

Redstone reopens limited services in support of phased return

By GARRISON PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Redstone Arsenal reopened select services in support of tenant organizations' phased approach to returning employees to the installation that began May 26.

Redstone Arsenal leadership remain focused on three priorities: safeguard the health, safety and security of the workforce; combat and prevent the spread of COVID-19; and carry on the critical missions of each of organization. The decision to return the workforce will be a progressive and measured process managed by each tenant leader, based on a framework that considers the local case rate in the 16-county commuting area surrounding Redstone according to authoritative data from the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the local area's capacity to test, monitor and treat COVID-19. Individual organization leaders will communicate with their workforce on their timelines and approach to returning employees to the installation.

The reconstitution of services will also be slow and deliberate, in support of the phased return of employees to the Arsenal. Future increases in services will be contingent upon condi-

tions remaining the same or continuing to improve.

Garrison has reopened the following limited services to employees and beneficiaries with social distancing and preventative measures in place:

- Installation Access:

OPEN: Gates 1 (Martin Rd E), 7 (Martin Rd W), 8 (Goss Rd), and 9 (Rideout Rd) will have all lanes manned during peak morning rush hour traffic.

CLOSED: Gates 3 (Redstone Rd) and 10 (Patton Rd) remain closed.

- One Stop: Open with limited occupancy, and some services by appointment only;

- Pershing Welcome Center: Open, most services by appointment only;

- Child Care Centers: Open to returning employees who are present patrons;

- Bicentennial Chapel: Open for individual worship only;

- Fox Army Health Center: Most services are open, entry screenings still occur, cloth face coverings required to enter the

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Aviation, Missile Center worker recognized by his alma mater.

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MILITARY SCENE

Army helicopter fleet sees engine upgrade.

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WIN OR LOSE

Retired lieutenant colonel honored at bowl game.

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Wishing our Army a happy 245th birthday

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

Staff writer/Social media

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Like individuals celebrating birthdays during the coronavirus pandemic, the Army's birthday June 14 will look different this year.

This year's birthday has gone virtual to celebrate 245 years of defending America.

"The Army in its 245th year has never – and will never – let the sun set in the face of the enemy," Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Juan Jimenez said. "The Army always stands tall and marches forward. We will win and dominate in order to prevent and succeed in war. Wishing the United States Army, a very happy birthday!"

Here is a list of this year's Army birthday events.



June 10

Twilight Tattoo, 7-8 p.m.

This event, to be broadcast on the Army's Facebook and YouTube channels, is a live-action military pageant featuring Soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) and The U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own."

June 12

Army Birthday Run, 6:30 a.m.

This year will be a 2.45-mile virtual run in honor of America's Army.

Cadet Command National Commissioning, 10 a.m.

See Birthday on page 6

June 6

76th Anniversary of D-Day

June 8

SMA 2.45-mile Run Challenge

This will be a virtual 2.45-mile run challenge from Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston.

RocketViews

Personal responsibility is key to COVID recovery

Let's take a step back.

I get that people want to regain some type of control over their health and safety, but right now the only thing people can control is themselves. That's going to be key.

Take Screenings for example. The effectiveness of screenings relies heavily on the person being screened and less on the person doing the screening.

That's because you can't screen for a lie. If you could, the entire James Bond franchise would've lasted five minutes. And, depending on the circumstances, people are more likely to lie.

For example, I'd argue people are less likely to lie when they go see a doctor than when they're going to work.

Just think about the decisions that a person has made to end up at one of the screening checkpoints.

To go to the doctor, the decision tree looks like this:

I don't feel well, or I need some form of medical assistance.

I'm already here, I should try to get as

much help as I can.

The more symptoms they present with, the easier it is to diagnose.

Regardless of what I say, I'm still going to get the help and services I came to get and achieve my goal.

To go to work, the decision tree looks like this:

I have bills to pay or a project to complete.

I'm already here. I feel fine, and if I say anything even slightly suspicious, I'll get sent home.

If I'm sent home, do I even get paid? I can't risk that.

If I say the wrong thing, then I'm not going to achieve the goals I set out to accomplish when I got out of bed.

To me screenings are a security blanket, something to make people feel better about the current situation we're all in.

Like most security blankets, though, when they face a real problem, they don't

do much.

Almost everyone I know carries with them some form of a security blanket, even if they say they don't.

It could be a cellphone, pocketknife, a favorite jacket or an actual blanket.

As a species, we instinctively do things to make us feel safer and to give us a sense of control over our lives.

Right now, there are a lot of people who don't feel like they have much control. The place I see it the most is during the Garrison's weekly town halls.

People always ask about screening, testing and a slew of other what-if questions.

I get it. People feel like they don't have any control over if they come back to work or not, so they're searching for some guarantees for their safety.

The problem is the Army can't give that guarantee. The federal, state and local governments can't provide that guarantee. There's not a single entity on Earth that can give that guarantee.

They can help, and we've seen that.

There's a reason the Arsenal has lagged the state in reopening.

Snippets
By Jonathan Stinson
Assistant editor

But, like the example above, when people are put in a situation where they have to choose between themselves and what they want to achieve vs. others, they're going to pick themselves – most of the time.

So, what we have to do is make a decision. There are things we know are effective like wearing masks, washing your hands, staying six feet away from people, but each person has to decide what their acceptable level of risk is and act accordingly.

There will be a lot of people who have to have some tough conversations with themselves. But like I've said before, the key to coming out of this crisis is going to be up to the individual and the decisions they make.

Quote of the week

“We don't need a vaccine to stop the virus. We need behavior to stop the virus.”

– William Haseltine
American scientist, businessman,
author and philanthropist

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.

On this date in history:

In 2017: In the London Bridge attack, eight people were murdered and dozens of civilians were wounded by Islamist terrorists. Three of the attackers were shot dead by the police.

In 1973: A Soviet supersonic Tupolev Tu-144 crashed near Goussainville, France, killing 14, the first crash of a supersonic passenger aircraft.

In 1965: Gemini 4 launched the first multi-day space mission by a NASA crew. Ed White, a crew member, performed the first American spacewalk.

In 1940: During World War II, the Battle of Dunkirk ended with a German victory and with Allied forces in full retreat.

In 1916: The National Defense Act was signed into law, increasing the size of the United States National Guard by 450,000 men.

RedstoneRocket

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First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN
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What do you think of your job?

“For me personally, I’ve always had a heart for protecting others since I come from a background where I was bullied and didn’t always have somebody to protect me,” Stuart Gates, Redstone patrol officer, said. “So I like to be that person to defend others that can’t defend themselves. I started out as a (gate) guard at Redstone in July 2019 until March when I became a police officer.”

Gates, 29, a Huntsville native, served in the Marines from 2009-16 when he left as a sergeant. He resides in Woodville with his wife of three years, Brandy. Gates likes to teach karate and he takes jiu jitsu. He teaches basic pistol classes with the NRA. He also enjoys spending time with family and their animals. “We have six dogs and a cat. And they’re rescues, minus one,” he said. Gates roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Stuart Gates

Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN
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Your career choice.

“I’m serving as a contractor. I work for MorganFranklin Consulting,” Blake Thompson, an accountant, said. “And we’re supporting AMC (Army Materiel Command). We focus mainly in financial management and particularly in financial improvement and audit readiness. I’m an accountant by profession. And it’s always just interested me, the ebb and flow of funds through an organization and overall accountability for those funds. I’ve got a bachelor’s in accounting and finance from UAH (in 2007). And I have an active certified public accountant license. I’m pursuing my master’s in business administration through UAH as well.”

Thompson, 39, a Huntsville native, resides in Huntsville with his wife of seven years, Sarah, and their two sons, Everett, 4, and Cameron, 2. He enjoys spending time with his family and he likes running. He has been a member of Redstone’s Ten-Miler Team since 2017. Thompson roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Blake Thompson

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Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents May 17-23:

May 18: A Redstone police officer conducted a traffic stop on Rideout Road outbound adjacent to Gate 9 for a vehicle speeding. Police identified the driver and a National Crime Information Center check revealed a suspended license. The officer also smelled marijuana emitting from the vehicle and was given consent to search the vehicle by the driver. During the search a Glock model 48, 9mm semiautomatic with one magazine containing 10 rounds was found in the driver’s purse. The firearm was checked through NCIC which met with negative results. The driver was transported to the police station for further processing and the weapon was retained on a DA Form 4137 and placed in evidence locker. The driver was cited for violation of a security regulation, speeding and driving on a suspended license and released.

May 20: A complainant entered the Redstone police station and reported that someone removed three rechargeable batteries and three battery chargers, valued at approximately \$600, which were left unsecured and unattended. When asked, the complainant could not provide any proof of ownership or value of the items that were stolen but said they were owned by a construction company.

May 21: Redstone police responded to the Gate 9 Visitor Center for an individual with a possible warrant. The individual was

seeking a Redstone visitor badge to enter the installation for work when the background check indicated a warrant with the Limestone County Sheriff’s Office for driving under the influence. The individual was apprehended and released to a Limestone County sheriff’s deputy.

May 23: At Gate 9, Redstone police responded to a report of the odor of marijuana emitting from a vehicle. The police officer identified the driver and a passenger in the vehicle which approached the gate lost and needing directions. During contact the officer detected the strong odor of marijuana from the vehicle. After the occupants were removed, the driver disclosed that a weapon and marijuana were in the passenger compartment. A search of the vehicle found two handguns and a clear plastic baggie containing marijuana. The firearms were checked through the National Crime Information Center which met with negative results. The driver was transported to the police station for processing and the vehicle was released to the passenger. All evidence was retained on a DA Form 4137 and placed in an evidence locker. The driver was fingerprinted and cited for violation of a security regulation and possession of a controlled substance and released.

Citations included two for possession of a firearm and dangerous weapon, one for driving while license is suspended or revoked, one for possession of a controlled substance, one for expired license and four for speeding.

Know your laws:

Lodging tax exemption for meeting rooms

Effective Sept. 1, 2019, Alabama's Senate Bill 171, Act 2019-487, revised the lodging tax to exclude certain rentals that are not for overnight accommodations from the lodging tax. SB 171 provides that the rental of room or space in a hotel, motel, inn, tourist camp, tourist cabin, or any other place which is not a room, lodging, or accommodation regularly furnished for overnight sleeping purposes are not subject to the lodging tax.

Maj. Jimmine Haigler, military law attorney at the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, has researched this legislation.

Senate Bill 171, Act 2019-487 amends Section 40-26-1, Code of Alabama 1975 to read as follows:

"There is levied and imposed, in addition to all other taxes of every kind now imposed by law, a privilege or li-

cense tax upon every person, firm, or corporation engaging in the business of renting or furnishing any room or rooms, lodging, or accommodations to transients in any hotel, motel, inn, tourist camp, tourist cabin, or any other place in which rooms, lodgings, or accommodations are regularly furnished to transients for a consideration, in any county which is located in the geographic region comprising the Alabama mountain lakes area, those being Blount, Cherokee, Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Etowah, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone,

Madison, Marion, Marshall, Morgan, and Winston, in an amount to be determined by the application of the rate of 5% of the charge for such room, rooms, lodgings, or accommodations,

including the charge for use or rental of personal property and services furnished in such room, and the rate of 4% of the charge in every other county. There is exempted from the tax levied under this chapter any rentals or services taxed under Division 1 of Article 1 of Chapter 23 of this title.

"The tax shall not apply to rooms, lodgings, or accommodations supplied: For a period of 180 continuous days or more in any place; by camps, conference centers, or similar facilities operated by nonprofit organizations primarily for the benefit of, and in connection with, recreational or educational programs for children, students, or members or guests of other nonprofit organizations during any calendar year; or by privately operated camps, conference centers, or similar facilities that provide lodging and recreational or educational programs exclusively for the benefit of children, students, or members or guests of nonprofit organizations during any calendar year.

"For purposes of subsection: 'Children' means individuals under age 21; 'student' is defined in accordance with 26 U.S.C. 151(c)(4), as in effect from time to time or by any successor law; 'nonprofit organization' is an organization exempt from federal income tax under 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3), as in effect from time to time or any successor law; and 'privately operated' refers to any camp, conference center or similar facility other than those operated by a nonprofit organization as herein defined.

"Charges made for the rental of a ballroom, dining room, club room, sample room, conference room, wedding chapel, or similar room or space that is not intended nor suitable for overnight sleeping purposes and that is not used for overnight sleeping purposes is not subject to the tax levied pursuant to this chapter if the charges for the rental are separately stated by the facility and the room or space is used exclusively as a room or space for a meeting, conference, seminar, club meeting, private party or



similar activity.

"The exclusion provided in subdivision (1) applies solely to the transient occupancy tax levied under this chapter and does not apply to any other taxes, licenses, or fees except a separately stated rental charge for a meeting room or other space excluded pursuant to subdivision (1) is also excluded from the tax levied by Chapter 23 of Title 40."

In summary Senate Bill 171, Act 2019-487, exempts meeting rooms, banquet halls, wedding chapels, and similar rooms or spaces not intended or suitable for overnight sleeping purposes from payment of lodging taxes, provided the charges for the room or space are separately stated by the renting facility and the room or space is used exclusively for a meeting, conference, seminar, club meeting, private party or similar activity. Additionally, this act and this bill provides that charges made for the rental of a ballroom, dining room, club room, sample room, conference room, or similar room or space that is not intended or suitable for overnight sleeping purposes is not subject to the state lodging tax and sales and use tax.

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

Getting to know you

By WENDY REEVES

Staff writer

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Name: Peter Hannah

Profession: Installation geospatial information and services manager (geographer/GIS specialist), Garrison

What did you want to be when you grew up?

A pilot and musician.

What do you hope to accomplish in 2020?

Getting a side business established.

Who is your hero, and why?

Jack Dangermond. He is the founder and president of ESRI, the company that produces the GIS software that I use. Although he is a billionaire, I admire his humble and unassuming demeanor. I also like that he and his company have a mission to support science, sustainability, community, education, research and positive change.

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

A world traveler ... hard to do in a day, though.



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

Listen intently, and learn from everyone around you.

Aviation, Missile Center engineer honored by alma mater

By AMY TOLSON

CCDC Aviation & Missile Center Public Affairs

It's a simple, but impactful motto that Kevin Rees lives by – never pass up an opportunity to help somebody else.

For the difference he has made for his community, career field and the warfighter, Rees, chief of the maintenance airworthiness division for the Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center Systems Readiness Directorate, is being honored with an alumni Career Achievement award by the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana.

“Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology is proud to recognize Kevin Rees for his outstanding career,” President Robert Coons said. “The work Kevin has done in service to his country and profession is a powerful demonstration of continual learning and an excellent example of the educational foundation that our institute provides.”

Growing up near Chicago, Rees chose to attend Rose-Hulman based on its reputation for being a top engineering school. After graduation from the institute in 1981, he did a brief stint in the oil business before becoming a civil servant in 1984.

In his current role, he is responsible for coordinating all maintenance and sustainment engineering support for Army helicopter operations worldwide and manages an organization of approximately 125 engineers with an annual operation budget of more than \$30 million. Rees served as the deputy director of an AvMC directorate from August to December 2019. His awards include the Secretary of Defense Global War on Terrorism Superior Civilian Support medal and the Silver Order of St. Michael Medal.

“It's been everything I could have hoped for,” Rees said of his government career. “Helping my teammates do the best they can and accomplish things for the Soldiers and the country inspires me to come to work each day.”

Making an impact

As part of his award nomination, Rees had to explain to school leaders the impact he has had on the world around him.

“How have I impacted humanity?” is a big question that isn't easy to answer,” he said. “On the one hand, I am part of a huge team – the U.S. Army. I play a focused role, ensuring that our Soldiers have access to safe and airworthy aircraft when they need them. Every time that a U.S. Army Black Hawk picks a person up off of a flooded rooftop after a hurricane, my team has been a part of that action. Every time that a CH-47 brings construction supplies to a remote clinic in Liberia during an Ebola epidemic, my team supported that action. And, in the case of the Ebola epidemic, an engineer was on the ground assisting those Soldiers in fixing their aircraft – and that engineer in Liberia was recruited, trained and deployed by my team. The U.S. Army has made some tremendous contributions to humanity with countless lives saved, not to mention freedoms preserved. And I feel like I have played a vital role on that team.”

In addition to his government career, Rees is very involved with his community in Corpus Christi, Texas, to include his church and the Gideons International, as well as two local colleges, where he serves as an industry advisory board member. Following Hurricane Harvey in 2017, he founded a registered engineering firm to provide pro bono wind storm inspections and other professional engineering services to homeowners during the recovery effort.

“Sometimes you are given a glimpse of the impact you have on other lives, but often you just never know,” Rees said. “So, you do the best that you can every day, you follow your call and you pray for success. There is a saying that goes something like, ‘If you want to change the world, change yourself.’ I do agree with that; I did start there. But the second part of that saying should be ‘and then try and change one other life at a time.’”



Courtesy photo

Kevin Rees, chief of the maintenance airworthiness division for the Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center's Systems Readiness Directorate, is the recipient of a Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology alumni Career Achievement award.

In this section...

**VIETNAM NATIVE WANTS TO THANK THOSE WHO FOUGHT
GARRISON WORKERS STEP UP FOR PANDEMIC RESPONSE
BY THE NUMBERS
BUILD YOUR STRENGTH ON ARMY'S WELLNESS PILLARS
VIRTUAL COUNSELING SERVICE AVAILABLE AMID PANDEMIC**

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Services

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facility, refer to Fox website and social media for details;

- Morale, Welfare and Recreation: Golf Course, Flying Club, Auto Skills, Arts and Crafts, Limited Outdoor Recreation activities open;
- Post Restaurants: Open for Carry-out only (JAVA Café, Brooklyn's and Fire-house Pub remain closed)
- Post Exchange/ Gas Stations: Open, masks required to enter;
- Commissary: Open, Retiree hours and purchase limits remain in effect, mask required to enter.

Employees and beneficiaries should expect social distancing and protective measures to be enforced at all locations on Redstone Arsenal where six feet of physical distance cannot be maintained. While the Installation is reconstituting services, we are not reducing prevention.

Employees are strongly encouraged to follow CDC guidelines: stay home when ill; wear a cloth face covering in public places; maintain six feet of physical separation; and practice good hygiene.

Employees should stay in close contact with their direct chain of command for their return-to-installation work status and timeline.

If the status of the installation changes, the workforce will be notified through direct communication, the Redstone Rocket, Team Redstone social media and websites, the Redstone Explorer App and local media.

Birthday

Continued from page **1**

The commissioning will be livestreamed on the Army's Facebook, YouTube and Instagram accounts.

Army Cake-cutting and Reenlistment Ceremony, 1 p.m.

A traditional birthday cake-cutting and reenlistment ceremony will be held at the Pentagon. This event will be livestreamed on the Army's Facebook page.

June 13

U.S. Military Academy Graduation at West Point, 9:30 a.m.

This event will be livestreamed on West Point's social media channels.

June 14

Army Birthday Wreath Laying at Arlington National Cemetery, 11:30 a.m.

This annual event will take place at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and will be livestreamed on Arlington National Cemetery's social media channels.

"The Army at 245: An American Celebration," 7 p.m.

To be livestreamed on the Army's Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts.

June 25

70th Anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War

Vietnam native wants to thank those who fought for her

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Thanh Boyer witnessed the horrors of war while growing up in South Vietnam.

She was born in 1967 in the midsize town of Tan Chau in the Mekong Delta, six miles from the Cambodian border. Her family was one of the richest in the area because of successful business ventures. Her paternal grandfather had a bakery, a Fanta bottling company and he would buy and sell silk and other material that would come from Cambodia. His 10 children, including her father and three other boys, would work in the family business.

“I do remember the fighting (from the Vietnam War). I remember as a little girl hearing gunfire all over the place, across the river,” Boyer said. “We had bomb trenches built around our school. So whenever you’d hear the sirens go off in town, you’d run to find a trench somewhere and go hide there.

“I remember seeing houses that burned down across the river at night and hearing people screaming. And also I remember seeing body parts and bloat-

Vietnam revisited *Part 272 in series*

ed bodies floating down the river and the stench and the smell. I remember seeing all of that. And the source of the bodies came from Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge killing spree.”

She was the oldest of six children – five girls and one boy – of Tan Duong, their dad, and Phuong Nguyen, their mom. She was 8 when Saigon fell and their freedom and high standard of living ended. Boyer remembers when the victorious North Vietnamese troops entered her town that fateful day, April 30, 1975.

“I remember the chaos of that day,” she said. People knew their currency would change so they scrambled and lined up to exchange their money for whatever goods they could.

One of her aunts was married to a South Vietnamese naval officer. He was

See Vietnam on page 8



Courtesy photo

Madison resident Thanh Boyer shares her experiences in her book, “The Ground Kisser,” which was published in April 2019. Boyer said she gives the proceeds from its sales to veterans groups.



Courtesy photo

Thanh Boyer, born in 1967 in the town of Tan Chau in the Mekong Delta, spent her first 12 years in Vietnam.

Vietnam

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taken away to a re-education camp.

“My father spent three months in one of those camps but they were trying to extract some money from him knowing he was a businessman,” Boyer said.

Life became a struggle for the formerly well-off family. Their business was confiscated. The communists closed their Fanta bottling company and stopped them from buying and selling materials coming down the river. The family was allowed to maintain its bakery but the communists told them how much to produce and how to price things. A communist family moved into the Boyer home to watch her family.

In 1979, when Boyer was 12 and in the third grade, there was news of a riverboat that would take refugees from Vietnam. Some aunts had husbands who had signed up to leave. An aunt found some room on the boat and told Boyer’s parents. They paid for Boyer and the next oldest, her sister Loan, 10, to escape on this riverboat of 400 people. “We were pretty much leaving illegally because we didn’t sign up to go,” Boyer said.

In May 1979, two weeks after Boyer’s 12th birthday, the 400 refugees crowded onto the tiny boat and departed a southern coastal city. “It was very little. Just big enough for everybody to sit, not even room to lay down,” she said.

The riverboat’s planned route was to travel the South China Sea to Australia. But after three days, they landed in Malaysia. They were robbed by a Malaysian ship which then disabled the riverboat’s engine and left them out at sea to die from starvation. A storm ensued and carried the boat to Indonesia. The Indonesians put them on an island of refugees for 11 months and then moved them to another island for the next four months. Many of the refugees died.

“There wasn’t enough to eat or drink.

We were starving. We were forced to drink dirty water,” Boyer said. “I had dysentery. I almost died there.”

Finally the eight people in her group – Boyer, her sister, an aunt, two uncles and their children – learned that an Athens, Alabama, family had sponsored them to come to America. George and Maria Vankirk, with assistance from Athens churches and residents, paid for them to be brought to Athens in July 1980. The eight refugees were placed in a fully-furnished apartment.

Boyer and her relatives found jobs and saved their money. They went to school. They bought a Chinese restaurant in Huntsville and worked there seven days a week.

Boyer graduated from Athens High School in 1989, got married and started a family. She and her husband, John Boyer, will celebrate their 30th anniversary June 30. He is a defense contractor for the Army at Redstone. They moved to Madison in 2003. Their daughter, Katherine, resides in San Diego; and their son, JB, lives in Huntsville.

She shares her experiences in her book, “The Ground Kisser,” which was published in April 2019. Boyer said she gives the proceeds from its sales to veterans groups.

“I’m grateful to live here but mostly I’m grateful for the Vietnam veterans who fought for my freedom,” she said. “And my mission is to thank as many Vietnam veterans as I can because they never heard that from the other side. So I think it’s very important that they hear that. They’ve never had the welcome home because the Vietnam War was such a political war.

“I want them to know that their sacrifice wasn’t for nothing. I am an example of what it was like to have freedom and then not have freedom. They made the difference.”

Editor’s note: This is the 272nd in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

Garrison workers step up for pandemic response

Photos by JONATHAN STINSON

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Garrison Commander Col. Kelsey Smith recognized a number of workers during the Garrison's all-hands meeting May 20.



Jeremy Jackson, from Directorate of Public Works, was recognized for his rapid response to the initial COVID-19 outbreak on Redstone. Jackson developed the scope of work to address the first positive case impacting a Redstone facility by safely disinfecting the affected area.

Ryan Williams, from Directorate of Public Works, was recognized for his rapid response to the initial COVID-19 case on Redstone. He personally provided escort and quality assurance inspection services for the first positive case impacting a Redstone facility and ensured proper disinfection of the area.



Howard Berryhill, from Directorate of Public Works, was recognized for his rapid response to the initial COVID-19 outbreak on Redstone requiring an "Amber" level disinfection. Berryhill developed the modification to the existing Custodial Contract to effectively address the disinfection of specified areas of concern on the installation.

See Awards on page 10

Awards

Continued from page 9

Dan Huber, director of operations, plans and operations division, was recognized for serving as a lead operations officer in the Installation Emergency Operations Center synchronizing COVID-19 response efforts and submitting complex reports to Installation Management Command headquarters.



Betty Anderson, from Human Resources, was recognized for sustaining service members separations with a decrement in resources. She utilized her in-depth knowledge of the Military Personnel Program to execute the Military Personnel mission.



Cathy Hays, from Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, was recognized for her hard work and dedication to duty in assisting the director with mission analysis from operations orders and fragmentary orders while meeting all reporting requirements accurately and on time while synchronizing staff.



Amelia Hice, from Garrison Public Affairs, was recognized for her efforts in supporting the development of the strategic communication messaging and the COVID-19 frequently asked questions page for installation employees.



Photo by Richard Bumgardner

Security enterprise retiree

The Security Assistance Command honors Robert L. Moore, USASAC deputy to the commanding general, at his retirement after nearly 50 years of military and civilian service. This includes 28 years as active duty Air Force. Moore served as USASAC deputy commander from 2010-20, and he was selected to the Senior Executive Service in July 2003.

By the numbers: My favorite rock groups

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

1. Rolling Stones
2. Santana
3. The Beatles
4. Fleetwood Mac
5. The Who
6. Led Zeppelin

7. Queen
8. Aerosmith
9. Prince and The Revolution
10. Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers
11. Lynyrd Skynyrd
12. Doobie Brothers
13. Sly and the Family Stone
14. Matchbox Twenty

Build your strength on Army's wellness pillars

By **KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY**

Staff writer/Social media

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Army resiliency has taken on a different meaning in the age of the coronavirus.

Never before has the modern Army been called to prove its mettle like the past several months. While no stranger to challenges and threats, this war is different. Accustomed to banding together, now a majority of the workforce is apart. Luckily, there is a blueprint, a plan – and Soldiers and scientists like plans.

How can the workforce adapt to the challenges brought forth by COVID-19, using the five pillars of Army resiliency – emotional, family, physical, social and spiritual? The experts below have some ideas.

Emotional

Handling emotions constructively right now has been a challenge when the news reports are grim and workers fear for their health and the health of their loved ones. It could be tempting to find outlets to ease those fears, outlets such as overeating, overconsumption of alcohol and even overspending. But a healthier answer might be found in a simple routine change.

“Stay informed, but don’t obsess with COVID-19 news,” Army Substance Abuse Program Division Director Gina Koger said. “In spite of 24/7 news feeds on the subject, it’s only one aspect of life.

“Get some extra sleep. Take advantage of this opportunity to put what is normally travel time to use by experimenting with adding it to sleep time. For example, if you’re used to six hours of sleep, try adding an hour and see how you feel. But the most important thing is to keep a regular sleep routine, going to bed at the same time and waking up at the same time.”



Photo by Eric Schultz

See Pillars on page 17

People enjoy some outside exercise along the Aldridge Creek Greenway Thursday.

Virtual counseling service available amid pandemic

By Army Community Service

During these stressful, overwhelming, frustrating times, there's someone you can talk to about your concerns.

Free nonmedical video-counseling, through Zoom, enables you to talk to someone from the comfort of your home or office.

The Army Community Service's Military and Family Life Counseling Program is here for you during the coronavirus pandemic. It offers telephone and HIPPA-compliant video nonmedical counseling in addition to face-to-face nonmedical counseling.

Those eligible include active duty military and their families, Reserve and National

Guard members and their families, Department of Defense expeditionary civilians and their families, and survivors of the fallen.

The military and family life counselor can help with:

- Managing stress and changes at home due to the pandemic
- Adjusting to deployment and reintegration
- Preparing to move or adjusting after a move
- Strengthening relationships
- Managing problems at work
- Grieving the death of a loved one or colleague.

Sandra Bruno, Redstone's military and family life counselor, can be reached at 226-7313 or by emailing MFLCRedstone@gmail.com.

Pillars

Continued from page 15

Family

Cultivating family wellness has also evolved with the safer at home order and schools transitioning e-learning. The traditional activities of springtime – sports, prom, graduation, have been canceled or dramatically altered. Family wellness involves supporting children in their questions and fears, and developing support strategies for spouses, partners or parents.

“Keep a journal of the new good and positive things you and your family are experiencing,” Koger recommended. “Make a list of things that matter most to you and that you are thankful for and add something to that list every day. Keep a list of lessons-learned during this unusual time. We are living in a time like none we have experienced before and like none we may ever experience again. Take it in, reflect on it, learn from it. Enjoy the dichotomy of being distant from others and from some of the activities that we are usually immersed in while also reconnecting with ourselves and with others, and finding new windows opening when the usual doors are closed to us.”

Physical

Proper nutrition, physical activity, and flexibility are still essential, although it has had more of an outdoors look lately. The gyms on post are still closed to civilians and contractors for the foreseeable future although some off-post are opening again. However, many do not feel comfortable resuming their pre-COVID gym routine.

“We understand people miss their home gym for not only the physical benefit but for social and mental well-being,” Family and MWR Recreation Division Chief Gaylene Wilson said. “We certainly look forward to seeing our great customers again. But the good news is a gym is not needed to exercise. I encourage people to get outside if possible and go for a walk or run. Use their own body weight to do simple exercises like push-ups, modified push-ups off the wall, squats and simple leg lifts either while laying on floor or standing using a chair. Don’t have weights? Find something at home you can use. Can goods, bucket of water, etc. There are many on-line resources that offer free tips on how to do at home exercises so put those phones to use. The main thing is just get off the couch and move.”

Social

Like family wellness, social wellness is about maintaining healthy interactions with friends and acquaintances and interacting positively with your personal and social environment.

“Take multi mini-breaks,” Koger advised. “We may feel that we have to be on our computers constantly when we are teleworking. You may realize that you are work-



Military One Source

The five pillars of Army wellness strive to create a resilient workforce of both Soldiers and civilians.

ing more hours than normal because you want to be accountable, to stay on task. Stay in touch with co-workers, friends and family, whether it’s through social media, email, or FaceTime. It’s important to communicate with other human beings!”

Spiritual

Spiritual does not necessarily mean religious. Spiritual wellness means finding meaning and purpose in your life, which are necessary to foster hope. Some find that in a pew, some find it in nature, while others find that in volunteering and helping others. And none of those are mutually exclusive, as spiritual wellness is uniquely personal. All are healthy ways to stay spiritually strong.

“Start your day with meditation, prayer, journaling, whatever keeps you grounded,” Koger said. “Take regular short breaks to ‘smell the roses’ and find rays of sunshine to brighten your day.”

Army helicopter fleet sees engine upgrade



Photo by Richard King

Snowcapped mountains of West Jordan, Utah, loom behind several AH-64 Apache helicopters.

By Aviation Turbine Engines Project Office

Program Executive Office for Aviation has completed the first unit upgrade in its program to replace the Enhanced Digital Engine Control Units for T700 series engines used across the Army helicopter fleet.

Each of Utah's Army National Guard 1st Battalion, 211th Aviation Regiment helicopter's T700-GE-701D engines now has the latest P09 EDECU. The regiment brought its fleet of Apache helicopters to West Jordan, Utah, in February for this phase of the P09 EDECU upgrade fielding effort. The effort was initiated by the Aviation Turbine Engines Project Office and overseen by the Apache Project Office. Both project offices are part of PEO Aviation.

Maintenance teams completed installation of the P09 EDECUs onto the 211th's 23 aircraft (46 engines) onsite by the end of March. The next Apache upgrade will take place in Alaska during the summer. In addition to upgrading previously fielded engines, all new T701D engines for both Black Hawk and Apache are now produced with the P09 EDECUs and the AMCOM Logistics Center is procuring the P09 EDECU for its spares inventory.

Why the change? With over 50 million flight hours, the T700 series of engines and its variants have been a reliable power source for multiple premier helicopter platforms for more than 40 years. In 2018, the Army identified a reliability problem with the P07/P08 EDECU where a particular failure mode led to high side event occurrences. The problem required the T700/T55 Product Office to rapidly develop and field an upgraded EDECU for the T701D engine. By early 2019, the team developed

and qualified the P09 EDECU. In order to gain confidence in the rapidly developed design, ATE performed a "Lead the Fleet" effort over the course of 21 weeks with 48 P09 EDECU's that accumulated 5,095 flight hours. Because of the "Lead the Fleet" effort, ATE was able to identify and fix one design issue prior to fleetwide fielding.

To ensure the T700 remains mission ready, the Aviation Turbine Engines' T700/T55 Product Office works to create affordable solutions to enhance the engine's durability and reliability. Even as the P09 upgrade continues, the T700/T55 Product Office will continue to provide expertise in engineering, acquisition and program management to the warfighter to ensure that the T700 series engine continues to be the Army's premier turbine engine on which Soldiers rely.

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Carballosa takes reins of Marshall human resources

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center
Public Affairs

Digna Carballosa has been appointed acting director of the Office of Human Resources at Marshall Space Flight Center for a 90-day period that began May 18.

Carballosa, who has been director of human resources at NASA's Kennedy Space Center since 2015, will lead the Marshall office on behalf of current director Marcus Lea, who was selected to aid with NASA human resources transformation efforts at NASA headquarters.

Carballosa, who was deputy director of human resources at Marshall from 2007-14, will plan, direct and coordinate all Marshall Office of Human Resources operations and customer relationship management functions during her temporary assignment.

She joined NASA in 2007 to develop and implement new human resources strategies at Marshall, create innovative performance management and reward programs, and devise education programs to engage and employ new generations of team members. She previously worked with the Office of Personnel Management from 1993-2007, supporting human resources initiatives for federal agencies including the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Transportation, Department of the Treasury, Department of Justice and Depart-



Digna Carballosa

ment of Commerce.

Carballosa, a native of Cuba, has earned numerous awards, including the National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives Excellence in Public Service Award, the Space Flight Awareness Leadership Award and the Office of Personnel Management Director's Award for Excellence. She earned her bachelor's degree in international affairs in 1992 from Florida International University in Miami.

Improved turbine fits future Army helicopters

By Aviation Turbine Engines Project Office

Army aviation and industry leaders gathered in one of Sikorsky's West Palm Beach, Florida, hangars in February. Helicopters passed overhead as they collected around open engine cowlings on an H-60M Black Hawk to get a glimpse of Army aviation's current and future powerhouses.

Installed in the left engine bay was a T700-GE-701D engine, representing the T700 engine series that has been the powerhouse of Army aviation for more than four decades.

Installed in the right engine bay was a high-resolution 3D model of the Army's newest turbine engine, the Improved Turbine Engine Program's T901-GE-900 which will deliver enhanced Joint All Domain Operations capability to the Black Hawk, Apache, and Future Vertical Lift's Future Attack Reconnaissance Aircraft before 2028.

The side-to-side Black Hawk Fit Check event is one of the ITEP team risk reduction efforts. It was supported

by the Utility Helicopters Project Office, Sikorsky, and GE Aviation, to ensure the T901 is a drop-in replacement and a seamless fit. The teams installed the T901 model into both engine bays on the Black Hawk and performed several evaluations, including Human Systems Integration tests, to analyze fit and form.

Bennett Hlavac, ITEP product support manager, spoke to the significance of risk reduction efforts, such as the ITEP fit checks.

"We owe our due diligence to the Army to provide the best products possible ... and, most importantly, we owe it to the Soldier," Hlavac said.

Next, ITEP will continue toward the Critical Design Review, scheduled for third quarter of fiscal 2020, which will use the data gathered from both this fit check as well as a similar event previously conducted on the AH-64E Apache. During CDR, the T901 will undergo a ballistic assessment and product drawings will be finalized. Per the baseline contract, the CDR will be followed by the First Engine to Test,

which will occur in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021 followed by the Preliminary Flight Rating scheduled for fiscal 2022, which will deem the engine flightworthy.

During fiscal years 2023 and 2024, the engine and platform (Apache and Utility) integration and full qualifications will occur, culminating with Milestone C in fiscal 2024. However, GE Aviation is incentivized under the baseline contract to accelerate PFR by

12 months and is aggressively pursuing that approach with the ATE Project Office.

As the ITEP presses towards CDR, the fit checks' modeled glimpse of the future comes closer to becoming reality. With this vision in mind, the ATE Project Office, as part of Program Executive Office for Aviation, will continue to pursue every opportunity to provide Army aviation with affordable and reliable power solutions.

Rocket Pet of the Week

Ellie

This is Ellie and she belongs to Jeffrey Speegle, a senior systems administrator on the THAAD/SOLD project.

“Ellie is a five-year-old Cockapoo and a perpetual lovebug! She has very much enjoyed this time of self-isolation at her home in Muscle Shoals. Ellie has spent the majority of the past several weeks shoulder surfing her human from the back of the sofa.”



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Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Isaac Esposito

Hartselle sailor

Naval Air Crewman (Helicopter) 3rd Class Jake Shelton, from Hartselle, assigned to the “Dragon Slayers” of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 11, observes the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) in the Atlantic Ocean, May 27. The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group remains at sea in the Atlantic as a certified carrier strike group force ready for tasking in order to protect the crew from the risks posed by COVID-19, following their successful deployment to the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operation.

Space, missile defense school runs through pandemic

By **DOTTIE WHITE**

Space and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – As the nation and the world continue to adapt in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Space and Missile Defense School's critical mission, which is vital to force readiness for the nation, must continue.

The Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence's SMD School, a component of the Space and Missile Defense Command located in Colorado Springs, educates and trains the military force in space and global missile defense mission areas and develops space and global missile defense doctrine.

The school's director Daryl Breitbach said despite the pandemic they have continued to provide institutional Soldier qualification training to ensure mission success for Joint Tactical Ground Stations, Mobile Integrated Ground Suites, space control planning, Functional Area 40 space operations officers, ground-based mid-course defense, sensor management, and U.S. Northern Command missile defense officers.

"Across the Army, several U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command courses have continued with limited class sizes," Breitbach said. "The Space and Missile Defense School supports many of these professional military education courses by integrating education and instruction on space domain capabilities that enable the warfighter down to the lowest tactical level."

As a result of the current environment, Breitbach said the school team was able to quickly develop an online space lesson as well as modify lessons to provide instruction from Colorado via Defense Collaboration Service, which is a secure web conferencing and messaging service, or Microsoft Teams. Even instructors have been able to complete training virtually during the pandemic.

"The Space and Missile Defense School was one of the first Army schools to develop and offer the Common Faculty Development Instructor Course online via the Virtual Learning Environment," Breitbach said. "This course is a TRADOC requirement for all Army instructors. The facilitator and eight military and civilian students who attended all had very positive feedback on the initial course offering. We will continue to examine ways to offer courses via online means."

While much of the training can be completed virtually, some classes still require in-person instruction. For these courses, measures are in place in an effort to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.

"The school has reduced class sizes, increased course offerings, and worked to minimize the number of instructors and staff in the classroom," Breitbach explained. "Instead of bringing in local command leaders and mission area subject matter experts to address the classes, we've connected by video teleconference and other online means. Everyone has been diligent with social distancing, wearing masks, and maintaining good workspace and personal hygiene practices."

Understandably, many were nervous early on, not fully understanding this new training and work environment, he said. The level of anxiety has diminished as the safety measures in place have proved to be effective.

"We've conducted hundreds of hours of training since the middle of March and graduated dozens of students," Breitbach said. "All have remained safe and healthy, and all are trained and ready to support the command's 24/7 no-fail mission."

"Graduations have been small internal events without family, friends, supervisors or team members from the Soldiers' units in attendance. As the command and local installations return to work, the team is looking at opportunities to stream graduation events to the larger space and missile defense community."

Some of the Soldiers are in a permanent-change-of-station status and continue on to their permanent duty station after training, in accordance with Department of Defense and Department of the Army policy. Some of the students are local and return to their SMDC assignments after training. Much like other individuals across the country, students are making adjustments to live and train in this environment.

"The students and instructors are resilient and adaptive. For students communicating and staff instructing while wearing a mask, it definitely forces individuals to work on their command voice," Breitbach said.

In 2019, the SMD School educated and trained Army space cadre and missile defense operators in 26 formal courses with 3,257 students. An additional 12,631 students were trained as part of Armywide institutional education and training, operational home station unit training, and Combat Training Center training venues.



Photo by Dottie White

Space and Missile Defense School students in Colorado Springs, Colo., continue critical training during the COVID-19 pandemic in May. From left are 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Brigade, Soldiers Spc. Philip Sechow, Pfc. Jarod Milliman, Spc. David Sheek and Sgt. Elizabeth Hughes.

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...SEA
SICK!



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for those downstream!

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Storm Water Program Manager at 955-8501.**

Soak up on precautions for a safe summer

By MIKAYLA MAST

Space and Missile Defense Command
Public Affairs

As temperatures rise and summertime approaches, many will pull out and dust-noff their old swimsuit, lathering up in sunscreen as they head outdoors to soak up the sun and spend time with family and friends.

According to the Space and Missile Defense Command's Acting Safety Director Bobby Taylor it is important to be mindful of safety concerns and make smart decisions, but to remember that summertime activities can provide a greater risk of accidents.

"Statistics show an increase in accidents during the time period between Memorial Day and Labor Day, known as the 101 critical days of summer," Taylor said. "During this time, the Army Safety Center and the USASMDC Safety Office look to educate Soldiers, civilians and their families on how to reduce risks of accidents while enjoying their summer."

Taylor said there are a number of seasonal activities that carry accident risks



Army graphic

The 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign draws awareness to accident risks associated with summertime activities.

when performed irresponsibly, including spending time in the heat, boating, swimming, playing with fireworks and drinking alcohol.

"Heat-related illness is a major concern during summer," Taylor said. "Never leave infants or young children in cars,

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Safety

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and make sure to take precautions when you're spending time outside in the heat. Remember to stay hydrated, and look out for those who are most at risk of heat-related illnesses, including elderly individuals, children and people with chronic health conditions."

Taylor said drowning cases also increase during the summer, so swimming and boating should be participated in with heightened awareness for safety.

"Parents should always be around when their kids are in or near water and pay attention to what's going on," he said. "Swimmers of all ages should learn basics of how to swim safely. Both children and adults should take their skill level into account when swimming. Rivers and lakes with currents are better suited for strong, confident swimmers."

Taylor also recommended avoiding alcohol when swimming and never swimming alone.

Taylor said that boating can also lead to accidents. He said that many boating-related drownings involve alcohol consumption and passengers not wearing life jackets.

While sparklers are a Fourth of July favorite, they can also lead to injuries, Taylor said. Sparklers can catch clothing on fire or burn feet if dropped.

"Sparklers are a Fourth of July tradition, but they are also the cause for many

emergency room visits, especially for children," Taylor said. "Consider skipping the sparklers this year and giving your kids glow sticks, confetti poppers or streamers instead."

Taylor also said that if one chooses to drink, doing so responsibly should be a number one priority. He said adults should be mindful of how much they consume and always avoid drinking and driving. While ride-sharing services have increased in popularity and accessibility over the past several years, drunk driving has continued to be a problem.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, an average of almost 30 people a day die from drunk-driving crashes, equaling more than 10,000 deaths a year. Taylor said this is why it is important to always have a plan when drinking. Have a designated driver or plan to call a taxi or ride-sharing service.

In addition to the traditional safety risks presented every summer, extra considerations may need to be taken to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

"Accidents are down significantly this fiscal year, likely due to COVID-19," Taylor said. "Once stay-at-home orders and activity restrictions are removed, we may see a significant increase. We must remain vigilant and increase safety awareness. Take time to think about consequences and follow through with a plan to ensure the safety of your loved ones."

Editor's note: SMDC employees can access safety tools and resources on CommandNet, and questions regarding safety should be directed the Command Safety Office at 955-4800.

Versatile express rack arrives at Space Station

By RICK SMITH

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center Public Affairs

When the Japanese HTV-9 Kounotori cargo ship lifted off May 20 to deliver supplies and science equipment to the International Space Station, a landmark chapter in the station's story drew to a close – and a new chapter, helping to chart the course for Artemis-Generation voyages into the solar system, began.

Among the cargo the spacecraft delivered to the space station May 25 is the final NASA “EXpedite the PROcessing of Experiments to the Space Station” multi-purpose payload shelving unit. Better known as EXPRESS Racks, these permanent fixtures on the station support a variety of research experiments – providing power, protective storage, cooling and heating, command and data communications and easy transport for up to 10 small payloads each.

“Since our earliest ventures into space, we’ve sought more efficient, longer-term ways to conduct cutting-edge science in low-Earth orbit and beyond,” said Bobby Watkins, manager of the Human Exploration Development & Operations Office at Marshall Space Flight Center. “The EXPRESS Racks have been a cornerstone of science on the space station, and a vital part of our mission to make space exploration safer and more comfortable for our crews, and also reap untold scientific benefits back home on Earth.”

Marshall oversees space station hardware development and implementation for NASA, and NASA personnel in Marshall's Payload Operations Integration Center monitor experiments continuously, every day of the year. At any given time, up to 80 experiments can be in process, controlled by station crew members or from the ground. The racks operate at near capacity around the clock, and data compiled by Shaun Glasgow, project manager for the EXPRESS Racks at Marshall, and his team reveals a staggering fact: Since installation and startup of the first space station rack in 2001, NASA has logged more than 85 total years of combined rack operational hours using these facilities.

See Rack on page 28



NASA photo

Engineers at Marshall ready the final EXPRESS Rack for its launch to the International Space Station.

Rack

Continued from page 27

“The sheer volume of science that’s been conducted using the racks up until now is just overwhelming,” Glasgow said. “And as we prepare to return human explorers to the Moon and journey on to Mars, it’s even more exciting to consider all the scientific investigations still to come.”

Once the new rack is installed, 11 total racks will be on the station – the eight original EXPRESS Racks and three Basic EXPRESS Racks, more streamlined and versatile modern versions. Each is about the size of a refrigerator and comes equipped with up to eight configurable lockers and two drawers to house payloads. Experiments can be conducted, removed independently and returned to Earth depending on varying time requirements.

The first EXPRESS rack was successfully tested aboard the space shuttle in 1997.

The first two completed racks were delivered to the space station on STS-100 in 2001 and have been in continuous operation since – as have all the subsequent added racks.

The new rack is expected to be installed and operational by fall.

The technology is a legacy of the space shuttle program, which conducted a raft of scientific investigations from its versatile “mid-deck lockers” – slotted payload storage racks – during more than 130 flights between 1981 and 2011. “Those compact, standardized units became the model for developing the larger, more efficient racks we employ today,” Glasgow said.

He speculates on how the EXPRESS Racks will carry on that engineering legacy, impacting future hardware development as humanity extends its reach ever farther into the solar system. “Science leads, but engineering innovation is the true hallmark of NASA’s accomplishments for more than a half-century,” he said. “The work we did over those years got us here. Now it’s our turn to chart the future, delivering the equipment to carry science and discovery missions into the next century and beyond.”

A final example of that innovative spirit is ready to get to work.

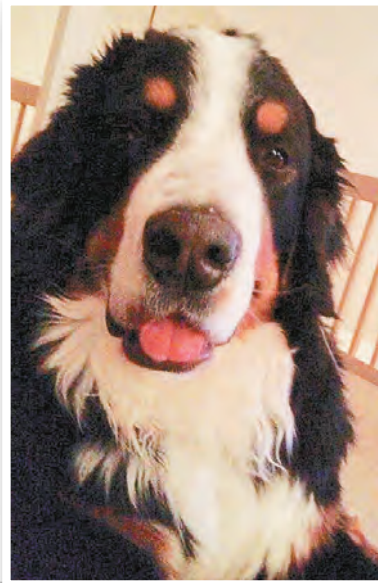
Funded by NASA’s Johnson Space Center, the EXPRESS Racks were developed by engineers at the Boeing Co. and Marshall, which jointly built and tested the racks at Marshall in the late 1990s.

Editor’s note: Rick Smith, an ASRC Federal Analytical Services employee, supports the Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.

Rocket Pet of the Week Tobey

This is Tobey and he belongs to PEO Aviation’s Dr. Patrick O’Farrell.

“Tobey hails from Iowa was a Mother’s Day present in 2012 to Laurie O’Farrell. He moved to Alabama in 2015 and is very well behaved, even taking his leash in his own mouth to walk himself around. As a Bernese Mountain Dog, Tobey has near-celebrity status in Alabama as there are very few Bernese in this state so he is always being stopped by onlookers to take a photo.”



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Veterans virtually recall end of WWII in Europe

By SEAN KIMMONS

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – After being freed from a World War II prison camp by British forces, Harold Radish immediately sought the simple pleasures of freedom: a beer and a nice sleep.

A reconnaissance sergeant with the 90th Infantry Division, Radish was captured by German soldiers in February 1945. Following months as a prisoner in Nazi Germany, the Jewish-American was rescued in late April, a week before the official victory in Europe.

“The war in Europe was over,” he said in a video. “The desolation and the buildings that were bombed, the killings and the rough times that I and my buddies had – it was over.”

Amid the current war on COVID-19, several veterans, public figures and family members of those killed in WWII shared a series of videos released as part of an online commemoration to honor the 75th anniversary of V-E Day.

In his video, Radish said that he and other prisoners were flown to Brussels. There, they were cleaned up, fed, clothed in British uniforms and given a couple of hours off in the city.

“We went into a bar, we drank some beer and then we went to sleep,” he said. “And that was true liberation.”

In a letter he mailed to his family after his release, Radish said he could not wait to return to them.

“I don’t think anyone can get me home fast enough, though they are using airplane and ship,” he said, reciting the letter. “Freedom is worth any price. It took a long time, but I (finally) found out.”

Just days after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, Americans were thrust into an ongoing fight across Europe as both Germany and Italy declared war on the United States.

Months of hard battles ensued, as Allied forces began to defeat enemy strongholds in Africa and Europe. In May 1943, Axis troops were defeated in northern Africa and by the fall of 1943, fascist Italy surrendered.

In June 1944, the D-Day invasion of Normandy broke through Germany’s Atlantic defenses and established a foothold for Allied forces that led to Paris being liberated later that summer.

Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg also became liberated by Allied forces. In early 1945, Allies reached Germany’s western border, then crossed the Rhine River in March, said Jane Droppa, vice chair of the Friends of the National WWII Memorial.

“The determined push into the heart of German fatherland was slow yet steady as the Allies encountered German forces not yet willing to give up the fight,” she said. “As they pushed into Germany, Allied forces encountered scenes of unspeakable horror and human suffering in Nazi concentration camps, all of which gave new meaning to the war.”

As American and Soviet soldiers moved into Germany from the west and east, both forces met in late April along the Elbe River, cutting the remaining German forces in two.

Less than a week later, Nazi Germany leader Adolf Hitler committed suicide a few days before the fall of Berlin. German leaders then signed an unconditional surrender of their entire forces, ending the war in Europe on May 8, 1945.

An estimated 15 to 20 million people died during the war in Europe. In total, WWII claimed some 60 million people worldwide, including 400,000 Americans.

For retired Col. Frank Cohn, that day was just like any other at that time.

As an intelligence agent who could speak German, he was assigned to a unit called T-Force that was in Magdeburg near Berlin. The unit’s mission was to go into large German cities after they were captured to inspect building and personality targets.

“Building targets were anything that was going to be of use to the force and in support of the criminal investigations and prosecution of war criminals,” he said. “And the personality targets were people who were going to be tried.”

When news came of the surrender, he said it didn’t really mean much to him and others in his unit. To them, the war had already been over for a few weeks.

“So we never really even celebrated it,” he said of V-E Day. “We just took it as another day and we were in the occupation as far as we were concerned. It means so much more now than it did then.”

“When I was drafted, I had absolutely no fear that we were going to lose the war,”



National Archives photo

An Army private breaks the news of the end of the war in Europe to other Soldiers after receiving an Associated Press news flash on it.

he added. “We were going to win. But certainly, in retrospect, it wasn’t that obvious and I think we can celebrate it.”

The son of 2nd Lt. Robert Meek also spoke of his father’s sacrifice months earlier in the war.

Meek, a B-25 Mitchell bomber co-pilot, was killed during a raid on the Magenta Bridge near Milan, Italy, in October 1944.

“The plane was hit by flak, killing my father instantly,” retired Col. Robert Meek Jr. said. “The pilot was able to return the plane and land it, even though he and two other members of the crew were wounded.”

To him, V-E Day meant the beginning of the end of evil in the world, in regard to German fascism and Japanese imperialism. By remembering this day, he hopes it can serve as a stark reminder to not let certain history repeat itself.

“If we are to allow evil to persist and exist, then we will go through the catastrophic conditions that we had in World War II,” he said. “So, please remember that men and women were willing to sacrifice to save freedom and democracy.”

Win or Lose

Aviation worker recognized at college bowl pregame

From combined reports

In a year of sports cancellations, Patrick O'Farrell has already had one shining moment.

The retired lieutenant colonel was recognized as the Distinguished Military Veteran and the Military Ambassador during pregame ceremonies at the 2020 Hula Bowl, Jan. 26 at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu. The postseason college football all-star game was telecast by the CBS Sports Network.

O'Farrell, programs officer for aviation acquisitions at the Program Executive Office for Aviation, served in the Army from 1982-2004. The West Point graduate received a Bronze Star for his service in Afghanistan from 2002-03. He retired as a lieutenant colonel in 2004 and he is among PEO Aviation's newer workers.

"It was a great honor to have Pat out here and join us for this event," Nick Logan, owner of the Hula Bowl, said. "We are strong supporters of the military and proud to know Dr. Pat."

Logan was recognized for his outstanding contributions toward military appreciation and support of Army programs.

Along with recognition of the military, the game also featured a military flyover by a C-17 Globemaster III and recognition of first responders and all branches of military service.

This was the first playing of the Hula Bowl since Jan. 12, 2008. Head coaches were Rex Ryan and Mike Smith, who both previously coached at the college and professional levels.

Ryan's team Kai (West) beat Smith's team Aina (East) 23-7. The most valuable players were Team Kai's Reggie Walker (defensive end, Kansas State) and Team Aina's Niko Lalos (defensive end, Dartmouth).

The game gave college standouts an opportunity to showcase their skills before the National Football League draft which was held virtually April 23-25. More than 30 players from the game have been signed by NFL teams.

Memorable battles waged on field of friendly strife

This international rivalry generated classic sports moments throughout the Cold War.

It happened in real life and on the movie screen. The U.S. faced off against the Soviet Union on the basketball court, in the boxing rink and on the ice.

Entering the 1972 Summer Olympics, the U.S. men's basketball team had won the previous seven gold medals and was favored to win another in Munich. But the Soviets took the gold medal by beating the U.S. 51-50 in the final. The game had a controversial ending in which the Soviets were awarded three inbounds plays in the closing seconds.

On the movie screen, the 1985 flick Rocky IV brought us boxing champion Rocky Balboa (played by Sylvester

Stallone) against invincible Russian newcomer Ivan Drago (Dolph Lundgren). Rocky prevails in a classic slugfest.

But the iconic moment was the miracle on ice from the 1980 Winter Olympic Games when the young U.S. team upset the heavily favored Soviets 4-3.

Sports has given the world a venue to settle differences between rivals throughout history. I'd rather see conflicts waged on the field of friendly strife than on a battlefield.

From the sidelines

By Skip Vaughn
Rocket editor



Courtesy screenshot

Retired Lt. Col. Patrick O'Farrell, of PEO Aviation, is honored during pregame ceremonies at the 2020 Hula Bowl, Jan. 26 at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu.

UAH hockey supporters meet fundraising goal

By University of Alabama in Huntsville

A fundraising campaign to support the continuation of the UAH hockey program was successful in raising more than \$500,000 in gifts last week from numerous individual donors, according to UAH Athletic Director Cade Smith. Those dollars were matched by two separate gifts of \$125,000 each from longtime hockey supporters Taso Sofikitis and Sheldon Wolitski.

The total amount of more than \$750,000 in private dollars will allow the Chargers to continue to compete at the Division 1 level during the 2020-21 season. This total philanthropic contribution is the largest athletic campaign contribution in the history of UAH.

In addition to the private dollars, UAH President Darren Dawson committed dollars from the university to cover the balance of the hockey team's operations during the upcoming season.

"We are thankful and gratified from the

loyal support that has been demonstrated this week by the fans and alumni of Charger hockey," Dawson said. "We are hopeful that this support will translate into a sustainable funding model that will allow the UAH hockey program to rise again to high levels of success."

Smith noted, "The university is fully committed to the upcoming season. The university will work with the supporters of the UAH hockey program and a newly formed Hockey Advisory Board to develop a plan that will allow the Chargers to thrive in 2021-2022 season and beyond.

"UAH is committed to building a world-class D1 hockey program with a permanent conference home that will allow the Chargers to continue past the 2020-2021 season," Smith said.

To continue beyond the current season, the Chargers must develop a five-year philanthropic funding model and resolve the associated conference-related issues.

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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?

"I go to the gym (every day). Life weights," John Peoples, a paralegal specialist in the Army Contracting Command office of chief counsel, said. "And I do a lot of walking."

Peoples, a retired Air Force technical sergeant, has worked at ACC for three years. The 53-year-old Mobile native lives in Huntsville. He served in the Air Force from 1989-2009 and retired after more than 20 years. He participated in the Gulf War cleanup in 1991 in Dahrain, Saudi Arabia. He also deployed to Dahrain in 1994 and 1995 and to King Abdul Aziz Air Base, Saudi Arabia, in 1997. "I like to study historical events – especially legal historical events," he said. "I like to read. And also I think I am a sociologist by nature." Peoples roots for the Williams sisters, Venus and Serena, in tennis and for Tiger Woods in golf.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

John Peoples, of the Army Contracting Command, takes a walk on the track off Patton Road.

Classic replay: USA hockey delivers miracle on ice

From combined reports

This was one of those remember-where-you-were moments in sports.

The vaunted Soviet Union hockey team entered the 1980 Winter Olympics as the four-time defending gold medalists. They faced the host United States in a medal-round game Feb. 22, 1980, at the Olympics venue in Lake Placid, New York.

The Soviets had won the gold medal in five of the six previous Winter Olympic Games and their team had mainly veteran players with much experience in international play. But the U.S. team, led by head coach Herb Brooks, largely came from college hockey ranks. Only four American players had minimal professional experience so the US was the youngest team in the tournament.

Finishing the first period tied at 2–2, and the Soviets leading 3–2 following the second, the U.S. team scored two more goals to take their first lead midway in the third and final period, then held on and won 4–3. Two days later, the U.S.



won the gold medal by beating Finland in their final game. The Soviet Union took the silver medal by beating Sweden.

The victory became one of the most iconic moments of the Games and in U.S. sports. Equally well-known was the television call of the final seconds of the game by Al Michaels for ABC, in which he declared: "Do you believe in miracles? YES!"

All meetings and events are subject to change or cancellation. Please contact organizers directly for latest information.

Sports & Recreation

Cotton Row Run rescheduled

Due to concerns for its runners, volunteers and spectators around the COVID-19 pandemic, the Huntsville Track Club has decided to move the 41st Cotton Row Run to a more suitable date. Working closely with the City of Huntsville and the sponsors, they have set the race day for Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7 at Big Spring Park in downtown Huntsville. Even though they must postpone this Memorial Day tradition of honoring our military who have lost their lives in service to our country, they are committed to honoring service members' sacrifice and dedicating the race to them on Labor Day. Bill Penney Toyota returns as the presenting sponsor. Other sponsors include Fleet Feet Huntsville, TOC Orthopaedics, Spine & Sports Medicine, and the City of Huntsville. Register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/AL/Huntsville/CottonRowRun>. For more information, email Race Director Donna Palumbo at runcottonrow@gmail.com.

Bowling tournament canceled

Bowl for Kids' Sake, presented by Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Alabama, scheduled June 6 at Redstone Lanes has been canceled because the bowling center is closed.

Rocket Announcements

Conferences & Meetings

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 Cecil 829-1839, senior vice commandant Earl Hokanson 881-2852 or adjutant Charlene Antico 778-7093.

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.

Veterans of Foreign Wars

VFW Gentry-Isom Post 2702 will hold its monthly meeting June 20 at 10 a.m. at the post home, 2900 North Memorial Parkway on the corner of Sparkman Drive and the Parkway. The post will hold its 2020-21 election of officers.

Tennessee Valley Corridor

The Tennessee Valley Corridor has announced new dates for its 2020 National Summit celebrating 25 years of innovation in transforming our region. The summit will now be held July 15-16 at Milligan College in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Infantry division reunion

In Fox Lake, Illinois, the Second (Indianhead) Division Association is searching for anyone who served in the Army's 2nd Infantry Division at any time. For information about the association and its 99th annual reunion in Kansas City, Missouri, from Sept. 23-27, visit www.2ida.org/99th-annual-reunion/ or contact Bob Haynes at 2idahq@comcast.net and (224) 225-1202.

Small business contracting conference

A small business contracting conference and expo will be held Oct. 21 at the Von Braun Center. This event features key government contracting personnel, senior military leaders and industry professionals, matchmaking, contracting classes, networking for defense companies and trade show. The presenter is Contract Ready, based in Virginia Beach, Virginia; and the co-host is Alabama PTAC (Procurement Technical Assistance Center), from Birmingham. For information email Phil Kiver at pkiver@contractready.org.

Miscellaneous Items

Men's ministry

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

Young citizen of month

Do you know a young citizen in grades 7-12 who has done something special and deserves recognition? Rocket City 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.

Family advocacy advice

Jeannie Johnston, Army Community Service division chief, recommends the following website for good information about coping during this difficult time: www.militaryonesource.mil/sp-l-news.

Rocket Announcements

Omega boat ride

Rooze with the Ques annual boat ride, presented by Xi Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., is June 20. Buses will live the Omega center at 181 Import Circle at noon June 20 and return June 21 at noon. Tickets are \$90 nonrefundable and will serve as your boarding pass to and from Chattanooga. Hotel reservations are separate and can be made by calling Marriott Chattanooga Hotel 2 Carter Plaza and ask for "the Omega Psi Phi Boat Ride." Hotel reservation must be made by May 31. For more information and tickets, call 599-6612, 682-1071 or 425-8244.

PS Magazine website

PS Magazine has received many questions lately like, "Where's the monthly magazine I used to read using a mobile app or at the LOGSA website? What happened to the cartoons? Where the heck do I read PS Magazine now?" The answer to each question is that PS Magazine now informs Army readiness using a fully online, mobile-friendly information portal. Its heritage to present timely and accurate preventive maintenance, supply and safety information directly to Soldiers remains the same, although without cartoons. Check out their new website at www.psmagazine.army.mil.

Thrift Shop closed

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Thrift Shop is closed until further notice and cannot accept any donations. The management appreciates your understanding during these difficult times.

Claims on estate

If anyone has any claims for or against the estate of Sgt. Justin Story, please contact Capt. Angela Smith, the summary court-martial officer, at 404-931-7825 or by email at angela.smith91.mil@mail.mil.

