

Army drops mask requirement for vaccinated people

By JONATHAN STINSON

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Vaccinated personnel on Redstone can start putting names with faces again.

The Department of Defense published new guidance on the use of masks on military installations last week. In short, it said if it's been two weeks since your last round of the COVID-19 vaccine, then you no longer have to wear a mask, which is in line with the recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control.

The new policy relies on an honor system, and Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor is confident that people will follow it.

"I am optimistic that in general, we are an honorable workforce that will do the right thing," he said. "Will there be those who have not been vaccinated who won't wear a mask – absolutely. So this is a question that each of us needs to ask ourselves and our own medical conditions have to be considered."

"As our COVID numbers continue to decrease – in part from those who do get the vaccine – this will become less of a problem for all."

"While I support everyone's own decision on whether to get vaccinated or not, in my position, because I meet a lot of people and go different places, it was the right decision for my family to get vaccinated."

Mellor added that people should not be put in a position of being shamed into getting the vaccine. That's why ensuring people's right to keep their medical information private was so important.

"Individuals' rights to their medical privacy should never be allowed to be used against them for any reason, and this is why HIPPA is so important," he said.

The Garrison is postured to welcome up to 80% of the workforce back on post, but bringing workers back is up to the leadership of each tenant.



Photo by Eric Schultz

Michael and Jennifer Ferguson get ready to play golf with their kids, from left, Dillon, 8, Sawyer, 10, and Ava, 5, without masks, at the Links.

Within the Garrison, about 70-80% of the workers have returned to working in-person, according to Mellor.

The new mask policy is indicative of the overall situation regarding COVID-19.

Another indicator is the current Health Protection Condition at Redstone. There are five HPCON levels: Zero, Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. The current HPCON is Bravo.

Mellor said HPCON 0 means there is no community transmission, and based on the current COVID transmission rates, a "return to this phase does seem possible in the near future."

HPCON Alpha is when community transmission is being limited.

"In Alpha (for COVID), daily average rates need to be fewer than two new cases per day per 100,000 population in the last seven days."

Right now, in the counties around Redstone Arsenal, there are 6.2 new cases a



Photo by Eric Schultz

Signs on the Links clubhouse door tells clients that masks are no longer required at the facility.

day per 100,000, as of press time.

"While these policies (the mask policy and the HPCON) are independent of one another, they also both point to the steady decline in numbers of COVID patients in the Redstone Area of Operations, which is where most of our workforce comes from," Mellor said.



MILITARY

Organic Industrial Base summit focuses on modernization.

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COMMUNITY

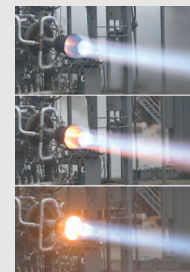
Pipeline shutdown pumps up gas prices.

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FEDERAL

Space agency hardware passes initial testing.

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SPORTS

Green overtakes gray with crazy comeback.

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Returning turtle to the wild was traumatic

I had a pet turtle once. I know. Not an exciting start. Stay with me.

I named him Mikey after the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Michelangelo. Every time I would go toy shopping, I'd always look for a Michelangelo action figure, but all they ever had was Raphael.

The orange-clad mutant reptilian herbivore was my a favorite at the time, but the older I got the more I identified with Raphael.

Sans action figure, the next best thing was having a real turtle.

I don't remember if Mikey was my first pet, but I do remember I had a strong emotional attachment to the animal.

This turtle had it made. It lived in an extremely large turtle-shaped sandbox that had been converted into the ideal habitat. This turtle box stayed on our front porch. This was before homeowner associations were a thing.

I don't know how long turtles are sup-

posed to live, but I didn't get to find out how long Mikey would've lived.

Here's what happened.

It was summer, vacation season, and my family was all set to go somewhere. I don't remember where we were going.

The tragedy that's about to unfold probably meant I've put up a mental block to all of the events that surround this period of time in my life.

According to my parents, we couldn't leave Mikey in his extra-large habitat while we were gone. So he was going to have to go stay with my cousin.

I love my cousin. I know in Alabama you have to be careful when you say stuff like that, but we're not from "that" part of Alabama.

But I want to say that first, because what happened next wasn't really her fault.

We loaded Mikey up in a little turtle carrier and headed out to my cousin's house.

I was bawling. They had me convinced I was making a responsible and grown-up decision, though.

So we marked his shell with a little nail polish, you know in case he came back, and turned him loose in the woods behind my aunt's house.

There's a lesson in that experience. If you think it had something to do with making tough personal decisions for the betterment of others, or something like that, you're wrong.

Y'all. Mikey was a turtle that lived outside of our house. We only fed him once a week. He was self-sufficient.

It was never about giving Mikey a better place to live. It was about getting rid of that monstrous turtle-shaped sandbox.

Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson
Assistant editor

My cousin goes to get the turtle out of the carrier and he falls onto his back.

This is not a comfortable position for a turtle, and it's possible for them to break their necks trying to flip back over.

Luckily we were there to flip the little guy over before anything bad happened.

But then, in a leap of logic I still don't fully understand, that incident meant we just had to let Mikey return to the wild.

"It's the best thing for him," they said. "He'll be happier," they said.

On this date in history: May 26

In 2004: Army veteran Terry Nichols was found guilty of 161 state murder charges for helping carry out the Oklahoma City bombing.

In 1969: Apollo 10 returned to Earth after a successful eight-day test of all the components needed for the forthcoming first manned moon landing.

In 1948: Congress passed Public Law 80-557, which permanently established the Civil Air Patrol as an auxiliary of the Air Force.

In 1864: Montana was organized as a United States territory.

In 1783: A Great Jubilee Day held at North Stratford, Connecticut, celebrated the end of fighting in the American Revolution.

In 1293: An earthquake struck Kamakura, Kanagawa, Japan, killing about 23,000.

Quote of the week

“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.”

— B.B. King

Send your letters to editor

The Redstone Rocket invites your signed letters to the editor and your commentaries. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send your letters and commentaries to skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com.

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First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN

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What do you think of your job?

"I love it," Robert Etheridge, a Redstone police officer since Feb. 1, said. "I get to serve, repay what I did for them for the last 30 years. Giving back to the community. They supported me for 30 years. Now it's my turn."

Etheridge, 51, was born in Illinois and grew up in San Bernardino, California. He served in the Navy from 1988-91 and left as an airman. In 2002-04 he was deployed in the Army as a military police/corrections officer. This included one year at Fort McPherson, Georgia, and one year at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba. From 2005-20 he was at Fort Greely, Alaska, with missile defense military police. He served in the Army from 2000-20 and retired as a sergeant first class. The Huntsville resident and his wife of 21 years, Erika, have two daughters – Elizabeth, 22, and Liliana, 17. Etheridge plans to complete his bachelor's in science in leadership from Trident University in 2022. He said he enjoys spending time with the family and playing computer games. He roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Robert Etheridge

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Name: Emily Strickland

Position: Staff writer/social media for the Redstone Rocket

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I think I went through a lot of different things but writer was one of the constant things.

What do you hope to accomplish in 2021?

I want to finish my master's degree in journalism from the University of Alabama. Roll Tide.

What is the best part about your job?

I really like getting to interview all the different people from different organizations and learning what's going on at the Arsenal.

Who is your hero, and why?

I'm going to cheat and choose two: my parents (Bobby and Crystal Strickland of Florence). They never give up and they work hard to provide for me.

If you could choose to do anything



for a day, what would it be?

I would go to the beach with a good book.

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

"The best way to eat an elephant is one bite at a time." From my dad and also a college professor.

What do you like to do to pass the time?

Hang out with my husband (Carson Phillips).

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents May 9-15:

May 12: In a parking lot, a vehicle pulling into a parking space struck the front of a parked vehicle. The parked vehicle had minor damage.

May 12: A Redstone police officer stopped a vehicle on Martin Road for failing to stop at a stop sign. The National Crime Information Center revealed the driver had a warrant with the Decatur Police Department. NCIC also revealed the passenger in the vehicle had a warrant with Cullman Police Department for failure to appear. The driver was detained and subsequently remanded into the custody of a Decatur police officer. The Cullman Police Department declined extradition so the passenger was released. The vehicle was removed from by a licensed driver. Access privileges were revoked for both occupants of the vehicle.

May 13: After a Redstone police officer stopped a vehicle for speeding,

the driver disclosed there was a handgun in the center console. The weapon was retrieved and documented on Army form 4137 then placed into the police evidence locker. The driver was transported to the station for processing and he was fingerprinted, photographed and received citations for violation of security regulation (weapons) and speeding. His installation access badges were confiscated and he was escorted off the installation.

May 13: The driver of a vehicle was stopped for a seatbelt violation. The National Crime Information Center revealed the individual's license was suspended. The driver was cited for driving while suspended, seatbelt violation and released. The vehicle was removed by a licensed driver.

Citations included three for failure to merge left when emergency vehicles are present, one for possession of a firearm and dangerous weapon, one for expired driver's license, two for expired registration, one for simple assault and 22 for speeding.

Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Why you joined the Army.

"I've been in since December 2000," Capt. Dan Magar, a contracting officer with Army Contracting Command, said. "I'm from a small town in Alaska and grew up with a command sergeant major in the house. Hearing his stories, I always wanted to join. Always wanted to serve. He was a crew chief (on Cobra and Huey helicopters) for 30 years and I was an aviation officer before switching to acquisition. This is my first assignment as an acquisition officer. I was enlisted prior to becoming an aviation officer in 2010. I'm loving my time here at Redstone."

Magar, 39, from North Pole, Alaska, joined the Army right after high school. His father, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Claud Magar, a Vietnam veteran, died in 2004. The Huntsville resident has a son, Lincoln, 5. He enjoys traveling and working out. Magar, a college basketball fan, roots for his alma mater, the Gonzaga Bulldogs.



Capt. Dan Magar

Know your laws: Safety rules on the water

By AMY WASYLUKA
Huntsville attorney

As it starts to warm up, many people are hitting the water, whether that be a local pool or lake or even a trip to the beach. With beautiful weather it is understandable that people are flocking to the water to unwind. But as we celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of summer, there are some important things to keep in mind.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard 2019 boating statistics, Alabama has ranged between 66-101 boating related accidents per year, including anywhere from 14-28 deaths. Additionally, the Centers for Disease Control states that drowning is the fifth leading cause of unintentional injury or death for people of all ages, and the second leading cause of injury or death for children. That is why it is so important for those seeking to have fun on the water to do so safely.

The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency has a list of boating rules and regulations for anyone who may be operating a boat or vessel on Alabama waters. Following these rules and regulations is an important step to ensuring safety on the water. Among those rules and regulations are rules stating:

- You must be 14 years old and have a vessel license to operate a vessel or personal watercraft alone.
 - You must obey all established speed zones.
 - You cannot operate a boat or vessel while under the influence.
 - You cannot tow any people on water skis, surfboard, spinners, or similar devices unless the people being towed are wearing an appropriate Type I, II, III, or Type V Coast Guard approved flotation device.
- A full list of the ALEA Boating Rules



and regulations can be found online at: www.alea.gov/dps/marine-patrol/boating-rules-and-regulations.

Those found to violate the ALEA rules and regulations can be subject to legal consequences, including but not limited to fines and court costs depending on the severity or frequency of the offense. In addition to these rules and regulations, the CDC suggests ensuring that everyone knows the basics of swimming as well as CPR or cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Additionally, the CDC suggests making sure that all children wear appropriate flotation devices before going into water and that access to water, such as a pool or lake access, is blocked off from children when they are unable to be supervised.

Finally, the Alabama Department of Public Health has a list of online wa-

ter safety recommendations, including: enrolling children in swimming lessons by age 8; not allowing children to swim without adult supervision; and not allowing children to use toys such as noodles, inner tubes or water wings instead of life jackets. A full list of the ADPH's recommendations can be found online at: www.alabamapublichealth.gov/injuryprevention/water.html.

So remember, this summer when you are having fun on or in the water, make sure you are as safe as possible by following all rules, regulations and recommendations.

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.

Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense Department websites

Guard vaccinates 10 million people

ARLINGTON, Va. – Ten million moms, dads, grandparents, friends, co-workers and neighbors are now vaccinated, thanks to the ongoing efforts of National Guard members who are administering shots “in the communities where they live and serve.”

Those words came from Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, during a media roundtable from the Pentagon May 5.

“As I speak, more than 2,200 Guard members are giving more than 135,000 vaccines a day at 805 static and mobile sites across the country,” Hokanson said. “They are a part of the 32,000 National Guard Soldiers and airmen – more than 7% of our force – who continue to support vaccination efforts, food banks, testing and screening sites, and other COVID-related missions.”

Hokanson pointed out one of the Guard's first COVID missions involved a California Air National Guard HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter crew that delivered COVID-19 test kits to stranded passengers aboard a cruise ship in the early days of the pandemic. That crew, he added, is now serving overseas.

“Make no mistake,” Hokanson said, “the investment America has made to ensure the National Guard is ready for its combat mission is paying dividends in our homeland response.”

He added that surpassing the 10 million mark can be chalked up to keeping in

close contact with state adjutants general and senior Guard medical leaders who “really have the pulse of the community.”

“They find that balance,” Hokanson said. “We're cautious not to overtax the health care system while best utilizing medical professionals for the entire community.”

As a result, the civilian health care sector has not reported any strain involving health care personnel who are also Guard members, said Air Force Maj. Gen. Jerry Fenwick, director of the NGB's Office of the Joint Surgeon.

“We have not seen significant degradation in the civilian health care sector from our folks who are providing the vaccinations,” Fenwick said. “As we move toward decreasing some of the mission sets – particularly with vaccinations – we will be able to get these people back in the hospitals.”

Contract award announcements

BAE Systems Land & Armaments LP, Sterling Heights, Michigan, was awarded a \$15,730,000 modification to contract W56HZV-15-C-A001 for spare parts necessary for initial training and fielding for Armored Multi-Purpose Vehicles. Work will be performed in York, Pennsylvania, with an estimated completion date of Jan. 1, 2023. Fiscal 2019 and 2020 weapons and tracked combat vehicle procurement, Army funds; and European Deterrence Initiative, Defense funds in the amount of \$15,730,000 were obligated at the time of the award. Army Contracting Command, Detroit Arsenal, Michigan, is the contracting activity.

Military

Organic Industrial Base Summit focuses on modernization

By KYLER DAVIS

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

The Army's Organic Industrial Base stands prepared to adapt to unforeseen challenges to protect its workforce and is on track to achieve modernization goals to ensure readiness for the future force. This was the message Army Materiel Command senior leaders shared during the 2021 OIB Commander's Summit held virtually May 18-19.

The OIB consists of 26 depots, arsenals and ammunition plants, which manufactures and resets Army equipment, generating readiness and operational capability throughout Army formations. The summit offered an opportunity for commanders across the OIB to share information and collaborate with AMC leaders about current modernization efforts, including infrastructure and facility investments, data visualization systems and tools, environmental considerations and OIB metrics.

The main objective and largest portion of the summit was to allow each OIB commander to brief AMC senior leaders on progress being made in their individual modernization strategies at their installations. These strategies are in support of AMC's overarching OIB Modernization Strategy – a 15-year plan to incorporate emerging technologies into the OIB.

"To be relevant for the Army of 2035 and beyond the OIB must modernize now," AMC Commander Gen. Ed Daly said. "So much of our facilities were built for World War II, when you walk through them you are seeing history. We can't fix everything overnight, that's why we've developed a 15-year modernization plan and we need you to help us understand what is most critical. Think about what are your requirements to surge and what are your core competencies."

OIB commanders laid out how their installations will allocate funding to improve different aspects of their facilities and production lines. This involves identifying, evaluating, implementing, and analyzing modernization tactics and technologies in order to create a plan that optimizes efficiency for the future.

As part of an example on identifying and implementing new technology, digital twin technologies used for recent naval shipyard optimization were highlighted. These digital twin systems offer ways to increase production capacity and



Photo by Carla Green

Army Materiel Command's Commander Gen. Ed Daly visits operations at Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas.

efficiency by creating digital twin virtual simulation at every stage of development across the life cycle of an asset or system. The digital thread offers the capability to visualize data and metrics from manufacturing to production and floor plan management.

"Forums like this are so important because it is this action and planning that gets at progress," Daly said.

The summit was chaired by AMC's Executive Deputy to the Commanding General, Lisha Adams, who noted the importance for commanders to network and share their experiences with one another.

"The reason we do these summits is to allow training support to you all," Adams said. "Coming in as a commander to an OIB site is different than anything

you've ever done in your career. You don't really understand until you're there on the ground doing it."

Adams shared advice on how commanders can be successful in the unique mission of leading an OIB. She emphasized the importance of the workforce, and made sure commander's understood how crucial the people are to the mission.

"Our workforce is where the rubber meets the road," Adams said. "You have to be able to challenge the status quo, and lead in the right direction to be viable and support Army readiness. Keep clear and consistent communication with your workforce, because they keep us going where we need to go."

The importance of the workforce was never more pertinent than this past year,

as OIB responded to COVID 19, Adams said.

"All of our efforts at this summit are to help us understand how we can see ourselves, and be proactive instead of reactive," she said. "So when things like COVID-19 cause havoc, we can have the right practices and protocols to respond appropriately. During COVID we did not stop – we remained open and we protected our workforce."

Daly echoed the same sentiment, including the importance of hiring a skilled and talented workforce throughout the OIB.

"People are our foundation," he said. "They are our core expertise and we have to fight for talent to make sure we are hiring, developing training and retaining that talent."

Cox takes reins of aviation product office

By Program Executive Office for Aviation

Gerry Cox has succeeded Lt. Col. Ty LaStrapes as product manager for Aerial Communications and Mission Command product office.

Cox assumed responsibility during a change of charter ceremony May 14.

LaStrapes, the product officer since 2018, accepted his certificate of retirement from Brig. Gen. Rob Barrie, program executive officer for aviation. He enlisted in the Army in 1995 and was commissioned in the Signal Corps in 1998. LaStrapes retires with more than 26 years of service.

Barrie awarded LaStrapes with the Legion of Merit medal. LaStrapes' wife, Yuliya, presented him with the Army Aviation Association of America's Knight of the Order of St. Michael medal for his significant contributions to Army aviation.

Photo by Carynn Ireland, PEO Aviation

Gerry Cox accepts the charter as the new product manager for Aerial Communications and Mission Command product office from Col. Johnathan Frasier, project manager of the Aviation Mission Systems and Architecture project office, during a change of charter ceremony May 14.



Civilian fellowship graduates advance to senior leadership

By **MIKE CHANDLER**

*Huntsville Seminar director,
Senior Service College Fellowship*

After 10 months of training, eight Redstone civilians are ready for their new roles as senior leaders.

They graduated May 18 from the Defense Acquisition University's Senior Service College Fellowship program in a virtual ceremony.

The eight graduates from the Class of 2021 include Jay Edmonds, Ron Holliday, Pat Miller and Steve Roberts of Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space; Scott Handlon of Program Executive Office for Aviation; Mike McGarvey of the MDA Terminal High Altitude Area Defense; Elvia Mercado of Defense Contract Management Agency; and Monica Williams of the Army Contracting Command.

As part of the fellowship program, Elvia Mercado took additional classes to earn a master's in management and leadership from Webster University, which she received during the ceremony.

Michael Cadieux, director for the Combat Capabilities Development Command's Ground Vehicle Systems Center,

was the guest speaker.

The Senior Service College annual fellowship is open to GS-14/15 government civilians or nonfederal senior civilian acquisition professionals. The Army Acquisition Support Command sponsors the program, and the fellows are selected through a centralized board selection process.

Defense Acquisition University hosted the Senior Service College Fellowship program at four regional locations supporting Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; Detroit Arsenal, Michigan; Redstone Arsenal; and Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey. In 15 years of the fellowship, the Huntsville SSCF Seminar has produced 138 graduates.



Aviation enterprise Soldiers compete for Best Warrior title



Photo by Katherine Belcher |

Spc. Jaycob Vellon-Colon from Letterkenny Army Depot, left, and Staff Sgt. Daron Ashcraft from the Aviation and Missile Command Aviation Center Logistics Command finish the land navigation strong May 11. The Soldiers took part in the 2021 Aviation Center of Excellence Best Warrior Competition at Fort Rucker, May 10-14. Ashcraft earned the title of AMCOM Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

By **KERENSA CRUM**

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

After a hiatus in 2020 due to the pandemic, Aviation and Missile Command Soldiers vied for top spots in the Aviation Center of Excellence Best Warrior Competition at Fort Rucker, May 10-14.

Two specialists and a staff sergeant were among the 11 competitors in the typically annual event: Staff Sgt. Daron Ashcraft from AMCOM's Aviation Center Logistics Command at Fort Rucker, Spc. Christian Kerkado-Colon from Corpus Christi Army Depot and Spc. Jaycob Vellon-Colon from Letterkenny Army Depot.

There were also two noncommissioned officers competing for the 2021 Drill Sergeant of the Year Competition, for a total of 13 Soldiers going through rigorous paces.

Ashcraft was dubbed the AMCOM NCO of the Year and Kerkado bested Vellon to earn the AMCOM Soldier of the Year title. Both will represent AMCOM at the Army Materiel Command level later this year.

"This is my favorite event of the year because I get to see and interact with Soldiers as they compete at the highest levels," AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Dove. He said he was really proud of the heart, intestinal fortitude and grit all the Soldiers showed.

Though the three AMCOM Soldiers are all putting their best boots forward with the goal of getting top honors, they are all representing the same headquarters. In the May 11 land navigation event, the trio finished in second, third and fourth place.

Ashcraft is a UH-60 helicopter repairer who is originally from Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

ACLIC Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Burney said this particular NCO was selected based on his attitude, willingness to better himself and his ability to transition from his maintenance background and adapt to the mission of ACLIC.

"This command is unique in that we don't actually turn wrenches but we oversee a contract," Burney said. "He has adapted to the new position and continues to get better."

"It's actually good to be able to get outside of work and actually come out and compete against other Soldiers," Ashcraft, who's been in the Army for 11 years, said. "It's been rough in that this isn't something Soldiers typically do – in a competitive environment every day, 3 o'clock (a.m.) show, MREs, hitting it hard, doing night land nav, day land nav, rigor events and ranges all in one day – that's not something most people do. So being able to go out here and do it, it's pretty fun – it's exciting."

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Title

Continued from page 9

Ashcraft said it was great to know his sergeant major had the trust and confidence to select him to represent ACLC and AMCOM.

Kerkado is a military policeman from Puerto Rico who's been in the Army for four years. He joined the Army for "a greater calling" and to follow in his father's footsteps.

"It's challenging," he said. "(This is) not something we get to do every day. So, while we get to do it, we try to practice our skills and apply them in the field."

"Good mentorship is something you definitely need for this competition," Kerkado said, adding that his mentor, Sgt. 1st Class Joshua McKee, was great at filling that role.

McKee, Corpus Christi Security Division MP NCO in charge, described Kerkado as a very positive and motivated Soldier and personable individual who volunteered for this challenge. "Now, keep in mind, he's also going through Auxiliary (Security) Force training at the same time with the Navy," McKee said.

ASF personnel provide augmentation

to base security during contingencies, terrorist attacks, natural disasters, civil disturbances, exercises and special events that require heightened levels of security.

Despite the busy schedule and physical demands begin placed on him by the competition and ASF prep, Kerkado said he's honored to have been selected. "As an MP, we don't really get to participate in this type of environment – we usually just do law enforcement."

Kerkado called it an honor to represent Corpus Christi at the five-day event; that he is now AMCOM's top Soldier is just icing on the proverbial cake.

"I'm so proud of that kid," McKee said with a toothy grin.

Vellon is an MP with the Puerto Rico Army National Guard who came to Letterkenny as part of the Personnel Force Innovation program. PFI is an initiative by the undersecretary of defense (comptroller) that places National Guard and Reserve service members on one- to three-year tours with active-duty units.

"Spc. Vellon came to LEAD as an MP and he volunteered to do this," said Letterkenny Sgt. Maj. Ekondua Amoke, who sponsored Vellon and called him a great Soldier.

"For me, it's been challenging because it takes you out of your comfort zone,"

Vellon said. "I've done better than I thought I would do; I'm overachieving what I thought I was going to conquer."

Vellon said he is proud to be the face of Letterkenny, to serve as its representative for that depot and has met his goal to be a high achiever for the depot and for himself.

"This is an opportunity for him to have fun while learning and getting experience," Amoke said. "Win or lose, he is the winner for LEAD. He is a hard worker who never gives up. I'm proud of him."

"Two years ago when we (held the competition), it was just AMCOM – it was just an AMCOM competition," Dove said. "We used almost every NCO that we had at ACLC to make it happen, which took away from the ACLC daily mission."

This time, AMCOM partnered with Fort Rucker and USAACE and, while some NCOs were still pulled from ACLC, it's not nearly as many.

"I was doing some basic math and I think it's probably close to 20 Soldiers supporting each (competing) Soldier when you look at the grand scheme of things," Dove said. "How many people did it take from the NCO Academy to run the ACFT? How many people does

it take to run the [Engagement Skills Trainer]?"

And so on – from transporting the Soldiers to each location, ranges and all the events included in the five-day effort, it was a team effort.

The AMCOM senior enlisted leader reiterated that the figure is just his rough estimate – it's not an accurate number. "The point is, to make this thing happen, it takes a lot of effort," Dove said. "And the ability for us to consolidate those resources makes it a lot better."

Dove expressed his gratitude to Command Sgt. Maj. James Wilson, USAACE Aviation Branch, and Fort Rucker for adjusting their schedules and accommodating AMCOM, resulting in a better competition.

"It's been a challenging feat for the Soldiers and the NCOs," Sgt. Maj. Morgan Evans, USAACE G-3 sergeant major, said. "We've seen them build confidence and push themselves harder than what we thought they were going to be able to do, but it's also been a team-building effort for them."

This was Evans' first year being part of the competitions but he said he is looking forward to doing it again next year.

Engler, Hanson recognized by security enterprise

By **TERRI STOVER**

Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

People are the Army's number one priority, according to the Army Posture Statement for 2021. As such, the Army Security Assistance Command strives to celebrate employees who exemplify Army values and outstanding work.

The 2020 Supervisor and Employee of the Year have been announced at USA-SAC. The recipients are Tracy Engler as the Supervisor of the Year, and Tim Hanson, Employee of the Year.

Engler, division chief of the IN-DOPACOM Regional Operations, is responsible for the direction, coordination and integration of the Army's efforts to develop and execute the mission to provide materiel, services and training support to the countries in Southeast Asia. This mission helps to further the United States' national strategic interests.

She manages 12 people in support of the foreign military sales programs, who oversee 425 active cases, and a total country program of approximately \$16.7 billion.

Some of Engler's dedicated work has had visibility at the chief of staff Army level, and entailed numerous briefings, updates, and requests for information from Army Materiel Commander Gen. Ed Daly.

"Ms. Engler is truly a team player and leader, during this time of COVID, her division has surpassed all metrics for case development, but most importantly she kept the health and welfare of people at the forefront through an intensive contact and follow up system," Antoine Cheatham, deputy director of INDOPACOM/SOUTHCOM/NORTHCOM Regional Operations directorate at USA-SAC, said.

Engler has led efforts to realign employees to help position them for career development while successfully meeting dynamic mission requirement. She has worked with other chiefs in the directorate to align employees' duties with their performance standards. She is truly putting people first.

USASAC's Employee of the Year for 2020 is Hanson, a public affairs specialist.

His exceptional performance during the pandemic proves how important public affairs and communication are to the Army workforce and beyond, by developing videos, multimedia products and news articles to keep the stakeholders informed.

Hanson was recently awarded the Ar-



Tracy Engler



Tim Hanson

my's Clark Taylor Civilian Videographer of the Year, after receiving AMC's first place award in this category in March 2021.

"Mr. Hanson developed products that supported Army priorities and COVID-19 information during 2020, when both Project Inclusion and communicating with a workforce under maximum telework became the rule rather than the exception," Kim Capehart, USASAC public affairs officer, said. "(His) efforts were truly a lifeline to teleworkers."

Hanson is an Army veteran who gained his broadcast training in the Army, and the Army continues to reap the benefits of his dedication and expertise.

Other outstanding nominees for Supervisor and Employee of the Year were Supervisor of the Year Joel Milbern, and Employee of the Year Johann Davisson, Vanessa Lugo and Jeffery Moran.

Army security enterprise welcomes new commander

By Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

The Security Assistance Command has a new commander. Brig. Gen. Garrick Harmon assumed command of USASAC during a ceremony May 17 on the parade field outside USASAC headquarters.

Gen. Ed Daly, commander of Army Materiel Command, presided over the ceremony, which signaled the departure of outgoing commander, Brig. Gen. Doug Lowrey.

Harmon, who most recently served at the Senior Office and Defense Attache at the U.S. Embassy in Russia, expressed excitement at being at Redstone Arsenal after assignments that have seen him and his family living outside the United States for more than 10 years. He also noted he was familiar with USASAC's work.

"As the SDO/DATT (senior defense official/defense attache) in Georgia, on the front lines of competition and deterrence, I saw firsthand the importance of your work, and witnessed the tremendous impact that our cooperative efforts had on a key partner," Harmon said.

Daly, in his remarks at the event, said, "This organization has helped our allies and partners strengthen their defensive capabilities, deter aggression, achieve regional stability, and promote democratic values around the world." He also noted that Harmon was the right leader, at the right time for USASAC based on his experience. "He has spent the last 22 years studying foreign nations and languages, and serving in international posts from Germany to Spain, to Georgia to Afghanistan, along with several Pentagon assignments," Daly said.

Daly also lauded Lowrey for his leadership at USASAC during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Doug and his team have managed foreign military sales during an extremely challenging time for something that depends on face-to-face meetings with international allies and partners. But the global pandemic did not deter them from the mission," he said. "They overcame these obstacles and, during this command tenure alone, managed 2,793 new FMS cases with \$13 billion in additional revenue. In total, 14 countries received critical materiel despite COVID-19 limitations, and 44 Security Assistance Training Teams were safely deployed to 26 countries ... executing cases with values exceeding \$730 million."

Lowrey will take command of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command located at Joint-Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, later this month.

Lowrey began by thanking Daly, "for the opportunity to command and your trust



Photo by Kim Capehart

Army Materiel Command's Commander Gen. Ed Daly passes the Security Assistance Command flag to Brig. Gen. Garrick Harmon, officially transferring command of USASAC to Harmon from Brig. Gen. Doug Lowrey, far right. USASAC Command Sgt. Major Sean Rice also participated in the May 17 ceremony held at the Army Materiel Command parade field.

and confidence to lead such an amazing organization." He also emphasized the success of USASAC in executing its security assistance programs. "I told an ally general officer when you buy our equipment you're not just buying the system you are buying the commitment of the people that service it as well," Lowrey said.

Lowrey then praised the entire AMC security assistance enterprise for its commitment to the mission. "From the contracting officer to the engineer to the welder to the mechanic to the infantry colonel, the aviation chief warrant officer 4 or the air defense sergeant first class on the ground training the partner nation how to operate and employ the system. This is a long-term relationship with our partners and allies and that's what it is really all about," Lowrey said.

USASAC's new commander's closing statement emphasized his optimism about the future of USASAC. "At a time of increasing levels of military competition around the globe, and as we seek to expand the global land power network as part of our approach to a multi-domain Army in competition, the important role of security assistance through foreign military sales will continue to grow," Harmon said.

Materiel enterprise recognizes 'best of best' workers

By KARI HAWKINS

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

Twenty-two employees across the Army Materiel Command enterprise are receiving recognition for missions they accomplished in the fourth quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021.

The employees, including logistics management specialists, contracting officers and program analysts, received AMC's Employee of the Quarter honors for their work going above and beyond to meet deadlines and exceed expectations. They represent AMC's "best of the best" employees across the world.

"Our workforce is the foundation of all we do at Army Materiel Command," Maj. Gen. Bob Harter, AMC's chief of staff, said. "The Employee of the Quarter awards allow us to recognize the outstanding contributions and impactful performance of those who have gone above and beyond. These great leaders set the example for others to follow."

While most of the employees were recognized for accomplishments related to providing solutions, increasing efficiencies and inducing money-saving initiatives, two awardees worked outside their normal sphere of responsibility in support of an expanding AMC mission to support the Army's lifesaving role.

Trisha Fitton, an Army Contracting Command employee who typically provides contracting support at Picatinny Arsenal, was recognized for her work to ensure the success of the nation's Operation Warp Speed in providing millions of vaccinations throughout the nation. She is described by her supervisors as a model employee who is committed to employee growth and development for both herself and the employees she supervises, and routinely volunteers for additional assignments.

"I believe recognizing employees in this way promotes overall employee morale, and validates that hard work and dedication of the employee to the mission," Fitton said. "Employees who receive this kind of recognition are hardworking, passionate and dedicated to the mission."

Nondice Thurman, who manages social media at the Installation Management Command's Fort Campbell, Kentucky, was recognized for emergency lifesaving social media efforts that reduced confusion and eased public anxiety following the Christmas Day 2020 bombing in Nashville. Due to the explosion, all telephone lines and 911 communications at Fort Campbell were disabled and remained disabled for several days. Not able to get in touch with her supervisors, Thurman reported to Fort Campbell's Emergency Operations Center on Christmas Day and used the Digital Garrison app as well as the installation's Facebook page, website and other social media channels to get immediate messages to the workforce.

"Getting recognized for this is kind of overwhelming," she said. "I know this sounds cliché, but I felt like I was doing the right thing, I was doing my job. Nobody directed my work.

I did what felt right to me as a former Army Reserve broadcaster and now as a civilian public affairs specialist. I didn't realize the impact of what I had done until I received the thanks from our Directorate of Emergency Services. What we do can have a huge impact."

The following employees are recognized as recipients of the Fourth Quarter, fiscal year 2020 AMC Top Employee of the Quarter award:

Minnette Ligon, information technology specialist, Army Materiel Command headquarters, developed within seven days a process to complete security plan reviews and risk assessments of Federal Information Systems Modernization Act packets.

Daniel Steinhauer, contract specialist, Army Contracting Command, contributed in support of a strategic contracting priority, the U.S. Army Central Command Training Support Services source selection.

Daniel Kuykendall, logistics management specialist, Aviation and Missile Command, led his team in completing continental United States and six outside of the continental United States materiel fieldings.

Chasisty Roberson, logistics management specialist, Army Sustainment Command, coordinated with officials to secure facilities, furniture, communications, water and power needed to establish and open the sites in support of COVID-19 clinical trials.

Steven Suit, computer scientist, Communications-Electronics Command, developed a methodology to track the myriad of systems for Installation Management Command and the required activities for cybersecurity assessments to obtain an authority to operate on 59 first responder systems.

Sgt. 1st Class Rebecca Wood, public affairs specialist, Joint Munitions Command, developed electronic campaigns resulting in a 9%



Eduardo Francis



Vanessa Lugo



Daniel Kuykendall



Jeffery Moran



Minnette Ligon

increase in Facebook followers; created a bi-weekly newscast and organized the Kentucky Army National Guard's first ever, virtual Army Ten-Miler.

Jeffery Moran, country program manager, Security Assistance Command, managed four country programs valued at over \$2.4 billion, setting the standard for letter of offer and acceptance development and consistently exceeding the 85% LOA timeliness metric.

Andre Cameron, Greece Detachment director, Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, improved tactical effectiveness of seaport operations, expanded the competitive space of Europe Command/Africa Command, and enhanced diplomatic and host nation

partnerships in Greece, all during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Paul Weber, program analyst, Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, managed \$22.6 million of special congressional supplemental funding in support of COVID relief through the CARES Act.

Randolph Mulder, Business Recreation Division chief, Installation Management Command, developed COVID-19 safe morale boosting virtual programming, which had a positive impact on the service members and their families.

The following employees are recognized as recipients of the First Quarter, fiscal year 2021 AMC Top Employee of the Quarter award:

Eduardo Francis, program management analyst, Army Materiel Command headquarters, assumed the lead in a newly formed branch, in the absence of the division chief, and managing several key briefings and three key quality of life program updates, which resulted in his team gaining a reputation for accuracy and timeliness.

Trisha Fitton, contracting officer, Army Contracting Command (Picatinny Arsenal), lead extensive efforts in support of the contract award supporting Operation Warp Speed, with direct involvement in the award of a follow-on contract with Pfizer Inc. to secure 110 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine with options for up to 400 million doses, with a value in excess of \$10 billion.

David Coffey, quality assurance specialist, Aviation and Missile Command, served as the

key employee in the contract overseas team that completed over 75 major Army aircraft maintenance events, over 18,000 specific maintenance tasks and almost 3,500 government quality assurance acceptance inspections, accomplishing these goals at 10 different expeditionary locations spread throughout Southwest Asia.

Tiffany Latimer-Folmar, transportation assistant, Army Sustainment Command, coordinated 56 unit movements during the past quarter, while the transportation section was operating at 38% strength.

Herbert Cottrell Jr., logistics management specialist, Communications-Electronic Command, developed solutions to improve transition to sustainment, depot program implementation and acquisition requirements package contract development processes.

Florentino Vasquez, supervisory security guard, Chemical Materials Activity, maintained mission readiness while supervising a staff of 129 security guards and police employees, under restricted implementations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nondice Thurman, public affairs specialist, Installation Management Command (Fort Campbell), performed immediate lifesaving actions through social media to reduce confusion and ease public anxiety and fears following the Christmas Day bombing in Nashville, initiating crisis communication procedures that kept command leadership and social media followers informed with timely status reports.

Jessica Kirkendall, storage specialist, Joint Munitions Command, led the Acquisition Demonstration Initial Planning Team and keeping the team on track to meet all requirements.

Capt. William Gaddy, 598th Transportation Brigade Future operations officer, Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, managed the battalion's contract portfolio valued at over \$150 million.

Brendan Kallenbach, logistics management specialist, Tank-automotive and Armaments Command, contributed to an increase in the Stryker Operational Readiness Rate by 10%, creating a cost savings of \$1.6 million annually by implementing the Stryker Welding Project, and expediting mortar tube deliveries by 30 days to fill dozens of non-mission capable requisitions.

Charles Lopez III, division chief, Financial Management Command, led his team in creating a 2-day Virtual Trading Partner Summit, bringing together 250 individuals from more than 40 organizations to improve accuracy on financial statements and achieve a clean audit option, resulting in his recognition by the Office of the Secretary of Defense Assistant Deputy Chief Financial Officer.

Vanessa Lugo, country program manager, Security Assistance Command, managed 16 country programs comprised of 124 active cases valued at \$227 million, setting the standard for letters of offers and acceptance development and consistently exceeding the 85% timeliness metric.

COVID-19 and materiel enterprise: Where we are today

By CHRISTINE MITCHELL

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

The COVID-19 pandemic has been at the forefront of employees' personal and professional lives since March 2020, and many have begun to take advantage of communities safely opening back up.

Army Materiel Command's Command Surgeon Col. Matt Hoefer hosted a COVID-19 update May 11 to address the workforce's questions and provide an update on COVID-19 topics including vaccination, protection, and where the Army and AMC stand now in its approach to mitigating the virus.

As of May 1, vaccines are available to all adults and children over the age of 12. Right now, about 125 million Americans, or 38% of the population, are fully vaccinated. Hoefer said because of that, there's been a decrease in velocity to the vaccine program and many distributors have extra vaccines to distribute.

Vaccination is still voluntary and will be for the foreseeable future. Hoefer said that decision point would only change if one of the vaccines was fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and then the Department of Defense would have the option to consider mandatory vaccination. Full approval likely depends on the Phase 4 research that's currently being conducted regarding how cyclical the vaccine's effectiveness is. This research is expected to be released around late summer or early fall.

The CDC is on a plan to open up and allow more safe movement in the United States, and the Army is following their guidance and is changing its COVID-19 operations day-by-day.

"The Army typically lags behind the CDC by 2 to 4 weeks," Hoefer explained. "Part of that is just how we operate; we make sure we put all our new rules and policies through the orders process and they have to trickle down from the Department of Defense to you as an employee."

At AMC, employees can continue maximum telework, at least through the end of May. For those that do come to work, fully vaccinated personnel are no longer required to wear a mask indoors. Wearing masks is still required for unvaccinated personnel.

Hoefer closed his update session by saying as we develop immunity, we can expect a gradual reduction to restriction of movement and travel requirements. Protective measures will remain in place as socialization increases, and restrictions are expected



File photo by Jonathan Stinson

Maj. Elizabeth Patricola, from Fox Army Health Center, receives her first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine administered by Tamiris Centeno, a public health nurse at Fox.

to loosen more over the summer months.

Moving forward, Hoefer said AMC will do update sessions regarding policy changes and will address questions from previous sessions.

To follow current COVID case and vaccination data and trends, visit the Centers for Disease Control website at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

Pandemic timeline since the beginning

March 1, 2020: COVID-19 outbreak is declared a national emergency

March 19, 2020: AMC headquarters and MSCs directs maximum telework status

March 24, 2020: Medical Treatment Facilities postpone all elective surgeries, invasive procedures, and dental procedures for beneficiaries

March 24, 2020: DOD stops international travel movement to prevent COVID-19 spread (including PCS, TDY, government-funded leave)

March 25, 2020: DOD categorizes all commissaries and Op Support Facilities and their employees as mission critical; commissary managers make local decisions on limiting purchases to ensure sufficient stock levels

March 26, 2020: Army assumes HPCON C across all installations; installations limit all access to essential personnel only and limit the numbers of access points

April 2, 2020: The Army and AMC implements DOD guidance on the use of cloth face coverings on military installations and DOD facilities

May 28, 2020: AMC assigned as responsible party for establishing/maintaining adequate warfighting PPE stocks

March 4, 2021: Redstone Arsenal assumes HPCON B; installation allows larger percentage of the workforce processing through the gates as tenant commanders determine each organization's workforce requirements


May 13, 2021: CDC updates guidance on mask wear for fully vaccinated individuals

May 17, 2021: In support of updated CDC guidelines, DOD lifts mask-wear requirements on installations and in DOD facilities for fully vaccinated personnel who are at least two weeks beyond their final dose

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PS Magazine stays relevant at age 70

By **EMILY STRICKLAND**

Staff writer

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For 70 years now, Master Sgt. Half-Mast McCanick and a rotating cast of characters have been helping Soldiers maintain and repair their equipment at PS Magazine.

PS, also known as PS: The Preventive Maintenance Monthly, was first published in 1951 as tensions leading up to the Korean War boiled over. Illustrated by prolific comic strip artist Will Eisner, the magazine was revolutionary in its formatting, as Eisner decided to present all of the information in comic strips.

A host of characters, including Half-Mast, Connie Rodd, Bonnie, Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin “Rotor” Blade, Cloe, and half a dozen “retired” others, have helped civilian employees communicate with Soldiers about maintaining their equipment. The magazine, which was initially headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, relocated to Raritan Arsenal, New Jersey, Fort Knox, Kentucky, and Lexington-Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, before moving to Redstone Arsenal in 1993.

The last decade, however, has brought many changes to the magazine. June 2017 saw the last printed edition of the magazine before shifting to a completely digital format. The magazine was realigned to Army Sustainment Command, a major subordinate command to AMC, when AMC implemented its “Shape the Fight” initiative in the late-2010s, and the longstanding cartoon contract largely ended (though the characters still appear on the magazine’s website from time to time).

Robert Hill, PS supervisory editor, has been with the magazine for three years and said that these changes have helped the magazine remain relevant in an increasingly digital world. While there are occasional issues with accessing the site, like in instances where Soldiers do not have reliable Internet service, the ease of using a searchable digital format outweighs the challenges.

“It’s on-demand,” Hill said. “As soon as an article is written and verified, then we can publish it on the web.” This is a major change from the magazine’s previous monthly format, which required long lead times for art

“What we as a staff take pride and joy in is the fact that we’re responsible for information that can really make a difference in Soldiers’ daily lives and that can help them keep their equipment combat-ready, keep them safer, keep them more resilient.”

Robert Hill,

PS Magazine supervisory editor



Photo by Eric Schultz

Steve Reeves, Carol Jones, and Beau Williams, all writer/editors for PS Magazine, stand around copies of the magazine in their office.

to be created, articles to be written and the magazine to be printed and distributed. In the past, if a Soldier encountered an issue with equipment, it might take four to five months for that issue to be addressed in the print magazine; now, that process has been shortened to mere days.

Despite the major changes that the physical magazine has gone through, Hill said the mission of the magazine is still the same as it was 70 years ago. Soldiers are still invited to write letters to Half-Mast when they have issues with equipment or ideas regarding how to make things better.

“If you’re trying to fix a piece of equipment and you’re banging your head against the wall because you just can’t figure something out, or parts are not coming to you that you need, or if you have an idea about to do things better, please write us, and we’ll research the answer and get back to you,” Hill said.

Contracts change, leadership shifts, and technology progresses, but the mission of PS has remained the same: making sure Soldiers are prepared when it matters most.

“What we as a staff take pride and joy in is the fact that we’re responsible for information that can really make a difference in Soldiers’ daily lives and that can help them keep their equipment combat-ready, keep them safer, keep them more resilient,” Hill said.

“They know that if they read us on a continual basis, they’ll hopefully have a leg up, because they’re able to order the parts that they need without any problems or they’ll get a tip for how to take care of something. ... So that’s what we take pride in, collectively, is the fact that we impact Soldiers’ lives on a daily basis.”



Photo by Eric Schultz

The office keeps a copy of the first edition of PS Magazine.

International partners engage in missile defense exercise

By Joint Functional Component Command
for Integrated Missile Defense

SUFFOLK, Va. – Representatives from 20 partner nations and three international organizations across four continents collaborated April 18 on Nimble Titan 20, an integrated air and missile defense campaign of experimentation.

More than 160 participants contributed in-person, from Suffolk, Virginia, and virtually from locations all across the globe, reducing COVID-19 risk while succeeding across all the event's objectives.

The event culminated three years of planning and consultation on policy issues and challenges faced by nations from potential threats posed by adversary missiles on both regional and global scales. This includes the full range of diplomatic, informational, military and economic actions from pre-crisis to conflict.

Hosted by the U.S. Strategic Command and executed by the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, USSTRATCOM's missile defense arm, organizers and participants utilized virtual desktops to interact via voice, video, chat and file sharing in order to adjust for impacts of the pandemic.

"I'm impressed with the resilience and ingenuity on display from both JFCC IIMD who organizes and executes this campaign and our valued allies and partners. In spite of travel restrictions, you haven't let COVID stop your efforts to continue the important work of Nimble Titan," keynote speaker Adm. Charles Richard, USSTRATCOM commander, said via a pre-recorded speech.

As the person responsible for leading and advocating for U.S. strategic capabilities in order to deter strategic attacks, Richard went on to describe the value he places on missile defense.

"Missile defense plays an important role in a comprehensive strategic deterrence framework," he said. "The relationship between U.S. missile defense and the U.S. nuclear arsenal is symbiotic and mutually supportive. To establish and maintain strategic deterrence, we drive to deny any adversary their aim, or impose a cost greater than what they seek, such that the benefit of restraint outweighs the perceived benefit of their possible action."

The Nimble Titan series of events utilizes a globally-integrated scenario, set in a notional timeframe 10-years in the future, which allows members to experiment in an unclassified and non-attributable environment. As potential adversaries field more complex air and missile defense systems and more nations field defensive systems in response, the importance of integrating allied and partner capabilities becomes ever-more relevant for the future. At Nimble Titan, allies and partners have the opportunity to explore the policy frameworks and cooperation that build and strengthen relationships, as well as inform senior-leader military decisions that support deter-



Courtesy photo

In-person participants of Nimble Titan 20 gather in Suffolk, Va., April 18. The integrated air and missile defense campaign of experimentation was hosted by the U.S. Strategic Command and executed by the Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense.

rence and response options.

"The scale and overall complexity of the strategic environment is changing, which require us to evolve our overall approach. Integration is one of the primary means to meet the challenges of this multi-domain operational environment," Richard said.

The Suffolk-based event focused on cooperative missile defense processes before and during a conflict. Participants faced a dynamic, continuous scenario set in the Asian-Pacific, European, Middle Eastern and North American regions involving multiple simulated adversary threats in the 2030 timeframe. Two seminars were conducted during the event to focus on legal issues of employing counter unmanned aircraft systems, and international policy concerns created by interceptors engaging intended targets, referred to as "Consequence of Engagement."

The Nimble Titan 20 campaign began in November 2018 with a Campaign Design Conference, where member countries and organizations collaborated on group objectives to explore throughout the remainder of the campaign. Nimble Titan wraps up in November with a Senior Leader Event designed to highlight or revisit specific findings from the campaign and allow for an exchange of views on how to best address regional, cross-regional and global missile threats to the international community, as well as enabling senior leaders to make recommendations for the next campaign. While there are national differences across the span of actions and operations involving missile defense, a critical takeaway from Nimble Titan is a shared understanding of the global military and political environments in order to create conditions for unified action.

Community

Gas prices pumped up nationally by pipeline shutdown

By JONATHAN STINSON

Assistant editor

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The recent strain on the gas supply left many on Redstone with one question.

No, it wasn't what caused the shortage: a Darkside ransomware attack on the Colonial Pipeline, which supplies a large percentage of fuel to the East Coast. It wasn't can you put fuel in plastic bags, which, of course, you can't.

The question on everyone's lips who works on the Arsenal was who can buy gas on post?

When asked, Sheila Enderle, general manager of Redstone Arsenal and Columbus Exchange, quoted the Army regulation regarding Exchange privileges.

"The guidelines, as prescribed by Army Regulation 60-20 and Air Force Joint Instruction 34-210, require proper identification of authorized customers, including uniformed personnel and members of the Reserve Components and family members, Department of Defense civilians, exchange associates and retirees who possess a basic exchange purchase privilege authorization card," she said.

The Army regulation covers just about everyone on post except contractors.



Photo by Eric Schultz

There have been questions as to who is eligible to purchase gas from Exchange-operated gas stations on post.

The effects of the ransomware attack were short-lived on the Arsenal. By Monday, May 17, operations at all of the Exchange-operated gas stations were back to normal, according to Enderle.

But, nationally, it was a different story.

The national gas price rose to above \$3 a gallon before the colonial pipeline shutdown, thanks to increased demand fueled by the nation's recovery from CO-

VID-19, and it was up to \$3.03 after the shutdown, according to gasbuddy.com, a site that tracks data concerning fuel.

The site said the most common gas prices encountered by motorists were \$2.89 per gallon, up 20 cents from the week before, which would have been May 10-14, at press time.

Looking ahead, Gasbuddy is predicting the most expensive summer gas since

2014 and added that higher gas prices had been exacerbated by the pipeline shutdown. Still, the leading cause is expected to be more Americans traveling this summer. The site said the average price of gasoline is likely to land at \$2.98 per gallon on Memorial Day, and Americans' travel plans would push that average even higher as the summer continued.

Children's boot camp previews kindergarten life

By JONATHAN STINSON

Assistant editor

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Future kindergarten students in the Strong Beginnings class at the Mills Road Child Development Center got a preview of what their first year of school will be like last week during Kindergarten Boot Camp.

"Going from pre-K, in Strong Beginnings, to kindergarten is a big transition for kids," Erica Lewis, the Garrison's school liaison officer, said. "So we want to do everything that we can to prepare them and ease any hesitancy they may have about going to 'big school' and starting at a new place."

The Strong Beginnings class consists of rising 5-year-olds, and about 20 students participated in the boot camp.

During the boot camp, the children got to experience activities like going to

the gym, loading and unloading on the school bus and navigating a lunch line.

They also were welcomed by Sherita Joiner-Pryor, principal of Williams Elementary School, who gave the children some insights on what kindergarten would be like and what would be expected of them.

"They loved the gym and doing the obstacle course," Lewis said. "They liked going through the lunch line and getting their little snack and punching in their little lunch number."

These activities were new experiences for the children, and each requires a certain amount of independence and confidence to achieve.

The annual boot camp lasts a couple of hours but leaves a longer-lasting impact on the children.

"We want them to feel as comfortable as possible as they make that transition to kindergarten," Lewis said.



Courtesy photo

Children in the Strong Beginnings class at the Mills Road Child Development Center participate in kindergarten boot camp.

Hearing aid implant like music to veteran's ears

By AMELIA HICE

Garrison Public Affairs

Paul Quintel, security specialist and operations security program manager for Aviation and Missile Command, awoke one morning three years ago and couldn't hear several ranges of sound. "It sounded like someone turned the stereo off in my ears, I couldn't hear bass at all, sounded like AM radio," he said.

He hoped it was only temporary and would return. When that didn't happen, the 20-year Marine Corps veteran called his Veterans Affairs office to make an appointment.

"I've always has good experiences with the VA," he said.

When he called around midmorning, the office staff explained that they weren't taking appointments, they're only seeing walk-in patients.

Not having enough time left in the day to be seen, Quintel decided to wait until the next day. He drove to the Murfreesboro VA Clinic early that morning to be one of the first people in line. After the clinic opened and paperwork complete, he was seen quickly.

Quintel explained that he had significant hearing loss on the left side for about 30 years. During his time in the Marines, he endured multiple surgeries on that ear. Years earlier, his Navy physician told him that there was nothing more they could do because he had severe nerve damage and would simply have to live with the hearing loss.

The VA physician examined him and said, "I'm not sure why you can't hear bass yet, but I'd like to perform a couple of tests on that left ear as well."

He picked up what looked like a big tuning fork, struck it on the counter and held it to Quintel's head, then asked, "Where do you hear that?"

When Quintel pointed to just under his left ear, the doctor smiled and said, "You don't have severe nerve damage in the left ear, something else is going on. I want you to see an ear, nose and throat specialist."

Since the Quintels live in southern Tennessee, the VA staff arranged an appointment with an ear, nose and throat physician in Franklin, Tennessee. The appointment with the ENT was disappointing. After the examination, the specialist said, "This is way over my head, you need to see an ear specialist, I'm sending you to Vanderbilt."

A short time later, they were headed to Vanderbilt Medical Center to see Dr. Marc Bennett, an expert in otolaryngology. Bennett examined Quintel and said, "Let's run some tests to see if you're a candidate for a BAHA (bone anchored hearing aid)."

The Quintels walked to the Audiology Department and entered an area with a booth set in the corner. The technician asked Quintel to step in. She placed a tight band around his head just above his ear, then affixed the device. After he was outfitted with the proper test equipment, she turned the booth on.

"I could suddenly hear everything in stereo," Quintel said. His wife was inside the booth with him.

"When he looked at me, his face lit up like a 5-year-old on Christmas morning," she said.

The test device was a bone conduction headband. It looks exactly like it sounds, a bone sound wave conductor mounted to a soft headband similar to a sweatband.



Photos by Eric Schultz

Paul Quintel, of the Aviation and Missile Command, can hear a full range of sound, thanks to a bone anchored hearing aid.

This test can determine if a patient is a good candidate for bone conduction technology.

Bone conduction technology captures sound and transfers it through bone vibrations directly to the cochlea. Unlike traditional hearing aids that simply amplify sound, bone conduction devices bypass the outer and middle ear entirely to create a new pathway for hearing.

The audiology nurse then pointed to the speakers in the booth and asked him to repeat exactly what she said. Quintel was surprised with what seemed like gibberish coming out of her mouth. The nurse explained that the brain can complete most sentences if they are arranged in a way that we expect to hear or read them, even if they are terribly misspelled or the patient can only hear part of the sentence. Just like those games floating around the Internet that ask you to read a sentence where nearly all of the words are misspelled accept the first and last letter.

When the test was complete, the audiology staff compared his hearing before the test to when he was wearing the bone conduction headband and there was quite a difference. Quintel could actually hear out of his left ear.

The team at Vanderbilt determined he would make an excellent candidate for the bone anchored hearing aid implant. Bennett offered to get him a hearing aid for his right ear as well but Quintel said, "You've got me hearing in stereo, I'm good."

An appointment for the surgery was set up shortly afterward at Vanderbilt Medical Center. After thinking about the implant, Quintel had one concern: he often wears a ball cap and the BAHA looked like it would get in the way. Bennett assured him he could position the implant so it would not interfere with wearing hats.

"When I showed up for surgery, I put my favorite ball cap on, he made a mark around my head with a sharpie and just positioned it below that." Quintel said.

During the surgery, a small titanium implant is screwed into the bone behind the non-functioning ear and over the next few months integrates with the bone. A tiny abutment is inserted and covers the skin. This piece connects directly to the processor. The 20-minute surgery was successful and after a few hours in recovery. Quintel was released from the hospital. Although the surgery itself was short, he had to wait six months for the site to heal completely.

"The processor picks up the sound and transfers it to the bone which vibrates, so you hear, you don't want it vibrating an implant and ear that's not healed," he explained.

Six months went by and he travels back to Vanderbilt for the final piece of the BAHA, the processor. The small bone conduction sound processor has advanced Bluetooth technology and includes a phone application.

"As soon as they snap the processor on, I'm suddenly hearing in stereo again," he said. "It's life changing."

The processor is made by the Cochlear Company and the entire assembly is called the Cochlear BAHA System.

After receiving his processor, Quintel left the doctor's office and is shocked at how rich and complex the sounds of the environment have become. He hears horns blowing, birds, people talking and other ambient sounds we take for granted.

"I was pretty shocked when I got in my truck, turned on the ignition and the stereo is so loud it almost blows me out of my seat, I couldn't believe how loud I needed the volume to hear it," he said.

The processor app allows the user to personalize their hearing experience.

"It has a setting for every environment," Quintel said. "If I'm in a gymnasium where it's noisy, I choose the 'noisy setting,' and it cuts off the loud sounds, if I'm outside and it's windy, I choose the 'windy setting,' and the roaring stops. It has a streaming setting so I can turn on music or when I'm talking on the phone. It's directly in my ear, so I never have to use the speaker button. I love it."

The improvement in his everyday life is remarkable.

"I can sit in a meeting and not ask the speaker to repeat themselves and I'm more attentive because I can hear everything that's going on." He can use the app to adjust the volume if he's on the phone with a "low talker," or another hearing impaired person who's speaking loudly.

As with any new technology, there's a learning curve but it was short, according to Quintel.

"At first I would knock the processor off getting dressed or pulling on my seatbelt but I adjusted pretty quickly," he said.

When asked about the downside of the BAHA he said, "There's really no downside except that when my wife asks me to do something, I no longer have plausible deniability."

From beginning to end, this life changing journey took less than a year for Quintel, but it gave him the gift of sound for many years to come. After decades of suffering in silence, an astute doctor from the VA set him on a path to a fuller, richer life. The next time someone asks Quintel, "can you hear me now?" his answer will be a resounding "yes!"

Assault helicopter pilot grew up fast in Army

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Warrant Officer Malcolm Brown was 20 when he went to Vietnam in August 1969 to fly assault missions in a Huey helicopter. Most happened at night.

“Our adrenaline was up,” he recalled. “You’d come back and your hands start shaking. And you say ‘Oh I could’ve died tonight.’ And you have a beer. And then you’d go do it tomorrow.”

He received 23 Air Medals, some with a V-device for valor, two Bronze Stars and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He flew a UH-1 Huey with the 114th Assault Helicopter Company in Vinh Long. His unit was under the 1st Aviation Brigade.

The Distinguished Flying Cross recognized his role in an extraction mission in July 1970 in the Seven Sister Mountain area.

“There was an outpost with a lieutenant adviser in there and he was being overrun by the Viet Cong,” Brown said. “I was flying high bird that night. The other guy (in the other Huey) was flying low bird. So what happened was I called the lieutenant. I had him on fox mike radio and I said ‘where are you so we don’t shoot you?’ And he just said he was in a bunker. And he said open up anywhere you want.”

Viet Cong were attacking in waves from the perimeter. Others were on the mountain firing down on the two Hueys. “My main job was to suppress the guys in the caves,” Brown said.

“We fought them for four hours. We had to refuel one time. I was firing from the cockpit door with a M-79 which is a grenade launcher.”

The other Huey took a round but the four-man crew aboard each helicopter made it back to the base safely. The lieutenant also survived.

“The lieutenant’s alive. I’d like to meet him sometime,” Brown said with a laugh. “I don’t think I ever will.”

An infantry officer put Brown in for the Distinguished Flying Cross; and he received the medal at Fort Wolters, Texas.

After his yearlong tour, Brown returned to the United States in August 1970. He remembers changing out his uniform at the airport in San Francisco because the Army advised Soldiers not to travel in uniform to avoid war protesters.

“It was the best year and the worst year,” Brown said. “Now let me explain that. The worst part was somebody trying to kill you. And the best part was the camaraderie between individuals of the unit and who you worked with.”

He said he never got shot down but he did have to make at least 10 emergency landings that year.

“The countryside is beautiful. The local people are fantastic,” he said. He remembers the kindness of the older lady, “the mama-san,” who ran the former French enlisted quarters where the Soldiers stayed in Vinh Long.

Brown went on to serve more than 21 years in uniform. This included four years in Korea – 1972-73 and 1984-87. He was scheduled to return to Vietnam for a second tour but got diverted to Korea instead. Brown retired as a chief warrant officer four in 1989. He was recalled for two months during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

Born in Chicago, Brown was raised in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Vietnam revisited Part 321 in series

“I went to community college and I wasn’t doing well. My maturity wasn’t up,” he said. “So I wasn’t getting the best of grades and I liked to fly. So I joined the Army (in 1968). And guess what? The maturity came in real quick.”

He had basic training at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and he finished flight school in July 1969 at Fort Rucker. A month later he was in Vietnam. He received a bachelor’s in professional aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in 1979.

Brown arrived in Huntsville in 1997 from Austin, Texas. He retired about four years ago from Dynetics Corporation.

He and his wife, Jo, will celebrate their 50th anniversary June 12. Their son, David, of Washington, D.C., works in marketing for a cybersecurity company.

Brown, 72, has a 10% disability rating from Veterans Affairs. He enjoys playing golf and traveling. He is a member of the North Alabama Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and the Southeast Huntsville Optimist Club. He serves as treasurer of the Madison County Military Heritage Commission. Brown was inducted into the Madison County Military Hall of Heroes in 2015.

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

“I’m glad they’re finally recognizing us because they didn’t treat us well when we came back,” he said.

Editor’s note: This is the 321st in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Huntsville resident Malcolm Brown was inducted in the Madison County Military Hall of Heroes in 2015.



Courtesy photo

Warrant Officer Malcolm Brown served in Vietnam from 1969-70 with the 114th Assault Helicopter Company.

Volunteers give back by cleaning memorial downtown

By REBECCA SALLEE

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Cleaning dead bugs off spotlights at 8 a.m. on a Saturday may not sound like fun, but it's a monthly ritual for a group of volunteers comprised of local Scouts and Rotarians.

Members of the Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville and two Scout troops based in Toney spend the first Saturday of every month sprucing up the Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial at 200 Monroe St.

Read Klos of Meridianville, owner of Klos Diamond Center in Huntsville and a Rotary Club member, has overseen the cleanup program at the memorial for almost two years.

He initially recruited some scouts to volunteer and later brought in members of the Rotary Club to assist and serve as mentors. "It was a natural fit," he said.

On a typical Saturday, several dozen children and adults converge at the memorial for a 60- to 90-minute cleanup session, "depending on how bad the weather and bugs have been," Klos said. But during the pandemic, as few as eight adults took the job on and children were asked to stay home as a safety precaution.

At each session, volunteers clean the benches and granite, blow leaves and debris away and polish statues. "We wipe down all surfaces," said Klos, who brings his own water – five 10-pound buckets – for rinsing. While there is water available at the memorial, it is usually turned off, he said.

They open each session with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance, and close with another prayer. "It's a great teaching moment for youths in the scouts," he said. "All in honoring the fallen heroes."

Teaching moments include flag etiquette. For example, the lights that attract so many bugs are necessary for the flags that fly at night, Klos said.

Many of the Rotarians are veterans themselves, including Klos, who was a Marine corporal from 1981-86. "All of them are business leaders, decision makers within their industries. That is the criteria," he said.

The leader of Troop BSA 95, an all-girl troop that volunteers at the memorial, is also a veteran.

Joe Billig of Harvest, a former Air Force captain who works as an operations specialist at the Security Assistance Command, said his Scouts have responded "very positively" to the work and rarely need much guidance.

"They know exactly what to do," said Billig, whose daughters Angelina, 14, a rising eighth-grader at Monrovia Middle School, and Tessa, 16, a junior-to-be at Sparkman High School, are members of his troop. "They're doing a fantastic job."

The project promotes citizenship while it honors and pays tribute to those who served, Billig said.

David O'Dell of Madison County, a NASA engineer and assistant Scout master of BSA Troop 94, instills the same values in his Scouts, including his son Evan, 13, who will be a freshman at Hazel Green High School in the fall.

"We have a great country. One of the reasons is the men and women who voluntarily chose to serve in the military, be on the front lines and protect us so we don't have to have wars on our shores," O'Dell said. "They sacrificed limbs, the veterans sacrificed their lives to try and grant us this freedom."

Cleaning the memorial is "a miniscule way to say



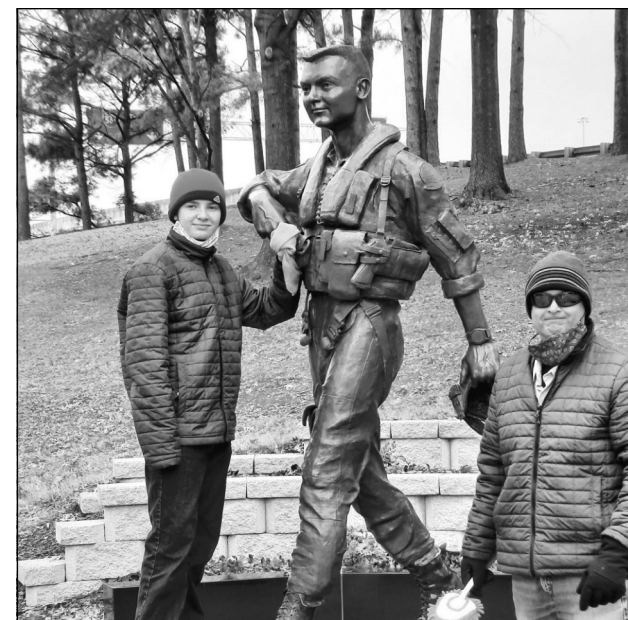
Courtesy of Read Klos

Joe Billig, Air Force veteran and leader of BSA Troop 95, cleans a permanent placard at the Veterans Memorial.

thank you," O'Dell said. "You can't put into words how much we owe them."

A brick at the memorial is dedicated to Evan's grandfather, Donnie Burch, a retired sergeant first class and Vietnam veteran who died in 2013. Evan said he takes pride in the work he and his fellow Scouts do.

"People can enjoy it," Evan said. "It looks nice while they explore and look at the statues and such."



Courtesy of Read Klos

David O'Dell and his son Evan pose by the Aviator Statue at the Veterans Memorial.

Klos and his twin 14-year-olds, Charlotte and Lawson, rising sophomores at the Alabama School for Cyber Technology and Engineering, sometimes go the extra mile, making trips to tidy up the memorial in between the regularly scheduled monthly cleanups.

"What it means to instill a sense of pride in the community," he said, "it's not a drop in the bucket for what they have sacrificed for us."



Courtesy of Read Klos

Members of the Rotary Club of Greater Huntsville and BSA Troops 94 and 95 volunteer their time the first Saturday of each month to clean the Veterans Memorial.

Fallen Soldier's legacy means putting others first



Courtesy photo

Spc. Jackson Davis Johnson enlisted while he was still in high school.

By **JONATHAN STINSON**

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Spc. Jackson Davis Johnson wanted to be a Soldier since he was in kindergarten. He enlisted early and completed his basic training between his junior and senior years in high school.

“He called me when he got on the bus and said, ‘Mom, thank you for signing the paper for me to do this earlier. I got this,’” Tonya Shockley, his mother, said.

Johnson would frequently tell his mother I got this. It was kind of like a catchphrase almost.

Johnson’s job was to escort equipment and people while he was deployed to the Middle East.

One day in 2019, while Johnson was riding with some other Soldiers, a fully-loaded water truck turned into oncoming traffic down a one-way street. The driver of Johnson’s vehicle tried to veer off the road to avoid the accident, but the driver of the water truck hit the gas instead of the brake and ended up t-boning Johnson’s vehicle, according to his mother.

Johnson died on the way to the operating room.

“I try to be like ‘OK, I’ve got this,’” Shockley said. “There was a period of time after he passed away that I didn’t have this. I was not in a good place at all.

“And one day, I had to just wake up and sit down and look at the whole picture. The whole picture being that had my son lived, he would have been confined to a nursing home for the rest of his life.

“His injuries were very extensive. They brought him back twice. And the third time that you know, he coded, he was only a few feet from the OR, and they couldn’t get him back that time.

“If they had gotten him back, he would have been high-flow oxygen. He would have been a tube-feeder. He would have never walked again.

“He wouldn’t be able to talk. He would not be the child that turned loose in the world. And he would be confined to a life that he didn’t want.”

Johnson spent his life thinking of others. The reason he joined the military was to help people who couldn’t help themselves, according to his mother. It’s a trait he probably got from his mother, who works as a certified nurse.

Today Shockley works to keep her son’s memory alive in a number of ways.

On his birthday each year she makes his favorite dinner, homemade fried chicken, mashed potatoes and macaroni and cheese.

She tries to laugh more.

Memorial Day has taken on a new meaning.

“Memorial Day is not about the barbecues. It’s not about swimming. It’s not about the beginning of summer. It’s about those that left this country to go help somebody else and didn’t come home,” she said.

Shockley said losing her son was the most painful thing she’s ever endured. She gave birth to Johnson a week after she turned 20 and said in a way, the two of them grew up together.

“He is the child that made me grow up and think of others more than myself,” she said.

Shockley said the Survivor’s Outreach Services and TAPS programs had helped her with the emotional aspects that come with losing a child. She also said there’s a group called Cole’s Comrades that is for anyone who lost someone who was in the armed forces, “whether it’s a veteran the war followed home or someone KIA like my son.”

And she added the Gold Star Mothers chapter “are amazing.”

“These women know how to help when it all seems to fall apart,” she said.

Shockley said Johnson put God first, service second and his family third.

“Jackson’s legacy is to help your fellow man, make the most of your life, and if there are tears – make them tears of joy,” she said.

Human resources legacy continues at Garrison



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Theresa Falcetano, left, is retiring as the Garrison's director of human resources. Her successor, Linda Moseley, arrived from Presidio of Monterey, Calif.

By SKIP VAUGHN

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Theresa Falcetano learned years ago about the importance of relationships.

She will retire May 31 as the Garrison director of human resources after more than 35 years of government service. In 1985 she was a military spouse at a remote location in Germany where she met the commissary officer. "While doing our laundry together, she informed me about a summer hire position," Falcetano recalled. She applied for the job, got selected and that was how her career got started.

"I truly believe relationships help you get to where you need to be," she said.

Falcetano became the human resources director in 2013, permanently since 2014. Her successor is Linda Moseley, who was the human resources director at Presidio of Monterey, California, the past three years.

"There were struggles to get to where I am now but I'm thankful to all the people who gave me the opportunity," Falcetano said. "They believed in me. I believe in relationships because it's the people that you know who help you get to where you need to be.

"I look at retirement as a new chapter in my life. I look forward to spending more time with the family, traveling and I would like to teach

federal retirement courses. I'm going to take some time off before I pursue teaching retirement courses."

She and her husband, Tony, a retired Soldier, reside in Madison County. They have a daughter, Tonya, of Monrovia, and two granddaughters. They enjoy traveling and racing cars.

Moseley, who grew up in a military family in Germany, has 20 years of government service. She was a military intelligence officer who served 10 years in the Army and departed as a captain. She received her commission through ROTC at Sacramento State University in 1992. Moseley previously lived in Huntsville as a military spouse for three years and left in 2011.

"It's a distinct privilege to be a civilian professional member of this outstanding team," Moseley said. "My biggest goal is customer service excellence, people focus and results oriented to enhance mission readiness while continuing to ensure service culture campaign for our civilian professionals and military at all levels and continuing the legacy of DHR excellence."

She received a master's in organizational leadership from Brandman University in 2017 and she hopes to complete her doctorate this year from Brandman University. Her son, Eric, 18, is studying aerospace engineering at Florida Institute of Technology.

The Garrison's Directorate of Human Resources has 38 people, including contractors.

Experience the fun of Outdoor Recreation

By REBECCA SALLEE

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Crappie, bass, catfish and brim are some of the bounty caught in the Tennessee River on Redstone Arsenal's south side.

And while a license is usually required for fishing, there will be an exception on Saturday, June 12, Alabama's "Free Fishing Day."

From 8 a.m. until dusk at the Col. Carroll D. Hudson Recreation Area, no license will be required, and fishermen and women can enjoy free worms (while supplies last) and a free noon cookout.

With summer almost upon us, there's no better time to take advantage of the many opportunities and services offered by Outdoor Recreation, said Tom Pyburn, manager of the facility.

"Outdoor recreation is becoming more and more important as we become more and more digital," he said. "It's good to unplug."

Whether you want to rent a travel camper or hone your archery skills, Outdoor Recreation is a one-stop shop for all things outdoor.

On site, patrons enjoy trap, skeet and clay shooting at the facility's shooting range.

"We had a grand opening (of the shooting range) two years ago," Ken Pitcher, assistant manager at Outdoor Recreation, said. "It's one of the finest facilities in Alabama."

One-on-one lessons are available for both those new to the sport and more experienced shooters.

Patrons can also rent pull-behind travel trailers from Outdoor Recreation and hit the road, or take advantage of camping options on the installation.

Outdoor Recreation oversees three campgrounds at the Arsenal, the Col. Carroll D. Hudson and Easter Posey recreation areas on the Tennessee River and one at Vincent Park. All feature ball fields, picnic areas and barbecue grills. Boat launches are also accessible from the riverfront campgrounds.



Photo by Eric Schultz

Tim Eady, an outdoor recreation assistant, checks out a boat at Outdoor Recreation.

The RV park at Vincent Park has 70 RV spaces now, with plans to add 23 more soon. Sites offer full hook-ups for rigs up to 65x24, with 30- and 50-amp service, water and sewage, Wi-fi, two bath houses, laundry facilities, a dog park and a large gathering pavilion, Pyburn said. Reservations can be made by phone.

Other services and activities patrons can enjoy through Outdoor Recreation include:

- Cottage rentals. Five three-bedroom, two-bath, furnished homes are available for rent. The 1,200-square foot homes feature washers and dryers and fully equipped kitchens.
- Storage facilities. There are indoor, outdoor and mini-storage options, including a new lot that can ac-



Photo by Eric Schultz

Matt Brady, retired from Army aviation, works with his son, Chancellor Brady, as he trains for a skeet shooting competition at the skeet range at Outdoor Recreation.

commodate RV rigs over 35 feet long. Patrons can store "just about anything," with the exception of automobiles, Pitcher said.

- A hunting program. In cooperation with biology and game warden experts, the Arsenal offers hunting of doves, wild turkeys and deer, year-round.

- Frisbee golf. Players can rent Frisbees or bring their own and enjoy a state-of-the-art course near Vincent Park. "It constantly ranks among the most lauded Frisbee golf courses in the nation," Pitcher said.

For more information on any of the offerings at Outdoor Recreation, call 876-4868 or visit redstone.armymwr.com.

Outdoor Recreation marks 50th anniversary with sweepstakes

Enjoying your favorite outdoor activities in the next few months could win you a Schwinn mountain bike, a GoPro camera, a Garmin watch or one of many other great prizes in an Armywide sweepstakes.

In honor of Outdoor Recreation's 50th anniversary, Army MWR is sponsoring the sweepstakes, which is open to all eligible patrons at Redstone Arsenal, including active duty military, retirees, reservists, DOD civilians and contractors.

If you like camping, canoeing, playing Frisbee golf, hunting, fishing or archery, this sweepstakes is for you.

Participation requires a few easy steps:

- Visit Outdoor Recreation on Sportsman Drive and register. You'll receive a free key chain.
- Follow [2armyodr](https://www.instagram.com/2armyodr) and [2familymwr](https://www.instagram.com/2familymwr) on Instagram.

- Starting June 1 through Sept. 7, snap photos of yourself and your family enjoying some of the fun outdoor activities offered by Outdoor Recreation and post them on Instagram. Tag [@2armyodr](https://www.instagram.com/2armyodr) and [@familymwr](https://www.instagram.com/familymwr), and add the hashtag: [#armyodr50](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/armyodr50). (Be sure someone is holding the keychain in the photos.) Every photo posted on Instagram increases your chance to win a prize.

In addition to the bike, camera and watch, prizes include Rio outdoor chairs, Leatherman tools, STORMTEC jackets and backpacks, Army ODR outdoor packs (Danner boots, Benchmade knife and Qalo ring), and Spyderco prize pack (knife, mug and bandanna).

Prizes will be drawn each month through September. The more you post, the better your chances are to win.

Program addresses family members with special needs

By EMILY STRICKLAND

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When a family member has a chronic condition, the challenges of navigating complex healthcare and educational systems can be overwhelming. Natalie Taylor knows better than most how much more difficult this system is for Army families, who are faced with moving hundreds of miles every few years when Soldiers are assigned to new duty stations.

Taylor is the manager of the Exceptional Family Member Program at Redstone Arsenal, a Department of the Army program that provides Army families with the assistance they need to help manage family members' medical and educational needs.

"If a Soldier has a family member that has a medical need or an educational need, then they are required to sign up in the program primarily so that when they get PCS (Permanent Change of Station) orders to the next installation, we have already kind of coordinated to know that they can go to that next installation and services can be met," Taylor said. Those family members include Soldiers' spouses and children.

EFMP serves Army families who have "physical, emotional, developmental or intellectual" disorders, according to myarmyonesource.com. These needs may

include the following: Autism Spectrum Disorder; mental health conditions; diabetes; multiple sclerosis; educational needs requiring Individualized Education Programs or other interventions; and myriad other conditions that require treatment from a specialist or other interventions. It is a mandatory enrollment program, which means as soon as a need has been identified, the Soldier and their family is enrolled and eligible to receive EFMP benefits.

As program manager, Taylor's days consist of meeting with families and helping them figure out how to advocate for their family members who need extra attention. She coordinates support groups as they are needed, connects families to resources like a local autism support group called Making Connections, helps parents navigate the education system to ensure their children are receiving adequate intervention, and more.

EFMP also provides resources like a respite care program, in which qualifying families can receive up to 25 hours of free child care each month.

"That's providing a break for a parent that has a special needs child, that is, you have complex medical issues," Taylor said. "The Department of the Army has already paid for respite care by a vetted provider that would care for your child and your home while you get a break."

Taylor also does individualized intake with EFMP families as they come into

"It's a lot of fun to connect with families that way and establish a rapport with them, and that's my whole goal, so that they feel comfortable reaching out to ask any questions."

Natalie Taylor,
EFMP manager

Redstone Arsenal's program, ensuring that each family's specific needs can be met. This requires coordination between Taylor and Fox Army Health Center, as new referrals to EFMP typically originate with the family member's medical provider. About 175 Army family members on Redstone Arsenal are enrolled with EFMP.

After spending two decades as EFMP manager, there is little question about Taylor's favorite part of the job: "It's a lot of fun to meet the kids," she said. "It's a lot of fun to connect with families that way and establish a rapport with them, and that's my whole goal, so that they feel comfortable reaching out to ask any questions. If it's not even something related to EFMP, or if they're worried about something, I just



Photo by Eric Schultz

Natalie Taylor is manager of the Exceptional Family Member Program at Army Community Service.

want to be able to find a resource or someone to help them."

For more information about EFMP at Army Community Service, visit redstone.armymwr.com/programs/efmp or call Taylor at 876-5397.

Tax center volunteers enjoy yearend barbecue

By SKIP VAUGHN

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This was a well-earned lunch.

After a year of providing free tax preparation services for the military community during a pandemic, members of the Redstone Tax Center gathered Friday for barbecue on the pavilion behind the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

"This is our end-of-year barbecue, our thank you to the volunteers," Rachael Yeoman, the tax center manager, said.

This year was different because of the pandemic. The volunteer-staffed center opened Feb. 1 as a drop-off only site for active duty and retired military and their families.

"It was a success with a few bumps along the road," Yeoman said. "It was a learning experience for both our office and the clients – learning how to operate in a COVID environment. But we made



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Redstone Tax Center volunteers eat barbecue Friday on the pavilion behind the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate.

it through the year and it was a success. All thanks to our dedicated volunteers."

The year's statistics will be tabulated but an inspection in March by Internal Revenue Service Stakeholder Partnerships, Education & Communication, or



File photo by Skip Vaughn

Rachael Yeoman, a paralegal at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, is manager of the Redstone Tax Center.

SPEC, representatives in Birmingham showed they were on track with pre-COVID numbers.

Retired Air Force Col. Lee Smith, 77, of Madison, had his 11th year as a volunteer at the tax center. For the past sev-

en years, he has also worked for AARP taxes in Huntsville. Each week during the tax season, he worked three days at the tax center and one day downtown.

"It was different (in this pandemic year)," Smith said. "I think with the extension of time to May 17 – so we had an extra month – we were able to provide service to everyone that wanted it. But I missed the personal contact with the customer. We didn't have face-to-face contact.

"We wouldn't be able to do what we do here at the tax center, we wouldn't be able to serve the community, if it weren't for Rachael Yeoman."

Yeoman, a paralegal at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, has worked at the center for nearly 20 years and served as its manager for most of the past 10.

Volunteers included Ed Sekerak, Cheryl Burns, Lisa McCrary, Sandy Hovde, John Patch, Smith, Rob Morris, Jenn Mills, Emily Hsi, Jan Berry, Lindsay Coop, Kay Theodoss and Dawn Byers.

Free counseling available for military community

By **REBECCA SALLEE**

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Whether you're mad about a move, sad about a loss, or having trouble getting along with your spouse, there's someone to talk to at Redstone Arsenal – and it's free to military members and their families.

Anger management, relationship problems and parenting issues are just a few of the problems eligible patrons can tackle through the Military and Family Life counseling program.

Sandra Bruno, a licensed marriage and family therapist whose qualifications also include advanced alcohol and drug certification, is in her fourth year with the Military and Family Life counseling program at Redstone.

Counseling is available to active duty military, reservists, National Guard mem-

bers, Gold Star families, and their immediate family members at installations throughout the world, including the Arsenal.

In addition to being free, the service is strictly confidential, Bruno said, noting that records from counseling session are not kept or retained as a part of a medical record.

The program, which started around 2003, provides counselors commensurate in number to the population of active duty at each installation. Because there are relatively few Soldiers assigned to Redstone, Bruno is the only counselor in the program at the Arsenal.



Sandra Bruno

Benefits include flexible appointments and even flexible locations for appointments.

Counseling services can take place at Bruno's office at Army Community Service, at an outdoor picnic table or somewhere else – whatever the client prefers.

Counseling is “non-medical and solution-focused,” she said. “A lot of military lifestyle issues: relocation adjustment, employment stress, working with families, building resiliency.”

An initial intake session may take over one hour, followed by one-hour sessions each week or, if desired, every other week. The program allows for 12 sessions per issue, giving leeway to clients with multiple issues, she said.

Tim Rolfe, Family Advocacy program manager, whose program provides everything from family enrichment to violence prevention and other services, said he often refers people to Bruno for counseling.

“I think it really benefits Soldiers and their

family members,” he said. “She’s a great asset to the community.”

During the pandemic, Bruno saw clients via “HIPPA-compliant Zoom, or by phone,” options that are still available. But she is also welcoming clients back for in-person appointments during the workday or early evening.

Bruno also works as a behaviorist at Child and Youth Services.

She has a master's in marriage and family child counseling from California State University, and is earning her doctoral degree in counseling from Liberty University.

In the past, Bruno has worked as clinical director at an addiction center, and as a mediator. Her husband, Michael Bruno, is a retired Marine who now works as a program manager for the Missile Defense Agency.

To make an appointment with Bruno, call her at 803-240-9922, or call Army Community Service at 876-5397.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Fire department reunion

About 40 people attended the Redstone Fire Department's first ever reunion Saturday at The Summit. The barbecue luncheon was organized by retiree Terry Hamm, a driver/operator with the department from 1990-2016. "We had been doing some retiree breakfasts and we just kind of tossed it around not knowing how well it would be received," the Monrovia resident said. "Once I contacted (Deputy Chief) Robert Simmons he was all onboard." Battalion Chief Dan Lehman told the retirees, "Thank you for making this department as special as it is."

New technology hardware passes initial testing

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

NASA is partnering with Aerojet Rocketdyne to advance 3D printing technologies, known as metal additive manufacturing, for liquid rocket engines in landers and in-orbit stages/spacecraft.

The Robotic Deposition Technology team, led from Marshall Space Flight Center, is designing and manufacturing innovative and lightweight combustion chambers, nozzles, and injectors that will incorporate automated robotic deposition 3D-printing technologies: cold spray deposition, laser wire direct closeout, laser powder bed fusion, and laser powder directed energy deposition. The goal is to evolve these processes using weight-optimized materials to validate operability, performance, and reusability through hot fire testing.

The team recently hot fire tested their lightweight combustion chamber and nozzle. Other hardware for this testing included injectors and carbon composite nozzles that were recently tested under the Long Life Additive Manufacturing Assembly project.

"Testing of the RDT Advanced Lander Propulsion Additive Cold-spray Assembly chamber went very well and demonstrated a new technology capability for NASA and industry partners," Thomas Teasley, an engineer at Marshall, said.

The hardware accumulated eight starts at 365.4 sec-

onds of total hot fire duration. The main combustion chamber experienced pressures up to 750 pound-force per square inch for all tests conducted as well as calculated hot gas temperatures approaching 6,200 degrees Fahrenheit. Three different carbon composite nozzles designed for 7,000 pounds of thrust were also tested and demonstrated their capability to endure extreme environment conditions with measured nozzle temperatures of more than 4,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

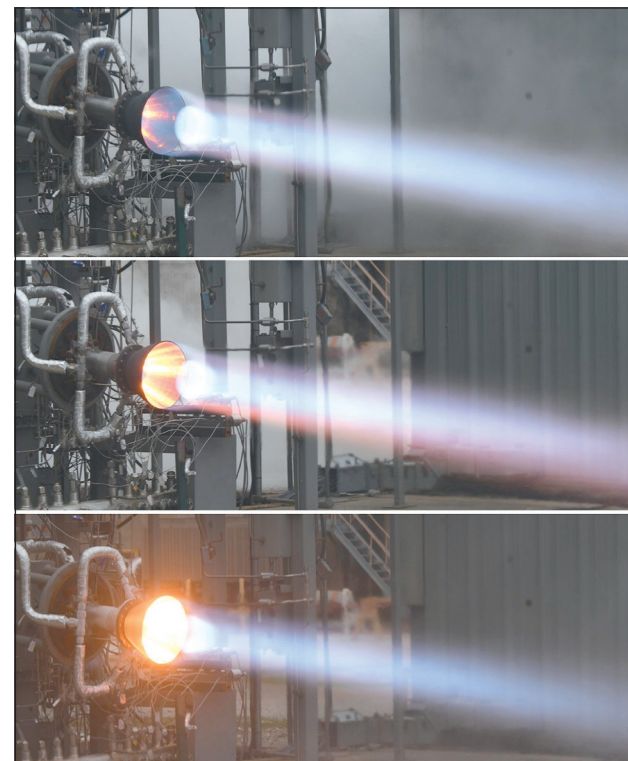
"The RDT ALPACA effort between NASA and Aerojet Rocketdyne is another example of our collaboration and partnership in advancing additive manufacturing technologies," Aerojet Rocketdyne Senior Engineer Bryan Webb said.

The team's advancements will benefit future NASA and commercial space missions by providing more lightweight and cost-efficient liquid rocket engine parts instead of traditional hardware, which is heavier and typically comprised of more parts.

The team is funded by NASA's Game Changing Development Program, which is a part of NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate.

NASA photo

The Robotic Deposition Technology team completes the first phase of testing a 3D-printed metal thrust chamber assembly at Marshall.



Robert Champion named director of center operations

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Robert Champion has been reassigned to the position of director of the Office of Center Operations at Marshall Space Flight Center, effective July 4. He succeeds Roy Malone, who retired in February.

With an annual budget of approximately \$86 million, the organization includes 120 engineers and specialized civil servants and 700 contractors. Services provided by Center Operations include industrial labor relations, environmental engineering, occupational health, facility management, logistics and transportation, protective services, emergency management, and subordinate site operations.

Champion has been director of Michoud Assembly Facility since 2019. From 2015-19, he was deputy director of the Propulsion Systems Department at Marshall, and in 2014 he was deputy of the Space Systems Department. Champion was appointed to the Senior Executive Service – the personnel system covering top managerial positions in federal agencies – as Michoud's deputy director in 2012; he oversaw the facility's transformation from manufacturing Space Shuttle External Tanks to a multi-tenant facility for the manufacturing and assembly of the Space Launch System core stage and the Orion spacecraft.



Robert Champion

From 2000-01, Champion was manager of the Internal Relations and Communications Department. He managed the Auxiliary Propulsion Project for the Next Generation Launch Vehicle Program from 2001-03, then was NASA project manager for the Boeing Orbital Space Plane Project. He was deputy manager, chief engineer, and technical manager in the Propulsion Systems Engineering and Integration Office in the Shuttle Propulsion Office from 2004-07. From 2007-10, he was division chief of the Stage Systems Engineering and Integration Office, responsible for the technical integration of the subsystems that comprised the Ares I Upper Stage. He assumed responsibility at Michoud in 2010 as acting deputy director and chief operating officer.

Champion joined Marshall in 1986 as a propulsion engineer in the Preliminary Design Office. He went on to hold multiple leadership positions, including team lead for the design of the X-34 main propulsion systems from 1994-99 and he led the Vehicle Propulsion Team, where he coordinated system design and analysis support for numerous spacecraft and rocket propulsion projects.

Champion was selected as an American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Associate fellow and received the organization's 2018-19 Holger Toftoy Award for outstanding technical management in the fields of aeronautics and astronautics. He has received several of NASA's highest awards, including the Exceptional Achievement Medal, the Medal for Exceptional Service, Space Flight Awareness Honoree, Director's Commendation, and the Contracting Officers Technical Representative of the Year.

A native of Woodstock, Alabama, Champion has a bachelor's in aerospace engineering from Auburn University. Recently married to Maria Shelby, they reside in Hazel Green. Together, they have five adult children and four grandchildren.

Bates becomes director of test laboratory

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Lisa Bates has been named director of the Test Laboratory at Marshall Space Flight Center, pending approval by the Office of Personnel Management.

An integral part of the Engineering Directorate, the Test Laboratory encompasses a wide range of specialized capabilities NASA uses to conduct testing for space flight hardware research, development, qualification, acceptance, and anomaly resolution. As

director, Bates will provide executive leadership for all aspects of the laboratory, including workforce, budget, infrastructure and operations for testing.

Bates was previously deputy manager of the Space Launch System Stages Office since October 2018, sharing the responsibilities, accountability, and authorities for all activities associated with the requirements, definition, design, development, manufacturing, assembly, test, and flight performance of the SLS element. As the SLS Program Execu-

tive from 2017-18, she supported the NASA deputy associate administrator for Exploration Systems Development as the liaison and advocate for SLS. As deputy manager of the SLS Booster Element Office during 2018, she shared responsibility for the complete scope of activities associated with the test, verification and production of the booster element.

Bates joined Marshall in 2008 as the Ares I Upper Stage Thrust Vector Control lead in the Valves, Actuators, and Ducts Design and Development Branch. From 2009-17, she was the first chief of the new Thrust Vector Control Branch, which was responsible for defining operational requirements, performing analysis, and evaluating rocket thrust vector control systems and components.

Prior to her NASA career, Bates worked 18 years in private industry for numerous aerospace and defense contractors, includ-



Lisa Bates

ing Jacobs Engineering, Marotta Scientific Controls, United Technologies, United Defense, and Sverdrup Technologies.

Bates has a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She was awarded a NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal in

2013 and has received numerous group and individual achievement awards. Bates and her husband, Don, reside in Madison and have four children, the youngest of whom is attending Birmingham-Southern College.

Sports

Green overtakes gray with improbable comeback

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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You just never know in softball.

The green team scored 11 runs in their final at-bat to beat gray 25-24 on May 17 at field 2 in Brahan Spring Park. They play in the 55-and-over Rockets league in Huntsville Senior Softball.

Vince Smith drove in the winning run with his single up the middle with men on first and second and two outs in the bottom of the seventh. Green trailed 24-14 when they came to bat; and the score was tied 24-all for Smith's second plate appearance of the inning.

"I've been playing ball since dad coached me in T-ball and you kind of get used to the pressure," the shortstop said. "The big thing though is I wouldn't have even been up to bat if it hadn't been for the other team members scoring 10 runs. If the team hadn't done their job to get the 10 runs then I wouldn't have even been up to bat. Team game."

Smith went 3-for-5 with a double, a walk and three runs scored for green (2-7). Ragnar Opiniano hit a three-run homer and went 4-for-5 with six runs batted in and four runs. Leadoff hitter Scott Piro had four hits. Smith, Robert Tolliver, Ruthie Hambrick and player/coach Jeff Abbott had three hits apiece. Terry Koelbl, Billy Cooley and Jeff Crews added two hits apiece. Abbott pitched all seven innings for the win.

"Very exciting comeback," Abbott said. "Green team needed this one really bad. It was just everybody pulling together, having fun and that's what it's about. And we had contributions from one through 10 (in the lineup). And just a great win."

William Kelly hit two home runs for gray (5-5). He went 3-for-3 with two walks, two runs batted in and five runs. David Koch had a two-run homer and went 4-for-5 with six RBIs and two runs. Leadoff hitter Sam Sepulveda, pitcher David Key and David McNeill also had four hits apiece. Kelly and player/coach Rick Anthis had three hits apiece. Bennie Pokemire, Ron Baer and Tim Lawter added two hits apiece. Key, a left-hander, took the loss.

"All I've got to say is errors," Anthis said. "That's all I've got to say – errors. We were missing our pitcher (usual starter Mike Hoy). Our pitcher was gone. That's one thing right there. The pitcher did good for us, he just had a few walks. The green team just got hot there in seventh inning."



Vince Smith singles up the middle to drive in the winning run in the bottom of the seventh as green beats gray 25-24. Photo by Skip Vaughn

Gray (5-5)

| | AB | R | H | RBI |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sam Sepulveda | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Bennie Pokemire | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Ron Baer | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| William Kelly | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| David Key | 5 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| Rick Anthis | 5 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| David McNeill | 5 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| David Koch | 5 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Ann Burgess | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Tim Lawter | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Totals | 46 | 24 | 29 | 19 |

Pitching

| | IP | AB | H | R | ER |
|------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|
| David Key (loss) | 6.2 | 47 | 26 | 25 | 21 |

Green (2-7)

| | AB | R | H | RBI |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Scott Piro | 6 | 2 | 4 | 2 |
| Terry Koelbl | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Vince Smith | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Tom Fickling | 5 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Billy Cooley | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Robert Tolliver | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Jeff Crews | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Ragnar Opiniano | 5 | 4 | 4 | 6 |
| Ruthie Hambrick | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| Jeff Abbott | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Totals | 47 | 25 | 26 | 23 |

Pitching

| | IP | AB | H | R | ER |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Jeff Abbott (won) | 7 | 46 | 29 | 24 | 19 |

| | | | | | | | | R | H | E | |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|
| Gray | 3 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 5 | -- | 24 | 29 | 6 |
| Green | 0 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 11 | -- | 25 | 26 | 8 |

Maroon players get back on track against royal blue

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Cubbie, Moto and the boys swatted away their losing streak.

The maroon team pounded 42 hits in a 29-20 win over royal blue on Thursday at field 2 in Brahan Spring Park. They play in the 55-and-over Rockets league in Huntsville Senior Softball.

"Everybody hit," maroon player/coach Chris Maggio said. "We played good as a team tonight – offense and defense."

Maggio went 6-for-6 and pitched five innings for the win. Denny Reasner pitched the last two innings as maroon (5-5) snapped a two-game losing streak.

Mark "Cubbie" Hoffman, the cleanup hitter and first baseman, went 6-for-6 with a pair of two-run homers, six runs batted in and six runs scored.

"I dedicate it to my daughter," Hoffman said. "She had surgery today."

Moto Miller had a grand slam, five hits and six RBIs. Scott Landers had five hits with a home run and two doubles. Eddie Johnson had six hits with a double and five RBIs. Reasner, the leadoff hitter, had two hits, reached on two errors and scored three runs. Bill Santi, Yogi Guess, Ragnar Opiniano and Darnell Ford had three hits apiece.

Royal blue (6-5) saw the end of their three-game winning streak which began after a 17-10 loss May 3 to maroon. Leadoff hitter Jorge Marin had three hits with a three-run homer, a triple and six RBIs. Mark Wilbourn, Mike Keyser and Kirk Wickizer had four hits apiece. Jerry Bevel and Derek Santiago had three hits apiece. Stan Sillivant and Mike Panko added two hits apiece. Pete Mitchell pitched all seven innings and took the loss.

"They just outthit us," royal blue player/coach Bob Thomson said. "They hit the long ball good."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Mark "Cubbie" Hoffman, running to third base, had six hits with a pair of two-run homers in maroon's 29-20 win over royal blue.

Maroon (5-5)

| | AB | R | H | RBI |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Denny Reasner | 6 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Scott Landers | 6 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| Moto Miller | 5 | 6 | 5 | 6 |
| Mark Hoffman | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Chris Maggio | 6 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| Eddie Johnson | 6 | 1 | 6 | 5 |
| Bill Santi | 6 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Yogi Guess | 6 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Ragnar Opiniano | 6 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Darnell Ford | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Totals | 59 | 29 | 42 | 27 |

Pitching

| | IP | AB | H | R | ER |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Chris Maggio (won) | 5 | 32 | 23 | 18 | 18 |
| Denny Reasner | 2 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 0 |

Royal blue (6-5)

| AB | R | H | RBI |
|----|---|---|-----|
|----|---|---|-----|

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Jorge Marin | 4 | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| Mark Wilbourn | 5 | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| Mike Keyser | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 |
| Jerry Bevel | 5 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Derek Santiago | 4 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| Stan Sillivant | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Pete Mitchell | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bob Thomson | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Mike Panko | 4 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| Kirk Wickizer | 4 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Totals | 42 | 20 | 26 | 18 |

Pitching

| | IP | AB | H | R | ER |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Pete Mitchell (loss) | 7 | 59 | 42 | 29 | 27 |

| | | R | H | E |
|------------|------------------|----|----|---|
| Maroon | 5 3 5 0 5 5 6 -- | 29 | 42 | 3 |
| Royal blue | 3 5 0 5 5 0 2 -- | 20 | 26 | 4 |

Senior softball league standings for this week

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 | 7 | 3 |

| | | |
|------------|---|---|
| Gray | 6 | 5 |
| Royal blue | 6 | 5 |
| Red | 5 | 5 |
| Maroon | 5 | 5 |
| Green | 2 | 8 |

Your glory days in sports

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

What is your latest hole-in-one?

“Tuesday, May 11 in the OMMCS league on hole No. 8 on the Warrior side (at the Links),” Donna Lowen, account manager with McGriff Insurance Services, said. “It’s 134 yards, a par-3. I hit a nice little 7-iron. Witnesses were Rick Cooper, Gary Jedlovec and Jeff Jackson. That was my third one. For me it’s surreal because I had my first one when I was 12, and 40 years later I had my second one last October at Huntsville Country Club on hole No. 10. Now I’ve got two in the last seven months. It’s just crazy to believe that.”

Lowen, 53, from Hays, Kansas, played golf for the University of Kansas from 1986-90. They won the Big Eight Conference in 1990 as a team. The scratch golfer has lived in Huntsville 20 years. She won the Redstone women’s championship in 2019, 2018, 2016, 2014, 2013 and 2012; and the women’s senior championship in 2019 and 2018. As a 12-year-old she made a hole-in-one at the Jayhawk golf camp. Besides golf her hobbies include reading, working out, taking care of her flowerbed and “just hanging out with friends when we can.” Lowen said she is a huge college basketball fan and roots for the Kansas Jayhawks. She also pulls for the Kansas City Chiefs.



File photo by Skip Vaughn

Avid golfer Donna Lowen played in college for the University of Kansas. She made her third hole-in-one May 11 at the Links.

King James does it again on basketball court

He is simply the best.

LeBron James showed again May 19 that he is the greatest basketball player of this era. He had 22 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Golden State Warriors, 103-100. This was his sixth triple-double in his injury plagued season.

The Lakers advanced to the NBA playoffs by winning this Western Conference play-in tournament game.

James made the difference against the Warriors with his 34-foot, 3-pointer over Stephen Curry with the shot clock running down.

He has excelled repeatedly throughout his career. James is the greatest player of this generation. I won’t compare him against the great players of the past. Those were different eras with different rules and different opponents and different styles of play.

Sure, there are other great players these days. But when you look how James excels on offense and defense and how he carries his team to victory, he rises above the rest.

From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn

Rocket editor

By the numbers: My favorite detective movies

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

1. Training Day (2001)
2. Rush Hour (1998)
3. In the Heat of the Night (1967)
4. Blown Away (1994)
5. 48 Hrs. (1982)
6. Bad Boys (1995)
7. Jack Reacher (2012)
8. The Departed (2006)
9. Inside Man (2006)
10. Cobra (1986)
11. Sudden Impact (1983)
12. Shaft (2000)
13. Bulletproof (1996)
14. Patriots Day (2016)
15. Bullitt (1968)
16. Murder on the Orient Express (2017)

Volodymyr Hryshchenko via Unsplash

 **246th ARMY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

5:00 -
9:00 pm

**JUNE
12**

The
Redstone
Gateway
Gate 9

SAVE THE DATE

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

FREE TO ATTEND!

More details coming soon.

For more information please call 256-842-3070.



 **246th ARMY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

5:00 -
9:00 pm

**JUNE
12**

The
Redstone
Gateway
Gate 9

**The Army Birthday Celebration
will include a Free Cruise-In Car Show.**

Cruise-In Car Show: 5:30 - 7:30pm
 Awards presentation to follow at 7:30pm.

Prizes awarded for 1st and 2nd place in the categories
 of Cars, Trucks, and Motorcycles
 \$100 or \$200 Gift Card provided to winners

Deadline to register your vehicle in the show is June 6, 2021.
 To register, please visit RedstoneMWR.com.



So Major Payne,
are you ready
for a full day of
mandatory
training?

Mostly. I got
my coffee and
Sudoku but
forgot to bring
my pillow!



Jim Boerch
19 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>.

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.

Business/government contracting

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.

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.

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 or visit 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.hbc1.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.hbc1.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.

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.

Rocket Announcements

Miscellaneous Items

Men's ministry

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

Young citizen of month

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

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.

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. For information call him at 430-1517. Appointments are encouraged but not required as all walk-ins are welcome for donors.

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 Monday 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 released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for May 10-14. The highest scores included Nature's Apothecary Inc., 3215 North Memorial Parkway, 100; Ted's Bar-B-Que Andrew Jackson, 212 Andrew Jackson Way, 100; SuperTarget 1367 (Produce), 2750 Carl T. Jones Drive SE, 100; Chick-Fil-A at Northrop Grumman, 301 Voyager Way, 100; Yogurt Mountain II, 326 Sutton Road Unit N, Owens Cross Roads, 100; and Walmart 433 (Produce), 2200 Sparkman Drive, 100. The lowest scores included AL Tobacco Outlet, 4901 Meridian St., 88; Wayback Burger, 6290 University Drive, 87; and Everlite Business Inc., doing business as Meridian Street Hop-In, 3310 Meridian St. NE, 84.