

De Fatta becomes SMDC deputy to the commander

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command
Public Affairs

The Space and Missile Defense Command's most senior civilian leader is ready to secure the high ground.

Richard De Fatta was officially named as the SMDC deputy to the commander Friday. In this role, he provides leadership for Army space and missile defense programs, acquisition, personnel and resource management. He is one of only two three-star equivalent civilians on Redstone Arsenal.

De Fatta thanked Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, SMDC commander, for his trust and said he was excited and honored to continue to serve the command.

"I've experienced the command's accomplishments from all levels – from leading the Kwajalein Missile Range team through high operational tempo missile defense testing, managing the development of critical technologies in the SMDC Technical Center, and shepherding capability development activities to transform Army space for multi-domain operations," De Fatta said. "As deputy to the commander, I will be able to concentrate on enabling the SMDC team's continued success across the entire command."

De Fatta previously served as the director of the Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence. In this position, he outlined general program policy to support the SMD CoE primary roles in bringing space and missile defense capabilities and concepts to the warfighter.

His primary role in this new position will be to ensure the command understands and executes the commanding general's priorities as the Army Service Component Command for U.S. Space Command and U.S. Strategic Command while directly supporting U.S. Northern Command's missile defense mission.

"I will concentrate on the business operations of the command, staff and major subordinate elements, which will enable success for our operational formations performing their no-fail 24/7 missions all around the world," De Fatta said. "Integration of ongoing efforts both inside the command and across ex-



Photo by Carrie David Campbell

Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, commander of Space and Missile Defense Command, administers the oath of office to Richard De Fatta, SMDC's new deputy to the commander, during his promotion Friday. De Fatta's wife, Michelle, stands next to him. De Fatta most recently served as the command's Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence director.

ternal commands will be a major focus for me."

De Fatta is a 1978 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy. He retired as a colonel in 2005. He then spent more than seven years in senior contractor positions providing systems engineering, integration, test, program management, and technical support to Department of Defense programs responsible for the development, production and fielding of missile defense weapon systems.

De Fatta was appointed to the senior executive service on Aug. 12, 2013. Since then he has served as acting director, SMDC Future Warfare Center; director, Capability Development and Integration; acting director, SMDC Technical Center; director, Air and Missile Defense.

"I feel like I've been preparing for this role my entire career," De Fatta said. "In the military I specialized in technology

development, and acquisition, management, and testing of air and missile defense programs, including a passion for directed energy technology development and fielding."

While serving in the civilian sector De Fatta provided direct support to SMDC and the air and missile defense enterprise with technical, analytical and management expertise.

"I could not resist the opportunity to rejoin the SMDC team as the Emerging Technology director responsible for developing directed energy and air and missile defense enabling technologies back in 2013," he said. "Transforming the Future Warfare Center into a full-function center of excellence for space, high altitude and strategic missile defense has been highly rewarding and necessary, especially as space moves into mainstream Army formations

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MILITARY

Huntsville Havoc hockey team shows appreciation to military.

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COMMUNITY

Brotherhood of veterans leads to kidney donation.

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FEDERAL

Marshall ex-headquarters prepped for demolition.

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SPORTS

Aquatics Center reopens in April.

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RocketViews

Letter to the editor: Fitness center after-hours

The after-hours access at Col Scott Fitness Center is currently down. The computer system that operates the door as well as holds the data for the after-hours access has crashed. We also want the community to be aware this is not related to the surveillance system. As with any IT related equipment, there are processes in place that must be followed before equipment can be purchased. All paperwork has been filed. As soon as we obtain approval and can procure a new system and have it installed, we will be back in operation.

We have been very excited to afford this additional service to the community and hope to be able to again soon. While we do not have an exact timeline, we hope to be back up in the next 30-45 days. We do not have additional resources to offer extended hours. We are open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can also visit us at Pagano Gym Monday through Thursday from 5 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Friday from 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

We appreciate your patience and support.

Gaylene Wilson
Chief, MWR
Recreation Division

Quote of the week

“**K**now what sparks the light in you so that you, in your own way, can illuminate the world.”
— Oprah Winfrey

Send your letters to editor

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

Wayward delivery leaves sour taste for consumer

A couple of weeks ago I placed an order from Lexcorp, I mean Amazon, for three gallons of lemon juice.

Don't worry about why I need three gallons of lemons juice, it's not like it's uranium and it's not important to this story.

On March 15 I was sitting in my office and all of a sudden I remembered that I had ordered three gallons of lemon juice and decided to check on its progress. According to the Amazon app, FedEx said it would deliver the package on March 16.

As far as I was concerned, March 16 was a perfectly appropriate and acceptable day to take delivery of my three gallons of lemon juice. I made a mental note.

Unfortunately, like most mental notes, it got lost and I didn't remember the pending delivery until Thursday. Knowing that I did not receive the package on Wednesday, I checked the app to see if it had been delayed. To my surprise, the app said it had, in fact, been delivered on Wednesday.

As I sat with this information and wrestled with the fact that the Lexcorp app had just called me a liar – which is a bit ironic since I'm not sure it has any moral high ground given that its owner wants to kill Superman – the first image that popped in my mind was some porch pirate running around with an incredibly unwieldy and heavy package. The marauder probably thought he had something good, given its heft, and I took a bit of enjoyment from imagining his face when he opened it and realized the only use his plunder would have for a pirate is preventing scurvy.

I wasted no time contacting the seller and letting them know that the package did not arrive. I thought I had written a polite and detailed message conveying my predicament in a way that said “while I'm not shaking-mad, this is a problem we need to fix.”

It is just lemon juice, after all.

Fast-forward to later that night. I'm lying on my couch watching old episodes of Master Chef listening to Gordon Ramsey, et. al., evis-

Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson
Assistant editor

cerate these poor people who all they wanted to do was cook something good for their kids, family, etc., while eating some leftovers, and I see a vehicle stop in front of my house.

My first thought, and this is almost always my first thought when someone as much as drives slowly in front of my house – and I don't know why this is where my mind goes – but I think to myself: “Who has come to challenge me in a battle to the death?”

I mean, I don't know if it's just something happens when you get older. I never thought I'd be the old guy sitting on a front porch yelling at kids to get off his lawn, but I mean, a toddler ran into our yard the other day and I was like “Welp, guess I gotta go handle my business.”

Anyway, there I was watching this vehicle that I had stopped in my front yard. A guy gets out and goes around back. It's dark and rainy so I can't tell if it's a mail jeep or just a jeep. Then another car passes by on the other side and its headlights reflect of the side of the jeep in front of my house and I can see that it is a postal worker. The way he's lumbering up the driveway tells me he's carrying three gallons of lemon juice.

Here's what happened. Some store paid FedEx to deliver a product to me, then FedEx decided they did not want to deliver said product, so they paid the United States Postal Service to bring it to my house.

Now, FedEx shipped the package all the way to Huntsville and delivered to the post office in Huntsville. That's what the tracking ticket says. Does that mean it's cheaper for FedEx to be a middle man than it is for them to be a primary service provider? And, if that's the case, that could be a problem.

RedstoneRocket

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First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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What is your favorite classic rock group?

“I’d say Bon Jovi,” Police Lt. Daryl Owens, patrol supervisor with NASA Security Police, said. “The two songs that stick out in my head are ‘Wanted Dead Or Alive’ and ‘Blaze of Glory.’ What I like about those songs was when we were in Afghanistan it just motivated everybody in the vehicle there. We went out six days a week on route clearance. We had other songs. It was just those two songs in that vehicle, and I play them to this day. Of course the movies Young Guns 1 and 2 really gravitated me to Bon Jovi. Those songs brought us together in the military in a combat zone. That’s the truth. We had five people in that truck. We used a CD player and plugged it into the speakers of the up-armored.”

Owens, 56, is a Huntsville native who was born at Fox Army Hospital on Redstone Arsenal in 1965. He served in the Army from 1983-2012 and retired as a master sergeant after 29 years. He and his wife of 19 years, Jennifer, reside in Huntsville. They have two daughters and a son and four grandchildren – two girls and two boys. Owens’ hobbies include watching football, watching the Atlanta Braves, recreational shooting, fishing and playing with his grandchildren. He roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Daryl Owens

Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Why you joined the Army.

“I joined the Army to better myself,” Spc. Nya Hamilton, human resource specialist for Headquarters & Headquarters Company, Aviation and Missile Command, said. “I joined in February of 2020. It has instilled discipline in me. It has molded a better attitude for myself. It has helped me build stability for me and my son. I plan to do the full 20 (years). I hope to earn my bachelor’s in psychology.”

Hamilton, 23, from Wilmington, North Carolina, arrived at Redstone in December 2020 from Camp Casey, South Korea. The human resource specialist was in Korea from June-December 2020. She and her son, Lyfe, 10 months, reside on post. Hamilton said she likes to cook, dance, do extracurricular activities such as volunteering, and she likes to paint on canvas. She also likes rhythm and blues music.



Spc. Nya Hamilton

Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Name: Raina Verser

Position: Army Community Service volunteer serving as welcome center receptionist

What did you want to be when you grew up?

When I was little, I really wanted to be an engineer at Disney World. But now I want to be a professor. I graduated from the University of Montevallo with a bachelor of fine arts in communication studies in December of 2021.

What do you hope to accomplish in 2022?

I came to volunteer here because I want to do my part to help the Arsenal. And I’m going to grad school in the fall. I’m going to start my master’s degree. I hope to one day get a doctorate in communication studies but right now I’m working on my master’s.

What is the best part about your job?

So far I really enjoy getting to help people find resources that they need. It’s my first day (March 15).

Who is your hero, and why?

Probably my parents. I really look up



to them. They’ve supported me and I think that they’re very strong people and I love them very much.

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

I still love Disney so probably just walk around behind the scenes – for free.

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

“Reach for the moon. Even if you miss, you’ll land amongst the stars.” I’m not sure who it’s from.

What do you like to do to pass the time?

I love writing poetry. I love reading. And I like listening to music.

On this date in history: March 23

In 2020: Prime Minister Boris Johnson put the United Kingdom into its first national lockdown in response to COVID-19.

In 1983: With the Strategic Defense Initiative, President Ronald Reagan made his initial proposal to develop technology to intercept enemy missiles.

In 1965: NASA launched Gemini 3, the United States’ first two-man space flight (crew: Gus Grissom and John Young).

In 1913: A tornado outbreak killed more than 240 people in the central United States, while an ongoing flood in the Ohio River watershed was killing 650 people.

In 1775: Patrick Henry delivered his speech – “Give me liberty, or give me death!” – at St. John’s Episcopal Church, Richmond, Virginia.

Know your laws: Intellectual property protection

By ANN DENNEN

Huntsville lawyer

Proprietary software is often a company's most valuable intellectual property asset. It gives the company a competitive edge through points of application. Such software can be licensed to other users by the owning company or provide services to customers for the company's own internal operations.

Without legal protection, a company's proprietary software is subject to loss. Different intellectual property vehicles may be utilized simultaneously to ensure adequate protection, which include IP laws on copyrights, patents and trade secrets; contract provisions such as use restrictions and confidentiality obligations; non-IP statutes; and common law tort claims, such as trespass to chattels.

When determining what form of protection to use, a company's counsel may consider the following:

- Nature of the software
- Function of the software
- How the software is used
- The scope, length and strength of the contemplated form of IP protection
- How one form of protection may affect a different form of protection
- Difficulty and expense involved in the contemplated form of protection.

The U.S. Copyright Act states that a computer program is, "a set of statements or instructions to be used directly or indirectly in a computer in order to bring about a certain result." The computer program instructions can be fixed in any electronic, print or other medium. Typically, a computer program comprises source code and machine-readable object code. The company can also seek copyright protection on non-literal elements, such as the computer code's user interface. Often, such non-literal elements may be more valuable

than the code itself.

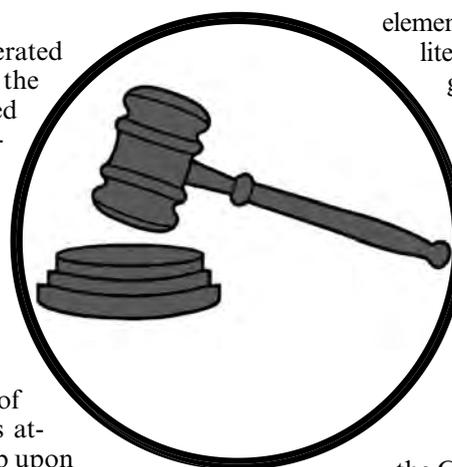
Note that the computer-generated output, as a non-literal element of the computer program, may be protected by copyright, trade dress (appearance), trademark or design patents. Similarly, automated databases (facts, data, images, music, videos or other information assembled into an organized format that can be accessed by a retrieval program or system) may be protected by copyright laws.

Copyright law is a favored form of software IP protection. Copyrights attach to original works of authorship upon fixation in a tangible medium of expression. Literary, musical, pictorial, graphic, dramatic and audiovisual works are examples of works that are protectable via copyright. Compilations of copyrightable or non-copyrightable works are also protectable by copyright, as well as derivative works of, or based on, and of the foregoing.

Software source code and object code are copyrightable as literary works, assuming that source code and object code are fixed in a tangible medium. Source code may be fixed in print, in a computer hard drive, or within another electronic, magnetic or optical medium.

Copyrighting source code and object code is difficult because of the need to predetermine which computer program features are eligible for copyright protection. The Copyright Act expressly excludes from protection ideas, processes, systems, and methods of operation, even if they are described, illustrated, or embodied in an otherwise copyrightable work.

Unlike computer-generated output and user interfaces, source codes and object codes are considered non-literal



elements of copyrightable works. Other non-literal elements include: the computer program as a whole; modules, subroutines and macros; module substructure; control flow; files; and data flow.

To determine whether a computer program and its elements can be copyrighted, there are tests applied by courts. There is the abstraction-filtration-comparison test, the method of operation test, and the inherent necessity test. Details of these tests are beyond inclusion in this article.

When filing for copyright protection, the Copyright Office's registration requirements permit the application to include the following:

The first and last 25 pages of the source code, with portions containing trade secrets blocked out

The first and last 10 pages of the source code alone, with not blocked out portions

The first and last 25 pages of object code plus any 10 or more consecutive pages of source code, with portions not blocked out

For programs of 50 pages or less in length, the entire source code with trade secret portions blocked out.

In the next article we will discuss protection of computer programs by copyright more thoroughly.

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

Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense Department websites

Contract award announcements

Leidos Inc., Reston, Virginia, was awarded an \$11,000,000 modification to contract W58RGZ-20-C-0024 to support continued system operations and sustainment, test and training services. Work will be performed in Reston and Bridgewater, Virginia, with an estimated completion date of March 16, 2024. Fiscal 2022 operation and maintenance, Army funds in the amount of \$11,000,000 were obligated at the time of the award. Army Contracting Command, Redstone is the contract-

ing activity.

Ukrainians united in resistance

The Ukrainian fight against Russia's invasion of their country is truly a national effort, Pentagon Press Secretary John F. Kirby said March 11.

The free world has been amazed at Ukrainian resistance to Russian President Vladimir Putin's "war of choice." Ukrainian armed forces have demonstrated great tactical proficiency in confronting the much larger foe.

"They're fighting skillfully, bravely, quite creatively," Kirby said. "And the fighting isn't just by the armed forces."

He said that average citizens – out-

raged by the Russian attack – received weapons from the government and learned to use them.

It's unclear if areas of Ukraine now occupied by the Russian military are seeing some guerilla warfare emerge, but there are videos of Ukrainians confronting Russian tanks.

"Some of the resistance has been non-violent – with crowds of Ukrainians blocking city streets and actually stopping in their tracks some Russian units," Kirby said. "So, the resistance resides on many levels, and it's quite inspiring. ... They are resisting; they are defending, and we are going to continue to look for ways to help them do that better

going forward."

Responding to a question about whether the Russians are treating captured Ukrainian service members as prisoners of war, Kirby said he didn't have information on how captured Ukrainians or captured Russians are being treated. "But our expectation would be that that both parties would abide by Geneva Convention requirements and treat any soldiers that are captured humanely and in accordance with the rule of (war)," he said. "That would be, that would be the United States' expectation, as well as (that of) so many other nations."

Military

Huntsville Havoc hockey team salutes military

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command

A sellout crowd of more than 6,000 screaming fans showed their support Saturday for local service members, veterans and military spouses during a night honoring America's men and women in uniform.

The Huntsville Havoc professional hockey team hosted the Peoria Rivermen during Military Appreciation Night at the Von Braun Center. The evening included Soldiers rappelling from the ceiling, a future Soldier enlistment ceremony and a postgame jersey auction, featuring the jerseys worn by the Havoc players that night.

Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, commander of Space and Missile Defense Command, dropped the ceremonial pregame puck and thanked Still Serving Veterans local chapter for sponsoring the event.

"This is a great experience to be able to, once again, see the strong ties between the Huntsville community and its military, and to be able to do it at such a fun and exciting venue, like a Huntsville Havoc game, is incredible," Karbler said. "This is a fantastic opportunity for Huntsville and all of our military community, whether they are active duty, retirees or family members to showcase our relationship.

"Right now we are leading 3-1, so I hope the Havoc can wreak havoc on Peoria."

After the first period, Karbler swore in 11 future Marines and five future Soldiers from the local community as they prepare to enter basic training.

"I've been able to do this a few times in different sports venues, and every time I really have to watch myself to not get choked-up because I am so proud of these young men and women who are taking the steps to serve their country," Karbler said. "I know the sacrifices that lay ahead of them and it makes me very proud to know that there are men and women who will serve after our time and continue the great legacy of military service."

Still Serving Veterans, the lead sponsor of the event, works to empower veterans, wounded warriors and their families to transition into post-military careers and communities through outreach and education. Since its inception in 2006, the organization has assisted more than 12,000 veterans and their families.

"Huntsville is an incredibly generous, military-friendly community and Still Serving Veterans is honored to be a partner with the Huntsville Havoc in serving and honoring our veterans, service members and members of the Guard and Reserves and their families," retired Maj. Gen. Paulette Risher, Still Serving Veterans president and chief executive officer, said. "The Huntsville Havoc Military Appreciation Night is a wonderful celebration and outpouring of military goodwill and caring. Also, the evening is just plain fun and a welcome relief from the challenges of the world."

Risher said Still Serving Veterans was established 16 years ago to help severely wounded warriors from Iraq and Afghanistan. Still Serving Veterans helps local veterans with basic life needs when they are in crisis. In terms of impact, in 2021 the organization helped more



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, commander of Space and Missile Defense Command, drops the ceremonial pregame puck Saturday during Military Appreciation Night at the Von Braun Center. The Huntsville Havoc beat the Peoria Rivermen, 3-2.

than 1,050 veterans find jobs, secured more than \$3.2 million in Veterans Affairs' benefits for their clients and helped nearly 100 veterans with basic services.

"As the Department of Defense began to catch up with the demand for care, it became clear that local veterans needed assistance with employment and VA benefits," Risher said. "None of this would be possible without the trust of our clients and the generosity of our granters, donors and collaborators."

During the postgame jersey auction, Still Serving Veterans raised \$28,750 for veterans.

Cassie Chapman, Huntsville Havoc vice president of operations, said Military Appreciation Night is a way the team can thank the military community at Redstone Arsenal and local National Guard and Reserve units who stand ready to face whatever challenges may arise.

"Each year we support Still Serving Veterans and their mission to serve and honor veterans and their families," Chapman said. "The community of Huntsville is extremely important in the success of the Huntsville Havoc organization, so being able to give back to the Huntsville military community through Still Serving Veterans is an honor for us.

"Military Appreciation Night is always one to re-

member. From the arena atmosphere to the physicality of the game and celebrating those who are serving or have served, it's always a night that people tend not to forget. It also gives fans of the Havoc a chance to contribute to Huntsville's military community and own a piece of Havoc history by participating in the postgame jersey auction, where all proceeds go to Still Serving Veterans."

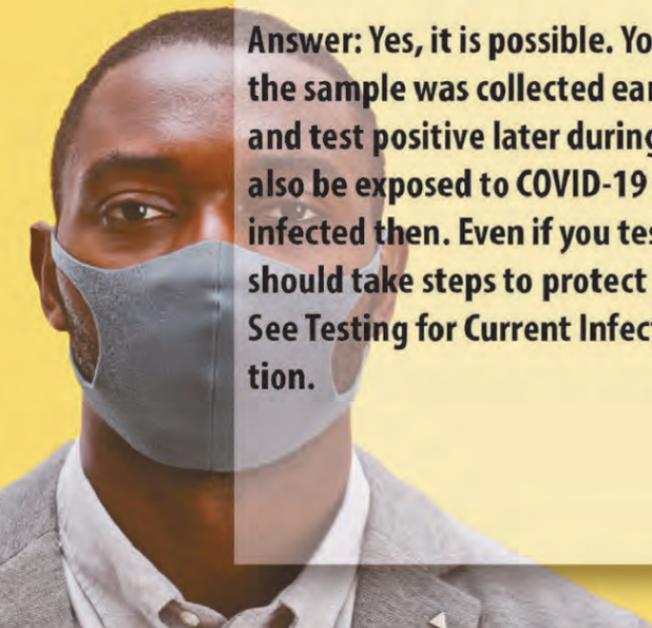
Chapman thanked veterans for their service and everything they have done for the country, the Madison County community, and the Huntsville Havoc organization. She added that Military Night means so much to this organization and hopes the night can help the community continue to carry out the mission of Still Serving Veterans.

"This night is one of our organization's favorite nights of the year, because we get to show our full appreciation for all aspects of our country's military," Chapman said. "This night allows so many people from many different backgrounds to come together and enjoy a thrilling night of hockey while celebrating everything that members of our nation's military have done to ensure our freedom. From the Huntsville Havoc family to you, we can't thank you enough."

The Havoc beat the Rivermen 3-2.

COVID-19 FAQs

Can someone test negative and later test positive on a viral test for COVID-19?



Answer: Yes, it is possible. You may test negative if the sample was collected early in your infection and test positive later during this illness. You could also be exposed to COVID-19 after the test and get infected then. Even if you test negative, you still should take steps to protect yourself and others. See [Testing for Current Infection](#) for more information.

– CDC

Deputy

Continued from page **1**

supporting multi-domain operations and beyond.”

De Fatta, who said he takes the role of senior civilian in the command very seriously, said a people-first approach ensures the commander’s intent is met and will enable the command team to continue to excel.

“Our commander is laser-focused on the health, safety and welfare of our entire team – Soldiers, civilians, and supporting contractors,” he said. “I will always be available to leverage my military, contractor and Army civilian experience to support the team’s needs, provide mentorship opportunities, and encourage and enable professional and personal development.

“Our people are our most precious

resource, and a primary role will be to ensure that we are not only able to meet the command’s diversity and inclusion objectives, but also derive the full benefit from that diverse and highly talented team.”

De Fatta said he will fully support the SMDC commander’s priorities and intent and enable success for the fantastic and talented team of Soldiers, civilians and contractors who perform complex operational missions, technology development and testing, and capability development within the Army enterprise and across the joint force.

“I will look to integrate efforts across the command to the greatest extent possible, shepherd our limited personnel and fiscal resources, and provide for the health, safety, and welfare of the entire extended Space and Missile Defense family,” he said. “My door will always be open.”

Space tracking satellites retire after 12 years

By Missile Defense Agency Public Affairs

The Missile Defense Agency retired two Space Tracking and Surveillance System demonstration satellites on March 8, ending an extraordinarily successful experiment that demonstrated that a space layer can significantly enhance the Missile Defense System.

On Sept. 25, 2009, from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, MDA, NASA and the Air Force launched the STSS demonstration space vehicles into space aboard a single Delta II rocket. The STSS satellites were the agency's first attempt at exploring new ways to track threat missiles, and were originally expected to work for only four years. These two experimental satellites ended up spending more than 12 years in space gathering data used to inform future Missile Defense Space Layer contributions to the MDS in defeating ballistic missiles, and most recently were leveraged to define the challenges to defeat emerging hypersonic weapons threats for the MDA Hypersonic and Ballistic Tracking Space Sensor program.

"Data gathered by STSS directly influenced the design of HBTSS and other MDA space systems," MDA Director Vice Adm. Jon Hill said. "We've been able to use it eight years longer than planned, with a tremendous return on the initial investment."

The two STSS satellites circled the Earth 12 times a day from their Low Earth Orbit at an altitude of 1,350 kilometers. Electronically linked to each other, their infrared sensors gathered and downloaded data for analysis more than 50,000 times. They took part in 129 separate MDA test events, performed birth-to-death tracking of a variety of missiles, demonstrated the tracking of multiple targets simultaneously, linked sat-

ellites to extend system coverage, discriminated between lethal and non-lethal objects and sent and received information from other missile defense system elements. In 2013, STSS demonstrated launch-on remote capability when it provided tracking data that enabled the first Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense remote engagement leading to a successful target intercept. In addition to tracking U.S. missile tests, STSS gathered data on targets of opportunity from other sources and handed off track data to warfighters, engineers and scientists connected through MDA's Command and Control, Battle Management and Communications system.

In 2018, MDA utilized the STSS satellite demonstrators to inform the HBTSS program to address the requirement to detect and track hypersonic threats as well as ballistic missiles. The HBTSS prototypes will demonstrate the utility of the sensors capability for future inclusion as part of the Unified Overhead Persistent Infrared Enterprise Architecture to detect hypersonic, ballistic and other advanced threats much sooner than terrestrial radars. The key feature of HBTSS for missile defense is the ability to collect and transmit fire-control quality data to defeat any hypersonic and ballistic missile threats. In 2023, MDA will begin an on-orbit demonstration with two HBTSS prototype space vehicles.

"Space is a critical domain for addressing rapidly-advancing missile threats," Walter Chai, MDA director of space sensors and the agency's Missile Defense Integration and Operations Center, said. "Space-based sensors can detect and track hypersonic, ballistic and other advanced threats that may not be possible by terrestrial radars that are limited by line of sight and the curvature of the Earth."

STSS traces its heritage to an April 2002 Air Force

"Data gathered by STSS directly influenced the design of HBTSS and other MDA space systems. We've been able to use it eight years longer than planned, with a tremendous return on the initial investment."

Vice Adm. Jon Hill
MDA Director

contract awarded to Northrop Grumman to complete development and test, launch, and operate two Low Flight Demonstration System space vehicles, along with a ground segment at the Missile Defense Space Center, now the Schriever Space Force Base, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Space and Missile Systems Center, now the U.S. Space Force Space Systems Command at Los Angeles Space Force Station, California, served as the STSS program office from 2002 to 2011 when the program transitioned to MDA. Since then, a joint government and Northrop Grumman contractor team operated STSS from the MDSC ground station, part of the MDA MDIOC.

STSS ended its data-collection mission on August 1, 2021, and its payload operations on Sept. 30, 2021. MDA safely passivated the two space vehicles on-orbit and moved them to orbits designed to prevent collisions with other space objects. They will safely remain there for over 6,000 years.

DAU Corner

CONNECT Live!

Thursday, 03/24/2022
10:30 A.M. CST

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

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

COR Office Hours

Tuesday, 03/29/2022
10:45 A.M. CST

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

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

OTA Today: Consortia 201

Wednesday, 03/30/2022
11:00 A.M. CST

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

Join us for DAU's next monthly OTA Today webinar series: Consortia 102. We have five expert panelists who will guide us through the fundamentals of a consortium, how it works, best practices, key applications, and more! We will also have a Q&A session following the discussion.

CONNECT Live!

Thursday, 03/31/2022
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.

Photo Booth By Skip Vaughn

What is your favorite pastime?



“Going to sporting events. I enjoy going to hockey, football, basketball and baseball. Those are the main four. I started as a kid going with my dad to these events. I went to a season-ending NFL game between the Redskins and the Giants in the early 2000s.” – **Mike Randolph**, ePrisms team lead for Vanjoh Graphics in support of the Garrison’s Directorate of Public Works master planning

Field artillery chapter launches scholarship offer

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

rebecca.sallee@theredstonerocket.com

If you have ties to the Army's field artillery and plans to go to college, you may be eligible for a scholarship from a local organization.

The North Alabama Chapter of the United States Field Artillery Association has put out a call for entries in a scholarship program that will award up to six scholarships of up to \$1,500 locally.

The one-year scholarships will be awarded based on current grades (20 points), school and community activities and awards (20 points), and a brief essay (60 points).

The selection/evaluation committee will be comprised of four members of the local organization, including two officers and two members, who will judge entries in a "blind evaluation" of each application packet and rank them by score.

Entrants have a choice of the following three essay topics:

- Character. Tell a story from your life, describing an experience that either demonstrates your character or

helped to shape it.

- Current events. Discuss the United States' historical relationship with Russia and what you believe the best approach would be to improve relations between the two countries and avoid a military confrontation.

- Field artillery. Discuss the role of field artillery in the Civil War battle of Gettysburg, including key impacts or turning points that affected the outcome of the battle. Develop conclusions on potential improvements or changes that may have changed the outcome of the battle.

Essays must be from 1,000 to 1,250 words and will be judged on grammar, punctuation and spelling, and content and structure.

Eligible applicants include high school seniors or college freshmen with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher who are family members of active duty or reserve component service members, field artillery veterans or USFAA/NAFAA members, and those with close ties to the association through active members or work in a related field.

The deadline for submissions is midnight on April 17.

For complete submission details or an application, email nafieldartilleryscholarship@gmail.com.



NORTH ALABAMA
CHAPTER OF THE U.S.
FIELD ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Walter Saunders

Marksmanship competition

Members of the Security Assistance Training Management Organization, Gold Team, compete in the 2022 Army Small Arms Championships held at Fort Benning, Ga. They shot 29th out of 42 in Match 10T. Sgt. 1st Class Tyler Price, Army Materiel Command's 2021 NCO of the Year, shot 14th out of 91 in Match 11 and 20th out of 80 in Match 7.

Community

Brotherhood of veterans leads to kidney donation



Photo by Erin Elise

Gordon Keene met Redstone gate guard Eric Poole about 10 years ago. Poole has volunteered to give Keene a kidney.

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

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A 78-year-old Army veteran in the fight of his life has been offered help from a younger brother in arms he met at one of the gates coming into Redstone Arsenal.

Gordon Keene of Huntsville, who lost one kidney to cancer over 10 years ago, now has stage four kidney disease in his right kidney and needs a transplant as soon as possible.

Eric Poole of Madison, 37, has offered to be the donor.

The two met around 10 years ago when Keene, a retired sergeant first class and former youth sports director and logistician on post, was entering the Arsenal via a gate and noticed the last name tag on the guard's uniform: Poole.

Small world. Decades earlier, Keene was stationed at an ordnance unit with the young man's uncle, Kim Poole.

The two became friendly at the gate, exchanging small bits of news when they saw each other.

Keene, whose left kidney was removed in 2010, learned a few months ago that his right kidney was failing.

Keene's wife Irma, who had also become friendly with Poole at the gate, mentioned to him that her husband was in the market for a new kidney.

Poole immediately offered to be the donor.

"I didn't hesitate," said Poole, who served as an infantryman and in supplies during his 12 years in the Army, until he was medically discharged in 2017. "I said, 'if he needs one (a kidney), I'd be more than happy to do it.'"

Poole has O-negative blood and is considered a universal donor. The two have yet to undergo antibody testing for the surgery which will take place at the University of Alabama in Birmingham if the pretesting all goes according to plan.

Both men will need to return to Birmingham weekly, Poole for about six to seven months and Keene for a year, after the transplant.

Poole will use his own personal leave along with leave that is donated by other Arsenal employees who decide

to get involved.

Keene has also established the "Gordon D. Keene Kidney Transplant Fund" at Redstone Federal Credit Union and said any donations that are received will offset the cost of Poole's time off work and travel, lodging and meal costs for both men.

Poole, a veteran of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who calls Keene by the nickname "Sarge," has several reasons for donating his kidney. At the top of his list is the brotherhood and shared experience of being a Soldier.

"He's a Vietnam veteran," Poole said. "I've got a lot of respect for those guys."

Keene, who has four children and seven grandchildren, looks forward to feeling better. Due to his condition, "I'm always cold. I'm always tired," he said.

Poole, a history buff and Alabama football fan who enjoys looking for artifacts and relics, has had multiple ankle surgeries and said he has "no quarrels" with another surgery.

The kidney donation is "a gift from God," Keene said. "It's one of the most honorable, loving things a person could do."

Gas prices on international rollercoaster ride

By **BUD McLAUGHLIN**

Staff writer

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What goes up must come down, as the saying goes.

And that seems to be what's happening with gasoline prices ... or is it?

In Huntsville March 15, prices varied from \$3.95 to \$4.29 for a gallon of regular unleaded (87 octane). On Friday, prices were \$3.87 to \$4.19 a gallon.

As the prices change, Sheila Enderle, general manager of Redstone Exchange – which runs food and retail services – sees notification after notification after notification.

“We get alerts all day long,” she said. “Whenever the price changes outside the gate, we have to match the (lowest) price.” Enderle said the food prices (at Burger King, Subway, etc.) are the same way – they have to match the lowest price.

And her staff checks out the gas prices the old-fashioned way – driving out to see them.

“Even though there are updates on the website,” Enderle said. “Sometimes they

are not updated quickly enough.

“We go out Gate 8 and there’s about a five-mile radius we go and find the lowest price.”

The price of oil is on a rollercoaster ride, as well. On March 8, West Texas Intermediate reached \$123.70 a barrel. On March 16, the price closed at \$95.04 a barrel while the closing price Friday was \$104.70.

When the price of oil starts to rise, motorists will see gas prices rise a few days later, as stations pass on that hike as quickly as possible to avoid losing money. A big spike in crude oil prices is typically followed by a gas price spike three to five days later, said Patrick De Haan, lead petroleum analyst at GasBuddy.

De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy, expects gas prices to continue receding.

“We still have more declines that will come to gas prices in the days ahead,” he tweeted Thursday.

De Haan also said the surge in costs has yet to slow down driving. He tweeted that demand for gas around the country last week was up 1.4% -- its highest point since mid-December.



Gas prices, which jumped over the last couple weeks, may be on their way back down ... or up.

Photo by Erin Elise

Huntsville sounds off with major music plans



Courtesy photo

An estimated 100-200 people attended the inaugural HSV Quarterly Music Meet-up on March 3 at Mars Music Hall.



Courtesy photo

Huntsville Music Officer Matt Mandrella addresses the crowd at the first-ever Quarterly Music Meetup.

By **REBECCA SALLEE**

Staff writer

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The city's new music officer got to meet and mingle with local musicians, venue owners and members of the public March 3 at the inaugural "Music Meet-Up" at Mars Music Hall.

Matt Mandrella, who was hired in January 2021, said an estimated 200 people attended the event.

"It was my first chance to interact with the music community," said Mandrella, a native of Daphne who came to Huntsville from Memphis, where he worked in marketing at Graceland, home of Elvis Presley.

A marketing graduate of the University of South Alabama, Mandrella also worked more than 10 years in Austin, considered by many to be the country's music capital, in various music promotion jobs.

The state-of-the-art Mars Music Hall is one of the city's newest music venues, and adds to its capabilities to bring large musical acts to Huntsville, as does the 8,000-seat Orion Amphitheater scheduled to open in late spring in the city's MidCity district.

Those are "big shiny tools," Mandrella said, "but by no means are they the only focus. We're very passionate about growing our local artists and music economy as well."

Recognizing the importance of music to Huntsville's quality of life and as "an inclusive cultural and creative offering for current and future residents" is part of Mayor Tommy Battle's music initiative, Mandrella said.

His immediate goal is to create a more dynamic music environment in the city "through education, creation, production and performance," he said.

Music meetups will be held on a quarterly basis with the next one planned for June at a time and place yet to be announced.

"We'll have some exciting news to share," Mandrella said. "We're beyond ecstatic."

Ultimately, through improvements to the Huntsville music scene, new jobs and opportunities will become available for everyone from local artists and bartenders to those behind the scene, such as marketers and sound professionals, he said.

Mandrella hopes Huntsville will soon have a reputation as a music hub, as are such cities as Austin, Nashville and Los Angeles.

For more information on Mayor Battle's music initiative, visit: www.huntsvilleal.gov/government/mayors-office/mayors-initiatives/music-initiative/.

To share thoughts, make suggestions or ask questions about Huntsville's music scene, visit: <https://huntsvilleal.seamlessdocs.com/f/3m189epta711>.

Combat veteran oversees JROTC for next generation

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Willie Burton was drafted in 1968 from Tuscaloosa and he saw constant combat for 13 months as an infantryman in Vietnam.

But he decided to make the Army a career.

“Enjoyed the Army,” the retired chief warrant officer three said. “I think everybody has to find where they fit. The Army was a good fit for me.”

Burton served in the infantry 1968-70, reenlisted in 1971 and went to ordnance, and retired in 1995 at Redstone after 25 years. He started his Army civilian career here in 2000 and he is operation lead for JROTC in the Army Cadet Command. His office is in the One Stop building but his actual headquarters is in Savannah, Georgia.

The Northport native graduated from Riverside High School in Northport in 1966. One of eight children – five boys and three girls, “I was number three” – he was working when he got drafted. He had basic training and advanced individual training for infantry at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

The 19-year-old private first class arrived in Vietnam in July 1968. He joined Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division. They were based out of Lai Khe, South Vietnam. Most of Burton’s year of combat missions were for search and destroy.

“It was pretty much every day because if you weren’t in combat you were preparing. You were still out in the field,” he said.

“Just trying to stay alive, man. Young person, thrown in the war you didn’t know what you were doing actually. You learn day to day how to take care of yourself and others.”

He said he most remembers the people that he met and the friends that he made. He is a life member of the 1st of the 2nd, 1st Infantry Division association which

Vietnam revisited Part 362 in series

tries to meet every five years. “Of course the numbers are getting thinner and thinner now,” he said. Burton last attended the meeting in 2014 in St. Louis which drew 26 people.

For his Vietnam service, Burton received the Bronze Star Medal and the Vietnam campaign ribbon.

In August 1969, Burton arrived at Fort Carson, Colorado. He came to Redstone for training at the Ordnance school in 1974. He was stationed here from 1978-80 and again from 1986-88. He received a bachelor’s in business through the University of Maryland extension service in 1978.

At his four-member office, “we actually oversee all the JROTC programs in the state of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana,” he said. The approximately 220 programs for the three states combined include 94 in Alabama. Burton travels an average of two weeks monthly to visit the JROTC units at various high schools.

He and his wife of six years, Angela, a retired command sergeant major, reside in Madison. He has a stepdaughter and a grandson.

At 74 Burton enjoys restoring old cars. He has a 100% disability rating from Veterans Affairs.

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

“If we’re commemorating the people who actually served and survived, it’s a good thing,” he said. “But if we’re celebrating the war, I don’t want to have anything to do with that one.”

Editor’s note: This is the 362nd in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Willie Burton, a retired chief warrant officer three, shows Army mementos in his office at the One Stop building. As operation lead for JROTC, his four-member office oversees programs in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana for the Army Cadet Command.

“It was pretty much every day because if you weren’t in combat you were preparing. You were still out in the field.

Just trying to stay alive, man. Young person, thrown in the war you didn’t know what you were doing actually. You learn day to day how to take care of yourself and others.”

Willie Burton

Vietnam veterans day celebrated nationally March 29

From combined reports

Events are planned locally March 29 for National Vietnam War Veterans Day. The Exchange and Commissary will hold a ceremony from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Exchange food court area. There will be Commissary refreshments and 50 Exchange gift bags. The bags will include Exchange giveaway items, hand sanitizer, Exchange pen, perfume/cologne samples, coupons and a flyer for the event. There will be drawings for two gift baskets. A table on the side will have water bottles and single-packaged cookies.

Chapter 1067 of the Vietnam Veterans of America will hold a ceremony from 10 a.m. to noon at the Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial, 200 Monroe St. “Initially we were not going to have any kind of event because of the pandemic,” Charlie Miller, Chapter 1067 president, said of the plans for this year’s observance. “We decided to have a scaled-down version to recognize those guys who passed away during the pandemic.”

The chapter’s event includes welcome remarks by Redstone Senior Commander Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker.

With 650 members, Chapter 1067 is the largest chapter in Alabama and ranks ninth nationally. Vietnam Veterans of America, based in Silver Springs, Maryland, has 85,000 members and 650 chapters.

The Daughters of the American Revolution will hold a tribute to Vietnam veterans from 2-3 p.m. at the public library downtown. Sue Shaver is regent for the Twickenham Town Chapter, NSDAR.

“Patriotism is one of the three missions of the Daughters of the American Revolution,” Dorla Evans, volunteer information specialist for Twickenham Town Chapter, NSDAR, said. “Most of us have loved ones who personally made sacrifices for the war or we made those sacrifices ourselves. We wish to ensure that those sacrifices are not forgotten.”



Vietnam veterans' lapel pin

Association launches Space Camp scholarships

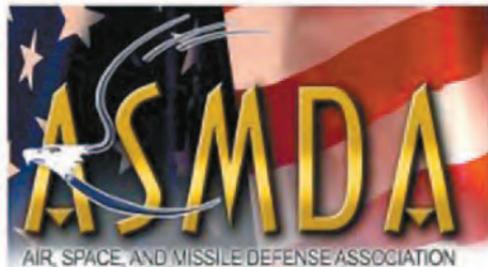
From combined reports

The Air, Space and Missile Defense Association is offering 16 scholarships for selected children to attend a weeklong Space Camp from July 3-8 at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center.

These scholarships are open to any military or civilian children, ages 9-11, of a parent or guardian assigned to Space and Missile Defense Command; Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense; Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space; Aviation and Missile Command; Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center; Missile and Space Intelligence Center; NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center; Missile Defense Agency; Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office, and the Combined Functional Teams for Assured Position, Navigation and Timing and Air and Missile Defense as well as contractors working for one of these organizations and also a corporate members of ASMDA.

“We are very excited about the opportunity we are offering our military and employees of the ASMDA community,” Jimmy Jenkins, ASMDA president, said. “The ability to provide this wonderful experience to young children who probably would not otherwise have an opportunity to attend is very rewarding.”

The ASMDA scholarship includes one week at Space Camp, round-trip airfare (if required), and a Space Camp flight suit.



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- Car Seats
- Minor Home Repairs
- Repair/Replacement of basic necessities

Photo by Skip Vaughn

Help those who serve U.S.

The annual Army Emergency Relief fundraising campaign, helping Soldiers take care of their own, kicked off March 8 with a \$100,000 goal and continues through May 31.

'He witnessed the entire valley fill with a garish light'

Firsthand account transcribed of Hiroshima's devastation

By **BUD McLAUGHLIN**

Staff writer

bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com

"There were fantastic rumors that the enemy had something special in mind for this city, but no one dreamed that the end would come in such a fashion as on the morning of August 6th."

This is the beginning of a firsthand account when the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. It was written by a priest who said he saw "a garish light which resembles the magnesium light used in photography, and I am conscious of a wave of heat."

The 8½-page document, typed in 1946, was provided to Darrell Ames, public affairs officer for Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, by a friend, John Siddons, who owned the report written by Father Siemes.

Ames said he met Siddons in church last July and, while talking over the last several months, Siddons asked him to transcribe the account digitally to preserve it.

"When I mentioned to him that I collected World War II memorabilia and artifacts, and that I once served as the historian at the Pearl Harbor Submarine Base and a tour guide on the USS Arizona Memorial, his ears perked up," Ames said. "He then wanted to share some items that he had collected."

Also among the items were a deployment flag from the cruiser USS Pasadena, which was anchored in Tokyo Bay during the signing of the Japanese surrender aboard the USS Missouri, and Japanese currency.

But it was the document from the priest that grabbed Ames' attention and his heart.

"The third piece of his collection was, to me, the most significant," Ames said. "It was the typed eyewitness account of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945.

"The 8½-page document is in very fragile condition and Mr. Siddons asked me to transcribe it to electrons so that we may have it for eternity."

In the account, Father Siemes wrote of sitting in his room at the mission, two kilometers from Hiroshima, up a mountain with a "wonderful view down the valley to the edge of the city."

"He describes in great detail sitting in his room at the mission two kilometers from Hiroshima up the side of the mountain," Ames said. "The 7 a.m. air raid alarm sounds across the city as it generally did during that summer.

"The all-clear was eventually delivered at 8 a.m., but then, as he settled into his chair at 8:14 a.m., he witnessed the entire valley fill with a garish light."

Ten seconds after the light, Siemes hears a moderately loud blast and is covered with glass and wood as the incredible force of violent air pressure practically caves in the side of the structure, Ames said.

"This was two kilometers away," he said. "Imagine the devastation at the epicenter."

Siemes describes the agony of the survivors as they make their way up the mountain, toward the mission, seeking first aid, water, anything to relieve the pain.

"Bandages, medicine, and drugs are soon gone, but the people continue to trek up the mountain hoping to escape the carnage behind them," Ames said. "It's quite the fascinating read."



A handwritten account of the atomic bomb blast on Aug. 6, 1945, was authored by a priest.

Courtesy photo

Federal

Marshall demolishing former headquarters building

By **BUD McLAUGHLIN**

Staff writer

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The signs of change at building 4200 can be seen from the road.

The iconic rocket engines in front of the Marshall Space Flight Center's headquarters on Rideout Road have been moved to a parking area.

The reason: In a few weeks, demolition of the 59-year-old building will begin. It is expected to take about a year.

Building 4200 is as historic as it is iconic. Wernher von Braun directed the rocket program from his office at the top of the building and the 14th and final director to occupy the office, Jody Singer, is also the first woman to serve as the head of Marshall.

Now, as the nation prepares for a new era of space exploration with last week's rollout of the Artemis 1, a new era will also dawn for the staff and administration as they work to head the new journey in a new headquarters – building 4221.

Marshall's master plan included the demolition of 4200 around the year 2030 but the target date moved up when the building started coming apart.

In 2020, a wall panel on the eighth floor came loose and crashed to the ground. No one was injured in the incident.

After an investigation into the cause, officials took a thorough examination of

the building's physical plant and decided to move up the demolition date.

"Our workers, not our buildings, are the heart of Marshall," Singer said. "Our top priority will always be protecting the health and safety of our team."

Meanwhile, two other buildings – 4201 and 4487 – are also slated for demolition over the next several months.

Building 4487 is Marshall's science and avionics research center and will be replaced by a state-of-the-art facility which will include an optics laboratory and an astronics laboratory for the development of next-generation spacecraft electronics, subsystems and components capable of withstanding punishing long-term missions in space, according to a Marshall news release. Following the adage that it's easier and cheaper to build new, more cost-effective facilities than to constantly try to maintain the old, the master plan seeks to cut operating costs and reduce the center's overall "footprint" of facilities and structures on Redstone Arsenal by more than 25%, the release said.

"Decommissioning and replacing 4200 was always part of Marshall's plan to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars," Jeff Brown, manager of Marshall's Facilities Management Office, said. "Part of NASA's mission is to provide the best, most cost-effective facilities to advance the nation's goals in space."

"The right facilities make that work happen."



NASA photo

Building 4200, Marshall's headquarters since 1963, is prepped for demolition in a few weeks.

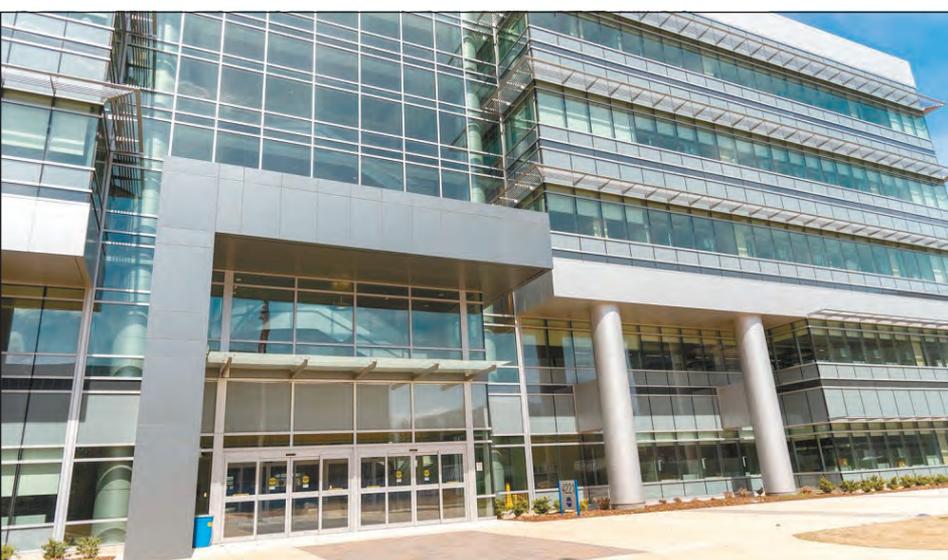


Photo by Erin Elise

The Marshall Space Flight Center administration and staff now work in building 4221.



Photo by Erin Elise

The Marshall Space Flight Center administration and staff now work in building 4221.

Management/program analyst plays role in return to moon

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

After moving to Huntsville 22 years ago to attend Alabama A&M University, it wasn't long after graduating that Doug Stewart felt a desire to support NASA's inspirational mission. Today, Stewart is a management and program analyst within the Program Planning and Control office supporting NASA's Human Landing System Program, part of the team that will inspire the world when Americans return to the Moon.

Stewart was first introduced to the space industry through friends who had urged him to consider working for NASA nearly 10 years ago while he was providing business and budget support at Teledyne Brown Engineering. Not long after, he provided support to the Earth Science Division at NASA, and then the Gateway and human landing system programs.

"After learning about all the exciting projects NASA was involved with, I knew I had to be a part of something that was bigger than me and that was important to my generation and future generations," Stewart said, "I never thought I would be a part of an organization that was doing something as cool and rewarding as exploring space and going back to

the Moon."

While at Alabama A&M, he earned a bachelor's in business management. "Attending an HBCU (historically Black college or university) was something I learned about from members of my family who also attended HBCUs. I knew it was going to be a different experience than attending a traditional university, and it was something I wanted to pursue," Stewart said.

After college, he stayed in Huntsville and continued to work in the business field until his career path led him to Marshall Space Flight Center. Stewart is thankful for the opportunities afforded him by those who came before.

"African Americans have done so much for NASA and this country, and I am very proud and aware of that and thankful for those who paved the way for me," he said. "I take time during Black History Month to learn more about my heritage and also to reflect on how fortunate I am to work for NASA and HLS, where diversity is a cornerstone to their success."

Stewart joined the Artemis team working with the Gateway program at Marshall in 2019. He joined the HLS team in 2021, managing the program's budget. Under Artemis, NASA will land the first woman and first person of color on the Moon.



"Being on the same team with scientists who will get us back to the Moon for the first time since 1972 and for a sustained period is incredible," Stewart said. "Knowing that a diverse NASA workforce of today and also those before me contributed to a more inclusive crew landing on the

lunar surface is incredibly important to me and adds additional meaning to Black History Month."

The human landing system is the mode of transportation that will take astronauts to the lunar surface in the Artemis lunar exploration program.

Former Soldier compiles Earth data for NASA

By GABRIELLA LEWIS

NASA's Langley Research Center

Lori Schultz excels at puzzles, but her puzzles involve satellites – not cardboard. Her sharp eye for detail and quick wit help her answer some of NASA's most critical disaster questions. But how does she do it?

When disasters strike, response agencies from around the world reach out to NASA for information. It's up to Schultz – an Applied Sciences Disasters program center coordinator at Marshall Space Flight Center – and her team members to parse through NASA's satellite data and determine how to help. They serve as the link between operational organizations and NASA's science – a team of “satellite translators,” if you will. Schultz knows the instruments' capabilities and won't hesitate to let people know if there's a better tool

for the job. You can hear the excitement in her voice when she puts the pieces together to help others see the “picture” that emerges.

It's no surprise, then, that when global organizations need a remote sensing expert for severe weather, Schultz is on the shortlist. Yet, it may come as a surprise that she didn't get into the sciences until she was 28.

After graduating high school, Schultz joined the Army and was a helicopter mechanic for nine years. While she enjoyed the job, it was too physically demanding to be a long-term career. “I would probably still be fixing helicopters if it wasn't so blasted hard on the body,” she said. On top of the physical stress, her position was time-consuming and kept her away from her son for extended periods. The final straw occurred when she returned from a five-month deployment in Central Amer-

ica for Hurricane Mitch and her young son didn't recognize her. So, after a brief stint as a reservist, she made the decision to leave the military for good.

Schultz decided to use her newfound free time to go back to school. Her strong aptitude for math and desire to understand how things work led her to enroll in a physics program at Austin Peay State University. Going to college at 28 presented a new set of challenges. “I had to learn how to be a student again; I had to learn how to study, and I had to face the fact that everything I thought I knew was really, really old,” Schultz said. She had to take remedial courses and recall academic skills from a decade prior, but it didn't take her long to adjust.

After successfully finishing her physics degree, Schultz planned to apply to

See Data on page 32



Courtesy photo

Lori Schultz is a research physical scientist and Disasters program center coordinator at Marshall Space Flight Center.

Data

Continued from page **31**

an engineering program. However, a research trip to the University of Alabama in Huntsville exposed her to different types of applied science. Rather than study engineering, she decided to pursue an applied sciences master's degree focusing on weather research. "Solving the actual problem of catching the mouse was much more to my liking than creating a better cage," she said. A degree in applied sciences allowed Schultz to pursue questions with more tangible ends – a path she enjoyed more. But

without a background in weather, she had to audit a class every semester to increase her exposure to different weather topics.

"It was jumping not only into the deep end of a pool, but the deep end of a wave pool," she said.

Schultz's path to NASA wove around a military career, raising a child, being a nontraditional student, and changes in her career goals, but she wouldn't change a thing. A fascination with understanding, paired with a willingness to seek out answers, guided her journey. Schultz is also a member of a floods research team led by University of Alaska in Fairbanks professor Franz Meyer that uses remote

sensing to create flood data. The research team has provided support for flood events such as the Midwest floods in 2019, Australia floods in 2021, and British Columbian floods in 2021, and hurricanes such as Eta and Iota in 2020. From the research side, she was able to draw on her experience on the ground during her Hurricane Mitch deployment to help provide the U.S. military and other responders with helpful flood mapping information.

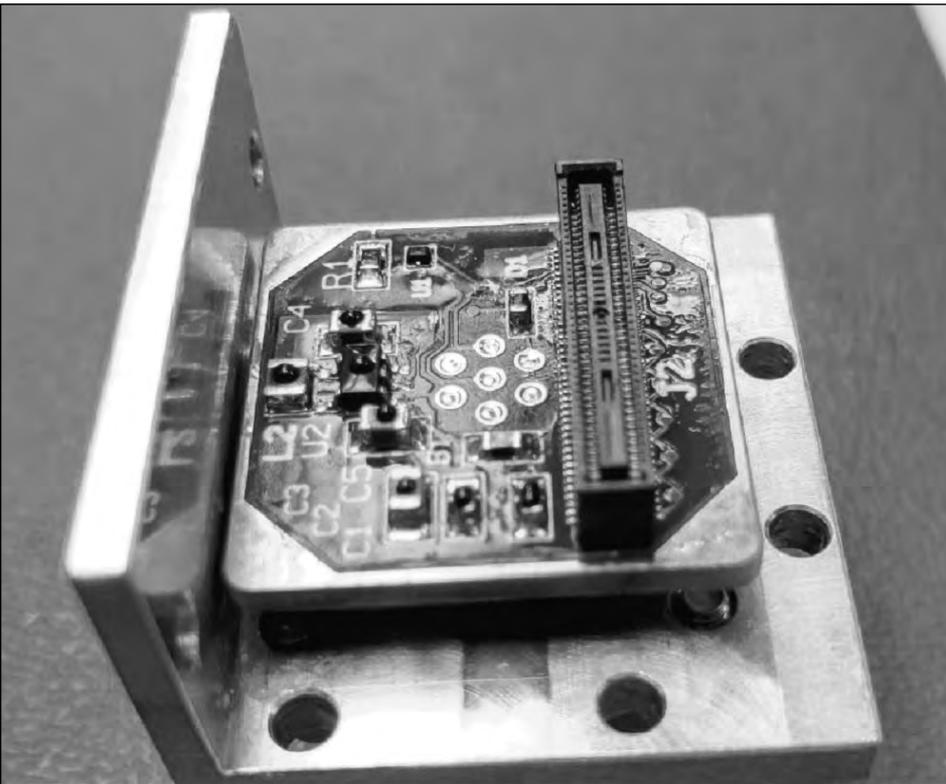
Currently, Schultz excels at teaching end users how to interpret Earth data and does so with enthusiasm. This past year, she participated in the American Meteorological Society's Project Atmosphere, a

program designed to share the latest atmospheric resources and information with science teachers. During the program, she got to pass her excitement for Earth data on to science teachers and help them do the same for their future students.

According to Schultz, entering the sciences was an inevitable career outcome. Whether fixing a helicopter or helping people use NASA resources to make their communities safer from disasters, there isn't a puzzle that Lori Schultz can't solve.

Editor's note: Gabriella Lewis, an intern at NASA's Langley Research Center, supports the agency's Applied Sciences Disasters program.

Space agency spinoffs include cellphone cameras, more



NASA photo

Researchers at Marshall Space Flight Center have developed a ruggedized infrared camera system for harsh environments.

By **WAYNE SMITH**

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Products and services that benefit life on Earth put a new spin on technology developed for space. This includes inventions at Marshall Space Flight Center.

NASA engineers and scientists often develop new technology during the course of their mission work. And while the origin of the technology is often to help explore the solar system and beyond, NASA's Technology Transfer program is bringing them back down to Earth by licensing them to companies and entrepreneurs. The licensees then create new products and services, called "spinoffs," that benefit the economy, protect the environment, and even save lives.

There are more the 2,000 NASA spinoffs, with cellphone cameras, baby formula, and airplane winglets among the most common.

NASA's Technology Transfer program has over 1,200 technologies available for licensing. Potential licensees can browse the entire portfolio online, where they are organized by categories, such as communications, medical, environment, manufacturing, and more. Inventors also share in royalties if the product is licensed.

"In Technology Transfer, we have the opportunity to work with NASA engineers and scientists, who are some of the most innovative people you'll ever meet, and then we transfer their technologies to industry," said Sammy Nabors, acting chief for the Technology Transfer branch at Marshall.

The 2022 edition of NASA's Spinoff publication features 46 companies across 21 states in manufacturing, public safety, consumer products and more. It also highlights two examples of technology available for licensing from Marshall – a more rugged infrared camera and a process for making stronger, less polluting concrete.

The ruggedized camera is a space-rated camera that meets NASA specifications for withstanding vibrations and radiation and removing heat. Current cost-effective commercial cameras can't survive launch conditions. NASA will utilize the technology for the ruggedized camera imaging systems aboard the Space Launch System on future Artemis missions.

Marshall team members developing the technology included Brent Beabout, Jarret Bone, Jeremy Myers and Jonathan Pryor. They developed modifications to a



NASA photo

A new cement composition and manufacturing method reduces carbon dioxide emissions in cement manufacturing while also improving performance.

separate patent, the visible spectrum camera, to enable it for use in space. Marshall patented the invention, licensed it to Imperx Inc. of Boca Raton, Florida, and assisted with commercialization efforts.

This same team developed modifications to the infrared camera, enabling it to survive launch conditions and remove heat. In addition to its use for imaging systems in satellites and spacecraft, other practical uses of the technology include:

Aerospace: aircraft-mounted cameras for surveillance and thermal analysis of aircraft engines

First responders: night vision and enhanced imaging capability in fog, rain, and smoke for search and rescue, firefighting, threat detection and surveillance

Automotive: vision systems for autonomous vehicles

Innovators at Marshall also developed a new cement composition and manufacturing method that reduces carbon emissions while making it stronger.

Companies and consumers can use the carbonated cement process in cement factories, reducing the carbon footprint, and in quick-mix cement kits. The cement industry is one of the highest producers of carbon dioxide in the world.

The idea for the new manufacturing method was first constructed around the problem of reducing carbon dioxide aboard NASA missions. Building on their expertise in life-support oxygen control systems for spacecraft, Morgan Abney of Marshall and Iowa State University professor James Alleman created a process that reduces carbon emitted during cement production, converting the carbon to a solid form. The carbon is then added to the cement product, making it more durable for construction materials.

Nabors said Marshall set a NASA center record with 50 licenses executed last fiscal year, with most being research licenses that could eventually turn into a commercial agreement. Across the agency, Nabors said a record 211 licenses were executed.

"There are a lot of different reasons why companies are interested in NASA's inventions. Just the NASA name means a lot, too," Nabors said. "Our goal is to ensure NASA technologies are broadly available to the public, which maximizes the benefit to our nation."

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

Sports

Aquatics Center makes splash by reopening in April



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Aquatics Manager Devin Atkinson has 10 other lifeguards on his staff.

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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For years Redstone community members would suggest opening an indoor pool. That finally happened in February 2013. But the pandemic closed the Aquatics Center in March 2020 and funding constraints kept it closed.

The center will reopen in April.

“I’m excited to have it back opening,” Aquatics Manager Devin Atkinson said. “And I know many of our patrons have been chomping at the bit to get back in the water.”

An open house is scheduled April 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. where people can visit the facility and buy their passes. There will be a door prize giving away one three-month pass.

The Aquatics Center’s grand reopening is Monday, April 4 at 5 a.m.

“Starting off we are going to have lap swim Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m.,” Atkinson said. “We will have water aerobics returning on Tuesday and Thursday from 9-9:45 a.m. And then on Wednesdays we’ll be offering a new aqua stretch class from 9-9:45 as well.

“We will have yoga coming sometime in May. Our float pod will return sometime shortly after opening.”

The center, building 3705 near the corner of Aerobee and Patton, will be open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m.

It’s for anyone affiliated with the Department of Defense and their families. Cost

for a daily pass is \$5 for active-duty military, \$7 for DOD and all others. A three-month pass for an active-duty person is \$100 and for a family up to four people, \$225. A three-month pass for DOD and other individuals is \$190 and for a family up to four people, \$400. A year pass for an active-duty person is \$200, and for a family up to four, \$350. A year pass for DOD and other individuals is \$250 and for a family up to four, \$425.

The cost for any family pass that has more than four individuals will be \$25 apiece for each additional person.

Atkinson became a lifeguard at the center in 2014 and was a lead lifeguard until 2019 when he assumed the assistant management role. He became the manager in 2020. His staff of 10 other lifeguards includes some returnees and new faces.

“We’re real excited to have it come back,” Gaylene Wilson, chief of the recreation division for Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said. “It’s been something that people have asked for. We actually didn’t expect it to open again so we’re excited to be able to bring the service back to the community.

“Initially it closed due to COVID. It remained closed because we continued to lose the funding and did not have the resources to reopen it. So we need the community’s support.”

In past years the Redstone Launchers youth swim team, for ages 5-17, used the Aquatics Center. “We’re going to try to revive the Launchers swim program,” Mike Gates, the Child and Youth Services sports and fitness director, said. He said he hopes to see that happen this year. For information about the Launchers, call Gates at 313-3699.

The Aquatics Center can be reached at 313-1200.

Crimson Tide wins Huntsville gymnastics meet

By KATIE STOTTS

Knight Eady sports marketing

Elevate the Stage, presented by Crestwood Medical Center and SportsMED, hosted over 900 youth gymnasts and four SEC women's gymnastics teams at the Von Braun Center from March 4-6.

The weekend started with two days of DP and Xcel competition March 4-5. Over 900 youth gymnasts and their families made their way to compete at the meet. Sunday morning, March 6 started with the final Xcel competition before the collegiate meet that afternoon.

The collegiate meet featured Auburn, Alabama, Arkansas, and Georgia in Propst Arena. A sellout crowd cheered on the college gymnasts as they competed on the podium. Alabama took home the win, scoring 198.000, their second 198.000 of the week after clinching that score during their meet the Friday before Elevate the Stage. Alabama's victory at the VBC was their sixth consecutive Elevate the Stage win. Auburn came in second, followed by Arkansas and Georgia.

"The sellout crowd on Sunday was loud and added to the experience for these student-athletes," Elevate the Stage Meet Director Aja Sims-Fletcher said.

"We were thrilled to be back in Huntsville for the youth and college meets. We came back to Huntsville in 2021 but only hosted youth meets due to restrictions to the 2021 NCAA season. The last time Elevate the Stage hosted a college meet in Huntsville was 2018, so it was great to be back and host both youth and college meets this weekend! We are looking forward to coming back to Huntsville and growing the event to host more youth gymnasts and collegiate fans."

Elevate the Stage provides collegiate teams with the opportunity to compete on the podium before postseason meets, providing an advantage for these teams as they head into postseason competition. The SEC Women's Gymnastics Conference Championship and the 2022 National Collegiate Women's Gymnastics Championship are held on podiums. Elevate the Stage allows youth gymnasts to compete on the same platform as their NCAA idols.

The Elevate the Stage is in its eighth year of operation and was created to provide a championship-caliber platform for gymnasts to compete across the country. The meet is staged on the podiums, typically only used at top championship meets and the Olympics.



Knight Eady photo

University of Alabama gymnasts celebrate their sixth consecutive Elevate the Stage win.

Elevate the Stage is owned and operated by Knight Eady, a Birmingham-based sports marketing and event management firm. Sims-Fletcher, associate director of event partnerships at Knight Eady, serves as the event director. Sims-

Fletcher is a former Alabama gymnast and was a two-time Southeastern Conference champion, four-year Scholastic All-American, Individual NCAA Regional Champion and has a skill on bars named after her.

Your glory days in sports

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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What is your swimming background?

“My dad threw me in the water when I was a kid, so I taught myself how to swim,” Devin Atkinson, manager of the Aquatics Center, said.

Atkinson, 30, a Huntsville native, said his father, Frank, did this when he was 3 or 4. “I was never on a swim team. I stocked groceries for many years. I found out I could get paid more by sitting by a pool all day and get exercise swimming,” he said.

He became a lifeguard at the center in 2014 and was a lead lifeguard until 2019 when he assumed the assistant management role. He became the manager in 2020. The Aquatics Center closed in March 2020 because of the pandemic and remained closed because of funding constraints. It will reopen in April. Atkinson has a staff of 10 other lifeguards.

He graduated from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 2020 with a bachelor’s in business management. Atkinson and Ty Fauscett, also of Huntsville, plan to marry Sept. 10. He enjoys swimming, playing softball and taking his jet skis on the river. He plays outfield and third base for the Starburst softball team, part of the Huntsville Division of NAGAAA, at Brahan Spring Park.

Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Devin Atkinson, manager of the Aquatics Center,
also enjoys playing softball.**



Peacocks break traditional pecking order of tournament

So much for predicting March Madness games.

All four of the brackets I filled out were busted in the first round. I admit I'm a Southeastern Conference fan so of course my Kentucky pick when down in flames.

Who would have thought the mighty Wildcats would lose to Saint Peter's? The 15-seed Peacocks beat 2-seed Kentucky, 85-79, in overtime. Saint Peter's, an 18.5-point underdog, knocked out Big Blue nation. It was the fourth-largest betting upset since the NCAA tournament expanded to 64 teams in 1985. The Peacocks picked up their first NCAA tournament win ever.

I nearly choked on my beef chalupa while watching the end of the game. I could not believe what my eyes just saw.

Alabama lost to Notre Dame, 78-64. I'm happy that my alma mater Auburn, Tennessee and Arkansas won their openers. But my brackets and Kentucky are done.

From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn

Rocket editor

By the numbers ... Best of Lynyrd Skynyrd

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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1. Sweet Home Alabama
2. Free Bird
3. Midnight Rider
4. Simple Man
5. Tuesday's Gone
6. Saturday Night Special
7. Gimme Three Steps
8. What's Your Name
9. Double Trouble
10. You Got That Right



Rocket Announcements

Sports & Recreation

Adult baseball league

North Alabama Adult Wood Bat baseball league is seeking additional players and teams for the 2022 season. There are age divisions for players starting at 25 including a division that has several players over 80. Games use college and high school umpires played on local high school and college fields. The season starts about the time school lets out for the summer and ends in late August. Huntsville will host a Labor Day weekend tournament open to several age groups. In the offseason Huntsville teams travel to Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee and Missouri to play in various tournaments. The tournament in Florida is played at the Red Sox and Twins spring training complexes. There are two organizations supporting North Alabama adult baseball. Phil Ellis is the contact for the Men's Senior Baseball league for the 25-plus and 40-plus divisions at <https://msblnational.com>. Wayne Harris is the contact for the Roy Hobbs Adult Baseball 40-plus and 60-plus divisions at <https://royhobbs.com/>.

Benefit golf tournament

The Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club will hold its second annual Pineapple Open on April 22 at the Links. General registration ends April 15. It's a Four Man Scramble, \$90 per person which includes green fees, cart, continental breakfast and lunch, along with a swag bag. For more information, visit rsamcc.org/fundraising.

Bass/kayak tournament

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of Army Aviation Association of America's annual Bob Vlasic Classic Bass/Kayak Tournament is April 23 at Jackson County Park. Entry is \$30 for kayakers and \$60 for boaters and will launch at safe light 5:30 a.m., weigh in 2 p.m. There is a 100% payout. Places will be determined by number of entries and five fish total: (length) Kayak and (weight) Boat. There is also Big Fish (length) prize for Kayak, \$200; and Big Fish (weight) prize for Boat, \$400. A picnic will follow. For more information, call Kayak: Mitch Delk 755-0730 and Boat-er: Rich Arnold 842-9061.

Senior softball

Get into the swing of senior slow-pitch softball. They have three leagues beginning with the Rockets League for those 55 and older, the Recreation League for those 63 and older, and the Triads for 71 and up. All games will be played at Brahan Springs Park, fields 1 and 2. Practices will begin in late March, and their seasons will begin in April. They play two games a week, ending around Labor Day. Players are needed. For information email Huntsville-srssoftball-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.

Science/engineering symposium

Students are encouraged to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math or STEAM. The 100 Black Men of Greater Huntsville Inc., in partnership with the Greater Huntsville Chapter of the Links Inc., National Society of Black Engineers Professionals North Alabama Chapter, and National Coalition of 100 Black Women (Huntsville) are hosting the 2022 STEAMposium, April 9. The theme this year is "STEAMposium, A Passport to the Future," and it will serve as a platform to educate and expose participants to the various opportunities within the STEAM career fields. Exciting programs are planned for teens and their parents.

Sponsorship would assist in funding STEAM related activities and programming needs. For more information, call Gregory Lunn (703) 638-5169 or Bettina Moore (770) 861-4112 or email secretary@100bmogh.com or LinksSTEAMposium@gmail.com. To register visit www.100bmogh.com/.

Lance/MLRS veterans reunion

Veterans of the Lance missile and Multiple Launch Rocket System will have their 14th reunion on Oct. 7-9 at the Marriott Hotel Westover Hills SeaWorld in San Antonio. The 15th reunion is tentatively planned for Huntsville in April 6-9, 2023. Seating is limited – first come, first serve – for the 2023 reunion. For more information, call retired Sgt. 1st Class John Williams (210) 209-2000.

Speakers club

Interested in improving you speaking or presentation skills? If so, MSFC Spaced Out Speakers are here to assist. The club meets each Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. virtually. For more information, email claudinette.purifoy-fears.civ@army.mil or call 651-3621.

Warrant officer association

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

Veterans of foreign wars

VFW Gentry-Isom 2702 meets the third Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in its post home on the corner of Sparkman Drive and 2900 North Memorial Parkway. For more information, call Bobby Lee Jr. (931) 265-5685 or email bobbyleejr01@gmail.com.

Blacks in government

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

Marine Corps league

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

Federally employed women virtual training

Federally Employed Women, Southeast Region will have its 2022 Virtual Regional Training Program, May 20 from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 for members, \$45 for nonmembers. This is hosted by Federally Employed Women, North Alabama Chapter. For more information, email FEWNorthAL@gmail.com. Registration is underway at www.eventbrite.com/e/217109900557.

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

Intermediate civilian education class

Registration is open for a resident Intermediate Civilian Education System class scheduled April 4-22 at Toftoy Hall. The course is open to any GS 10-12 (and equivalent).
See Announcements on page 45



Photo by Carrie David Campbell

Executive officer retires

Maj. Claire Ward, executive officer to the Space and Missile Defense Command chief of staff, receives the Army Space Badge from her husband, Maj. Daniel Ward, Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence, during her retirement March 11. Ward retires with more than 10 years of service.

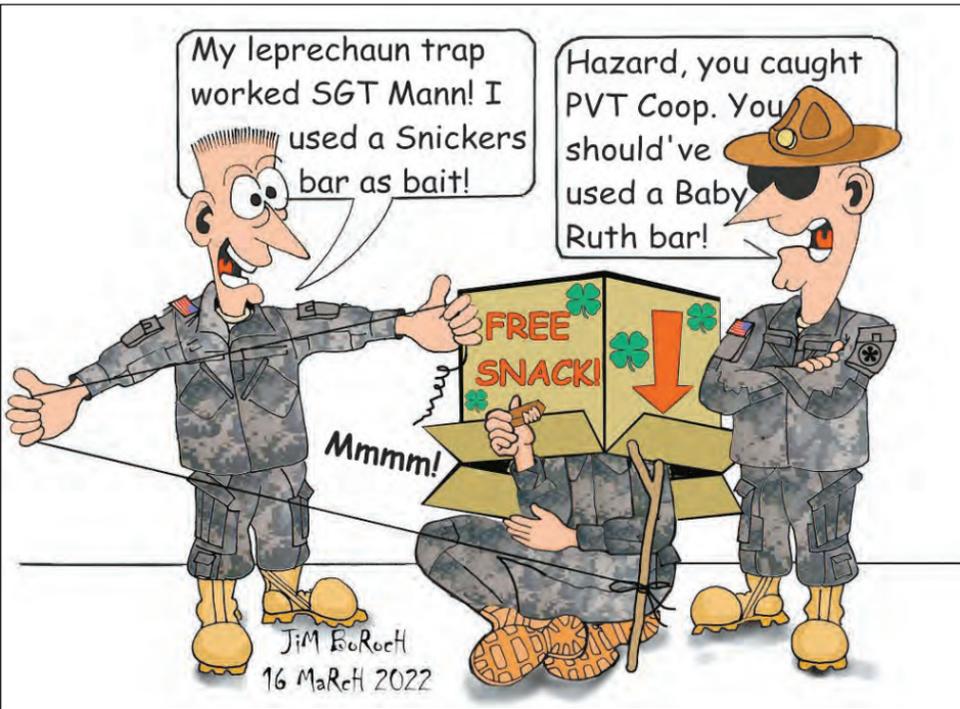


Photo by Ayumi Davis

First class promotion

Newly promoted Sgt. 1st Class Kossi Kunka, supply noncommissioned officer with Space and Missile Defense Command G-4, gives remarks after his promotion ceremony March 16. His children, from left, Josias, Lorie and Dennis, stand beside him.

ents) within 50 miles of Redstone Arsenal. Applicants must be complete with CES Foundation and Intermediate CES Phase 1. Apply at www.atrrs.army.mil/CHRTAS. For more information, contact the CES manager at thomas.v.olszowy.civ@army.mil.

Army family action plan

The Army Family Action Plan provides a platform to voice quality of life issues, feedback, ideas and suggestions. It's the best way to let Army leadership know about what works, what doesn't, and how you think problems can be resolved. Through AFAP, active and Reserve component Soldiers, Army civilians, retirees, survivors and family members have a powerful tool to help identify issues and concerns and shape the standard of living for their Army community. Issues may be submitted through the Issue Management System online at www.armyfamilywebportal.com or by calling Army Community Service at 876-5397. For help submitting issues online or for more information, call Stephanie Young of ACS at 876-6661 or email stephanie.l.young42.civ@army.mil.

Military and civilians club

Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club will have a "Blooming with Burritt" luncheon, April 12 at The Summit. You're invited to "come bloom with us and learn what's to come this spring at Burritt (on the Mountain)." Vendor shopping begins at 10:30 a.m., and the lunch and program is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost is \$18. RSVP by noon April 8. For more information, visit rsamcc.org.

Men's ministry

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

Young citizen of month

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

Tax assistance center

Redstone Arsenal Tax Center is open through April from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, building 3439 on Honest John Road. Tax forms are prepared free of charge 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.

Military service displays

Decatur Public Library is honoring military service with displays through March 28. "A History in Postcards" is located in the main seating area of the library. "Morgan County & Beyond" is at the display cases in the main area. For more information, visit www.myDPL.org/military.

Charity car show

Vets with Vettes and Corvette Owners 17th annual charity car show is June 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cabela's parking lot, 7090 Cabela Drive. Events are open to all cars, bikes and trucks. There will be trophies and plaques along with games and prizes, silent auction, food and drinks, and a 50/50 drawing. Proceeds will benefit veterans charities. This is a rain-or-shine

Rocket Announcements

show with a prize package from Cabela's.

Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department has released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for March 7-11. The highest scores included Urban Cookhouse at Teledyne Brown, 300 Sparkman Drive NW, 100; Positive Outlook Inc. doing business as Jenny Craig Weight Loss Center, 975 Airport Road SW Suite Q, 100; Jackson Way Child Development Center, 1001 Andrew Jackson Way, 100; Handel's Homemade Ice Cream, 7086 Highway 72 West, 100; Dallas Mill Deli, 500 Pratt Ave. NW, 100; Bumpers Billiards Inc., 4925 University Drive NW, 100; The Occasional Chef, 687 Kinnard Mill Road, Hazel Green, 100; Taco Mama Providence LLC, 328 Providence Main St. South, 100; Publix Super Market 209 (Retail), 12796 Bailey Cove Road, 100; Melt Huntsville at Teledyne Brown, 300 Sparkman Drive NW, 100; Juice Bar, 4011 Meridian St., Normal, 100; Hazel Green Elementary School, 14250 Highway 231/431 North, Hazel Green, 100; Delightful Desserts (commissary), 223-A Nick Davis Road, Madison, 100; SuperChix-Teledyne Brown, 300 Sparkman Drive NW, 100; Scruggs Bar-Be-Que Inc., 7529 Moores Mill Road, 100; O Taste & See BBQ LLC commissary, 1180 Riverton Road, 100; O Taste & See BBQ LLC mobile unit, 1180 Riverton Road, 100; Mayfair Church of Christ, 1095 Carl T. Jones Drive, 100; Lynelle's Cakes Dec, 3055 Leeman Ferry Road, 100; Weatherly Nutrition, 99 Weatherly Road SE, 100; Taco Mama at Teledyne Brown, 300 Sparkman Drive NW, 100; Buckhorn Middle School, 4185 Winchester Road, New Market, 100; Monrovia Middle School, 1216 Jeff Road, 100; Monrovia Elementary School, 1030 Jeff Road, 100; Endeavor School, 1997 Old Railroad Bed Road, Harvest, 100; and Chick-Fil-A at Teledyne Brown, 300 Sparkman Drive NW, 100. The lowest scores included Hibachi Express 2, 2614 North Memorial Parkway, 85; and Madison Food Mart, 8500 Old Madison Pike, Madison, 85.



**Protect
Against
COVID-19.**

Safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines are available for free for everyone living in the United States.



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cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccines

