said. "My daughter told us 'Mom and Dad, I am going to succeed because you have succeeded.' When you leave that kind of legacy, you know you've had a great journey."

Letterkenny worker cited for military service

Retired sergeant first class receives the Purple Heart

By LINDSAY BRYANT
Letterkenny Public Affairs

LETTERKENNY ARMY DEPOT, Pa.— Chambersburg native and Letterkenny Army Depot employee, retired Sgt. 1st Class John W. Norman, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2D Battalion, 70th Armor Regiment, 101st Airborne (Air Assault), was awarded the Purple Heart during a ceremony Aug. 27 at Letterkenny.

The medal was presented by Army Materiel Command commander Gen. Dennis Via to recognize Norman's sacrifice and the wounds suffered when his convoy was hit with an improvised explosive device during Operation Iraqi Freedom on Jan. 22, 2004.

"Award ceremonies like this give us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things in life like service and sacrifice," Via said. "I am deeply honored for this opportunity to participate and pay tribute to a great Soldier."

Norman graduated from Chambersburg Area Senior High School in 1987 and joined the Army on Nov. 7, 1990. He completed assignments at Fort Sill, Okla., Germany, Norway and Bosnia before

joining the 309th Transportation Company reserve unit in Greencastle, Pa. After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, Norman volunteered to go back on active duty as a Cavalry scout.

"I wanted to see action so I signed up to be a scout," Norman said. "I saw burning buildings and people mangled on the streets. Knowing what I know now I wouldn't have done it, but I'm proud of my service and glad I did it."

He completed a second deployment in January 2006 then returned to the reserves in August 2006 where he completed his final deployment. Norman retired with the Headquarter and Headquarters Company, 398th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion on Dec. 29, 2011.

After 20 years of service, Norman has experienced setbacks and challenges as well as accomplishments and victories.

"As a leader bringing all of your guys back with you with no major permanent disfigurement or injuries was my most significant achievement," Norman said.

The Purple Heart is meaningful to Norman because it is earned through experience rather than subjective opinion over your personal performance or achievements.

Making the moment a memorable and special occasion for Norman were the family members that were able to witness

him receiving an award for the first time. Family members included wife Linda Norman, mother Louisa Cowles, father John Norman and stepmother Leila Norman. Many of Norman's friends, comrades and co-workers from Letterkenny's Directorate of Supply and Transportation also attended the ceremony.

According to Via, the Purple Heart is the oldest award established that is still given to members of the U.S. military.

Norman's other awards include Iraq Campaign Medal with four Campaign Stars, Army Commendation Medal with V Device, Army Commendation Medal (fifth award), Army Achievement Medal (seventh award), USA/USAF Pres Unit Citation Award, Valorous Unit Award, Army Superior Unit Award, Army Good Conduct Medal (third award), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (second award), National Defense Service Medal (second award), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (second award), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (second award), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (fourth award), Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, NATO Medal, Combat



Photo by Don Bitner, Letterkenny photographer

AMC commander Gen. Dennis Via thanks retired Sgt. 1st Class Norman for his service and sacrifice. "Award ceremonies like this give us the opportunity to pause and reflect on the important things in life like service and sacrifice," Via said.

Action Badge, Driver and Mechanic Badge-for Wheeled Vehicles as well as Driver and Mechanic Badge-Mechanic.

Army's future civilian leaders gain insight

By MEGAN COTTON
For the Rocket

For their quarterly meeting, the professional group Tomorrow's Army Civilian Leaders met with Dan Cottrell, deputy director for SAMD and Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell of AMCOM.

These interns, Fellows and co-op students listened to their two guest speakers on the meeting's theme, "Working with the Soldier."

First was Cottrell, who recently retired from the Army as a colonel. He spoke about the differences between working with Soldiers and working with civilians. The biggest difference is that Soldiers are indoctrinated from the start of their careers, he said.

"I remember every aspect of boot camp and becoming a Soldier in the U.S. Army," Cottrell said. "I remember the

pride that I felt as I realized I had become something bigger than myself.

"With that pride and service comes a higher expectation. You are on the clock



Photo by Megan Cotton

Command Sgt. Maj. Tod Glidewell speaks to the group of future leaders about his experiences as a Soldier.

24/7," Cottrell said.

He reminded the group about the importance of each of their jobs to the Soldier. The work you do will really affect the future of the Army and its successes, he said.

"Working in the Army it always comes back to that Soldier," Cottrell said. "He or she is depending on what you do. Remember the Soldier is on the tip of the spear and he needs you behind the spear."

Glidewell said it was less about the differences between Soldiers and civilians and more about their similarities and how they work together.

"I don't think Soldiers expect any more from you than you do from them," Glidewell said. "At the end of the day they just want someone who does their job well."

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Civil Air Patrol member becomes Army National Guard officer

After completing Officer Candidate School at the Alabama Military Academy at Fort McClellan, Civil Air Patrol 1st Lt. Joseph Prinzinger received his commission Aug. 19 as a second lieutenant in the Army National Guard.

For Prinzinger it was a natural move to decide on joining the National Guard.

"I love their mission, serving the community and the state," he said. "I also love helping in times of peril and defending our nation. I think Soldiers are some of the best people in the world. I look forward to my new job as an officer and I look forward to leading citizen Soldiers as we perform the best job in the world, serving our nation and the great state of Alabama."

Early in Prinzinger's life he knew he wanted the military experience so at age 15, he joined the Civil Air Patrol. As a cadet, he enjoyed activities such as marching, Search and Rescue and participating in national activities such as the National Blue Beret at AirVenture, Oshkosh, Wis. After graduating from Jefferson Forest High School in Lynchburg, Va., Prinzinger left the Lynchburg Composite Squadron and enrolled in the Virginia Military Institute. He graduated from VMI with a mechanical engineering degree then took a job in Huntsville with Avion Solutions Inc., where he supports Army aviation.

Prinzinger said he continues to work with CAP because he believes in "its mission of building up cadets into leaders. I think it has the best leadership program for high schoolers in the country. I think this all stems from the real world mission CAP does, which isn't present in other high school leadership programs.

"I've seen CAP cadets perform out in the cold rain and not heard a complaint, they were all smiles. Go out in the field with any other group and see if that is the same. The cadets are professional, dedicated and disciplined and that makes me keep coming back to work with them," he said.

Prinzinger serves as the Redstone Composite Squadron aerospace education officer.

"I want to teach cadets about the joy of engineering so they will have the opportunity to do the awesome things I get



Courtesy photo

2nd Lt. Joseph Prinzinger receives his rank's shoulder strap from his wife, Erin, during the commissioning ceremony.

to do," he said. "I want them to fall in love not only with aviation but also with the engineering behind it. I love working with cadets and the people in CAP and I hope I can keep doing it forever."

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with more than 61,000 members nationwide, operating a fleet of 550 aircraft. CAP, in its Air Force auxiliary role, performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and was credited by the AFRCC with saving 54 lives in fiscal 2011.

Its volunteers also perform homeland security, disaster relief and drug interdiction missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace education and serve as mentors to nearly 27,000 young people participating in the CAP cadet programs. CAP received the World Peace Prize in 2011 and has been performing missions for America for 70 years. CAP also participates in Wreaths Across America, an initiative to remember, honor and teach about the sacrifices of U.S. military veterans. For more information, visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com or www.capvolunteernow.com. (Civil Air Patrol release)

Athens State University teams with AMRDEC

AMRDEC release

Athens State University has partnered with the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center in an Educational Partnership Agreement.

The Athens State University members visited the AMRDEC facilities after the signing of the EPA. An EPA is a formal agreement between a federal agency and an educational institution to encourage and enhance study in scientific disciplines at all levels of education.

The AMRDEC's authority for Educational Partnerships is Title 10 United States Code Section 2194 which states, in part, that under such agreements the director of a defense laboratory may provide assistance to the educational institution by making laboratory personnel available to teach science courses or to assist in the development of science courses and materials for the institution; involving faculty and students of the institution in defense laboratory research projects; and cooperating with the institution in developing a program under which students may be given academic credit for work on defense laboratory re-

search projects.

There is a sharp decline in the number of students pursuing science, technology, engineering and mathematics degrees in the United States, making the pool of qualified candidates smaller and more difficult to recruit for the Army's mission critical efforts. Encouraging and nurturing a student's interest in STEM subjects must start early in a student's education. In an effort to ignite interest in STEM subjects, the AMRDEC does EPAs with several schools and universities to bring real world science and technology applications to the classroom environment. Through education outreach, the AMRDEC not only strengthens the student's understanding of science and technology, but exposes them to the vast career opportunities at AMRDEC to influence their future career decisions.

"The Educational Partnership Agreement will benefit the students by enhancing their skills in all levels within science, technology and mathematics," Cindy Wallace, deputy chief for the Office of Research & Technology Applications, AMRDEC, said. "As a result of closer interaction with research projects based

upon practical, real-world situations, this effort gives the students experiential relevance to academic programs. The main goal of an EPA is to encourage and enhance the study of the scientific disciplines at all levels of education. The students will be better prepared to enter into the ever-changing work force.

"The mission of the ORTA is to facilitate access of federally-funded research and development efforts by private industry, academia, state and local governments, and nonprofit organizations. This is accomplished primarily through marketing, technical outreach, cooperative research and development, and the licensing of intellectual property. One of the vehicles that facilitate the process of technology transfer is through EPAs."

The AMRDEC's Office of Research & Technology Applications is focused on expanding the team of research partners. If you represent an educational institution and wish to pursue an Educational Partnership Agreement, the Office of Research & Technology Applications is interested in talking with you. For more information, call 313-0895 or 876-8743.



Photo by Frank Simon, HDC LLC

Athens State University teams with the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center in an Educational Partnership Agreement to further enhance the science, technology, engineering and mathematics initiatives. Seated are AMRDEC director Eric Edwards, left, and Athens State president Dr. Bob Glenn. Standing are Cindy Wallace, deputy chief of the Office of Research and Technology, and Dr. Ronald Cromwell, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Athens State.

AMC-developed weapons remain vital to Army

Decade of the 1980s defined by 'Big 5'

By KARI HAWKINS

Assistant editor

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There's only one phrase needed to define the Army Materiel Command during the 1980s – the Big Five.

Actually, at the time, AMC wasn't even operating under the name that has become synonymous with today's Army's premier provider of materiel readiness in the areas of technology, acquisition support, materiel development, logistics power projection and sustainment. The organization was going through a bit of an identity crisis, starting the decade under the name Development and Readiness Command. DARCOM is a name it took on in January 1976 to symbolize its change to a more corporate structure.

As DARCOM, and then later in 1984 as AMC once again, the organization focused much of its energies throughout the '80s on the military systems that to this day are still known as the Army's Big 5. These systems remain at the core of the Army's military strategy and are prominent in the arsenals of both the U.S. military and its allies. The Big 5 are:

- **Apache AH-64 Helicopter** – This four-blade, twin-engine attack helicopter with a tailwheel-type landing gear arrangement, tandem cockpit for a two-man crew, target acquisition and night vision systems, Hellfire missiles and Hydra 70 rocket pods was developed as a replacement for the AH-1 Cobra. It went into full production in 1982 and was introduced into Army service in April 1986.

The Army formally accepted its first production AH-64A in January 1984 and training of the first pilots began later that year. The first operational Apache unit – the 7th Battalion, 17th Cavalry Brigade – began training on the AH-64A in April 1986 at Fort Hood, Texas. Two operational units with 68 AH-64s first deployed to Europe in September 1987 and took part in large military exercises there.

The Apache was first used in combat in 1989, during Operation Just Cause, the invasion of Panama. The AH-64 participated in more than 240 hours of combat attacking various targets, mostly at night.

Gen. Carl Stiner, commander of Operation Just Cause, praised the Apache for its precision: "You could fire that Hellfire missile through a window from four miles away at night." Although upgrades were considered throughout the '80s, rapidly developing technology kept any changes on the drawing board. It wasn't until the next decade, in August 1990, when devel-



Army photo

The Patriot Missile System, developed at Redstone Arsenal in the 1970s and '80s, was named as one of the Army's Big 5 military systems in the '80s. It remains a vital part of the Army arsenal today.



Army photo

The Apache helicopter went into full production in 1982, was introduced into Army service in 1986 and was first used in combat in 1989. Its great start in the '80s put it on the Army's list of the Big 5 military systems.

opment of the more advanced AH-64D Apache Longbow was approved by the Defense Acquisition Board.

- **UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter** – This four-bladed, twin-engine, medium-lift utility helicopter entered Army service in 1979 to replace the UH-1 Iroquois as the Army's tactical transport helicopter. It was first fielded by the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division in June 1979. The U.S. military first used the UH-60 in combat during the invasion of Grenada in 1983, and again in the invasion of Panama in 1989. After entering service, the helicopter was modified for new missions and roles, including mine laying and medical evacu-

AMC: Then and Now Fifty Years of History Part 6 of series

ation. An EH-60 variant was developed to conduct electronic warfare and special operations aviation developed the MH-60 variant to support its missions. Due to weight increases from the addition of mission equipment and other changes, the Army ordered the improved UH-60L in 1987. The UH-60L included several upgrades while also increasing lift capacity from 1,000 pounds to 9,000. Production of the L-model began in 1989 and continued as the model of choice until a new variant was approved in 2001.

- **M1 Abrams Tank** – This third-generation main battle tank is highly mobile, designed for modern armored ground warfare, and well-armed and heavily armored. Weighing nearly 68 short tons, it is one of the heaviest main battle tanks in service. The M1 Abrams entered Army service in 1980, replacing the M60 tank. A total of 3,273 M1 Abrams were produced from 1979 to 1985 and about 6,000 of the upgraded M1A1 Abrams were produced from 1986-92. It served for more than a decade alongside the improved M60A3, which had entered service in 1978, and with other NATO tanks in numerous Cold War exercises in Western Europe and South Korea. The Abrams remained untested in combat until the Gulf War in 1991.

- **Bradley Fighting Vehicle** – This American fighting vehicle, which entered Army service in 1981, is designed to transport infantry with armor protection while providing covering fire to suppress enemy troops and armored vehicles. It consists of two types of vehicles – the M2 Infantry Fighting Vehicle and the M2 Cavalry Fighting Vehicle. The M2 holds a crew of three: a commander, a gunner and a driver; as well as six fully equipped Soldiers. The M3 mainly conducts scout missions and carries two scouts in addition to the regular crew of three with space for additional TOW, Dragon or Javelin missiles. It was first used in combat the Gulf War in 1991, and destroyed more Iraqi armed vehicles than the M1 Abrams.

- **MIM-104 Patriot Missile System** – Developed by engineers at Redstone Arsenal and placed into service in 1981, the MIM-104 Patriot is the Army's primary surface-to-air missile system. It replaced the Nike Hercules system as the Army's primary High to Medium Air Defense system, and replaced the MIM-23 Hawk system as the Army's medium tactical air

defense system. It has also been give the function of the Army's anti-ballistic missile, which is now the Patriot's primary role. It uses an advanced aerial interceptor missile and high performance radar systems, and is a coordinated, secure, integrated, mobile air defense system providing communications, command and control, radar surveillance, and missile guidance. During the 1980s, Patriot was upgraded to discriminate and intercept artillery rockets in the vein of the Multiple Launch Rocket System, which was seen as a significant threat from North Korea; and to engage and destroy aircraft at standoff ranges. The upgraded PAC-2 was first tested in 1987 and reached Army units in 1990, just in time for deployment to the Middle East for the Persian Gulf War. It was there that Patriot was first regarded as a successful anti-ballistic missile system and proof that ballistic missile defense was indeed possible.

In addition, the 1980s were marked by AMC's work introducing and advancing other notable items in the Army inventory, to include the Humvee, the Kevlar helmet and body armor, the Battle Dress Uniform, the MK19-3 40 mm Grenade Machine Gun and the Multiple Launch Rocket System.

The decade also introduced plenty of changes to AMC's leadership and structure. It was commanded by four generals in the '80s: Gen. Donald Keith, 1981 to 1984; Gen. Richard Thompson, 1984 to 1987; Gen. Louis Carson Wagner Jr., 1987 to 1989; and Gen. William G.T. Tuttle Jr., 1989 to 1992.

Keith is known for combining the Army's commodity commands and establishing DARCOM-Europe in 1982 to centralize command and control while reducing costs in Europe. Thompson changed the command's name from DARCOM back to AMC on the organization's 22nd birthday in 1984 to "remove a perceived boundary between development and logistics support implied in the DARCOM name." Thompson also established Laboratory Command and created AMC-Far East in Korea to promote centralized management and control of AMC elements.

In 1986, the Goldwater-Nichols DoD Reorganization Act greatly changed the basic structure of AMC, transferring 47 program managers from AMC to the Army Acquisition Executive/Program Executive Officer structure. AMC was removed from the direct chain of command but had responsibility to support the project managers through matrix management.

Then, beginning in 1987, a number of

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Afghan pilot program achieves milestone with first graduates

By **MICHELLE HARLAN**
USASAC Public Affairs

SHINDAND, Afghanistan – For the first time in more than 30 years, Afghan pilots completed pilot training held in their home country. The Rotary Wing Flight Training Program was developed and conducted by Soldiers from the U.S. Army Security Assistance Training Management Organization for the Afghan Air Corps in order to create an independent Afghan Air Force program.

Six MD 530Fs, two Flight Training Devices and additional equipment and critical spare parts were delivered in December to the Shindand Air Base as part of a foreign military sales case facilitated by the Security Assistance Command and managed by PEO Aviation's Non-Standard Rotary Aircraft Project Office, both located at Redstone Arsenal.

Four Afghan Air Force lieutenants participated in the four-month program. The course consisted of three phases of instruction on the MD 530F aircraft, according to Lt. Col. Jeffery Bouma, USA-SATMO's team chief for the course. The first phase taught the fundamentals of flying a helicopter, such as normal traffic patterns, hovering and emergency procedures. The second phase included basic instrument flight. The final phase covered tactical maneuvers such as dust and brownout landings and formation.

"Each student accumulated 140 hours of flight time in the MD 530 and MD 530 Flight Training Device," Bouma said. This



Courtesy photo

Four Afghan Air Force pilots training on the MD 530F helicopter at the Rotary Wing Flight Training Program in Shindand, Afghanistan, prepare for an extended cross country flight. The pilots are the first to graduate from a pilot training program held in their country in more than 30 years.

included "team rides," where two students rode together and completed three flight patterns each, without a U.S. instructor in the aircraft.

The final phase of training also included an extended cross country flight from Shindand to Kandahar and back, which is approximately 475 miles round trip. Students were responsible for the entire process of the trip such as flight planning and fuel consumption estimates. The class leader, 1st Lt. Ahmad Bakhshi, said it

"was a great opportunity for us to fly in our environment."

Bouma and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Randall Jaynes are in place for one year to conduct pilot instruction and logistics for the program, which included developing the program's goals.

"They took a basic contractor provided training program and molded it into a complete solution for basic helicopter flight training and supporting classroom instruction," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 David White, Security Assistance Team manager for USASATMO's Aviation Branch. "Conventional U.S. forces do not use the MD 530F, so it was a particular challenge for SATMO to develop a relevant program from the ground up."

Bouma commented that many factors, such as equipment delivery, personnel arrivals and maintenance and life support, came together under difficult conditions.

"Without a doubt, the success of this program has been the immense amount of teamwork and cross talk between multiple organizations," Bouma said. In addition to USASATMO and NSRWA, the Security Assistance Office in Kabul and the U.S. Air Force were among the organizations that played a significant role in establishing the program. "Without the full support of everyone, the program would have failed," Bouma said.

"The MD 530 helicopters were designed, built and customized for the Afghan Air Force," Randy Rivers, a contractor with the NSRWA project office, said. This included switching the pilot's seat from the right side to the left side of the aircraft to account for Afghanistan standards.

During a ceremony July 1 at Shindand Air Base, Bouma said the importance of the pilots' graduation was not only an

achievement for them, but for their families, the Afghan Air Force and the people of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

"We are very proud and very excited that we are the first four students to complete training inside our country to become pilots in the Afghan Air Force and serve our people," Bakhshi said.

All four of the graduates are undergoing advanced aircraft qualification in the MI-17 and were to conclude their training in late August. Upon completion, they will be assigned to operational squadrons throughout Afghanistan.

"Training opportunities such as this are very difficult and time consuming to get off the ground," Bouma said. "With our assistance we can help the Afghans build a program that they can take sole ownership of in just a few years."

In addition to training future pilots, Bouma said efforts are under way to train instructor pilots and mechanics for the MD 530 helicopters. The plan is to transfer the whole program over to the Afghan Air Force by January 2015, according to White.

"The quality of our training is completely dependent on our ability to assemble high quality people like Bouma and his team of military and contract professionals," White said.

USASATMO, a subordinate command of USASAC based at Fort Bragg, N.C., will continue to conduct multiple training classes throughout the year in Afghanistan, fulfilling their motto "Training the World, One Soldier at a Time."

"It is vital that we train the new generation of Afghan officers and soldiers to be a professional, self-sufficient force," Bouma said. "They have the capacity – it's simply providing them the knowledge on how a professional organization operates."

The second class of the Rotary Wing Flight Training Program is scheduled with four new students.

Leaders

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Glidewell focused a lot on what civilians can do to better themselves so in the end they can help the Soldiers more. He talked about the importance of the Military Civilian Education courses, learning from those around you and the importance of

understanding the purpose of your mission and how it fits into the larger picture.

"We are all a mirror of our society so I urge you to seek out the people that want to be at work and do what is necessary, those people will make you better," Glidewell said.

"It's all about the Soldier but it's about the team as well," he said drawing a parallel to sports. "Michael Jordan played on a team."

History

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Army Defense Management Reviews and various Base Realignment and Closure Commissions caused AMC to restructure and downsize by 30 percent. During this time, its commander, Wagner, implemented Total Quality Management and established the Objective Supply System.

Throughout the 1980s, as AMC was redefining itself in its support to the Soldier, its employees remained loyal to the organization's mission. In 1985, Master

Sgt. Ronald Hickey of the Army Band, expressed that organization loyalty in a song titled "Share the Pride." The words to this military marching song are:

"Helping to keep our country free
We are the Army Materiel Command
Developing what the Army needs
To meet its technological demands
Providing what it takes to keep the peace,

We have the people with ideas and expertise

We share in the pride that's Army wide,
That comes from leading the way,
'Cause we're the arsenal for the brave
today."

Launcher retiring

Courtesy photo

The Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office plans a ceremony Sept. 19 at 3 p.m. at building 112 honoring the Multiple Launch Rocket System M270 Launcher's 30 years of service and retirement from the Army. The former MLRS Project Office invites all past alumni/retirees, former MLRS unit personnel and close program associates. RSVP to Christina Hall at 876-4809 by Sept. 12.



ACC-Redstone deputy becomes full-bird colonel

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Newly promoted to colonel, Ian Klinkhammer gave the credit to the people who serve with him, helped raise him and made him the person he is today.

“It’s not about me,” he said. “I’m just



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Holding the newly uncased colors for ACC-Redstone are Command Sgt. Maj. John Murray, senior enlisted Soldier for the Army Contracting Command, and Col. Ian Klinkhammer, deputy executive director of ACC-Redstone.

a representation of all of them.”

Klinkhammer, deputy executive director at the Army Contracting Command-Redstone, was promoted from lieutenant colonel Aug. 29 in a ceremony at the Sparkman Center’s building 5303.

“I enjoy my job, I enjoy coming to work,” the Montgomery native said. “What kills me is people that don’t enjoy their job. My message to them is go do something else.

“What great work: We’re supporting Soldiers. Every little thing you do is still supporting the guys down-range.”

He served as the product manager for Air Warrior from August 2009 until mid-July before joining ACC-Redstone. He has a bachelor’s of science and business administration in finance from Auburn University and a master’s in business administration from Florida Tech.

Klinkhammer, 46, and his wife, Terry, have two daughters: Kylie, who turns 17 today, and Taylor, 15, both students at Grissom High.

Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols, commander of the Army Contracting Command, was the presiding official



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Newly promoted Col. Ian Klinkhammer receives his eagle insignia from youngest daughter Taylor, left, wife Terry and daughter Kylie.

at the promotion ceremony. Afterward she assisted as the colors for ACC-Redstone were uncased for the first time.

“The colors are really a symbol of defining the organization and its lineage,” Nichols said.

Win or Lose

Hard Noc Hitters ride defense to softball title

WYLE Coyotes, Hit Circus also win division crowns

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Members of the Hard Noc Hitters softball team practiced every Saturday morning at the Army's Linton Field to try to correct their weaknesses and improve.

In the end, they were simply the best. The Hard Noc Hitters captured the Division C championship Aug. 28 by beating the Misfits 12-2 in their postseason tournament final at the NASA field. The Hard Noc Hitters finished 14-1, including 10-1 in the season and 4-0 in the tournament.

"Just solid defense and base hits," winning pitcher Dee Emswiler said of the final win.

David Easterling got the offense going in the top of the first inning with a two-run homer. Francisco Solis had doubled and was on second base with two outs when Easterling hit his blast over the fence.

Celia Whitaker's two-run single highlighted a six-run third inning. The Misfits scored both their runs in the seventh; and Emswiler went the distance on the mound.

"I think that our defense (was the key)," Hard Noc Hitters coach/first baseman Emily Sanderson said. "We cut out all the mistakes and we were able to just make good plays and we had good bats that helped us out."

The Hard Noc Hitters' only loss this year



Courtesy photo

The Division A champion Hit Circus include, from left, kneeling, Andy Young, Scott Ringel, Al Mayers, Dave Huebner, Chase Dervan; and standing, Josh Borgert, Tony Fiorucci, Ryan League, Victor Pritchett, Jeff Klopp and Blake Pierce. Standing are Phil Haas, Greg Stenberg, Bobby Schermann, David Stumbaugh and Jeremy Stumbaugh.

was to the Bit Players midway through the season. The champion team represented Strategic Business Systems, an Army Materiel Command subcontractor under Harris IT Services.

Coyotes win Division B: On Aug. 29, the WYLE Coyotes completed their climb from the losers bracket by beating the A-Team twice for the Division B championship.

They won the first game 14-9 to force game two and then outslugged the A-Team 27-20.

In the nightcap, the WYLE Coyotes led by more than 10 runs for most of the game. The A-Team rallied in the sixth and seventh innings but the Coyotes held on.

"We played hard and everybody came to-



Courtesy photo

The Division B champion WYLE Coyotes include, from left, kneeling, Brett Eckley, Tracy Williams, Brian Roberson, Todd Springer, Chris Lesley; and standing, Jay Hollenbeck, Reagan Hollenbeck, Patrick Ryan, Carl Williams, Joe Rayford and Philip Brown. Not pictured are Thomas Young, Jeremiah Kolb, Renata Walker, Dominique Christopher, John Troy and Patrick Patterson.

gether and we started hitting real well – you know, limiting the errors – and just put it all together," outfielder/assistant coach Todd Springer said.

Patrick Ryan got both wins on the mound for the WYLE Coyotes (14-5). In game two, Brett Eckley went 5-for-5 and had an inside-the-park home run. Jay Hollenbeck hit a three-run homer over the fence.

Hit Circus rule Division A: Hit Circus beat Got the Runs in the final for the third straight year to take the Division A championship Thursday.

Got the Runs (12-2) were unbeaten before



Courtesy photo

The Division C champion Hard Noc Hitters include, from left, kneeling, David Easterling, Dee Emswiler, Mark Allen; and standing, Celia Whitaker, Francisco Solis, Drew Reichenbach, Kevin Johnson, Emily Sanderson, Randy Glenn and Saul Ellis. Not pictured are Josh Miller, Megan Emswiler, Amy Allen, Mike Robertson, Justin Doll and Mike Johnson.

falling to their nemesis 9-6 and 14-11. Hit Circus (11-4), which had lost to Got the Runs 18-11 on Aug. 16, advanced from the losers bracket by beating RTC 9-8 on Aug. 28.

"We played a really solid defensive game and had very few errors and actually quite a few highlight plays," Hit Circus coach Scott Ringel said.

Al Mayers pitched both wins. In game two, Andy Young went 3-for-4 with a walk and scored four runs. Jeff Klopp went 3-for-5 with two RBIs and was 6-for-8 on the night.

In the nightcap, Hit Circus scored six runs with two outs in the fourth inning.

Auburn favored to beat Mississippi State

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

Here are my predictions for selected games this week in college football:

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati – **Cincinnati**
Utah at Utah St. – **Utah**
Maryland at Temple – **Maryland**
Miami (Fla.) at Kansas St. – **KSU**
Tulane at Tulsa – **Tulsa**
N. Carolina St. at Connecticut – **NC St.**
Auburn at Mississippi St. – **Auburn**
New Hampshire at Minnesota – **Minnesota**
Penn St. at Virginia – **Virginia**
East Carolina at South Carolina – **S.**

Carolina
Ball St. at Clemson – **Clemson**
Maine at Boston College – **BC**
Austin Peay at Virginia Tech – **VT**
Sacramento State at Colorado – **Colorado**
Southern Utah at California – **Cal**

North Carolina at Wake Forest – **UNC**
Weber State at BYU – **BYU**
Florida at Texas A&M – **Texas**
Purdue at Notre Dame – **ND**
Howard at Rutgers – **Rutgers**
Michigan St. at C. Michigan – **MSU**
Missouri State at Louisville – **Louisville**
Rice at Kansas – **Kansas**
Iowa St. at Iowa – **Iowa**
Air Force at Michigan – **Michigan**
USC at Syracuse – **USC**
Indiana at Massachusetts – **Indiana**
South Florida at Nevada – **SF**
W. Kentucky at Alabama – **Bama**
Wisconsin at Oregon St. – **Wisconsin**
Georgia State at Tennessee – **UT**
Toledo at Wyoming – **Wyoming**
Georgia Southern at The Citadel – **GS**
Akron at FIU – **FIU**
Savannah State at Florida St. – **FSU**
Alabama A&M at Arkansas-Pine Bluff – **A&M**
Fresno St. at Oregon – **Oregon**

Montana at Appalachian State – **ASU**
Presbyterian at Georgia Tech – **Tech**
Washington at LSU – **LSU**
UTEP at Mississippi – **Ole Miss**
La.-Monroe at Arkansas – **Arkansas**
Memphis at Arkansas St. – **Memphis**
Florida A&M at Oklahoma – **Oklahoma**
Grambling at TCU – **TCU**
La.-Lafayette at Troy – **Troy**
Chattanooga at Jacksonville State – **Jax**
Mississippi Valley State at Alabama St. – **Ala. St.**
Army at San Diego St. – **SDS**
Nebraska at UCLA – **Nebraska**
Kent St. at Kentucky – **UK**
Georgia at Missouri – **Georgia**
S.F. Austin at SMU – **SMU**
New Mexico at Texas – **Texas**
Vanderbilt at Northwestern – **Vandy**
Louisiana Tech at Houston – **Houston**
Illinois at Arizona St. – **Illinois**
Oklahoma St. at Arizona – **OSU**
Duke at Stanford – **Stanford**

Youth soccer season kicks off

Redstone's youth soccer teams are preparing for their big weekend.

The Huntsville City Recreation league's season will open Saturday and continue to the end of October. There will be a city tournament the last week of October.

"Basically everybody's practicing, getting ready to start playing games," Mike Gates, Child Youth and School Services sports and fitness director, said.

Redstone's teams play their home games at the fields on Goss Road.

There are five under-6 teams, three under-8 teams, two under-10 teams and one under-14 team. Boys and girls play together.

Sports & Recreation

Run to remember

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

Golf tournament

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

Sept. 11 remembrance golf

The Aviation Systems Project Office will hold its annual golf scramble Thursday at 8 a.m. at the Links in remembrance of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Jimmy Smith Infiniti of Huntsville will sponsor a hole-in-one competition during the tournament. Cost is \$40 for Links members and \$60 for non-members, including green fees, cart and lunch. If interested call Amanda Medley 313-4014 or email amanda.medley@us.army.mil.

Autism benefit golf

GM Financial is sponsoring the 2012 Par 3 Shootout Charity Golf Tournament, benefiting the Autism Resource Foundation, Sept. 14 at 1:45 p.m. at RTJ Golf Trail at Hampton Cove, 450 Old Highway 431. The \$75 entry fee includes golf and cart, prizes, lunch and shrimp boil. For information call 975-1579 or visit www.theautismresourcefoundation.org.

Benefit at Colonial

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

Sergeants major tourney

Redstone Arsenal's Sergeants Major Association third annual Golf Tournament will be held Sept. 14 at 8:30 a.m. at the Links. Open to the public, the cost is \$60 per person which includes lunch, team and hole prizes. For information call retired Command Sgt. Maj. Reginald Battle 509-2473 or email reginald.c.battle.ctr@mail.mil.

Conferences & Meetings

Weekly worship

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

Catholic mass

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

Sergeants major

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

Toastmaster clubs

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

Catholic women

The Military Council of Catholic Women at Redstone Arsenal invites all ladies with a civilian or military ID to its 2012-13 welcome and social program Friday at Bicentennial Chapel. The social starts at 9 a.m. in the general assembly room, with a short business agenda at 9:30; and at 10 they will have some fun activities to get to know each other better. The 2012-13 MCCW board will provide snacks, and there will be prizes for those women filled with the most “holy spirit.” Consider joining them and stay for an optional Holy Hour at 11, followed by noon Mass. For more information, call Beverly Thetford (254) 371-2265 or Phyllis Gibat 842-2175.

Men's ministry

Men's Ministry, “addressing the needs of

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

Meeting professionals

The 2012 Society of Government Meeting Professionals Southeast Regional Conference, “Navigating through Government Meetings,” will be held Sept. 16-19 in Mobile. Information regarding the educational workshops can be found at <http://sgmp-centralflorida.com/srec>. The conference is geared for administrative/technical professionals who plan/execute meetings, seminars, tutorials, etc. TIP information is: course title, SGMP Southeast Conference; vendor, Society of Government Meeting Professionals; catalog number, F124SGMP. For more information, call Barbie Baugh 876-7135 or Sherry Hiley 479-0198.

Special Forces chapter

The North Alabama Chapter (Chapter 92) of the Special Forces Association will meet at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Western Sizzlin Restaurant, 209 West Grand Ave. (Highway 77), Rainbow City. All Special Forces qualified and personnel who served with or contributed in a unique and definable way to Special Forces units are welcome. For more information, visit <http://www.chapter92sfa.com/>.

Parkinson's support

Parkinson's Disease Support Group will meet Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at the Willowbrook Baptist Church's Youth Building, 7625 Bailey Cove Road; there is parking in the back lots. Patients, family and caregivers are invited. The speaker is Nancy Robertson, director of aging programs, TARCOG. For information call 837-6577.

Missile launcher alums

The Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office (formerly known as the Multiple Launch Rocket System Project Office) invites all past alumni/retirees, former MLRS unit personnel, and close program associates to a ceremony and reception commemorating the MLRS M270 Launcher's 30 years of service and retirement from the Army. The brief ceremony (which includes an M270 Launcher display dedication) will be held Sept. 19 at 3 p.m. outside the PFRMS Project Office, building 112. A small reception will follow at the neighboring Firehouse Pub, building 114. RSVP to Christina Hall 876-4809 by Sept. 12.

Federal employees

The Huntsville/Madison County Chapter 443 of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association will meet Satur-

day at the Thomas Davidson Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave. Refreshment and social time will start at 9:30 a.m. with the meeting at 10. Shannon Hall of Huntsville Hospital will speak on the goal of wellness for seniors, maintaining your health, body mechanics and preventing injuries. Active federal employees and retired nonmembers are invited to visit at any time. For more information, call 508-8250 or 539-1333.

Community women's club

The Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club would like to invite you to its luncheon Sept. 11 at 10:30 a.m. in The Summit. Jill Connett, author of the “Green Plate,” is the speaker. Signup deadline for each luncheon is the preceding Friday. For more information, visit www.rsacwc.org and “Like” them on Facebook: Redstone Arsenal Community Women's Club.

Space society

HAL5, the Huntsville Chapter of the National Space Society, will hold its monthly meeting Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Huntsville/Madison County Public Library. Ed Kiker will speak on Superturbine Wind Energy. He represents Doug Selsam of Fullerton, Calif., whose company has developed this new wind energy technology. For more information on this free public lecture, visit www.hal5.org.

Small business council

NDIA-TVC Small Business Council will hold a free event Sept. 18 from 7:30-9 a.m. at the Dynetics Solutions Complex, 1004 Explorer Boulevard. Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby, program executive officer for aviation, will speak on “Managing the Budget Transition.” Members of the small business community are encouraged to attend. Please register at www.ndiatvcmgrosby.eventbrite.com. The event is posted on NDIA TVC website <http://www.ndia-tvc.org/>.

Rolling Thunder chapter

The Alabama 2 Chapter of Rolling Thunder, a non-profit organization formed in Huntsville, is among 100 chapters nationwide. Their collective mission is dedicated to maintaining public awareness and education of continuing POW/MIA issues as they relate to all military personnel left behind and forgotten. They also provide support and assistance to local veterans from all wars wherever and whenever there is a need. The chapter meets the second Sunday of each month at VFW Post 2702, corner of Sparkman and North Parkway, at 2 p.m. All interested parties are welcome to attend. Membership is open to any individual who is willing to donate their time in support of veterans issues and welfare. For more information, visit the website <http://www.rollingthunder-al-chap2.org>.

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Civil War round table

Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table will hold its 2012 Sesquicentennial Dinner on Sept. 13 at 5 p.m. at the Roundhouse, Historic Huntsville Depot, 398 Monroe St. Keynote speaker Edwin C. Bearss, a Civil War historian, will discuss the "First Battle of Bull Run/Manassas – A New Face on the War." A reception and social begin at 5, followed by a catered sit-down dinner at 6:30, period music and keynote speaker. Cost is \$30 per person. Business casual attire, but period dress, is encouraged. Visitors are invited but tickets are limited. For more information, call 539-5287 or email jha@knology.net.

Miscellaneous Items

Fraud hotline

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

Education test center

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

Senior volunteers

Madison County Retired & Senior Volunteer program is partnered with various non-profit organizations in Huntsville and Madison County that utilize volunteers. R.S.V.P.

recruits, places and trains individuals who are 55 or older to fill community service needs. For more information about R.S.V.P. or volunteer opportunities, call R.S.V.P. director Jennifer Anderson 513-8290 or email rsvp.dir@seniorview.com.

NASA surplus

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

Re-entry information

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

Lending closet

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

Computer classes

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

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 in-

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

Reserve openings

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

Photo contest

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

College evaluation

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

Contract managers support

The Huntsville Chapter of the National Contract Management Association will participate in the 2012 Walk to End Alzheimer's. Alzheimer's disease is the nation's sixth-leading cause of death and this annual walk is held in more than 600 communities nationwide to raise awareness, funds for care, support and research. The Huntsville Walk will take place Sept. 15 at the Botanical Garden and NCMA is seeking participants of all ages and abilities to join it on this walk. If you wish to walk or volunteer with NCMA in support of this cause, call Amy Donlin 876-0500 and Kevin Powell 450-4675.

Fraud prevention

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

Vietnam veterans' tribute

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

A&M athletic banquet

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

Special-need families

"Emergency Planning for Families with Special Needs, a program for special-need family members, will be held by the UAH School of Nursing and Huntsville/Madison County EMA on Sept. 12 from 4-6 p.m. at the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation

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Building, 3000 Johnson Road. Registration is free but attendance is limited. You must pre-register by emailing wcheeks@phoenixsv.org, or by calling 880-0671, ext. 100. Registration is limited to 40 families. The workshop will include planning guidance for disasters and breakout sessions where participants will begin to write their personalized disaster preparedness plans including emergency "Go" Bag contents with assistance from UAH nursing staff/students. This program is sponsored by Phoenix.

Housing update

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

Health center news

Fox Army Health Center will conduct a mandatory Army Suicide Prevention Stand-Down in support of health of the force Sept. 27. All services will be closed on this day in order to conduct required training. Normal operating hours will resume Sept. 28. "We apologize for any inconveniences that this may cause and thank you for choosing Fox," the health center said in a prepared release. Advice Nurses are available during non-duty hours at 955-8888 or 1-800-223-9531 to provide care advice. Fox is an ambulatory care clinic and does not have an emergency room. In an emergency, dial 911.

Civil War history tour

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

Sept. 11 remembrance

"God in the Ashes" will be presented by retired Lt. Col. John Mahony at St. Mark's Lutheran Church at 7 p.m. Sept. 11. All are invited to this inspirational talk. St. Mark's is located one block south of Governors Drive on Franklin Street. You can park on the Westmoreland lot south of the church or across from the church on Franklin. For more information, call 539-4361.

JAG Office move

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

Benefit poker run

The 2012 Semper Fi Riders Poker Run is Saturday at Rocket Harley Davidson. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the first bike out at 9:30 and prize drawings at 3 p.m. Enjoy hot food, cold drinks, live music and camaraderie. All proceeds support the Heroes/Wounded Warrior Week, Nov. 7-13. For more information, visit www.semperfiriders.org or email Willie Simmons at simmonsgw1971@att.net.

Breakfast trolley tours

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

Logistics career day

AMCOM's Integrated Materiel Management Center is sponsoring the annual Logistics Career Day on Sept. 11 from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at Bob Jones Auditorium. The topics include AMCOM Leadership Development Life Cycle, LIFT, TACL, Army Acquisition Workforce, Lean Six Sigma Opportunities, Civilian Education System, USA Staffing, and Defense Acquisition University. No registration is required. All IMMC employees are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Brad Gatlin 842-2940 or email bradley.gatlin@us.army.mil.

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.

Rocket Announcements

Christmas Charities applicants

Christmas Charities will begin taking applications for Christmas on Sept. 10. 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. Beginning Sept. 10, 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.

Acquisition demo training

The AMCOM G-1 will conduct Civilian Acquisition Workforce Personnel Demonstration Project work force training Thursday at 9 a.m. in Bob Jones Auditorium. This training is intended for employees covered under AcqDemo. However, anyone interested in AcqDemo is invited. The topics include a brief overview of AcqDemo; self-assessment writing, midpoint and annual; categorical rating; numerical scoring; and payout. Register in the Training Information Program (TIP), catalog ACQD.

Marshall technology day

Marshall Space Flight Center will hold the first Innovation & Technology Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 12. The event is open to all of Team Redstone. Several activities

are planned throughout the day, including: "Conversation with Curiosity," noon in building 4200, room P110; and "Technology Expo," from 10-3 in building 4316. Lunch will be available for purchase from Marshall Exchange vendors at building 4316. Vendors include Papa John's, Dallas Mill Deli and Curbside Grill. Buses will run to buildings 4200 and 4316. Innovation & Technology Day is hosted by Office of the Chief Information Officer and the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.

Teenagers seminar

Manuwrite Publishing is sponsoring a free seminar for teenagers, titled "Becoming an Active Learner," Sept. 10 from 6-7 p.m. at the Richard Showers Sr. Recreation Center, 4600 Blue Spring Road. The purpose of this seminar is to teach teenagers how to set smart goals for school and life. In addition, each participant will learn how to become a better listener, note taker, and a more confident person. For more information, call Tommie Young 355-0105.

Fall fest

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

