

RedstoneRocket

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Golden day at ballpark



Photo by Eric Schultz

Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command, greets Gold Star families during a reception in their honor Sunday at Toyota Field in Madison. The Gold Star families reception was part of the Rocket City Trash Pandas baseball doubleheader. The Trash Pandas swept the Biloxi Shuckers, 3-2 and 6-1.



MILITARY

Military retirees can serve to improve quality of life.

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COMMUNITY

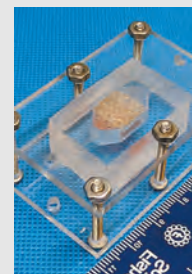
Army birthday celebrated by the local community.

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FEDERAL

Teams engineer complex human tissues, win prizes.

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SPORTS

Grand slam powers gray team to win.

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RocketViews

Father's Day event brings full house, leftovers

The hits just keep on coming this year. Not only am I now at the age where body parts randomly fail, apparently I also now have an inexplicable urge to host family functions.

Ever since I've had a driver's license, I've tried to be the last person to arrive and the first person to leave anytime there was a large family gathering.

But for whatever reason, this year, while sitting at my cousin's house on Mother's Day, with a mouthful of smoked pork butt in my mouth, I said "Well, I guess we'll do Father's Day."

I didn't mean to say that out loud. I was just trying to make a mental note to talk to Anna about possibly hosting one of these things.

But I did. I did say it out loud and someone heard me.

And now you know why last Friday I could be seen at Sam's lugging around a 10-pound log of ground beef.

The biggest challenge of planning these events is getting the right amount of food.

The majority of my family eats a normal amount. Then there's a Ryan, a Bubba and me.

Ryan is a 6-foot-4 beanstalk. Bubba is a 6-foot-plus grizzly. And then there's me –practically the ideal specimen of a human body, all 5-8, 270 pounds of me.

Ryan is the most consistent of the three of us. The guy works outside, seven days a week, and probably burns around 12,000 calories a day. Bubba and I, our appetites vary. Some days could be a four-burger lunch, other days it could just be a salad.

Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson
Assistant editor

All that being said, I ended up going with 31 burgers and 24 hot dogs.

How did I arrive at that number?

Well it was complicated.

I had 32 hamburger buns, but one always rips and there were 24 hot dogs in the pack.

And when it was all said and done, I had 18 hot dogs and 14 hamburgers left over.

Our guests only ate two hot dog buns and about 12 hamburger buns.

They didn't tell me everybody was doing a low-carb diet.

Here's the other thing about hosting a Father's Day event that gets lost: The dads don't want to be there.

It should be noted, that from the host's point of view, this is also the best part about hosting Father's Day. It's over and done with in less than two hours. It goes eat, open a card that's just a fancy wrapper for a gift card and then hit the road.

And really, what more do dads want then to get back to their house and do whatever it is they want to do?

Final Salute

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

Robert Edward Dudley

Dudley, 87, died June 11. He was born in Roanoke, Virginia, the youngest of seven children. After graduating from Virginia Tech, he started an Army career. His first tour was at Redstone Arsenal where he met the colonel's secretary, the beautiful Mary Walton Johnson. They were married June 9, 1956. His career took him to Korea, Vietnam, and two tours in Germany in addition to stateside deployments. Following retirement in 1975, Mary and Robert settled in Huntsville, where he had a civilian career for another 20 years. Survivors include his son, Robert Jr., his grandson, Robert III and two great-grandsons, Robert IV, and Elliot Nash Dudley.

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

On this date in history: June 23

In 1818: Twelve boys and an assistant coach from a soccer team in Thailand were trapped in a flooding cave, leading to an 18-day rescue operation.

In 1917: A series of terrorist attacks took place in Pakistan resulting in 96 deaths and wounded 200 others.

In 1913: Nik Wallenda became the first man to successfully walk across the Grand Canyon on a tight rope.

In 1926: The College Board administered the first SAT exam.

In 1865: At Fort Towson in the Oklahoma Territory, Confederate Brig. Gen. Stand Watie surrendered the last significant Confederate army.

In 1860: The U.S. Congress established the Government Printing Office.

In 1683: William Penn signed a friendship treaty with Lenni Lenape Indians in Pennsylvania.

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.vauhn@theredstonerocket.com.

RedstoneRocket

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First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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What do you think of your job?

Officer Jonathan Price, with Redstone police department over a year: "I love working here. Being able

to serve the community. Protecting the personnel and the community of Redstone Arsenal."

Traffic Accident Investigator Dereck Haywood, with Redstone police department three years: "I enjoy having a direct impact with the Redstone Arsenal community."

Sgt. Aaron Hanson, with Redstone police department 12 years: "I think it's an absolute privilege to engage and police the culturally diverse community of Redstone Arsenal. I look forward to my job every day."

Sgt. Michael Fritschie, with Redstone police department since Feb. 17: "As one of the newest officers here at Redstone, I enjoy the differences Redstone brings after spending the last eight years working in Alaska. The setting and climate is much different."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

From left are Redstone Police Officer Jonathan Price, Traffic Accident Investigator Dereck Haywood, Sgt. Aaron Hanson and Sgt. Michael Fritschie

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN
Rocket editor
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Name: Doug Hearington

Position: Deputy director of the Army Corps of Engineers Learning Center

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to serve in the Army. And I did, I went in the Army (on the Reserve and active duty from 1980-96 and left as a captain).

What do you hope to accomplish in 2021?

We're going to buy a new house (in Toney).

What is the best part about your job?

The people I work with. The best part about my job. Absolutely. I work with excellent people.

Who is your hero, and why?

There's a lot of people I admire. Can't put my finger on just one right now.

If you could choose to do anything



for a day, what would it be?

I don't have the ability to do it but if I could choose to do anything, it would be cool to pilot a small aircraft. I'd fly all over the place.

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

"Keep persevering." That came from my (maternal) grandmother.

What do you like to do to pass the time?

I like to make things out of wood, like furniture.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents June 6-12:

June 7: A Redstone police officer conducted a perimeter check and discovered damage to the Arsenal perimeter fence on Zierdt Road south of Ellsworth Boulevard. Investigation revealed the driver was traveling south on Zierdt, lost control of the vehicle and struck the perimeter fence. Approximately 50 feet of the fence was damaged. A Huntsville police officer responded to investigate.

June 10: A two-vehicle accident with injury occurred at Martin Road and Morris Road. Vehicle 1 was traveling north on Morris while vehicle 2 was traveling west on Martin. Vehicle 1 traveled through the intersection and struck the front of vehicle 2. After impact, vehicle 1 continued northwest off the roadway and struck two traffic control devices. Both vehicles sustained disabling damages and had to be towed. The driver of vehicle 2 was transported by Huntsville Emergency Medical Services Inc. to Crestwood Medical Center for evaluation. Minor Repair responded and replaced the traffic control devices. The driver of vehicle 1 was cited for failure to yield. This investigation continues by the Redstone Traffic Accident Investigation Section.

June 10: At Gate 3, a security guard requested police presence for a vehicle emitting the odor of marijuana. Redstone police arrived and made contact with the driver who was later removed from the vehicle prior to conducting a vehicle search. During the search, four

jars of a green leafy substance, which tested positive for marijuana, weighing 13.5 grams and two open containers of alcohol were found. Redstone police conducted Standardized Field Sobriety Tests on the driver who was determined to be too impaired to drive. The driver was arrested and transported to the station for processing. The vehicle was towed from the scene. The evidence was seized and placed in the temporary evidence storage locker. The driver received citations for simple possession of marijuana, open container and driving under the influence (controlled substance and was then released into the custody of a family member.

June 11: Redstone police responded to a traffic stop for failure to obey a traffic control device which was conducted by a NASA security officer. The National Crime Information Center revealed the driver's license was suspended. It also revealed a warrant for failure to appear on a failure to register vehicle charge from Cullman County Sheriff Department. The Cullman County sheriff department declined extradition at this time. The individual was cited for driving on a suspended license, relinquished the vehicle to a licensed driver and was then escorted off Redstone Arsenal.

Citations included one for driving while license is suspended or revoked, one for possession of a controlled substance, one for failure to obey traffic control device, one for driving under the influence, one for open container of alcohol, one for failure to maintain lane, one for expired registration, one for reckless driving and seven for speeding.

Quote of the week

"The Soldier is the Army. No army is better than its soldiers. The Soldier is also a citizen. In fact, the highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one's country."

— George S. Patton Jr.

Know your laws: Alabama Literacy Act

By AMY WASYLUKA

Huntsville attorney

In 2019, Gov. Kay Ivey signed the Alabama Literacy Act into law. According to the Alabama State Department of Education, the purpose of the ALA is to improve reading and to make sure Alabama students are reading on grade level by the end of the third grade. However, under the ALA, beginning next school year, if children do not meet this standard, they can be held back.

Earlier this year, the Alabama State Legislature passed a bill which would have delayed the implementation of the ALA due to concerns about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on education over the past year. Proponents of delaying the implementation of the ALA

fear that implementing it this school year will result in failing children who have had inconsistent or disrupted schooling as a result of the pandemic.

Despite these concerns, late last month, Ivey vetoed the bill to delay the implementation of the ALA. However, she could still decide to delay the implementation of the ALA following next year's legislative session, if statewide reading test results suggest that implementing it will be detrimental to students. Therefore, the question of when the ALA will ultimately be implemented remains uncertain.

Additionally, even after the ALA is implemented, failing to pass the third-



grade reading test may not automatically result in a child being held back under the ALA. According to AL.com, children who do not pass that test may still be able to advance provided they meet other criteria such as qualifying for a "good cause exemption,"

taking an alternate test, or submitting a "reading portfolio." See generally, Trisha Powell Crain, "What Parent's Need to Know about Alabama's Third Grade Reading Retention Law," AL.com (June 7).

The potential for a delay of implementation and alternate paths to advancement notwithstanding, the possible implementation of the ALA understand-

ably has some parents concerned about the impact of the ALA on their child, and about their child's reading proficiency. Parents who are concerned about their child's reading can check out the Alabama Reading Initiative's "The Alabama Family Guide for Reading Success." Copies of the guide in both English and Spanish can be found online at www.mcassk12.org/Page/13175.

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

Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Rachel Deloach

Your time at the Garrison.

"I started my three-month Garrison rotation in the Public Affairs Office as a public affairs apprentice in early April and I completed it Wednesday, June 16," Rachel Deloach, a Department of the Army public affairs apprentice assigned to Redstone Arsenal, said. "Throughout my time at the Garrison, I developed three social media campaigns, facilitated two Redstone Arsenal Garrison events, wrote press releases and media advisories and developed a communication plan for Redstone Arsenal's 246th Army birthday celebration. I have enjoyed honing my skills as a public affairs specialist and look forward to more opportunities in this fantastic career field."

Deloach, 25, from Atlanta, graduated from Troy University on May 11, 2018, with a bachelor's in broadcast journalism and public relations. She started her Army career in January 2020 at Army Materiel Command headquarters at Redstone. Deloach has left for a three-month training rotation from June 21 until Sept. 25 at Department of Army Office of the Chief of Public Affairs at the Pentagon. She likes to exercise, travel and see new places, and spend time with family. She roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.

Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense Department websites

Sustained funding encouraged for Army

WASHINGTON – While the Army was able to accomplish an array of missions this past year, readiness levels may still be fragile to the global challenges it currently faces against growing near-peer threats, the vice chief of staff told lawmakers June 9.

In a whirlwind year, the Army has demonstrated its ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, civil unrest, and support operations along the southwest border, Gen. Joseph Martin said.

The Army also maintained missions across 140 countries, including combating transnational terrorism, deterring near-peer competition, and strengthening relationships with allies and partners, Martin added, as he testified before the House Armed Services Committee's subcommittee on readiness.

"The Army is busy, and our ability to meet these challenges demonstrates a high level of readiness rebuilt over the past several years," Martin said.

However, competitors continue to demonstrate significant technological and military advancements that erode the U.S. military's advantage across the land, maritime,

air, cyber, and space domains, he said.

"To meet future challenges, the Army is undergoing the most significant transformation in the past 40 years," he said. "This transformation – the bedrock of future readiness – will enable the Army to support the joint force with a credible land-combat power necessary for deterrence and decisive victory."

Last month, senior leaders released a \$173 billion budget proposal for fiscal year 2022 that prioritizes people-first initiatives as well as efforts to maintain readiness levels and provide a credible and capable land force supporting joint all-domain operations.

As the Army continues on a solid path to build and maintain a ready force, it must retain its competitive advantage against a potential adversary, Martin said.

Timely, adequate, predictable, and sustained funding is necessary to ensure readiness gains and meet priorities set within the Army's modernization, readiness and people strategies. The Army's size is also equally important, as senior leaders look to maintain end-strength numbers, he added.

"Even today, we are unable to meet all the global requirements asked of us. Any strength reductions will further reduce our ability to provide the combat power ... and place an excessive hardship on our Soldiers and families," he said.

Military

Military retirees can serve to improve quality of life

Retiree council seeks volunteers

By JO ANITA MILEY
Garrison Public Affairs

If you are a military retiree looking for an opportunity to be part of changes and events to improve the lives of military retirees, the Redstone Arsenal Military Retiree Council wants you.

Garrison Retirement Services Officer Betty Anderson said military retiree councils have been established at all Army installations. Retired Soldiers can volunteer to serve on local installation retired Soldier councils.

Anderson said any military retiree can visit Redstone for services. It takes a concerted effort to take care of the military retiree community. The council works closely with her office to support approximately 43,000 to 50,000 military retirees, family members and annuitant widows in North Alabama/Tennessee Valley region.

Adams said the council is an agent to provide the installation commander's feedback on military retiree issues and concerns.

"The MRC assists our office with identifying and eliminating any barriers that may prevent us from reaching the military retiree population. I'm glad new co-chairs have recently come on board to get the MRC reestablished at Redstone," Anderson said.

Retired Lt. Col. Russell Brownfield and Retired Command Sgt. Maj. Donell Pelt serve as co-chairs on the council. In their roles as co-chairs, Anderson said Brownfield and Pelt will have an opportunity to provide input on issues that directly impact retirees like health-care costs, availability and benefits. The role will also allow input on improving or growing facilities on the installation.

"Our goal is to communicate with the military retirees and update them regarding the decisions, policies and laws that affect them," Pelt said. "We want to ensure the retirees have a platform on which they can have a voice to express their concerns. Although the council works to resolve problems at the local level, we also forward those issues that cannot be resolved locally to the chief of staff of the Army, MRC to consider if the issue has Armywide implications. This allows Army leaders insight into retirees' needs and concerns and provides retirees with a channel of communication with the active Army. Being a retiree myself, it's a way for me to give back."

Pelt has served four two-year terms on the council at Redstone. He said serving on the council is a role for someone who wishes he or she could make a difference at every level, from the local installations to having senior Army leadership listen to their concerns.

Anderson said her office works closely with the council to coordinate the Retiree Appreciation Day, held annually for retirees from all branches of military service who served on active duty for 20 or more years, their family members and annuitant widows. The 2020 RAD was canceled on Redstone due to COVID-19 restric-



Photo by Eric Schultz

From left are Military Retiree Council Co-Chairs Russell Brownfield and Donell Pelt, and Garrison Retirement Services Officer Betty Anderson.

tions. The next Retiree Activity Day will take place Oct. 22 at Heiser Hall.

Pelt has helped coordinate eight Retiree Appreciation Days on Redstone. He said organizing the observance is just one of the ways the council helps promote goodwill between the retirees and Soldiers.

"The RAD is a very important event for the MRC because individuals can get updates on the resources, entitlements and benefits they have," Pelt said. "This is definitely an area where military retirees can make a difference. Our knowledge and experiences helps promote goodwill between the retirees and active duty Soldiers. No other group can better understand the feelings and problems of both the civilian and military communities than we do (retired Soldiers). By serving as a liaison between the two sectors, we help them work together toward common goals.

"We also do a survey after the RAD is held. Our team pushes forward any issues of concern brought to our attention to the Chief of Staff, Army, Military Retiree Council to address. This group meets once a year to handle any issues that have come up at military installations worldwide."

Brownfield said this is his first term serving on the council at Redstone. He wasn't really aware of the council until Anderson told him about it when he was

out-processing at the retirement services office.

"I'm eager to serve on this team," Brownfield said. "The retiree services officer told me about the council and some of the things they've done in the past to support military retirees. I liked what I heard and decided to join the council, I would like to see our MRC do more to connect with those military retirees who may not be aware of the council and want to make sure we are actively getting the messaging out there. I think military retirees should be giving back in different ways and serving on the MRC is an example of this. We are 'Soldiers for Life'."

Pelt said he hopes the Army can count on other military retirees to do their part. The council needs at least 150 members who are motivated and dedicated to the cause and are willing to work hard for the good of the military retirees. Spouses and retired service members from all service branches are welcome to join the council.

"We want persons to be active and involved," Brownfield said. "Council members have an opportunity to be a part of the positive changes and events that improve the lives of our military retirees here at Redstone Arsenal."

For information about joining the Military Retiree Council, call 842-2719 or 468-8592.

Daly engages Soldiers for Life during VFW visit

By MEGAN GULLY

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

AUSTIN, Texas – The members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3377 in Manchaca, Texas, describe themselves as “yesterday’s defenders of freedom,” and in tribute, one of the Army’s most senior ranking officers visited the post to thank them in person.

Following an engagement at Army Futures Command, Gen. Ed Daly, commander of Army Materiel Command, visited VFW 3377 June 12 to meet with the members and express his gratitude for their legacy of service.

“Department of Defense leadership wants you to know that they are so proud and honored of your service and what you have done for our nation, and I am here to deliver that message on their behalf,” he said. “We have the best military the world has ever seen and it’s not by chance. Your legacy lives on in today’s service members; they are influenced by you.”

Daly said that today’s most senior military members were all mentored by veterans of the Korean and Vietnam War eras.

“Your courage, your sacrifices, your mentoring and coaching of the people around

you, it still resonates with what we are doing today,” he said. “Our military is only as good as the people who serve in it, and it is you who contributed to that solid foundation.”

Post members, while retired, are still actively serving and mentoring those around them, Daly said. The VFW sponsors multiple activities to encourage patriotism, including Patriot’s Pen where students write patriotic themes competing for awards and prizes, and Voice of Democracy, a scholarship program. In addition, the VFW volunteers with local Boy Scout troops.

“You are still actively influencing the future of our military and our country,” Daly said. “I could talk about what you do for three hours, and it still wouldn’t do it justice.”

The veterans, meanwhile, said the visit from a four-star general emphasized the impact of their service and legacy to the nation.

“The visit by General Daly sends a strong message to the veterans of VFW Post 3377 that our service to this country had value and that we are remembered and not forgotten,” said Mike Pfannenstiel, VFW Post 3377 post commander.



Photo by Jean-Louis “Dutch” DeGay, Army Futures Command

Gen. Ed Daly, commander Army Materiel Command, talks with Korean War veteran Pat Liddy during his visit to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3377 in Manchaca, Texas, June 12.

Experimental test pilot returns to school as instructor



Photo by Collin Magonigal

Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Fish, an experimental test pilot at the Redstone Center, will be returning the Naval Test Pilot School this summer as an instructor for the future XPs going through the 12-month course.

By CHRISTY BARNETT

Redstone Test Center Public Affairs

One of the key missions at the Redstone Test Center is to provide technical expertise in the test and evaluation of aviation systems. At the forefront of experimental and engineering flight testing are highly-trained Army experimental test pilots.

XPs are graduates of the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School. Selected candidates are experienced combat aviators and attend the course at Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland, for 12 months. The Army receives nine seats a year and provides instructors and aircraft for the course. The majority of the Army graduates then come to RTC for a tour of duty as an experimental test pilot.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 David Fish graduated in the summer of 2018 in Class 153. This summer, Fish will return to Patuxent River, this time as an instructor at the school.

“They started looking for volunteers to go so I talked it over with my family and we thought it would be a good move for the family and for me career-wise to go,” Fish said. “I’ve been fortunate enough to do a lot of testing on different airframes, Black Hawks, and airplanes and hopefully I can take some of that back up there with these new test pilots coming in, help them prepare, let them know what’s coming ahead and pass

some of that along to them.”

The school involves extensive pre-training, a challenging flight syllabus in more than 15 aircraft and a graduate-level academic curriculum in aerospace and systems engineering. Future XPs will not only support testing on current aircraft and existing systems, but will join the XP community in supporting critical Army modernization efforts such as the development and fielding of the Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft, the Future Long Range Assault Aircraft, and the Improved Turbine Engine as part of Future Vertical Lift.

This second tour at the school is something both Fish, his wife and three daughters are looking forward to this go-round. Fish is looking forward to providing some perspective to the aviators going through the course.

Fish explained how busy the course is, and how often one feels like they are scrambling around. “I think some people lose sight of what their end state is, what they are hoping to get out of the course and what’s next for them,” he said. “I’m hoping to be able to relate to them and keep them caged on ‘this is why you are doing this,’ and ‘this is the kind of testing your future holds,’ so they can see beyond the school and see a light at the end of the tunnel.”

Fish will serve as an instructor for three years at the school.

'This is My Organization' puts focus on people

By ANTWAUN PARRISH

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston set forth the "This is My Squad" initiative. Carlen Chestang, Aviation and Missile Command G-1 director, said TiMS was developed on the heels of the Army People Strategy, which was proposed by Gen. James McConville, chief of staff of the Army.

"The strategy focuses on deliberately managing the talents of the total Army force to increase readiness," Chestang said. "People are the Army. They are our greatest strength, our most important weapon system. The concept is intended to move the Army away from a reliance on systems and technology, and put the focus back on its people in preparation for the future fight."

"This is My Organization," an Army Materiel Command initiative, is a way that leaders can cultivate a culture of care, pride and ownership in their organizations.

"Through this initiative, leaders are empowered to incorporate and adapt the Army's best practices into their own organizations in order to improve efficiency (and) unit readiness and mentor their subordinates for a successful Army career," Chestang said.

He went on to state that TiMO is mainly

a Soldier initiative; however, with AMCOM being over 90% Army civilians, it's important for all to understand this new concept.

Chestang explained the four key messages within the TiMO initiative and their significance:

- A path to a healthy working environment helps strengthen unit-level cohesion and addresses issues such as suicide, sexual harassment and morale.

- The path to success and longevity "concept will only make us better as an organization. Our recruitment and job satisfaction should increase."

- Join the path to respect and dignity. "We need to be better at listening and, if we find areas we need to work on, we should adjust."

- Respect and dignity for all is linked to the Army values – loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. Respect is the foundation that links them together."

Chestang said all of the measures put into place come down to individual responsibility and accountability.

"The initiative is essentially about getting (military and civilian) leaders to care about one another," he said. "Also, (to) understand the (commander's) vision and AMC's culture, while providing feedback on employee perception and experiences."

Nascar, Army testing new seat for Apache helicopter

By **REBECCA SALLEE**

Staff writer

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When one too many Apache helicopter pilots complained of an aching back from hours spent in the aircraft's hard, uncomfortable seats, the Army turned to an unlikely source for help: NASCAR.

Matt Hudson, assistant product manager for development and modernization at the Apache Project Office, said back issues have been common among

Apache helicopter pilots for years.

Direction for a new design came from the top – at the time, Brig. Gen. (now Lt. Gen.) Thomas Todd, who ordered a fix for the problem.

Members of the Apache Project Office conducted market research that led them to NASCAR, which referred them to Hendrick Motorsports of Charlotte, North Carolina, a company that not only sponsors NASCAR racing teams, but also designs seats for most race cars.

Rhegan Flanagan, director of gov-

ernment programs at HMS, said the biggest challenge in creating a new seat for the Apache was the small nature of the cockpit and a pilot's need to move around from left to right.

In a racecar, the seat is molded to a driver's body, whose head is also tightly held in place, creating a very limited field of vision that requires "spotters" to help the driver maneuver, she said.

In a helicopter, pilots "have to be able to move around, lean forward, (look) left to right," Flanagan said. "The cockpits are extra small. All in all, the pilots can move around a bit more but the space constraints are very tough."

HMS interviewed Apache pilots and conducted further research in designing a more comfortable leatherette-covered foam prototype seat that then underwent extensive preliminary testing required by the Army "in order to get a product on to an aircraft and actually flying," Hudson said.

First the seats were tested for environmental issues such as exposure to fungus and sun. Next, the assembly was tested by "dynamic drop testing" to simulate a crash.

See Seat on page 15



Courtesy photo

Paul Kiszely, an Apache maintenance test pilot, says the new HMS seat is "much more comfortable" than the one the vehicle has used for decades.

One Stop gives update on identification cards

By **JONATHAN STINSON**

Assistant editor

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The One Stop ID card section has been operating at a limited capacity since June 9.

The Defense Manpower Data Center pushed a worldwide DEERS/RAPIDS software update that had an adverse effect on some of the DEERS/RAPID systems, which generate Common Access Cards and U.S. IDs for military personnel, government civilians and contractors, retirees and their family members. This is a worldwide issue and One Stop personnel are waiting for the DMDC to fix the problem, officials said.

Officials said the timing of the malfunction is unfortunate because it's in the middle of the "summer surge" for incoming and departing personnel, as well as family members home from school and need to update their information in DEERS and/or receive a new ID card. Summer is one of the busiest times of the year for the One Stop. Currently the online ID card appointments calendar is open through Dec. 31.

In an unrelated action, though it's one that could help lessen the burden on the One Stop, the Department of Defense issued new guidance June 7 that extended temporary Uniformed Service Identification Card's expiration.

The DOD said this move was to ensure all DOD personnel and beneficiaries have continued access to healthcare and all authorized benefits during ongoing COVID-19 pandemic impacts on the identification card site operations. This affects cards with expirations between Jan. 1, 2020, and July 31, 2021.

All foreign affiliates and their dependents are good through Aug. 31. Dependents of uniformed active duty service members and dependents of uniformed Reserve and National Guard service members are good through Oct. 31.

Retirees and their dependents and all other U.S. ID card populations are good through Jan. 31, 2022. ID cards that expired prior to Jan. 1, 2020, are not extended and must be replaced. ID cards with expiration dates after July 31, 2021, must be replaced by their expiration date. For questions, call the One Stop at 842-2413.

Seat

Continued from page 12

The final step in August 2020 was a “fit test” in which pilots of different sizes and body types sat in the seat to be sure it fit and allowed them to make regular motions without creating any “pinch points.”

The seats help keep pilots into the posture they need to be in, Hudson said, noting that they are designed to contour a pilot’s “butt” comfortably while providing back stability.

On May 26, the Army put eight prototype seats for two pilots (one in front, one in back) in four Apache helicopters in the field for long-term testing. Teams that fly from Mesa, Arizona, to their home base near Savannah, Georgia — one of the longest current Apache routes — have been asked to evaluate several aspects of the seats’ comfort during both short and long flights via a survey link.

Questions include total hours in flight, role in flight, pilot experience, and most importantly, “how do you feel?” upon completion of a flight, Hudson said.

So far, only a handful of surveys have been completed and none are especially remarkable. “Most of them are neutral,” Hudson said.



Courtesy photo

The seat cushions help leverage the racing industry knowledge on crew fatigue and comfort during operations.

Testing will continue for about six to eight months, Hudson said. “The requirement is for 27 different pilots (to complete surveys) over three different (flight) durations,” from one to six hours each.

Based on the data that results, the

Army may purchase the seats for its entire Apache fleet of about 750 units, Hudson said, or it may take steps to modify the design.

“Our mission is to provide a qualified cushion to our Production and Fielding Office,” Hudson said. “They would determine how they want to field the seats.”

“The current options would be to leave it as a Commercial Off the Shelf item, provision the cushions and introduce them into the supply system, or do a production cut-in and put them into each aircraft that leaves the assembly line.”

Mike Niemi, a retired chief warrant officer four who now works as an Apache new equipment training pilot at Fort Hood, Texas, has flown the Apache for some 6,400 hours since 1998, and recently flew with the prototype HMS seat.

“I like it,” he said. “I won’t say it’s perfect, but it’s a big improvement from where we’ve been. We have suffered for many years.”

Compared to the old “armored seat” in the Apache, “this is a welcome design,” Niemi said.

A set of prototype seats is also on hand at the Redstone Test Center, where Paul Kiszely, an Apache maintenance test pilot, tried one out during a two-hour flight last week and declared it “much more comfortable.”

Kiszely, who spent 24 years in the Army as an Apache pilot and retired as a chief warrant officer four, said the older Apache seat “was just a basic foam seat with a perforated cloth cover. It was never, ever replaced. It was very worn.”

The new seat “is more of a memory foam or a new and improved type foam from the NASCAR racing industry,” said Kiszely, who would recommend a tweak: “I would say the foam cushion should be a little more dished out. I felt like I sat on top of the seat instead of in the seat.”

Hudson noted that “this is not a mature program and is purely developmental at this time.”

Flanagan said HMS owner Rick Hendricks founded the government programs division of the company in order to help the war fighter.

“We focus completely on the end user, what they need, and what’s going to make them better in the field,” she said.

Regardless of the outcome of the current prototype, Hudson said the partnership with NASCAR and HMS has been unique in many ways, including their dedication to the Army’s mission.

“It is definitely different working with them,” he said. “They’re very passionate about the war fighter and what they’re doing. They were very engaged.”

Operations security manager named Army's best

By MICHELLE GORDON

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

For the second time in six years, Paul Quintel, the Aviation and Missile Command operations security program manager, has received the first place Army-wide OPSEC individual award.

Quintel was selected based on his efforts during 2020. Even with much of the world shut down due to the COVID-19 global pandemic and most government employees teleworking from home, he said the OPSEC mission did not stop.

"Just because we had a pandemic doesn't mean we quit doing OPSEC," he said. "We were coordinating training, conducting OPSEC reviews and collaborating on the destruction program – so I was staying busy in 2020. We had challenges, but we adjusted to them."

For Quintel, OPSEC is not just a job. After more than 20 years in the field, it is a way of life.

The Three Rivers, California, native joined the Marine Corps immediately after graduating from high school in 1978. He was an electronics technician for the Hawk missile system, but security was always one of the extra hats he wore.

"I was the classified materials control officer, ensuring all of the classified materials were stored properly at the end of the day," he said. "I was the commercial security custodian and, in my last unit, I was the physical security officer – so security was always a collateral duty for me."

After 20 years on active duty with the Marine Corps, Quintel retired and went back to school. He earned a degree in criminal justice from Faulkner University in Montgomery and, subsequently, heard about a contract position opening at Redstone Arsenal in 2004.

After three years on the job, he became an Army civilian as the AMCOM physical security officer. Then, when the OPSEC program manager left, Quintel picked up those duties too and he said his position morphed from there.

"I got into it," he said. "I really understood it and enjoyed what I was doing. Now I'm the OPSEC program manager and I am the backup physical security officer for AMCOM. I run all of the security for the Spark-



Paul Quintel

man Center; I oversee the badge checker contract, the camera systems and the access control systems."

As an OPSEC subject matter expert, Quintel is routinely invited to be a guest speaker at the annual OPSEC symposium, where he discusses such topics as insider threats and active shooters.

"OPSEC is OPSEC but, when it comes to training, I've got about six or seven different briefings that I rotate and modify, so every year it's something different," he said.

The rise of social media occurred simultaneously with Quintel retiring from the Marine Corps and working security full time, and he is quick to name it as his biggest challenge from an OPSEC perspective. In fact, one of his most popular briefings is what he calls "family OPSEC training," during which he talks about not

only the pitfalls of social media, but items most people would not think about as being dangerous.

"When I get to the end of my family OPSEC briefing, I show a picture of the rear of a car with all of the stick figures, stickers, soccer balls, etc., on the back," he said. "Then I tell the audience how I'm going to steal their cute, little 6-year-old daughter. I go through it really quickly – how I go from observing the car, to locating them at the soccer field, to befriending the family – to kidnapping their daughter. People are usually shocked and tell me I'm crazy. No, as a security person, I'm trained to look at things differently than most people."

Quintel teaches five to six OPSEC classes each year. COVID-19 slowed that down a bit, but he resumed face-to-face training in April with class enrollment sizes reduced by 50%, to ensure social distancing between students. He is also requested by local defense contractors to provide OPSEC training at their facilities.

"We all look at things from a different perspective," he said. "I try to convey that when I do training; I try to get people to think outside of the box."

Although he is constantly thinking about new ways to keep his training courses fresh, as he draws closer to 15 years as an Army civilian, lately Quintel is thinking about other things too – namely, retirement.

He said he's not ready just yet but, with more than 30 acres of land to take care of and a woodworking shop that would make Santa Claus jealous, he said he's not ruling it out in the next couple of years.

As for his most recent award, he describes it as humbling and recognizes how fortunate he is to have a great AMCOM team.

"It's an achievement," Quintel said. "It's also humbling to get it once. It's even more humbling to get it twice, but you don't get it without all of the support I get. I can't run this program by myself and I can't run it without the support from my supervisor, my directorate, my working group and the command."

Whether he is walking around the Sparkman Center in his purple OPSEC scrubs, or driving a tractor around his property, Quintel is always thinking OPSEC.

"I will always be dabbling in OPSEC," he said. "I'm doing it because I enjoy doing it and there's a need. It's mainly about getting the information out there."



Saudi security assistance

From left, Liz Wilson, the deputy assistant secretary of the Army for defense exports and cooperation, and Heidi Grant, director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, meet with the Office of Program Manager-Ministry of Interior-Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Program Director Brig. Gen. Mohammed bin Ali bin Ibrahim al-Habdan in the Ministry of Interior building in Riyadh, June 16. Col. Allan Dollison, program manager for the Army-Military Assistance Group, a subordinate organization of the Redstone Arsenal-based Security Assistance Command, participated in the talks, along with multiple senior Saudi and U.S. officials. Wilson is the Army principal responsible for security assistance and armaments cooperation, export policies, direct commercial sales of Army defense articles, and international cooperative research, development and acquisition. These programs employ over 3,100 Soldiers and civilians and exceed \$15 billion annually in sales and cooperative efforts with over 150 foreign countries. Grant is responsible for the administration and execution of all DOD security cooperation programs and activities involving the provision of defense articles, military training, and other defense-related services by grant, loan, cash sale or lease. She has oversight of over 15,000 foreign military sales cases with over 150 countries valued at \$620 billion. She is also responsible for the certification program for a workforce of over 20,000 military and civilian personnel. During the June visit to Saudi Arabia, attendees discussed the unique partnership between the Saudi Ministry of Interior and the DOD, and how the relationship can be strengthened.

Courtesy photo

Army acquisition executive visits Redstone Arsenal

By **NANCY JONES-BONBREST**

Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office

If an Army capability is somehow tied to missiles, space or aviation, it's likely – at one point or another – it had a connection to Redstone Arsenal.

That critical mission set is one reason the Army's top acquisition official visited the Arsenal on June 9-11.

With a goal of discussing modernization efforts across the many groups that call Redstone home, Douglas Bush, acting assistant secretary of the Army (acquisition, logistics and technology) and the Army acquisition executive, visited with several organizations throughout his three-day visit.

"It is impressive to see firsthand the tremendous work being done within the modernization enterprise in terms of forging the future force, sustainment and materiel readiness," he said.

One of those stops included the Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office. Here leaders for the organization briefed him on their rapid prototyping efforts, including hypersonics, directed energy, and other critical efforts including an upcoming "pitch day" event known as the Army Strategic Rapid Acquisition Competition, which takes place in Atlanta at the end of the month.

The RCCTO portion of Bush's itinerary included a visit to the Lockheed Martin facility in Huntsville, where work on the Long Range Hypersonic Weapon is taking place. Here he saw critical components of the LRHW where a new Transporter Erector Launcher was loaded with two



Courtesy photo

Army Acquisition Executive Douglas Bush, second from left, meets with Army Contracting Command's Brig. Gen. Christine Beeler, Command Sgt. Maj. Julie Saorrano and Deputy Commander Bryan Samson.

All Up Rounds plus training canisters. The RCCTO is responsible for prototyping the land-based LRHW to Soldiers by fiscal 2023.

While at the Space and Missile Defense Command, Bush met with the command's senior leaders including Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, SMDC commander.

Karbler said Bush's visit was a unique opportunity to engage directly with one of the Army's most senior leaders and talk the command's unique space and missile defense missions and capabilities.

"We occupy key terrain at the strategic nexus of three combatant commands," Karbler said. "Those commands are fighting for our capabilities every day."

Other stops also included Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, PEO Aviation, PEO Simulation, Training and Instrumentation, the Army Materiel Command, Army Contracting Command and more.

At Army Contracting Command, Bush met with the command team to discuss synchronizing contracting capabilities to deliver readiness and focusing on contracting outputs to support operating forces.

At PEO Missiles and Space, Bush received updates on the Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System and the Army Long-Range Persistent Surveillance. IBCS is the centerpiece of the Army's modernization strategy for air and missile defense capability. By networking any sensor with the best effector, IBCS will deliver the most advanced, battle survivable command and control system for U.S., joint and coalition forces, providing revolutionary multi-domain defense capabilities that will enhance lethality against current threats and enable growth to address future threats.

ALPS is a long-range sensor system, designed to provide continuous, 360-degree surveillance to detect cruise missiles, fixed and rotary wing aircraft, and unmanned aircraft system threats.

The visit provided Bush with a unique opportunity to see firsthand how the organizations across Redstone are working in support of modernization efforts and building on the Army's technology gains.

Community

Community celebrates Army's 246 years of service

By EMILY STRICKLAND

Staff writer

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The heat and humidity of an Alabama June evening were not enough to dampen the celebration at Ditto Landing on June 14 as the Association of the U.S. Army celebrated the Army's 246th birthday.

The event, sponsored by Aerojet Rocketdyne, kicked off at 5 p.m. and was an opportunity for the Redstone-Huntsville chapter of AUSA to celebrate some of their own members as well. The chapter welcomed a new president, Rhonda Sutton; presented awards to existing members; and welcomed new board members.

The Brewer/Priceville Army JROTC presented the colors to Lt. Gen. L. Neil Thurgood, who delivered remarks later in the evening, and cries of "Hooah!" rang out after Huntsville Police Officer Crystal Smith performed the national anthem.

"This group does so much for our Soldiers," said Thurgood, who is the director of Hypersonics, Directed Energy, Space and Rapid Acquisition and oversees the Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office. "Every day, this organization both locally and nationally makes a huge difference. I've got to tell you, having been around the Army for 36 years now, I've seen this organization change the lives of families."

AUSA is a "nonprofit educational and professional development association serving America's Army and supporters of a strong national defense," according to the organization's website. Bruce Fletcher, AUSA Third Region president, also attended the event and emphasized the impact local chapters and local leaders have on their communities.

Thurgood's remarks centered on the sacrifices veterans have made over the last 246 years to protect the United States.

"Today we honor every man and woman who proudly wore the uniform of the armed forces and bravely defended this great freedom that we enjoy, the individuals that ensure you and I are able to live our daily lives without tyranny and fear," Thurgood said. "Whether those veterans that served in the past or those that will serve in the future volunteered in time of war, served during peacetime, or never expected to wear our nation's uniform until a draft card arrived, they represented the best that America had to offer."

Natalie Cox, a recent graduate of Sparkman High School who will attend Army basic training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina, this summer, was also honored. She was invited to assist with the cake cutting, which occurred after Thurgood's speech. Cox said she has always wanted to join the military, despite being the first in her family to do so. She hopes to become an air traffic controller.

In accordance with a Redstone-Huntsville chapter tradition, Sutton presented Thurgood with an AUSA numbered coin bearing the number 246. The event was a patriotic show of support for the Army, honoring past, present and future Soldiers and their sacrifices.

"Freedom echoes from the battlefields of Europe, the beaches of Normandy, on the islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa, through the jungles of Vietnam, the deserts of the Middle East and now through the mountainous terrain of Afghanistan," Thurgood said. "Our armed forces have a long-standing record of triumph over evil."

"Freedom echoes from the battlefields of Europe, the beaches of Normandy, on the islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa, through the jungles of Vietnam, the deserts of the Middle East and now through the mountainous terrain of Afghanistan. Our armed forces have a long-standing record of triumph over evil."

Lt. Gen. L. Neil Thurgood



Photo by Eric Schultz

Rhonda Sutton, Bob Whiteford, Lt. Gen. L. Neil Thurgood, Natalie Cox and Bruce Fletcher cut the Army birthday cake using a sabre.



Photo by Eric Schultz

A toy soldier guards the Army birthday cake during the celebration.



Photo by Eric Schultz

Huntsville Police Officer Crystal Smith sings the national anthem to kick off the AUSA Army Birthday celebration.

Party on with boats from Outdoor Recreation

By REBECCA SALLEE

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With summer temperatures typically topping the 90s and accompanying “feels like” temps even hotter, there are few cooler places to be than on the water.

No wonder recreational and fishing rental boats at Outdoor Recreation are so popular.

Outdoor Recreation Manager Tom Pyburn and Ken Pitcher, assistant manager, said the facility’s four Sun Tracker “party barge” pontoon boats and six bass boats are sizzling hot summer items.

“We love the party boats,” Pitcher said. “They have the canopy overhead so you can get that sun shade.”

The pontoon boats are 20 feet long and can accommodate up to 10 people or 1,300 pounds, but Pitcher said they seat six adults “comfortably.”

Also available for rent are six Bass Tracker Pro boats. They are 16 feet long with three seats and come with a trolling motor.

A vessel license is recommended but not required to rent a boat from Outdoor Recreation, Pitcher said. Those without a vessel license are required to watch a 20-minute safety video approved by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Reservations for boats are available up to 90 days in advance. Pontoons are booked on weekends through the end of July, but weekday bookings are still available, Pitcher said.

Trailers are also for rent but can only be used with vehicles rated for towing and equipped with a two-inch towing ball, Pyburn said.

For those who want to remain on the installation, there are two boat launches at the Hudson and Posey recreational areas on the south side of the Arsenal on the Tennessee River.

Boats are fully fueled when they are checked out and should be fully fueled when they are returned.

Life vests in all sizes and personal “throwable” flotation devices are provided with the boat rentals, Pitcher said.

Canoes, which used to be for rent at Outdoor Recreation, were less popular and will be sold along with other outdoor equipment at a special sale June 28-30 at the facility.

Canoes, 20-by-30 outdoor canopies, and 8-foot pull-behind grills on trailers are among the items that will be sold. Pyburn said the prices will be clearly marked



Photo courtesy of Sun Tracker

Outdoor Recreation rents four Sun Tracker pontoon boats that seat up to six adults comfortably.

and are firm.

The sale coincides with Outdoor Recreation’s new hours of operation the week of June 28, when the facility will be closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On June 29 and 30, it will be open for the sale only, and will resume regular operations July 1.

Pyburn said the reduction in hours is necessary due to shortages in staff.

Located at building 5139 on Sportsman Road, Outdoor Recreation will maintain its current hours of 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Thursday through Monday. For more information, call 256-876-4868.

Outdoor Recreation will begin new hours effective June 28, with the facility closing every Tuesday and Wednesday until further notice due to a shortage in staff.

Know the must-have items for boating

Mike Moore, director of safety and risk management at Redstone Arsenal, encourages anyone who plans to operate a boat this summer to first participate in a regularly offered safety class at in the Outdoor Recreation training room, building 5139 on Sportsman Drive.

Under instruction by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, the classes are offered on Saturdays from 8:45 to 5 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person and includes a light lunch, Moore said.

“This class provides the knowledge needed to obtain the license or safety certification that is required in many states,” he said, adding that many insurance companies also provide discounts on premiums to boat owners who successfully complete training.

Topics include boating safety equipment, navigation, trailering and boat storage, boating laws, water skiing and river boating.

Drowning is the most common cause of death in fatal boating accidents, and is largely attributed to people not wearing life jackets, Moore said, adding that boat operator inattention and inexperience, machinery failure, and alcohol use are also primary contributing factors.

Finally, Moore noted the five “must-have” items for all boats: life jackets and wearable personal flotation devices, a throwable flotation device, a fire extinguisher, a visual signaling device and a sound signaling device.

For more information on boating safety classes, call William Stadtlander at 361-5841 or email him at wstadtlander2@gmail.com.

Air Force enabled veteran to improve his lifestyle

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Ernest Dartis figures he was lucky.

He served in the military during one of the most challenging times in U.S. history. But he served his four years state-side and didn't get shot.

Dartis was in the Air Force from Nov. 23, 1973, until Nov. 23, 1977, and left as a senior airman. He said he joined to go back to school after leaving the military.

"School was real expensive, still is," he said. "The economy wasn't doing well."

When he left the Air Force, he returned to trade school. He received his certification as a drafter in 1983 from State Area Vocational Technical School in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

Dartis did some drafting for a while with various companies downtown. The Winchester, Tennessee, native became an engineering technician for the Army at Redstone in 1984. He was a temporary hire at first and then became a permanent employee.

The Army civilian retired in July 2017 as a security specialist for the Aviation and Missile Command, G-2 (Security). He had 37 years of service, including four years in the Air Force. He worked at the then Research, Development and Engineering Center from 1984-97.

In the Air Force he was a missile maintenance technician. He went to Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona; Lackland AFB in San Antonio; and Champaign AFB in Rantoul, Illinois. He said he didn't encounter antimilitary protesters

Vietnam revisited Part 325 in series

during the turbulent Vietnam era.

"Some of the guys I was in with didn't like the idea of basic training, the whole nine yards," he said.

Dartis did hear guys talking about their experience in Vietnam, "talking about death, smell of death," he said.

But the Air Force enabled him to improve his lifestyle as he had hoped.

"It was great," Dartis said. "Travel, meeting people."

At 67 the Huntsville resident enjoys building things like furniture and working on cars. He has two daughters and three grandchildren.

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

"I've noticed that a lot of veterans, even today, are living on the street," he said. "There's no help for them, especially those guys that went to Vietnam; they got shot up."

"But I didn't serve over there. I didn't serve over there. I'm glad I didn't."

"I wish there was some kind of help for them. Because they're on the street to stay or die."

Editor's note: This is the 325th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

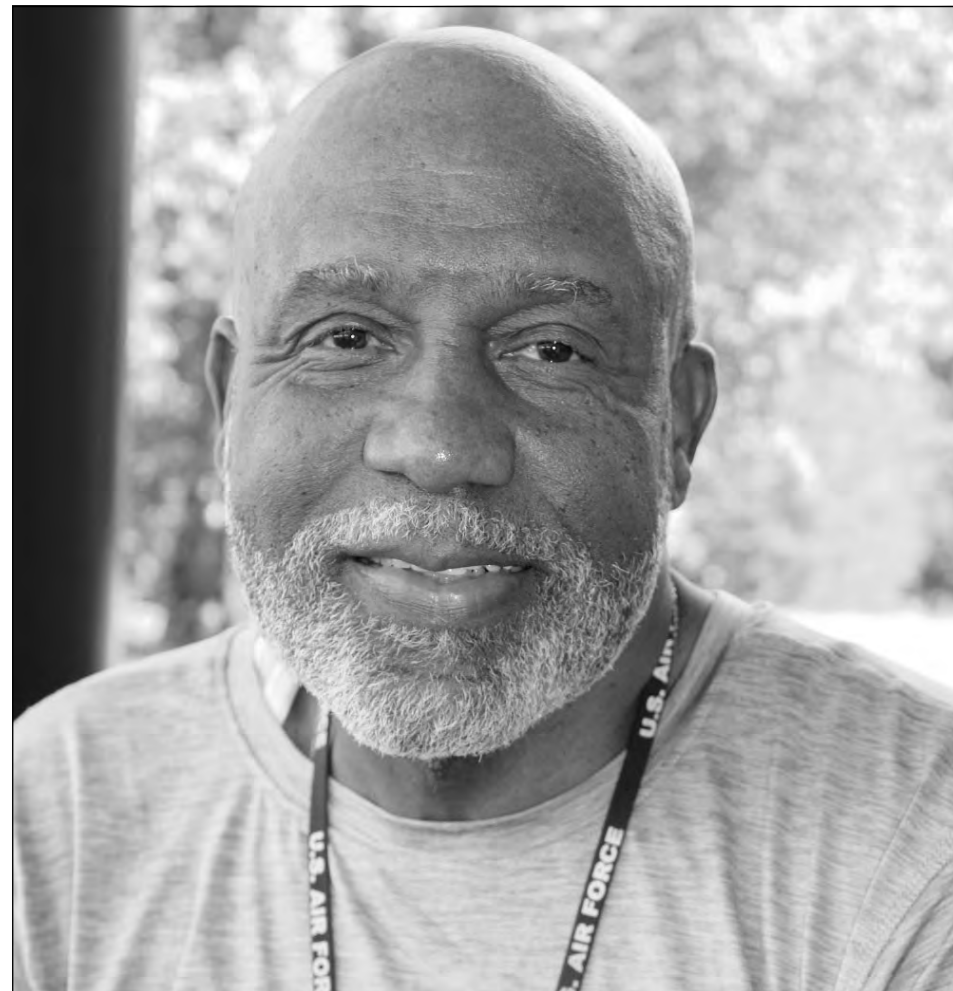


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Ernest Dartis served in the Air Force from 1973-77 and he retired from Redstone as an Army civilian in 2017.



Photo by Sarah Tate

Cutting the cake

Lt. Col. Tangela Robinson and Maj. Cynthia Rodriguez-Herndon, assigned to Army Contracting Command-Redstone, cut the cake during a ceremony celebrating the 246th Army birthday, June 14.



Courtesy photo

Youth service award

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Harry Hobbs, vice president for employee engagement for Huntsville Utilities, receives the Harriett Tubman Award, June 12 at the Magnolia Room in Decatur. He was recognized for his work with underserved youth in Madison County and North Alabama. The event was organized and sponsored by Lynnette Brown, right, the Kidz Table CEO. The guest speaker was Judge Joe Brown.

Motorists prepare for uptick in random inspections at gates

By **JONATHAN STINSON**

Assistant editor

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Redstone officials are ramping up efforts to keep the workforce safe, according to Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor.

“We are taking a hard look at when and how we do our random-access measures at each of our gates,” he said. “You will likely see a change in how we’re going to do those in the future.”

The goal according to Mellor is to ensure those who work on Redstone are playing by the rules. The catalyst for the increase in RAMs is a recent uptick in the number of violations found during routine traffic stops and RAM inspections.

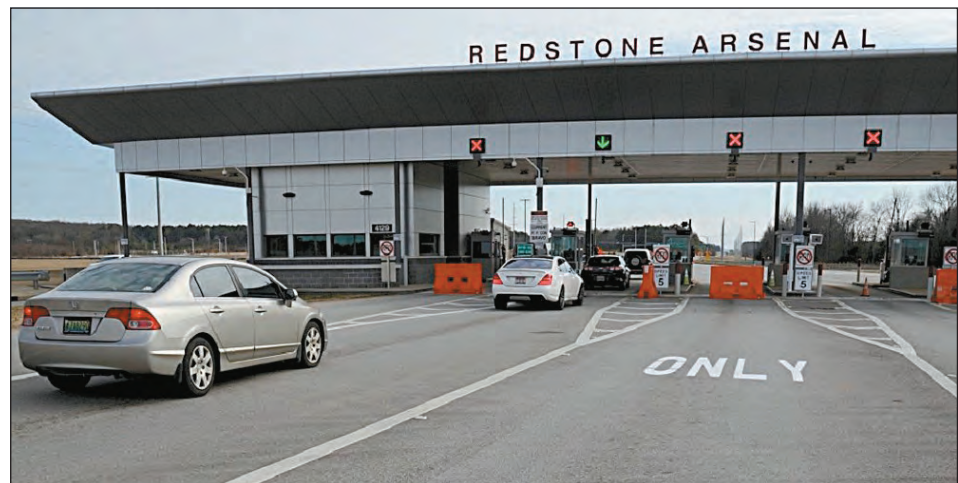
“We want to make sure that we’re abiding by federal guidelines and federal laws to

make sure that there are no firearms or illegal drugs on Redstone Arsenal,” Mellor said.

When entering Redstone, it’s also important to be sure you have your license, registration and proof of insurance ready as they may be part of the random access measures.

“So again, not trying to slow traffic down coming through the gates, but we just want to make sure that everybody’s keeping safe and sound and making sure that everybody understands the rules,” Mellor said.

With the July Fourth holiday fast approaching Mellor reminded everyone that fireworks were prohibited on post.



Motorists approach Gate 9 at Redstone Arsenal.

File photo by Eric Schultz

Army Emergency Relief drive goes through June

Army Emergency Relief is the official nonprofit of the Army.

The annual fundraising campaign began March 1 and continues to June 30.

In 2019, AER provided \$70 million in loans and grants to 40,000 Soldiers and families. This amount of assistance was possible by generous donors. Consider donating to this worthy cause.

For information about contributing to AER, visit www.armyemergencyrelief.org/donate/.



Cafe opens in Garrison headquarters building

By **EMILY STRICKLAND**

Staff writer

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Diners at the Garrison now have another convenient option for breakfast and lunch.

Medaris Cafe just opened up on the first floor of building 4488. The cafe serves breakfast from 7 a.m. until 10 a.m. and lunch from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Starbucks coffee is also available from 7 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Derrick Gould, director of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said he expects the restaurant to do well with the support of MWR's established business plan. Prior to COVID-19, another restaurant operated in the same space, but pandemic shutdowns and an entirely reduced customer base forced the restaurant to permanently close its doors in 2020. MWR took over the space shortly after.

"We run multiple cafeterias, so we have a business plan that works," Gould said.

The new restaurant officially opened June 15 and serves customers Monday through Friday.

"Our goal is to always provide our customers a quality experience at a fair price, and that's what our plan is here," Gould said.

Medaris Cafe is named after Maj. Gen. John Medaris, the first commander of the Army Ballistic Mis-

sile Agency at Redstone Arsenal. Medaris was over ABMA from 1955 until 1958, when he became commander of the Army Ordnance Missile Command, retaining command over ABMA and Redstone Arsenal but also adding the Army Rocket and Guided Missile Agency, White Sands Missile Range and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to his list of responsibilities. He retired in 1960.

Medaris Cafe menu selections include the following:

Coffee

Hot or iced espresso drinks, \$2.65-\$4.90

Frappuccinos, \$4.40-\$4.75

Hot tea and hot chocolate, \$2.00-\$4.15

Breakfast

Breakfast sandwich, \$4

Made-to-order omelets, \$4.50

Biscuits, eggs, sausage and hash browns, \$0.75-\$1.95

Lunch

Sandwiches like Fire Alarm Turkey, The Mafioso



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Adele Brown, left, administrative assistant for MWR business operations division, makes a purchase at the Medaris Cafe on the eatery's opening day June 15 in building 4488. Behind the counter is Patsy Dupree, the cafe's operations manager.

and the Cali BLT, \$7.95

Traditional grill items, \$1.95-\$4.75

Sides including fries, onion rings, chips and sweet potato fries, \$0.85-\$2.45

Drinks include bottled sodas, water, juice and milk, \$1.25-\$2.25

Federal

Teams engineer complex human tissues, win prizes

By AMANDA ADAMS

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Teams of scientists from the Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, have won first and second place in NASA's Vascular Tissue Challenge. The prize competition aims to accelerate tissue engineering innovations to benefit people on Earth today and space explorers in the future.

Competing as teams Winston and WFIRM, each used a different approach to create lab-grown human liver tissues that were strong enough to survive and function in ways similar to those inside the human body. The teams each used a varied 3D printing technique to construct a cube-shaped tissue about 1 centimeter thick and capable of functioning for 30 days in the lab.

Team Winston, the first team to complete its trial under the challenge rules, will receive \$300,000 and has the opportunity to advance its research aboard the International Space Station U.S. National Laboratory. Team WFIRM will receive the second-place prize of \$100,000. Two teams affiliated with other organizations continue to vie for third place and the remaining \$100,000.

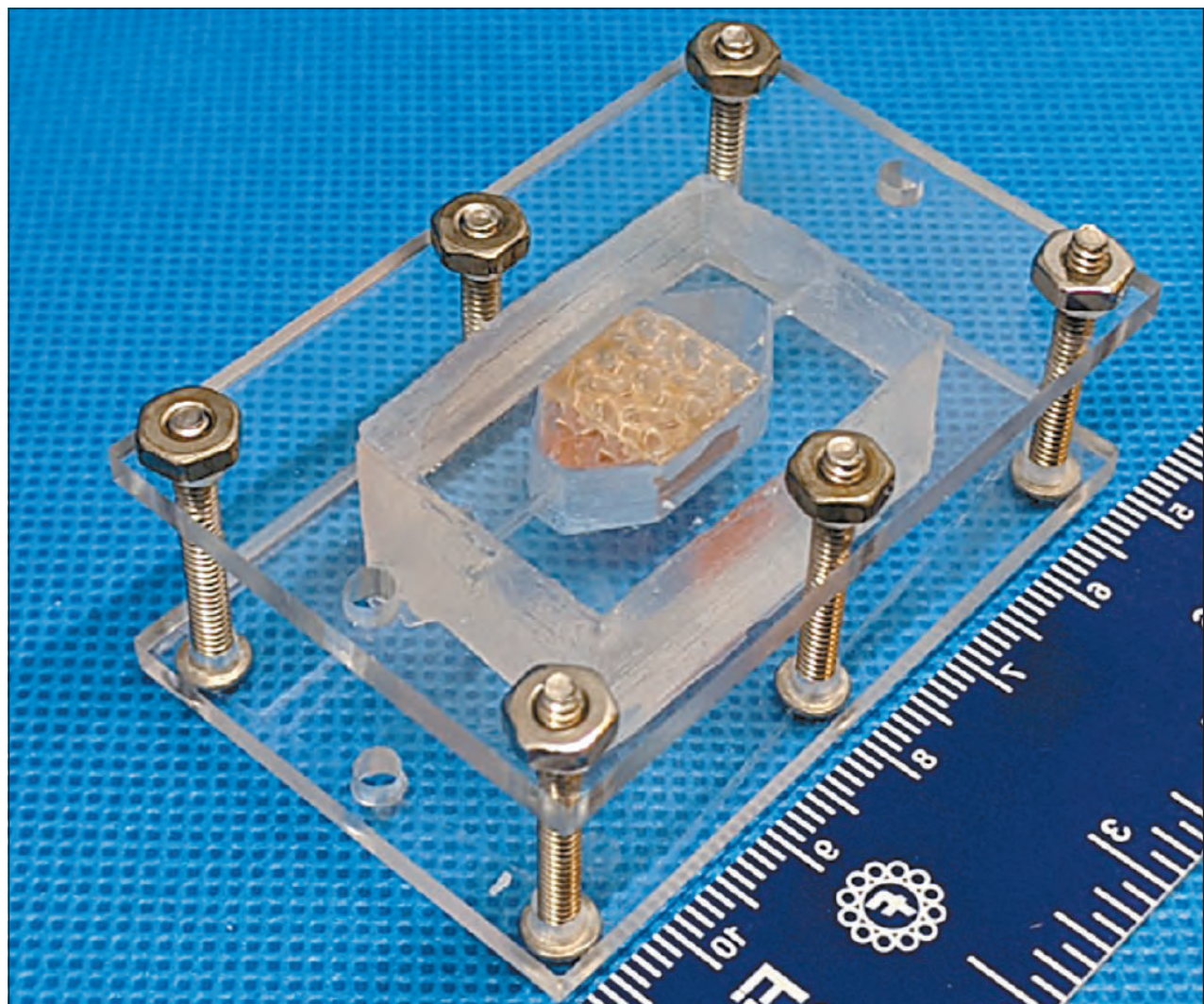
The research may help enable the growth and long-term survival of thick three-dimensional tissues for research and therapeutic applications, and eventually organ bandages and replacements. In the near term, they could accelerate pharmaceutical testing and disease modeling. And while more advancements are needed to make it a reality, artificial organs developed from a patient's own cells would change lives, reduce transplant waitlists, and help end the organ shortage.

"I cannot overstate what an impressive accomplishment this is. When NASA started this challenge in 2016, we weren't sure there would be a winner," Jim Reuter, NASA associate administrator for the Space Technology Mission Directorate, said. "It will be exceptional to hear about the first artificial organ transplant one day and think this novel NASA challenge might have played a small role in making it happen."

Tissues in the body rely on blood vessels to supply cells with nutrients and oxygen and remove metabolic waste – a process known as perfusion. As it isn't easy to recreate this process in engineered tissue, NASA asked teams to develop and test strategies for making tissues with functional artificial blood vessels.

The winning teams used 3D printing technologies to create gel-like molds, or scaffolds, with a network of channels designed to maintain sufficient oxygen and nutrient levels to keep the constructed tissues alive for their 30-day trials, as specified in the challenge rules. Winston and WFIRM used different 3D-printed designs and different materials to produce live tissues that harbored cell types found in human livers.

"The value of an artificial tissue depends entirely on how well it mimics what happens in the body," Lynn Harper, challenge administrator at NASA's Ames Research Center, said. "The requirements are precise and vary from organ to organ, making the task extremely exacting and complex. The research resulting from this



Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine photo

Team Winston, the first-place winner of NASA's Vascular Tissue Challenge, used a chamber to hold the printed tissue and test a process called perfusion.

NASA challenge represents a benchmark, a well-documented foundation to build the next advance upon."

In space, the models could be used to study how radiation exposure affects the human body, document organ function in microgravity, and develop strategies to minimize damage to healthy cells while living or working in space. Microgravity also may facilitate the creation of even larger and more complex engineered tissues that look and function more like those in the human body, compared to tissues constructed on Earth.

The space station's U.S. National Laboratory, which is managed by the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space, will work with team Winston to adapt the winning Earth-based strategy for space. If the research makes it to the station, the combination of improved vasculature and microgravity could yield the next set of advances for tissue engineering on Earth and biomanufacturing in space.

"NASA brings value to our country in various and sometimes unexpected ways," Reuter said. "To see multiple teams succeed in getting a complex 3D tissue composed of multiple human cells to survive and function after a month is amazing and a promising stepping-stone for future tissue engineering studies."

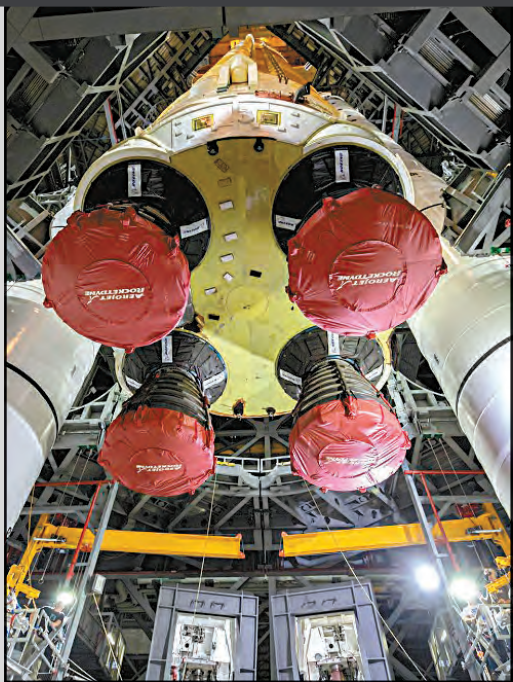
The Vascular Tissue Challenge is led by Ames and is part of Centennial Challenges, based at Marshall Space Flight Center. Centennial Challenges is a part of the Prizes, Challenges, and Crowdsourcing program within the Space Technology Mission Directorate. The Metuselah Foundation's New Organ Alliance executed the competition and recruited the nine-member judging panel. The nonprofit organization focuses on regenerative medicine research and development.

Editor's note: Amanda Adams, an LSINC Inc. employee, supports Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.

NASA photo by Cory Huston

Boosters connect

The core stage of the Space Launch System rocket for NASA's Artemis I mission has been placed on the mobile launcher in between the twin solid rocket boosters inside the Vehicle Assembly Building at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The boosters attach at the engine and intertank sections of the core stage. Serving as the backbone of the rocket, the core stage supports the weight of the payload, upper stage, and crew vehicle, as well as carrying the thrust of its four engines and two five-segment solid rocket boosters. After the core stage arrived on April 27, engineers with Exploration Ground Systems and contractor Jacobs brought the core stage into the Vehicle Assembly Building for processing work and then lifted it into place with one of the five overhead cranes in the facility. Once the core stage is stacked alongside the boosters, the launch vehicle stage adapter – which connects the core stage to the interim cryogenic propulsion stage – will be stacked atop the core stage and quickly followed by the interim cryogenic propulsion stage. Artemis I will be an uncrewed test of the Orion spacecraft and SLS rocket as an integrated system ahead of crewed flights to the Moon. Under the Artemis program, NASA aims to land the first woman and first person of color on the Moon in 2024 and establish sustainable lunar exploration by the end of the decade.



Marshall engineers launch next-generation air filtration

By RICK SMITH

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

New air filtration technology developed, built and tested at Marshall Space Flight Center will soon be bound for the International Space Station – where it will demonstrate advanced life support system capabilities that could help future explorers on the Moon and Mars breathe easier.

The new hardware, known as the 4-Bed Carbon Dioxide Scrubber, was shipped June 9 from Marshall to NASA's Wallops Flight Facility, where it will be carried to orbit by the Cygnus NG-16 commercial resupply mission.

The scrubber is one of two next-generation Environmental Control and Life Support System technologies to be tested on the space station for one year, helping recycle and regenerate most of the air and water necessary to sustain its crew – and proving advanced regenerative technology solutions for upcoming Artemis missions to the Moon and eventual human excursions to Mars.

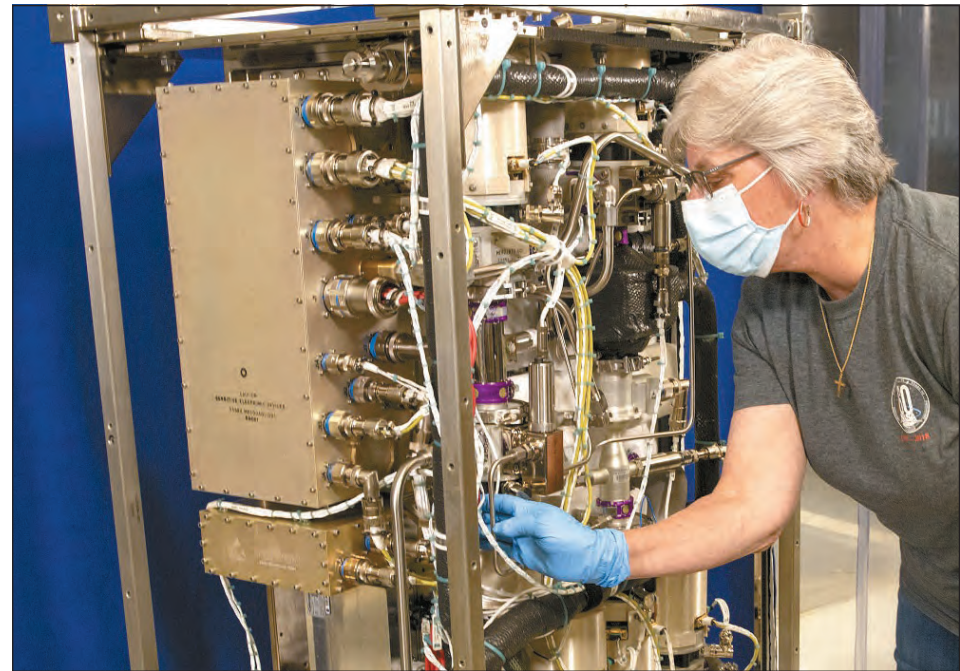
The other technology, the Thermal Amine Scrubber, uses actively heated and cooled amine beds – water purification technology used around the world – to remove carbon dioxide from the air. It was delivered to the station in early 2021.

Once installed, the new carbon dioxide scrubber will use commercial adsorbent materials to retain water vapor while filtering carbon dioxide out of the space station's airflow. Adsorption is the use of beaded porous materials, known as “molecular sieves,” to separate metabolic carbon dioxide to be discarded or recycled.

The space station's current Carbon Dioxide Removal Assembly has conducted this task since early 2001. The 4-Bed Carbon Dioxide Scrubber is a design iteration of the current assembly, incorporating numerous engineering and technology changes to improve durability and maintainability. These upgrades are crucial for future exploration missions beyond Earth orbit.

Once its demonstration year is over and its capabilities proven, the new scrubber unit will be integrated into the station's closed-loop recycling system for a minimum of three years to further demonstrate its viability for long-duration exploration mis-

See Air on page 32



NASA photo by Fred Deaton

Kathi Lange, a Bastion Technologies contractor supporting the quality assurance group in Marshall's Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate, checks out the new 4-Bed Carbon Dioxide Scrubber prior to its shipment to Wallops Flight Facility.

Air

Continued from page 31

sions and to contribute to station crew life support capabilities.

As many as 100 Marshall engineers, materials researchers, and safety personnel, plus sensor, filtration, and pump hardware specialists at NASA's Johnson Space Center, had a hand in the design, fabrication, and testing of the new hardware unit, said Donnie McCaghren, project manager for the 4-bed CO₂ scrubber at Marshall.

"Our primary goal was increasing efficiency and maintainability, to ensure fully functioning, longer-lasting hardware on orbit with less need for crew maintenance," McCaghren said. "We reduced the scrubber's power consumption, improved the thermal stability and lifespan of the adsorbent materials, and added replaceable filters, more durable valves, and protective covers for the valve motors."

The team also upgraded the adsorbent bed internal heating units and redesigned the beds to be circular rather than rectangular, which improves performance and reliability. They also used Marshall's state-of-the-art 3D printers to prototype and test key components – a capability that could, in years to come, enable crews in space to print replacement parts as needed, rather than wait for resupply flights from Earth.

The new scrubber unit also will test a first-of-its-kind, magnetic bearing air blower to push the air through its adsorption beds. The blower was developed by a commercial provider for NASA to replace an obsolete blower technology.

The new hardware is roughly the size of a small refrigerator and weighs approximately 450 pounds. Its operation and technology demonstration will be overseen in orbit by mission controllers at Johnson, with continuing contributions by Marshall space station hardware engineers.

The Cygnus NG-16 spacecraft, built by Northrop Grumman of Falls Church, Virginia, is scheduled to lift off later this summer.

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



NASA photo by Fred Deaton

The scrubber hardware is packed for shipping to Wallops by, from left, Marshall engineers Steve Moon, Richard Kale and project manager Donnie McCaghren. It will be launched via the Cygnus NG-16 commercial resupply mission later this summer.

Marshall plans for post-pandemic productivity

By TAYLOR GOODWIN

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

As the world attempts to define “the new normal,” Marshall Space Flight Center is carving out its version of what ordinary will look like once the COVID-19 pandemic has passed, joined with an agencywide Future of Work initiative.

Bill Marks, deputy director of Marshall's Office of Center Operations, says he will never forget March 2020 – the beginning of an unforgettable year supporting the Marshall team through a global pandemic. Since then, Marshall transitioned from a traditional on-site work environment to majority teleworking in response to the pandemic. Now he and his team are envisioning an environment where telework is more common and team members work where and how they can be most productive.

The closing of building 4200 has displaced all team members who previously occupied that space and prompted Marshall leaders and managers to reimagine work with different workspace realities. With some organizations and team members opting to adopt a majority-telework situation, Center Operations was able to make assessments for new areas for the displaced team members, eliminating the immediate need to build or rent new office spaces.

“Our mission is to develop and implement a plan to transform the pre-pandemic work environment where the vast majority of the workforce is on-site to a blended environment that expends flexible telework opportunities to the workforce,” Marks said, “while optimizing available on-site space to accommodate rapidly growing on-site missions and set conditions for future growth and agility.”

Even in a time of extreme adversity, the Marshall team continued to achieve mission milestones – including Space Launch System Green Run testing; Human Landing System development; the launches of the Commercial Crew Program's Demo-2, Crew-1, and Crew-2 missions; and advancements in the Mars Ascent Vehicle, Solar Cruiser, and Imaging X-Ray Polarimetry Explorer.

“When you consider the tragedy of the pandemic, you realize that no one was exempt from that,” Larry Mack, deputy director of Marshall's Office of Human Resources, said. “Although our people have been challenged by the pandemic, they have still delivered on the mission each day. We'll be leveraging the experiences of the past year while planning the move forward and widening the aperture of flexibility afforded to our team.”

Under current agency guidelines, telework is voluntary and supervisor-approved. This guidance will remain as team members begin to return to site over time, as safety permits. However, in the future NASA is planning for team members to have more options in how they work, with additional guidance anticipated later this summer. The NASA Shared Services Center invited further input with a short survey that was available May 24 to June 4 to better understand employee ideas, opinions, and preferences for telework and on-site work after the pandemic.

To accommodate the workforce displaced from building 4200, Marshall managers assessed whether team members will be on-site for more than 50% of the pay period, and if so, the team member was assigned permanent office space on-site. If the team member plans to telework for less than 50% of the pay period, they will have the opportunity to utilize a “hotel space” – a work space available for majority-teleworking team members to reserve when they need to work at the center. Each organization will have designated hoteling spaces close to the organization's permanent seats in order to maintain cohesiveness with the team. “This is another opportunity for us to provide flexibility to the workforce,” Mack said. The logistics of reserving the space when an individual needs to be on-site will be as simple as reserving a conference room for a meeting.

“Hoteling will support team members in allowing flexibility to work where and how they are most productive, as well as provide opportunities to reduce Marshall's environmental footprint and better utilize space at the center,” Marks said. “This could include posturing for future expansion, trimmed operations, and reduced maintenance costs.

“When we are able to safely return,” he said, “the center will be much how people remember it – with a few big changes in work.” Building 4221 will house the Director's Office and be the main administrative building. It sits at the north end of a new greenway being created by the demolition of building 4201. This central greenway will continue south with building 4619 at the foot. Also, to maximize power efficiency, all steam pipes will be removed, and the center will transition to natural gas usage.

Looking further ahead, Marshall has also made the strategic decision to prioritize the addition of a new science and avionics laboratory and Marshall is revising its



NASA photo

This is Marshall's newly established administrative building 4221.

master plan to include future space for meetings, trainings and an auditorium.

“NASA helps change the human condition,” Mack said. “Marshall is widely known for our ‘secret sauce,’ and I believe our culture is the main ingredient. We want to do everything we can to maintain that in this new blended world.” Center leadership is focused on ensuring that team members have all the tools, resources, support and information necessary to be successful, wherever they may be. “A well-balanced work life includes opportunities for engagement and to be innovative whether you are a virtual worker or on-site,” Mack said.

Marks says that he hopes to see the Marshall team strike a new, healthier work-life balance as it enters this new era. “In a post-pandemic world, the blended workforce is even more beneficial. When we can interface with the world and our loved ones in a safe capacity, we will have an entirely different experience.”

“We have asked our people to pivot on a dime,” Mack said. “They have shown resilience, agility, receptivity, compassion and empathy – a concentrated effort to make a difference in our agency, our mission and each other. We are thrilled to see how Marshall will progress with this new force of flexibility.”

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

By the numbers: *Best things about this community*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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1. Relatively low crime
2. Family focus
3. High technology
4. Redstone Arsenal
5. Good schools
6. Employment opportunities
7. Patriotic people
8. Many places to jog
9. U.S. Space & Rocket Center
10. Good hospitals
11. Hunting and fishing
12. Plenty of restaurants
13. Places to shop
14. Bright, growing future
15. Sports teams
16. Astute leaders
17. Proud history
18. High level of intelligence
19. Proximity to major cities and tourist attractions
20. Good hotels

Sports

Koch gets what he was looking for with grand slam

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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David Koch had one thing in mind when he came to bat with the bases loaded and two outs and the score tied.

"Hit it hard. Just hit it on the nose," he said. "That's all I was looking for."

Koch's grand slam helped power the gray team past royal blue, 23-15 on June 14 at field 2 in Brahan Spring Park. They play in the 55-and-over Rockets league in Huntsville Senior Softball.

The score was 2-2 in the bottom of the second as Koch approached the plate. He hit a towering drive over the left field fence for a 6-2 lead.

"I just wasn't sure it was going to make it. It was a knuckle ball going out there," Koch said. "It was the right time with the bases loaded. We needed it because it was a close game at the time. We have a hard time scoring early. And we did tonight so it was good."

The third baseman went 4-for-5 with four runs batted in and four runs scored for gray (9-6).

"I'm passionate about the game, especially senior softball," he said. "It's my rookie year. I just love it."

Ron Baer went 4-for-5 with a solo homer, a double, four RBIs and three runs. Player/coach Rick Anthis also had four hits. Cleanup hitter William Kelly went 3-for-3 with two doubles, two walks, two RBIs and four runs. David McNeill and Ken Valine had three hits apiece. David Key and pitcher Mike "Chippa" Hoy had two hits apiece.

"I had to really make a whole lot of changes (defensively during the game)," Anthis said. "We made four adjustments, moving players around. And we had Mike Hoy back tonight as our pitcher, he had one walk. That's pretty dang good. Koch hitting the grand slam, that really put us over the edge right there. I want to give credit to Ken Valine as well, at second base he had a crucial out (by catching a popup to end the fourth inning with runners on second and third). He's a substitute so I want to give him credit as a sub."

Hoy pitched all seven innings for the win. This is his 15th year as a pitcher in senior softball. He grew up in Ohio and played in his home state until he moved here in 2012.

"My curveball was working today," Hoy said. "And I just had a good defense behind me today. Defense made the plays. Defense makes pitchers look good. Team effort tonight."

With runners on first and second, gray turned a 1-4-6-3 double play to end the second inning. Kelly, the shortstop, made a great catch for the second out in the seventh inning. He sprinted from the infield to shallow center to make an over-the-shoulder catch of a popup.

Jorge Marin hit a two-run homer for royal blue (7-8). He went 4-for-4 and scored three runs. Mike Keyser, Jerry Bevel, Derek Santiago and player/coach Bob Thomson had three hits apiece. Jim Smelser and pitcher Pete Mitchell had two hits apiece. Mitchell took the loss.

"We made too many errors," Thomson said. "They're too good to make errors against."

In their four matchups this season, gray beat royal blue three times.

Royal blue (7-8)

	AB	R	H	RBI
Jim Smelser	3	2	2	0
Jorge Marin	4	3	4	2
Mark Wilbourn	4	2	1	2
Mike Keyser	4	3	3	2
Jerry Bevel	4	2	3	1
Derek Santiago	4	2	3	1
Pete Mitchell	4	1	2	2
Bob Thomson	4	0	3	2
Booger Clark	4	0	1	1
Rena Campbell	4	0	0	0
Totals	39	15	22	13



Photo by Skip Vaughn

David Koch puts the gray team ahead to stay with his bases-loaded blast in the 23-15 win over royal blue.

Pitching

	IP	AB	H	R	ER
Pete Mitchell (loss)	6	42	27	23	23

Gray (9-6)

	AB	R	H	RBI
Sam Sepulveda	3	2	1	0
Ron Baer	5	3	4	4
David Koch	5	4	4	4
William Kelly	3	4	3	2
David Key	5	1	2	1
Rick Anthis	5	2	4	2
David McNeill	5	3	3	1
Bennie Pokemire	3	2	1	1
Mike Hoy	4	0	2	2
Ken Valine	4	2	3	2
Totals	42	23	27	19

Pitching

	IP	AB	H	R	ER
Mike Hoy (won)	7	39	22	15	13

		R	H	E
Royal blue	1 1 5 0 3 5 0 -	15	22	3
Gray	1 5 4 3 5 5 x -	23	27	2



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Post softball team practice

Lt. Col. Joe Minor, of the Redstone Test Center, works out at third base during the Redstone Arsenal team practice Thursday at Linton Field. Redstone will face the Community Leaders in the Community Softball Game, June 29 at 6 p.m. at Toyota Field in Madison. Admission and parking are free. This game is part of the Armed Forces Celebration.

Senior softball league standings

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

	Won	Loss
Navy blue	11	4
Gray	9	6
Red	8	7
Maroon	7	8
Royal blue	7	8
Green	3	12

Double-A South baseball standings

Here are Saturday's standings for the Double-A South in minor league baseball. The Rocket City Trash Pandas are the Double-A affiliate of the Los Angeles Angels.

North Division	W	L	GB
Birmingham Barons (CWS)	23	16	—
Chattanooga Lookouts (CIN)	22	17	1.0
Rocket City Trash Pandas (LAA)	20	19	3.0
Tennessee Smokies (CHC)	13	25	9.5

South Division	W	L	GB
Pensacola Blue Wahoos (MIA)	23	16	—
Mississippi Braves (ATL)	23	17	0.5
Montgomery Biscuits (TB)	17	21	5.5
Biloxi Shuckers (MIL)	15	25	8.5

Your glory days in sports

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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What is the highlight of your golf hobby?

"I would say being out on the course and chipping," Hana Crockatt, 12, daughter of Col. George and Satoko Crockatt of Madison, said. "I've been playing golf since I was 7. I'm still working on my drivers. I got a birdie once here at the Links."

Crockatt, born in Richmond, Virginia, is an eighth-grader at Discovery Middle School. Her hobbies include swimming, doing Krav Magra self-defense and playing golf. She has an older brother, George, 15. Her father works at the Security Assistance Command as the regional director for INDOPACOM/SOUTHCOM/NORTHCOM. Crockatt roots for the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Hana Crockatt, 12, daughter of Col. George and Satoko Crockatt, plays golf once a week at the Links.

Hawks feast on Philly meltdown

This was a total collapse.

My hometown Philadelphia 76ers had a seemingly comfortable lead against the Atlanta Hawks in Game 5 of their second-round NBA playoff series. The Hawks trailed by 26 points in the first half and they were down 87-69 after three quarters.

But the Sixers fell apart. They couldn't make free throws and they couldn't make shots down the stretch. They lost at home, 109-106, and fell behind 2-3 in the

From the sidelines

By **Skip Vaughn**

Rocket editor

series.

Like Yogi Berra famously said, "It ain't over till it's over."

No lead is safe – especially in basketball.

First-place navy blue team wins defensive game

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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There was one on and no outs in the bottom of the second inning of a close game.

Left fielder Bill Hartsell raced in, caught a sinking line drive just before it hit the outfield grass and then threw a strike to first base to nail the baserunner and complete the double play.

His rare twin killing was among several defensive gems by both teams as navy blue beat maroon, 15-12 on Thursday night. The game, in the 55-and-over Rockets league in Huntsville Senior Softball, was on field 2 at Brahan Spring Park.

"The whole game was a team effort," Hartsell said. "We played together, we played hard. And I was very fortunate to be able to come in to catch that ball. And then (first baseman) Darnell Ford made a good play at first to complete the (double) play."

Hartsell went 3-for-4 and scored a run for first-place navy blue (11-4). Ford had three hits with a three-run homer and four runs batted in. John Pope, Jerry Cowan, Booger Clark, David Stumbaugh and Jerry Bevel had two hits apiece.

Player/coach Larry Guthrie drove in the deciding runs with his three-run homer in the top of the seventh. Left-hander Michael Gundersen pitched all seven innings for the win.

"We just got lucky," Guthrie said. "We just got lucky tonight. We weren't hitting that well the whole game. We had two innings where we didn't score at all. They had three. We were just lucky they didn't score that last inning because their meat (best hitters) was coming up."

Moto Miller went 3-for-4 with a two-run homer, a double and three runs scored for maroon (7-8). Player/coach Chris Maggio was 4-for-4 with two RBIs and a run. Kirk Wickizer had three hits. Denny Reasner and Ken Valine added two hits apiece. Reasner took the loss in the circle.

"It was a good game, good close game," Maggio said. "It was a defensive game."

Navy blue won 3-of-4 games against maroon this season. The previous three were



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Bill Hartsell gets three hits and starts a double play in left field as navy blue beats maroon, 15-12.

decided by one run apiece. Navy blue won 24-23, April 19; lost 21-20, May 24; and won 22-21, June 14.

The league planned three makeup game nights to complete the spring season followed by a single-elimination tournament.

Navy blue (11-4)

	AB	R	H	RBI
John Pope	5	4	2	0
Jerry Cowan	4	2	2	0
Booger Clark	4	3	2	2
Darnell Ford	4	2	3	4
David Stumbaugh	4	1	2	1
Michael Gundersen	3	0	1	1
Gary Wilkison	3	1	0	1
Bill Hartsell	4	1	3	0
Larry Guthrie	4	1	1	3
Jerry Bevel	3	0	2	0
Totals	38	15	18	12

Pitching

	IP	AB	H	R	ER
Michael Gundersen (won)	7	39	18	12	8

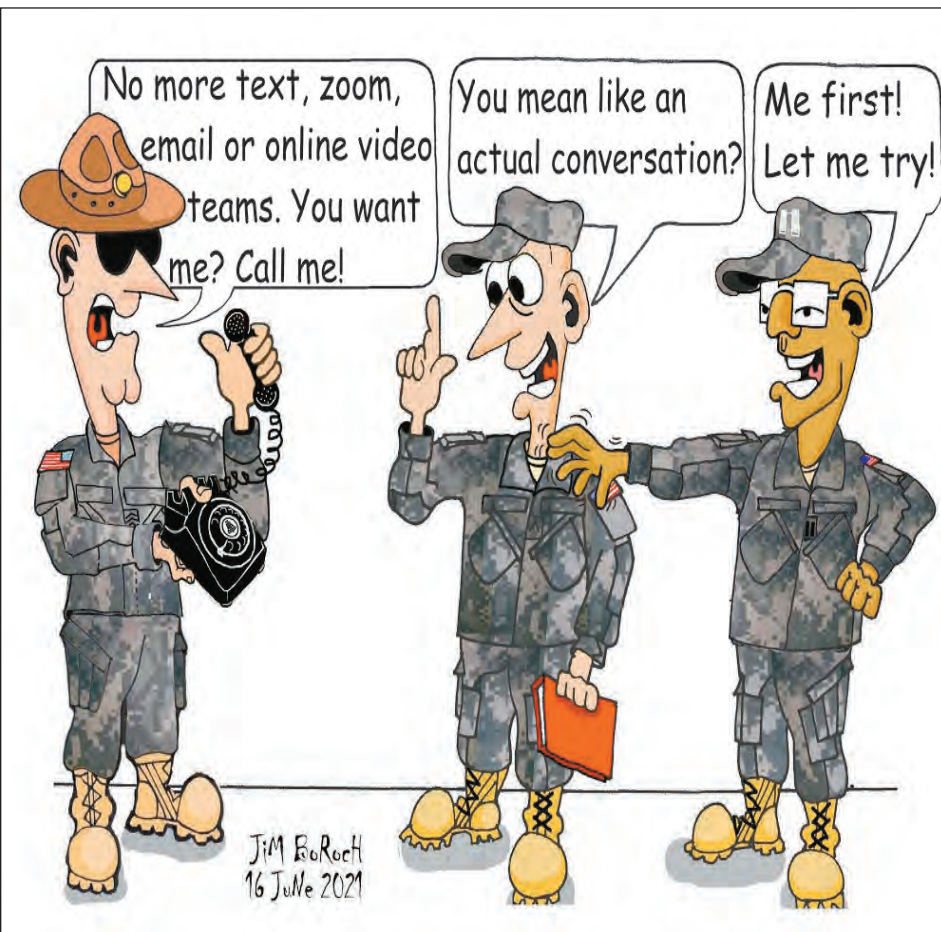
Maroon (7-8)

	AB	R	H	RBI
Denny Reasner	5	3	2	3
Moto Miller	4	3	3	2
Chris Maggio	4	1	4	2
David Allen	3	0	0	1
Eddie Johnson	4	1	1	1
Dee Benson	3	1	1	0
Ken Valine	4	0	2	1
Bill Santi	4	0	1	1
Kirk Wickizer	4	1	3	0
Yogi Guess	4	2	1	0
Totals	39	12	18	11

Pitching

	IP	AB	H	R	ER
Denny Reasner (loss)	7	38	18	15	9

	R	H	E
Navy blue	4	5	0
Maroon	4	3	0



Rocket Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Senior softball umpires

Umpires are needed for the 55-and-over Rockets league in Huntsville Senior Softball. They could be semiretired ASA or USSSA softball umpires that want to make a little extra money on Mondays and Thursdays. Games are Monday and Thursday evenings on fields 2 and 1 at Brahan Spring Park. The league also seeks more players for its six teams. Email league director Chris Maggio at cmaggio51@aol.com.

Summer softball

The North Alabama Recreation Foundation will offer 2021 Summer Softball, beginning July 7 and ending Aug. 25. Games are Wednesdays at 6, 7 and 8 p.m. Teams and teamless registration is June 14-30. The \$385 fee is due June 30. This is coed recreational softball. Only two females required. The season includes regular games and a single-elimination postseason tournament. Contact northalabamarec@outlook.com.

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>.

Motorcycle training

Redstone motorcycle training, for active duty Soldiers, is conducted at the Installation Motorcycle Safety Range. The classes are Basic Rider Course and BRC 2. Course dates include BRC, June 29; BRC 2, July 1; BRC, Aug. 24; and BRC 2, Aug. 26. To register for a course, visit https://imc.army.mil/airs/usg_disclaimer.aspx.

Conferences&Meetings

Sergeants major association

The Sergeants Major Association is meeting every third Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the conference room of Garrison headquarters building 4488 on Martin Road. If you are not able to attend in person, you can still attend 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.

Ham radio field day

Ham radio operators from the Redstone Arsenal area will participate in a national amateur radio exercise from 1-8 p.m. Saturday and invite the public to observe and participate. The event is ARRL Field Day (www.arrl.org/Field-Day), an annual amateur radio activity organized since 1933 by ARRL, the national association for amateur radio in the United States. The Redstone Rockets are a collection of operators from local clubs operating under the call sign K4R. They will set up at the Von Braun Astronomical Society grounds on Monte Sano Mountain and begin operating at 1 p.m. K4R plans to have four stations operating on multiple bands/frequencies and using different modes, including voice, morse code, and digital, with likely additional contacts via satellites and if available, the International Space Station. For more information about ARRL Field Day and ham radio, visit www.arrl.org/what-is-ham-radio.

Warrant officer association

The Redstone Arsenal Silver Chapter of the Warrant Officers Association continues to meet monthly at 11:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday via Zoom. They look forward to in-person meetings at the Redstone Lanes bowling center later this year. For a virtual meeting link, email retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Mike Weist at mweist63@gmail.com.

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 chap-

ter website at <https://sallyport.westpointtaog.org/topics/11179/memberships>. For more information or assistance, email Dale McDonough at dmac550@gmail.com.

Business/government expo

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

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 Thursday 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.

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.

MiscellaneousItems

Purple Heart chapter

Military Order of the Purple Heart, George A. Rauh Chapter 2201, will resume its meetings soon; time and place to be determined. All combat-wounded

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veterans are invited. For more information, call Leonard Robinson 337-8313.

Surplus furniture available

Need gently used furniture and cubicles? This will make upgrading your office space affordable. The Garrison's Directorate of Public Works has a Relocation Services Contract that organizations can use for personnel moves, furniture/cubicle reconfigurations and obtaining furniture. Customers will receive a funds request for the services. For more information, call Michelle Burgett 876-4364.

Thrift Shop manager

The Redstone Thrift Shop needs a manager. This position requires knowledge in retail sales, data entry and organizational skills. The manager will work with volunteers and paid staff. He or she must have good interpersonal skills, be dependable and enthusiastic with a positive attitude; must be able to multitask, will oversee donations, consignments and relieve the cashier for lunch daily; and must be able to lift up to 25 pounds. Work hours are 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, 8:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday and 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. the first Saturday of the month excluding holiday weekends. Resumes will be accepted at rsamanager@knology.net. Apply by close of business June 30. The Thrift Shop is a nonprofit organization operating on Redstone Arsenal. This is not a government job. For more information, email rsamanager@knology.net.

Consignors of Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop scheduled two days for consignors to pick up consigned items (full price and 50% off items) that have not expired and that they do not want to become Thrift Shop property. There will be no withdrawal fee. The first pickup day was June 22; and the next is June 24 from noon to 3 p.m. Bring your yellow consignment sheets (dated Feb. 11 and after) to make it easier to locate your unsold items. If you do not come to pick up your items, they will become Thrift Shop property. If you cannot make the scheduled date and you want to pick up your consigned items, email rsamanager@knology.net and let them know. They hope to open the shop in July for sales only with limited hours.

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.

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.

Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for June 8-11. The highest scores included Mai Franchising LLC, 2750 Carl T. Jones Drive, 100; 24/7 Health Club, 3490 Harris Hill Boulevard, 100; Mission Driven Roasters/Rivertree, 218 SE Westmoreland Ave., 100; Gods Temple Food Truck LLC, 2827-A Highway 72 East, 100; A Day at Burneys Daycare, 1920 Sparkman Drive, 100; AFC Sushi at Publix 574, 4851 Whitesburg Drive, 100; AFC Sushi at Publix 573, 6707 Highway 431 South, Owens Cross Roads, 100; and Bushwhackers Retreat LLC, 105 Low Gap Road, Gurney, 100. The lowest scores included Merrill Gardens at Madison, 121 Brookridge Drive, Madison, 83; Pieology Pizzeria, 365 The Bridge St. 1, 82; BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, 401 The Bridge St., 80; and Pine Grove Texaco, 7190 Wall Triana Highway, Madison, 68.