

RedstoneRocket

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December 18, 2019

Vol. 68 No. 50

PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

Leadership development graduates learn from experience

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Toftoy Hall's parking lot was full Dec. 11 for good reason.

Twenty-seven workers from throughout Redstone graduated from Intermediate Leader Investment for Tomorrow. The annual 14-month course is managed by the Aviation and Missile Command G1, Training and Career Management Division.

"It was great," graduate Darren Hester, a logistics management specialist in the operations office of the Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment Activity, said. "A wide range of experiences, getting to meet a lot of new faces throughout different commands and growing personally and professionally. Great staff."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Awaiting their turn to receive their completion certificates are, from left, Gaylon Partain, Kiera Spann and Jason Watson. They were among 27 graduates of Intermediate Leader Investment for Tomorrow.

See Graduates on page 28

Energy, housing, expansion among year's headlines

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer/Social media

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Redstone Arsenal took a blast into the past in 2019 as it joined Huntsville – and the world – in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Apollo lunar landing. Redstone growth also made the front page this year and with the workforce now sitting at 44,000, expect to see more on that in our pages next year – especially as FBI presence expands and Redstone awaits a decision on the new home of Space Command.

Here are the top stories of the year.

Post leaders, Hunt partners address housing issue, March 6

By Skip Vaughn, Rocket editor

Redstone housing residents can expect to receive a call from their organization's leader or the Garrison commander with an offer to personally visit their home.

The leadership visit, accompanied by maintenance staff, is part of the Armywide effort to ensure quality and safe housing. Home visits are planned through March 18.

About 100 people attended a Redstone housing town hall Feb. 27 in Heiser Hall. Redstone organization leaders conducted the meet-

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"We know this is a problem within military housing and we're troubled by the reports across the Army. Just like Army senior leadership are committed to fixing this, here at Redstone, the senior leaders are committed to making sure that you have quality

See Housing on page 13



Redstone Senior Commander LT. Gen. Ed Daly speaks to housing residents during the town hall meeting Feb. 27 in Heiser Hall.

Redstone reinforces support for area schools

By AMY GUCKEN TOLSON
Assistant editor
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Real superheroes don't wear capes. Rather, they stand in the trenches every day – better known as a school classroom – molding the next generation.

"Opportunity, accomplishment, success – everything good that happens in a young person's life starts with education," Garrison Commander Col. Kelsey Smith said. "The student who can read and write can teach new ideas. A student who masters mathematics can set the budget or engineer our next technological marvel. A student who grasps the knowledge of science can invent life-saving medical devices. It all starts with education."

Redstone Arsenal leaders welcomed Tennessee Valley educators to the Community Activity Center Thursday for the Child and Youth Services' Education Appreciation Luncheon, an annual opportunity to recognize the installation's partnerships with area schools, its commitment to furthering education in North Alabama, and the hard work teachers and administrators do on a daily basis in service to their students.

"I can't thank you enough for what you do every day for our



Garrison Commander Col. Kelsey Smith chats with Madison County Schools Superintendent Matt Massey and Huntsville City Schools Board of Education Member Beth Wilner at the Education Appreciation Luncheon.



COMMUNITY NEWS

Rocket staffers select favorite stories of year.

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MILITARY SCENE

Army reduces costs via value engineering.

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WIN OR LOSE

Space Jam orbits league with balanced attack.

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RocketViews

Letter to editor: Veterans advocate has dream year

What is the American dream? Is the American dream making lots of money and become rich? Or is it that you become a famous person? Or you achieve high-ranking in the armed forces or in the one of the large corporations? If anyone would ask me for my American dream, I would say none of the above. My American dream is, that foremost, live as the citizen of the free world, freely serve our country through serving our communities, honor our veterans, and inspire young people.

Honoring our veterans, I take it as privilege and honor because we are free and no one dictates to us that we must. In doing so, recently, I was recognized for our community's most prestigious

retired Brig. Gen. Bob Drolet's "Service to Veterans" award. I am always grateful of living the American dream, and I cannot ask for more, but God has given me so much more than I have ever dreamed of and I cherish every moment.

My family's volunteer work also afforded us as the 2019 Veterans Organization of the Year for "Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation." It is nothing that we have done, but it is the sacrifices of Korean War veterans who served our country that have been long forgotten. Both awards, I would like to dedicate it to them for their service to our country. May God bless them all! Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all!

KC Bertling

Final Salute

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

Sgt. 1st Class Robert E. "Andy" Anderson, retired Army and Vietnam veteran

July 14, 1941 to Dec. 1, 2019

Editor's note: If you know a veteran who has passed away, email their information to jonathan.stinson@theredstonerocket.com to be included in the next Final Salute.

Send your letters to editor

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

RedstoneRocket

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Society should learn from children's innocence

I was sitting on the floor in a room surrounded by children.

They ranged in age from 18 months to six weeks. It wasn't exactly my comfort zone.

I was taking photos for the Rocket's coverage of the recent Parent's Night Out.

It's not that I don't like kids. I just don't find myself around them often.

My cousin just had a baby a couple of weeks ago, and that was the first baby in our family since my other cousin was born 20-something years ago.

She asked if I wanted to hold it, and I declined. The last thing I need to do is break my aunt's first and probably only grandchild.

But kids will teach you things, won't they?

I was sitting off to myself on the floor with the camera to my eye when one little guy walked – the best he could – over to me and shoved a toy in my face.

I told him thank you, sat it on the ground, played with him for a couple of seconds, showed him how it worked, and then went back to shooting photos.

A few seconds later, he was back with another toy in my face. So, rinse, wash, and repeat, I did the same thing.

Then he came back with another one. At this point, I was accumulating quite the toy collection.

So I thought well, maybe he wants me to stop what I'm doing and focus on him.

But, when I started playing with him and the toys, he just moved on and started playing with something else.

Either I didn't know how to play with the

Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson

Assistant editor

toys, or he just wanted to make sure I had a toy that I liked to play with, and once I did his job was done.

Later, it made me think about the last time I was concerned and determined to make sure someone else had what they needed.

I'm not going to lie, that's not my default response like it was for that child.

A minute or two later, another little one scooted his way over to me, looked up, and put his arms up in the air in the universal sign for "pick me up."

This child didn't know me from Adam, but I mean, what are you going to do? So, I picked him up.

That takes a level of implicit trust on the kid's part, doesn't it?

I mean, when's the last time you approached a total stranger and just spoken to them or in most cases, even made eye contact with them?

It made me think – and this is about as close to a holiday message as I'll ever get – what would the world be like if we, as a society, earned that level of trust?

I hope that little guy doesn't lose his belief in people, and maybe he can help others find theirs.

Rocket takes holiday break

This is the Redstone Rocket's last edition before our two-week holiday break. Our first issue of 2020 is Jan. 8. We wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season.

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First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN
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What do you think of your job?

"I chose this job because I come from a military background," Huntsville police officer Tyler Stalvey, who served six years in the Air Force, said. "My father (National Guard Sgt. 1st Class Roy Stalvey) is still in the Army. He's stationed at Fort McClellan. He's been in nearly 30 years now. I had a great-uncle who was in the Marine Corps. Basically I just wanted to follow the footsteps of my family. I enjoy giving back to the community and country any way that I can."

Stalvey, 27, from Geraldine in DeKalb County, served in the Air Force from 2012-18 and left as a staff sergeant. In the Air Force security forces, he did law enforcement and base security. He served in Djibouti, Africa, in 2013-14. Stalvey graduated Dec. 6 from the Huntsville Police Academy. The south Huntsville resident likes playing acoustic guitar and going to the gym. He roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Tyler Stalvey

Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

Directorate of Operations, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following report for Dec. 1-7:

Dec. 1: A vehicle traveling east on Neal Road near Burose Road ran over a fallen tree and had minor functional damage. Minor repair was notified about the fallen tree.

Dec. 3: While backing from an unmarked space in a parking lot, a government vehicle struck an air-conditioning unit. The vehicle had minor damage. The air-conditioning unit had a dent but remained functional.

Dec. 3: A victim entered the Redstone police station and reported their utility trailer was missing. The enclosed utility trailer was removed from the MWR Storage Lot on Mauler Road. A description of the stolen trailer was entered in the National Crime Information Center. Investigation continues by Police Investigations.

Dec. 6: A Soldier tested positive for

Tetrahydrocannabinol, the active ingredient in marijuana, during a unit urinalysis inspection. The Soldier waived their legal rights and denied the use of marijuana or any products that contained THC. Legal officers said there is probable cause to believe the Soldier committed the offense of wrongful use of a controlled substance (marijuana). No additional investigative efforts are required and the report is provided to the command for consideration of action.

Dec. 6: Traveling east on Goss Road, a vehicle collided with a deer. The damaged vehicle had to be towed. The deer was located south of Goss and was put down. Redstone Arsenal game warden was notified.

Citations included one failure to obey traffic control device, one expired driver's license, one limitation on backing, one improper parking and five speeding.

Getting to know you

By WENDY REEVES
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Name: Edgardo Sanchez

Profession: Verifying official at One Stop, Garrison

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a MLB player and follow the footsteps of my hero, Roberto Clemente.

What do you hope to accomplish within the next year?

I am hoping to lose a couple of pounds and get in better shape. As far as work is concerned, I want to ensure that our Soldiers, retirees and their family members get the outstanding customer service that they deserve.

Who is your hero?

Roberto Clemente, and of course my dad. My dad taught me that it was important to be a great person, a great father and mentor to others.

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

Proudly serve my country again.



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

Never give up on your dreams, with hard work and dedication you can accomplish anything.

On this date in history: Dec. 18

In 1777: The United States celebrated its first Thanksgiving, marking the recent victory by the American rebels over British Gen. John Burgoyne at Saratoga in October.

In 1787: New Jersey became the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1865: U.S. Secretary of State William Seward proclaimed the adoption of the 13th Amendment, prohibiting slavery throughout the USA.

In 1932: The Chicago Bears defeated the Portsmouth Spartans in the first NFL playoff game to win the NFL championship.

In 1972: President Richard Nixon announced that the United States would engage North Vietnam in Operation Linebacker II, a series of Christmas bombings, after peace talks collapsed with North Vietnam on Dec. 13.

In 2017: Amtrak Cascades passenger train 501, derailed near DuPont, Washington, a city near Olympia, Washington, killing six people, and injuring 70 others.

Quote of the week

"Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home!"

— Charles Dickens

Know your laws: Alabama's proposed expansion of Stand Your Ground Law

Alabama's current Stand Your Ground Law establishes that a person may use deadly physical force to defend themselves, immediate family members, or others from life-threatening physical force. House Bill 49 would expand Alabama's existing Stand Your Ground Law. If passed into law, it would protect those who might need to shoot someone who is posing a threat to a church congregation.

The purpose of HB 49 is to protect religious institutions, and to provide legal protection for anyone who may be faced with using deadly force to stop a potential church shooter. Additionally, HB 49 would protect people in church and make people feel safer.

Maj. Jimmine Haigler, military law attorney at the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, has shared her research on the Alabama Church Protection Act which would amend Sections 13A-3-20 and 13A-3-23 of the Code of Alabama 1975.

A person is justified in using physical force upon another person in order to defend himself or herself or a third person from what he or she reasonably believes to be the use or imminent use of

unlawful physical force by that other person, and he or she may use a degree of force which he or she reasonably believes to be necessary for the purpose. A person may use deadly physical force, and is legally presumed to be justified in using deadly physical force in self-defense or the defense of another person if the person reasonably believes that someone is:

Using or about to use unlawful deadly physical force.

Using or about to use physical force against an occupant of a dwelling while committing or attempting to commit a burglary of such dwelling.

Committing or about to commit a kidnapping in any degree, assault in the first or second degree, burglary in any degree, robbery in any degree, forcible rape, or forcible sodomy.

Using or about to use physical force against an owner, employee, or other person authorized to be on business property when the business is closed to the public while committing or attempting to commit a crime involving death, serious physical injury, robbery, kidnapping, rape, sodomy or a crime of a sexual nature involving a child under 12.

Using or about to use physical force against an employee, volunteer, member of a church, or any other person authorized to be on the premises of the church when the church is open or closed to the public while committing or attempting to commit a crime involving death, serious physical injury, robbery, kidnapping, rape, sodomy, or a crime of a sexual nature involving a child under 12.

Proposed HB 49 effectively authorizes any person to use deadly force to intervene when members of a religious group perceive a physical threat. The stand your ground protection would be extended to people who shoot a gunman in church, and in cases where the gunman is firing at people other than his or her family members or relatives. The use of deadly force in these situations would



be justified under law and immune from criminal prosecution and civil action.

Editor's note: Maj. Jimmine Haigler, military law attorney at the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, did the research and provided the content for this article.

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Tell us about ...

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

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Your highlight for 2019.

"My highlight of my year is right now. I'm getting ready to retire 31 Dec. after 31 years and one month," Richard Martinez, logistics management specialist in the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office in the Program Executive Office for Aviation, said. "It's been exciting. I've gone to a couple of project offices. I started out in the Integrated Materiel Management Center, now known as the AMCOM Logistics Center. I had the chance to work on various systems – a helicopter system OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, TOW Bradley, JAMS Project Office (in the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space), and now UAS. That's where I am right now. I've been there 17 and a half years."

Martinez, 59, from Corpus Christi, Texas, was an Army intern in 1989 at Red River Army Depot, Texas; and he arrived at Redstone in August 1989. He and his wife of 18 years, Patricia, reside in Monrovia with their four cats. He likes traveling, target shooting and eating out. Martinez roots for the Dallas Cowboys.



Richard Martinez

Rocket staffers select their favorite stories

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer/Social media

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I have always loved a good “year in review,” which is why I am usually the staffer tapped to do ours. There is just something that appeals to me about finding a narrative that might not be evident in the day to day chaos of Rocket life.

We said farewell to our assistant editor Amy Tolson and staff photographer Bryan Bacon in 2019. Change is tough, especially when you have formed the friendships we have over years of working together. But they are still sharing their talents as part of Team Redstone, just on different mission paths.

As I read the staff submissions of their favorite assignments this year, I am once again reminded what a privilege it is to tell your stories.

Editor Skip Vaughn

“Vietnam War Lecture Series gives history lesson,” Nov. 6 edition

Skip: My favorite story of the year was our coverage of the seventh annual event for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Lecture Series, Nov. 4 at the Jackson Center in Huntsville.

It was an honor to cover this event which recognizes our veterans from the Vietnam War, 1964-75. Guest speaker Joe Bongiovanni, a Marine veteran, shared his personal experiences in the war.

For our ongoing series on Vietnam veterans, I interviewed the exhibit coordinator, Norm Myers, who was a supply Soldier in Thailand from 1972-73. I subsequently interviewed attendees Dick Ordway, Wathan Fielding and Marshall Eubanks, all of whom served in Vietnam.

Assistant editor Jonathan Stinson

“Employee takes opportunity to overcome diversity,” Oct. 30 edition

Katie: Jonathan is the newest addition to the Rocket team and thought it was too early to pick a favorite. I disagreed, as I think he is a talented writer and has already put a fresh spin on his stories.

Skip has been here since newspapers were handwritten on scrolls and I am coming up on seven years. We get stuck in a rut sometimes – we need the new perspective that Jonathan, Wendy and Eric brought to the Rocket in 2019. This is my favorite story that Jonathan has penned so far.

I was uplifted by Anthony Green’s story



and how Jonathan shared it as part of the Army’s recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I could visualize Green’s struggles and ultimate triumph, and that is just good storytelling.

Staff writer/Social media manager Katie Skelley

“Veteran leader leaves legacy of service,” Oct. 30/Veterans Day & Heroes Week special issue

This one was personal. When I first started at the Rocket, there were a handful of people who helped me get my sea legs. Bob Marshall was one of them. While writing this, I found some old emails from Bob about stories we had worked on together. His support and praise helped convince me that I could actually do this job – and do it well. But that was Bob and I am not the only one whose life he blessed with his encouragement. The pressure was on – how could I convey in 1,500 words who he was and what he meant to the people who loved him? I hope I succeeded.

Staff writer Wendy Reeves

“Hall of Heroes inductees exemplify courage, sacrifice,” Nov. 12 edition

Wendy: It is hard to choose one fa-

vorite story. However, it was special for me to cover events during Heroes Week, including the 2019 Huntsville-Madison County Veterans Dinner on Friday, Nov. 8. Everything that happened during the event was incredibly meaningful. It was an honor to be in the presence of our local warriors and hear the stories of their courage, bravery and leadership as they were inducted into the Madison County Military Heritage Hall of Heroes.

Of the new seven Hall of Heroes inductees, five were also added to the Purple Heart Honor Roll, which is housed in the Madison County Courthouse.

Their names bear repeating:

- Charles “Skip” Gill
- David Roesler
- Eugene Cope
- Jewell Toney

- Curtis Potts
- Michael Ray Williams
- Robert “Rick” Davis

Staff photographer Eric Schultz

“Community jumps at helping Special Olympics,” Oct. 30 edition

Eric: I chose this photo from the Special Olympics as my favorite photo. I like the boy lighting the flame at the beginning of the Special Olympics. It’s a great example of folks helping create a special day for these kids who most likely will not be able to compete in a competitive athletic event. The kids love competing and being a part of something bigger and the adults get to engage the kids and realize everyone has something special inside of them.

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Garrison leaders share advice for JROTC cadets

By JO ANITA MILEY

Garrison Public Affairs

This was like a holiday season treat for Buckhorn High School's JROTC cadets.

They participate each year in Redstone's annual JROTC Day but they rarely get a chance for one-on-one mentoring with Soldier leaders. This was their opportunity.

Garrison Commander Col. Kelsey Smith and Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Counts participated in a mentoring event Thursday at the school in New Market. The visit included a meeting with the school's principal, Todd Markham, a tour of the JROTC facility, Hall of Heroes, Veterans Memorial, and a mentoring activity with JROTC cadets.

Markham said he was excited about Garrison's visit to the school. He wants to raise awareness and continue to grow the JROTC program.

After telling the cadets a little about themselves and why they chose to serve in the Army, Smith and Counts answered questions about leadership, academics, careers, deployments and military service.

Retired Lt. Col. Dominic Stewart, se-

nior instructor for the JROTC program at the school, said he was pleased with the Garrison leaders taking time out of their busy schedules to engage with the cadets. This may have sparked some student interest in a military career.

Counts, a graduate of Woodville High School in Jackson County, told cadets about the value of maximizing their opportunities. Doing this has been life-changing for him.

"Don't let the place where your story started confine you," Counts said. "Have the mindset to make use of every opportunity that comes your way. I have 29 years, six months military service right now and will retire next year. I started out in Paint Rock, Alabama, right up the road – I was you. If you recognize opportunity when it presents itself, you can be standing where I am today."

Smith focused his message on educational preparation and career exploration.

"The Army paid me to go to school," Smith said. "All I was asked to give in return was six years of active duty and some Reserve time. I've gone way past that requirement. It's a way of life for me.



Photo by Jonathan Stinson

Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Billy Counts speaks to students in the JROTC program at Buckhorn High School. At left is Garrison Commander Col. Kelsey Smith.

"We came out today to talk with you about the future. You're all thinking about what career you'll pursue one day consider these colors as an option."

By the numbers:

*Counting down
the holidays*

6 days left for shopping

7 days till Christmas

14 days till New Year's

16 days till you break your New Year's resolutions

17 days till you want your in-laws to leave forever

Grow your knowledge about lawn care

Keep storm drains clean for those downstream

Natural methods of lawn care in conjunction with chemicals can produce a healthy lawn and protect water quality, according to the Garrison Environmental Office.

The routine overuse of lawn fertilizers and weed killers can indirectly harm streams, rivers and ponds. Sole reliance on chemicals is no longer justified for maintaining a beautiful lawn. Rather, natural methods of lawn care in conjunction with chemicals can produce a healthy lawn and protect water quality. This happens because grasses can filter pollutants (fertilizers, herbicides, sediment) and some types can control weeds and require less fertilizer and water. Here are some tips:

- Mowing – Don't mow too close to the ground; taller grass produces deeper roots and controls weeds. ... Practice "grass recycling", and leave clippings on the lawn to provide natural fertilization (do not blow them into ditches or streams). ... Do not mow wet grass; this causes clumping. ... Use composted yard waste as mulch and soil conditioner.

- Fertilizers – Fertilizers contain nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorus) that can harm water quality by causing undesirable plants to grow in streams and ponds, blocking oxygen from the fish. Fertilizers high in nitrates (nitrogen) are more likely to enter streams because they are released more quickly. Do not apply fertilizer when the ground is frozen, before or after heavy rain or irrigation, during cold weather (less than 55 degrees Fahrenheit) and directly into, or near, streams, ponds or ditches. ... Minimize application rates on slopes. ... Apply according to label directions. ... Use fertilizers labeled "slowly available nitrogen" on sandy soils since they are less likely to enter streams. ... Base fertilizer applications on a representative soil test that shows the amounts of nutrients in the soil, waiting three to four weeks after the last fertilization. ... Aerate compacted soil to aid incorporation and reduce runoff. ... Maintain a vegetated buffer zone between frequently fertilized lawns and streams to prevent pollution and provide uptake of nutrients.

You should water carefully to prevent runoff and leaching. And water in the early morning for optimal results.

For more information call the Garrison Environmental Office, storm water program manager, at 955-8501.

Wrapping makes gifts extra special under tree

By WENDY REEVES

Staff writer

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In the age of gift bags, a lesson on the lost art of gift wrapping was a big hit with attendees of an open house for the Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club held at The Summit.

Toys were collected for the Marines Toys for Tots drive and more than 20 vendors participated in a Holiday Market during the event Dec. 10. Local artist and designer Tina Bedwell gave a presentation full of inspirational tips and tricks for wrapping holiday – or any type of gift.

“I thought it was a great idea,” Bedwell said. “It really is a lost art because these days a lot of us use the gift bags, myself included at times, but we used to wrap everything.”

As her five children came along, Bedwell said she gravitated to gift bags.

“Now they’re older and out on their own so I may have more time to sit down and wrap their gifts,” Bedwell said.

The wrapping station included different papers, ribbon, raffia, tags and other embellishments to choose from to make festive looking packages. Bedwell also shared how to stamp paper for packages that were extra special.

“It takes a little longer but when you want to go that extra mile to make it really special, it’s a great option,” she said.

Nicole Jackson attended her first RS-AMCC meeting. She and her husband, who is active duty, just moved to Huntsville and a friend invited her to attend.



Photo by Wendy Reeves

Local artist and designer Tina Bedwell, left, and Kris Shelledly discuss the lost art of gift wrapping at the Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club open house.

“I am so glad I came,” Jackson said as she was organizing her purchased gifts. “I put the paper on but she did help me with the bow and they look so pretty.”

Karen Cushman, a member of the group, also enjoyed the wrapping station.

“I am not good at this,” Cushman said as Bedwell worked with her on the finishing touches of one special gift. “I am definitely a bagger. But there are some



Photo by Wendy Reeves

Newcomer Nicole Jackson shows gifts she bought and wrapped at the Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club open house at The Summit, Dec. 10.

things you can’t get in a bag and Tina is sharing so many cute little ideas that really make it. I need to go buy some more to get more pointers on wrapping.”

Kris Shelledly picked up her love of wrapped packages from her mother, who always enjoyed staying up after everyone was asleep to wrap beautiful packages.

“I only use gift bags when absolutely necessary,” Shelledly said, while working

with Bedwell to wrap an odd shaped and sized gift. “When I was in high school I worked in a department store wrapping gifts at Christmas so I’ve had lots of practice, but she’s got great ideas here and to me, wrapped presents look so pretty under a tree.”

Editor’s note: To learn more about the RSAMCC and its upcoming meetings, go to www.rsamcc.org.

Veteran of Year surprised at statewide award

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Richard Knight has enjoyed an excellent year.

He was named the statewide Veteran of the Year for Alabama's 10 chapters of the Vietnam Veterans of America. The Huntsville resident received his award at the veterans award dinner Nov. 10 in Birmingham. There was also an honoree apiece for the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Officers Association of America, and the Disabled Veterans of America.

Knight's plaque cites him as the one "who has done the most to foster the highest ideals in community service, membership and our American way of life."

Knight serves as membership chairman of Huntsville's 650-member Chapter 1067 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. He was one of the chapter's founding members in 2012. Chapter 1067 is the largest chapter in Alabama and the eighth largest of the more than 670 chapters nationwide.

"He's absolutely a man that has supported our chapter 100 percent," Charlie Miller, president of Chapter 1067, said. "And because of his hard work, he's added to our membership probably 400 members. That's exceptional. He's the Alabama state Veteran of the Year."

Besides recruiting members for the chapter, Knight assists veterans in navigating their paperwork through the system to be awarded their benefit claims. He's not a veterans service officer but a self-taught "paper shuffler," he said. Knight learned the system by pushing his own paperwork from the late 1990s to 2000 when he gained 100 percent disability. He was diagnosed with diabetes and heart disease.

"It took me by surprise," Knight said of his award. "I didn't feel the work that I do would get to that point to be recognizable."

He served as a machine gunner with the Marines in Vietnam from 1969-70. He was a 23-year-old lance corporal with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines in An Hoa. His unit, H Company, went out on numerous patrols. But in mid-February 1970, shortly before they were scheduled to return to the U.S., one of his friends volunteered to go on patrol with G Company. His friend stepped on a land mine. All that remained was part of his flak jacket and his left foot.

In April 1970 when Knight arrived at the Pensacola airport, he encountered protesters.

Knight received the combat action ribbon, national defense ribbon, good conduct ribbon, sharpshooter badge and expert badge on the machine gun. He completed his two-year obligation and left the service as a lance corporal. Knight joined the Marines after receiving his draft notice in November 1968.

His hometown Excel is in Monroe County in south Alabama. He retired in 2004 as a refractory ceramic engineer after 34 years at what was then Inland Steel in East Chicago, Indiana.

He and his wife of 46 years, Lillian, have three children and three grandchildren.

Vietnam revisited Part 250 in series



Photo by Eric Schultz

Vietnam veterans Richard Knight and Wathan Fielding share a laugh at the seventh annual event for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Lecture Series, Nov. 4 in the Jackson Center in Huntsville. Both served with the Marines.

Terrance, the oldest, lives in Athens. Their younger son, Kevin, and their daughter, Leslie, both reside in Huntsville.

At 71 Knight likes to read and spend his time working with veterans to get the benefits they deserve.

"I think it's wonderful," he said of this nation's commemoration of 50 years since the Vietnam War. "I believe the 50th commemoration has brought a lot of veterans out of the shadows to be recognized."

Editor's note: This is the 250th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Childcare parents on board with information sharing

By JONATHAN STINSON

Assistant editor

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The Parent Advisory Council for Child and Youth Services has a new look, at least on an organizational chart.

The group has created a number of Parent Advisory Boards that operate at the center level. Right now, there's a PAB for the School Age Center and a combined PAB for the Mills and Goss CDCs.

The idea is for these boards to meet monthly, or at least every six weeks, and discuss concerns or suggestions to make each CDC better.

"Really that should be the place parents should feel comfortable talking about issues that they don't want to go directly to the center director for," Jessica Bossi, president of the Parent Advisory Council, said. "So, (the PAB) is for your more individualized issues."

The boards can also hold funds, fundraise and plan different events for the summer.

The Parent Advisory Council, which meets quarterly and provides lunch, will handle what Bossi describes as "bigger-level" issues that boards feel they can't resolve at the center level.

"This is a place where parents can come together, and they can interface with Garrison leadership and leadership from the Child and Youth Services Program," she said. "And it's a place for parents from different centers to come together more as a family."

Because the council is designed to handle issues that have escalated from the different centers, Andre Terry, chief of Child and Youth Services, said he would be sure he was there for each meeting.

"Thank you for trusting us with your children," Terry told the parents at the meeting. "I just appreciate the fact that you trust the quality of what we do in our pro-

Parents who want to be involved in the Parent Advisory Boards or Council can call CYS Outreach Services at 313-3735. Parents who attend council meetings or serve on the PAB or PAC can earn points in the Parent Participation Program, which can help parents earn a 10 percent discount on their child's monthly childcare fee. The next meeting of the Parent Advisory Council will be March 11.

grams. You're here for a reason, and I think that says a whole lot."

Bossi said one of the benefits from attending the meetings is, for example, it gives a parent with a younger child an idea of what is going on in the other CDCs that their child will eventually attend.

"More than us just talking about problems, it's a positive place for us to share information, share events that are happening, and ways that we can make the programs better for our children."

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The next meeting of the Parent Advisory Council will be March 11.

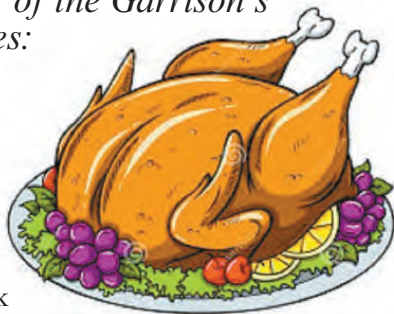
Your favorite holiday recipe

Here's one from Kendra Brown, of the Garrison's Directorate of Human Resources:

7UP Pound Cake

Ingredients:

- 3 sticks of butter (room temperature)
- 3 cups of sugar
- 6 eggs (room temperature)
- 3 cups of cake flour (all purpose will work as well)
- 3/4 cup of 7UP
- 1 1/2 tablespoon of lemon extract



Allow butter and eggs to sit (overnight preferably). Mix sticks of butter together. Be sure to scrap the sides of the bowl with a spoon throughout the mixing process.

Once creamy, gradually add sugar, mix/blend; then add eggs one at a time, mix/blend; shift your flour, gradually add flour, mix/blend; then gradually add 7UP. (You can substitute 7UP for Sprite; if so it will be a Sprite Cake.)

Lastly add lemon extract then mix/blend. (Hint: Save the bowl and mixing beaters for a special treat for tasting.)

Preheat oven at 325 degrees. Bake for one hour, depending on your oven range. Spray cake pan (preferably a bundt cake pan) with baking spray. Check to see if cake is done by gently sticking a fine straw/toothpick down the center of the cake; if the straw comes out clean, the cake is done.

Military families treated to evening at ballet



Maj. Gen. Robert Harter visits with Emily Hall-Pruitt, left, sister of fallen Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Hall, Hall-Pruitt's daughter Evy and Hall's mother Annette Hall. Staff Sgt. Hall was an Army Ranger killed June 1, 2009, in Afghanistan while deployed with the 10th Mountain Division.

Photos by EBEN BOOTHBY

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs



Photo by Kari Hawkins

The Nutcracker Military Night organizer Angela Fortier, left, wife of Col. Gregory Fortier, puts the finishing touches on the Gold Star Cupcake Reception. The Fortiers' daughter Faith played the character of Laura Erskine and their older daughter Grace was a gypsy in the evening's performance.



Maj. Gen. Robert Harter, Army Materiel Command chief of staff, and Phillip Otto, artistic director of the Huntsville Ballet Company, greet a Gold Star family at the Gold Star Cupcake Reception before the Nutcracker performance.

The annual Nutcracker Military Night delivered a festive outing Thursday for local military families at the Von Braun Center's Mark C. Smith Concert Hall. A Gold Star family reception preceded the performance by the Huntsville Ballet Company.

See Ballet on page 16



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Military-connected children parade through the hall before the performance, a new addition to the Nutcracker Military Night.



Garrison Commander Col. Kelsey Smith is dressed in period garb for his part in the production.

The audience is invited to bring toys to donate to the Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots program.

Headlines

Continued from page 1

ing with representatives from Hunt Military Communities, which has managed Redstone housing since 2007 under the Residential Community Initiative for privatization.

“We know this is a problem within military housing and we’re troubled by the reports across the Army. Just like Army senior leadership are committed to fixing this, here at Redstone, the senior leaders are committed to making sure that you have quality housing,” Redstone Senior Commander Lt. Gen. Ed Daly said. “There will be absolutely no reprisals for reporting. We want to hear the concerns of our Soldiers and families so we can ensure they are appropriately addressed.”

Gateway development grows with newest tenant, March 13

By Wendy Reeves, Staff writer

Georgia Tech Research Institute will be moving into the newest Redstone Gateway development after construction is complete by fall of 2020.

The institute will occupy half of the 76,000 square foot single-story office space under construction at 8800 Redstone Gateway, Paul Adkins said Thursday at a groundbreaking ceremony at the site. Adkins is executive vice president and chief operating officer of Corporate Office Properties Trust, a developer of the gateway project along with Jim Wilson & Associates.

Redstone Senior Commander Lt. Gen. Ed Daly talked about the level of commitment dedicated to the Redstone Gateway project being a demonstration to the future of Redstone Arsenal and the community.

“The continued growth and development of Redstone Gateway is mutually beneficial to this installation and our local community. On Redstone alone, proceeds from this public/private-sector partnership have allowed us to make critical infrastructure improvements, including a new substation with added capacity and better reliability, traffic improvements on Rideout Road at Gate 9, and a new railroad spur. We value the commitment and impact this series of projects has on Redstone Arsenal and, consequently, on our armed forces,” Daly said.

ATF center captures evidence to solve gun crimes, April 17

By Amy Guckeen Tolson, former assistant editor

Fighting gun crime requires not only law enforcement officers on the streets, but all eyes on deck.

Nestled in an unassuming office building across from Bridge Street Town Centre is one of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives’ first lines of defense in solving and putting a stop to gun crime – the National Integration Ballistic Information Network National Correlation and Training Center, which celebrated its grand opening Thurs-

day. As law enforcement officers across the country upload ballistics evidence to NIBIN, workers at the Correlation Center analyze and compare images in the database to see if one crime can be connected to another.

“This cutting-edge technology and this Correlation Center here will drive our crime gun intelligence,” U.S. Attorney Jay Town said. “What that means is more guns off the streets, more shooters off the streets, more trigger-pullers going to prison, especially federal prison, where there is no sanctuary of parole. ... Our collective goal is to return our neighborhoods back to the law-abiding citizens, who for too long have had to hide behind their own front doors due to the crime violence and gun violence.”

Army’s first hypersonics director receives his third star, May 1

By Megan Gully, Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

As fate would have it, 36 years and a day after his father swore him into the United States Army as a private first class, Lt. Gen. L. Neil Thurgood received his third star.

“As a young man, I was inspired to serve this great nation by my parents,” said Thurgood, whose father served two aviation combat tours in Vietnam. “I knew that I wanted to be a part of something great. I wanted to serve a team that would risk all for the ones they love most and the ones they cherish.”

Thurgood assumed his duties as the director of Hypersonics, Directed Energy, Space and Rapid Acquisition following Senate confirmation at the end of March. In this position, he directs the Army Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office, which includes the Hypersonics Project Office. Thurgood’s formal promotion ceremony took place on April 24.

Community honors its two living Medal of Honor recipients, May 8

By Kari Hawkins, Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

On a breezy and sunny spring day, the names of two of the nation’s most honored Vietnam veterans were memorialized during a Medal of Honor Wall Rededication Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial in downtown Huntsville as the local veterans community and Redstone Arsenal representatives showed their respect and appreciation.

Retired Lt. Col. Mike Sprayberry and retired Capt. Mike Rose were present as a new Medal of Honor Wall was unveiled, showing their names added in chronological order according to their military citations. Their names are now among six Medal of Honor recipients from Madison County. Sprayberry and Rose are Madison County’s only living Medal of Honor recipients.

“This memorial is a symbol of what a community does for its veterans when it truly honors their legacy,” Redstone Senior Commander Lt. Gen. Ed Daly told the 200 attendees at the April 30 ceremony.

“It is a symbol of those who stand on free-

dom’s frontier personifying the values and liberties of the United States of America. At first glance, this monument represents the finest and strongest and most resilient military in the world. But as you look closer, you see the names of those etched in its surface and you realize it took the sacrifice, courage and duty of many with their own hopes and dreams to build a monument that stands for freedom for all.”

Apollo 11 celebration marks step in right direction, July 24

By Amy Guckeen Tolson, former assistant editor

The words of Apollo 15 astronaut Al Worden said it all, “The excitement is back.”

The fervor that overtook the world 50 years ago, as 600 million people tuned in to watch the moon landing, made a comeback in Huntsville last week, as the city that turned President John F. Kennedy’s dream into an engineering reality paid homage to the remarkable feat.

Even a power outage that left attendees dining largely in the dark could not dampen the spirit at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center July 16, as the community came together under the Saturn V to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the launch date of Apollo 11. More than 900 people attended the Apollo 11 Homecoming Celebration Dinner and Program that recognized the Rocket City’s role in putting man on the moon. Long tables reserved for the engineers who made it all happen served as a visual reminder of Huntsville’s contribution to the space race.

“As an engineer myself, it was these individuals that inspired me to never stop pushing the boundaries of innovation,” said Harold Brewer, co-founder and chairman of the board of INTUITIVE Research and Technology, the Apollo 50th Golden Anniversary sponsor. “It was these men and women that put Huntsville on the map, making it a hub for groundbreaking discovery, and it was these men and women that were the catalyst for the next giant leap of mankind. The research and engineering that supported Apollo 11 proved that we are not confined to the limitations of technology, but only the limitations of our imaginations and our curiosities.”

Redstone energy project earns national recognition, Sept. 25

By Skip Vaughn, Rocket editor

The Garrison and the Tennessee Valley Authority have won an annual energy award from the Department of Energy.

The award-winning project removed 27 selected buildings from the postwide central steam distribution system and installed energy efficient natural gas/electric heating and cooling systems. The Garrison’s Directorate of Public Works and TVA completed the project in fiscal 2018.

“It’s a result of a larger team effort,” Mark Smith, the Garrison’s energy manager, said. “It’s both organizations working together to implement that project.”

Ten-Miler Team lands two more eagle trophies, Oct. 16

By Skip Vaughn, Rocket editor

WASHINGTON – All we do is win, win no matter what.

“All I Do Is Win,” the 2010 song by DJ Khaled, was playing on the loudspeakers at the start of Sunday’s 35th annual Army Ten-Miler near the Pentagon. It seemed appropriate for the Redstone Arsenal team on this day.

Redstone won another double repeat in the all-comers division and the government agency division. The Arsenal runners won their 13th straight championship in the government agency division and 11th straight title in the all-comers division. That makes 24 eagle trophies in the 35-year history of the race.

U.S. Sen. Doug Jones, of Alabama, sent the following tweet afterward:

“Congratulations to the team from Redstone on yet another great showing at today’s 35th Army Ten-Miler. Eight runners finished in under 60 minutes and it looks like more trophies are coming to the winningest team in the history of the ATM. Hooah!”

Environmental efforts clear land for development, Nov. 20

By Katie Davis Skelley, Staff writer/Social media

Outdoor enthusiasts now have new land to explore on Redstone Arsenal.

This fall, the Directorate of Public Works released around 300 acres to Family and MWR Outdoor Recreation for hunting use. That makes more than 1,000 acres of land that has been cleared of potential munitions and cleaned of hazardous materials by DPW’s Environmental Restoration Division.

For the past four decades, the team has worked to identify sites with contamination using historical records and known disposal or contamination release areas deemed hazardous. Due to Redstone Arsenal’s proficiency at munition manufacturing and disposal, 1.5 million munitions were transported to Redstone to be disposed of after World War II. Those disposal methods – while legal at the time – have proven to be problematic as technology and time advanced.

“The north Thiokol and south Thiokol production facility is where we made lots of different rockets,” Clint Howard, Environmental Restoration Division branch chief, said. “We made Patriot missiles, we made different things Thiokol built for the Army. A lot of those areas required heavy use of rocket fuels and lots of solvents out there. The reason we used solvents is when you put the rocket fuel into the rocket bodies, all of those parts have to be super clean so we have these big deep pits. We would dip the rocket body down in there, make sure it is clean and inject the solid rocket fuel. So these areas had a lot of contamination in the soil and underground because we had lots of spills out there – some of the tanks would leak and some of the pits would leak.”

Accountability impacts housing maintenance process

By JONATHAN STINSON

Assistant editor

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Standing on his front porch, with a notebook full of notes he and his wife had made about their home, Staff Sgt. Andrew Bolen waits for Garrison Commander Col. Kelsey Smith.

The Bolen residence was just one of the 354 on post the colonel is visiting to get a firsthand look at the current challenges faced by Arsenal residents with having work orders completed and problems solved by the Army's private contractor in charge of taking care of the installation's housing Hunt Military Communities.

It's all part of an initiative that started back in February after news broke about the state of housing across several armed services installations.

The senior leadership, including Smith, made many visits to homeowners.

Smith said he was getting a firsthand look at how the residents were caring for their homes and what problems they had. The visits give him an insight into how accountable the homeowners are to the process of maintaining their homes and how accountable Hunt is to the process of taking care of work orders when they are generated.

Since that initial group of visits, Smith said: "We've done our part to improve our oversight, but I still need to see it to get a feel for what is really happening."

That's what brought him to the Bolens' doorstep.

That night he said he was looking for three things to evaluate how the Army and Hunt were doing – communication,

responsiveness and resolution.

Bolen pointed the colonel in the direction of the sliding-glass backdoor – it doesn't slide.

To open the door, Bolen has to lift the entire door panel and move it. To close the door, it takes even more of an effort. Bolen has to lift the door panel, hold it in an elevated position, engage the lock and then set it in place.

Bolen mentioned there is a lack of communication once a work order is placed, a problem identified, and a solution found with his backdoor.

He knows the door is back-ordered, and he knows what it was going to take to fix the problem, but that is about it.

That's an issue Smith has seen across the board.

"I've seen a lack of communication in that follow-through," he said in a separate interview. "Don't we owe our resident a phone call back or a visit by the house to say 'hey, that storm door is on backorder. It's due in here, and I'm going to schedule you for an appointment in this month.'"

According to Smith, communication works both ways.

On the resident's side, there's sometimes a lack of follow-up on work orders.

"Residents who are invested in their homes, put in the work orders, and who are the squeaky wheel – they get the grease."

It's this communication between the resident and Hunt that the colonel hopes to improve.

Inside Bolen's home, there's a spot on the ceiling where you can tell workers repaired a leak. The paint over the repair was brighter than the color of paint around it, making it stand out like Band-Aid over a cut.



Photo by Eric Schultz

Garrison Commander Col. Kelsey Smith, right, talks with Staff Sgt. Andrew Bolen in Bolen's home on Redstone Arsenal.

It didn't bother the Bolens, and therefore there was no work order, but in the colonel's view, that's not a complete repair or a full resolution to the issue.

Ensuring work orders are resolved is at the top of Smith's list.

Before visiting Bolen's home, he gave this example while sitting in his office, which matched the issue at the Bolen residence.

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Housing

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"I'll walk into a home, and I'll be able to see where a patch has been done," Smith said. "My work order says that you had a leak in the ceiling. They came out, and they fixed that – and they clearly fixed it – but I knew walking in that they had a leak."

"My version is if I can see where that leak was – we failed."

Back inside the home, the two moved to the master bathroom upstairs to inspect the base of the tub.

There's a gap between the tub and the tile, which workers did caulk, but the gap still allowed water to get trapped and a continuous sludge to leak out despite constant cleaning efforts.

Situations like this raise an interesting issue when it comes to caring for and maintaining these homes. Do you seal around the tub again or replace it?

Or, let's say it's a smaller item like a crack in an old windowpane or a window that's fogged.

Do you fix the problem right now, knowing in two or three months all of the windows are going to be updated and replaced?

For the colonel, it's not a simple answer.

To understand why, you have to know how the relationship between the Army, Hunt and the resident is set up.

Hunt owns the homes, they've leased them for 19 years, which means eventually those structures will be returned to the Army.

So, on one hand, the colonel has a responsibility to ensure that when those homes are returned to the Army, they are in the best condition possible. On the other hand, he has to make sure the residents are receiving the services they need.

To aid in ensuring the homes are properly maintained, and the residents are being taken care of, a portion of the residents' rent goes into a fund designed to refurbish and update each home on the Arsenal. Another part goes toward covering the cost associated with running privatized housing like everyday maintenance.

Over the next two years, 120 homes are scheduled to be refurbished, and on top of that, you have to factor in the cost of maintenance in the homes that are not planned for a revamp.

The answer for the tub is to replace it. It's old, and the previous repairs didn't solve the problem. The solution for the hypothetical fogged windows is waiting six months for the home to be refurbished because by replacing them twice, you limit the ability for future renovations down the road.

In his words, the colonel's role is to act as a referee between Hunt and the residents and bring both sides together to improve the housing for those living on post.

Some of the progress, according to Smith, has been Hunt hiring three new maintenance technicians and two new quality control personnel.

"Through our learning together, we're in agreement about what the workforce structure needs to look like," he said.

The goal with the hiring is to get back to an equilibrium where work orders are being completed in a timely and efficient manner.

"I have to communicate to the residents that we're not going to fix this overnight," he said. "The Army couldn't fix this overnight. And I want them to know that they are one of the three partners in this. And their participation in the process, their investment to making their home better is part of the process."

"It takes all three legs on that stool for the stool to stay steady."

MilitaryScene

Army reduces costs through innovative solutions

By LISA SIMUNACI

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

Value engineering improves programs and systems that Soldiers bet their lives on every day – and those who work toward those efforts were recognized for their contributions during a Team Redstone ceremony Dec. 9.

“You are successful in making an impact,” Command Value Engineering Manager Tom Reynolds told recipients of the Team Redstone Value Engineering Life Cycle Cost Reduction Awards.

Savings across Redstone totaled \$547 million in hard savings and cost avoidance for local organizations during fiscal 2019. Seventeen affiliated organizations located outside of the Redstone Arsenal area saw a savings of \$38 million.

Reynolds, of the Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center, said representatives from the center are embedded across the Aviation and Missile Command to answer the engineering call. That can mean developing a solution or providing an engineering disposition on all types of challenges.

The 11 organizations that participated in the program completed 105 actions in fiscal 2019. Each action translated into at least one additional benefit, Reynolds said. Added benefits include mitigating obsolescence, improving capabilities, relieving Soldier burdens and inserting technology.

“This highly motivated and well-trained workforce identifies deficiencies and resolves issues, often before our Soldiers in the field know there is an issue in the first place,” Reynolds said.

Before presenting the awards, AMCOM Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar dispelled the misnomer that the most innovative engineering and problem-solving talent resides in the private sector.

“You and your teams show you are second to none,” Royar said, commending awardees on their innovation, technical expertise and leadership.

“This is not just about dollars,” he said. “Make no mistake about it – every dollar we save can be applied somewhere else. But this is about Soldiers in the field and artisans in the depots. It’s about being ready. Readiness is the true result of value engineering.”

The AMCOM Logistics Center was among the organizations that was recognized at the ceremony. Its deputy executive director, Fred Pieper, noted the importance of the program.

“We are always looking for ways to improve processes and consume fewer resources by using less paper, oil and supplies,” Pieper said. “The engineers who are embedded throughout AMCOM help with the technical aspects of making our dollars go further.”

The most prestigious honor – the Robert Tarquine Award – went to Ronald Brychta, an Aviation & Missile Center aerospace engineer at Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas. Brychta was instrumental in initiating and successfully completing value engineering projects, particularly on CH-47 Chinook helicopter transmissions. His efforts, which reduced maintenance time and increased parts availability, improved readiness and contributed to a savings of \$263 million over three years.

Value Engineer award plaques were presented to the following organizations:
Aviation Ground Support Equipment Product Directorate
AMCOM Logistics Center
Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation and Missile Center
Corpus Christi Army Depot
Counter-Rocket, Artillery, Mortar Project Directorate
Integrated Air and Missile Defense Project Office
Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Project Office
Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office
Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, or THAAD, Project Office
Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office

Value Engineering Award Certificates were presented to the following individuals.
Thomas Havir, Aviation Ground Support Equipment Product Directorate
Jeffrey Jenkins, AMCOM Logistics Center
Patrick Kelley, Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile



Photo by Lisa Simunaci

Aviation and Missile Command's Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar presents the Robert Tarquine Award to Mike Vourcos, who accepted the honor on behalf of Ronald Brychta. AMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Dove, left, also attended the Team Redstone Value Engineering award ceremony recognizing contributions that saved the Army more than \$585 million in fiscal 2019.

Center

Kristene Bell, Counter-Rocket, Artillery, Mortar Project Directorate
Mike Maddox, Integrated Air and Missile Defense Project Office
William Lovell, Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Project Office
Alvin Gracie, Precision Fires Rocket and Missile Systems Project Office
Toni Hamilton-Datcher, THAAD Project Office
Russell Matteo, Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office

Value Engineering Change Proposal award certificates were presented to the following:

Darrell Quarles, Aircraft Survivability Equipment Project Office
Amy Lett, Army Contracting Command

Life Cycle Cost Reduction Obsolescence Mitigation award certificates were presented to the following:

Frank Collins, Aviation Turbine Engine Project Office
Lisa Alexander, Cruise Missile Defense Systems Project Office

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Redstone Test Center reflects on leadership changes

By Redstone Test Center Public Affairs

This was a busy year for the Redstone Test Center.

In 2019, the center welcomed a new commander and also took time to remember those fallen experimental test pilots whose service and sacrifice illustrate the dangerous, but important work being done to support the warfighter. The center also supported a milestone on the road to future human space flight, and celebrated a birthday this year.

In 2020, RTC will continue executing its important test and evaluation mission in support of Army modernization and Army readiness.

Center's new commander

RTC welcomed a new commander in 2019. Col. Steven Braddom assumed command from Col. John Jones during a ceremony in September at RTC's Test Area One.

Before serving as RTC commander, Braddom was the director of the Aviation Development Directorate-Eustis at Fort Eustis, Virginia. The Columbus, Ohio, native was commissioned from the U.S. Military Academy in the aviation branch in 1993. Braddom and his wife, Jennifer, have two daughters, Ashley and Katherine.

Jones, retiring from the Army after 30 years of service, says he plans to remain in Huntsville and continue to support our nation's warfighter. He also has two children, Ian and Zoey.

Flight test directorate

Lt. Col. Joe Minor assumed command of the RTC's Aviation Flight Test Directorate during a ceremony in August at the Redstone Army Airfield.

Minor is no stranger to the center or AFTD. His first flight test assignment was at AFTD where he served as an AH-64D/E test pilot, and chief of the Integrated Systems Test Division before deploying to Afghanistan in 2012 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Before serving as AFTD commander, Minor served as assistant program manager for the Advanced Aviation Assessment Program Office at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Minor is a native of Grants Pass, Oregon. He is a 2001 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy where he earned a bachelor's in mechanical engineering.

AFTD's previous commander, Lt. Col. Cornelius Allen Jr., relinquished command in July and is heading to Senior Service College at the Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery.

Fallen tester memorial

Experimental test pilots take calculated risks as part of their job. Sadly, on very rare occasions, those risks can turn tragic and result in the loss of life. A memorial to honor fallen test pilots now stands near the front

door of the main hangar at AFTD. On the granite monument are 28 names, etched in stone, forever remembered for their sacrifice conducted during flight test.

The monument was first dedicated 14 years ago at Cairns Army Airfield at Fort Rucker, the then home to the Army's experimental test pilot community. Family and friends of those 28 fallen heroes gathered in October to rededicate the monument at its new home on Redstone Arsenal.

Retired Maj. Gen. James Myles, then commander of the Army Test and Evaluation Command, of which RTC is a subordinate organization, was also on hand for the ceremony, as he was back in 2005 when the memorial was first dedicated.

During his closing remarks, Myles reflected on the importance of remembering the names etched on the monument. "Quite simply, without XPs, risking their lives to drive down risk and maximize the capabilities of every aircraft on the battlefield today, thousands of Soldiers don't come home," he said.

ATEC/RTC anniversaries

Redstone Test Center's Commander Col. Steven Braddom gathered with RTC teammates in October to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Army Test and Evaluation Command.

Since the 1950s, the Army has undergone major changes in its approach to test and evaluation, providing needed support to systems acquisition. After many reorganizations and consolidations throughout the Army, ATEC was formed on Oct. 1.

RTC also marked its 10th anniversary in August. The Aviation Technical Test Center from Fort Rucker and the Redstone Technical Test Center from Redstone Arsenal consolidated in 2009 forming the U.S. Army Redstone Test Center. The creation of RTC was the last action to merge aviation and missile test efforts into a single command.

Center milestones

The Army has conducted artificial and natural icing tests since the early 1970s. Training for those tests takes place in North Alabama conducted by highly-skilled experimental test pilots, flight test engineers and flight engineers at RTC's Aviation Flight Test Directorate.

Redstone Test Center is moving the icing system, known as the Helicopter Icing Spray System, from the legacy CH-47D helicopter to the current generation F-model platform. The goal of the flight training is to discover and document any changes to flight characteristics between the CH-47D and CH-47F while flying with the HISS installed.

The HISS is designed to provide artificial icing conditions and is used as part of the icing certification for military and civilian aircraft. The HISS system on the new Chinook is testing this winter in Marquette, Michigan.



Photo by Greg Patch

Maj. Gen. Joel Tyler, commander of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command, transfers the colors from outgoing RTC commander Col. John Jones to incoming commander Col. Steven Braddom during a ceremony in September held at Test Area One.

Space program testing

Teammates at the Redstone Test Center played a significant role in a milestone this year regarding the future of human space flight. RTC engineers successfully tested the jettison motor for the Launch Abort System on NASA's Orion spacecraft. The test of the jettison motor built by Aerojet Rocketdyne took place in October. The motor tested was the third of three qualification motors static fired at the center.

During the third and final hot fire test, the jettison motor was fired for under two seconds in ambient temperatures to produce more than 40,000 pounds of thrust. With the series of static tests completed, Orion's LAS jettison motor is qualified and ready for flight on the Artemis II mission with astronauts.

According to NASA, the Artemis lunar exploration program includes sending a suite of new science instruments and technology demonstrations to study the moon, landing the first woman and next man on the lunar surface by 2024, and establishing a sustained presence by 2028.

Individual honorees

The Army Broken Wing Award is an honor that first requires an in-flight emergency situation. So, naturally, it's something most aviators would like to avoid. However, the award is earned by demonstrating a high degree of professional skill to recover the aircraft from danger.

RTC Experimental Test Pilot Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sylvia Grandstaff is now a recipient of the Broken Wing Award. She demonstrated such skill during an in-flight

equipment malfunction during a training mission in 2016 while a student at experimental test pilot school.

Grandstaff and her instructor pilot, Barbara Gordon, were conducting a curriculum performance demonstration flight when their aircraft experienced a catastrophic engine failure. Both aviators had only seconds to perform the appropriate coordinated emergency actions to prevent loss of life and destruction of the aircraft.

Maj. Gen. Joel Tyler, commander of the Test and Evaluation Command, presented Grandstaff with her Broken Wing honor during his visit to the center in March. Gordon is set to receive her Broken Wing award at a later date.

Department of the Army experimental developer Kevin Minor has worked for a decade to advance the science of aviation, component failure analysis and materials analysis at the center.

Minor's professional reputation has led to the highest priority failure analysis problems being directed his way due to his cutting-edge knowledge and ability. Those traits were recognized earlier this year when the National Defense Industrial Association honored Minor with the Army Government Civilian Tester of the Year Award.

"The effectiveness of Dr. Minor's analysis and products have been recognized by senior Army leaders on multiple programs," Steve Nine, director of RTC's Environmental and Component Test Directorate, said. "His individual dedication, knowledge, expertise, and leadership in this critical analysis and testing led directly to improved quality and safe equipment for the warfighter."

Strategic command has out-of-this-world year

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

In 2019 the Space and Missile Defense Command remained focused on providing space, missile defense and high altitude capabilities while also standing up a satellite operations brigade and changing the Future Warfare Center to the Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence. The Army's senior air and missile defense organization has roughly 2,800 Soldiers and Army civilians who perform missions at 23 different locations in 11 time zones around the world.

"This has been the most professionally rewarding job I have ever had," Lt. Gen. James Dickinson, outgoing SMDC commander, said. "This command does so many different things, in so many different areas, with so many different types of experts. From the science and technology out of the Technical Center to all of the institutional functions out of the Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence to the operations we do at the 1st Space Brigade and the new Satellite Operations Brigade.

"And then on top of that you add in the 100th Missile Defense Brigade with the 300 Soldiers protecting the 300 million Americans, we are probably the most unique Army service component command the Army has."

Dickinson led the command for almost three years before turning it over to its next commander in December.

"At no other time in my 32-plus years have I seen this command so relevant to the complex challenges that face us today and tomorrow," Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, incoming SMDC commander, said during the change of command. "Twenty-first century strategic deterrence is more than just nuclear deterrence, it demands we provide world-class support to space, missile defense, high altitude and emerging counter-UAS missions. In the face of adversaries who are ever-adapting, we must move fast, innovate and be willing to accept risk.

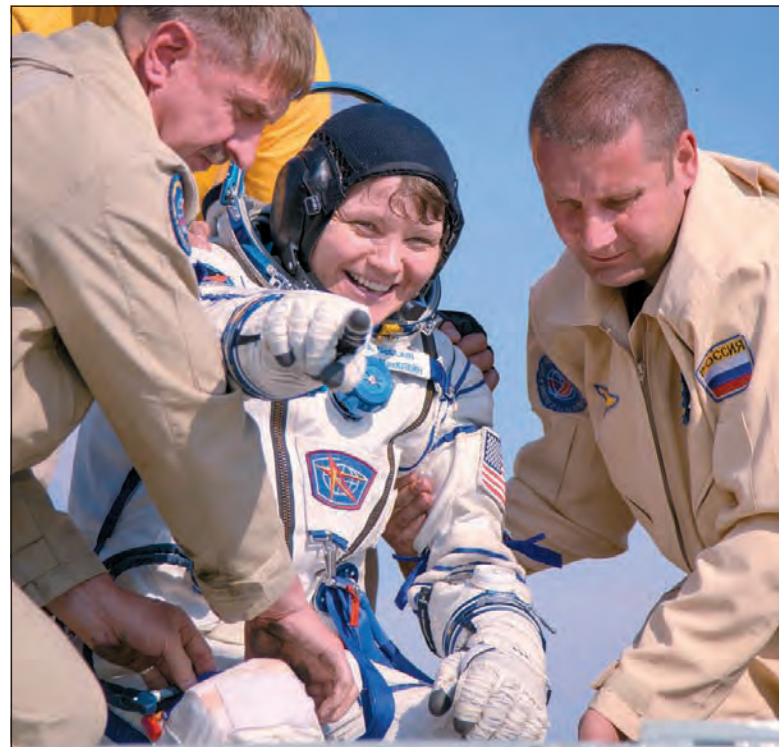
"What we do is critical to warfighting readiness and ensures our Soldiers can shoot, move and communicate on the complex battlefields of not only today, but also tomorrow," Karbler added.

Space isn't simply a service or capability to be provided, space is a warfighting domain and an operational environment, according to James Johnson, deputy to the SMDC commander. The Army has had a role in space for years, from astronauts to Soldiers who operate satellites to Army space support teams who help commanders fully leverage space capabilities, SMDC continues to be the lead for the Army's growing role in space.

With the standup in August of U.S. Space Command, SMDC now supports both U.S. Strategic Command and U.S. Space Command providing space capabilities on behalf of the Army. SMDC's support to these combatant commands assures the integration and synchronization of the Army's space and missile defense operations.

SMDC took an internal look at the command to determine how it could be better organized to address the Army's role in space and combined the 53rd Signal Battalion and personnel from the G-6 planning staff who manage satellite communication efforts to build and activate the Army's first satellite operations brigade.

The brigade brings a full-time operational focus to the Army's military satellite communications mission and brings SATCOM organizations under a single command entity. It aligns functions within the command under an operational commander, improving effectiveness, efficiency,



NASA photo by Bill Ingall

Army Astronaut Lt. Col. Anne McClain is assisted out of the Soyuz MS-11 that returned her back to Earth on June 24 in Kazakhstan, after 204 days aboard the International Space Station as a flight engineer for Expedition 58/59. During her time aboard the ISS, McClain conducted two spacewalks totaling 13 hours and 8 minutes.

cy, and oversight while reducing redundancy and bureaucracy. Commanded by a colonel, the brigade moved satellite operations responsibilities from USSTRATCOM to USSPACECOM.

As the lead for Army space and missile defense efforts and one of 10 Army service component commands, SMDC oversaw operational space and missile defense missions around the globe. From trained and ready space and missile defense forces to innovative doctrine and concept to research and development, SMDC never slowed down.

SMDC organizes, trains, equips and deploys Army space and global missile defense forces to conduct worldwide space and missile defense operations in support of the joint force. Soldiers and civilians operate systems that provide satellite communications, space situational awareness and missile warning and defense for the Army and the Department of Defense.

SMDC's Future Warfare Center transitioned to the Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence to mirror other centers of excellence such as the Fires or Maneuver centers of excellence. This name change better encompasses the activities and functions the SMD Center of Excellence performs for the Army. The SMD CoE is where concepts begin for space, high altitude and global missile defense and where those concepts are integrated into the fight. The SMD CoE is the Army's force modernization proponent for space and missile defense; responsible for developing doctrine, organizational, training, materiel, leadership/education, personnel and facility solutions.

SMDC's Technical Center provided research, development, test and evaluation capabilities for the command.

The Tech Center executes science and technology as well as research and development programs within the command's core competencies of space and missile defense.

Research from the Tech Center involves small satellites, directed energy efforts, high power microwave technologies, low-cost targets and others.

Shifting from research and development to operations, SMDC's 1st Space Brigade Soldiers work 24/7/365, providing critical satellite communications and theater missile warning in support of critical defense missions. They provide missile defense, missile warning, satellite communications, force tracking, intelligence, and direct support to ground operations, allowing the Army to shoot, move and communicate.

In addition the 100th Missile Defense Brigade operates the nation's ground-based midcourse defense system. Their critical, no-fail mission protects the homeland against a ballistic missile launch.

On March 25, two ground-based interceptors launched from Vandenberg in an anti-ballistic missile test made history with Flight Test Ground-based Midcourse Defense System-11.

The FTG-11 test, concluded within minutes as the two GBIs successfully hit their marks, obliterating them high above earth. FTG-11 was the first-ever salvo test of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense system and at its core were National Guard Soldiers representing Alaska, California and Colorado.

SMDC also provides support to NASA with an Army astronaut detachment assigned to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. The detachment has two astronauts: Col. Andrew "Drew" Morgan and Lt. Col. Anne McClain as well as one astronaut candidate, Lt. Col. Frank Rubio.

In December 2018, McClain launched from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan for a six-month rotation on the International Space Station as a flight engineer for Expedition 58/59 and returned June 24. Morgan successfully launched from the cosmodrome July 20 for a nine-month mission as a flight engineer for Expedition 60/61.

During their time aboard the ISS, McClain and Morgan completed multiple space walks, accumulating more than 50 hours outside the international laboratory.

As the command held its change of command Dec. 6 from Dickinson to Karbler, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville talked about the impact of the command and the role SMDC Soldiers, civilians and family members have in maintaining peace around the world.

"In providing missile defense and space capabilities, not only to our Army but to the joint force and our allies and partners around the world, SMDC is a key part in making sure we can do that and that we can win," McConville said. "SMDC deploys missile batteries, satellites, computer and sensors to enable warfighters to win, and that is what it is all about. It is our people in the Army here at SMDC who make us strong and make us special. In our Army we don't make us equipment, we equip people because our Army is people. All of you define SMDC and your hard work is what makes this command great."

AMCOM deputy commander reflects on career of service

By LISA HUNTER

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

In 1977, when Bill Marriott was a midshipman at the Naval Academy, he and five other midshipmen spent a semester studying at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. It was his first encounter with the Army, but certainly not his last.

As Marriott prepares to retire from his position as the Aviation and Missile Command's deputy commander, he looked back over his 44 years of distinguished federal service, including that early time spent with the Army that foreshadowed his career path 40 years down the road.

"That was an incredible time. I learned a lot," Marriott said of the semester at West Point. "But I should have paid more attention. I probably wouldn't have had as much of a problem transitioning to the Army after I retired from the Navy," he joked.

Marriott has served nearly five years as AMCOM's deputy. He is also the first to hold the position of AMCOM executive director, the civilian equivalent of the commander. He served in that position from February of this year, when Maj. Gen. Doug Gabram relinquished command, until June when Maj. Gen. Todd Royar assumed command.

"I have been fortunate in my career. My wife calls it my Forrest Gump career, because a lot of it was being in the right place at the right time under the right circumstances," he said. "A career that has taken me from Navy aviation to Army aviation."

Marriott was born into Navy aviation in Pensacola, Florida, where his father was assigned as a Navy helicopter instructor. Marriott followed in his father's footsteps, choosing a career in the Navy. After graduating from the Naval Academy in 1979, he trained on the P-3 Orion, a four-engine turboprop anti-submarine and maritime surveillance aircraft, and was designated a Naval aviator in 1980.

"I joined the Navy to fly. And those were the best tours, the ones where I could fly," he said.

Marriott's career has been as varied as the box of chocolates to which the fictional Forrest Gump referred. He said he's found something to love in every assignment, because he relishes challenges. One of the decisive points in his career was when he was selected to serve as a flag lieutenant, working for a two-star admiral in Naples, Italy. Like any young officer with a family, being stationed overseas was challenging.

"Driving in Naples is not for the faint of heart, but we really loved it," Marriott said. "But you learn from every job that you're in. Being an aide to a two-star admiral who had three commands under him, including a NATO command, was fascinating."

Once an officer has worked in the general-officer arena, it sets him or her on a certain career path, Marriott explained. "If you successfully got through that job without getting fired, it makes you eligible for other positions like that. I went from one job working for a flag officer to another."

Those opportunities to listen and learn from senior leaders, as well as two fellowships, helped Marriott continue to grow into a distinguished senior Navy officer, then transition to a successful career in the Senior Executive Service.

"You learn from every job; you learn how to be a better leader by observing, watching and listening," he said. "I'm continuing to learn here under Maj. Gen. Royar, he's incredible. He gets it all done and still carves out time to walk around to speak with the workforce."

Marriott progressed through the ranks, serving in demanding staff assignments, including as the special assistant to the deputy chief of naval operations, the aide-de-camp to the then chairman of the joint chiefs, Gen. John Shalikashvili, and as the Department of Defense executive secretary under defense



Photo courtesy of Corpus Christi Army Depot Public Affairs

AMCOM Deputy Commander Bill Marriott speaks to employees at Corpus Christi Army Depot, Texas, last month. Marriott is retiring after 44 years of federal service.

secretaries Donald Rumsfeld and Robert Gates.

Among his operational assignments, one of Marriott's most challenging was serving as the commander of Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 10, based at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Washington. He was in command when an EP-3 surveillance plane assigned to his unit landed on the island of Hainan after colliding with a Chinese jet fighter in April 2001. Twenty-four crew members from that aircraft were detained by the Chinese for 11 days.

"I learned a lot from that, too. When I walked in that room for the press conference as the first representative of the government to speak with the media, it was not by choice," Marriott said. "I attribute the fact that I came away from that event fairly unscathed to the training I received from senior leaders I served with along the way. They taught me the importance of staying on message."

Marriott's last assignment in the Navy was as the executive secretary for the Department of Defense in direct support of defense secretaries Rumsfeld and Gates. In 2005, he retired with 26 years of service. He immediately went back to work in the defense secretary's office.

"I worked there on active duty; I retired and came back in to work in civilian clothes on Monday. I basically held the same duties. The difference was (as a civilian), people were calling me 'Sir' not because of what I had on my collar but because of my age," he said.

Marriott was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in July 2005 and continued to work in the defense secretary's office until 2009 when he accepted an assignment with Army Materiel Command, then based at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, where he was assigned as the deputy chief of staff for personnel and G1.

He compared the move to AMC as something similar to being dropped in a foreign country, being totally disoriented and not knowing the language. Marriott had some experience working with the Army from his assignment with the chairman of the joint chiefs, and he had his long-ago semester at

West Point, but it was still quite challenging.

"It's a different culture. I didn't know the regulations and all the acronyms. I knew nothing about logistics. I tried to attend as many meetings as I could," he said. "I went to a logistics meeting and in front of every person was a half-inch thick packet of acronyms. They got to one acronym, AC. I thought it would stand for air conditioning. It had 14 different meanings. One of the meanings for 'AC' was aircraft carrier. I have buddies who are commanders of aircraft carriers and not a one of them has ever used that acronym!"

One logistical challenge Marriott faced in his new position was moving AMC personnel from Belvoir to their new home at Redstone Arsenal. Marriott communicated with the workforce, encouraging them to consider making the move. The expectation was that only 30% of the AMC workforce would make the move south, but more than 50% transferred with the command.

"Bill Marriott is a remarkable leader and professional," Gen. Gus Perna, Army Materiel Command commander, said. "As the deputy to the commanding general of AMCOM and deputy chief of staff for personnel at AMC, Bill has been a driving force in developing and executing programs that have increased productivity, advanced aviation and missile readiness, and most importantly, improved Soldier and civilian readiness."

In March 2015, then AMC commander Gen. Dennis Via informed Marriott he would be moving across Redstone Arsenal to take the position as AMCOM's deputy to the commanding general.

Marriott expressed his concerns to Via that he was about to take a critical acquisition position and he, Marriott, was not acquisition certified.

"Gen. Via told me I'd figure it out. I thought that meant I would get a waiver. Instead, I worked with a lot of folks here, in the acquisition community and at the Defense Acquisition University to get certified," Marriott said. "I'm proud of that, but I'm even more proud of the people who helped me get up to speed."

Marriott said his goal at every assignment, both military and civilian, has been to leave the organization better than when he arrived. At AMCOM, Marriott has been pivotal in affecting change. He has been instrumental in increasing Armywide readiness rates for both aviation and missile systems. As AMCOM's senior resource manager, he led the command in deliberate spending of the annual \$4 billion budget that enabled more responsive and sustainable readiness at the point of need while building strategic depth in the supply chain. During the Shape the Fight initiative, Marriott personally planned, directed and executed the first-ever headquarters-wide realignment effort, an initiative that focused on sustainment engineering, knowledge management and requirements integration.

"Over his entire career, and in everything he does, Bill Marriott defines a tradition of excellence. As a nation, we have been blessed to have him lead in multiple critical positions within the Department of Defense," AMCOM Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar said. "Uniformed service members, DOD civilians and their families are all better off due to his personal service."

Even now, weeks before his retirement, Marriott is still focused on the command and its 12,000-strong workforce. His advice to employees he's mentored is to find a good work-life balance. Most of all, he wants the AMCOM workforce to know how important they are and how they really make a difference to Soldiers.

"Sometimes, it's tough for our employees who are working in cubicles to know they are important in helping our Soldiers fight and win our nation's

See Marriott on page 26

Partner nations keep buying American weaponry

By ADRIANE ELLIOT

Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

The Security Assistance Command's new sales tallied \$12.3 billion for fiscal 2019, a strong indicator of the strength of foreign military sales between America and its allies.

"Allies and partners buy from the United States because we sell the world's most advanced defense systems," Lt. Gen. Charles Hooper, director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, noted in an Oct. 15 news release. "Through the uniquely American approach to security cooperation, we also ensure our allies and partners have all the necessary training, education, and institutional capacity to effectively employ and sustain the equipment we provide."

DSCA synchronizes security cooperation, including foreign military sales, across the DOD and State Department, Joint Staff, COCOMS, services and U.S. industry. Security Assistance Command leads the Army Materiel Command's security assistance enterprise, developing and managing foreign military sales cases and security assistance programs.

USASAC's new sales for fiscal 2019 are broken down by geographic combatant commands as follows:

CENTCOM, with \$6.5 billion in new business in fiscal 2019 and more than 2,000 active cases at a total program value of \$133.8 billion. There are 20 countries in CENTCOM. The COCOM's largest case is Bahrain's \$1.1 billion procurement of the Patriot.

AFRICOM, with \$225 million in new business, ramping up active cases to 783 for a total program value of \$3.4 billion. There are 38 countries in the AFRICOM area of operations. Its largest case in fiscal 2019 was Nigeria's \$29.4 million procurement of Aerosonde unmanned aerial systems.

EUCOM, with \$4.3 billion in new business, bringing their total up to 1,659 active cases with a total program value of \$30.4 billion. There are 42

countries in the EUCOM area of operations. The largest FMS case was in support of the Spanish Ministry of defense and tallied \$901 million. NORTHCOM, with 102 active cases and a total program value of \$2 billion, conducted \$170 million in new business in fiscal 2019. The region consists of two countries – Mexico and Canada. The top FMS case was with Canada totaling \$142 million. INDOPACOM, with \$875 million in new business, 993 active cases and a total program value of \$25.3 billion. There are 24 countries in PACOM, which develops and executes foreign military sales cases for partner nations in Asia and the Pacific. The top dollar case was Korea's \$410 million procurement of the Patriot Advanced Capability-3.

SOUTHCOM, with \$81 million in new business, 336 active cases and a total program value of \$2.6 billion. There are 26 countries in SOUTHCOM's area of operations. The largest case for the fiscal year was Argentina's \$6.6 million logistics support vehicle case.

USASAC's FMS mission is a fundamental tool of U.S. foreign policy and a form of security assistance authorized by the Arms Export Control Act of 1976. Under the AECA, the U.S. may sell defense articles and services to foreign countries and organizations when the president formally finds that to do so will strengthen the security of the United States and promote world peace.

With a \$200 billion FMS portfolio, USASAC is responsible for the life cycle management of nearly 6,000 cases with more than 150 countries and agencies. The command's total package approach provides its FMS partners worldwide with equipment, spare parts, maintenance, training and simulation, technical documentation and facilities.

USASAC is known as the "The Army's Face to the World" and employs hundreds of people at Redstone Arsenal; New Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and many other locations throughout the globe in support of its worldwide mission.



Photo by Jason Cutshaw

Lieutenant governor visits

Steven Messervy, left, director of the University of Alabama in Huntsville Research Institute, briefs Lt. Gov. Will Ainsworth about UAH's aerospace efforts and partnership with the Space and Missile Defense Command and Team Redstone during Ainsworth's visit to the SMDC Aerophysics Research Center, Dec. 9.

Marriott

Continued from page 25

wars. Our Soldiers need to know the equipment they have is the best in the world and that it's going to work. They have to have confidence that if it breaks, we'll fix it or get the parts to them soonest," Marriott said. "AMCOM exists to enable the aviation and missile systems' readiness for our Soldiers and our coalition partners. Everyone in this command plays a role in that mission. We need to remind people, because otherwise it becomes just a job, not a passion."

Marriott admits that while he won't miss all of the meetings, he will miss the people. "I have truly enjoyed my time in the Army," he said. "Across all the services, we are basically cut from the same cloth and that's what I really loved. I've been so fortunate to stay involved with the military and service members. I actually thought when I retired after 26 years in the Navy, I would be doing something outside of the military. So, the opportunity to continue to work with and for the military has exceeded every expectation. I blinked and then, the next thing I know, it has been a total of 44 years."

For his visionary leadership at AMCOM, Marriott was awarded the fiscal 2017 Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award by then secretary of the Army Mark Esper in a Pentagon ceremony. His other awards include the Army Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, the Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Award, the Superior Civilian Service Medal, the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, and the Legion of Merit (with one star).

As always, Marriott is looking forward to the next chapter and still looking for new challenges. He and his wife plan to stay in Huntsville, where they will be close to his daughter, son-in-law and grandson.

"I'm not sure what's next. I might do something or just be a grandfather," he said. "Whatever it is, it will be a new adventure."

Graduates

Continued from page 1

“One word would be outstanding,” graduate Ron Brooks, a contract specialist in Army Contracting Command-Redstone, said. “With our two different capstones, we were able to team-build among the class. We were able to interact with senior leaders. We were able to reach beyond the Arsenal and a lot of outside agencies. It was a class that built confidence in presentations and public speaking. That’s our very first training and that was very good. Everyone got a chance to do some briefings, so that was good. I say this on behalf of our class: I think we’re grateful to our supervisors and senior leaders for allowing us to attend. I strongly recommend this class to others.”

This iLIFT class started in October 2018 with 27 Redstone workers, GS-11 through GS-13. With a focus on development through practical exercise, each worker had seven opportunities to deliver a briefing before a panel of directors. They received feedback from their briefings. They had nearly 300 mentoring meetings, not even counting their shadowing opportunities. Each student had to complete six self-development activities. They attended two events which were new experiences for them, such as an Association of the U.S. Army annual meeting. They performed selfless service activities such as building wheelchair ramps.

“This is about people,” Tom Olszowy, LIFT course instructor, said. “It’s about learning from people because we need you to be leaders.”

Juanita Christensen, executive director of the Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center, served as the graduation host and speaker. She congratulated the students and shared advice from her life experiences.

“You determine your own future through persistence, perseverance and faith,” Christensen said.

The Leader Investment for Tomorrow program started in 2005 with 10 students in a six-month course.

Completion certificates were awarded to the following 2019 iLIFT graduates:

- Steven Aguado, TMDE Activity; Jamelia Anderson, Army Contracting Command-Redstone; Thomas Arnold, AMCOM G2; Jason Braxton, Garrison; Ron Brooks, ACC-Redstone; Curtis Campbell, AMCOM Logistics Center; Corey Campsey, TMDE Activity; Benita Cross, AMCOM Logistics Center

- Lauren Davis, AMCOM Logistics Center; Robert Farmer, AMCOM Logistics Center; Justin “Todd” Floyd, ACC-Redstone; Christina Fults, Garrison; Christopher Gaddes, Missile and Space Intelligence Center; Cassandra Gideon, NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center; Leslie Hasenbein, AMCOM G4; Darren Hester, TMDE Activity; Cristina Hinkle, Missile and Space Intelligence Center

- Thomas Johansen, AMCOM Logistics Center; Collyn “Whitley” Mann, Redstone Test Center; Verge Matthews, AMCOM Logistics Center; Mark McGuigan, CCDC Aviation & Missile Center; Preon Moore, Aviation & Missile Center; Sandra Morris, AMCOM Logistics Center; Steven Palmer, ACC-Redstone; Gaylon Partain, TMDE Activity; Kiera Spann, Marshall Space Flight Center; and Jason Watson, Garrison.

Aircraft survivability arises as aviation enterprise focus

By **BRANDON POLLACHEK**

PEO IEW&S Public Affairs

Members of the aviation community have gathered for the Army Aviation Association of America's 35th Aircraft Survivability Equipment Symposium.

The goal was developing lifesaving solutions for the Aviation Soldier and their passengers. More than 200 members of the acquisition, tactical air operations and industry communities converged in Huntsville to collaborate on "enhancing aviation survivability in Multi-Domain Operations."

Launching the two-day event, retired Maj. Gen. Jeff Schloesser, AAAA president, pointed out that throughout the event's history the collaboration has been key to lifesaving improvements in the ASE environment.

"This forum is a resource, for our Army and our branch, that has often resulted in real-world material and training solutions that helped us save countless lives on the battlefield all around the world," he said. "We are looking out to ensure we have ASE overmatch capability today, tomorrow and into the future."

Countering future threats was a common theme for both the users and acquisition professionals in attendance. Avoiding the struggles that Army aviation faced from an ASE perspective during the onset of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and pacing future threats were particular points of emphasis.

The need for ASE solutions to be developed quickly and be easily adaptable was among the primary messages from Maj. Gen. David Francis, commander of the Army Aviation Center of Excellence.

"We have an opportunity to modernize before we get to a point where it is catastrophic," Francis said. "We absolutely have to rethink how we address survivability problems in Army aviation – in the past as we encountered a threat we would study that threat, we would develop countermeasures, but it was years in the making. We don't have that luxury anymore. We have to absolutely be able to advance from a threat agnostic point of view to be able to rapidly integrate ASE solutions into our systems."

Brig. Gen. Robert Collins, program executive officer for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors, emphasized the need for ASE solutions to fit within the open architecture framework.

"An open systems architecture allows us to keep pace of the threat. It affords us the ability to perform agile technology evolutions while driving SWaP (size, weight and power) and cost down," Collins said. "As part of this endeavor it will allow industry to have increased opportunity for competition."

He also encouraged industry to investigate the application of survivability systems for ground platforms.

At the project manager level, there is a focus on increasing capability, reducing the SWaP burden on the aircraft and decreasing downtime.

"In order to get on our aircraft you need to have these considerations in mind: weight is always a concern and the more multi-spectral a system can be the



Courtesy photo

The CH-47 Chinook is part of the Army's cargo helicopter fleet.

better off it is," Col. Kevin Chaney, project manager for Aircraft Survivability Equipment, said.

Chaney shared a look at a new modification initiative where 11 separate modifications are being made to Black Hawk helicopters at the same time. By performing a consolidated modification, the Aircraft Survivability Equipment Project Office along with partners from the Program Executive Office for Aviation plan to reduce a previously combined 3,000 hours for modifications to at least less than half that time.

Brig. Gen. Walter Rugen, director of the Future Vertical Lift Cross-Functional Team, listed survivability among the four FVL tenants. "We will advance ASE to the point where the enemy cannot continue to turn inside of us with superior, cheaper technology and capability at a higher scale and lower cost," he said. "We've got to put the cost curve back on them."



Photo by Megan Gully, Army Materiel Command

National Guard birthday

Maj. Gen. Sheryl Gordon, adjutant general for the state of Alabama, and Staff Sgt. Fernando Fernandez, the youngest National Guard Soldier present, cut the cake at the National Guard Birthday luncheon, Dec. 11 at the Jackson Center in Huntsville. Gordon, the luncheon's keynote speaker, said the National Guard celebrates its 383rd birthday, making it older than the United States, because the first militia units organized in Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636. "Since before the start of our nation, when Americans have needed their military the National Guard is always ready and always there," she said.

HHC AMCOM Soldiers have new leader

By MILES BROWN

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

Capt. Melanie Appleton assumed command of the Headquarters & Headquarters Company, Aviation and Missile Command during a change of command ceremony Friday in Heiser Hall.

Col. Rick Zampelli, AMCOM's chief of staff, thanked outgoing commander Capt. Tracy Lavender for her professionalism and dedication to duty before charging Appleton to take the HHC to new heights during her command.

"This command is unique in many ways," Zampelli said. "How often is a company commander charged with the care and feeding of dozens of general officers and sergeants majors, and countless colonels and senior noncommissioned officers. Not to mention working on an installation that has (such) strategic importance.

"I will tell you that while this assignment might not seem like a traditional company command, the fundamentals of being a leader are the same – remain focused on the mission and take care of your team, and they will take care of you."

Appleton accepted the unit colors from Zampelli before addressing the room full of Soldiers, co-workers, friends and family.

"I would like to thank (Maj. Gen. Todd) Royar and Col. Zampelli for trusting me and giving me the great opportunity to lead a unit of outstanding Soldiers and civilians – I will not let you down," Appleton said. "I look forward to your mentorship and serving under your command."

Appleton, a Huntsville native, has served in numerous assignments during her 19-year career which started in the enlisted ranks. She was selected for the Army's Green to Gold program and commissioned as a second lieutenant in 2013 from the Fayetteville State University ROTC program. She is moving over to command the HHC from Army Materiel Command headquarters, where she served as a staff action and administration control officer with the secretary of general staff.

The HHC provides unit-level military training management, essential personnel services and command interest program support to Soldiers assigned and attached to Redstone Arsenal units. HHC ensures more than 800 Soldiers, including 14 general officers, receive timely, efficient and reliable personnel services and support.

Appleton and her new team support units at 28 different locations, including Army Materiel Command and its subordinate units located on Redstone Arsenal; Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology subordinate units, such as Program Executive Office for Aviation and PEO for Missile and Space;



Photo by Traci Boutwell

Capt. Melanie Appleton accepts the unit colors for Headquarters & Headquarters Company, Aviation and Missile Command from Col. Rick Zampelli, AMCOM chief of staff, during Friday's change of command ceremony.

and joint organizations including the Missile Defense Agency, the Missile and Space Intelligence Center, and the 167th Theater Support Command at Fort McClellan.

Lavender, from Enterprise, will remain on Redstone Arsenal while attending the Army's Intermediate Level Education/Advanced Operation Warfighting course. She commanded HHC since May 2018 and has been selected for promotion to major.



Photo by Jason Albert

Top foreign disclosure officer

Maj. Gen. Robert Rasch, the program executive officer for Missiles and Space, presents the annual Kenneth C. Raymer Memorial Award to Nita Lopez-Jewell, Dec. 6. Lopez-Jewell served as the PEO foreign disclosure officer from March 2013 through October 2019 and was recognized by the Department of Army, G2 for her outstanding organizational contributions and uncompromising commitment to national disclosure policies. From left are Rasch, Lopez-Jewell and Scott Schultz, chief of the foreign disclosure program at Department of Army G2.



Photo by Jonathan Stinson

Christmas party at union

AFGE local 1858, led by president Abner Merriweather, held its annual Christmas party Thursday and delivered meals to some of Redstone's guards and police force. During the Thanksgiving season, they donated turkeys to the Redstone fire department. Sharing a meal are, from left, sergeant-at-arms Randy Barbour, assistant president Theodora Stewart and Eugene Edwards, who volunteers as an adviser at the union.

Combat capabilities commander visits research center

By AMY TOLSON

CCDC Aviation & Missile Center Public Affairs

The work that Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center employees do today will impact the kind of world they live in 20 years from now.

That was the message Maj. Gen. John George, commander of CCDC, brought with him to Heiser Hall Dec. 9 as he conducted his first town hall with the Aviation & Missile Center workforce since taking command Nov. 1. George reminded employees of the integral role the Army and United States played in the fall of the Berlin Wall and stopping the spread of communism, and that the work they do for the warfighter today has the potential to have a similar effect.

“How will the world change 20 years from now and what are we doing to provide the necessary tools and capabilities to our leadership to use those things for strategic deterrence, operational deterrence?” George said. “That’s where my mind is – what’s our responsibility, collectively, to do and deliver those sorts of things so 20 years from now, or whatever the next unknown is, our nation is postured to change the world again. That’s how fundamental I think our work is.”

Gen. John Murray, commander of the Army Futures Command, of which CCDC is a major subordinate command, tasked George with spending his first 90 days learning the ins and outs of the organization. George’s Dec. 9 visit, which included stops at Aviation & Missile Center labs and the Prototype Integration Facility, was all part of his “listening tour,” an opportunity for him to meet with employees, learn about who they are and the work they do, as well as share about himself.

George asked Aviation & Missile Center employees for feedback on four key questions – what are the current and anticipated challenges, what would individuals not change, what would they change, and what are the unexploited opportunities and places the command should explore. He has spent the past several weeks visiting other CCDC centers and labs.

“I’m so impressed with the engineering, science and technology expertise that we have in this room,” George said.

As he introduced himself to the workforce, George emphasized his roles as a husband, father, soon-to-be grandfather, dog lover and man of faith. Prior to taking command of CCDC, George served as the AFC Futures and Concepts Center deputy director/chief of staff.



Photo by Joe Mendiola

Maj. Gen. John George, commander of the Combat Capabilities Development Command, learns about metrology from Ben Thomason, left, at the CCDC Aviation & Missile Center Prototype Integration Facility.

“We are definitely glad to have him join the CCDC family,” Juanita Christensen, executive director of the Aviation & Missile Center, said. “He is very well aware of the future force enterprise and Army Futures Command, what our modernization priorities are and what the vision is for multi-domain operations.”



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Gift to military community

Members of the Aviation Engineering Directorate present a \$14,459.69 check Dec. 10 to Army Emergency Relief, representing proceeds from their ninth annual AER golf tournament. “This takes us over \$200,000 (in contributions) for the year,” Capt. Tracy Lavender, the AER assistant chair for Redstone Arsenal, said. From left are Matt Boenker, Mark Speer, Laura Bequette, Brian Kalladeen, Shelley Sanders, Rob Renyer, Curtis Stevens, Halie Cantor, Ilian Mondragon, Gabe Cody and Lavender. The Aviation Engineering Directorate is part of the Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center. Stevens, who retired as chief of the propulsion division, now works for a contractor.



Courtesy photo

Contracting's cheerful givers

Members of the Army Contracting Command-Redstone's Policy, Review and Compliance Division have continued their annual tradition of sponsoring children from the Kids to Love Foundation, “Christmas for the Kids.” They strive to make it possible for foster children to have a wonderful Christmas.



Photos by Jonathan Stinson

Childcare workers' appreciation

Jessica Bossi, president of the Parent Advisory Council, serves food to employees from Child and Youth Services during the CDC Appreciation event Friday that was put on by the Parent Advisory Council and Parent Advisory Boards. Parents were asked to pick up their children by 3 p.m. so the daycare facilities shut down early to allow the workers time to enjoy this event. In the other photo, childcare workers wait for the festivities to start. From left, top row, are Tonya Prickett, April Anglin, Jacqueline Turner and Sandi Lockhart; and bottom row, Veronica Ruiz, Margie Allen, Anamid Soler and Debra Hunter.

Win or Lose

Space Jam stays unbeaten with balanced attack

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Space Jam responded when their double-digit lead evaporated early in the second half.

They pulled away again to beat the Blouses 89-61 on Dec. 9 at the Marshall Wellness Center. Space Jam stayed unbeaten at 3-0.

Mikhail George had 30 points, with six 3-pointers, and five rebounds. Brett Bouldin had 20 points on four 3-pointers with eight rebounds and two assists. Adam Kimbro had 13 points, five rebounds and two steals. Gabe Barker had 12 points, five rebounds and three steals. Team captain Byrd Hayes added two assists.

“Even though it’s not Sunday, there’s a lot of faith in the building,” Hayes said. “There’s a lot of trust in the team. And everybody had the green light.”

Space Jam led 41-24 at halftime but were up just 44-40 with 13:55 left. They made it 56-45 at 9:20.

“I feel like we played pretty good,” Barker, small forward/shooting guard, said. “We played together. We played good on defense with communication.”

Barker played at St. Francis High School in Chicago from 2013-17.

Justin Wright had 19 points, Mike Flanagan 16 and team co-captain Chasen Uptain 13 for Blouses (1-2). Wright made two assists. Chris Loepker grabbed 14 rebounds while Flanagan had seven.

“We’re out of shape,” Uptain said. “No effort, no hustle. We’ll be all right by the middle of the season.”



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Space Jam’s Mikhail George drives toward the basket with Blouses defender Wes Johnson in pursuit. Space Jam won 89-61.

College football’s Final Four has tasty matchups

The selection committee got it right this time.

Before the final playoff rankings came out Dec. 8, I emailed two of my fellow sports fans that I would have it this way: LSU, first seed; Ohio State, second; Clemson, third; and Oklahoma, fourth.

And the committee agreed.

On Dec. 28, Ohio State will play Clemson in the Fiesta Bowl; and LSU will play Oklahoma in the Peach Bowl. The winners will play for the national championship Jan. 13 in New Orleans.

I’ve got Clemson beating Ohio State, and LSU beating Oklahoma. And then I’ve got LSU beating Clemson for the title. If you’ve been following my weekly Skip’s Picks, you know I’ve got a 74 percent chance of being right.

This is exciting. All four playoff teams are deserving. Any of the four could conceivably capture the college football crown.

Hopefully the Southeastern Conference champion LSU will prevail. With quarterback Joe Burrow, the Heisman Trophy favorite, the Tigers look like the strongest team.

There shouldn’t be much argument about this Final Four because the selection committee made the right call.

From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn
Rocket editor

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Your glory days in sports

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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What is the highlight of your athletic endeavors?

“Completing the Ironman Louisville in

October 2018,” Emmett Hernandez, a procurement analyst in the Army Contracting Command, said. “That’s a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike and a marathon. I finished in under 12 hours. It was a lifetime goal. When I was growing up, my mom and I would watch it in the early 1980s. It was awesome because my first triathlon I ever did in Italy, my wife – who was then my girlfriend – was my crew support. That was my first triathlon. That was an Olympic distance triathlon, but small compared to an Ironman, in 1987. Completing the Ironman was fulfilling my goal, overcoming numerous injuries just to get to that level and finally getting it done. It was a battle.”

Hernandez, 52, from Wapato, Washington, retired from the Air Force in 2007 as a captain after 21 years. He has worked at ACC for four years and at Redstone since 2007. The Harvest resident and his wife of 30 years, Deborah, have two daughters, Faith of Harvest and Katie Boley of Carrollton, Georgia; and a son, Michael, a senior majoring in mechanical engineering at Pensacola Christian College. His hobbies include cycling, trail running, swimming, lifting weights and spending time with his family. “Can’t do anything I’ve done so far without the family,” Hernandez said. He roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Almost Semi-Pro rides defense past Marske & Crutch

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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After a close loss in their opener, the Almost Semi-Pro players were focused for game two.

They played solid defense in beating Marske & Crutch 50-40 on Dec. 10 at the Marshall Wellness Center. Their 11 steals contributed to 15 turnovers for Marske & Crutch.

“Defense leads offense,” Nathan Sowada, co-captain and point guard, said. “Anticipate the passing lanes.”

Sowada had eight points, three steals and three assists. Mitchell Dickinson, co-

captain and shooting guard, had 14 points and two steals. Zach Ruta had eight points, nine rebounds and two steals. Aaron Taylor also made two steals and Thom Danek blocked two shots.

“We hustled. We’re pretty young,” Dickinson said. “Defense first. We moved the ball a lot against the zone, inside/out and then driving the ball.”

Almost Semi-Pro (1-1) led 19-8 with four minutes left in the first half but were up just 21-17 at intermission. The margin was 39-28 with seven minutes left.

Brandon Cook, Derek Mayer and Bob Gillis had 10 points apiece for Marske & Crutch (1-2). Greg Smith had eight points and two blocks.

“We started off very slow, low energy,” Jason Marske, team captain, said. “Didn’t pick it up to keep pace with them. Didn’t take advantage of the early fouls we had on them. And then at the end of the game it’s tough to come from behind.”

Bishop family leads Court Controllers



File photo by Skip Vaughn

Alysse Bishop, who played for the University of Alabama in Huntsville from 2011-15, scored the winning basket for the Court Controllers. They edged RTC 50-49.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

Lee "Smitty" Smith goes up for two of his 25 points as the Mavericks beat the Monstars 93-35.

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Alysse Bishop scored the winning basket with 18 seconds left.

Her driving layup lifted the Court Controllers over RTC 50-49 on Dec. 9 at the Marshall Wellness Center. This was the new team's first win.

"We did it with a lot of hustle and teamwork," Bishop, the team captain, said. "This means people better watch out because we're going to be pretty good."

She finished with 10 points and two 3-pointers for the Court Controllers (1-1). Her brother, Reggie Bishop, had 13 points. Their dad, Anthony Bishop, also had 10 points with two 3-pointers.

RTC (1-2) led 23-20 at halftime but couldn't stay ahead down the stretch.

Juan Hall, RTC captain, had a game-high 20 with three 3-pointers. Henry Scruggs added 11.

"It was a tight game," Hall said. "We just didn't close it out."

Mavericks 93, Monstars 35: Lee "Smitty" Smith scored 25 points as the defending champion Mavericks bounced back from their first loss in two years.

Kenneth Davis had 17 for the Mavericks (2-1). Lorenzo "Zo" Burks had 15 on five 3-pointers. Team captain Mike Baez added 14 with four 3-pointers.

"We pressured them and made them turn it over a lot," Baez said. The Mavericks, which lost Dec. 5 to Space Jam 66-57, led 48-16 at halftime. They won the 2018-19 Division A championship and finished unbeaten at 17-0.

Spencer Matonis had 13 points and Adam Molloy 12 for the Monstars (1-2).

LSU picked to win national championship

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Skip's Picks finished 16 weeks of college football at 473-167 for 74%. Here are my predictions for the bowl games:

National championship, Jan. 13 in New Orleans:

LSU vs. Clemson – **LSU**

Semifinal, Dec. 28, Fiesta Bowl: Ohio St. vs. Clemson – **Clemson**

Semifinal, Dec. 28, Peach: LSU vs. Oklahoma – **LSU**

Sugar, Jan. 1: Baylor vs. Georgia – **Georgia**

Rose, Jan. 1: Wisconsin vs. Oregon – **Oregon**

Orange, Dec. 30: Virginia vs. Florida – **Florida**

Cotton, Dec. 28: Penn State vs. Memphis – **Penn St.**

LendingTree, Jan. 6: Louisiana vs. Miami (Ohio) –

Miami

Armed Forces, Jan. 4: Tulane vs. Southern Miss –

Tulane

Idaho Potato, Jan. 3: Nevada vs. Ohio – **Ohio**

Gator, Jan. 2: Tennessee vs. Indiana – **Tennessee**

Birmingham, Jan. 2: Boston College vs. Cincinnati –

BC

Outback, Jan. 1: Minnesota vs. Auburn – **Auburn**

Citrus, Jan. 1: Michigan vs. Alabama – **Bama**

Arizona, Dec. 31: Wyoming vs. Georgia State – **Wyoming**

Liberty, Dec. 31: Kansas St. vs. Navy – **Navy**

Sun, Dec. 31: Arizona St. vs. Florida St. – **FSU**

Belk, Dec. 31: Kentucky vs. Virginia Tech – **Kentucky**

Alamo, Dec. 31: Texas vs. Utah – **Texas**

Redbox, Dec. 30: Illinois vs. California – **Illinois**

Music City, Dec. 30: Louisville vs. Mississippi St. – **Miss St.**

First Responder, Dec. 30: W. Michigan vs. W. Kentucky – **W. Ky.**

Camping World, Dec. 28: Iowa St. vs. Notre Dame – **Notre Dame**

Cheez-It, Dec. 27: Wash. St. vs. Air Force – **Air Force**

Holiday, Dec. 27: Iowa vs. USC – **Iowa**

Texas, Dec. 27: Texas A&M vs. Oklahoma St. – **Texas A&M**

Pinstripe, Dec. 27: Michigan St. vs. Wake Forest – **Michigan St.**

Military, Dec. 27: North Carolina vs. Temple – **North Carolina**

Quick Lane, Dec. 26: Pittsburgh vs. E. Michigan – **Pitt**

Independence, Dec. 26: La. Tech vs. Miami (Fla.) – **Miami**

Hawaii, Dec. 24: BYU vs. Hawaii – **BYU**

Gasparilla, Dec. 23: Marshall vs. UCF – **UCF**

New Orleans, Dec. 21: UAB vs. App St. – **App St.**

Las Vegas, Dec. 21: Boise St. vs. Washington – **Boise St.**

Camellia, Dec. 21: FIU vs. Arkansas St. – **FIU**

Boca Raton, Dec. 21: FAU vs. SMU – **SMU**

Cure, Dec. 21: Ga. Southern vs. Liberty – **Ga.**

Southern

New Mexico, Dec. 21: C. Mich. vs. San Diego St. – **C. Mich.**

Frisco, Dec. 20: Utah St. vs. Kent St. – **Utah St.**

Bahamas, Dec. 20: Charlotte vs. Buffalo – **Charlotte**





Rocket Announcements

Conferences&Meetings

Sergeants major association

The Redstone Arsenal Sergeants Major Association conducts a monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Garrison building 4488, conference room D-101. The meetings are open to all E-9 ranks, from all services – Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Membership into the association is \$20 for a one-year membership, \$50 for a three-year membership and \$100 for a lifetime membership. “We encourage all active, retired, reserve and National Guard senior Soldiers to come out and join us,” a prepared release said. “Let’s try and make a difference in the lives of the Soldiers, families and retirees in

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Photo by Skip Vaughn

Deck the cubicle

Mandi Colbert, a budget analyst in Apache systems division at Aviation Engineering Directorate, has prepared her workspace for Santa's visit.



Courtesy photo

Outreach for angels

Members of the Utility Helicopters Project Office granted the wishes of 30 Christmas tree angels, including 15 boys and 15 girls, from the Salvation Army. They raised an additional \$450 for stocking stuffers and candy. Through their generosity, each child will have shoes, socks, jackets, toys and a personalized stocking on Christmas morning.

the Tennessee Valley area.” For information visit www.redstonesma.org and www.facebook.com/redstonesma.

Toastmasters club

Are you interested in improving your public speaking skills or learning to effectively organize a speech? If so, Toastmasters International can assist. Strategic Speakers Toastmasters Club 6054 meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in building 4488, conference room D-254. For more information, call Claudinette Purifoy 651-3621 or email cpurifoy70@gmail.com. Last year the club achieved the highest distinguished club rating available in Toastmasters, President’s Distinguished Club.

Hi-Noon Toastmasters

Hi-Noon Toastmasters invites you to visit as their guest any Tuesday at 11:50 a.m. at the First Baptist Church, 600 Governors Drive, in room 343. Visiting is free. Toastmasters enables you to practice public speaking, improve your communication and build leadership skills.

Protestant women of chapel

Protestant Women of the Chapel is a place where women can seek God and connect with each other through Bible study, prayer and friendship. Redstone Arsenal PWOC meets Thursdays at 930 a.m. and 6 p.m. throughout the school year. For more information, call Bicentennial Chapel 842-2173 or connect with the group on Facebook at www.FB.com/PWOCRSA.

Premier Providers club

The Premier Providers, Toastmasters Club 05606202, meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Army Materiel Command, headquarters building 4400 on Martin Road, Suite A1SE050-A1SE052. Employees can earn 1 CPE for every hour of training. Officers include president Rontario Hicks, vice president for education Lt. Col. Burt Fisher and area director Lisa Owens. For more information, call Marticia Banks-Booker 450-6738 or 690-7385.

Military and Civilians Club

The Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club meets for a luncheon on the second Tuesday of each month, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Summit. For more

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information, visit <http://rsamcc.org/activities/luncheons/>. Reservation is required by the Friday prior to the luncheon, and can be made by emailing the reservations chair at rsamccreservation@gmail.com. The goals of RSA MCC include fostering and preserving good fellowship; providing educational, cultural and fun activities for its membership while maintaining its military roots; and empowering members through camaraderie and networking. RSA MCC is open to everyone connected to Redstone Arsenal with independent gate access who wish to promote community assistance and support community activities through fundraising.

40 and 8 veterans group

Founded in 1920, the 40 and 8 veterans organization draws its origin from WWI where Soldiers were transported via French boxcars which could hold 40 men or eight horses. Remembering the close brotherhood of those days, the 40 and 8 was formed. Locale 1012 meets at 7 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month at American Legion Post 237 on Drake Avenue. They also have a women’s auxiliary. All veterans with an honorable separation (DD 214) are eligible to join.

Engineer society

Huntsville Post of the Society of American Military Engineers meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Redstone Federal Credit Union, 220 Wynn Drive. For more information, call Ted Foster 799-0262 or email tfoster@ssr-inc.com.

Marine Corps league

The Brandon-Wilbourn Marine Corps League Detachment 820 has a monthly meeting every second Saturday at noon at the American Legion Post 237, 2900 Drake Ave. Detachment 820 is open to all active, retired and former Marines. The league is a veterans/military service organization formed for promoting 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 Stephen Cec 829-1839, senior vice commandant Earl Hokanson 881-2852 or adjutant Charlene Antico 778-7093.

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Photos by Daniel Boyette, NASA

Tree lighting in space community

NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center team members usher in the season Dec. 9 with the lighting of the Marshall holiday tree, flanked by the powerful Saturn-era F1 rocket engine in front of building 4200. The festive crowd, led by David Burns, manager of Marshall’s Science and Technology Office, sipped hot cocoa and enjoyed music by children from the Marshall Child Development Center.



Exchange sets hours for Christmas, New Year's season

Here's the Redstone Exchange schedule for Dec. 21-25 and Dec. 31-Jan. 1:

Facilities

Main Store: Dec. 21, open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ... Dec. 22, open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. ... Dec. 23, open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Jan. 1, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Express/Class Six, building 3234: Dec. 21, open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. ... Dec. 22, open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ... Dec. 23, open 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 25, open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Dec. 31, open 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. ... Jan. 1, open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Express, Martin Road, building 5215: Dec. 21, closed. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Dec. 24, closed. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Concessions

Alteration Shop, Exchange mall, building 3220: Dec. 21, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Barber Shop, Exchange mall, building 3220: Dec. 21, open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 22, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 23, open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Barber Shop at Von Braun Complex, building 5220: Dec. 21, closed. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, closed. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Barber Shop at Sparkman Center, building 5302: Dec. 21, closed. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, closed. ... Jan. 1, closed.

GNC, Exchange mall, building 3220: Dec. 21, open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. ... Dec. 22, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 23, open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Jan. 1, open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dry Cleaner, Exchange mall area, building 3220: Dec. 21, open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Dry Cleaner, MDC building 5224: Dec. 21, closed. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, closed. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Dry Cleaner at Sparkman Center, building 5302: Dec. 21, closed. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, closed. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Dry Cleaner at Army Materiel Command, building 4400: Dec. 21, closed. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, closed. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Nail Shop, Exchange mall, building 3220: Dec. 21, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, closed. ... Dec. 24, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Optical Store, building 3230: Dec. 21, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Optometrist Dr. Hartman, building 3230: Dec. 21, closed. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, closed. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Gathering Grounds: Dec. 21, open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Smoothie and Things, building 4488: Dec. 21, closed. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Fox Gathering Grounds: Dec. 21, closed. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Admin/Food

Human Resources: Dec. 21, closed. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Starbucks: Dec. 21, open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 22, open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 23, open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Jan. 1, open 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Subway main food court: Dec. 21, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 22, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Dec. 23, open 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Charley's MFC: Dec. 21, open 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ... Dec. 22, open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. ... Dec. 23, open 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Popeye's MFC: Dec. 21, open 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Dec. 22, open 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Dec. 23, open 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Jan. 1, open 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Burger King, building 3228: Dec. 21, open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Dec. 24, open 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Subway, Martin Road, building 5215: Dec. 21, closed. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Dec. 24, closed. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

Burger King, Martin Road, building 5215: Dec. 21, closed. ... Dec. 22, closed. ... Dec. 23, open 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. ... Dec. 24, closed. ... Dec. 25, closed. ... Dec. 31, open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ... Jan. 1, closed.

RocketAnnouncements

Purple Heart chapter

Military Order of the Purple Heart, George A. Rauh Chapter 2201, meets the second Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the American Legion Post 237 at 2900 Drake Ave. All combat-wounded veterans are invited. For more information, call Leonard Robinson 337-8313.

Contract management association

National Contract Management Association, Huntsville Chapter, will hold a national education seminar Jan. 16 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 4090 South Memorial Parkway. Russ Blaine, CPCM, will present Leadership Strategies for Contracting Professionals. Attendees will earn 7 CPE/CLPs. Visit www.ncmahsv.org for registration.

Air defenders/field artillery dinner

The Huntsville/Redstone Arsenal Chapter of the Air Defense Association and North Alabama Chapter of the U.S. Field Artillery Association will hold the annual St. Barbara's Dinner and Induction Ceremony on Feb. 8 at The Summit. The Order of St. Barbara is awarded to those who have demonstrated the highest standards of integrity and moral character, displayed outstanding competence and professionalism, and have made significant contributions to the Air Defense Artillery and Field Artillery branches. For more information email Mike Steves of ADAA at michael.r.steves3.civ@mail.mil, or Lt. Col. Michael Fitzgerald of NAFAA at nal-fieldartilleryassn@gmail.com.

Warrant officers

The Warrant Officers Association meets the second Wednesday each month from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Redstone Lanes bowling center, meeting room 1. Join the meeting and have lunch. For more information, visit www.redstonewarrants.com.

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 call first vice president and membership chairman Richard Knight 722-3027 or visit www.vietvethsv.org.

MiscellaneousItems

Men's ministry

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

Young citizen of month

Do you know a young citizen in grades 7-12 who has done something special and deserves recognition? Rocket City Broadcasting/Community Awareness for Youth conduct the Young Citizen of the Month award program. Each month's recipient will meet the Huntsville mayor and City 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.

Community grants

The Thrift Shop will take applications for the 2019 grants until Feb. 29. These grants are open to all nonprofit groups (no individuals please) that impact the Redstone military community. Applications must be mailed through the post office before deadline date to be considered. They ask that applications not be dropped off at the Thrift Shop. For more information, email Ruth Soracco at ruthsoracco@bell-south.net or call 539-0606.

Gala fundraiser

The 100Black Men of Greater Huntsville Gala Fundraiser (Mentoring, Education, Health and Wellness, Economic Empowerment) is Saturday from 6-11:30 p.m. at the Von Braun Center North Hall. They will celebrate 20 years of service to the Greater Huntsville community. The formal evening will offer entertainment (clean comedian, music), dining, dancing, fellowship and the satisfaction of knowing that each attendee/partner/sponsor support will be an investment in the community. Gala

See Announcements on page 48

BICENTENNIAL CHAPEL (BC) REDSTONE ARSENAL HOLIDAY RELIGIOUS SERVICES/ACTIVITIES 2019

For Additional Information Contact the Garrison Chaplain's Office, (256) 842-2176

CATHOLIC SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

Dec. 18	Reconciliation Service	6 p.m.
Dec. 22	4th Sunday of Advent. Sunday Mass Vigil Mass on Saturday	9 a.m. 5 p.m.
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Vigil Mass	5 p.m.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day Mass.	9 a.m.
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve. Vigil Mass.	5 p.m.

PROTESTANT SERVICES/ACTIVITIES

Dec. 22	Protestant Worship Service	11 a.m.
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7 p.m.
Dec. 29	Protestant Worship Service	11 a.m.

Rocket Announcements

fundraiser tickets are \$62.50 individual seats and \$500 for table of eight seating. For tickets call James Matthewson 714-8921 or the Business Office 536-8050.

Health department report

The Madison County Health Department released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for Dec. 2-6. Establishments with the highest scores included Mei Wei Northrop Grumman Wall Triana, 1430 Wall Triana Highway, Madison, 100; Atlanta Bread Company Canteen Defense, 7115 Old Madison Pike, 100; Mayfair Church of Christ, 1095 Carl T. Jones Drive, 100; Mai Franchising LLC, 2750 Carl T. Jones Drive, 100; and Sushi With Gusto, 4800 Whitesburg Drive, 100. Establishments with the lowest scores included Bar Louie, 365 The Bridge Street, 84; BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, 401 The Bridge Street, 80; Logan's Roadhouse 544, Madison, 80; and Dadaji Inc., 285 Pratt Ave., 74.

Contracting professionals

National Contract Management Association, Huntsville Chapter, will hold a national education seminar Jan 16 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 4090 South Memorial Parkway. Russ Blaine, CPCM, will present "Leadership Strategies for Contracting Professionals." Attendees will earn 7 CPE/CLPs. Visit www.ncmahsv.org for registration.



Defense.gov photo

Tactical exercise

An Army paratrooper prepares to fire at a gunnery table during Rock Frost in Grafenwoehr, Germany, Dec. 7. The exercise helps Soldiers build proficiency and readiness.



Photo by Richard Blanton

Salute to greatest generation

World War II veteran Sherwin Callander participates in the annual Dec. 7 wreath laying ceremony at the Madison cemetery.