

# Redstone Rocket

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## Facial recognition in line for commuters at gates

By JONATHAN STINSON

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On March 15 there will be a new way to gain access to Redstone Arsenal — your face.

Redstone will begin a pilot program using facial recognition software to grant access to members of the workforce.

“The facial recognition lanes provides rapid and continuous vetting and a non-stop transition through the access control point,” Garrison Director of Operations Ron Thomas said. “Commuters should anticipate guards in-lane, forward of the Guard House, for the first four business days following each gate activation to assist with initial entry.”

Cameras are installed at Gate 1, lane 3, and Gate 9, lanes 3 and 4 and personnel who are currently registered in the Automated Installation Entry System are authorized to use them.

These lanes are marked with the letters SOV, which stands for single occupancy vehicle. If you are carrying passengers, even if you are a trusted traveler, then you’ll have to use one of the other available lanes. Bicyclists and people riding



Photo by Eric Schultz

Workers painted large letters to indicate the “Single Occupancy Vehicle” lane at Gate 9.

See Gates on page 10

## Healthier environment brings lower protection level

By JONATHAN STINSON

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Redstone Arsenal moved to Health Protection Condition Bravo last week at the direction of the installation’s Senior Commander Maj. Gen. Donnie Walker and Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor after reviewing the current COVID-19 data.

It’s the lowest HPCON level since March 25, 2020, when the installation moved from HPCON Bravo to Charlie.

“Per Department of Defense standards, conditions favor the installation moving to a lower HPCON level,” Ju-

lie Frederick, director of public affairs for the Garrison, said. “The conditions include: a downward trajectory in the number of new cases, capacity to treat, capacity to test, and a low infection rate in the surrounding community.”

Under HPCON Bravo, the installation is positioned to provide the services needed to accommodate a larger percentage of the workforce back on post. The actual number of workers who will return and when they will return is up to each of the tenant commands on post.

Prior to the change in HPCON levels, the installation was poised to accommodate approximately 50% of Redstone’s total workforce, but officials have only seen about 25% of the workforce come

through the gates each day.

Arsenal leaders are telling the workers to stay in contact with their direct supervisors who will have the specifics on their individual work status.

For those who do return, they will be expected to follow the CDC health and safety measures, along with the Department of Defense’s current mask mandate for federal installations, according to officials.

“Redstone Arsenal has taken a deliberate and measured approach to reopening installation services, and ensuring proper health and safety measures are in place to facilitate the return of the workforce,” Frederick said.



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Army developers design helicopter antenna mount.

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### COMMUNITY

Three-day virtual forum showcases modernization.

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### FEDERAL

Nine Marshall teams receive NASA awards.

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### SPORTS

Paralyzed veterans cycling team to compete in Huntsville event.

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# RocketViews

## There's a right way to address letters seeking money

Dear (insert charity of your choice) you're missing out.

If I had to put a number on it, I'd say about 60%-70% of the snail mail we get is someone asking for money. That's of course when we get mail and it's not routed through Birmingham to get to Wisconsin and then back to Huntsville. (That's an actual route that one of our packages took.)

There's nothing wrong with asking people to make donations. It's really hard to raise money if you don't ask people to give you money. I've yet to have someone just walk up and hand me \$20. I know we're all taught not to accept things from strangers, but I promise, should a random person want to give me money, I'll gladly put it in my pocket and keep on walking.

The problem is most of these groups are asking for money the wrong way.

I'll give you two examples that happened on the same day and then I'll get to my point.

Example 1: The other day I got a letter in the mail addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Stinson.

It was from an organization where my wife is on one of their many, many boards. My wife has donated to this group on many, many occasions.

I, on the other hand, have not, nor do I intend to, send these folks any money. I mean like ever and this isn't a Green Eggs and Ham situation.

Nevertheless, instead of simply addressing the mail to her – contact info they already had – they probably paid for some mailing list compiled by a ran-

**Snippets**  
By Jonathan Stinson  
Assistant editor

dom third-party and instead addressed it to me and reduced her to just a Mrs.

Example 2: Two letters down in the stack of mail that day was another envelope. This one was only addressed to me and this one came from a place where she has a close, I mean first-name-basis-close, relationship.

I get that there's some etiquette guru out there that says that's how you address that particular type of letter, but

it's antiquated and it's lazy.

Look, I've been the king of my share of castles, but let's be real, my house has never been one of them.

In fact, if you go pull the deed to my house it lists my wife's name first and then says and "wife, Jonathan Stinson."

That's one of Anna's favorite stories.

I promise, my ego and self-esteem remain unaffected by that, nor is it affected by putting my name first on a letter.

Here's the quick fix. If you're going to be lazy and only put one name on the envelope, just drop the first names. That way at least you won't leave off the name of the person who actually provided financial support to your organization.

## Final Salute

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

### Charles Henry

Army WWII veteran, Huntsville.  
April 6, 1926 to March 1, 2021.

*Editor's note: To be included in the next Final Salute, email information to skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com.*

## 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.

## Mills Road children's center proud of team

Thank you for highlighting our center's accomplishment but I would feel remiss if I did not bring it to your attention that a few things were omitted from the Mills Road Child Development Center NAEYC accreditation article.

This was definitely a full team effort to achieve this. The management team, trainers and SPS may have spearheaded this process, however, if it weren't for the staff, we could have never accomplished this. The staff are the "boots on the ground" that made this process work. This process took teamwork and I am proud of all staff that made this happen. If we did not come together as a team, we would have never been able to achieve our accreditation. Again, we are very proud of our staff members and appreciate all the hard work they put into the center to make this happen.

Mills Road CDC management team

## Quote of the week

“Wear a mask.”

– Dr. Anthony Fauci

## RedstoneRocket

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# First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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## How do you relax?

"If it's nice out, ride on my motorcycle. Shooting range when ammo's available. That's really it," Keith Androvett, a firefighter at Station 5 at the Airfield, said. "They help me decompress and take my mind off the job."

Androvett, 25, from West Milford, New Jersey, became a Redstone firefighter in June. He served in the Marines from 2015-19 and left as a corporal. Androvett resides in Arab. He roots for the New York Giants.



Keith Androvett

## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents Feb. 21-27:

**Feb. 22:** At Gate 7, a driver was cited for a suspended license. The vehicle was removed by a licensed driver.

**Feb. 23:** A Redstone police officer stopped a vehicle for speeding on Martin Road. The driver was cited for reckless driving.

**Feb. 23:** The Exchange loss prevention officer saw an individual shoplift a card holder. Police responded and transported the individual to the Redstone Police Station for further processing. The individual was cited for shoplifting and released. The evidence was retained on an Army form 4137 and secured in the police evidence locker.

**Feb. 25:** Redstone police responded to an area of the Zierdt Road fence line near Gate 7 for an individual seen walking inside the installation's fence line. The individual had crawled through a sewage tunnel near the intersection of Zierdt Road and Town Madison Road trying to get to a nearby gas station and was unaware of being on Redstone's side of the fence. The indi-

vidual was cited for unlawful entry of a military installation and released.

**Feb. 27:** A two-vehicle accident occurred at the intersection of Vincent Drive and Goss Road. Vehicle 1, traveling north on Vincent in the left lane, rear-ended vehicle 2 which was waiting to turn left into the parking lot of the Post Express. Both vehicles had minor damages.

**Feb. 27:** A Redstone police officer stopped a speeding vehicle on Rideout Road. The National Crime Information Center revealed the driver had a suspended license and a warrant with Stevenson Police Department for failure to appear for driving while suspended. Stevenson police were informed of the situation but declined extradition. The Redstone police officer cited the individual for driving while suspended and speeding. The individual was then denied access as well as future access to the installation. The vehicle was removed by a licensed driver.

Citations included two for driving while license is suspended or revoked, one for no driver's license/unlicensed, two for failure to yield right of way, three for expired registration, one for trespassing and 15 for speeding.

## On this date in history: March 10

**In 2020:** The World Health Organization officially announced the COVID-19 outbreak as a pandemic.

**In 2006:** The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter arrived at Mars.

**In 1977:** Astronomers discovered the rings of Uranus.

**In 1975:** North Vietnamese troops attacked Ban Mê Thuôt in the South on their way to capturing Saigon in the final push for victory over South Vietnam.

**In 1969:** In Memphis, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to assassinating Martin Luther King Jr. He later unsuccessfully attempted to recant.

**In 1933:** The Long Beach earthquake affected the Greater Los Angeles Area leaving around 108 people dead.

**In 1876:** The first successful test of a telephone was made by Alexander Graham Bell.

## Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

**Name:** Susan Smith

**Position:** Badging officer for Chenega Corporation in support of the Space and Missile Defense Command

**What did you want to be when you grew up?**

I'm still trying to figure that out. I haven't grown up yet. I'm 40 years old, I haven't grown up yet.

**What do you hope to accomplish in 2021?**

Save up for my dream vacation. That is to be going to Scotland at this point in time. So the next one will be who knows what.

**Who is your hero, and why?**

It'll have to be my mom (Beverly Barrett of Hazel Green). She raised six kids and a husband who was sick. I was raised the second oldest of six kids. I have one brother.

**If you could choose to do anything for a day, what would it be?**

I'd probably give my mom the house that she deserves. And then me the house that I deserve.



**What is the best piece of advice someone has given you?**

"This too shall pass." It's in the Bible.

**What do you like to do for fun, to pass the time, during this time of social distancing or just in general?**

Go chill with my friends.

# Know your laws: Definition of riot under review

By **AMY WASYLUKA**  
Huntsville attorney

Recently the Alabama Legislature introduced several bills aimed at cracking down on protests including HB 133, HB 445 and SB 155. While the intent of the bills is to prevent violent riots and property damage, the bills stand to negatively impact First Amendment rights and subject Alabamians to unintended negative consequences.

House Bill 445 is the most recent of these bills, introduced on Feb. 24. HB 445 is backed by 51 representatives including Representatives McCutcheon, Reynolds and Sanderford. HB 445 redefines "riot" and creates several new crimes aimed to penalize those engaged in social justice work and protests. Specifically, HB 445 redefines the term "riot" as a tumultuous disturbance in public by five or more people acting with common intent that creates a "grave danger" of substantial property damages, serious injury, or that substantially obstructs a government function. The International Center for Nonprofit Law suggests this broader definition could cover everything from loud but peaceful protests to loud or rowdy tailgate parties, making the determina-

tion of what constitutes a riot subjective.

In addition to broadening the definition of "riot," HB 445 imposes strict penalties should property damage occur. HB 445 states that in the event of property damage, anyone participating in the group would be considered guilty of the offense of "aggravated riot" and could be punished with up to 10 years in prison. The bill similarly imposes penalties on people who "incite" a riot by either funding or aiding and abetting another person engaged in a riot. The ICNL suggests that once again, because of HB 445's broad definition of riot, Alabamians could be charged with "inciting" a riot for relatively insignificant or nonviolent acts such as giving water or food to protestors.

HB 445 also creates several new crimes, including the crime of unlawful traffic interference and the crime of assaulting a first responder. HB 445 provides a person commits the crime of assault against a first responder in the first or second degrees if, in the course of trying to prevent a first responder from performing their lawful duties, they cause or intend to cause physical injury. HB 445 provides a person commits the crime of unlawful traffic interference by walking,

sitting or otherwise blocking passage of a vehicle on a public highway or interstate with the intent to impede traffic. HB 445 provides that the crime of traffic interference is a felony which ranges in severity depending on the presence of aggravating factors and the number of times the person has been convicted for that crime. Those charged with these offenses would be required to be held in custody for 48 hours prior to a bail hearing and would be subject to minimum prison sentences without consideration for probation, parole, good time credits or other reductions in time.

Last but not least, HB 445 provides that any attempt by a subdivision of the state to "defund" or "dissolve" a local law enforcement agency, that subdivision would forfeit any state grant or aid and would not be able to receive any allocation of state revenues. It also provides that individuals within the governing body of those subdivisions could be held civilly liable for any crimes of violence that occur in their subdivision. Under HB 445, a subdivision of the state could potentially be liable for "defunding" law enforcement if it decreased the budget for law enforcement by 10%.

HB 133 is similar to HB 445. However, unlike HB 445, it makes it a felony for anyone to deface a public monument even if the marks are temporary. HB 133 would also disqualify anyone convicted of riot, aggravated riot or incitement to riot from holding public office.

Like the House bills, Senate Bill 155 also deals with riots. SB 155 expands the circumstances under which individuals may use deadly force. Under SB 155, a person may use deadly force to defend their premises if there is an active riot within 500 feet of their premises and the person reasonably believes it is necessary



to prevent criminal mischief or burglary. You can read the full text of these bills along with any amendments by checking the status of the bills 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 HB445, HB133 or SB155. Additionally, for those who are interested in contacting their local state representatives or senators about these bills, contact information for your state representatives and senators are available online at: [www.legislature.state.al.us/aliswww/ISD/House/ALRepresentatives.aspx](http://www.legislature.state.al.us/aliswww/ISD/House/ALRepresentatives.aspx) and [www.legislature.state.al.us/aliswww/ISD/Senate/ALSenators.aspx](http://www.legislature.state.al.us/aliswww/ISD/Senate/ALSenators.aspx).

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## Tell us about ...

By **SKIP VAUGHN**  
Rocket editor  
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### How you're coping after one year of the pandemic.

"We've learned to adapt and overcome just like any difficult situation. It's scary at first and then you learn to live with it," Maj. Brian Haley, division chief for the Attack Reconnaissance Division, Aviation Flight Test Directorate, Redstone Test Center, said. "And I feel like with the vaccine we're getting closer to the end."

Haley, 33, from Marietta, Georgia, is a 2009 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. He has been at Redstone a year and a half. Haley served in Afghanistan in 2012 for Operation Enduring Freedom and in Kuwait in 2016 for Operation Inherent Resolve. He and his wife of almost 10 years, Alisha, have three children: oldest daughter, Randi, 7; son, Cole, 5; and youngest daughter, Adalynn, 4. Haley said his hobbies are mostly hanging out with his kids and playing golf. He roots for the Atlanta Falcons, Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets and Army Black Knights.



**Maj. Brian Haley**

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# Military

## Army developers design helicopter antenna mount



Photo by Amy Tolson

**Key stakeholders gather in Huntsville to test out a new Telemetry Engagement Simulation System antenna mount for the CH-47 Chinook F model.**

By **AMY TOLSON**

*CCDC Aviation & Missile Center Public Affairs*

Tough problems require teamwork.

When the CH-47 Chinook D model was upgraded to F, the installation of the Compact On-loading Off-loading System flooring eliminated the cable routing for the Telemetry Engagement Simulation System antenna. Part of a kit installed temporarily for Combat Aviation Training, the TESS antenna provides GPS capability for war games that help prepare Soldiers for battle.

It was a readiness challenge Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center engineers knew they had to help solve. The Cargo Helicopters Project Office contacted AvMC to support the effort to identify a new location for the antenna, design the mount and relocate the Smart Onboard Interface Module.

“With no route for the antenna cable, a new antenna mount had to be designed as well. The new location had to allow installation and removal without modifying the aircraft in any way,” Rob Peter, Cargo team lead, AvMC Systems Readiness Directorate, said. “I implored the engineers on the team, ‘You can make a hole.’ This was a significant challenge.”

The effort included the development of all associate drawings and technical data that would be delivered with 27 kits containing the redesign parts, and required collaboration between the AvMC Systems Readiness Directorate; Cargo Helicopters Publications, Cargo Helicopters Training Aids, Devices, Simulators and Simulations; the Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation; Washington Headquarters Services National

Center for Manufacturing Sciences Commercial Technologies for Maintenance Activities; and Elevate Systems LLC.

“No one entity in DEVCOM can do it all,” Peter said. “The SRD Maintenance Airworthiness Division ran the point bringing together the necessary engineering services and prototyping capability through the WHS NCMS contact with Elevate Systems. This expedited contact vehicle was instrumental in staying on schedule. Collaboration with Cargo PM TESS and PEO STRI was critical to staying on top of changing requirements. Also, early and often communication with SRD airworthiness and structures divisions was instrumental in ensuring the final design would be acceptable from all perspectives.”

Working together, numerous potential solutions were vetted until a successful one

was found. Thus far 27 antenna mounts have been delivered, ensuring the warfighter is ready to fight tonight.

“With the U.S. Army AvMC folks in the driver’s seat they established the ‘dream team’ to solve this complex issue quickly supporting the CH-47F Chinook,” Scott Gray, president of Elevate Systems LLC, said. “The TESS Antenna installation needed a new, functional design so that the U.S. Army personnel could quickly install the system for training and then de-install the system so that the aircraft could return to active mission assignments.”

“Realistic combat simulation training at CONUS and OCONUS combat training centers is crucial to Army readiness,” Peter said. “The CH-47F Chinook can now be brought back into that fold with full TESS capabilities.”

# Strategic senior enlisted Soldier advises ROTC cadets

By **CARRIE DAVID CAMPBELL**

*Space and Missile Defense Command  
Public Affairs*

The Space and Missile Defense Command's senior enlisted leader has talked to ROTC members of the Bulldog Battalion about leadership, teamwork, Army values and the need for professional development.

Command Sgt. Maj. Finis Dodson, SMDC command sergeant major, spoke to nearly 50 cadets and cadre at the Frank Lewis Gymnasium at Alabama A&M University during their training event Feb. 11.

"I'm from a small town called Olive Branch, Mississippi," he said. "I have made it through my 33 years of military service with hard work and great leadership and mentorship."

The battalion's assistant professor of military science, Capt. Portia Brubaker, said it is important for the students, from Alabama A&M University, University of Alabama in Huntsville and Athens State University, to understand perspectives other than those of their cadre leadership.

"We wanted our cadets to gain understanding of the requirements of an officer from a senior noncommissioned officer and how the roles and responsibilities of noncommissioned officers and officers works in the Army," Brubaker said. "We think it is imperative for our demographics to see diversity in positions held by Soldiers across the Army."

Dodson told the students that young leaders are the future and that this is their Army. He said they should hold their peers, subordinates and themselves accountable to strengthen and improve the force.

"The connectedness of the Army can be explained using my five-finger metaphor," Dodson said. "When you're in a fight, you must clench all five fingers together to punch effectively and not hurt yourself. It's bad for your fingers to be opened and separated. This is how we must be in the Army: tight together and not separate."

Dodson said all service members have to hold each other accountable to do the right thing.

"When we have lapses, whether not addressing sexual harassment charges or failing to properly train our Soldiers,



Photo by Carrie David Campbell

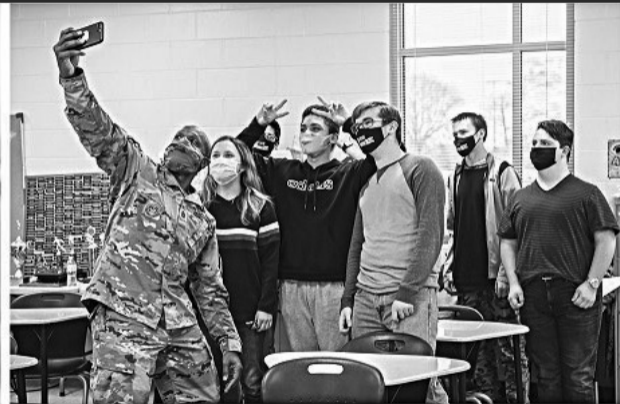
**Command Sgt. Maj. Finis Dodson, command sergeant major for the Space and Missile Defense Command, addresses ROTC students from Alabama A&M University, Athens State University, and the University of Alabama in Huntsville at Alabama A&M University's Frank Lewis Gymnasium, Feb. 11.**

it makes the Army weaker," he said. "It will be up to all of you, the future leaders of the Army, to improve and strengthen our ranks."

Photos by Richard Bumgardner

## Austin JROTC visit

Command Sgt. Maj. Sean Rice, from the Security Assistance Command, speaks March 1 to the JROTC class at Austin High School in Decatur. Rice told stories from his time with Air Force and Army JROTC units, then described several of his assignments and deployments, and encouraged students to take this JROTC seriously as leadership lessons learned in JROTC would impact them for their entire lives. Rice also inspired the students to be battle buddies for fellow JROTC cadets, especially to mentor and encourage more junior cadets to stay with the program.



# Gates

Continued from page 1

motorcycles should also not use the SOV lanes.

The system works by scanning a motorist's facial features through their windshield and comparing with the operator's photo on file with the post's Automated Installation Entry System.

Motorists should ensure that they are not wearing any facial or head coverings that would obscure the scan like masks, hats, sunglasses and the like. Also, heavily tinted windshields and dashboards cluttered with items like GPS devices and cellphone holders that might obscure the driver's face can adversely affect the system. According to officials prescription glasses needed for driving should be worn, but it might interfere with the system. If it does then the driver would simply stop and have the guard at the lane scan their common access cards like normal.

When approaching the gate, motorists should maintain about two car lengths between their vehicle and the car in front of them and travel between 3 mph to 5 mph. Drivers are also being asked to keep their driver-side window down while passing through the gate so a guard can see the driver.

Motorists will know they've been granted access to the post when the red X above the card station turns



Photo by Eric Schultz

**A sign alerts drivers at the gate that they are in the lane for facial recognition.**

into a green arrow. If it stays a red X throughout the approach then the driver must stop and engage with the guard on duty who will verify the driver's access credentials.

The three most common reasons a person would



Photo by Eric Schultz

**Facial recognition cameras are mounted by the traffic lanes at Gate 9.**

not get a green arrow are if they are not registered, they do not have a valid photo on file or if the system is impeded from scanning a person's facial features, according to officials.

# Miller directs safety for aviation, missile enterprise

By **KATHERINE BELCHER**

*Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs*

When the safety director for Aviation and Missile Command retired in December, AMCOM leadership didn't have to go far to find a replacement. Doug Miller, the former Aviation System Safety Division chief with degrees in mechanical and aerospace engineering, was selected from a host of highly qualified candidates.

"While there were big shoes to fill, we were fortunate enough to have multiple exceptional candidates to choose from for the safety director position," Maj. Gen. Todd Royar, AMCOM commander, said. "No stranger to AMCOM, Doug Miller brings a wealth of leadership and experience to the table. I am confident in his abilities to take the office to even greater levels."

Miller spent the last 17 years at Redstone Test Center, serving in a variety of positions to include chief engineer, test engineer, team leader, test manager, helicopter pilot and aviation, missile and sensor testing.

For Miller, aviation and safety are interdependent, and the position of AMCOM safety director interested him for a variety of reasons.

"It appealed to me from the perspective of career growth. I had been at the same organization for 17 years and this was an opportunity to do something different while maintaining that service to the Soldier in an area I was familiar with," he said. "Aviation is at the heart of who I am. I spent a lot of time testing missile systems, so it wasn't a big jump.

"The processes that you follow in testing are very similar to those in safety. You learn about a system, you ask critical questions, you make an assessment and you report. It wasn't a big jump to go from testing to safety, because safety is a big part of what we do in the test world."

After graduation from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Miller began his career at Boeing. He spent seven years as a systems engineer, manufacturing engineer and production tool design engineer before realizing that was not his passion.

"I got bored doing production tool design – sitting in a dark room, designing tooling," he said. "One day, while driving home, I saw Black Hawk helicopters doing sling load operations near the interstate. I said to myself, 'That's what I'd rather have done today.'"

The next day, Miller spoke with an Army recruiter and four months later, he was a "baldheaded private" at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, at age 28.

Miller spent 10 years as an Army officer in a variety of assignments as a UH-60 Black Hawk pilot in command supporting both individual and multinational combined arms operations. He credits his wife with being supportive of his career change and helping him achieve several career milestones (military and civilian) over the years.

"Thankfully, my wife realized I was passionate about this decision and she fully supported me. We both quit



**Doug Miller**

**See Miller on page 12**

# Miller

Continued from page **11**

our jobs, sold our home and embarked on our Army journey,” he said. “I knew I wasn’t getting any younger and, although I was a little older when I got started, it was the best decision I ever made.”

After leaving the Army, the transition from Soldier to civilian came easily to Miller – as both were born from a desire to serve. He chose to work in safety because it is an integral part of the Army mission that he understood.

“I put a lot of faith in the equipment that was issued to me. I used it to complete my mission, and I relied on it to be effective and keep me safe. That need is still out there today,” he said. “As a civilian, I can continue to do that. I spent 17 years with the Redstone Test Center as a tester and the same motivation was there – to ensure that we had safe, reliable, effective, lethal systems to support the warfighter.”

Miller now leads the safety office he has been a part of for nearly two decades and feels the weight of the responsibility he has to the Army, to AMCOM and the people who work with him and for him.

“It’s important for leaders to commu-

nicate their vision and for me, my priorities are the people that do the mission, the products we produce, the processes that enable those products, the technol-

ogy that we use and support, in order to make a good safety assessment,” he said.

Miller lives in Huntsville with his wife Lori and sons Ryan and Jared.

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*“It’s important for leaders to communicate their vision and for me, my priorities are the people that do the mission, the products we produce, the processes that enable those products, the technology that we use and support, in order to make a good safety assessment.”*

**Doug Miller**

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# Chief warrant officer attains top rank of her profession

By KERENSA CRUM

*Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs*

Fewer than 600 individuals in the Army wear chief warrant officer five rank. The Aviation and Missile Command's missile maintenance officer is now among them.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Araceli Rial is the second female to earn this rank in the Air Defense Artillery Branch but the first in her military occupational specialty.

"I am humbled and ever so grateful," she said of the distinction. "I am very glad that we have women included in the most senior warrant officer grade and hope that the trend continues to grow. It shows other women in our branch that it is possible to achieve and that we can serve as mentors in that journey."

Like so many, what initially attracted Rial to the military was the \$25,000 Army College Fund that would allow her to earn a degree in English and travel abroad. "I had aspirations of joining the military early in high school because of the travel aspect of it but realized as I got closer to graduation that college money was more important to focus on as a short-term goal."



Photo by Traci Boutwell

**Aviation and Missile Command Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar re-administers the oath of office to Chief Warrant Officer 5 Araceli Rial, AMCOM missile maintenance officer, during a promotion ceremony Feb. 17. Rial is the second female to earn this rank in the Air Defense Artillery Branch but the first in her military occupational specialty.**

With that, her personal mantra, "Never stop learning," was put into action. "I have an insatiable thirst for knowledge

**See Officer on page 15**

# Officer

Continued from page 13

and make it a point to learn something new every day, no matter how small the matter.”

Rial said education isn't only about institutional learning. “We can learn about ourselves, our Soldiers and our Army if we just look, listen and implement.”

And learn, she did.

The El Paso, Texas, native intended to fulfill the terms of her three-year enlistment as a Patriot missile crew member and return to civilian life. A few days from her final out-processing appointment at Fort Bliss, Texas, she had an epiphany. “That day, I practically ran to the post enlistment office and signed for another term to go to Germany as the initial contract reenlistment incentive.”

In the eight years that followed, the mother of two spent time in Hanau, Germany, and then went back to Fort Bliss as a drill sergeant. Rial described that tour as very difficult and, simultaneously, the most rewarding she has had.

“(I) had the ability to truly shape the future leaders of the Army and impress on them the importance of being a great Soldier and what that really means,” she said. “Taking the time to teach, coach and mentor these minds was something I took very seriously because a first impression is a lasting one, particularly when it involves young adults still trying to figure out what life is all about. The days and nights were very long but well-worth investing in tomorrow's Army leaders.”

For Rial to take advantage of the opportunity to influence and shape hundreds of new recruits, she had to make a huge personal sacrifice.

“I was a single parent at the time and was unable to keep my children with me due to the long hours,” she said. “Luckily, I had a great co-parenting relationship with their father, but it required them to move out so he could perform those parental duties while I served my duties as a drill sergeant.”

Years later, Rial contends that sacrifice was well-worth it – her children were taken care of and she was able to

make an indelible impact on brand new Soldiers.

“I had Soldiers many years later tell me that my leadership and compassion really changed their way of thinking on leadership development. Many of these Soldiers are now senior leaders themselves,” Rial said. “The idea that even one single act of kindness, compassion and understanding ... can very much shape the concept of what leaders should be like in the future ... makes a difference in their lives and, in return, they provide the same kind of compassionate leadership necessary to take care of Soldiers and their families. If Soldiers and their families aren't taken care of, they won't take care of the Army and its mission.”

After completing a successful tour as a drill sergeant – as if that weren't enough – and just being selected for sergeant first class, Rial said she felt like she needed to push herself even more.

“I had reached a point in my career where I realized I needed a different challenge to continue personal and professional growth,” she said. “(I) was at a crossroads on whether or not to crossover to something different and start from the bottom again. Being an enlisted 14T was rewarding, but I also knew where that career path went and what positions would've been available to me at the time. I wanted something new to build – even if it was from scratch.”

In 2005, 11 years after she enlisted as a Soldier, Rial earned her warrant officer appointment as a 140E, air and missile defense system technician. Her assignments enabled her to further realize her goal of traveling – Suwon Air Base, South Korea; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Redstone Arsenal, and second tours to Germany and Texas.

And now, less than 16 years after joining the warrant officer ranks, she has pinned the highest rank achievable.

Though warrant officers shoulder enormous weight as the Army's technical authorities, they only make up about 3% of the Army population.

A May 2020 U.S. Government Accountability Office report states the number of women in the Army fluctuated between 15.3% in 2004 to 15.1% in 2018 – lower than the overall military female population of 16.5% in 2018. Most years, female warrant officer promotion rates were higher than their male counterparts. Of the 12,670

warrant officers serving in 2018, 8% were women.

“Air defense is considered combat arms and early on was one of the only branches where women were allowed,” Rial explained. “Even then, women were definitely the minority in population and, in a male-dominant field, there is often a lot of adversity and inequality. As I progressed throughout my career, the number of women decreases so much that there are only a few at the top. Many women make the decision to have families or the responsibility of having a family is too great to handle with limited means of support. It's a tough decision that women still face today.”

Though she said it was tough being a woman in ADA, Rial persisted and is now at the top of the ladder as an example and goal to which others – male and female – can aspire.

“The fact that you're the first female to achieve that rank is truly groundbreaking,” AMCOM Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar said during Rial's promotion ceremony Feb. 17. “But it has nothing to do with gender; it has everything to do with your capability and your capacity to lead – not only today, but into the future.”

The pandemic kept many of her loved ones from physically attending her promotion ceremony; her son Alejandro was the only family to be there in person. Her daughter Skye, husband Jordan, and parents Angela and Gabriel – as well as many others – watched remotely as it streamed online.

Even without her family there, Rial said they've been there all along the way and are much of the reason behind her many successes. “They are very excited and thrilled that I've continued to serve my country and earn promotions in the process.”

For now, Rial will continue to give 100% at AMCOM and hasn't put another mark on the wall yet. “I really don't know what's next except to keep fighting for improvements that will help the warfighters on the ground with sustainment issues and concerns.”

With 26 years already under her belt, Rial said she wouldn't be surprised to end up serving 35 years or more. “I realized after I hit 20 years in service that every year after that was a bonus,” she said. “I really can't believe how quickly the years go by.”

# Faith deployed with Reserve unit from Arkansas



Courtesy photo

**1st Lt. Doug Faith stands in the desert while deployed for Operation Desert Storm in 1991. The former Soldier is now an attorney adviser at the Aviation and Missile Command.**

By **MICHELLE GORDON**

*Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs*

When Operation Desert Storm kicked off in winter 1991, William “Doug” Faith, an attorney adviser with the Aviation and Missile Command, was in his final year of law school.

“I was a reservist in North Little Rock, Arkansas, going to law school when my Reserve unit got activated,” he said. “I got the call that they always tell you might happen, but you never thought would happen, they said, ‘we’re leaving.’”

Prior to law school, Faith, who was a commissioned engineer officer after completing ROTC in college, chose to join an Army Reserve civil affairs unit rather than taking an education delay.

“I chose that unit because they did training in Europe,” he said. “I’d never been to Europe and I wanted to go. They were getting paid to take German classes and you got drill points for it, so that’s why I joined that unit, to go to Germany – I never made it to Germany.”

Shortly after receiving the call about his unit being activated, Faith said goodbye to his young wife and new puppy, and left for predeployment training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. He said he was eating in the officers’ club when the air war started Jan. 17, 1991.

“That’s when we knew it was serious – when the air war kicked off and they were giving us classes on customs and issuing us new equipment,” he said. “We got the new chocolate-chip desert fatigues and that was a big deal. Then when we got over there, we got Humvees, which were brand new, especially for the Reserves; we had to learn how to drive them.”

Faith’s unit landed in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, and moved north to Al Jubail for in-country training. When the ground war began, their mission was humanitarian relief. He said they were charged with getting the lights and water turned back on, distributing food and water, and setting up medical clinics. Once the ground war was over, they moved to Kuwait City, Kuwait, to what would eventually become Camp Freedom.

“We were working to get Kuwait City back up and running when a small group of us were sent to southern Iraq to support a (mobile Army surgical hospital) unit out of Johnson City, Tennessee,”

Faith said. “They were treating Iraqis who were in the refugee camps. We were the liaisons for the refugees because we had interpreter support. We also helped reunite families who had been separated for various reasons.”

With the ground war over and the humanitarian mission complete, Faith’s unit was preparing to go home toward the end of April 1991. In fact, he was on the second day of a three-day rest-and-recreation trip aboard a luxury cruise ship parked off the coast of Bahrain when he got the call to return to his unit.

“Instead of flying home, we got a call saying we were getting sent to northern Iraq to support Operation Provide Comfort,” Faith said. “We flew to Incirlik Air Base in Turkey, took a chartered bus across the top of Syria and were dropped off in a United Nations’ refugee camp in the middle of a wheat field.”

They spent about 2 1/2 months providing civil affairs support and working with tribal elders before returning home to Arkansas in early July. Faith said he spent nearly seven months deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm and the best part about it was his unit.

“That unit really pulled together and pulled it off,” he said. “We were a bunch of people with really different backgrounds – who weren’t really that committed to the Army, necessarily – we were part-timers, but we got really good at our job.”

When Faith returned home he resumed the career path that he had pressed pause on seven months earlier. He finished law school, he was accepted into the Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps, and he and his wife welcomed a baby girl.

Faith spent nine years on active duty before deciding to get out and settle down so his kids could have some stability. His son is in Ranger School now so, much like his Desert Storm days, Faith is back to communicating through letters, which he said he does not mind at all.

He has lots of great memories from throughout his military career and he will tell them all with a smile, punctuated perfectly with his thick, Arkansas drawl.

“I didn’t have a bad experience during Operation Desert Storm,” he said. “I look back on it and our unit really pulled together during training, and then when we were over there, we were really dedicated to doing something good.”

# Retired Soldier remembers Desert Storm camaraderie

By **ANTWAUN PARRISH**

*Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs*

This is the 30-year anniversary of the Gulf War, the military operation to reverse Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Garfield Teixeira, an Aviation and Missile Command logistics management specialist, served in Desert Storm with the 44th Medical Brigade.

After being in the Army and receiving four years of training, he was slated to deploy in support of the mission after relocating from South Korea to Fort Benning, Georgia.

"At the time I was young and naïve," Teixeira said. "Panama kicked off when I was in Korea, so my whole mentality being in the military was like training to be in the playoffs – and when there's a conflict, that's the playoffs. So I was excited and looking forward to going to Saudi Arabia."

Teixeira spent most of his time during Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia. He mentioned that he went north into the desert before the ground attack.

A few memorable moments from his time being deployed still stick with him to this day.

"During deployment everyone became closer and a little more personal," Teixeira said. "The people that I was with I didn't really know them as I came from Korea and within a month I was deployed. It was new for everyone – the camaraderie, the way we came together and the support and the support from each other's family."

While reminiscing about his time in Desert Storm he also talked about how technology and the ability to connect to others abroad was not as convenient as present day.

He remembered how he had to wait in line to call his family and friends back home.

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## Persian Gulf War *30 years later*

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"Back then we had to travel to get to a phone, so once a week or once every two weeks – based on mission it was exciting to get in the line," he said. "That line might have been a half-a-mile long to make a phone call back home. That sticks out a lot – just making that trip because then there was no Internet or social media. My son is a lieutenant downrange and we can FaceTime (now), but we didn't have that back then."

Teixeira said he is proud to have been a part of this major conflict which happened more than 30 years ago.

"That was the biggest buildup of troops outside of the U.S.," he said. "So everywhere we turned in Saudi Arabia it looked like we took over the country because the areas we were in you would turn and see military vehicles and personnel. The Saudi Arabian rulers would set up big picnics for us and have tents of food so we could come and eat."

For Teixeira, deploying in support of



**Garfield Teixeira**

Desert Storm was a major determining factor for him staying in longer and retiring after 22 years of service.

"Some of the people I was with were coming up on 20 years," he said. "We had a lieutenant colonel that served in the Vietnam War and just listening to those stories I wanted to have that effect on Soldiers later on by having that experience. Of course when (family sits) around on Thanksgiving, they tell me I always have a story for everything," he said with a chuckle.

"It's a good feeling to know that I was a part of Desert Storm."

# Soldier takes advantage of her opportunity to lead

By **EMILY STRICKLAND**

Staff writer

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When it was time for Master Sgt. Elaina Paxton to decide what path to take beyond high school, one woman's influence guided her into the Army and a career that has now spanned two decades. That woman? Paxton's mother.

"My mom pretty much sat me down and said, 'OK, Elaina, I know you don't have a plan, but you're going to join the Army,'" Paxton said. "And I will say that joining the Army actually turned out to be one of the best chances I took in life."

Now the equal opportunity adviser and program manager for Army Materiel Command, Paxton has held several previous assignments in the Army in the U.S. and around the world, serving at Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Meade, Maryland; Fort Carson, Colorado; Fort Richardson, Alaska; Norfolk Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Virginia; Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan; and in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

As the equal opportunity adviser, Paxton is responsible for providing guidance and advice on "all matters relating to military equal opportunity," which may include

procedures and requirements for Soldiers and their families as well as achieving objectives under the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention or SHARP program. In addition to these responsibilities, Paxton also assists in coordinating and executing monthly special and ethnic observances, like Women's History Month, and provides guidance to AMC subordinate commands that do not have their own equal opportunity adviser.

Paxton emphasized the importance of observing Women's History Month, which spans the entire month of March, and said it is important because it allows individuals to recognize the hard work and sacrifice of women who have gone before.

"It's important to acknowledge their perseverance and the impact that they have had," Paxton said. "And it has inspired, encouraged and empowered me and many other women to actually break barriers and excel in different career fields and positions that weren't always available to us. I will also say that I'm grateful for all women who have fought and paved the way for equal rights, advocated for inclusiveness, secured a future with limitless opportunities, and created a chance for me to have a seat at the table."

She also said her position as equal op-



Photo by Jonathan Stinson

## Master Sgt. Elaina Paxton

portunity adviser has opened her eyes to the progress that the Army has made in terms of diversity, equity and inclusion, pointing to the adoption of the Army People Strategy as an indicator of this new dedication.

"Everyone matters, no matter their background, no matter where they came from," Paxton said. "Their skills, their ability and their talents is what makes a significant contribution to the organization."

The strength of these differences has not been lost on Paxton, who said that she is proud to be a woman serving in the Army.

"I find myself to be intelligent, assertive,

opinionated, uncompromising, passionate and exude confidence that propels me to be a great noncommissioned officer in the United States Army," she said. "And I'm proud of those accomplishments that I have made as a noncommissioned officer and proud that I have a voice that can be heard and that my opportunities as a woman are limitless."

Paxton's awards and honors include: two Defense Meritorious Service Medals; Meritorious Service Medal; four Army Commendation Medals; Joint Service Achievement Medal; six Army Achievement Medals; Army Good Conduct Medal (sixth award); National Defense Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one Campaign Star; Iraq Campaign Medal with one Campaign Star; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral 4; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral 2; and NATO Non-Article 5 Medal for ISAF.

She resides in Madison with her husband, Gus J. Paxton II, and son, Gus III.

"Every step that I've taken and every accolade that I've earned has not come without its challenges," she said. "But I am proud, and I've learned lessons from each and every one of them."

# Security enterprise Soldiers share counter threat expertise

By RICHARD BUMGARDNER

Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

In 2020, during the height of a global pandemic, Soldiers assigned to the Security Assistance Command's Fort Bragg-based Security Assistance Training Management Organization became the only Army-based unit certified to run the Department of State's Foreign Affairs Counter Threat course.

That accomplishment was especially important as USASAC, as the lead for Army foreign military sales, initiates, processes, tracks and manages almost \$200 billion in past, current and future FMS cases around the world.

With that global mission comes a training requirement for operation and sustainment of the FMS equipment, which USASAC calls the Total Package Approach. This ensures our partners and allies can build their organic capabilities to repair, sustain and use their equipment, so they can protect their citizens and defend their borders.

To support FMS case training, USASAC annually deploys hundreds of military, civilian and contractor personnel, with most FMS cases requiring overseas deployment anywhere from one month to several years in length.

With that global mission also come global threats.

"The incredible opportunity to work overseas, develop friendships with partners, learn a foreign culture, and see new things is not without risk," Col. Scott Malone II, the brigade commander for SATMO, said. "The potential of natural disasters and/or criminal, foreign intelligence, and violent extremist threats increases risk for our deployed Soldiers."

Years ago to mitigate that risk the team at SATMO developed the in-house Security Assistance Team Training and Orientation Course, or SATTOC, which security assistance teams had to complete prior to their long-term deployments in support of FMS training cases.

For years that course met the DOD standard but SATTOC wasn't certified, hence didn't meet the stricter Department of State's requirement of their own course, FACT, required for DOS Chief of Mission personnel.

"SATTOC taught the same TTPs (tactics, techniques and procedures) but this is now a certified and approved instruction for the Department of State requirements," Sgt. 1st Class Carlos Rodarte, the lead instructor from SATMO, said. "Being the only course like this in the Army means this may potentially open the door to assist the DOS with clearing the backfill of students unable to attend due to pandemic protocols."

DOS had for years been building toward this robust hard-skills training curriculum after analyzing years of attacks on embassies and consulates around the world: Iran in 1924, and again in 1979, Taiwan in 1957, Turkey in 1958, Saudi Arabia, Colombia, Pakistan, China, Mexico, and many, many more.

Momentum built in mid-1990s after a subordinate unit under USASAC, the Office of Program Manager-Saudi Arabian National Guard's headquarters were bombed in November 1995, then the Khobar bombings in 1996, and simultaneous attacks in 1998 at the U.S. embassies in Kenya, and neighboring Tanzania, where 224 people died and 5,000 injured.

According to DOS reports from 2001-09, there were 20 fatal attacks on U.S. embassies that resulted in 87 deaths – 24 of them were either U.S. embassy workers or U.S. civilians. There were too many attacks on U.S. embassies and consulates that left employees, agents and officials scrambling for their lives.

The calls for DOS and Congress to increase diplomatic security and hard-skills training for staff and family members rallied following the 2012 attack on the U.S. mission in Libya that killed the U.S. ambassador, a staff member, and two security contractors. Russell Pugh, a DOS FACT trainer, said the attack in Libya set into motion the FACT course as it is today.

"FACT had been going on for a while, from about 2004 and on, but following Benghazi, the DOS combined the Iraq Immersion course, and the previous generation FACT course, into the current iteration of the course that we know it today," Pugh said.

The five-day, 40-hour course provides students with the hard-skills and practical knowledge necessary to recognize, avoid, and respond to a wide array of common, but potentially deadly, threats. Students gain experience in managing risk, security awareness, surveillance detection, personnel recovery, mission planning, tactical medicine, fire as a weapon, react to contact, self-defense and evasive driving.

Pugh, himself a former noncommissioned officer, said this was the fastest FACT Training-Equivalency certification the DOS has given out of 11 external programs,



Courtesy photo

**Soldiers from the Security Assistance Training Management Organization train on medical mannequins as part of their training to prepare for deployment overseas. These Soldiers were participating in the only DOS-approved, Army hosted and led, Foreign Affairs Counter Threat course in the Army.**

due in part to their ability to work together and ease of working with the SATMO team to get through the process.

"We brought out our DOS agents, medics, personnel recovery, operations and driving subject matter experts to conduct not only audits, but also run a train-the-trainer courses as well," he said. "We sat down from the very beginning and charted out the route to SATMO's success. The SATMO training cadre were great to work with and stayed focused on completing the tasks. Every step of the way SATMO was willing and able to make adjustments and shift fire as required by the DOS mandates."

That allowed the flexibility and mindset necessary to figure out the best solutions to merging two different programs and plans of instruction, into one certified at that higher standards needed for DOS approval.

"I'd like to thank the DOS team for coming out to SATMO and entrusting us with this organic capability," Malone said. "This is a great course to have in our command, and one that provides SATMO Soldiers with the tools to stay safe, mitigate risk, and increase their ability to achieve success in their assigned overseas mission, while enjoying the cultural and growth experiences of this assignment opportunity."

# Rotorcraft predictions code speeds research process



Courtesy photo

**Helios models the coupled aerodynamic and structural dynamics response of an air vehicle using computational fluid dynamics codes for aerodynamics, computational structural dynamics to model structural bending, and trim software with multi-body dynamics to set the controls to achieve vehicle trim.**



Photo by Lira Frye, SMDC

## Meritorious civilian service

**Renee Baldwin, deputy inspector general, Space and Missile Defense Command, receives a Meritorious Civilian Service Medal on Feb. 22 from Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, SMDC commander. Baldwin is leaving the command for a new position at Communications-Electronics Command.**

By AMY TOLSON

CCDC Aviation & Missile Center Public Affairs

It can mean the difference between delivering rotorcraft solutions the warfighter needs quickly and adding years to the process.

When Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center engineers developed the Helios software code more than a decade ago, they didn't just set out to make accurate aeromechanics predictions of rotorcraft performance under a variety of flight conditions – they did it to increase efficiency.

“If you look at the history of Army procurements, a lot of past rotorcraft – almost every one of them in fact – has gone through that phase where they basically have to change the design late in the game,” Andrew Wissink, an aerospace engineer with the CCDC Aviation & Missile Center, said. “That drags out acquisition programs, which can really delay the fielding of new vehicles. What we’re trying to do is develop a way to computationally model the detailed high fidelity behavior earlier so that we can predict it ahead of time, before they actually build a vehicle to go and flight test.”

Developed in partnership with the Department of Defense High Performance Computing Modernization Program’s Computational Research and Engineering Acquisition Tools and Environments-Air Vehicles Program, Helios models the coupled aerodynamic and structural dynamics response of the vehicle using computational fluid dynamics codes for aerodynamics, computational structural dynamics to model structural bending, and trim software with multi-body dynamics to set the controls to achieve vehicle trim.

“We can assess what’s happening earlier in the process so that we can reduce the time it takes to get a vehicle in use by the Army, and also make it so that we’re not making late stage design changes, but rather, catching them early so they can be factored into the whole design,” Wissink said.

While it was first released in 2010, major software releases are done annually to ensure Helios stays relevant. Case in point: its use in the development of Future Vertical Lift’s Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft and Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft. Rotorcraft designers are also now able to model air launched effects with Helios.

“Helios has enabled us to address rotorcraft aeromechanics for acquisition programs with unprecedented accuracy, efficiency and ease of use,” Mark Potsdam, an AvMC aerospace engineer performing computational analysis in support of the FVL FARA program, said.

“Simulations have had a significant effect on existing programs, such as CH-47 Block II ACRB rotor and Sikorsky CH-53K Exhaust Gas Reingestion, as well as helped to assess the risk of new Future Vertical Lift acquisition programs, such as FARA, FLRAA and UAS. We can do things in a much more timely and impactful manner than was ever possible before with CFD, while quantifying and furthering fundamental physical understanding of interactional aerodynamics and coupled aeroelastics of unconventional configurations.”

Proof that Helios works is in the impacts seen in programmatic areas, especially over the last few years, Wissink said. For example, in the Marine Corps’ CH-53K program, the test aircraft experienced engine hot gas reinjection issues. Engineers from the Naval Air Systems Command, Sikorsky and the Army used Helios to identify the root cause, carry out trade studies of exhaust modifications, and propose the most promising and feasible designs that mitigated the issues for flight testing.

“To discover and mitigate that through flight testing alone would have taken a long time. Flight testing remains a critical element in acquisition programs but, with these computational tools, engineers were able to assess it and come up with design changes at a much faster rate than what we’ve been able to do in the past,” Wissink said.

# Community

## Army sustainers showcase modernization in virtual forum



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kelvin Ringold, 13th Expeditionary Sustainment Command

**Gen. Ed Daly, commander of Army Materiel Command, and AMC's Command Sgt. Maj. Alberto Delgado speak with Fort Hood, Texas, sustainers at the new Modernization Displacement and Repair Site Nov. 2. Future Army operations will depend on modernized materiel readiness initiatives, and the MDRS will be counted on to help in that process.**

By MEGAN GULLY

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

The Army's senior sustainer will highlight the important role the Army Materiel Command plays in modernization and the sustainment warfighting function during the Association of the U.S. Army's 2021 Global Force Next.

AUSA's 2021 Global Force Next will take place virtually March 16-18. During the three-day forum, Army and industry leaders will highlight efforts to modernize the force and maintain overmatch against adversaries, emphasizing this year's theme "Protecting Tomorrow through Persistent Modernization."

Gen. Ed Daly, AMC commander, will take center stage on the third day to present what steps AMC has taken to modernize the materiel and installation enterprise. From divesting legacy systems and retooling the Organic Industrial Base to prepare for new equipment, to upgrading housing and infrastructure, AMC is implementing transformational change.

"The Army is in the middle of transformational change and our senior leaders seized the moment to fully assess the force and implement changes at every echelon," Daly said. "Across Army Materiel Command, we have assumed new missions and divested others so that we are now 100% focused on leading and directing sustainment warfighting functions from the installation to the tactical edge to meet Army

readiness requirements during competition, crisis, conflict and change."

One area in which AMC is enabling modernization efforts is through the implementation of Modernization Displacement and Repair Sites. By providing Soldiers a place to drop off old equipment, MDRS supports the Regionally Aligned Readiness and Modernization Model, freeing up space for new, modernized equipment.

"This is one of the most important things AMC will do to support Army readiness in the next five years," Daly said.

The goal of ReARMM is to integrate and synchronize force employment and modernization across the Total Army. AMC is leading the strategic divestment of legacy equipment.

Following Daly's keynote remarks will be a Contemporary Military Forum, with experts from across AMC, Army Forces Command and industry to discuss "Supporting Modernization" and how the two Army commands are working together to build strategic readiness through ReARMM.

The forum will take place Thursday, March 18 at noon. It will be led by Mark Pearce, Northrup Grumman, and panelists include Maj. Gen. Charles Hamilton, AMC G-3; Maj. Gen. Kurt Ryan, FORSCOM G-4; Maj. Gen. Daniel Mitchell, commander of Army Sustainment Command; and Donald Kotchman, vice president and general manager of U.S. Operations for General Dynamics Land Systems

To register for the event, go to <https://global.ausa.org/>.

# Challenger Bingo makes comeback with precautions

By **KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY**

Staff writer/Social media

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Bingo is back!

After almost a year since closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Challenger Bingo reopened March 3. And while the Bingo staff is excited to open their doors again, there are some modifications to keep patrons safe. The facility will operate under an 80-person capacity, with social distancing. Masks are required unless participants are eating, and patrons are required to make a bingo reservation 24 hours in advance by calling 955-3729.

While Bingo might look a little different, the important parts are the same – fun, fellowship and the chance to win some big bucks.

“We are still paying out the same \$10,000 a night as before,” Ben Howard, Challenger Bingo business manager, said.

At the time, due to the capacity cap, there are no plans for Challenger Bingo’s popular special events. Howard said the event nights would bring in more than 200 patrons and that isn’t feasible with social distancing guidelines.

**See Bingo on page 26**



Photo by Eric Schultz

**Tony Davis, of Hazel Green, gets ready to play bingo as Challenger Bingo returns to Redstone Arsenal, after the COVID-19 pandemic shut down the game in 2020.**

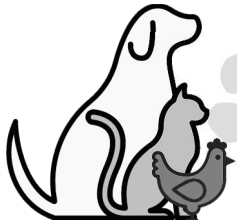
# Rocket Pet of the Week

## Gus and Birch



This is Gus and Birch and they belong to Lesley Doty.

"Gus is a 2-year-old Great Dane/Weimaraner mix and Birch is a 1-year-old Beagle/Pit mix. Both were rescues from A New Leash on Life. Though they have a 70 lb. weight difference, they are the best of friends. Birch enjoys long walks and Gus prefers long naps, but one thing they both love doing is wrestling (Gus usually lets Birch win)."



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# Bingo

Continued from page 24

"If limitations are lifted we will entertain doing some special events," he said.

The facility has also changed their hours due to the pandemic. Bingo will now operate Tuesday through Saturday, 3-10 p.m. Tuesday with electronic bingo starting at 3 p.m. and session bingo beginning at 6:45. Saturday hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Electronic bingo starts at 11 a.m. and session bingo starts at 1:45 p.m. The facility will be closed on Sunday and Monday.

Food and drink are allowed, with Bingo still serving coffee and water. But instead of self-serve, the staff will serve patrons to keep with safety guidelines.

Howard said that after a year away, his team is ready to get back to work and see their regular Bingo players – and they welcome anyone new to Challenger Bingo, which has been a Redstone tradition.

"We are just excited to be open," he said.



Photo by Eric Schultz

**Betty Jones, of New Market, marks her bingo cards as Challenger Bingo returns March 3.**

# Air Force veteran served on evacuation flight line

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Air Force Staff Sgt. Miguel “Mike” Lechuga witnessed the chaos April 29, 1975, the day before Saigon fell.

After watching bombs fall on Tan Son Nhut Air Base on April 28, he and the rest of the 10-member aircraft maintenance crew awaited further orders at their building near the flight line. The avionics instrument specialist belonged to the 604th Military Airlift Support Squadron which was under the Military Airlift Command.

They were told that C-130s would arrive in three-ship formations starting around 3 a.m. April 29 to continue the U.S. evacuation. But a rocket attack which destroyed the second C-130 canceled that plan, ultimately leading to reliance on Marine helicopters.

Lechuga saw South Vietnamese aircraft take off about 7 a.m. in a final effort to defend the perimeter of their air base. He saw a AC-119 gunship get hit by enemy fire and go down in flames.

“Some brave South Vietnamese air force pilots were still flying missions in defense of their country,” Lechuga, a retired chief master sergeant in Wichita Falls, Texas, said. “And I salute that.”

He watched as the natives frantically scurried from South Vietnamese C-130 to C-130 to pile into anything that could take off for their escape. A South Vietnamese F-5 was taxiing out for a mission when the pilot suddenly left the cockpit and ran to one of the departing C-130s so he could leave with them. A woman who was trying to climb into a C-130 fell under the aircraft and was crushed by its wheels.

An overloaded C-130 departed with its crew entry door open and people hanging onto the adjacent cable. As the plane gained altitude, the three to four people lost their grip and fell to their deaths.

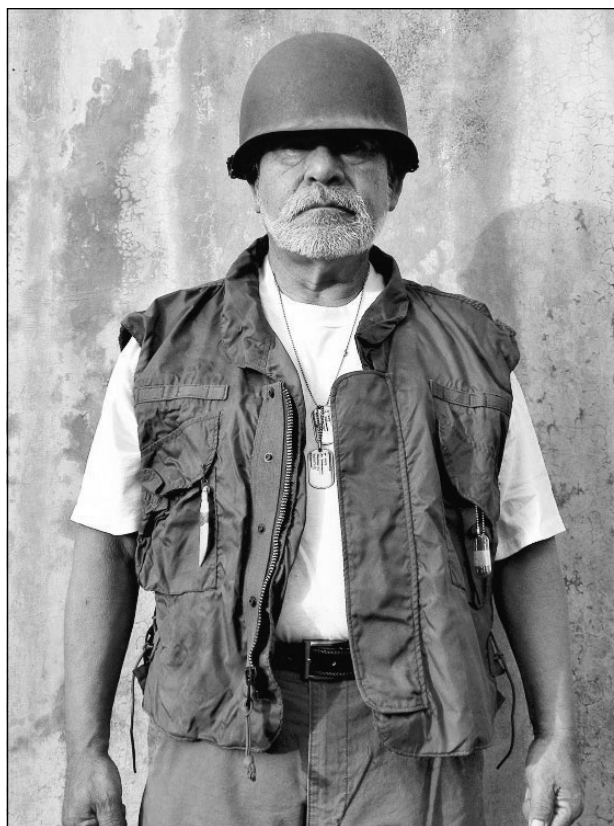
“We witnessed it. We saw it. I can still see it right now,” Lechuga said. “To see them fall to their deaths, it’s something I’ll never forget.”

About 2 p.m., the maintenance crew members received word they were to leave the flight line and report to the defense attache office for evacuation by Marine helicopters. “Now we know there’s a little bit of hope,” Lechuga said. They boarded the vehicles for the short ride to that office but they were initially followed by a forklift with South Vietnamese soldiers who wanted to know where they were going.

There was plenty of activity in the hallways of the defense attache office. The Americans put their weapons into cardboard amnesty boxes and formed into departure lines. They started hearing the rotors of helicopters outside. At 6 p.m. April 29, Lechuga’s line came up and he and the other passengers ran to their awaiting Marine helicopter. They crowded aboard with two door gunners on each side and left.

“The helicopter took off. We’re kind of looking out the window,” Lechuga said. “Saigon is getting smaller. Soon we see the ocean. We know we’re safe.

“We evacuated thousands of people under chaotic conditions. Regrettably we knew we were leaving many, many people behind. To know as you’re flying out to safety there are so many people behind that are left,



Courtesy photo

**Retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Miguel “Mike” Lechuga resides in Wichita Falls, Texas.**

that is one thing that weighs heavy on me.”

They landed aboard the USS Denver LPD-9 in the South China Sea. One of Lechuga’s fellow Air Force passengers got down and kissed the deck of that ship.

The ship departed May 1 and arrived about two days later at Subic Bay Naval Base in the Philippines. They processed out of the ship to Cubi Point Naval Air Station; and Lechuga returned to Clark Air Base in the Philippines.

The East Los Angeles native retired from the Air Force in 1998 as a chief master sergeant at Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. He settled in Wichita Falls and served as an outreach minister for Edgemere Church of Christ until 2016.

Lechuga and his wife of 48 years, Madeline, had six children and 14 grandchildren. She died Dec. 15, 2019, from Parkinson’s disease. Both sons served in the Army. Miguel, the oldest, works at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. Marco, the next oldest, is a helicopter crew chief and sergeant first class with the Army National Guard in San Tan Valley, Arizona, and served three tours in Iraq. Maria Maloney resides in Wichita Falls, Texas; Mickey Maxham in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; while her twin, Marianne Dowdy, and Madeline Hamilton, both live in Wichita Falls.

Lechuga, 72, enjoys painting; he studied commercial art before leaving college after a year and joining the Air Force. He received an associate degree in general education from Los Angeles Metropolitan College in 1980, an associate in avionics systems technology from

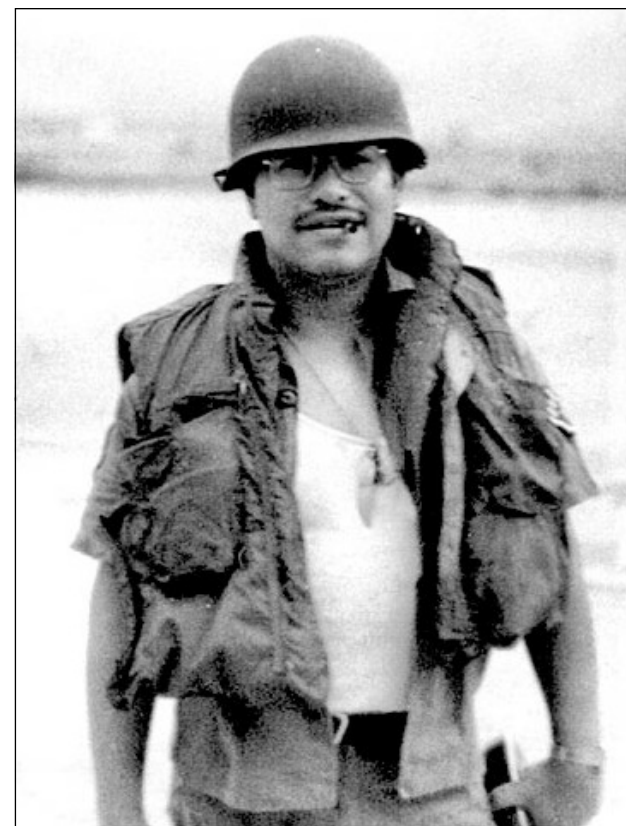


Photo by Air Force Sgt. Jerry Clifton

**On April 28, 1975, Staff Sgt. Miguel “Mike” Lechuga serves at Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon.**

Community College of the Air Force in 1987 and a bachelor’s in industrial technology from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale in 1990. Lechuga belongs to the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Texas Association of Vietnam Veterans, the Disabled American Veterans and the Air Force Association.

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

“The reality of COVID has limited various celebrations, observances and holidays even. You can’t congregate in mass without fear of illnesses. That’s a fact of life right now,” he said. “So having said that, just like the recent inauguration, that’s not to say we should stop the celebration of the 50th anniversary completely because we can still celebrate through virtual means. From the social, human point of view, it’s much better or preferred to celebrate in person next to each other and be able to shake the hand of another veteran who served our country in Vietnam.”

*Editor’s note: This is the 310th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.*

**Vietnam revisited**  
*Part 310 in series*

# Redstone sends virtual Read Across America

By JONATHAN STINSON

Assistant editor

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Many from across Redstone Arsenal participated in a virtual version of Read Across America this month.

The National Education Association started Read Across America in 1998. Even though it's a year-round event, emphasis is usually placed on the program in March, which is National Reading Month. The goal, of course, according to the NEA, is to motivate children and teens to read.

"It was great having so much support from all of our tenant organizations here at Redstone," Erica Lewis, school liaison officer at Redstone, said. "We even had a few volunteer readers to dress up and get into character for their readings. It was great to have so much cooperation for such a great cause."

Normally, volunteers would visit local schools to read to children, but this year participants read children's books on camera. Those videos were then distributed via YouTube and the Defense Visual Information Distribution Service to teachers throughout the community.

"I think the pandemic has taught us that we have to be flexible and adapt to situations beyond our control," Lewis said. "Although our volunteer readers were not able to go to the schools as they have done in years past, I felt it was still important to continue having our volunteers read but to do it in a safe, fun way."

"COVID-19 has slowed down a lot of aspects of our daily lives but it has also allowed us to awaken our creativity. In doing Read Across America, we wanted to show our support for our local schools and let students know that reading can be fun."



Photo by Jonathan Stinson

**Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor reads "The Cat in the Hat" by Dr. Seuss to children in at the Mills Road Child Development Center.**

Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor and Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Jimenez also participated in a special reading event at the Mills Road Child Development Center, which included a visit from The Cat in the Hat.

You can find a playlist on YouTube at <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4gH2218AGhAFAB6j1A-LgdSTH829o3Di> and a DVIDS playlist at [www.dvidshub.net/feature/ReadAcrossAmerica](http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/ReadAcrossAmerica).



Photo by Jonathan Stinson

**Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Jimenez reads "The Foot Book" by Dr. Seuss to children at the Mills Road Child Development Center.**

[dvidshub.net/feature/ReadAcrossAmerica](http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/ReadAcrossAmerica).

The NEA has a number of resources available on their website at [www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america](http://www.nea.org/professional-excellence/student-engagement/read-across-america).

"I'd like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Read Across America event," Lewis said. "Each and every one of you made the event a success!"

## Read Across America reading list

Links: YouTube: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4gH2218AGhAFAB6j1A-LgdSTH829o3Di>

• DVIDS: at [www.dvidshub.net/feature/ReadAcrossAmerica](http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/ReadAcrossAmerica)

• Cherie Cain reads "Oh the Places You Will Go" by Dr. Seuss

• Christi Dolbeer reads "Yertle the Turtle" by Dr. Seuss

• Erica Lewis reads "Miss Rumphius" by Barbara Cooney and "Amari Goes to Dinosaur Land" by Amari Ferguson

• Col. Jessie Griffith reads "Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons" by James Dean

• Hester reads "Curious George and The Bunny" by H.A. Rey and "Izzy the Lizzy" by Renee Riva

• Patricia Hill reads "The Cat in the Hat" by Dr. Seuss

• Tom Hudson reads "There was an Old Lady who Swallowed a Bat" by Lucille Colandro and "If You Give a Dog a Donut" by Laura Numeroff

• Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Jimenez reads "The Cat in the Hat" by Dr. Seuss

• Michael Knight reads "Dragons Love Tacos" by Adam Rubin

• Jeff Langhout reads "Oh the Pets You Can Get" by Tish Rabe

• Col. Glenn Mellor reads "Green Eggs and Ham" by Dr. Seuss

• Gary Mayers reads "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault

• Debra Nickles reads "Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!" by Mo Willems

• Richard Parker reads "Giraffes Can't Dance" by Giles Andreae, "The Day You Begin" by Jacqueline Woodson and "Goodnight Moon" by Margaret Wise Brown

• Eric Schultz reads "Duck on a Bike" by David Shannon

# Marshall teams receive Space Flight Awareness Awards

By TAYLOR GOODWIN

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Nine teams from Marshall Space Flight Center were honored with the agency's Space Flight Awareness Team Award in a virtual ceremony Feb. 25. The annual award is presented to NASA civil servants and contractors who demonstrate strong work ethic and creative, innovative thinking in support of human spaceflight in the first seven years of their career.

"The teams at Marshall are not just people assigned to work together on a common goal," Larry Leopard, Marshall's associate director, technical, said. "We are diligent, purposeful and courageous – making the impossible possible so we can do things no one has ever done before, together."

The teams and their accomplishments are:

- Transportation Ground Operations team, for exemplary performance and outstanding teamwork in overcoming complicated schedule and hardware challenges to move the SLS core stage vehicle from NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility to the B-2 Test Stand at the agency's Stennis Space Center.

- End User Service Communications Integration team, for significant contribution, performance, communication and integration of the Office 365 Velocity Migration event – which was critical to mission support by strategically communicating the deployment of a new IT operations system critical to the advancement of NASA's Moon to Mars missions.

- Merlin Turbopump Vibration Assessment team, for exemplary support in creating and implementing a vibration acceptance criteria for the SpaceX Merlin turbopump. The team significantly increased the reliability of the liquid engines of the Falcon 9 rocket. Their tireless efforts over a five-year period culminated in a vibration acceptance criteria, approved by the Commercial Crew Program manager – a significant addition of safety to human spaceflight in this new era of crewed flight.

- Space Launch System Ignition Over Pressure Sound Suppression Water Flow team, for outstanding technical contributions, diligence and sacrifice enabling the successful completion of Mobile Launcher Sound Suppression Water Flow Testing. Sound suppression water controls hazards to the rocket from ignition over pressure at liftoff and ensures that the water was appropriately validated against the interface control requirements without causing unintended consequences to the rocket from on-pad shutdown events. This was key to mitigating key cross-program hazards.

- SLS Core Stage Liquid Hydrogen Tank Structural Test team, for outstanding dedication and contribution to successful completion of the SLS core stage liquid hydrogen tank structural qualification test.

- Cold Atom Laboratory Science Module Remove and Replacement team, for outstanding support, tireless efforts, and dedication to achieving the removal and replacement of a critical science module within the Cold Atom Laboratory – a multi-user facility designed to study ultra-cold quantum gases in a microgravity environment. This team worked diligently to overcome multiple obstacles leading up to the International Space Station Program direction and payload developer desire to perform this replacement effort in order to continue valuable science gathering.

- Human Landing System Program Planning and Control Office Business team, for sustained superior performance and dedication in establishing the necessary planning and reported processes needed to ensure the Human Landing System Program Planning and Control Office is postured for success.

- Near-Earth Asteroid Scout team, for exemplary efforts in designing and building the NEA Scout spacecraft to pave the way for safely flying cube satellites on Artemis I and future missions.



NASA photo

**Nine Marshall teams received the agency's Space Flight Awareness Team Award in a virtual ceremony Feb. 25.**

- SLS Booster Separation Motor Aeroheat Shield Structural Analysis team, for providing exceptional leadership and support to NASA, the SLS program, and SLS booster element. This team's technical expertise and ingenuity in data analysis and testing methodology have resulted in significant time and effort saved and improved confidence in the safety and performance of flight hardware.

Once the center returns to full capacity on-site, recipients will receive a certificate, medallion and pin to honor their achievements.

"What you have done, in many cases, took years of effort," Leopard said. "I know it wasn't easy, but you looked at a difficult task and said, 'Yes, we can.' That's exactly what we expect from our Marshall team. Accomplishing these things means you jumped in with intention and figured it out, against all odds. You deserve these honors."

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



NASA photo by Joel Kowsky

## Hidden figure tribute

Bryan Jackson, left, grandson of Mary Jackson, and Raymond Lewis, Jackson's son-in-law, unveil the Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters sign during a ceremony officially naming the building Feb. 26. NASA announced its intent to name the building after Jackson, the agency's first African American female engineer, in June 2020. Among the attendees were acting NASA Administrator Steve Jurczyk, Clayton Turner, director of NASA's Langley Research Center, and Christine Darden, retired NASA engineer and one of Jackson's fellow "Hidden Figures," as profiled in Margot Lee Shetterly's 2016 book. "With the official naming of the Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters today, we ensure that she is a hidden figure no longer," Jurczyk said. "Jackson's story is one of incredible determination. She personified NASA's spirit of persevering against all odds, providing inspiration and advancing science and exploration."

## Black History Month celebration

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center team members gathered virtually Feb. 23 to celebrate Black History Month. Among participants were Amanda Otieno, upper left, equal opportunity specialist in Marshall's Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity, who welcomed Marshall budget analyst Andrea Brown and her daughter Jaya Lea Brown, upper right, to sing the national anthem. Marshall Director Jody Singer, lower left, also took part, encouraging team members to "continue to inspire the next generation of engineers, scientists, technicians, and leaders from every corner of our community." Engineer, educator, and entrepreneur Pamela McCauley, lower right, associate dean of academic programs at North Carolina State University, delivered the keynote address, praising NASA's "decades of leadership in diversity and inclusion." She noted, "We are in a time where it is truly urgent that we utilize good engineering and science, and let them lead to innovations to address all types of challenges we're facing in this global society." The theme of Black History Month for 2021 was "Representation, Identity and Diversity: Together, We Achieve."

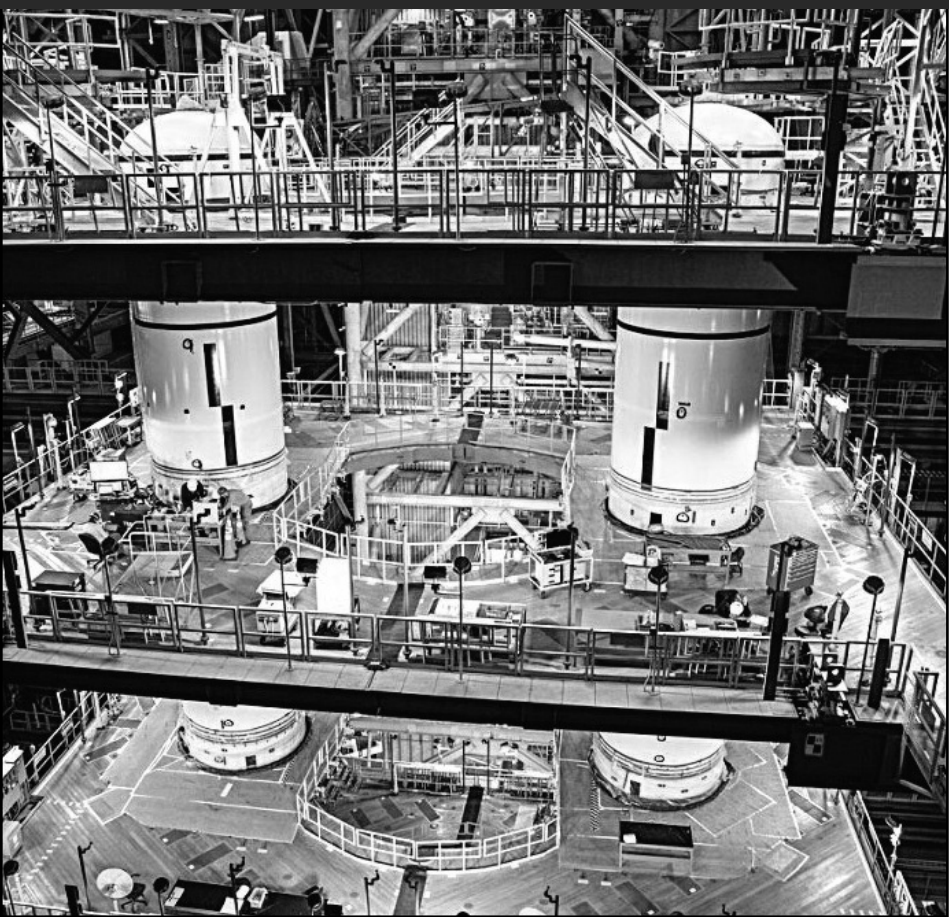




NASA photo

## Propulsion stage

Teams have moved the interim cryogenic propulsion stage for NASA's Space Launch System rocket into the Multi-Payload Processing Facility at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The stage, which provides in-space propulsion to propel missions beyond Earth's orbit on a precise trajectory forward to the Moon, is now alongside one of its flight partners for the Artemis I mission: NASA's Orion spacecraft. It is the first time since the shuttle program that two pieces of flight hardware have been processed inside the facility at the same time. The interim cryogenic propulsion stage will remain close to Orion as teams will ultimately position the stage at the top of the SLS rocket just below the Orion capsule. Technicians with NASA's Exploration Ground Systems and Jacobs Technology, the prime contractor, will fuel and serve both pieces of hardware in the facility ahead of the Artemis I launch. Once final checkouts are complete, the interim cryogenic propulsion stage and Orion will part ways on the ground and be reunited in the Vehicle Assembly Building at Kennedy for integration onto the SLS rocket.



NASA photo

## Boosters stacking up

Engineers with NASA's Exploration Ground Systems have stacked the fifth and final pair of booster motor segments for NASA's Space Launch System rocket onto the mobile launcher inside the Vehicle Assembly Building at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The left-hand and right-hand forward segments were secured on top of the center forward segments Feb. 23. Next, teams will place the nose assemblies on top of the segments to complete the boosters. The twin boosters will power the first flight of the SLS rocket during the launch of Artemis I. The mission is an uncrewed flight to test the SLS rocket and NASA's Orion spacecraft as an integrated system.

## Sports

# Paralyzed veterans cycling team to compete locally

From combined reports

The Paralyzed Veterans of America Racing Team is sending 20 athletes to Huntsville for the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open, April 17-18 in Cummings Research Park.

They will stay on Redstone Arsenal April 13-19, according to Jody Shiflett, director of racing and fitness for Paralyzed Veterans of America. PVA is a veterans service organization out of Washington, D.C.

The athletes compete on nontraditional bikes. About half the team members are paralyzed veterans. The other half have had traumatic brain injury, amputations or illnesses such as multiple sclerosis. Two of these 20 athletes are women.

"We're eager to get back to some sense of normalcy in competitive cycling," Shiflett said. "And we're optimistic that we can do so and be successful. And part of that success would be keeping our team safe all the way back home."

They come from Hawaii, California, Arizona, Florida, Massachusetts, South Carolina, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Illinois, Idaho, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Georgia and Alabama.

"This is a very important event, especially for the time of year. It's officially kicking off our season," Shiflett said.

Leaders of the Huntsville/Madison County community were excited to announce that U.S. Paralympics Cycling will visit the Rocket City in April, as it begins its national calendar in preparation for the Paralympic Games in Tokyo this summer. They will host one of four domestic cycling events, the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open, the second opportunity for cyclists to qualify for Tokyo.

The events will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 17-18, in Huntsville's Cummings Research Park, the second largest research park in the nation and fourth largest in the world. Time trials will be held on Saturday, and road races will be held on Sunday. Approximately 100 para athletes are expected to compete in the weekend's cycling events.

"Huntsville is honored to host a world-class event for the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open in 2021," Mayor Tommy Battle said. "We're a city that embraces a com-



Courtesy photo

**Members of the Paralyzed Veterans of America Racing Team will compete in the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open, April 17-18 in Huntsville.**

**See Team on page 37**

# Disabled veteran looks forward to Huntsville competition

From combined reports

Jennifer Schuble of Homewood is among the paracyclists competing in the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open, April 17-18 at Cummings Research Park in Huntsville.

"I'm excited. This is the very first race I've actually been in Team USA that's actually been in my home state," she said.

Schuble, 44, competes in four events, including time trial, road race, pursuit and team sprint. She is a three-time Paralympian (2008, 2012, 2016) and five-time Paralympic medalist (1 gold, 3 silvers, 1 bronze) competing in the C5 classification. While attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to become a commissioned officer, Schuble was a varsity athlete in three separate sports. During hand-to-hand combat class, she sustained a traumatic brain injury. The disabled veteran left West Point as a cadet in her third year.

She sustained an additional TBI later in a car wreck, and in 2004, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. This led her to the Lakeshore Foundation, a Paralym-

pic training site in Birmingham, where she was encouraged to get into cycling and started in 2007. In 2008, she won a gold medal and set a world record in the 500-meter time trial at the Paralympic Games Beijing 2008. She was the first female in the world to compete in team sprint as Team USA was the only country to do it. At London 2012, she was the first woman to medal as a part of team sprint. She works as an industrial engineer and enjoys cycling, triathlons and playing with her pet bulldog.

"I'm like a kid in candy land. I am so happy," Schuble said of returning to Huntsville to compete. This is her first race since spring 2020 at the Georgia Tech race weekend before the pandemic hit.

She was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and grew up in a family of four children. She moved to Houston, Texas, when she was 3. Schuble went to Marion Military Institute and then to West Point.

"I think it's very important to have something to strive for to help make you a better person," she said. "You have to have a goal."



Photo by Casey Gibson/U.S. Paralympics Cycling

**Homewood resident Jennifer Schuble will compete in the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open, April 17-18 in Huntsville.**

# Travelers open softball season with tournament title



Courtesy photo

**Jim "Hitman" Myers pitches for the Travelers, a 70 AAA team from Carrollton, Ga.**

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

Huntsville's Jim "Hitman" Myers pitched the Travelers to the 70 AAA championship Saturday in the 2021 International Senior Softball Association Rocket City Spring National tournament at the Metro Kiwanis Sportsplex.

The Carrollton, Georgia, based team beat the Tennessee Smokies, from Knoxville, 14-10 and 20-14. They played best-out-of-three because they were the only two teams in their division.

Myers, 73, won both games in the circle and he batted 9-for-12 with a double.



Courtesy photo

**This is the championship ring that Jim "Hitman" Myers and his teammates received for winning the 70 AAA championship Saturday at the 2021 International Senior Softball Association Rocket City Spring National tournament at the Metro Kiwanis Sportsplex.**

"We played as a team today," Myers said. "Yesterday we were a little rusty. We got on it today and played well."

In Friday's pool play, the Travelers split two games against teams outside their division. They spotted For Freedom, a 75 AA team, five runs and lost 22-17. They beat Deep South, a 70 AA team, 15-14.

Harry Mansell, the Travelers catcher from the Atlanta area, was named the tournament MVP after batting 10-for-12. Myers was also named to the All American team along with left fielder Gary Bush, from Gallatin, Tennessee, and shortstop Willy Wilbanks, from the Atlanta area.

The Travelers (3-1) will play in the Battle at the Beach tournament in Gulf Shores, March 26-28.

# Team

Continued from page 35

petitive spirit in all that we do, and the Paralympics adds another dimension to a community that respects and admires high performance. We're excited for the opportunity to experience the skill, determination, and athletic prowess of these outstanding athletes and for all those who dare to dream and excel."

The athletes will compete in three different types of road cycling events including the men's and women's road race, individual time trial, and handcycling team relay.

Ian Lawless, director of U.S. Paralympics Cycling, and three-time Paralympian Oz Sanchez participated in Thursday's announcement.

"As we re-chart our path to Tokyo, we are eager to safely get our athletes back on the road for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic hit," Ian Lawless, director of U.S. Paralympics Cycling, said. "With over 100 athletes competing to represent Team USA in 2021, this will be one of our largest domestic events of the year."

Nationally, Toyota is proud to partner with U.S. Paralympics Cycling, and the company will also sponsor the U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open in Huntsville. Additional local sponsors will be announced in the future.

"We are thrilled that the City of Huntsville is hosting the 2021 U.S. Paralympics Cycling Open Presented by Toyota," Dedra DeLilli, group manager, Olympic and Paralympic marketing, Toyota Motor North America, said. "Huntsville means a lot to us at Toyota, so it's great to see that the city will play such an important role by hosting this event. As a proud partner of Team USA and U.S. Paralympics Cycling, we look forward to extending Toyota hospitality to the ath-

letes and event staff. I know our exceptional team members at Toyota Alabama are excited for such an important event for Team USA to take place in their city."

Medalist Sports is organizing the events, and the team visited Huntsville in October to view different areas for race course options and discuss planning and logistics with representatives of the City of Huntsville and Huntsville Police Department. They also met with representatives of the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber, Cummings Research Park, and the Huntsville Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau.

"Cummings Research Park has been the site of several events for runners and cyclists over the years," Erin Koshut, the park's executive director, said. "With our wide streets, plenty of miles, low vehicle traffic on weekends and great locations for spectators, CRP is well suited to play host to these exemplary athletes on their journey to Tokyo. I know our more than 320 companies look forward to supporting the athletes and the Paralympics in this endeavor."

"Huntsville is known around the globe as a hub for innovation and exploration, and hosting an event of this stature really underscores our city's reputation as a go-to destination for events," Judy Ryals, president/CEO of the Huntsville/Madison County Convention & Visitors Bureau, said. "For the planners, we look forward to a seamless event execution, and for the athletes, providing a memorable experience in the Rocket City. We hope the athletes, families, officials and fans will take the opportunity to enjoy the attractions and amenities that Huntsville has to offer while visiting."

A good portion of these athletes are veterans, according to Claire Aiello, vice president for marketing and communications for the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber.

This includes the Paralyzed Veterans Racing team.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Senior softball tournament

Roosevelt Walker singles to drive in a run for United Softball, from Tuscaloosa, on Friday night during the 2021 International Senior Softball Association Rocket City Spring National tournament at the Metro Kiwanis Sportsplex. But his team lost 23-22 to the 615 team from Hendersonville, Tenn., in pool play in the 50 AAA division. The double elimination tournament concluded Sunday. Walker, 51, is from Selma.

# Your glory days in sports

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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*What is the highlight of your athletic endeavors?*

“I did track and field in high school for one year. That was Carver High in Montgomery in 1983,” Darryl McClure, a data analyst for defense contractor Colsa, said. “I ran the 100 meters and 200 meters and the 4x100. I won the 100 meters in an all-comers meet at Hartnell College in Salinas, California, in 1987. My personal best for 100 meters is 10.85. I was 30 years old when I did that.”

McClure, a Montgomery native, is a retired Soldier. The Huntsville resident has worked at Redstone more than 10 years. His hobbies include working out on the track and at home in his gym. McClure roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Darryl McClure works out on the Patton Road track.**

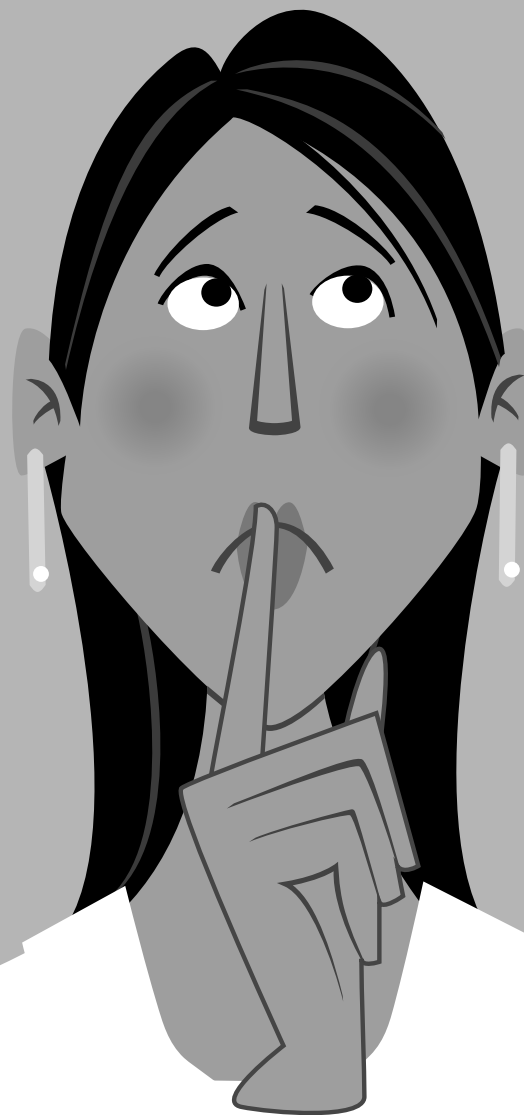
# By the numbers: Things that make you go 'HmMMM'

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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1. People who leave shopping carts in their parking space.
2. Drivers that don't use their turn signals.
3. People who blow their nose while sitting at the dinner table.
4. Tailgating.
5. People who break in front of you in line.
6. Those who don't say please and thank you.
7. Arguing for no valid reason.
8. People who don't respond to your greetings.
9. Lying and cheating.
10. Those who don't like you because of your appearance.



## 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

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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/member-ships>. For more information or assistance, email Dale McDonough at [dmac550@gmail.com](mailto:dmac550@gmail.com).

### Business/government contracting expo

The Business to Government Contracting Expo is Oct. 27-28 at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville. Free expo tickets are available for DOD/CAC holders. This event should interest primes, 8As, government agencies, military directorates and also buyers, sellers and small and large business. For information call Phil Kiver (509) 999-8645 or email [pkiver@contractready.org](mailto:pkiver@contractready.org).

### Veterans of foreign wars

VFW Gentry-Isom 2702 meets the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in its post home on the corner of Sparkman Drive and 2900 North Memorial Parkway. For more information, call Bobby Lee Jr. (931) 265-5685 or email [bobbyleejr01@gmail.com](mailto:bobbyleejr01@gmail.com).

### Lance/MLRS veterans reunion

The 13th Lance 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 RSVP, first come, first served. Six seats are open until June for Huntsville area veterans. 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

Silk, do you know  
what happened  
to the office  
pretzel jar?



[muffled] Nope!  
No idea! Say, do  
you have soap and  
a can opener?



Jim BoRoch  
3 March 2021

237, 2900 Drake Ave. The detachment is open to all active, retired and former Marines. The league is a veterans/military service organization formed to promote the interest of the Marine Corps, to provide camaraderie and assistance to Marines and preserve the traditions of the Marine Corps. For information call Commandant Earl Hokanson 881-2852, Senior Vice Commandant Albert Mallory 379-2904 or Adjutant Stephen Cecil 829-1839.

### Purple Heart chapter

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

## Miscellaneous Items

### Men's ministry

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

### Young citizen of month

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

### Family advocacy advice

Jeannie Johnston, Army Community Service division chief, recommends the following website for good information about coping during this difficult time: [www.militaryonesource.mil/sp-1-news](http://www.militaryonesource.mil/sp-1-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 investigations conducted by an IG or IG team are considered an IG record and cannot be used as a basis for adverse action against an individual without the written approval of the Inspector General of the Army. The IG is prepared to assist and operates under strict guidelines of confidentiality. To learn more about the IG, contact: DSN 320-7910/commercial 450-7910 or email [usarmy.redstone.usamc.mbx.ig@mail.mil](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.militaryscholar.org).

### 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](http://rsamcc.org).

### 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 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/join/meetup>. For more information about the classes, email [usarmy.redstone.id-readiness.mbx.redstone-eap@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.redstone.id-readiness.mbx.redstone-eap@mail.mil).

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### 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.

### Women honoring women

The nomination window for a Women Honoring Women Honoree will be open until March 24, according to the Women's Economic Development Council Foundation. Each nominee must live or work in Madison County, has left or created a legacy in the Huntsville/Madison

County community, and has not previously served on the WEDC Foundation Board or been involved in the Women Honoring Women Committee in the past five years. Nominations can be made online at [www.wedcfoundation.org/](http://www.wedcfoundation.org/) nominate with the event recognizing the 20th annual honorees happening at the Von Braun Center on Sept. 16. Selected honorees will be announced in June. To learn more about the WEDC Foundation, Women Honoring Women, or sponsorship information for the event, visit [www.wedcfoundation.org](http://www.wedcfoundation.org).

### Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for Feb. 22-26. The highest scores included Sprint Mart 2327 11900 South Memorial Parkway, 100; and Sip, 111 Greene St., 100. The lowest scores included Johnny Gryll's II, 6125 University Drive, 88; P.F. Chang's, 305 The Bridge St., 85; and Jai Madi Inc. The Corner Store, 3105 Drake Ave. SW, 83.

### Drive-in movie night for heroes

In an effort to maintain active but physically-distanced outreach in the community during COVID-19, the Semper Fi Community Task Force will hold its second exclusive drive-in movie night at Touchstar Cinemas Madison Square on March 20 for active duty military, veterans, first responders, and their families, and Gold Star families. This includes National Guard and Reserves. The task force created this event to reflect this community's appreciation for these local heroes and their families. The family-friendly spring movie for the night is "Shrek" which will be shown on the side of the Touchstar Cinemas building. The event is free and first-come, first-served with limited space available. They only have room for 75 cars, so military, veterans, first responders, and their families, and Gold Star family members should RSVP early to reserve a spot at the drive-in. The gates open at 6 p.m. to allow all cars to be in place in advance of the welcome events starting at 7 and the 7:30 showtime. Each person will receive a ticket for a free popcorn and a free Coke product. Lawlers Barbecue is providing dinner for attendees. There will be a door prize drawing prior to showtime. Touchstar Cinemas Madison Square at 5905 University Drive in Huntsville. The RSVP link is [www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45AAAD2AA1FFCE9-heroes](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45AAAD2AA1FFCE9-heroes).