

# RedstoneRocket

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## Digital tool transforms workflow for budget analysts

By DANIEL BOYETTE

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Dorothy Venable knew as she viewed the computer screen that she was on to something big.

Venable, a budget analyst in the Engineering Support Office at Marshall Space Flight Center, was watching a demonstration of a new data processing tool during a teleconference with NASA's Johnson Space Center in December 2019. The Johnson-developed tool automates labor-intensive steps in the creation of purchase requisitions – documents used by employees to order products and services for their organization.

"I knew that if we could get it to do what we needed it to do at Marshall, it was going to be a huge time saver and it was going to improve accuracy," said Venable, who joined Marshall as a contractor in February 2017 before becoming a civil servant in April 2019.

Venable piloted the tool with the Engineering Services and Science Capability Augmentation contract held by Jacobs Technology of Tullahoma, Tennessee, testing various aspects in January and February before putting it to full use in March. Previously, loading the project data for the \$1.2 billion contract took 25-30 hours each month. Venable modified the tool to meet Marshall's requirements. The result? The error checking and loading time decreased to 2-3 hours per month.

"Contracts the size of ESSCA require working with large volumes of codes and data, and this new tool simplifies the entire process," Clark Boaz, supervisory budget analyst in the Engineering Support Office, said. "Dorothy and everyone involved with implementing the tool did amazing work that could ultimately provide benefits for offices across the center."

The tool – which Venable's office dubbed the "Automated PR Tool" – uses scripts in Microsoft Excel to catch errors. Venable said that the traditional process for creating a purchase requisition in the SAP software often proved to be cumbersome. She explained that an analyst can manually put in nine lines of data at a time. But if there is an error in any of



NASA photo

Marshall budget analyst Dorothy Venable works from her home office.

those lines, the analyst isn't alerted until after completing the entry. If an error was found, the analyst would have to restart the process.

"The tool goes around and automates that; it bypasses some of those restrictions," Venable said. "The tool will flag anything that is an issue and, right off the bat, find where there's a mismatch. All of that is seen before you ever start to put it into SAP."

Venable's ability to customize an existing product and use it to augment Marshall's processes is an example of digital transformation – using powerful digital tools, such as data analytics and personalized information and interfaces, to dramatically improve how a process is accomplished. NASA's Digital Transformation strategy, approved in spring 2019, aims to harness evolving digital technologies to advance agency missions, enhance efficiency and encourage a culture of innovation. The initiative has eight goals, with Venable's efforts

falling under the "Increased efficiency and effectiveness of business processes" category.

"Digital tools and processes have the potential to dramatically enhance NASA's mission impact by reinventing ways of doing business that save time and money, and foster enterprisewide collaboration," Preston Jones, Marshall associate director, technical, said.

Venable is teaching others how to use the tool, which in turn is helping her learn more about its capabilities. The tool will continue to be used on the Engineering Services and Science Capability Augmentation contract and there are plans to use it with other contracts at Marshall, according to Randy Silver, lead budget analyst in Marshall's Budget Integration and Analysis Office.

*Editor's note: Daniel Boyette, an ASRC Federal Analytical Services employee and Marshall Star editor, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communication.*



### COMMUNITY NEWS

Quarterly awards go to Garrison workers.

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### MILITARY SCENE

Space defense school earns accreditation.

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### WIN OR LOSE

Classic replay: Pirates sail in '60 World Series.

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## RocketViews

## Sounding off on sports without crowd noise

I found myself watching a NASCAR race last weekend.

While there's a certain Zen-like quality to the constant hum of the cars accelerating and decelerating around the track, for me, the only thing NASCAR has ever been good for is helping me take a nap.

Truth be told, I usually don't need help taking a nap on a Sunday afternoon, but I had already exhausted all the other live sports, which solely consisted of golf.

Both sports are functioning without fans, and for those two sports the lack of spectators isn't noticeable.

As I write this baseball is still up in the air about if or when or how it will play a season; we expect football to grace our television in some form – but that's months away – and I'm left missing the

**Snippets**  
By **Jonathan Stinson**  
Assistant editor

in-the-moment experience unscripted, live television offers.

I'm worried though that when those sports do return, I'm going to miss something else, too.

I have a feeling it's going to be like catching up with an old friend you haven't seen in five years, everything basically looks the same, but something's a little off.

It's hard to imagine what the experience will be like without people in the seats to create the atmosphere that's captured and beamed into my living room.

But here's what I think it's going

to be like.

I edit a lot of videos. I also consume a lot of videos, and the No. 1 thing people overlook when watching something is what they're hearing.

But the No. 1 thing people complain about when it comes to video is the sound.

That's the way it should be. When you consume something on TV or your phone, everything should blend together to provide an experience you can get lost in.

Do this experiment, go to YouTube and take and look up some of your favorite moments in sports like second and 26 in the 2018 National Championship game between the Alabama Crimson Tide and Georgia Bulldogs and watch it

with the sound muted.

Or, you can pull up that field goal attempt a millennium ago in one of the most irrelevant Iron Bowls in history and watch it on mute. (Which is the only way I can watch that.)

Both of those have two things happening – the crowd noise crescendos, and so does the announcer, by necessity.

When you take the sound away, it's hard to even tell what you're looking at.

When these sports do come back, we'll have the announcers, but it's going to be missing a critical emotional element, and when you take the emotions out of sports, what's left?

Don't get me wrong, anything is better than nothing, but I'm just anxious to see what it's going to be like.

## Quote of the week

“Never treat your audience as customers, always as partners.”

– *Jimmy Stewart*  
(1908-1997)

*Academy Award-winning actor,  
Brigadier general in  
U.S. Air Force Reserve*

## Send your letters to editor

The Redstone Rocket invites your signed letters to the editor and your commentaries. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send your letters and commentaries to [Skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:Skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com).

## On this date in history: June 24

**In 2004:** In New York, capital punishment was declared unconstitutional.

**In 1957:** In *Roth vs. United States*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that obscenity is not protected by the First Amendment.

**In 1922:** The American Professional Football Association was renamed the National Football League.

**In 1916:** Mary Pickford became the first female film star to sign a million-dollar contract.

**In 1813:** A British and Indian combined force defeated the U.S. Army in the Battle of Beaver Dams.

**In 1374:** A sudden outbreak of St. John's Dance, a form of mania, caused people in the streets of Aachen, Germany, to experience hallucinations and begin to jump and twitch uncontrollably until they collapsed from exhaustion.

## RedstoneRocket

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# First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN

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*What is the most stressful call you receive?*

"For me it would be a tie between hearing a medical heart attack and a structure fire where occupants are still inside," Jimmy Magee, a firefighter at Fire Station 3 on Patton Road, said. "Because it's the threat of death to the people that I serve."

Magee, 45, from Naples, Idaho, became a Redstone firefighter October 2012. He served in the Army from July 1994 to August 2014 and retired as a staff sergeant after 20 years. The Madison resident said he enjoys "anything outdoors and working on my house." Magee roots for the Boise State Broncos.



Jimmy Magee

# Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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*Graduating from the U.S. Military Academy.*

"Graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point was one of the most profound events of my life," retired Lt. Col. Patrick O'Farrell said. "Not only a great education on hallowed ground with such history but most rewarding has been the close bonds made there and the lifelong friends I still keep in touch with today."

O'Farrell, 60, from Tustin, California, served in the Army from 1982 to 2004. He received a Bronze Star for his service in Afghanistan 2002-03. O'Farrell is a programs officer for acquisition at the Program Executive Office for Aviation. The Huntsville resident and his wife of 28 years, Laurie, have three children, Kyle, Brad and Kristen, who reside in Houston, Brooklyn and Des Moines, respectively. They have three grandchildren.

O'Farrell's hobbies include writing and sports; and he has written two books. He wrote the winning essay for Team Redstone's 2018 Martin Luther King Jr. observance.

He was recognized as the Military Ambassador during pregame ceremonies at the 2020 Hula Bowl, Jan. 26 at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu. The postseason college football all-star game was telecast by the CBS Sports Network. O'Farrell roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Patrick O'Farrell

## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

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

**June 7:** Redstone police were dispatched to Gate 8 for an individual who was requesting assistance stating family members were in danger and needed to speak with a federal agent. A check through the National Crime Information Center revealed the individual had a warrant with Madison Police Department for failure to appear for probation violation. The individual was apprehended on the warrant by Redstone police and soon released to a Madison police officer.

**June 8:** A two-vehicle accident occurred at Gate 8 on Goss Road. The vehicles were traveling west on Goss approaching the access control point. When vehicle 2 slowed for the speed bump, vehicle 1 was unable to stop in time and struck the back of vehicle 2.

**June 9:** On Rideout Road at Homestead Road, a Redstone police officer conducted a traffic stop for no license plate displayed on a vehicle. The National Crime Information Center revealed the driver had a suspended license. The driver was cited for driving while suspended and failure to register his vehicle and then released. The vehicle was removed by another licensed driver.

**June 9:** The owner filed a report of damage to their parked vehicle sometime during the early morning hours. Damages occurred to the front right side of the vehicle leaving evidence that it was struck by an unknown type vehicle. The damages were not

noticed until the owner had returned home. The owner claimed the damage occurred on the installation but the claim could not be verified based on information available. There were no known witnesses; and video of the parking area did not show a collision.

**June 12:** A report was filed at the Redstone police station that a parked vehicle was damaged. Police could not verify the owner's claim that the damages happened on post. There was visible damage to the rear passenger side door frame. Police were unable to determine what caused the damage.

**June 12:** Redstone police responded to the Gate 1 truck lane for an ID check. Police made contact with the truck driver who approached the gate to make a delivery on the installation. The driver produced a Tennessee driver's license but the National Crime Information Center revealed the license was suspended. The driver was cited for driving while suspended and released. The vehicle was removed by another qualified driver with a Commercial Driver's License.

**June 13:** A Redstone police officer stopped a vehicle for speeding on Goss Road. The National Crime Information Center revealed the driver had a suspended license. The driver was cited for driving while suspended and speeding and then released. The vehicle was removed by another licensed driver.

Citations included three for driving while license is suspended or revoked, one for failure to register vehicle, one for no proof of insurance and four for speeding.

## Final Salute

Here is a list of Tennessee Valley veterans who have died recently. The Redstone Rocket salutes them for their service.

**Paul Tougaw** of Huntsville, a retired chief warrant officer 3, died Sunday. The Vietnam-era veteran was a native of Mount Carmel, Illinois. He was 79. Tougaw was a longtime volunteer at the June M. Hughes Arts and Crafts Center, and was previously recognized for his service.

*Editor's note: If you know a veteran who has passed away, email their information to jonathan.stinson@theredstonerocket.com to be included in the next Final Salute.*



# Know your laws:

## Age requirement for commercial driver's license

Prior to Feb. 7, 2020, Alabama law prohibited anyone under age 21 from obtaining a Class A commercial driver's license. However, since that date, Act 2019-249, House Bill 479, permits qualified persons from 18-21 to seek a Class A CDL, under certain conditions.

Maj. Jimmine Haigler, military law attorney at the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, has researched Act 2019-249, House Bill 479. This workforce development tool for Alabama allows younger drivers to become certified. The goal is to attract more young adults to the industry and to relieve the statewide truck driving shortage.

Act 2019-249, House Bill 479 reads as follows:

"The Legislature finds that current economic conditions are such that the number of individuals willing and qualified to operate commercial vehicles is insufficient in relation to the volume of freight available, and that it will be advantageous, consistent with commercial driver license safety rules, for this state to issue Class A commercial driver li-

censes to persons who have reached the age of 18 years and have not yet reached the age of 21 years and who otherwise meet the requirements imposed by state and federal law to obtain a commercial driver license for use only in intrastate commerce.

"Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency shall issue Class A commercial driver licenses to persons who have reached their 18th birthday but have not yet reached their 21st birthday and are otherwise qualified for a commercial driver license, with such operation being restricted to intrastate commerce and the ability to obtain a Class A CDL tank vehicle endorsement. Such individuals are not eligible for Haz-Mat or passenger endorsements. Any person possessing a Class A commercial driver license shall comply with all state and federal laws and safety regulations.

"Any individual who is at least 18 years of age but has not reached 21 years of age is prohibited from operating oversize

or specially configured loads that require permitting by the Alabama Department of Transportation.

"All applicants shall be familiar with and governed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations at 49 CFR 380, Subparts E, F, and G, and Parts 382 through 397, inclusive.

"If federal law is amended to permit persons who have not yet reached the age of 21 years to operate a commercial vehicle in interstate commerce with a Class A commercial driver license, then this state shall promulgate such rules, regulations, restrictions and eligibility requirements as are necessary to permit interstate travel."

In summary: Act 2019-249, House Bill 479, authorizes the issuance of Class A restricted commercial driver's license to individuals who have reached age 18, but are not yet 21, for use only in intrastate commerce. In essence, drivers are limited to travel within the state of Alabama (intrastate driver's only). Additionally, the bill specifically prohibits such persons from obtaining a hazardous materials or



passenger endorsement, as well as from operating oversize or specifically configured loads that require permitting by the Alabama Department of Transportation.

*Editor's note: Maj. Jimmine Haigler, military law attorney at the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, did the research and provided the content for this article.*



### OSD Cost Assessment Data Enterprise (CADE)

Wednesday 6/24/2020 11:30 a.m. CDT <https://www.dau.edu/events/>

CADE is an initiative to increase analyst productivity and effectiveness by collecting, organizing and displaying data in an integrated single web-based application. CADE aims to provide the government analyst with a single, authoritative website utilizing data visualization methods to house source data which are easily searchable and retrievable.

### Defense Small Business Series-Small Business Roadmap to Getting a Facility Clearance

Wednesday 6/24/2020 2:00 p.m. CDT <https://www.dau.edu/events/>

Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA) will provide a roadmap of the facility clearance process, provide small business specific tips and guidance to prepare small businesses for entry into the cleared defense marketplace.

## Aircraft hangar construction impact assessed

By the Garrison

The Garrison is publishing this notice to announce the availability of the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for Construction and Operation of Aircraft and Flight Equipment Hangar Facility at Redstone Arsenal.

The Draft Finding of No Significant Impact was published in the June 21 edition of The Huntsville Times. The Draft

Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment are available for review and comment until July 21.

Copies can be obtained by calling Julie Frederick of the Garrison Public Affairs Office at 842-0558, by mailing Garrison-Redstone, 4488 Martin Road, Building 4488, Room A-213, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898, or by emailing [julie.a.frederick.civ@mail.mil](mailto:julie.a.frederick.civ@mail.mil). Comments should be submitted by U.S. mail or by email using the addresses provided.

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# CommunityNews

## Garrison workers recognized for installation support

Photos by JULIE FREDERICK  
Garrison Public Affairs

Garrison Commander Col. Kelsey Smith presented quarterly Service Culture Awards at the Garrison's all hands meeting June 3.



**David Clark Jr., second quarter Service Culture Award recipient, assisted in the master planning of Missile Defense Agency parking lot extension project, which provided significant improvements to Redstone infrastructure.**



**Kris Leatherman, third quarter Service Culture Award recipient, supported the Army Contracting Command reconstruction to building 6267. The success of the construction project supported the critical mission of the Strategic and Operational Rockets and Missiles program.**



**Rickey Hammond, second quarter Service Culture Award recipient, assisted in the master planning of MDA parking lot extension project, which provided significant improvements to Redstone infrastructure.**



**Glen Reese, third quarter Service Culture Award recipient, provided complimentary notary services to service members and their families for the Survivor Benefits Program. As a result of his selfless service, personal commitment, and strong judgment during these challenging times, there were no delays in service members separations.**



**Jason Phillips, second quarter Service Culture Award recipient, assisted in the master planning of MDA parking lot extension project, which provided significant improvements to Redstone infrastructure.**



**Kate Pillsbury was named the Garrison Star of the First Quarter because she had the highest cumulative score of 14 Service Culture Award recipients. She was recognized for organizing multiple events in support of the 2019 Garrison Organization Day.**

## In this section...

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on page 6

### BY THE NUMBERS

TEST CENTER EXPERTS STRIKE DOWN LIGHTNING MYTHS  
TRAFFIC RULES DISCOURAGE U-TURN AT INTERSECTION  
REDSTONE STAYS ON GRADUAL ROAD TO VIRUS RECOVERY  
FLORIDA NATIVE DID TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS IN VIETNAM  
NASA MANAGER COMBINES BIRDING, BOOSTERS IN WORK

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# Awards

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**Ed Adams receives a Civilian Service Achievement Medal. He epitomized the Installation Management Command values of service by sustaining the ID/Common Access Card services with a decrement in resources. His resourcefulness and expertise were vital for the installation workforce to continue to perform their mission while maintain social distancing.**



**Micah Kilpatrick receives a Civilian Service Achievement Medal. He epitomized the IMCOM values of service by executing modifications to the existing custodial contract, enhancing the sanitization levels to amber which effectively disinfected specified areas of concern on the installation.**



**Mark Olson receives a Civilian Service Achievement Medal. He epitomized the IMCOM values of service by serving as a lead operations officer in the Installation Emergency Operations Center, synchronizing COVID-19 response efforts and submitting complex reports to headquarters Installation Management Command.**

# By the numbers: **Funniest** movies

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

*Rocket editor*

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- 
1. Blazing Saddles (1974)
  2. Anchorman (2004)
  3. The Jerk (1979)
  4. Planes, Trains and Automobiles (1987)
  5. Dr. Strangelove (1964)
  6. The Blues Brothers (1980)
  7. Dumb and Dumber (1994)
  8. Caddyshack (1980)
  9. Young Frankenstein (1974)
  10. Animal House (1978)



# Test center experts strike down lightning myths

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer/Social media

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With the COVID-19 pandemic still very present in America, many people have taken to congregating, exercising and spending their free time outdoors. With the added protectant of social distancing, experts say the risk of contracting the virus outside is small.

However, the outdoors holds its own risks from Mother Nature. Lightning kills more than 50 people per year and many more suffer debilitating injuries, such as electrical burns, seizures, memory loss, temporary blindness and hearing loss.

There are old wives' tales about how to protect oneself from a lightning strike. Redstone Test Center lightning subject matter experts Jeff Craven and Tom Roy have spent close to 40 years at RTC testing effects of lightning strikes on virtually every type of Army ordnance and vehicle. While a lightning strike is never good, a lightning strike on a weapons system could be catastrophic.

After a career spent studying the effects of lightning, Craven sets the record straight.

"Some of the biggest misconceptions about lightning is if you get caught outside in a lightning storm, you need to get in a crouching position low to the ground so it reduces your likelihood of getting struck by lightning," he said. "That's not true. Natural lightning occurs at millions of volts and the process of how lightning is formed is you have streamers that originate from the ground and go upward. Then you have the streamers, the arc that is coming down from the cloud. That's why you see the jagged crooked nature of the lightning arcing down. When it gets close to the ground, whichever streamer has the highest potential generated, generally that is where the lightning will attach to."



Army file photo

**Electromagnetic environmental effects testing at the Redstone Test Center includes the impact of simulated lightning.**

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# Myths

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Also, with ground current traveling up to 60 feet from a lightning strike, standing under or near a tall object will not protect a person, Craven said.

“The bottom line is if you get caught outside during a lightning storm, you need to seek shelter immediately. There is not a lot you can do in an outdoor environment.”

Even when inside, there are still precautions to take. Craven said people should distance themselves from landlines, windows and electrical outlets. “Move away from anything with a hard wire connection (conductive path) – and no hairdryers,” he cautioned.

RTC facilities are open-air, and the lightning that they simulate at Redstone represents only the current part of a direct strike lightning event, not the voltage part. They replicate the four components of a direct lightning strike (initial strike, intermediate strike, continuing current and restrike component) at 200,000 amperes and up to 1 million volts. Why not duplicate the voltage, too? Craven said natural lightning occurs at hundreds of millions of volts and controlling that voltage is a technical challenge – their simulated lightning does not always travel on its intended path. Fortunately, due to the safety procedures developed over the years, Craven has never found himself in the path of an unexpected lightning current.

“It’s been 38 years and I still have all of my fingers and toes,” he said. “But I do have a definite respect for lightning.”

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*“The bottom line is if you get caught outside during a lightning storm, you need to seek shelter immediately. There is not a lot you can do in an outdoor environment.”*

**Jeff Craven**

Subject matter expert

## Take these steps for lightning safety

The Garrison Safety and Risk Management Office has compiled these lightning safety tips:

- Check local TV weather reports and weather apps prior to beginning outside activity.
- Seek shelter in fully enclosed buildings and remain in place until 30 minutes after hearing the last sound of thunder.
- If a safe building or structure is not available, stay in a hard top vehicle with rolled up windows.
- After hearing thunder, do not use corded telephones except for an emergency call. Cellphones and cordless phones can be used safely.
- Indoors stay away from doors and windows and take off headsets. Lightning can strike exterior electric lines and induce shocks to inside equipment.
- Avoid outdoor unsafe areas such as: high ground, open spaces, metal objects, near or under trees, canopies, tents, pavilions or small picnic shelters.
- Stay away from water and immediately get out of pools, lakes, etc. Water does not attract lightning but it is an excellent conductor of electricity.

A lightning strike victim does not carry an electrical charge and can be handled safely. If qualified to do so, provide first aid procedures for a lightning victim. Always call 911 and seek help immediately. For more information on lightning safety, visit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, safety website: [www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov](http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov).

# Traffic rules discourage U-turn at intersection



Photos courtesy of Glen Strobach

**Permanent signage and a temporary digital sign are in place to alert drivers about a “No U-turn” rule at the new Rideout Road intersection at Secured Gateway.**

**By WENDY REEVES**

Staff writer

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There’s a new intersection just past Gate 9 on Redstone Arsenal that has specific rules – no U-turn allowed. Some motorists see the new left turn

lane on Rideout Road at Secured Gateway as a potential shortcut to drive north to access Golf Road. However, U-turns are not allowed at the intersection, which is only for access to a new road, Secured Gateway. The new road leads into a secured office park that is part of the new Enhanced Use Lease development at Gate 9.

“The new intersection is up and running, and while it is clearly marked to indicate it is a ‘No U-turn’ intersection, we’ve observed multiple folks doing U-turns,” Glen Strobach of Directorate of Public Works said. “Patrols have been running out there periodically and stopping people.”

Strobach said the North Installation

access is routed permanently to Homestead Road.

Meanwhile, permanent signage and temporary digital signage is currently up to alert drivers about the rules before they reach the new intersection.

“It’s pretty self-explanatory but we’re trying to get the word out every way possible,” Strobach said.



# Redstone stays on gradual road to reinstituting services

By JONATHAN STINSON

Assistant editor

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The leaders of each organization on Redstone Arsenal continue to rely on two numbers to drive their decisions on when or if workers will return – the daily number of new cases in Alabama and the daily number of new cases in the Arsenal's 16-county area of interest.

More specifically, the decline in those numbers will determine when the installation progresses to the next phase of its recovery plan, according to Garrison Commander Col. Kelsey Smith.

To move to the next phase, leadership needs to see a 14-day decline in the number of cases. For example, on June 14, the state and the Arsenal's area of interest had a peak number of new cases, 1,104 statewide and 229 in the 16 surrounding counties. Then the number of new cases continued to decline day after day until bottoming out on June 17, 390 and 112. Then the clock started over on June 18 when there was a spike of new cases reported, 882 and 186, respectively.

In a perfect world, leaders would be able to track the total number of cases per day, minus the total number of those who have recovered and end up with the total number of active cases in Alabama, Madison County, etc. But, Smith said that number is difficult to track, which makes it an unreliable measure to use when making decisions.

"I'll tell you we're in a position where if we see the virus continue to recede, I think we'll all be in a good position," he said during a virtual town hall Thursday. "I know

that the ticker continues to go up across the nation, but I would remind everybody that about 60% of the 2.1 million people that have been infected by COVID are no longer infected. They're on the road to recovery."

Additionally, Smith said that for now, the Arsenal isn't planning to increase the measures it currently has in place, in other words, take a step back from phase 1 of the recovery, at least not an installation-wide level. Still, he did say some of the tenants might implement their own stricter precautions like mandatory facemasks or alternating shifts to limit the number of workers who come into contact with one another.

"The idea is to go slow to go fast," he said. "While you've watched the community around us get back to work, back to play, and try to get back to what was considered normal before COVID-19, what you've witnessed from the Arsenal is a very measured and conservative approach to returning the workforce to the Arsenal."

The installation isn't releasing the numbers of current or recovered COVID-19 patients, citing operational security, but Smith did say that most of Redstone employees who have tested positive for the virus didn't catch it on post, because they have not been on the installation to catch it with a large portion of the daily population on telework or admin leave.

However, when someone tests positive for COVID-19 on post, it triggers a specified set of actions according to Smith that include contact tracing, testing and cleaning the suspected area.

"So while there are factors and we continue to see things go up," he said, "there are other factors that communicate that we are getting better at treating the disease, that we're getting better at preventing the disease and the ability to treat (the disease) and the risk to our lives for each of us is continuing to go down."



## Returning to Redstone

What you need to know before coming back to work on Redstone Arsenal

### Redstone's Priorities

- 1) Safeguard the health, safety and security of the workforce.
- 2) Combat and prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- 3) Carry on the critical missions of each of our organizations.

### Testing

Redstone Arsenal will not provide universal testing for employees entering the installation.

- Employees who feel ill or detect a fever, loss of taste or smell, or influenza-like symptoms should notify their supervisor and 1) do not come to work, or 2) return home for self-monitoring until otherwise directed by USAG-Redstone authorities or your Primary Care Provider.
- Fox Army Health Center medical staff may provide testing for employees on Redstone who present potential COVID-19 symptoms, and will track and follow up with employees placed on home-monitoring.
- FAHC staff and tenant organization leadership will work together to conduct contact tracing and notification of employees who may have come in contact with an individual who has been placed on home-monitoring or tested positive for COVID-19.

Leadership is making calculated, deliberate and conditions-based decisions based on the state and 16-county commuting area surrounding the installation. When the state and local area meet the conditions outlined by the DoD and CDC for an average 14-day decline in new positive cases, decision to return members of the tenant workforce will be a progressive and measured process managed by each tenant leader, and based on authoritative data from the Alabama Department of Public Health. <https://alpublichealth.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/6d2771faa9da4a2786a509d82c8cf0f7>

### Framework for Return

### Employee Status

Redstone's intent is to create and maintain a safe, healthy environment to support the full return of the workforce to the installation. Determinations on individual employee's work status will be made by that employee's supervisory chain and tenant organization leadership. Employees should stay in close contact with their direct chain of command for their return-to-installation work status and timeline.

### Installation Services

as of 9 JUNE 2020

#### Installation Access:

- OPEN: Gates 1 (Martin Rd E), 7 (Martin Rd W), 8 (Goss Rd) and 9 (Rideout Rd) will have all lanes manned during peak morning rush hour traffic.
- CLOSED: Gates 3 (Redstone Rd) and 10 (Patton Rd) remain closed.

One Stop: Open with limited occupancy, and some services by appointment only.

Pershing Welcome Center: Open, most services by appointment only.

Child Care Centers: Open to returning employees who are present patrons.

Bicentennial Chapel: Open for individual worship only.

Fox Army Health Center: Most services are open, entry screenings still occur, cloth face coverings required to enter the facility, refer to Fox website and social media for details.

Morale, Welfare and Recreation: Golf Course, Flying Club, Auto Skills, Arts and Crafts, Limited Outdoor Recreation activities open. Social distancing and other preventive measures in place at all activities.

Restaurants: Open for carry-out only. (JAVA Café, Brooklyn's, Firehouse Pub remain closed.)

Post Exchange / Gas Stations: Open, masks required to enter.

Commissary: Open, Retiree hours and purchase limits remain in effect, mask required to enter.

### Prevention & PPE

Prevention is the key to maintaining a safe environment and continuing to flatten the curve of COVID-19. That will require both precautionary measures taken by tenant organizations and vigilant, active participation of the workforce in their personal lives as well as in the workplace.

- Each tenant organization will identify and communicate its requirements, and provide, if deemed necessary, personal protective equipment based on employee job mission sets and duties.
- Employees are highly encouraged to wear a face cloth covering (agency provided or personal) when unable to maintain six feet of physical separation.
- Employees are strongly encouraged to follow CDC guidelines: stay home when ill; wear a cloth face covering in public places; maintain six feet of physical separation; and practice good hygiene.

### Cleaning

The installation has taken additional precautions to provide a safe environment:

- All work spaces – over 7.8 million square feet – were deep cleaned prior to the first round of employees returning, and a second round of deep cleaning is underway. A yellow or pink sign will alert employees to when their area was last deep cleaned.
- Our custodians have increased the number of times they disinfect facility touch points (i.e. door knobs, elevator buttons and common area flat surfaces).
- USAG-Redstone will continue to work with tenant leadership to thoroughly sanitize areas where potential or confirmed COVID-19 cases have been identified.

For More Information:

<https://home.army.mil/redstone/> | [www.twitter.com/TeamRedstone](http://www.twitter.com/TeamRedstone) | [www.facebook.com/TeamRedstone](http://www.facebook.com/TeamRedstone)

# Florida native did tactical communications in Vietnam

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

[skip.v Vaughn@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:skip.v Vaughn@theredstonerocket.com)

Chuck Drown joined the Air Force in 1962 just five days before he was ordered to report to the Army by his draft notice.

His options were limited because he had dropped out of high school in Tampa, Florida. Four years after joining the Air Force, Drown was in Vietnam.

"I guess you most remember the camaraderie and the friendships you built over there," the retired master ser-

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**Vietnam revisited**  
*Part 275 in series*

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geant said of his year at war.

"For me I did not see as much blood and guts as the Army or the Marines on the ground."

Drown spent 1966 with the 505th Tactical Control System which was based at Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon but spread throughout South Vietnam. The 27-year-old airman first class was a radio operator who provided air support communication from a ground control station.

When he first arrived, Drown was sent for 85 days to Nakhon Phanom, Thailand, for an assignment called Operation Cricket. He was among 21 Air Force members, including six officers and 15 enlisted. "We were dropping bombs on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, most of the time to prevent supplies and

**See Veteran on page 16**



Courtesy photo

**Huntsville resident Chuck Drown, a retired Air Force master sergeant, is active in local veterans groups.**

# NASA manager combines birding, boosters in his work

By ADAM FARRAGUT

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Bird watching and rocket launching aren't normally mentioned in the same breath. One activity combines the beauty and grace of nature with a relaxing personal hobby, while the other is the culmination of thousands of hours of work, calculation and dedication that results in a massive object traveling to the stars.

For Bruce Tiller, however, the two are more alike than most would think. A life-long bird watcher, Tiller has spent decades appreciating the effortless flight of warblers and finches while simultaneously working to advance the hard-fought flight of humankind. It's only fitting, then, that Tiller is manager of NASA's Space Launch System rocket Boosters Office at Marshall Space Flight Center.

On a daily basis, he and his team take steps to help launch the biggest bird there is: SLS.

Tiller works closely with SLS booster manufacturer Northrop Grumman, which builds the boosters in pieces that are delivered to NASA's Kennedy Space Center for final assembly.

The largest, most powerful solid propellant booster ever built for flight, the SLS booster stands 17 stories tall and generates more thrust than 14 four-engine jumbo commercial airliners. Together, the SLS twin boosters provide more than 75% of the total SLS thrust at launch.

Tiller has always been a bird of a different feather. In a family of doctors and nurses, he was the rebel who became a rocket scientist. Yet, despite his 31-year career with the agency, being a part of the NASA team almost didn't happen. In fact, space exploration wasn't something he ever saw in his future.

"Space wasn't something that drove me as a kid, but I've always loved the technical aspects behind it," Tiller said. "My parents' involvement with medicine very much influenced me to ultimately pursue a career in science."

Tiller's father was the embodiment of the classic, black-bag doctor from the 1950s.

**See Tiller on page 15**



NASA photo by Sam Lott

**Bruce Tiller, manager of NASA's Space Launch System rocket Boosters Office at Marshall. (NASA/Sam Lott)**



# Tiller

Continued from page **14**

Gifted with nearly perfect recall, he often drove around town in his Volkswagen making house calls while Tiller's mother, also a doctor, worked full-time in public health. It was a dynamic that was unique for the era, but one that instilled an appreciation of hard work and education into the Tiller children.

With plans of being a geologist, Tiller originally received a bachelor's in geology from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill before deciding engineering was a better fit for the future. He returned to school to earn his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Alabama in Birmingham before becoming a thermal analyst at SRS Technologies in support of Marshall. He liked it enough to later get a master's in mechanical engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Three decades after joining the agency as a thermal analyst supporting the space shuttle, Tiller is still combining his love of science with the work ethic he learned

from his parents.

"Space exploration isn't something that you can do on your own. It takes thousands of people to do what we do," Tiller said. "That's the fun part. This is great work and you always feel like you're a part of something big. It's an amazing thing to be a part of."

Focused on expanding humanity's presence beyond Earth, the Artemis program is the beginning of the next era of space exploration. By putting the first woman and next man on the Moon, the program aims to establish a sustainable lunar presence with the ultimate goal of sending humans to Mars.

The ambitious nature of Artemis is something Tiller believes will impact the space program and generations of children for years to come.

"Who doesn't want to do this? You don't have any trouble getting people excited about NASA's mission," Tiller says. "I'm fired up to be a part of the NASA team. All the stuff we do from monitoring Earth to exploring the Moon, Mars and beyond is pretty fantastic."

*Editor's note: Adam Farragut, an ASRC Federal Analytical Services employee, supports Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.*



Courtesy photo

**Chuck Drown served in Vietnam in 1966 with the 505th Tactical Control System.**

## Veteran

Continued from page 12

everything else going through there and that was to Laos – but we were not there officially,” he said. “My job there was to keep in contact with the pilots.”

From there he went to Pleiku where he worked around the clock for two months in the Direct Air Support Center. Drown spent the last seven months of his tour at Qui Nhon.

“I did tactical communications,” he said. “I was the communications person for the forward air controllers. To try to send airplanes these guys (fighting on the ground) needed with the proper munitions. So you don’t use a 2,000-pound bomb for close air support.”

After his tour from January-December 1966, he made sure he found a seat on an airplane so he could go home

Dec. 23 rather than having to wait five more days. “I didn’t want to go home on the 28th of December after a year in Vietnam. No, no, no,” he said.

Drown spent 20 days back in the United States before leaving for Germany. He said he didn’t experience the abuse endured by many veterans returning from this unpopular war.

“I had a couple of issues here and there but nothing of the drastic level,” he said. “Overall I ran across a few things. In those days I’d have been in a jam because my temper wasn’t as well-controlled as it got to be later on.”

Drown was born in Indiana but grew up in Tampa. He quit school in the 11th grade because he didn’t have time for homework while working in a convenience store. Eventually he met his wife in the Air Force and both went to school on the GI Bill. Drown received a bachelor’s in business management in December 1989 from Austin Peay.

“Overall it was great,” he said of his 22 years in the Air Force. “I got to move around a lot which I liked. I got to go to different countries and see things and meet different people.”

He retired in March 1984 as a master sergeant at Carswell Air Force Base at Fort Worth, Texas.

Drown, 80, and his wife of 42 years, Lori, reside in Huntsville. Lori served in the Air Force from 1977-82 and

left as a staff sergeant. She is a management analyst at the Army Materiel Command in G-8 (budget and accounting).

They have a combined three daughters, nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. The oldest daughter, Michele Barga, lives in St. Petersburg, Florida; Jennifer Clark in Madison; and Karyn in Irving, Texas.

Drown said he plans to file with Veterans Affairs for compensation from his chronic lung disease and diabetes, both of which he attributes to exposure from Agent Orange in Vietnam.

He likes to fish, read, cook and travel. He belongs to the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Honored Legacy for Veterans, and the American Legion.

Drown shared his thoughts on this nation’s commemoration of 50 years since the Vietnam War.

“Sometimes it’s kind of whether it’s really sincere or they’re just trying to make you feel good,” he said. “You can kind of understand what they’re trying to do so I don’t mind it too much as long as they’re trying to be honest about it.”

*Editor’s note: This is the 275th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.*

SPECIALIZING IN COLLISION REPAIR AND PAINT

# Space defense school earns Army's accreditation



Photo by Dottie White

**Service members attend training in 2018 at the Space and Missile School, a component of the Space and Missile Defense Command, in Colorado Springs, Colo.**

By **DOTTIE WHITE**

*Space and Missile Defense Command  
Public Affairs*

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – The Space and Missile Defense School has earned the Training and Doctrine Command's fully accredited status.

The Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence's school, a component of the Space and Missile Defense Command, hosted the U.S. Army Accreditation Team from TRADOC in Colorado Springs Feb. 3-7.

Michael Madsen, chief of the Institutional Training and Doctrine Division, SMD School, said the accreditation team examined seven Army Enterprise Accreditation Standards and 434 sub-criteria. They also conducted detailed discussions on the school's mission, purpose and functions; institutional training and mission management; learning programs analysis, design, development and implementation; student and staff focus groups; governance and administration; staff and faculty; and assessment, evaluation and effectiveness.

The three-day review of the requirements across doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities, and policy domains in accordance with the Army Enterprise Ac-

creditation Standards resulted in a score of 98.6 out of 100, effective Feb. 7.

"Army accreditation is a three-year process that requires the entire school team to create, review and update hundreds of lesson plans, lesson material, practical exercises, exams and supporting administrative documentation for 29 space and missile defense courses," Madsen said. "Achieving 'accredited' status demonstrates US-ASMDC's commitment to meet competency needs of today's Army and the future force."

Daryl Breitbach, the school's director, said one of the strengths identified by the Army accreditation team is the school's interaction and synchronization with operational force Soldiers and leaders beyond formal training in the classroom.

"Given the low density, specialized space and missile defense missions within the command, it is imperative the school works in close coordination with the operational subject matter experts to ensure institutional education, qualification training, doctrine, and collective unit training accurately and properly prepares Soldiers for critical space and missile defense missions," Breitbach said. "Space and Missile Defense School staff and instructors are continually focused on how to maximize the limited time Soldiers spend in

our classes; how to best prepare Soldiers for critical space and missile defense missions; how to integrate creative instructional methods that keep students engaged and ensure graduates master the skills and knowledges required to successfully accomplish their missions.

"The school staff and instructors take the Army accreditation very seriously and welcome the opportunity to discuss school practices and challenges and learn from the experts on the accreditation team. The school staff and instructors have a mindset of not just meeting, but exceeding the Army Enterprise Accreditation Standards and know this is truly accomplished over the three years between accreditations."

As for the future of the school, Breitbach said he expects many changes in com-

ing years in terms of evolving missions, new missions, increased Army demand for space and missile defense education and training, changes in the operational environment, and evolving threats to space and missile defense capabilities.

"The team continues to posture the school in preparation for future changes and to meet the school vision – 'Army space and missile defense forces trained and ready for the challenges of tomorrow,'" he said.

The SMD School accreditations date back to 2005 (Ground-based Midcourse Defense Course), 2006 (FA40 Qualification Course) and full school evaluations in 2009, 2013, 2016, and 2020, achieving fully accredited status and scores above 95 (out of 100) for each evaluation.

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REMEMBER THE WAR THAT BEGAN 70 YEARS AGO IN KOREA  
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# Army to reevaluate race disparities in justice system

By JOSEPH LACDAN

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army must do more in assuring equal and fair treatment of service members in the military justice system, the Army's top uniformed attorney told lawmakers June 16.

Lt. Gen. Charles Pede, the Army judge advocate general, has directed a "comprehensive assessment," together with Maj. Gen. Kevin Vereen, the Army's provost marshal general, to examine racial disparity within the Army's justice system.

Pede joined three other military leaders representing all of the services during a hearing before the House Armed Services Committee's subcommittee on military personnel, which addressed racial disparity among troops who face prosecution, investigation or courts martial.

Groundwork for the Army's assessment began the previous week. "We're in the very early stages of figuring out what can cause (racial disparities)," Pede said. "So we're developing a framework."

During the hearing, lawmakers cited a 2019 U.S. Government Accountability Office report that showed black service



DVIDS screenshot

**Lt. Gen. Charles Pede, judge advocate general, answers questions from members of the House Armed Services Committee on June 16. Pede took part in a hearing regarding disparity of treatment of African American Soldiers within the military justice system.**

members were more likely to face courts martial and more likely to be the subject of investigations. It also revealed that the Army and other service branches did not have consistent data collection standards across DOD regarding race and ethnicity. Lawmakers said they will continue to press the issue as civil rights protests

continue in cities nationwide.

"This report raises difficult questions – questions that demand answers," Pede said. "Sitting here today, we do not have those answers. So our task is to ask the right questions and find the answers."

Pede said that he has worked with the provost marshal general, to link data between the service's law-enforcement database and the JAG Corps database to improve system interoperability – a critical step to provide more accurate information concerning the investigation and prosecution of Soldiers based on race.

"General Vereen and I, along with Army leaders, need to look hard at ourselves," Pede said. "With commanders, we must look at the cause and we must understand how preconceptions and prejudice can affect both the investigation and disposition of misconduct."

Pede said the Army currently does not keep individual records of commanders and how they administer nonjudicial punishment. However, he added that the comprehensive assessment will closely examine how commanders dispense punishment and how law enforcement officers react in a scene of domestic vio-

lence, for example.

"I have great faith in our commanders to administer justice fairly and dispassionately, especially at the senior levels," Pede said. "I believe the answer is a set of cross checks and balances between law enforcement, commanders and lawyers looking at each other in the system and keeping each other honest."

The committee also discussed the racial disparity and minority representation within each branch. In 2018, racial minorities accounted for about 32% of the active-duty Army; that includes black Soldiers making up nearly 24% of enlisted members. However, the disparity between black and white officers remained wide as African Americans comprised just 12% of active-duty officers.

Last week Defense Secretary Mark Esper consulted with military leaders from each branch to find solutions to assure equal opportunities and representation within the military's ranks.

Army leaders, including Lt. Gen. Thomas Seamands, deputy chief of staff for personnel, G-1, have said that the Army has strove to increase diversity in the force among minorities and females.

# Virtual tech talk covers nuclear power project

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Lee Mason, deputy chief engineer in NASA's Space Technology Mission Di-

rectorate at NASA headquarters, gave a virtual Tech Talk on NASA's Kilopower project June 11.

The project – which developed a new

type of nuclear reactor – is designed to be a small and simple system for long-duration, solar-independent power generation for use on space-based or extraterrestrial-based spacecraft. It was initiated following a technology assessment in the 2010 Planetary Science Decadal Survey to study potential alternate nuclear power generation systems for robotic, planetary spacecraft.

The Kilopower team completed a suc-

cessful test of the Kilopower Reactor Using Stirling Technology experiment in March 2018. Future potential uses include power generation for human bases on the Moon and Mars, on robotic spacecraft in deep space and, possibly, to melt spots on icy worlds for scientific study.

The Tech Talk series is presented by the Chief Technologist's Office at Marshall Space Flight Center.

# Space defense command improving industry partnerships

By MIKAYLA MAST

*Space and Missile Defense Command  
Public Affairs*

The forthcoming Space and Missile Defense Command's new tool, a Virtual Industry Exchange that includes a Forecast Industry Report, will provide the command's industry partners with forecasted requirements and business opportunities available to them.

Sheri Baskins, chief, Contract Support Division, SMDC G-8, said that the VIE, a brainchild of James Johnson, SMDC deputy to the commander, will be an asset for industry partners, as it will provide information regarding contract opportunities.

"The objective of the FIR is to serve as a communication tool that helps industry plan and make informed business decisions about a given acquisition," Baskins

said. "Part of early communication with our Department of Defense industry partners is informing them of USASMDC forecast requirements. The FIR does not replace other exchanges, i.e., program/contract specific industry days and other communication events, but is another communication tool to provide forecast information to industry."

Col. Samuel Glover, deputy chief of staff, SMDC G-8, said the value of the VIE begins with looking at the customer.

"Great customer service starts with communication with the customer," Glover said. "The VIE FIR planning tool is key, because it will help pave the way to even stronger partnerships with our command's industry partners as USASMDC pioneers the Army's modernization efforts of today, tomorrow and the future."

Christy Tarantini, acquisition analyst, CSD, said early communication is vital for

all businesses to make informed plans for their organizations.

"Early planning is crucial for small and large businesses alike," Tarantini said. "Business development teams are continually assessing multiple opportunities with multiple agencies in order to decide which opportunities their companies should pursue based on corporate goals, proposal budgets and time frames."

Tarantini said advanced information and planning can help businesses build their teams and partnerships based on their goals and plans for the future.

"Many times industry partners are exploring teaming ventures with each other many months or even years in the future," Tarantini said. "The more information at their disposal, the better teams they can build, which results in higher quality proposals. That makes it a win for the government, too."

Tarantini said user friendliness was a top consideration during the planning and design phase of the FIR.

"The FIR was designed with industry in mind," Tarantini said. "The report sorting capability allows them to narrow down searches for opportunities of interest as both prime and subcontractors. For exam-

ple, businesses can sort by estimated award dates, dollar values and even projected acquisition strategy, such as small business set-aside or full and open competition."

Mary Birdsong, director, SMDC Office of Small Business Programs, said the FIR will be an asset for industry partners looking for information regarding contract opportunities for their companies.

"USASMDC contract opportunities are primarily geared toward research and development, and engineering services, but other industries should also check the VIE FIR as it is updated, because new opportunities will appear," Birdsong said.

While the VIE FIR will serve as a communication tool, Tarantini said industry partners will still need to submit proposals through the beta.sam.gov website.

"The FIR will not affect or change solicitation or proposal submission methods," Tarantini said. "The report will show the status of USASMDC requirements as they move through the acquisition planning, solicitation, proposal receipt and evaluations, and award phases, or if the requirements have changed or been canceled."

The command plans to go live by June 30 and will update the FIR quarterly.

# With airlines down, Army looks to bring ex-aviators back



Photo by Tyler Greenlees

**Army AH-64 Apache helicopters from the 4th Infantry Division's 4th Combat Aviation Brigade use Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, as a stopover May 20. The helicopters are in transit from their home post of Fort Carson, Colo., to Fort Drum, N.Y.**

**By GARY SHEFTICK**  
Army News Service

**FORT RUCKER** — With airlines running a reduced flight schedule and generally not hiring, the Army is open to accepting former aviators and crew members back into the service, according to the Army's command chief warrant officer for the aviation branch.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Jon Koziol appeared on a Facebook livestream June 10 from Fort Rucker and explained the opportunities to those tuning into the page for the Rotary to Airline Group, known as RTAG, founded to help veterans transition to the airline industry.

"As we are all well aware, this global pandemic has made unprecedented impacts on the world's economies and our personal way of life," he said. "Some of those impacts may have directly affected your ability to pursue your goals of working for the commercial sector, specifically the airlines."

The Call to Active Duty, or CAD pro-

gram, allows Army Reserve and National Guard aviators to apply for a three-year stint back on active duty, Koziol said. Aviators are needed for AH-64 Apache attack helicopters, as well as CH-47 Chinooks, UH-60 Black Hawks and in some instances, fixed wing assignments.

The retiree recall program is also a possibility, Koziol said, and other programs exist for veterans who only served a few years in the branch.

"No matter how much time you have served in the Army, you are still a Soldier for Life and part of this team," he said. "We could use your expertise."

Some Army civilian positions are available for aviators on Fort Rucker, he said, directing listeners to check the USAJobs website. In addition, contractor positions are available under instructor and maintenance contracts.

UH-72 Lakota pilots are needed to instruct the Initial Entry Rotary Wing and other courses. Test pilots are also needed and additional opportunities exist for

fixed-wing pilots, mechanics and others, he said.

"Basically across the board, there is more than likely a good chance that we can find a spot for you where you can help," Koziol said.

While there's no current shortage for OH-58D Kiowa pilots, some other positions may be available for those aviators, said Chief Warrant Officer 5 David Stock, aviation branch warrant officer proponent.

"We do have the ability, in some instances, for the right officer to bring back some OH-58D pilots and use them in a nonflying position," Stock said.

Koziol said recent studies indicate it may take commercial airlines two or three years to get back to the operating schedules that they had prior to the pandemic.

Recent news reports state about 100,000 employees of the nation's four largest airlines have volunteered to take unpaid or low-paid leave.

The airlines have not yet laid workers off, because the bailout federal funding they received barred layoffs, involuntary furloughs and pay cuts. But that requirement expires Oct. 1, leaving thousands of pilots, flight attendants, baggage handlers, mechanics and others at risk of layoffs.

In addition to the active force, the Army Reserve and National Guard also have positions available for aviators, Koziol said. Positions vary depending upon location and the aircraft in each state, he explained.

"If you're willing to move, there's more than likely a good chance there's an opportunity for you to serve," he said.

For a return to active duty, Koziol estimates it usually takes about three months to process a request. You can expect an updated Call to Active Duty message within the next two weeks that will help shorten the application process.

"We just ask for your patience," he said. "We do want you back."



# International Space Station gets boost in manpower

By RICK SMITH

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

The saying “more hands make light work” is rarely more apt than when those hands are 250 miles up on the International Space Station, overseeing research to extend humanity’s reach into the solar system and offer new scientific breakthroughs on Earth.

With the arrival on station of two new sets of hands – NASA astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley, whose May 30 launch on NASA’s SpaceX Demo-2 test flight was the first such flight for Americans on American rockets since the space shuttle era ended – the Expedition 63 crew swelled to five. As a result, more crew time is available for research activities.

“Those extra hands are one reason NASA’s Commercial Crew Program is so important to research planners,” said Bryan Dansberry, space station associate program scientist at NASA’s Johnson Space Center. “Any business owner or homeowner understands a number of maintenance and cleaning tasks are required to keep things running smoothly. The more available hands, the more time you can spend doing the tasks that make your business successful. In our case, that means more science – conducting research in the unique laboratory that is the space station to conduct more experiments and technology demonstrations.”

During their stay, Behnken and Hurley have their own priority tasks – mainly continuing to test the Crew Dragon spacecraft in support of the Commercial Crew Program. But they’re also helping fellow NASA astronaut and Expedition 63 Commander Chris Cassidy and Russian cosmonauts Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner support some 240 new and ongoing experiments during the latest station expedition, also known as an increment.

That science tempo is the station’s hallmark, said Beau Simpson, payload operations manager in the Payload Operations Integration Center at Marshall Space Flight Center – the round-the-clock science hub linking global researchers to the astronauts overseeing their experiments on station.

What has really impressed the payload operations team at Marshall, Simpson said, is how Behnken and Hurley – trained exhaustively for Crew Dragon’s groundbreaking flight – have also hit the ground running with science on station.

“These are seasoned pilots, sharp guys dedicated to NASA’s mission,” he said. “They got their space legs pretty quickly



**The Expedition 63 crew includes, clockwise from front right, NASA astronauts Douglas Hurley and Robert Behnken, Roscosmos flight engineer Anatoly Ivanishin, NASA Commander Chris Cassidy and Roscosmos flight engineer Ivan Vagner.**

NASA photo

and jumped right into the mix.”

They even helped launch several studies. They’re both supporting the Electrolysis Measurement experiment, which studies how gravity influences electrolytic gas evolution. That electrochemical process generates bubbles that can help adjust pressure in devices such as skin patches used to deliver medication. Hurley also worked on the Capillary Structures investigation, which studies the management of fluid and gas mixtures for next-generation life support systems to better recycle water and remove carbon dioxide from cabin air on spacecraft. Behnken also is prepping the Plant Habitat-02 facility for the cultivation of edible plants – critical to future long-duration missions in space.

Integrating even industrious self-starters such as Behnken and Hurley into the science mix relies on months of work by planners at Marshall, space station leads at Johnson and partner scientists around the world.

“Science scheduling and crew training starts six months out,” said Lori Meggs, lead payload communications manager

at Marshall for Increment 63. That pace never slows. A week before each expedition starts, the payload planning team delivers final, step-by-step guidelines to walk the crew through each science activity.

By then, station science planners also have used a real-time, interactive database, which includes instructions for each experiment and task on station, to meticulously schedule the crew’s research activities, exercise, personal time and sleep cycles.

The team also prepares for launch slips caused by unforeseen contingencies – such as the weather that scrubbed the Dragon’s first launch attempt May 27. “We had multiple backup schedules, based on possible delays of various lengths,” Simpson said.

The schedule is key, he said. Crew and flight controllers monitor it all day, keeping an eye on the marching red bar which identifies where they should be at any moment. Simpson calls that “chasing the red line” – and he credits the crew for consistently finishing tasks early, not chasing the line so much as challenging

it to keep up.

Nor is finishing early a license to kick back, Meggs added. “They can use unscheduled time however they like, but we keep ‘honey-do’ lists, noncritical tasks that can be pursued any time. Whenever they finish scheduled work, each can choose duties from that list until it’s time for their next activity,” she said.

Each astronaut’s average schedule calls for six-and-a-half hours of scheduled science and maintenance tasks, two daily planning meetings with NASA and its global partners, two mandatory workout hours to mitigate the effects of microgravity on bones and muscles, and eight-and-a-half hours reserved for a good night’s sleep. Then they get up and do it all over again, for months on end.

“Our crew on station is so good,” Meggs said. “They’re having the time of their lives – and we’re living it with them. It’s a thrill to be part of the history they’re writing in orbit.”

*Editor’s note: Rick Smith, an ASRC Federal Analytical Services employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.*

# Rocket Pet of the Week

## Tovah

This is Tovah and she belongs to NASA/MSFC employee Belinda & Vassie Bishop.

"Tovah is an 8-yr. old rescue. She was found with another puppy and taken to an area shelter. A friend that works in rescue saw her and pulled her and posted her picture on Facebook. It was love at first sight! She was approximately 10 weeks old when we adopted her in July 2012. We think she's the most beautiful dog and she's definitely the smartest. We currently have 10 rescue dogs. We're big advocates of rescue!"



**RedstoneRocket**  
www.theredstonerocket.com

356025-1



Photo by Nelson Ballew, 2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion

## Medical support recognized

Lt. Col. Andi Tallman and Command Sgt. Major. Corey Coubal, 2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion, went to Fox Army Health Center on June 17 to present battalion coins for the support the battalion receives in making its annual mission. Fox has been instrumental in the battalion's success by conducting physicals for future Army doctors, nurses and other healthcare clinicians. From left are Coubal; Col. (Dr.) Mike Madkins, chief of primary care; Valeria Hills, chief of patient administration; Angela Powell, readiness nurse; and Tallman.

# Remember the war that began 70 years ago in Korea

By ED KENNEDY

*For the Rocket*

In the early morning of June 25, 1950, the North Koreans initiated a massive invasion on the Korean peninsula.

The resulting “Forgotten War” has unfortunately largely been forgotten by many Americans. It lasted just over three years and involved the new United Nations fighting communist aggression of North Korean, Red China and the Soviet Union. The outcome of the war was largely decided when major maneuver ended after a year of tough combat that saw U.N. forces reaching the Chinese border on the Yalu River; a massive withdrawal when the PRC entered the war; and a seesawing of forces along the 38th Parallel with the capital of the Republic of Korea changing hands four different times.

America’s first battle was at Juk-Mi Pass just north of the town of Osan in South Korea. It was a disaster for the U.S. Army. It was not because of a lack of bravery and courage but a number of issues largely starting at the highest levels of the national command authority. The Army’s 21st Infantry Regiment “task force” of infantry and artillery under the command of Lt. Col. Brad Smith was hurriedly rushed from Japan. Smith, an experienced combat infantryman of the Pacific Theater in WWII where he commanded a battalion, was sent with orders to “Slow the North Koreans.” They thought it would be easy. It wasn’t.

Everyone from Washington, D.C. to Far East Command in Tokyo grossly underestimated our communist foes. On the early morning darkness of July 5, an under-equipped, under-supported and under-manned U.S. Army unit deployed to stop a highly trained, well-equipped and ideologically resolved communist enemy. Named “Task Force Smith” after its commander, the two infantry companies, a section of 4.2-inch heavy mortars, and a battery of 105mm artillery occupied an excellent position astride the main enemy avenue of approach on Highway 1 which ran north-south. Known as Juk-Mi Pass, Smith expertly placed his units on the forward edge of a low set of hills overlooking the highway and a parallel rail tunnel. His force was heavily outnumbered.

Shortly after 8 a.m. a column of T-34 tanks supplied by the Soviets to the North Koreans led the advance of the North Korean Army’s 4th Infantry Division toward the American positions. Hard as they might, Smith’s men tried to stop the tanks but their ammunition for their rocket launchers (bazookas) was no match for the Soviet designed tanks. The ammunition was old and failed to detonate. The underpowered 2.36-inch bazooka was obsolete at the end of WWII five years before the war in Korea but budget cuts kept the Army from having the better 3.5-inch “super bazookas.” The North Korean tanks rolled through the infantry positions and kept going. The artillery battery courageously took the tanks under direct fire and disabled at least one with a shot that broke the tracks on one tank. No U.S. air support was available to TF Smith as close air support had been intentionally stopped due to prior “amicide” actions where U.N. aircraft had strafed U.S. columns moving north.

Amazingly, Smith’s defense lasted about six hours and then folded like a lawn chair when the North Korean infantry division enveloped the two company-defense. What started as a good defense against heavy odds ended in a terrible rout. This pattern would be repeated a number of times over the next couple of weeks as the North Koreans marched south to the Nakdong River.

The Army assumed great risk by throwing arriving units against the North Koreans in small elements. The intent was to slow the North Korean advance. It worked, but at a terrible cost. By the time the North Koreans reached the Nakdong River, they had been slowed considerably by air interdiction and successive ground actions that forced them to deploy and fight, thus sapping their strength.

The successful defense of the Nakdong River line (“Pusan Perimeter”) allowed U.N. troops to arrive at the port of Pusan and in September, a counteroffensive began in conjunction with a turning movement at Inchon that saw the North Korean Army pushed to the Chinese border, starting a new phase of the war that technically still has not ended.

The lessons learned included the reconsideration of our national strategy of relying too heavily on nuclear deterrence at the expense of our conventional forces. The severe budget cuts inflicted on the ground forces of the military were reversed. Ground forces’ end strength was increased to provide a conventional response commensurate with the threat so that nuclear deterrence was not the only option available. It led to a policy known as “flexible deterrence.” We learned that communist aggression had to be forcibly countered in conjunction with other elements of national power.

The war ended with an armistice in July 1953. Almost 171,000 U.N. forces were dead and 32,585 missing – the large majority were our South Korean allies. Over a half million U.N. forces were wounded in action. The Korean civilians on both sides suffered horribly with the South Koreans having over 378,000 estimated to have been abducted by the North Koreans. Almost 1 million South Korean civilians were killed or wounded. The country was devastated.

The Republic of Korea recovered in what is known as the “Miracle of the Han” and has become an economic powerhouse in Asia since the war. The highly aggressive and destitute North Korea is on “life support.” The U.S. relations with our South Korean partners is exceedingly strong. During Vietnam the ROK provided infantry divisions to assist us in repelling communist aggression and continues to be a close economic and military ally.

As we reach the 70th anniversary of the Korean War, we need to thank our remaining veterans for their sacrifices in what is becoming more, and more, a “Forgotten War” to Americans.

*Editor’s note: Retired Lt. Col. Ed Kennedy is the son of a WWII, Korean War and Vietnam veteran. He knew and interviewed a number of members of Task Force Smith as well as taught the elective on the Korean War when assigned to the history department of the Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.*

# Security enterprise honoree creatively tells Army story

By TERRI STOVER

*Security Assistance Command Public Affairs*

Tim Hanson is still considered the new guy in the public affairs office at the Security Assistance Command. But he has already made his mark on promoting Army readiness.

Hanson serves as a public affairs specialist providing communication between the community and the command group, developing news articles of current events and producing informative videos. He contributes to strategic communications for USASAC senior leaders.

One of his most notable projects at USASAC was executing a communication campaign effort for a post-wide observance. The USASAC PAO was selected to lead the Team Redstone 2020 Holocaust Days of Remembrance Observance. The initial plan was to have a video as part of the program supporting the keynote speaker. However, the focus of the observance abruptly changed when social distancing became required because of COVID-19.

This meant Hanson's videos became the centerpiece of an "electronic" observance.

"Tim developed the premise of conducting interviews with community members and Army veterans who were impacted by the Holocaust either personally or through their families," Kim Capehart, director of USASAC's PAO and Hanson's supervisor, said.

Hanson reached out to co-workers, a local veterans organization, a local synagogue, the National Holocaust Museum and other entities to get the people, background, information, music, photographs and video he needed to support the project. He conducted interviews with a Holocaust survivor, a World War II concentration camp liberator, an Army Materiel Command employee whose parents survived the Holocaust through the Kindertransport program, and a former AMC officer whose father-in-law was used as slave labor during that time. All of these participants live in North Alabama.

"He crafted a product that is more a documentary-style television production, rather than simple interview news-style clips," Capehart said. "He tied his products to the Department of Defense's 2020 commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II."

The National Holocaust Museum now has his product, and Department of the Army has also distributed it to other commands.

"I love how this job affords me the opportunity to tell people's stories," Hanson said. "It was an honor of getting to sit down with the four Army veterans who were either directly or indirectly impacted by the Holocaust. Making sure their stories were heard is what I really enjoy and this particular project I consider to be one of the highlights of my career."

Hanson also produced a video documenting the first meeting between the Holocaust survivor and the concentration camp liberator called, "Seventy-five Years in the Making."

During his short time with the organization, Hanson has made his mark. He received a first place award in the AMC David Harris public affairs competition for his "FMS and the Army Supply Chain" video. The video also competed in the Army's Keith L. Ware public affairs competition. He received numerous compliments from foreign military sales customers.

Additionally, AMC has used multiple products that he developed to include cyber-security videos, OPSEC video, and several COVID-19 awareness products.

In addition to his video work, his written products are representing AMC, Team Redstone, the Army and the Department of Defense and will be part of the Army's history.

"Tim makes time for every employee and customer who has a requirement," Capehart said.

This is one of the many reasons he was awarded USASAC's Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of fiscal 2020. In less than nine months, he has provided backup to each of his teammates in the PAO



**Tim Hanson**

in every area of the office. This is the foundation for keeping all operations running. He has made himself an essential part of sustaining USASAC's mission.

He is a dedicated runner and cyclist who has participated in numerous road races and charitable bike rides. He volunteers with his church as well as the local animal shelter. He is also a supporter/promoter of a local nonprofit animal adoption group.

"I want to be a sponge and continue to learn," Hanson said. "My job, like many others, is constantly changing in how we approach or accomplish the mission. Knowledge and creativity are qualities throughout my career. I've continued to make priorities as I move forward."





Photo by Michelle Miller

## Aviation officer promoted

Michael Rigney has his lieutenant colonel rank insignia added to his coat by his mother, Collette, during a promotion ceremony June 12 at the Program Executive Office for Aviation. Maj. Gen. Thomas Todd, previously the program executive officer for aviation, administered the oath of office to his former executive officer. Rigney serves as the lead of special projects for PEO Aviation. His previous assignments included assistant product manager for the Improved Turbine Engine Program and product lead for the Degraded Visual Environment Brownout Rotorcraft Enhancement System product office.

# Recruiters virtually aiming for end-strength goal

By **THOMAS BRADING**

*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON – The Army’s end-strength goal of 485,000 Soldiers by Sept. 30 is on track, the force’s top manpower official said, but to make up for setbacks caused by COVID-19, the Army hopes to ink 10,000 enlistment contracts during a three-day virtual hiring extravaganza that starts June 30.

The burden of filing so many Soldiers into the Army’s ranks is a collective effort taken on by multiple resources such as retention and recruiting, Casey Wardinsky, the assistant secretary of the Army for manpower and reserve affairs, told reporters.

Those duties spread out over several programs, each one aimed at the end-strength

goal, he said, and “these things are lining up very nicely for the Army this year. You’ll see at the end of the year when we hit our end strength of 485,000 Soldiers.”

But his confidence hasn’t come without its share of challenges. In April, to help stem the spread of COVID-19, Army leaders paused shipping recruits to basic combat, then scaled training back by 50%. BCT is now up and running at 100% over the past few weeks, said Gen. Paul Funk, commander of the Training and Doctrine Command.

“Since April, we’ve moved 23,400 Soldiers throughout the training bases, and 13,000 Soldiers internally to TRADOC from basic combat training,” Funk said. “And almost 10,000 to their first unit of assignment – and we’ve done that in a COVID environment.”

# Win or Lose

## Classic replay: Pirates outslug Yankees for 1960 crown

This was like a slow-pitch softball game. One team just outthits another for the victory.

The Pittsburgh Pirates beat the New York Yankees in seven games in the 1960 World Series. Bill Mazeroski made the difference with his walk-off ninth-inning home run, the only time a winner-take-all World Series game ended with a walk-off homer.

The Pirates won the decisive game 10-9 on Oct. 13 at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh.

For game 7, Bob Turley, the winning pitcher in game 2, got the nod for the Yankees against the Pirates' Vern Law, the winning pitcher in games 1 and 4.

Turley lasted only one inning plus one batter. After retiring the first two batters, Turley walked Bob Skinner, then first baseman Rocky Nelson homered, Pittsburgh's first home run since Mazeroski's in game 1, to give the Pirates a 2-0 lead. Turley was then pulled after giving up a single to Smokey Burgess leading off the second. Don Hoak then drew a walk against Bill Stafford, and a bunt single by Mazeroski loaded the bases. Stafford appeared to get the Yankees out of trouble after inducing Law to hit into a double play, pitcher to catcher to first. But leadoff man Bill Virdon's single to right scored Hoak and Mazeroski and increased the Pirates' lead to 4-0.

The Yankees got on the board in the fifth on Bill Skowron's leadoff home run, his second of the Series. In the sixth, Bobby Richardson led off with a single and Tony Kubek drew a walk. Elroy Face relieved Law and got Roger Maris to pop out to Hoak in foul territory, but Mickey Mantle singled to score Richardson. Yogi Berra followed with a three-run shot to right that gave the Yankees their first lead, 5-4. The Yankees extended their lead to 7-4 in the eighth.

But the Pirates retook the lead with a five-run eighth inning, punctuated by Hal Smith's three-run home run.

Bob Friend, an 18-game winner for the Pirates and their starter (and loser) in games 2 and 6, came on in the ninth to try to protect the lead. Richardson and pinch-hitter Dale Long both greeted him with singles, and Pirates manager Danny

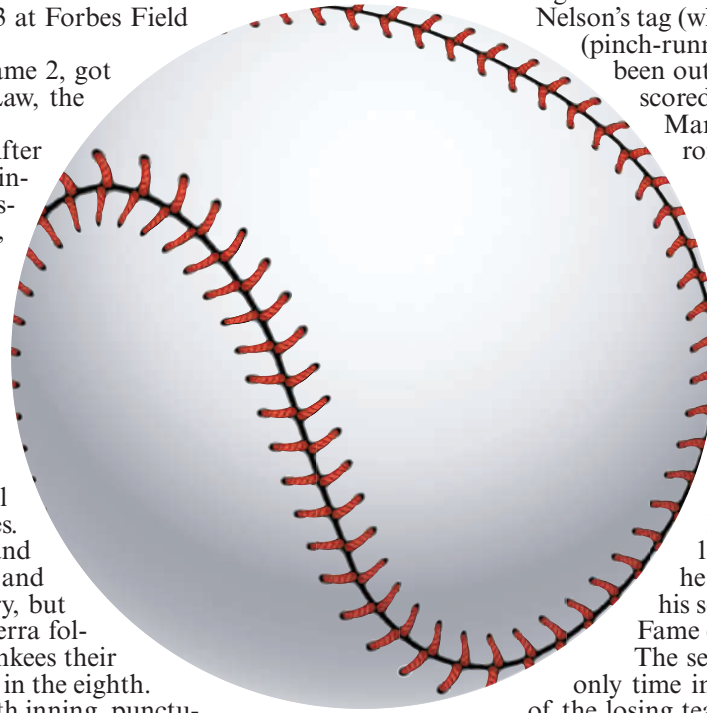
Murtaugh was forced to remove the veteran pitcher in favor of Harvey Haddix. Although he got Maris to foul out, Haddix gave up a key single to Mantle that scored Richardson and moved Long to third. Berra followed, hitting a short grounder to first, with Rocky Nelson easily getting the second out. In what, at the moment, stood as a monumental play, Mantle, seeing he had no chance to beat a play at second (and

thinking the ball was caught in the air), scurried back to first and avoided Nelson's tag (which would have been the third out) as Gil McDougald (pinch-running for Long) raced home to tie the game at 9. Had he been out on the play, the run would still have counted if it had scored before the tag (but the play happened quickly). With Mantle safe, the inning continued, but ended when Skowron hit into a force play.

Ralph Terry, who recorded the last out in the eighth, returned to the mound for the Yankees in the bottom of the ninth. The first batter to face him was Mazeroski. With a count of one ball and no strikes, the Pirates' second baseman smashed a historic long drive over the left field wall (left fielder Berra had no chance to catch it despite following it to the wall), winning the game 10-9 and crowning the Pirates as World Series champions. As the Pirates erupted, the Yankees stood across the field in stunned disbelief. The improbable champions were outscored, out-hit, and outplayed, but somehow had managed to pull out a game 7 victory. Years later, Mantle was quoted in Ken Burns' documentary *Baseball* as saying that losing the 1960 series was the only loss, amateur or professional, he cried actual tears over. For Mazeroski, by contrast, his series-clinching home run was the highlight of a Hall of Fame career otherwise notable mostly for excellent defense. The series MVP was Bobby Richardson of the Yankees, the

only time in history that the award has been given to a member of the losing team, though the rules were different at this time. Votes had to be in by the start of the eighth inning of Game 7, at which point the Yankees were in the lead, and this was the first time since the series MVP award was created in 1955 that the team leading at that point did not go on to win.

This was the Pirates' third world championship and first since 1925.



## Pirates world titles deserve tribute from fan

My cellphone rang on a Saturday morning while I was in line at the drive-thru of my usual fast-food breakfast stop. The caller didn't leave a message and I didn't recognize the number.

After returning home, I returned the call. It was longtime friend Bob Whiteford, a retired command sergeant major and Vietnam veteran.

We talked about the Rocket and about current events and of course our mutual love of baseball. He told me why he called: Whiteford, a Pittsburgh native, asked me to show some love to his hometown Pirates and their World Series championships in

1960, 1971 and 1979.

So for my Pittsburgh native friend and Pirates fans everywhere, our classic replays in this sports section for the next three weeks will feature the world champion teams from 1960, 1971 and 1979.

I definitely remember those teams. Baseball was my first love so I remember watching all three World Series. In 1960 I watched on a TV in our row house in my hometown Philadelphia. In 1971 I watched in our family's home in Huntsville. In 1979 I watched in my own apartment in Huntsville.

For a baseball fan like me, it's easy to relate memorable games to different stages of your life. We grow up cherishing the big games and keeping track of where we were when they happened. But unlike us, baseball never grows old.

### From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn  
Rocket editor

### In this section...

YOUR GLORY DAYS IN SPORTS

PAGE 32

# Your glory days in sports

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

[skip.v Vaughn@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:skip.v Vaughn@theredstonerocket.com)

*What is the highlight of your athletic endeavors?*

“I’m a runner and a biker,” James Champion, who retired from the Aviation and Missile Command, said. “The highlight is I run the Racin’ the Station (duathlon) out here on the Arsenal. I’ve done that every year when it was going. And I’ve been coming to Pagano Gym since 1989. I load my bike, get on it and I take off. I make a loop and go 22 miles.”

Champion, 71, from Anniston, retired in 2011 as a product manager for base shop test equipment for the TOW Cobra system after 38 years of service. He served in the Air Force from 1970-74 and left as a sergeant. The Huntsville resident has a daughter, Tonya Frankum, and a son, Martin, both of Huntsville, and five grandchildren. Besides running and biking, he likes to bow hunt. Champion roots for the Auburn Tigers.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**James Champion, who retired from the Aviation and Missile Command, enjoys running and biking.**



# **Rocket**Announcements

## Sports & **Recreation**

### **Cotton Row Run rescheduled**

Due to concerns for its runners, volunteers and spectators around the COVID-19 pandemic, the Huntsville Track Club has decided to move the 41st Cotton Row Run to a more suitable date. Working closely with the City of Huntsville and the sponsors, they have set the race day for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7 at Big Spring Park in downtown Huntsville. Even though they must postpone this Memorial Day tradition of honoring our military who have lost their lives in service to our country, they are committed to honoring service members'

**See Announcements on page 36**

# Rocket Announcements

sacrifice and dedicating the race to them on Labor Day. Bill Penney Toyota returns as the presenting sponsor. Other sponsors include Fleet Feet Huntsville, TOC Orthopaedics, Spine & Sports Medicine, and the City of Huntsville. Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/AL/Huntsville/CottonRowRun>. For more information, email Race Director Donna Palumbo at [runcottonrow@gmail.com](mailto:runcottonrow@gmail.com).

## Conferences&Meetings

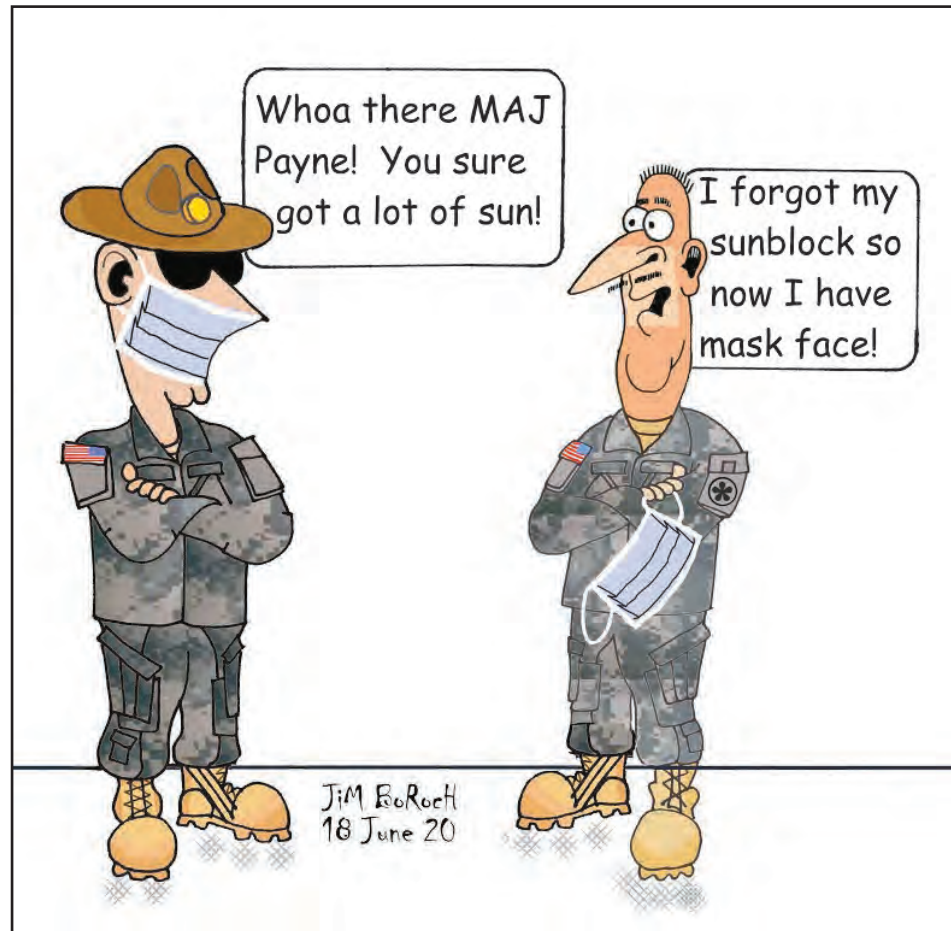
### Marine Corps league

The Brandon-Wilbourn Marine Corps League Detachment 820 has a monthly meeting every second Saturday at noon at the American Legion Post 237, 2900 Drake Ave. Detachment 820 is open to all active, retired and former Marines. The league is a veterans/military service organization formed for promoting the interest of the Marine Corps, to provide camaraderie and assistance to Marines and preserve the traditions of the Marine Corps. For information call commandant Stephen Cecil 829-1839, senior vice commandant Earl Hokanson 881-2852 or adjutant Charlene Antico 778-7093.

### Purple Heart chapter

Military Order of the Purple Heart, George A. Rauh Chapter 2201, meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Post 237 at 2900 Drake Ave. All combat-wounded veterans are invited. For more information, call Leonard Robinson 337-8313.

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# Rocket Announcements

## Lance reunion 2021

The 2021 Lance Missile and MLRS Veterans Homecoming Celebration is tentatively scheduled May 20-22 in Huntsville. The sign-up deadline is October. They will honor their Vietnam veterans at this event. For more information, call retired Sgt. 1st Class John Williams, the organizer, at 210-209-2000 or email [jwilli9014@aol.com](mailto:jwilli9014@aol.com).

## Tennessee Valley Corridor

The Tennessee Valley Corridor has announced new dates for its 2020 National Summit celebrating 25 years of innovation in transforming our region. The summit will now be held July 15-16 at Milligan College in Johnson City, Tennessee.

## Infantry division reunion

In Fox Lake, Illinois, the Second (Indianhead) Division Association is searching for anyone who served in the Army's 2nd Infantry Division at any time. For information about the association and its 99th annual reunion in Kansas City, Missouri, from Sept. 23-27, visit [www.2ida.org/99th-annual-reunion/](http://www.2ida.org/99th-annual-reunion/) or contact Bob Haynes at [2idahq@comcast.net](mailto:2idahq@comcast.net) and (224) 225-1202.

## Small business contracting conference

A small business contracting conference and expo will be held Oct. 21 at the Von Braun Center. This event features key government contracting personnel, senior military leaders and industry professionals, matchmaking, contracting classes, network-

ing for defense companies and trade show. The presenter is Contract Ready, based in Virginia Beach, Virginia; and the co-host is Alabama PTAC (Procurement Technical Assistance Center), from Birmingham. For information email Phil Kiver at [pkiver@contractready.org](mailto:pkiver@contractready.org).

## Miscellaneous Items

### Men's ministry

Men's Ministry addresses the needs of men and plants seeds for spiritual growth in Christ. Call Harry Hobbs at 783-1793 for more information.

### Young citizen of month

Do you know a young citizen in grades 7-12 who has done something special and deserves recognition? Rocket City Broadcasting/Community Awareness for Youth conduct the Young Citizen of the Month award program. Each month's recipient will meet the Huntsville mayor and City Council members, receive a Huntsville Human Relations Commission certificate and other prize packages. Sponsors include Rocket City Broadcasting, Huntsville Utilities, Huntsville Optimist Club, Huntsville Police Department, CAFY and the Florida Institute of Technology Huntsville Site. To nominate a young citizen, visit [mystar991.com](http://mystar991.com) or call Kenny Anderson 883-3993.

### Family advocacy advice

Jeannie Johnston, Army Community Service division chief, recommends the following website for good information about coping during this difficult time: [www.militaryonesource.mil/sp-l-news](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/sp-l-news).

### PS Magazine website

PS Magazine has received many questions lately like, "Where's the monthly magazine I used to read using a mobile app or at the LOGSA website? What happened to the cartoons? Where the heck do I read PS Magazine now?" The answer to each question is that PS Magazine now informs Army readiness using a fully online, mobile-friendly



information portal. Its heritage to present timely and accurate preventive maintenance, supply and safety information directly to Soldiers remains the same, although without cartoons. Check out their new website at [www.psmagazine.army.mil](http://www.psmagazine.army.mil).

### **Thrift Shop closed**

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Thrift Shop is closed until further notice and cannot accept any donations. The management appreciates your understanding during these difficult times.

### **America Salutes tribute**

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper will participate in America Salutes, our nation's first virtual tribute to honor the Class of 2020 high school seniors who plan to enlist into the military immediately after graduation. The one-hour pre-recorded show will be streamed live over social media on July 4, then again on July 16, July 28 and

# RocketAnnouncements

Aug. 9. There will be a live Career Fair for Veterans, immediately preceding the America Salutes broadcast July 28 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit [www.americasalutes.us](http://www.americasalutes.us).

### **Korean War veterans, families**

Local author KC Bertling is writing a book dedicated to the Korean War veterans to tell their stories from 1950-53. If you'd like to have your story to be published in a book titled "Our Forgotten War Heroes – the Korean War Veterans Stories," email [KCBertling@yahoo.com](mailto:KCBertling@yahoo.com) or visit [www.legacy4koreanwarveterans.org](http://www.legacy4koreanwarveterans.org). The deadline to submit your story is Aug. 15 with two photos of the veteran (one from their younger days and one for current days).