

# RedstoneRocket

www.theredstonerocket.com

January 26, 2022

Vol. 71 No. 4

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

## Local veterans museum restores WWII glider

By BUD McLAUGHLIN

Staff writer

bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com

Gliderers were the silent workhorses of World War II.

We know of the key role the Waco CG-4A gliders played on D-Day, as some 500 delivered Allied troops and equipment behind Utah Beach in the predawn hours preceding the invasion.

Not so well known is that about a dozen CG-4As helped provide a “Christmas miracle” during the Battle of the Bulge. The gliders slipped from the sky on Dec. 26, 1944, to bring medical personnel, fuel and ammunition to surrounded troops of the 101st Airborne Division. The next day, another 50 gliders landed inside the unit’s perimeter in Bastogne with more supplies.

In all, there were nearly 40,000 CG-4A gliders produced from 1942-45 but just a dozen fully complete gliders remain today with another two dozen, “like ours,” said Larry Bayer, a volunteer with the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum in Huntsville.

Bayer, an Army veteran of Vietnam, is heading the restoration of the glider at the museum.

“I’ve been playing with this thing since 2018,” he said. “I’m amazed at how they were able to design them” with just paper, pencil and “without slide rules.”

The Wacos were constructed of steel tubes, wood and canvas. “The frame is literally tied with string and tape,” Bayer said.

The museum’s piece – which is, essentially, the front half of the glider – was discovered in upstate New York and was being used as a hunters’ cabin.

After the war, surplus gliders were sold off and found their way onto farms as sheds, as well as hunters’ cabins.

“This one had tarpaper on it, covering it up,” Bayer said. Some gliders left in England were converted to travel trailers – the “forerunners to campers.”

With the help of Paul Kunzelman in Camden, New York, museum Director Randy Withrow and the late Larry Gillespie, a museum volunteer, brought the glider to Huntsville.



Photo by Erin Elise

**Veterans museum volunteer Larry Bayer stands inside the frame of the CG-4A glider at the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum. The Vietnam veteran is heading the glider’s restoration.**



Photo by Erin Elise

**See Glider on page 27**

**This is the glider’s restored instrument panel.**



### MILITARY

Center’s technology director becomes senior executive.

**PAGE 5**



### COMMUNITY

Materiel enterprise worker responds to tornado site.

**PAGE 19**

### FEDERAL

Moon rockets prepare for crewed missions.

**PAGE 29**



### SPORTS

Point guard leads 10U Warriors.

**PAGE 35**

## RocketViews

## Discord brews over new business plans

Apparently, there are plans to build a new brewery a couple streets over in my neighborhood. I know this because it seems to have upset a few of my neighbors, who took to – the only way to communicate with the people who live across the street from you – Facebook and let us know about it.

According to them this is the worst thing to happen to the neighborhood since an abandoned house on the other end of the street fell into disrepair. That turned into a whole thing, lasted about two years, and consisted of hundreds of emails. OK, hundreds may be an exaggeration, but this neighbor did post each and every correspondence they had with the city to keep us in the know.

This is the same person who filed a complaint because another neighbor threw away a mirror, it broke, and then allegedly clogged a street drain. The

## Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson

Assistant editor

problem was the plaintiff didn't know which neighbor had thrown the mirror away but thought the city should investigate.

I'm sure this brewery thing will turn into a similar ordeal.

According to the neighbor, the new business will naturally attract all sorts of undesirable clientele and release all sorts of wretched smells into the air.

Oh, there's one thing I forgot to mention. This new establishment is actually going to be located along the Parkway. There is a railroad track, tree line and no direct access to the neighborhood.

That said, they're worried because on the other side of the tree line and railroad is a dead-end street.

If you're not exactly sure what's there to worry about then you clearly don't know how streets are made.

You see if you have a dead-end street and it's near another street then they'll grow together if you put a brewery near them.

Don't question it. That's exactly what happened to their cousin's best friend's, brother-in-law and they posted it on Facebook.

Facebook didn't flag it as false either, so if something isn't false then it's true.

And if that were to happen, well that will basically turn our little street into an interstate, and I don't have to tell you what happens if that happens.

I may have taken some liberties with that line of thinking. I mean I'm not a

mind-reader, but it's terrifying how close that description probably is.

Look, I don't think the world needs another brewery. I mean do we really need another Blueberry Meadow Spring Pale Irish Stout Raspberry Ale?

Probably not. I don't think any product should be developed when you can longer have an original name using only three words.

But I mean if you've made it through the past three years and decided you want to brew alcohol – you do you.

And, as for my neighbors, I get why some people automatically choose to view new things in the worst possible light that rarely leaves you with a clear picture of the situation. Be better. Do some homework. Then decide if you like something or not.

## Quote of the week

“There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”

– Colin Powell

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

## On this date in history: Jan. 26

**In 2020:** A Sikorsky S-76B flying from John Wayne Airport to Camarillo Airport crashed in Calabasas, 30 miles west of Los Angeles, killing all nine people on board, including former five-time NBA champion Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna Bryant.

**In 1962:** Ranger 3 was launched to study the Moon. The space probe later missed the Moon by 22,000 miles (35,400 kilometers).

**In 1942:** In World War II, the first United States forces arrived in Europe, landing in Northern Ireland.

**In 1926:** There was the first demonstration of the television by John Logie Baird.

**In 1863:** During the Civil War, Massachusetts Gov. John Albion Andrew received permission from the Secretary of War to raise a militia organization for men of African descent.

**In 1837:** Michigan was admitted as the 26th U.S. state.

## 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](mailto:samuel.c.vaughn2.civ@mail.mil)

Email classified ads to [rocketads@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:rocketads@theredstonerocket.com)

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

Rocket articles are available at:  
<http://www.theredstonerocket.com>

## Rocket Staff

**Editor-in-chief:** Col. Glenn Mellor, Garrison commander  
**Editor:** Skip Vaughn

**Assistant editor:** Jonathan Stinson

**Staff writers:** Bud McLaughlin, Rebecca Sallee

**Staff photographer:** Erin Elise

**Copy Editor/Design:** Kelley Lane

**General Manager:** French Salter

**Advertising Sales:** Donna Counts, 256-714-7152, or [donna.counts@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:donna.counts@theredstonerocket.com)

The Redstone Rocket is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by Tennessee Valley Media Co., Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication, to include inserts and supplements, does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army or the civilian publisher TN Valley Media, of the products or services advertised within this publication.

The Redstone Rocket is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Redstone Rocket newspaper are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, or the Public Affairs Office. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of Redstone Arsenal Public Affairs Office. Published by Tennessee Valley Media, a private firm in no way connected with the Department of Defense, under

exclusive written contract with the Department of the Army. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, physical handicap, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. A confirmed violation of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser will result in refusal to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The Redstone Rocket is distributed free of cost to any personnel at Redstone Arsenal and Research Park, Huntsville. Mailing rates for off post for the Redstone Rocket are \$35 per year, tax included. We do not guarantee timely delivery. "Third class mail may receive deferred service. The Postal Service does not guarantee the delivery of third class mail within a specified time." (Article 630 of the Domestic Mail Manual). We do not send subscription renewal notices.



# First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

## What are your goals for 2022?

"I guess just to be more organized at work and at home," Police Capt. Jacob Fales, the training officer for Redstone Police, said.

Fales, 39, is originally from Ocala, Florida, and has lived in Cullman since he was 15. He served in the Marine Corps from February 2002 to March 2010 and left as a sergeant. The Cullman resident has two daughters and a son. Fales likes to hunt, fish, go boating, whitewater rafting and camping. Asked who he roots for, he said, "My number one team is Miami Hurricanes. My number two team is whoever is playing the Crimson Tide."



Jacob Fales

## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

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

**Jan. 10:** A vehicle was stopped for speeding near the intersection of Ride-out Road and Goss Road. The National Crime Information Center revealed the driver's license was revoked. The driver received citations for speeding and driving while revoked. The vehicle was removed by a licensed driver.

**Jan. 11:** Outdoor Recreation notified the Redstone game warden that a hunter had illegally harvested two doe whitetail deer in a hunting area. The game warden met with the hunter, and an Outdoor Recreation staff member annotated the deer data in the harvest book. The hunter admitted to killing both deer. The hunter was informed of being suspended from hunting activities on the installation until further notice. The deer was seized as evidence and turned over for distribution to the state food banks. The hunter received a citation to appear in court.

**Jan. 13:** At the Gate 9 Visitor's Center, an individual seeking a contractor's badge to enter the installation had a warrant. The National Crime Information Center revealed a warrant from St. Clair County Sheriff's Office for failure to ap-

pear on a charge of dangerous drugs. The individual was apprehended on the warrant and transported to the police station awaiting extradition by St. Clair County sheriff's deputies.

**Jan. 14:** A Redstone police officer conducted a traffic stop for a vehicle speeding and running a red light at Martin Road and Burose Road. Police observed the driver was in hunting attire. The driver informed the officer there no weapons in the vehicle and gave consent to a search of the rear passenger compartment. The search revealed two rifles and two shotguns on the floor in the rear passenger compartment. The driver was apprehended and transported to the police station for processing and the firearms were seized as evidence. The driver received a traffic citation and a citation for violation of a security regulation and released.

Citations included one for driving while license is suspended or revoked, one for possession of a firearm and dangerous weapon, four for failure to obey traffic control device, one for no driver's license/unlicensed, one for window tinting improper, one for Fish and Wildlife violation, one for failure to use seatbelts, four for expired registration, two for reckless driving and 44 for speeding.

# Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

**Name:** Chris Carter

**Position:** MWR membership clerk

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

A chef. That's my dream. I'm a chef by trade. Wanted to own my own restaurant. Right now I just cook for fun – family, friends, stuff like that.

## What do you hope to accomplish in 2022?

Get debt free. Just by paying off all the medical bills I have to pay.

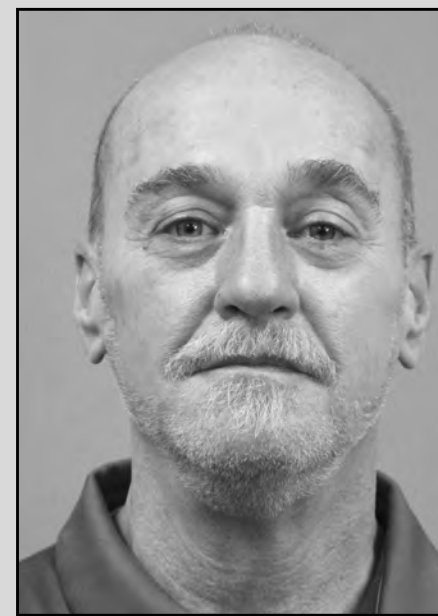
## What is the best part about your job?

Talking to the customers. Enjoying the customers. I enjoy the customers, I always have. Talking to them and getting to know them.

## Who is your hero, and why?

My mom (Jennette Sparkman of Huntsville) is my hero. She supported three boys on her own. And teaching us the value of treating people with respect.

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



Volunteer to help veterans in need. I'm a veteran also. They put their lives on the line every day.

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

It would be my mom again. Basically she said, "Trust in your God, the Creator, to lead the way."

## What do you like to do to pass the time?

Read. Just what's going on in the world today, and of course my Bible.

Find the Redstone Rocket

ONLINE AT

@TeamRedstoneRocket

www.theredstonerocket.com

@TeamRedstone

facebook.com/RocketNewspaper

# Know your laws: Challenging a patent

By ANN DENNEN

Huntsville lawyer

As described in the last article, a patent is like a contract with the government. In this regard, in exchange for the patent owner publishing the patent owner's invention, the government gives the patent owner a 20-year monopoly on the invention claimed in the patent. The 20-year term is calculated from the earliest effective filing date. For example, the patent owner files a provisional patent on March 22, 2021, and follows up with a nonprovisional patent on March 22, 2022, the effective filing date of a patent that issues in this scenario is March 22, 2021. Thus, the patent will expire on March 22, 2041.

Note that a provisional application is filed for the purpose of securing a filing date for an invention to be claimed in a later nonprovisional patent application. The provisional application does not require claims, is not examined, expires 12 months after filing, does not issue as a patent, and is not entitled to claim priority to or the benefit of an earlier filing date of another patent application. To protect the invention disclosed in the provisional application, the applicant must, within 12 months after its filing date, either file a nonprovisional or Pat-

ent Cooperation Treaty patent application claiming the benefit of the provisional or cover the provisional application into a non-provisional patent application.

To maintain the patent's enforceability and avoid premature expiration of the patent, the patent owner must maintain his/her patent. To maintain the patent's enforceability, the patent owner must pay maintenance fees at 3 ½, 7 ½, and 11 ½ years from the date of the patent's issuance. If maintenance fees are paid, the patent remains in force the 20 years.

There are a variety of vehicles that one can use to challenge the enforceability of the patent. There is post-grant review under 35 U.S. Code 321. This type of challenge is a Patent and Trademark Appeal Board proceeding. This type of proceeding is an inter partes proceeding that allows a third party to challenge a recently issued patent's va-



lidity based on any grounds allowed under patent law to challenge a patent's validity. For example, a third party may challenge the validity of the patent by submitting evidence that when the patent issued it was not novel.

There is also an inter partes review. This type of challenge is based on 35 U.S. Code 311 and is a proceeding for a third party to challenge a patent's validity based on anticipation or obviousness.

An ex parte reexamination under 35 U.S. Code may also be requested by a third party. In addition, the patent owner may request the reexamination. The request must identify a substantial new question of patentability based on published prior art references. If the United States Patent and Trademark Office grants the request, reexamination proceeds between the USPTO examiner and the patent owner.

There is further a vehicle called Infor-

mation submissions under 35 U.S. Code 301. In an information submission, the USPTO allows any person at any time to submit information concerning an issued patent consisting of prior art (patents or publications) or statements the patent owner made in federal court or the USPTO concerning the scope of the claims.

Accordingly, when a patent issues it remains enforceable for 20 years from the date of filing. During its pendency, there are diverse ways that a third party can challenge a patent's enforceability. Further, with reexamination, the patent owner can challenge its own patent's enforceability. Note that a patent owner may desire to request a reexamination to strengthen the patent prior to pursuit of potential infringers to ensure the patent is strong.

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

## Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

### Why you joined the Army.

"Actually one of my friends was getting out of college. And he just asked me if I wanted to join the Army with him," Staff Sgt. Bradford Alex, Army Contracting Command religious affairs NCO, said. "I've been in the Army for 10 years and about six months. It's been a good experience. I'd done a lot of stuff that I never thought I'd be able to do. I plan on finishing 20 years and moving on after that."

Alex, 31, from Longview, Texas, was deployed in Iraq 2016-17. He arrived at Redstone in March 2021 from Vilseck, Germany. The Redstone resident and his wife of almost six years, Haeri Shin-Alex have a son, Taeyang, 9. They are expected a daughter in July. Alex likes to make music – "I just make beats," he said – and do photography. He has a YouTube channel. He also enjoys traveling and doing home improvements. Alex said he roots for "anything Texas," including the Dallas Cowboys, Houston Rockets, Houston Astros, Dallas Stars and the San Antonio Spurs.



Staff Sgt. Bradford Alex

## Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense Department websites

### Contract award announcements

General Electric Co., Lynn, Massachusetts, was awarded a \$12,097,373 firm-fixed-price contract for maintenance and overhaul of the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

Bids were solicited via the Internet with one received.

Work locations and funding will be determined with each order, with an estimated completion date of Jan. 14, 2027.

Army Contracting Command, Redstone Arsenal, is the contracting activity. Pond Constructors Inc., Peachtree, Georgia, was awarded an \$8,218,596 firm-fixed-price contract to maintain and repair petroleum systems and facilities.

Bids were solicited via the internet with six received.

Work will be performed in Salt Lake City, Utah; Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico; Port Hueneme, California; Fresno, California; Kirtland AFB, New Mexico; Beale AFB, California; Tucson, Arizona; Palmdale, California; Tucson, Arizona; Travis AFB, California; Phoenix, Arizona; Vandenberg AFB, California; Edwards AFB, California; March Air Reserve Base, California; Gila Bend, Arizona; Creech AFB, Nevada; Hill AFB, Utah; Luke AFB, Arizona; Cannon AFB, New Mexico; Reno, Nevada; Nellis AFB, Nevada; Tonopah, Nevada; and Peachtree Corners, Georgia, with an estimated completion date of Jan. 17, 2023.

Fiscal 2022 revolving funds in the amount of \$8,218,596 were obligated at the time of the award.

Corps of Engineers, Huntsville, is the contracting activity.

# Military

## Center's technology director becomes senior executive

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

DEVCOM Aviation & Missile Center Public Affairs

For the Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center's newest senior executive, it doesn't seem real yet.

Christi Dolbeer has been selected for Senior Executive Service, making her the permanent director of the Technology Development Directorate where she has served as acting director since December 2020. A ceremony was held Friday at DEVCOM AvMC headquarters.

"I still have to pinch myself," Dolbeer said.

It is the culmination of 30 years of hard work, but reaching that pinnacle was not necessarily always the plan.

Dolbeer started her career with AvMC as a co-op student in 1991, while studying at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. For the Decatur native, it was a steady rise through the ranks at the center, taking opportunities when they came and juggling those professional responsibilities while raising four children. It wasn't always easy.

"I only have one at home now but when I had four kids at home, it was tough," she said. "Especially if it was a job that required traveling. There were some times where I found another job because it was too much travel. Not because I didn't like the job, but it was too hard to be gone that much."

As TDD director, Dolbeer will be responsible for the leadership, management, direction and supervision for nearly 600 government employees who provide research, development, engineering and scientific expertise for all Army aviation and missile science and technology efforts – including basic research, applied research, advanced technology development and technology maturation initiatives.

"Christi is the definition of a compassionate leader," AvMC Director Jeff Langhout said. "She is all about her people and will stop at nothing to ensure their well-being, growth and value to her organization and the Army. She is absolutely the right personality with the right leadership skills to continue the proud tradition of excellence that is the AvMC science and technology mission."

A "recovering introvert," Dolbeer said she has learned from experience that



Photo by Haley Myers

**DEVCOM AvMC Director Jeff Langhout administers the Senior Executive Service oath of office to Christi Dolbeer, director of the center's Technology Development Directorate. Dolbeer's husband, Barry, holds the Bible.**

leading a directorate of TDD's size and scope requires trust and communication. Although Dolbeer is officially taking on the mantle of director, or as she said with a laugh, "now I am bona fide," this past year as acting director has prepared her for the job and she has clear goals for her team in 2022.

"Missiles and aviation – yes, they are different but we are one organization," she said. "In 2022, we will continue to work on that integration. I also want to make sure that our people have an opportunity to broaden themselves. What has helped me is having a variety of leadership experience and I want others to have that opportunity."

"Appreciating employees – awards, SES notes or just telling someone, 'great job.' There are a lot of ways to make employees feel appreciated. Of course,

building the bench. We have a workforce that is heavily retirement eligible. We need to be hiring, we need to be mentoring and we need to be training. And finally, better communication to the workforce. That is one thing everyone can improve on. You cannot overdo communication."

Dolbeer has a bachelor's in chemical engineering and a master's in mechanical and aerospace engineering through the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She has accomplished Level III certification in Program Management, Systems Planning, Research, Development and Engineering and is an Army Acquisition Corps member.

She was previously the acting deputy director for both the former Engineering Directorate and the Weapons Development and Integration Directorate, pro-

viding technical expertise and oversight in the development of missile systems and technology. She also served as principal deputy for TDD, acting director for ED and as acting principal deputy for the Systems Readiness Directorate. Dolbeer is recognized as a propulsion subject matter expert and previously led a number of solid propellant development and characterization efforts.

While an SES appointment, the government civilian equivalent of a general or flag officer, is an achievement that few in federal service achieve, at home Dolbeer said that not much has changed.

"They just want to know what we have to eat," she said, smiling. "I am still trying to convince them that this is a big deal."



# Tax center successfully returns for another year

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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

Redstone Tax Center is back in business.

The tax assistance center, which provides free services to the military community, held its annual ribbon-cutting Monday morning. Sixteen volunteers prepare tax returns through April at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, building 3439 on Honest John Road.

“We’re very excited that we could staff and open again given the pandemic that we’re in,” Rachael Yeoman, the tax center manager, said. “We’re going to have the same practice that we had last year. So we’re going to be open Monday through Friday 8:30 (a.m.) to 4 (p.m.). Drop-offs will be from 8:30-12:30 and pickups will be from 1 to 4. We’re open from now to the end of April.

“We would also encourage people to come in sooner rather than later as the IRS has already announced significant delays are expected.”

Services are provided to the military community on a first-come, first-served basis, no appointments. Bring all tax documents, previous year’s tax return, and completed intake form.

“Thanks to all the volunteers for making this hopefully another successful season,” Col. Chuck Halverson, the staff judge advocate for the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, said.

Nat Causey, chief counsel for AMCOM, joined him and several volunteers in cutting the ceremonial ribbon.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Cutting the ribbon Monday for the Redstone Tax Center are, from left, volunteers Lisa McCrary and Eric Deets; Col. Chuck Halverson, the staff judge advocate for the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal; Nat Causey, chief counsel for AMCOM; and volunteers Jenn Mills and Sandy Hovde.**

“This has been a great operation ever since I’ve been here – 14 years ago,” Causey said. “This is about taking care of Soldiers and their families. This is a great initiative.”

Lisa McCrary, 58, of Huntsville, has been a tax center volunteer 24 years, including 12 years at Redstone.

The wife of retired Maj. Jud McCrary, she volunteered throughout her husband’s career.

“I started doing it because I had small children at home and I needed an out, something to do,” McCrary said. “I love helping the Soldiers and retirees. It’s been something I’ve been able to do at every installation we’ve moved to throughout our Army career.”

Retired Lt. Col. Eric Deets, 75, of Huntsville, is in his 10th year as a volunteer at the center. His other volunteer activities include an organization called Senior Cadre of Retired Executives, or SCORE, which is under the Small Business Administration in Washington, D.C.; and he serves as the biographer for the Madison County Military Hall of Heroes. He is a Vietnam veteran.

“There’s this thing that is hard to describe that says ‘I want to help,’” Deets said. “And that’s what we all do in there is that we all help our service members and families.”

Deets mentioned one of the center’s annual customers, a 90-year-old widow from World War II. “She comes in because she likes to have some social interaction with the military. When we’re all done, she says thank you. So that is our reward.”

The volunteers include Jenn Mills, Min Wallace, Eric Deets, Lisa McCrary, Cheryl Burns, Lee Smith, Sandy Hovde, Jan Berry, Lindsay Coop, John Patch, Rob Morris, Emily Hsi,

Katherine Karlinger, Cathy Johnson, Greg Knight and Ed Sekerak. Serving as the center’s attorney is Dustin Bowen, the chief of legal assistance.

# Redstone diners, shoppers see pandemic impact

By **BUD McLAUGHLIN**

*Staff writer*

*bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com*

The staffing and supply line problems that are affecting businesses around the world are also extending behind the gates of Redstone Arsenal.

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Jimenez addressed those issues and spotlighted other topics during a segment of this month's virtual Town Hall meeting Thursday.

"Popeye's is closed every Sunday until further notice," he said of the restaurant in the Exchange food court. Staffing issues due to the pandemic are impacting restaurants as they face a shortage of workers and employees who call out sick.

Meanwhile, shoppers at the Commissary have faced empty shelves and the absence of some items such as Gatorade.

"The Commissary is having some distribution shortages," Jimenez said. "They've had to put limitations on fresh chicken."

Jimenez said he appreciated the cooperation of everyone during this time.

"I thank everybody for being a team player," he said.

Other topics:

- Redstone residents should take part in the FY22 Housing Survey at [armyhousingsurvey@relassociates.com](mailto:armyhousingsurvey@relassociates.com). The survey ends Feb. 24.
- The Exchange is having its annual inventory and has limited its hours.
- February is Heart Health Month and the MWR is offering free blood pressure checks.

# Virtual town hall draws variety of issues for Q&A

By **BUD McLAUGHLIN**

Staff writer

[bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com)

Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor took on a variety of questions that ranged from the speed limit on Rideout Road to facial recognition to COVID concerns at the Child Development Center in this month's virtual Town Hall meeting Thursday.

Viewers and visitors to the Facebook Live meeting posted and emailed questions to the commander.

To start things off, the commander wondered if "somebody was trying to punk" him when a viewer asked about their TA-50 "card" – since there isn't such a card. But Mellor said it could have been an incorrect word used by

the viewer.

The next question dealt with speed and safety at Gate 9: "What is the rationale of limiting the outbound speed to 35 mph on Rideout Road?" the viewer asked.

Mellor said there are two reasons why the speed limit is 35 mph and they both hinge on safety.

"You can see a massive amount of construction" outside Gate 9, he said. There are safety issues regarding construction workers along the roadside and heavy equipment entering and exiting the worksites.

The second reason dealt with unwelcome visitors who race through the gate.

"If we have somebody coming through our gate, who doesn't stop, we will hit the barrier gate (switch)," Mellor said. "That

also blocks the outbound lanes, as well."

The commander said if the speed limit were higher, it would affect motorists' safety if they hit a barrier that was activated.

"I'm sorry if (the speed limit) delays your trip three or four minutes," he said. "I don't plan on changing that anytime soon."

Another gate-related question was posted regarding facial recognition: "What is the timeline for facial recognition for all lanes?"

Mellor said, "This is a pilot program and we are the only facility" that uses facial recognition to enter the gates of an installation.

While saying it could be cost-prohibitive to continue and even expand the project, Mellor said, "It could be

dropped or increased ..."

"We just don't know the answer to this question."

A viewer was concerned with the Child Development Centers' operations in the wake of the pandemic.

"I am not closing the CDCs anytime soon, especially with the (lower) percentage," Mellor said, referring to a small number of COVID-related absences with the staff. "If there is a rise, we will take the measures necessary to keep the children safe."

Mellor said the February town hall will include housing among the topics and encouraged people to take part in the meetings.

"This is your Town Hall," he said. "If you want to hear from somebody on or about something, we will bring them in."

## Workforce safety leads virus protocols, guidelines

By **BUD McLAUGHLIN**

Staff writer

[bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com)

As COVID-19 and its variants continue to evolve, so do the protocols and guidance regarding workplace safety.

That was the primary topic of Thursday's monthly virtual Town Hall meeting, led by Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor.

"Health, safety and well-being continue to be the leading focus," Mellor said in the Facebook Live meeting. "I'd like to thank each and every one of you for your strength and dedication."

"As we learn more and more about COVID and CDC guidance... the rules are changing a little bit."

With more than 77% of the installation's workforce still working from home, Redstone Arsenal isn't burdened with a large population within its facilities. However, regardless of their vaccination status, all visitors and employees must be masked to enter the buildings. Also, employees (government, civilian and contractors)

must have their vaccine information updated to work on post.

"The current DA directive is that unvaccinated personnel need to be tested," Mellor said, reiterating the government's guidelines. "Please be prepared to provide the information (vaccination status) regardless of whether you are military, DA civilian or a contractor."

Garrison Director of Operations Ron Thomas said there is new guidance relative to quarantining and isolation, calling for a five-day quarantine instead of a 10-day period. He also discussed the COVID home tests and guidelines when people are exposed to those who are COVID positive.

"If you have signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19, notify your commander or supervisor and stay at home," he said. "It is recommended follow up with a confirmatory testing from your medical provider, or over-the-counter testing."

As to the home tests and their reliability, Thomas said, "If you test positive on home testing, chances are you're positive."

Sometimes, people come to the workplace feeling healthy but then, later in the day, symptoms arise. When

this occurs, Thomas said, they should notify their commander or supervisor, put a mask on "and depart the workplace."

Thomas also provided these guidelines:

"Personnel with potential exposure to COVID-19 based on close contact with a person who has a laboratory confirmed, clinically diagnosed, or presumptive case will notify their commander or supervisor. The CDC definition of a presumptive positive result is when a patient has tested positive by a public health laboratory, but results are pending confirmation at CDC."

"Asymptomatic personnel with potential exposure to COVID-19 based on close contact who are unvaccinated; or have not received a recommended COVID-19 booster dose when eligible, will remain out of the workplace for five calendar days. Regardless of vaccination status, asymptomatic personnel with potential exposure to COVID-19 based on close contact must wear a mask in the workplace for 10 calendar days from the date of their last close contact (i.e., day 0) with someone with COVID-19, even if mask wearing is not otherwise required by DOD guidance."

"We ask you to be smart, be safe," he said.



# Defense technology chief emphasizes people, teamwork

By JIM GARAMONE

DOD News

The Defense Department's chief technology officer is emphasizing people and teamwork as the avenue to keep America's technological edge.

Heidi Shyu, the undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, said the priority goal is to become more mission focused, she told the Defense Writers Group Jan. 13. "I want to leverage the incredible amount of technology innovation that's across our nation to be able to solve difficult operational challenges," she said.

To do this, Shyu wants to build a foundation to get the right people to work on these cutting edge projects. "We've got to attract talent ... (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) talent to build a future technical workforce," she said. It is more than simply hiring people, it also means building the laboratories, test areas, facilities and infrastructure needed to enable their work.

Finally, the "piece that's critically important for us to shape the future is teamwork," she said.

This is more than simply teamwork within the department – although that is important. Shyu wants to leverage the larger "innovation ecosystem." This includes defense contractors, university affiliated research centers, federally funded research centers, "and, of course, our allies and partners. I am a firm believer that by working together, we can solve the toughest challenges," she said.

Shyu is the latest DOD technology chief that wants to bridge the department's "valley of death." This refers to

the time between development of a capability and its inclusion in a program. Too often, promising technologies get dropped in this period. Shyu said the valley of death is still a problem. Outreach is one way she hopes to bridge the valley or fill it in.

"I have been engaging with small companies because they're the guys that are suffering the valley of death," she said. "I've held small company roundtables ... to talk about what are the biggest impediments that they see in terms of working with the DOD."

Shyu has devised a strategy she is presenting to Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin on "how to pave over this valley of death, or at least build a bridge."

She said different payment strategies may be part of this strategy. "I'm going to figure out a ... mechanism to leverage the venture capital fund and be a lot closer tied to them at the DOD level," she said.

Communication alone is a way forward. She noted that at the end of her meetings "they actually made a request: Namely, to stay engaged with me, to make sure we have these monthly dialogues."

Shyu has also met with allies and partners on technology and capabilities needed. "I've engaged with quite a few allies and partners to date, and at each one of our meetings, we talk about what are the areas of interests that they have, and versus our interests," she said. "If there's an intersection in terms of interest areas, and then we basically go down to the next layer of the folks working for me, they then form a working group to literally hammer out the details of the exchange of information."



Photo by Marine Sgt. Taryn Sammet

**Heidi Shyu, the undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, speaks to Thom Shanker, the director of the Project for Media and National Security and the Defense Writers' Group, virtually from the Pentagon, Jan. 13.**

The countries include Australia, the United Kingdom, Singapore, Germany, Israel and many others.

# Security enterprise in Saudi has new leadership

By **TERRI STOVER**

*Security Assistance Command Public Affairs*

Part of the mission of the Security Assistance Command is to develop and manage security assistance programs and foreign military sales to build partner capacity. A key partner is the Ministry of Interior in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Military leaders at U.S. Army-Military Assistance Group provide the strategic vision to help the command provide technical knowledge and advice, skills and resources to help protect the Kingdom's critical infrastructure.

The current top two leaders at USA-MAG are Col. James Zanella and Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Strasser. Together they bring over half a century of Army leadership.

"USA-MAG's strategic impact has to be measured over the duration of the program. A significant majority of the current (KSA's) Facility Security Forces generals and field grade officers have participated in USA-MAG programs over the years," Zanella said. "Our training courses here in Kingdom provide opportunities for our partners to learn about American values and culture while also acquiring military skills."

"Partnering with the FSF is certainly beneficial to the United States from a strategic impact point of view," Strasser said. "We are assisting them in being prepared to protect their critical infrastructure across the entire Kingdom. Whether it is oil fields or government facilities being protected, for example, the protection of those sites has an impact on the United States from an economic standpoint, as well as the rest of the world. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been one of our strongest allies in the region and protecting the internal facilities leads to stability."

Working in a foreign country, as a guest but also as a partner, requires knowledge and skills gained from both education and experience. Zanella studied military history at West Point, but also earned a master's in international relations from Troy University. "That historical foundation served as a good knowledge base, (however) I reinforced the decision to pursue foreign affairs in 2011 when I started the School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. I earned their master of military art and science degree in 2012," he said.

Also, the Soldiers serving at USA-MAG go through the Foreign Area Counter Threat run by Security Assistance Training Management Organization at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. That course exposes them to



**Col. James Zanella**

general and basic cultural and situational matters. A welcome packet is sent to Soldiers that contains basic information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and local customs.

"When we receive the Soldiers here in country, they are briefed by their leadership and their translator and cultural advisers on the specifics of their missions," Zanella said. Soldiers are well-prepared for cultural matters that may arise in their military duties there.

Strasser, who assists in the welfare of the personnel, sees three top tasks to accomplish while at USA-MAG. These are to first develop the team, second to refine the instruction and assisting the FSF in developing long range training objectives, and third, to focus on providing the resources for the team.

"There has been a large amount of turnover and many delays in hiring personnel due to COVID restrictions," Strasser said. "We are currently in the process of hiring personnel to fill out our team. That is the most important task to accomplish in the coming months." By hiring and developing the team at USA-MAG they



**Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Strasser**

will "be successful in their mission here as well as with their families back home."

Training activities build relationships and trust with the Saudi Ministry of Interior. "The FSF is my mission partner here in Saudi Arabia," Zanella said. "Training, regardless of the audience, builds trust among teammates over time. This is true for sports teams, and it is also true for military teams. The bonding and teamwork that happens from shared experiences and hardship last. So, our training engagements with our Saudi partners build trust one FSF NCO and officer at a time."

USA-MAG (formerly known as MOI-MAG) is based in Riyadh, where U.S. service members and Army civilians provide advice and assistance in training, engineering and explosive ordnance, and lead the International Military Education and Training program for Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Interior. USA-MAG is fully funded by the government of Saudi Arabia through foreign military sales cases executed by Security Assistance Command.

# DAU Corner

## CONNECT Live!

Thursday, 01/27/2022  
10:30 A.M. CST

<https://www.dau.edu/events>

CONNECT Live is where contracting professionals learn from each other. Ask questions, share best practices, discover valuable tools & resources, and so much more. Nothing is off limits. Best of all, it is a place where contracting professionals can connect with each other, and leverage our collective contracting knowledge.

## COR Office Hours

Tuesday, 02/01/2022  
10:45 A.M. CST

<https://www.dau.edu/events>

DAU hosts the virtual COR Office Hours every Tuesday starting at 11:45 a.m. ET for one hour. These live virtual office hours were created for the DoD COR community, which not only includes CORs, but also program managers, contract specialists, contracting officers and requiring activities who manage CORs. The idea is to connect people, ideas, resources and information in this community together.

## Leading Acquisition Series: Learn the Magic of Delegation and Empowerment

Wednesday, 02/02/2022  
11:30 A.M. CST

<https://www.dau.edu/events>

Every manager or team leader has two jobs when leading others. The first is to successfully complete their assigned tasks and projects while focusing on cost, schedule, and performance. The second is to develop the people on their team so they do their current jobs well but are also able to take on more responsibility and move ahead in their careers. To do both jobs requires time and balance on the part of the manager but offers major benefits for both current projects and the organization's future.

## SAVE A DATE

February 23-24, 2022

DAU's Virtual Acquisition Update - South Region Hosted Virtual Event

"Acquisition 2022: Embracing the Digital Environment"

Event is open to Government, Contractor, and Industry Workforces

<https://www.dau.edu/event/2022-Acquisition-Update>

Registration closes on February 17th



## Community

# Materiel enterprise worker responds to tornado site

By KARI HAWKINS

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

When Steve Alby traveled to Mayfield, Kentucky, a few days after the devastating Dec. 10 tornado, he was led by a desire to make a difference in the community's recovery.

Equipped with 12 years of experience as a Marine Corps firefighter, civilian experience as a first responder, an innate need to help others and the organizational prowess of an international disaster relief organization, Alby was put to work in the tornado ravaged area within hours of his arrival. As a volunteer sawyer for Team Rubicon, he spent a week cutting up and removing fallen trees, clearing tree limbs from yards and damaged houses, and piling tree debris along the roadways for removal by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"It is important to me to help people in need, to give back to communities where disaster has struck," he said. "After Hurricane Laura in 2020, I was able to help people in Lake Charles (Louisiana) and now I've helped in Mayfield. Team Rubicon makes these opportunities possible."

Alby, who is completing a developmental assignment as a special projects officer for Army Materiel Command's Commanding General's Initiatives Group, became a Team Rubicon volunteer a couple years ago. Founded in 2010 by two former Marines, Team Rubicon's mission is to provide relief to those affected by disaster through the volunteer efforts of skilled and experienced military veterans.

During its first 12 years, Team Rubicon has grown to a network of 150,000 mostly veteran volunteers, providing U.S. and worldwide relief in the wake of nearly 1,000 disasters and humanitarian crises, including 15 earthquakes, 171 floods, 45 hurricanes, 93 severe storms, 124 tornadoes, 170 wildfires and 325 COVID-19 emergencies. Besides the Kentucky tornado, Team Rubicon volunteers were also instrumental in such major 2021 efforts as combating COVID-19, resettling Afghan refugees and supporting Colorado communities damaged by wildfires.

"In all these situations, there is always something we can do, there is always some way we can connect with victims and do something good," Alby said. "Military veterans have leadership and organizational skills, and service capabilities, and many of us still want to serve in times of need. We combine our skills

and experience with first responders to help with recovery very quickly after a disaster."

Alby's mission in Kentucky took him to desolate areas where destruction was as far as the eye could see.

"Some of the houses had holes in their roofs where trees had crashed through and other houses were just flat," he said. "On one street, I met a husband and wife who lost everything. They were standing near the foundation of their double wide modular home. The frame of what was once their home was on top of a house across the street. The devastation was incredible wherever I went."

For most of his time in Kentucky, the weather was cold and rainy. Most of the tornado's victims were huddled up at rescue centers and working on getting their lives back together. Alby saw few of the residents he was trying to help.

"In Lake Charles, there were still areas that were only slightly damaged so business was going on almost as usual. We would stop for lunch, and residents would come up to us, and thank us over and over again for what we were doing. But, in Kentucky, the area was so broken that most residents were in shelters," he said.

Alby and his wife, Tori, an Army veteran, discovered Team Rubicon when they were looking for volunteer opportunities after settling in Reno, Nevada.

"We still felt we had something we could give," Alby said. "We had a desire to help and serve in some capacity, and this gives you that opportunity. Team Rubicon fit with what our view of service is."

Team Rubicon is connected with emergency management agencies across the nation, so it is among the first to be called for disaster relief. When disaster strikes, Team Rubicon reaches out to its registered volunteers – both veterans and civilians – within 450 miles of the disaster. Those who are available are dispatched to an area based on their availability and skills.

"Team Rubicon provides lodging, meals, transportation and equipment," Alby said. "They assign volunteers to teams – the sawyer team, muck out team, roof tarping team, heavy equipment team, whatever is needed. And then we go out and get things done."

While in Kentucky, Alby worked with volunteers from across the U.S.

"You work and live with volunteers you've never met before," he said. "But you just click because you have a com-



Photo courtesy of Team Rubicon

**Army Materiel Command's Steve Alby volunteers as a sawyer for Team Rubicon, cutting and clearing fallen trees and tree limbs from disaster areas, such as the Mayfield, Ky., area devastated by an EF-4 tornado on Dec. 10.**

mon goal. That goal really makes the team cohesive and work well together. Your team can include college-age students up to retirees. It really doesn't matter because you are all there to help."

Alby's team worked alongside a five-person team from Israel, funded through IsraAID. Other volunteers were from Samaritan's Purse, American Red Cross and various church organizations.

"When I responded to the Lake Charles hurricane disaster, the devastation was widespread with pockets of destruction scattered throughout the area. There were a lot of trees down and windows out, and lots of power issues," he said.

"In Mayfield, it was more complete devastation. It was unbelievable with multiple areas impacted. The news footage centered in one area, but there were many isolated areas that were devastated. It is such a huge area that Team Rubicon had to have three forward operating bases throughout the areas to provide enough response."

Prior to serving with Team Rubicon, volunteers must complete training. Following their service in a disaster area, they are provided with services if needed to overcome "deployment blues."

"When you are working in a disaster area, you have this tremendous feeling of satisfaction because you are doing things that make a difference," Alby said.

"But, as veterans, we all understand that once we leave a disaster area we can get depressed from what we experienced. Team Rubicon helps us process through those feelings."

For veterans, assisting victims of disasters can itself be part of their own healing process in overcoming their experiences from serving in a war zone, he said.

"I served as a Marine Corps firefighter with aircraft crash and rescue. I've worked as a wildfire firefighter and an EMT. I've been through a lot of these situations and know that it's important to process through feelings associated with disaster relief," Alby said. "Veterans understand that and this organization does a lot toward helping veterans overcome issues associated with their service."

Alby will soon return to his job as a Logistics Modernization Program lead at Sierra Army Depot in California. But future plans will bring him back to AMC headquarters in late February for a permanent position with AMC Operations. The move will allow him to continue his volunteer work with Team Rubicon in the southeast region. He also plans to take on another volunteer project with his wife to develop and build a veterans ranch in the Huntsville area for veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress and other issues related to their military service.

# Redstone uses multiple resources to analyze weather

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

rebecca.sallee@theredstonerocket.com

When the National Weather Service issues a winter storm watch or warning for the Tennessee Valley, it doesn't stop there according to Redstone Arsenal's Director of Operations.

The Redstone IEOC team begins collecting data from multiple weather sources in an effort analyze the potential impact to Redstone Arsenal and its mission. Ron Thomas is the Director of Operations for the Arsenal's and has the responsibility to assemble and analyze weather information and make recommendations to the Garrison Commander first line decision-maker when it comes to closing the installation, but he relies on a number of factors.

While the NWS and local forecasts are a great resource for Thomas, he also relies on the Air Force Weather Service.

Local news services and the NWS both provide weather information for a "broad area," Thomas said. "When we talk about weather in the Tennessee Valley, that's not necessarily Huntsville."

It's also not Redstone Arsenal, notes Thomas.

"Redstone Arsenal takes its mission weather form the AFW," he said.

Combining that information with national and local forecasts, he collects data and then "look at it from a risk and probability perspective," Thomas said.

If the information leads us to believe that the installation would not be safe for travel or mission operations, then the discussion of delayed opening or other courses of action will be discussed. Once the Garrison Commander has been briefed he in-turn will discuss the options with the Senior Commander, who mulls over the weather's "impacts to the mission and safety of the work force" and makes the final call.

Typically, Thomas said, he provides the commander with multiple options.

During the season's first snowfall of the year early this month, he noted, the local weather forecast was for one to two inches across areas in the Tennessee Valley.

"I had six inches at my house," said Thomas, who lives in New Market.

Among other considerations, he factors in the temperatures for the days preceding a freezing precipitation event and the likely ground temperatures, and whether rain is frozen when it's falling or will immediately freeze upon impact.

"The commander looks at Redstone Arsenal in the same fashion that you would look at a shopping mall," Thomas said. "We 'own' the mall."

The Arsenal's tenant organizations are the "stores" in the mall.

The mall may stay open. Some stores may choose to close.

"My job is to make sure it's safe for you to come and do your job," Thomas said, adding that where our workforce commutes from is taken into consideration but not a primary factor in determining whether the arsenal would be opened or closed or have a delayed opening of services.

The area's second frozen precipitation event occurred around a three-day weekend over Martin Luther King day, which gave decision-makers the luxury of "a built-in recovery day" from the weather, Thomas said.

But it still required him and the commander to think about those members of the work force who must come to work, and whether to "close the mall."

In most cases, the mall stays open on a "mission-essential only" basis, with the majority of employees able to work from home.

This brings up the point of whether government employees who work at the Arsenal can take a paid "weather day" if "the mall" actually closes.

LeQuary Farmer, a pay entitlement specialist on post, said people can only claim administrative leave for base closure if they are required to work on post and do not have the ability to telework.



File photos by Eric Schultz

**Winter precipitation sometimes necessitates the closure of Redstone Arsenal.**



# February brings heartfelt gifts of healthy fun

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

rebecca.sallee@theredstonerocket.com

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation will “have a heart” during February with heart-themed events and activities.

During the entire month at the Redstone MWR Library, patrons may check out a book, game or movie and automatically be entered to win a prize.

At Pagano Gym and the Col. Stephen K. Scott Fitness Center, free blood pressure checks will be offered all month long in honor of Heart Health Month.

On Saturday, Feb. 12, couples can enjoy an afternoon/early evening of bowling at a special price at Redstone Lanes.

And on Valentine’s Day, Feb. 14, Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program will offer a couples enrichment class titled “The Five Love Languages,” taught via Teams and available online to anyone who is interested.

## Library Lovers Month

Nate Godwin, supervisory librarian at the MWR Library, said this year marks the 11th year of Library Lovers Month at Redstone. It is a local event that is designed to encourage use of the library.

Whenever anyone of any age comes to the library and checks something out, they are automatically entered into the contest and eligible to win one of about 20 prizes.

“The purpose is to reward our patrons. We’re trying to encourage them to ‘use us,’” Godwin said.

Prizes include Lego sets, personal library kits, stuffed animals, and gift cards to Chick-fil-A or Starbucks, Amazon or Apple, Microsoft or Sony, he said, with entries limited to one per patron per day.

## Heart Health Month

Tom Pyburn, director of Sports Fitness and Aquatics at Pagano Gym, said month-long free blood pressure checks are available to anyone with access to the Arsenal gyms during their regular hours of business. No appointment is necessary.

The purpose of the free blood pressure checks is to increase awareness of risk factors for heart disease and encourage healthy habits.

“Every year more than 600,000 Americans die from heart disease,” Pyburn said. “It is the number one cause of death for most groups.”

Heart disease affects all ages, genders and ethnicities, he added.

Free blood pressure checks throughout the month are available at Pagano Gym Monday through Thursday from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Friday from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., while hours at the Col. Stephen K. Scott Fitness Center are Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## Valentine Couples Special

Bob Ujvari, business manager at Redstone Lanes, said on Feb. 12 between 1 and 6 p.m., couples can enjoy four games of bowling, shoe rental and food specials (choice of two: ¼ pound burger combo, two dog combo, flatbread pizza with drink or chicken tenders with drink) included for the low price of \$30.

For more information on “Valentine Couples Special,” call the bowling center at 876-1940.

## Couples Enrichment Class

Tim Rolfe, family advocacy program manager, will lead the class he calls “The Five Love Languages” at 10 a.m. Feb. 14.

The class “talks about how to improve our communications and interactions with each other,” Rolfe said. “What ‘speaks’ love the most.”

The five “languages” are physical touch, quality time, acts of service, receiving gifts, and words of affirmation, he said, adding that most people “speak” a primary and secondary language.

Those preferences can be deep-seated and based in childhood and family experiences, social influences and friends.

“We tend to speak in our own love language when we try to communicate love,” Rolfe said.

Couples or individuals can learn new ways of interpreting and expressing love through the class.

For information, call 256-876-5397.



Photo by Erin Elise

**Recreational specialist Young Reumann helps Tim Smith check his blood pressure at the Col. Stephen K. Scott Fitness Center.**



Photo by Erin Elise

**Nate Godwin, supervisory librarian at the Redstone MWR Library, stands next to a display case filled with prizes to be awarded during Library Lovers Month.**



# Electric charging station destined for motor pool

By BUD McLAUGHLIN

Staff writer

[bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com)

In a few weeks, vehicles at the Redstone Arsenal Motor Pool will be able to be filled up and charged up.

The facility will be installing an electric vehicle charging station which is expected to be in service early this spring.

“This is the first one for the motor pool,” Noah Girkin, with the Garrison’s Directorate of Public Works said. “It will service 13 vehicles.”

The vehicles are two sedans and five pickup trucks for the Garrison; one sedan each for LRC, ACC and AMCOM; and one pickup truck each for AMCOM, PEO Missiles and Space, and PMITTS TSMO.

Girkin said it would take a vehicle six hours to go from zero charge to full charge (depending on the vehicle) and the station would be able to charge two vehicles at once.



PowerCharge photo

**An electric vehicle charging station, similar to this one, is planned for the Redstone Arsenal Motor Pool.**

# Photo Booth

By Skip Vaughn



## What is your favorite pastime?

"Swimming. I try to swim five or six times a week, if possible, to keep in shape and because each practice or each session is a challenge of working against established standards. I've been doing this for 30 years. I swam in high school and college (at the University of Chicago)." – **Mike McDermott, an attorney in AMCOM Legal**

# Glider

Continued from page 1

“I wasn’t sure if we would be able to bring it here,” Withrow said. “I thought we were going to get a ticket for littering as pieces may fall off on the road.”

Bayer used parts of the glider as templates to fabricate similar parts for the restoration.

“Fortunately, they didn’t throw away the broken pieces,” he said.

Parts of other gliders have also been used in the museum’s glider and other parts are being recreated by volunteers such as Michael O’Donnell of Birmingham. He produced the altimeter and speed gauge panel for the glider here.

The Wacos were 48 feet long with a wingspan of 83 feet, 8 inches and stood 15 feet, 4 inches high. Weighing just 3,900 pounds empty with a gross weight of 7,500 pounds, each craft had a pilot and co-pilot. The gliders could haul 13 Soldiers and their gear; or a standard Jeep and its four passengers; or a 75mm howitzer, 18 rounds of ammo and its crew of three.

The aircraft had a maximum speed of 150 mph and cruise speed of 73 mph; they could land on a 600- to 800-foot-long strip.

“For every 100 feet they flew forward, they dropped 900 feet,” Bayer said. “With a spoiler (on the wings) activated (by the pilot and co-pilot pulling a control bar), it could drop 1,100 feet.”

The gliders could launch quickly, too, and serve as aerial ambulances.

During the Battle of Remagen in March 1945, two gliders landed on the German side of the Rhine River inside the American bridgehead to pick up the wounded. After the gliders were loaded, two C-47s flew over, hooked up and towed them to a hospital in France just a half-hour away.

It would have taken ambulances about four hours for the same trip.

Photo by Erin Elise

**Constructed of steel tubes, wood and canvas, the frame was held together with string and tape.**

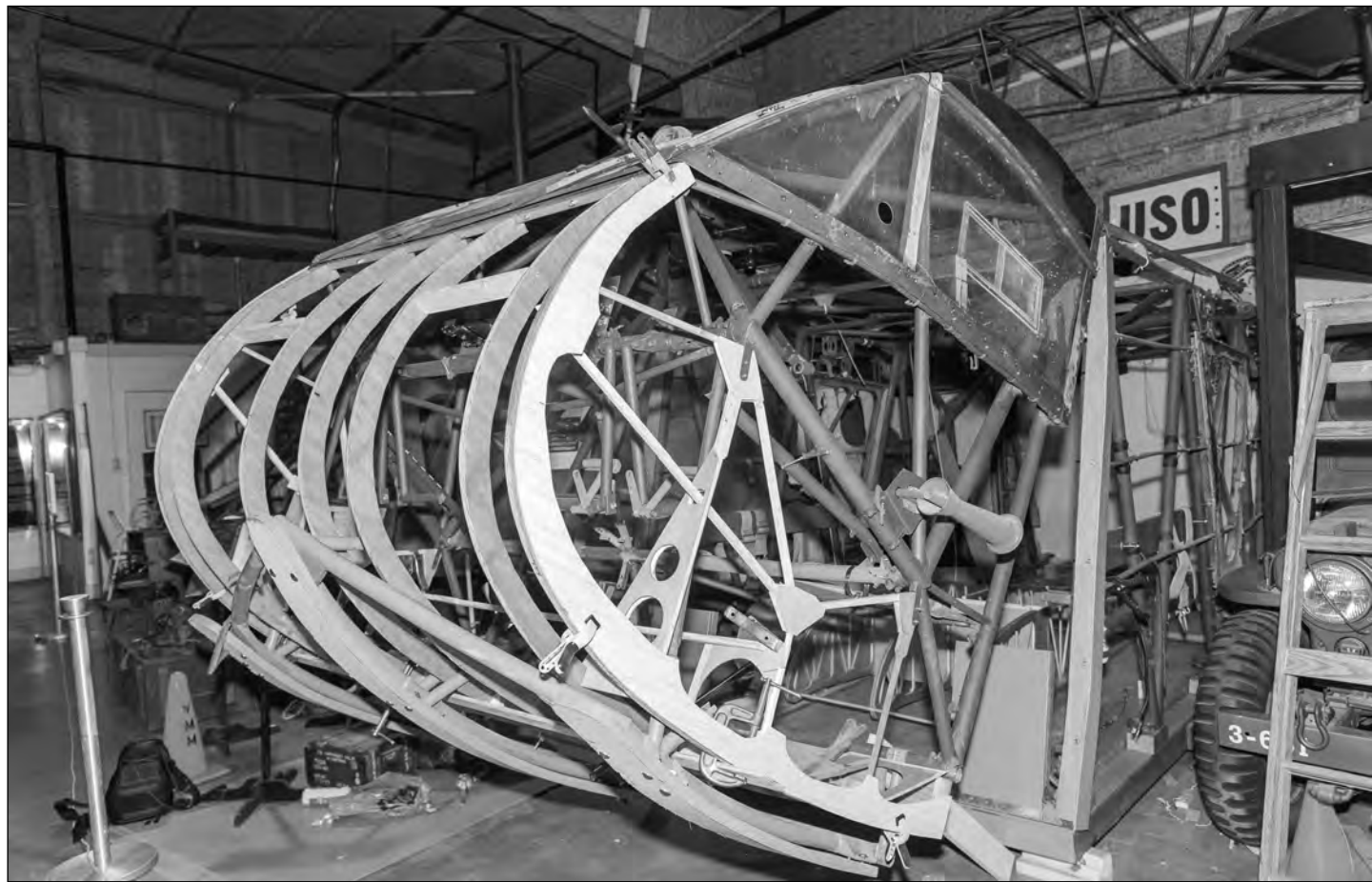


Photo by Erin Elise

**The Waco CG-4A gliders, which played a key role on D-Day, were 48 feet long with a wingspan of 83 feet, 8 inches and stood 15 feet, 4 inches high.**





# Deputy chaplain rides into Redstone from Arizona

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

rebecca.sallee@theredstonerocket.com

Redstone Arsenal has a new deputy Garrison chaplain.

Chaplain (Maj.) David Hicks, a native of Radcliff, Kentucky, reported to his new assignment on Jan. 3, after recently moving with his family to an 18.5-acre horse farm in Falkville. His main duties will be resource management and daily operations at Bicentennial Chapel.

He became an active-duty chaplain in 2007 and hopes Redstone is his last duty station before retirement.

Hicks, 50, and his wife of 29 years and high school sweetheart, Maureen, own Tennessee Walking Horses, and plan to start an “equine ministry” to enhance ministry at the Arsenal.

The ministry plans will combine a love of horses and “the cowboy experience” with spiritual resilience for Soldiers and their families, he said.

The Hicks family came from Fort Huachuca, Ari-

zona, where he served for two years as the deputy command chaplain for the Army’s Network Enterprise Technology Command. He was also the senior pastor of the gospel service on Huachuca.

Hicks began his military career with the 101st Airborne based in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and deployed twice with members of the division.

He moved to Fort Lee, Virginia, where he was the chaplain for the Army Logistics University.

He then served as the community pastor in Grafenwoehr, Germany, where he opened a new chapel.

Hicks returned to Virginia and was the 128th Aviation Brigade chaplain prior to his Arizona assignment.

A graduate of Campbellsville University and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, Hicks enjoys spending time with his family, going out to eat at new places, and weightlifting.

He and his wife have three daughters, Presley Grubb, the wife of a cavalry scout (Ed) who lives in Fort Riley, Kansas, and mother of their grandson, Tucker, 2; Avery, a sophomore at Liberty University; and Piper, a seventh-grade student at the Eva School in Eva.



Photo by Erin Elise

**Maj. David Hicks is the new deputy chaplain at Bicentennial Chapel.**

# Draftee follows his father’s advice in uniform

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Al Jones graduated from Florida A&M University on June 6, 1969. He received his draft notice two days later.

The U.S. marshals finally caught up with him in New York 11 months later and he entered the Army. Jones doesn’t like talking about his military service 1970-73, which included a year in Vietnam from 1971-72.

“I don’t ever talk about that period of my life because if I do I start having nightmares,” the Jacksonville, Florida, resident said.

His father gave him some advice he took to heart before becoming a Soldier.

“My daddy told me, ‘Boy, do your best.’ That kind of inspired me.”

Jones entered the Special Forces. His specialty was recon squad leader but his position was heavy weapons specialist. Besides fighting the enemy, he recalls bad experiences within his own ranks as a black Soldier.

“People don’t realize even though the military was not segregated, it was not integrated. The discrimination was rampant. We were discriminated against at every turn,” he said.

When he returned home, he encountered the widespread antimilitary sentiment of that era. He was called a “baby killer.” He had a fight at a bus station.

Jones left active duty as a sergeant and he served in the National Guard from 1984-90. He left the National Guard three months before Operation Desert Storm. “I

## Vietnam revisited Part 354 in series

was not going through that (stuff) again,” he said.

In 1969 he received his bachelor’s in pre-engineering and urban studies from Florida A&M. He went to graduate school at Auburn University from 1974-77 and received his master’s in urban and regional planning.

After working in Pensacola, he was a senior airport planner for Wainwright Engineering in Montgomery from 1984-88. He worked in industry and in education until retiring in 2018. Three heart attacks were enough.

The divorcee has five daughters and eight grandchildren. At 74 he does a lot of reading. He does not belong to an official veterans group but he has been in parades.

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

“Why are they celebrating now?” he said. “They say we lost the war. They say the military lost the war. When you’ve got a conflict where you measure success by body count, there’s something wrong. The United States government will not tell the truth. What did we get out of Vietnam? Nothing.”

*Editor’s note: This is the 354th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.*



Courtesy photo

**Jacksonville, Fla., resident Al Jones served in Vietnam from 1971-72.**

## Federal

# Moon rockets prepare for crewed Artemis missions

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

As teams continue to prepare NASA's Space Launch System rocket for its debut flight with the launch of Artemis I, NASA and its partners across the country have made great progress building the rocket for Artemis II, the first crewed Artemis mission. The team is also manufacturing and testing major parts for Artemis missions III, IV and V. "The Space Launch System team is not just building one rocket but manufacturing several rockets for exploration missions and future SLS flights beyond the initial Artemis launch," John Honeycutt, SLS program manager at Marshall Space Flight Center, said. "The Artemis I mission is the first in a series of increasingly complex missions that will extend our presence on the Moon. The SLS rocket's unprecedented power and capabilities will send missions farther and faster throughout the solar system."

With its two solid rocket boosters and four RS-25 engines, SLS produces more than 8.8 million pounds of thrust to launch each Artemis mission beyond Earth's orbit and onward to the Moon. The rocket features some of the largest, most advanced, and most reliable hardware elements ever built for space exploration.

To power the agency's next-generation deep space missions, SLS delivers propulsion in phases. At liftoff, the core stage with its four RS-25 engines and the twin boosters fire to propel SLS off the launch pad into orbit. Once in orbit, the Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage provides the in-space propulsion to send NASA's Orion spacecraft and its crew on a precise trajectory toward the Moon.

The first piece of rocket hardware – the Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage – for Artemis II arrived in Florida on July 28. It is undergoing final preparations at lead contractors Boeing and United Launch Alliance's facilities and will soon be delivered nearby to NASA's Kennedy Space Center. The Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage fires its RL10 engine, provided by Aerojet Rocketdyne, to send Orion toward the Moon. United Launch Alliance is already building the Artemis III Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage in its factory in Decatur, Alabama.

"The Space Launch System is a highly capable launch vehicle purposefully designed and rigorously tested to safely transport people, large cargo, and flagship science missions to deep space destinations," John Blevins, SLS chief engineer at Marshall, said. "From the beginning, the SLS rocket was built to first safely send astronauts to space, and at the same time, to evolve to an even more powerful configuration that can support a variety of missions."

Every NASA center and more than 1,000 different companies across America helped build the Artemis I SLS rocket as well as the SLS rockets that will launch future missions. The boosters and RS-25 engines – the main propulsion elements of the rocket – for the Artemis II and Artemis III missions are in the final stages of assembly. In Utah, crews with Northrop Grumman, the lead contractor for the boosters, have completed casting all the booster motor segments for both Artemis II and Artemis III and began casting segments for Artemis IV. The five-segment solid rocket booster is the largest and most powerful booster ever built for spaceflight.

Aerojet Rocketdyne, the RS-25 lead contractor, is readying the RS-25 engines for the next three SLS flights after Artemis I. The engines have been tested and will be integrated with their respective core stages closer to final assembly. The engines for Artemis II are ready to go to NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility, where they'll be integrated with the SLS core stage. The Artemis III engines are being prepared for flight at Aerojet Rocketdyne's facility at NASA's Stennis Space Center and the company is already manufacturing engines for missions beyond Artemis IV.

Each 212-foot-tall core stage is produced by Boeing at Michoud. The factory's 2.2-million-square-feet of manufacturing space and its cutting-edge manufacturing equipment allow teams to build multiple rocket stages at once. Currently, NASA and Boeing, the lead contractor for the SLS core stage, are building core stages for Artemis II, Artemis III, and Artemis IV at Michoud. In addition to the core stage, manufacturing at Michoud has started on test articles for the Exploration Upper



NASA photo

**Casting and assembly of a solid rocket booster for the Artemis IV mission is underway at Northrop Grumman's factory in Promontory, Utah. The booster motors for Artemis II and Artemis III have completed casting and are ready to go to Kennedy, where they will be assembled with other booster hardware being prepared for the missions.**

Stage that will power the Block IB configuration of the rocket starting with the Artemis IV mission.

"New tooling has been installed at Michoud to build the Exploration Upper Stage at the same time core stages are produced," Steve Wofford, NASA's manager for the SLS Block IB effort, said. "The Exploration Upper Stage will send 83,000 pounds to the Moon, which is 40% more payload to orbit than the ICPS used on early Artemis missions, and 70% more than any existing rocket."

Crews from Teledyne Brown Engineering in Huntsville and Marshall are manufacturing the cone-shaped launch vehicle stage adapters and Orion stage adapters for Artemis II and Artemis III. The adapters serve as vital connection points for the core and Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage and Orion. For missions beyond Artemis III, the universal stage adapter will connect the Exploration Upper Stage to Orion and act as a payload storage compartment, accommodating large payloads, such as logistics modules or other exploration spacecraft. Engineers at RUAG Space USA completed panels for a universal stage adapter test article and delivered the panels to Dynetics in Huntsville, the lead contractor for the adapter, that is assembling the test article in preparation for tests later in 2022.

With Artemis, NASA will land the first woman and the first person of color on the lunar surface and establish long-term exploration at the Moon in preparation for human missions to Mars. SLS and Orion, along with the human landing system and the Gateway in orbit around the Moon, are NASA's foundation for deep space exploration.



# Four inducted as AIAA associate fellows



NASA, AIAA/David Becker photos

**Marshall team members inducted as American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics associate fellows were, from left, Jody Singer, John Vickers, George Story and Naveen Vetcha.**

**By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center**

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics inducted four team members from Marshall Space Flight Center as associate fellows during a ceremony Jan. 3 in San Diego.

The grade of associate fellow recognizes individuals who have accomplished or been in charge of important engineering or scientific work, or who have done original work of outstanding merit, or who have otherwise made outstanding contributions to the arts, sciences, or technology of aeronautics or astronautics.

The Marshall honorees were:

- Jody Singer, center director: For significant leadership and vision in enabling America's space exploration and science missions, and for an inspirational career including serving as Marshall's 14th director.

- John Vickers, senior leader for Advanced and In-Space Manufacturing Capabilities in the Materials and Processes Laboratory: For sustained, significant contributions to the development of the body of knowledge in astronautics engineering, especially impacting nationwide advancement, deployment, and practice of advanced manufacturing.

- George Story, solid propulsion en-

gineer: For noteworthy contributions to chemical propulsion systems and processes, rocket failure investigations, contract management, and hybrid rocket developments.

- Naveen Vetcha: An ERC Inc. employee who supports the Engineering Services and Science Capability Augmentation contract as a challenge manager and task lead for Centennial Challenges: In recognition of professional standing and outstanding contributions to major NASA missions and efforts as an engineering and public outreach educator.

Former Marshall Chief Technologist Andrew Keys was also inducted.

To be selected, an individual must be an American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics senior member in good standing, with at least 12 years of professional experience, and be recommended by three current associate fellows.

"This distinguished group of individuals exemplify passion and dedication to advancing the aerospace profession," Basil Hassan, president of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, said. "Each of them was selected because of their significant and lasting contributions to the field. They are truly shaping the future of aerospace."



# Mathematician becomes rockabilly in the Rocket City

By BRIAN ODOM

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

The diverse workforce at Marshall Space Flight Center possesses a wide range of talents. While math and science skills are prerequisites for many roles, developing, building, testing, and flying complex space hardware is sometimes as much an art as a science. The ability to “listen” to resonance within a propulsion system is a critical factor for validation. An ear for “music” traveling throughout the spacecraft – valves, fuel lines, and structures – is an essential proficiency. It is not surprising then that musicians make great engineers.

One such person from the Apollo years at Marshall was mathematician Jerry Huffman. Born in Belmont, Mississippi, Huffman started his education at Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville before earning a degree in mathematics from Memphis State University. His pursuit of an education and eventual work as a computer operator and programmer at the Air Force Depot placed the talented guitarist and songwriter at the birthplace of rock and roll – Memphis.

From 1955-59, Huffman played guitar for several bands, even working with notable artists like Carl Perkins, Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Howlin’ Wolf, and Roy Orbison. But it was his relationship with the “King of Rockabilly” Charlie Feathers that really sparked his musical career. Together with Jody Chastain on bass and Jimmy Swords on drums, their band, The Musical Warriors, pioneered the unique bluegrass rock style that became characteristic of the sound.

In 1956, after finding little success with legendary producer Sam Phillip’s Sun Records, the group moved to Les Biharis’ Meteor record label and struck out from Memphis, traveling to RCA in Nashville and Sid Nathan’s King Records in Cincinnati. Along the way they recorded “Tongue Tied Jill,” “Get With It,” “One Hand Loose,” “I Can’t Hardly Stand It,” and “Bottle to the Baby” – songs that are today recognized as classics of the genre. The group’s standing in pop culture has endured, with covers by notable artists including The Cramps (1980), and cameos like “I Can’t Hardly Stand It” turning up in Quentin Tarantino’s 2004 film “Kill Bill: Vol. 2” and the videogame Grand Theft Auto V (2013).

Experiencing little musical success by 1961, Huffman brought his mathematical talents to Marshall, where he eventually came to lead the Program Evaluation and Review Technique computer applications group in the Computation Lab. The group was a central component of NASA’s Program Management System, which the agency leaned upon to ensure discipline and standards were consistent across the vast, complex Apollo program. Huffman’s work at the center ensured the Saturn V made it from the drawing board to Launch Complex 39A in Florida by President John F. Kennedy’s deadline.

Huffman’s duties in the Computation Lab did not prevent him from pursuing his musical ambitions. In 1965, he finally hit it big when Kitty Wells took his song “You Don’t Hear” to the top of the country music charts. Huffman first wrote the song while in Memphis but was unhappy with the arrangement. Coming back to his earlier work, he recast the piece, produced a demonstration tape, and made the short drive from the Rocket City to the Music City.

In Nashville, Huffman gave the demo tape to Johnny Cash’s brother Tommy, who played it for Wells, and the group closed the deal over the phone. During the summer of 1965, “You Don’t Hear” was rated the No. 2 hit country song for five weeks straight, and in Huntsville, topped WBHP radio’s May country and western chart. That year, Wells performed the song in various appearances (including Huntsville on Dec. 16), television shows, and in the movie “Second Fiddle to a Steel Guitar.”

Huffman would not be the last musician to try and hack it in the rocket business. A present-day example is former engineer and program manager Danny Davis, who followed his 30-year career at NASA by crafting custom acoustic guitars and mandolins at his shop at Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment in Huntsville. After a day of listening for the “music” throughout the complex workings of the Space Launch System, one can always head over and test the resonance of Davis’ handiwork and maybe even “hear” what Huffman was trying to say.

*Editor’s note: Brian Odom is Marshall’s historian and the acting NASA chief historian.*



NASA photo

**In 1965 Jerry Huffman holds a recording of his song “You Don’t Hear,” along with computer tapes and printouts in Marshall’s Computation Laboratory.**

# Engineer connects with launch vehicle stage adapter

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Although she was born and raised in the Rocket City of Huntsville, math, science and space exploration weren't the usual topics of conversation around Gwen Artis' family dinner table.

"I grew up on a farm before moving into the city at the age of 12. My first two years of education were spent in segregated schools," Artis said. "During that time a little girl who looked like me wasn't encouraged to pursue math and science. But thankfully, things changed. By the time I got to high school, I had excelled in math and science, and realized space exploration was amazing."

Today, Artis is a senior systems engineer with Jacobs Space Exploration Group who assists with management and oversight of the production of the Space Launch System rocket's launch vehicle stage adapter.

The adapter, manufactured in the Advanced Weld Facility at Marshall Space Flight Center, plays an integral role in connecting the rocket's core stage with the Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage that will help propel the Orion spacecraft to the Moon. Artis' team makes this piece of hardware with a modern manufacturing technique called self-reacting friction stir welding. The 30-foot-tall, cone-shaped adapter

helps protect the avionics during launch and ascent and houses the RL10 engine that powers the Interim Cryogenic Propulsion Stage. On the ground, it allows crews to access the upper stage during launch preparations at NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

Artis started her career at NASA as one of the first high school summer interns at Marshall. Her mentor and valuable hands-on experience inspired her to earn a bachelor's in engineering at the University Alabama in Huntsville, while working as a co-op student at Marshall. Over the course of her 34-year career at NASA, Artis has worked on a variety of programs including Spacelab, the Chan-

dra X-Ray Observatory, In-Space Propulsion, and SERVIR, a joint endeavor with the United States Agency for International Development that delivers tremendous benefits by working with other countries to help them use data from NASA's Earth observations satellites.

"Not everyone who works at NASA gets to work on hardware that will fly to space," Artis said. "I feel extremely fortunate to be a part of this remarkable endeavor of sending astronauts to the Moon. In fact, I feel like the launch vehicle stage adapter is my baby! And I can't wait to see my baby fly!"



## GWEN ARTIS

**Senior Systems Engineer,  
Launch Vehicle Stage Adapter  
NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center**



## Sports

# Rivera shines for Redstone's 10U Warriors

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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

Redstone's Japhet Rivera singlehandedly outscored the opposing 10-and-under basketball team.

The point guard finished with 16 points, 16 rebounds and two steals as the Warriors beat Lakewood 27-15 on Jan. 19 at the Youth Center. Rivera scored the first four points and Redstone never trailed against the shorthanded Kings.

"He's a beast," Warriors coach Greg Knight said.

Benjamin Rodriguez added nine points and six rebounds for Redstone (2-1). Isaiah Gilbert grabbed seven rebounds.

"We played good defense," Knight said. "We were aggressive, pushed the ball up the floor. Just overall good game. They played team basketball. I'm proud of them."

Rivera stole the ball defensively and he stole the show.

"We worked together as a team," Rivera, 11, said. "I played really good this game."

Jaydan Jackson had four points, seven rebounds and two steals for Lakewood (1-2). Thaddius Pruitt Jr. had four points and eight rebounds. Joshua Scott added six rebounds and six steals.

"I'm proud that they kept fighting," Kings coach Thaddius Pruitt said. "They kept fighting, they kept shooting, overcoming adversity. I'll take this level of effort any day of the week."

Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Japhet Rivera scores two of his 16 points in Redstone's 27-15 win over Lakewood.**



## Coaching professional sports isn't worth the stress

Professional coaches earn their money for sure.

Imagine all the stress of being second guessed and micromanaged. The fan base expects you to win nearly every game. You get some of the credit for wins but most of the blame for losses.

You might win a championship one year and get fired within two years for not repeating.

I remember how my late dad used to say, "It takes a peculiar person to want to be president of the United States." The same can be said of most coaching jobs in pro sports.

Most of us can go to our workplaces each day – or

our home offices if we're teleworking in the pandemic – without feeling more stress than we put on ourselves. If we make a mistake, we try to learn from it and do better next time. We don't have to worry about being fired because of mistakes made by our team on the field while we watch from the sidelines.

I'm sure winning a championship is one of the best feelings in the world. But the elation doesn't last. After all the confetti on the field and the champagne in the dressing room and the triumphant headlines and praise from the pundits, the winning coach is expected to do the same thing the next year and the year after that.

### From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn  
Rocket editor

You're expected to say all the right things and keep your fans and players and team owners happy.

The money just isn't worth it. As the Beatles said, money can't buy you love.

# Physical fitness tip of the week

**By TIM ANDERSON**

*MWR recreation specialist*

Before participating in a walking or running activities, there are three areas that should be stretched. They are hamstrings, quadriceps and calves.

Here are stretching exercises that should be utilized:

**Quadriceps:** Stand upright with one hand against a surface for balance and support. Flex one leg and raise your foot to your buttocks. Slightly flex the supporting leg. Exhale, reach down, grasp your foot with one hand and pull your heel toward your buttocks. Hold the stretch and relax.

**Hamstrings:** Sit upright on the floor with both legs straight. Exhale, keeping both legs straight extend your upper back, bend forward at the waist and lower your trunk onto your thighs. Hold the stretch and relax.

**Calves:** Stand upright with the balls of your feet balanced on an edge or step. Exhale and slowly lower your heels toward the floor. Hold the stretch and relax.

Using these three stretches should lessen your chance of injury and increase your enjoyment.



# Your glory days in sports

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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

## *How do you stay in shape?*

“I stay in shape by getting enough rest, getting enough sleep. I drink a lot of water,” Joyce Braden, a retired Army Reserve master sergeant, said. “And I work out four days a week. I go to the gym four days a week. The first thing I do is cardio. Stretch first and then do the cardio. Then I decide which part of the body I’m going to work that day – upper or lower. I prefer free weights to the machines because it gives me more definition. Free weights give me more definition so I use free weights for the upper body. For the lower body, I rely on the machines mostly because we have better leg machines in here (at Pagano Gym). I take friends periodically. I enjoy going up the hills.

“Working out lowers my anxiety. I sleep better. I eat better. Because when I work out, there are certain foods my body doesn’t crave. I believe it helps my skin. I think it’s the sweat. And it makes me a friendlier person, it really does, because I feel good about myself. And in turn I feel good about others.”

Braden, 63, is originally from Alamo, Tennessee, which is between Jackson and Memphis. The Madison resident served 35 years in the Army Reserve. Braden is a school counselor at Woodmeade Elementary in Decatur. She has three adult sons. She is an avid reader. Braden roots for her alma mater, Alabama A&M University, where she received a master’s in educational specialist.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Joyce Braden, a retired Army Reserve master sergeant, works out in Pagano Gym.**

the hills sometimes. I walk the hills with

# Army's Olympic hopefuls persevere for chance at Games

By JOE LACDAN

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – When the announcement came, it dealt a devastating blow to the Army's Olympic hopefuls.

After the onset of COVID-19, the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation informed the Army World Class Athlete program's winter athletes that they could not compete in World Cup events at North American sites including Lake Placid, New York, and Park City, Utah, due to pandemic concerns.

The news hit especially hard for the Soldier athletes competing in bobsled, skeleton, luge and Nordic skiing as they prepared for the 2022 Winter Games in Beijing. The athletes took pride in the opportunity to compete on their home track before friends and family but would be forced to travel to World Cup events in Europe to qualify for the Games.

The pandemic already had a severe impact on the athletes' training; Soldiers had limited access to the Olympic training center in Lake Placid – cutting back time on the track. Some athletes even tested positive for the virus.

However, Soldier athletes in the Army's World Class Training Program did not let the challenges deter their training for the Games which begin in February.

"It's a great group of individuals," retired Sgt. Maj. Willie Wilson, WCAP director, said. "They've been working extremely hard dealing with really some of the same challenges that the 2020 Olympic Games athletes faced. We're extremely proud of them. And we look forward to this last push, right before the (U.S. Olympic team selections)."

Capt. Michael Kohn, U.S. Bobsled coach, said that WCAP athletes, because of their military training have an edge over traditional competitors. WCAP athletes adjusted their training routines during the pandemic, utilizing makeshift gyms and moving training equipment to other locations.

"They fight just a little bit harder because of their Army training and Army life," said Kohn, a former Bobsled push athlete and member of the Virginia National Guard. "I think that helps them to be prepared for high level competitions, high pressure, and high stakes ... They're also better because they're a little more grounded in life."

In sports athletes need every available training advantage. Limited access to the facilities could have had a significant impact on their strength and conditioning. As a result, more athletes suffered from more physical ailments.

"I've never seen so many injuries," Kohn said by phone call from Austria, where he coached the U.S. Bobsled team during World Cup competition at the Olympic Sliding Centre Innsbruck. "Just about everybody's got a little tweak here and there."

"They're not getting the normal training that they would normally get," he added. "They're not getting the normal physical therapy or physiotherapy or massages."

The Army WCAP program has 12 athletes who hope



Courtesy photo

**Spc. Ben Loomis, a Nordic-combined competitor and World Class Athlete member, finished second at the recent Olympic Trials held at Lake Placid, N.Y. Loomis is one of the Army's hopefuls trying to make the Olympic team that will be announced later this month.**

to land a spot on the U.S. Olympic team.

Sgt. Emily Sweeney, who suffered a frightening fall on the track during the 2018 Games, has bounced back and has been selected to the 2022 U.S. Olympic team in women's luge singles.

Sweeney, who currently ranks No. 18 in the world, edged the U.S. top-ranked competitor, Ashley Farquharson by 0.2 seconds to win the World Cup selection race in October.

Five years ago, Spc. Lake Kwaza competed for the University of Iowa track and field squad. Now, the Sycamore, Illinois native will vie for a spot on the U.S. Olympic bobsled team as a brakewoman.

Kwaza and doubles teammate Elana Meyers-Taylor took first place at World Cup competition in Siguilida, Latvia on Jan. 2.

"Great leader," Kohn said. "Anytime I need something, I can go to her and it gets done quick. She's a solid athlete, Soldier and person. She's just very reliable."

During 2020-21, Capt. Megan Henry posted a solid competitive season in skeleton which included five straight North American Cup and lower-level victories despite a pandemic-limited season where she could not compete internationally for safety precautions.

The Roxbury, Connecticut native remains one of Team USA's top contenders to claim one of two spots on the U.S. National Team that will compete in Beijing this February.

Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Weber, a Green Beret-turned WCAP athlete, competed on the four-man U.S. bobsled squad that finished in 19th place at the 2018 Olympics in PyeongChang, South Korea. The pilot of that squad, 2010 gold medalist Sgt. Justin Olsen, has transitioned

to coaching after recovering from a serious neck injury he sustained two seasons ago.

Weber's teammate on the four-man team, Spc. Ha-keem Abdul-Saboor, who joined the Army in 2019, remains one of WCAP's strongest candidates for Beijing. Weber and Abdul-Saboor also placed 21st in the two-man race in 2018.

"I feel very comfortable that (Abdul-Saboor) will be on the Olympic team," Kohn said.

Spc. Jasper Good finished in fourth place at the recent Olympic Trials in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Spc. Ben Loomis, the nation's top-ranked Nordic combined competitor, hopes for a return trip to the Winter Games, while Spc. Jasper Good, of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, also will attempt to earn a spot in Beijing. Loomis placed second at the U.S. Olympic Trials in Lake Placid, Dec. 24-25, while Good finished fourth.

Loomis, who hails from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, joined the Army in 2019 after finishing 40th in the large hill and 41st in the normal hill at the 2018 Games. Good finished at 43rd in the large hill and 45th in the normal.

Specialists Frank Del Duca and Samuel Moeller and Capt. Mike Fogt, a brakeman, will challenge for spots on the U.S. Bobsled team. Del Duca, a pilot driver from Maine, has participated in the Olympic trials before and hopes to make the team as a pilot. "He's been performing for us very well," Kohn said. "I think he has a very good shot of making the Olympic team."

A former special teams player for Texas A&M's football team, Moeller transitioned to bobsled after college and now hopes to qualify for the games as a pilot. Fogt and Moeller have dealt with injuries and face a steep challenge to make the squad. "They've got a little bit of a struggle ahead of up to make the team," Kohn said. "But they're still hanging in there trying to be ready."

In the pandemic's early stages in the spring and summer of 2020, a limited number of WCAP athletes could train at the facility at a time. WCAP staff compromised with the International Olympic Committee to take some of the training equipment offsite to allow the Soldier athletes to resume training while adhering to the Army's safety guidelines.

Further complicating matters, WCAP athletes had to adhere to safety guidelines, by the IOC, USA Luge and New York state, which governed use of the Mount Van Hoevenberg Olympic Bobsled Run.

"It's like having 10 different contracts," Kohn said. "We were trying to write one out of these 10 that reflects a little bit of each one. For our Soldier athletes, it was tough."

At the start of the 2020-21 season pandemic restrictions also prevented WCAP athletes from traveling to overseas tournaments.

The athletes must still qualify to be eligible to make the U.S. Olympic team in their respective sports by winning enough points in World Cup competition. But Wilson remains confident in his Soldier athletes will rise to the challenge.

"We're excited about the group that we have," Wilson said. "And we think that they have a chance to do well at the Games."

# By the numbers: *My favorite song lyrics*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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

1. Hold on for one more day.
2. Let it be.
3. Don't stop thinking about tomorrow.
4. Don't stop believin'.
5. Learning to love yourself is the greatest love of all.
6. Ain't no stopping us now.
7. You get what you give.
8. Only the strong survive.
9. You've got to know when to hold 'em. Know when to fold 'em. Know when to walk away. And know when to run.
10. You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometime you'll find you get what you need.
11. Can't touch this.
12. Living on a prayer.
13. Love is a battlefield.
14. You've got a friend.
15. Sometimes you want to go where everybody knows your name.
16. Thank you for being a friend.
17. Love makes the world go round.
18. I'm not the man they think I am at home. Oh no, no, no. I'm a rocket man.

I just returned from my  
amazing beachside Airbnb!  
I saved so  
much money!

Yeah, there's a  
reason rates are  
cheap off-season!



Jim BoRoCh  
19 JANUARY 2022



## Sports&Recreation

### Pagano Gym locker rooms

Due to necessary work by Directorate of Public Works, the ladies locker room at Pagano Gym will be closed from Jan. 31 through Feb. 7. Showers and lockers will be unavailable during that time. You can also visit the Col. Stephen K. Scott Fitness Center from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Work will continue in the men's locker room from Feb. 7-18. While showers will be open, lockers will be limited. The Morale, Welfare and Recreation staff members appreciate your patience and understanding.

### Senior softball

Get into the swing of senior slow-pitch softball. They have three leagues beginning with the Rockets League for those 55 and older, the Recreation League for those 63 and older, and the Triads for 71 and up. All games will be played at Brahan Springs Park, fields 1 and 2. Practices will begin in late March, and their seasons will begin in late April. They play two games a week, ending around Labor Day. Players are needed. For information email Huntsville-srsoftball-info@googlegroups.com or call Becky Rollston of the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center at 880-7081.

## 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 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.

### Blacks in government

Huntsville-Madison County Chapter of Blacks In Government has its general membership meeting the third Thursday of the month via Zoom at 7 p.m. BIG functions as a knowledgeable, problem-identifying and solving organization for civil servants. For more information email Mary Peoples at maryd6519@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.

### Government meeting professionals

Society of Government Meeting Professionals, Rocket City Alabama Chapter, will have a virtual education program Thursday at 4 p.m. Kristen Scroggin will present "Managing a Multi-Generational Workforce AFTER a Global Pandemic." The class is approved for one SGMP education credit hour. The registration deadline is noon Thursday. Nonmembers can register as a guest; cost is \$10. Visit <https://rocketcity-alabamachapter.org/>.

### 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](http://www.vietvethsv.org).

## MiscellaneousItems

### 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

# RocketAnnouncements

Council members, receive a Huntsville Human Relations Commission certificate and other prize packages. Sponsors include Rocket City Broadcasting, Huntsville Utilities, Huntsville Optimist Club, Huntsville Police Department, CAFY and the Florida Institute of Technology Huntsville Site. To nominate a young citizen, visit [mystar991.com](http://mystar991.com) or call Kenny Anderson 883-3993.

### ACS volunteers needed

Army Community Service seeks volunteers for its information and referral desk in the Pershing Welcome Center, building 3443 on Aerobee Road. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. You get to build a rapport with the community. You're supporting Soldiers, family members and civilians. If interested call Stephanie Young 876-6661.

### Lifesaving class for Redstone

Redstone fire department offers a "Stop the Bleed" program which teaches how to use a tourniquet and stop major bleeding. Anyone on post is invited to take the class. "It's free. They get a certificate afterward, and they get a lifesaving skill," lead instructor Ian Voisine, fire captain/paramedic at Station 1 on Rideout Road, said. To schedule a free four-hour class, call Station 1 at 842-2584.

### Merit award scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club will award educational merit awards in 2022 to eligible students who are affiliated with and acting as contributing members of the Redstone military and government civilian community. There are two types of scholarships to apply for this year: RSAMCC Merit Award, for members of the club and their dependents; and the Military Community Scholarship, where applicants do not need to be a member of the club. More information and the online application form can be found on the RSAMCC webpage, [www.rsamcc.org/merit-awards](http://www.rsamcc.org/merit-awards). The deadline to apply is midnight Feb. 27. For information email [rsamccmeritawards@gmail.com](mailto:rsamccmeritawards@gmail.com). RSAMCC is a 501c private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

### Tax assistance center

Aviation and Missile Command's Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar took a moment to meet with and thank the volunteers who will be manning this year's Redstone Arsenal Tax Center. The tax assistance center is open from Jan. 24 to April 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, building 3439 on Honest John Road. Services are provided to the military community on a first-come, first-served basis, no appointments. Bring all tax documents, previous year's tax return, and

completed intake form.

### Job fair

St Joseph the Worker Job Networking Club is sponsoring a Job Fair on Feb. 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, 1055 Hughes Road in Madison. The job fair is open to all job seekers and local companies. For information on the 20-plus companies participating in this job fair, see the calendar page on the job club's website [www.sjwjobclub.org](http://www.sjwjobclub.org). There is space for more companies to participate; for more information, email Maureen Chemsak at [mjchemsak104@gmail.com](mailto:mjchemsak104@gmail.com).

### Comedy show/dinner

North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition will present "An Evening of Laughter with Jody Fuller" comedy show and dinner April 2 at The Summit. Tickets are \$50 per person, dinner included. Social starts at 5:30 p.m. and dinner/show at 6. Purchase tickets online at <https://conta.cc/3fE2KjL> or contact KC Bertling at 541-0450 or [presidentcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:presidentcoalition@gmail.com).

### Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department has released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for Jan. 10-14. The highest scores included Publix Super Market 1612 (Seafood), 1660 Old Monrovia Road, 100; Publix Super Market 1612 (Retail), 1660 Old Monrovia Road, 100; Phil Sandoval's at NGC-Wynn, 110 Wynn Drive, 100; AFC Sushi at Publix Super Market 1612, 1660 Old Monrovia Road, 100; and Nothing But Noodles at Northrop Grumman, 7057 Old Madison Pike, 100. The lowest scores included SB Madison LLC, 7814 Highway 72 West, Madison, 87; Payless No. 3, 10355 County Line Road, Madison, 86; and Discount Daddies/Jai Narsangaveer, 3490 Highway 53 North, 85.

### Picnic area under repair

In Fort Payne, dredging work at DeSoto Falls Picnic Area is begins this week and the work will likely keep the scenic and popular attraction closed for the next two months. Silt and debris have washed up along the shore of DeSoto Falls for years, especially during flooding or other high-water events, and the dredging work will safeguard and fortify the area. In addition, the work will allow the park to re-establish a beach and designated swimming area. "DeSoto Falls is one of Alabama's true treasures, and we take our responsibility to protect it seriously," Alabama State Parks Director Greg Lein said. "We apologize for any inconvenience this work will cause for our visitors, but it is critical to making sure the Falls is here for generations to come."