

# Redstone Rocket

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## Army recruiter sees advantage of virtual connection

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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The pandemic has virtually changed the Army's way of recruiting since April 2020.

"It's been pretty challenging," Sgt. 1st Class Drew Lee, station commander for the Birmingham Medical Recruiting Station under the Atlanta Medical Recruiting Company, 2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion, said. "Because normally we're able to get out and interact with the community and talk to the students on campuses and visit the schools and faculty (in the schools), and hospitals as well. But due to COVID, all of that ceased.

"After that it kind of gave us a chance to sharpen our skills more with social media and virtual. And in a sense it's kind of been a plus for us as well because some of those hard to reach people – doctors and things like that – they don't have as much time during the day. So we actually reach them through Skype or Zoom, virtually. So they can give us five minutes on Skype before they have to go back into surgery or continue their busy schedule."

Lee was among the 42 Soldiers who visited Huntsville last week for the third quarter Station Commander Quarterly Leadership Development Training. The 2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion, based at Redstone, seeks medical professionals to join the Army and it recruits the Southeast portion of the United States, including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The battalion has 140 officers, Soldiers and civilians. Of the 25 members at Redstone, 10 are Soldiers. The battalion's three recruiting companies include Nashville, Atlanta and Orlando. It has 17 stations total, including 16 medical recruiting stations and the chaplain recruiting station which is in Morrow, Georgia.

Their week culminated Friday with a change of command ceremony at Heiser Hall. Lt Col, Brad Tibbetts succeeded Lt. Col. Andi Tallman as commander of the 2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion.

"We're looking for quality medical professionals who genuinely want to



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Sgt. 1st Class Drew Lee is station commander for the Birmingham Medical Recruiting Station.**

serve our country and genuinely want to serve our Soldiers," Lee said. These include nurses, doctors, dentists, physical therapists, psychiatrists and psychologists.

Lee, in the Army 17 years, arrived at the Birmingham station in October. As station commander he is among six Soldiers including Capt. Ernest Ashford, Staff Sgt. Joshua Roland, Staff Sgt. Vontrella Jeffries, Staff Sgt. Michael Porter and Sgt. David Shumaker. Their goal for fiscal 2021 is to recruit eight active duty Soldiers and four Army Reserve.

"We have a plan in place for the rest of the fiscal year to send three applicants per month to the selection board to attain the rest of the FY's mission," Lee said.

Army National Hiring Days began May 10 and continue until June 14. This is the second year for the nationwide virtual career fair where people can talk one-on-one with an Army recruiter and learn about the variety of job opportu-

nities and signing bonuses available. "It puts the Army in a bigger light. We're always open," Lee said.

Lee, 36, from Marion, joined the Army in March 2004 when he dropped out of Alabama State University after two semesters. "Coming fresh out of high school I realized I wasn't mature enough for college," he said. "I had two (older) sisters that were currently serving. So I knew I needed to do something. I couldn't stay at home. So it was the Army."

After three years in uniform, he decided to start college again. The recruiter is five classes shy of a bachelor's in business from Post University in Connecticut. He expects to complete the online curriculum within the next year and a half. Lee served in Kuwait from September 2007 to November 2008.

He resides in Marion with his wife of 11 years, Lucy, and their daughter,

**See Recruiter on page 9**



### MILITARY

Strategic Soldier receives Army astronaut device.

**PAGE 5**



### COMMUNITY

Alligators reside in circle of wildlife.

**PAGE 17**

### FEDERAL

Space shuttle veteran becomes NASA associate administrator.

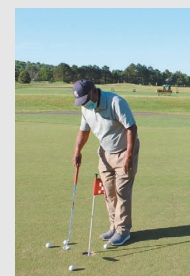
**PAGE 31**



### SPORTS

Links brings back Spring Kickoff.

**PAGE 35**



# Exercise responsibility by taking out your trash

There are now two types of people on Redstone: those who take out their own trash and those who don't. That's a familiar story isn't it? If you look hard enough, just about everything can be reduced into an us-vs.-them scenario.

This one has a few of levels though. There are the fancy people who still get their trash emptied regularly and who are probably unaware that this is even a thing.

Then there are the people who work at the Garrison who think they're clever and dump their trash in the common areas making it "someone else's problem."

And, finally, you have the people who are acting like adults and handling their business.

If you're one of the fancy people who still has their trash magically disappear every week, I'm not really talking to you. I hope you appreciate what you have. It's not your fault you've been so blessed, but that doesn't stop some from being a little salty anyway. Nevertheless, I'll try to point my vitriol in the right direction.

Specifically, I'm looking right at whomever is piling trash up in the common area outside of D-101 and D-105, because that someone else referenced above is probably going to become me in the not too distant future.

We use those rooms regularly. And, no I'm not the one trying to be clever,

despite being asked on a number of occasions.

I feel like Shaggy in 2000. It wasn't me.

I actually bus my trash out to the big bin every week.

So, what type of person leaves messes for other people to clean up? Glad you asked. I have me ideas.

These are probably the same people who now have a surplus of gasoline to go along with their pile of toilet paper left over from 2020, because they're obviously smarter than everyone else.

I would also venture a guess that these folks are the ones not wearing a mask even though we're still under a DOD mandate to wear a mask, because the rules clearly don't apply to them.

And, I wouldn't be surprised if they don't reside in their mother's basement and are over the age of 35, because "hey man, it's free rent. I don't have to do laundry, and I expect others to take care of me because I can't take care of myself."

There's part of me that understands where these folks are coming from. I didn't expect to have custodial duties added on to my job description either, but I've done it at every place I've ever worked.

What should we do about the people who won't take responsibility for their own trash? Glad you asked. I've got

## Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson  
Assistant editor

an idea.

I say we take a tiered approach. The first offense is trash duty for the entire building for two weeks. The second offense is trash duty for a month. And, if they still haven't figured it out and there's a third time, then we just move the bin into their office and have everyone else dump their trash in there for the rest of the year.

Sure. That seems a little draconian, and I'm sure there are some rules that prevent it, but there's a starting point.

Maybe it's a little early to take such drastic actions, because any time there's a change, it takes a minute to figure out how it's going to work in the real world and work out the hiccups.

I don't mind taking out my own trash or doing a little vacuuming, or cleaning up the bathroom a little bit, but for the love of all that's holy can I please get some paper towels to put in the men's bathroom on the second floor?

I always forget that the bathroom is out of paper towels. It's a problem.

I'm well aware that I resemble the personification of Eeyore traipsing around the halls, but now Eeyore. Is. Dripping.

Are there other channels to make that request? Probably. But, like my wife always tells me, I don't suffer in silence

## On this date in history: May 19

**In 2018:** The wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle was held at St George's Chapel, Windsor, with an estimated global audience of 1.9 billion.

**In 2015:** The Refugio oil spill deposited 142,800 U.S. gallons (3,400 barrels) of crude oil onto an area in California considered one of the most biologically diverse coastlines of the west coast.

**In 1961:** Venera 1 became the first manmade object to fly by another planet by passing Venus (the probe had lost contact with Earth a month earlier and did not send back any data).

**In 1959:** The North Vietnamese Army established Group 559, whose responsibility was to determine how to maintain supply lines to South Vietnam; the resulting route was the Ho Chi Minh trail.

**In 1950:** A barge containing munitions destined for Pakistan exploded in the harbor at South Amboy, New Jersey, devastating the city.

**In 1536:** Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII of England, was beheaded for adultery, treason and incest.

## Send your letters to editor

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# First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN

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## What's your favorite action movie and why?

“The Other Guys’ (2010) because I feel like me and Will Ferrell have a lot in common in that movie. Once you look it up, you’ll understand,” Cory Pritchett, a security guard at the gates since April 2020, said. “Me and Will Ferrell have the same personality in that movie. We both had our first desk pop. That’s where he shoots his gun in the office by accident,” he said jokingly.

Pritchett, 33, from Huntsville, served in the Marines from 2006-17 and left as a staff sergeant. He was deployed in Afghanistan in 2011. The resident of Baileyton, in Cullman County, and his wife of four years, Jessica, have a combined four children – two boys and two girls. Pritchett enjoys spending time with his family. He roots for the Auburn Tigers.



Cory Pritchett

# Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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**Name:** Olivia Pfeiffer

**Position:** Concept manager at Subway Martin Road, Army & Air Force Exchange Service

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

I wanted to be like my parents (Col. Richard and Anne Pfeiffer of Huntsville). People who care and who want to serve and help their community.

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

Hopefully to expand my knowledge in my career field. That’s really my goal if I want to keep moving up.

**What is the best part about your job?**

I have a wonderful staff who works well with me and our customers and I have a wonderful customer base.

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

My dad. He’s deployed right now. He’s a really good person and people always look up to him and look to him for the answers. And he’s very supportive of what I do and who I am.



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

I just want to go to Disney World and go to the Star Wars Galaxy out there. That’s all I want. One day I’m going to go.

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

“Just keep pushing on and don’t let anyone else get in your way.” That was from my friends Vi and Cali. They’re my Internet friends.

## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents May 2-8:

**May 3:** During an inspection, a driver found damage to their assigned government vehicle. Redstone Arsenal Traffic Accident Investigations interviewed the driver and determined the driver struck a cement pole while operating the vehicle. The driver was unaware of impacting the pole but the government vehicle sustained a small dent on the rear bumper.

**May 4:** A Redstone police officer conducted a traffic stop for a seatbelt violation. The National Crime Information Center revealed the driver had a suspended license for failure to comply with DUI mandatory court requirements. The driver was cited for the seatbelt violation and for driving while suspended and then released. The vehicle was parked and secured on scene pending the removal by a valid licensed driver.

**May 4:** Redstone police responded to the Gate 9 Visitor Center for an individual seeking a visitor badge to enter the installation for a Morale, Welfare and Recreation function. The National Crime Information Center revealed the individual had a warrant with Guntersville Police Department for menacing/harassment. The individual was apprehended and subsequently turned over to a Guntersville police officer. The individual’s vehicle was secured at the visitor center awaiting removal by a family member.

**May 7:** In a parking lot, a government vehicle struck a light pole while backing up and sustained minor damage.

**May 7:** A Redstone police officer on patrol found the fence in the outbound lane of Gate 10 was torn down. Minor Repair was notified but couldn’t come out until later that morning. The officer on patrol remained on site for security purposes; and a check of the security

cameras revealed a vehicle traveling south on Jordan Lane running through the fence. Various types of debris were found in the outbound lane. This report was turned over to Redstone Investigations for further processing.

**May 7:** During a random vehicle inspection, Redstone police encountered a vehicle and driver emitting the odor of marijuana. Once the driver was detained, a probable cause search of the vehicle found a black tube containing a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana. The driver was transported to the station for processing and the vehicle was secured at the scene. A narcotics test confirmed the presence of marijuana with a total weight of 1 gram. The evidence was retained on an Army form 4137 and secured in the police evidence locker. The driver was cited for simple possession of marijuana and released.

**May 8:** While conducting a walking patrol of the Army Reserve Center, Redstone police officers discovered an unoccupied campsite on federal property in the tree line north of the Reserve Center. Further investigation led to the discovery of substances believed to be cocaine and methamphetamine along with a black cloth pouch containing hypodermic needles, a digital scale, a utility blade, a Net Spend Visa Debit Card and other used drug paraphernalia. All contraband was confiscated and annotated on an Army form 4137 and placed in the police temporary storage locker. All other contents were removed from the campsite. Investigation continues by Redstone Arsenal Investigations.

Citations included two for failure to merge left when emergency vehicles are present, two for driving while license is suspended or revoked, one for possession of a controlled substance, one for failure to register vehicle, two for failure to use seatbelts, one for expired registration and 15 for speeding.

## Quote of the week

“Don’t be afraid. Be focused. Be determined. Be hopeful. Be empowered.”

– Michelle Obama  
in a graduation address

# Know your laws: Year-round Daylight Savings Time

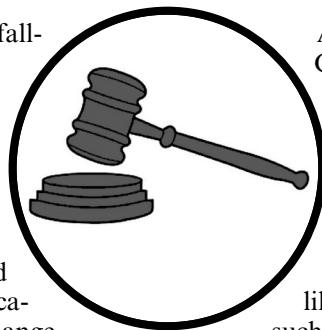
By AMY WASYLUKA

Huntsville attorney

Have we sprung forward for the last time? Possibly. Gov. Kay Ivey has signed Senate Bill 388 which states that if the U.S. Congress authorizes states to observe Daylight Saving Time year-round, then Alabama will adopt Daylight Saving Time as the year-round standard of time for the entire state. Switching to year-round daylight savings time or DST would stop the current practice of switching between Standard Time and DST twice a year, doing away with

“springing forward” and “falling back.”

Proponents of switching to year-round DST suggest that moving to a year-round system of time would provide benefits including longer daylight in winter evenings and less impact on people’s circadian rhythm due to time change. Opponents note that a yearlong system would result in increased darkness in winter mornings and a potential loss of energy savings.



According to the National Conference of State Legislators, at least 17 other states have passed similar bills or resolutions which would allow them to move to year-round DST if authorized by an act of Congress. Additionally, the likelihood of Congress taking such a step is increasing as a bipartisan group of senators recently reintroduced the “Sunshine Protection Act of 2021.” The Sunshine Protection Act of 2021 enjoys support from both Dem-

ocratic and Republican members of the U.S. Senate and is supported by senators from Florida, Mississippi and Missouri.

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

## Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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### Your alma mater.



Alean Chase

“UAH (University of Alabama in Huntsville). I graduated with a master’s in accountancy in 2015. I got my bachelor’s of accounting there in 2014,” Alean Chase, an auditor in charge of a team in the Huntsville Field Office for the Army Audit Agency, said. “I did the JUMP (Joint Undergraduate Master’s Program). It allowed me to get my master’s degree, and some of the courses toward my bachelor’s degree counted toward my master’s credits. So I was able to get my master’s in about a year. I had a great experience at UAH. I got to meet a lot of people, some of them are lifelong friends. I was working part time and full time so the classes were accommodating to part time and full time students. I started working for U.S. Army Audit Agency in 2014.”

Chase was born in South Korea and raised in Huntsville. Her father was in the Army and retired in Huntsville. Her parents, retired Sgt. 1st Class Fred and Myong Chase, reside in Meridianville. The Harvest resident has a daughter, Jessica Dupin, and a grandson, Camren Lee. Chase said she likes to “read, garden and watch TV, movies.” She roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide and UAH Chargers hockey.

## Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense Department websites

### Soldiers, airmen train together

BARNES AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mass. – Bringing airmen and Soldiers together through joint training is essential to increasing the interoperability of the Air and Army National Guard.

Strong communication is vital to safely executing the mission, and saving lives depends on the ability of individuals to communicate in stressful situations. Airmen from the 104th Security Forces Squadron, Barnes Air National Guard Base, Massachusetts, and Soldiers from Detachment 1, Charlie Company, 3rd of the 126th Aviation, Westfield, Massachusetts, have developed training that benefits both organizations. The training will allow them to practice lifesaving medical skills and improve communication while working side by side.

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Wilkinson, a flight paramedic and detachment noncommissioned officer in charge of Detachment 1, Charlie Company, explains that the different military branches operate in similar ways but do not always communicate in the same way.

“It’s training events like these that create that common language and that understanding,” Wilkinson said.

Wilkinson is looking forward to developing the skills of airmen from the 104 SFS to be proficient at Tactical Combat Casualty Care and medical evacuation.

“Moving forward, it’s only going to get faster; it’s only going to get better,” Wilkinson said.

Capt. Samuel Bath, squadron commander of the 104th Security Forces Squadron, has been working to bring Soldiers and airmen together, forming a joint relationship that trains and strengthens both units.

“These noncommissioned officers stepped up on both sides to make this training impactful and long-lasting. This is an NCO-driven initiative that they took to heart and were just amazing at,” Bath said.

Bath emphasizes that joint training is an important way to develop three essential skills: to communicate, survive and thrive.

“We want to build that foundation and work on those fundamentals,” Bath said. “It’s preparing our airmen to go, do what they need to do in a conflict, and come home.”

### Contract award announcements

Avion Solutions Inc., Huntsville, was awarded a \$12,921,601 time-and-materials contract for engineering and program management support services. Bids were solicited via the Internet with three received. Work locations and funding will be determined with each order, with an estimated completion date of Nov. 13, 2026. Army Contracting Command, Redstone Arsenal, is the contracting activity.

# Military

## Strategic Soldier receives Army astronaut device

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command  
Public Affairs

An Army astronaut has received one of the rarest military uniform devices.

Col. Andrew “Drew” Morgan received the Army astronaut device from Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, commander of Space and Missile Defense Command, during a May 5 ceremony at the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

“Army astronauts are more than astronauts,” Karbler said. “They represent the Army, serving as ambassadors to the public. NASA has long recognized the skills and qualities of military astronauts.

“Col. Morgan represents the ‘human element’ of Army space capabilities, like so many SMDC Soldiers around the world.”

Morgan, along with Army astronaut Lt. Col. Anne McClain are the only active duty Soldiers who have received the device, considered by many to be one of the rarest qualification devices a Soldier can receive.

“It’s another reminder of the Army’s role in space,” Morgan said. “A human presence in Earth orbit is only a small part of Army space capabilities, and the Army NASA Detachment is proud to play a small part in representing Soldiers on the ultimate high ground, around the globe and orbiting above it.”

Morgan became eligible for the device following his 272-day mission to the International Space Station as a flight engineer for NASA Expeditions 60, 61 and 62 from July 20, 2019, to April 17, 2020. During his time in space, the crew contributed to hundreds of experiments in biology, Earth science, human research, physical sciences and technology development.

Morgan’s flight spanned a total of 4,352 Earth orbits and a journey of 115.3 million miles, and he conducted seven spacewalks, totaling 45 hours and 48 minutes.

Along with the pinning ceremony, Morgan returned a World War II medical brassard the museum loaned him to fly aboard the ISS. Besides the historic relic, he formally donated two of his NASA flight suits.

“First, the feeling and impression I received during the pinning itself is, it’s been a long wait,” Morgan said. “I land-



Photo by Ronald Bailey

**Col. Andrew “Drew” Morgan, right, receives the Army astronaut device from Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, commander of Space and Missile Defense Command, during a May 5 ceremony at the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, Va.**

ed in April 2020 when the pandemic was in its early days. Lt. Gen. Karbler would gladly have pinned this on me many months ago, but we’ve waited until conditions were right for a smaller ceremony and it was safe to return the artifact to the National Army Museum. And then secondly, the setting. I am a huge fan of the Army and military museums in general, so to do it in our new flagship museum, what a tremendous experience to do it in a landmark dedicated to history of the American Soldier.”

Morgan is a 1998 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and he earned his doctorate in medicine from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland, in 2002. Prior to his selection as an astronaut candidate, Morgan served in elite special operations units worldwide.

He was selected in June 2013 as one of eight members of the 21st NASA astronaut class and completed astronaut candidate training in July 2015.

Morgan said that anyone who may want to become an astronaut should follow his career passions and focus on teamwork.

“For Soldiers this means being outstanding technically, tactically and professionally,” Morgan said. “It’s hard to predict if you will become an astronaut. The odds are daunting, but following this simple advice will certainly lead to a fulfilling career wherever your path leads.”

Army regulation 600-8-22 authorizes award of the device by the chief of staff of the Army to people who complete a minimum of one operational mission in space. “Space” is considered 50 miles

above the Earth. It is affixed to the appropriate Army Aviator Badge, Flight Surgeon Badge or Aviation Badge awarded to the astronaut.

Morgan is one of three active duty Army astronauts, which includes McClain and Lt. Col. Frank Rubio, commander of SMDC’s NASA Detachment.

“It’s a rare award for a rare privilege,” Morgan said. “But at the end of the day, it’s just a tiny emblem stuck on a uniform. What it really represents is a unique aspect of the Army – limitless opportunities for our Soldiers to serve around the globe or above it. I’m proud to be one of them.”

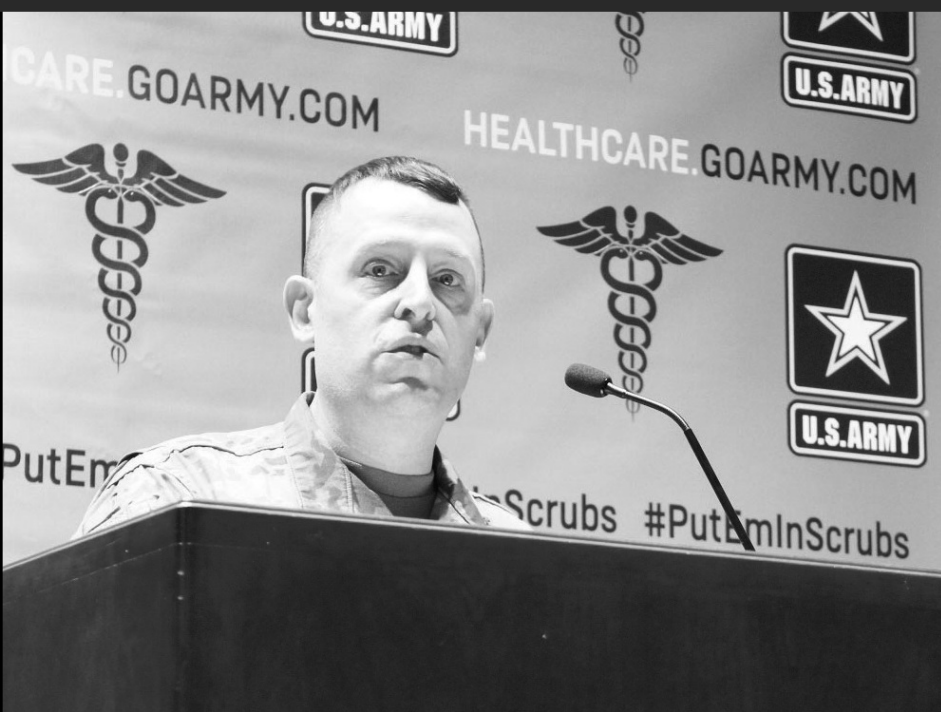
The National Army Museum is temporarily closed as a public health precaution. Visit the museum’s website, [www.theNMUSA.org](http://www.theNMUSA.org) for updates and more information.



Courtesy photo

## **Aviation troops in field**

**Gathering at the Joint Readiness Training, Fort Polk, La., are from left, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Rolando Sanchez, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade command chief warrant officer; Broc Denesha, Aviation and Missile Command aviation logistics assistance representative; Brig. Gen. Brett Funck, 10th Mountain Division deputy commander for readiness; Jamie Spooner, AMCOM aviation logistics assistance representative; and Lt. Col. Phillip Cain, 1-10 Attack Reconnaissance Battalion commander.**



Photos by Skip Vaughn

## Gladiators commander

Lt. Col. Brad Tibbetts assumed command of the 2nd Medical Recruiting Battalion in a change of ceremony Friday at Heiser Hall. He accepted the battalion colors from Col. Gary Cooper, commander of Medical Recruiting Brigade. "I'm grateful for the honor of joining such a distinguished team," Tibbetts said. He succeeded Lt. Col. Andi Tallman who served as the Gladiators commander since June 2019. Tallman will become the executive officer for Maj. Gen. Dennis LeMaster, commander of the Health Readiness Center of Excellence at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. "I know I'm leaving the battalion in good hands," she said.

## Recruiter

Continued from page 1

Anayah, 11, and son, LJ, 8. The couple met when they were Soldiers at Fort Eustis, Virginia, in 2007. Lee said he hopes to attain the rank of master sergeant and hopefully has the opportunity to run a company.

"It's been great," he said of his Army career. "There has been good and bad but there's no organization out there that is perfect. Everything that I've needed to support my family, the Army has been there and allowed me to do that seamlessly. If I could go back and do it all over again, I would still choose the Army. There's no other organization that gives you the skills, assets and leadership capabilities that the Army does."



# SATMO commander relinquishes command

By **ADRIANE ELLIOT** and **RICHARD BUMGARDNER**  
Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The Security Assistance Training Management Organization's commander, Col. Scott Malone, relinquished command to Lt. Col. Alex Duran at a relinquishment of command ceremony May 7.

Brig. Gen. Douglas Lowrey, commander of the Security Assistance Command, officiated the ceremony, passing the unit colors to Duran, until Malone's replacement, Col. Andrew Clark, arrives in August.

Malone, who is moving to another assignment, focused his remarks on the efforts of the SATMO team, which he called the SATMO family, and leadership of the SATMO senior enlisted adviser, Command Sgt. Maj. Brad Owens.

"If I could take Command Sgt. Maj. Owens, and this entire team with me anywhere I go, I would absolutely bring them with me," Malone said. "This team accomplishes more with an incredibly small organization than division-sized elements all day long. We might be doing tactical level training but it absolutely has operational and strategic level impact."

SATMO teams are globally deployed

with over 30 teams in 19 countries and have plans and requirements in the next 2-3 years to deploy 63 training teams to 34 countries.

"There is no other organization in the Army, other than Special Forces, that has that kind of depth, breath and global spread," he said. "This is just an incredible organization and Command Sgt. Maj. Owens is absolutely at the head of that, leading it all the way. Myself and my deputy, Joel Milbern, we do our best to keep up with him."

The partnership building that results from the SATMO mission is a critical component of U.S. foreign policy and one that was highlighted during U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to NATO headquarters in March.

"We'll treat the efforts of our allies to develop greater capacity as an asset, not a threat," Blinken said. "Stronger allies make for stronger alliances. And as the U.S. develops our capacities to address the threats I've outlined today, we'll make sure they remain compatible with our alliances – and that they contribute to strengthening our allies' security. We'll ask the same of our allies in return."

SATMO is the Army's primary organization dedicated to meeting the challenges of overseas training management for the Army security assistance enterprise. Last year



Photo by Tim Hanson

**Col. Scott Malone, right, the outgoing commander of Security Assistance Training Management Organization, passes the command colors to Brig. Gen. Douglas Lowrey, commander of the Security Assistance Command, at a relinquishment of command ceremony May 7. Interim commander, Lt. Col. Alex Duran, second from left, will accept the colors as acting commander until Malone's replacement arrives.**

alone, SATMO conducted more than 40 security assistance team missions in over 20 countries supporting all geographic combatant commands, and executed funds totaling more than \$700 million.

"I think today's ceremony was remarkable," Duran said. "We got to recognize Command Sgt. Maj. Owens after 28 years of service, an amazing career, as well as a big farewell to Col. Malone. We also welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. (Tom) Dow to mark a historic transition here at SATMO. Malone and Owens have taken SATMO to a level we needed to be at, so personally and professionally it was phenomenal event."

Owens described his tenure with SATMO as one of the most satisfying of his career, allowing him "an extensive ability to influence and shape the future of Soldiers, U.S. allies and the Army."

In retirement, he said will continue to serve. Owens said he has worked nonstop

to educate himself in the security assistance arena and hopes to find a job that will allow him to put that expertise to good use.

As for Dow, security assistance is a new field for him, but one that is excited to study.

"In this new and challenging assignment I am looking forward to learning a great deal in security assistance and enabling our globally positioned teams with the resources they need to accomplish their critical mission," he said.

While he works on learning this new mission, he said there's one thing he already knows:

"SATMO is composed of world class professional Soldiers, DA civilians and contractors," Dow said. "They are an absolutely impressive team of teams that exceeds expectations, and they are what makes this organization critically and strategically impactful in the current and future operating environment."



Courtesy photo

## **UNA commissioning ceremony**

The University of North Alabama held its ROTC commissioning ceremony May 7. Speakers included Command Sgt. Maj. Finis Dodson, of the Space and Missile Defense Command; and retired Lt. Col. Sam Scruggs, program coordinator for Veterans, Upward Bound, North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence. From left are Scruggs; Dodson; cadet Elijah Rust, quartermaster corps; cadet Shelby Huffman, quartermaster corps; cadet Dylan Pittman, engineer corps; cadet Zachary Butler, ordnance corps; and Maj. Rashaun Warren, professor of military science, University of North Alabama.

# Strategic senior enlisted leader challenges new officers

By **CARRIE DAVID CAMPBELL**

*Space and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs*

FLORENCE – The Space and Missile Defense Command’s senior enlisted leader challenged the University of North Alabama’s ROTC commissioning officers to discover who they are and to demonstrate that to everyone they encounter.

Command Sgt. Maj. Finis Dodson, SMDC command sergeant major, who spoke at the university’s commissioning ceremony in Florence, May 7, told the students – 2nd Lt. Zachary Butler, 2nd Lt. Shelby Huffman, 2nd Lt. Dylan Pittman and 2nd Lt. Cameron Rust – they must define themselves and who they want to be. “Who are you? I can’t answer that. Mama and Daddy and friends can to a certain point, but who are you in your own self?” Dodson said. “Everything I’m saying to you is going to be demonstrated by how you deal with others and how you deal with yourself. Your character, your technical and tactical expertise is going to be who you are.”

He said whether someone’s life is based in standards and discipline will be evident by their behavior.

“Who you are can only be defined by you, and everybody else will answer that question about you based on what you tell them and how you demonstrate that answer,” he said. “You’ve got to be able to admit when you have faults. Always remember it’s a lifelong learning system.”

Organizations can have faults too and can be im-

proved. Dodson suggested the new officers periodically examine their organization to see if they are proud of it.

“If not, find a way to change it. Sometimes that means going against the grain and telling people this isn’t the way it’s supposed to be done,” he said. “If it’s wrong, let’s fix it. If someone isn’t trained properly, let’s fix it.”

This philosophy is demonstrated by ownership and accountability of one’s Soldiers and organization. To explain the idea, Dodson asked the new officers to explain what someone means to them.

“Who is that? That is THE whatever, or that’s MY PMS. Those’re MY parents. That’s MY friend,” Dodson said. “That means that person takes ownership. It’s part of them.”

Dodson explained the Army’s concept of TIMS – this is my squad – and told the recruits they will be charged with the health and welfare of somebody’s son or daughter.

“It’s about people. At the end of the day when you get to your unit always remember it’s about the people,” he said. “People are the most complex weapon system that you can ever encounter. People are what makes what you do successful.”

Dodson finished his speech by offering the students words he considers wise from Brazilian former professional soccer player Pele about success: “Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.”



Photo by Carrie David Campbell

**Command Sgt. Maj. Finis Dodson, Space and Missile Defense Command command sergeant major, speaks May 7 during a commissioning ceremony for the University of North Alabama’s ROTC battalion.**



Photo by Gloria Bell, TAGM Project Office

## **Meritorious career**

**Program Executive Office Missiles and Space, Tactical Aviation and Ground Munitions Project Manager Col. Christopher Snipes, left, presides over the April 16 retirement ceremony for Chief Warrant Officer 4 Adrian Rushton, right, at The Overlook. Rushton served as a senior military technical adviser and field liaison as well as the assistant program manager for the Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft Competitive Prototype Launcher Test Set and the Integrated Munition Launcher for TAGM. He receives the Legion of Merit award for exceptionally meritorious service over a 22-year career.**

# Decade of work develops award-winning graphic

By **KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY**

*DEVCOM Aviation & Missile Center Public Affairs*

Andrew Wissink will be quick to tell you that although he is the leader of the Helios team, their success is a group effort.

The team of Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center engineers who created Helios has been recognized with an ALTie award from Army AL&T magazine. Although their graphic “Turbulent Model” was a 2020 award recipient, its backstory was a decade in the making.

“The Helios team has been working on developing this software for the last 10 years,” Wissink said “It is a combination of work on the part of the developers who built the software, but it is also evidence of the high performance computing power that the DOD has available – and how those capabilities came together to model and visualize rotorcraft phenomena we previously could only do through flight tests.”

The team, under the Technology Development Directorate, worked with the Corps of Engineers Engineering Research and Development Center’s Information Technology Laboratory Data Analysis and Assessment Center and the Department of Defense High Performance Computing Modernization Program, all playing a part in “Turbulent Model” and the science and engineering that created it.

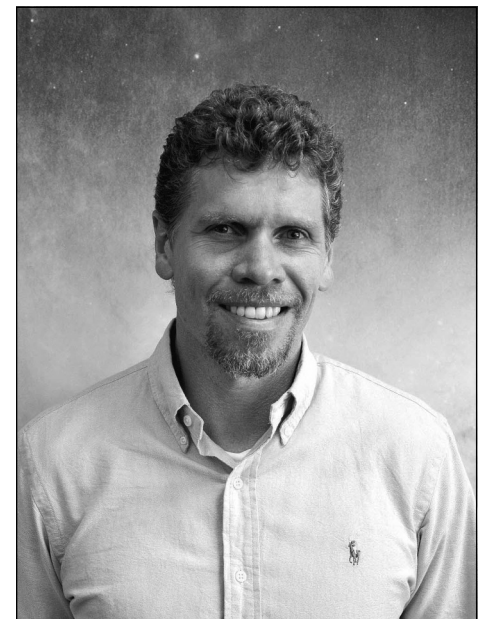
Wissink, originally from Minnesota, started his career with a fellowship at NASA Ames before moving to the Department of Energy for seven years. When the opportunity to work on rotorcraft computational fluid dynamics software – what would become Helios – came available, Wissink took it. It was a chance to be on the forefront of Army rotorcraft design modernization, taking a development process that could sometimes span 30 years and streamline it to a fraction of that time.

“In my job I try to replicate (the design process) with high-fidelity computer simulation through a process called Digital Engineering with the goal of

working through the complex design issues prior to putting the vehicle together and flight testing,” Wissink said. “The Army FVL (Future Vertical Lift) program is looking to deploy a whole new array of rotorcraft over the next 10 years, we cannot use the slow, drawn-out development process that we’ve used in the past if we want to keep that kind of schedule. Helios saves money but it also accelerates the schedule in terms of pursuing new innovation and configurations.”

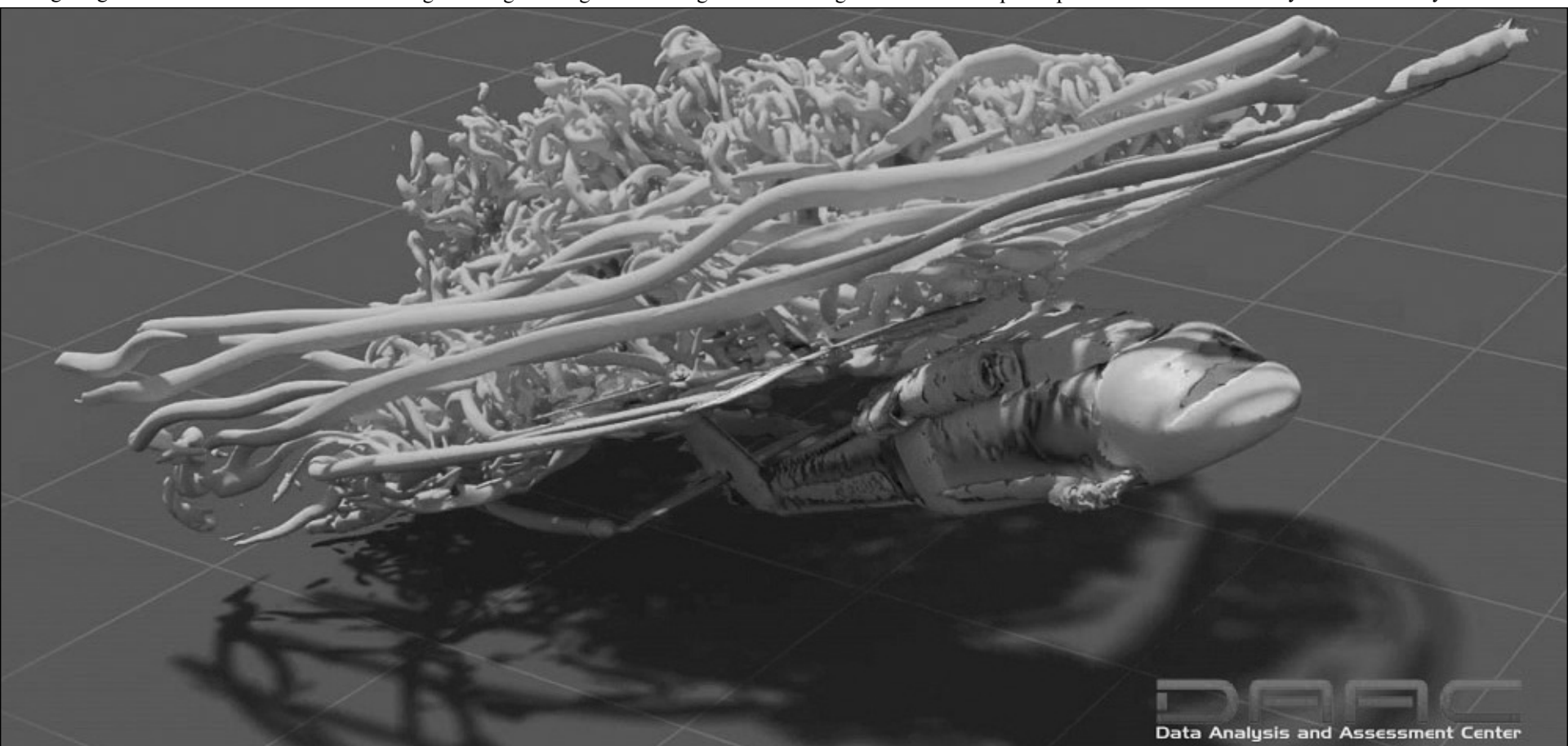
When not at work, Wissink likes to spend time with his family in outdoors pursuits – skiing, fishing and skateboarding with his teenage son. Like most of the workforce, he is still teleworking due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But he finds it easy to go back to his home office with work as interesting as Helios.

“I love my job,” he said. “I like working for the Army also from a diversity standpoint. The Army offers a lot of opportunity to work with different people from different locations around the U.S. as well as around the world. Everyone brings their own unique experiences to



**Andrew Wissink**

the table. The workforce is professional and isn’t driven by personal ambition as much as by a sense of duty.”



“Turbulent Model,” by the Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation and Missile Center’s Helios team, is the recipient of Army AL&T Magazine’s 2020 AL-Tie award for best graphic.

Courtesy graphic

# Distinguished Toastmaster award speaks volumes

By **CHRISTY BARNETT**

Redstone Test Center Public Affairs

Rontario Hicks, the division chief for the Redstone Test Center's Logistics Management Office, and a member of the Premier Providers Club of Toastmasters International, has been honored with the Distinguished Toastmaster award.

The DTM represents the highest level of educational achievement in Toastmasters. Toastmasters International has four Toastmasters clubs on Redstone Arsenal that focus on developing organizational, public speaking, and leadership skills.

Toastmasters International is a non-profit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Headquartered in Englewood, Colorado, the organization's membership exceeds 364,000 in more than 16,200 clubs in 145 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators and leaders.

The Premier Providers Club was chartered at Redstone Arsenal in 2016, the same year Hicks joined while serving as a major in the Army, serving at the Army Materiel Command.

"When I joined AMC in 2012, Maj. Ron Hicks worked in the chief of staff's office. While he was a super logistician his articulation skills were lacking," Jesse Barber, one of the founders of Premier Partners, said. "His flow during presentations to the staff were full of stumbles and missteps. I recruited Ron to be one of the original 26 AMC employees to charter our Toastmasters club. I can remember Ron's first speech he had so many 'ahs' and 'umms' that we stopped



**Maj. Gen. David Wilson, commander of 8th Theater Sustainment Command at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, and charter member of the Premier Partners Toastmasters Club on Redstone Arsenal, presents Rontario Hicks with the Distinguished Toastmaster award.**

Courtesy photo

counting when he passed 50 in the first two minutes of his speech."

Barber added that as Hicks' mentor, they discussed techniques to help him improve and with each speech, his improvement were remarkable.

"By the end of the first year Ron had eliminated all 'ahs' and 'umms,'" Barber said. "His speaking proficiency has gotten so good that he can deliver a 30 minute speech with no 'ahhs' or 'umms' and the flow is exceptional. His use of graphics, slides and jokes during his speeches is on par with our club's most experienced speakers."

To earn the DTM, a Toastmaster is required to complete a series of learning paths, which typically can take many years to complete. Hicks is the first charter member of Premier Providers to receive this honor.

"This award is significant because Ron has been able to accomplish in four years, what sometimes can take up to 10 years to achieve," Barber said. "Ron completed the Competent Communicator (10 speeches), Advanced Communicator Bronze (10 speeches), Advanced Communicator Silver (10 speeches),

Advanced Communicator Gold (10 speeches), three special projects, served as district officer for one year, completed the Competent Leader, Advanced Leader, and High Performance Leadership programs. In addition, he served as a club coach, mentor, and Sponsor, and he still has had time to assist his home club members develop their skills. He is truly a remarkable leader. This is what Toastmasters is all about ... developing your individual skills to make you a better leader and communicator for tomorrow."


"Toastmasters has been a true life changer for me," Hicks said. "It has allowed me to rise to the occasion and stand out when it comes to speaking in public. It has also assisted me with presentations in both my personal and professional environment, giving me the confidence to speak with power and poise."

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# Community

## Alligators reside in Redstone's circle of wildlife

By EMILY STRICKLAND

Staff writer

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It's like clockwork: the weather begins getting warmer, and rumors about North Alabama alligators begin making the rounds on social media again.

Kelly Smith, who has worked on Redstone Arsenal as a supervisory conservation law enforcement officer for more than 15 years, said that alligators are just one part of Redstone Arsenal's diverse ecosystem.

"We do have quite a list of different wildlife species here on Redstone," he said. "We have most everything that they do outside the gates." This includes everything from endangered and threatened species of plants and animals to deer, snakes and, yes, even alligators.

Just last June, Smith said, a small, 3.5-foot alligator was found in a pond on the Links, the Arsenal's golf course. Smith and the Arsenal's resident wildlife biologist removed the gator from the golf course and released it to a more remote area where it would be safe from humans -- and vice versa.

"The problem with alligators and golf courses is that they kind of lose their built-in fear of people, and whenever you have people and a large predatory reptile that close together, that could become a problem, so if we find them in those types of areas we try to relocate them," Smith said.

However, finding gators in populated areas like the golf course is still an uncommon occurrence. This is largely because of the milder climate of North Alabama – Smith said Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal are located "at the northern edge of the alligators' range" because of the potential for harsh winters. Though there is a reproducing population of alligators on the Arsenal, those occasional cold winters "take a toll on alligator young," culling the population enough that it is not easily counted.

Alligators aren't the only potential hazard that may be found among the Arsenal wildlife, though. Smith's true specialty is snakes; before COVID-19 shutdowns, he taught several classes a year about the different kinds of snakes that may be found on the Arsenal, educating people on how to identify whether or not a snake is venomous and teaching them how to handle a snake encounter in the wild.

Smith also educates people on more common potential hazards, including wasp and bee stings, poison ivy, ticks and mosquitoes, and venomous spiders like brown recluses and black widows. He encourages vigilance, especially when individuals are on more remote areas of the installation, because many of these things are difficult to identify without knowing where to look and what to look for.

"We do have a good kind of micro-ecosystem of things out here, as far as we've got swamps, we've got creeks, we're bordered on the south end by the river," Smith said. The diverse ecosystem and many remote areas allow various types of wildlife to flourish in what have become like mini refuges for both plants and animals. "Our operations here on Redstone, we work in the wildlife's home areas, and so it pays for people on Redstone to be concentrating, you know, pay attention to what their surroundings are."

If you do see an alligator on the Arsenal, Smith advises caution. In addition to being potentially dangerous, alligators are protected species, so authorized officials like Smith are the only individuals that should be interacting with the animal directly.

"If an issue comes up with an alligator, you definitely want to let us know first and let the professionals take care of the animal versus them taking it upon themselves to do it because number one, it would be illegal for them to do it," Kelly said. "Number two, they're opening themselves up to possibly being injured, so we definitely want to be the ones to take care of that if there's an issue with a gator."



Courtesy of Kelly Smith

**A 3.5-foot baby alligator was found at the Links golf course in June 2020.**



Courtesy of Kaylene Hughes

**This large alligator was seen at Test Area 1 in the early-2000s.**

# Helicopter rescue mission leads to lifelong friendships

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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On Dec. 10, 1967, Army helicopter pilot Jim White was flying his UH1-D Huey back to his base at Chu Lai, Vietnam, when a member of the four-man crew saw an Air Force plane get shot down.

As the F-4 Phantom descended in flames, the two Air Force pilots ejected and parachuted to safety. Maj. Glenn Nordin splashed into the river, about 20 yards offshore, while 2nd Lt. Bob Riddick fell to the sand.

White landed his helicopter between the pilots amid enemy fire. His crew chief ran to one of the pilots while his gunner ran to the other. Nordin had to be cut out of his parachute. Riddick was able to get out of his chute on his own. Neither was injured.

"They had a rougher ride than I did," White said as he recalled the incident. During their evacuation flight to Chu Lai, Nordin crawled between the seats of White and his co-pilot and looked up at White.

"He had his sunglasses on and one of the lenses was gone and he didn't know it of course," White said.

White received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his role in this rescue mission. His co-pilot received the Air Medal with V device for valor.

Forty years later, retired Chief Warrant Officer 3 White was home in Huntsville when he received a nighttime call from the state police in Atlanta.

"The thought in my mind was 'Oh what's my son done now,'" White said laughing. The policeman said he was trying to help a friend named Nordin who had been rescued years ago in Vietnam. White confirmed he flew the rescue helicopter, and he subsequently received a call from Nordin.

"We talked to each other for a while and then we started emailing each other a lot," White said.

Nordin, who resides in San Antonio, has a friend in Decatur. The friend, Nordin and White arranged to have a reunion dinner at the friend's house and brought their wives.

"As I was getting out of the car (in Decatur), one person came out with sunglasses and he had a lens missing," White said of reuniting with Nordin. "He had the same glasses he wore in Vietnam. He kept them all these years. That was our first greeting after a few hugs. There were tears. That was a good dinner there. It lasted till 1 o'clock in the morning."

Riddick lives in Tacoma, Washington, where the family of White's wife happens to be from. Two years after reuniting with Nordin, White reconnected with Riddick while he and his wife visited her family in Washington. White met Riddick's family; and Riddick told him that he was the reason Riddick survived to have children and grandchildren.

"Every year on Dec. 10th I get a phone call from both of those guys," White said. "Hadn't missed a year since."

White flew 1,000 combat hours from 1967-68 for the 176th Assault Helicopter Company in Chu Lai. He was shot down twice and he had two emergency landings for maintenance problems. In his second Vietnam tour, 1970-71, he flew 600 combat hours of secret reconnaissance missions in a RU-8D twin engine airplane with the 144th Aviation Company. They started in Nha Trang and moved to Cam Rahn Bay halfway through his tour.

The Whitesville, West Virginia, native received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star and 38 Air Medals including one with V device. He also had his master aviator wings and master parachutist wings. He enlisted in 1957 and he graduated from flight school in August 1967 before going to Vietnam the following month. White retired from the Army in 1977. He became an Army civilian pilot at the Redstone Airfield and he retired in 2000 as the standardization officer. He finished with 40 years of government service, including 20 on active duty and 20 as a civilian. Altogether he had 14,000 hours of flying.

White completed his education through the Army and he received his bachelor's in business administration, with minors in economics and military

service, from the University of Nebraska in 1972.

He and his wife of 45 years, Teresa, have two sons, Joseph and Todd, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The couple bought their home in Huntsville in 1980.

In June 2010, he became one of four founding members of the North Alabama Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association or NAVHPA. White served as its president the first two years. He also belongs to the Warrant Officers Association, the American Legion, the Retired Military Officers Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Combat Helicopter Pilots Association and the National Rifle Association. White, 80, has an 80% disability rating from Veterans Affairs.

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

"I think it's good that they do that," White said. "I got my (Vietnam veterans) lapel pin a couple of years ago. NAVHPA has probably presented hundreds of them."

*Editor's note: This is the 320th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.*



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Retired Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jim White is a founding member of the North Alabama Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association.**



Courtesy photo

**On Dec. 10, 1967, members of the Army helicopter crew gather with the two Air Force pilots they rescued after an F-4 Phantom was shot down in Vietnam. Kneeling is Air Force Maj. Glenn Nordin. Standing, from left, are co-pilot Chuck Canfield, door gunner Art Gross, pilot Jim White, Air Force 2nd Lt. Bob Riddick and crew chief Dave Kinnard.**

**Vietnam revisited**  
*Part 320 in series*

# JROTC celebrates annual ball and honors ceremony

Photos by ERIC SCHULTZ  
Staff photographer

Columbia High School JROTC cadets and family members gathered for their JROTC Ball and Honors Ceremony, May 8 at the Jackson Center in Huntsville.



Columbia JROTC color guard members Gabriel Anderson, Jacob Sanchez, Kaleb Flowers, Jordan Anglin and Maurisio Corbo present the colors.



From left, Bill and Peggy Cole greet retired Lt. Col. Eugene and Daphne Thurman, and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Juan and Tabitha Jimenez. Thurman is director of military science at Columbia High School.



Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Jimenez presents an award to Kaleb Flowers.



Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Jimenez presents an award to Latorish Brown.

# Dive into swimming at Goss Road pool in late May

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

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Summer will be swimmingly cool this year at Redstone Arsenal with the reopening of Goss Road pool.

To the dismay of swimmers of all ages, the pool was closed all summer in 2020 due to COVID-19. But with virus cases going down and temperatures going up, the pool will open on May 29, just in time to kick off Memorial Day weekend.

"People are very happy we're going to be open," Lori Ciranni, sports, fitness and aquatics director, said. "They're looking forward to getting outside and swimming."

Patrons can bring their own snacks and drinks and enjoy a spot at one of the pool's metal picnic tables or lounge chairs between splashes.

Children 13 and older are allowed at the pool without a chaperone, but those 12 and under must have adult supervision.

For the youngest of swimmers, age 5 and under, Goss Road pool also offers a wading pool.

Floatable swim "noodles" are available for use, and swimmers may also bring in their own life jackets or arm "swimmies," so long as they are Coast Guard-approved, Ciranni said.

Weekday swimming lessons are also back by popular demand for children 4 and up.

Ciranni said there will be four two-week sessions for swimmers at four levels. Participants may take part in the beginner level at any time but must qualify to move up to the next lesson.

Lessons take place Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 8 and 10:45 a.m. and are offered during the following dates: session 1, June 7-18; session 2, June 21-July 2; session 3, July 5-6; and session 4, July 19-30.

This year, levels will be given "ranks," as follows: level 1, lieutenant; level 2, captain; level 3, major; level 4, general. General and major levels will be offered from 8 to 8:45 a.m., while captain and lieutenant lessons will be taught from 9 to 9:45 a.m. and 10 to 10:45 a.m.

"As long as they graduate from one level, they can go on to the next level," Ciranni said, adding that participants will receive certificates upon completion of each session.

Makeup sessions are not available, and parents must stay on the pool premises during lessons.

Swimming lessons are popular and usually sell out, Ciranni said. Registration is underway. Cost per session is \$75 for active duty military and \$110 for all other authorized patrons.

Should lessons fill up, Ciranni said, there will be a waiting list for openings that may occur if anyone cancels.

Regular open swim hours at the pool are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The pool will be open for weekends only starting Aug. 2 and will close for the season on Labor Day.

Costs for summer use of the pool for active duty military are as follows: individual, \$100; family, \$150, daily, \$4. For all other authorized users, the costs are as follows: individual, \$150; family, \$200; daily \$5.

To register for swimming lessons or to buy pool passes in advance, visit the pool through May 27 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday only.



MWR photo

**To register for swimming lessons or to buy pool passes in advance, visit the Goss Road pool through May 27 between the hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday only. Starting on May 29, lesson registrations and pass purchases will be available at the pool during normal operating hours.**

Starting on May 29, lesson registrations and pass purchases will be available at the pool during normal operating hours.

As a COVID-19 precaution, face coverings will be required inside the bath house, and hand sanitizer will be available, Ciranni said.

For more information, call Goss Road pool at 876-6713 during business hours, or Pagano Gym at 876-6701.

# Library challenge makes your summer reading count

By EMILY STRICKLAND

Staff writer

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After a 2020 hiatus during COVID-19 closures, the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Library is participating in the Department of Defense summer reading program again this year.

**Who:** Anyone affiliated with Redstone Arsenal; Soldiers, contractors, civilians and their families

**What:** DOD/MWR Summer Reading Challenge

**When:** May 18-July 24

**Why:** To promote literacy and help prevent the "summer slide"

**How:** Visit the MWR library at 3323 Redeye Road or go to [redstone.beanstack.org/reader365](http://redstone.beanstack.org/reader365) to sign up

MWR Supervisory Librarian Nate Godwin said the program, which runs from May 18-July 24, caters to anyone with access to Redstone Arsenal and will reward all kinds of reading.

"It's for civilians, contractors, if you're a retiree and want your grandkids to participate, that's fine," Godwin said. "Whatever they read, it doesn't have to be from us. If they want to listen to audiobooks, check out books from the public library, wherever."

Once participants sign up for the program, they simply need to log any reading hours on their online account, hosted through Beanstack. All types of reading are rewarded, so children can count the time that adults read to them as well as independent reading. Readers of all ages will receive prizes based on participation, which range from signup starter packs that include bookmarks and tote bags to awards for reading the most in their age group.

"Starting on June 1 we have different weekly prizes for kids," Godwin said. "This year, we have some really cool stuff to give away because our whole program

## Summer Reading



last year was canceled due to COVID, so we have double the prizes."

The main goal of the DOD summer reading program, he said, is to prevent the "summer slide," a phenomenon in which students fail to retain the knowledge they gained during the school year while they are on summer break.

However, bookworms of all ages are invited to participate in the program. Prizes for most minutes read will be

given to the top 30 children and top 10 adults. Kids may win additional prizes for attending the library each week beginning in June and lasting through the end of the program.

Participants can sign up on [redstone.beanstack.org/reader365](http://redstone.beanstack.org/reader365). More information can be found at [redstone.armymwr.com/happenings/summer-reading-2021](http://redstone.armymwr.com/happenings/summer-reading-2021) or by visiting the library, located at 3323 Redeye Road.

# Next great job may be found in virtual hiring fair

By JONATHAN STINSON

Assistant editor

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Employers will be targeting job seekers with security clearances Tuesday, May 25 during a virtual job fair that will take place between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Participants must have an active or current security clearance issued by the federal government, which has been used within the last 24 months.

The Cleared Virtual Hiring Fair – Defense, Space, IT, Cyber and Intel is sponsored by the Redstone Arsenal Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program.

“In addition to jobs located at Redstone, there will be jobs available nationwide as well,” Jason Semerakis, founder and CEO of Transition Careers, LLC, who is responsible for coordinating the event, said. “So, even if they are interested in relocating or maybe entertaining jobs elsewhere, they’ll be able to find out about that as well.”

To participate, job seekers need to go to [www.TransitionCareers.com](http://www.TransitionCareers.com) to RSVP and upload their resumes. After registering job seekers will be able to see participating employers.

Semerakis said even if you can’t attend during the 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. timeslot, those interested should still register and upload their resume anyway.

The virtual event will be hosted on platform that does have the capabilities for employers to do a video call, but Semerakis said the interactions would primarily be chat-based.

After registering, participants can do a service test to verify their computer and network will be able to access the event without firewall or other issues. The virtual event is web-based so downloads are not necessary. And, he said it’s important to make sure you are using the most updated version of your browser and that you have a good internet connection.

Semerakis also had a few tips for preparing for the upcoming job fair and emphasized that a virtual hiring fair is no different from an in-person event and both should be taken as seriously.

Tip No. 1 is to prepare your self-introduction and your answers to common interview questions like those based on your work history, experience, etc. and write them in a word document so you can just copy and paste them into the chat box during the event.

Tip No. 2 is to know your resume. Semerakis suggested reading through your resume before the event, because employers prefer to hire someone who comes prepared.

Tip No. 3 is to be ready with your own questions. He said thoughtful questions should be about the company culture and climate, their hiring process and professional and staff development.

Tip No. 4, he said, was to initiate chats with employers during the event. When you do, he added to keep your questions and answer short and give the recruiter a minute to review your resume. And, he said always remember, you just don’t have a conversation with a recruiter, you want to make a connection.

Tip No. 5 is to maximize your effort by waiting in as many chat lines as possible and while you wait check out the content the employer has provided in their booth.

Tip No. 6 relates to where you physically set up for your virtual job fair. He said it’s important to have a distraction-free area because you’ll want to focus your energy on getting it right and landing the next great job.

Tip No. 7 is to look professional even though it is virtual, because employers can request a video chat.

Tip No. 8 is to take notes, and finally tip No. 9 is to follow up after the event.

For more information, job seekers are invited to email questions to [Jobseeker@TransitionCareers.com](mailto:Jobseeker@TransitionCareers.com) and employers are asked to email [Employer@TransitionCareers.com](mailto:Employer@TransitionCareers.com).

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# Red Cross volunteers give boost to health center

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

rebecca.sallee@theredstonerocket.com

Red Cross volunteers are reappearing at Fox Army Health Center, and more are needed.

The volunteer program was suspended last spring due to COVID-19, and the work of the volunteers fell on regular staff members, said Maj. Courtney Folderauer, deputy commander for nursing at Fox.

Folderauer came to Redstone Arsenal in August, after the Red Cross volunteers were gone, but said their presence was missed.

“Oh, yes, most definitely,” she said. “I didn’t get to experience them being in the facility and being part of the team, but I know there was a void.”

When the program was suspended in 2020, there were 28 Red Cross volunteers. When they returned in early March 2021, there were 13.

“A large percentage of our volunteers are elderly; staying home due to the pandemic,” Folderauer said.

Fox was one of the first military facilities in Alabama to bring its Red Cross volunteers back into service.

“We were required to prove to them with



Photo by Eric Schultz

**Rick Montgomery of Hazel Green, a retired Army major who also worked for the Corps of Engineers and Navy, is a Red Cross volunteer at Fox Army Health Center.**

documentation to show we were taking precautions for COVID-19: masking, screening, social distancing,” Folderauer said. “The national (Red Cross) headquarters would grant us the approval to have the volunteers come back to the facility.”

Rick Montgomery of Hazel Green, a retired Army major who also worked for the Corps of Engineers and Navy, is one such Red Cross volunteer. He has worked in disas-

ter services for the agency and as a helper at Fox.

“I’m the guy that sits up there at the front desk and points people in the right direction,” Montgomery said.

Patients are required to use their ID cards at a kiosk and get a ticket upon their arrival at the health center, so Montgomery also helps first-time users. “Some folks are a little bit intimidated,” he said.

Montgomery was surprised at the response of Fox staff members when he and other Red Cross volunteers returned to the health center.

“I didn’t think we were making that much of an impact,” he said. “All of the Fox people were thrilled.”

Sharon Rolf of Athens is an experienced Red Cross volunteer who is new to Fox. Like Montgomery, she also works with the Red Cross disaster services.

A FEMA reservist and wife of retired Navy Cmdr. Robert Rolf, she said she heard about the shortage of volunteers at Fox through the grapevine and decided to pitch in.

“I knew there was a need at this time for additional help,” she said. “It was a thrill to jump on board and come over here to help.”

Volunteers have control of their schedules and can choose the type of work they do, from working the front desk or assisting in the pharmacy, to helping with the sign-in process

for those getting their COVID vaccines at Fox, she said.

Tammy Selby of Arab, the new volunteer coordinator lead at Fox, said recruiting is underway.

“We need at least another 15 (people),” said Selby, a retired office manager for a government contractor.

Last year, Selby headed up a group of volunteers called “Making Masks for Frontline Workers,” which has supplied some 22,000 masks at Fox. In that role, she learned about the need for Red Cross volunteers and decided to answer the call. She now hopes others will join.

Interested applicants can go to [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) and follow the prompts as follows: Volunteer, Explore Opportunities, enter zip code, check “Client Facing” and scroll to SAF: Service to Armed Forces, Fox Army Health Center. Volunteers will undergo a background check, complete online training (including HIPPA training), and be referred to her for in-person training at the health center, which usually takes about a half-day.

There are no age or physical requirements for this volunteer work, Selby said.

For more information on becoming a Red Cross volunteer at Fox, call Selby at 486-1091 or email her at [tammy.selby1962@gmail.com](mailto:tammy.selby1962@gmail.com).

# Cabana named NASA associate administrator

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Bob Cabana, who has been director of NASA's Kennedy Space Center since 2008, has taken on the new role of agency associate administrator beginning May 17. He succeeds Steve Jurczyk, who retired May 14 after 32 years with NASA.

"I first met Bob in 1985 while training to fly on the space shuttle and when Bob arrived at NASA as an astronaut candidate," NASA Administrator Sen. Bill Nelson said. "He has a relentless determination to expand America's role in space."

As Kennedy director, Cabana managed all NASA programs and activities at the spaceport. Kennedy's team of civil service and contractor employees operate some of NASA's most critical programs, including the Commercial Crew Program. Under Cabana's leadership, Kennedy emerged as a modern, world-class multiuser spaceport, partnering with commercial customers and supporting NASA's science and human exploration missions.

A veteran of four space shuttle missions, Cabana logged 38 days in space,

serving as the pilot on STS-41 and STS-53 and mission commander on STS-65 and STS-88. His fourth flight was the first assembly mission of the International Space Station in December 1998. He went on to become deputy director at NASA's Johnson Space Center and director of NASA's Stennis Space Center before being reassigned to Kennedy.

Cabana graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1971 with a degree in mathematics. He was commissioned in the Marine Corps and completed Naval Flight Officer training in Pensacola, Florida, in 1972. He was designated a naval aviator in September 1976 and went on to log over 7,000 hours of flight time in more than 50 aircraft types.

"Bob is the real deal," Nelson said. "He has the vision and management skills to bring NASA to even higher heights, and I'm excited to see all he will accomplish as associate administrator."

Jurczyk had been associate administrator since May 2018, and was acting administrator from Jan. 20 to May 3 of this year. He oversaw the landing of the Perseverance rover on Mars, a successful Green Run test of the core stage



**Bob Cabana**

of the Space Launch System rocket, the naming of the Mary W. Jackson NASA Headquarters building, the launch of NASA's SpaceX Crew-2 to the International Space Station, and the return of Crew-1 back to Earth.

Before being named associate administrator, Jurczyk's roles included associate administrator of the Space Technol-

ogy Mission Directorate and director and deputy director of NASA's Langley Research Center.

"It has been an honor to lead NASA and see the agency's incredible growth and transformation throughout my time here," Jurczyk said. "The NASA workforce is what makes this agency so special, and I'm incredibly grateful for their amazing work, especially throughout the coronavirus pandemic. At NASA, we turn dreams into reality, and make the seemingly impossible possible. I am so fortunate to have been a member of the NASA family."

Cabana joins a senior NASA headquarters team that includes: Pam Melroy, nominee for deputy administrator; Margaret Vo Schaus, nominee for chief financial officer; Bhavya Lal, senior advisor for budget and finance; Marc Et-kind, associate administrator for communications; Alicia Brown, associate administrator for legislative and inter-agency affairs; and Susie Perez Quinn, chief of staff.

Janet Petro, who has been deputy director at Kennedy since 2007, will be the center's acting director.

# Gill becomes Michoud facility deputy director

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Hansel Gill has been named deputy director of NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility.

He will assist the Michoud director in overseeing one of the world's largest manufacturing facilities, which provides the crucial infrastructure where elements of NASA's Space Launch System and Orion spacecraft are assembled. Michoud also provides facilities for non-NASA governmental and commercial technology-based industry tenant operations.

From 2016 to his new appointment, Gill was subsystem manager for production of the SLS Block 1B Exploration Upper Stage in the Block 1B Development Office and the Stages Element Office, providing technical leadership for SLS core stage and exploration upper stage planning and production operations. From 2015-16, he was technical assistant to the Office of the Director at Marshall Space Flight Center.

In 2013, Gill was team lead and acting assistant branch chief for the Metals Joining and Processes Branch in the Metals En-

gineering Division. He was responsible for materials process development and characterization, product management, and corrosion engineering supporting the advanced exploration and manufacturing needs aligned with agency strategic vectors. Gill also led production for the EFT-1 multipurpose crew vehicle stage adaptor, providing the structural interface for Orion and the Delta IV launch system supporting the EFT-1 Orion Flight Test.

Gill received various awards during his time at Marshall, including the NASA Honor Award Exceptional Achievement Medal, Director's Commendation Honor Award, Safety Flight Awareness Awards, and the 24th STEM Global Competitiveness Conference Black Engineer of the Year Award-Modern Day Technology Leader distinction.

Gill earned his bachelor's in mathematics from Oakwood University in 1996 and his master's in industrial and systems engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 2007. He resides in Huntsville with his wife, Arnissa, and daughter, Addison.



**Hansel Gill**

# Spacecraft heads for Earth with asteroid sample

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

After nearly five years in space, NASA's Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer – OSIRIS-REx – spacecraft is on its way back to Earth with an abundance of rocks and dust from the near-Earth asteroid Bennu.

On May 10 at 3:23 p.m., the spacecraft fired its main engines full throttle for seven minutes – its most significant maneuver since it arrived at Bennu in 2018. This burn thrust the spacecraft away from the asteroid at 600 miles per hour, setting it on a 2 ½-year cruise toward Earth.

“It was very exciting to see such a perfect execution of the final spacecraft operations at Bennu,” Solveig Irvine, OSIRIS-REx mission manager at Marshall Space Flight Center, said. “While it is the end of our time with the asteroid, it is also the beginning of the final journey that will allow us to unlock many of the questions we have held throughout this amazing adventure.”

OSIRIS-REx will continue to head toward Earth and will fire its engines to fly by Earth safely, putting it on a trajectory to circle the sun inside of Venus' orbit. After orbiting the Sun twice, OSIRIS-REx is due to reach Earth on Sept. 24, 2023. Upon return, the capsule containing pieces of Bennu will separate from the rest of the spacecraft and enter the atmosphere. After releasing the sample capsule, OSIRIS-REx will have completed its primary mission. The capsule will parachute to the Utah Test and Training Range in Utah's west desert, where scientists will be waiting to retrieve it.

“OSIRIS-Rex's many accomplishments demonstrated the daring and innovative way in which exploration unfolds in real time,” Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for science at NASA headquarters, said. “The team rose to the challenge, and now we have a primordial piece of our solar system headed back to Earth where many generations of researchers can unlock its secrets.”

To realize the mission's multiyear plan, a dozen navigation engineers made calculations and wrote computer code to instruct the spacecraft when and how to push itself away from Bennu. After departing from Bennu, getting the sample to Earth safely is the team's next critical goal. This includes planning future maneuvers to keep the spacecraft on course throughout its journey.

“Our whole mindset has been, ‘Where



**Bennu ejects particles from its surface Jan. 19, 2019. The image was created by combining two images taken aboard OSIRIS-REx.**

NASA/Goddard/University of Arizona/Lockheed Martin

are we in space relative to Bennu?” Mike Moreau, OSIRIS-REx deputy project manager at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, said. “Now our mindset has shifted to ‘Where is the spacecraft in relation to Earth?’”

The navigation cameras that helped orient the spacecraft in relation to Bennu were turned off April 9, after snapping their last images of the asteroid. With Bennu in the rearview mirror, engineers are using NASA's Deep Space Network of global spacecraft communications facilities to steer OSIRIS-REx by sending it radio signals. By measuring the frequency of the waves returned from the spacecraft transponder, engineers can tell how fast OSIRIS-REx is moving. Engineers measure how long it takes for radio signals to get from the spacecraft back to Earth in order to de-

termine its location.

The May 10 departure date was precisely timed based on the alignment of Bennu with Earth. The goal of the return maneuver is to get the spacecraft within about 6,000 miles of Earth in September 2023. Although OSIRIS-REx still has plenty of fuel remaining, the team is trying to preserve as much as possible for a potential extended mission to another asteroid after returning the sample capsule to Earth. The team will investigate the feasibility of such a mission later this year.

The spacecraft's course will be determined mainly by the Sun's gravity, but engineers will need to occasionally make small course adjustments via engine burns.

The team will perform course adjustments a few weeks prior to Earth reentry

in order to precisely target the location and angle for the sample capsule's release into Earth's atmosphere. Coming in too low could cause the capsule to bounce out of the atmosphere like a pebble skipping off a lake; too high and the capsule could burn up due to friction and heat from the atmosphere. If OSIRIS-REx fails to release the capsule, the team has a backup plan to divert it away from Earth and try again in 2025.

OSIRIS-REx exceeded many expectations. Most recently, in the midst of a global pandemic, the team flawlessly executed the most mission's critical operation, collecting more than 2 ounces of soil from Bennu's surface.

OSIRIS-REx is the third mission in NASA's New Frontiers Program, managed by Marshall for the agency's Science Mission Directorate.

# Marshall team on Earth enables science success in orbit

By WILL BRYAN

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Inside the International Space Station is a buzz of activity as explorers, pilots, doctors, and scientists from around the world conduct experiments, maintain the facility, and develop new technologies.

A group of seven astronauts and cosmonauts has completed the largest long-duration crew mission in the orbiting outpost's history, and NASA astronaut Kate Rubins and the astronauts who arrived on the SpaceX Crew-1 mission advanced science and technology and performed a record amount of experiments along the journey.

Teams on Earth, including at the Payload Operations Integration Center at Marshall Space Flight Center, helped the crew complete scientific discoveries at an increased pace.

Specifically, the integration center serves as science mission control for the experiments performed in the U.S. Operating Segment. Currently, five astronauts aboard perform the tasks associated with the experiments. The team works with space station partners around NASA, other space agencies, and with scientists around the world to schedule the experiments and help guide the orbiting astronauts through the investigations – including a study of how space affects arteries, testing materials to see if they can stand up to the rigors of space, and comparing coatings that may limit microbial growth.

When Crew-1 arrived November 16, 2020 – joining Rubins and Russian cosmonauts Sergey Ryzhikov and Sergey Kud-Sverchkov, who docked October 16, 2020 – the crew size and science capability reached record levels.

“We started putting processes in place many years back to get ready for the Commercial Crew Program and the additional crew members,” Chris Wakefield, one of the payload operations managers for the Expedition 64 mission, said. “We’ve got a lot of science accomplished.”

Scheduling experiments for five astronauts is not as simple as looking at a spreadsheet and picking a time, though. Much like a lab on Earth, the work stations – spots in the space station where experiments are run – have different tools, features, and power supply capabilities that are often needed for multiple investigations.

Additionally, the astronauts must attend to other space station duties, such as exercise, cleaning and maintenance, and spacewalks. Other times, the constraints are simply based around where each astronaut needs to work; ensuring that the experiments can get done without the astronauts being in each other's way.

While the work for each member of the team has gotten busier and more complicated with the increased crew size, for Payload Communications Manager Shelby Bates, the larger crew means another crew member to interact with and more experiments to help the astronauts perform.

“This crew is definitely passionate, and they want to see science get done,” Bates said. “We’re pumping through science so quickly. They’re cruising through it, which is great because the more science, the better.”

Undoubtedly when working on experiments in space, questions, challenges, and oddities arise, and the payload communications manager team is a key part to the solutions.

“Science is science, and it never goes perfectly to plan,” Bates said. “Recently, we had a situation where something was not working. We couldn’t get it. We were trying everything, and the last thing we tried, worked. We had two crew members aboard who were so excited to tell the payload developer they got it working.”

While the astronauts are 250 miles above Earth, and some scientists are halfway around the world, other distances that had to be overcome are much closer to home.

“All of the teams are still working under the COVID-19 environment. Folks are not working under normal conditions,” Wakefield said. “We’ve been able to continue our operations and do them successfully while folks are working in this kind of environment.”

The successes Wakefield, Bates and the team experience go well beyond personal gains.

“Being part of the team that helps the scientists – for some of them, their experiment has been their life’s work – and helping to make sure the experiments get accomplished is very rewarding,” Wakefield said.

Wakefield, Bates, and the entire integration center team are sustaining the same pace and momentum of the Expedition 64 mission during the Expedition 65 six-month science mission with NASA astronaut Mark Vande Hei and the Crew-2 astronauts who launched to the space station April 23 and docked April 24. Team members are constantly learning from each mission and experiment and are refining processes to gain efficiencies and make improvements for each mission – as they have



NASA photo by Emmett Given

**The Payload Operations Integration Center at Marshall is the heartbeat for International Space Station research operations.**

done for the past 20 years.

During the past two decades of work, team members supported and guided hundreds of astronauts and thousands of experiments and technology development activities on the orbiting outpost, which continue to push the boundaries of human space exploration and improve life on Earth.

As the saying goes, the best is yet to come.

*Editor's note: Will Bryan, a Manufacturing Technical Solutions employee, supports Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.*



NASA photo

**NASA astronaut and Expedition 64/65 Flight Engineer Victor Glover works on the Plant Water Management experiment that is exploring hydroponics as a way to sustain plants in microgravity from seed germination through crop harvest.**

## Sports

# Links plays first Spring Kickoff since pandemic

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

This was a sunny rebirth for the Redstone golf community. Saturday brought the annual Spring Kickoff tournament at the Links. The event is normally held in April but was moved to May this year because of COVID. Some 100 golfers competed on the Patriot course.

"This is our first MWR event since November 2019," John Cook, assistant manager at the Links, said. "It's been 18 months."

They did three flights with four-man teams in a scramble format. There were 23 teams total.

The first-place teams included: first flight, Rick Cooper, Dave Warnick, Greg Fortier and Billy Jackson; second flight, Mark Dille, Jim Myles, Scott Coy and Gary Volesky; and third flight, Charlie Hopson, Phyllis Hopson, Sandy Parks and Hannah Parks.

"It's a total team effort. Everyone contributed," Cooper said. "Dave Warnick was blasting the skin off the golf ball with his drives. Billy Jackson's short game was phenomenal. And Greg Fortier putted lights out."

Here are the results:

First flight – 1. Rick Cooper, Dave Warnick, Greg Fortier, Billy Jackson, shot 57.

2. Paul Williams, Ben Racoma, Courtney Duncan, Donna Lowen, shot 58.

Second flight – 1. Mark Dille, Jim Myles, Scott Coy, Gary Volesky, shot 61. 2.

Dewitt Burns, B. Hunt, R. Valls, R. Neese, shot 62.

Third flight – 1. Charlie Hopson, Phyllis Hopson, Sandy Parks, Hannah Parks, shot 65 (won playoff). 2. Kay Theodoss, Mike Theodoss, Sally Deivert, Bob Deivert, shot 65.

Closest to the pin – Happel Terrell on hole No. 6; Chris Yates on hole No. 3; Martha "Marty" Carter on hole No. 12; and Cliff Jones on hole No. 16.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Bradley McDonald and Art Allen putt on the practice green Saturday before the tournament.**



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Links Assistant Manager John Cook gives pretournament instructions.**



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Golfers relax on the Links patio after the tournament.**

# NFL season starts with mega matchup on schedule

It's mid-May so y'all know what that means.

It's time to discuss football, which is a year-round pastime here in the South. The NFL last week announced their 2021 schedule.

The opener offers a tasty matchup with the Dallas Cowboys, America's team, visiting the Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers, led by the ageless Tom Brady. The kickoff is Thursday night at 7:20 our time, Sept. 9 on NBC.

Other Week 1 games include:

**Sept. 12:**

Steelers at Bills, noon (CBS)

Jets at Panthers, noon (CBS)

Jaguars at Texans, noon (CBS)

Cardinals at Titans, noon (CBS)

Chargers at Washington, noon (CBS)

Eagles at Falcons, noon (Fox)

Seahawks at Colts, noon (Fox)

Vikings at Bengals, noon (Fox)

49ers at Lions, noon (Fox)

Browns at Chiefs, 3:25 p.m. (CBS)

Dolphins at Patriots, 3:25 p.m. (CBS)

Broncos at Giants, 3:25 p.m.(Fox)

Packers at Saints, 3:25 p.m. (Fox)

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## From the sidelines

**By Skip Vaughn**

Rocket editor

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Bears at Rams, 7:20 p.m. (NBC)

**Monday, Sept. 13:**

Ravens at Raiders, 7:15 p.m. (ESPN)

Are we ready for some football? Yes!

# Ford drives navy blue past red in senior softball

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Darnell Ford was pleasantly surprised to see his long fly ball clear the left field fence.

His two-run blast helped lift the navy blue team over red 19-10 on Thursday at field 2 in Brahan Spring Park. They play in the 55-and-over Rockets league in Huntsville Senior Softball.

"I didn't think I got all of it," Ford said. "When Scott (Landers) was going back, I thought he had a bead on the ball and it just kept carrying."

Ford's sixth homer of the year came in the top of the fourth inning and put navy blue up 9-4. "We were getting stagnated and then started scoring some runs after that (home run)," he said.

The cleanup hitter went 3-for-5 with a double, four runs batted in and two runs scored for navy blue (6-2). The league leaders avenged their 17-16 loss April 26 to the defending champion red.

Mike Keyser had five hits while Booger Clark had four. David Stumbaugh had three hits. Bill Hartsell, Michael Greer, Michael Gundersen and player/coach Larry Guthrie added two hits apiece.

Gundersen, a left-hander, pitched all seven innings for the win. He allowed 21 hits but didn't walk a batter.

"Getting ahead on the count, making them hit my pitch," Gundersen said.

Navy blue led 9-7 after four innings and 13-8 after five. "We hit well," Guthrie said.

Kirk Wickizer had a home run, two doubles, four RBIs and two runs scored for red (4-4). His ninth homer of the year came in the sixth inning. Leadoff hitter Phil Shriner had four hits and four runs. Wickizer, player/coach Phil Haas, Mike Panko and Pat Cross had three hits apiece. Scott Landers added two hits. Chris Maggio took the loss in the circle.

"We got outplayed all the way around," Haas said. "Their pitcher (Gundersen) was A-1 to hold us to 10 runs because we had some good pickup players."

Navy blue outthit red 25-21. These rivals met in last year's championship final.



Darnell Ford launches his two-run homer as navy blue beats red 19-10.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Navy blue (6-2)

	AB	R	H	RBI
Bill Hartsell	4	2	2	1
Jerry Cowan	6	2	1	1
Booger Clark	5	4	4	2
Darnell Ford	5	2	3	4
Michael Greer	4	1	2	3
David Stumbaugh	4	1	3	0
Michael Gundersen	4	1	2	1
John Pope	4	2	1	1
Larry Guthrie	3	2	2	2
Mike Keyser	5	2	5	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>

## Pitching

	IP	AB	H	R	ER
Michael Gundersen (won)	7	41	21	10	8

## Red (4-4)

	AB	R	H	RBI
Phil Shriner	5	4	4	0
Phil Haas	4	1	3	1
Kirk Wickizer	4	2	3	4
Mike Panko	4	0	3	2

Pat Cross	4	0	3	1	
Rena Campbell	4	0	0	0	
Scott Landers	4	1	2	0	
Chris Maggio	4	1	1	0	
Ragnar Opiniano	4	1	1	0	
Eddie Johnson		4	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8</b>	

## Pitching

	IP	AB	H	R	ER
Chris Maggio (loss)	7	44	25	19	17

		R	H	E
Navy blue	3 0 2 4 4 2 4	-19	25	3
Red	1 0 3 3 1 1 1	-10	21	2

## Senior softball league standings

Here are the standings for the 55-and-over Rockets league in Huntsville Senior Softball which plays Monday and Thursday evenings at fields 2 and 1 in Brahan Spring Park:

	Won	Loss
Navy blue	6	2
Gray	5	4
Royal blue	5	4
Maroon	4	4
Red	4	4
Green	1	7

# By the numbers: My favorite action movies

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

[skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com)

1. Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)
2. 300 (2007)
3. Beverly Hills Cop (1984)
4. Gladiator (2000)
5. Lethal Weapon (1987)
6. Predator (1987)
7. Die Hard (1988)
8. The Dark Knight (2008)
9. Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)
10. Goldfinger (1964)
11. The Matrix (1999)
12. Saving Private Ryan (1998)
13. Jurassic Park (1993)
14. Rambo: First Blood (1982)
15. Top Gun (1986)
16. True Lies (1994)
17. Transformers (2006)
18. The Dirty Dozen (1967)
19. Speed (1994)
20. Braveheart (1995)
21. Iron Man (2008)
22. Robocop (1987)
23. Black Hawk Down (2001)
24. The Avengers (2012)
25. X2: X-Men United (2003)
26. Batman (1989)
27. The Rock (1996)
28. Casino Royale (2006)
29. Looper (2012)
30. Enter the Dragon (1973)

SGT Mann, we got a short suspense task from HQs and I want you to handle it.

You may want to stretch out while I brief you on it.

You got me jumping thru hoops again?



Jim BoRoeth  
12 May 2021

## Sports & Recreation

### High school football officials

The North Alabama Football Officials Association are a group of officials that serve North Alabama. They currently contract to high schools in Huntsville, Madison, Madison County, Limestone County and Jackson County. If you are interested in becoming a referee today, visit <https://nafoa.net>.

### Boating safety class

The Coast Guard Boating Safety Class is Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Outdoor Recreation, building 5139 on Sportsman Road. For information call Bill Stadlander 361-5841 or email [wstadlander2@gmail.com](mailto:wstadlander2@gmail.com).

### Carry The Load relay

Carry The Load is a nonprofit organization that provides an active way to connect Americans to the sacrifices made by our military, veterans, first responders and their families. The Carry The Load relay team is traveling across the country during May. Four routes operate daily to hand off the American flag every five miles of walking or cycling. The relay route will visit Huntsville Saturday for four stops. One stop will be at the Veterans Memorial and Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, where a short welcome ceremony will take place. The Woody Williams Foundation ([www.woodywilliams.org](http://www.woodywilliams.org)) has partnered with Carry The Load to highlight Gold Star Monuments. To sign up to participate or donate, or get all the details, visit [www.carrytheload.org](http://www.carrytheload.org). Conducting the welcome will be Julie Kink, co-chair of the Alabama Gold Star Families Memorial Monument Committee. She can be reached at [kink100@att.net](mailto:kink100@att.net).

### Pitch, hit and run contest

Madison American Legion Post 229 will hold a pitch, hit and run competition today at 6 p.m. at Palmer Park, 574 Palmer Road in Madison. Age cutoff is as of July 17, 2021. Age groups for boys and girls include 7-8, 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14. Bring your bat and glove. Each participant must present a birth certificate and verification of health at the competition. Register online at [www.mlb.com/pitch-hit-and-run/find-a-competition](http://www.mlb.com/pitch-hit-and-run/find-a-competition).

## Conferences & Meetings

### Sergeants major association

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

### West Point chapter

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

### 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).

### Korean War veterans luncheon

Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation will hold its 15th annual luncheon honoring the Korean War veterans June 24 from 11 to 1 p.m. at The Summit. The guest speaker is Gen. Ed Daly, commander of the Army Materiel Command. This event is by invitation only. If interested in attending, email KC Bertling at [KCBertling@yahoo.com](mailto:KCBertling@yahoo.com) or visit [www.legacy4koreanwarveterans.org](http://www.legacy4koreanwarveterans.org) and send a message.

### Scholarship benefit banquet

Huntsville Bible College will hold its 28th annual Vision Banquet, June 4 at 7 p.m. virtually via Facebook, on YouTube and at [www.hbcl.edu](http://www.hbcl.edu). Funds from this event will be used to provide scholarships for the fully accredited college and to pay for the college's operating costs. The guest speaker is Rev. Reginald Calvert of the New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, Birmingham. Sponsorships, advertisement purchases and donations are welcome through May 31. Contribute via Visa/MasterCard/Debit by calling 469-7536 or mailing to HBC, 906 Oakwood Ave., Huntsville, AL 35811. Donations can also be made via CashApp at \$HBC1986, PayPal at HBC1986, or online at [www.hbcl.edu](http://www.hbcl.edu). For more information, call the college at 469-7536.

### Lions Club chapter

The Madison Area Family Lions Club is a newly formed chapter that carries out the mission and vision of Lions Club International. They are a group of volunteers with active roles in serving the needs of Madison and surrounding areas. For membership information, email [madisonlionsclub@gmail.com](mailto:madisonlionsclub@gmail.com).

# Rocket Announcements

### Marine Corps league

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

### Purple Heart chapter

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

## Miscellaneous Items

### Men's ministry

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

### Young citizen of month

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

### 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).

### 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.

### Community blood drive

A planned blood drive wants you: Redstone housing residents and anyone else with access to Redstone Arsenal. Hunt Military Communities is sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive June 11 from 12:30-4:30 p.m. outside the post housing office, 302 Hughes Drive. They will have complimentary refreshments – juice drinks and snacks – outside the office to help donors replenish after giving blood. Interested persons should contact David Ugarte, resident service specialist, at [david.ugarte@huntcompanies.com](mailto:david.ugarte@huntcompanies.com). For information call him at 430-1517.

### Exchange job openings

Redstone Exchange HR Recruitment Office will conduct weekly on-the-spot interviews at the Main Store food court every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call the Exchange Recruitment Office 650-5928.

### Memorial Day commemoration

The Huntsville Memorial Day commemoration is May 31 at 9 a.m. at Huntsville Madison County Memorial Park, 200 Monroe St. The scheduled speaker is Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker, Redstone senior commander. There will be music, remembrances, and the laying of wreaths from the Veterans and Fraternal Organizations of North Alabama. Community members are encouraged to bring a lawn chair, water and a fan.

### Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department has released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for May 3-7. The highest scores included Kidz' Choice Preschool LLC, 4887 Highway 53, Harvest, 100; Kids Care Hazel Green, 15320 Highway 231/431 North, Hazel Green, 100; Whole Foods Market (Produce/Juice), 2501 Memorial Parkway, 100; Whole Foods Market (Cheese and Alcohol), 2501 Memorial Parkway, 100; Walmart 7324 (Produce), 2165 Winchester Road NE, 100; Walmart 7324 (Bakery), 2165 Winchester Road NE, 100; The Kaffeeklatsch Inc., 103 Jefferson St. North, 100; Urban Cookhouse Aerojet, 950 Explorer Boulevard NW, 100; Urban Cookhouse at Northrop Grumman, 7057 Old Madison Pike, 100; Lean Kitchen Company, 964 Airport Road, Unit 7, 100; Butter & Egg Grocery/Diner, 878 Butter & Egg Road, Hazel Green, 100; and Miss Marcia's Child Care Center Inc., 2342 Pansy St., 100. The lowest scores included SB Madison LLC, 7814 Highway 72 West, Madison, 80; Jay Veerdada Inc. doing business as Redstone Quick Mart, 3801 Patton Road, 80; Budget Inn, 4430 University Drive NW, 80; and Big Shakes Hot Chicken & Fish, 4925 University Drive, Suite 1, 77.