

# RedstoneRocket

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## War game pushes Organic Industrial Base modernization

By MEGAN GULLY

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

Leaders across the materiel enterprise came together to lay the way ahead to ensure the Army's Organic Industrial Base is modernized and prepared for large scale combat operations in a multi-domain environment.

Gen. Ed Daly, Army Materiel Command commander and the Army's senior sustainer — in coordination with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology — hosted leaders from AMC's Life Cycle Management Commands, the Program Executive Offices and the 23 depots, arsenals and ammunition plants for the OIB Modernization War Game, Dec. 13-15, at AMC headquarters and virtually.

"What we are doing over these three days is one of the most important things the Army will do in terms of the Sustainment Warfighting Function and setting

See Modernization on page 17



Photo by Eben Boothby

**Gen. Ed Daly, Army Materiel Command commander and the Army's senior sustainer, gives opening remarks at the Army's Organic Industrial Base Modernization War Game, Dec. 13-15, at AMC headquarters.**

## Strategic leader provides Army space update

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command Public Affairs

According to the Space and Missile Defense Command's senior leader, air and missile defense, and Army space have never been more relevant than they are now.

Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, commander of SMDC and Joint Functional Component Command for Integrated Missile Defense, spoke at a National Space Club-Huntsville Chapter breakfast Dec. 15 to provide an Army space update.

"The Army has unique missions that only we can do, and Army space has to be able to support those specific missions," he said. "In the past two years I have never seen space more relevant and it is today. As space is still contested and congested, the Department of Defense has a big role in making sure we are able to operate in the space domain and that our American way of life is not affected or impacted by anything that our adversaries might do in that domain."

Karbler said SMDC delivers satellite communications, space domain awareness, and theater missile warning, as well as trained and ready space forces, to the Army and the joint force.

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Photo by Lira Frye

**Lt. Gen. Daniel Karbler, commander of Space and Missile Defense Command, speaks at a National Space Club-Huntsville Chapter breakfast Dec. 15, thanking the community for its support to the warfighter and providing an Army space update.**



### MILITARY

Defense, industry join energy, utilities summit.

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### COMMUNITY

Exchange shopper wins \$5K in sweepstakes.

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### FEDERAL

Solid rocket booster fired up for test.

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### SPORTS

First-year coach likes 12U team's potential.

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## RocketViews

## Signing out on those holiday season gatherings

After 37 years of holiday seasons, I'm officially announcing my retirement from the forced merriment and interaction dictated by some unspoken social contract, of which, I had no part in negotiating.

I know. You're like: "well, that's dramatic."

Hear me out though. Think about why we do this to ourselves year after year. By this I mean subject ourselves to the worry and anxiety that accompanies choosing "just the right" gift for Cousin Jenny, who for the life of you, you can't remember their last name because she's been married more times over the last five years than you have actually seen or interacted with her. And, while it's not your fault you didn't get invited to any of said weddings – most of them took place at the courthouse at lunchtime – it will be a major faux pas should you choose

## Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson

Assistant editor

the wrong name.

Right now, some of you are saying, but it's not about the gifts.

Really? Show up without one next time and tell me how that goes. Better yet, get Aunt Phyllis to tell me how it goes because I bet your family is going to lie to your face and say "it's not about the gifts."

Also, by this, I'm referring to the rat race that begins on Dec. 1 when people start inviting you the various holiday gatherings. Apparently, the rules for scheduling these events are:

At least three holiday gatherings must overlap.

They all must be scheduled with less than a 48-hour notice and you need to RSVP 72-hours in advance.

(Quick note: If your event isn't black-tie or a wedding, you shouldn't require a hardline RSVP. And, unless you're friends with the person who invents time travel, make sure you drop those invites in the mail on time.)

OK, let's wrap things up. I've told you why the holidays are bad. Now, let me venture a guess on why we go through all of that.

We'll start with a secret that every advertising guru, marketing major and social influencer doesn't want me to share.

Even after I tell you. You'll still be powerless to resist it. This isn't the Matrix and there's no red pill.

The secret is if you can give someone

a purpose you can get them to do anything.

So the reason we do this to ourselves year after year is it's an attempt to assign some greater meaning to our existence, thus giving us a purpose, which we use to endure the festivities known as Christmastime – because it's important.

What do we do about it? Well, I'm a big believer in you do you, so I'll just tell you what I'm going to do.

First, I'm not going to require an event to spend time with people I care about. This means when I see you, I'm going to be present and make that visit worth something.

Second, in return for my genuine effort 365 days a year, I'm not going to feel pressured to attend your hastily thrown together Holiday Spectacular.

And, third, I'm going to develop an app that tracks Jenny's names.

## Quote of the week

“Every single year, we're a different person. I don't think we're the same person all of our lives.”

– Steven Spielberg

## Send your letters to editor

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

## On this date in history: Jan. 5

**In 1991:** The United States Embassy to Somalia in Mogadishu was evacuated by helicopter airlift days after the outbreak of violence in Mogadishu.

**In 1976:** Gunmen shot dead 10 Protestant civilians after stopping their minibus at Kingsmill in County Armagh, Northern Ireland, UK, allegedly as retaliation for a string of attacks on Catholic civilians in the area by Loyalists, particularly the killing of six Catholics the night before.

**In 1925:** Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming became the first female governor in the United States.

**In 1919:** The German Workers' Party, which would become the Nazi Party, was founded in Munich.

## RedstoneRocket

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# First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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## What is your favorite holiday movie?

"Die Hard," Cody Payne, captain for Fire Station 1 on Rideout Road, said. "Everything happens at Nakatomi tower during Christmas Eve. It's a Christmas Eve party. By the time Bruce Willis throws Hans Gruber off the top of the tower, it's Christmas morning. The perseverance of the main character to save the people inside the building from the terrorist takeover, which in turn saves Christmas for them and their families – that makes that movie special to me."

Payne, 33, from Oneonta, has been with the Redstone Fire Department since January 2020. The Oneonta resident enjoys being on the water and fishing and hunting. He roots for the Auburn Tigers.



Cody Payne

## Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

### What you learned in 2021.

"Patience is a virtue," Mike Moore, Garrison safety director, said. "Being patient with people and circumstances. The results are enlightening."

"Do not allow the fear of the unknown to control you."

"Find out the truth even though it may take a while."

"Respect the concerns of others – actively listen and not be overly judgmental."

"America and its people are good and we all need to accentuate the positive – negativity doesn't accomplish anything."

Moore, from Savannah, Georgia, grew up in an Air Force family and traveled throughout the world, much of the time in Europe. He served in the Army and spent 21 years in uniform. Between military and civilian, Moore has more than 40 years of government service. The Huntsville resident and his wife of 25 years, Jennifer, have four sons and five grandchildren. Their oldest, Andy, is a pharmaceutical sales manager in Birmingham; Alex is a businessman in Greenville, South Carolina; Keith is studying aeronautics at Middle Tennessee State University to become a commercial pilot; and Cpl. Michael Jr. is a Marine Corps infantryman out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Moore enjoys working out, reading and playing electric bass guitar.

He roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide. "My wife, Jennifer, went to Auburn but I'm a Tide fan so we're a split family," Moore said.



Mike Moore

# Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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**Name:** Denise Lanahan

**Position:** Budget analyst, Garrison's Resource Management

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

An interior designer – a long way from that, though. I wanted to be an interior designer because I like fashion and color. I grew up in a military town and I just rolled right into working for the Navy.

## What do you hope to accomplish in 2022?

I'd like to run another marathon. And soak up as much as I can in my brand new position. I started Dec. 13.

## What is the best part about your job?

I think the best part about my job is that everyone is so welcoming and friendly and willing to teach someone who has been out of the federal workforce for half a decade.

## Who is your hero, and why?

I'd say my husband's my hero. Keith, (husband of eight years) who just retired from the Marine Corps after serving two decades for



his country. He is my hero because he's a wonderful father and husband and has afforded me the opportunity to travel the country and stay at home to raise our two baby girls (Abriana, 6, and Victoria, 4).

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

We came from New Orleans, and I am obsessed with Mardi Gras. And I would just love to get dressed up in costumes and makeup and go parading.

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

I think the best thing for me to remember – and I'm one who always focuses and worries too much about the future – is: Life is not a dress rehearsal. And to just enjoy every day and not stress so much about what you can't control tomorrow.

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

I love to spend time with my family and be active outside and running.

## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents Dec. 26 through Jan. 1:

**Dec. 27:** A vehicle collided with a deer while traveling west on Martin Road near Digney Road. The vehicle had minor damages. The deer had departed the area with unknown injuries; and the Redstone game warden was notified of the incident.

**Dec. 28:** In a parking lot, a vehicle backing from a space struck a stationary vehicle. Both vehicles had minor damages.

**Dec. 28:** A Redstone police officer conducted a traffic stop on a speeding vehicle on Rideout Road at Goss Road. Upon meeting the driver, police smelled marijuana emitting from the vehicle. The passenger was identified, and a probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted which led to the discovery of a loaded Taurus pistol under the driver's seat and a small amount of suspected marijuana on the passenger seat. The passenger admitted to having marijuana stuffed in their underwear, which was later found to be 5.2 grams. Both individuals were trans-

ported to the station for processing. The vehicle was impounded and stored at a local wrecker service lot. A narcotics test confirmed the presence of marijuana, and the evidence was retained on DA Form 4137 and secured in the police evidence locker. Both individuals were fingerprinted and photographed. The driver received two citations, one for speeding and one for security violation (weapon). The passenger received one citation for simple possession of marijuana. Both individuals were released on their own recognizance.

**Dec. 31:** Redstone police responded to the Dodd Road area regarding a traffic accident. Upon arrival, contact was made with the driver who said they were traveling south on Rideout Road when a deer entered the roadway from the east and struck the vehicle causing functional damage. The deer was found dead at the scene.

Citations included one for possession of a controlled substance, one for failure to obey traffic control device, one for carrying a concealed weapon, one for window tinting improper, four for expired registration, one for failure to stop and 21 for speeding.



# Know your laws: Trademarks 101

By ANN DENNEN

Huntsville lawyer

A trademark represents one type of intellectual property protected by United States law. A trademark can be protected in the United States at both the federal and state level. In this regard, a trademark application may be submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for protection throughout the United States. Further, a trademark application may be submitted to the secretary of state (for a particular state) for protection within the state. The distinction is that the application filed with the USPTO provides a trademark owner protection in all fifty states, while the application filed in the particular a state only provides a trademark owner protection in the state in which the application is filed.

So, what is a trademark? A trademark is anything that identifies and distinguishes the source of the goods or services of one party from those of others. Most trademarks encompass words, images, or a combination of the two, but anything that can identify the source of goods or services can be a trademark. For example, Owens Corning owns a U.S. registration for pink on its insulation.

Sounds may also be registered trademarks. For example, the 20th Century Fox fanfare is a registered trademark. In summary, trademark law may protect a word (Sony, IBM), a symbol (logos), a name (Martha Stewart), a device (logo,

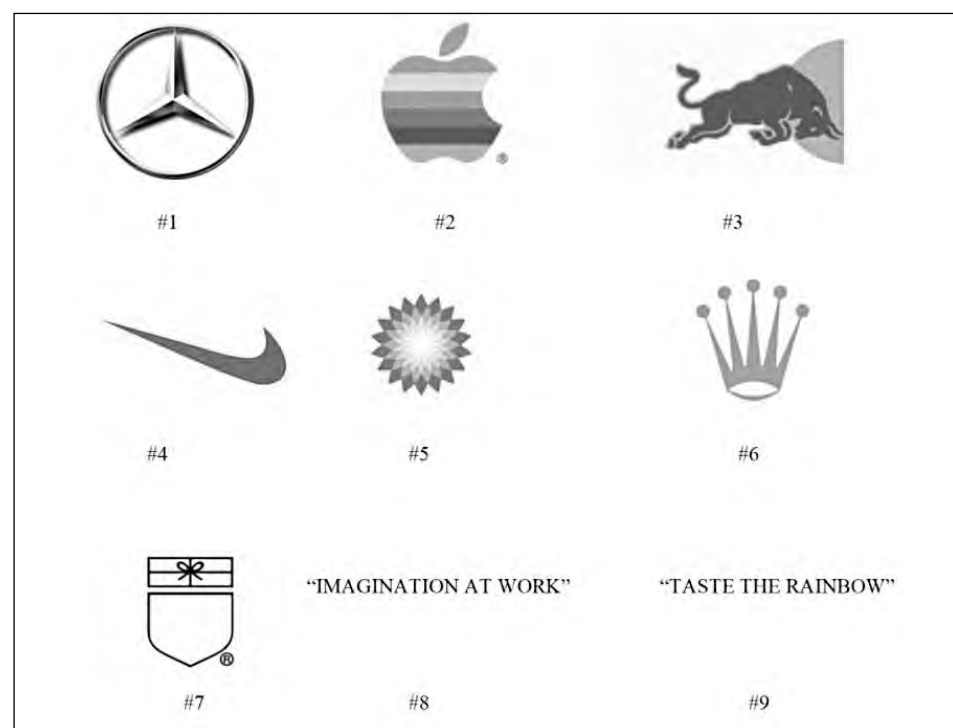
combination of words and a logo, pictures or drawings), a color (Corning's Pink trademark), a sound (NBC chimes), a scent (OSEWEZ's plumeria blossom-scented embroidery thread), and shape (Coco Cola bottle).

A trademark identifies a source of origin for goods and services. The trademark also distinguishes the owner's goods and services from those of others. The trademark allows the owner of the trademark to prevent others from adopting similar marks likely to cause confusion in the marketplace.

The consistency of the quality of goods and services is at the core of trademark law. Notably, trademarks allow consumers to have confidence in the accuracy of labels and other information that portrays where the goods and services originate. Thus, the market builds trust in the consistent quality of brands.

Once a trademark is registered with the USPTO, if the owner continues to use the mark, the legal rights associated with the trademark can last forever. There are trademarks that have been continuously used for hundreds of years, e.g., Lowenbrau, Stella Artois, and the Bass Ale triangle. If the owner does not use the mark in a three-year period, the trademark can become abandoned.

Owners of trademarks should mark their trademarks. In this regard, the TM symbol is a common law trademark symbol, which can be attached to any mark where the owner is claiming trademark



rights in good faith. The ® symbol may only be used when the USPTO has issued an active Certificate of Registration. Use of the ® symbol without a registration is fraud under federal law.

The images accompanying this article are famous trademarks. Identify the owner of each mark in this branding quiz.

Here are the answers:

Mercedes; 2. Apple; 3. Red Bull; 4.

Nike; 5. BP; 6. Rolex; 7. UPS; 8. GE; and 9. Skittles

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

## Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense Department websites

### Contract award announcements

All Phase Services Inc., Delray Beach, Florida; Central Environmental Inc., Anchorage, Alaska; and North American Dismantling Corp., Lapeer, Michigan, will compete for each order of the \$95,000,000 firm-fixed-price contract for demolition and abatement services. Bids were solicited via the Internet with nine received. Work locations and funding will be determined with each order, with an estimated completion date of Aug. 31, 2026. Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is the contracting activity.

### People First Task Force gets results

WASHINGTON – One year ago,

the Army created the People First Task Force to help address harmful behaviors and build cohesion across the Army.

The Task Force was created to respond to the list of findings and recommendations within the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee report released Dec. 8, 2020. Following the committee's report, the PFTF has spent the last year coordinating efforts and initiatives to address harmful behaviors that were outlined. They are tackling these issues with assistance from organizations and leadership internal and external to the Army – including the Department of Defense's 90-day Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault.

In the last year, the PFTF has analyzed the findings and recommendations

of the FHIRC, and has implemented approximately half of the 70 recommendations Armywide. The team is also reevaluating current policy and programs; presenting recommendations for a redesign of the SHARP program; integrating HQDA-wide response, reform, and implementation of policy, programs and directives; and adapting Army policies, processes, and programs to build diverse, adaptive and cohesive teams.

"The programs we are reevaluating and transforming get to the heart of building cohesive teams," Brig. Gen. Christopher Norrie, director of PFTF, said. "Our Army senior leaders along with everyone on our team focuses daily efforts on strategic methods to improve the outcomes of our people through strategic prevention and response plan-

ning, evaluation of our programs structure and resources and listening to Soldiers within all Army ranks."

In April 2020, several months after the PFTF was established, the task force launched the Cohesion Assessment Team pilot with the goal of providing units with assessments to drive the progression of the climate and culture of the Army: to build more cohesive teams.

"Soldiers just want to be heard. They want a leader to just say 'I got you, I understand you, and I am going to support you,'" Sgt. Maj. Osvaldo Martinez, PFTF, said. "As leaders, we have to spend some time to get to know our people and take the opportunity to build our team. As a Task Force we are encouraging these conversations to happen at all levels."



# Military

## Defense, industry join AMC Energy and Utilities Summit

By WILL KING

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

Defense and industry leaders and experts engaged in discussions on a wide range of topics, including the Army Climate Strategy, Strategic Energy and Water Plans and Resourcing, and sharing of best practices at the first-ever Army Materiel Command Energy and Utilities Summit held Dec. 15-16.

Gen. Ed Daly, commander of Army Materiel Command, explained that having representatives from DOD, Army and the AMC enterprise at the summit and online was important to building a common understanding of energy policy and strategy, and the framework and specific tools that can be used to execute that strategy.

"The operationalization of energy at installations is absolutely critical," Daly said. "We have to have resilient, hardened and modernized installations to project power and protect our force."

Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment Paul Farnan said the Army is changing how it is thinking about energy, describing it as a combat enabler.

"Energy is not just a commodity – energy enables power projection," Farnan said. "We are never again going to fight a war with an uncontested homeland. Everything we do starts here at our installations, and everything we do on our installations requires energy."

He explained the Army faces a variety of energy and water challenges across its worldwide portfolio of installations and Organic Industrial Base sites, and there is no one-size-fits-all solution for achieving energy resiliency.

"The less energy we use, the more resilient we are," Farnan said. "We are building for tomorrow, not today."

The Army is assessing energy efficiency across all installations and continues to invest significant time and resources operationally and on installations worldwide in support of Army priorities and the Army Installations Strategy. Achieving energy resiliency, affordability and sustainability will require a mix of multiple solutions executed in partnership with installations, local communities and commercial energy providers.

Industry representatives from 14 companies joined the summit Dec. 16 to speak directly with Army leaders about partnership opportunities and to understand the Army's perspective as outlined

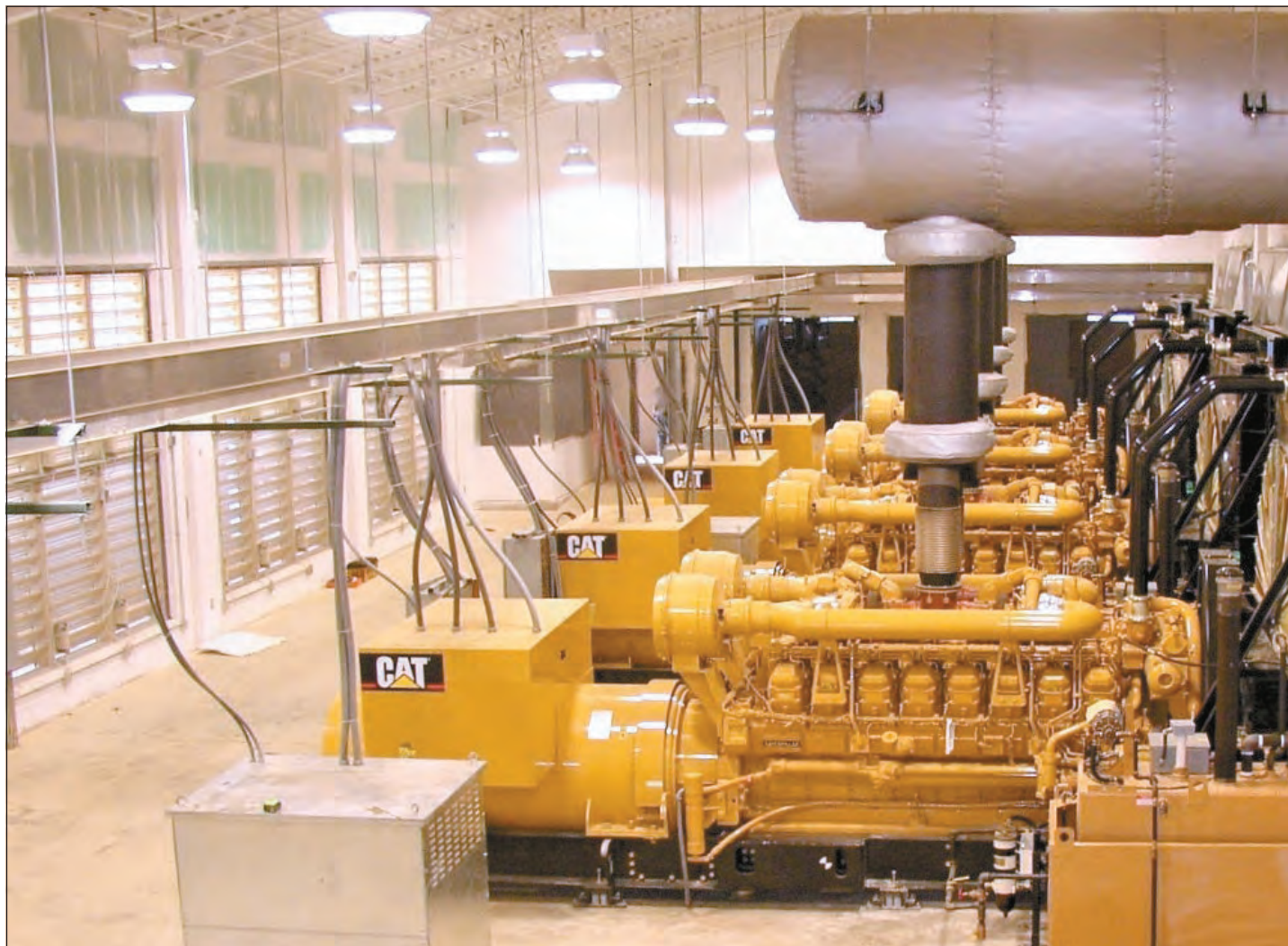


Photo by Jenn DeHaan

**The decentralized energy system at Fort Knox, Ky., is the only one of its kind DOD-wide. Running at a much higher efficiency level than its centralized counterparts, the installation system is a much greener solution to power distribution.**

in the Army Campaign Plan, Army Installations Strategy, Army Climate Strategy, and Installation Energy and Water Strategic Plan.

"We have got to figure out new and innovative ways of doing business," Daly said, emphasizing the need to work collaboratively with local communities and power providers. "The only way we are going to do this is together."

The Army continues to explore the use of energy partnerships with local governments and power providers, including through Energy Savings Performance Contracts and Utility Energy Savings Contracts. Daly said there are 208 ES-PCs and UESCs already in place, with over 30 more in the works for this fiscal year.

"Commander engagement is critical. We're going to hold the garrison commanders accountable, responsible and knowledgeable for business plans," Lt. Gen. Doug Gabram, commander of Installation Management Command, said.

In the past five years, energy programs, partnerships and initiatives recognized a cost avoidance or savings of more than 14% across the Army, and every installation has added a full-time energy manager position.

Another topic of discussion was how to develop a comprehensive approach to mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing usage and investing in renewable energy. Farnan said he expects the Army Climate Strategy to be published early next year, aligning the Army's strat-

egy with DOD, and administration climate policy and goals.

"How we change, how we work every day is going to be affected," Farnan said. "Carbon free is what we're shooting for."

One area where the Army is working to drive down energy consumption is in the electrification of its fleet of about 25,000 non-tactical vehicles. Daly directed garrison commanders to have charging stations at every installation by October.

Daly said the Army should have renewable energy at every installation by fiscal year 2028 to 2030.

"We need to be bold and innovative to maximize the effects we are trying to achieve," he said. "Now the real work begins."

# AMCOM resource manager leaves for Pentagon

By KATHERINE BELCHER

*Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs*

When Dale Smith accepted a position as the Aviation and Missile Command G-8 director in September 2018, it was the end of the fiscal year – the worst or best possible time, depending on your perspective. As the person who oversees and manages all of the command's resources, it's a daunting task even during relative periods of calm.

"In some ways, that's a good time to join because you get thrown right into the fire and you learn a lot about the organization right off the bat – because it's such a busy time," Smith said. "On the other hand, it's a really, really busy time."

Smith is leaving AMCOM to accept a position as director of resources for the Army G-4 at the Department of the Army headquarters in the Pentagon. It's an organization Smith became very familiar with in his role at AMCOM.

"Most of our resources come directly from the directorate to which I'm transferring, and working in the (Army Materiel Command) enterprise made me very familiar with the portfolio of the Army G-4," he said. "That was certainly very

helpful just from a technical standpoint. I understood the mission pretty clearly because of what AMCOM does."

Smith credits his success at AMCOM to the hard work of the incredible team he has led for the past three years, the support of his counterparts in other divisions, and the technical knowledge and style of the leadership team.

"I've always said I have the best job on Redstone Arsenal. It's professionally rewarding and exciting to work here because of what we do and the staff and teammates we have," he said. "It has been fulfilling on every level, and I have never seen a more professional command team than we have here. It has been an absolute pleasure to work for them."

Smith said he appreciates working for a command group that sets the standard for the entire organization.

"They have exceptional leadership



**Dale Smith**

abilities where they motivate and coordinate across the directorates. They also empower (the directors) and allow us to manage in a way that that we think is necessary," he said. "It's the best of both worlds. They were exceptional role models to me, which made this position fulfilling and rewarding."

Smith retired from active duty as a lieutenant colonel in 2015 and has extensive experience in resource management as both a Soldier and civilian.

His most recent assignments include chief of the resource management division for Army Contracting Command-Redstone and lead program objective memorandum analyst for AMCOM, in which he was responsible for shaping future years' requirements to support sustainment of the Army's aviation fleets and missile inventories.

Smith spent the first part of his active-duty career in armored cavalry before

transitioning to comptroller and finance. His new position marks a return to the Pentagon, where Smith served as an active-duty major supporting Army installation services, and he is excited at the opportunity to go back.

"I'm looking forward to the challenge of going to Army G-4 and working in a position where I can make Army-level impacts. That is really exciting," he said. "I will miss the team here because it's really been a pleasure to work at AMCOM and to be the G-8. It's been the highlight of my career, both military and civilian."

Smith has no qualms about the future of AMCOM's G-8 because he knows he's leaving it in the capable hands of his deputy, Wayne Bruno, who will become the acting G-8 until a permanent replacement is named.

"I want to give a special shout-out to the entire G-8 staff, particularly the leaders," Smith said. "Wayne has been my right hand for more than three years and I've never had a better partner to work with. The division chiefs are fantastic and they lead an incredible team. None of this would have happened without the great work of the entire staff."



# AMC reimagines supply chain management

By SAMANTHA TYLER

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

Army Materiel Command and its Life Cycle Management Commands are posturing, synchronizing and optimizing supply chain management to build resiliency.

Each LCMC – Aviation and Missile Command, Communications-Electronics Command, Joint Munitions Command, and Tank-automotive and Armaments Command – has its own unique culture and way of doing business, according to Deacon Maddox, AMC's supply chain management director. Maddox said while all the LCMCs use Enterprise Resource Planning Systems like the Logistics Modernization Program, which houses supply chain data, AMC wants to further unify the commands.

"We want standardized processes using best practices shared across AMC that make us more efficient," Maddox said. "A huge part of this will be about putting our data at the center of the effort and designing roles and responsibilities that can maximize LMP and the data it produces."

Optimizing the supply chain allows AMC to adapt long-range plans to changes in the environment. However, supply chain optimization will require changing or revis-

ing some rules and policies that have been in place for some time.

"If there is one thing that is constant in our lives, it is change," Lisha Adams, AMC's executive deputy to the commanding general, said. "We have to be able to see ourselves."

To best optimize the supply chain, AMC and its LCMCs are focusing on six lines of effort:

- Supply chain segmentation
- Workforce productivity
- Demand and supply planning
- Procurement
- Inventory deployment
- Order management

Working groups made up of experts from the LCMCs, major subordinate commands and AMC headquarters staff are methodically examining each line of effort. The groups conducted a workshop Dec. 13-16 to identify critical roles within the LCMCs needed to work through these lines of effort, opportunities to collaborate, cultural tenants and next steps.

Maddox said getting the roles and responsibilities of those engaged in supply chain management right is critical as they move forward.

"We are building a consensus governance structure that will review, approve and pub-



Army photo by Staff Sgt. Adam Decker

**Staff Sgt. Alexis Alvelo with Supply Support Activity Platoon, Atlas Distribution Company, 101st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and Staff Sgt. Kelly, an augmentee, process items by shipping labels. Receiving is one of five sections at the SSA logistics yard; the others are: stock control, storage, issue and turn-in.**

lish standards for how we manage the supply chain," he said. "This is something we are constructing to endure – it is for the long-term."

While the workshop was a critical first

step in tackling supply chain optimization the working groups will need to continue to assess the environment and adapt as needed. Throughout the process, the team will need to challenges rules and policies, Adams said.

AMC's supply chain optimization effort is all about increasing Army readiness, she said.

"We need to understand our role in supporting the Army and how we need to change to support multi-domain operations," Adams said. "The things that you're doing here will move us in that direction."

AMC expects to implement recommendations from the working groups that will have positive impacts to the Army's supply chain management as soon as the spring, but the process of applying best practices will continue far into the future, Maddox said.

"Our outlook moving forward is optimistic, and we believe our strategy of understanding supply chain challenges, moving to reduce risk with vendors and investing in organic manufacturing to offset supply chain vulnerabilities puts us in the best position to build combat power and project it globally," Maddox said.



# Garrison commander encourages supporting CFC

**By JO ANITA MILEY**

*Garrison Public Affairs*

The Combined Federal Campaign's mission is to support and promote philanthropy through a program that is worker focused, cost efficient and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to positively impact the lives of others.

The annual fundraising campaign began Oct. 15 and continues through Jan. 15 on Redstone Arsenal. Locally the CFC effort is spearheaded by Maj. Jeffrey Crosbie, chairman, and Capt. Chad Evans, co-chair.

Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor wants to raise awareness on the importance of supporting CFC.

"This year, the CFC celebrates its 60th anniversary. Since its inception, the CFC has raised more than \$8.5 billion for charities and people in need," he said. "As we recover from the challenges of the past year and meet the new challenges of 2022 and beyond, CFC pledges make a real and meaningful difference to a countless number of individuals throughout our communities, our nation and the world. Pledges made by federal civilian and military donors during the campaign season will support eligible nonprofit organizations that provide health and human service ben-



efits throughout the world."

Mellor pointed out it's easy to give to CFC.

"For payroll deductions there is a minimum donation of \$1 per pay period. While that doesn't seem like much, every donation helps. If every Soldier and

civilian donated \$1 per pay period, Redstone Arsenal could generate over a half million dollars for charities," he said.

Mellor emphasized that having a successful campaign takes a concerted effort.

"The hardest job in this campaign falls on the shoulders of the unit representatives. That's where the rubber meets the road. Each unit has identified volunteers to contact every member of the units and directorates to ensure the success of our campaign. These unit representatives will be distributing material, educating and collecting pledges," he said.

Mellor challenged the entire Redstone workforce to contribute.

"Consider giving through the CFC to support charities helping those who need it most. Your gift makes a difference. The generosity of our installation has a positive impact on those in local communities, across the nation and around the world," he said.

Contact your organization's CFC representative or email [jeffrey.r.crosbie.mil@mail](mailto:jeffrey.r.crosbie.mil@mail) for information.

# U.S., Croatia share infantry fighting vehicles

By RACHEL DELOACH

Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

Security assistance and foreign military sales cases provide capability to allies and partners that support regional and global operations, enable national territorial defense, and enhance interoperability and readiness.

The Army security assistance enterprise synchronizes and integrates capabilities to meet Army goals in the competitive environment with an advanced focus on speed and agility. That is why the United States continues to deliver quality equipment that meets our allies' defense requirements, as seen with the recent offer of 84 Bradley M2A2 Infantry Fighting Vehicles to Croatia.

"We first offered this Bradley acquisition program to Croatia in fiscal year 2017," Senior Defense Official and Defense Attache for Croatia Col. Matt Denny said. "The U.S. supports the Bradley acquisition program by providing a cost effective option to meet the country's NATO target."

The Bradleys offered to Croatia share approximately 70% of the same parts as other Bradleys in the U.S. inventory and provide assurances of long-term availability for parts and supplies.

"The U.S. Army has a strong record of ensuring assistance to our partner nations for effectively sustaining their U.S. equipment," Denny said. "Such activities include maintaining qualified sources of supply and repair, bundling procurement contract requirements for economies of

scale, proactive parts redesign and supplier requalification and continued product support for legacy variants of weapons systems for decades to come."

The Croatian armed forces have a 25-year partnership with the Minnesota National Guard through the Department of Defense's State Partnership Program, which builds cooperative, mutually beneficial international relationships. The program, which began in 1993, consists of 85 partnerships with 92 countries and Croatia is one of those.

Because the Minnesota National Guard use the same model of Bradleys, they will help Croatia integrate, train and maintain the Bradley capability.

Like the Minnesota National Guard, the Croatian Army has requested the same upgrades for their new Bradleys, to include a UAVE component for the vehicles.

Security Assistance Command, which manages foreign military sales cases for the Army, is supporting the Croatian Army's request. "FMS is one of many security cooperation tools, but the impact can be significant when it is synchronized and integrated with a program like the State Partnership Program, which ensures this is more than just equipment – it will be a long-term capability that increases the Croatian Army's capacity," Doreen Simmons, USASAC country program manager, said.

"All refurbishment of these 84 Bradley Fighting Vehicles in this program will be completed by Croatia's talented workforce at the Djuro Djakovic facility



Minnesota National Guard photo by Sgt. Mahsima Alkamoonneh

**Croatian service members visit the Regional Training Site-Maintenance at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, Oct. 24, to continue the partnership for peace between the two nations. During the weeklong trip, Minnesota National Guard instructors at RTS-M trained the Croatians on equipment and maintenance on the mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle and Bradley Fighting Vehicle.**

in Slavonski Brod," Denny said.

"The U. S. Embassy and the Minnesota National Guard look forward to working closely with our Croatian allies to build an amazing Bradley IFV combined arms capability and take our already strong security relationship to new

levels," Denny said.

*Editor's note: The Army continues to modernize its more than 2,000 Bradleys in its fleet for the next several decades before transferring them to the Army National Guard units for further use.*

# Take care of your mental health in new year

By MAJ. VICTORIA IJAMES

*Fox Army Health Center director of psychological health*

Welcome to the new year of 2022. Are you charged and ready for a change, or do you feel a sense of gloominess rising? Think about it. From July through December, schedules are filled with activities such as end of summer vacations, back to school activities, fall breaks, and the holiday season. January is then a crash into old routines and anticipation of “what’s next.” Some find themselves having the “post-holiday blues.”

Although this is not a mental health diagnosis, it is a common experience many identify themselves as having. A 2015 survey by the National Alliance on Mental Illness found that 64% of those surveyed reported being affected by post-holiday blues. So, what is this feeling, how does it happen, and how can one work through it?

The holiday season often brings a rush of positive emotions, with the typical holiday events. However, once we return to the old routines, our brains are forced to balance out the pleasure overload. In her book “Dopamine Nation,” psychiatrist Anna Lembke writes that our brains are wired to balance pleasure and pain, like a scale. When we stay on the pleasurable side of the scale for some time, we may feel the opposite side more intensely once the pleasurable activity has decreased or been removed. “What comes up must come down,” Lembke writes. Consequently, we may experience problems such as irritability, low mood, and sadness.

Not everyone experiences the positive emotions traditionally associated with the holiday season. Some are grieving the loss of loved ones, and others are returning to loneliness. Financial stressors build from holiday spending, causing distress.

No matter your experience through the holiday season, coming into the new year can be a stressful time. Here are a few signs and symptoms to be mindful of and strategies to help come back into balance.

## Sleep problems

Sleep supports our emotional and overall health. When we are under stress of any type, our sleep may be disrupted; we may experience difficulties falling asleep and frequent or early awakening. If you are experiencing these symptoms, try the following:

- Don’t lie in bed tossing and turning; go to bed when you are sleepy.
- Use calming activities to unwind and facilitate sleepiness. Read a book, pray, meditate, or other calming activities.
- Turn down stimulating activities such as scrolling through social media, watching emotionally charged shows like comedies, suspense, politics or the news.

## Negative moods

- Low moods may lead to increased irritability and low frustration tolerance. Melancholy may also be an emotion for some with the after-holiday transition. As previously stated, our brains are wired to balance out the pleasure and pain we experience. The following may help balance the negative moods:

- Be patient with your feelings as your brain adapts to balancing efforts. Pleasurable post-holiday activities may look a little different from the holiday hustle and bustle.
- Be willing to engage in and accept simple pleasures, such as a relaxing hike, eating a piece of chocolate, taking a relaxing bath, and spending time outdoors.
- Complete tasks that help you feel accomplished, such as calling or texting friends or loved ones or finishing a lingering craft or home improvement project.
- Mindfulness, an evidenced-based intervention, brings awareness to pesky underlying feelings and helps soothe and distract from negative emotions. Android phones iPhones have many apps that can be used for daily mindfulness reminders and activities. Give mindfulness a try and build it into your daily routine.

## Changes in eating, physical health

- When our moods change, our eating and physical activity habits often change,

too. At the start of the new year, our patterns may be affected not only from tough holiday transitions but also the weather and shortened daylight. Maintaining a healthy balance with eating habits and physical activities is essential to help with emotional health and sleep. The following may help:

- Avoid overeating. Pay attention to your thoughts and feelings that lead to impulse eating. Take a pause and distract yourself with a mindful activity.
- Address a lack of appetite. If low moods are leading to a decrease in appetite, set timers to remind yourself to eat a healthy snack or meal. To help your body stay in balance, it needs strategic fueling.
- When your brain says, “I don’t feel like exercise,” do the opposite. Even 15 minutes of activity can help combat low moods.
- Be mindful of your alcohol use. If you find yourself consuming more alcohol than usual because of boredom, help with sleep, or to fight off negative moods, it may be time to decrease or stop alcohol use.

## Mental health in new year

As 2022 progresses, be sure to schedule downtime, enjoy simple pleasures, and allow your brain some much-needed time for balance. Being intentional with balancing the highs of pleasurable activities with quiet and reflective time will not only help get through the post-holiday blues but will be a skill to help throughout the year.

Be mindful of emotions lingering or causing unusual disruptions to your functioning at work, home or school. This may signal a time to seek mental health counseling. If you or someone you know experiences suicidal ideations, seek attention immediately.

## Additional resources

**National Suicide Hotline**  
(800) 273-8255.

**Fox Army Health Center- Department of Behavioral Health**  
955-8888, ext. 1032

**Victim Advocacy Program**  
24/7 Emergency 508-6613  
Office phone number 955-6904

**Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention Program**  
924-0795

**Family Advocacy Program**  
846-5397

**Crisis Services of North Alabama; domestic violence, sexual assault, crisis counseling**  
716-4052

**Veterans Crisis Hotline**  
1-800-273-8255

For additional Huntsville community resources, visit the NAMI of Huntsville <https://namihuntsville.org/resources/>.

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Army photo by Tim Hanson

# Greatest Generation vet

**Brig. Gen. Garrick Harmon, commander of the Security Assistance Command, presents a 3-star note and coin on behalf of Redstone Arsenal Senior Commander Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker to Pfc. Major Wooten, a local WWII veteran. Harmon represented Team Redstone at the ceremony recognizing Wooten's 105th birthday and his receipt of the French Legion of Honor."**



# Retiring director ready for next phase: 'Sky's the limit'

By KERENSA HOUSTON

Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs

Danita Brooks carved out her own path.

For 33 years, the Huntsville native selflessly served as a government civilian. And most of that time was spent at what is now the Aviation and Missile Command.

Though her father served in the Army before she was born, Brooks said his service didn't have an impact on her decision to become an Army civilian. But it's quite possible she was the start of another wave of service – her younger brother retired from the Air Force and later became an Army civilian at AMCOM (he's now retired for a second time), and her younger sister also works for the federal government.

"I saw working for the Army as a good opportunity," she recalled. "I also saw it as stability."

Brooks graduated from the University of Alabama in Huntsville with a bachelor's in industrial and systems engineering, followed soon after by a master's in business administration with a concentration in management.

While in college, Brooks got her first taste of government service when she did a co-op with the Corps of Engineers for a couple of years.

After a brief stint with a now-defunct contractor, Brooks got a job in the early '90s as an industrial engineer with the Missile Command – now AMCOM – in the Acquisition Center's Quantitative Analysis Division.

"I was one of the engineers who worked on doing quantitative analyses for the contract specialists," she said. "I used to tell my sister all the time, 'If you work for the government, you can do all kinds of different jobs. You don't have to move – you can find numerous opportunities – everything you want within (one organization).'"

And Brooks did just that.

Starting in 1996, she worked as a general engineer in the Command Analysis Directorate. In 1999, she served as a research adviser, consultant and review authority in the Strategic Planning Office. In 2002, Brooks spent nearly two years at the former Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center where she was matrixed to the Short Range Air Defense Project Office. In 2013, she was one of 24 board-selected Army civilians to attend the 10-month Senior Service College Fellowship Program that focused on strategic-level critical thinking, leadership and acquisition management. And, in 2014, she did a four-month developmental assignment at Army Materiel Command.

It was after her time at the SHORAD Project Office that Brooks decided she was ready for a change. Someone mentioned Lean Six Sigma, a methodology designed to improve processes while reducing or eliminating waste and redundancy of processes.

"I had someone that said, 'This might be a good fit because you're an industrial engineer (and) you know Six Sigma.'"

From there, Brooks went to work in the Lean Six Sigma Office, which later became the Office of Continuous Improvement.

"I absolutely loved it, because I love processes," she said. "That's my passion – process improvement, looking at processes and improving processes."

Brooks remained at the OCI from 2004 to 2013.

Starting as a facilitator, she worked her way up to division chief with Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification and became AMCOM's first trained Master Black Belt. In 2009, she became the OCI director.

Now-retired Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers commanded AMCOM while Brooks was the OCI director. She said he was one of the people who made an indelible impact over the



Army photo

**Aviation and Missile Command Internal Review and Audit Compliance Office Director Danita Brooks spent most of her 33 years of federal service at AMCOM; she spent two years doing a co-op with the Corps of Engineers in college. She officially retired at the end of December.**

course of her career.

"He looked at everything from the lens of, 'How can we improve? How can we make things better for the warfighter?'" Brooks said, adding that he supported whatever was needed for the OCI to be successful.

Rogers' leadership – and, later, that of then-chief of staff and now current AMCOM Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar – influenced Brooks and her style of leadership. She described both men as servant leaders who walk what they talk. She thanked them publicly during her retirement ceremony.

In 2014, after the SSCF and the developmental assignment at AMC, Brooks became the director of AMCOM's Internal Review and Audit Compliance Office, which has turned out to be her last stop.

Along with all the Lean Six Sigma and other certifications, Brooks has garnered a long list of recognition and accolades – including numerous exceptional performance appraisals and nomination by the AMCOM commander for the Association of the U.S. Army Redstone-Huntsville Chapter, Department of the Army 2012 Civilian of the Year Award in the Management/Executive category – all along the way.

"Simply put, Danita has been a stalwart inside of this organization and inside the Army," Royar said at his retirement ceremony Dec. 13. "She has done remarkable and amazing things."

Royar highlighted three attributes he said Brooks brought to the organization: her competence, the values she upholds and her ability to prioritize those values and requirements from a job perspective.

"There has been a consistent theme to what she has been able to provide, and that's really been process improvement, quality and making things better," Royar said.

"From an organizational perspective, I am sad," he said. "I'm sad to lose a phenomenal teammate... but we know that your legacy will live on because of your competence, because of your values and because of the priorities that you've dem-



Army photo by Jeremy Coburn

**Aviation and Missile Command's Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar recognizes AMCOM Internal Review and Audit Compliance Office Director Danita Brooks at her retirement ceremony Dec. 13 at Bob Jones Auditorium. Brooks retired at the end of December with 33 years of civilian service – all at AMCOM except for two years when she did a co-op with the Corps of Engineers while in college.**

onstrated to all of us – those that you have touched, coached and mentored along the way."

For Brooks, though hers has been a fulfilling career, she has now left a job she absolutely loved. But she's going to have a lot of time to devote to something else she loves more than words could say: her husband Kenneth; children, Kenneth, Alexis, Christian and Bryan; 5-year-old grandson Jaden; and extended family who don't live in the local area.

It's worth noting that Brooks and her husband had a long-standing agreement to retire at the same time, so they both have more flexibility ahead.

"A good friend of mine said, 'I'm not really retiring; I'm repurposing myself,'" Brooks said with a laugh.

Brooks plans to "repurpose" herself by spending lots of time with her grandson, being more active in her church and traveling.

During her retirement ceremony, Brooks told a story about how she used to be so afraid to fly that she mapped out road trips versus getting on a plane. Her fear of flying was so severe that, when her then-fiance asked where she wanted to go on their honeymoon, her response was, "Anywhere, as long as we don't have to fly."

"I really limited myself," she said.

She didn't know it at the time, but the Army career that Brooks thought would provide opportunity and stability also resulted in significant travel – travel to places one cannot get to solely by ground.

Decades later, the woman who was once plagued with aerophobia and was determined not to fly – by any means necessary – might even be considered well-traveled in some circles.

"Now when Ken asks me, 'Where do you want to go? Where do you want to travel next?' I can really and truly say, 'Any and everywhere – the sky's the limit.'"

# Process review streamlines supercomputer procurement

By WILLIAM SCOTT FARROW

Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville  
Public Affairs

For the next five years, the Corps of Engineers is no longer required to seek Office of the Secretary of Defense approval for the acquisition of supercomputers – the computing systems containing tens of thousands of processors performing billions and trillions of calculations or computations per second. This change streamlines the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's High Performance Computing Program's process to procure supercomputing systems for its stakeholders.

Tasha Davis, senior procurement analyst, Headquarters USACE, Directorate of Contracting Office of the Senior Contracting Official-Alexandria, said the change ensures that programs across the Department of Defense have the timely availability of industrial resources (and associated services) to meet current National Defense and Emergency Preparedness Program requirements, including Huntsville Center's HPC Program.

The center's HPC Program was created in 2012 to provide cradle-to-grave procurement of supercomputers specifically for the High Performance Computing Modernization Program that enables DOD laboratories and test centers to conduct research, development and evaluation activities.

The center's HPC Program's Project Delivery Team's expanded reach offers program-management and contract-support services to all federal agencies. They are currently the only execution team within the DOD that

has three major acquisition vehicles in place to provide key supercomputing deliverables in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

Davis said in the past the challenge for the center's HPC Program to procure supercomputers was the approval process.

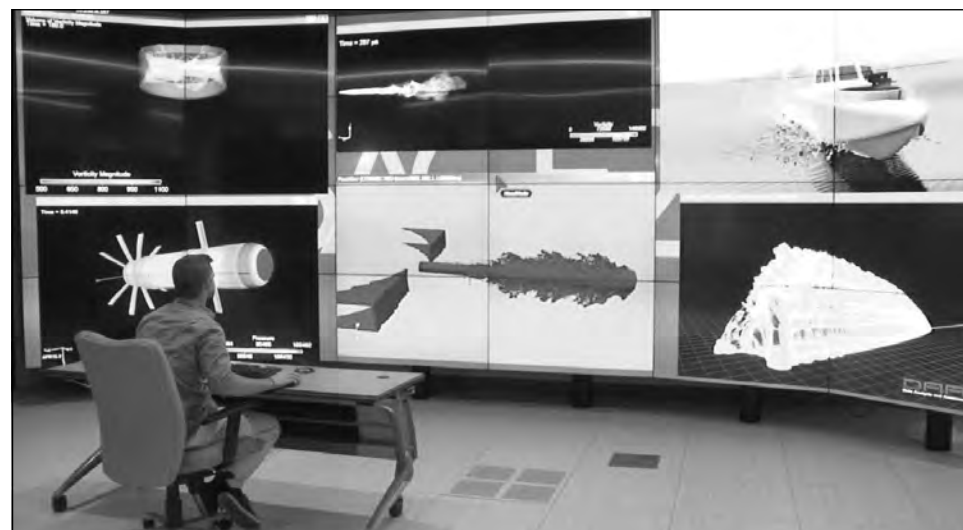
She said the process for requesting approval to rate an order within USACE required multiple levels of approval that were external to Huntsville Center and could easily add on more than two months to the acquisition milestone schedule.

"The deputy undersecretary of defense (industrial policy) had to approve in writing and authorize any priority rating that a defense contractor used to acquire a supercomputer," she said.

"The approval of orders for supercomputers were at the DOD level, meaning coordination for each approval would mean multiple routing and reviews prior to routing for review and approval at the OSD level, where the likelihood of the reviewers being familiar with USACE's specific programs would be minimal."

However, Davis said after research, analysis, and discussion with deputy undersecretary of the Army (industrial property) and deputy assistant secretary of the Army (acquisition policy and logistics), SCO-ALX was able to confirm that the DOD guidance for supercomputers was outdated and did not align to more current Defense Priorities & Allocation System's DO Rating guidance, which is a contract or order placed in support of a national defense program.

Since the change, Davis said for the next five years USACE is no longer required to



Army photo

**A computer scientist at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., uses a supercomputer without reliance on expensive live experiments and prototype demonstrations. A recent procurement policy change streamlines the way Huntsville Center's High Performance Computing program procures supercomputing systems for its stakeholders.**

seek OSD approval on each order for supercomputers where a DO Priority Rating is requested for use.

The approved memorandum covers the USACE Enterprise (Huntsville Center, and the Engineering Research and Development Center).

"In addition to the five-year approval for DO Ratings of supercomputers, we have learned that there are no additional approvals required to rate orders or contracts that fall under the approved DOD assigned pro-

grams," Davis said.

She said if the five-year memorandum had not been approved, for every single order or contract for supercomputers, even if for the same program, the procurement process would remain cumbersome.

"A DO rating request would be required, the contracting officer would have to complete a Request for Special Priorities Assistance Form, provide an overview briefing of the programs and route the various approval levels to OSD for final approval."

# Huntsville Center manager certified in construction

By WILLIAM SCOTT FARROW

Engineering and Support Center,  
Huntsville Public Affairs

A professionally certified workforce is vital to the success of all Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville missions.

Jesus Ramirez has completed a certification program that not only enhances Ramirez' ability to contribute to Huntsville Center's mission, but also added an academic degree to his accomplishments.

Ramirez, program manager with Huntsville Center's Fuels Recurring Maintenance and Minor Repair Program, completed Auburn University's Competitive Professional Development Training Program in Building Construction – a professional development partnership program between the Corps of Engineers and Auburn University.

The target audience for the program is construction management professionals, contracting officers and contract specialists involved in construction acquisition and administration of construction contracts.

"The program is designed to give us a better understanding of the construction industry as well as construction processes and issues," Ramirez said.

The training he received provided the tools needed to analyze large, complex construction changes and consisted of graduate-level college courses in Construction Cost Estimating, Scheduling and Project Management, Contracting Business, and Business and Construction Law, enough course hours to earn Ramirez a master's in construction management.

Ramirez said while the program supports mission-related competencies and USACE strategic goals by concentrating on subjects related to construction management and business, it also increases its participants' proficiency in their current duties.

"The program prepares us for leadership positions within the USACE Directorate of Contracting and the Construction Community of Practice," he said.

Dennis Bacon, Fuels Program branch chief, said Ramirez certification not only enhances Ramirez' value to the Fuels team, but provides a greater competency as a leader.

"Jesus is improving his professional knowledge and education which enables him to better support the Fuels Program and the Huntsville Center to provide specialized support to DOD in order to sustain a worldwide robust fueling capability in support of the Army, Navy and Air Force service components," Bacon said.



Courtesy photo

**Jesus Ramirez, of the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, receives his master's in construction management from Auburn University.**



# Modernization

Continued from page 1

ourselves up for future success,” Daly said. “The OIB Modernization strategy and implementation plan will take us into 2035 and beyond. This is game changing for the Army.”

Earlier this year, Daly set the path for a 15-year modernization strategy that will modernize facilities, processes and people to bring the OIB into the 21st century, infuse industry best practices and refine human capital management structures to maximize the skills and capabilities of the workforce.

The 23 depots, arsenals and ammunition plants that make up the core of the Army OIB manufacture, upgrade, maintain and reset Army equipment. This enterprise consists of more than \$30 billion in facilities and infrastructure, much of which was built more than 70 years ago to produce and sustain equipment needed by the United States and allies during World War II. While some of the sites have seen incremental modernization over the years, this is the first comprehensive approach in decades.

“The OIB plays a key role in the Army’s priorities of people, readiness and modernization,” said Karen D. H. Saunders, senior official performing the duties of the assistant secretary of the Army. “It is a strategic national asset, and we have to modernize in order to maintain that essential ability.”

Over the three days, participants prioritized facility requirements and modernization efforts across all 23 OIB sites to ensure the Army makes the best use of its resources to fulfill requirements. The plan will continuously look at OIB

modernization in five-year increments to validate the right projects to execute; properly prioritize them; identify redundancies, duplications or single-points-of-failure across the facilities; and identify capabilities to add to the OIB.

“Now more than ever, with supply chain issues and the impacts of a pandemic, the OIB’s purpose and importance to our Army is very clear,” Daly said. “This is about having the hard conversations and making the tough decisions that are foundational for the next 40 to 50 years of Army readiness and modernization.”

Working hand-and-hand with ASA (ALT), members of the OIB Modernization Task Force are ensuring projects tied directly to the Army’s “31 plus 4” signature modernization efforts are synchronized appropriately in terms of fiscal years. As new equipment and capabilities become available to Soldiers, so will the OIB be ready to maintain and support those systems.

“There is no daylight between AMC, ASA (ALT) and Army Futures Command when it comes to prioritizing the Army’s 31 plus 4,” Daly said. “When I think about the effects that this effort will have on Soldiers in future combat, it’s unbelievable.”

The war game also took a holistic look at each of the prioritized efforts to evaluate what will be needed in terms of workforce, information technology and cyber, and energy consumption requirements.

“This is an opportunity to step back, recalibrate and really build the future of the OIB from the ground up,” Daly said. “We are making deliberate decisions to ensure this is a feasible plan and looking at all colors of money to reach the right effects across the Army.”

# Missiles and Space worker honored by Germany

**By Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space**

Thomas Doss, of PEO Missiles and Space, has received “The Cross of honor of the Bundeswehr in Silver” award from the Federal Republic of Germany for his tireless work, dedication, and problem solving acumen during development of the Tactical Air Defense System.

The prestigious award, signed by the previous Federal Minister of Defense Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, signifies a “visible commendation for loyal service and exemplary execution of duties.”

During passionate and sometimes difficult dealings over the past five years, Doss was the ideal type of technical diplomat: reliable in his statements, professional in his conduct, skilled in questions of substance, loyal in his guidance, and flexible in the search for solutions. When others insisted on sticking with a categorical “no” in complex negotiating situations, he relentlessly sought to reach a joint “yes.” In such difficult and complex situations, Doss worked openly, and behind the scenes, to strengthen the cooperation to the benefit of both countries.

TLVS was Germany’s logical follow on to the Medium Extended Air Defense System project, a joint venture between Germany, Italy and the U.S. government. Officials commenced intensive talks and



Army photo

**Thomas Doss, of the Program Executive Office for Missiles and Space, receives “The Cross of honor of the Bundeswehr in Silver” award from the Federal Republic of Germany.**

negotiations to initiate the necessary foreign military sales contracts with the U.S. government. From the very start of the first technical interchange meeting, Doss, served as chief negotiator for the U.S. government and became a guarantor of successful and constructive talks. He consistently injected positive momentum into the talks and always found solutions.

## Community

## Exchange shopper wins \$5K in sweepstakes



Photo by Skip Vaughn

From left are Redstone Exchange general manager Sheila Enderle; Stephanie and Thomas Tucker with their granddaughter, Azaria Pearl; and Redstone main store manager Chantel Scott.

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.v Vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

Redstone has one of the five first-place winners in a sweepstakes sponsored by the Army & Air Force Exchange Service.

Thomas Tucker received a \$5,000 check Dec. 20 at the Exchange. He was among the five worldwide first-place winners in the Home for the Holidays sweepstakes, according to Conner Hammett of the public affairs office with AAFES headquarters in Dallas.

After serving 22 years in the Army, Tucker and his wife Stephanie decided to relocate to Redstone in 2002. Huntsville is the retired air defense first sergeant's home of record; however, they currently reside in Wiesbaden, Germany, working with the Corps of Engineers Wiesbaden District. They shop at the Hainerberg Main Exchange at Wiesbaden and Ramstein Main Exchange at Ramstein Air Base.

"I thank and give God all the praise for this blessing. He is reason for the season," Tucker, 60, from Skippers, Virginia, said of winning the sweepstakes. "We are sharing this prize with our church, gifts for grandkids and to pay off debt."

He and Stephanie, his wife of 36 years, have a son, Frederick, 36, a daughter, Arden, 32, a granddaughter, Azaria Pearl, 2, and a grandson, Amil Leon, 18 months.

"Oh wow," Stephanie said when she arrived at the Exchange for the check presentation in front of a large display with red and gold balloons. Granddaughter Azaria Pearl sat in the seat of her shopping cart.

The ceremonial check was presented by Sheila Enderle, Redstone Exchange general manager; and Chantel Scott, Redstone main store manager.

There were 10 winners total – including first place and second place from each service branch. The winners included:

Army – first place (\$5,000), retired 1st Sgt. Thomas Tucker, Redstone Arsenal; second (\$2,000), Sgt. Fidele Agossou, Fort Irwin, California

Air Force – first place (\$5,000), A1C Angela Ospina, Aviano, Italy; second (\$2,000), Nevardo Cayemite, Patrick Air Force Base, Florida

Marine Corps – first place (\$5,000), Sgt. Jerry Pierre, Camp Foster, Okinawa; second (\$2,000), retired Staff Sgt. Thomas Kelley, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii

Navy – first place (\$5,000), Chief Warrant Officer John Luscan, NEX Jacksonville, Friday; second (\$2,000), retired Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn Kelly, NEX Whidbey, Florida

Coast Guard – first place (\$5,000), retired Petty Officer 1st Class Barry Atkinson, Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana; second (\$2,000), retired Chief Warrant Officer Victor Tran, Fort Meade, Maryland



# Update

Continued from page **1**

He said space and missile defense have to be linked and integrated, and that SMDC is supporting the Army's Multi-Domain Task Force, which is charting a path to help reshape how the total force fights and wins on future battlefields.

A new space warfighting formation has stood up, called the theater strike effects group, which Karbler said will use terrestrial-based Army space capabilities to attack adversaries from multiple domains and directions, even in contested environments, to set conditions necessary for land dominance.

The Space and Missile Defense Center of Excellence is also working to ensure the U.S. has a space advantage through space warrior training, ensuring functional alignment with authority equivalent to other Army proponent organizations and Training and Doctrine Command centers of excellence.

Since Oct. 1, more than 2,200 students have been trained at the Space and Missile Defense School, and Karbler said that number is just going to continue growing.

Karbler said SMDC is also increasing their investment in science and technology and research and development by building a new 163-acre Space and Directed Energy Technology Complex that, once complete, will provide warfighters of the future with the game-changing technologies needed to outpace 21st century threats and deliver overmatch.

# Supply sergeant survives combat in Iron Triangle

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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At the end of his second tour in Vietnam, Staff Sgt. Don Stout had mixed emotions about going home.

The Texan was happy to have survived the dangerous area known as the Iron Triangle but he did not want to leave his fellow Soldiers behind.

"I remember wanting to get out of there," Stout said. "But you felt like you were being a deserter. You felt like you were leaving your friends. You wanted to take them with you. You formed some very strong bonds with the men who were over there."

On Nov. 12, 1968, Stout wrote in his diary how he hated to leave. "It's hard for anyone who hasn't been here to understand, but after you fight for something like I did here, you kind of think it belongs to you and don't want to abandon it, or your friends," he wrote.

"It was all I could do to hide my tears when I said goodbye to the boys and I don't think I did a very good job, and neither did they. As the Huey lifted into the air from Dau Tieng and I watched the men on the ground get smaller, I felt like a deserter. My heart pounds in my chest, tears run down my cheeks, and an awful emptiness fills my soul. Emotions I am feeling are unbearable and I feel like leaping from this helicopter to a death that would at least stop this. These kinds of ties are awfully strong between men over here. Goodbye my friends. May whatever controls this universe see you through and bring you safely home. Goodbye."

Today he resides in Bug Tussle, Texas, an old trading crossroads about an hour east of his hometown Dallas. "I still feel that way today," Stout said of his diary entry.

He is a 100% disabled veteran. Stout left the Army in 1987 as a staff sergeant after more than 19 years in uniform.

Stout was the youngest of four children – two girls and two boys. But he became an orphan at 6. He lived from foster home to foster home. By 14 he was on his own. He would awaken at 3 in the morning for his paper route delivering the Dallas Morning News. He went to school and then worked at a convenience store at night.

"Had kind of a rough time growing up," he said. "But it sure taught me a lot of lessons I took with me throughout my life. One of the lessons was 'If it is to be, it's up to me.' Learning to not rely on anybody for anything."

He graduated from W.W. Samuel High School in Dallas in 1963. He worked for one month at Neiman Marcus but with the draft looming, he joined the Army that year. He had basic training at Fort Polk, Louisiana.

Stout was first trained as an armorer, to take care of weapons. But from there, he transitioned into the logistics field and supply. The 19-year-old staff sergeant had his first Vietnam tour from 1966-67 with the 8th Radio Research Unit as the unit supply sergeant. They were across the road from the 3rd Marine Division in Phu Bai. "They were basically a spy unit intercepting messages from North Vietnam," he said.

Besides the harassing mortars and rockets, the action was nothing like what he would experience in his second tour. He returned to the U.S. for a brief as-



Courtesy photo

**Staff Sgt. Don Stout relaxes at base camp in Dau Tieng, Vietnam, 1968.**

signment at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, before going back to Vietnam in November 1967. He was assigned to Dau Tieng as the supply sergeant for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Mechanized).

"In war zone C in Vietnam, better known as the Iron Triangle. It was north and east of Saigon between Saigon and the Cambodian border," he said. "Very, very bad area."

Dau Tieng, surrounded by woods and jungles, was a hotbed for enemy activity. The infamous Michelin Rubber Plantation was located near Dau Tieng District in Binh Durong Province. Dau Tieng received so many incoming mortars and rockets, it was known as the Rocket City.

The supply sergeant spent most of his time out in the field like the rest of the infantry Soldiers. There were frequent fires.

"You're out there with them so you take your chances just like everybody else does," Stout said. "And I've got two Purple Hearts to prove it."

On March 18, 1968, he was wounded on the left arm by a mortar round in Dau Tieng. On the Fourth of July 1968, a rocket exploded behind him, sending shrapnel into his lower spine and breaking his left ankle. In both instances, he received treatment in the field and returned to duty within a few days.

"Overall I got out very lucky," he said. "I had men killed right in front of me. I survived, truly amazing."

Stout participated in eight campaigns in Vietnam. These included a bloody battle in January 1968 in Soui Cut where "we put over 368 (enemy) bodies in a mass grave," he said. Besides two Purple Hearts, he received the Bronze Star.

As the supply sergeant, Stout had to ship the belongings of fallen Soldiers in his unit back to the U.S. "And



Courtesy photo

**Don Stout, 76, resides in Bug Tussle, Texas, about an hour east of his hometown Dallas.**

## Vietnam revisited Part 351 in series

every time you did that, it took a piece of your heart out," he said. "But you can imagine what people on the other end receiving this are feeling."

After returning to the U.S., Stout spent three years as the supply sergeant for the Army ROTC unit at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. He was an Army recruiter from 1974-77 at Lake Charles, Louisiana. He had a break in service and worked as a sales engineer for a company that sold hydrostatic test systems for pipes in Houston in the 1980s.

Stout, 76, is on his own now; he is the last of the four siblings. He is a life member of both the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He has diabetes and endured three heart attacks. His area in Vietnam was heavily sprayed with Agent Orange during the war.

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

"They can never make it up to us," Stout said. "We were a generation lost, but somehow we managed to survive. We were patriots. We went and did what we were told to do even though it didn't turn out the way that everyone expected it to or wanted it to. Like us coming back and marching through the streets in victory like the other wars have been. We kind of felt we had to sneak home and hide out."

*Editor's note: This is the 351st in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.*

# Scholarships for Military Children enters 22nd year

By **MIKE PERRON**

*Defense Commissary Agency Public Affairs*

FORT LEE, Va. – Applications are now open for the Scholarships for Military Children Program for academic year 2022-23.

The program, now entering its 22nd year, recognizes the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and celebrates the commissary's role in enhancing military quality of life. It's administered by Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping service members, veterans and their families. Thus far, the program has awarded more than \$21 million to 12,312 students, selected from a pool of nearly 109,000 applicants.

"For the 22nd year in a row, commissaries are honored to be a part of a program that provides the children of military service members with this valuable financial boost to their higher education goals," Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Michael Saucedo, senior enlisted adviser to the DeCA director, said. "We at the Defense Commissary Agency again extend our thanks to the Fisher House Foundation as well as the generous industry partner donors and others that make these scholarships possible for so many deserving families each year."

Funding for the program comes from commissary business partners and other contributions to Fisher House Foundation designated specifically for the scholarship programs.

"Fisher House Foundation is grateful for our long-

standing partnership with the Defense Commissary Agency providing scholarships to these very deserving military kids," Chairman and CEO of Fisher House Foundation Ken Fisher said. "We are also fortunate to have incredible donors that are committed to helping military families through our scholarship program."

Selection qualifications are straightforward. Requirements include completing the application; submission of the student's official transcript indicating a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale for high school applicants, or college transcript indicating a cumulative minimum GPA of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale for students already enrolled in college; and a 500-word essay. The subject of the essay is listed at the [militaryscholar.org](http://militaryscholar.org) website under "Scholarships for Military Children."

Eligibility for the program is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current military dependent ID card. The applicant must also be planning to attend or already be attending an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of 2022 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Applicants who are awarded a full scholarship to attend a college or university or receive an appointment to one of the service academies or affiliated preparatory schools are not eligible to receive funds from this program. A full scholarship is usually defined as one



that provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees and other expenses.

For scholarship year 2022-23, Fisher House Foundation will award 500 scholarship grants of \$2,000 each. The selection process will begin after the application deadline Feb. 17.

All rules and requirements for the Scholarships for Military Children program, as well as links to frequently asked questions are available at [militaryscholar.org](http://militaryscholar.org).

Fisher House Foundation also has a free, easy to use custom scholarship search engine tailored to military families called "Scholarships for Service." It's available on both mobile devices and desktop computers at [militaryscholar.org](http://militaryscholar.org).

# Drake State, UNA sign learning agreement

**By Drake State Public Relations**

FLORENCE – Officials with the University of North Alabama and Drake State Community and Technical College signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Dec. 13 that will benefit all Drake State graduates seeking to complete their bachelor's at UNA.

“We are so excited for this new partnership with UNA as it will afford our students another option on their path to success,” Patricia Sims, president of Drake State Community and Technical College, said. “Our two institutions will work together to ensure the transition from a two-year college to a four-year university is smooth for Drake State graduates.”

The agreement is similar to others that have been signed with two-year institutions in Alabama and Tennessee. Further, it provides pathways for Drake State and UNA to explore additional educational opportunities for the benefit of students. The agreement is effective immediately, and Drake State students may begin taking advantage of the agreement for the spring '22 semester in both online and on-campus courses.

“UNA is pleased to partner with Drake State Community and Techni-



Drake State photo

**University of North Alabama president Kenneth Kitts and Drake State president Patricia Sims participate in the signing of a pact between their two institutions.**

cal College on this mutually beneficial and worthy learning agreement,” Ross Alexander, UNA provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, said. “Both institutions are key players in serving the workforce development needs of the state and region.”



# Holiday Market may become annual festivity



Photo by Erin Elise

**Claire McCalph, 4, and her mother, Rachel McCalph, share a moment with Santa Claus at the Holiday Market.**

**By REBECCA SALLEE**

Staff writer

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Redstone Arsenal's first ever Holiday Market was a big success, said organizers at Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

In fact, planners said the event may become an annual festivity, along with the popular fall Oktoberfest that has been canceled for the past two years due to COVID-19 precautions.

The Dec. 4 and 5 Holiday Market at the Activity Field was German-themed, as is Oktoberfest, but also harkened Christmas, with a tree-lighting ceremony, appearances by Santa, a children's workshop, and unique crafts and gifts for sale.

"We are delighted with the community's response," Natalie Crawford, special events coordinator, said. "It was very well-attended and we've received amazing feedback from customers and vendors."

Admission to the market was free, but

**See Market on page 25**

# Market

Continued from page **24**

more than 60 vendors, including Mojana Soaps, Crafty Bama Stitch, and the Furry Hippie Beard Company, sold a plethora of products.

German cuisine for sale, such as brats, pretzels, roasted potatoes, and gluhwein (spiced wine), were hot items for marketgoers, as was a beer tent called Winter Craft Biergarten, sponsored by Free the Hops, an organization that promotes high-quality beer throughout the state.

Children's activities included photographs with Santa and a "Santa's workshop," sponsored by Home Depot. Stephanie Stone, marketing manager at MWR, said

turnout for the Holiday Market was better than expected.

"Since this was a free event, we really have no idea how many people attended," she said, but random feedback was positive.

A casual poll of marketgoers praised both the event and the organizers, Stone said.

Among the many kudos was a comment that summed the others up: "Great job organizing the event. We enjoyed the food, Winter Craft Biergarten, tree lighting and vendors. Hard to pick which was our favorite part."

Photo by Erin Elise

**Jel Paraiso, a registered nurse and owner of Mojana, shows one of her old-fashioned soap products at the Holiday Market.**



# Resolving to be healthy, maybe even wealthy, in 2022

By **REBECCA SALLEE**

Staff writer

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Volunteer, exercise, read more. Eat, argue, procrastinate less.

These are some typical things we vow to do as one year ends and a new one begins.

The tradition of New Year's resolutions is said to have started with the Babylonians as they made promises to God each year in hopes of being blessed with health and wealth.

Random representatives of Redstone Arsenal were asked to share their resolutions for 2022.

Olivia Pierce, manager of the Financial Readiness Program, said her two resolutions are to increase her donations to the Thrift Savings Plan (the 401K plan for the armed forces and DOD civilians) and to "spend more quality time with my girls."

"The year of 2021 has caused me to re-evaluate my spending habits," said Pierce, who recently read a book titled "Smart Couples Finish Rich," which motivated her to take a closer look at where her money goes.

"I don't want to become the person that is driven into a midlife crisis because I have all my heart could ever desire but miss out on what my heart really needs: family and connection," Pierce said. "That's the truly 'good stuff,' and it's free. So in 2022, I am setting my sights on consuming less and spending more time (not money) on the stuff that really matters."

Jake Roth, chief of master planning at the Directorate of Public Works, said he resolves to "read more books."

"I used to read a lot and have not made it a priority over the last few years," Roth said. "I'm going to try to make more time for that."

Lori Ciranni, manager of Outdoor Recreation, has three goals for 2022: "Eat healthy, exercise more, and find somewhere to volunteer."

Alicia Irmscher, public affairs specialist at FBI Redstone, who moved to Huntsville and started working at the Arsenal in the summer, said her goal for the new year "is to become more acclimated both professionally and personally within these new communities."

"Whether it is representing the FBI in Redstone Arsenal events or personally becoming involved in charitable organizations or exploring the many different facets of living in Huntsville with my family, I intend on capitalizing and enjoying all of this in 2022," Irmscher said.

Skip Vaughn, Garrison public affairs specialist and editor of the Redstone Rocket, also has resolutions for the new year.



Photo by Erin Elise

**New Year's planning and resolutions begin as 2022 begins.**

"I want to do everything I can to keep providing for my family and their well-being," Vaughn said. "I also want to stay happy and healthy. Life is good. We should all be thankful for what we have."



Courtesy photos

## **Best yards**

**The Yard of the Month winners for December are 624 Wesson Circle and 682A Dyer Circle, duplex winner, according to Hunt Military Communities. The organizers express their appreciation to everyone for participating. The contest will take a few months break until returning in April for its Easter edition.**

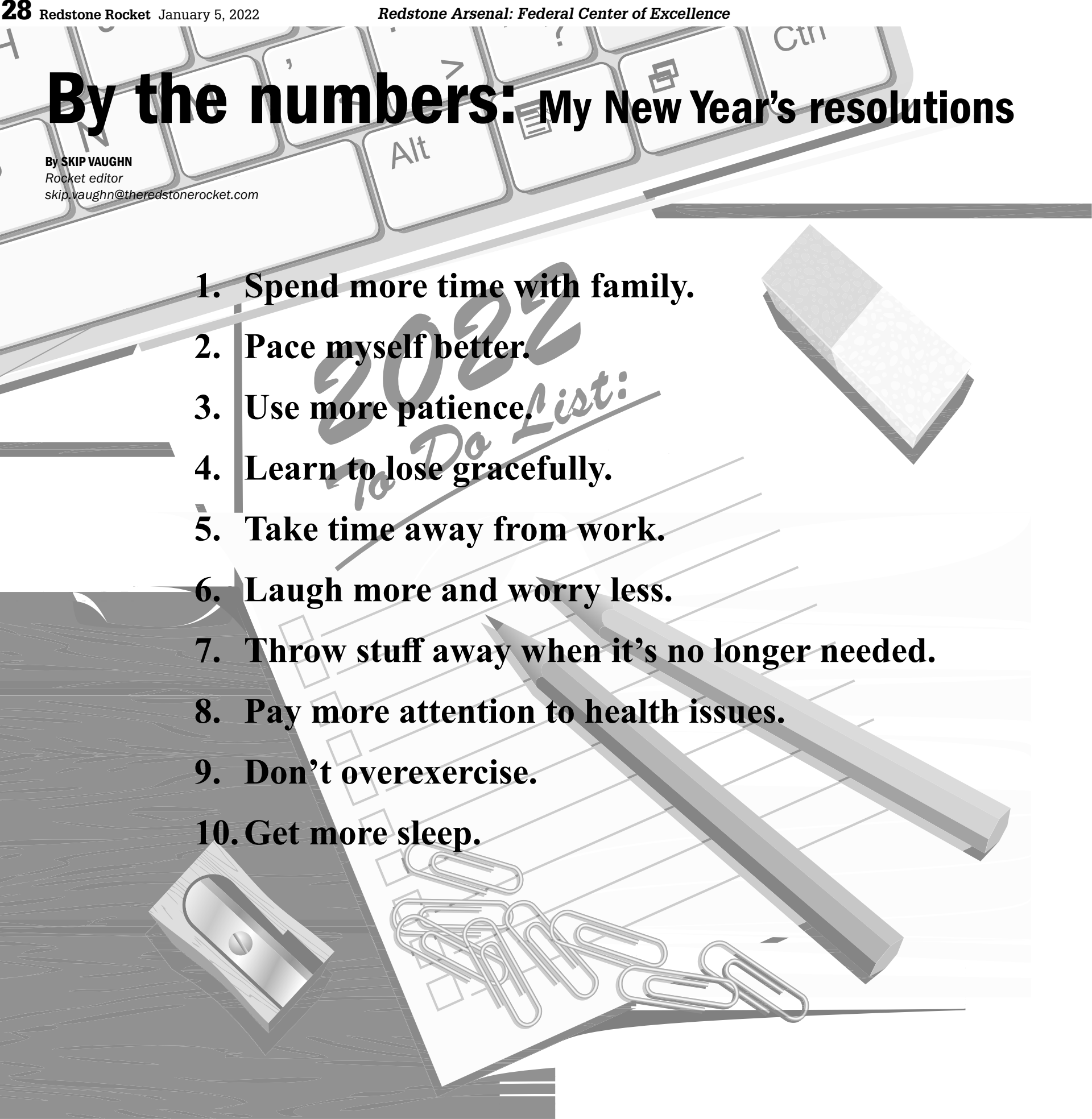


# By the numbers: My New Year's resolutions

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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- 
1. Spend more time with family.
  2. Pace myself better.
  3. Use more patience.
  4. Learn to lose gracefully.
  5. Take time away from work.
  6. Laugh more and worry less.
  7. Throw stuff away when it's no longer needed.
  8. Pay more attention to health issues.
  9. Don't overexercise.
  10. Get more sleep.

## Federal

# Solid rocket booster fired up to test improved design



NASA photo

**NASA engineers successfully complete a 24-inch diameter subscale solid rocket test Dec. 2 at Marshall's East Test Area. The subscale motor produced 76,400 pounds of thrust during the hot fire test. This test was the first of two tests supporting the Booster Obsolescence and Life Extension development effort that includes a new motor design for upcoming Artemis missions after Artemis VIII. This 334-inch motor was the longest subscale motor tested to date.**

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

A team of NASA and Northrop Grumman engineers fired a 2-foot-diameter, subscale solid rocket booster Dec. 2 at Marshall Space Flight Center. This test, conducted in Marshall's East Test Area, was the second of three tests supporting the Booster Obsolescence and Life Extension program, which will have an upgraded design to power the evolved configuration of the Space Launch System rocket on flights after Artemis VIII.

The BOLE booster will be a larger and more powerful solid rocket motor than the current SLS solid rocket booster. The boosters for the first eight flights of the Artemis program repurpose the steel booster cases and parts from the Space Shuttle Program with an upgraded design. The BOLE booster will implement a composite case design, replace obsolete parts with newer components, and improve the booster's design and performance.

This test focused on the booster motors, which provide the majority of the power to launch SLS. Unlike previous subscale motor tests, this marked the first time the team could evaluate insulation and nozzle on one motor rather than two configurations, one for the nozzle and one for the insulation. During this subscale test, the

motor produced 76,400 pounds of thrust.

The original test design had two segments, each 9 feet long. To get a more characteristic thrust profile, a 4 1/2-foot-long segment was added to the test article, totaling nearly 28 feet and making this the longest subscale motor tested to date. In addition to the added half segment, a new propellant, aft dome design, and nozzle design are included in the BOLE motor development program that will become part of the Block 2 evolved rocket.

During the test, three different internal case insulation formulations were evaluated in the aft dome. The performance results of these materials will aid in selecting a final formulation for the first full-scale test fire of the BOLE booster. As the team completes the final design for the full-scale motor, this test is an important step in learning how materials will perform at the higher pressure and performance expected for the BOLE motor as compared to current motors.

The third test of the subscale motor is scheduled for spring 2022 at Marshall, followed by the first full-scale BOLE motor test, tentatively scheduled for spring 2024 at Northrop Grumman's test facility in Utah. Northrop Grumman, lead contractor for the booster, helped conduct the Marshall test and will be assisting with data evaluation.



Photo by KC Bertling, Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation

## **Holiday gifts**

**Christmas goodies are presented to the Floyd E. “Tut” Fann State Veterans Home by members of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition and the Legacy 4 Korean War Veterans Foundation. Representing the veterans coalition are Bill Koch, executive vice president, and Dawn Parish, treasurer.**



# Historic test stand remains Redstone landmark

By SKIP VAUGHN

Redstone Rocket editor

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If this steel structure could talk, imagine the stories it could tell.

The Historic Redstone Test Stand, a pioneer in this nation's space program, remains part of the landscape of Redstone Arsenal. It was built by the Army in 1953, transferred to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in 1960 and remained operational until 1973.

"They built it in 1953 to test the Redstone rocket," Brian Odom, the acting chief historian for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, said. His office is at Marshall Space Flight Center.

The Army initially intended the Redstone rocket to be a nuclear-payload system. Early on they called the test facility the Interim Redstone Test Stand while they were building another stand elsewhere. But the stand worked so well the Army used it from 1953 until the end of the Redstone program. It was used to test fire the Jupiter C that took the Explorer satellite into orbit Jan. 31, 1958.

After transferred to Marshall Space Flight Center in 1960, it was used to test the Mercury-Redstone that launched Alan Shepard into space May 5, 1961.

The historic Redstone test site was added to the National Register of Historical Places in 1976.

"It has a good long history there," Odom said.

"It's still a NASA Marshall property since 1960. It's still a National Historic Landmark," he said.

The test stand's history is featured on the National Park Service website. But the test stand is showing its age these days.

"It hasn't been restored or had any work done to it in a long time," Odom said.

The test stand used to be among the highlights of the U.S. Space & Rocket Center's bus tours of Redstone Arsenal. But the bus tours haven't been conducted since the onset of the pandemic.

"I would hope that it (the test stand) would be preserved however we're able to," Odom said. "I think it's historically important. It was one of the first static test stands built in America, built originally for military purposes (before



**The historic Redstone test stand, built by the Army in 1953, was transferred to NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in 1960.**

Army file photo

assuming its civilian role in space). It's definitely historically important for lots of reasons."

Todd Cannon, who handles public engagement/exhibits and artifacts at Marshall Space Flight Center, confirmed that the current status for public tours remains closed.

"Due to restrictions associated with the COVID-19, all public tours through the U.S. Space & Rocket Center are on hold," Cannon said. "We review the community status regularly but no change from the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center has been made to date."

There are no plans to restore the his-

toric Redstone test site.

"Funds for a repair/restore action are the main challenge," Cannon said. "The center is not funded to maintain historic portions but we are always on the lookout for funding opportunities for this type of work. We would prefer to have the site in the best condition possible."

The test stand, a steel-frame structure at 75 feet tall, is the oldest static firing facility at Marshall. It was constructed by the Army's Ordnance Guided Missile Center.

It was the first test stand in the United States to accommodate the entire launch vehicle for static tests – previous test

stands had accommodated the engine only. It was important in developing the Jupiter C and Mercury-Redstone vehicles that launched the first American satellite and the first American manned spaceflight.

The test stand was also used to develop the "man-rated" launch procedures vital to manned space flights and the acceptance firing criteria which were later adapted as standard launch procedure. Technical advances were made in launch pneumatics, thrust measurement, propellant fuel procedures, and launch ignition procedures during various tests at this facility.

# Laser communications system launches into space

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

NASA's Laser Communications Relay Demonstration and a NASA-U.S. Naval Research Laboratory space weather payload to study the Sun's radiation lifted off at 4:19 a.m. Dec. 7.

The payloads launched aboard the Space Test Program Satellite-6 on a United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida as part of the U.S. Space Force's Space Test Program 3 mission.

LCRD will demonstrate NASA's first two-way laser relay communications system, sending and receiving data over invisible infrared lasers, which can enable data rates 10 to 100 times greater than radio frequency systems traditionally used by spacecraft.

"This launch introduces an exciting new technology for space missions," Jim Reuter, associate administrator for NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate at NASA headquarters, said. "Demonstrating this innovative way of communicating with spacecraft will open the door for this technology to expand the horizons of future space missions."

LCRD will demonstrate the benefits of space-to-ground laser communications, also called optical communications. LCRD will send and receive data at a rate of 1.2 gigabits per second from geosynchronous orbit to Earth. At that speed, a movie could be downloaded in under a minute. Laser communications systems are smaller, lighter, and use less power than radio frequency systems. These advantages, combined with laser communications' higher bandwidth, can advance robotic and human exploration across the solar system.

"LCRD is NASA's key milestone for the buildup of the 'Decade of Light' initiative, which involves the infusion of optical technology into space communications and navigation," Badri Younes, deputy associate administrator for NASA's Space Communications and Navigation program at NASA headquarters, said. "By the 2030s, we expect optical technology to play a critical role in enabling an interoperable, reliable, and robust space communications infrastructure, providing seamless operations and roaming capability between government and commercial users and providers."

After launch and confirmation that the payload is working well in space, LCRD will begin to transmit and receive data from its location in geosynchronous orbit – about 22,000 miles above Earth – with ground stations in California and Hawaii using infrared lasers.

LCRD will spend two years conducting experiments, assessing how weather and other changes in Earth's atmosphere can impact laser communications, and measuring link performance to refine its operational capabilities and processes. Some experiments will simulate relay scenarios between the Moon and Earth to inform



NASA photo by Joel Kowsky

**A United Launch Alliance Atlas V rocket launches with the Department of Defense's Space Test Program 3 mission from Space Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station on Dec. 7. The mission's Space Test Program Satellite-6 spacecraft hosts NASA's Laser Communications Relay Demonstration and the NASA-U.S. Naval Research Laboratory Ultraviolet Spectro-Coronagraph Pathfinder.**

how laser communications could one day be used in NASA's Artemis missions. The experiments and simulations will inform the development of future NASA and commercial missions hoping to utilize optical communications in Earth orbit and for exploration of the Moon, Mars, and beyond.

Later in its mission, LCRD will serve as a relay between an optical communications terminal on the International Space Station and ground stations on Earth. NASA's Integrated LCRD Low-Earth Orbit User Modem and Amplifier Terminal will allow for the first demonstration of a fully operational end-to-end laser communications system from the space station.

LCRD's mission, vision, design, and development will be covered in depth in the new season of NASA's The Invisible Network podcast. Over the course of five episodes beginning on Dec. 7 and each Wednesday thereafter, the podcast will highlight the future of the laser communications technologies this mission is proving in space and the people that are making it happen.

LCRD is led by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, in partnership with NASA's Jet Propulsion

Laboratory and the MIT Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington, Massachusetts. LCRD is funded and managed through NASA's Technology Demonstration Missions program, part of the Space Technology Mission Directorate, and the Space Communications and Navigation program at NASA headquarters. The Technology Demonstration Missions program is located at Marshall Space Flight Center.

The other NASA science payload that launched aboard the satellite was the Ultraviolet Spectro-Coronagraph Pathfinder, a joint experiment with the Naval Research Lab that studies the origins of solar energetic particles, the Sun's most dangerous form of radiation.

UVSC Pathfinder was designed and built at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory. It was funded through NASA's Heliophysics Program and the Office of Naval Research. It is managed by the Heliophysics Technology and Instrument Development for Science program office at NASA headquarters.

Space Test Program is operated by the United States Space Force's Space Systems Command. STPSat-6 was built by Northrop Grumman.



## Sports

# First-year coach likes 12U team's potential

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Redstone's 12-and-under basketball team made its debut Dec. 14 at the Youth Center. But we're talking about practice.

This wasn't a game because the season doesn't start until this week. But it was the first time for coach Andre Lewis to see his players.

"To be honest with you, this is my first practice," he said. "I've been sick the last week."

Justin Higginbotham, assistant sports and fitness director for Child and Youth Services, had conducted the previous six practices for the seven-member team.

The lone girl is Matalyn Brindley, 12, daughter of Lindsay Brindley of Huntsville.

She has seven years of playing experience in Huntsville.

"I think it's fun," she said of playing basketball. "It's just like entertainment, not being bored."

This is Lewis' first year as a head coach after previously serving as an assistant. He works as an instructor at the Youth Center. Lewis, 27, served in the Army from 2013-17 and left as a specialist. He occasionally volunteers locally as an emergency medical technician.

In his first practice, he had the players do sprints, practice dribbling, shoot layups and free throws and work on their defense. They also did some pushups. He planned to practice at least twice a week.

"I feel like we've got some stuff to work on but I feel like we've got potential," Lewis said. "We have potential to be a good team. We're going to try to have fun and work on fundamentals and potentially get them excited to keep playing basketball and grow as young adults."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Matalyn Brindley guards Dexter Karrels, 12, son of Dan and Allison Karrels.**



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**12U coach Andre Lewis jokes with his players during practice Dec. 14 at the Youth Center.**

# 'King Richard' sets inspirational example

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

*Rocket editor*

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I've added to my list of favorite sports movies.

"King Richard," starring Will Smith, was both entertaining and inspiring. Smith portrayed Richard Williams, fa-

ther of women's tennis icons Venus and Serena Williams.

It showed how he always had a plan for them to become tennis stars. He pushed them to be successful so they could escape the family's meager lives in Compton, California.

He practiced with them. He found them coaches. He encouraged them to put their education first and to en-

joy their childhood. Along the way, he learned to respect their feelings and make their own decisions.

His dream for the two gifted young athletes came to fruition. They became two of the best tennis players in the world. They earned fame and fortune while giving back to the next generation.

I watched the 2021 sports drama on an

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## From the sidelines

By **Skip Vaughn**

*Rocket editor*

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app on my smart phone late one Sunday night. It was one of the best movies I've seen lately.



# 6U Bobcats getting better with practice

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Christopher Scarborough took some shots at the basket before the rest of the 6-and-under Bobcats arrived for practice Dec. 20 at the Youth Center.

Looking on were his father, Alonzo, and his brother, Chase, 1. Alonzo is a logistics specialist for Army Futures Command.

"It makes you play better and get better,"



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Christopher Scarborough warms up before the 6U Bobcats practice while his father, Alonzo, and younger brother, Chase, look on.**

Christopher, 6, said. Alonzo and Karyn Scarborough and their two sons reside in Huntsville. This is Christopher's first year for basketball and he also had his first year in soccer.

Bobcats coach Stacey Elliott, along with assistant Madison Guess, led their last practice before Christmas. The Huntsville recreational league season starts this week.

"They're learning a lot," Elliott said. "This is early stages. They're learning a lot."

"They work hard and they're getting better each week."

This is his first year in coaching. His nine players include his son, Sage, 4, and one girl.

"I love kids and my son's out here as well so I thought I'd help," he said of volunteering to coach. Elliott, 34, played freshman and junior varsity basketball in the ninth and 10th grades at Lee High School in Huntsville.

Redstone's other 6U team practiced at the same time on the other half of the court. In the closing minutes of the hour-long session, the teams scrimmaged to a scoreless tie.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Redstone 6U's Beau Daniel, 7, left, battles for a loose ball against the Bobcats' Isaiah Jones, 6, son of McArthur and Katrice Jones of Madison.**

# Huntsville Center engineer's son heading to Annapolis



Courtesy photo

**Kenny Hall, son of Ray Hall, Huntsville Center engineer, signed a letter of intent Dec. 15 to attend the Naval Academy where he will play football. Kenny's athleticism and his academic achievement (4.17 grade point average) led to 10 scholarship offers with six coming from Ivy League schools.**

By **WILLIAM SCOTT FARROW**

*Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville Public Affairs*

Ray Hall, architect and engineering contracts and criteria specialist for Huntsville Center's Range and Training Lands Program, looked on Dec. 15 as his son, Sparkman High School senior Kenny Hall, signed a letter of intent to attend the Naval Academy where he will play football.

Although Kenny has always excelled in football, Ray has coached his only child academically, ensuring Kenny will receive a top-notch education.

Chicago native Ray is a civil engineer with more than 23 years of government service and over 21 years of service to the Corps of Engineers. His USACE career began at Chicago District and he has been a member of the Huntsville Center team since 2004. Ray received his master's in civil engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville in 2019.

"I've always made it a top priority that Kenny works as hard in the classroom as he does on the football field," Ray said. "I had a reading list for him – set goals for him to read so many books a month and I'm always looking at his grades and offering guidance for him to be better academically."

Ray also supported Kenny's football career by providing him with the tools needed to increase his strength and quickness. After COVID cut into the time Kenny could spend training at the Sparkman field house, Ray converted the family garage into Kenny's personal training space.

Ray's fatherly mentorship has paid off for Kenny, a cornerback on the Sparkman Senators' football team. After sophomore and junior seasons in which Kenny excelled on the field with 56 total tackles, 24 solo tackles, a sack, an interception and two fumble recoveries, the college recruiters came calling.

Kenny's athleticism and his academic achievement (4.17 grade point average) led



U.S. Naval Academy photo

**Navy signee Kenny Hall excelled his sophomore and junior seasons at Sparkman High School with 56 total tackles, 24 solo tackles, a sack, an interception and two fumble recoveries.**

to 10 scholarship offers, with six coming from Ivy League schools.

In June, the Halls traveled to the northeastern U.S. and toured campuses of schools offering scholarships. Upon returning to Huntsville, he took a month to make his decision. For Kenny, the choice was clear, and he signed a commitment to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

"They went the extra mile to ensure my family was taken care of, and that meant a lot to me," Kenny recalls.

However, as excited as Kenny was about his decision to attend Navy, he still had obstacles to overcome.

In a 2021 spring game, Kenny injured his shoulder. Although he carried on with his off-season training over the summer, he knew something wasn't quite right. During the second game of the 2021 season, Kenny's shoulder "popped" during contact, and the Sparkman trainers told him his season was finished. He had a torn labrum, cutting short his high school football career.

"It was heartbreaking not to play all my senior season," Kenny said.

After surgery and rehabilitation Kenny continued hitting the books and the weights. He is looking forward to the fall as a Naval Academy plebe and is considering studying mechanical engineering.

Kenny said he knows the Naval Academy experience isn't for everybody, but he's looking forward to the opportunity on the field and in the classroom, as becoming a Naval officer and serving his country is in his blood.

"My dad is an engineer working for the Army Corps of Engineers and many of my relatives served in the military, so military service is a part of us," Kenny said.

"It can be intimidating – the (Naval) academy only has a 6% acceptance rate, but I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Ray said he feels the experience and education Kenny gets at the Naval Academy will lead him to a successful career.

"I'm hard on him," Ray said. "He's a well-grounded, well-prepared kid. He works hard and it's great to see him reap the fruits of his labor."

# Veterans share Army-Navy game experiences

By JOEL VAZQUEZ

Security Assistance Command

NEW CUMBERLAND, Pa., – A group of veterans employed by Security Assistance Command traveled to MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, to witness the 122nd iteration of the Army-Navy football game Dec. 11. Navy won 17-13.

Since 1890, the Army Black Knights have squared off against the Navy Midshipmen for one of college football's greatest and most celebrated rivalry games.

"This isn't just an ordinary football game," Army veteran and Director of Logistics and Acquisitions for USASAC, Michael Casciaro, said. "It's America's game, which means that all of America is watching. Almost 100% of the seventy or eighty thousand in attendance are veterans themselves; and to see all of those vets decked out in their team's gear, cheering for their respective service was unbelievable."

For Navy veteran and Chief of USASAC CENTCOM Branch C, Chuck Gibson, it was his first time attending the historic contest. He had gone to other Navy football games in the past, but they paled in comparison to the splendor and pageantry of the Army-Navy game.

"Most folks know about the jet flyover, and the Army and Navy folks parachuting in, but there is so much more," Gibson said. "Throughout the game there are dozens of different ceremonies to promote camaraderie, Lee Greenwood performed 'Proud to be an American,' cadets from both sides rolled out a flag in the shape of the United States; honestly, everything presented from beginning to end was incredible."

Another important aspect to the Army-Navy game is the impact it will have on the next generation of future service members. For the past four years, Army veteran and USA-SAC Senior Central Case Manager for SOUTHCOM/NORTHCOM, Joseph Kidwell Jr., has attended the Army-Navy game with his family, and now his son plans on enlist-



Army photo

**The Army Black Knights and the Navy Midshipmen meet at the 50 yard line for the coin toss before the 122nd Army-Navy game which Navy won 17-13.**

ing in the military.

"After coming to the game with my son for the past few years, he actually wants to enlist in the Navy as a Navy officer," Kidwell said. "Experiencing this game firsthand, especially if you have never served, really leaves a lasting impression. The rivalry between the Army and the Navy is unlike any other rivalry in sports. Yeah, we want our respective teams to win, and it stings when our team loses, but we never tear each other down. Once the game is over, we feel good about ourselves."

Navy's all-time record against Army is 62 wins, 53 losses and seven ties. But wins and losses are only a small part of what makes the Army-Navy game so special. For Michael Casciaro, it is what happens after the game that's important.

"After the final whistle, the players realize that the battle is over," Casciaro said. "Any bad blood between the services disappears. The Army and Navy they come together and support each other. That is what makes this game so special."

## Your glory days in sports

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

*What is the highlight of your athletic endeavors?*

"I was an all-city football player," Tom Cooper, retired from private industry, said. "After graduating high school, I started Golden Gloves boxing to stay in shape. I was North Alabama Golden Gloves champion at light middleweight (156-pound class). Went to Auburn and then came back to Huntsville and started playing rugby. Great time with all that. I'm a blessed man. But my greatest athletic endeavor was the three years (2017-20) I coached the clay shooting team – which is skeet, trap and sporting clays – at the University of Alabama. The coaching was the most fulfilling athletic endeavor I've ever participated in because I was able to help mold young men and women into adults. You're not just teaching them the sport, you're teaching them life lessons."

Cooper, 65, was born in Dayton, Ohio, in an Air Force family and he has been in Huntsville since he was 4. He graduated from Auburn in 1980 with a bachelor's in accounting. Cooper retired from industry in 2013 after 35 years. The Huntsville resident and his wife of 39 years, Kim, have a daughter, Katie Lockwood who resides in Slidell, Louisiana. "I like to hunt, fish, golf, shoot, travel and spoil my wife," he said. Cooper roots for the Auburn Tigers.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Tom Cooper, who plays golf at the Links, had success as an athlete but says being a coach was his sports highlight.**

## Conferences&Meetings

### Military and Civilians Club

Members of the Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club are invited to “Bloomin’ Bingo” on Jan. 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Challenger Bingo. Cost is \$18. There will be boxed lunches and great prizes. This is for RSAMCC members only. RSVP by noon Jan. 7. For more information, visit RSAMCC.org.

### Lions club

The Madison Area Family Lions Club will hold its general membership meeting Jan. 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Jonathan’s Grille in Madison. For more information, email madisonlionsclub@gmail.com.

### Sergeants major association

The Sergeants Major Association is meeting every third Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. in the conference room of Garrison headquarters building 4488 on Martin Road. If you are not able to attend in person, you can still attend through Zoom. Attendees must download the Zoom app on either their home computer, laptop or mobile device to participate. Once you get into the Zoom app, you will see Meeting ID number. Type in 710 211-4188. Then you will see the “Join meeting” button. If you have problems getting into Zoom, call retired Sgt. Maj. Willene Orr (410) 533-2685.

### Warrant officer association

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

### Veterans of foreign wars

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

### Blacks in government

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

### Marine Corps league

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

### Purple Heart chapter

Military Order of the Purple Heart, George A. Rauh Chapter 2201, will resume its meetings soon; time and place to be determined. All combat-wounded veterans are invited. For more information, call Leonard Robinson 337-8313.

### Vietnam veterans

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

## Sports&Recreation

### 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.

# RocketAnnouncements

### 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.

### ACS volunteers needed

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

### Lifesaving class for Redstone

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

### Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department has released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for Dec. 13-17. The highest scores included Taco Mama at Dynetics, 1002 Explorer Boulevard, 100; Children’s First Christian Academy, 100 Castle Drive, Madison, 100; Visions of Learning Academy, 1622 Pulaski Pike, 100; The Madison Golf Center LLC, 401 Lime Quarry Road, Madison, 100; Irish Dreams LLC doing business as Pinot’s Palette, 8 Parade St., Suite 102, 100; Heritage Elementary School, 11775 County Line Road, Madison, 100; Publix Alabama LLC 1785 (Retail), 9040 South Memorial Parkway, 100; Publix Alabama LLC 1785 (Produce), 9040 South Memorial Parkway, 100; Huntsville Child Care Center of the Y, 2000 A Vernon Ave., 100; Dorothany’s Darlings Day Care, 1539 Slaughter Road, Madison, 100; What’s Popp’n, 7900 Bailey Cove Road South, 100; T.H.E. Kids Childcare, 1749 & 1747 Pulaski Pike, 100; and Popshelf Store 23874, 7950 Highway 72 West, Suite D, Madison, 100. The lowest scores included Hilton Garden Inn Madison, 145 Graphics Drive, Madison, 81; Buffalo Rock-Teledyne Brown Cafeteria, 300 Sparkman Drive, 81; and A&R Huntsville LLC doing business as Agave & Rye Epic Tacos, 365 The Bridge Street 1, 73.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

## Winter wonderland

Redstone Arsenal delayed opening Monday until 10 a.m. because of snow.