

RocketViews

Seeing the point of getting tested for virus

I'm going to need you to forgive me for harping on a topic.

I could say something like "I promise this will be the last time," but I mean come on. You know how much I love efficiency and if I can get five columns out of one idea, then that means there are only 45 more to fill this year.

If you remember, a couple of weeks ago I asked the question what's the point of getting tested for COVID-19, if you can't get the results of those test prior to the end of your normal quarantine?

I ended up saying a better use of resources would be to focus on the asymptomatic spread, delivering vaccines, etc., but I left out one important benefit of testing someone who is already sick.

Let me take you back in time to two Mondays ago. (That is, of course assuming you're reading this the day it comes out, and, I mean, why wouldn't you?)

I go home and I start to get a headache. I get a lot of headaches – I'm not pointing any fingers, but it's just part of my life – so I don't really think anything about it until 3 a.m. when I wake up, still with a headache, but with the added sinus pressure and congestion that feels like a full-scale fracking operation in the middle of my face.

All of these are familiar feelings. I get

Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson

Assistant editor

them once a year whenever the weather switches from hot, cold, warm, cold, cool, cold, hot, freezing. It's like Mother Nature is trying to put in the cheat code for blood mode on the old Mortal Kombat, Sega Genesis version, circa 1993. (ABACABB, I think.)

I know that these symptoms mean I won't sleep for the next three or four days because I won't be able to breathe.

I know these symptoms mean that every time I try to read something on a computer screen, I'm going to want to just drill one of my eyeballs out to relieve the pressure in my head with the hope it will let me stop seeing double.

I know that none of this is COVID-19.

But, actually, I don't know that last one, because that's exactly what I said two years ago when it turns out I had a case of COVID-19 (the original version).

In my defense, according to all the major news outlets, at the time I allegedly had COVID, the only recorded case in the U.S. was in Oregon or California or

something like that. So, I had no reason to believe I had even been exposed to the virus.

Nevertheless, I learned from that experience, which is why on that Tuesday, I decided to do the responsible thing and get tested.

The problem was, after checking about 10 or 15 places, there were no rapid tests available until Friday. I could take a PCR test that day. The problem with that was the PCR test takes 48-72 hours to get your results. So, either way I was probably looking at Friday and regardless of the results, I would be cleared to go back to work on Monday.

But, I made an appointment for the PCR test anyway.

It wasn't until I got those results back on Thursday – it didn't take as long as

I thought – that I realized the peace of mind it offered me when the results came back negative.

The relief just kind of snuck up on me. It was like I was carrying around an extra worry that I didn't know was there until it was gone.

I'm revising my assertion that there's no point in testing a sick person. In my case it did two things:

It ensured I stayed home and didn't spread my germs around, because I've never not gone to work because of a sinus infection or a slight head cold.

It was nice to know that I dodged the virus that time.

So, if waiting on a test result means they're fewer people running around spreading other germs, then there is a benefit to testing the sick.

On this date in history: Feb. 2

In 2012: The ferry MV Rabaul Queen sank off the coast of Papua New Guinea near the Finschhafen District, with an estimated 146-165 dead.

In 1943: During World War II, the Battle of Stalingrad came to an end when Soviet troops accepted the surrender of the last organized German troops in the city.

In 1913: Grand Central Terminal opened in New York City.

In 1887: In Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, the first Groundhog Day was observed.

Quote of the week

“Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations.”
– Mae Jemison
first African-American
female astronaut

RedstoneRocket

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

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

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

Email: samuel.c.vaughn2.civ@mail.mil
Email classified ads to rocketads@theredstonerocket.com

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

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 Depart-

ment 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 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 do you think of your job?

"I enjoy my job," Tramel Bailliff, firefighter/paramedic at Station 2 on Vincent Drive since Jan. 17, said. "I enjoy helping people when in need. I enjoy the satisfaction of saving lives. And I love what the fire service is about and stands for. It stands for saving lives and protecting property."

Bailliff, 26, from Huntsville, is a technical sergeant in the Air Force Reserve. He has been in the Air Force Reserve since 2014. He was deployed in Kuwait in 2017 and in Kenya in 2021. The Harvest resident is pursuing a bachelor's in computer science from Columbia Southern University. His hobbies include working out, playing sports and fishing. Bailliff roots for the Auburn Tigers.



Tramel Bailliff

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents Jan. 16-22:

Jan. 16: A Redstone police officer conducted a traffic stop on a speeding vehicle on Rideout Road at the Gateway. The driver provided a Honduras passport and admitted not having a driver's license. A check through immigration confirmed the individual was removed from the United States with no record of legal re-entry found. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency declined to apprehend the driver; and based on no criminal history, the individual was cited for speeding and no driver's license. An inventory was conducted then the vehicle was towed from the scene.

Jan. 17: Redstone police were dispatched to a report of a deer-vehicle collision at Patton Road and Sheffield Road. The vehicle was traveling south on Patton when an eastbound deer entered its path. The vehicle sustained disabling damages and had to be towed. The deer could not be located.

Jan. 20: A Redstone police officer conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle displaying expired Alabama license plates. The National Crime Information Center revealed the license plate was registered to another vehicle. The driver admitted switching the plate from a family member's vehicle to be able to drive this vehicle to and from work. The individual also admitted not having valid insurance on the vehicle. The driver was cited for misuse of plates and for no insurance and then released. The vehicle was towed, and the driver was escorted off the installation.

Citations included one for fleeing the scene of a traffic accident, one for no driver's license/unlicensed, one for no financial responsibility, one for false official statement, one for limitations on backing, one for wrong license plates, one for reckless driving and 14 for speeding.

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Name: Kara Malone

Position: the branch chief for the Resources and Contracts Branch of the Business Operations and Integration Division within the Garrison's Directorate of Public Works

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a teacher all through elementary school because school was very important to me and I looked up to most of my teachers. It was probably towards the end of high school though that I changed to more of an emphasis on math, which led to me majoring in engineering.

What do you hope to accomplish in 2022?

My branch is continuing to align the different contract functions and so I want to bring that vision into action this year.

What is the best part about your job?

I am goal oriented, so the best part of my job is feeling like we accomplished the goals that we had set for us to do.

Who is your hero, and why?

I have no earthly heroes. My only hero is my Savior, Jesus.



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

I think I'd take my kids to Disney World. My husband (Colby) and I have two kids – our daughter, Kaylee, 6, and our son, Collier, 3.

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

Throughout COVID, the mantra that I've been saying to myself over and over is "Do not fear." The reference is Isaiah 41:10.

What do you like to do to pass the time?

Spend time with my kids.

Find the Redstone **Rocket**

ONLINE AT

 @TeamRedstoneRocket

www.theredstonerocket.com

 @TeamRedstone

facebook.com/RocketNewspaper

Know your laws: Provisional patents

By ANN DENNEN
Huntsville lawyer

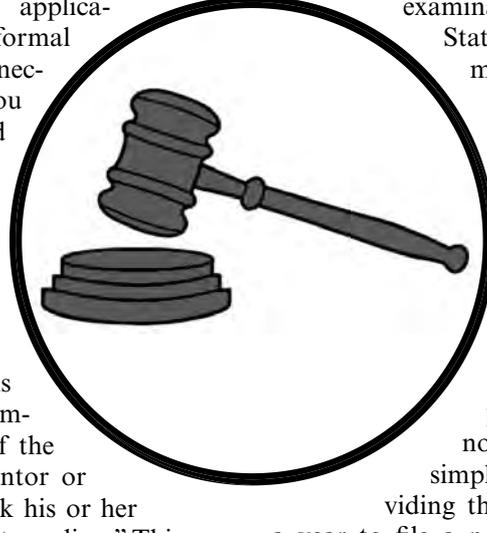
Provisional patent applications are a reasonable way to protect your intellectual property rights (inventions) without filing a full-fledged patent application. However, the provisional patent only protects the inventor or applicant for 12 months. Upon expiration of the 12 months, the provisional patent application expires.

The provisional patent is a way of protecting your intellectual property rights. That is, in 1994, the Patent Act of 1952 was amended allowing inventors the option of filing a provisional patent application prior to proceeding with a non-provisional patent (a.k.a. a utility patent application).

A provisional establishes an earlier priority filing date to pin down your intellectual property rights in your invention. Further, a provisional application is much cheaper to create than a non-

provisional patent application. For example, formal drawings are not necessary. Instead, you can submit a hand drawing, photographs, or other types of images instead of formal drawings.

In addition, while an inventor or applicant is assessing the commercial potential of the invention, the inventor or applicant may mark his or her invention as "patent pending." This provides the inventor or applicant time to work out the details for a nonprovisional application. Additionally, the pending provisional application puts others on notice that the product is in the process of getting a patent. While the provisional patent application is not subject to



examination by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the provisional patent application does include the foundation upon which any nonprovisional is filed based upon what is contained in the provisional patent application. The provisional patent application is not only cheaper but simpler to file, while providing the inventor or owner a year to file a nonprovisional. Notably, a provisional patent does not automatically develop into a nonprovisional application. Instead, the inventor or applicant must file a nonprovisional application within 12 months of filing the provisional patent application to secure patent rights.

It is important that the subject matter of the provisional patent to be filed contain details that would enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make or use the invention. This is important because a sloppy provisional patent application may resort to an examiner concluding that the inventor or applicant did not have a complete invention at the time the provisional patent was filed. In such a situation, the inventor or owner would lose the benefit of the filing date of the provisional patent application. This would mean that if another inventor filed a provisional or nonprovisional application after the inventor's or applicant's provisional patent application, the other inventor would have priority over the inventor's or applicant's provisional patent application.

Concisely, the provisional patent application should comprehensively describe the subject matter of the invention, including how it operates and how it will be used. Forethought into how the invention may be used or constructed in more than one way may be constructive. This may be drafted into the provisional patent application so that others may not develop technology around that which is enclosed in the provisional patent appli-

cation. Furthermore, details regarding how the product might be manufactured or materials used to produce the invention may have value. The more information included in the provisional patent application, the more protected the inventor or applicant may be protected.

While drawings are not necessary in a provisional patent application, if drawings are needed to explain the invention, the drawings should be included. In this regard, drawings may also accord the invention more perceived value if the provisional patent application is provided to investors or the like. Importantly, if a feature is missed in the written portion of the provisional patent application, if it is included in a drawing figure, the feature may be protected by the provisional patent application.

Once a provisional patent application has been filed, it cannot be modified. Therefore, if after filing the inventor, applicant, or otherwise determines that a feature is missing, a second provisional may be filed to include the feature that was missing. When a nonprovisional is filed a year from the date of the filing of the first provisional, the second provisional may be cross-referenced to include in the nonprovisional that which was disclosed in the second provisional.

Note that provisional applications can be a beneficial way to protect your invention for a year. The provisional patent provides the inventor or applicant an effective filing day. During the year, the inventor or applicator may perform research and development that changes or adds features disclosed in the provisional patent application. Upon expiration of the year of the provisional filing date, the nonprovisional may include the information disclosed in both the first filed provisional patent application and the second filed provisional patent application.

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

Your alma mater.

"I'm a University of Florida graduate (1981 with a bachelor's in environmental engineering)," Rich Wallace, the safety manager at Wolf Creek Federal Services in support of the Garrison, said. "It was a great education. Very challenging. Like most colleges, you could do pretty much whatever you wanted to do on campus. A lot of opportunities for the sports fans. Performing arts, very good for that. And enjoying the outdoors year-round."

Wallace, 65, from Orlando, Florida, grew up traveling around as an Air Force family member. He has worked at Redstone since August. He previously held a similar position with a large chemical manufacturer in Decatur on the Tennessee River. Wallace and his wife of 21 years, Tracy, have two children. Their son, Austin, 29, resides in Huntsville. Their daughter, Sydney, 19, is a sophomore at the University of South Carolina majoring in civil engineering. Wallace enjoys playing golf, doing recreational snow skiing and listening to classic rock. He said he roots for the Florida Gators and "the men and women of the U.S. military."



Rich Wallace

Military

Excess Army equipment delivered to Greek forces

By RACHEL DELOACH

Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

The Army provides capabilities to allies and partners which support regional and global operations, enable territorial defense and enhance interoperability and readiness. This was recently demonstrated when Greece received an initial 44 M117 Guardian Armored Safety Vehicles, the first of a two-part Foreign Military Sales case that will ultimately see 1,200 vehicles delivered.

The vehicles are Excess Defense Articles and the Army uses FMS to facilitate divestiture, while simultaneously building partner capacity. Vehicles declared EDA are no longer part of the Army's inventory. The Security Assistance Command executes Army FMS.

"The 21st Theater Sustainment Command (in Germany) put the vehicles on a train and sent them to the U.S. Embassy and Consulate in Greece where the transfer was initiated by the Office of Defense Cooperation," Marcus Mackey, USASAC G-3 mission support for EDA, said.

By receiving the first 44 M117 ASVs from Germany, both the U.S. and Greek armies benefit in numerous ways.

The Greeks receive the vehicles for essentially the transportation costs, and with the first vehicles coming from within Europe, transportations costs will be much less than for the remaining vehicles that will ship from Sierra Army Depot in Herlong, California. The vehicles arriving from Germany are also in operational condition since storage at another location was not needed.

"Such a transfer of military vehicles is a big project. It requires the sound cooperation and combined performance of both partners, Hellenic and U.S. Army. Subject matter experts are involved and working hard as a team to conduct this task successfully," Lt. Col. Athanasios Natsios, security assistance liaison officer (Greece) assigned to USASAC, said.

For the U.S., transferring the vehicles directly from the 21st Theater Sustainment Command immediately divests the unit of older vehicles and facilitates modernization. Providing a U.S. ally with quality, reliable equipment enhances interoperability and readiness.



Courtesy of State Department

Greek and U.S. military personnel, along with Greece Minister of Defense Nikos Panagiotopoulos and U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt, participate in a Dec. 1 ceremony in Athens marking the delivery of the first 44 of 1,200 M117 Guardian Armored Safety Vehicles being transferred from the U.S. Army to the Hellenic Army through the foreign military sales program.

The M117 vehicles will complement existing weapons systems, providing new capabilities to the Greek Army. The range of missions they can perform is a guarantee of their successful integration and utilization, Greece Minister of Defense Nikos Panagiotopoulos said at the transfer ceremony Dec.1.

"I am convinced that the M117 Security Armored Vehicles will breathe new life into the operational design of our Army formations, enabling them to carry out a wide range of missions," Panagiotopoulos said.

The geopolitical environment of Greece and the threats it faces in the region has prompted political and military leadership to seek the acquisition of new weapons systems to support and strengthen the country's international alliances.

"The reuse of this property constitutes at the same time a challenge and an example of our enhanced cooperation, in order to make this equipment operationally capable to achieve our common objectives and strengthen our bonds," Natsios said.

Panagiotopoulos praised Ambassador Geoffrey Pyatt for the excellent level of cooperation achieved between the U.S. Embassy and the Department of Defense in the field of defense cooperation.

"It is another solid proof of the thriving strategic relationship between Greece and the U.S and cooperation between the Greek and American armed forces," Panagiotopoulos said. "We believe that the best is yet to come and strategic cooperation is in an excellent state at the moment but there is more to do and we are all committed to doing more."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Senator visits

U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby visits Redstone Arsenal, Thursday. From left are Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor, Shelby and Redstone Senior Commander Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker.

Program grants help Soldiers becoming civilians

By **REBECCA SALLEE**

Staff writer

rebecca.sallee@theredstonerocket.com

Soldiers who are transitioning into civilian life may not be aware that the Army has a program to help them find jobs, and grant money to help them take part.

Since 2015, the Army's Career Skills Program has assisted Soldiers transitioning to civilian life through first class internships, on-the-job training and apprenticeships in careers of all kinds.

Olivia Pierce, financial readiness officer at Army Community Service, is the point person for anyone applying for Army Emergency Relief grants to take part in the Career Skills Program.

Grants are available to pay for travel, lodging, business attire, relocation expenses and other out-of-pocket costs associated with the CSP, she said.

But there are criteria and qualifying steps in the process:

- Grants are available only to Soldiers transitioning from active-duty service with an honorable discharge.
- Soldiers who apply for grants must be within 180 days of separation or retirement from the Army.
- Soldiers must complete the Soldier for Life Transition Assistance Program career readiness standards requirements (with five-day mandatory workshops).
- Finally, they must present a CSP Soldier Participation Memo that includes approval from their field grade officer to participate in the program.

Once these hurdles are crossed, Soldiers can apply to AER for grant money, which is payable at three levels:



- \$500 for participation in a local CSP event at or near their respective duty station in the continental United States.

- \$1,000 for those who are approved for administrative absence (PTDY) from their current duty station to participate in a CSP "non-local" event in the continental United States.

- \$1,500 for those who are stationed outside the continental United States and approved for administrative absence from their current duty station outside the continental United States to participate in a CSP event in the continental United States.

The grant money is "for any grade of Soldier, enlisted or officer, that is showing financial need," Pierce said. "Basically, it's to help them participate in first class apprenticeships."

Because Redstone Arsenal has such a relatively small number of active-duty Soldiers and the grant money is only available within 180 days of discharge, no one has applied for it locally yet, Pierce said.

Although she is happy to answer questions, Pierce noted that any interested and qualified Soldiers should first consult with their Transition Assistance Program coordinator.

She just wants to get the word out that Soldiers may qualify for grant money when they are preparing to leave the Army.

"It's good for people to know the AER has a special program for individuals considering CSP," she said.

For more information on other programs available through AER, call Pierce at 876-6299.

Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense Department websites

Contract award announcements

AV Inc., Simi Valley, California, was awarded an \$11,010,530 firm-fixed-price contract for the Puma Long Endurance unmanned aircraft system. Bids were solicited via the Internet with one received. Work will be performed in Simi Valley, California. Fiscal 2021 Foreign Military Sales (Kosovo) funds in the amount of \$11,010,530 were obligated at the time of the award. Army Contracting Command, Redstone Arsenal, is the contracting activity.

We remember Operation Desert Storm

Operation Desert Storm began 31 years ago — on Jan. 16, 1991 — five months after Iraqi forces invaded and annexed Kuwait.

That operation to oust the Iraqis is also known as the Gulf War; it came about after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein refused to withdraw his forces from Kuwait.

In response, the United States and partner nations began a buildup of arms and forces in Saudi Arabia. That phase, leading up to Operation Desert Storm, was known as Operation Desert Shield.

Early on Jan. 16, 1991, the air campaign began with U.S. Army and Air Force helicopters knocking out Iraqi antiaircraft facilities and Hellfire missiles destroying Iraqi radar sites.

Then, fixed-wing aircraft from the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and coalition forces, augmented by cruise missiles, pounded Iraqi positions and supply lines for the next 42 days.

Iraqi forces were not idle. On Jan. 29, 1991, they attacked and occupied the city of Khafji, Saudi Arabia. Two days later, they were driven out of Saudi Arabia by U.S.

Marines, Saudi and Qatari forces.

On Feb. 24, 1991, the ground war began with U.S. and allied forces penetrating deep into Kuwait and Iraq before the end of the day. The advance was so swift that masses of Iraqi troops began surrendering within hours.

By Feb. 28, 1991, U.S. and allied ground forces in Iraq and Kuwait decisively defeated a battle-hardened army — the fourth largest in the world — and liberated Kuwait.

During air and ground operations, U.S. and allied forces destroyed over 3,000 tanks, 1,400 armored personnel carriers, 2,200 artillery pieces, and countless other vehicles. Ninety-six service members were killed in action; an estimated 30,000 Iraqi troops were killed.

The war illustrated the importance of the 35 allies and partners that comprised the coalition to liberate Kuwait, which included several Arab nations.

The war also included some notable firsts:

It was the first war in which TV news broadcasts were aired live from the frontlines.

It featured the largest tank battle in U.S. history.

The Patriot missile system was used in combat for the first time; it was used to intercept Iraqi Scud missiles.

It was the first time GPS and precision-guided munitions were used on a massive scale.

WWII Soldier's remains are finally identified

By **BUD McLAUGHLIN**

Staff writer

bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com

A Soldier from Alabama, who was listed missing/killed in action in World War II, has been accounted for, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced Jan. 26.

According to a statement from the DPAA, Army Pfc. Bill Morrison, 29, of Birmingham, was accounted for July 9, 2021. The family recently received their full briefing on his identification. His remains will be buried in Spanish Fort.

Morrison was killed in action Nov. 8, 1944 during his unit's attack on a series of German pillboxes near Simonskall, Germany, in the Hürtgen Forest. He was a member of the 110th Infantry Regiment, 28th Infantry Division. Battle conditions prevented his body from being recovered.

Despite several investigations in the Hürtgen area from 1946-50, the American Graves Registration Command was unable to recover or identify Morrison's remains and he was declared nonrecover-

able in December 1951, the DPAA statement said. The command was tasked with investigating and recovering missing American personnel in Europe after World War II.

However, while studying unresolved American personnel losses in the Hürtgen area, a DPAA historian determined that one set of unidentified remains, discovered by a German civilian and recovered by the AGRC in 1946, possibly belonged to Morrison.

The remains, which were buried in Ardennes American Cemetery in 1950, were disinterred in April 2019 and sent to the DPAA laboratory at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, for identification. There, DPAA scientists used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial and material evidence to identify the remains. Scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System assisted with DNA analysis. The work verified the remains as those of Morrison.

Morrison's name is recorded on the Tablets of the Missing at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Hom-



Army photo

Soldiers of the 28th Infantry move through the Hürtgen Forest in November 1944.

bourg, Belgium. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

For family and funeral information,

contact the Army Casualty Office at 800-892-2490. For additional information on the DPAA and its mission, visit www.dpaa.mil.

Organization helps veterans make home in community



By **BUD MCLAUGHLIN**

Staff writer

bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com

Lee Greenwood's song "God Bless the USA" emphasizes his pride in being an American.

And the Grammy-winning singer exudes that pride by helping wounded veterans through the Helping a Hero Home organization.

On Tuesday, Greenwood, builder Louis Breland, and Meredith Iler, founder of the Helping a Hero Home organization, helped break ground for a home for Staff Sgt. Michael Brown.

Greenwood is an advisor to Helping a Hero, a 501(c)(3) organization that awards newly built homes to the country's most severely wounded vets.

Breland and his wife Patti partnered with Greenwood and the organization to build the home in Madison. Brown, who was wounded in action in Iraq, and his wife have a daughter.

"We are talking about building homes that

Courtesy Photo

SSG Michael Brown, who was wounded in Iraq, will be a new homeowner through Helping a Hero Home.

are upward of \$400,000 to \$500,000, so it is an extreme commitment," Greenwood said. "We can build a home within six months and, most of the time, furnish it with free appliances and furniture, plus a year's worth of electrical and telephone service.

"Most of the time, we find a contractor in the city where a Wounded Warrior wants to live, who will like Louis, donate their time to build it. They then find subcontractors who will also donate their time. Then we find 100 volunteers."

Brown was wounded while serving with the military police in Mosul, training the local police. A grenade struck his vehicle, burning through the armor and severed his left leg at the ankle. He ended up losing his leg.

The new home will have features specially designed for Brown, a Bronze Star and Purple Heart recipient.

"Our nation's military and the heroes that fought for our country have a special place in our hearts and we are always looking for opportunities to honor and support them," said Breland. "I can't think of a better way to do this than to build a home for a wounded warrior in our community."

For information, visit helpingahero.org.



Photo by Erin Elise

Military appreciation night

Lt. Gen. Neil Thurgood, director for hypersonics, directed energy, space and rapid acquisition, office of the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, speaks at UAH basketball's military appreciation night Saturday. The host Chargers beat Shorter, 81-60.

DOD to develop action plan on civilian harm mitigation

By **JIM GARAMONE**

DOD News

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has issued a memo directing DOD to build an action plan on civilian harm mitigation and response, Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby said.

“This action plan outlines the steps that the department will take and the resources that will be required to implement appropriate recommendations from recently completed studies of civilian harm – studies that were sponsored by DOD,” Kirby said during a press conference.

For years, the United States military has stressed avoiding civilian casualties whenever possible. “The protection of civilians remains vital to the ultimate success of our operations,” Kirby said. “As the secretary has noted on more than one occasion, it is a strategic and a moral imperative.”

The action plan grew, in part, out of a RAND Corporation study. “While the DOD has committed to an array of civilian-harm policies and processes, weaknesses and inconsistencies remain,” according to the report. The study said the department is not adequately organized or resourced to sufficiently assess, reduce and respond to civilian-harm incidents. “Assessing and investigating the full extent of civilian harm in the aftermath of military operations is crucial to help the U.S. military fulfill its civilian protection responsibilities,” RAND senior researcher Michael McNerney said in a written release. “Improvements will require DOD to address civilian-harm issues with institutional, not just operational, changes.”

DOD officials agree. “This is really about implementation, not about additional study,” a senior defense official said on background. “This is really meant to be structural. It’s really meant to be looking across the full spectrum of how the Department of Defense conducts operations, in some cases, lethal operations, to focus on civilian harm. We view this as very much a strategic, operational and moral imperative.”

The department has a deadline of 90 days.

Austin has directed DOD to establish a civilian protection center of excellence. “Part of what the 90-day review will do is determine how that properly and most effectively fits into a structural framework for the department,” the official said. The center will look at the issue holistically spanning “not only the policy and strategic side of things, but very much the operational piece of things,” the official said.

The secretary also directed standardized operational reporting and data management. The combatant commands have different processes and even different schedules, the official said. Standardizing the process will mean getting the proper feedback to the operators, intelligence analysts and those looking at consequence management.

Another component looks at implementing civilian harm mitigation measures. These could be condolence payments or public acknowledgment of harm.

The last piece of the secretary’s directive may be the hardest to implement, which is “really looking at how – across the full spectrum of armed conflict – we are building in the protection for civilians,” the official said.

This must be examined from operational and intelligence perspectives, and must be done in a way that gives commanders more tools, the official said.

Photo Booth

By Skip Vaughn



What is your favorite pastime?

"Hunting and fishing. I just enjoy being outdoors in nature. I started when I was 10. My father used to carry me. And I still enjoy it." –

Brian Osmer, a contractor for The Lioce Group in support of the Army and FBI office equipment at Redstone

USS Sampson delivers aid to Tonga after volcano, tsunami

By **JIM GARAMONE**

DOD News

The guided missile destroyer USS Sampson is part of a multinational effort aiding the Pacific Ocean Kingdom of Tonga in the aftermath of the Jan. 15 eruption of the undersea volcano Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai.

The ship, part of the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group, arrived at the island nation Jan. 24. Even before arriving off-shore the ship launched its helicopter to conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance damage assessment of remote islands Niuafo'ou, Fonualei, Ofu and Fonuafo'ou, according to Navy Capt. Kyle Raines, the director of public affairs at U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

"The USS Sampson is on scene now," Raines said in an email message. "She is providing lifesaving efforts and assistance alongside France, Australia, New Zealand,

the United Kingdom, Japan and others. The multinational approach by allies and partners to assist friends in need demonstrates our shared values towards regional stability and security."

President Joe Biden spoke with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida about aid to Tonga during a call from the White House Jan. 21. Noting the critical situation in Tonga after the recent volcanic eruption and tsunami, the two leaders reinforced the importance of working together to provide any support necessary to this and future humanitarian disasters in the region, according to a White House read-out of the meeting.

The explosion of the volcano was seen from space and could be heard as far away as Alaska. The tsunami from the eruption was felt as far away as Japan, South

See Tonga on page 20



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Zackery Harmeyer

An MH-60R Seahawk helicopter aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Sampson prepares to take off to conduct lifesaving actions in support of disaster relief efforts in Tonga. The island nation was hammered by a volcano and resulting tsunami. The Sampson is operating in conjunction with vessels from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, France, the United Kingdom, Fiji and more.

Tonga

Continued from page **19**

America and North America. Tonga – only about 40 miles from the volcano – was hit the hardest. Tongan officials said

three people were killed in the kingdom.

Ash from the volcano has covered Tonga and fouled the sources of drinking water for the 108,000 Tongans. The ash cloud from the eruption reached 30 miles into the atmosphere.

U.S., with NATO allies, calls on Putin to stand down

By JIM GARAMONE

DOD News

The United States is in lockstep with NATO allies in calling for Russian President Vladimir Putin to de-escalate his country's situation with Ukraine, U.S. defense leaders said during a Pentagon news conference Jan. 28.

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin stressed that conflict with Russia is not inevitable.

"There is still time and space for diplomacy," the secretary told Pentagon reporters. "The United States, in lockstep with our allies and partners, has offered Russia a path away from crisis and toward greater security, and the Department of Defense will continue to support those diplomatic efforts."

Austin spoke alongside Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Both men emphasized the United States' commitments to NATO allies and in opposition to Russian actions.

"Any Russian attack or further incursion into Ukraine would not only ignite conflict, it would also violate the bedrock principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and self-determination," Austin said. "This is something that we're taking very seriously both as a strong partner of Ukraine and as one of 30 members of NATO."

Since the first Russian incursion into Ukraine and Putin's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014, the United States has committed more than \$2.7 billion in security assistance to Ukraine. A shipment arrived in Ukraine Jan. 28, Austin said.

The United States military is taking actions to support NATO allies. Part of that includes reinforcing security on NATO's eastern flank, Austin said. "We placed thousands of U.S. troops on 'prepare-to-deploy' orders earlier this week," he said. "If NATO activates its response forces, these troops will be ready to go."

Both Austin and Milley said the 8,500 U.S. troops have not been ordered to go anywhere, yet. The troops will be part of the NATO Response Force if that unit is



Photo by Mauricio Campino, Air Force

Pallets of ammunition, weapons and other equipment bound for Ukraine are processed at Dover Air Force Base, Del., Jan. 27.

activated.

Milley said Russia needs to "stand down" from its position. He noted that there are more than 100,000 Russian troops on the border with Ukraine and inside Russia's only European ally — Belarus. Ukraine is the second largest nation in Europe and has a population of 44 million. "If war were to break out on a scale and scope that is possible, the civilian population will suffer immensely," the general said.

The Ukrainian military has about 150,000 active-duty troops and a larger number of reservists, Milley said.

Ukraine is a NATO partner, not a NATO member, but NATO leaders

have told Putin that any incursion into Ukraine would trigger significant economic and diplomatic costs. "A move on Ukraine will accomplish the very thing Russia says it does not want: a NATO alliance strengthened and resolved on its western flank," Austin said.

"The United States will contribute to NATO's response forces. And we will coordinate with our NATO allies. We will make sure that they have the capabilities that they need to defend themselves. Article Five is clear on its point of attack against one NATO member is an attack against us all. And as President Biden has said, the United States holds this as a sacred obligation. And we will do right

by that commitment."

Austin and Milley said that while they do not believe Putin has made the decision to use the troops amassed on Ukraine's border, he clearly has that capability.

The frontline states of NATO are, understandably, worried about Russian aggression. NATO has significant military capability, Milley said. NATO has more than 130 brigades of maneuver forces, not including U.S. forces, the chairman said. The alliance also has 93 squadrons of high-end fighters, four aircraft carriers, and many more surface combatants. "The military capability of NATO is very, very significant," he said.

Community

Alabama A&M ROTC fills Army's ranks since 1970s

By BUD McLAUGHLIN

Staff writer

bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com

For more than half a century, the ROTC program at Alabama A&M University has been producing and commissioning second lieutenants for the Army.

Did you know, students at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and Athens State University have also received their gold bars on "The Hill"?

Alabama A&M has been sharing its military science and training program with UAH and Athens State since 1975. While Alabama A&M and UAH are four-year universities, Athens State is a two-year senior college, in that the students are juniors and seniors.

The Bulldog Battalion has 100 cadets – 63 Alabama A&M students, 35 from UAH and two Athens State cadets.

"You have the traditional A&M and UAH students," said Col. Dwayne Murray, the commander of the Alabama A&M Army ROTC program. He is a Syracuse University grad who has served 25 years in the Army. "Students from the community colleges can go to Athens State.

"Our two Athens State students are grad students and add to the diversity. They bring a level of maturity and fervor to the program."

Murray said the Alabama A&M and UAH cadets also bring their schools' signature education mission to the battalion.

"A&M and UAH specialize in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and we are a big producer of STEM officers," he said. "I've got a civil engineering major who is working on the city's (Orion) Amphitheater and we have a cadet majoring in aeronautical engineering with a concentration on space.

"It's awesome that we have cadets who are wildly intelligent and have a penchant for service."

The Army ROTC program has been a part of Alabama A&M's history since 1971. At that time, all of the university's students were required to serve in the university's Corps of Cadets during their first year of studies. The program commissioned its first cohort of officers in 1973.

And the unit is about to reach a milestone.

"We're in our 'March for 1,000,'" Murray said. "We are just 13 shy of 1,000 commissioned officers in the program's history."

The Bulldog Battalion has produced two flag officers, Murray said, in Maj.



Photo by Bud McLaughlin

From left, Maj. Joseph Rucker, Lt. Col. Dwayne Murray and Sgt. 1st Class Craig DeRosia have a combined 66 years of Army service to bring to the cadets of the Alabama A&M ROTC program.

Gen. Patrick Burden and Navy Rear Adm. Clyde Marsh.

"We've had great people and great officers go all over the country and world to serve," Murray said.

Getting students to join the ROTC is akin to college recruiting.

"We are at freshman orientation days," Sgt. 1st Class Craig DeRosia said. "At UAH, they can sign up for ROTC and come to Alabama A&M for the courses."

Murray said the A&M ROTC unit competes with Auburn, Alabama, Alabama-Birmingham and North Alabama for cadet candidates.

"We want that same talent that they want," he said. "This is a very rich recruiting location.

"There is opportunity here ... we'll teach 'em, prepare 'em, train 'em"

And, Murray said, the unit can draw students who want to be a part of a 50-year success story.

"We are the second-largest provider of officers to the National Guard in the state," he said. "And we are one of the largest producers of black STEM officers to the Army.

"This program is positioned, along with the university, to live by Alabama A&M's motto: 'Service is Sovereignty.'"



Photo by Bud McLaughlin

The Alabama A&M ROTC program is on the verge of commissioning its 1,000th officer.

Retired officer continues his community service

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The man responsible for the Madison County Military Hall of Heroes website is among the ranks of these valor award recipients. He continues to volunteer to maintain it.

Vietnam veteran Eric Deets serves as biographer for the Hall of Heroes which has records dating from the Civil War through today. His biography is among the 406 on the website and on display in the Madison County Courthouse. Any resident of Madison County who has been awarded a valor medal is eligible for the Hall of Heroes.

Deets, the hall's biographer since 2014, revamped the website and keeps it updated. His other volunteer work includes entering his 10th year as a tax preparer for the Redstone Tax Center and serving as an adviser the past 14 years for the Senior Cadre of Retired Executives which assists small businesses.

"That is a tough one to verbalize," the retired lieutenant colonel said of why he volunteers. "I know one of the reasons is I care about our military families. And the other is I get great satisfaction from volunteering.

"I'm going to keep at it. I don't see any need to stop."

His work with the Madison County Military Heritage Commission includes "The Price of Freedom Project" in local high schools. Hall of Heroes members visit high schools to talk to the seniors about military life and their experiences. ETV Huntsville does video interviews with hall members who are willing to share their stories on camera. Deets has

Vietnam revisited *Part 355 in series*

submitted some of these 30-minute video chats to the Library of Congress.

"The Madison County Military Heritage Commission goes around to all the high schools in Madison County because Vietnam is not taught as part of history, and it surprises the kids," he said. "One of the questions they always ask is 'Were you ever afraid in combat?' And the answer that I think is always given by all of our people is that 'I would never want to go in combat with somebody who is not afraid.' You do not want somebody next to you in combat trying to win a Silver Star."

He encourages all Madison County veterans with a military valor award to submit their information for potential induction into the Hall of Heroes. The website is memhc.us. Six veterans are selected for induction each year. Along with their families, they are honored in a ceremony at the Von Braun Center during Veterans Week in November.

Deets' own story began in Downingtown, Pennsylvania, outside of Philadelphia, where he was one of 10 children. He was in college but he dropped out for a year because of money problems. He was working to go back to school but he got drafted in 1966 at age 19. "Waited too long," he quipped.

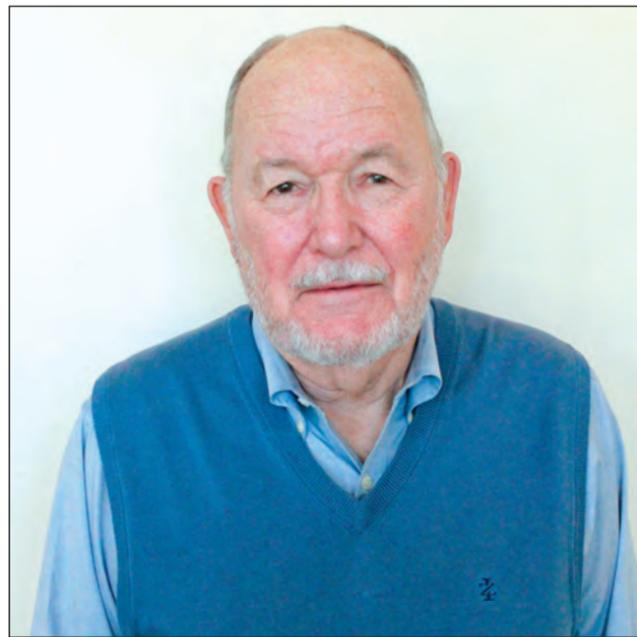


Photo by Skip Vaughn

Eric Deets, who volunteers in the local community, served in Vietnam from 1968-69.

After basic training he went to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, to become a combat engineer. From there he went

See Veteran on page 24

Veteran

Continued from page 24

to Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for Officer Candidate School. The officer became an artillery forward observer. Deets was a 21-year-old first lieutenant when he was assigned to the 1st Infantry Division, the Big Red One, northwest of Saigon from July 1968 to July 1969.

“I always was impressed by the professionalism of the noncommissioned officers,” he said.

On Oct. 5, 1968, he was seriously wounded when his company was ambushed and encircled by a North Vietnamese army battalion. They were surrounded for four straight hours. Eighty percent of the Soldiers in Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, were killed or injured. “I was sure that every second I was going to die,” Deets said. He was medically evacuated. He had six shrapnel wounds and a rocket propelled grenade injury to his head which flipped him over on his back and knocked him unconscious. He recuperated in Japan and returned to Vietnam to join another unit by that December.

Deets received a Purple Heart, a Silver Star, the Air Medal and a Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters. But when he flew back to the United States in July 1969, landing in California, protesters spat at him and yelled at him.

Through 10 years of night school, Deets received a bachelor's in business management from Baylor in 1978 and a master's in industrial engineering from the University of Texas in 2001. He retired as a lieutenant colonel at Fort Sill in 1989 after 23 years of service. Deets became a defense contractor. He worked five years with Magnavox and then 12 years with TRW and Northrop Grumman. Deets, who moved to Huntsville in 2003, retired in 2008 and worked

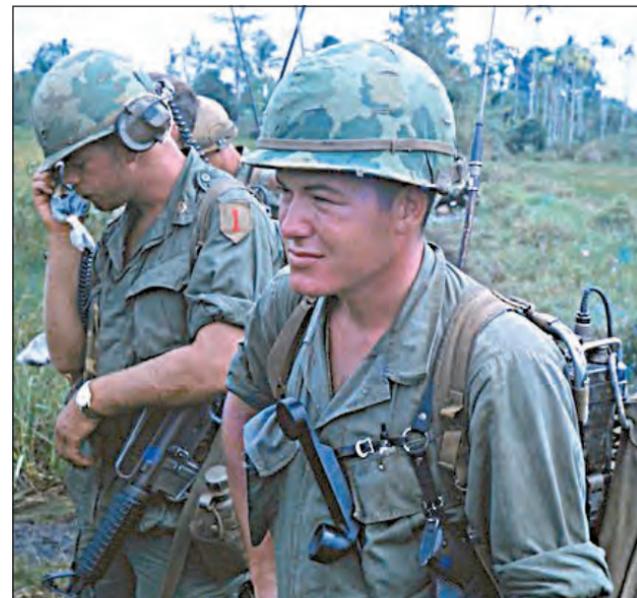


Courtesy photo

Lt. Col. Eric Deets was a member of the 1st Armored Division in 1987.

two years as an independent contractor.

He and his wife of 52 years, Vivian, reside in Huntsville. At 75 he enjoys model railroads, gardening, reading and swimming. He belongs to the Military Officers Association of America, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Vietnam Veterans of America, Senior Cadre of Retired Executives, the Madison County Military Heritage Commission and the Redstone Mod-



Courtesy photo

1st Lt. Eric Deets serves with D Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Big Red One, in Vietnam.

el Railroad Club.

Deets, rated 90% disabled by Veterans Affairs, shared his thoughts on this nation's commemoration of 50 years since the Vietnam War.

“I would say it's late,” he said. “But we appreciate it.”

Editor's note: This is the 355th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

DAU Corner

CONNECT Live!

Thursday, 02/03/2022
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.

DCMA CIG Virtual Office Hours for February

Thursday, 02/03/2022
12:00 P.M. CST

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

In an ongoing effort to streamline the acquisition lifecycle, DAU has partnered with the DCMA Commercial Item Group (CIG) to host a series of virtual Office Hours intended to continue the open dialogue and information exchange between the DoD and Industry. DAU and DCMA hope to promote transparency, dialogue and discussion about commercial acquisition and price reasonableness, with the end goal of improving the overall commercial acquisition environment.

NAVSUP WSS Secrets to Success: Performance Based Logistics 101

Tuesday, 02/08/2022
10:00 A.M. CST

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

This is the first in a series of webinars hosted by U.S. Naval Supply Systems Command Weapon Systems Support. The series is intended to inform federal acquisition, technology, and logistics professionals with a variety of relevant topics on which NAVSUP WSS personnel can provide expert knowledge. The series will be held quarterly on the second Tuesday of the month.

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

February fosters appreciation of black American history

By JO ANITA MILEY

Garrison Public Affairs

Redstone joins the nation in celebrating the history and accomplishments of African American Soldiers and civilians during February in honor of African American/Black History Month. Throughout the month, we'll honor the experience, sacrifice and contributions of black Americans who came before us and who still serve.

The origin of the observance dates back to 1926 when Carter Woodson, historian and founder of the Association of the Study of Negro Life and History, established the first Negro History Week to foster a better understanding of the black American experience and raise awareness on African Americans' contributions to civilization.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford issued the first Black History Month proclamation, calling on the American people to celebrate the event each February. Since then every U.S. president has designated February as Black History Month, a time set aside by law to recognize the contributions of African Americans to our nation.

Each year various Redstone organizations host the Department of Defense ethnic observances to celebrate diversity and inclusion in the workplace. The observances are held at various locations across the installation. In 2020 the observances were moved to a virtual platform due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Master Sgt. Elaina Paxton, equal opportunity adviser and program manager at Army Materiel Command, is responsible for the coordination of ethnic observances on Redstone.

"The success of each special and ethnic observance is directly related to leadership involvement and needs widespread and maximum participation from the Redstone Arsenal team," Paxton said. "The special observances are conducted to recognize the continuous achievements of all Americans to American culture and to increase awareness, mutual respect and understanding. They are designed to enhance cross-cultural and cross-gender awareness and promote harmony among all military members, their families and the DOD civilian workforce."

Two Soldiers explained why they think it is important to celebrate diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Sgt. 1st Class Sanqwey Walker, career counselor at Army Contracting Command, said having the special observances at Redstone increases awareness on diversity and provides more understanding of other cultures. He also discussed the role that African Americans have played in the military.

"Having the observances is important because they increase awareness on diversity and provide more understanding of other cultures," Walker said. "They give people an opportunity to connect culturally which is necessary when working with individuals with different backgrounds."

"African Americans have defended our nation since the Revolutionary War, serving with honor and distinction. They continue to defend and serve our country, to preserve our freedom. As an African American Soldier, I am grateful for the sacrifice of those who served before me and I am honored to continue this legacy."

Staff. Sgt. Bradford Alex, a religious affairs specialist at Army Contracting Command, agreed.

"The observances are important for me as a Soldier. I've only been assigned to Redstone for a short time, but I've served in the Army for 10 years," Alex said. "My past military units have always had the special observances. It's good when you're invited to take a look at other cultures. You can't get this experience in a classroom setting. I look forward to having an opportunity to attend a special observance on Redstone."

"It's crucial to highlight the accomplishments of all people. I think it's good that the Army stands together to celebrate and honor the African American experience and sacrifice. Every year, churches, schools and other organizations across our nation will put a special emphasis on the accomplishments of African Americans during Black History Month – and this is good. However, these efforts are also a part of American history and can't be contained in a single month. It's a continuous discussion."



Courtesy photo

Carter Woodson was a scholar whose dedication to celebrating the historic contributions of black people led to the establishment of Black History Month.

Federal

Solar sail mission to chase tiny asteroid

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Launching with the Artemis I uncrewed test flight, NASA's shoebox-size Near-Earth Asteroid Scout will chase down what will become the smallest asteroid ever to be visited by a spacecraft. It will get there by unfurling a solar sail to harness solar radiation for propulsion, making this the agency's first deep space mission of its kind.

The target is 2020 GE, a near-Earth asteroid that is less than 60 feet in size. Asteroids smaller than 330 feet across have never been explored up close before. The spacecraft will use its science camera to get a closer look, measuring the object's size, shape, rotation, and surface properties while looking for any dust and debris that might surround 2020 GE.

Because the camera has a resolution of less than 4 inches per pixel, the mission's science team will be able to determine whether 2020 GE is solid – like a boulder – or if it's composed of smaller rocks and dust clumped together like some of its larger asteroid cousins, such as Bennu.

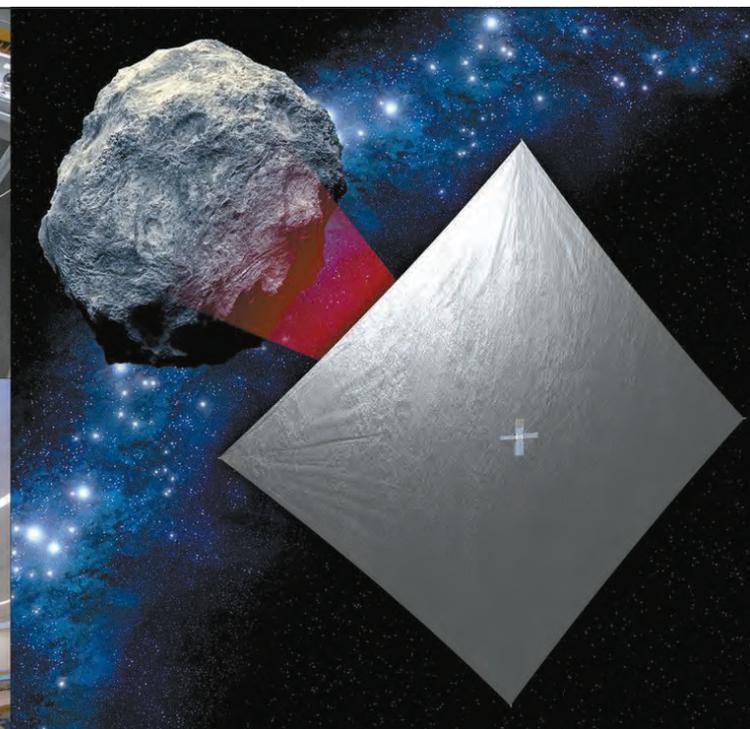
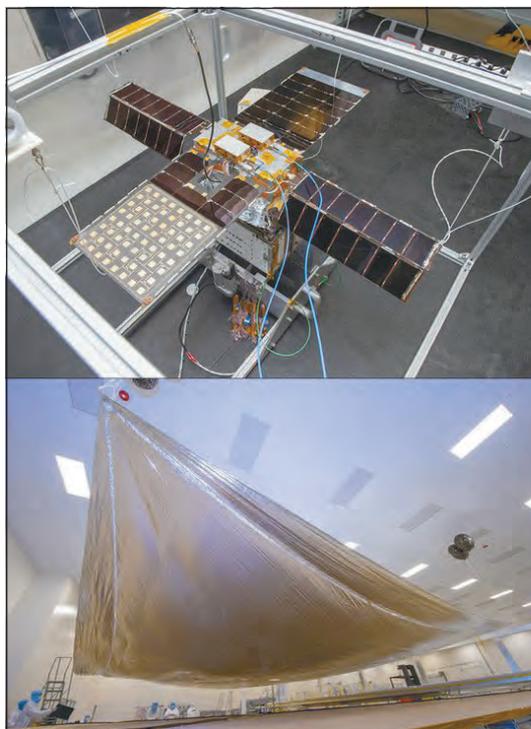
“Thanks to the discoveries of NEAs by Earth-based observatories, several targets had been identified for NEA Scout, all within the 16- to 100-foot size range,” said Julie Castillo-Rogez, the mission's principal science investigator at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. “2020 GE represents a class of asteroid that we currently know very little about.”

2020 GE was first observed on March 12, 2020, by the University of Arizona's Catalina Sky Survey as part of its search for near-Earth objects for NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office.

Developed under NASA's Advanced Exploration Systems Division by Marshall Space Flight Center and JPL, NEA Scout is a science and technology demonstration mission that will enhance the agency's understanding of small near-Earth asteroids. Using a six-unit CubeSat form factor, it will ride as one of 10 secondary payloads aboard the powerful Space Launch System rocket, which will launch no earlier than March at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. NEA Scout will then be deployed from a dispenser attached to the adapter ring that connects the rocket and Orion spacecraft.

The mission will act as a nimble scout for future human and robotic missions that may utilize asteroid resources – and will gain important planetary defense insights about this class of near-Earth asteroid.

“Although large asteroids are of most concern from a planetary defense perspective, objects like 2020 GE are far more common and can pose a hazard to our planet, despite their smaller size,” Castillo-Rogez said. The Chelyabinsk meteor was caused by a small asteroid about 65 feet in diameter – it exploded over the Russian city on Feb. 15, 2013, creating a shockwave that broke windows all over the city and injured more than 1,600



NEA Scout is composed of a small, shoebox-sized CubeSat (top left) and a thin, aluminum-coated solar sail about the size of a racquetball court (bottom left). After the spacecraft launches aboard Artemis I, the sail will use sunlight to propel the CubeSat to a small asteroid (as depicted in an illustration, right).

NASA graphic

people. That was the same class of NEA as 2020 GE.

Learning more about asteroid 2020 GE is only part of NEA Scout's job. It will also demonstrate solar sail technology for deep space encounters. When released from its dispenser after launch, the spacecraft will use stainless steel alloy booms to unfurl a solar sail that will expand from a small package to a sail about the size of a racquetball court, or 925 square feet.

Made from plastic-coated aluminum thinner than a human hair, this lightweight, mirror-like sail will generate thrust by reflecting solar photons – quantum particles of light radiating from the Sun. The sail will provide most of NEA Scout's propulsion, but small cold-gas thrusters with a limited propellant supply will also assist with maneuvers and orientation.

“The genesis of this project was a question: Can we really use a tiny spacecraft to do deep space missions and produce useful science at a low cost?” said Les Johnson, the mission's principal technology investigator at Marshall. “This is a huge challenge. For asteroid characterization missions, there's simply not enough room on a CubeSat for large propulsion systems and the fuel they require.”

Sunlight acts as a constant force, so a tiny spacecraft equipped with a large solar sail can eventually travel many miles per second. Solar sails are a high-perfor-

mance propulsion system for low-mass and low-volume spacecraft, according to Johnson. NEA Scout will maneuver by tipping and tilting its sail to change the angle of sunlight, altering the amount of thrust and direction of travel, similar to how a boat uses the wind to sail.

In September 2023, asteroid 2020 GE will make a close approach with Earth, and with a gravitational assist from the Moon, NEA Scout will have gathered enough speed to catch up. Mission navigators will fine-tune NEA Scout's trajectory before the spacecraft approaches within a mile of the asteroid.

“NEA Scout will accomplish probably the slowest flyby of an asteroid ever – at a relative speed of less than 100 feet per second,” Castillo-Rogez said. “This will give us a few hours to gather invaluable science and allow us to see what asteroids of this class look like up close.”

NEA Scout sets the stage for future solar sails: NASA's Advanced Composite Solar Sail System will demonstrate novel, lightweight booms to deploy a solar sail from a CubeSat following its 2022 launch. After that, Solar Cruiser, an 18,000-square-foot solar sail technology demonstration, will use sunlight to travel toward the Sun in 2025, enabling future missions to better monitor space weather. Johnson is principal investigator for Solar Cruiser.



Space heroes recognized

Jacquelyn Gower left, and William Hause are the latest team members from NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center to be named Space Heroes. Gower interfaces with all of the elements and offices of the Space Launch System Program as a senior-level integration schedule analyst supporting the SLS Program Planning and Control Office. She works diligently to ensure that integrated program schedule analyses are accurate and communicated to senior-level management, and her efforts are crucial to the planning of the Artemis missions. Hause has continually provided tremendous support to the SLS Program Stages Office's Program Planning and Control team as a senior program analyst. Most recently, he played an instrumental role in evaluating the submitted data across multiple cost models of a major contract proposal. He has provided analysis to cross-walk the different models and to organize the data in a manner that was easily communicated to senior-level project management, technical leads, and other programmatic analysts. Each week, the Exploration Systems Development and Space Operations mission directorates recognize Space Heroes, team members from across the agency who have made vital contributions in their support of NASA's mission to land the first woman and first person of color on the Moon.



NASA photo by Charles Beason

Space club address

Jody Singer, director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, discusses the positive, symbiotic relationship between Marshall and North Alabama communities in her keynote address at the National Space Club-Huntsville breakfast Jan. 19 at the Jackson Center. "I appreciate your commitment and tremendous support to move the American space exploration program forward," Singer said. "As we approach the first launch of the Space Launch System on the Artemis I mission, it is only possible because of the hard work and dedication of so many people at Marshall and throughout this community. The Artemis I mission is so important because this will be the first time flying SLS and Orion as an integrated system." When SLS launches for the first time, it will be the most powerful rocket in the world and send Orion thousands of miles beyond the Moon, farther than any spacecraft built for humans has ever flown, over the course of about a three-week mission. The National Space Club-Huntsville is a nonprofit association devoted to excellence in space activity. Through its programs, activities, and awards, the club works to promote space leadership and motivational activities for youth.

NASA conducts first RS-25 engine test of year

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

NASA conducted its first RS-25 engine hot fire test of the new year Jan. 19 on the Fred Haise Test Stand at Stennis Space Center. The test was the second hot fire in the latest series that began in mid-December.

Each test in the series is providing valuable operational data to NASA's lead contractor, Aerojet Rocketdyne, on a variety of new engine components manufactured with state-of-the-art fabrication techniques as the company begins production of new RS-25 engines. These engines will help power the agency's Space Launch System rocket on future deep space missions.

During launch, four RS-25 engines will power the SLS, generating a combined 2 million pounds of thrust during ascent. The RS-25 engines for the first four SLS flights are upgraded space shuttle main engines and have completed certification testing. NASA will use the data from this test to enhance production of new RS-25 engines and components for use on subsequent SLS missions. The testing is part of NASA's and Aerojet Rocketdyne's

effort to use advanced manufacturing methods to significantly reduce the cost and time needed to build new engines.

For the Jan. 19 test, engineers fired the RS-25 developmental engine at power levels ranging from 80% to 111% for a full duration of about 8 1/2 minutes (500 seconds), the same amount of time the engines must fire to help propel SLS to orbit. New hardware tested on the engine includes valves, insulation, rigid and flex ducts, a high-pressure fuel turbopump, a high-pressure oxidizer turbopump, instrumentation, and a POGO accumulator manufactured using selective laser melting.

SLS will be the world's most powerful rocket and the only one capable of sending the agency's Orion spacecraft, astronauts, and supplies to the Moon in a single mission. Initial SLS missions will send Orion to the Moon as part of NASA's Artemis program, including the Artemis I uncrewed test flight this year that will pave the way for future flights with astronauts to explore the lunar surface and prepare for missions to Mars. Artemis missions also will land the first wom-



NASA photo

NASA conducts its first RS-25 engine hot fire test of the new year Jan. 19 on the Fred Haise Test Stand at Stennis Space Center.

an and first person of color on the lunar surface. SLS and Orion, along with the commercial human landing system and the Gateway outpost in orbit around the Moon, are NASA's backbone for deep space exploration.

RS-25 tests at Stennis are conducted by a combined team of NASA, Aerojet Rocketdyne, and Syncom Space Services operators. Syncom Space Services is the prime contractor for Stennis facilities and operations.

Marshall communicator celebrates each step in journey

By DANIEL BOYETTE

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Hiking the Grand Canyon and overseeing a NASA office have more in common than might be expected.

According to June Malone, director of the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications at Marshall Space Flight Center, similarities between the two endeavors include setting a goal and working toward it in small, achievable steps, imagining success and what you'll feel like upon completion, and surrounding yourself with people who can support you in reaching your goal. And while striving to reach a goal, it's important to be in the moment, she said, enjoying and celebrating each step along the way.

An outdoors lover and competitive runner, Malone said hiking into the Grand Canyon to the Colorado River and hiking out the next day was her most challenging athletic undertaking.

"Not only was it physically challenging but it required a considerable amount of emotional energy and centering," she said "There was a lot of self-talk to keep hiking on. Leaving before dawn for our hike out and watching the Sun rise into the canyon was breathtaking. And the most important piece of the adventure was taking it on with my daughter as my hiking partner. It was a priceless and exhilarating experience in so many ways."

Question: How do you encourage teamwork, collaboration, and integration, especially in this unprecedented telework environment?

Malone: Bringing people together who may not have previously been in working groups helps create a sense of why and how they fit beyond the day-to-day routine. Holding mini virtual off-site meetings helps make time for the important work and not just the urgent, and helps us envision our path forward and see how we get there together. I encourage people to work on projects with new and different people as well as stretching into new and different roles, which helps develop the team. We've onboarded people during the pandemic who've never met the team and paired them with other members of the team to help catalyze their knowledge, ability to contribute, integrate within the team, and develop team unity. We place a strong focus on integration and who needs to be included. Working in the virtual environment makes that easier in some ways. I make sure to ask, "Who else needs to be here?" and, "Who would benefit from this conversation?" I try to think beyond the moment or the immediate task at hand of what needs to be accomplished but who could benefit in development through the experience.

Question: How are you managing work-life balance personally and for your team, especially now, more than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic?

Malone: I've never liked the term "work-life balance." For me, it's life balance, and work is an element of my life that needs to be balanced into the whole. My health and overall wellness have always been a priority; walking and exercising continue to be something I make sure to plan into my daily routine. At the start of the pandemic and mandatory telework, it seemed many of us, me included, slipped into 24/7/365 work availability. That simply isn't healthy or sustainable. The unpredictability of duration, the unknown, and the constant ups and downs of the pandemic have made the situation even more challenging. I had a serious self-talk about establishing healthy boundaries for myself and my team. I set a normal cutoff time to end the workday. We identified preferred ways of contact in the event there is a true work emergency, which allows us to put our phones down and turn computers off. Other keys have been communicating up and out to establish norms; encouraging team members to take time off even if it means just enjoying some down time without leaving on a grand vacation; knowing when to say "no" and ask for help; and setting priorities. Just being there for others is huge.

Question: What key partnerships are your team pursuing to help NASA build and develop a sustainable presence on the Moon? Help push the boundaries of science, technology, and/or human exploration?

Malone: It is going to take all of us to return to the Moon and travel on to Mars. Everyone is vital, whether you're helping determine and balance budgets, ensuring the communication infrastructure and security, keeping our facilities maintained, inspiring the nation through telling our story, or building the actual hardware that will take us there or gain new scientific knowledge. The Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications partners with countless organizations – internal and external to the



NASA photo

June Malone, right, director of Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications, hikes the Grand Canyon with her daughter Madison in 2018. Malone noted that her job and the hike have a number of things in common. "Make sure to have the right equipment, whether it's boots or a computer application," she said. "Make it meaningful and stay mindful. Be in the moment."

center - to strengthen our ability to embark on these bold endeavors. This includes our community, industry leaders, academia, NASA Headquarters, key stakeholders, etc. Our office helps integrate strategy and helps bring people together who will enable the agency to accomplish its goals.

Question: How does your team honor and demonstrate NASA's commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive environment?

Malone: I feel it's important to get to know everyone on my team not just for what they do but for who they are; to find out what's important to them. We strive to talk openly about diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility, and have a moment during staff meetings to focus on those topics. When dealing with certain difficult conversations, we seek outside assistance to facilitate discussions that develop greater understanding of one another. We aim for inclusiveness in our teams – we want a diverse group of individuals with different backgrounds and perspectives. When hiring, we consider how new individuals will increase diversity and improve our ability to deliver. We place emphasis on communication to ensure that what we say is reflected in how we bring Marshall to the public.

Question: Why do you think your team is successful at staying mission-focused?

Malone: I believe in empowering people to do what they're good at while stretching them to discover more about themselves, which grows their skills and abilities and strengthens them as people. I also believe in trusting people to do their work and ensuring they have the right resources. This isn't always a financial resource; it can be other individuals who provide support or inform, access to tools, etc. By empowering a team, the group can soar to do great work in support of our mission. I also try to help the team understand how critically linked they are to the mission. I truly believe the work that our office does is exciting – setting the course for the future, helping organizations with the supporting systems and information they need for mission success, inspiring the public, and connecting with key stakeholders to be active supporters for what we do for our nation.

Editor's note: Daniel Boyette, an LSINC employee and the Marshall Star editor, supports Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.

Up to \$1M in prizes offered to feed tomorrow's astronauts

By TAYLOR GOODWIN

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

As NASA prepares to send astronauts further into the cosmos than ever before, the agency aims to upgrade production of a critical fuel source: food. Giving future explorers the technology to produce nutritious, tasty, and satisfying meals on long-duration space missions will give them the energy required to uncover the great unknown.

In coordination with the Canadian Space Agency, NASA is calling on the public to help develop innovative and sustainable food production technologies or systems that require minimal resources and produce minimal waste. Dubbed the Deep Space Food Challenge, the competition calls on teams to design, build, and demonstrate prototypes of food production technologies that provide tangible nutritional products – or food.

Over time, food loses its nutritional value. That means for a multiyear mission to Mars, prepackaged food will not meet all the needs for maintaining astronaut health. Additionally, food insecurity is a significant, chronic problem on Earth in both urban and rural communities. Disasters that disrupt supply chains further aggravate food shortages. Developing compact and innovative advanced food system solutions through initiatives such as the Deep Space Food Challenge could have applications in home and community-based local food production, providing new applications for humanitarian responses to floods and droughts, and new technologies for rapid deployment following disasters.

“Feeding astronauts over long periods within the constraints of space travel will require innovative solutions,” said Jim Reuter, associate administrator for NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate at the agency's headquarters. “Pushing the boundaries of food technology will keep future explorers healthy and could even help feed people here at home.”

In October 2021, Phase 1 of the challenge culminated as NASA awarded 18 teams a total of \$450,000 for their concepts for innovative food production technology that produces safe, acceptable, palatable, nutritious food products that are stable and high quality, while minimizing necessary resource inputs. NASA and the Canadian Space Agency jointly recognized 10 international teams for their winning submissions. NASA's supporting partner of the challenge, the Methuselah Foundation, sponsored two \$25,000 awards to international teams for their outstanding innovation. The Canadian Space Agency awarded 10 teams \$30,000 Canadian dollars each to their winning teams.

NASA now invites both new and existing teams to enter Phase 2, which will require teams to build and demonstrate prototypes of their designs and produce food for judging. Interested participants from the United States can compete in Phase 2 for part of a prize purse up to \$1 million.

“We are excited to continue collaborating with the Canadian Space Agency to conduct the next phase of this challenge and identify solutions from across the globe,” Reuter said.

The Deep Space Food Challenge asks competitors to create a food production technology, system, or approach that could potentially be integrated into a complete



food system to sustain a crew of four on a three-year deep space mission. Everything needed to store, prepare, and deliver food to the crew, including production, processing, transport, consumption, and disposal of waste should be considered. Proposed technologies such as plant growth systems, manufactured food products, and ready-to-eat solutions combined could provide the future crews with a variety of options that would provide the needed daily nutrition.

In Phase 1, NASA's judges grouped U.S. submissions based on the food they envisioned producing. Among the designs were a variety of systems that ranged from complex to very simple. Teams proposed technologies to produce ready-to-eat foods, such as bread, as well as dehydrated powders that could be processed into food products. Other technologies involved cultivated plants and fungi or engineered food, such as cultured meat cells, all of which could be grown or produced by the crew on deep space missions. Details about the winning submissions and teams can be found on the challenge website.

All teams involved in Phase 1 of the challenge met the registration requirements to enter Phase 2. New teams are welcomed and highly encouraged to participate after providing the required registration information, due by Feb. 28. The Canadian Space Agency is hosting a parallel competition with a separate application and judging process, as well as its own prize purse, for participating Canadian teams. Qualifying teams from other countries may compete but will not be eligible for monetary prizes.

The Deep Space Food Challenge is a NASA Centennial Challenge. Centennial Challenges are part of the Prizes, Challenges, and Crowdsourcing program within the Space Technology Mission Directorate and are managed at Marshall Space Flight Center. Subject matter experts at NASA's Johnson Space Center and NASA's Kennedy Space Center support the competition. NASA, in partnership with the Methuselah Foundation, manages the U.S. and international Deep Space Food Challenge competition.

Editor's note: Taylor Goodwin, an LSINC employee, supports Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.

Sports

Liberty team runs past 17U Redstone Rockets

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

The visitors in blue uniforms were like the Energizer Bunny. They kept running and running and running.

Redstone's 17-and-under basketball team couldn't keep pace.

Wesley Heigl scored 15 with three 3-pointers as Liberty beat Redstone 53-26 on Jan. 24 at the Youth Center. The 6-foot-1 small forward also had three rebounds.

"I think we played good. Shoutout to my point guard, Drew Hitchcock, for diming me out," he said. "And shoutout to my big man, Sage Smith, for blocking down the paint for me. I played all right."

Hitchcock had 14 points and six steals for Liberty (6-0). Smith had 12 points and nine rebounds. Brody Mitchell made three assists.

"It's a great group of boys that are having fun doing what they love," Liberty coach Jessica Hitchcock said. "Every one of them is a soccer player, and they run. You can tell every game. They don't get worn out because they're used to the running."

Liberty scored the first 13 points and led 31-14 at halftime.

Jordan Tims had 17 points, four rebounds and three steals for the host Rockets (1-3).

"We mentally weren't ready," Redstone coach Marcus Tolbert said. "We got smacked in the mouth and never recovered. Our younger kids on the team don't understand helping your guard. The four and five positions I expected more (from) but they crashed the boards much better than us."

Alex Williams plays shooting guard and small forward for the Rockets. "We weren't paying attention and our defense was lacking," Williams said.



Redstone's Jordan Tims looks to make a pass around Liberty's Aubrey Tedesco.

Photo by Skip Vaughn



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Wesley Heigl scores 15 points with three 3-pointers and grabs three rebounds for Liberty.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Drew Hitchcock has 14 points and makes six steals for Liberty.

Auburn climbs to No. 1 in basketball

This was a milestone achievement for the Loveliest Village on the Plains.

For the first time in school history, Auburn moved up to No. 1 in the national basketball rankings. My alma mater is officially no longer a so-called football school.

The Tigers advanced from No. 2 after their home win over perennial power Kentucky, 80-71, on Jan. 22. In our next game, we survived a scare at Missouri on Jan. 25 and prevailed 55-54 to improve to 19-1 overall and 8-0 in the Southeastern Conference.

After our disappointing football season, this is great for Auburn Nation. Coach Bruce Pearl has assembled a stellar team and has

From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn
Rocket editor

them playing up to their immense talent.

I remember how we struggled in basketball while I attended Auburn from 1972-76. But we did fill our arena when top teams like Kentucky came to town.

Now we're the team to beat. We're at the top of the heap until somebody can knock us down. Hopefully Auburn will be the last one standing after March Madness.

Your glory days in sports

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

How do you stay in shape?

"I work out seven days a week," Don Johnson, who retired from the Logistics Support Activity in 2014, said. "Monday, Wednesday and Friday I'm here at Pagano Gym. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday I work out at home. And I have one of these elliptical machines at home. And I work out on an empty stomach. I never eat before I work out.

"All total I work out about 12 hours a week. I've been doing this for about 35 years. Being that I'm 65 years old, I feel like maybe I'm 32. Plus I also take a high quality supplement every day. It just makes me feel young when I do this."

Johnson, 65, from Leesville, Louisiana, retired from LOGSA after 27 and a half years as an Army civilian. The former intern worked at the Logistics Support Activity from 1993-2014. He returned to work as a contractor from 2019-20. He and his wife of 34 years, Yvonne, who was also a federal worker, reside in Huntsville. They have four grandchildren. Johnson enjoys working out and watching sports. He roots for the Las Vegas Raiders. Johnson said he has been a Raiders fan "all my life."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Don Johnson uses an elliptical machine at Pagano Gym.

8U Redstone Hawks rebound from loss

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Redstone 8-and-under Hawks coach Richard Pillsbury hoped his team would bounce back from their first loss.

They did.

Lani Odofin and Charles Hunter scored four points apiece as the Hawks beat the American Rockets, 12-4 on Thursday at the Youth Center. Redstone led 4-0 at halftime.

“Coming off a bad loss, we just wanted to make sure that they continued to play hard and weren’t down in the dumps and they obviously weren’t,” Pillsbury said. “But I’m super proud of them for bouncing back.”

Odofin made seven steals for the Hawks (3-1). Hunter had six steals and six rebounds.

“I learned from the game that I lost,” Odofin, who plays guard, said. “And I improved from that game to beat the other team together.”

Redstone rebounded from losing at Metro, 18-4 on Jan. 25.

William Troyer and Carson Wiley had two points apiece for American (1-5). Troyer grabbed eight rebounds while Adam Trenkle had four steals.

“I think we tried our best,” Rockets coach Ashley Haraway said. “And we look forward to coming back out here and trying again.”



Photo by Skip Vaughn

American's William Troyer (10) defends against Redstone's Lani Odofin. Redstone won 12-4 on Thursday at the Youth Center.

By the numbers: My favorite Super Bowl halftime shows

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

1. Prince (2007)
2. Michael Jackson (1993)
3. Jennifer Lopez and Shakira (2020)
4. Beyonce (2013)
5. U2 (2002)
6. Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers (2008)
7. Katy Perry with guests Missy Elliott and Lenny Kravitz (2015)
8. The Who (2010)
9. Paul McCartney (2005)
10. Bruno Mars with guests Red Hot Chili Peppers (2014)
11. Bruce Springsteen and the E-Street Band (2009)

I thought "free room and board" would've been a little fancier!

I would like to point out that the board is solid oak!



Jim BoRoCh
26 Jan 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 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 Brahman 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 war

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.

Vietnam veterans

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

Miscellaneous Items

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

Rocket Announcements

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

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. The deadline to apply is midnight Feb. 27. For information email 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 through 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.

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.

Thrift Shop update

The Redstone Thrift Shop's shopping hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Thursdays from noon to 4 p.m. They are open the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., so they will be open Feb. 5. Consignment hours are Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and Thursdays from noon to 2 p.m. The shop always needs volunteers. For information call 881-6992.

Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department has released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for Jan. 18-21. The highest scores included Vision Huntsville LLC, 313 Clinton Ave. SW, 100; Publix Super Market 1190 (Retail), 12290 Highway 231/431 North, Meridianville, 100; 2 Men in a Kitchen LLC, 7000 Adventist Boulevard, 100; Jose Salas de Leon doing business as Taqueria, 2827 Highway 72 East, 100; 5A's Restaurant, 6297 Highway 53 North, Harvest, 100; AFC Sushi at Publix 1126, 2246 Winchester Road NE, 100; Publix Super Market 1190 (Produce), 12290 Highway 231/431 North, Meridianville, 100; Jacked Up Coffee, 14067 Highway 231/431, Hazel Green, 100; and HH Governors Nutrition, 2308 Governors Drive SW, 100. The lowest scores included BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, 401 The Bridge Street, 88; and Four Points Hotel-The Grille, 1000 Glenn Hearn Boulevard, 86.