

Redstone Rocket

www.theredstonerocket.com

August 18, 2021

Vol. 70 No. 33

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

AMC plays key role in space, missile defense

By MEGAN GULLY

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

The Army's senior sustainer said the sustainment and materiel enterprise is synchronized and integrated to meet Army space and missile defense requirements, both today and in the future.

Gen. Ed Daly, Army Materiel Command commander, spoke on Thursday's final day of the Space and Missile Defense Symposium, emphasizing AMC's vital role in support of space and missile defense in the new era of multi-domain operations.

"AMC is currently supporting numerous systems in the air and missile defense arena but we are focused on more than current readiness; we are also focused on modernization of those efforts," he said. "We are working to ensure that sustainment is always an enabler, and we are thinking deep in terms of materiel solutions and how we will sustain the next fight."

To support Army readiness, AMC is taking a holistic look at sustainment and materiel readiness across the entire

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Photo by Eben Boothby

Gen. Ed Daly, Army Materiel Command commander, speaks on the final day of the Space and Missile Defense Symposium, Thursday at the Von Braun Center South Hall.

Strategic commander shares update on space defense

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

The leader of the Space and Missile Defense Command said during the 24th annual Space and Missile Defense Symposium that his "People First" team ensures space and missile defense capabilities for the Soldier, the Army and the nation.

Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, SMDC commander, said that because the command occupies strategic key terrain that lies at the nexus of integrated deterrence between three combatant commands: U.S. Space Command, U.S. Strategic Command and U.S. Northern Command, it has a unique perspective on the convergence of space and missile defense in multi-domain operations and the role it plays in integrated deterrence.

"We also have a distinct view of Army air and missile defense forces and capabilities that operate across the globe," he said. "That is especially important given the challenges we face in today's complex and rapidly evolving security environment. Our adversaries' missile systems continue to increase in quantity, complexity, range and accuracy.

"At the same time, our adversaries are persistently contest-

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Photo by Carrie David Campbell

Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, commander of the Space and Missile Defense Command, gives opening remarks during the 24th annual Space and Missile Defense Symposium at the Von Braun Center, Aug. 10. Karbler said his "People First" team ensures space and missile defense capabilities for the Soldier, the Army and the nation.



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RocketViews

Letter to editor: West Point cadet appreciates internship

From July 19 through Aug. 6, I have had the privilege of interning through the Advanced Individual Academic Development program with the Space and Missile Defense Command G8 team led by Col. Samuel Glover II. This incredible opportunity is especially important to me for several reasons. After graduating from Huntsville High School in 2016, I enlisted in the Army as an infantry mortar man. After about three years, I earned the opportunity to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point.

West Point was the best choice for my career because it completely changed the trajectory of my life and my military career. Not only was I able to begin college, but I was going to receive top notch education and leader development training while working towards graduating and commissioning as an officer in the Army. As an economics major, interning with the G8 team was a perfect fit. Coming to Redstone Arsenal allowed me to experience the logistical side of the Army and get an inside look at how personnel and funds are managed. As a Huntsville native it was a privilege to learn about the work done here in my hometown. During my time at SMDC, I have broadened my view of the Army by learning about SMDC's budget, I have gained an inside perspective on the relationship between Army and civilian counterparts, and I have learned about SMDC's capabilities and their

contribution to the warfighter.

As an economics major, learning how the G8 office manages SMDC's budget was of vital importance. Before coming to SMDC, I had no knowledge of how an Army command implemented a budget. At SMDC, I learned that the primary job of the G8 is to ensure that the commander executes funds as planned. If there is a deviation due to unforeseen circumstances, the G8 provides the commander courses of action on the best way to execute mission resources. This is especially important to guarantee that the money is not reallocated by the Army. In addition, the G8 handles budget cuts and creates a prioritization list of projects in order to decide on which projects are vital and which projects can be eliminated. In the words of Col. Glover, "Sometimes we have to let someone know that they won't have a job here because the funds just aren't there." Adding on to this already hard job, the G8 manages a budget over \$1 billion (about \$3 per person in the U.S.).

SMDC employs a significantly larger number of civilians versus military personnel. Unlike a traditional command that may have a handful of civilians and then mostly Soldiers, SMDC's structure is unique and is tailored to their mission set. I have learned that many of the civilian employees are retired uniformed service members. Interestingly, even with a diverse group of civilians at SMDC, the G8 is led by an active duty

colonel. Col. Glover highlighted that this aspect of his job helped him to adapt to being better at communication in order to more effectively manage both civilians and military personnel.

SMDC is a big organization that takes on many roles. SMDC develops and provides current and future global space, missile defense, and high-altitude capabilities to the Army, joint force, and our allies and partners, to enable multi-domain combat effects; enhance deterrence, assurance and detection of strategic attacks; and protect the nation. Overall, I did not know how involved the Army was in space. I learned that the Army is very invested in space. SMDC is involved in training space officers at the Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence. In addition, the 100th Missile Defense Brigade operates the ground-based midcourse defense system and functions as a component of SMDC. Also, within SMDC, the 1st Space Brigade conducts space operations to deliver decisive combat power in support of the Army and joint warfighting communities. The U.S. Army Satellite Operations Brigade provides military SATCOM support globally through continuous 24/7, 365 operations at five Wideband SATCOM Operations Centers and Four Regional SATCOM Support Centers to all elements of the Department of Defense, U.S. government agencies, and U.S. allies and partners. The Technical Center at SMDC supports the joint warfighter by providing science, technology, and

test evaluation expertise to enable warfighter dominance today and in the future. Finally, the NASA Astronaut Detachment provides engineering expertise for human interface with space systems and provides focus to NASA for Army space operations.

My AIAD at SMDC has been eye-opening. I have learned a lot about the Army's involvement in space and SMDC's role in providing support to the warfighter. I am excited to return to USMA with this knowledge and encourage other cadets to pursue an AIAD here at SMDC and to consider a career in space operations. On a more personal level, I have been introduced to the FA-40 branch and would like to pursue this career path when the opportunity presents itself. I would highly recommend this AIAD to anyone. You will learn a lot about how the Army operates as a logistical organization. In addition, you will get the opportunity to be mentored by several high-ranking officers. In my time at SMDC, I was afforded the opportunity to not only receive amazing mentorship, but also to be exposed to a host of new careers in the Army that I was not aware of. All in all, it was an absolute pleasure and true honor to have been able to spend time in the G8 at SMDC. Secure the High Ground!

Jeffrey Green
U.S. Military Academy cadet
West Point, N.Y.

Quote of the week

“It's not the will to win that matters. It's the will to prepare to win that matters.”

— Paul “Bear” Bryant

Send your letters to editor

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

RedstoneRocket

The Redstone Rocket is published weekly on Wednesday. The publisher will receive editorial content for publication in the Redstone Rocket through the Public Affairs Office, Army Garrison-Redstone, Bldg. 4488 Room A-213, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898.

The civilian enterprise printer of the Redstone Rocket is Tennessee Valley Media Co., Inc., located at 201 1st Ave., SE, Decatur, AL 35603.

Retail advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Thursday before Wednesday publication. Classified advertising deadline is 5 p.m. Friday before Wednesday publication.

Email: samuel.c.vaughn2.civ@mail.mil

Email classified ads to rocketads@theredstonerocket.com

Rocket articles are available at:

Editorial office: 256-876-1500 Editorial Fax: 256-955-0133 Retail Advertising: 256-340-2463 Classified Advertising: 256-260-2218 Advertising Fax: 256-260-2211

<http://www.theredstonerocket.com>

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Virus numbers raise post level of health concern

From staff reports

Redstone Arsenal raised their Health Protection Condition to Bravo-plus on Friday.

This increase in the HPCON level may result in the following services around Redstone being limited until further notice:

- Lane reductions at Installation Access Control Point gates
- Reducing dining-in capacity to 25% in all installation restaurants
- Reduce workforce to no more than 40% workspace occupancy based on tenant mission requirements, encourage continued use of max-telework

"The time has come to reassess the threat," Redstone Senior Commander Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker said. "The medical professionals here at Redstone Arsenal and health officials throughout the region constantly monitor the health of our community to keep a close eye on infection rates. In my role as senior mission com-

mander of Redstone, they advise me on recommended precautions to take to keep our force and our communities healthy."

This decision is in line with an April 2021 Department of the Army Executive Order titled 'COVID-19 Steady State Operations' that provides the Army's HPCON framework and guidelines.

Redstone Arsenal and the Garrison remain open at this time, and continues to see lower COVID-19 case rates on the installation proper. However, as leadership has continued to monitor the steady increase in the Daily Case Rate per 100K and the Positive Test Rate for the local area surrounding the installation, this decision is the most prudent to continue to protect our transient workforce and the vital missions that occur on the installation daily.

All employees are highly encouraged to stay in close contact with their direct supervisor and tenant organization leadership for their work status and any other tenant-specific requirements.

On this date in history: Aug. 18

In 1983: Hurricane Alicia hit the Texas coast, killing 21 people and causing over \$1 billion in damage.

In 1976: The Korean axe murder incident in Panmunjom resulted in the deaths of two U.S. Army officers.

In 1971: Australia and New Zealand decided to withdraw their troops from Vietnam.

In 1965: In Operation Starlite, U.S. Marines destroyed a Viet Cong stronghold on the Van Tuong peninsula in the first major American ground battle of the Vietnam War.

In 1920: The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, guaranteeing women's suffrage.

In 1891: A major hurricane struck Martinique, leaving 700 dead.

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents Aug. 1-7:

Aug. 2: A vehicle collided with a deer at Buxton Road and Patton Road, causing minor damage to the vehicle. The Redstone game warden was notified.

Aug. 3: Redstone police responded to Gate 8 for an individual attempting to enter Redstone as a passenger to assist in making a delivery. The National Crime Information Center revealed a warrant from the Morgan County Sheriff's Office for failure to appear on charges of driving while suspended and speeding. The sheriff's office confirmed extradition. The individual was apprehended, transported to the Redstone Police Department and placed in a detention cell for temporary holding. Soon afterward the individual was transported to Gate 9 and released into the custody of a Morgan County sheriff's deputy.

Aug. 4: In a parking lot, vehicle 1 was backing from a space while vehicle 2 was pulling forward into an adjacent space. The vehicles collided and sustained functional damages.

Aug. 5: An Exchange loss prevention officer notified Redstone Police Investiga-

tions about an employee who was suspected of stealing merchandise from the Exchange. Redstone police detectives interviewed the suspect who confessed to stealing the merchandise and subsequently selling the items. The investigation also revealed the suspect had previously taken merchandise from the Exchange without rendering payment. The individual was charged with theft and received a citation to appear in court at a later date.

Aug. 6: At Gate 9, a Redstone police officer stopped a vehicle which had an expired registration. The driver was unable to produce a valid driver's license. The National Crime Information Center confirmed the vehicle registration was expired and that the driver's license was suspended due to a failure to appear in court. The individual was cited for driving while suspended and driving with expired registration and released. The vehicle was later released to a licensed driver.

Citations included one for driving while license is suspended or revoked, six for failure to obey traffic control device, one for no driver's license/unlicensed, 19 for expired registration, six for speeding and one for larceny.

Getting to know you

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor
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Name: Amelia Hice

Position: Public affairs specialist, Garrison

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a spy. I wanted to work for the CIA. Because I wanted to help the country but I also wanted to travel and see the world.

What do you hope to accomplish in 2021?

To find a special piece of lakefront real estate.

What is the best part about your job?

My colleagues. Not just the ones I work directly with but everyone in my



field.

Who is your hero, and why?

My dad (Charles I. Rowden of south Huntsville), because he's always had my back. He and my mom (Gaynell Rowden) are my touchstone. They've been married for 64 years.

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

Be a billionaire. Heck yeah.

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

"When things get hard, don't give up. Everything good is worth fighting for." My dad's always said that.


What do you like to do to pass the time?

Be outside, especially anything on the water.

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Know your laws: Deployments and divorce

By AMY WASYLUKA

Huntsville attorney

For military families, deployments bring their own unique set of challenges. For military families going through a divorce, those challenges are amplified. So what happens when a deployment and divorce collide?

The Service Members Civil Relief Act is one tool that may help service members who are going through a divorce while on deployment. Under the SCRA, the deployed spouse may be able to obtain a stay of the divorce proceedings, provided they have been an active military member within the last 90 days and submit an appropriate written request for a stay. Under SCRA, a request for a stay must include a statement from the service member's commander, must indicate that the service member has been notified of the divorce proceeding, and must set forth the reasons why the service member cannot participate

in it, as well as when the service member will be able to participate. Requests for a stay of divorce proceedings may also set forth any reasons why a service member is unable to use their leave for purposes of the divorce action.

Additionally, Alabama law contains provisions designed to protect service members from having their military deployments unfairly used against them in a custody battle. Under section 30-3-9, a "military deployment, including past, previous, or future deployments, may not be considered by the court as the sole factor when making an original child custody determination, or in modifying an existing child custody determination, in any proceeding involving any person who has sought, or is seeking, custodial rights to, or visitation



rights with, a child." However, it is important to note that section 30-3-9 does not prevent courts from considering deployments when making custody decisions, rather it prevents courts from using military deployments as the sole factor upon which to base a custody decision.

Finally, military deployments can complicate questions of child support. If a divorce case is stayed prior to a child support order being issued, that does not mean that a service member is relieved of the responsibility of supporting their dependents during the remainder of the deployment. Also, military regulations generally include provisions requiring service members for the various branches to provide support for their dependents during a deployment and the failure to do so can

result in a complaint of nonsupport to a service member's chain of command.

The additional concerns and protections which are at play in a military divorce means that having knowledgeable counsel is critical for service members who are attempting to navigate both divorce and deployment. Both the Alabama State Bar and the Huntsville Bar Association provide attorney referrals. You can look for an attorney using the Huntsville Bar Association's Find a Lawyer Service at www.huntsvillebar.org/directory or by calling the Alabama State Bar's Lawyer Referral Line at 800-392-5660.

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.

Suffice to say we're all still at war with pandemic

Some people are referring to the Delta variant as COVID round two, but it's more like World War I and World War II, except COVID has already killed more Americans than those two wars combined.

I could fill this column with comparisons, but let's just look at the number of people who died in WWI and WWII versus this pandemic.

In WWI, 117,000 Americans died. In WWII the U.S suffered 418,500 deaths. To date, COVID-19 has killed more than 620,000 Americans.

I'm sure someone will point out that there are more Americans engaged in this pandemic than the number of troops engaged in both wars, so of course COVID-19 has killed more people.

And, I'd simply respond, life doesn't mean less just because there are more people living.

Maybe a better analogy would be the initial outbreak of COVID is more like Star Wars: episode IV, A New Hope and the Delta variant is like Star Wars: episode V, The Empire Strikes Back, because the second movie in the original Star Wars trilogy was much bleaker for the heroes than the first or third.

At the rate, this variant is spreading we are a long way away from episode VI, Return of the Jedi.

Regardless, if you want to look at the current situation as a war, a movie trilogy or just a crappy situation, it's hard to really know where we stand.

We have a problem with the dissemination

of factual information about COVID-19 and a problem with the reception and understanding of the information about COVID-19.

This happens any time you have to translate a highly specialized and complex topic into information that a person who has not spent their entire life studying it can understand. We do that a lot in this paper. But, that doesn't mean it gets easier. And most of the time what we're talking isn't likely to kill anyone. Well, at least not as indiscriminately as COVID-19.

So, I wasn't surprised when I got an email the other day telling me how wrong one of my stories about COVID was.

People tell me I'm wrong on the reg and most of the time it's not a matter of right or wrong, it's just that I was unclear in conveying the information. I normally find those emails helpful because it refines the way I present things when I write.

In the story that spurned this email I had used numbers from the Alabama Department of Health, which quantifies the number of new cases in Alabama by showing the average of new infections over the past seven days per 100,000 people.

So, for example, on Friday that number was 215.

But, if you look at the numbers that were shown last week during the Garrison's Facebook town hall you'd notice they were different. The Garrison's leadership is using information from covidactnew.org and on Friday it said the daily number of new cases per

Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson

Assistant editor

100,000 was 39.6.

The difference is one is giving you an average using a seven-day timeframe and the other is giving you an average using a single-day timeframe.

And, no, 215 divided by seven does not equal 39.6, it's 30.7, but that's one of the problems when trying to track the information about COVID-19. The differences come in the variances of the reporting process. In other words, if the infections dropped to zero immediately then the numbers would match, but since it's always a moving target, you'll always have differences.

Precision is not the point of this information, though. It's about the big picture, which is there are a lot of new cases per day and the rate at which it's spreading is climbing.

The best thing to do is pick a reliable source and stick with it. That way you can get a feel for the overall movement of the trends. I chose to use the ADPH website because that's what I've been using since the beginning. The Garrison chose to use covidactnow.org because that's what they've been using. It doesn't make a difference because the trends are the same.

Once you pick a source, it's important to spend a little time and learn what the numbers represent.

In the email I got the other day it was clear that the author did not understand what the numbers I reported meant.

The author had drawn a correlation between the positive test rate and the number of new cases per 100,000.

It said: "... and later in the article I threw out, the article(sic) you continue to mislead the numbers for example you say that Madison County had 166 new cases per 100,000 with a positive test rate of 17% while 17% would be 17,000."

While 17% of 100,000 is 17,000, the positive test rate only applies to the number of people tested and we're not testing 100,000 every seven days. I don't know how many people had been tested when that article was written, but as of Friday, over the last seven days 5,911 people had been tested for COVID-19 in Madison County, according to ADPH.

Here's the problem with percentages: the more samples you have, the more they change. That's why you have the two indicators in the guidance that was put out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that measure different things, because the goal is to identify a trend.

And, finally, I'll address the author's concern of: "Please let's have somebody in journalism do some true investigative journal (sic) journalism and expose the true numbers (sic) stop the fake news and stop the fear mongering."

You don't have to be an investigative journalist to look around and see what's going on.

Military

Materiel enterprise selects second quarter honorees

By KARI HAWKINS

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

Ten Army Materiel Command employees from across the enterprise have been named AMC Employees of the Quarter for the second quarter, fiscal year 2021, representing a diverse and talented workforce of logisticians, contracting officers, engineers and program managers.

AMC's Employee of the Quarter program recognizes civilian and military employees whose outstanding and innovative contributions made a direct positive impact on the command's mission goals during the quarter. While the award recognizes only one employee from AMC's 10 major subordinate commands, several awardees say the individual award also validates the successful work of employee teams.

Expressing appreciation for the recognition, Jessica Blain, a logistics management specialist for the Aviation and Missile Command, said she is one member of a "great group of professionals who work tirelessly to support the warfighter and to be good stewards of taxpayer money. I take pride in what I do and the people I work with daily."

That sentiment was echoed by Maj. Jeffrey Bess, whose work as a contracting officer with the Army Contracting Command provided the opportunity to support the White House initiative to build COVID-19 testing capability. "ACC-Rock Island (Illinois) put together an all-star team for this requirement. I am grateful to play a minor role, and for the opportunity to learn, grow and execute alongside a team of contracting professionals," he said.

For William Adamson, a contracting officer representative and a recently promoted operations chief for the Logistics Readiness Center at Army Sustainment Command's Detroit Arsenal, Michigan, the award also recognizes a team of 26 employees who maintained the arsenal's Central Shipping Receiving Point operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. "We continued to work every day during the pandemic. We had to keep operations going because our shutdown would have brought base operations to a screeching halt. Everything we do supports everybody on the installation," he said.

Besides outstanding work performance, the Employee of the Quarter award also recognizes outstanding efforts to develop and foster a culture of achievement and productivity; contribute to a positive work environment; increase retention and improve employee engagement to positively impact overall morale.

In her work for the AMCOM Logistics



Zinnah Hellman



Maj. Jeffrey Bess



Jessica Blain



Jerrid Spinks

Center, Blain identified and solved a vulnerability with the unmanned warehouses at Fort Greely, Alaska, where supplies and equipment are stored.

"While they are climate controlled, if the heating fuel ran out or if any part of the heating system failed, the equipment and/or other supplies would be at risk to the harsh Alaskan winters, which not uncommonly can reach minus-40 degrees or colder," Blain explained. "I thought of a solution and took the initiative to have our facility maintainer install warning lights that would alert employees passing by when the internal temperature of the building fell below 40 degrees Fahrenheit."

The warning lights were installed at no cost to the Army and the warehouses were added to the existing light monitoring route used for post housing.

"While it may have seemed like overkill to a few people in its initiation, the system worked as designed twice this past winter and alerted employees to a failure in the heating system, saving valuable supplies and equipment," she said.

The accomplishments of Bess and Adamson were both tied to the nation's defense against the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a contract specialist, Bess coordinated and led an industry day in a virtual environment that allowed 245 vendors to showcase their COVID-19 testing capabilities for use by elementary grade students, with the goal of validating low infection rates, reopening schools nationwide and ensuring students have access to in-person education as directed by President Joe Biden's Executive Order on Supporting the Reopening and Continuing Operation of Schools and Early Childhood Education Providers.

"The Department of Health and Human Services contacted ACC-Rock Island in mid-February to support the White House initiative," Bess said. "We were charged with getting an award in less than 100 days, despite only having a conceptual strategy with many specifics unknown, undetermined or

ill-defined. The effort was valued at more than \$650 million."

The industry day took place March 4 via Microsoft Teams due to the urgency of the requirement and COVID-19 restrictions, he said. Vendors provided white papers articulating their capability to meet testing requirements prior to the industry day.

In overseeing a five-year, \$11 million contract that maintains Army warehouse operations, and shipping and receiving at Detroit Arsenal, Adamson worked with the contractor's employees to put in place COVID-19 restrictions that kept mission essential warehouse operations from shutting down.

"We couldn't afford to let our operations close down because of the affect it would have had on all installation operations," Adamson said. "We did have some COVID cases at one point. But we worked through that by shifting operations from the warehouse to the maintenance bay so that the warehouse could be sanitized."

AMC's Employee of the Quarter program goes beyond the individuals recognized to impact organization-wide and to influence other process improvement activities, Blain said.

"Highlighting the work being done AMCOM-wide and AMC-wide can act like an idea sharing platform to give others inspiration of how to implement process improvements in their area of expertise," she said. "Essentially, good work being done in one area or on one task, can result in countless good work being done enterprise wide."

Adamson said such recognition is a morale boost for the entire warehouse team at Detroit Arsenal. "It lets employees know that our leaders are paying attention and appreciating the work done where the rubber meets the road. It shows they are noticing our hard work," he said.

In an Army where People First is a top priority, recognition programs are proof that leadership wants to reward mission-oriented employees, Bess said.

"People are the Army's number one resource. Leaders must put in the time to illuminate their workforce's accomplishments, and retain the very best talent," he said.

AMC's Employees of the Quarter for the second quarter of fiscal year 2021 are:

Zinnah Hellman, general engineer, Army Materiel Command, for maneuvering through a myriad of complex challenges to successfully identify, validate and prioritize facilities infrastructure projects critical to Organic Industrial Base mission success.

Maj. Jeffrey Bess, contracting officer, Army Contracting Command, for leadership and professionalism that directly impacted ACC's ability to improve contracting requirements.

Jessica Blain, logistics management specialist, Aviation and Missile Command, for implementing a low cost, self-motivated project which saved equipment and mitigated risk.

William Adamson, logistics management specialist, Army Sustainment Command, for his significant role in preventing a shutdown to the Central Shipping Receiving Point operations during the pandemic.

Lawton Crensil, computer engineer, Communications-Electronics Command, for providing technical expertise to engineer, furnish, install, secure and test a solution to modernize the U.S. Army network infrastructure at Bagram Air field, Afghanistan.

Terrence Callaghan, safety and occupational health specialist, Chemical Materials Activity, for his attention to detail and diligent efforts resulting in the daily execution of mission essential tasks and contributed to the continued health and safety of his fellow co-workers.

Terry Stringfellow, management and program analyst, Installation Management Command, for his expertise and overall can-do spirit that has had a lasting positive impact on all future Soldiers, civilians and family members.

Tyler Harper, safety engineer, Joint Munitions Command, for contributions in developing explosives safety site plans for the plant and other installations, ensuring ammunition and explosives operations are carried out safely and efficiently.

Thomas Mitchell, program management analyst, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, for leading multiple strategic and campaign planning efforts for the Command.

Jerrid Spinks, country program manager, Security Assistance Command, for setting the standard for Letters of Offer and Acceptance development and consistently exceeding the 85% metric.

Tester of year honoree works at Redstone Test Center

By **CHRISTY BARNETT**

Redstone Test Center Public Affairs

Kenneth LeSueur, the senior experimental developer in the Modeling and Simulation Division at the Redstone Test Center, has won the 2020 National Defense Industrial Association Army Government Civilian Tester of the Year Award.

In 2020, LeSueur served as the Integration Lead for the Combat Aviation Brigade Architecture Integration Laboratory for the Program Executive Office for Aviation. His leadership resulted in the creation of a first-

of-its-kind CAB-level, persistent, and operationally realistic environment that utilizes Live, Virtual, and Constructive simulation and stimulation of systems under test.

LeSueur integrated six individual System Integration Labs together, led or participated in four working groups critical to CABAIL success, and provided the Modeling and Simulation backbone to fully immerse SUTs in an operationally realistic environment.

His work and research have been concentrated in Hardware-in-the-Loop testing, distributed testing, M&S, and high performance computing.

He has served the Army as a member of the test and evaluation community since 1986, when he started as an intern at the Laser and Optical Test Branch of the Missile Command Test and Evaluation Directorate.

Thirty-five years later he is the senior RTC experimental developer, charged with creating and fostering the promulgation of ingenious methods to create operationally realistic environments that utilize LVC entities to fully exercise components, systems, and systems of systems.

In his experimental developer role, LeSueur is the Redstone Test Center/Army Test and Evaluation Command lead for Distributed Testing, Cross Domain Solutions, and Tactical Network Simulations. In this capacity, LeSueur is required to lead or interface with peers, who themselves are recognized as technical experts within their own organizations, in many outside organizations to include other ATEC ranges and laboratories, and numerous organizations within the Army, joint services and NATO as well as private industry.

In 2009, he received his doctoral degree in computer engineering at the University of



Kenneth LeSueur

Alabama in Huntsville. LeSueur is a member of the Simulation Interoperability Standards Organization C2SIM Product Development Group that is charged with the development of the Simulation/Command and Control Interface Standard that the NATO Modeling and Simulation Group is integrating and operationalizing. LeSueur is also a member of the UAH Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Industrial Advisory Board working with academia in a joint effort to review program requirements, educational objectives, review

awards, and support accreditations. LeSueur routinely conducts distributed testing training classes for government personnel and for conferences and symposiums covering distributed test design, execution, command and control, network design, and data traffic considerations.

NDIA plans to present the Test and Evaluation Awards during their Systems and Mission Engineering Conference, Oct. 4-7 at the Orlando Renaissance Sea World. If the conference is canceled due to COVID-19, the association the association will present the awards virtually, as was done in 2020.

Tell us about ...

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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Your time in the Army.

“I graduated high school a year early and I enlisted a month after my 17th birthday,” Spc. Ezekiel Hunter, religious affairs specialist at Bicentennial Chapel, said. “I went to basic training and AIT (advanced individual training), both at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. I got here to Redstone in December of 2017. And I’ve been here ever since except for a five-month deployment to Kuwait and Iraq (in 2020). My specialty is 56M (religious affairs specialist). I’m a religious affairs specialist at the Bicentennial Chapel, which is Garrison. If you come to the 11 o’clock service on Sundays, you’ll see me up on stage playing my red electric guitar. I’ll likely leave the Army by the end of the year, after four and a half years service. And my time in service has greatly prepared me for what will come next.”

Hunter, 21, from Salcha, Alaska, grew up in an Army family. His parents, retired Sgt. 1st Class Wayne and Nikki Hunter, reside in Linesville, Pennsylvania. Hunter and his wife, Shylynn, who is from Fairbanks, Alaska, reside on Redstone Arsenal. “I’m a musician so I play the guitar, drums, piano and I sing,” he said of his hobbies. “And I play basketball.” Hunter roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide, the Dallas Cowboys and the Sacramento Kings.



Spc. Ezekiel Hunter

Workers should pack safeguards when traveling abroad

By Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

Many times our federal jobs take us on work trips, both in the U.S. and overseas. Traveling both for business or pleasure is no time to let our guard down when it comes to staying vigilant.

All Department of Defense organizations provide a required Antiterrorism/Force Protection briefing for military, civilian personnel and supporting defense contractors before travel to any destination outside the United States. The location specific brief must be completed within 90 days prior to travel and is conducted by the AT/FP officer. The purpose of the briefing is to ensure that employees understand their responsibilities to protect information, and to be aware of security vulnerabilities associated with foreign travel.

U.S. government employees possess a clearance and potentially a wealth of information that foreign entities may want. Often foreign citizens may show a strong interest in them and/or their families. Government employees' access to personnel, facilities and information presents an opportunity for a foreign entity to expand their knowledge about the U.S. government, its technology, capabilities and vulnerabilities.

It may seem difficult, if not impossible, to prevent an attack, but knowing what to do should something occur will improve your chances of staying safe, keeping in touch and quickly reuniting with your loved ones. This is why travel is part of the Army's comprehensive antiterrorism plan.

Awareness while traveling outside of the continental United States includes several safeguards. Travelers are told to maintain a low profile. Try to blend in with the local population through your dress and appearance. Understand the culture where you are traveling and learn basic survival phrases, such as "I need a police officer" and "I need a doctor."

While in an overseas location know the locations of safe havens and carry with you the emergency telephone numbers. Never travel alone; always travel in groups of two or more if at all possible. Think ahead and choose safe travel modes and routes.

Avoid civil disturbances or demonstrations of any kind. These events can turn violent with little to no advanced warning. Public venues with large crowds present beneficial terrorist targets. Understand the risks of attending public venues based on the history of terrorist attacks in the area and security provided at the event.

Another safeguard while traveling abroad is to be aware of overly friendly or solicitous people that you meet. Do not establish personal or intimate relationships with these individuals as they may be employed by the country's intelligence service.

The Army encourages travelers to enroll into the U.S. State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment program. Benefits of enrolling are receiving important information from the embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans.

Two other benefits include helping the U.S. embassy



Courtesy photo

in that country to contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency, and helping your family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

The threat of terrorism must be taken seriously by all personnel, especially those who travel regularly. It is clear that no U.S. outpost or installation can be considered a low security risk. All Army employees and supporting contractors are urged to intensify personal security practices while on travel outside the U.S. Don't be a soft target.

Resource managers honored for fiscal stewardship

By KERENSA HOUSTON

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

Four employees from Aviation and Missile Command G-8 have been recognized at the Army level for their management of appropriated funds.

The Army Excellence in Financial Stewardship Award is awarded annually to those who provide leadership, mentorship and guidance to financial personnel in an organization.

The AMCOM G-8 Command Accountability and Execution Review team was selected as recipients of the award for the third quarter of fiscal year 2021.

The Army's CAER Program is the premier fiscal stewardship program and provides commanders with visibility of command fiscal health and holds leaders at every level responsible and accountable for stewardship of the tax dollars they receive and provides them with the tools they need to be successful. The transparency resulting from the CAER Program did not exist before its creation in December 2017.

The AMCOM CAER team is led by Brian Dempsey and includes Monica Childers, Marsha Cuffee and Daniel Nguyen.

"(Fiscal stewardship) allows an organization to make great use of their financial resources so they can provide optimal support to the warfighter," Marsha Cuffee, AMCOM G-8 Operations research system analyst, said.

"Fiscal stewardship is extremely important – especially in periods of declining budgets like we are navigating

through now," Dempsey, AMCOM G-8 Comptroller Division chief, said. "It enables AMCOM to maximize our limited resources and improve warfighter readiness; we get more output from the dollars we receive. We have also been entrusted by the American public to effectively spend taxpayer dollars and the CAER program enables us to do that."

Though Dempsey has 18 years of government service under his belt, he's only been with AMCOM for two years – a relatively small time – but has made a big impact.

The Army Materiel Command G-8 nomination narrative credited Dempsey's vision and leadership over the past two years with transforming AMCOM's CAER program into "a highly effective, horizontally integrated financial stewardship program that serves as a best practice across the entire Army Materiel Command enterprise."

The narration continued, "Under the direction of Mr. Dempsey, Ms. Childers, Ms. Cuffee and Mr. Nguyen continuously improve and refine the CAER tools and have married data from multiple sources to provide a comprehensive and current picture of outbound reimbursable funds, open supply requisitions and other financial indicators."

Cuffee, who has been with AMCOM for more than 13 years, explained that the group provides operations research analysis support to the CAER Program, including development of a suite of analytic tools to perform advanced analyses for each CAER key performance indicator to identify root causes and enable a more



Army photo

From left, Marsha Cuffee, Monica Childers, Daniel Nguyen and Brian Dempsey, Aviation and Missile Command G-8 Command Accountability and Execution Review team, have earned the Army Excellence in Financial Stewardship Award for the third quarter of fiscal year 2021.

proactive decision-making approach to improve the efficiency of financial execution. "By doing this, we are ensuring that the Army can make better use of its resources thereby providing the best support to our warfighters," she said.

AMCOM G-8 Deputy Chief of Staff Dale Smith said he couldn't be prouder of what his team accomplished. "They have proved to the Army the value of leveraging advanced business analytics at the unit level to improve financial management and decision making. I can confidently say that this team, along with resource managers across AMCOM, (is) leading the entire Army when it comes to employing analytics in the business domain."

Nguyen, a program analyst who's been with AMCOM for seven years, said, "As a team, we will continue to improve and refine the CAER tools ... I'm very grateful to be a part of this team and under great leadership (that) understands, invests and implements in the skills and tools necessary to enable us to provide

innovative data-driven analytics."

"I am immensely proud of my team for earning this prestigious recognition," said AMCOM G-8 Business Analytics Division Chief Trevyn Kyle, who supervises Childers, Cuffee and Nguyen. "It is quite satisfying that they received the nomination from our higher headquarters at AMC G-8 and that my team is developing products that are not only extremely valuable for AMCOM, but also for AMC at large. The recognition further demonstrates AMCOM's outstanding support for the Army, AMC and, especially, for our Soldiers."

Dempsey said the backing of individuals in AMCOM G-8, AMCOM Logistics Center and the Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity has been outstanding. "We have so many hard-working professionals who enable our success; we couldn't do it without them!" he said. "I am so grateful for their continued support and excellence."

Detection technology advances with laser scanning

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

DEVCOM Aviation & Missile Center Public Affairs

From archaeology sites to self-driving cars to the testing labs at the Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center, LiDAR is revolutionizing scientific disciplines.

Light Detection And Ranging is a type of laser-scanning which captures extremely accurate, high-resolution 3D data by releasing laser pulses that go outward until the waves reach the designated object and then bounce back to the receiver.

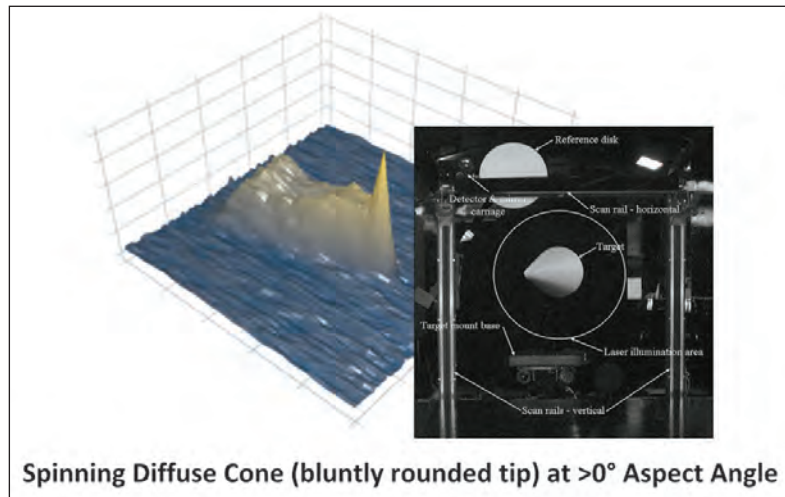
It is a technology that military scientists developed decades ago to detect satellites, but today is being used for a plethora of possibilities. For the Army, LiDAR is a valuable resource because it is more sensitive to motion and movement of an unknown object than RADAR and SONAR. Think of all of the uses for RADAR – Radar Detection And Ranging – which uses radio signals for detecting objects and SONAR – Sound Navigation And Ranging – which uses sound waves. While LiDAR and SONAR use the same wave principles, light travels a million times faster and is billions of times more sensitive than sound.

“We can see a threat much farther away and moving at high velocities,” said DEVCOM AvMC’s Norm Gifford, who works with the Software-Defined Range-Doppler Imaging LiDAR System in the Software, Simulations, Systems Engineering and Integration Directorate. “That

benefits the warfighter, allowing them to see threats sooner. Additionally, certain parts of that object can be scanned in order to determine whether it has a propeller or an engine with moving parts, or if it is moving at a speed to characterize the object. There is a lot of information that the warfighter can gain from using this system.”

LiDAR has been utilized in Guatemala to discover Mayan ruins until now hidden under dense brush, as seen on the recent National Geographic special, “Lost Treasures of the Maya,” on Disney+. Scientists use it in glaciology when studying climate change. Apple aficionados even have their own personal LiDAR, with the iPhone’s new LiDAR scanner which enhances its photo capabilities.

Gifford recently demonstrated AvMC’s LiDAR system, known as the Optocorrelotron, for S3I Director James Kirsch and the Space and Missile Defense Command’s Technical Director Thomas Webber at the Advanced Measurements Optical Range facility. AMOR is a compact indoor Laser Detection and Ranging measurements facility designed to develop and test advanced LiDAR sensing and measurement concepts. The system provided advanced capability for target identification at a very long range and with the target moving at high velocities.



Courtesy graphic

Future applications include platform target identification, aim point selection, range instrumentation support, weapon defenses and mapping.

“Modernization is much bigger than the Army’s six modernization priorities,” Kirsch said. “There is modernization happening all of the time in systems already in the field, fixing current problems and creating new capabilities.”

Role

Continued from page 1

enterprise, from installation readiness to Organic Industrial Base modernization, and using big and predictive data to make informed decisions.

“These modernization efforts start on installations, which we call our power projection platforms. Our installations must be resilient and capable of supporting current and evolving readiness needs,” Daly said. “We are targeting modernization alongside the Army’s transformation efforts including our roads, airfields, ports, railheads and ranges. Across this key infrastructure, we are keeping pace with the next-generation of weapon systems to maintain our strategic power projection advantage.”

Also keeping pace with modernization is the Army’s OIB – 26 depot, arsenals and ammunition plants – which is undergoing a 15-year modernization plan.

Strategic

Continued from page 1

ing our dominance in space by trying to neutralize, deny or limit our space-based services. These capabilities include kinetic anti-satellite and directed energy weapons, as well as electronic warfare systems to deny, degrade and disrupt GPS signals and satellite communications.”

Karbler said SMDC’s plan to realize a vision of space and missile defense integration is centered on the Army Integrated Air and Missile Defense program.

“By fusing sensor data to support both offensive and defensive fires, Integrated Air and Missile Defense Battle Command System will bring together these previously independent entities into the foundational elements of integrated deterrence,” he said. “We’ll be able to use this integrated deterrence approach to simultaneously deny benefits to, and impose costs on, our adversaries with attack left-of-launch operations to prevent the launch of adversary missiles, active missile defense to intercept them in flight and send credible messaging to our adversaries.”

Karbler said that in his 34-year career he has never seen SMDC more relevant than it is today.

“Our missile defense and space capabilities are highly sought across our joint, service, multinational, interagency and commercial partners,” he said. “Whether we’re talking about space exploration or SMDC’s core mission of Army space and missile defense, we must always keep

“We are looking at both the depth and breadth of the Organic Industrial Base to reduce single points of failure and keep pace with Army modernization efforts while maintaining the ability to surge and support multi-domain operations at theater-scale, not just in crisis but in long-term conflict,” he said.

Daly said fueling these efforts is the Army’s increased use of big data to make predictive, real-time and informed decisions based on global visibility of equipment and supplies.

“The Army is investing in agile and resilient networks and systems to make predictive decisions,” he said.

But Daly said some of the most important changes AMC is making is when it comes to the Army’s number one priority: people.

“We are setting the course for talent management and leader development across the enterprise, and it’s recruiting and retaining our people which set the standard for the Army in the future,” he said.

our eyes on the horizon, looking ahead to what comes next. We are preparing to fight and win, today and tomorrow, by integrating space and missile defense to support integrated deterrence across and through all domains.”

The SMDC team comprises 2,800 Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and civilians in 22 locations around the world.

“They and their families are far and away our greatest strength and most important weapons system – their service and sacrifice are what make winning possible,” Karbler said. “That is why, in the Army, we put ‘People First.’”

Karbler said the Army is investing to develop ready and resilient warfighters who will make up future space warfare formations.

“Even in degraded or contested environments, they will still contribute cross-domain fires to allow maneuver and provide support to all warfighting functions during large-scale combat operations, whether we are in competition, crisis, conflict or change,” Karbler said. “They and the critical capabilities they will provide to the joint force are what will enable us to become multi-domain operations-ready and achieve our objective of defeating threats.”

Karbler said that in both space and missile defense, SMDC is making progress in its concepts, organizations, capabilities and path forward to the future.

“We’re working today to be ready for what’s ahead, whether we’re talking about people or capabilities,” he said. “With competition now our steady state, our sights are set far into the future.”

ARMY FAP SAFE SLEEP CAMPAIGN



The ABC's of Safe Sleep

A Alone in Their Sleeping Space

Alone means removing all items from baby’s crib:

- ☒ Stuffed animals
- ☒ Loose blankets (swaddling is ok until your baby can roll over)
- ☒ Crib bumpers
- ☒ Anything that could increase risk of strangulation

Alone doesn’t mean away.

The risk of SIDS reduces by 50% for babies who sleep in the same room as their parent. Share your room with baby for at least their first six months.

B Placed on Back

Always place baby on their back on a firm surface to sleep.

C Asleep in Crib

Use a crib, bassinet, or portable crib that meets safety standards (See <https://www.cpsc.gov/SafeSleep>).

Never let baby sleep on a couch or sofa.

If baby falls asleep in their car seat, move them to their safe sleep spot at your destination.

ARMY NEW PARENT SUPPORT PROGRAM

New Parent Support services are available to all eligible Families with child(ren) **prenatal to 3 years old**, whether they live **on or off the installation**.

NPSP services are voluntary and **designed to empower parents**, build on the strengths and skills of parents, include both parents and promote positive parenting practices.

NPSP-Home Visitors are Licensed Clinical Social Workers and Registered Nurses who provide a **range of educational services and support** to parents.

Tim Rolfe, FAPM

256-842-8706

Please contact your installation **New Parent Support Program** for more information about safe sleep and the Army New Parent Home Visiting Program.

Space Command leader describes strategic environment

By JONATHAN STINSON

Assistant editor

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It's all about integration.

That was the main point of U.S. Space Command's leader Gen. James Dickinson's address during a dinner at the Space and Missile Defense Symposium last week.

"The strategic environment we have today is quite unique," Dickinson said. "With the emergence and the reemergence of our peer competitors, specifically China and Russia, we have been reorienting our primary focus after two decades of fighting terrorism."

The mission of Space Command is to deter conflicts in space and to protect and defend the United States' interests in the domain of space, should the deterrence of conflict fail.

Dickinson said there is a great opportunity for integration between the "space business," as he calls it, and air and missile defense, and that he hoped in the future "we would never speak about them independently."

The end goal of a good integration strategy is to better the mission execution from a warfighting perspective that suits the current strategic environment, according to Dickinson.

He broke down the overarching integration concept into three categories: integration in context, integration applied and integration for strategic relevance.

The general gave a few examples.

For integration in context, he highlighted the 1986 passage of the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act.

Among other things, the act streamlined the armed forces chain of command connecting the combatant commanders, like Dickinson, directly to the secretary of defense, who goes straight to the president.



Photo by Eric Schultz

U.S. Space Command's leader Gen. James Dickinson's addresses guests at the Space and Missile Defense Symposium.

This bypassed the service chiefs of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard and now Space Force, and made them advisers to the president and secretary of defense. They are also responsible for training and equipping personnel for the combatant commands.

And it's the Goldwater-Nichols act that explains why there is a U.S. Space Command and U.S. Space Force, according to Dickinson.

Simply put, the U.S. Space Command continues to provide things like satellite communication support,

GPS, and missile warnings to other combatant commands and the joint force, and the joint force provides capabilities and support for Space Command's protect and defend mission.

"We structured these two organizations to be fully compliant with the Goldwater-Nichols Act," Dickinson said. "We wanted them both to be singularly focused on space. And they certainly are.

"I guarantee you that Jay Raymond, (member of the Joint Chiefs as chief of space operations) is singularly focused and I am certainly singularly focused on space.

"That should suggest to all of us how significant the threat is to our interest in space, and therefore the American way of life."

Speaking about the other two points of integration, Dickinson said there is a natural synergy between air and missile defense and space.

He identified some common elements between air and missile defense and space, like having an in-depth discussion about the multifunction use of the existing sensors.

"In addition to their missile warning mission, can't we use missile warning radars ... to meet space awareness requirements, too?" Dickinson said. "Can we find the best balance for both missile warning and space domain awareness? I think we have to."

Dickinson spoke about the potential of using the existing predictive analysis, artificial intelligence and machine learning to find relevant information on adversary activity in space.

"Integration with other domain capabilities provides the bedrock," he said. "Structural and sustained space integration with integrated space and missile defense in particular, will make U.S. Space Command more efficient, more combat effective and more capable of providing viable options to the National Command Authority."



Photo by Carrie David Campbell, SMDC

Acquisition update

Richard De Fatta, director, Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence, Space and Missile Defense Command, talks Army space requirements during the Acquisition Update for Space and Missile Defense panel during the 24th annual Space and Missile Defense Symposium at the Von Braun Center, Aug. 10.



Photo by Carrie David Campbell, SMDC

Warfighter panel

Brig. Gen. Dave Stewart, commander, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command, describes his command's capabilities during the Regional Warfighter Panel of the 24th annual Space and Missile Defense Symposium at the Von Braun Center, Thursday. Stewart along with senior leaders from the Army's three other air and missile defense commands and the commander of the U.S. Space Command's Joint Task Force Space Defense joined retired Lt. Gen. David Mann for the panel.



Photo by Ronald Bailey, SMDC

Podcast from symposium

Command Sgt. Maj. Finis Dodson, Space and Missile Defense Command command sergeant major, left, and Chief Warrant Office 5 Wesley Klees, command chief warrant officer, join retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley for his “Your Next Mission” podcast aired from the 24th annual Space and Missile Defense Symposium at the Von Braun Center, Aug. 11. To listen to the podcast, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSTKpx8uYj0.

Redstone welcomes new staff judge advocate

By **KATHERINE BELCHER**

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate has a new leader at the helm with the arrival of Lt. Col. Charles Halverson.

Halverson has served in the Army for 18 years and specializes in contract law. In his new position as SJA, he also serves as a legal adviser to Maj. Gen. Todd Royar, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command.

Halverson transferred to Redstone from the 409th Contracting Support Brigade in Kaiserslautern, Germany, with his family – which includes another Army lawyer, Lt. Col. Candace White Halverson.

Early in his career, Halverson was on a different career path that didn't involve military service. He and his wife were living in Washington, D.C., when they made the decision to leave their jobs and attend law school full time. She had a scholarship to the University of Wisconsin and, once she was admitted, they picked up stakes and moved to the dairy state.

The pair were in their second of year of law school in 2001 when a catastrophic

event changed their plans for the future.

"9/11 happened and we had a swell of patriotism," Halverson said. "She was an Army brat and this is what she knew growing up. She had an idea she wanted to serve even before 9/11 but she wasn't sure how."

Halverson said the events of that day sealed the deal for them and they both joined the Army after graduating from law school. Halverson stayed on active duty, but his wife made the switch to the Army Reserve after their second child was born. She is the deputy commander of the 13th Legal Operations Detachment in Maryland.

Although he didn't initially plan to make the Army a career, Halverson has enjoyed being part of the tight-knit group of attorneys that comprise the Judge Advocate General Corps.

"The JAG Corps is a really small regiment in the Army and you meet a lot of other attorneys and your paths cross all the time," he said. "It's so supportive. You move around, but everywhere you go, you already have a ready-made community."

His goals for the Office of the Staff

Judge Advocate include increasing awareness of its preventive law mission and expanding the scope of services provided to include more consumer issues. Halverson said plans are in motion to bring onboard another attorney in the next few months to assist in that endeavor.

"At the moment, we're sort of limited. We do a lot of estate planning for people, powers of attorney – and we have a big tax center mission here when tax season kicks off," he said. "The Army's legal assistance mission is bigger than that and I think we can be bigger than that."

Another project he would like to tackle is working with Army Community Service to once again provide legal briefs, which are currently being provided by attorneys in the local community. It's one of many improvements he hopes to bring to the position.

"I want this office to provide timely, legal, moral and ethical advice to our clients – whomever that might be. That's what I expect to do for Maj. Gen. Royar, and what I expect the people who work here to do for the clientele we see in the legal assis-



Lt. Col. Charles Halverson

tance office," Halverson said. "Every time I go somewhere, I want to improve the operation in some way. There's always room for improvement. I go in with the goal of leaving it better than the way I found it."

Community

Pandemic postpones 25th annual Oktoberfest

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

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Redstone Arsenal's biggest annual party has been canceled – or possibly just postponed – for the second consecutive year due to COVID-19 concerns.

Kenneth McDonald, chief of the Support Services division at Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation, announced the cancellation on Thursday in a statement sent by email.

Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor and Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Jimenez also discussed the cancellation during their Facebook Live Town Hall on Thursday.

“I was a big advocate, ‘cause last year we had to cancel it, and I was excited about this year,” Jimenez said. “But unfortunately, we are going to have to postpone it to be sure we keep everybody safe.”

Mellor said “the safety of everybody, not only at Redstone Arsenal, but the people we have coming through our gates” was the top priority in canceling Oktoberfest.

“We were going to have a big carnival. We were going to have a fest tent with beer. We just don't think we can provide the safety,” he said.

McDonald's statement said the decision to cancel the 2021 event was based on “the uncertainty of how COVID-19 and the Delta variant will be impacting our surrounding communities during the month of September and beyond.”

Scheduled for Sept. 16-19, this year's festival would have been the 25th anniversary Oktoberfest, the same anniversary that was planned in 2020 and canceled due to the pandemic.

Featuring authentic German beer, brats, music, carnival rides and more, the festival attracts thousands of people a year, including many civilians with no affiliation to the installation.

The kickoff is traditionally marked



with the tapping of a keg of beer to the sound of polka music, but the oom-pahs will have to wait.

Mellor said alternate plans are under consideration, depending on the direction of COVID numbers in the coming months. One possibility is a delayed Oktoberfest later this fall.

“We would like to postpone by a little bit, but we don't know what the COVID numbers will be doing in the future,” he said.

Another possibility under discussion is a Christmas carnival with vendors and a market similar to those held in Germany during the holidays.

But for now, the plan is to pause and observe the course of the virus in the region.

“We have determined it is best to err on the side of caution at this time when it comes to the safety and well-being of our community,” McDonald said.



Photo by Willene Orr, retired sergeant major

First responder appreciation

The Redstone Arsenal Sergeants Major Association honored first responders July 28 for their work during the ongoing pandemic. This was part of the association's Operation Pay it Forward. From left are Joe Fitzgerald, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army; Chief Brian Reinwald, Chief James Lamm, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Willie Pullom and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Jimenez.

Scheduled for Sept. 16-19, this year's festival would have been the 25th anniversary Oktoberfest, the same anniversary that was planned in 2020 and canceled due to the pandemic.

Security enterprise worker concludes 32-year career

By ADRIANE ELLIOT

Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

Where in the world would you go to find a salt-of-the-earth, Pennsylvania country boy sitting across from a Jordanian colonel eating goat and rice with his fingers?

Not far at all, according to recently retired, federal employee John Neil.

Neil retired from the Security Assistance Command's New Cumberland, Pennsylvania, headquarters with 32 years of federal service in June. But it's not the length of service that sticks out in his mind. It's the extraordinary cultural experiences that will last him a lifetime.

"I've toasted good health to my mother's mother and my father's father with a Taiwanese general. I've told a Korean general through an interpreter that our 1/3 scale Hawk missile target would definitely float if shot down, but would definitely not float indefinitely," he said.

Moments like these became all part of a day's work for Neil. But they were worlds away from where he imagined his career taking him, and further still from his humble beginnings.

"In 1989 when I entered federal service through the AMC intern program in Texarkana, Texas, I can remember looking at the GS pay scale and thinking, 'man, if I can just make a GS-11, I'll have it made and I'll make more money than anybody ever did in my family.' Well, this hillbilly has done all right," he said.

Neil was born in rural Western Pennsylvania in 1965 to a hardworking middle-class family. He and his siblings were raised by their father – a state policeman – and mother, who was "a hustler ... always finding ways to make money through antiques, jewelry and other endeavors. We were solid middle class, although we didn't know it," he said. "We were given nothing without working for it."

Growing up, he helped on his grandparents' farm, hunted and fished.

"College wasn't on my radar until the Shippensburg University wrestling coach called me up and offered me a work/study job to help offset the cost of tuition," he said.

Neil earned a bachelor's in public administration and went on to grad school, where he met a Letterkenny Army Depot employee, who told him about the Army Materiel Command intern program.

He applied and was hired. Neil completed a nine-month internship at the AMC School of Engineering and Logistics at Red River Army Depot in Texarkana, and the remaining 32 years of service were spent supporting Army foreign military sales in one capacity or another.

Twenty of those years were spent at USASAC as a country program manager, a CPM forward for EU-COM in Germany, a Lean Six Sigma deployment director, and on deployment to Kuwait as part of the Responsible Reset Task Force. His most recent job at USASAC was as the director of Performance and



Courtesy photo

John Neil, with wife Ellie, contributes much of his success to the support of family, mentors and colleagues. He retired from the Security Assistance Command with 32 years of federal service and he has just been named the director of foreign military sales for Sigmatech.

Process Management for the last 10 years.

He attributes working at all levels of the security assistance/FMS enterprise to his career success, but the one job he credits for making him a subject matter expert in all of USASAC's complex FMS processes was his position as LSS deployment director.

"In the late 2000s we did over 35 LSS Rapid Improvement Events in about a two-year period," he said. "These deep dives into all of our key processes gave me a great foundation for my final job at USASAC."

As the P2MO, Neil was the go-to guy when it came to ensuring managers and ASAE senior leaders had an understanding of the business, and the ability to track the development and execution of foreign military sales cases. He said his greatest accomplishment was giving "the Army security assistance enterprise the ability to see ourselves better and to better hold ourselves accountable to the promises we've made to our foreign partners. Our Common Operating Picture has made us the gold standard among services in the execution of our mission."

While enjoying decades of unique experiences and making a difference in the mission, Neil never lost sight of its critical implications.

"You can watch the world news one night, and be working on a related FMS sales case the next day to address real world problems," he said. "Our mission has significant influence on our National Security Strategy and on our partner nations' security. We build partner capacity so nations can take care of their own problems, and also support the U.S. as we execute our national security objectives."

Those objectives are a life-or-death matter.

"The one thing I have learned about security assistance that I wish the rest of the world knew is that our programs help to save the lives of our Soldiers," Neil said. "If countries can take care of their own security or help us with our security objectives, then we don't have to put our Soldiers in harm's way."

And while doing his part to improve national security, he has also improved personally.

"I think I have evolved quite a bit throughout my career," he said. "I've learned leadership is a burden and not a privilege."

"You accomplish nothing without the people that work for you and support you," he said. "Growing and mentoring those behind you, and providing them the skills they need to be successful, is the single most important thing you can do as a manager in the federal government."

He also said he now has a more pragmatic approach to life. "Control the things you can and learn to let the other things go. You cannot control everything. Everybody has roles to play. Play your role to the best of your ability."

Neil's USASAC career has come to a close, and he has earned his share of awards and accolades. But they were not his alone.

"I have always been fortunate to have great mentors and great teammates around me," Neil said. "I credit all of my success to my mentors and teammates that worked with me, and for me."

He especially credits his family for his career success, noting that wife Ellie and sons, Jacob and Ryan, never wavered in their support for him. "Without that home support, I would not be where I am today. Ellie gave up her own career aspirations to support me in my career and to raise our family. She is our rock."

"Security assistance requires a lot of travel and being away from home, so I've missed many birthdays, holidays and anniversaries because of mission required travel. We've also moved six times to support my career advancement," said Neil, who has lived in New Jersey, Alabama, Florida, Virginia, Germany and Pennsylvania.

Neil said now, after a brief six weeks of retirement, he is looking forward to the next chapter of his life. He has just been named the director of foreign military sales for Sigmatech where he will focus on developing and providing logistics support programs in support of FMS.

Maybe one day, said Neil, "I'll retire for real, and hone my wine-making, brewing and distilling skills."

Until then, to friends, family and USASAC colleagues, he says "I've worked security assistance my whole career and I have loved every minute of it. We have an awesome mission and we do make a difference. Not a lot of people can say they have jobs like we have. Treasure every minute, and do your very best at all times for yourself, and for our partner nations. The time goes much too quickly."

Special Forces Soldier puts life story in writing

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Vietnam veteran Henry Phillips laughs at the memory of his job interview for a middle school teacher position.

"What makes you qualified for this job?" the interviewer asked.

"I've got three years combat experience," Phillips replied.

"Well," the interviewer responded, "you're hired."

Phillips served three one-year tours in Vietnam: 1964-65, 1967-68 and 1971-72. The first two tours were with the 5th Special Forces, and the third was split between the 101st Airborne Division and the 1st Cavalry. In the first year, he spent six months in Saigon and then went to Nha Trang. He spent the second year in Nha Trang with the MACV Recondo School, a reconnaissance school operated by the 5th Special Forces Group, where he served as the supply sergeant and recondo instructor.

In his third tour, 1971-72, he was in Phu Bai for the first seven months with the 101st. When the 101st closed out, he joined the 1st Cavalry in Bien Hoa.

The Seattle, Washington, native and

Hazel Green resident has completed a book about his life, "Footprints of Pain and Joy." It was published this summer by Covenant Books.

"I wanted to share my story with others who might have similar issues – like broken relationships, broken marriages," he said.

He admittedly made his share of misguided decisions. But he became a Christian, a loving parent and husband, an educator and coach and a mentor to young people.

Phillips dropped out of high school as a senior in Tacoma, Washington. Interestingly he attended school with guitar legend Jimi Hendrix in Seattle before moving to Tacoma for his senior year. Hendrix was a year ahead of him. Hendrix played guitar while Phillips played sports.

Phillips joined the Army for patriotic reasons in 1963 and went on to serve 27 years, retiring in 1991 as a sergeant first class and senior chaplain's assistant at Bicentennial Chapel.

In 1994 he graduated from Athens State at age 50 with a bachelor's in education. He taught history and coached for 15 years in Madison County schools. Subsequently, through 2016, he taught several years at Bethlehem Christian Academy, a private Christian school in Hazel Green. For two

hours a day he taught seventh-grade world history and eighth-grade U.S. history.

On Sept. 17 he will be honored at the Hazel Green High School football game as a cancer survivor.

A harrowing weekend of firefights in Nha Trang with the 5th Special Forces Group in 1967 changed his life. "That's when I became a Christian because I almost got killed three different times in one operation," Phillips said. "That was time to convert."

He became a chaplain's assistant, particularly proud of leading the youth ministry. And along the way, after two failed marriages, he learned the importance of putting priority on family. "I learned a big lesson that way; that was: ministry comes second, your family comes first," he said.

In Vietnam, he said, he experienced some combat but not a lot. "I saw some death – troops killed, people killed," he said. Phillips received two Bronze Stars and the Meritorious Service Medal.

"I'm certainly not a hero," he said. "I've seen too many good men, I've known too many good men, that have given their lives. They were the true heroes."

Phillips, 76, stays involved with the men's group at Bethlehem Baptist Church which is in the Lick Skillet community in Hazel Green. He spent the past year completing his book, which was published about a month ago. "It's really my life story – from school, Vietnam experiences, the DMZ in Korea, college, teaching," he said.

He and his wife of almost three years, Burlene, his fourth wife, have a combined seven children, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

"I love to read," he said. "My preference is the Bible. I just try to flood my time with that. I love to watch sports. I love being involved with the grandchildren's lives."

Phillips has a 100% disability rating from Veterans Affairs because of the cancer, multiple myeloma. He supports the Tunnel to Towers Foundation which gives to families of fallen 9/11 first responders. He participates each year in a Spiritual Warfare Camp, a youth retreat led by retired Marine Louie Barnett, a pastor of

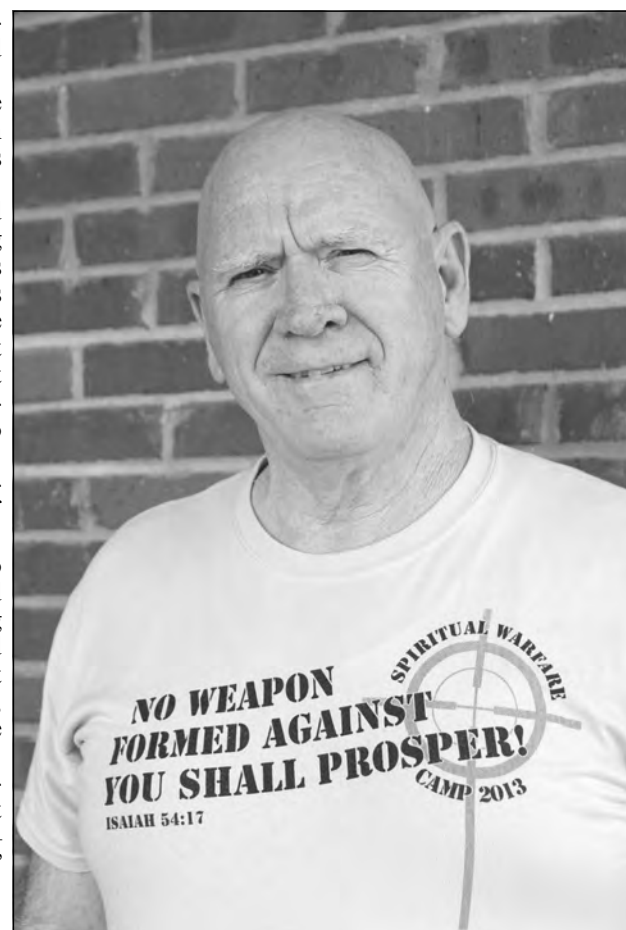


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Hazel Green resident Henry Phillips, a Seattle, Wash. native, served three tours in Vietnam.

Vietnam revisited Part 333 in series

the Eagles Nest Church in Monroe, Michigan. He did not attend the camp in 2019-21 because of the pandemic but he hopes to return as its sergeant major in 2022.

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

"I think it's long overdue," Phillips said. "All the wars, all the people that have given their lives so we can be free, the moment we take it too lightly it's going to come back and slap us in the face."

"I'm not looking for any appreciation (for Vietnam service). I did it because I believed in what I was doing."

Editor's note: This is the 333rd in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

**WASTE...
...RUINS MY TASTE**



**Keep storm drains clean
for those downstream!**

Keep Redstone Arsenal water streams free of pollutants.

To report someone dumping chemicals that could wash down a storm drain, call the Garrison Environmental Office, Storm Water Program manager at 955-8501.

Follow prescribed protocol when exposed to virus

By **JONATHAN STINSON**

Assistant editor

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The resurgence of the COVID-19 virus has led to several questions, like when should I quarantine or what's the difference between quarantine and isolation?

The Garrison's Directorate of Operations has provide some helpful information to help answer those questions.

First let's start with some definitions.

Quarantine: You quarantine when you might have been exposed to the virus. Check your temperature twice a day and watch for symptoms of COVID-19. If possible, stay away from people who are at higher-risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.

Isolation: You isolate when you have been infected with the virus, even if you don't have symptoms. Isolation keeps someone who is sick or tested positive for COVID-19 away from others in a "sick-room," even in their own home.

Fully vaccinated: At least 14 days after one-dose vaccine or the second dose of a two-dose vaccine.

This all leads up to the big question of what should I do when I come in contact

with a person who has COVID-19?

The answer is it depends on if you're fully vaccinated or not.

If you're vaccinated, you may remain at work but must wear a mask. Currently, everyone on post is required to wear a face-mask when they are indoors.

Vaccinated employees are not required to quarantine, but they should get tested three to five days after being exposed to the virus.

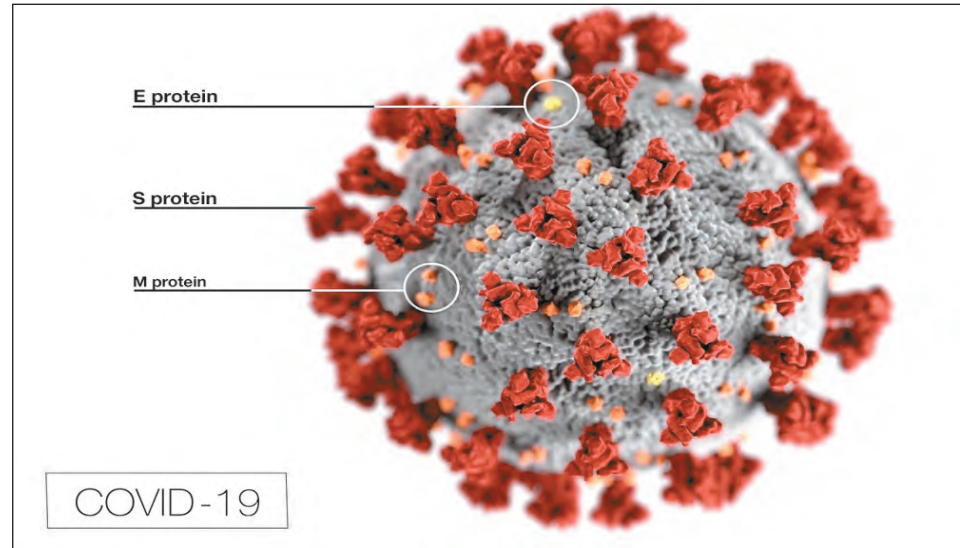
If that test is negative and the person is not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, then no further action is required.

But if a person develops symptoms, then they should contact their primary care manager and get tested.

If the test comes back positive, the person should stay at home and isolate themselves. After 10 days of isolation and at least 24 hours without a fever and the use of fever-reducing medications, the employee can return to work.

If an employee is not vaccinated and comes in contact with a person who has COVID-19, they will need to quarantine for 14 days after the last contact with the person with COVID-19.

After 14 days and no symptoms appear, the person can return to work.



Graphic courtesy of CDC

The quarantine time can be shortened if the individual gets tested after five days and it comes back negative. The person can return to work on day seven of their quarantine.

Another way to shorten the quarantine time is if an individual goes 10 days with no

symptoms, according to the Directorate of Operations.

But if a person develops symptoms and tests positive then they need to isolate for 10 days. The same protocol applies for returning to work – 10 days, no fever for 24 hours without the aid of medications.

Tax center delivers more than \$2.6M in refunds

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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Volunteers at the Redstone Tax Center did nearly 2,500 returns during this pandemic year.

They had another successful year of providing free tax preparation services for the military community despite the challenge of operating in a COVID environment.

Last week Rachael Yeoman, the tax center manager, provided the final tax year 2020 numbers:

- 2,498 returns prepared, including 1,250 federal and 1,248 state
- \$526,928 in fees saved
- \$2,613,645 in refunds recovered for clients

The volunteer-staffed center changed its procedures this year because of the pandemic. The center, located at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, opened in February as a drop-off only site for active duty and retired military and their families.

“It was a success with a few bumps along the road,” Yeoman said. “It was a learning experience for both our office and the clients – learning how to operate in a COVID environment. But we made it through the year and it was a success. All thanks to our dedicated volunteers.”

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

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

Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense
Department websites

Guard Soldiers test resilience

FORT IRWIN, Calif. – Oklahoma Army National Guard Soldiers had their skills challenged as they fought the heat and mock enemies during a monthlong annual training in the desert at the National Training Center in July.

“I think it’s significant that our light infantry forces attend NTC because we can train and see where we are lacking when fighting in the field,” Capt. Michael Smith, company commander, Civil Affairs Battalion, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma Army National Guard, said.

Soldiers participated in a simulated combat in mock cities, including Razish and Ujen, around the Mojave Desert in Fort Irwin.

“I think the first time that a young sergeant or lieutenant is in combat shouldn’t be for real,” Brig. Gen. Tommy Mancino, assistant adjutant general of the Oklahoma Army National Guard, said. “This gives them the chance to experience the chaos of battle and learn command and control and other techniques that they only can do during a simulation like this.”

Opposition forces on the Fort Irwin post are Soldiers trained year-round to mimic organizations Army forces could encounter on deployment. Oklahoma National Guard Soldiers maneuvered through buildings guarded by opposition forces during simulated battles to take mock cities as they would in real combat.

“As the OPFOR, we more or less play the enemy as an organized militia, and it creates a realistic training environment so if Guardsmen go on deployment, they can react to the same kind of organization that we are trying to replicate,” Cpl. Kylan Moore, OPFOR, 1st platoon, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Fort Irwin, said. “They’ll be better prepared and more experienced when the time comes to save their battle buddy’s life.”

Capt. John Puckett, 1st Battalion, 160th Field Artillery Regiment, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Oklahoma Army National Guard, said the Fort Irwin desert creates a unique training opportunity for Soldiers to work through problems in unfamiliar dry heat.

“We have lots of ice, dunk tanks and ice sheets to make sure everybody has resources to prevent heat casualties as we get acclimated to the temperatures,” Puckett said.

Surplus furniture awaits potential users at old chapel



Courtesy photo

This large office suite is an example of available surplus furniture.

By **REBECCA SALLEE**

Staff writer

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One man's trash is another man's treasure.

When it comes to government surplus furniture, the idiom holds true.

When a government employee, group or entity decides to buy new furniture, their old stuff goes into surplus storage. But some of it is not that old.

The message from the people who oversee the moving and storage process is to think of surplus options before you make that next purchase.

"If you can't afford 'new,' call us. We may have something," said Michelle Burgett, program manager for the relocation services contract for the Directorate of Public Works at the Garrison.

Traditional desks, adjustable sit-stand desks (adjustable for sitting or standing), chairs, bookcases and modular cubicles are available, in storage, and free to government users, Burgett said. The only cost you'll incur in taking advantage of the surplus items is the moving cost.

That side of the house is handled by Mills Hardiman Mills, the contractor.

Surplus furniture is housed in an unlikely and interesting place: building 3714, the original post chapel on Patton Road.

Step into the "sanctuary" and you'll see a plethora of neatly arranged furniture that's just waiting for a new home.

"We move it every day," Joe Baker, MHM manager, said. "Sometimes we move 20 units. Sometimes we move 40."

Two full-time employees do the heavy lifting along with temporary employees, when necessary. The orders for a move come through DPW.

"We just charge them to bring it and set it up," Burgett said.

"Repurposing" used office furniture and cubicles saves an incredible amount of money to the end users, she said, adding that the cost of one new cubicle can be as high as \$8,000 to \$10,000.

"I've repurposed about 400 pieces of furniture," she said. Even estimating on a conservative basis, she said the savings have totaled over \$1 million for Uncle Sam through the program.

Surplus furniture is very neatly organized in the chapel, as are the accompanying



Photo by Rebecca Sallee

Joe Baker, MHM manager, and Michelle Burgett, program manager for relocation services at the Garrison, stand in front of dozens of wrapped, disassembled desk pieces.

pieces of hardware that are needed to reassemble it.

"Joe makes my job easy," Burgett said.

Baker likens the parts to the cubicles and furniture to car parts. They are proprietary for different brands, but the concept is similar for all of them.

Photos are available of the surplus furniture, as are the dimensions of the offices for various configurations. The first step in ordering surplus furniture is a call to Burgett.

When moving day comes around, Baker and his crew do the rest. They provide moving bins for personal items and computers, and the manpower to install new office furniture and/or cubicles.

Occasionally other items make their way into storage at the chapel. Two like-new electric stoves are there for the asking as a nice addition to an office break room or kitchen.

Other odd items on hand but not necessarily up for grabs are some dining booths with attached benches, a set of stairs that would lead to a stage, and an old helicopter simulator.

Burgett's only complaint is a lack of climate control in the chapel. Air conditioning and heat are not working, and some of the items placed there for storage wind up getting moldy and turning into trash that will never be anyone's treasure.

"We have lost many items to mold, due to lack of climate control," she said. "This happens to cubicle walls as well as wood desks."

A climate-controlled facility "would allow us to hold pieces longer and give customers time to plan for the reconfiguration of newer furniture," Burgett said, adding that the savings in furniture costs may give more wiggle room to construction upgrades.

Burgett is passionate about keeping gently used furniture out of the landfills and in offices for re-use, as well as saving money for Uncle Sam and the taxpayers.

She has filled several large orders for repurposed furniture, including those for the 4488 A-wing, the second floor of Garrison headquarters, and the DPW headquarters in the same building.

To place an order for furniture, put in a work order through the Garrison DPW work order system stating that you need furniture. The work order will be routed to Burgett and she will be in contact to discuss what's available. For more information, call Burgett at 876-4364.

Engine hot fire test series supports lunar missions



NASA conducts its sixth RS-25 single-engine hot fire Aug. 5 on the A-1 Test Stand at Stennis.

NASA photo

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

NASA conducted its sixth RS-25 single-engine hot fire Aug. 5 on the A-1 Test Stand at Stennis Space Center, a continuation of its seven-part test series to support development and production of engines for the agency's Space Launch System rocket on future missions to the Moon.

Operators fired the engine for more than eight minutes (500 seconds), the same amount of time RS-25 engines need to fire for launch of the SLS rocket. Four RS-25 engines, along with a pair of solid rocket boosters, will help power SLS at launch. NASA already has tested engines for the rocket's first four Artemis missions to the Moon, allowing operators to turn their focus toward collecting data to demonstrate and verify various engine capabilities for future engines.

Along with providing performance data to Aerojet Rocketdyne, lead contractor

for the SLS engines, the Aug. 5 test enabled the team to evaluate new engine components manufactured with cutting-edge and cost-saving technologies, eliminate operating risks, and enhance engine production. In addition to operating the engine at 109% of its original power level for extended periods during the hot fire, NASA verified new manufacturing processes while evaluating the performance of the engine's low-pressure fuel turbopump. The pump significantly boosts the pressure of liquid hydrogen delivered to the high-pressure fuel turbopump to help prevent cavitating, the forming of "bubbles" or "voids," which can collapse or cause shock waves that may damage machinery.

An integrated team conducts RS-25 tests at Stennis, including NASA, Aerojet Rocketdyne, and Syncom Space Services, the prime contractor of Stennis facilities and operations.



NASA photo

Silver Snoopy award

Michael Haynes, left, who retired from NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in 2020 as a reliability and quality assurance engineer for the Orion Launch Abort System, displays the Silver Snoopy award he received during a ceremony July 27. The presentation included a video from astronaut Randy Bresnik, right, who nominated Haynes for his outstanding technical leadership in achieving Orion Program safety goals throughout the Launch Abort System development and qualification phases. The Launch Abort System will allow astronauts to safely escape in the event of an emergency during launch pad operations and through the Orion's ascent phase. "When we get to the Moon and get back safely, we'll have you in part to thank for allowing that to happen," Bresnik said. The Silver Snoopy award is presented by the NASA astronaut corps to civil service and contractor employees who have made direct, significant contributions to America's human spaceflight program. Haynes started at Marshall in 2003. Bresnik, who became an astronaut in 2004, was commander of the International Space Station during Expedition 53 and a flight engineer for Expedition 52, both during 2017, and a member of STS-129 in 2009.

Deep space human exploration gets proposed boost



NASA photos

J.P. Wilson, left, is project lead for the Bioremediation of Microgravity Biofilms and Water Processor Health proposal; and Mason Hall, is project lead for the Data Planning and Control Tool proposal.

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

NASA's Advanced Exploration Systems division has announced that 10 proposals led by early career employees at eight NASA centers have been selected for two-year projects that will enable new capabilities for deep space human exploration.

Teams submitted proposals to Project Polaris, a new initiative to help NASA's workforce meet the challenges of sending humans to the Moon and Mars. Project Polaris seeks to fill high-priority capability gaps on deep space missions like Artemis, and introduce new technologies into human exploration flight programs. The program also aims to create opportunities for early career employees across NASA centers to gain experience building and testing flight hardware while developing technologies and reducing risk for future human exploration missions.

Two of the selections came from Marshall Space Flight Center.

The Bioremediation of Microgravity Biofilms and Water Processor Health proposal is led by J.P. Wilson and includes three early career employees. Robust life support systems, especially

those that operate without the need for component replacement during a mission, are necessary for continued human space exploration. However, one of the main issues is the risk of biofouling and clogging.

Similar to the gene drive approaches to stop the spread of the Zika virus, this team proposes developing methods that cause the splitting of essential genes for biofilm formation. Results from ground testing will be compared to results in microgravity, and then compared to other technologies.

The Data Planning and Control Tool proposal is led by Mason Hall and includes six early career employees. As NASA missions and technologies evolve, ground operations will move away from 24/7 manual support, emphasizing the importance of autonomy in ground operations.

The tool will automate planning by merging telemetry, flight control, and procedures into a seamless interface for mission operators. It will also reduce workload, lower the risk for human errors, and provide modularity across programs, such as Gateway and Lunar Surface Ops.



Photo by Allen Meeks, SMDC

Northern Command leader

Gen. Glen VanHerck, commander of the U.S. Northern Command and North American Aerospace Defense Command, visits the Space and Missile Defense Command, Aug. 10 to see the command's capabilities. At left is James Johnson, SMDC deputy commander.

Moon rocket flight software readied for launch

By CORINNE EDMISTON

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

As crews at NASA's Kennedy Space Center assemble the Moon rocket for the Artemis I mission, teams have installed the flight software that will help steer, fly, track, and guide the spacecraft during launch and ascent to space. Engineers loaded the flight software onto the Space Launch System rocket Aug. 6 after powering up the core stage that contains the flight computers for the first time since stacking began.

With the software installed, the engineers who developed the flight software at Marshall Space Flight Center are supporting final checkouts and completing tests to certify the software for the mission.

"NASA's Space Launch System is on the path to the pad, and the SLS flight computer application software is complete and ready to perform the mission," David Beaman, SLS systems engineering and integration manager, said. "The mission certification and performance certification tests are the next step for the rocket's software on the path to launch and flight ahead of Artemis I."

The software is loaded on three flight computers, along with the avionics systems inside the SLS rocket's core stage. On the day of launch, the SLS's twin solid rocket boosters and four RS-25 engines fire together to produce more than 8.8 million pounds of thrust to send NASA's Orion spacecraft to the Moon. The software and avionics operate with the rocket's three flight computers to harness the power of the rocket through ascent and communicate with avionics systems inside the engines and the boosters. That same software is monitored in real time by NASA's Exploration Ground Systems team at the agency's launch complex at Kennedy and SLS Program engineers at the SLS Engineering Support Center at Marshall.

Once the rocket and Orion are fully stacked and assembled on the mobile launcher, they will undergo several additional tests and checkouts leading up to launch. The software is designed to be tested and certified for each launch window so that ascent performance parameters can be updated right up until launch to enhance mission success.

"It is important to test and certify the SLS flight software for each launch opportunity to account for day of launch weather and other factors," Dan Mitchell, lead SLS integrated avionics and software engineer, said. "Those tests also ensure that all the software elements and systems on the rocket, Orion, and the ground work together seamlessly for prelaunch checks and preparations, liftoff, and ascent."

NASA conducts integrated end-to-end testing for the software, hardware, avionics, and integrated systems needed to fly Artemis missions. Each hardware element is tested before delivery to Kennedy. In addition, testing in the agency's sophisticated software development laboratories uses actual SLS, Orion, and Exploration Ground Systems flight hardware and software, as well as emulators – versions of the software that each team employs to test how their code works with the integrated system – to support both system-level interface testing and integrated mission testing to ensure software and avionics systems work together.

Earlier this year, the flight software and avionics systems completed a series of checkouts and tests as part of the comprehensive, eight-part SLS core stage Green Run test series at NASA's Stennis Space Center. Key tests and checkouts included powering on the stage, simulating the launch countdown, and operating the flight computers and avionics systems during the eight-minute hot fire test March 18.

During Green Run, the core stage flight computers, software, and avionics systems performed as expected as test teams monitored and operated the flight software just like they would in a launch environment for the first time. Those data findings were then used to inform the mission certification testing for the Artemis I flight software.

Extensive testing was also completed on the flight computer application software for Artemis I in Marshall's System Integration Lab. Inside, software engineers create real-time launch simulations to further test the flight software under normal and unplanned mission scenarios.

"The flight software test campaign for the Artemis I mission involves more than 300,000 different mission scenarios to satisfy all flight software requirements," Shaun Phillips, SLS flight software project team lead based at Marshall, said. "Each of these scenarios are focused on evaluating different interfaces and situations the vehicle may face during launch and flight."

NASA thoroughly tests and evaluates all software and hardware for every phase of the Artemis I mission to ensure that it meets safety requirements and is fully qualified for human spaceflight. With Artemis, NASA will land the first woman and the first person of color on the Moon and establish a long-term presence while prepar-



NASA photo by Kim Shiflett

Crews with NASA's Exploration Ground Systems and contractor Jacobs at the agency's Kennedy Space Center are assembling the SLS rocket that will power NASA's Artemis I mission to the Moon. The largest piece of SLS is the 212-foot orange core stage that forms the backbone of the rocket. The core stage was powered up Aug. 6, and the flight software for the Artemis I mission was loaded on the rocket's computers.

ing for human missions to Mars. SLS and NASA's Orion spacecraft, along with the commercial human landing system and the Gateway in orbit around the Moon, are NASA's backbone for deep space exploration. SLS is the only rocket that can send Orion, astronauts, and supplies to the Moon in a single mission.

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

Sports**Red team pulls together on defense to edge maroon**By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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After their starting pitcher left the game with an injury, the red team fell behind the maroon. They could have unraveled at that point.

But they pulled together.

Kirk Wickizer had three hits with a double as red edged the maroon 15-14 on Aug. 9 at field 2 in Brahan Spring Park. The 2020 champions pulled even with the maroon in the 55-and-over Rockets league in Huntsville Senior Softball.

"We just held together," Wickizer said. "We just managed to get the runs when we needed to and we played tight defense, very good defense."

The shortstop and cleanup hitter went 3-for-3 with two runs batted in and three runs scored. Freddie Childs and Yogi Guess had four hits apiece. Player/coach Phil Haas had three hits with a three-run double. Dale Guess and Mike Panko added two hits apiece for red (3-2).

Dale Guess, a left-hander, pitched the last two innings for the win. He started two 1-4-3 double plays. Starting pitcher Steve Robertson left in the top of the fourth when he was struck in the knee by a line drive. Guess was the last of three relievers.

"Our defense won it for us," Haas said. "And after our starting pitcher went down, we didn't have a second pitcher. So we tried everybody and found a second pitcher."

David Allen hit a three-run homer for maroon (3-2). Moto Miller had three hits with a homer. Player/coach Chris Maggio had four hits. Tim Lawter, Allen and Bennie Pokemire added three hits apiece. Bill Santi and Eddie Johnson had two hits apiece. Maggio took the loss in the circle.

"Good competitive game," Maggio said. "There was some clutch hitting. It was just a good competitive game."



Red shortstop Kirk Wickizer gets three hits with a double in the 15-14 win over maroon.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Maroon (3-2)

	AB	R	H	RBI
Tim Lawter	5	2	3	2
Moto Miller	4	4	3	2
Chris Maggio	5	1	4	2
David Allen	4	2	3	4
Dee Benson	4	1	1	1
Bill Santi	4	0	2	1
Eddie Johnson	4	1	2	0
Larry Guthrie	4	1	1	0
Bennie Pokemire	4	0	3	0
Gary Wilkison	4	2	0	1
Totals	42	14	22	13

Pitching

	IP	AB	H	R	ER
Chris Maggio (loss)	6	36	21	15	14

Red (3-2)

	AB	R	H	RBI
Booger Clark	4	2	1	0

Dale Guess	4	2	2	0
Freddie Childs	4	4	4	2
Kirk Wickizer	3	3	3	2
Mike Panko	3	2	2	3
Phil Haas	4	2	3	3
Yogi Guess	4	0	4	3
Steve Robertson	2	0	0	0
Darnell Ford	2	0	1	1
Rena Campbell	3	0	0	0
Jerry Bevel	3	0	1	0
Totals	36	15	21	14

Pitching

	IP	AB	H	R	ER
Steve Robertson	3.1	20	9	4	3
Yogi Guess	0.2	4	2	3	3
Kirk Wickizer	1	8	6	5	5
Dale Guess (won)	2	10	5	2	2

	R	H	E
Maroon	2	0	1
Red	3	0	3
	4	5	2
	0	—	14
	22	1	
	15	21	2

Senior softball league standings

Here are the summer season 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
Gray	5	1
Red	3	2
Maroon	3	2
Navy blue	2	3
Royal blue	2	3
Green	1	5

Sepulveda hits jackpot as gray rallies late for win

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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With the score tied entering the seventh and last inning, Sam Sepulveda struck gold for the gray team.

He hit a grand slam in the top of the inning. And in the bottom of the frame, he sprawled in the right field grass to catch a sinking liner with one out and two on.

Gray beat green 18-10 on Thursday at field 2 in Brahan Spring Park. They tightened their hold on first place in the 55-and-over Rockets league in Huntsville Senior Softball.

Sepulveda, the leadoff hitter and right fielder, went 3-for-5 with two runs scored and his four runs batted in.

"I just got lucky," he said. "It's a team game. One guy can't do it. It was a team effort."

Ron Baer, William Kelly and Dave McNeill had four hits apiece for gray (5-1). Bennie Pokemire, Mike Hoy, David Koch and Ann Burgess had three hits apiece. Hoy pitched all seven innings for the win.

"Their team played really good," gray player/coach Rick Anthis said of the scrappy green opponent. "It just came down to the seventh inning and our bats came alive."

The score was 10-10 before gray's eight-run outburst. With the bases loaded and one out and one run in, Sepulveda's blast made it 15-10. Hoy's two-run hit and Koch's sacrifice fly RBI ended the scoring.

Tom Fickling homered twice, including a three-run shot, for green (1-5). Derek Santiago also homered. Mike Keyser went 4-for-4 with a double. Fickling and Shawn Gordon had three hits apiece. Vince Smith and Santiago added two hits apiece. Crystal Santiago took the loss in the circle.

"We played them tight again," green player/coach Jeff Abbott said. "Bats went cold in the last two innings. Crystal pitched a good game in her first game pitching. And we just couldn't pull it through."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Gray leadoff hitter Sam Sepulveda hit a grand slam and made a great catch in right field in the 18-10 win over green.

Gray (5-1)	AB	R	H	RBI
Sam Sepulveda	5	2	3	4
Ron Baer	5	3	4	0
Bennie Pokemire	5	3	3	1
William Kelly	4	3	4	2
Mike Hoy	4	1	3	3
David Koch	3	2	3	3
Dave McNeill	5	1	4	1
Ken Valine	4	0	1	1
Rick Anthis	4	1	1	1
Ann Burgess	3	2	3	1
Totals	42	18	29	17

Pitching	IP	AB	H	R	ER
Mike Hoy (won)	7	38	18	10	8

Green (1-5)	AB	R	H	RBI
Vince Smith	4	1	2	1
Derek Santiago	4	2	2	1
Tom Fickling	4	3	3	4
Mike Keyser	4	1	4	0
Ragnar Opiniano	4	1	1	1
Terry Koelbl	4	1	1	0
Shawn Gordon	4	0	3	1
Robert Tolliver	4	0	1	1
Jeff Abbott	3	1	0	0
Crystal Santiago	3	0	1	0
Totals	38	10	18	9

Pitching	IP	AB	H	R	ER
Crystal Santiago (loss)	7	42	29	18	18

	R	H	E
Gray	0	3	2
Green	5	0	1

National anthem plays throughout Games

It's intriguing how the best usually prevails.

The best athlete usually excels. The best team usually wins.

The greatest country in the world usually wins the most gold medals and the most medals overall in the Summer Olympics.

Team USA did just that in the Tokyo Games. We won the most medals and we surged from behind in the last

events to edge China for the most golds, 39-38. This makes the third straight time we've accomplished this in the Summer Games.

We are simply the best. No doubt. The world knows it. Our athletes and teams proved it again. USA! USA!

Any positive news is much appreciated during our ongoing pandemic. Team USA still rules the sports world.

From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn
Rocket editor

Double-A South baseball standings

Here are Friday'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)	46	40	—
Chattanooga Lookouts (CIN)	42	42	3.0
Rocket City Trash Pandas (LAA)	42	42	3.0
Tennessee Smokies (CHC)	37	46	7.5

South Division

	W	L	GB
Mississippi Braves (ATL)	51	36	—
Montgomery Biscuits (TB)	48	38	2.5
Pensacola Blue Wahoos (MIA)	44	43	7.0
Biloxi Shuckers (MIL)	32	55	19.0

Your glory days in sports

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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What is the highlight of your athletic endeavors?

"I play baseball for Sparkman High School," Chris Zollinger, son of retired Col. Todd and Leigh Zollinger of Harvest, said. "I played one season already. I'm a sophomore right now. This is my second year with them. I play first base. I never played first base before so probably my highlight is making all the scoops and all the plays since I'd never played there before. I think I had around a .400 batting average, a .600 on base percentage. I think we placed seventh in the over-all tournament and I think we went 15-7."

Zollinger, 15, of Harvest, is grandson of retired Lt. Col. Faye and Gary Yates of Madison. He likes biking, playing golf with his grandfather, driving a car with his permit, playing video games and going out to the baseball field to practice. Zollinger roots for the Atlanta Braves.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Chris Zollinger plays first base for the Sparkman High School baseball team.

By the numbers: Neil Diamond's 'Hot August Night'

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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1972 year the live double album by rock singer Neil Diamond was released.

Aug. 24 date in 1972 for the recording of one of 10 sold-out concerts that Diamond performed that month at The Greek Theatre in Los Angeles.

93:05 length of the concert in minutes.

1 single, "Cherry, Cherry," released from the album on March 17, 1973.

5 position the album was ranked in 1972 on the USA Billboard Album Top 200.

3 live sequel albums later released by Diamond including Hot August Night II (1987), Hot August Night/NYC (2009) and Hot August Night III (2018).

7 my favorite track on side one of the 1972 vinyl edition, "Sweet Caroline."



I've looked everywhere
and I can't find my
reading glasses!



Did you check the
cloud? I bet you
didn't!



Yeah, that's right.
You can find anything
in the cloud!



Jim RoRoch
8 August 2021

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.

9/11 5K

The 9/11 Heroes 5K Run, Ruck and Walk is Sept. 11, on the 20th anniversary of 9/11, at 7 a.m. at the southeast corner of the Limestone County Courthouse. Registration is \$30 until July 31 and goes up to \$40 on race day. For information call Whitney Hollingsworth 651-7507.

Bass fishing tournament

Vlasic's Classic Bass Fishing Tournament is Sept. 18 at Jackson County Park, Scottsboro, on Lake Guntersville conducted by the local Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America. This is the fifth year since they expanded the event to include AAAA chapters from across Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama. Also donors will sponsor members of "Heroes on the Water" wounded warriors to fish the event. Tournament sponsors include TVC AAAA, Axiom, Boeing, Big Oh's, Boenker Hill, Defense Enterprise Solutions, Radiance, PAE, Parker, Peduzzi, Screaming Eagle Aviation Association and Yulista. For more information call: Boater Division, Rich Arnold 842-9061; or Kayak Division, Brett Bonnell 777-0404.

Retiree appreciation golf

The 10th annual Retiree Appreciation scholarship fund golf tournament is Sept. 10 at the Links. The four-person scramble has an 8 a.m. shotgun start. Registration that morning starts at 6:30. Entry fee is \$90. Register by Aug. 18 for the early bird special of \$70 and save \$20 per player. This event is presented by the Huntsville Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America along with the Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club. For more information contact Bruce Robinson, brucer76@knology.net, phone 426-0525; Rick West, rickw675@att.net, 776-6901; or visit huntsvillemoaa.org.

Golf classic

The 2021 100BMO GHC John Riche Golf Classic will be held Saturday at the Colonial Golf Course in Meridianville. Organizers anticipate three flights (two males and one female) with first, second and third place winners per flight. There will also be prizes for closest to the pin and longest drive per flight. Players will also have the opportunity to compete in the Dixon Golf Fiesta Bowl \$1 Million Dollar Hole In One Contest. The cost per player is \$100. Hole sponsors and general

sponsorship opportunities are available. Grab bags, lunch and beverages will be provided for each registered player. To register or request sponsorship packages, visit 100BMOGH.com/golfclassic. Same day registration is 6-7:15 a.m. The Two Man Scramble shotgun start time is 7:30. For more information, or to register, call John Richardson (255) 631-5641, Sam King 694-1403 or the business office 277-3488.

Boating safety class

"Boat America," presented by the Coast Guard Auxiliary, is Aug. 28 from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Outdoor Recreation, building 5139 on Sportsman Road. Cost is \$20. If interested call Bill Stadlander 361-5841, wstadlander2@gmail.com, or Joe Kleri 351-0433, jfklr1@msn.com. Next month's class is Sept. 25 from 8:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the same location.

Motorcycle training

Redstone motorcycle training, for active duty Soldiers, is conducted at the Installation Motorcycle Safety Range. The classes are Basic Rider Course and Experienced Rider Course. Course dates include BRC, Aug. 24-25; and ERC, Aug. 26. To register 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.

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.

Veterans coalition lunch

North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition will hold its annual Founders' Day Lunch (Open house) at The Summit on Oct. 6 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guest speaker is retired Lt. Gen. Bill Phillips. Tables are available for the member organizations to display their mission information and to recruit new members to join them. This event is open to community members to visit and learn more about what each member organi-

Rocket Announcements

zations' missions are. Cost for lunch is \$15 per person. More information visit www.navfoc.org or contact KC Bertling, presidentcoalition@gmail.com, or 541-0450.

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.

Marine Corps league

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

Purple Heart chapter

Military Order of the Purple Heart, George A. Rauh Chapter 2201, will resume its meetings soon; time and place to be determined. All combat-wounded veterans are invited. For more information, call Leonard Robinson 337-8313.

Vietnam veterans

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1067, meets the second Thursday of each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Post 237 on Drake Avenue. For information visit www.vietvethsv.org.

Miscellaneous Items

Thrift Shop hours

The Redstone Thrift Shop will be open for sales for the remainder of August on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursdays from noon-4 p.m. They are located at 3209 Hercules Road, behind the One Stop Service Center. If you have an ID card, badge, civilian or contractor you can consign with them. They take consignments on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Thursdays from noon-2 p.m. Call the No-List number daily at 881-6915 to see what they are taking and the number of items. Check out the Redstone Thrift Shop page on Facebook. Donations are always welcome Monday through Thursday. Any other time, leave donated items in the gray box under the pavilion or in the carts outside the door. If you have any questions about

their hours or would like to volunteer, stop by or call the shop 881-6992.

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.

Women's achievement awards

The North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women will hold their annual Redstone Women Rock Awards Program on Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon at The Summit. The program will acknowledge outstanding women in the categories of: Meritorious Military Service, Outstanding Senior Leader, Innovative Researcher, Rising Star, and Leadership Achievement.

Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for July 26-30. The highest scores included Rock Porch Bar, 500 Trash Panda Way, Madison, 100; Publix Super Market 1190 (Bakery), 12290 Highway 231/431 North, Meridianville, 100; Party Deck Pantry, 500 Trash Panda Way, 100; MHC-Huntsville Hp LLC doing business as Hyatt, 6860 Governors West, 100; and Subway 34736, 3002 South Memorial Parkway, 100. The lowest scores included Pretzel Twister, 350 Bridge Street Town C, 86; Budget Inn, 4430 University Drive northwest, 85; China Cafe, 14450 Highway 231/431 North, Hazel Green, 81; and El Coyote Mexican Restaurant 2, 6610 Old Madison Pike, 75.