

# RedstoneRocket

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## Materiel enterprise puts people first in 2020

By SAMANTHA TYLER

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

In a year shaped by a worldwide pandemic, Army Materiel Command has put people first by contributing to the whole-of-government COVID-19 response, supporting the warfighter and improving quality of life for Soldiers, civilians and families.

Since April, AMC has leveraged the full force of the materiel enterprise in the fight against COVID-19. AMC supported through contracting, communications, storage and movement of Personal Protective Equipment and deployment support for medical units and personnel, among other functions. Organic Industrial Base facilities produced, repaired and repurposed equipment to augment the supply of PPE and other potentially life-saving medical equipment.

AMC Commander Gen. Ed Daly said the AMC workforce adjusted well to operating in the COVID environment, anticipating needs and staying ahead of the learning curve in many areas.

"AMC is making huge readiness impacts for the Army. Our people understand the mission and are getting after it," Daly said during the AMC Commander's Forum.

While supporting COVID-19 efforts, AMC continued its missions supporting the warfighter. AMC supported DEFENDER-Europe

See Enterprise on page 10



Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kelvin Ringold

**Gen. Ed Daly and Command Sgt. Maj. Alberto Delgado, the command team of Army Materiel Command, visit barracks at Fort Hood, Texas, to see quality of life improvements Dec. 2. AMC is responsible for four of the five quality of life priority initiatives set by the chief of staff of the Army: housing, child care, spouse employment and permanent change of station moves.**

## Operation Warp Speed gets boost from materiel enterprise

By RACHEL DELOACH

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

Over the past seven months, the Army Materiel Command enterprise has supported Operation Warp Speed in standing up clinical trial facilities, contracting, transporting supplies and lending personnel and expertise.

Much of the work is being directed by the Operation Warp Speed team led by an Army leader who is very familiar to AMC. Gen. Gus Perna, former commander of AMC, was tapped by President Donald Trump in May to be the chief operating officer of OWS, which is a partnership among components of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, private industry and academia.

Operation Warp Speed's mission is to produce and deliver 300 million doses of safe and effective vaccines as a part of a broader strategy to accelerate the development, manufacturing and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics.

Army Sustainment Command, AMC's face to the field, has played a major role supporting OWS since the early phases of the pandemic by standing up clinical trial facilities.

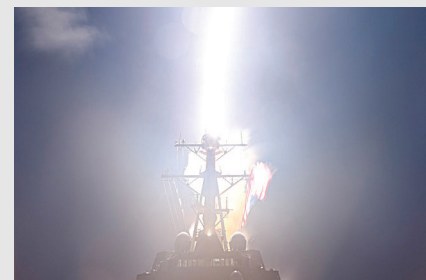
Brian Almonrode, ASC's director of operations for the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, or LOGCAP, said the command rapidly deployed specialized trailers fitted to meet specific requirements instituted by the Department of Health and Human Services.

See Boost on page 11



Photo by Tobyhanna Army Depot Public Affairs

**Tobyhanna Army Depot employees process 200 million syringes and more than 40 million kits for Operation Warp Speed.**



### MILITARY

Year brings progress on missile defense.

PAGE 5

### FEDERAL

NASA selects Solar Cruiser for technology demonstration.

PAGE 27



### COMMUNITY

Educators collaborate virtually in quarterly meeting.

PAGE 29



### SPORTS

Pandemic benches sports year on post.

PAGE 47



## Letter from the Senior Commander



Team Redstone,

The holidays are a time for reconnecting with family and friends, giving thanks for our blessings, and looking forward to the coming year with hopeful anticipation. This holiday is especially significant for me, my wife Hope, and our family because – as you’ve heard me say before – we are home once again. War Eagle!



This holiday is certainly unique, as many of us will be reaching out via Zoom, FaceTime or cell phone to loved ones who are either deployed in support of Army missions, or are unable to travel due to COVID-19 restrictions. Connecting with them brings us great joy, but it can also bring feelings of isolation. So, this year especially, I ask you to look out for one another. Please take time to ensure your colleagues, friends and neighbors are doing okay. We are all in this together.

I also want to encourage you to celebrate the season safely and responsibly. COVID-19 remains a threat, so we must follow established mitigation procedures and observe safety precautions to ensure we don’t compromise our ability to execute our assigned missions.

As I look back upon this past year, I am inspired by your resilience and by what you have been able to accomplish in spite of the coronavirus. I attribute that to your winning spirit and your tenacity. Because of you, Redstone Arsenal is not only surviving; we are thriving!

I believe 2021 offers us hope for a brighter year; but come what may, I am absolutely confident the 44,000 dedicated, hard-working professionals of Team Redstone are unstoppable. Thank you once again for what you do each and every day in support of our great Nation!

From my family to yours, Happy Holidays.

LTG Flem B. “Donnie” Walker, Jr.



## RocketViews

## Child's Santa letter puts holidays into perspective

It's been hard getting into the holiday spirit. I think it's been that way for everyone I've talked to over the last couple of months.

Nobody, with the exception of my overzealous neighbor, wants to put their holiday decorations up. It's not really fun shopping for gifts and nobody is having any holiday parties. Let me rephrase, I'm not going to any holiday parties.

I'm not going to lie, normally I'd be sick of holiday parties by now, but since I haven't been to any, I kind of, almost, miss them.

All of these feelings is probably why I was listening to a Bootsy Collins holiday album the other day when a couple of people snuck up behind me in my cubicle. I mean I don't think I was dancing, but sometimes that funk hits you just right.

The gentleman's name was Daniel Bronsing. He works for Phoenix. The other day Daniel was doing something

## Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson  
Assistant editor

around the house and he found a letter his daughter, Danielle, wrote to Santa when she was 10 years old.

I believe Danielle is 24 now. Here's what she wrote:

Dear Santa,

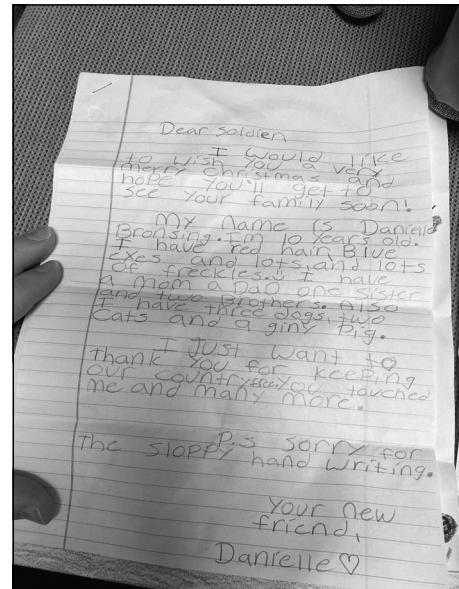
I would like you to give this to a soldier please. I would be ever so grateful.

Then she drew a picture and attached this:

Dear Soldier,

I would to wish you a very merry Christmas and hope you'll get to see your family soon!

My name is Danielle Bronsing. I'm 10 years. I have red hair, blue eyes and lots of freckles. I have a mom, a dad, one sister and two brothers. Also, I have



three dogs, two cats and giny(sic) pig.

I just want to thank you for keeping our country free. You touched me and many more.

p.s.

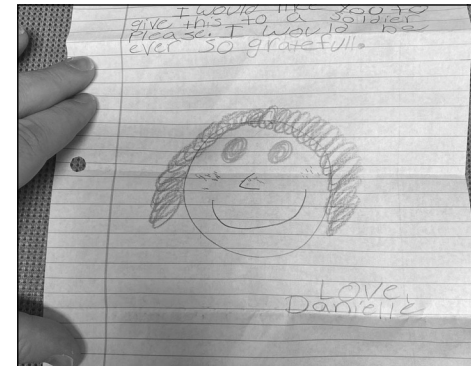
Sorry for the sloppy handwriting.

Your new friend,

Danielle.

Then she attached another picture.

Maybe that needs to be the focus this year. Forget about everything that's going on and just tell someone thank you.



## Quote of the week

“God bless us, every one!”

— A Christmas Carol

## 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).

## Rocket plans holiday break

Dec. 16 brings the Redstone Rocket's final edition of the year before our two-week holiday break.

Jan. 6 is our first edition of 2021. Our staff wishes you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.

## RedstoneRocket

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# First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com



Daniel Brown

## What is your holiday message?

"2020 has been the ultimate test of our strength and character," Daniel Brown, a security guard at the gates, said. "So as we move through the pandemic, it's just important to remember to follow the guidelines and to keep our families safe. We have to make sacrifices in order to keep our families safe. So we all just have to do the best that we can and get through this thing together."

Brown, 28, from Cullman, took this job in June. He served in the Air Force from 2011-17 and left as a staff sergeant. He graduated from Auburn University last December with a bachelor's in psychology. Brown plans to finish his master's in social work in 2023 from the University of Alabama. He and his wife of nine years, Mallory, reside in Cullman. He likes exercising, reading and gardening. Brown roots for the Auburn Tigers.

# Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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## Your favorite Christmas memory.

"When our family was stationed in Germany in the '70s, my dad trying to explain how Santa delivered presents through the window where we lived on the second floor of base housing, and delivering a three-story Barbie House," Deborah Ann McLemore, lead program manager for Army Futures Command matrix to the Aviation and Missile Command, said.

McLemore grew up in an Army family so she assumes the same Athens hometown of her parents, retired Col. Mel and Wanda McLemore. The Huntsville resident has three adult kids, the youngest a freshman in college. Her sister, retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Stormy McLemore Ripley, is safety lead for the Airfield.

She said her hobbies include "thrift store shopping for lost treasures, decorating, outdoor sports like tennis and mountain biking and hiking."

McLemore roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Deborah Ann McLemore

## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents Nov. 29 to Dec. 5:

**Dec. 2:** A Redstone police officer saw a vehicle proceeding on Goss Road at Gate 8 with an expired registration. When the traffic stop was initiated, the National Crime Information Center confirmed the vehicle registration was expired and revealed the driver had a suspended license. The individual was cited for driving while suspended and for expired vehicle registration. The vehicle was removed by a licensed driver.

**Dec. 2:** Redstone police were notified that a Soldier was arrested by the Chattanooga Police Department and charged with driving under the influence. According to the Chattanooga police report, Chattanooga police responded to a traffic accident and identified the Soldier as one of the drivers involved. They noted the Soldier had an odor

of alcoholic beverage and failed the sobriety tests given on scene. The Soldier was taken into custody and transported to the county jail. There the Soldier consented to a breathalyzer test which registered a blood alcohol content level above the legal limit.

**Dec. 4:** The U.S. Army Deserter Information Point notified Redstone police that a Soldier was absent without leave and dropped from rolls. The Soldier was apprehended by the Oxford Police Department to be returned to military control from AWOL status. The Soldier was held at the county jail on hold status until removal by Redstone police to be returned to the unit. Military personnel from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, arrived and took control of the Soldier.

Citations included one for driving while license is suspended or revoked, one for failure to secure equipment, two for fish and wildlife violation, three for expired registration and 20 for speeding.

## On this date in history: Dec. 16

**In 1965:** Gen. William Westmoreland sent U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara a request to send 243,000 more men to Vietnam by the end of 1966.

**In 1960:** A United Airlines Douglas DC-8 and a TWA Lockheed Super Constellation collided over Staten Island, New York, and crashed, killing all 128 people aboard both aircraft and six more on the ground.

**In 1944:** The Battle of the Bulge began with the surprise offensive of three German armies through the Ardennes forest during World War II.

**In 1930:** Bank robber Herman Lamm and members of his crew were killed by a 200-strong posse, following a botched bank robbery, in Clinton, Indiana.

**In 1864:** During the Civil War in the Battle of Nashville, Maj. Gen. George Thomas' Union forces defeated Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood's Confederate Army of Tennessee.

**In 1773:** In the Boston Tea Party, members of the Sons of Liberty disguised as Mohawk Indians dumped hundreds of crates of tea into Boston harbor as a protest against the Tea Act.

## Final Salute

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

### Chuck Yeager

Air Force brigadier general, veteran of World War II, Korean War and Vietnam, died Dec. 7 at age 97. He was the first human to fly faster than the speed of sound. Yeager conducted the famous 1947 flight that proved supersonic flight was possible, a critical step toward the exploration of space.

### Dale Marlin Stevens

The retired lieutenant colonel died Nov. 30. He was 80. Stevens served 20 years in the Army including combat tours in Vietnam and serving as the engineering officer in the 7th Special Forces Group. After his military career, he worked for various local defense companies. Survivors include his wife, Marianne, two children and five grandchildren.

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



# Military

## Year brings progress on nation's missile defense system

By Missile Defense Agency Public Affairs

The Missile Defense Agency capped a year of accomplishments with the successful execution of Flight Test Aegis Weapon System-44 proving a new capability for defense of the homeland.

This successful demonstration closes 2020 as a year with a significant list of achievements in Missile Defense System tests, program developments, construction projects, and operational successes while ensuring the safety of the MDA workforce during an unprecedented pandemic.

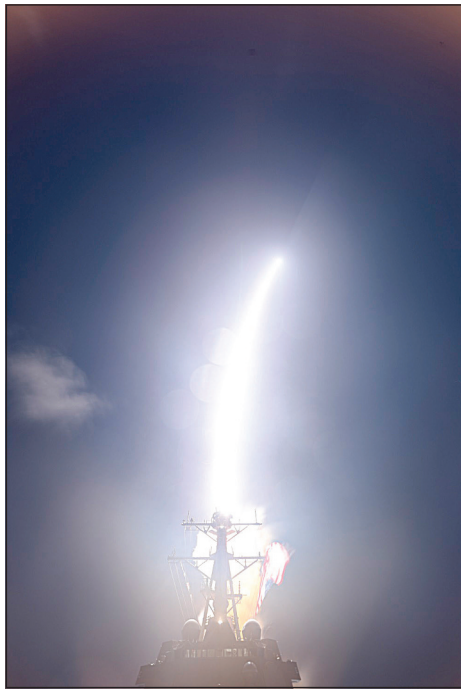
"With each passing day, we are strengthening and improving the nation's missile defense system," Maj. Gen. Philip Garrant, program executive for Ground-based Weapon Systems, said.

Garrant gave an overview of MDA's 2020 achievements in November to the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber.

He praised the agency's 2020 updates to the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system's hardware and software as the most significant in the program's history and noted the MDA has begun seeking proposals for GMD's Next Generation Interceptor. NGI will include a new booster and kill vehicle payload, which will be developed and built as an integrated weapon system. The agency also made progress with the construction of GMD Missile Field 4 in Fort Greely, Alaska, building 13 silos and interface vaults.

Throughout the year, the MDA's Test Directorate safely executed multiple tests of the missile defense system, despite the constraints of COVID-19. Notably, during FTM-44 on Nov. 16, the MDA and the Navy made history by demonstrating a Standard Missile-3 Block IIA interceptor can destroy an intercontinental ballistic missile target.

During this flight test, the USS John Finn (DDG-113), an Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System-equipped destroyer, used engage-on-remote capability



Missile Defense Agency photo

**During FTM-44, the USS John Finn (DDG-113) used C2BMC tracking data to launch an SM-3 Block IIA missile to intercept and destroy a target ICBM.**

ties through the Command and Control Battle Management Communications network to launch an SM-3 Block IIA as part of a defense-of-Hawaii scenario. Using C2BMC tracking data, the interceptor destroyed the target ICBM.

"This was an incredible accomplishment and critical milestone for the Aegis BMD SM-3 Block IIA program," MDA Director Vice Adm. Jon Hill said. "The department is investigating the possibility of augmenting the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system by fielding additional sensors and weapon systems to hedge against unexpected developments in the missile threat. We have demonstrated that an Aegis BMD-equipped vessel equipped with the SM-3 Block IIA missile can defeat an ICBM-class

target, which is a step in the process of determining its feasibility as part of an architecture for layered defense of the homeland."

An earlier test of missile defense capabilities occurred in October with Flight Test Patriot Weapon System-27 when the MDA and the Army tested the Patriot and Terminal High Altitude Area Defense weapon systems at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico. The THAAD Army-Navy/Transportable Radar Surveillance and Control Model 2 detected and tracked a Black Dagger target then provided data to the Patriot weapon system, which determined a launch solution.

The Patriot weapon system intercepted the target with a Patriot Advanced Capability-3 Missile Segment Enhancement interceptor, using data provided by the THAAD radar, demonstrating the two system's interoperability.

The MDA's Sea-based X-band radar was deployed in the Pacific Ocean for nearly a year, its second-longest deployment ever. While deployed, the SBX supported numerous missile defense tests and homeland defense operations. In

operation since 2005, this one-of-a-kind vessel is set to return to sea in January. Effective missile defense relies on dependable radar systems like SBX for operations, testing and data collection.

Internationally, the MDA supported Israel's successful test of the Arrow-2 interceptor in August. Arrow Weapon System Test-18a demonstrated system processes through the live intercept of a medium range ballistic missile target.

The agency's first Aegis Ashore site in Deveselu, Romania, has been operational since 2016 and continues to provide for the defense of U.S. forces and NATO allies in Europe against ballistic missiles launched by rogue nations. Construction continues on a second Aegis Ashore site located on Naval Support Facility Redzikowo in Poland. The facility was commissioned Sept. 3 as the Navy's newest shore installation.

As the agency prepares for 2021, the MDA will continue its mission to develop and deploy a layered missile defense system to defend the United States, its deployed forces, allies and friends from missile attacks in all phases of flight.



Photo by Michelle Miller

## Aviation retiree

John Mull accepts a memento displaying Program Executive Office for Aviation's leader and project officer coins from Brig. Gen. Rob Barrie during a retirement ceremony held in Mull's honor Dec. 9. Mull's 35-year career began in 1985 as an Army intern at Fort Benning, Ga., and after working his way up through numerous organizations, to include seven years with Cargo Helicopters Project Office, he accepted his final position with PEO Aviation headquarters as the director of G-8 Business Management – a position he's held for the past 15 years.

*Throughout the year, the MDA's Test Directorate safely executed multiple tests of the missile defense system, despite the constraints of COVID-19. Notably, during FTM-44 on Nov. 16, the MDA and the Navy made history by demonstrating a Standard Missile-3 Block IIA interceptor can destroy an intercontinental ballistic missile target.*

## Grisham becomes National Guard general officer



Photo courtesy of Alabama National Guard

**Grisham's wife, Carla Grisham, left, and his mother, Judy Grisham, right, affix the new rank insignia to newly promoted Brig. Gen. Terry Grisham's uniform.**



Photo courtesy of Alabama National Guard

**Gov. Kay Ivey promotes Col. Terry Grisham to brigadier general Dec. 3 in Montgomery.**

### **From combined reports**

Gov. Kay Ivey has promoted Col. Terry Grisham to brigadier general in a ceremony Dec. 3 in Montgomery. Grisham, a member of the Alabama National Guard, serves as the Aviation and Missile Command's new G33 Operations Center branch chief.

Ivey gave Grisham high praise as he steps into his new role.

"Anyone can see his career has been marked by excellence and deserves this honor today," she said.

Grisham formerly served as the military

chief of the AMCOM Operations Center. In his National Guard capacity, he now serves as the assistant adjutant general. In February, Grisham will transfer to his new position as the deputy commander of the 167th Theater Sustainment Command, at Fort McClellan.

Grisham said he will work to make sure the Alabama National Guard has all the tools to respond wherever they are needed.

"We are in unprecedented times with COVID, but our mission to be ready is a priority. We must continue to push the limits in training our units. Although challenging, it is doable," he said.



# Enterprise

Continued from page 1

20, an exercise testing the U.S. military's ability to mobilize and deploy forces, sustaining them in a crisis and redeploying them when their mission is complete. Although the exercise was scaled back due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command personnel successfully moved more than 3,000 pieces of equipment through multiple seaports from the U.S. to Europe.

AMC also fielded equipment for the Army Combat Fitness Test, Army's new fitness test of record. Tank-automotive and Armaments Command had overall responsibility of delivering more than 36,000 lanes of new Army Combat Fitness Test equipment to 1 million active-duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers at more than 1,000 Army units around the world.

Despite challenges presented by COVID-19, AMC closed out fiscal year 2020 with more than 156,000 contracting actions valued at more than \$87 billion.

While working on new and ongoing missions, AMC underwent many leadership changes. Gen. Gus Perna, relinquished command to Daly July 2.

"We will continue to deliver logistics support, sustainment and materiel readiness from the Strategic Support Area to the tacti-

cal point of need in a multi-domain environment anywhere in the world," Daly said. "We will continue the irreversible momentum in critically impacting our Army Soldiers and their families, as well as the joint force from fort, depot and arsenal to the foxhole on any battlefield in any region."

Also on July 2, Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker received his third star and became AMC's deputy commander. Weeks later, Command Sgt. Maj. Rodger Mansker passed the colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Alberto Delgado during a change of responsibility ceremony July 23. Mansker was Army Materiel Command's 16th command sergeant major. Installation Management Command, Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command, Joint Munitions Command, Army Sustainment Command, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command and the Security Assistance Command also had leadership changes.

AMC's structure also changed from 11 to 10 major subordinate commands. Army Medical Logistics Command, which is responsible for projecting and sustaining medical materiel capabilities and data, realigned under Communications-Electronics Command, which better enables AMLC to focus on the life cycle management of medical equipment and supplies, and supports Army readiness.

In a year full of changes, AMC consistently worked to improve quality of life for



Army photo by Doug Brewster

**Gen. Ed Daly, the new commander of the Army Materiel Command, unfurls his four-star flag during his promotion ceremony July 2 at Army Materiel Command headquarters.**

Soldiers, civilians, retirees and families. In October, Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy and Daly met with private housing companies, financial investors and institutions, and bond rating agencies to discuss increasing investments in Army privatized housing. As part of the discussions, private housing companies are on track to invest up to an additional \$2.8 billion for Army housing over the next five years. These investments will result in 3,800 new homes and nearly 18,000 renovations of homes at Army installations.

Installation access also improved in 2020.

As of January, the new survivor's access policy allowed qualified survivors to get through gate security more easily and travel on post without an escort to attend events, view memorials and receive services using their survivor's access card, or long-term installation access pass at overseas locations.

For everyone with installation access, the Army provided a new tool for finding information about services, business hours and other resources. In a partnership with the Army & Air Force Exchange Service, the Digital Garrison mobile app was created to securely deliver information and facilitate access to a full range of installation quality-of-life services.

Throughout the year and looking forward, AMC supported the People First priority, through quality of life initiatives and Project Inclusion. Daly empowered leaders to develop action plans to deliver diversity and inclusion programs that encourage leader awareness and commitment, provide education and training, and communicate principles of diversity and inclusion among the workforce.

"Our primary responsibility as Army leaders is to take care of our Soldiers, civilians and families," Daly said. "I fully support Project Inclusion and I strongly believe that our Army only benefits from having a wide range of backgrounds, talents and perspectives all working together to accomplish our common mission."

# Boost

Continued from page 1

To do this, ASC assembled a variety of expertise consisting of seven employees at the headquarters, three in the field and 14 members of the LOGCAP Support Brigade.

"We leveraged ASC's global military logistics expertise to rapidly deploy trailers and accommodate the size and scope of vaccine trials," Almonrode said.

Perna praised the LOGCAP program during the early months of the pandemic as the mission took shape.

The LOGCAP trailers are currently being used by AstraZeneca, Janssen, Moderna and Sanofi Pasteur as they continue to conduct Phase 3 clinical trials.

ASC worked with Army Contracting Command on the LOGCAP contracts and the Corps of Engineers in assuring trailers were in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In addition to managing the LOGCAP contract, ACC also managed thousands of contracts contributing to the COVID-19 fight.

In seven months, the OWS partnership accelerated the development and manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

Perna and the OWS team will initiate vaccine distribution within 24 hours of emergency use authorization granted by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

OWS has 636 locations locked in for the initial vaccine delivery, following microplans submitted by all 64 jurisdictions and five federal entities.

Perna said he initiated the distribution of ancillary kits including syringes, needles and alcohol wipes so the jurisdictions will have what they need to administer the vaccine. To do this, OWS representatives contacted Tobyhanna Army Depot for support.

Within days, an experienced group of employee volunteers arrived at a distribution center in Maryland to streamline current warehousing and palletization efforts as well as process 200 million syringes and more than 40 million kits.

Marion Whicker, deputy chief of supply, production and distribution for OWS praised Tobyhanna Army Depot employees for their support.

Whicker, whose permanent role is Executive Director of Integrated Logistics Support Center at Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, was selected for the temporary position with OWS based on her 30-plus years of defense and logistics expertise.

"We can't thank Tobyhanna enough for standing up and supporting this critical mission," Whicker said.

"The scale of OWS is unbelievable," Damian Edwards, the Tobyhanna Army Depot logistics management specialist supporting the mission, said.

"Overall, it feels good to know that we're doing our part. Our work is helping implement the framework for a successful vaccine rollout when the time comes," he said.

Army Medical Materiel Agency, a direct reporting

unit to Army Medical Logistics Command, is working in collaboration with the Defense Health Agency's Immunization Health Care Division in collecting COVID-19 vaccine orders from all service branches and submitting them to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In preparation for the delivery of supplies, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command is linking up interested truck providers with OWS's distribution contractor to help ensure enough capacity is available to support effective and efficient distribution. Once delivered, USAMMA will track vaccine shipments from the vendor to military treatment facilities where it will be used to immunize troops as well as military beneficiaries in accordance to the DOD plan and priorities.

As the vaccine rollout process begins, Perna encouraged Americans to educate themselves about the vaccines and the approval process.

"Don't allow one headline to determine what you're going to do," Perna said. "I encourage everybody, as individuals, to inform themselves and then make the decision that is best for you and your family."

From contracting to transportation and personnel and logistical expertise, the materiel enterprise stands ready to support DOD, OWS and civil authorities as part of the whole-of-government response to COVID-19.





# Sustainment detachment has small footprint, big impact

**By Army Sustainment Command, Redstone Arsenal Detachment**

This marked the first full year for the Army Sustainment Command's Redstone Arsenal Detachment as a distinct Redstone organization.

It is comprised of six missions previously assigned to the Logistics Support Activity (now Logistics Data Analysis Center). These missions include: the Army Oil Analysis Program, the Stockage Determination Branch, the Materiel Readiness Training Division, Army Airlift Clearance Authority, PS Magazine, and the Production Support Branch. Although small in size and budget, these missions provide high-impact results to the materiel enterprise and significantly contribute to individual, unit and fleet readiness across the Army.

First, a review of each branch/division's mission is helpful. The Army Oil Analysis Program increases combat readiness and decreases life-cycle sustainment costs across the Army by monitoring and assessing the condition of critical weapon systems. The Stockage Determination Branch provides Authorized Stockage List reviews and analyses of ASLs for Army organizations, as the sole authoritative source. The Materiel Readiness Training Division supports logisticians

around the world by providing instructor-led training on Army automated logistics tools that enable materiel readiness. The Army Airlift Clearance Authority implements Army movement policy, while mitigating the risk to the Second Destination Transportation Fund. PS Magazine is the Army's premier readiness information resource and provides Soldiers and units the information they need to maintain their vehicles and equipment to the highest possible standards. The Production Support Branch sustains and supports Department of Defense Activity Address Codes/Unit Identification Codes for Army logistics readiness by ensuring the existence and effectiveness of the Army force element structures in its enterprise systems.

**Army Oil Analysis Program:** In 2020, it continued to operate regionally-aligned laboratories worldwide. It consolidated its continental U.S. regional laboratories in order to optimize operations under existing Army Field Support Brigade footprints, closing laboratories at Fort Bliss, Fort Campbell, Fort Carson, and Fort Rucker, and realigning workloads to Fort Bragg, Fort Hood, and Joint Base Lewis-McCord. Operations continued at three overseas laboratories at Camp Arifjan, Camp Humphreys, and Kaiserslautern Army Depot, and at three depots located at Anniston, Corpus Christi,



Courtesy photo

**Members of the Army Sustainment Command's Redstone Arsenal Detachment had a productive year.**

and Red River. It also relocated its mobile laboratory from Taji, Iraq to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The AOAP laboratories analyzed 103,295 samples from aeronautical and non-aeronautical weapon systems and issued a corresponding 18,462 actionable maintenance and service recommendations. Finally, it seamlessly migrated its Unit Monitor Training from DVD delivery to the Army Learning Management System.

**Stockage Determination Branch:** This past year, the SDB performed a myriad of ASL-related actions, to include: reviewing over 250 ASLs worldwide, developing and implementing three regional Umbrella ASLs; implementing Combat Aviation Brigade common ASLs; revalidating common ASLs for all Brigade Combat Teams; transferring multiple deployed ASLs back to continental U.S.; and developing and implementing multiple augmentation packages to support operations around the world.

**Materiel Readiness Training Division:** Before COVID-19, the MRTD provided on-site, over-the-shoulder, face-to-face training. When the pandemic hit and placed restrictions on travel, it quickly adjusted to virtual, web-based training. Through the utilization of the Defense Collaboration Services and Microsoft Teams, MTRD has been able to

continue to provide tailored training to the field, training in excess of 600 students in 2020.

**Army Airlift Clearance Authority:** Over the past year, the AACA challenged 25,230 shipments and diverted 17,249 (9,906 short tons of cargo) to surface transportation, approximately equivalent to the capacity of 129 C-5 or 216 C-17 aircraft missions. It should be noted that each C-5 and C-17 airlift mission to Afghanistan costs approximately \$757,000 and \$454,000 respectively. Diverting lower-priority cargo to surface transportation resulted in a cost avoidance of \$36.3 million. These savings positively impact the entire supply chain by reducing airframe usage and future infrastructure investments.

**PS Magazine:** In late 2019, PS Magazine ceased publication of its monthly, 64-page, cartoon-illustrated magazine and launched PS Magazine online. In 2020, the magazine published over 500 articles, initiated a recognition program designed to spotlight Soldiers and Marines who go above and beyond in caring for their and their units' vehicles and equipment, and began a series of leader interviews that provided insights on improving readiness across the force. PS Magazine's website ([www.psmagazine.army.mil](http://www.psmagazine.army.mil)) averaged 1,200 visitors a day and garnered more than a million page views.

**Production Support Branch:** The PSB sustained and improved Army logistics readiness by ensuring that over 77,000 Army and Army contractor DoDAACs and routing identifier codes, across all components, were properly aligned in enterprise systems for materiel requisitioning, property accountability, and maintenance. The PSB also processed over 604,491 intermediate document errors in Global Combat Support System-Army, resulting from anomalies and data inconsistencies, to ensure units were getting timely status of their requisitions and their advance shipment notices for timely and proper post goods receipts processing. In addition, the PSB undertook many other tasks and missions to support Army Materiel Command and warfighter priorities.

# Strategic command reflects on year of accomplishments

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command  
Public Affairs

Despite the many challenges created by 2020's coronavirus pandemic including learning new ways to operate and accomplish the mission, the Space and Missile Defense Command remained focused on providing space, missile defense and high altitude capabilities that enable multi-domain operations so combatant commanders can effectively maneuver and win.

"It has been a tremendous honor and a privilege to be able to serve as the commander especially at a time where missile defense and Army space are as relevant as I've ever seen them," Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, SMDC commander, said. "Combine that with the COVID environment that we have been operating under for the last nine months, it has given me an opportunity to see how well we do as an organization and how well we pull together as a team when the circumstances are tough and the environment is changing. It really emphasizes to me that we are a well-trained organization, and we really embrace the ability to be flexible, adaptable and agile to our circumstances."

Karbler said the command took extra precautions to be able to maintain readiness while protecting the health and safety of Army personnel and their families and the civilian workforce.

"I am glad to say that COVID really didn't affect our readiness," he said. "We knew we had to stay ready 24/7. We do the most critical strategic missions within the Department of Defense, whether that's missile warning or to be able to respond to an intercontinental ballistic missile attack from our adversaries. We can't afford to take a day off, or take a week off, or take a month off, or allow COVID to impact our readiness."

One of the command's 2020 highlights was a flag unfurling ceremony to solidify its Army Service Component Command relationship with U.S. Space Command. This formalizes the supporting role SMDC had already been serving and underscores that space is now a contested warfighting domain.

"The Army's space forces that we provide to Space Command, whether it's from the Satellite Operations Brigade to 1st Space Brigade – we are the owner of those Army forces, and my duty is to make sure they're trained and ready for warfighting operations to support U.S. Space Command. We move, shoot and communicate based on space-enabled capabilities," Karbler said during the ceremony. "Today we formalized our relationship by unfurling our colors and recognizing the Army's



Photo by Dottie White

**Gen. James Dickinson, U.S. Space Command commander, left, and Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, Space and Missile Defense Command commander, unfurl SMD's colors to officially recognize the command as the Army Service Component Command to USSPACECOM during a ceremony at Schriever Air Force Base, Colo., Aug. 21.**

contributions to U.S. Space Command."

Karbler said SMDC will support USSPACECOM's warfighting mindset.

"I will provide today, and in the future, trained and ready Army space forces," he said. "Tied closely to warfighting culture is warfighting readiness. My commitment to you is to make sure our operational brigades and the developmental work we do is at the forefront of that warfighting readiness. Winning matters. But I will tell you that in space, winning first really matters."

SMDC had many significant successes in 2020, even in the midst of uncertainties:

- Joint Tactical Ground Stations provided early warning for American Soldiers and international partners during an Iranian theater ballistic missile attack on U.S. and allied forces in Iraq in January.

- The Technical Center broke ground in March for a 5,800-square-foot Technology Complex facility on Redstone Arsenal that will enable the Army to stay on the forefront of technology.

- Army Astronaut Col. Andrew Morgan departed the International Space Station to return to earth April 17 following his 272-day mission in space.

- Army Satellite Operations Brigade provided satellite communication to Navy hospital ships during the COVID-19 outbreak.

- Regional Satellite Communications Support Center-West processed the first U.S. Space Command satellite access request for UHF SATCOM and supported a mission launching NASA astronauts on

a Falcon 9 SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft.

- The Space and Missile Defense School earned the Training and Doctrine Command's fully accredited status.

- The Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site participated in joint Department of Defense missions including an ICBM Glory Trip, a hypersonic vehicle test, missile defense tests and others.

"It's been a great year with a lot of great accomplishments," Karbler said.

In the coming year, SMDC will continue as the integration nexus where U.S. Strategic Command, U.S. Northern Command and USSPACECOM meet to accomplish the command's critical strategic missions.

The Technical Center's research and development of leap-ahead technologies is positioned to meet and defeat tomorrow's challenges, exploring ways to ensure that Soldiers have unprecedented access to space and space-enabled capabilities.

The Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence is meeting the growing need to provide trained and ready space and missile defense Soldiers for the Army through the Space and Missile Defense School.

The command's SMDC Underserved Community Cybersecurity and Engineer-

ing Education Development, or SUCCEED, program will engage with students in Alabama, offering development opportunities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics careers fields.

"I wish I had a good crystal ball because no one told me that a month into my command we were going to be responding to Iranian missile attacks into Iraq, or we were going to be dealing with a COVID-environment that was going to totally turn things on their head with respect to readiness and training and teleworking and you name it," Karbler said. "What I do know for the next year is that the talented team we have at SMDC will continue to respond to the call, and they will continue to respond to the needs of the nation to provide Army space capabilities as well as provide missile defense."

Karbler said that in 2021 and beyond, the Soldiers, civilians and family members will drive the success of the command.

"When I took command I talked about trying to avoid using the terms workforce and employee, and instead I tell them they are part of the SMDC family," he said. "I want to make sure when they come to work every day they are recognized and they understand they are appreciated and valued as members of the team."



# AMCOM reflects on accomplishing mission, despite challenges

By Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

This has been a year like many have never seen and the likes of one we hope to never see again. It'll be remembered as the year COVID-19, face coverings, social distancing, videoconferencing and teleworking became the norm while frequent traveling and in-person events seemed a thing of the past.

As the Aviation and Missile Command readies for 2021, it looks back on a small fraction of the milestones and accomplishments achieved in 2020.

The Aviation and Missile Command bid farewell to one deputy commander and welcomed another when Don Nitti assumed the role in March after Bill Marriott's retirement in January after 44 years of federal service. Nitti was formerly the executive director of AMCOM Logistics Center.

After five years, Myra Gray left her role as the executive director for the Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity to assume duties as the acting executive director and later deputy commander for the Security Assistance Command. Richard Parker was appointed as the new director of USATA.

Col. Stephen Owen assumed command of the Aviation Center Logistics Command from Col. Rich Martin, June 23 at Fort Rucker in a virtual ceremony. At the same ceremony, Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Burney assumed responsibility as ACLC's command sergeant major when Sgt. Maj. Jerry Cowart retired after more than 30 years in uniform.

Martin then made the move to be the AMCOM chief of staff upon the July departure of Col. Richard Zampelli, the previous AMCOM chief of staff.

Rick Story became the acting director of AMCOM Security Assistance Management Directorate when Brian Wood was selected to be the ALC director in August.

The Letterkenny Army Depot hosted a retirement ceremony on Nov. 19 in honor of Sgt. Maj. Richard Huff, former Letterkenny command sergeant major, marking 32 years of service. Letterkenny welcomed Sgt. Maj. Scott Haymaker into the role.

Col. Joseph Parker assumed command of the Corpus Christi Army Depot from Col. Gail Atkins, May 29 in a virtual ceremony. Corpus Christi also said goodbye to Sgt. Maj. Patricia Wahl at a relinquishment-of-command ceremony Dec. 2. The position will be filled in January.

The Letterkenny Army Depot workforce received recognition for producing 828 Mine Resistance Ambush Protected RG-31 vehicles at a one-truck-per-day rate. Initial planning efforts for the RG-31 program began in 2012 and the depot completed 10 pilot vehicles in 2013. Upgrades to those trucks included increased horsepower, transmission series and the addition of independent suspension. The latest configuration also included the addition of 360-degree spotlights for night visibility, an armored gunner's hatch, crew ballistic foot-



Army photo

**A UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter is prepared for shipment at Corpus Christi Army Depot for an 800-mile journey to Wichita State University where researchers at the National Institute of Aviation Research will create a virtual model of the work horse of Army aviation.**

rests, gunner-protection kits and a robot deployment system for mine detection.

The AMCOM antiterrorism team earned top large-unit honors at the 2020 Army Worldwide Antiterrorism training seminar in Orlando, Florida, Feb. 24-28. The team provides assistance to more than 25 AMCOM directorates and units at Redstone Arsenal; Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas; Letterkenny Army Depot, Pennsylvania; and the Aviation Command Logistics Center, Fort Rucker.

Spc. Jariel Fuentes, a military police officer based at Letterkenny, was the first runner-up in the Army Materiel Command Best Warrior competition July 9-10. Staff Sgt. Michael Kelly, ACLC CH-47 helicopter repairer; Sgt. Cody Cohen, Letterkenny military police officer; and Cpl. Jackie Hernandez, military police officer at Corpus Christi, all represented AMCOM in the contest.

Two Aviation and Missile Command employees received the 2020 Association of the U.S. Army Civilian of the Year Award during a Facebook Live town hall Sept. 24. Don Nitti, AMCOM deputy commander, and Elizabeth Raymond, AMCOM military human resources specialist, both came out on top for the Huntsville Chapter. Nitti also won at the third region level.

Marsha Bailey, director of the AMCOM Logistics Center Utility Directorate, was the nominee in the technical/technical management division and Scott Howison, AMCOM physical scientist, for the professional/technical award.

Of 364 eligible attorneys in the AMC footprint, Andy Hughes was selected from the seven nominated to vie for the command's highest award for lawyers. Hughes, who has been with AMCOM since 2008, was named this the 2020 Joyce I. Allen Attorney of the Year in October.

Two of the three AMCOM 101 forums hosted in 2020 were among the last major

in-person gatherings before travel restrictions were enacted because of COVID-19. AMCOM hosted an AMCOM 101 for Aviation and an AMCOM 101 for Missiles in February and March, respectively. For the first time, a second AMCOM 101 for Aviation – conducted entirely virtually – convened in November to accommodate those who missed the first one due to deployments.

These forums focus on increasing awareness of the available resources from AMCOM and the Army Materiel Command and featured speakers from AMCOM, Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Program Executive Office for Aviation and Future Vertical Lift Cross Functional Team.

AMCOM hosted Team Redstone's 2020 Center of Excellence Advance Planning Briefings to Industry March 2-4, themed, "Innovating to increase supply availability and reduce the warfighter maintenance burden."

"This event is all about making sure that we [federal agencies] can provide you [industry partners] with the details on our future plans and programs," AMCOM Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar said. "We need to give you enough information so you can plan accordingly and ask the right questions to set your companies up for success. When you are successful, we (the government) get better products and services to support our nation's warfighters."

AMCOM hosted its first former leader forum through Microsoft Teams Nov. 6. The update covered progress on the three lines of effort in the fiscal 2020-21 AMCOM Campaign Plan – human capital, sustainable and materiel readiness and future force – which are nested with the Army Materiel Command's lines of effort.

In response to the pandemic and in an effort to stop the spread of the virus that has wrought havoc on the world, Letterkenny's upholstery shop was authorized to begin production of face coverings for every employee on the depot. The initial production was made from a stockpile of unused t-shirts. From the available 1,200 shirts, employees could produce four masks per shirt at a rate of ten masks per minute, according to Jerod Weilacher, director of Letterkenny's Directorate of Supply and Transportation. Within two days, depot upholsterers cut 4,800 face coverings which provide employees and tenants on the installation two coverings each.

After a local health system learned of Letterkenny's upholstery shop's efforts, it asked for assistance in creating 70,000 isolation gowns for a healthcare organization. "As a result of our capabilities, we can adjust to changing requirements, and this is what we have done," Letterkenny's Manufacturing and Fabrication Division Chief George Coble said. "We can support the warfighter while pivoting to support the healthcare industry during this state of pandemic."

Within 48 hours of the secretary of defense's memorandum directing the use of

personal face coverings, AMCOM's Aviation Center Logistics Command's contractors tailored operations to mass-produce personal facemasks for the nearly 4,000 ACLC employees and M1 Support Services contractors, as well as the larger Fort Rucker population. This initiative grew from producing 350 masks per day to full-scale operations producing 800 masks per day.

The Army's first Modernized Flexible Engine Diagnostic System came to Fort Rucker, Alabama, under AMCOM's Aviation Center Logistics Command. MFEDS is a test cell that assesses the flight readiness of engines after repair and before they are reinstalled on an aircraft. The system is capable of testing the T-700 series engines used on UH-60 Black Hawks and AH-64 Apaches and the T-55 engines mounted on the CH-47 Chinooks.

Through partnerships with the Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center, the Department of Defense Strategic Capabilities Office, Wichita State University and researchers at the National Institute of Aviation Research, AMCOM commissioned a virtual model of a UH-60L Black Hawk. Researchers will completely disassemble one of the airframes from Corpus Christi and capture a 3-D scan of each structural part, creating a virtual model – or digital twin – of the workhorse of Army aviation.

"This opens a new door to aviation maintenance and sustainment," Royar said.

AMCOM published a policy memorandum addressing advanced manufacturing for Army aircraft parts, components and support products.

"In May of 2020 ... we published the AMCOM policy that's Army-wide, as far as Army aviation airworthiness policy relating to additive manufacturing," said Kirk Keepers, AMCOM G-3, adding that the CCDC Aviation & Missile Center was extremely helpful in the initiative. "And what that does is give specific guidance to units."

When Army Regulation 750-1, Army Materiel Maintenance Policy, is next released, AMCOM's input about structural components and critical safety items will be included and referred to as tier-5 items. "The tier-5 items are just AMCOM items that have the airworthiness authority of AMCOM (and) will be addressed in the [regulations]," Keepers said. "I think that's a big win for us."

ALC Executive Director Brian Wood touched on the improvement of strategic depth, the quantity of on-hand stock of materiel covering at least three months of demand, during the former leader forum.

Wood said monthly engagements with original equipment manufacturers helped shorten lead times and increase product delivery. He highlighted the first-pass supply availability of 91% achieved by the aviation team and its industry counterparts in September –

See AMCOM on page 22

# AMCOM

Continued from page **18**

the highest seen in more than six years.

USATA's new director touted the successes of his organization and the major changes undertaken. USATA has approximately 600 employees spread across about 40 different locations. Because the operational pace has not slowed, most of USATA's workforce – about 95% – cannot telework since they work at support sites for the operational Army.

Over the next five years, AMCOM's Security Assistance Management Directorate expects to delivery of 168 AH-64 Apaches, 67 UH-60 Black Hawks, 34 CH-47 Chinooks, 74 rocket systems and over a dozen guided missile systems around the world.

In addition Royar is setting the readiness bar higher for both missiles and aviation.

"The focus by commanders at all levels in the field on aviation readiness ... has continued and increased, and to great end," AMCOM Aviation Branch Maintenance Officer Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mike Cavaco said.

Though units' operations tempo slowed down at the beginning of the pandemic, Cavaco said those units have since begun flying again and come up with ways to work within pandemic restrictions.

Cavaco said getting aviation to the desired

85% mission capable is a lofty goal that will take a lot of effort and will take some time. Army Regulation 700-138, Army Logistics Readiness and Sustainability, has a goal of 10% not mission capable supply rate. "(Maj.) Gen. Royar took it upon himself to drive that down to 5% ... just to hold ourselves to a higher level. We've been there for the most part," he said. "But now we've codified that as our goal and our commitment to the field to keep that (Non-Mission Capable Supply) rate under 5%."

AMCOM Missile Maintenance Officer Chief Warrant Officer 4 Araceli Rial said obsolescence and transportation issues caused challenges with some of the missile systems and have also impacted readiness rates. "It'll continue to be a challenge, but the team is really working hard to try to get ahead and get creative on how to solve some of these issues," Rial said.

"The command is very aggressive in ensuring that we're talking about the right parts for the right reason at the right time ... to posture ourselves in a better manner to ensure that we have these critical parts for the units," Rial said.

Despite the pandemic that has plagued 2020 and challenges wrought from it, AMCOM has risen to the occasion to adapt and overcome. The command is ready to take on whatever 2021 has in store.

# Challenging year tested Redstone Test Center

By Redstone Test Center Public Affairs

The year 2020 will likely be remembered as the Year of the Pandemic. Life for many Americans, including many of at the Redstone Test Center, changed drastically both at work and at home due to COVID-19.

Masks, hand sanitizer and telework became routine as our workforce moved to safely and effectively adjust to the pandemic. The employees of Redstone Test Center executed these precautions while making 2020 one of RTC's busiest and most productive years yet with more than a million direct labor hours conducting test and evaluation in support of our warfighters.

In support of the Future Vertical Lift Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft program, RTC experimental test pilots conducted flights of the Bell V-280 Valor in August. The flights are part of the Test and Evaluation Command preparations for the FLRAA test effort, a key element of Army modernization.

Similar flights are scheduled in the future for the Sikorsky-Boeing SB>1 Defiant.

In 2020, Test and Evaluation Command and RTC started integrating with Sikorsky for the planned RAIDER X Combined Test Team. RTC's Army civilian experimental test pilot Charlie Packard, became the first Army aviator to fly the similar Sikorsky-built aircraft known as the S-97 Raider. RAIDER X will be the Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft concept from the Sikorsky Aircraft division of Lockheed Martin.

A government flight test evaluation of both the Sikorsky RAIDER X and the Bell 360 Invictus is expected by fall 2023.

While the pandemic brought most in person events to a halt, earlier in the year many RTC teammates did receive honors in person, while others were later honored virtually.

In February, RTC flight test engineer Kayla Freeman was honored as the 2019 Veteran of the Year by the Association of the U.S. Army at an awards ceremony in Tuscaloosa. Freeman became the first black female pilot in the 200-year history of the Alabama National Guard. First Lt. Freeman received the honor on Feb. 26 at the Women's Leadership Luncheon held in Tuscaloosa by the West/Central Alabama Chapter of the AUSA.

This is only the second time the honor has been given, and Freeman is in good company, with the first going to Maj. Gen. Sheryl Gordon, the adjutant general of the Alabama National Guard, the first female to hold that position. Gordon was also on hand at the luncheon.

In 2020, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Zealand Shouse was honored for his skills as a highly-trained experimental test pilot. Shouse is



Photo courtesy of Bell Aircraft Corporation

**Experimental test pilot Maj. Wesley Paulsen and Bell Aircraft pilot Paul Ryan approach the Bell V-280 Valor at the Bell Flight Research Center in Arlington, Texas, in preparation for flights of the aircraft.**

the 2019 National Defense Industrial Association Army Military Tester of the Year.

In 2019, Shouse served as the test director or project pilot for several complex flight test programs including the live weapons vibration trial for the AH-64E; assessment of a new modem for AH-64D and AH-64E Tactical Engagement Simulation Systems; qualification of weapons firing on foreign UH-60A aircraft; and the AH-64E Area Weapon System Accuracy Improvement.

Shouse also thrived in the stressful environment of testing for the High Energy Laser (HEL) program. During the HEL program, he conducted a number of flights in the AH-64E, UH-60M, and MH-60M to facilitate aircraft flight envelope development. Shouse assisted the HEL manufacturer in the development of critical pilot vehicle interfaces (including user symbology), and the subsequent cockpit integration into the AH-64E and MH-60M aircraft.

In the background of preparing the system for flight, Shouse led the test team in developed of HEL indoor laser safety measures for RTC and Yuma Proving Ground test facilities, and developed air to ground safety fan analysis methodology applicable to any range being utilized for HEL testing in the future.

Shouse was instrumental not only in establishing the conditions for flight, but also in executing in-flight HEL engagements and a sensor assessment of specific HEL equipment that will provide Program Executive Office for Aviation vital data to compare against existing systems.

RTC's explosives safety manager Mike McKinney was named the ATEC Civilian Mission Support Employee of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2020.

McKinney served as RTC's explosives safety manager within the organization's

Center Support Directorate. He was responsible for administering all regulatory explosives safety management functions across the center which is comprised of five open air ranges, and more than 180 buildings with explosive site licenses.

Maj. Simon Beattie, an experimental test pilot from the United Kingdom serving at RTC as part of the Military Personnel Exchange Program, was the 2020 Robert N. Turk Award recipient.

The Robert N. Turk Award is presented to the individual within the RTC Aviation Flight Test Directorate who has made the most significant contribution to Army engineering flight testing during the last year. It is awarded in memory of Robert N. Turk who died on May 26, 1964, near Delano, California, during a test flight in a Hiller LOH-5.

Beattie provided exemplary service to RTC and the entire Army aviation acquisition community while serving as the test director and senior XP for the AH-64E 30mm Gun Accuracy Improvement Test Program.

In February, RTC held what would be the final in person Town Hall meeting for teammates. Many awards were handed out and employees honored, including Lynn Hanks. Hanks was honored for 50 years of combined service as a Soldier and Army civilian.

Hanks retired from Army active duty in 1993 as a lieutenant colonel. While on active duty, he served in numerous leadership and senior staff positions primarily in the experimental test pilot, research and development, and acquisition arenas. Military assignments included a year in Vietnam, three years as a flight test engineer at Edwards Air Force Base, two years in Saudi Arabia, five years as a test pilot at Edwards, two years with the Defense Intelligence Agency, two years on the V-22 Multi-Service test team, and he commanded the Airworthiness Qualification Test Directorate at Edwards for three years.

As COVID-19 numbers began to rise across America in early 2020, and prior to the state mask mandate, RTC teammates rallied together to obtain homemade masks for teammates working on site. Spouses generated dozens of cloth masks, the RTC Aviation Flight Test Directorate's Aviation Life Support Equipment team created several dozen from equipment on hand, using hair ties for the elastic and helmet visor packing for the mask material. A local quilting group even donated dozens of masks for RTC teammates working onsite supporting the mission.

Members of several of RTC's divisions made face coverings and also printed a few using 3D printers. Spouses and family members also contributed to the mask-

making efforts. A local quilting club donated dozens to the divisions as well.

Like most organizations, RTC had to shift many events and meetings online. In the fall, RTC began participating in several virtual job fairs held with universities across the country in an effort to recruit newly graduated engineers.

The RTC human resources team, along with engineers from RTC test directorates, conducted interviews with students virtually from several universities, extended job offers to the new engineers. More virtual job fairs are planned.

Job fairs weren't the only events that went virtual in 2020, and an RTC teammate participated early on in a virtual swearing in ceremony for a family member joining the Navy.

Robert Dulin, a retired Navy commander, is working as a contractor for the Redstone Test Center. In 2002, then-Lt. Dulin visited his 6-year-old cousin Nick Sandercock's class in Michigan.

Eighteen years later, Dulin was to commission his cousin in person. However, travel restrictions and social distancing due to COVID-19 forced the ceremony to be held via Zoom instead. Despite the last-minute change, the ceremony marked the continuation of a family tradition of military service.

During the summer, RTC hosted 23 Army civilian interns. All students were engineers and came from a variety of colleges such as Texas A&M University, University of South Carolina; and many in-state campuses from the University of Alabama and Auburn University.

At RTC, interns get hands-on experience every summer. This summer that experience also included real-life COVID-19 mitigation procedures to keep on-site employees safe while executing RTC's mission of providing test and evaluation services to the warfighter.

Over a muggy three days in late August, the Redstone Test Center worked in collaboration with the 1103rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Alabama National Guard and the Defense Logistics Agency to successfully divest of more than a million dollars' worth of old property.

Operation Clean Sweep, as the mission was named, began in June when RTC Logistics Division Chief Rontario Hicks coordinated support from the 1103rd CSSB and DLA to remove the items from RTC. Through Operation Clean Sweep, RTC divested of property that has been accumulating over the past 12 years from remnants of testing.

Despite the challenges faced by COVID-19, RTC teammates rallied together and continued to support the warfighter with our critical mission.



# Security enterprise meets unprecedented challenges

By ADRIANE ELLIOT

Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

This year brought unprecedented challenges, changes and achievement for the Security Assistance Command,

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, USASAC continued to execute one of the nation's key foreign policy tools—security assistance and foreign military sales – to the tune of a \$13 billion.

In addition to case growth, there was a complete overhaul in leadership as the command marked 55 years of service to the nation:

Brig. Gen. Douglas Lowrey took command of USASAC in August. He replaced Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Drushal, who left Redstone Arsenal for U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base in Florida. Lowrey's last assignment was with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, where he served as the director of contracting. Lowrey has the distinction of being the only Native American general officer on active duty in the Army.

Command Sgt. Maj. Sean Rice replaced Command Sgt. Maj. Gene Canada, who retired to the North Alabama area.

Col. Nicole Heumphreus, USASAC's former director of regional operations, EUCOM and AFRICOM, replaced Col. Curt Stewart as chief of staff. Stewart retired to the local area and currently attends nursing school at University of Alabama in Huntsville.

USASAC Deputy to the Commanding General Myra Gray replaced longtime deputy and retired Air Force Col. Robert Moore. Moore spent a decade at USASAC and in Madison County before retiring to the local area in April with 46 years of federal service.

Also joining the USASAC team during 2020 were Col. Allan Dollison, heading the Ministry of Interior-Military Assistance Group in the Saudi capital Riyadh; and Col. John White, heading the Office of the

Program Manager-Saudi Arabian National Guard, also in Riyadh.

Like many organizations throughout the Department of Defense, USASAC transitioned its workforce to an ongoing maximum telework model and instituted a mandatory mask-wear in all common areas.

While USASAC's IT Department ensured teleworking employees could gather online for office meetings via Microsoft Teams, its Public Affairs team ensured family, friends and colleagues could virtually participate in unit ceremonies by hosting them on Facebook Live.

With the Jan. 1 launch of the DOD Security Cooperation Workforce Certification Program, USASAC employees began required training aimed at professionalizing the security cooperation workforce globally. The command also focused substantial effort on the development of student trainees and the establishment of an official intern program throughout the year.

2020 highlights from USASAC's Regional Operations Directorates include the following:

- CENTCOM, with \$4.6 billion in new business and more than 2,100 active cases totaling \$135 billion. There are 20 countries in CENTCOM. Emphasis on building capacity and supporting COCOM engagement strategies further strengthened regional partnerships across the Middle East. Among its priorities during the fiscal year was United Arab Emirates' nearly \$3.5 billion Patriot case.

- AFRICOM, with \$1.8 billion in new business, ramping up active cases to 800 for a total program value of \$5 billion. There are 40 countries in AFRICOM, whose primary tools for implementing U.S. strategy are posture, presence, programs, exercises, engagements and operations. Priority cases in fiscal 2020 included Kenya MD-530F Helicopters, Morocco M1A1 Tanks.

- EUCOM, with \$3.2 billion in new business, bringing their total up to 1,772 active cases with a total program value of \$33 bil-



Security Assistance Command photo

**Foreign military sales during the fiscal year included the United Arab Emirates' nearly \$3.5 billion Patriot case.**

lion. There are 43 countries in EUCOM. Significant priorities included Bosnia-Herzegovina's Bell HUEY II, Croatia's Bradley Fighting Vehicles, France's Hellfire and Lithuania's UH-60M.

- NORTHCOM, with new business totaling approximately \$101 million. NORTHCOM currently has 102 active cases worth approximately \$1.7 billion. NORTHCOM has three countries. Significant cases for the fiscal year were Mexico Light Machine Guns/UH-60H Helicopter sustainment and Canada COE technical support and training.

- INDOPACOM, with approximately \$4 billion in new business, and 1,070 cases at a total program value of \$29 billion. There are 26 countries in PACOM, which develops and executes foreign military sales cases for partner nations in Asia and the Pacific. Significant INDOPACOM priorities for the fiscal year included India Hellfires, Thailand AH-6i Helicopters, Thailand Strykers and India's Cold Weather Gear.

- SOUTHCOM, with \$131 million in new business and 408 active cases totaling \$2.5 billion. There are 24 countries in SOUTHCOM. Significant SOUTHCOM priorities for the fiscal year were Panama Beechcraft Aircraft, Colombia Commercial Trucks/Aircraft components and Brazil C-23B+ Aircraft/M109A5s/M88A1s/M992s.

Two of the command's substantial, longstanding programs that have considerable impact on the global economy and stability in the Middle East are located in Saudi Arabia's capitol city Riyadh.

The primary goal in 2020 for USASAC's

Ministry of the Interior-Military Advisory Group remains the advisement and training of the Kingdom's Ministry of Interior as they defend their nation from terrorist threats and protect critical infrastructure.

USASAC's Office of the Program Manager-Saudi Arabian National Guard completed the second of a three-phase aviation materiel fielding, completing \$11.7 billion in a single foreign military sales package that included the delivery of the Dirab airbase. OPM-SANG also saw the completion of the first formal training for female military police Soldiers, and the Ministry of the National Guard execute ground capability with four out of five brigades. These are now combat-proven, functional brigades, while the other brigade remains in strategic reserve.

At Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the command's Security Assistance Training Management Organization continues to fully manage 44 Security Assistance Training Teams with case values in excess of \$730 million in 26 countries spanning the globe.

USASAC's Washington Field Office continues to refine and develop new efforts to effectively track and execute "Building Partnership Capacity" section 333 cases and to ensure efficient methods for executing these programs.

In its 55th year, USASAC will continue its vital mission of building partner capacity, supporting geographic combatant command strategies and strengthening global partnerships in support of U.S. national security.

From its headquarters in Northern Alabama, it will continue to serve the nation as the "Army's Face to the World," employing hundreds of employees at Redstone Arsenal; New Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Fort Bragg; and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and in various geographic locations throughout the globe in support of the national defense strategy.

"USASAC will continue to work hard to improve our responsiveness—as it relates to cost, speed, and capability," Deputy to the Commanding General Myra Gray said. "We will remain flexible and adaptive to the ever changing pandemic environment. And we will always place the mission first."

The command manages over 6,500 foreign military sales cases, worth more than \$205 billion for over 140 countries.

# New second lieutenants hear from strategic commander

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

TUSCALOOSA – Four University of Alabama ROTC cadets have taken their first steps as Army officers.

Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command, commissioned four Alabama cadets into the Army during the Crimson Tide Battalion fall 2020 commissioning ceremony Friday.

The newly commissioned second lieutenants are Tucker Arnett, Matthew Fagg, Terry Hancock and Noah Kren.

“It was a great honor to be asked to commission them and be the first step in however long their military career is,” Karbler said. “To be the one who can help them take that first step in commissioning and watching their family members pin their second lieutenant rank on them for the first time is a wonderful experience.”

Arnett, from Lake View, earned his bachelor’s in philosophy. Arnett said the Army is a great way to serve in difficult economic times. He will serve in the ordnance corps on active duty.

“I wanted to be able to graduate college free of crushing debt, with opportunities to continue my studies,” Arnett said about one of the reasons for joining the ROTC. “This ceremony will take place in one of the worst job markets of our lifetime. I am glad to have some security in this regard and I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve.”

Fagg, from Madison, earned his bachelor’s in gen-

eral business. Growing up, Fagg said his family’s military heritage goes all the way back to the Revolutionary War and for as long as he can remember, serving is what he has always wanted to do. He will serve in the Army Reserve as a military intelligence officer.

“It is my obligation to serve like those before me,” he said. “This is special to me as I have been waiting for this day for years. This is a new chapter in my life. This is the greatest honor of my life. Alabama ROTC has prepared myself and all of my peers for the great responsibility and duty ahead.”

Hancock, from Kissimmee, Florida, earned his bachelor’s in environmental science. Hancock said selfless service and professional development made him want to become and Army officer. He will serve in the aviation branch on active duty.

“The fact that Pearl Harbor Day occurred only four days prior to our commissioning, and it was on Dec. 11th that Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S.; these dates of prior conflict serve as a reminder to all that commission, that our oath to defend our country from enemies, foreign and domestic, is not to be taken lightly,” Hancock said. “It is a pleasure to serve others and to stand beside the nation’s brightest and most courageous men and women. I look forward to the future and I intend to do everything in my capability to leave the organization better than the day I joined it.”

Kren, from Springfield, Illinois, earned his bachelor’s in civil engineering with a minor in structural engineering. Growing up, Kren always knew that he wanted to serve his community and country. He will serve as a field artillery officer on active duty.



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

**Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, right, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command, participates in a ceremonial cake cutting with four former University of Alabama ROTC cadets after he commissions them into the Army during the Crimson Tide Battalion fall 2020 commissioning ceremony Friday. The newly commissioned Army second lieutenants and their professor of military science, from left, include Tucker Arnett, Matthew Fagg, Lt. Col. Antwan Brown, Noah Kren and Terry Hancock.**

“I grew up surrounded by people who had served, and I have always felt a strong obligation to follow in their footsteps,” he said. “I have wanted to become an officer for as long as I can remember. Today’s ceremony marks the culmination of a lifelong goal for me.”

# Colombia buys armored security vehicles from U.S.

By ADRIANE ELLIOT

Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

Sierra Army Depot hosted a Colombian delegation led by Vice Minister of Defense Jairo García Guerrero, vice minister for strategy and planning for the Republic of Colombia, Nov. 2.

Guerrero met with several U.S. military representatives for a joint visual inspection of 200 M1117 Armored Security Vehicles and to discuss the overhaul, shipment and long-term sustainment of the vehicles.

Colombia will receive the ASVs through an excess defense article grant. EDA are equipment that are excess to Army requirements or no longer part of the Army inventory and have been designated available to approved international partners through the foreign military sales process.

Using the FMS process to divest the U.S. of these items has numerous benefits – building partner capacity in a low-cost and effective manner; saving on potential storage and demilitarization costs; and offering opportunities

for modernization, repair, renewal, and refurbishment work of EDA and FMS by public-private partnerships at U.S. depots.

Tank-automotive and Armaments Command’s Security Assistance Management Directorate oversaw the EDA case development and inspection visit. SAMD representatives also provided critical counsel, briefing the minister of defense on available refurbishment options that included taking the ASVs “as-is,” depot renovation and contractor overhaul.

“Coordination between TACOM SAMD, our depots, USASAC and other stakeholders continue to prove successful for both the U.S. government and our allies,” Jeffrey Marinuzzi, TACOM’s EDA lead, said. “This is a great example of how we support our nation’s industrial base while bolstering global partnerships.”

Marinuzzi has worked in security assistance for nearly 15 years and understands the real-world impact of the security assistance mission.

“When we strengthen our partners,



Photo by Doug Magill, Sierra Army Depot

**Colombia Vice Minister of Defense Jairo García Guerrero, left, vice minister for strategy and planning, evaluates M1117 armored security vehicles at Sierra Army Depot in Herlong, Calif., as part of a U.S. foreign military sales/excess defense articles case Nov. 2.**

we are strengthening U.S. national security, our armed forces, and allies across the globe who can better support joint operations,” he said. “Colombia, for example, is a strong partner to the United

States in the areas of counterterrorism and counter-narcotics.”

Marinuzzi explained that the United States works closely with the Latin American nation to disrupt transnational criminal organizations and terrorist groups whose activities, like narco-trafficking, devastate both U.S. and Colombian citizens.

USASAC Commander Brig. Gen. Douglas Lowrey also attended the JVI to show his support and promote the industrial base. He emphasized the risk of acquiring vehicles without sustainment in his discussion with the Colombian minister.

When foreign military sales customers enter into a total-package FMS case with the United States, they are purchasing a portfolio of services that includes training, spare parts, technical manuals and the full backing of the U.S. government.

Representatives from Red River Army Depot, known as a Center of Excellence for ASV refurbishment, also supported the JVI.

## Redstone Arsenal Environmental Program Public Comment Period -

December 5, 2020- January 15, 2021

## Proposed Corrective Measures at RSA-280-R-01

The U.S. Army Garrison at Redstone Arsenal is proposing corrective measures at RSA-280-R-01. The proposed corrective measures at the Skunk Hollow Small Arms Range are to excavate lead-contaminated soil and dispose of the soil at an authorized landfill. The site is located in the northeastern portion of Redstone Arsenal, south of the intersection of Kingfisher Road and Cajun Drive. The site was constructed in 1991 and consisted of a 25-meter rifle range with an impact berm primarily used for small arms firing, including M-16 rifles, 40-millimeter (mm) practice grenades, and pistols. The small arms range was believed to have been in limited use for only two years and was closed in approximately 2001-2002 due to the potential for small arms to ricochet. Site activities resulted in the release of lead into soil that was found to pose unacceptable risks to industrial and residential receptors. Therefore, corrective measures are required to address lead in soil to protect human health.

The preferred corrective measures consist of excavation of lead-contaminated soil above the cleanup goal, disposal of excavated soils as nonhazardous wastes at an authorized landfill, and backfill of the excavation with clean soil and restoration of the site. Groundwater was not impacted by former site operations and thus no further action is required for groundwater under the site.

The final corrective measures will be selected only after acceptance by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and after this public comment period has ended and all comments have been reviewed and considered.

Site documents are available for public viewing at the following locations:

- Huntsville/Madison County Public Library, Heritage Room, 915 Monroe Street, Huntsville

- Triana Public Library, 357 Record Street, Triana

**For more information or to send comments about the proposed corrective measures at RSA-280-R-01, contact:**

U.S. Army Garrison – Redstone  
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4488 Martin Road  
Redstone Arsenal, Alabama 35898-5020  
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# New facility will bring unique testing capability

By CHRISTY BARNETT

Redstone Test Center Public Affairs

When 2021 rolls around there will be a new addition to the western skies of Redstone Arsenal.

The System-of-Systems Controlled Environment Test Infrastructure is a one of kind test facility being installed at the Redstone Test Center. The SCETI will be located just east of Gate 7 off Martin Road and will include four 200-foot towers that will be visible from outside Redstone Arsenal.

RTC partnered with the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation and Geeks and Nerds to create this unique test capability for Degraded Visual Environment, or DVE, sensor testing. The capability is comparable to a stadium camera system used to provide overhead views of soccer and football games. The infrastructure will consist of four 200 foot towers, winches and cables covering a 1,000-by-400-foot area. Four individual cables run through the tops of the towers and are connected to a center platform which carries the system under test. An automated control system will command the winches to move the 6 degree of freedom stabilized platform within a 700-by-280-by-100-foot (altitude) flight volume according to the desired test profile.

The stabilized platform allows movement of the systems under test through realistic flight profiles for the testing of aircraft DVE sensor systems as well as several other aviation, missile and sensor applications such as hostile fire system testing against small arms and captive carry testing for missile seekers. The test facility can operate in degraded natural environments such as rain and fog but can also generate degraded visual conditions such as smoke and dust.

“SCETI was developed to address a component level testing shortfall in the Army and Department of Defense. New systems are being developed as part of Army modernization to enable the warfighter to fly and fight in degraded visual conditions and these systems must be tested in a realistic environment before fielding,” RTC Commander Col. Steven Braddom explained.



Graphic from Geeks and Nerds

**This rendering of the future System-of-Systems Controlled Environment Test Infrastructure shows the overall layout of the test facility. The infrastructure will consist of four 200-foot towers, winches and cables covering a 1,000-by-400-foot area.**

Currently, the only way to test these new systems is to conduct costly, higher risk open air flight testing in the actual Degraded Visual Environment conditions. Test programs relying solely on aircraft flight in naturally occurring DVE conditions could ultimately lead to verifying system functionality in only a subset of the desired DVE conditions.

“The SCETI multi-functional test capability will immerse the test item in generated and realistic degraded visual conditions,” Trey Mann, Redstone Test Center’s lead engineer for the SCETI system, said. “The capability will have the ability to create a limited area of controllable, physically induced degraded conditions as well as utilize natural rain and fog environments. This capability will leverage existing distributed testing techniques to enable pilot-in-the-loop interaction, control of the test item, and produce results that are comparable to open air sensor performance flight test.”

The capability will be reconfigurable to enable testing of multiple aircraft sensors while minimizing cost and risk compared to traditional open air flight testing.

This capability will be available to support Army, other services, and other Department of Defense agencies, as well as commercial sensors.

# Housing residents polled in Defensewide survey

From combined reports

WASHINGTON – W. Jordan Gillis, assistant secretary of defense for sustainment and the Defense Department’s chief housing officer, invites DOD housing residents to participate in the department’s annual housing satisfaction survey, which launched Dec. 2.

Each year, DOD, working through the military departments, surveys current residents of government-owned, government-leased, or privatized family housing and current residents of privatized unaccompanied housing. The goal is to obtain feedback regarding their living experience.

Survey participation is voluntary, and Gillis encourages residents to share their views about their current housing, resident services and community amenities. According to Gillis, “Resident feedback is important to help the department improve the quality of housing and customer care available to residents.”

A link to the survey has been sent via email to each household by one of the two third-party consulting

firms administering the feedback collection, tabulation and analysis on the department’s behalf. Only one person per address will receive the invitation email. All respondent information will be kept confidential. It will not be linked to the overall feedback results shared with DOD or the results that DOD shares with privatized housing companies or other stakeholders.

The survey results will help inform plans for near-term and future improvements to housing, resident services and community amenities. Gillis emphasized the importance of getting the perspectives of service members and families so the department can provide them with a better quality of life through improved housing and community services.

The CEL Survey is scheduled to run 45 days. It includes 10 questions, with most having several parts, for a total of 49 response elements. The survey can be completed in just 10 minutes.

*Editor’s note: The survey’s OMB control number is 0704-0553 and expiration date March 31, 2022.*



## Federal

# Solar Cruiser selected to demonstrate solar sail propulsion

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

NASA has selected Solar Cruiser – a SmallSat mission led by principal investigator Les Johnson of Marshall Space Flight Center – to share a ride to space in 2025 with the Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe.

Solar Cruiser was selected as the technology demonstration mission. Consisting of a nearly 18,000-square-foot solar sail, it will demonstrate the ability to use solar radiation as a propulsion system. Such a system could provide access to new orbits enabling high-value science, including SmallSat observations from deep space, out of the ecliptic plane, and in stationary orbits in Earth's geo-tail.

Solar Cruiser will demonstrate one such orbit, where a spacecraft maintains position along the Earth-Sun line at a point closer than the first Lagrangian equilibrium point – about 1 million miles toward the Sun. By positioning a monitoring spacecraft closer to the Sun, space weather scientists hope to obtain more advanced warnings of solar storms headed to Earth.

"Once it's deployed in space," Johnson said, "our mission will demonstrate solar sail propulsion so that future missions using it can take heliophysics instruments to study the Sun from new destinations and novel vantage points not available to any other type of propulsion."

The Solar Cruiser investigation is budgeted for \$65 million.

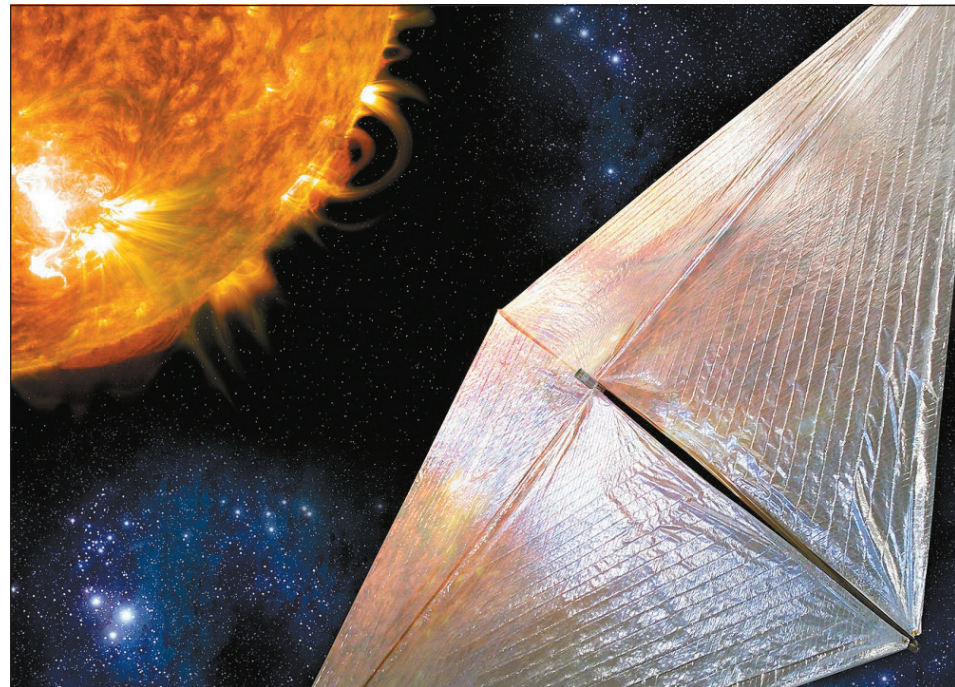
NASA selected the Global Lyman-alpha Imagers of the Dynamic Exosphere, or GLIDE, to launch alongside Solar Cruiser, as Solar Terrestrial Probes Missions of Opportunity. As the selected science mission, GLIDE will study variability in the upper reaches of Earth's atmosphere – the exosphere, where it touches space – by tracking far ultraviolet light emitted from hydrogen. Lara Waldrop at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is principal investigator for GLIDE, which is budgeted for \$75 million.

The launch of the Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe mission to the first Lagrangian equilibrium point will be a pathfinder for NASA's new RideShare policy. With the policy, the agency's Science Mission Directorate will plan – from the inception of major missions – to take advantage of excess launch capacity and provide increased access to space for SmallSats. The mission will help researchers better understand the interstellar boundary region, where the solar wind and the solar magnetic field it transfers to the edge of the solar system collide with galactic material and the galactic magnetic field.

Focusing on small satellites and tech demonstrations helps prove the capabilities of these smaller missions while pairing them with existing missions for launch provides more avenues for learning about the solar system and developing innovative technical capabilities.

"The study of the solar influence on interplanetary space and the area around Earth has made great advances just in the past decade," Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for science at NASA headquarters, said. "I'm confident the next decade promises even more new discoveries and historic technology innovations."

A second science Mission of Opportunity, the Spatial/Spectral Imaging of Helio-



NASA graphic

**This is an illustration of the Solar Cruiser approaching the Sun.**

spheric Lyman Alpha also was provided funding toward a final selection decision at a later date based on budget and RideShare opportunities. The science mission would use an innovative technique to map the entire sky to determine the shape and underlying mechanisms of the boundary between the heliosphere, the area of the Sun's magnetic influence, and the interstellar medium, a boundary known as the heliopause.

"Launching several missions together helps us maximize science while keeping costs down," Nicky Fox, Heliophysics Division director at NASA headquarters, said. "We're expanding the range and composition of a robust fleet of missions studying the Sun and space weather, and these two new selections will help advance into areas where we need to know more."

The Interstellar Mapping and Acceleration Probe launch will also include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Weather Follow-On mission, which will expand that agency's space weather forecasting.

Funding for these missions comes from the Heliophysics Solar Terrestrial Probes program, which is managed by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

## Marshall Association concludes 2020 speaker series with Gallagher virtually

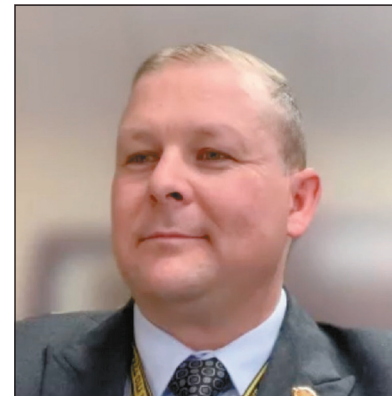
By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Brady Gallagher, director of the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office for the Garrison, spoke virtually to the Marshall Association, an organization of Marshall Space Flight Center employees, at the group's monthly meeting Dec. 10.

Gallagher discussed the growth, master planning and construction projects taking place on Redstone Arsenal. With new

tenants such as the FBI and many more on the way, the post is experiencing exponential population growth, and Gallagher assured the group that projects and planning are underway to accommodate the surge and ensure a successful evolution.

The Marshall Association includes Marshall civil service employees, retirees and contractors. The group provides networking and community-building opportunities for members, monthly speaker luncheons and an annual scholarship program.



**Brady Gallagher**





NASA photos

# Trailblazers

**Space Flight Awareness Trailblazer Award winners from Marshall include, from left, Luke Scharber, Joel Amert, Cynthia Hubbard, Daniel Mailman and Ethan Walker.**

# Community

## Educators collaborate virtually in quarterly meeting

By JO ANITA MILEY

Garrison Public Affairs

The Garrison held a Quarterly Education Meeting to promote collaboration between Redstone Arsenal and community education leaders Dec. 9. The meeting was held virtually because of the pandemic.

Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor led the 90-minute event with local school superintendents, directors and principals to discuss updates regarding Redstone Arsenal. He spoke on topics that included COVID-19 guidance, maximum telework, tenant organizations, School of Choice and education outreach opportunities. Garrison School Liaison Officer Erica Lewis, who coordinates the quarterly meeting, said the goal is for participants to learn from one another, build positive, productive relationships, and discuss ways the installation and the community can better support the education of military-connected students. She also works with the different school systems throughout the school year and provides information to those schools about what resources the military provides.

Lewis said the event had a good turnout. Educators from the Huntsville, Madison City, Madison County, Athens and Limestone County school districts participated in the discussion and provided updates; sharing information about Impact Aid funding, resources and programs, grants, mental health, education outreach and COVID-19 guidance.

Mellor said he appreciates the opportunity to hold the meeting. Bringing all the superintendents, key people from the schools and Redstone education representatives together to discuss their needs and what Redstone can do to help them is an investment in the nation's future.

"I am the person I am today because of educators like you. You're making sure students are receiving everything they need to thrive right now – keeping the sports programs, hiring mental health counselors, adding more virtual platforms for interaction – and you're doing all of this in the middle of a pandemic," Mellor said. "People have said to me 'I wouldn't want to have your job as the Garrison commander. Your job is tough.' I'm going to turn that statement around and say to all of you, 'I wouldn't want to have your job.' Your job is tougher."

Madison County Schools Superintendent Allen Perkins shared his perspective during his update.

"COVID-19 is a challenge, but we're not looking at our challenges as obstacles. We are looking at them as stepping stones, and we are using these stepping stones to make



Col. Glenn Mellor

us better," Perkins said. "COVID-19 has raised our awareness on resources that we never knew existed until now. So we're moving forward. We still believe all our children deserve a great education and we're making sure this will continue to happen every single day."

## Next generation of identification card on the horizon

By WENDY REEVES

Staff writer

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There's a new ID card coming to Redstone Arsenal in 2021 for retirees, reserves and other qualified dependents, but there's no need to get in a hurry to get one.

Ross Gagliano, military personnel division chief, and Ed Adams, human resource supervisor and transition manager, who oversees ID cards, said currently-issued USID cards remain valid through their expiration date. Ross said in an effort to limit the impact on ID card issuance facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, new cards will not be reissued solely for the purpose of obtaining the Next Generation USID card.

"That means individuals with an indefinite expiration date on their current USID card should wait until summer 2021 to have their Next Generation USID card issued," Gagliano said.

In addition, Adams said the Department of Defense has extended USID cards expiring on or after Jan. 1, 2020. These cards can be used to access military bases and benefits through June 30, 2021, as long as a current affiliation and benefits exist in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System.

USID cards are issued to retired and reserve members, dependent family members

of Uniformed Services members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DOD policy to facilitate access to benefits, privileges, and DOD bases.

Adams said the Next Generation USID card does not change the populations who are eligible to receive the current card.

The reason for the new card is the DOD is transitioning from its current paper-based Uniformed Services Identification to a more secure, next generation USID card that incorporates an updated design and security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud.

For example, instead of a paper card, it will be printed on plastic.

"It will look similar to a CAC card except it won't have a chip in it and the retiree version will be printed horizontally instead of vertical like the CAC card," Adams said.

When the cards are in place, they will be scannable to facilitate entrance at installation gates. He said Redstone Arsenal has a limited number of the new Next Generation USID cards that are currently being tested by One Stop personnel to make sure they understand how the cards work so they can better answer questions when Redstone begins issuing the cards.

Adams said he expects the announcement to begin making appointments should come in the spring throughout the garrison.

"Your patience in this transition is greatly appreciated," he added.

# Army healthcare recruiters give back for holiday season

By **DEVYN GUILLEBEAUX**

*2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion Public Affairs*

Army healthcare recruiters teamed up a non-profit which supports military families and veterans of all eras for Thanksgiving.

Recruiters from the Army Atlanta Physicians Team – a company under the 2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion – aided nonprofit Soldiers' Angels during a mobile food distribution service event in Atlanta. The event supplied low-income veteran families with food assistance.

“It was great to partner up with Soldiers' Angels to give back to the veterans,” Staff Sgt. Misti Chan, healthcare recruiter of the Army Atlanta Physician Team, said. “We served around 300 people who were given 75 pounds of food.”

Since 2015 the program has served thousands of veteran families in six cities across the U.S. through its mobile food distribution service event.

The event is organized to make sure all are served in the most efficient and safe way, with strict COVID-19 guidelines and precautions. Veterans show up at their predetermined time slot and get in line with their car. After being checked in, veterans drive through the event and volunteers load bags of groceries into the vehicles. Veterans that do not have vehicles are able to walk or roll through the line. Masks and gloves must be worn at all times. Along with Chan, healthcare recruiter Staff Sgt. Robert Schantz served with other groups to deliver fresh



Courtesy photo

**Staff Sgt. Robert Schantz and Staff Sgt. Misti Chan are healthcare recruiters with the Army Atlanta Physician Team.**

produce and meats in addition to nonperishables to the veterans in need.

“It’s always good to get out there and assist others,” Schantz said. “We gathered with all the different groups there to do something special for the veterans and thank them for their service.”

The work is not finished yet. Soldiers' Angels plans on holding another mobile food distribution event Friday in Decatur, Georgia. Recruiters from the Atlanta Physicians Team said they plan to be there.

“It was an awesome experience to show them even though they are not active duty anymore, we can still do something for them and their families,” Chan said. “We definitely plan on going back in December.”



# Garrison finds innovative ways to provide services

By JONATHAN STINSON

Assistant editor

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When the world slowed down because of COVID-19, life at the Garrison seemed to speed up. The mission to provide the services that allow all of the post's tenants to be successful was the same, but Garrison employees were forced to find new ways to do that safely. "Since I arrived to Redstone, we've been taking a methodical, conditions-based approach when it comes to dealing with COVID-19," Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor said. "The people here have done an amazing job finding innovative ways to better the services we provide to our customers and achieve the missions we are responsible for even when there's not a global pandemic."

Mellor mentioned some of the COVID-specific achievements like the directorate of public work's effort to execute numerous COVID related disinfections and touch point cleaning across the Arsenal, while maintaining cost efficiency in the existing custodial contract, the religious service office continuing to provide impactful and personal spiritual care through on-line daily devotional messages, Sunday sermons and religious education, as well as telephonic and in person spiritual guidance and counseling. Human Resources' effort via the Army Substance Abuse Program's Employee Assistance Program to improve employee morale and cohesiveness by modernizing its outreach and education programs when COVID-19 forced a rapid transition to telework, and the Garrison's public affairs office's effort to ensure solid lines of communication between the Garrison's leadership and community partners with weekly installation town halls on Facebook that have provided an opportunity for the community to ask questions and receive updates on services such as child care, gate hours, etc. Further, throughout the year, the PAO hosted 10 Garrison All Hands and averaged 150-200 Garrison employees participating through MS Teams or by phone.

He also highlighted the directorate of operations effort to establish a COVID Common Operating Picture that was distributed on a daily basis to Installation leadership, the Information Management Office's efforts meeting the demand of ensuring virtual protocol network accounts for hundreds of new teleworkers, and Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation's ability to ensure many programs like childcare services were not interrupted during the pandemic.

"The ability for our workforce to absorb the challenges that came our way due to COVID is a testament to their resiliency," Mellor said.

He then went department by department and highlighted some of each groups other accomplishments that had a broad effect on the people who visit Redstone Arsenal each day.



File photo by Eric Schultz

**The Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office opens its headquarters at Redstone Arsenal on Sept. 2 during a ribbon cutting ceremony with COVID-19 precautions in place. From left are Marcia Holmes, RCCTO deputy director; Bruce Jette, the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology; Lt. Gen. L. Neil Thurgood, director of hyper-sonics, directed energy, space and rapid acquisition, which includes the RCCTO; and Stan Darbro, RCCTO deputy director.**

## Directorate of Public Works

Environmental stewardship in the DPW supported the completion of over 250 National Environmental Policy Act analyses, detailing environmental impacts of construction and mission activities. As the need was identified, the Environmental Management Division recommended BMPs and reasonable mitigation measures to lessen negative impacts. The Installation Restoration Branch safety completed intrusive investigations at four munition burial sites for future clean-up efforts. The Installation Compliance Branch successfully negotiated operational flexibility for Open Burial/Open Detonation operations in the Installation's 10 year Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit.

DPW Engineering/Construction supported the renovation of building 3307 for RCCTO, a new three-star command on post, and awarded delivery orders for more than 350 construction projects for a total of \$134 million and also awarded a five year \$600 million job order contract for future installation support.

The Base Operations division, along with the Tennessee Valley Authority were the recipients of the 2019 Federal Energy and Water Management Award for exceptional accomplishments in energy, water, and fleet management in the federal sector, presented in Washington, D.C.

## Garrison Public Affairs Office

The Digital Garrison App is an Army Enterprise Solution to help provide a seamless experience for Soldiers, military families and civilians as they move throughout the Army. DG is a partnership between the Army and the Army & Air Force Exchange Services,

DG has replaced previous installation app the Redstone Explorer and provides all the same capabilities as Redstone Explorer plus many new ones.

## Garrison Plans, Analysis and Integration Office

The PAIO hosted and took lead on the Fiscal 2020 Installation Planning Board which serves to enable the Garrison commander to prioritize activities in the Garrison and develop both a Garrison Strategic Plan and Integrated Priority List.

The PAIO conducted the staffing actions and submission of four stationing packets on Redstone Arsenal along with maintaining oversight of the Interactive Customer Evaluation program. The ICE program is aimed at providing customers a tool to provide Garrison managers with feedback on services provided on Redstone Arsenal.

## Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Family and MWR secured funds for a project validation assessment for a food and beverage entertainment center. Then received the approval to proceed with the design, laying the groundwork for a new home for Challenger Bingo.

Regarding quality of life, Family and MWR and religious services built partnerships with providers in the community to share resources. One example is the community recreation badges initiative. This program

allows members of the community to take advantage of programs while providing revenue to sustain Family and MWR services for the relatively small active duty population.

## Garrison Safety Office

The Garrison Safety Office continued to ensure all contractors conducting below ground intrusive work or excavation on Redstone attended unexploded ordnance awareness training. Additionally, the Safety Office, in conjunction with MWR, provided all hunters with UXO training during hunter orientation classes prior to issuance of a Redstone hunting license to ensure everyone's safety. Due to this training all UXO discovered by personnel was safely recognized, reported and disposed of without any personnel injury or adverse incident.

## Directorate of Operations

A new entry system at the gates of Redstone Arsenal, consisting of handheld scanners at all 22 entry lanes, has significantly enhanced the safety and security of Redstone Arsenal. The system provides initial and continuous vetting of personnel against state and federal databases in support of the Army's Protection and Insider Threat Programs. It addresses both visitors initial vetting and continuous vetting of all personnel and streamlines visitor control operations and reduces risks to Army readiness through continuous evaluation of personnel against data sources.



Photos by Richard Bumgardner

## Ramp build project

Barrett Parris, a logistics management specialist at the Security Assistance Command, attaches a handrail for a newly built wheelchair ramp. In the background, Arin Wilson, also from USASAC, watches while supporting another handrail. Both are volunteer members of the Care Assurance System for the Aging and Homebound, known as CASA, a nonprofit agency in Huntsville that provides services to individuals age 60 and older, and to the homebound (wheelchair and bed bound) of all ages since 1979. In the group photo, the volunteer CASA team members, all part of the Redstone community, gather with the wheelchair ramp they built Dec. 5 in Huntsville. The group, led by Dave Steinhauer, from Army Futures Command, fifth from left on top row, and retired Command Sgt. Maj. Rick Cooper, second on bottom, a physical space analyst with the Garrison, completed their eighth ramp of the year.



# Airman did what he needed to do in Vietnam

By SAMANTHA TYLER

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

Soldiers coming home from Vietnam typically did not receive a warm welcome home. For James Bush, it was a welcome home he would never forget.

Bush's service began when he was 17 years old. He remembers hearing about the draft when he was in high school, growing up in the swamps of Alabama.

"I thought if I'm going to get drafted, I might as well sign up," he said. "I just decided it was best to join up and get away."

His parents signed his enlistment papers for him. While he wanted to be a Marine like his uncle or a Soldier like his father, his parents were worried about the dangers he would face. Bush ultimately joined the Air Force.

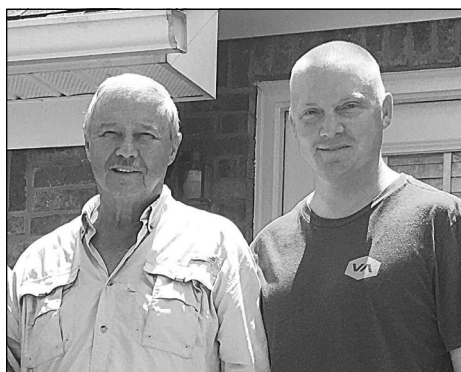
That was the start of 20 years and four months of serving as an airman. Bush said he had an enjoyable career, spending it in the weapons maintenance field and retiring as a chief master sergeant. He went to college over the years, earning a business management degree in June 1986 and earning his master's in business administration using his G.I. Bill.

His career is filled with memorable moments. One time, he even met President Lyndon B. Johnson and shook his hand. Other memories came from his three tours in Vietnam.

"It was very interesting, and I'm sure everyone has different things to say," Bush said.

Bush spent his time supporting a Douglas AC-47 Spooky fixed-wing gunship. He remembers his unit working 12 hours on and 12 hours off, seven days a week.

"We didn't know what day it was," he said. "It didn't matter. We just worked one day to another."



Courtesy photo

**James Bush, a retired chief master sergeant who served with the Air Force, stands with his son, Army Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Bush.**

Technology was different in those days. A month after Bush left for Vietnam, his first son was born. He remembers the Red Cross bringing him a note with the good news. He also remembers using the Military Auxiliary Radio System to talk to his wife for just one minute. That was the only minute they had to talk for the entire year he was gone.

"It was a long, lonely year over there, especially with my son being born," Bush said. "You can't talk to people, all you can depend on is getting letters."

His long year was filled with what he calls little incidents. He remembers a rocket hitting his hooch and having to jump out to take cover. He remembers the death of his bunkmate. He remembers taking a break from loading ammunition one night, seeing enemy forces walking up the hill toward him and his buddy with rockets, and having to take cover. He remembers the Douglas AC-47 Spooky fixed-wing gunship coming back from a mission with so many bullet holes in it that daylight was shining through.



Courtesy photo

**James Bush serves in Vietnam in 1970 with the Air Force.**

Bush said these incidents didn't scare him. They just gave him caution.

"I was never afraid over there," he said. "I knew it was my duty to serve my country. I just went along with what was happening and did what I needed to do."

While Bush felt it was his obligation to serve, he said people didn't appreciate the war. It wasn't uncommon for people to jeer at Soldiers in uniform as they came home. Bush experienced this bitterness during his journey home, but when he landed back in Alabama, his experience was different.

"I remember walking off the plane in the terminal and my little boy standing there," he said. "He knew who I was and came running to me, and he was only a year old. I can still see his face."

A lot has changed since then. Bush had three sons, who each joined the Army. One of his sons, Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Bush, joined the Army when he was 26. He said during his own deployments, his dad supported him.

"He gave me a lot of advice on how to be safe and what to look out for," Matthew said.



## Service Honored series

"He said 'keep your head down.' That advice was all encompassing."

Matthew serves with Army Materiel Command at Redstone Arsenal, the same installation his father works at as a contractor supporting the Missile Defense Agency. Matthew's command will be honoring his father with a pin as part of the Vietnam War Commemoration Program, a token of appreciation decades in the making.

"It is an honor for me for him to be recognized," Matthew said. "I know it's late, but I'm happy there is a way for him to be recognized."

*Editor's note: Service Honored is an ongoing Army Materiel Command series highlighting AMC employees or their family members who served during the Vietnam War. AMC is a partner of the Vietnam War Commemoration Program. To learn more about AMC's Vietnam veteran recognition program, contact Lt. Col. Travis Nauman at [travis.j.nauman.mil@mail.mil](mailto:travis.j.nauman.mil@mail.mil) or 450-6101.*

# Commentary: Soldier unwraps his retirement present

By BRIAN STEHLE

Retired colonel in Huntsville

I wasn't sure what to expect when I approached retirement after 27 years serving in the Army. Would I get a job in the defense industry? Would I pursue hobbies? Or would I go back to school? There were a lot of options, but one thing I wanted to do was to publish a children's book I wrote years ago. That became my purpose.

It began in earnest in January when I found an illustrator and started assembling my book. I had hoped to pass some of them out as gifts at my retirement ceremony later in July. Then COVID hit and progress was slowed.

Flash forward to today. I recently returned from a 1,400 mile trip from Huntsville to my hometown of Sandusky, Ohio, and back. Along the way, I delivered numerous books to friends, family and supporters. Yes, there were concerns about COVID, but we all took precautions to maintain safety during this trip.

I planned the trip primarily to see family who I hadn't seen in over a year. Fortunately, I was also able to see several others along the way. I can only describe it as magical.



Brian Stehle

Seeing family and friends face to face, whether indoors or outdoors, socially distant, and even through masks and not through our electronic filters between us is incomparable. There were so many smiles and much laughter, even if it was only minutes at a time.

I heard from each how special the visit was and that it was a highlight of their year. Every time it filled me with so many emotions. From a sadness of not being able to spend more time, to the elation of reconnecting with good souls, and sharing memories or creating new ones, this trip was rejuvenating. I wondered if this is how Santa feels every year.

Even though Christmas may seem to be commercialized, a hassle, and hurry at times, it can still be a time of magic and wonder. Each of us, regardless of how 2020 has treated us, can make it special for others. I encourage each of us to try to make this season special for others. It may just make it that much more special for you.

*Editor's note: Brian Stehle is a retired colonel and author of "One Day Off," a children's Christmas book that tells the tale of Santa's reindeer recruiting other animals to pull the sleigh so they can take the day off. It is sold directly from the author or can be found at Harrison Brothers Hardware in downtown Huntsville.*

# Public works director retiring to his farm

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer/Social media

katie.skelley@theredstonerocket.com

Joe Davis says that Redstone Arsenal has given him much more than he has given back. Many members of its workforce – both current and former – would disagree.

After 38 years of federal service – 14 as the head of the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works – Davis is retiring to his farm in Hazel Green. Taking over as director will be longtime DPW team member Joey Skinner.

Davis has watched the landscape of Redstone change over his tenure – and played a pivotal part in its transformation. He was the project engineer for the Sparkman Center, eventually taking over as its project manager after the original manager, Sam Fields, was killed in a tractor accident.

Davis oversaw the building of the Von Braun complex during the 9/11 terrorist attacks – and navigated the changes in how federal buildings were constructed on Redstone Arsenal afterward. Talking to Davis, one gets the impression that he has just about seen it all – and has a story to tell about it. From the project where they moved all of the office furniture into a new building only to walk in one morning and find it under 2 feet of sewage, to the origin of the back nine holes of the Links – VB3 has a football field-sized basement and the dirt had to go somewhere – Davis has been a main player in the modernization of Redstone. And although DPW had its biggest year ever in 2019 and Redstone's horizon has more changes ahead, Davis said he knew that it was time to hand over the rein to Skinner.

"I've worked with Joey 25 years – he is a



Photo by Eric Schultz

**Joe Davis, the Garrison's director of public works, addresses government contractors during the 2020 Huntsville GovCon Growth Summit, March 11 at the Jackson Center in Huntsville.**

smart, smart man and hard worker, and he will do great," Davis said.

COVID-19 did add an unexpected twist to Davis' last year at DPW. While a majority of Redstone's workforce went to a telework model, the nature of the directorate's work meant that they could not work from home. Davis said he was proud of how his team met those challenges and knows that DPW is in good hands with Skinner as they look to the projects ahead, which could possibly include Redstone Arsenal being named the headquarters for Space Command.

Davis grew up in Hazel Green. His mother, the first civilian employee at the Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center, always encouraged him to get an education and pursue civil service. He went to Auburn intending to become an architect, but quickly changed his path when "I found that it was much more



File photo

**Director of Public Works Joe Davis, left, and Lee Riddle, project manager, look at plans for the Goss Road realignment in 2014. The moving of the road was part of a larger project to move and expand Gate 9.**

fun building stuff than designing it," he said.

Davis credits his favorite project over his career as the construction of Sparkman Center, which was the first modernized building on post. He said it was a culture change for its employees, or as he put it, "the outhouse to the penthouse."

Sparkman Center was a personal project for the team, as it was the first time they were building an office building not for a relocating group – but for their co-workers at Missile Command, the precursor to today's Aviation and Missile Command. Davis said the offices that MICOM inhabited before Sparkman Center were a "horrible, dilapidated space" and that his team set out to build the most state-of-the-art facility possible. And they did.

"I was too naïve to know what I was asking for when I asked for (the Sparkman Cen-

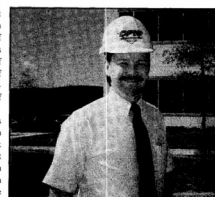
**Project success due to timing, partnering and good people**

Joe Davis was project engineer over construction for the Directorate of Public Works, and was MICOM's primary point of contact with the Corps of Engineers and the contractor during construction of the Sparkman Center.

A former Corps employee, Davis has been at DPW for eight years, six of which have been spent working on the Sparkman project. He's also been involved with most large building projects on Redstone during that time.

primarily with the \$30 million expansion to facilities in the Thinkland area. "This one has had totally different guidelines than other projects I've worked on," Davis said, referring to Sparkman.

Other than the design/build differences, Congressional language written into the approval allowed the Army to get as



Joe Davis of DPW as project engineer

for us. We had a contractor who was working with a fixed budget, an architect who was trying to accommodate us to create a facility with a nice look, and the government who was trying to get the most quality square footage possible for the money," Davis said.

In the end, a project is judged successful if every-

quality facility that he can be proud to have his name attached to, and the complex definitely meets the users needs.

"We were fortunate. The contractor did an excellent job and was very cooperative in making the changes we asked for. The Corps of Engineers, Mobile District and the Logistics Support Activity building

is responsible for the Sparkman Center. It's across the board effort," Davis said.

Davis said he had enjoyed coming to work every day since this project began, but now that it's over there'll be more chances to do equally exciting projects. He mentioned the very soon construction on the Logistics Support Activity building

"Not one person alone is responsible for the Sparkman Center. It's across the board effort," Davis said.

Davis said he had enjoyed coming to work every day since this project began, but now that it's over there'll be more chances to do equally exciting projects. He mentioned the very soon construction on the Logistics Support Activity building

ter project)," Davis said with a laugh. "We went to every corporate headquarters we could get in the door at and quite honestly, we stole every good idea we could find."

Davis looks forward to seeing what DPW accomplishes in the future – but he will be watching from his farm, or from a vacation spot with his wife of 35 years, Glenda, once COVID-19 is over. He said it will not be the buildings that he misses, but rather the people with whom he built them.

"The people that do it every day, they give it all they got ... they do it because they love it," Davis said. "It ain't about the money – it's the fun of the job."

Rocket archive

**The Redstone Rocket dedicates its Aug. 24, 1994, newspaper to the building of the Sparkman Center. The issue included a story with Joe Davis, who served as project engineer – and later project manager – for the complex.**

# Defense Acquisition University moving on post in 2021

By Defense Acquisition University

It has been a busy year for everyone, and Defense Acquisition University is no exception.

We began the year with plans to transform DAU by gradually increasing our online provision of classes and workshops, increasing the availability of job-specific credentials, and making our move from our old location on Old Madison Pike in the research park to our new location on the Arsenal. Nationwide efforts to check the spread of COVID-19 have resulted in substantial acceleration of these initiatives.

Our move to the Arsenal had already been planned, but current events have swept this timeline forward. We plan to

begin operation from Zeus Drive, buildings 3465, 3470 and 3471, starting in late summer or early fall. (We'll be just a few hundred feet south of the Redstone Arsenal MWR building.) We plan to remain in maximum telework mode until our new location is ready, so we will not be returning to our Old Madison Pike facility. DAU-South will continue to deliver all courses virtually until at least October.

We had already planned to gradually increase our Virtual Instructor-Led Training offerings over this year, but the pandemic resulted in our shift from classroom to 100% VILT over a week-end. This sudden shift created significant obstacles for instructors and students alike. We have been working diligently

to continuously improve the quality of our VILT courses, and we appreciate the feedback and suggestions from the acquisition workforce.

We have also continued to support the workforce through virtual workshops, virtual Cyber Range and even individual and team consulting to online. Our standard workshops for technical reviews, integrated baseline reviews, risk management, source selection, etc. are now available virtually. We are also continuing to provide consulting services to organizations, acting as a thinking partner in the development of acquisition documentation and supporting virtual team meetings for organizations both on the Arsenal and across the DAU-South Region.

The switch to virtual also greatly increased the reach of our webcasts and virtual conferences. We hosted webcasts on a wide variety of topics, from additive manufacturing to the new DAU Alexa Skill. The DAU website hosts recordings of previous topics at [www.dau.edu/dau-webcasts/p/past-webcasts](http://www.dau.edu/dau-webcasts/p/past-webcasts), so you can watch a recent event that you missed, or you can search all our events for a topic of interest. DAU also hosted virtual conferences to support the acquisition workforce where their regular in-person conferences portions were forced to cancel. Some of these conferences plan to incorporate some virtual elements in the future to support workforce members

See DAU on page 37

# Retired colonel remembers college campus protest

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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In 1971 at the University of Miami in Florida, the school's ROTC cadets stood in formation on the athletic field during a memorial service for a hometown Soldier killed in Vietnam. Ed Stone remembers the scene.

He was among the young cadets on the field that day. He remembers hearing some students protesting and calling the cadets "baby killers."

"I was just embarrassed for the family. It was just unreasonable," the retired colonel said. "I couldn't understand why people would act and feel that way. Instead of honoring the sacrifice, they attempted to humiliate the family."

More than a decade ago, Stone attended a reunion of the class of 1968 from Hialeah (Florida) High School. The event was held in St. Petersburg. About 30 people attended an after-dinner gathering. Earlier 20 classmates were recognized for being military or former military.

During the gathering, a woman classmate started berating Stone for his military service. She shouted at him, just as the protesters had yelled at him and his fellow ROTC cadets years before.

"I was verbally attacked by a classmate because I went into the Army," Stone said. He left the event.

Stone said he has no regrets about his 30 years of military service. But he knows firsthand that not everyone respects those who served during the Vietnam era.

The Albion, New York, native was from a family with a tradition of military service. His father was killed in a car accident in 1963. Stone and his younger brother moved in with their older half-brother's family. His younger brother died from cancer in 1966.

Stone moved into the New York State Youth Opportunity Center for Boys his junior year of high school. But his family thought it would be best for him to move to Hialeah in September 1977 to stay at his aunt's home for his senior year until he graduated.

He started college at Miami Dade College-North Campus. On registration day, he walked by the ROTC information

table and got interested in the military. He talked to his adult adviser who told him military service would help when he got started in business.

"I was advised it would be good for me in my early business career," Stone said. "It was a challenge. People had discipline in the military, they had goals."

He worked his way all the way through college; he had no scholarships. He attended Miami Dade College-North Campus his freshman and sophomore years and transferred to the University of Miami as a junior. Stone graduated from the University of Miami with a bachelor's in business administration in 1973 and he received his commission through ROTC.

The young infantry officer's first duty assignment was Fort Lewis, Washington, with the 9th Infantry Division. He was his battalion's antitank platoon leader. The unit had returned home from Vietnam.

"It was interesting to hear from the Soldiers who had returned from Vietnam," Stone said.

Subsequent assignments took him throughout the world. Among other places he served two tours in Germany, spent a year in school in India and he had several contingency deployments including Korea, Turkey and the Caribbean. He earned his master's in logistics management from Florida Institute of Technology in 1981. He stayed with the infantry until his 11th year of service when he became an Ordnance officer. Stone was chief of staff of the Aviation and Missile Command from 2000-02. He retired in January 2003.

"It was just a continuous increasing level of opportunity and increasing responsibility all along the way," he said of his Army career.

After the military, Stone was a vice president for ManTech and later the senior program manager for MACRO Industries Inc. He converted from full time to part time in mid-November. The Huntsville-based company provides lightweight armor for aircraft in each of the military services.

Stone, 70, and his wife of two years, Marcia Elkins, reside in Huntsville. He has two children and three grandchildren from his first marriage. His daughter, Jennifer Stone Marshall, resides in Alexandria, Virginia; and his son, Marc, lives in Madison.

He and Marcia are avid boaters and licensed captains. They take their 58-foot Chris Craft Roamer up and down Lake Guntersville and the Tennessee River. They recently bought an RV and plan to



Courtesy photo

**Retired Col. Ed Stone, a native of Albion, N.Y., resides in Huntsville.**



Courtesy photo

**Col. Ed Stone served as chief of staff at the Aviation and Missile Command from 2000-02. He retired in January 2003.**

start traveling around the U.S. They're also big movie fans. Stone likes to read and do amateur photography.

He is a life member of the Association of the U.S. Army and he has belonged to the Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville since 2002. He is a past president of the Rotary Club. Stone is also a past assistant governor of Rotary District 6860 and a past president of the Greater Huntsville Rotary Foundation. He is also a past president of the National Defense Industrial Association, Tennes-



Courtesy photo

**In 1973 2nd Lt. Ed Stone attends the infantry officer basic course at Fort Benning, Ga.**

see Valley Chapter, and he belongs to the American Legion on Drake Avenue.

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

"It's about time that America's Vietnam veterans receive recognition and appropriate appreciation for what they've done," he said.

*Editor's note: This is the 300th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.*

# DAU

Continued from page **33**

who may not be able to attend in person.

Our annual DAU South Update last February was well-attended both in-person and virtually. For the upcoming year, the DAU South Update will be presented entirely online. The virtual Update is scheduled for Feb. 17-18 and is open to Department of Defense acquisition workforce, industry and contractors. Our theme is Acquisition 2021: Change is Inevitable – Transformation is a Choice. The event will feature the lat-

est from Office of Secretary of Defense, industry's response to department's acquisition reform, DAU's transition, and a myriad of pertinent topics across the six critical acquisition functional areas. The registration announcement is coming soon; keep an eye on the Redstone Rocket for details.

DAU has deployed several credentials this year, offering job-specific performance enhancements including agile development, data analytics, digital engineering, intellectual property, services acquisition, and more. The complete list is available at [www.dau.edu/training/pages/credentials.aspx](http://www.dau.edu/training/pages/credentials.aspx) with more

planned throughout the coming year. We're actively engaging with our customers to collect input on which credentials DAU should offer. Whether you've already enrolled in one of our learning pathways, earned a DAU credential, or want to recommend a credential that DAU should offer, we want to hear from

you. Contact our credentials team at [perform@dau.edu](mailto:perform@dau.edu) and share your credentials program feedback.

DAU is still transforming. We expect further changes throughout the coming year, so be sure to visit [dau.edu](http://dau.edu) to stay informed about the defense acquisition workforce and your place in it.





# Staff picks favorite stories for unprecedented year

By **KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY**

Staff writer/Social media

katie.skelley@theredstonerocket.com

Fifty issues, 48 pages each week. In a typical year, I am pretty proud of that. In 2020? It was a herculean feat. Even in the midst of a global pandemic, the Rocket did not skip a beat this year – although true confession: more interviews were conducted in our pajamas than ever before.

We never could have done it without our public affairs partners – many of whom were working remotely, but still taking care of business. Our advertisers – it was a rough year for many of them but we are grateful that they still saw the value in working together. And most importantly, you, the readers. Whether you picked up a print copy at the office or transitioned to reading us online because you too were rocking the athleisure at home – we thank you.

The staff looks back at some of those stories from 2020 below:

## Skip Vaughn, editor

*Rocket Boys author prepares to launch another book*

<https://bit.ly/RRSkip1>

My favorite story of 2020 was my first interview with Homer Hickam, the renowned author of “Rocket Boys” which became the 1999 movie “October Sky.”

We were the first to report that the

Huntsville resident is working on his 19th book, another memoir which should come out late next year. It has been five years since his last book, the bestseller “Carrying Albert Home: The Somewhat True Story of a Man, his Wife and her Alligator.” My article appeared in our Aug. 12 edition.

*Vietnam was learning experience for renowned author*

<https://bit.ly/RRSkip2>

I had the privilege to interview Hickam again three months later when he shared his Vietnam War experiences as part of our ongoing Vietnam veterans series. That article appeared in our Nov. 18 edition.

## Jonathan Stinson, assistant editor

*WWII draft changed course of man's life*

<https://bit.ly/RRJonathan1>

This one is my favorite story that I worked on because he died a couple of days before it ran and after it came out I was told that he had never talked about the war with many in his family and to be able to read about it, meant something to them.

*Digging into land's history before Army arrived*

<https://bit.ly/RRJonathan2>

This one was just fun to do.

*WWII Soldier finally receives his jump wings*

<https://bit.ly/RRJonathan3>

And this one because he's a cool guy.

## Katie Davis Skelley, staff writer/social media

*From homelessness to family man, one veteran's journey*

<https://bit.ly/RRKatie1>

We are saying a bittersweet goodbye in 2021 to our talented staff writer, Wendy Reeves. Wendy is our pinch hitter and has saved our collective Rocket butt countless times over the years.

We are actually Wendy's side gig – she does it simply for the love of telling the stories of Team Redstone – while her regular job is helping her own public relations company and serving as executive director for Partnership for a Drug -Free Community. Through both of those endeavors, Wendy knows a lot of people, which is why when she said, “I know a veteran you should talk to but I am not going to tell you anything about him because you have to hear his story firsthand,” I just went with it. And boy, was she right.

My first year at the Rocket, I interviewed well-known veteran advocate Jeff Wishik on the patio at the Links and had to use my scarf to mop up my tears. A few years later, I had the absolute honor to interview Medal of Honor recipient Bennie Adkins. I was heartbroken this spring when Bennie died of COVID-19. Mike Woods' story belongs among those amazing men, but like my dear friend Wendy, I am not going to tell you anything about it, you have to read it for yourself.

## Wendy Reeves, staff writer

*General puts people first in 'greatest team on Earth'*

<https://bit.ly/RRWendy1>

*Cheers, tears greet healthcare tribute from the sky*

<https://bit.ly/RRWendy2>

*Black Daggers honored to jump in with tribute*

<https://bit.ly/RRWendy3>

My favorite assignments were Gen. Paul Funk's (commander of the Training and Doctrine Command) visit and the parachute tribute to healthcare workers. Both of those were same week!



Photo by Eric Schultz

They were my first in-person stories – the few that I did this year – after COVID-19 hit. Gen. Funk, because he was just super cool and it was his first time ever coming to Redstone. And the parachute tribute – you could see how much it meant to the healthcare workers. They seemed genuinely touched by it and that was nice because those were some of the hard days early on.

## Eric Schultz, staff photographer

*Chapel welcomes returning congregation*

I decided on this photo because it was a small step toward normalcy. The re-opening of Bicentennial Chapel was one of the first places to open for somewhat normal services after the COVID-19 outbreak.

You could see how much it meant to the Bicentennial Chapel congregation when the services restarted. Many members were visibly moved, some crying and others visibly giving thanks in prayer. You could tell how much the congregation and pastor had missed being able to worship with one another. While it was small, it was the first step to normalcy after the outbreak which has shut down so many things on Redstone Arsenal.

# DAU Corner

**Save the Date! 17-18 February 2021**

**DAU South's Virtual Acquisition Update**

**“Acquisition 2021: Change is Inevitable - Transformation is a Choice”**

This year's event will feature the latest from OSD, Industries response to department's acquisition reform, DAU's transition, and a myriad of pertinent topics across the six critical acquisition functional areas. Registration announcement coming soon.

## Mission Assistance

DAU is continuing to offer a number of its on demand Mission Assistance products and services through virtual delivery modes. In most cases, we can adapt our mission assistance workshops, team training, and consulting products and services to virtual formats as necessary to ensure your learning needs are met. We stand ready to support you!

Contact us at: [MissionAssistance@dau.edu](mailto:MissionAssistance@dau.edu)

# Rocket rewind: Looking back at top stories of 2020

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer/Social media

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What. A. Year.

It was an indelible moment I suspect the Rocket/Garrison Public Affairs staff will remember for a long time. As we sat in our weekly meeting March 10, suddenly a phone alert popped up. AUSA Global Force Symposium was canceled. From there, the dominoes of events began to fall.

COVID-19 had arrived in Huntsville.

It is easy to focus on what didn't happen in 2020: JROTC Day ... Armed Forces Celebration Week ... Oktoberfest ... Soldier for Life/Retiree Appreciation Days ... Veterans and Heroes Week. The list goes on. But the mission didn't stop. Although the majority of Team Redstone transitioned into a telework platform that will last into next year, they still found new and innovative ways to get the job done. And the Rocket was there to tell the story.

Here are the top stories of 2020.

## Housing invests in future improvements, Jan. 15

By KARI HAWKINS, Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

Nearly a year after assuming responsibility for all Army housing, Army Materiel Command will host a comprehensive review of the sweeping reforms and improvements made across the enterprise to ensure Soldiers and families have access to high quality on-post housing.

During a Housing Summit this week at AMC headquarters, representatives of the Army's seven privatized housing companies and Army leaders from 60 installations will review strategies and programs to provide the best options for Soldiers, civilians and their families.

"We are absolutely committed to provide safe and secure housing on every installation, and making every installation an installation of choice for our Soldiers and families," Gen. Gus Perna, then-commander of Army Materiel Command, said. "The summit is another step in our commitment to hold ourselves and privatized housing companies accountable to provide a high-quality standard of living and to earn back the trust of our housing residents."

(Editor's note: Perna has since assumed leadership of Operation Warp Speed, the United States' effort to vaccinate its population against the COVID-19 virus.)

## Senior commander updates steps to combat virus spread, April 1

By WENDY REEVES, Staff writer

About 35% of Redstone Arsenal's workforce continues mission critical tasks while the remaining 45,000 are working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic – which has affected 13 personnel.

Redstone Arsenal will not close, Lt. Gen. Ed

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## Senior commander updates steps to prevent virus spread

By WENDY REEVES

Staff writer

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About 35% of Redstone Arsenal's workforce continues mission critical tasks while the remaining 45,000 are working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic – which has affected 13 personnel.

Redstone Arsenal will not close, Lt. Gen. Ed Daly, senior commander of Redstone Arsenal, said Friday as he participated with other local and state leaders in a joint COVID-19 press conference at Huntsville City Hall.

"On behalf of the leaders at Redstone Arsenal, for the second consecutive week, I'd like to provide you with an update on the status of all of the actions we are taking to mitigate and combat COVID-19," Daly said, noting that Redstone leaders continue working in close collaboration with city, county, state and national officials in response to the coronavirus pandemic. "It's great to be part of this team where we're taking what I believe are active and really proactive measures to reduce spread of virus and reduce the risk to the population of the Tennessee Valley."

The leaders on Redstone, he said, are making calculated, deliberate and informed decisions to three end states:

- Protect the force
- Prevent the spread of virus in the Tennessee Valley
- Accomplish the critical missions in support of the nation

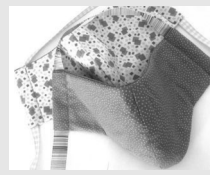


Lt. Gen. Edward Daly, senior commander of Redstone Arsenal, participates with other local and state leaders in Friday's press conference at Huntsville City Hall about the status of the coronavirus pandemic.

Excellence, with 71-plus different subordinate tenants on Redstone. To start off with, I'll tell you that we are taking measures to adjust our actions based on the guidance and directives from the Department of the Army, Department of Defense, NASA and

being executed from Redstone Arsenal with its workforce.

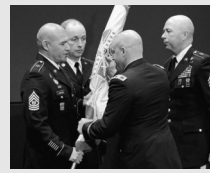
Redstone is known as a world-class training site and distance learning is keeping the Defense Acquisition University, ATF National Center for Explosives Training and



### COMMUNITY NEWS

Citizens step up to help in crisis.

PAGE 5



### MILITARY SCENE

Garrison welcomes new senior enlisted Soldier.

PAGE 19

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## Marshall boosts historic test flight of SpaceX, June 10

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

For the first time in history, NASA astronauts have launched from American soil in a commercially built and operated American crew spacecraft. The launch was the first of astronauts from U.S. soil since the retirement of the space shuttle in 2011.

The SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft carrying NASA astronauts Robert Behnken and Douglas Hurley lifted off at 2:22 p.m. May 30, on SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The astronauts docked to the International Space Station approximately 19 hours later at 9:16 a.m. May 31.

"I thank and congratulate Bob Behnken, Doug Hurley and the SpaceX and NASA teams for this significant achievement for the

United States," NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said. "The launch of this commercial space system designed for humans is a phenomenal demonstration of American excellence and is an important step on our path to expand human exploration to the Moon and Mars."

## Sergeant major of the Army gets to know Redstone, Aug. 12

By ALYSSA CROCKETT, Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston, the chief of staff of the Army's personal adviser on matters affecting the enlisted force, visited Redstone Arsenal, Aug. 5 to discuss quality of life initiatives – including child care, housing and permanent change of station moves – that enable readiness.

Grinston toured one of Redstone's child development centers and met with the senior leaders from the Garrison, Army Materiel Command and other tenant units. Throughout the visit, he emphasized one of his priorities: ensuring the health and safety of Soldiers' living conditions.

"We are constantly trying to do better," Grinston said. "We have to keep up with these things and fix them so that we can get ahead of the curve."

## Mellor brings his team approach to Garrison, Sept. 2

In a time-honored ritual, students graduate and someone, usually from their extended family, ask them what they plan to do with their life.

Col. Glenn Mellor, the Garrison's new commander, was no different.

Mellor graduated and was working at the University of Wyoming. He was at a cookout,

and it was his uncle, a lieutenant colonel in the National Guard, who wanted to know.

"I remember that conversation very well," Mellor said. "He kind of looked at me and said, 'what's next ... What are you going to do with your life?'"

"I was a military brat, and raised into a mindset of selfless service and serving your country. My father and uncle were very big on those values. Much to my father's dismay (he was retired Air Force), my uncle was a better salesman, and he and I agreed with a lot of what he was saying.

"So, about a week later, my wife and I had a conversation, and I joined the Wyoming National Guard."

## Army rapid prototyping office unveils headquarters, Sept. 9

By NANCY JONES-BONBREST, Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office

The Army officially opened the new headquarters of the Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office at Redstone Arsenal on Sept. 2 with a ribbon cutting and rededication ceremony.

The move consolidates the RCCTO's headquarters at Redstone, marking a new chapter for the organization that is responsible for executing rapid experimental prototypes and delivering residual combat capabilities to Soldiers in the areas of hypersonics, directed energy, Counter-small Unmanned Aircraft Systems and other disruptive technologies.

With a backdrop of social distancing and other safety restrictions in place due to COVID-19, the ribbon cutting included a rededication of the renovated building, originally named for the late Master Sgt. Robert Hannaway. The building served as the schoolhouse for the Hawk missile system, part of the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center and School, where Hannaway worked as both a military and civilian instructor. The building, originally dedicated in 1988, is the first on the Arsenal to be named after an enlisted Soldier.

"Today marks an important step for the future of this organization, while also remembering and honoring the tremendous history of Redstone Arsenal and this building," Lt. Gen. L. Neil Thurgood, director of hypersonics, directed energy, space and rapid acquisition, which includes the RCCTO, said. "From this new headquarters, we will continue executing our rapid prototyping efforts in support of Army modernization priorities."

## Light turns green for automated gate entry process, Sept. 30

By JONATHAN STINSON, Assistant editor

Starting Thursday, select motorists entering Redstone Arsenal will use the new Radio Frequency Identification lanes.

Organizational security managers are responsible for issuing the RFID cards to Defense Department civilians and active duty personnel – the only two groups currently eligible to receive RFID cards.

# Gold Star families receiving laptops and footballs

By WENDY REEVES

Staff writer

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Former college athletes and coaches will give new touch screen laptops and footballs to 20 youth of Huntsville area Gold Star families Dec. 22 during a special luncheon at the American Legion on Drake Avenue.

Darryl Fuhrman, president of Lettermen of the USA, said the group was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Alabama Coronavirus Relief Fund to purchase laptops for Gold Star children of Alabama's military families to help with virtual learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the group was able to purchase 25 laptops that are being distributed at two different events Dec. 22.

"Being able to provide laptops for these kids who have lost a parent in service to our country has truly meant so much to our organization," said Desmond Holoman, vice president of operations for the Lettermen group who was a linebacker for the Alabama Crimson Tide in the 1980s. "This is why we exist, to help those who are in need. These servicemen gave all, so giving their children a laptop is just our very small way of saying thank you."

Randy Ross, a former University of Alabama coach who currently serves as director of football operations at the University of Arkansas, and Secretary of State John Merrill will speak and help with presentations at both events.

Ross spent 17 seasons at Alabama including the last four as director of football operations. He was an assistant coach from 1993-96 under Coach Gene Stallings as well as the Crimson Tide's recruiting coordinator from

1990-98. He then spent one season in Alabama's development office before moving back to the football office in 2000 as the director of high school relations.

Prior to his time in Tuscaloosa, Ross was quarterbacks' coach at Vanderbilt for three seasons. And before going to Arkansas, Ross spent 11 years at Southern Methodist University where he served as the senior associate director of football operations.

Ross was also Fuhrman's high school coach before he went on to play for the Crimson Tide in the mid-1980s.

"Lettermen of the USA is thrilled that the timing worked out perfectly to present the laptops to these families during the holiday season and are honored to make Christmas just a little brighter for these families who have suffered such a devastating loss," he said.

The group is a national charitable organization of former college athletes, as well as active and former coaches who have teamed up to help serve and offer support for honorably discharged veterans, wounded veterans, and former college players in need to get back on track after facing hard times.

On Dec. 22, the Lettermen will start out in Birmingham with a breakfast at the Shades Valley American Legion Post 134 in Homewood where five youths of Gold Star families will be presented laptops and footballs. Then Fuhrman and other Lettermen members will travel to Huntsville for the 1-3 p.m. event at the American Legion on Drake Avenue.

In addition to the laptop and football presentations this month, the group has focused on providing mobility aids to several disabled veterans in need over the past year.

Fuhrman said the volunteer-member network relies



Courtesy photo from Lettermen of the USA

**Lettermen of the USA will distribute 25 new touch screen laptops to youths of Alabama Gold Star families in presentations in Birmingham and Huntsville, Dec. 22.**

on donations to support its mission as members give back to its communities by volunteering and helping out with during natural disasters, helping feed the homeless at local shelters, supporting wounded veterans or simply giving an autographed football to someone who needs encouragement from one of their gridiron heroes.

# AER scholarship helps future health professional

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer/Social media

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If the COVID-19 pandemic has shown anything, it is how important healthcare workers are. Thanks to the Army Emergency Relief scholarship, one young woman is closer to her goal of becoming one.

Amanda Combs, daughter of Aviation and Missile Command team member Lydia Combs, received an AER Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship while attending Auburn University. After receiving her degree in nutrition science, she plans to continue her schooling to become a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant.

While Combs did qualify for assistance from the GI Bill due to her parents being veterans, when that money ran out, she said she was worried about paying for the remaining two years of college and her rising student loans. In-state tuition at Auburn is almost \$6,000. That is when



Courtesy photo

**Amanda Combs, daughter of Aviation and Missile Command team member Lydia Combs, right, and Peter Combs, left, graduates from Auburn University in December 2018. Combs received an Army Emergency Relief Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship.**

her mother found the AER scholarship and urged her to apply. Over the next two years, the scholarship funded more than \$5,000 of her schooling, enabling Combs to focus on paying off her stu-

dent loan debt. The average 24-year-old carries \$16,500 in student loan debt, according to educationdata.org.

"Two years out of school and I almost have my student loans paid off," she said.

That financial freedom has allowed her to pursue a master's and her dream of working with children.

"My concentration is in pediatrics, I love kids," Combs said. "In the multiple fields I have worked ... the patients I am drawn for and have an excitement for are the little kids."

She said she was surprised that more of her friends from military families were not aware of the AER scholarships and encouraged them – and anyone else that qualifies – to apply. Although she has aged out of the requirements for her scholarship, Combs said her partner is a Soldier stationed at Fort Rucker and when she pursues graduate school, she will reapply for another AER scholarship.

"They cover the bases for dependents – and spouses, which I love," Combs said.

The requirements for the Maj. Gen. James Ursano Scholarship are that funds may be used toward tuition, fees, books, supplies, and room and board. Awards are need-based as determined by the Expected Family Contribution on the Student Aid Report from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Award amounts vary based on the applicant's expected family contribution, AER's total approved budget and the number of complete applications received. According to AER, the recipient must:

- Be the dependent child of an active duty or retired Soldier
- Be under the age of 24
- Remain unmarried for the entire academic year
- Maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA and be pursuing his or her first undergraduate degree at an accredited college or university
- Not be a member of the military or be attending a military academy.

For more information, call AER officer Kathleen Riester of Army Community Service at 876-6299.



## Sports

# Pandemic puts Redstone sports on shelf for year

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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The storm began in March and never let up.

First the coronavirus pandemic canceled the Marshall basketball league's A division championship final. Next it canceled the rest of the Redstone sports year.

On March 12, the defending champion Mavericks were scheduled to play Almost Semi-Pro for the A division title at the Marshall Wellness Center. The Mavericks were 15-3 while Almost Semi-Pro advanced to the tournament final at 12-6. The scheduled consolation game had Space Jam (15-5) against the Trashed Pandas (10-8).

But the pandemic stopped everything.

"Championships are canceled as a community COVID-19 precaution," Marshall league's Bob Gillis announced at midafternoon March 12.

It turned out there would be no volleyball. No softball. No flag football. No 2020-21 basketball.

Most of the Redstone workforce has been working from home since mid-March. The Redstone sports year was a collateral casualty.

The Redstone Rocket covered Huntsville senior softball to fill our sports section this year. We plan to cover their league again when they resume play in the spring.

File photo by Skip Vaughn

**Hopefully the Marshall basketball league will tip off again in 2021.**



## Dick Allen delivered special summer of '64

He was one of my heroes from one of the most memorable years of my life.

He was Dick Allen, although we initially called him Richie. He was the slug-ging rookie third baseman for my hometown Philadelphia Phillies in 1964.

Allen wore No. 15 and he could hit a baseball a country mile. I remember listening to the Phillies games on the radio back then or watching on TV.

There was a buzz of anticipation whenever Allen stepped to the plate. Folks knew what he could do if he connected with a pitch.

There would be a solid crack of his bat and the ball would inevitably travel far over the outfield wall at Connie Mack Stadium in Philly or at some other ball-park on the road against a National League rival.

He almost singlehandedly powered my beloved Phillies to the 1964 pennant. But you know what ultimately happened. The Phillies led the league by six and a half games with just 12 left to play. And they proceeded to lose 10 straight games and

### From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn  
Rocket editor

blew the pennant to the St. Louis Cardinals. The Cardinals, with star pitcher Bob Gibson, went on to beat the New York Yankees in the World Series.

Allen won the NL Rookie of the Year award for 1964. The Phillies traded him to the Cardinals before the 1970 season. He was with the Phillies (1963-69), Cardinals (1970), Los Angeles Dodgers (1971), Chicago White Sox (1972-74), Phillies again (1975-76) and the Oakland Athletics (1977). He won the American League Most Valuable Player award in 1972.

He died on Dec. 7 at age 78. I celebrated my 66th birthday the next day.

Thank you, Dick Allen, for giving me one of the best years of my life in 1964. Rest in peace, No. 15.

## Your glory days in sports

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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### How do you stay in shape?

"I go to Pagano Gym four to five times a week. And I do six different exercises at 50 reps each on weights," retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Odie Huffman said. "And then I have a weight set in my garage, and in the afternoon I lift three days a week there. So three days a week I lift two times a day. I've stayed in condition. I did athletics in college; I ran track. And then after college I did martial arts. Basically I have a whole regimen of diet and exercise. Physically I'm over 60 so physically it gives me the physical capability to do things that I like to do. If you exercise, there's a lot of things that it does. It enhances your cardiovascular system, so it allows your blood flow to be better. And exercise has actually been proven to make you think better."

"I'm retired military so I have a lot of injuries. What working out does is it helps my bones and muscles to be able to counteract those injuries."

Huffman, 65, originally from Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, retired from the Army in 2015 with 28 years of service. Since 2018 he has worked as an analyst at the Space and Missile Defense Command Center of Excellence Air and Missile Defense Integration. He resides in Huntsville with his wife of 18 years, Christine. Huffman enjoys playing golf and reading about history, philosophy, economics and science. He said he roots for Tiger Woods "because I want to see him get more majors before he gets too old."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4 Odie Huffman plays golf at the Links.**

# Rocket Announcements

## Sports & Recreation

### Senior softball leagues

Huntsville Senior Softball is recruiting players for next spring. The three leagues include: Rockets, 55-and-up; Recreation, 63-and-up; and Triads, 71-and-up. The season will begin in late April; and they play two nights a week through Labor Day. Players are needed. For the Rockets, email league director Chris Maggio at [cmaggio51@aol.com](mailto:cmaggio51@aol.com). For more information about Huntsville Senior Softball, email [Huntsville-srsoftball-info@googlegroups.com](mailto:Huntsville-srsoftball-info@googlegroups.com) or call Becky Rollston of the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center at 880-7081.

### Skating in the park

The Huntsville Museum of Art has opened its ninth season of Skating in the Park. Skating in the Park, located at 300 Church St. behind the museum in Big Spring Park, is a Huntsville holiday tradition. Skating in the Park has updated its health and safety policies. All patrons must wear a mask when inside Skating in the Park's boundaries. Guests should also practice social distancing. The rink is limited to 125 skaters at one time, and railings will be disinfected every 90 minutes. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 4 to 9 p.m.; Friday 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sunday noon to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 if you bring your own skates, \$10 for ages 9 and under, \$15 for ages 10 and older, \$13 for groups of 10 or more. Scooters may be rented for \$5.

## Conferences & Meetings

### Lance/MLRS veterans reunion

The Lance missile system and Multiple Launch Rocket System veterans homecoming celebration has been moved to October in San Antonio because of the pandemic. It was originally scheduled for May in Huntsville but was postponed to the Columbus Day weekend in San Antonio, according to retired Sgt. 1st Class John Williams, the reunion host. For information call 210-209-2000.

### Sergeants major association

The Sergeants Major Association is still meeting every third Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. They are not meeting at a physical location because of the pandemic but they are meeting virtually through Zoom. Attendees must download the Zoom app on either their home computer, laptop or mobile device to participate. Once you get into the Zoom app, you will see Meeting ID number. Type in 710 211-4188. Then you will see the "Join meeting" button. If you have problems getting into Zoom, call retired Sgt. Maj. Willene Orr 410-533-2685.

### Marine Corps league

The Brandon-Wilbourn Marine Corps League Detachment 820 conducts a monthly meeting every second Saturday of the month at noon at the American Legion Post 237, 2900 Drake Ave. The detachment is open to all active, retired and former Marines. The league is a veterans/military service organization formed to promote 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 Earl Hokanson 881-2852, Senior Vice Commandant Albert Mallory 379-2904 or Adjutant Stephen Cecil 829-1839.

### 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.

## 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).

### AMC Inspector General

The Army Materiel Command Inspector General provides specialized support to AMC and Redstone Arsenal to assist military personnel, Army civilians, family mem-

bers and contractors to obtain the help needed to resolve an issue. The AMC IG serves as the eyes, ears, voice and conscience of the AMC commander. The AMC IG Team is a fair and impartial fact finder that will accept confidential and anonymous issues and complaints for assistance and resolution. Occasionally, requests for assistance will contain allegations that may require an informal inquiry or formal investigation; inquiry and investigation conclusions will be based on the preponderance of credible evidence. Inspections and investigations conducted by an IG or IG team are considered an IG record and cannot be used as a basis for adverse action against an individual without the written approval of the Inspector General of the Army. The IG is prepared to assist and operates under strict guidelines of confidentiality. To learn more about the IG, contact: DSN 320-7910/commercial 450-7910 or email [us-army.redstone.usamc.mbx.ig@mail.mil](mailto:us-army.redstone.usamc.mbx.ig@mail.mil).

### Marshall children's center

The Marshall Child Development Center, serving both the Marshall Space Flight Center and Redstone families, has openings. MCDC offers care for infants through pre-kindergarten children and has current availability in most classes. Visit the website at <https://mcdc.msfc.nasa.gov/>. For more information, email [Kelli.L.Wright@nasa.gov](mailto:Kelli.L.Wright@nasa.gov).

### Memorial wreaths for veterans

Wreaths Across America invites you to join them in laying wreaths Saturday at the Middle Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery to honor fallen service members. To sponsor a wreath, visit [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org) and search for Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club code AL0033P.

### Prayer walk

If you are looking for hope and inspira-

tion during these troubled times, Madison United Methodist Church (127 Church St., Madison) has built a simple, guided prayer walk on the lawn east of its sanctuary, across Church Street in downtown Madison. The 11 stations of the prayer walk were all written by Jessica Sloan, one of the young adults in the church. Each station has a scripture, a reading, and a guided prayer that takes you on a journey from hope to hope. The prayer walk will be open to the public until early January.

### Commissary holiday hours

The Commissary announces its schedule for the holiday season. For Christmas: open Dec. 21; closing early (4 p.m.) Dec. 24; closed Dec. 25; and reopen Dec. 26. ... For New Year's: close early (5 p.m.) Dec. 31; closed Jan. 1; and reopen Jan. 2.

### Exchange holiday hours

The Exchange will be closed Christmas Day, Dec. 25; note the 24-hour fuel is always available. On New Year's Day, Jan. 1, all facilities will be closed except for the Goss Road Express/Class Six which will be open from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### DMV at One Stop

The Department of Motor Vehicle and the State Driver's License, located at the One Stop, building 3494 on Honest John Road, will be closed Dec. 24 and 25.

### Commissary scholarships

The Scholarships for Military Children Program is now open and accepting applications for the 2021 school year. The scholarship program of Fisher House Foundation is administered by the Defense Commissary Agency. All applications will be submitted online only. Apply at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org).

