

Redstone Rocket

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Gulf War brings decisive win for U.S.-led coalition

Editor's note: See more stories about the 30th anniversary of the Persian Gulf War in the Military section of today's Redstone Rocket.

By **EMILY STRICKLAND**

Staff writer

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Operation Desert Sabre, a 100-hour ground offensive that spelled the beginning of the end of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, began 30 years ago today.

Though the battle took place against the desert backdrop of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, civilians, contractors and Army officials at Redstone Arsenal played a vital role in the success of the United States and its allies as they drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait City.

Aviation and Missile Command Historian Kaylene Hughes remembers the flurry of activity that accompanied the "hurry up and wait" period in the months before the mission began. The Emergency Operations Center was in building 5250, which also housed the history department at the time. A Redstone Rocket article from Aug. 29, 1990, reported that 40 people staffed the office around the clock, receiving twice-daily briefings and sometimes working as many as 90 hours a week.

"We'd see a lot of activity down there all the time," Hughes said. "They had people there 24/7. It was amazing how quickly they pulled things together."

The then Missile Command, based at Redstone Arsenal, was responsible for managing the various types of missiles used during Desert Storm. Patriot, a surface-to-air system, was the most notable at the time, but the lineup also included air defense missiles Stinger, Chaparral and Hawk, anti-armor missiles Dragon, TOW, Hellfire and Shillelagh, and artillery missiles Hydra 70, Multiple Launch Rocket System or MLRS, and the Army

See Gulf on page 16



File photo

The Patriot air defense missile system gained fame in the Persian Gulf War for defending against Scud attacks. It was called the "Scud buster."



File photo

The Multiple Launch Rocket System, or MLRS, was among the systems used in the Persian Gulf War which were managed at Redstone Arsenal.



MILITARY

Space capabilities helped push across Iraqi desert.

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COMMUNITY

Career program managers build capable workforce.

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FEDERAL

Marshall leads launch abort system transition.

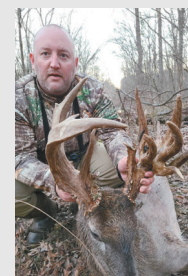
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SPORTS

Redstone hunter bags deer of his lifetime.

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Persian Gulf War
30 years later

Neighbors keeping watchful eye on passersby

My neighborhood watch group is the gift that keeps on giving.

This group, bless their hearts, wants so bad to live in a gated community, but none of us have gated-community money. Even if I did have gated-community money, I probably wouldn't live in a gated community.

I'd buy a big piece of land in the middle of nowhere and build me a moat and a drawbridge. (I've yet to sell Anna on the idea.)

My neighborhood doesn't even have an HOA, which I thought was a good thing. The fewer Karens I have to encounter in my life the better.

For the most part, my philosophy is live and let live, and when people do something comical, write about them.

The problem is the lack of a gated community and an HOA has created a vacuum that's been filled by a handful of my neighbors who run this community watch Face-

book page.

Instead of worrying about Karen from down the street sending you a letter saying your hedges are too tall, we get the Huntsville Police Department filling that enforcement role.

Yes, they are so persistent it's easier for the HPD to just appease them than ignore them.

So, last week, or maybe two weeks ago, depending on when this column runs, there was one particular member who called the HPD to report – wait for it – someone walking down the street in jeans.

You probably think that I'm oversimplifying the situation for a comedic effect. Luckily, we have comments on the Facebook post where this neighbor informed everyone they had called the cops on a suspicious person to clarify their thought process.

Here's the original post: "This might not mean anything – might be a neighbor am-

Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson
Assistant editor

bling in 20-plus weather checking his phone and looking at houses. ... I called the cops to make sure he's OK. You might want to keep an eye out just in case."

What I can't show you is the photo from her security camera, but just picture a guy in normal clothes walking down the street. The walker looks a little cold and is hunched over like they're bracing from weather.

That makes sense because it was a cold day.

After being called out for calling the cops on someone just randomly walking down a public road, the reporter then "reviewed" their security camera footage for "a couple of hours" to then come up with a list of actions that made this person suspicious.

Those "suspicious acts" include not mak-

ing eye contact with neighbors who were outside and randomly stopping to look at houses.

None of that seems out of the ordinary enough to call the cops. In fact it appears to be less suspicious than the last time I ambled around my neighborhood in a hoodie pulled so tight that it wouldn't let me raise my head.

I couldn't see anything and ended up walking straight into a parked car. My wife was walking with me and just watched me do it. No heads up. No words of warning. Just me muttering some unprintable words and her saying "oh, you can't see?"

I stopped in front of a few houses on that walk, too.

I had a friend who used to leave a stack of one-hundred dollar bills taped under his TV. He did that just in case he ever needed someone to bail him out of jail.

Maybe I should start hiding some bail money in my house every time I go for a walk.

Quote of the week

“Five months ago, Saddam Hussein started this cruel war against Kuwait. Tonight, the battle has been joined. ... Our goal is not the conquest of Iraq. It is the liberation of Kuwait.”

– President George H. W. Bush

Jan. 17, 1991, when the first Gulf War began.

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.

On this date in history: Feb. 24

In 1991: U.S. led coalition ground troops crossed the Saudi Arabian border and entered Iraq, thus beginning the ground phase of the Persian Gulf War. They declared victory after 100 hours.

In 1989: United Airlines Flight 811, bound for New Zealand from Honolulu, ripped open during flight, blowing nine passengers out of the business-class section.

In 1980: The U.S. Olympic hockey team completed its Miracle on Ice by defeating Finland 4-2 to win the gold medal.

In 1920: The Nazi Party was founded by Adolf Hitler in the Hofbräuhaus beer hall in Munich, Germany.

In 1868: Andrew Johnson became the first president of the United States to be impeached by the House of Representatives. He was later acquitted in the Senate.

In 1863: Arizona was organized as a United States territory.

RedstoneRocket

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First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Kameisha Brooks

What do you think of your job?

"I love what I do," Kameisha Brooks, a security guard at the gates since June, said. "I love being able to interact with the customers as they come in the gates."

Brooks, 30, from Oxford, moved to Huntsville in July. She was a correctional officer at the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department from March 2018 until June 2020.

"I like to fish. I love to shop – I'm a sneaker head," she said of her penchant for buying tennis shoes. "And I like to cook and travel. And I also coupon."

Take role in keeping your security clearance

By Aviation and Missile Command
G-2 (Intelligence)

Whether you are a Soldier, civilian or contractor, maintaining an active security clearance is essential to your ability to work for the Department of Defense.

The DOD Consolidated Adjudications Facility is the sole authority to determine security clearance eligibility of non-intelligence agency DOD personnel occupying sensitive positions or requiring access to classified material including sensitive compartmented information.

An initial favorable determination of a security clearance may be overturned at a later date. Personnel are expected to report changes or incidents that may impact their security clearance eligibility. Failure to self-report these changes may be viewed negatively during adjudication. The continuous evaluation process is designed to identify life events which may negatively impact your clearance. Higher-level security professionals identify blemishes on credit reports, arrests and other court filings that may question your ability to retain your clearance. When discovered, they issue a clearance eligibility alert and request further information in order to adjudicate the in-

cident. When you self-report applicable events, the DOD CAF views this favorably during the adjudication process.

Should a life event occur, it is imperative you consult with your security manager and obtain guidance on self-reporting. Reporting in and of itself is not a reason to revoke or deny eligibility for access to classified information and may go far in receiving a favorable adjudication of the incident and protecting your security clearance.

Topics that should be reported include: bankruptcy/delinquent debt, accounts in collection/charge-off, alcohol/substance abuse incidents, arrests, marriage/divorce, foreign travel/contact/business, dual/multiple citizenships, psychological conditions, etc. This is not a comprehensive list. If you have questions about whether you should self-report, consult your security manager.

The goal of self-reporting is to limit risk to national security and to prevent you from losing your security clearance. It is imperative you take an active role in maintaining your security clearance.

Your primary point of contact for clearance-related questions is your security manager.

For more detailed inquiries, contact your security branch.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

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

Feb. 8: A vehicle was stopped on westbound Goss Road for displaying an expired registration. The National Crime Information Center revealed the registration expired in January 2020. The diver said the vehicle did not have insurance. Further investigation revealed the registration decal had been altered by taping the number 2 over the 0 to make it appear the registration had been updated. The driver was cited for vehicle identification offense (falsified registration decal) and driving with no insurance and released. The vehicle was towed from the scene. The license plate was retained on DA Form 4137 and secured in a police evidence locker.

Feb. 9: On Vincent Drive, a vehicle was stopped for a stop sign violation. The driver had a suspended license for failure to pay. The driver was cited for driving while suspended and failure to obey traffic control device. The vehicle was later removed by a licensed driver.

Feb. 10: An individual seeking a visitor badge at the Gate 9 Visitor Center had a warrant with Limestone County Sheriff's Office for criminal mischief in the second degree. The individual was apprehended and subsequently

released to a Limestone County sheriff's deputy.

Feb. 10: An individual seeking a visitor badge at the Gate 9 Visitor Center had a warrant with Madison Police Department for failure to appear for traffic offense. The individual was apprehended and released to a Madison police officer. The individual's vehicle was secured in the visitor center parking lot awaiting a licensed driver.

Feb. 13: A Redstone police officer noticed a vehicle speeding toward Gate 9 in the far lane that was closed. When the vehicle came to an abrupt stop, the officer approached the driver. The individual had slurred speech, bloodshot and watery eyes and the odor of an alcoholic beverage. The individual failed in a series of standardized field sobriety tests, was apprehended and transported to the police station for further processing. The driver was cited for driving under the influence and placed in the detention cell until their blood alcohol content reached an acceptable level. The vehicle was removed by a licensed driver.

Citations included one for driving while license is suspended or revoked, one for failure to obey traffic control device, one for expired inspection sticker, two for failure to register vehicle, one for improper lane change and 14 for speeding.

Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Your favorite pastime.

"I work with computers," Chris Shrout, a cyber threat analyst for Amarak Inc. in support of the Army, said. "So a lot of my spare time and a lot of the fun that I have is about videogames and building custom computers to do things for me. I think it's a good way to kind of relax and take my mind off of everything else that's going on in the world."

Shrout, 36, from St. Mary's County, Maryland, grew up in a Navy family so he moved around. The University of Maryland graduate has worked at Redstone off and on since 2015. He and his wife of 10 years, Meleah, reside in Madison with their daughter, Anya, 1. Shrout enjoys working on cars, working on computers and spending time with friends and family when he can. He roots for the Maryland Terrapins.



Chris Shrout

Know your laws: Legislature cares to provide relief

By AMY WASYLUKA

Huntsville attorney

With tax season around the bend, the Alabama Legislature is looking to provide relief to those who received federal tax credits or advance refunds under the federal Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act or “CARES Act.” Under current law, any amounts that were received in 2020 under the CARES Act are not excluded from Alabama’s income tax taxation. Similarly, any cancellation of indebtedness income or forgiveness of small business loans which occurred in 2020 under the CARES Act are also not excluded from taxation.

House Bill 19 seeks to change that.

House Bill 19 would allow both individual Alabamians and Alabama small businesses who received aid under the CARES Act to exempt that aid from state income taxes. House Bill 19 is currently pending before the House Ways and Means Education Committee. For those Alabamians and Alabama businesses who may be struggling financially due to the pandemic, House Bill 19 would provide an important measure of relief.

You can read the full text of HB 19 along with any amendments by checking the status of the bill online by going to <http://alisondb.legislature.state.al.us/alison/default.aspx> and clicking on “Bills” then “Find Status of a Bill” and inputting HB19. Additionally, for those who are interested in contacting their local state representative about HB 19, contact information for your state representatives is available online at www.legislature.state.al.us/aliswww/ISD/House/ALRepresentatives.aspx.

Editor’s note: The opinions in this column do not constitute legal advice nor do they establish an attorney-client relationship. If you have questions concerning the issues discussed, contact an attorney of your choice. No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than

the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.



the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service
and Defense Department websites

Army command climate survey

WASHINGTON – An updated version of the Defense Organizational Climate Survey, or DEOCS 5.0, will provide commanders with an evidence-based feedback tool to help them identify and intervene against a variety of areas critical to command climate, including destructive behaviors, such as sexual harassment, sexual assault, and associated retaliation.

The Army will incorporate 10 additional questions about sexual harassment and sexual assault reporting climate into all DEOCS surveys, said Michelle Zbylut, director of the Army Research Institute for the Behavioral and Social Sciences.

The additional line of questions supports a People First Task Force initiative linked to the Fort Hood Independent Review, Zbylut said.

Army senior leaders stood up the task force in December to aggressively address the results of an independent report and restore an Armywide culture of dignity and respect, according to task force officials.

Like a vehicle’s check engine light, the DEOCS is intended to identify risk factors that drive an installation’s or unit’s command climate, said Jenna Newman, social science adviser with the Army Resilience Directorate.

The survey is managed and administered by the Defense Department’s Office of People Analytics, Zbylut explained. The core survey is a collection of approximately 100 questions, with the option to include no more than 10 service-specific questions.

Installation leaders can also include no more than 10 multiple-choice and up to five open-ended questions to target local interests, she added. These questions are selected from a bank of options to ensure the survey’s reliability and compliance with DOD policies.

“The optional DEOCS content includes a wide variety of topics, ranging from workplace experiences, professional development, discrimination, to COVID-19,” Zbylut said. “The additional questions allow commanders to dig deeper into a given topic area.”

Installation commanders are required to conduct a DEOCS upon the first 120 days of taking command, Zbylut said.

Participation in the survey is considered voluntary for all personnel and provides them a safe, secure, and confidential means to submit feedback. The recent update to the DEOCS will allow participants to complete it through their smartphone or tablet, creating more flexibility for anyone who wants to participate, Zbylut added.

“Many individuals in the Army will have taken a DEOCS at some point in their career, but these questions are going to look different from previous iterations,” she said.

tions,” she said.

Contract award announcements

Moderna US, Cambridge, Massachusetts, was awarded a \$1,650,000,000 modification to contract W911QY-20-C-0100 for an additional 100 million doses of Moderna vaccine. Work will be performed in Cambridge with an estimated completion date of July 31. Fiscal 2021 research, development, test and evaluation (Army) funds in the amount of \$1,650,000,000 were obligated at the time of the award. Army Contracting Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, is the contracting activity.

General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems, Garland, Texas, was awarded an \$111,853,284 firm-fixed-price contract for MK80 series general purpose tritonal bomb components. Bids were solicited via the Internet with one received. Work will be performed in Garland with an estimated completion date of Dec. 30, 2022. Fiscal 2019 and 2020 aircraft procurement (Army) funds in the amount of \$111,853,284 were obligated at the time of the award. Army Contracting Command, Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, is the contracting activity.

Armtec Countermeasures Co., Coachella, California, was awarded a \$24,953,504 firm-fixed-price contract for Flare Aircraft Countermeasure M206 and Flare Aircraft Countermeasure MJU-7A/B. Bids were solicited via the Internet with three received. Work will

be performed in Camden, Arkansas, with an estimated completion date of Dec. 31, 2026. Fiscal 2019 and 2020 aircraft procurement appropriations funds in the amount of \$24,953,504 were obligated at the time of the award. Army Contracting Command, Rock Island Arsenal, is the contracting activity.

Taking stand against extremism

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin on Feb. 5 ordered a Defense Department-wide stand down to discuss the problem of extremism in the ranks. He directed commanding officers and supervisors at all levels to conduct a one-day stand down with their personnel within the next 60 days.

Austin made it very clear that leaders have discretion to tailor discussions with personnel as appropriate to each command. Such discussions should include the importance of the oath of office that service members take, impermissible behaviors, and procedures for reporting suspected or actual extremist behaviors, Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby said at a press briefing.

“What (Austin) didn’t want to do is be overly prescriptive on this because every command is different, every service is different. And, of course, some commands are very much in harm’s way right now, and you have to make sure that they can do this in a way that doesn’t impede their ability to accomplish missions around the world,” Kirby said.

Military

Space capabilities helped push across Iraqi desert

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command
Public Affairs

A long time ago, in a desert far, far away, space became the newest combat domain.

The year 2021 marks 30 years since Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait were defeated and forcefully removed by American forces and coalition partners.

Douglas Slater, operational planner and analyst, Space and Missile Defense Command G-52, served during Desert Storm as a plans officer to the 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized), "The Big Red One," during the Army's first space war Jan. 17 through Feb. 28, 1991.

Slater, then a newly promoted major, served as a tactical planner in the division G-3 Plans department when the division unfurled its colors in Saudi Arabia in December 1990. He said space-based capabilities were key to enabling the division's successful completion of operations during the 100-hour ground campaign Feb. 24-28, and he added that in 1991 the Army did not fully understand what space could bring to the fight.

"The Army had just begun to explore the capabilities of space," Slater said. "Although I was only a very small cog in this big machine, as a plans officer for the Big Red One I was in a unique position to observe the unfolding of Operation Desert Storm and how all the pieces of this mighty puzzle came together.

"At this time there were no Space Support Teams, nor any sort of joint or Army doctrinal publications to turn to in order to learn what was available. A lot of space-based capabilities were considered by plans officers, tasked to align capabilities against requirements, to fall within the category of 'then magic happens.' Fortunately for the division we found that even if it is 'then magic happens' for space-based capabilities and in particular imagery, missile warning, GPS navigation, and satellite communications, they were welcome combat multipliers which all had a positive impact on enabling the division's operations. These space-based capabilities were instrumental in enabling the division to maintain



Army photo

Soldiers operate the small lightweight global positioning system receivers during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. The SLGR, which facilitated GPS navigation in the open desert, along with other space-based capabilities such as missile warning, space-based imagery and satellite communications played a major role in enabling the success of U.S. and coalition forces during 100 hours of sustained combat.

momentum and dictate the tempo of operations onto Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces, and it was a tempo which they could not hope to match."

Slater then explained the specific role space-based imagery played as a key component to the famous "Left Hook" maneuver of Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, as well as numerous other battlefield engagements.

"From space, disturbances in the soil, or rather the sand, leave a very distinct signature and contrast between hot dry surface sand and cool damp subsurface sand," Slater said. "The deeper you dig – for example, a revetment for a tank firing position – the sharper the contrast. As planners, and disciples of Sun Tzu, we were also generally familiar with how Hussein's Iraqi forces task organized, specifically with an engineer company for each infantry brigade, as well as tanks, anti-tank weapons, and artillery. From disturbances in the sand evident from the imagery, we could also piece together how individual unit commanders had organized their defense.

"Based on the disturbances in the sand evident in the imagery, and with a rudimentary understanding of Hussein's

box/laptop they set up in the G-2 van of the division main headquarters.

"To me it was fascinating and the Soldiers were only too proud to show missile launches and rough predicted impact points. This allowed the division to only duck and cover when the predicted impact point was near us. Basic and thin-line though it was, this means of reading the infrared signature and providing the division with early missile warning allowed the division to maintain momentum with preparations leading up to the ground campaign."

During the ground campaign, Slater said the advantages provided by space-based capabilities of the Global Positioning System cannot be overstated. There were many times, often for days, when there were only two GPS satellites in view. Even that was enough to support basic navigation across the broad expanses of the Saudi, Kuwaiti and Iraqi desert regions.

"The GPS further allowed rapid and accurate positioning of artillery platoons and batteries without the long delay for surveys to be completed," a division after-action review stated. "The system is accurate enough that only one adjustment was ever required to bring indirect fires directly on the target.

"Every vehicle in the Army should be equipped with a GPS ... the number of American lives saved by the GPS during Desert Storm cannot be measured, but if it could, the number would be staggering."

Slater said that in addition to space imagery, missile warning and GPS, satellite communications, or SATCOM, was critical in the fast-moving conflict and key corps-level decisions, such as fire support coordination were driven by SATCOM efforts.

"The command and control of the Big Red One throughout the extensive and complex ground campaign would not have been possible, or even imaginable, without the advantages of satellite communications," he said.

Having served from June 1979 to September 2003, Slater retired as a lieutenant colonel and said that even after 30 years, many of these events are still fresh in his memory.

"My impressions then were that these space-based capabilities – imagery, missile warning, GPS navigation and SATCOM – played a major role in enabling the success of the division during 100 hours, over 250 km, of sustained combat," he said. "Of that, I am certain."

Persian Gulf War
30 years later

Two-star general remembers Desert Storm lessons learned

By SAMANTHA TYLER

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

After 30 years, Maj. Gen. Bob Harter still remembers how it felt to step off the plane in Saudi Arabia in June 1991.

“I always remember getting off that plane for the first time,” Harter, Army Materiel Command’s chief of staff, said. “Every time I land in that region now, that memory comes back to me.”

Harter was a first lieutenant serving as a platoon leader in a howitzer battery in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Bad Hersfeld, Germany, when Iraq invaded Kuwait, leading to Operation Desert Shield and subsequently Operation Desert Storm.

One of the memories that sticks out to him is when the operation started. When the air strike began, Harter remembers being in Grafenwoehr.

“We went on full alert,” he said. “We stopped everything we were doing in Grafenwoehr. We all got in our vehicles and road marched the 200 kilometers back to Bad Hersfeld and went into a defensive posture. I remember thinking holy cow, this is the real deal.”

Four months later, his unit was alerted to deploy to Saudi Arabia. While the fighting



Army photo by Staff Sgt. Dalton Smith

On Feb. 3, 2017, Brig. Gen. Bob Harter, deputy commander of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) and commander of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), inspects the multinational ammunition supply depot at Erbil, Iraq.

had stopped by that point, his unit moved from Saudi Arabia to Kuwait, establishing the border to ensure the Iraqi forces did not penetrate their defense. Navigating this path presented challenges.

“In Germany, we had no GPS,” Harter said. “We had no navigation by satellite system. We were doing everything by map, which is easy to do in Germany where you have forests and roads, and everything is

well-marked. You get out into that Saudi Arabian and Kuwaiti desert, there is nothing.”

Harter said his unit was issued Precision Lightweight GPS Receivers, commonly known as “pluggers.” This system only worked when the satellites were perfectly aligned. He said when the system went down, the unit would navigate by compass. He would direct one vehicle to drive about

Persian Gulf War 30 years later

200 meters, while talking to the driver to make sure the vehicle was lined up on the right azimuth. Then, the rest of the unit would move forward.

“Then you would kick it out again, as far as you could see, get it aligned and you were just leap frogging, because there were no terrain features in the middle of the desert,” he said. “You had no clue where you were (while) looking at a map.”

Thirty years later, Harter still uses lessons he learned as a first lieutenant serving in Desert Storm. He said his experience taught him how combat arms Soldiers think, as well as what it takes to support maneuver formations. Serving as a field artillery officer and an ordnance officer early in his career has helped him better understand what Soldiers need.

When he deployed in 2016 while serving as the commander of the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, he delivered units 155 millimeter rounds similar to how he delivered munitions as an ordnance of-

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Lessons

Continued from page 6

ficer years ago.

“I understood exactly what they were doing with those rounds once they got them, I understand how badly they needed them and what it took to get them there,” he said.

He also learned important lessons about readiness. When he served in Germany, the Berlin Wall had just fallen and the Soviet Union was still viewed as a threat. All of a sudden, the Army responded to threats from the Middle East. He remembers this shift from the Cold War to the need for

worldwide readiness.

“It taught me that you have to be ready no matter what. You never know where the threat is and who’s going to be called,” he said.

Although much has changed, from technology to the composition of units, he said Soldiers haven’t changed.

“You had kids from Queens and kids from Arkansas and they all came together to form this cohesive unit. We were all together, didn’t know what we were going to face once we got into the Middle East,” Harter said. “Those same young men I was with as a young lieutenant, they are cut from the same metal and cloth as the young kids we have today.”

Gulf War Soldier welcomed home by her family

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Bombers flew overhead. Tracers were visible in the night sky. Explosions sounded in the distance.

Staff Sgt. Renee Kelly stayed on alert Feb. 24, 1991, off main supply route Dodge near the Iraqi border. She was a Hawk missile launcher repairer in the 34th Ordnance Company, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade under the 18th Airborne Corps.

In January the Soldiers had moved up along the Iraqi border from their temporary staging area, an old cement factory called Cement City. Kelly left Redstone Arsenal in September 1990 and joined the brigade at Fort Bliss, Texas. They arrived that Oct. 23 in Saudi Arabia.

Their Hawk air defense system maintenance company had a direct support role when the 100-hour ground war began Feb. 24.

“What I remember from that day is of course being on constant alert,” Kelly said. “Just having your weapon and your NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) gear with you at all times. During the day, we were in and out of bunkers due to potential Scud attacks. At night it was like depending on the elevation we were at the time, from afar we could see tracers. It was lit up like fireworks.”

By day the Soldiers were on standby for any Hawk maintenance task. By night they took turns pulling guard duty along the perimeter. Kelly slept in her boots so she would be ready in case of a Scud missile attack.

“Of course I was afraid,” she said. “I had the thought that I may not make it home because we could hear the artillery. We saw the tracers. We saw live tracers at night.”

After the war, the victorious Soldiers packed up and pulled back from the border. Kelly saw two bodies alongside the road. She picked up an Iraqi protective mask that she hoped to keep as a souvenir but later had to turn in. She saw many ditches beside the road; and the locals would use them as passing lanes to speed around the Army utility cargo

vehicle.

“We ended up moving twice because we got flooded, believe it or not, in the desert,” Kelly said. “We moved from one area up to higher ground (because of rain) and everything was flooded out. We had disposable cameras and we had taken a lot of pictures. We lost a lot of our cameras and stuff due to the rain.”

They departed King Khalid Military City, Saudi Arabia, March 17 and headed home in a commercial airline. On St. Patrick’s Day, the flight stopped in Ireland to refuel and the locals boarded to give shamrocks to the Soldiers. They flew directly to John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York and then to Fort Bliss. Kelly expected that only Fort Bliss families would be there. But she was surprised to see her then husband, William, a Soldier stationed at Redstone, and their young son, Jeff.

“I can remember that like yesterday. That was my moment of joy,” she said. “It was a happy moment. He was 10 months old when I left him because he didn’t remember me. I was reaching for him, he was reaching for his dad. It was a happy moment for me but he was not



Renee Kelly

See Kelly on page 10

Persian Gulf War
30 years later

Kelly

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a happy baby.”

She received the Southwest Asia Medal, the Kuwaiti Liberation Medal and the Army Commendation Medal.

Kelly retired in June 2004 as a first sergeant after more than 20 years. She had originally told her mother she would just serve three. Joining the Army was “one of the best decisions I ever made,” she said. “The camaraderie, the people. I have some military friends that are closer than family. In fact I consider them family.”

The Joliet, Illinois, native stayed at Redstone where she began and finished her military career. She is a supervisory logistics management specialist at the Aviation and Missile Command’s Logistics Center.

Kelly, 54, resides in Monrovia. Her son, Jeff, 31, is a computer specialist and an Air Force reservist in Tampa, Florida. Her fiancé, Keith Little, is a logistics management specialist in the Program Executive Office for Aviation. She enjoys reading and doing home improvement projects. Kelly is a lifelong member of the Disabled American Veterans. She belongs to the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Huntsville.

“I just can’t imagine it’s been 30 years (since the Persian Gulf War),” she said. “But just so fortunate that God was watching over us then and now. I just thank him for his blessings and protection.”



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Renee Kelly deployed to Saudi Arabia in October 1990 and she left in March 1991 after providing combat support in the Persian Gulf War.

Giunta saw Desert Storm from his tank turret

By SARAH TATE

Army Contracting Command-Redstone Public Affairs

As an armor officer, Joseph Giunta was part of the tip of the spear for Operation Desert Storm.

Giunta is the executive director and senior contracting official for the Army Contracting Command-Redstone, a major contracting center of the Army Contracting Command.

In 1991, he was a captain serving as a tank company commander for Charlie Company, 4th Battalion, 67th Armor, stationed in Friedberg, Germany.

“We were alerted that we were going to deploy while in the field at Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels during our gunnery and maneuver rotation which we did once every six months,” he said.

“We had about 30 days between returning from the field to deploying. Many families traveled to Germany to spend time with their sons and daughters. Families were anxious and nervous. I had a father of one of my Soldiers come visit me. He said he wanted to meet the man that was taking his son into combat. That was a pretty unbelievable moment for me. Understanding the responsibility that I had to protect and keep his son safe.

“The preparations of getting a tank company out of Germany, rail heading the equipment, getting it on ships, moving it to the desert and then receiving the equipment and preparing for combat in the matter of days was a challenge.

“We took up residence in Saudi Arabia while our equipment arrived at port, and as

See Giunta on page 12

Persian Gulf War
30 years later



Joseph Giunta

Giunta

Continued from page 11

soon as our equipment arrived we would push it to the desert. All 14 of my company's tanks were in the desert when we were given the mission to attack Kuwait.

"We were there for about seven months. The January/February time frame is when we closed in. We obviously went to combat starting in February. And after hostilities ceased, my brigade, the 3rd Armored Division, was selected to stay behind and prepare for the defense of Kuwait, post combat operations. We stayed at Camp Doha in Kuwait for 2-3 months and were relieved by 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

"I had the best tank company in the Army. They were motivated, trained and ready and performed magnificently under very stress conditions. I'm proud to have served with every one of them. I can't believe it has been 30 years. It seems like yesterday that I was in my tank turret with my Soldiers moving across the desert."



Courtesy photo

Capt. Joseph Giunta, a tank company commander, holds his daughter Brittany, then 3.

Chief warrant officer rode Highway of Death

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Thirty years ago today, Harry Hobbs was leading a platoon in the desert as part of the 100-hour ground war against Iraq.

The then 30-year-old chief warrant officer two had 63 Soldiers that provided land combat missile systems maintenance support in B Company, 26th Support Battalion within the 3rd Infantry

Division. Their job was to maintain 100% operational readiness for the division's Bradley Fighting Vehicles and their Tube-launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided, or TOW, missile systems. They also supported the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force.

The U.S. led coalition forces pushed through Iraqi-occupied Kuwait and into Iraq on Feb. 24, 1991. Victory was declared after 100 hours of ground combat in the Persian Gulf War.

"What I remember is that people

died that day (Feb. 24, 1991)," Hobbs, a retired chief warrant officer five, said. "The enemy died and America had some casualties that day also."

The rapid advance reminded him of the historic accounts he had read about of Germany's blitzkrieg at the start of World War II. His platoon was in close combat support of the American tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles racing across the desert with little resistance from the enemy. When any of their missile systems were disabled, his Soldiers

would take them off the line and repair them.

"We were about a mile or so behind the forward edge of the battle area," Hobbs said. "We got very little resistance but the resistance we got from the (Iraqi)

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Persian Gulf War

30 years later

Hobbs

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Republican Guard initially resulted in many casualties for the Iraqi forces.”

But the U.S. did take casualties. On Feb. 25, day two of the four-day ground war, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle got hit by a round from an Iraqi T-72 tank. Of the Bradley's nine-man crew, the driver was killed and his sergeant lost a leg. Hobbs had to go to the charred vehicle and remove its operational missile system components to have them ready for use on another vehicle. “So you could still see the remnants of the Soldier that was killed and the one that was severely injured,” he said.

Hobbs also witnessed the carnage on the Highway of Death, a six-lane highway between Kuwait and Iraq, officially known as Highway 80. It runs from Kuwait City to the border town of Safwan in Iraq and then on to the Iraqi city of Basra. U.S. led coalition forces attacked retreating Iraqi military personnel attempting to leave Kuwait on the night of Feb. 26-27, resulting in the destruction of hundreds of vehicles and the deaths of many of their occupants. Hobbs saw their charred bodies.

“That left a lasting memory of what war looked like up-close,” he said. “So although it was an 100-hour war, I personally saw a lot of carnage.”

The Louisville, Kentucky, native was an enlisted Soldier from 1978-88, became a warrant officer in 1988 and a chief warrant officer two in 1990. He left Fort Hood, Texas, in November 1990 and deployed to Aschaffenburg, Germany. As soon as he arrived in Germany, he was told his unit was going to war. He had less than 30 days to join his new platoon and lead them to combat. He had the largest platoon in the company.

Waiting for him back at Fort Hood were his wife, Erica, and their two daughters, Shara, 10, and Shauna, 2.

“My thoughts at that time were would I survive this and make it home to my wife and my two small daughters,” he said. All 63 of his Soldiers returned home safely.

In May 1991, after five months in the Persian Gulf, he and other troops boarded a commercial airliner in Saudi Arabia for their flight back to Germany. In uniform he was asked to move to the first-class section. Hobbs received the Bronze Star for his combat support. He retired as a chief warrant officer five in 2007 af-



Harry Hobbs

ter more than 29 years of service.

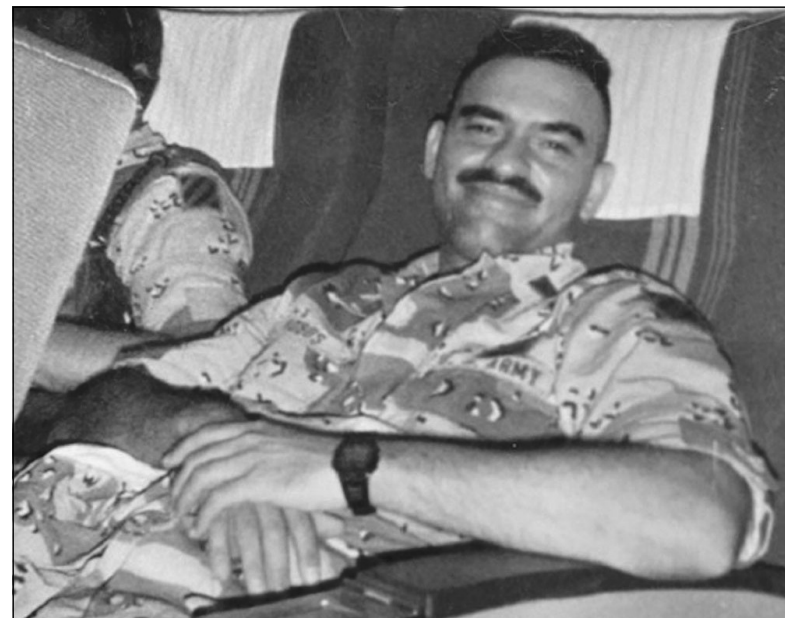
“My Army career gave me a vehicle to rise above poverty and to live the American dream which allowed me the opportunity for education, travel and to broaden my mind,” he said.

Hobbs received an associate degree in missile systems science from Calhoun College in 1988, a bachelor's in resource management from Troy in 1995, a master's in human resources management from Murray State in 1997 and a doctorate in business administration from Florida Tech in 2017.

Hobbs, 60, and his wife of 40 years, Erica, reside in Madison. Both daughters served in the Army like their dad. Shara Rivera resides in El Paso, Texas, with her husband, who is retiring from 20 years in the Army, and their two children. Shauna Matthews, a urology nurse at Vanderbilt Hospital in Nashville, also has two children.

For more than two years, Hobbs has served as vice president of employee engagement at Huntsville Utilities. He is on his 41st surgery from various physical problems caused by the Gulf War Syndrome, the hidden enemy that has affected veterans from exposure to toxic chemicals and the burning of oil wells by the retreating enemy forces. Still he likes to stay fit by running and by punching on the speed bag and heavy bag – he is a former Army boxer.

Hobbs belongs to the Association of the U.S. Army, the Warrant Officers Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars,



Courtesy photo

Harry Hobbs relaxes in first class on a commercial airline flight back to Germany after fighting in the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

the Military Order of World Wars, and the Military Officers Association of America. He and Erica continue to serve inner city children through the annual Community Awareness For Youth, or CAFY, in Huntsville.

He shared his thoughts on the 30th anniversary of the Persian Gulf War.

“I think we made the right decision as a country,” he said. “And I think it stabilized that region of the world during that time frame and saved people's lives.”

Gulf

Continued from page 1

Tactical Missile System.

One of the particular challenges MI-COM faced was adapting these missiles to the harsh climate in Saudi Arabia. Many of the missiles had been developed during the Cold War era, Hughes said, and therefore were designed for the milder climate of the European theater. Therefore, the heat of the desert and various types of sand that Soldiers had to contend with created unique challenges for both Soldiers in the field and analysts back home.

"For the most part, this was really a new environment for the United States Army to fight in, and so they had to really learn a lot and adapt quickly to the situation," Hughes said.

McKinley Curtis III, a retired sergeant major and current John C. Maxwell consultant, remembers the difficulties the desert terrain posed to his unit when he deployed to Saudi Arabia in late 1990.

"We all went out into the middle of the desert where there was nothing," Curtis said. "We spent a lot of our mornings, our evenings building our positions up."

Curtis, who was active in the Army 1974-2004, said the unfamiliar environment made the role of trust paramount.

"Because you have so many different kinds of people that are around you, sometimes you really didn't know who was your enemy," Curtis said. "You have to have trust as far as knowing who's going to have your back on your left or your right." Curtis also said that in his role as a first sergeant, it was important to be able to take care of his Soldiers and ensure that they were OK throughout the entire operation. The power of those relationships formed in the desert still impacts Curtis to this day.

"I still have a tight knit group of Soldiers that I communicate with every year for Christmas, sending Christmas cards," he said. "We've had several reunions. ... You know, my people that I went to war with are still some best friends in my life that I communicate with throughout the year."



Dale Anton, retired sergeant first class

Dale Anton, a retired sergeant first class who received military occupation specialty training on Redstone Arsenal, said his service during Desert Storm leading a battery support team was in many ways an unusual experience.

"That's the one thing I would say about it, it was extremely weird," Anton said. "From the standpoint of being a support Soldier in a war that was a tank war ... being constantly on the move and knowing that you're actually providing support to a unit that desperately needs what you're doing. We were actively doing all of the logistics support that we were supposed to do for the division, and it clearly paid off."

In many ways, Desert Storm was a testament to the changing world and the changing nature of warfare in the late 20th century. Anton joined the Army in June 1975, only a month after the Vietnam War ended. His first decade of service was during the Cold War, which, while no weaponry was ever fired, was still a very real and harrowing threat to Anton and others in the service at the time. However, experiencing the changes from these eras of fighting to the conflicts in the Middle East provided Anton with a unique perspective on the changes the Army has undergone.

"I don't view the changing of the Army as a negative," Anton said. "I think I have a more open interpretation and opinion of how Soldiers today function versus how



McKinley Curtis III, retired sergeant major

they did in my time."

Locally, Hughes said Desert Storm helped bring more attention to the type of work that was being done on the Arsenal, helping local residents gain a more complete picture of the types of projects that arise out of the installation. Many people knew that NASA had a presence in Huntsville with the Marshall Space Flight Center, but the work that Redstone professionals did during Desert Storm showed many people the overlaps between space and defense technology.

"It really kind of established Redstone," Hughes said. "Redstone is not always the most well-known of the installations unless you're into high-tech things. ... A lot of people just didn't know that much about the installation and what it did."

"It was just one of those kinds of things where people were really surprised at what was happening out here, especially with the Army, because many people had some

idea about Marshall Space Flight but they seem to forget that Marshall Space Flight was a tenant of the Army, and it was only here because the Army was here. ... A lot of Americans across the country were just not that aware of Redstone Arsenal and what its rocket scientists have been doing here for decades, and all of a sudden, Desert Storm makes that apparent."

That work, Hughes said, included logistics support, in-the-moment problem solving, technology calibration and scores of other technical projects to adapt Soldiers and their weaponry to the new climate.

"So in a lot of ways we don't have any one really big glamorous story to tell," Hughes said. "It's just all of these myriad actions that are going on that are absolutely crucial to keeping those systems, the weapons systems, viable and Soldiers protected."

Perhaps the most telling show of support for the Redstone Arsenal community was published in the Redstone Rocket on March 6, 1991, just days after the operation ended. In an article titled "God bless this great country of ours: Redstone community can take pride in the wartime support it provided," the Rocket reported the following: "Each and every member of the Redstone Arsenal community shares in a great victory today. The real credit of course goes to the Soldiers, Marines, sailors and airmen of this country and of the other countries of the allied coalition who fought to drive Iraq from Kuwait. But they were supported by members of this community and of many communities like this one. This Army community - all the military people, the family members left behind, the federal civilian employees and the contractor workers - closed ranks to provide the support necessary to get the job done."



The local community celebrated the Persian Gulf War victory with a parade through downtown Huntsville.

File photo

Annual industry briefing scheduled for March

By Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command has opened registration for Team Redstone's 2021 Center of Excellence – Advance Planning Briefings to Industry (APBI). This year's event will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams, March 9 – 11.

This year's theme, "Modernization sustainment concepts to enable large-scale combat operations," drives home a major priority for AMCOM and the Army.

"One of the top priorities for the Army chief of staff and the secretary of the Army is readiness," Eric Lampkin, AMCOM's ombudsman and the event coordinator, said. "It's about taking care of Soldiers and making sure they have the support needed for superior warfighting capabilities. We can't provide that support without industry collaboration."

The annual event provides a forum for information exchange and discussion between industry, academia and Team Redstone government participants. The briefings focus on Team Redstone's core technical capabilities, acquisition needs and future opportunities. Redstone leaders and subject matter experts will deliver presentations that conclude with question-and-answer sessions.

Along with the Army Materiel Command and AMCOM, other government agencies within a 50-mile radius plan to participate in the event. Presenters/exhibitors include the Space and Missile Defense Command, the Missile Defense Agency, the Program Executive Office for Aviation, the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center.

AMCOM's participation includes AMCOM headquarters, the AMCOM Logistics Center, the Security Assistance Management Directorate; the Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity; Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas; Letterkenny Army Depot, Pennsylvania; and the Army Contracting Command-Redstone.

"The APBI gives our industry partners a look ahead at contract opportunities and allows them to plan resources to sustain and enhance our warfighting capabilities,"



Lampkin said.

To register for this year's event, visit the APBI event registration site at <https://conference.redstone.army.mil/>.

For more information, call 842-9967 or email the APBI team at usarmy.redstone.amcom.mbx.g3-apbi@mail.mil.

New facility will build aviation test capability

By **CHRISTY BARNETT**

Redstone Test Center Public Affairs

Construction is underway on the Aviation Test and Instrumentation Integration Facility, at the Redstone Test Center. The facility will be located north of the current 10-bay hangar at the Aviation Flight Test Directorate. A groundbreaking ceremony was held Friday at the construction site.

RTC is the primary test organization for the aviation component of Army Modernization-Future Vertical Lift. In order to support FVL and the upcoming Improved Turbine Engine program, AFTD needed to increase adequate footprint space to properly instrument and house unique test aircraft. The solution is the ATIIF, designed to accommodate all FVL candidates.

The ATIIF will be a 65,000 square foot, eight bay facility.

“This facility will ensure that the U.S. Army Redstone Test Center is well-postured to meet the requirements of Army Modernization, Future Vertical Lift and the entire Army aviation community into the future,” RTC Commander Col. Steven Braddom said. “This dedicated space is required to ensure we have the ability to make test-specific modifications to aircraft and to house unique test aircraft out of the elements.”

A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held when the construction is complete, which is estimated to be December 2022.



Photo by Preston Benson, RTC

Friday's groundbreaking includes, from left, Mobile District Corps of Engineers North District Regional Area Engineer Morgan Murphree; Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor; Col. Steven Braddom, Redstone Test Center commander; RTC's Aviation Flight Test Directorate Commander Lt. Col. Joe Minor; and Turner Construction Huntsville Business Leader Brendan McCormick.

Ransomware represents virtual hostage situation

By Criminal Investigation Command Public Affairs

QUANTICO, Va. – The Criminal Investigation Command's Major Cybercrime Unit is warning the Army community about an increase in ransomware attacks.

According to Edward LaBarge, director of CID's Major Cybercrime Unit, there was a rise in ransomware cyberattacks in 2020 and the trend is expected to continue this year.

Ransomware is a type of malicious software, or malware, designed to deny a user access to a computer system or computer files until the ransom, typically cryptocurrency, has been paid. Ransomware uses encryption to hold the data hostage and requires a decryption key before a user is granted access.

Similar to other types of malware, ransomware is one of many methods used by cybercriminals to gain data from users and to attempt financial gain. The first recorded ransomware attack was in December 1989 using floppy discs. As ransomware evolved, it moved away from being a tool exclusively used by advanced cybercriminals and became a service that can be implemented by any cybercriminal willing to purchase the software.

Today, there are many methods used by cybercriminals to trick a user into downloading ransomware. The most common ransomware attack methods to look out for are from socially engineered phishing emails, links in forums or search engines to compromised or copycat websites containing a malicious download, fake social media impersonators, and through software vulnerabilities.

LaBarge said the two most common ways MCU is seeing ransomware executed is by "infecting ones computer through phishing emails or visiting a malicious website via a drive-by download."

A drive-by download occurs when users unknowingly "download" a program without knowledge or by giving consent. LaBarge said users typically see an increase in system resources when a malware attack occurs. For example, an unexplained increase in CPU usage could be malware being loaded onto the computer.

To prevent ransomware from occurring or reoccurring, users should ensure data is backed up regularly, maintain the latest operating system updates, keep antivirus

software installed and up-to-date, and always use caution when opening email links or attachments.

"It is important to always ensure your data is backed up," LaBarge said. "It is recommended that you back up your data monthly. If possible, you should have your backups automated so you don't have to worry about it. Whether it's using the iCloud, Time Machine or the Windows 10 backup feature, having it automated will help ensure your data is protected against tragedy."

He also recommends never paying the ransom. "Paying doesn't guarantee you get your data back and it won't prevent the cybercriminals from hitting you again with another ransom."

Ransomware victim recommendations include:

- Isolate the infection – Infected computers should be disconnected from the Internet (unplug the Ethernet cable or place the computer in airplane mode) as soon as possible to prevent ransomware from communicating with the attacker or spreading to other computers.

- Identify the infection – In most cases, it will be easy to determine if the system has been infected. However, determining how the ransomware was downloaded is not always as obvious. Identifying how the ransomware was downloaded can ensure other users do not make the same mistake.

- Report – Ransomware attacks on Army issued computers must be reported to your system administrator or security representative. If a personally owned computer becomes infected, you are strongly encouraged to report the incident to the Internet Crime Complaint Center.

- Identify a solution – How data gets recovered on Army issued computers is determined by your unit's system administrator. For personally owned computers, it is recommended to wipe the system and restore it using a clean offline copy. While it may be tempting to pay the ransom, there is no guarantee that your data will not be sold by the attacker. Furthermore, paying the ransom, making it profitable for the cybercriminals, only encourages future ransomware attacks.

- Prevent reoccurrence – Evaluate how the infection occurred and put measures in place to ensure your system is not open to another infection.

Tips to avoid becoming a ransomware victim include:

- Education – Stay updated on ransomware trends and the evolving methods used by cybercriminals in ransomware attacks.

- Cyber best practices – Avoid opening attachments or clicking on links in suspicious emails. Be mindful of pop-ups on websites and do not allow unsolicited downloads.

- Regular updates – Ensure your computer's operating system and antivirus software are updated. As ransomware variants are identified, updates and patches are created and released to prevent infection.

- Backups – Maintaining valuable information offline, such as an external hard drive, provides an alternative method of recovering data lost in a ransomware attack.

DAU Corner

Leading Acquisition Series:

How to build collaboration and cooperation to get things done

Wednesday, 03/03/2021 11:30 A.M. CST <https://www.dau.edu/events>

Those at all levels who seek to learn ways to get things done with and through others, deal with workplace challenges, and prepare to take on new roles.

Let's Talk Agile Webinar-DevSecOps-Enabler to Weapons System Success

Wednesday, 03/03/2021 12:00 P.M. CST <https://www.dau.edu/events>

Registration is now open. This month features a discussion with the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) team about their successes and lessons learned with DevSecOps and how they are using it to upgrade software at the speed of relevance.

DCMA Commercial Item Group Office Hour March 2021

Thursday, 03/04/2021 12:00 P.M. CST <https://www.dau.edu/events>

In an ongoing effort to streamline acquisition, DAU and the Defense Contract Management Agency Commercial Item Group, will host a virtual "Open Office Hour" intended to continue the open dialogue between the DoD and industry.

Adaptive Acquisition Framework: DoDI 5000.86 Acquisition Intelligence

Tuesday, 03/09/2021 11:00 A.M. CST <https://www.dau.edu/events>

In this continuation of DAU's webcast series on the Adaptive Acquisition Framework, we'll explore DoD Instruction 5000.86, Acquisition Intelligence.

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Strategic leaders reach out to engineering students

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

Several Space and Missile Defense Command leaders served as mentors during the virtual 2021 Black Engineer of the Year Awards Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Global Competitiveness Conference, Feb. 11-13.

James Johnson, SMDC deputy to the commander, said leadership mentoring at events like this it is important for students to see that SMDC is committed to recruiting the best and brightest talent from all across the country, all walks of life, all colors, ethnicities and genders onto its team.

“We want to inspire students in high school and college to major in STEM fields because we need the best STEM talent in our command,” Johnson said. “We have found through trial and error that you can’t wait until career day to begin a relationship with a prospective student. We have found that we need to start building relationships with students earlier in their college career and even during high school.

“By building these relationships early, we can expose the students to the exciting work we do and even help shape some of the high school and college coursework they pursue. By building and sustaining these relationships, we will be more successful in bringing on the best and brightest STEM talent to work for the military or as civilians.”

Johnson said SMDC enjoys a tremendous reputation for doing exciting work related to hypersonic, high energy lasers, satellites and other technologies with military relevance that all require the best talent to bring to fruition but there are many other government, academic and commercial enterprises competing for the same talent.

Recently SMDC’s Technical Center has been designated as a science and technology reinvention laboratory. Johnson said this designation gives the command more authority to attract, hire and retain top STEM talent and that direct hire authorities increase the command’s hiring flexibility.

The SMDC Underserved Community Cybersecurity and Engineering Education Development program connects the command with under-represented college and high school students to improve diversity in the command’s STEM pipeline. Johnson said the command uses multiple mechanisms to bring STEM talent on board and then give those young engineers plenty of exciting hands-on work to do. He added SMDC will help them continue to professionally develop through advanced education and training.

“In addition to being exciting, young engineers get a strong sense of purpose working at SMDC since their contribution directly affects Soldiers in the space and missile defense domains,” Johnson said. “A young engineer working at SMDC will immediately feel a sense of family where their entire management chain as well as their peers want to help them succeed and grow.

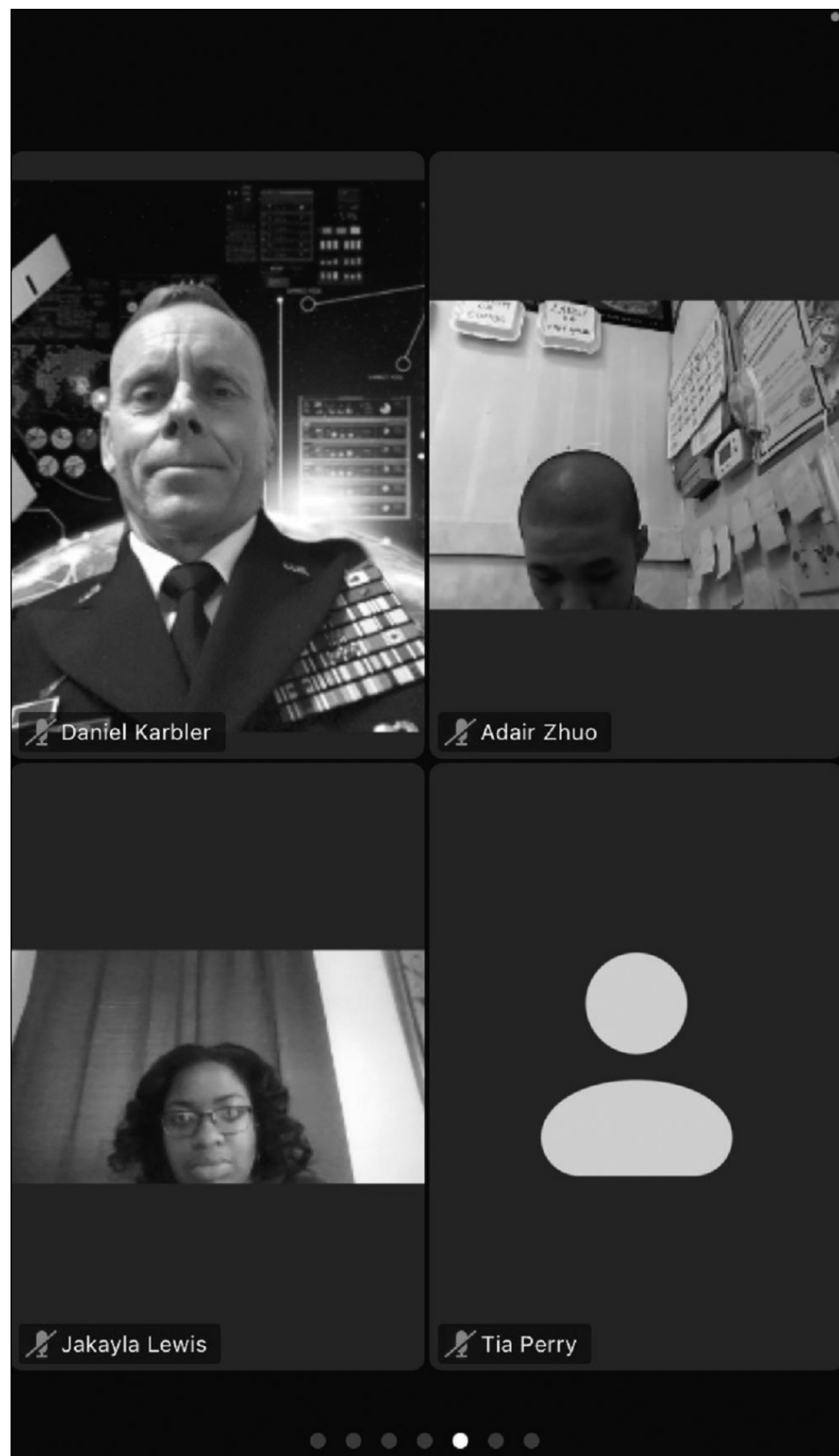
“As leaders, we are trying to set SMDC up to continue to be relevant and be a trail-blazer in developing and operating some of the most sophisticated military equipment used for space and missile defense. However, we know that our current and future success is not because of having the best equipment but instead having the best people. This BEYA STEM mentoring event is one of many initiatives we have to attract, hire, retain and develop a world-class team of STEM professionals.”

Other SMDC senior leaders mentoring during the event included Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, SMDC commander; Richard De Fatta, director, Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence; Thomas Webber, director, Technical Center; and Tse Horng “Richard” Yu, director, Capability Development Integration Directorate.

SMDC’s Equal Employment Opportunity director said senior leader participation as mentors at the event sends a clear message of the command’s commitment to BEYA STEM’s mission.

“BEYA STEM is important to improve brand awareness through engagements with affinity groups,” Jennifer Thompson, EEO director, said. “The Army will increase diversity in accessions and hiring by building relationships and delivering career options with desirable, competitive benefits. I appreciate the enthusiasm of our senior leader turnout. The participation was phenomenal and I hope reciprocal to the mentors as it was to the mentees.”

The conference served as an opportunity for BEYA STEM to engage stakeholders, historically black colleges and universities presidents and deans; and civilian and military leaders.



Courtesy screen shot

Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, commander of Space and Missile Defense Command, participates online as a mentor during the 2021 Black Engineer of the Year Awards Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Global Competitiveness Conference, Feb. 11-13.

Community

Career program managers help ensure capable workforce

By KARI HAWKINS

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

Through a host of civilian educational opportunities, the Army ensures the continual development of civilian capabilities and skills within the workforce that are combat multipliers for the Soldier force, said the deputy director of human resources for the Army Materiel Command.

Speaking at the AMC Career Program Managers Winter Virtual Summit, AMC G-1 Deputy Director Carlen Chestang said the Army career program serves as a resource for the development of the civilian workforce.

“Army civilians serve alongside our service members to provide operational, logistical and administrative support to the mission,” Chestang said.

“No matter what field they work in – technical, management, finance, law, engineering, medical, communications and others – every civilian is aligned to a career program. The career program managers in each career field have a mission to provide training and other opportunities to develop knowledge, capabilities and skills within our civilian workforce that are needed to sustain the Army mission.”

Career program managers, Chestang said, are essential to ensuring civilians are equipped to be effective in their support to the Army mission. They guide and direct civilians through professional development; set standards of excellence and ensure civilian development is aligned with the needs of civilian employee’s functional managers.

Recently, the Army’s career program was restructured, consolidating 31 of the 32 career programs into 11 career fields that complement each other. Chestang said career program managers should encourage the implementation of seven keys to success as outlined by Lisha Adams, the executive deputy to AMC’s commanding general. Those are: providing acknowledgement, recognition and awards; providing immediate feedback; utilizing Learning Management Systems; encouraging individual mentoring and coaching; identifying soft skills needs including communication and teambuilding; implementing cross-agency development programs; and continuing to seek developmental opportunities.

“This realignment gives us the opportunity to be more successful by provid-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

The Army’s new Logistics Career Field includes employees like Bernard Goodly, chief of the Supply Capabilities Division, Supply Chain Management Directorate at Army Materiel Command headquarters.

ing more developmental opportunities within career programs and by providing better training opportunities,” Chestang said.

The Army career program is part of the Army Civilian Career Management Activity, established October 2020 to combine career programs with civilian training and leader development, and G-1 Civilian Personnel as part of the Civilian Human Resources Agency. ACCMA is responsible for enterprise-wide talent management processes to acquire, develop, employ and retain Army civilian talent, and for delivering enterprise-wide talent management programs.

“ACCMA focuses on a more active role in how we develop and manage our civilian workforce,” Edward Emden, director of the Army Civilian Career Management Activity, Civilian Human Resources Agency, said.

ACCMA and the Army People Strategy and the civilian Implementation Plan work to optimize the contributions of the civilian workforce by transforming workforce planning and management, modernizing civilian talent acquisition, evolving career programs to be integral to the people enterprise and building world-class supervisors.

“For the first time, we are actually

marketing for civilian employees. There’s a lot we can do to expand the civilian talent pool,” Emden said. “Career program managers can get much more involved in recruiting.”

The scope of a career program manager’s responsibilities begins with marketing, recruiting, hiring and onboarding employees; and continues with workforce planning, career planning, performance alignment, enhanced training and education, impactful experiences; managing succession, developing world-class supervisors and encouraging work-life balance. Career program managers are assigned to manage the outcomes of career programs assigned to the following 11 career fields: Science, Engineering, Analysis; Technology; Construction Engineering; Logistics; Installations; Medical; Security and Intelligence; Human Capital and Resource Management; Education and Information Sciences; Contracting; and Professional Services.

“Since these career fields were stood up Oct. 1, 2020, we have seen a lot of synergy and great effort in terms of what we can do to be more effective and efficient,” Emden said.

“There are pockets of excellence in various career programs that we can exploit enterprise wide. We need to focus on further integrating efforts to better serve our civilians. It is really important to give civilians an opportunity to prog-

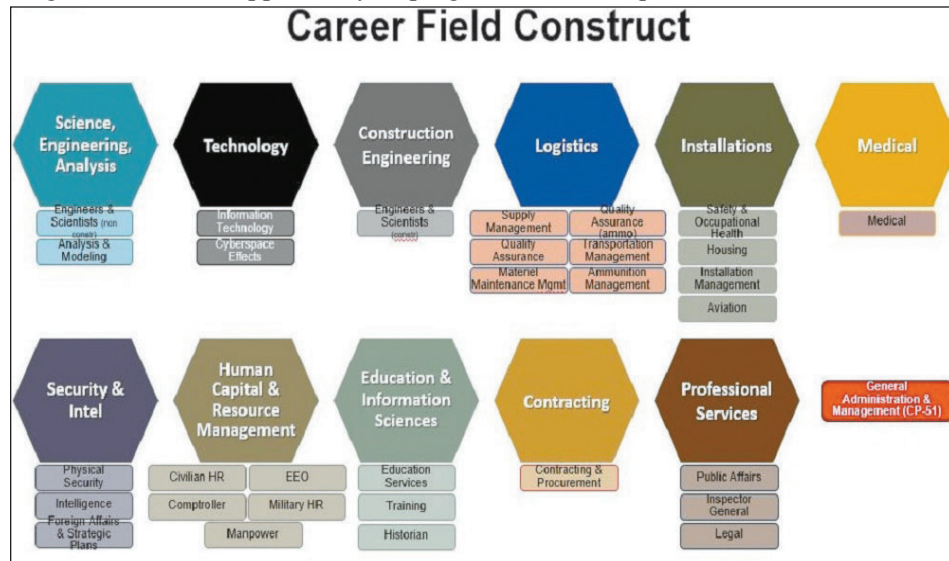
ress in their career. The Army should be facilitating opportunities for all civilians to go as high in their organization as their talents and skills will take them.”

The Army Career Development Program uses entry-level civilian training and development programs to retain a pipeline of well-trained, capable and diverse civilian personnel, with the Pathways Internship Program for entry-level new hires and the Presidential Management Fellows Program for advanced and experienced new hires.

“It is important to replenish the bench by allowing folks coming in at entry level to get the training to learn about occupations and most importantly about the Army,” Ed David, Army career development program manager, Civilian Career Management Activity, Civilian Human Resources Agency, said.

“The return on investment is very high. We take employees at the entry level, provide them with two years of training and then add them to a civilian workforce that is able to do the job in support of Soldiers. The result is commands get an employee at the journeyman level who is ready to work.”

During the half-day summit, the career program managers also obtained updated information on the Senior Enterprise Talent Management/Enterprise Talent Management programs, and the Defense Acquisition Workforce.



Courtesy graphic

Thirty-one of the Army’s career programs have been consolidated within 11 career fields to provide for more developmental opportunities and better cross-training. The General Administration and Management Career Program is pending realignment.

Combined Federal Campaign overcomes challenges

By Program Executive Office for Aviation

This year's Combined Federal Campaign surpassed its goals due to the generosity of the Redstone Arsenal and surrounding Tennessee Valley communities. The Tennessee Valley pledged \$1,413,015 along with 924 volunteer hours which will be distributed among thousands of local, national and international charities representing countless charitable causes. Of those contributions, \$870,651 came from Redstone Arsenal, a \$30,000 increase from last year.

“Redstone Arsenal was the only federal Installation in the continental United States that exceeded its pledges from last year,” Brig.

Gen. Rob Barrie, program executive officer for aviation, said during a virtual event on the PEO Aviation Facebook page. “Thank you to everyone who opened up their hearts and their checkbooks in support of CFC.”

This campaign season had a later start than usual and was a bit atypical due to the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and a displaced workforce across Redstone Arsenal's tenant organizations.

“Despite these challenges, Redstone Arsenal's workforce played a big part in enabling the various CFC charities to thrive,” Lisa Correia, this year's Redstone Arsenal CFC lead, said.

Farm boy's dream inspires him to become fighter pilot

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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His journey began when he had to re-write a paper for English class as a high school senior in Reeseville, Wisconsin.

George Kohn decided to research his topic on the investigation of aircraft accidents. He wrote a letter addressed to anyone at Truax Air Force Base in Madison, Wisconsin. It landed on the desk of the base safety officer who happened to be an F-102 pilot. The pilot invited Kohn to visit the base. He picked Kohn up for a tour and returned him home the next day. Kohn, a less than stellar student, got a passing grade on his paper and completed the class.

That summer Kohn was combining grain in a backfield of his dad's farm in Reeseville. At 17 he was the youngest of three children of Hilbert and Leilla Kohn. As the lone son, he was destined to become a farmer like his dad and take over the 160-acre farm.

Suddenly an F-102 fighter flew low and fast right over his dad's farm. It was like cupid's arrow into the heart of the future farmer. He decided to become a fighter pilot.

"I thought it was very inspiring," Kohn said of seeing the F-102.

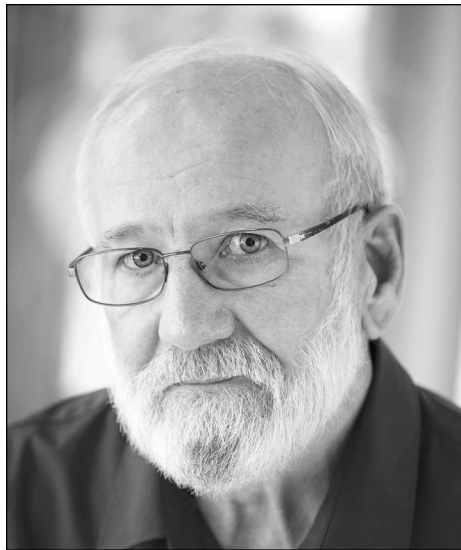
Contrary to his parents' wishes, he pursued his dream and left the farm.

"It's kind of happenstance that it all worked out like it did. I guess some things are just meant to be," he said.

Kohn went to the University of Wisconsin and entered Air Force ROTC. His parents remained optimistic that he would eventually return to the farm, especially when he got married after his freshman year. But Kohn stayed in school. In 1967 he earned his bachelor's in geography and received his commission as an Air Force second lieutenant.

He earned his wings in January 1969 after flight training at Reese Air Force Base in Lubbock, Texas. Because of his high class standing, he got assigned to the F-4 Phantom. He finished his readiness training unit that October at George Air Force Base in Victorville, California.

In November 1969 he went to Vietnam as an F-4 pilot with the 366th Tacti-



Courtesy photo

Vietnam veteran George Kohn, of Madison, Wis., is the author of "Vector to Destiny – Journey of a Vietnam F-4 Fighter Pilot."

cal Fighter Wing, known as "The Gunfighters," at Da Nang air base. He flew the F-4E in the 421st Tactical Fighter Squadron.

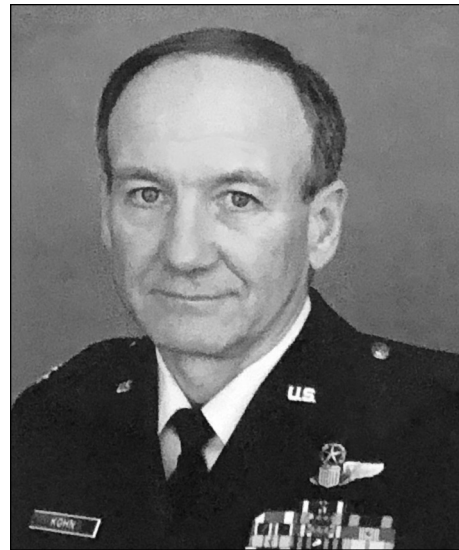
"Initially when I got there in November we were flying interdiction missions into Laos on the Ho Chi Minh trail," he said. "And then when the rainy season hit Laos, our objective changed to more close air support missions in South Vietnam supporting the U.S. troops on the ground."

They did a variety of other missions. On May 1, 1970, they went back over into North Vietnam and they also had missions into Cambodia. Most of Kohn's missions from fall 1969 to spring 1970 were dropping bombs in Laos; and after that there were support missions in South Vietnam.

"There was just a variety of missions that we did. There wasn't any set routine to it," he said. He rode in the backseat of his two-man fighter.

Kohn had 201 combat missions, including about a dozen over North Vietnam. He earned 10 Air Medals and the Distinguished Flying Cross with an oak leaf cluster.

"From a pilot standpoint, the anti-aircraft firing in Laos was pretty intense at



Courtesy photo

George Kohn retired from the Air Force Reserve as a colonel in 1999.

times," he said. "They had a lot of anti-aircraft artillery guns. They were trying to deter us from bombing their supply transports on the Ho Chi Minh trail. Then when we got into doing our missions over South Vietnam it was primarily small arms fire."

In a nighttime bombing mission over Laos in December or January, his fighter suddenly went into an uncontrollable attitude. Kohn regained control and the aircraft made an emergency landing at Ubon air base, Thailand. He and the other pilot were whisked away by truck before they could inspect the airplane to see if there was damage. "I don't know for sure if we had taken a hit (from enemy fire)," he said.

Kohn returned to the U.S. in November 1970 on a civilian airliner through Travis Air Force Base in California. In uniform he saw protesters at the airport in San Francisco while doing a transfer for his connecting flight home. He jogged behind pillars in the airport to avoid confrontation.

"Let me just say there wasn't anybody there to greet me with any kind of cordiality," he said with a laugh. He left active duty in 1975 as a captain. Kohn, who graduated from the Air War College, served in the Air Force Reserve until 1999 and retired as a colonel after 32 years of service.

He earned his master's in cartography from the University of Wisconsin in 1977. Kohn became an airline pilot in 1978 and he retired from USAir in 2003.

His book, "Vector to Destiny – Jour-



Courtesy photo

1st Lt. George Kohn flew 201 combat missions out of Da Nang air base in 1969-70.

ney of a Vietnam F-4 Fighter Pilot," describes his journey leading up to becoming an F-4 pilot and then his war experience. It was published in November by Koehler Books.

"I started out being a young farm boy and I was destined to take over the family farm," Kohn said. "I'd like our young people to realize if they've got a dream anything is possible."

He and his wife of almost 57 years, Sandy, reside in Madison, Wisconsin. Their sons, Paul and Randy, reside in Cottage Grove, Wisconsin. They have three granddaughters.

At 77 he enjoys writing and he belongs to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the 366th Fighter Association.

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

"I appreciate the fact that they're doing it," he said. "I think it's important to honor the men and women that served in Vietnam. And I think it's important to honor them in an appropriate manner just to show them the respect that they deserve for their contribution to our country. That's a big part of my book. I hope people come away from reading the book with that understanding of the need to show respect to Vietnam veterans and to all military personnel."

Editor's note: This is the 308th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Vietnam revisited
Part 308 in series

Vietnam-era veteran learned lifelong leadership lessons

By KARI HAWKINS

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

David Lewis just missed going to Vietnam.

But that doesn't mean he wasn't ready to join the Army's fighting force in Southeast Asia.

A 1973 ROTC graduate of Morgan State University in Baltimore, Lewis commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps, detailed to the infantry. He then joined the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Lewis, Washington, just as the Vietnam War was coming to an end.

"I consider this era the pivotal time of my life," Lewis said. "I have frequently discussed this era of my life with my father, brother and children, including a stepson who is a retired command sergeant major. There are other veterans in my family who I have also shared with about this experience.

"Even though I didn't go to Vietnam, we trained and prepared to deploy to Vietnam. There were many life lessons about leadership from that time that have made me who I am. I was a 22-year-old platoon leader responsible for 44 Soldiers, most of who were drafted Chicanos from east Los Angeles who could barely speak English."

Lewis, a plans officer for the Army Materiel Command Operations (G-3), is among Vietnam-era veterans who are being recognized through AMC's Vietnam Veteran Commemoration Program, which is registered with the national Vietnam War Commemoration Program.

"My work at AMC today was a natural progression to the skills I acquired as a young Army officer," he said.

In the late '60s, Lewis was a high school student looking for a way to be the first person from his family to attend college.

"My family couldn't afford to send me," he said. "Three weeks before college, I was selected for an Army ROTC four-year scholarship. I had already received federal grants and a public school scholarship. But the ROTC scholarship paid for everything plus gave me \$50 a month. I turned the other scholarships down and jumped on what ROTC had to offer. At that time, I didn't have much interest in going into the military. I was just looking for a way to go to college."

But like so many other ROTC cadets, once he got into the program, he found the Army life appealed to him, even if it didn't appeal to his friends.

"There were some rough times," he said. "I lost a lot of friends because of my military uniform. I got into a lot of fights on campus. I played lacrosse and football. There were a lot of disparaging remarks said by my teammates and I was lucky if I didn't get spat on. I was younger and stronger then, and I would fight at the drop of a hat. I wouldn't stand for the things they said to me."

Lewis' first assignment was as a rifle platoon leader with the 9th Infantry Division. He later became an Ex-



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Vietnam-era veteran David Lewis continues to serve the nation as a civilian at the Army Materiel Command. He is being recognized by AMC's Vietnam Veteran Commemoration Program.

plosive Ordnance Disposal officer, with training at Redstone Arsenal, and then served with the 636 Ordnance Company (EOD), 21st Support Command in Germany from 1977-80.

"I lost part of my right middle finger when a grenade blew up in my hand during an EOD operation," Lewis said. "A farmer plowing a field hit the grenade, which was left over from World War II. We were called in to remove it. Fortunately, it only partially exploded when I was picking it up."

Although his obligation to the Army was for six years, Lewis ended up serving for nearly nine years total.

"It was important to me to do my duty, to fulfill my obligation and pay back my scholarship," he said. "I enjoyed the camaraderie and the mission we had so much that I decided to stay in the Army beyond my obligation. I left active military service as a captain."

A year later, Lewis was working as a defense contractor in the Baltimore area and missing military service. He joined the Army Reserve, serving another four years until it became too difficult to manage both professional obligations, and be a husband and father.

"I made friends in the Army that I've had for 30 or 40 years," Lewis said. "I played on the divisional championship football team with then 2nd Lt. Jim Pillsbury and then we met again when he was Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury here at AMC. One of my good friends was then 2nd Lt. Al Lofton, who retired as a brigadier general. We attended the Army Infantry Officer Basic Course at Fort Benning, Georgia."

In 2009, Lewis became an Army civilian and returned to Redstone Arsenal, this time with AMC headquarters.



Courtesy Photo

As a young officer with the 9th Infantry Division, 2nd Lt. David Lewis led a platoon of 44 enlisted Soldiers through training exercises to prepare for a deployment to Vietnam. One of those was Operation Jack Frost at Fort Richardson, Alaska, which focused on joint operations and training in an Arctic environment.

Lewis appreciates AMC's efforts to recognize Vietnam-era veterans, but shrugs off the designation of being a Vietnam-era veteran.

"A lot of good friends of mine went over to Vietnam and they are the real veterans. I also had a lot of friends who didn't make it back. Recognition should go to them," he said. "I think it is important that the Army and AMC recognize the sacrifices and experiences of its Vietnam veterans, particularly for the next generation. Anyone who wore the uniform during that tough time should 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 Capt. Willi Hohm at 450-6136, willi.r.hohm.mil@mail.mil.



Graphic by Eben Boothby, AMC

Service honored
An ongoing series

Land use focus of community collaboration

By **KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY**

Staff writer/Social media

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After a two-year development process, Redstone Arsenal's strategic planning mission with its surrounding partners is moving forward.

The Redstone Arsenal Joint Land Use Study was created through a collaboration with the cities of Huntsville and Madison; the town of Triana; the counties of Madison, Marshall and Morgan; Redstone Arsenal; and various local agencies, organizations and the public. Its purpose was to identify and address compatibility issues and develop a set of implementable recommendations to be instituted by the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments. As the regional planning commission for the five-county northeast Alabama region, TARCOG convenes local and regional stakeholders in multi-jurisdictional planning and project implementation efforts, and helps local governments improve the quality of life for the region's more than 649,000 residents.

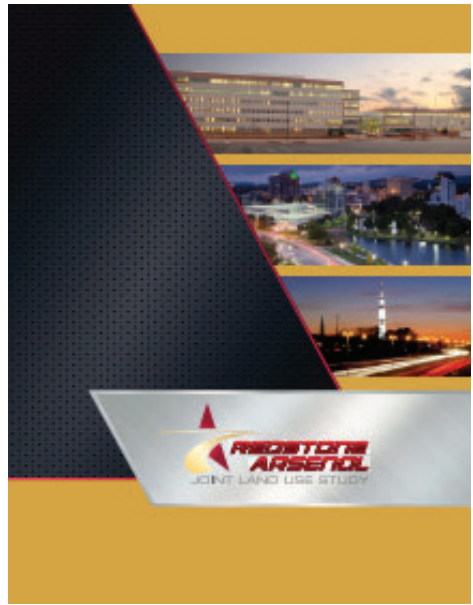
"TARCOG is excited to be carrying the baton, handed off by the City of Huntsville, in this leg of this important journey to ensure RSA's continued viability," said Michelle Gilliam Jordan, TARCOG executive director.

The Department of Defense's Office of Economic Adjustment awarded TARCOG \$409,500 with a committed local match of \$45,500 for a total project cost of \$455,000 to carry out the JLUS implementation activities. Work will begin in the Spring of 2021 and conclude in the summer of 2022.

"The goal is to promote growth for everyone and not have any compatibility issues," Garrison Master Planning's Kaela Hamby said.

The aim of the JLUS is transparency that enables all stakeholders to be successful as both Redstone Arsenal and the surrounding communities experience a record growth. Huntsville is now set to be the largest city in Alabama in around two years. This partnership enables Redstone to "grow with a purpose," Hamby said.

The JLUS implementation project will address several of the more critical and complicated strategies that were deemed highly important – specifically those that have a direct bearing on the safety and well-being of the communities in close proximity to the Arsenal as well as those that help sustain Redstone Arsenal's military operations. A set of 93 recommendations were developed, addressing such concerns as noise, safety, vertical



obstruction, unmanned aircraft systems, wildlife strike hazards and improved coordination between stakeholders.

Hamby said the JLUS does not just examine the encroachment of the surrounding communities and its effect on the work done on the installation, but also looks at how operations affect each other on post. Master Planning has developed a 20-year plan for the installation so as it grows, that growth can be strategic.

The municipalities and counties impacted by the operations of the Arsenal – all members of TARCOG – and Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor and other relevant Arsenal stakeholders will be active participants, with TARCOG serving as the project sponsor and responsible for the implementation of the proposed strategies and recommendations identified in the JLUS. These strategies will include development of specific resources for local governments to use, such as mapping, data and regulatory documents.

This will also assist local leaders to make informed land use decisions and will provide land use controls needed to manage compatibility issues to promote community development that supports continued military operations – operations that need to grow, Hamby said.

"I'm looking forward to the tools that will be created for our member communities to use as they continue to thrive and grow next to one of the most important economic engines in Alabama," said Sara James, TARCOG economic development and planning director and project lead.

The JLUS in its entirety can be found at <http://redstonearsenaljlus.com/>.

Snow sends chilling reminder of winter

Photos by ERIC SCHULTZ

Staff photographer

A wintry mix dumped snow on this area last week so Redstone Arsenal stayed closed Feb. 16 and delayed opening Thursday. But that didn't stop local residents from enjoying the scenery or some sledding fun.



Knoelle Luders, 4, Kristopher Luders, 10, and Karmin Luders, 12, make snow angels in the snow on Hughes Drive on Redstone Arsenal. They were walking through the neighborhood with their parents, Katherine and Dave Luders.



Snow borders the walkway in front of The Overlook.



Mark Sisco, with Wolf Creek Federal Services, sprays salt on the parking lot in front of Fox Army Health Center.

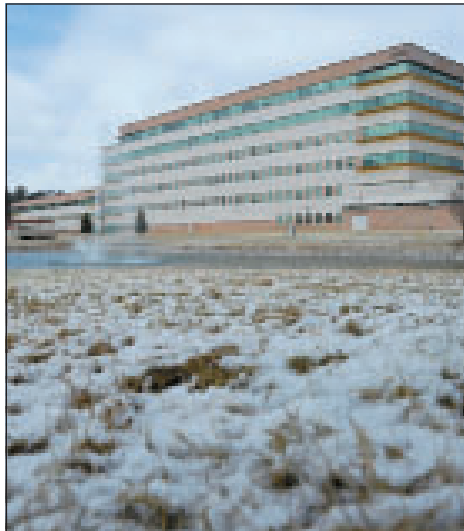


Folks sled down a closed section on Bankhead Parkway on Monte Sano Feb. 16.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Snow visits the surroundings of the Gate 9 Visitors Center.



The grass is white Feb. 16 in front of Army Materiel Command's headquarters.

Marshall leads launch abort system transition

By TAYLOR GOODWIN

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Teams across Marshall Space Flight Center are preparing the agency's Launch Abort System – a component positioned atop the Orion crew module to protect astronauts in launch – for upcoming Artemis missions.

Marshall's Scott Huzar began managing the Launch Abort System integration and transition to production operations after NASA's Langley Research Center closed out the Launch Abort System Project Office.

"Seeing this work transition to our center is incredible," Huzar said. "We're ready to take this project to the next stage of production and continue progressing toward a safe and successful launch."

The Launch Abort System is divided into two parts: the fairing assembly – a shell composed of a lightweight composite material that protects the capsule from the heat, wind, and acoustics of the launch, ascent and abort environments – and the launch abort tower, which includes the system's three motors.

In the case of an emergency, three solid rocket motors work together to propel the astronauts to safety. The abort motor pulls the crew module away from the rocket, the attitude control motor steers and orients the capsule, then the jettison motor ignites to separate the Launch Abort System from Orion prior to parachute deployment to ensure a safe crew landing.

"This design offers the highest thrust and acceleration escape system ever tested," Joseph Pelfrey, manager of Marshall's Human Exploration Development & Operations Office, said. "The puller-style system with the tower above the spacecraft is the first of its kind capable of controlled orientation after separating from the rocket. The opportunity to contribute to such a historic project has provided the Marshall team with invaluable experience in human space exploration."

The Launch Abort System team recently celebrated their progress after receiving the Aviation Week Network 2020 Program Excellence Award, which honors exceptional programs and projects across the aerospace and defense industry. The award recognized the team for the successful Orion Ascent Abort-2 flight test, which challenged the team to



NASA/Tony Gray and Kevin O'Connell

NASA successfully completes the Orion Ascent Abort-2 flight test, which challenged the team to manufacture, assemble and launch the test flight nearly seven months ahead of the baseline program schedule.

manufacture, assemble, and launch the test flight nearly seven months ahead of the baseline program schedule.

On July 2, 2019, the Ascent Abort-2 test flight performed a major Artemis program milestone as it flawlessly launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station's Launch Complex 46. The test was the culmination of a successful design, development, integration, and test of the Launch Abort System, the booster, simulated crew module, avionics and software. All the predetermined 38 flight test objectives were achieved, the planned abort occurred at the designated extreme flight test conditions, and all ground and flight data were successfully collected. The data immediately provided engineers and technicians with criti-

cal abort information used in the design, manufacture, and validation of systems needed for the Artemis I, Artemis II, and subsequent crewed, deep space missions.

The Ascent Abort-2 team was spread across the nation, with components developed from major and minor suppliers including Northrup Grumman, Aerojet Rocketdyne, Applied Composites, Moog, FMI, Taylor Devices, and Lockheed Martin's Denver, Sunnyvale and Michoud facilities. The diverse, multi-organization AA-2 team came together to form a "close knit badge-less" team to test and deliver all hardware on an accelerated timeline, delivering seven months in advance of the contract date, and launching six months in advance of the baseline launch date.

In addition, during the Launch Abort System's integration with the boost vehicle, team members were instrumental in helping to define the future Orion vehicle integration process. The strong technical background of the integrated team allowed for efficient resolution of technical and schedule critical issues during final assembly, resulting in 100% mission success.

"Looking forward," Huzar said, "is what keeps the team going. Despite the many challenges of the past year, we are all still working to safely and successfully land the first woman and next man on the lunar surface."

Editor's note: Taylor Goodwin, a Media Fusion employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.

Don Holder joins Marshall's Engineering Directorate

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

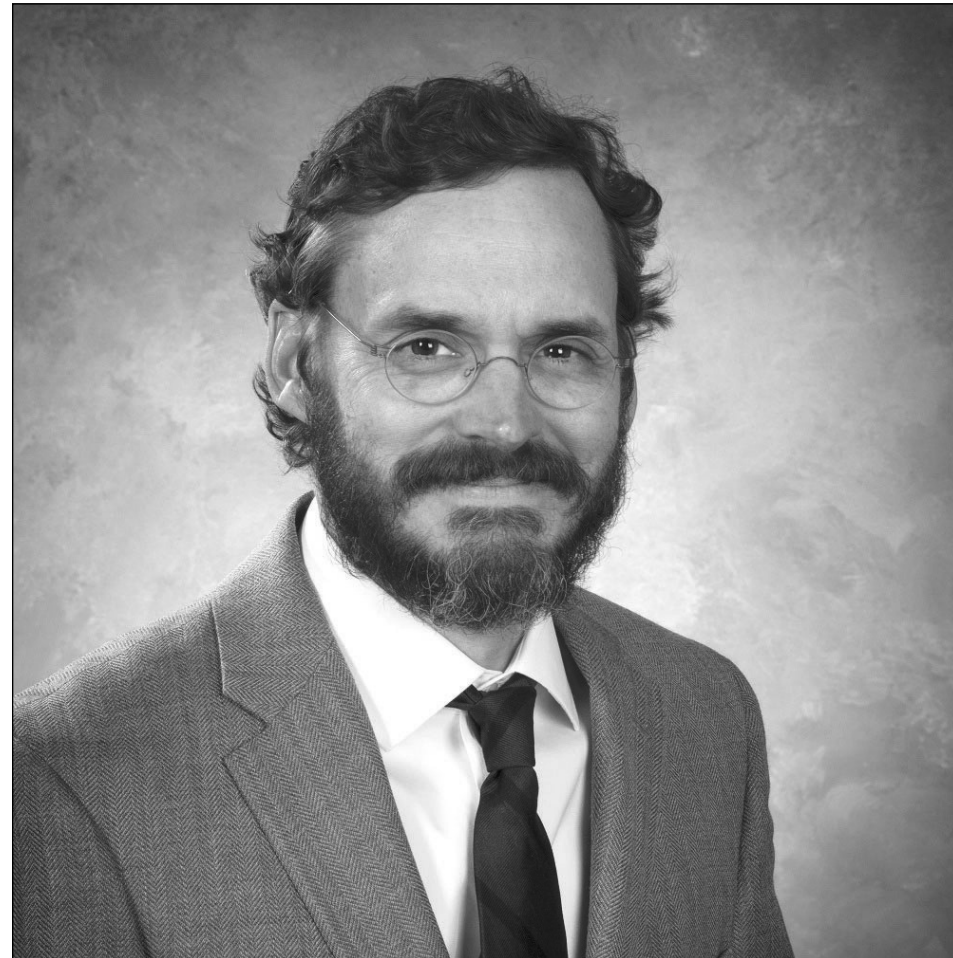
Don Holder has been reassigned to the position of deputy director of the Engineering Directorate at Marshall Space Flight Center. He was previously deputy director of the Space Systems Department since May 2019.

Holder will be jointly responsible for the Marshall's largest organization, comprised of more than 2,000 team members. He will lead the design, testing, evaluation, and operation of flight hardware and software associated with space transportation, spacecraft systems, science instruments, and payloads under development at the center.

Holder joined Marshall in 1986 as a quality engineer supporting the Shuttle Propulsion Office. Since then, he has held various technical leadership roles and has distinguished himself as a subject matter expert in environmental control and life support systems. From 1989 to 1999, Holder was the water recovery systems engineer supporting the development of water recovery technologies for the International Space Station.

He supported the Environmental Control and Life Support Systems Project in multiple positions, including Design Team lead, technical assistant, and assistant chief engineer from 2000 to 2008. As assistant chief engineer of the Ares I Crew Exploration Vehicle Service Module from 2006-07, Holder was also deputy chief engineer to the service module chief engineer at NASA's Glenn Research Center, providing flight hardware expertise to project- and program-level engineering to support service module projects.

In 2008, Holder returned to the International Space Station Program as a project chief engineer, providing leadership for Marshall-produced flight hardware for the station. From 2011 to 2013, he was chief of the Mechanical Fabrication Branch in the Space Systems Department, where he led a workforce of engineers and technicians and managed the numerous facilities required to support Marshall's manufacturing needs. He was deputy chief engineer of the Flight Programs and Partnerships Office from 2013-14, then was appointed to the senior-level position of the office's chief engineer in mid-2014 and subsequently Human Exploration Development and Operations chief engineer in 2017.



Don Holder

Space agency heroes recognized

NASA photos

From left, Steve Davis, Thomas Erdman, and Ray Echols, along with James Reynolds and Ryan Stillwater, not shown, are the latest team members from Marshall Space Flight Center to be named a HEO HErO. Davis provides dedicated support as the Space Launch System cross-program agreements team lead, ensuring that key interdependencies for hardware, software, and data between the Artemis programs are documented and managed. Erdman was a driving force in brokering the operational agreements between the Exploration Ground Systems test, operation support contractor, and SLS prime contractors. Echols provides effective management of the Engineering Support Team training and the Engineering Support Facility development activities that will culminate in the SLS Engineering Support Center Operations Readiness Review for Artemis I. Reynolds oversaw the early planning of all payload activities during the International Space Station Expedition 64 timeframe as the payload planning manager. Planning this timeframe was a challenge due to the uncertainty of the launch manifest and associated payloads. Stillwater developed a complete set of requirements for the SLS Exploration Upper Stage and Block 1B Development Office, supporting the prime contractor's schedule for holding a critical design review. Each week, NASA's Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate recognizes HEO HErOes, team members from across the agency who have made vital contributions in their support of NASA's mission to land the first woman and next man on the Moon by 2024. (NASA)



Hunter bags once-in-a-lifetime deer at Redstone

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Redstone hunter Walter Chaney did not expect to have another deer mounted at his home.

But his plans changed Feb. 8 when he bagged one of the largest deer in state history.

Chaney, who works in base operations at Redstone Airfield, shot a 21-point deer that afternoon in area 37 on post. He was with hunting partner Taz Phoenix.

“All of my time that I’ve hunted at Redstone (since 2014-15), out of the previous six bucks I’ve killed on Redstone, all of them put together may score as high as this one deer,” Chaney, a Huntsville native, said.

“I’m ecstatic, pure ecstatic, tremendously. Still in a little bit of shock, but at the same time thrilled to have killed an animal that most hunters dream of. It’s truly a once-in-a-lifetime animal.”

Ed Jones of Athens, master scorer for Alabama whitetail records, measured the deer Feb. 11. He has served as the official measurer for more than 32 years. Jones said this 21-point deer measured out at probably No. 4 in the non-typical muzzleloader category. It was 171 6/8 inches for fourth largest in that category.

“It makes the books in the typical and the non-typical,” Jones said.

Chaney and Phoenix, his hunting partner for three seasons, met up about 12:30 p.m. to go into area 37 to try to kill a doe. When they entered the area, they devised a plan on where they thought the deer would come from. They split off from each other and they were probably hunting within 150 yards of each other.

“We had sat there from probably about 1 o’clock till 3 until I saw a deer moving through the thick brush and realized that it was a buck,” Chaney said. “After realizing that it was a legal shootable deer, I looked for an area through which the deer was going to pass to take a shot.”

He fired his CVA muzzleloader from about 60 yards away.

“After the smoke cleared I saw the deer running back into the direction from where he came. As I was watching, the deer fell down within 40 yards of the area in which I took the shot. So after sitting and watching the deer for approximately five minutes, I reloaded the muzzleloader watching to make sure the deer didn’t run away. After reloading I took the only shot that I had to finish off the deer.”

Chaney, 38, plans to have it mounted on a pedestal at his Harvest home in Limestone County. The two deer on his wall include the first he ever killed and the biggest deer that he had killed before graduating from high school.

He and his wife, Nicole, have been married since June 2013 and he has three stepchildren. Chaney, a contractor, started working at the airfield in September 2008. He and Phoenix met the year Phoenix arrived as an active duty Soldier. Phoenix, who resides in Priceville, retired from the Army in December 2019. Chaney and Phoenix go hunting together about every weekend to every other weekend.

Ed Jones of Athens, master scorer for Alabama whitetail records, measured the deer Feb. 11.

He has served as the official measurer for more than 32 years. Jones said this 21-point deer measured out at probably No. 4 in the non-typical muzzleloader category. It was 171 6/8 inches for fourth largest in that category.



Walter Chaney shot this 21-point buck Feb. 8 in area 37.

Photo by Taz Phoenix

Your glory days in sports

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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How do you stay in shape?

“I try to work out at least three to four times a week,” retired 1st Sgt. Renee Baldwin, deputy inspector general for Space and Missile Defense Command, said. “I try to incorporate a mix of cardio and weightlifting. I’ve been doing this since 1992, since I joined the Army. After I retired in 2012, I continued because it just became a way of life. It keeps me balanced. It reduces my stress levels and overall makes me more resilient.”

Baldwin, 48, from Augsburg, Germany, is leaving SMDC to become the command inspector general for Communications-Electronics Command at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, starting March 1. She served in the Army from April 1992 to December 2012 and retired as a first sergeant after 20 years. Baldwin deployed to Iraq in 2003 and 2006. She resides in Madison with her husband of 25 years, David, operations manager for the building 5400 cafeteria under Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation. Her oldest daughter, Arianna Williams, is a licensed counselor in Kansas City, Kan. Dominique Baldwin, the youngest, will graduate in May from Vanderbilt law school in Nashville.

She likes to work out, read, do game nights with family and friends, go hiking and try new restaurants. Baldwin roots for FC Bayern Munchen, a German men’s soccer team.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Retired 1st Sgt. Renee Baldwin, deputy inspector general for Space and Missile Defense Command, works out in Pagano Gym.

Upon further review, replay officials have their place

I know you're probably going to roll your eyes when you read this.

Warning: Yes, I am definitely an old school guy. I'm a baby boomer. I remember watching sports on a black-and-white television with rabbit ears antenna. Sometimes I'd put some aluminum foil around the top for better reception back in the day.

I definitely remember when the call made by the umpire or the referee or the official was final no matter what. There was no video review. Technology has

changed since the 1960s, according to Captain Obvious.

So I wasn't exactly a fan when the sports world adopted video review. Now we have it in baseball. We have it in basketball. We have it in football. We have it in tennis. The technology has even trickled down to the high school level.

No I didn't like the idea at first. I was afraid it would slow down the game to stop the action to see if the ref got the call correct.

But I've warmed up to it. I like the

fact that coaches can challenge calls that might have been missed. There have been delays but they haven't been that bad. I like that there's a better chance the game won't be impacted by a referee's error.

Mistakes are still made of course. Nothing and nobody is perfect. But why not have the capability where officials can take a second look at a borderline call that could determine a game.

I kind of wish we had that capability in our daily lives. When we have a car ac-

From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn
Rocket editor

cident, for example, let's have the capability where we could stop the action and rewind our approach to an intersection. Maybe upon further review, we wouldn't rear end the car that stopped on yellow.

Olympic runner Louis Zamperini earned medals in WWII

By DAVID VERGUN

DOD News

In 1936, 19-year-old Louis Zamperini qualified for the Summer Olympics in Berlin. Even today, he remains the youngest American to qualify in the 5,000 meter track and field event.

He didn't earn a medal at the Olympics, but several years later he would take part in actions that resulted in medals earned for acts of valor.

In 1938, Zamperini attended the University of Southern California, where he set a national collegiate record of 4 minutes, 8.3 seconds in the mile, despite being intentionally spiked in the shins from competitors during that race.

The runner would soon shift gears in his career. He didn't wait for America's entry into World War II. Instead, Zamperini enlisted in the Army Air Corps in September 1941 and soon was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

In late 1942, he was stationed on the Pacific atoll of Funafiti. It and other islands at the time were a British colony, known as the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

The Seabees had constructed a runway there, which was used by Consolidated B-24 Liberator heavy bombers. Zamperini was a bombardier. The bombardier sat in the cockpit, where .30-caliber Browning M1919 machine guns were mounted on both sides for forward protection of the aircraft. The navigator could man one of the guns if necessary.

Missions included bombing runs on Kiribati, one of the Gilbert Islands occupied by Japan, and another, Nauru, which was administered by Australia at the time.

On one return flight from a successful bombing mission over Nauru, Zamperini's aircraft was attacked by three Japanese Zero fighter aircraft. He and the other gunners successfully fought them off, but one of the crew members was killed, four others were injured, and the aircraft sustained severe damage, though it managed to land back at Funafiti.

Next, Zamperini was transferred to Hawaii, where he was a crew member on another B-24. Their mission this time was searching for lost crew members and aircraft.

On May 27, 1943, his aircraft experienced mechanical problems during a mission and ditched into the ocean 850 miles south of Oahu, Hawaii. Only three men survived the crash, including Zamperini.

They inflated life rafts and floated about for weeks. They captured two albatrosses that landed on their rafts. They ate one, and they used the other as bait to catch fish. Fortunately for them, it rained enough to supply drinking water.

There were some close calls. A shark brushed up alongside their rafts, but it left when they hit it with a raft paddle. They nearly capsized during a storm, and they were strafed a number of times by a Japanese bomber.

After 33 days, one of the three men died.

On Day 47, Zamperini and Russell Allen Phillips, who was the pilot of the doomed B-24, landed their raft at Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, where they were immediately taken prisoner by Japanese sailors. He and Phillips were later transferred to a number of prisoner of war camps on mainland Japan and were separated. They wouldn't meet again until after the war.

Zamperini eventually was transferred to the infamous Naoetsu POW camp in northern Japan, where he remained until the end of the war.

The camp was infamous because of prison guard Mutsuhiro "The Bird" Watanabe, who relished torturing the men. After the war, Gen. Douglas MacArthur listed him 23rd among the top 40 most wanted war criminals in Japan. However, he was spared execution.

Marine Corps Maj. Greg "Pappy" Boyington was held at the same POW camp. In Boyington's book, "Baa Baa Black Sheep," he wrote that Zamperini described Italian recipes to the men to keep their minds off their miserable situation. Zamperini grew up in an Italian family, and he didn't even learn to speak English until grade school.

While Zamperini was held captive, he first was declared missing at sea and later as killed in action.

After the war, Zamperini said, he drank heavily and was extremely bitter about Watanabe and others who mistreated the prisoners. The life-changing moment for him, he said, came when he was attending a Rev. Billy Graham crusade in Los Angeles in 1949, which resulted in him becoming a born-again Christian.

He returned to Japan the following year, where he met many of his former guards to tell them he'd forgiven them. However, Watanabe refused to meet with him, so he wrote a letter of forgiveness to him.

In 1998, Zamperini participated in the torch relay for the 1998 Olympic Winter



Army photo

On the Pacific atoll of Funafiti, 1st Lt. Louis Zamperini peers through a hole in his B-24D Liberator made by a Japanese 20 mm shell over the Pacific Island of Nauru, April 18, 1943.

Games in Kyoto, Japan. In 2010, Laura Hillenbrand wrote a book about him: "Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption." Four years later, actor Jack O'Connell portrayed Zamperini in the film "Unbroken."

Zamperini died in 2014 in Los Angeles at 97.

Editor's note: Sports Heroes Who Served is a series that highlights the accomplishments of athletes who served in the U.S. military.

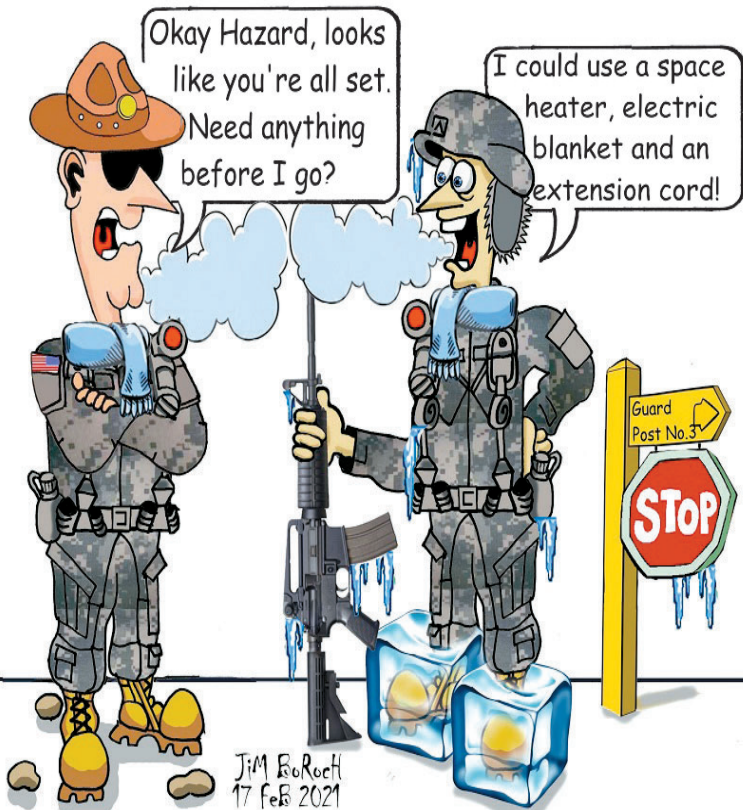
By the numbers: Best space movies

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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1. Star Wars
2. The Martian
3. 2001: Space Odyssey
4. Star Trek
5. Aliens
6. Apollo 13
7. Starship Troopers
8. The Empire Strikes Back
9. Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan
10. Hidden Voices
11. The Right Stuff
12. Space Cowboys
13. Gravity
14. Return of the Jedi
15. Total Recall
16. Guardians of the Galaxy
17. Apollo 18
18. Passengers
19. The Fifth Element
20. Star Trek Beyond
21. Solaris
22. Galaxy Quest
23. Interstellar
24. Moon
25. Contact
26. Armageddon
27. Close Encounters of the Third Kind
28. Avatar: Creating the World of Pandora
29. E.T.
30. SpaceCamp



Okay Hazard, looks like you're all set. Need anything before I go?

I could use a space heater, electric blanket and an extension cord!

Jim RoRoeth
17 Feb 2021

Rocket Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Senior softball leagues

Huntsville Senior Softball is recruiting players for the 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. For more information about Huntsville Senior Softball, email Huntsville-srsoftball-info@googlegroups.com or call Becky Rollston of the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center at 880-7081.

Pineapple Open golf scramble

The Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club's 2021 Pineapple Open Golf Scramble is April 30 at the Links. It will be held on the Warrior course. This is the club's biggest fundraising event so far this year and only prepaid teams are guaranteed a spot. Make your early bird reservation by March 15 for a \$20 per player discount. Registration closes April 15. For more information, call Cherie Cain 254-368-5363 or email rsamccfundraising@gmail.com.

Conferences & Meetings

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.

West Point chapter

Do you know there is a West Point chapter in the Huntsville area? They do several chapter activities throughout the year to include cheering on Army to victory during sporting events and their annual Founder's Day celebration. For more information about the chapter activities and to learn how you can be a part of this organization, visit the chapter website at <https://sallyport.westpointaog.org/topics/11179/memberships>. For more information or assistance, email Dale McDonough at dmac550@gmail.com.

Lance/MLRS veterans reunion

The 13th Missile and Multiple Launch Rocket System veterans reunion is Sept. 2-4 at the Marriott Hotel SeaWorld in San Antonio, Texas. Twelve additional seats will be reserved by June depending on the status of the pandemic. If interested call retired Sgt. 1st Class John Williams 210-209-2000.

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 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.

AMC Inspector General

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

tigations 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 usarmy.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.

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.

Community assistance grants

The Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club 2020-21 community assistance grant applications are now open at rsamcc.org. Deadline to submit applications is Feb. 28. RSAMCC is a volunteer organization that salutes those who have served this country and promotes education, community and social welfare. The club recognizes it has an obligation to use its funds wisely and to ensure that it donates to organizations that reflect the club's values, practice good stewardship and meet the needs of the local military community. All information and eligibility requirements are on the club website, rsamcc.org. For questions contact the community grant chair at rsamccgrants@gmail.com.

Merit award scholarships

Students who are affiliated with Redstone Arsenal are eligible for educational merit awards from the Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club. Applications for this year's scholarships are now open at rsamcc.org. The deadline to apply is Feb. 28.

Masquerade gala

The Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club presents "Masquerade Gala in the Garden," Oct. 22 from 6-10 p.m. at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens, benefiting the RSAMCC community assistance grants and merit scholarship awards. For information visit rsamcc.org.

Rocket Announcements

Free financial benefits classes

The Employee Assistance Program and Army Community Service's Financial Readiness Program present Free Financial Benefits Classes via Microsoft Teams. Classes include: March 3, Veterans Benefits; March 10, Long Term Care and Medicaid; and March 17, Tax Updates. All classes are from noon to 1:30 p.m. The instructor is Melanie Bradford Holliman, of Bradford and Holliman LLC, estate planning, elder law and special needs. Join the event via MS Teams at <https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup>. For more information about the classes, email usarmy.redstone.id-readiness.mbx.redstone-eap@mail.mil.

Virtual learning expo

Rocket City Mom is taking their annual Huntsville Learning Expo virtual this year due to COVID-19. Typically held at Earlyworks Children's Museum, the Learning Expo is a favorite community event among local families. The 2021 Virtual Learning Expo started Jan. 30 and will run through February. Rocket City Mom will feature educational businesses, preschools, private schools, homeschooling programs, summer camps, and various other educational resources in the Huntsville area. To participate, watch Rocket City Mom's social streams on Facebook and Instagram and visit the Virtual Learning Expo website through February to learn more about educational resources North Alabama has to offer kids of all ages. For an exhibitors list, visit RocketCityMom.com/LearningExpo.

Exchange news

Whether you're looking to achieve fitness resolutions or focused on maintaining a Be Fit lifestyle, the Redstone Exchange has everything you need to succeed. Find essential Be Fit gear including athletic apparel and footwear, digital fitness accessories, watches and wearable technology with fitness tracking capability and hydration accessories in the Exchange and online at ShopMyExchange.com. Visit the community hub for healthy recipes and workout tips, <https://publicaffairs-sme.com/Community/befit>.

Craft show

The spring North East Alabama Crafters Association craft show is March 26-28 at the Von Braun Center South Hall. The free show is 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 26-27 and noon to 5 p.m. March 28. There will be 12-foot aisles to assist with social distancing. More than 100 vendors are expected.

Text 9-1-1 service

The Huntsville-Madison County 9-1-1 Center, which has served Huntsville, Madison, and Madison County since 1992, has launched a new text-to-9-1-1 service, providing a step forward in accessibility to those who are unable to dial 9-1-1. This service, offered in conjunction with the Alabama 9-1-1 Board and its network provider, Indigital, is available to those who have cellular service with Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, SouthernLINC, or Sprint. Text-to-9-1-1 should be considered a secondary option only to dialing 9-1-1 from a cellular or landline phone and should be limited to the following circumstances: When calling 9-1-1 is not possible, such as if the caller is deaf, hearing or speech impaired; if a caller is otherwise unable to speak, because of a medical condition (such as a stroke), or if speaking would be unsafe, as in the case of abduction, domestic violence, or home invasion. This service also allows HMC 9-1-1 to respond to text messages to not only confirm if an emergency response is needed but to also confirm whether or not an accidental call to 9-1-1 was made. For more information about the Huntsville-Madison County 9-1-1 Center, visit <https://madco911.com/>.

Charity car show

Vets with Vettes and Corvette Owners 16th annual Charity Car Show is June 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cabela's parking lot, 7090 Cabela Drive. Events are open to all cars, bikes and trucks. There will be trophies and plaques along with games and prizes, silent auction, food and drinks and a 50/50 drawing. Proceeds will benefit veterans' charities. This is a rain-or-shine show with a prize package from Cabela's.

Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department has released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for Feb. 8-12. The highest scores included Sam's Club 8107 (Meat), 2235 National Boulevard SW, 100; Lawlers Barbecue 4, 544 Hughes Road, Madison, 99; Lenae's Place doing business as LMM Enterprise, 2011 Cox Ave., 99; Le Macaron, 6782 Old Madison Pike, 99; Publix Super Market 1638 (Seafood), 350 Hughes Road, Madison, 99; Heritage Preschool, 7015 Cabela Drive NW, 99; and Ardent Preschool and Daycare-Redstone, 2400 Redstone Gateway, 99. The lowest scores included Logans Roadhouse 403, 6226 University Drive NW, 90; I Love Sushi Japanese Cuisine, 8429 Highway 72 West, Madison, 90; and Nothing But Noodles, 6125 University Drive, 88.