

## Upgraded Apache helicopters arrive in Korea



**An Apache AH-64E Version 6 helicopter is rolled off an Air Force C-17 at Osan Air Base, South Korea, in December bound for the 4th Battalion (Attack), 2nd Aviation Regiment at Camp Humphreys. The aircraft is among the initial batch delivered to the 4-2 Attack Battalion, the first overseas unit to receive the Army's latest version of the aircraft.**

Photo by Staff Sgt. Jared Scott

By **BELINDA BAZINET**  
Apache Project Office

The 4th Battalion (Attack), 2nd Aviation Regiment at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, is being outfitted with newest AH-64 Version 6 helicopter. This is the first overseas unit to receive the V6 aircraft.

Fielding began in November, and the unit has since received 12 of 24 aircraft.

Members of the Program Executive Office for Aviation's Apache Project Office were on hand when the aircraft arrived in the country via Air Force C-17 from manufacturing facilities in Mesa, Arizona. While there, they assisted the unit with inspecting their aircraft, assembling and then flying them from

Osan Air Base to Camp Humphreys.

"The fielding of the new AH-64E V6s Apache aircraft is a turning point for 4-2 Attack Battalion and we are thrilled to deploy this airframe. The upgraded aircraft integrates modern technology for both the aviator and maintainers in our battalion," Capt. Timothy Iuchs, D Company commander, said. "For our maintainers, the new systems onboard allow them better diagnostic capability and decrease the downtime of the aircraft. While for the aviator, AH-64E provides an overall increased situational awareness with an upgraded sensor suite, level 4 manned-unmanned teaming, and an upgraded drive system which is a vast improvement over the Delta variant of the model."

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## RocketViews

## Everyone should focus on stopping spread of virus

It's been a while since I've written anything about the COVID-19 pandemic. I haven't really even talked about it lately with friends, family or co-workers, but this week, it seemed to be on everyone's mind.

There are a couple reasons for that. First, we're seeing a surge in cases. More people I know have tested positive for the virus over the last month than all the prior months of this pandemic combined.

Second, we're starting to see the effects of the CDC's new policy of a five-day quarantine, counted from the onset of symptoms. I don't mean is it leading to more or fewer infections. I'm talking about the actual real-world mechanics of it.

Allow me to generalize the experience of five or six people I spoke with over the past few weeks.

The main character in this generalization is going to be named Dude.

Dude wakes up with a headache and some sniffles on a Monday. He had experienced a headache Sunday but figured that was from what he did on Saturday.

Dude also has reason to believe he's probably been exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

## Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson

Assistant editor

Either someone has told him they had it, or he went out to eat a few times last week, or he's been at work dealing with the public, or he could've gotten it while he was at the bar Saturday. It doesn't really matter, because at this point it's a safe bet we are all encountering the virus in some way every day.

Dude decides he's going to do the responsible thing and call out from work and go get tested.

He calls his boss and then starts calling testing sites. Then he keeps calling and calling testing sites because it seems Dude, and a ton of other people are in the same boat.

Finally, he gets tired of calling testing sites and just takes the next available appointment, which is going to be Wednesday.

He calls his boss back and he's like "Dude, dude, I don't want you bringing that stuff around here. Just chill and keep me in the loop."

Wednesday rolls around and Dude is feeling better, but he's pot-committed now, so he goes to get his brain tickled down at the local drug store.

This is the point in the story where, even though he may not know it, Dude has become Schrodinger's cat, because even though he's supposed to get his results in 24 hours, Thursday rolls around and there is no news.

Dude wakes up Friday and he feels great. He still doesn't have any test results, but it has been five days since the onset of symptoms.

Dude is wondering if he can return to work or not, according to the CDC he can, but that's not the real question that needs answering.

Each workplace is going to do their own thing, hopefully based on good science and common sense, but to each their own.

The question that we really need to

answer is: did it matter if Dude had COVID-19, the flu or just a cold?

My argument would be in the case of a symptomatic individual it doesn't, if our current ability to test is not going to deliver results prior to the suggested five-day quarantine.

Some people would argue that we need to know just so we can track the prevalence of the virus. But given the limited resources that's bogging down our testing right now, something must give.

Also, you can still use hospitalization numbers to measure the effect the virus is having on a community's resources.

Instead, we should focus our efforts on testing for the asymptomatic spread of the virus, making sure vaccines and boosters are easily accessible and available, and work on stopping the spread.

Those are the things that make a difference, not figuring out if a clearly sick person is sick.

## Quote of the week

"I know it sounds corny, but I try to see the funny side and the upside, not the downside. I get bored with people who complain about this or that. It's such a waste of time."

— Betty White

## Final Salute

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

## Mel Bowling

The Lacey's Spring native died Jan. 10. He was 88. Bowling served 28 years in the Air Force and retired in 1982 as a major general. His military career included tours in Vietnam and Korea. He received several commendations, including the Silver Star, Legion of Merit and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

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

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# First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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## What do you think of your job?

"My view of firefighting has probably changed over the years. When I say changed, it's grown in fondness," Steve Broyles, firefighter/EMT at Fire Station 4 at the Airfield, said. "Where it started out just as an adventurous type job, it's turned more into really serving the community. I've been in the fire service 15 years, and I've grown to really love it even more."

Broyles, 42, from Columbia, Tennessee, joined the Redstone Fire Department in 2012. He served in the Air National Guard from 2002-09 and left as a staff sergeant. Broyles and his wife of 12 years, Tiffany, have a daughter and a son. He likes to watch movies and television shows. "We attend a lot of soccer tournaments for the daughter," Broyles said. His favorite TV show is "The Curse of Oak Island." Of his favorite team, he said, "I root for the underdog."



Steve Broyles

## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents Jan. 2-8:

**Jan. 3:** A vehicle collided with a deer near the intersection of Mills Road and Patton Road. The vehicle was traveling on Mills when a deer crossed the road and struck the side of the vehicle, causing minor damages. The deer was found dead at the scene, and the Redstone game warden was notified of its location.

**Jan. 5:** Redstone police conducted a traffic stop at the intersection of Rideout Road and Homestead Road on a vehicle for noncompliant window tinting. The driver was informed of the reason for the stop, and the windows were tested at 14%. The driver produced an Alabama nondriver ID card and admitted to not having a driver's license or proof of insurance in possession. The driver was not the owner of the vehicle, which belonged to a friend, and said it was recently insured but was unable to provide adequate proof. The insurance was not confirmed through electronic means and the National Crime Information Center

revealed driver's license was suspended for possible insurance or court issues. Redstone police released the vehicle to a co-worker at the request of the driver. The driver was cited for window tinting, driving while suspended and no insurance and was released.

**Jan. 5:** After stopped for speeding, a driver produced a nondriver ID card and admitted their license was suspended. The driver also admitted possessing marijuana in the vehicle and provided approximately 3 grams of a green leafy substance consistent with marijuana in a small plastic baggie. A probable cause search of the vehicle produced no further contraband. The National Crime Information Center confirmed the driver's license was suspended. The driver was transported to the police station for processing and the vehicle was towed from the scene. A narcotics test resulted in a presumptive positive for the substance as marijuana.

**Jan. 6:** A security guard at Gate 9 requested police for an emotionally disturbed individual. Police made contact

# Getting to know you

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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**Name:** Kim Anton

**Position:** Front-desk volunteer at Army Community Service

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

I wanted to be a nursing assistant. I wanted to help people. I worked in a nursing home for probably six or seven years. And there were patients there with no visitors. So I would sit with them and talk with them. Then my plans changed. It got hard after awhile because lifting patients was hard on my body. So I got out of nursing assistance and I was a sales associate at Walmart (for about five years).

## What do you hope to accomplish in 2022?

We just bought an RV and we are living in the RV full time and we want to be members of Crisis Response – it's a disaster relief company. And we want to travel and help families that have been through disasters, with family counseling and rebuilding. Just being with them and listening to their stories and help them any way that we can. (Me and my husband of 45 years, retired Sgt. 1st Class Dale Anton.)

## What is the best part about your



## job?

Just meeting people, helping the new Soldiers and families that come in get acclimated to the area.

## Who is your hero, and why?

It's my husband. He's very supportive. He encourages me when I go through hard times. He's helped me through

surgeries.

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

We love going to the Opryland Hotel (in Nashville). It's just a nice place to sit and relax, get a cup of coffee. We can walk around. I mean it's a day trip.

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

Just to do what you love. If you do what you love, then you are more apt to do that than do something you don't like. I've heard it from several people, not necessarily just one (person).

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

Walk my dogs. I like to read. I like to color. Watch movies. Do puzzles.

## On this date in history: Jan. 19

**In 1993:** Czech Republic and Slovakia joined the United Nations.

**In 1991:** During the Gulf War, Iraq fired a second Scud missile into Israel, causing 15 injuries.

**In 1953:** Almost 72% of all television sets in the United States were tuned into I Love Lucy to watch Lucy give birth.

**In 1937:** Howard Hughes set a new air record by flying from Los Angeles to New York City in seven hours, 28 minutes, 25 seconds.

**In 1915:** During World War I, German zeppelins bombed the towns of Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn in the United Kingdom killing at least 20 people, in the first major aerial bombardment of a civilian target.

**In 1883:** The first electric lighting system employing overhead wires, built by Thomas Edison, began service at Roselle, New Jersey.

with the individual who said a family member started to become emotionally unstable while traveling on Interstate 565 leading to seek assistance at Gate 9. The individual was removed from the vehicle and placed in handcuffs for safety. Redstone Fire Department responded and rendered medical aid at which time the individual asked for an ambulance. Huntsville Emergency Medical Services Inc. transported the individual to Huntsville Hospital for evaluation. The National Crime Information Center revealed that the driver's license was revoked. The driver received a U.S. District Court violation notice for driving while revoked. The vehicle was released to the owner of the vehicle who drove it off post.

Citations included two for driving while license is suspended or revoked, one for failure to obey traffic control device, one for possession of a controlled substance, one for window tinting improper, one for failure to maintain insurance, five for expired registration, 11 for failure to stop, one for reckless driving and 31 for speeding.



# Know your laws: Patents primer

By ANN DENNEN  
Huntsville lawyer

A patent is another type of intellectual property recognized by United States laws. A patent is like a contract. In this regard, the owner agrees to make the invention public. In return for making the invention public, the United States grants the owner a 20-year monopoly in the invention. The monopoly granted gives the owner the right to exclude others from making, using, offering to sell, selling, or importing the invention for 20 years from the date of filing a patent application.

Note that a patent is a form of intangible property granted by the government to serve the public interest in promoting the progress of science and the useful arts. In serving this policy, patent law provides inventors with exclusive rights to their patented inventions to encourage technology investment with the possibility of reduced competition. Fur-

ther, the patent law encourages early disclosure of useful invention and, in return, eventually allowing the public to practice the inventions described in expired patents.

For an invention to be patentable, the invention must have utility and be novel and nonobvious. The having utility bar is quite a low bar. For example, machines e.g., machines with moving parts, articles of manufacture (e.g., brooms and candleholders), and compositions of matter (e.g. pharmaceuticals). To be novel, the invention has never been done before. Non-obviousness is the more difficult bar to hurdle. Nonobvious means the United States Patent and Trademark Office cannot issue a patent on an invention that would be "obvious" to a person with "ordinary skill in the art to which



the claimed invention pertains."

What is prior art? Prior art is any evidence that your invention is already known. Oftentimes, this issue comes up during prosecution of a patent. Notably, prior art can be any previously filed patent that shows your invention, which makes the invention being prosecuted not patentable over the prior art with respect to novelty. Further, two different prior art references, like two different patents, may be combined to teach your invention, which makes the invention being prosecuted not patentable over the prior art with respect to obviousness.

There are four types of patents, including a utility patent, a provisional patent, a design patent, and a plant patent. As discussed, a utility patent protects new,

nonobvious, and useful products processes, machines and devices. When a utility patent application is filed with the USPTO, an examiner examines the patent to determine if it is useful, new and nonobvious. A design patent protects new, original and ornamental designs of manufactured articles. A plant patent protects certain distinct and new plant varieties.

The end of a patent application contains an enumerated list of one or more sentences called claims. The claims define the scope of the monopoly of the invention.

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

## Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN  
Rocket editor  
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### Your career choice.

"I went with journalism in my freshman year at Auburn (in 1973) because I wanted to be a sports writer," Bud McLaughlin, staff writer for the Redstone Rocket since Jan. 5, said. "I changed from pharmacy to journalism in my freshman year. I've been with seven newspapers in more than 40 years. This has been a very fulfilling career choice. I've been able to meet so many people and see so many places."

McLaughlin, 66, from Pennsville, New Jersey, received a bachelor's in journalism from Auburn University in 1978. He and his wife of five years, Marianne Higgins, reside in Huntsville. He has three sons and six grandchildren. The oldest, Lance, is a retired Army National Guard captain in Huntsville; Shane resides in Demopolis and Bo lives in Huntsville. McLaughlin enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, traveling and going to concerts. He roots for the Philadelphia teams and the Auburn Tigers.



Bud McLaughlin

## Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense Department websites

### Contract award announcements

HDR Engineering Inc., Colorado Springs, Colorado; HB&A Onyx Small Business JV, Colorado Springs; Jacobs Government Services Co., Fort Worth, Texas; Parsons Government Services Inc., Pasadena, California; Pond-Woolpert LLC, Dayton, Ohio; and Urban Collaborative LLC Master Planning, Eugene, Oregon, will compete for each order of the \$40,000,000 firm-fixed-price contract for master planning, and area development planning services. Bids were solicited via the Internet with six received. Work locations and funding will be determined with each order, with an estimated completion date of March 27, 2023. Corps of Engineers' Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville is the contracting activity.

### Additional mitigation for pandemic

WASHINGTON – An increase in new COVID-19 cases in the National Capital Region – the area including and surrounding Washington, D.C., where most of the Pentagon workforce lives – has spurred Defense Department leadership to implement some additional safety measures to prevent its own workforce from becoming ill or contributing to new cases.

In a memorandum dated Dec. 27, Michael Donley, director for administration and management at the Pentagon, discussed Defense Department concerns and detailed additional safety measures.

"We have seen an increase in coronavirus disease 2019 and positive test results in the National Capital Region in recent weeks," Donley wrote. "Additional mitigation measures will be implemented on the Pentagon Reservation to protect the workforce and our support to the no-fail mission of the Department of Defense."

According to the memorandum, beginning Jan. 3, food concessions at the Pentagon will no longer have seating available for diners. Those who purchase food at those locations will need to eat elsewhere.

Because the Pentagon is in health protection condition "Bravo +," organizations in the building are maintaining occupancy rates at less than 40%. That will continue, and Donley asked supervisors and managers to "strongly encourage" the personnel they lead to telework at least through the end of January. Virtual meetings or seating with physical distancing should be maximized.

Additionally, through the end of January, unofficial visitors will not be allowed in the building, and parties of official visitors must be limited to the minimum required for mission-critical meetings.

# Military

## 'This is My Organization' initiative boosts people strategy



By CHRISTINE MITCHELL

Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

The Army People Strategy's mission and vision are clear: The Army will acquire, develop, employ, and retain the diversity of Soldier and civilian talent needed to achieve Army readiness. In recent years, the Army has maintained a strong focus on taking care of its people.

In 2019, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Michael Grinston set forth the "This is My Squad" initiative with the goal of building more cohesive units across the Army and empowering noncommissioned officers with the leadership skills to anticipate issues and address them early on.

Army Materiel Command is taking that initiative one step further with the "This is My Organization" initiative. TiMO is a holistic, multidisciplinary approach for the AMC enterprise to create an environment that embraces equality and people first and builds pride in the organization.

"It is our people who will achieve AMC's, our Army's, and our nation's goals, and their success relies on a healthy work environment," emphasized Gen. Ed Daly, AMC commander. "Our vision is an AMC culture that embraces diversity, promotes mental and physical health, provides transparency, builds trust, and ensures dignity and respect throughout our workforce."

Daly explained that TiMO is an overarching concept he hopes will bind AMC's workforce of 175,000 Soldiers, Army civilians and contractors to each other and to AMC's mission.

The TiMO initiative is about establishing a culture by taking advantage of the numerous resources, services and programs AMC offers to promote a safe and inclusive workplace while encouraging professional development and growth, said Lisha Adams, AMC's executive deputy to the commanding general. From wellness training, the SHARP program, and the Holistic Health and Fitness System; to Ready Army Civilian and the monthly Leadership Professional Development classes, AMC has worked hard to curate a work environment that focuses on people.

"By taking part in these services, you can take ownership of your workplace, and take control over your future in this organization," Adams said. "AMC belongs to all of us. Take pride in TiMO."

The TiMO measures put into place come down to individual responsibility and accountability. TiMO ensures that employees understand leadership's vision and AMC's culture, while providing feedback on employee perception and experiences within the command.

Ultimately, TiMO aims to enhance AMC's path toward:

- A healthy working environment, which strengthens unit-level cohesion and addresses issues such as suicide, sexual harassment and morale;
- Success and longevity, which makes the organization stronger by increasing recruitment and job satisfaction;
- Respect and dignity, which encourages listening and allows for adjustment as it's needed; and
- A stronger tie to the Army's core values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

# Army community resource guide available online

By JO ANITA MILEY

Garrison Public Affairs

One of the challenges in helping those in need is sharing information about available services and systems.

The Community Resource Guide, managed by the Army Public Health Center, is a comprehensive directory of programs and services available to a military community. This online resource contains a needs-based search engine that allows the Army family to identify and access programs and services from any Army installation worldwide.

“The purpose of the Community Resource Guide is to demonstrate that there are community resources available and to generate an updated list of those resources for use by members of our Army community,” Bryan Copeland, community readiness and resilience integrator for Redstone, said. “The CRG connects people to resources while illuminating the needs of the Army community and collaborates with government entities, nonprofits, businesses and individuals to eliminate any boundaries for meeting those needs. The guide also serves as a referral file for commanders, community leaders and program managers on Army installations.”

In his role as the integrator who is responsible for facilitating the Commander’s Readiness and Resilience Council, he has to make sure the health and wellness of the Redstone community is a top priority. This involves coordinating, organizing, planning and implementing comprehensive health promotion and well-being processes based on initiatives to enhance readiness and resilience for the total Army. The CRG has a prominent place in this effort.

Getting onto the CRG website is relatively easy, according to Copeland. He said there are instructions about how to browse topics to find resources on the site. A print option is also available for those who want a hard copy of their information.

Copeland encourages those who are a part of the Redstone community to go to the website and start learning about what resources are available on the installation.



Redstone information has been updated on the site and there is also an effort to get the CRG connected to the Digital Garrison app.

“Our team will continue reminding the Redstone community about this valuable resource,” Copeland said. “There is CRG for every Army installation worldwide. Having this guide at your fingertips is an excellent tool for finding resources for yourself, a family member, a co-worker – anyone that you come in contact with on Redstone. It’s a one-stop source for information at your fingertips that empowers community members to find the programs and services they need to become successful members of the Army family.”

The Community Resource Guide can be found at [crg.armedd.army.mil](http://crg.armedd.army.mil). For more information on the CR2C council, call Copeland at 842-5981 or email [bryan.a.copeland.civ@army.mil](mailto:bryan.a.copeland.civ@army.mil).



# Photo Booth

By Skip Vaughn

**What is your favorite pastime?**

"My favorite pastime is watching my daughter, Lailah Johnson, 5, practicing Taekwondo. She's been doing it for a year and a half now. Her self-growth and confidence have improved since she started." – **Sgt. Nickie Owens**, Garrison religious affairs NCO



# Huey helicopters delivered to Bosnia-Herzegovina

By DAVE HYLTON

*Program Executive Office for Aviation Public Affairs*

In December, a team from the Multi-National Special Project Office has delivered four UH-1H Huey II aircraft and support equipment to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The MASPO team coordinated contract actions, arranged transportation and assisted with loading the helicopters onto an Antonov, An-124, Ruslan cargo aircraft at the Huntsville International Airport. After loading the helicopters on Dec. 4, the An-124 departed for the Sarajevo International Airport.

After final testing and acceptance of the new aircraft, the helicopters were formally transferred to the AFBiH in a ceremony Dec. 10. According to a European Command press release, the transfer is a direct result of U.S. EUCOM's partnership with the State Department and the AFBiH through the European Recapitalization Incentive Program. Through ERIP, the department assists European partners and allies transition away from Soviet-legacy or Russian-manufactured equipment to reduce Russian influence over partner and allied defense procurement. The press release added that they have been working on this project since 2018.

MASPO Deputy Product Director for the Scout-Attack Product Office, Cory Hardin, deployed to Bosnia to ensure a smooth transfer of the aircraft to the AFBiH.



Photo by Dave Hylton

**The first Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina UH-1H Huey II is loaded onto the Antonov An-124.**

“The delivery of four Bell Huey II aircraft to the Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina was a major



Photo by Dave Hylton

**All four Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina UH-1H Huey IIs are loaded onto the Antonov An-124.**

win for the PEO Aviation-MASPO team as well as

**See Huey on page 12**



# Apache

Continued from page 1

The V6 is equipped with the latest in communications, navigation, sensors and for the first time a cognitive decision aiding system. These systems provide a major path forward in the Apache program and a key aspect to the Apache's role in joint all-domain operations and for our international partners.

The Version 6 AH-64E model of the Apache is the final planned modernization of the aircraft, replacing the AH-64D Apache attack helicopters. The V6 enhances the Apache's fundamental mission: to search and destroy. They include:

- An improved cockpit map display that will allow pilots to use digital map images to see terrain and other topographical features, increasing pilot situational awareness.

- Multiple upgrades to the Modernized Target Acquisition Designation Sight/Pilot Night Vision System provides improved resolution and acuity allowing pilots to pick up targets more clearly at longer distances on their display screens.

- A GEN3 Day Sensor Assembly, which doubles the sensor's field of view and increases resolution while adding color imagery to improve target detection and identification.

- Link 16 communications, which allows the Apache "to switch network connections on the spot, and merge different networks for an operational picture," resulting in improved real-time situational awareness in the aircraft's cockpit.

- Manned-Unmanned Teaming E\expanded software designed to allow Apache pilots to directly control other Army unmanned aircraft systems, and receive UAS video in the cockpit while directing their flight path and controlling their sensors.

Whether a new pilot or a seasoned one, operating the AH-64E V6 requires extensive mission equipment and flight training. The Program Executive Office for Aviation Apache project office's New Equipment Training team provides critical instruc-

tion to ensure operators are prepared to safely operate and take full advantage of the many upgrades in the V6 aircraft. The 4-2 AB pilot training began in September 2021 and runs through September; the maintenance training started in August 2021 and ends in July.

The Apache NET team uses a combination of classroom training, Longbow Crew Trainer sessions and training flights to familiarize pilots with the upgraded version. The operator training consists of four different course types: Aircraft Series Transition Course, Aircraft Version upgrade training (Differences), the Maintenance Test Pilot Series Transition Course and the MTP version upgrade training.

Stronger sensors, improved situational awareness, and a better information flow – all of these improvements have made the new iteration of the Apache far more versatile and lethal.

"The implementation and utilization of these aircraft will have a long lasting and far-reaching impact on our mission to support and defend the Republic of Korea and to 'Fight Tonight,'" Iuchs said.

Fielding of the aircraft is projected to be completed in February.

# Commentary: No better time to join our Army

By Col. JAMES WELCH

*2nd Recruiting Brigade commander*

The Army recently announced several enlistment incentives that are unequaled in the history of recruiting our all-volunteer force. Among those incentives are up to \$50,000 in enlistment bonuses, duty station of choice, and two-year active-duty enlistments. While these remarkable incentives might be reason enough to join the Army, they are just the tip of the iceberg, as the benefits of serving far outweigh any financial benefit.

As the commander of the Army's 2nd Recruiting Brigade, I have the opportunity to engage young men and women across the Southeastern United States on a regular basis. While doing so, I am often surprised at how little they know about the Army or the many benefits of military service.

About 75% of today's young people admit they know little or nothing about our nation's military. They do not understand that our Army is the most technologically advanced military force the world has ever seen. Our Soldiers are on the cutting edge of scientific advancements that benefit not only the Army but all of society.

There are more than 150 career options available to Soldiers in our Army, most of which are not combat jobs. While our armed forces do need combat experts to serve in the infantry and Special Forces, we also need experts in logistics, health care, information technology, and a wide variety of other non-combat related jobs. Prior to enlisting, applicants have the opportunity to choose which one of these career options best suit their goals and passions.

To fill these positions in our all-volunteer force, our Army maintains extremely high enlistment standards. In fact, only about 23% of 18-24 year olds can even qualify for military service today. Those unable to serve are often unqualified due to medical issues, law violations or intellectual aptitude. Simply put, it is tough to qualify for the Army, and we need America's best and brightest to answer our nation's call to service.

Those who do enlist in our Army not only receive world class training in their chosen career field, they are also able to pursue advanced educational opportunities. This is not only an option available to Soldiers, it is an expectation as one progresses through the Army ranks. Senior officers without a master's are now a rarity, and enlisted Soldiers are encouraged to obtain at least a bachelor's throughout the course of their Army career.

In addition to the training and educational opportunities, Soldiers gain intangible benefits while serving in the Army that make them very attractive to future employers. Service in the Army requires one to adhere to the Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. Young officers and

NCOs are often responsible for millions of dollars of equipment and the welfare of dozens of Soldiers. Where else in the civilian sector would a 22-year-old man or woman have such demanding responsibilities and the opportunity to grow as a leader?

However, service in the Army is so much more than building leadership skills or furthering one's civilian education. Service in the Army is not a job, it is a way of life. In the Army, we serve alongside other men and women who not only share common values, but are willing to give their lives for their fellow Soldiers. These men and women come from every corner of America and every walk of life. They are diverse in race, religion and ethnicities. The Army is truly a melting pot and representative of our great nation.

The benefits of military service continue to impact Soldiers and their local communities long after they leave the Army. Veterans are more likely to be better citizens, to vote in elections, to volunteer, and are more likely to serve in their local communities. Veterans have the maturity and the self-discipline to succeed in most any endeavor and are highly sought after by civilian employers.

Service in the Army is not only a viable path for our best and brightest Americans, it offers a path for them to reach their full potential and achieve their goals in life. We are hiring, and I challenge community leaders, educators, and parents to become better informed about the merits of military service. Visit [GoArmy.com](http://GoArmy.com) and educate yourself on the many career options available in the Army. Service in our Army is a great honor and the experience will pay tremendous dividends for young people. It doesn't mean it is easy, and it doesn't mean the rewards will be freely given. They must be earned through the crucible of hard training and dedicated service. But that training and service will make our young people better citizens, and it will make our nation stronger. I encourage you to answer the call of service to our nation and speak with an Army recruiter today.

*Editor's note: Col. James Welch is the commander of the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, which is responsible for hiring new Soldiers across the Southeast United States, Puerto Rico, and the American Virgin Islands.*



Photo by Dave Hylton

**The first of four Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina UH-1H Huey IIs begins load-up onto Antonov An-124.**

## Huey

Continued from page 8

our industry partner, Bell Textron Inc.," Hardin said. "Leveraging an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract expedited the FMS process and facilitat-

ed delivery of a much needed advanced aviation capability to our ally, Bosnia-Herzegovina. These helicopters provide the AFBiH with improved search and rescue, firefighting, and civil support capabilities and further enhances the relationship between the United States and Bosnia-Herzegovina."

With this delivery, MASPO increased its global footprint as the Department of Defense and Army's office responsible for providing affordable, Non-Program of Record rotary-wing aircraft to our partners and allies around the world.



# LA native enjoys success with aviation, missile enterprise

By KERENSA HOUSTON

*Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs*

Henry Hemphill III has been with the Aviation and Missile Command for less than a year and is already making quite the impression.

Recruited at the virtual 2021 Be Everything You Are Conference and hired shortly after, Hemphill now works for the AMCOM Logistics Center Acquisition Directorate in the Publication Services Division.

But how he got there is the story.

"I've supported the federal government ever since 2016," Hemphill, an AMCOM logistics management specialist, said. "But, in all actuality, it's been the majority of my adult life since I served in the Army, as well."

Hemphill followed in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather when he decided to join the Army. His father also did a brief stint in the Navy before switching to the Army. The skills Hemphill learned as a UH-60 helicopter repairer would later serve him well later in his civilian career.

After serving 17 years in the Army, the Los Angeles native retired in 2015 under the Temporary Retirement Authority. TERA was a discretionary program that allowed service members with at least 15 years of active-duty service to retire under special circumstances.

"I had a great chain of command that allowed me to bow out gracefully," he said.

Then his career took another unpredictable route.

After retiring from Fort Carson, Colorado, Hemphill applied for and was accepted into the U.S. Senate intern program. He moved from Colorado to the Washington, D.C., area the following spring and started school at Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland, to work on his bachelor's while doing the internship. He ultimately earned a bachelor's in business management with a minor in business law.

"I started off as an intern in the Senate in (Washington,) D.C., before I got accepted into the Warriors to Workforce Program at the end of my internship," Hemphill said. W2W offers veterans a chance to apply military skills to employment opportunities in the federal workforce.

His first government civilian position was working as a General Services Administration Vehicle and Fleet Services contract specialist. He remained in that position for three years before exploring other possibilities.

"I interned with the GSA during the summers and was able (to complete Federal Acquisition Certification in Contracting) Level I in the process before an opportunity opened up for me to return to the (Department of Defense) as a civilian contractor in the Utility Helicopter Project Office here at Redstone Arsenal (in 2019)," he said.

While working in the UHPO, Hemphill saw an email about BEYA – formerly known as Black Engineer of the Year Award – that piqued his interest. BEYA recognizes leaders developing innovation in science, technology, engineering and math.

Mainly, Hemphill wanted to know how in the world



**Henry Hemphill III**

a conference of that magnitude was going to happen in the middle of a global pandemic.

"As you know, we were all teleworking from home or doing a combination of a day or two in the office, but the majority of our time working was virtually and we were all getting used to our new normal," he said. "Well, the BEYA conference was no exception to this either."

Though he had been around the Army his whole life, Hemphill said he only really knew the aviation side. He was curious about all the other entities that operate in the Sparkman Center – where his office was located.

During the breakout sessions, the Army veteran got a chance to interact with representatives from various departments and gain invaluable insight.

"I applied for a logistics management position with the AMCOM Acquisition Logistics Directorate (within ALC) due to the vast array of programs they had – all of them seemed interesting to me," he said. "To say this was the best decision that I've made would be an understatement."

And the rest, as the saying goes, is history. After about two years as a contractor, Hemphill was hired as an Army civilian.

Only a month in his new position, Hemphill decided to step up as the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense team lead as an additional duty.

"I was able to leverage my wealth of acquisition knowledge and experience with the team to allow them

to teach me and lead me since I was new to missile programs, in general," he said. "This tradeoff allowed them to focus all of their attention on releasing technical manuals to the Soldiers while I handled all the administrative tasks ... for this program to get back on track."

The technical writer and lead logistician who previously led the release process for the THAAD Interactive Electronic Technical Manual effort departed their positions, leaving a critical gap that Hemphill was happy to fill.

"Within 45 days of joining the branch, Mr. Hemphill initiated an integrated product team," said former Writing Branch III Chief Delicia Battle, who has since left AMCOM. "These IPTs have been instrumental in aligning the tasks and processes needed to provide seamless support as the publication integrator for this system. Using (Hemphill's) vast knowledge of acquisition, contracts, program management and publications, the IPT has been integral in the coordination with personnel in the Publications Services Division, Logistics Data Analysis Center and (Missile Defense Agency) missile customers. This collaborative effort resulted in the timely release of manuals and an approval of a waiver for future releases, which directly effects the readiness of the system."

Hemphill said the work he and his team do is integral because it provides Soldiers the most up-to-date information necessary to keep their equipment running in training or combat environments worldwide.

Apart from being a positive role model for his three adult sons, Hemphill said what drives him is the pursuit of continuous learning.

"The always-learning part has really been a great benefit for me because I'm never afraid to be taught something new," said Hemphill, who – speaking of being unafraid to learn new things – owned a CrossFit gym for a few years and has a love of Olympic weightlifting.

Go figure.

Professionally, Hemphill plans to continue to put his best foot forward in Writing Branch III and do all he can to support Soldiers while "looking for opportunities within AMCOM to challenge my skillset as my knowledge base grows."

Personally, the self-proclaimed weightlifting and motorcycle enthusiast said he once qualified for the Pan-American Masters and the International Weightlifting Federation World Masters championships. He wants to do it again.

"My goal is to qualify for both of them again next year or at least place high in the rankings," he said.

Maybe when he's mastered that, he will salvage a bike or hop on a motorcycle – more of his hobbies – to take "a long ride to all parts unknown for different food venues."

Though his story began in Los Angeles and has taken him all over, Hemphill said he's in Alabama to stay.

"You will have to drag me away from the slow pace of Huntsville," he said. "This is home now!"

# Army offers up to \$50K in enlistment incentives

By Army Recruiting Command

FORT KNOX, Ky. – The Army is offering its largest bonus ever for new recruits with up to \$50,000 available to qualified individuals who sign on for a six-year active-duty enlistment.

The total incentive package for a new recruit is based on a combination of incentives offered for the selected career field, individual qualifications, length of the enlistment contract, and the ship date for training.

In the past, enlistment incentives for full-time Soldiers could not exceed \$40,000.

The Army is competing for the same talent as the other services as well as the private sector and must have the ability to generate interest in the current employment environment, according to Maj. Gen. Kevin Vereen, who leads Army Recruiting Command in its mission to fill full-time and part-time vacancies in about 150 different career fields in the Regular Army and the Army Reserve.

“This is an opportunity to entice folks to consider the Army,” said Brig. Gen. John Cushing, who serves as the deputy commander for operations under Vereen at USAREC. “We’ve taken a look at the critical (military occupational specialties) we need to fill in order to maintain the training bases, and that is where we place a lot of our emphasis.”

Career-based incentives range from \$1,000 up to \$40,000 for select occupations the Army needs to fill right now or finds difficult to fill because of the specific qualifications required. These range from some of the most well-known Army careers, like infantry and Special Forces, to occupations like radar repairers, signal support systems specialists and motor transport operators.

Aside from the career-based bonuses, there are “quick ship” bonuses for those who are prepared to head to basic combat training within 90 days. These incentives range from \$2,000 to \$9,000 -- the sooner an individual ships, the higher the dollar amount.

There are additional incentives for signing up for Airborne or Ranger schools. Opting to jump from airplanes can get a recruit \$10,000, while becoming Ranger qualified can bring up to \$20,000.

As part of the Army Civilian Acquired Skills Program, foreign language skills can

be worth up to \$40,000 for certain career paths.

It’s a combination of these incentives that will get a new recruit up to the \$50,000 maximum. For example, a six-year enlistment as an air and missile defense crewmember starts with \$40,000. Right now, that occupation also qualifies for a \$9,000 critical accession bonus. If the individual decides to ship to training within the next 90 days, the addition of a quick-ship bonus would get the recruit to the maximum amount.

Here’s another example: An infantry recruit signing a six-year contract could receive a critical skill bonus of \$21,000 and an accession bonus of \$3,000. That same recruit could also opt for Ranger school and enter the Army with a total of \$34,000.

Vereen says that while there has always been a satisfaction that comes from serving, the Army is making the incentives available to ensure the service has a robust force in this fiscal year and beyond.

“We want to promote the value in serving your country, but at the same time, we’re not oblivious to the compensation piece,” he said.

In addition to the monetary incentives, Vereen pointed out several other options that may make the Army more attractive in the current employment environment – duty station of choice and two-year enlistments.

“We know this generation likes to have the opportunity to make their own decisions, so now they can choose where they want to be assigned after training. We didn’t have that last year,” Vereen said. “We also have opened two-year enlistments for 84 different career fields. Many people are apprehensive about long-term commitments right now, so we think having a shorter option will help give them some time to see if the Army fits their life and goals.”

Individuals can learn more about Army career options and the benefits of military service at [www.goarmy.com](http://www.goarmy.com).

For more information or to arrange an interview with a local recruiter, contact Will Skelton with the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion-Montgomery at [william.b.skelton2.civ@army.mil](mailto:william.b.skelton2.civ@army.mil) or (334) 301-7037. Locally, contact Nelson Ballew with the 2nd Recruiting Brigade at [nelson.e.ballew2.civ@army.mil](mailto:nelson.e.ballew2.civ@army.mil) or 612-6268.

## Community

## Chambers helping alleviate post-traumatic stress

*Retired colonel provides free support to veterans*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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LAS VEGAS – Retired Col. Jill Chambers is as busy as ever at the start of a new year. Her goal is to reach out to help as many veterans as she can who struggle with hidden scars from their military service.

She is CEO of This Able Vet, which she started in 2010, the year after she retired from the Army after 30 years. It provides free non-pharmaceutical tools to help remedy the effects of post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries. She does this by herself as the lone employee.

“I still have several service members that I’m continuing to help from last year,” Chambers said of her goals for 2022. “My goal is to continue to reach out and support them with my non-pharmaceutical tools, just trying to make a better healthier life for them and their families.”

Besides her work, she travels throughout the world with her husband, country music star Michael Peterson. The pandemic has slowed their usual tour schedule but she always accompanies him.

On Sept. 11, 2001, Chambers was working at the Pentagon as the military secretary for the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. She was four corridors away from where the hijacked plane hit the building on that fateful day of the terrorist attacks on our nation. Chambers and her three sergeants had to account for the safety of all 300 people in the building who worked directly for the chairman.

“It was a very complicated, very surreal time. It was horrific,” she said. “Obviously everybody’s life changed that day.”

Many of her friends died that day. After attending the 12th funeral, “I just couldn’t do it any more,” she said. The next nine years, she experienced sleepless nights and nightmares. She assumed it was normal in her line of work to average two hours of sleep each night.

In her last military job, she was work-



Courtesy photo

**Jill Chambers started This Able Vet the year after her 2009 retirement from the Army as a colonel.**

ing for Adm. Michael Mullen, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as special assistant for returning warrior issues. Her job was to go throughout the country and interview veterans who were experiencing the unaddressed issue known as post-traumatic stress. She met experts in the field and the groundbreaking Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program was born. Chambers became widely recognized as the first person in the history of the U.S. military to develop a successful, sustainable strategy designed to reduce the crippling stigma associated with mental health challenges in a warrior culture. Gen. George Casey, the Army’s 36th chief of staff from 2007-11, became an advocate. “He was the one who took the bull by the horns,” Chambers said.

Her personal experience and journey from post-traumatic stress to post-traumatic growth following the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon inspired Chambers to start her company. With a master’s in public administration and human resources and another master of science in natural resource strategy, she used her post-9/11 GI bill to further her educa-



Courtesy photo

**Country music star Michael Peterson and Jill Chambers have been married nine years and reside in Las Vegas.**

tion and earn two additional degrees: a master’s in health and wellness with a concentration in aromatherapy and a master’s in complementary alternative medicine, both from the American College of Healthcare Sciences in 2019. She was inducted into the Army’s Women’s Hall of Fame in 2015 for her role in creating the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness initiative.

“The number one goal (for This Able Vet) is to work with our veterans in an effort to facilitate a pathway forward to empower them to become healthy after these challenges,” she said. “Thanks to a grant from AOL and PBS, we’re able to provide these services free of charge. These tools help monitor their progress in terms of their mental health and physical health.”

Chambers, 63, grew up in a military family; her father served in the Air Force for 30 years. She traveled the country as an Air Force “military brat” and finished high school in Hampton, Virginia, graduating from Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia, with an Army commission in 1980.

She and Peterson, residents of Las Ve-

gas, just celebrated their ninth wedding anniversary. They have a combined three daughters and five grandchildren. Her daughter Gwynn Workmaster, of Williamsburg, Virginia, served in the Army from 2008-19 as an Adjutant General’s Corps officer just like her mom.

Chambers serves on the board for the Institute for Veterans and Military Families, which is based at Syracuse University. She and her husband are close friends of Huntsville’s Mike and Traci Gillespie. From 2010-12, Peterson delivered numerous high school assembly programs at schools in Huntsville and Madison County.

A million-selling country music star, Peterson had numerous No. 1 hits in the late 1990s including the wedding standard “From Here to Eternity,” and the iconic “Drink, Swear, Steal and Lie.”

“Usually we’re on the road about 200 days a year. We always travel together,” Chambers said.

But COVID-19 has of course slowed their schedule. “We look forward to getting back out there helping people once the COVID coast is clear,” she said.



# Test center engineers seek to inspire next generation

By PRESTON BENSON

*Redstone Test Center Public Affairs*

Science, technology, engineering, and math. Known as STEM, these are fields of increasing importance to ensure students of today are prepared for the careers of tomorrow. The Redstone Test Center is home to many of those former students who are using their STEM educations to become experts in those fields.

Two of those individuals recently had the honor of sharing some of that experience with students at the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering.

Two engineers with RTC's Environmental and Component Test Directorate addressed a group of 156 students during an ACSTE "Lunch and Learn" event in December. Suzanne McLendon and Chase Smith shared an overview of their roles as engineers in RTC's materials analysis lab.

"I enjoyed discussing failure analysis and materials engineering with students at ASCTE," McLendon said. "Failure analysis is a niche area within materials engineering, so it was a great opportunity to introduce that topic to the students."

Smith said the chance to speak directly to STEM students was valuable. "The ASCTE Lunch and Learn was a great opportunity to speak to the next generation about the exciting and important work performed here at RTC, particularly in the materials analysis lab," he said.

RTC's presentation, however, wasn't all talk. McLendon and Smith came prepared with a special activity for the students designed to showcase one example of the important work conducted at RTC in support of the warfighter. "We were able to provide a hands-on demonstration using a paperclip to represent fatigue failure in materials," McLendon said.

"Students were engaged in the discussions and seemed to really enjoy participating in the paperclip fatigue activity," Smith said.

The students appeared to enjoy the presentation just as much as RTC's engineers enjoyed delivering it.

"I thought the best thing was they could make something complex understandable for a bunch of high school students," one student said.

"I liked that the speaker let us use the paperclips as an example of what they do," said another.



Courtesy photo

**Redstone Test Center engineers Suzanne McLendon, left, and Chase Smith, right, addressed a group of STEM students at the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering in December. Jennifer Oberle, center, is acting chief engineer with RTC's Environmental and Component Test Directorate.**

Redstone Test Center together with ASCTE set out to both inform and inspire the next generation of STEM students to continue on a path that will set them up for success in fields critical to

supporting the warfighter. A collaboration that McLendon hopes will last for years to come. "I am excited for the opportunity to continue collaborating with ASCTE."

# Cummings Research Park expanding to meet needs

By BUD McLAUGHLIN

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Things are continuing to grow in Cummings Research Park East.

The latest project is a live-work-shop development to be called Arcadia. At the intersection of Wynn and Bradford drives, Arcadia will have 12,000 square feet of office space; 7,000 square feet of retail space; and 251 apartment units, according to a news release from the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber. It is on the site of the former Catholic High School and groundbreaking is slated for the spring.

“This development is the result of a comprehensive, strategic planning initiative to ensure Huntsville’s CRP (Cummings Research Park) is able to meet the evolving needs and demands of the business and research market,” Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle said. “We look forward to welcoming Arcadia to CRP.”

Bobo Development Group and Retail Specialists are the developers for the project. A mixed-use development has been planned for several years for Cummings Research Park East, including the 2016 CRP Master Plan and the City of Huntsville’s 2016 Urban Renewal Plan.

“Arcadia has been conceived by developers with purposeful intent,” Erin Koshut, executive director of Cummings Research Park, said. “CRP East needed to become a more viable and healthy part of the market, as we’ve already seen in developments in the western portion of CRP.”

“Looking at occupancy rates from last year, CRP East was just over 88% occupied, whereas CRP West was nearly 98% occupied.”

Koshut said the park’s recent revitalization projects include the Orion Amphitheater and Encore multifamily community, both under construction in the MidCity District; Northrop Grumman’s plans for 110 Wynn Drive; and the Alabama School for Cyber Technology and Engineering, which will be across Bradford Drive from Arcadia.

“With the current and projected growth in the Huntsville market, the timing is per-



Renderings by Williams Blackstock Architects and Bobo Development Group

**The Arcadia mixed-use development will be built on the former site of Catholic High School, at the intersection of Wynn and Bradford drives in Cummings Research Park East. Groundbreaking for the Arcadia mixed-use development is slated for the spring. It will house 12,000 square feet of office space; 7,000 square feet of retail space; and 251 apartment units.**

fect to introduce the newest project in the community,” James Bobo, chief executive officer of Bobo Development Group, said.

Retail Specialists is developing and recruiting the retail component of Arcadia, including restaurants, cafes and shops.

“We are excited to begin work on such a significant development in Huntsville,” Robert Jolly, chief executive officer of Retail Specialists, said. “Our team looks forward to bringing new restaurant and retail options for the growing area.”

Cummings Research Park, which is just north of Gate 9 across I-565, hosts more than 300 companies across 3,843 acres. It is the second largest research park in the U.S. and the fourth largest in the world.

# Casual look prevails in pandemic's workplace dress code



Photo by Erin Elise

**Stephanie Stone, marketing manager at Family and MWR, still enjoys “dressing up.”**

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

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Once was a time when men wore suits and ties to work and women wore stockings and heels. Enter 2020, when many of us teleworked at home in our sweatpants or pajamas and bunny slippers.

We have not yet returned to a post-pandemic normal. But for those who have returned to in-person work, is there a new normal when it comes to work attire?

Stephanie Stone, Family and MWR marketing manager, believes there has been a change overall, but said she still “dresses up” for work.

“We still like to dress up because it makes us feel good,” Stone said, recalling that most meetings before the pandemic were in-person.

“Obviously, when COVID-19 struck, that changed the way we were able to connect with our clients,” she said. “Business communication was conducted via telephone calls, teleconference and email.”

Today, many clients prefer to continue such communications because it saves time, she noted.

“The need to dress up has changed,” Stone said. “As a result, sometimes comfort wins the early morning struggle of ‘what to wear.’”

Carolyn White, Employee Assistance Program coordinator, said her office has remained consistent with the same dress code as before the pandemic.

“If anyone dresses more casually than before, it’s probably me, because I’m doing fewer live trainings,” White said.

The general dress code in her office is business casual, but some dress up more than others, she added.

“Some of us lean more toward comfort while others are definitely the stylish ones in the group,” White said.

Alicia Irmscher, public affairs officer for FBI Redstone, said a professional dress code is maintained for most employees, with an exception of those working in the ongoing construction zone.



Photo by Erin Elise

**James Lomax, director of Asset Management and Leasing at Redstone Gateway, sports his pandemic office attire.**

“Some days the employees may be more ‘dressed up’ if they have an external meeting with the community or other federal partners. For instance, wearing a suit and tie rather than an open collar, sport coat and slacks,” Irmscher said. “Either way, our employees take pride in representing the FBI in a professional and appropriate manner.”

James Lomax, director of leasing at Redstone Gateway, still sees a lot of customers “overdressing” or “dressing up” when they come into his offices adjacent to the Arsenal.

“It is a novel difference from working from home in their comfort clothes,” he said.

Lomax still considers business dress the norm, but envisions possible changes in the future as people adapt to a return to in-person work.

Kaylene Hughes, historian for the Aviation and Missile Command, is literally the only person in her office, so there’s no one to dress up for.

But even before the pandemic, Hughes said, her work “wasn’t conducive to wearing dresses and heels daily.”

“We have to move boxes and handle old documents that can get messy,” she said. “So my style of work attire has always been governed by ‘practical’ considerations first and foremost.”

While she isn’t usually in something as casual as jeans and T-shirts, Hughes wears simple blouses and pants regularly.

“I still pass other people in the hallways who are dressed in the more accustomed office-professional style of clothing,” she said, “although ‘comfort over style’ is well-represented.”

Amelia Hice, public affairs specialist at the Garrison, worked in-person at the office through “nearly the entire pandemic,” but people at work were “few and far between,” she said.

“Since there were so few people working in person, jeans and high-end leggings replaced slacks and dresses,” said Hice, adding that she “prefers the new aesthetic” and a non-existent dry-cleaning bill.

“I only put on a suit or dress when I meet with senior officials,” she said. “Otherwise, ‘hello Levis.’”



# Hidden voice comforts Soldier in midst of firefight

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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Huntsville native Don Patton recalls how an unfortunate incident changed his life's path.

In 1969 he was a private in advanced individual training at Redstone for his missile specialty. He had orders to Europe but got sent to Vietnam instead for participating in a brawl involving Soldiers and Marines.

"I guess I'm always standing up for the little guy," he said.

Patton was 19 when he arrived in Vietnam in September 1969. He became a private first class and a supply clerk with the 101st Airborne Division at Camp Eagle near Hue.

"They stuck me in the supply room and I had to do on-the-job training to do my job by reading the technical manuals," he said. "Self-taught by reading those books. I had never seen a supply room. I had never been to quartermaster school where they train people for that."

He became so proficient that the leadership put him in charge of all the supply areas for the various companies.

But by night he and the other Soldiers went to the field for ambush patrol.

"I've been in some firefights," Patton said. "In fact I've been in a position where I witnessed grown folks cry."

His most intense firefight occurred 45 days before the scheduled end of his yearlong tour. The night of July 15, 1970, on an upper perch outside of Hue, the Soldiers were making a perimeter when they were attacked by a North Vietnam army unit. They returned fire but were being overrun.

"The lieutenant who was leading us, he panicked and started biting on his fingernails," Patton said. "I was trying to convince him we were going to be OK."

The lieutenant jumped up and fired a M79 grenade launcher. The round ricocheted and bounced back into Patton's foxhole.

"By the grace of God it didn't go off or else I wouldn't be here," Patton said. "That's the only way I can explain that one."

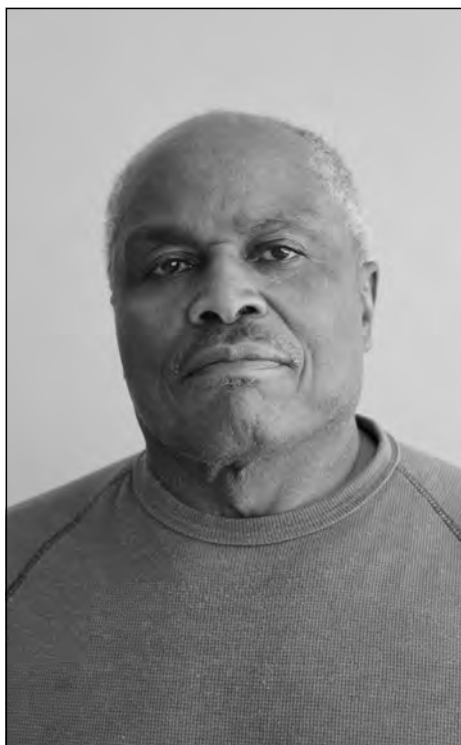


Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Don Patton, of Huntsville, served in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne Division in 1969-70.**

## Vietnam revisited *Part 353 in series*

"And believe it or not, I heard a voice that said 'You're not going to die before your time.' I heard a (male) voice and I wasn't religious or anything. And after that, I wasn't anymore afraid than I am sitting here right now. It calmed my fear. And as a result, I tried to calm the fear of the lieutenant that led us out there because he was panicking and biting his fingers."

The Soldiers called for air support. A helicopter swooped in and sprayed the area with bullets, avoiding where the troops fired up smoke to show their location. When the helicopter crew told them they could leave, they crawled under the gunfire to safety. They returned to get a body count of the many enemy dead. Miraculously the Soldiers themselves didn't have any wounded or killed that night.

"After hearing that voice, I didn't fear



Courtesy graphic

**After three years in uniform, Sgt. Don Patton left the Army and went to college. He received a bachelor's in accounting and business from Alabama A&M University in 1978.**

anything from that time on when I was in Vietnam," Patton said. "Didn't have any fear."

He recalled racial tensions between the white Soldiers and the black Soldiers which included himself. He received a Bronze Star, an Army Commendation Medal and other awards. When he landed in Seattle, Washington, in September 1970, he saw war protesters calling the troops "baby killers" and spitting at them.

After three years in uniform, Patton left the Army in 1972 as a sergeant. He attended Auburn University from 1972-75 and he received his bachelor's in accounting and business from Alabama A&M University in 1978. The Huntsville resident worked for a while at Dunlop Tires before owning a mortgage company and retiring.

He and his wife of 34 years, Carol, have a combined three children – two sons and a daughter. He enjoys working with cars and traveling. A member of the Vietnam Veterans of America, he has a 60% disability rating from Veterans Affairs.

Patton, 71, shared his thoughts on this nation's commemoration of 50 years since the Vietnam War.

"To me, the United States does not appreciate the sacrifices that black Americans have made and are making to the freedom of this country," he said. "Every freedom that we enjoy, black Americans have contributed to the preservation of it."

*Editor's note: This is the 353rd in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.*

## Federal

# Meyer named Marshall's associate director

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Rae Ann Meyer has been named associate director of Marshall Space Flight Center.

Meyer will lead development of the center's business operations, guide daily business decisions, and oversee center operational policy and processes. In addition, she will be a senior adviser in advancing the direction of the center's future.

Meyer will help manage the center's 7,000 on- and near-site civil service and contract employees and help oversee an annual budget of approximately \$3.6 billion. Meyer will provide executive leadership across Marshall's mission support areas as well as the center's diverse portfolio of human spaceflight, science, and technology efforts, which touch nearly every mission NASA pursues.

"With more than two decades of government operations and management experience, Rae Ann is well prepared for her new position on the center's leadership team," Marshall Director Jody Singer said. "The leadership skills she has displayed while working with Marshall's Science and Technology Office and other NASA programs has been, and will continue to be, invaluable to Marshall and the nation's space exploration efforts."

The Chattanooga native most recently served as deputy manager of Marshall's Science and Technology Office. Named to the Senior Executive Service position in May 2019, she assisted in leading the organization responsible for planning, developing, and executing a broad range of science and technology investigations, programs, projects, and activities in support of NASA's science, technology, and exploration goals. Meyer helped oversee an annual budget of more than \$475 million and managed a diverse, highly technical workforce of approximately 300 civil service and contractor employees.

The Senior Executive Service is the personnel system covering top managerial positions in federal agencies.

Among Meyer's other roles over the years, she was manager of Marshall's Science and Technology Partnerships and Formulation Office from 2017-19, worked a detail as technical adviser in 2016 for the Office of Strategy and Plans at NASA headquarters, and was chief of key Engineering Directorate structure and flight analysis divisions at Marshall from 2007-17.

Meyer was manager of the Constellation Support Office from 2006-07 – roles supporting launch vehicle development that would inform and directly contribute to NASA's Space Launch System, its next flagship rocket to the Moon and Mars. She led Marshall's In-Space Propulsion Technology Office from 2004-06 and was assistant manager of the Space Transfer Technology Project from 2000-02, managing in-space technology program funding at NASA centers nationwide.

Meyer began her NASA career in 1989 as a control mechanisms engineer in Marshall's Propulsion Laboratory.

Among her achievements and awards, Meyer received a NASA Silver Achievement Medal in 2019; the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal in 2012 for leading development of strategies for pursuing new program/project opportunities; a NASA Certificate of Appreciation in 2001 for leading formulation efforts to augment in-space propulsion technology budgets across NASA; and Marshall Director's Commendations in 2004 and 2009, honoring her work on advanced technology development efforts supporting future science missions and major product development for the Ares Project Preliminary Design Review, respectively.

She earned a bachelor's in electrical engineering from the University of Tennessee in 1989. Meyer, her husband, David, also a Marshall employee, and their children reside in Madison.



Rae Ann Meyer

# Clark becomes deputy director of space systems

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Tony Lee Clark has been named deputy director of the Space Systems Department at Marshall Space Flight Center.

Clark will help lead the design, development, testing, and delivery of flight, ground, prototype, and development products for NASA human spaceflight programs, science investigations, and exploration initiatives. He will aid in the oversight of an annual budget of approximately \$70 million and help manage a diverse, highly technical workforce of

approximately 660 civil service employees and contractors.

Previously, he was manager of the vehicle equipment area of Johnson Space Center's Vehicle Systems Integration Office of the Gateway Program – NASA's ambitious lunar outpost intended to support long-term human missions to the Moon's surface and provide a staging point for deep space exploration – from 2018-21. Clark led vehicle equipment budget activities and evaluation of proposals for new Gateway projects. He also was the primary interface with the Canadian Space

Agency for the development and delivery of common equipment and with the European Space Agency for the exchange of hardware and software plans and schedules.

Over his three decades at NASA, Clark has held numerous leadership roles, bringing a wealth of technical and supervisory experience to Marshall engineering endeavors. He was manager of the Engineering Resource Management Office in Marshall's Engineering Directorate from 2014-18, tasked with leading and coordinating resources among eight engineering departments, laboratories, and offices staffed by more than 2,300 civil service and contract personnel.

In 2014, he also was acting deputy manager of the Engineering Directorate's Spacecraft & Vehicle Systems Department. From 2007-14, he was chief of the directorate's Electrical Integration and Fabrication Division, and from 2004-07 was chief of the Electromagnetic Environmental Effect and Electrical Integration Branch. He joined Marshall in 1991 as an electromagnetic environmental effects engineer.

Clark received a bachelor's in electrical engineering from Tennessee Tech in 1989 and earned a master's in electrical engineering from Ohio State in 1991.

Among his many professional honors, Clark received the NASA Exceptional



**Tony Lee Clark**

Achievement Medal in 2010 for his work on the Ares IX, the launch vehicle which informed development of NASA's new rocket, the Space Launch System. He also received a Silver Snoopy award in 1999, presented by NASA's astronaut corps for outstanding service reflecting the highest dedication to safe human spaceflight.

Clark was a founding member in 2004 of the Huntsville Chapter of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers' Electromagnetic Compatibility Society. He lives in Huntsville with his wife, Jeanie. They have one child.



# NASA X-ray mission begins science operations

By NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

NASA's newest X-ray eyes are open and ready for discovery.

Having spent just over a month in space, the Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer is working and already zeroing in on some of the hottest, most energetic objects in the universe.

A joint effort between NASA and the Italian Space Agency, IXPE is the first space observatory dedicated to studying the polarization of X-rays coming from objects like exploded stars and black holes. Polarization describes how the X-ray light is oriented as it travels through space.

"The start of IXPE's science observations marks a new chapter for X-ray astronomy," Martin Weisskopf, the mission's principal investigator at Marshall Space Flight Center, said. "One thing is certain: We can expect the unexpected."

IXPE launched Dec. 9 on a Falcon 9 rocket into orbit 370 miles above Earth's equator. The observatory's boom, which provides the distance needed to focus X-rays onto its detectors, was deployed successfully Dec. 15. The IXPE team spent the next three weeks checking out the observatory's maneuvering and pointing abilities and aligning the telescopes.

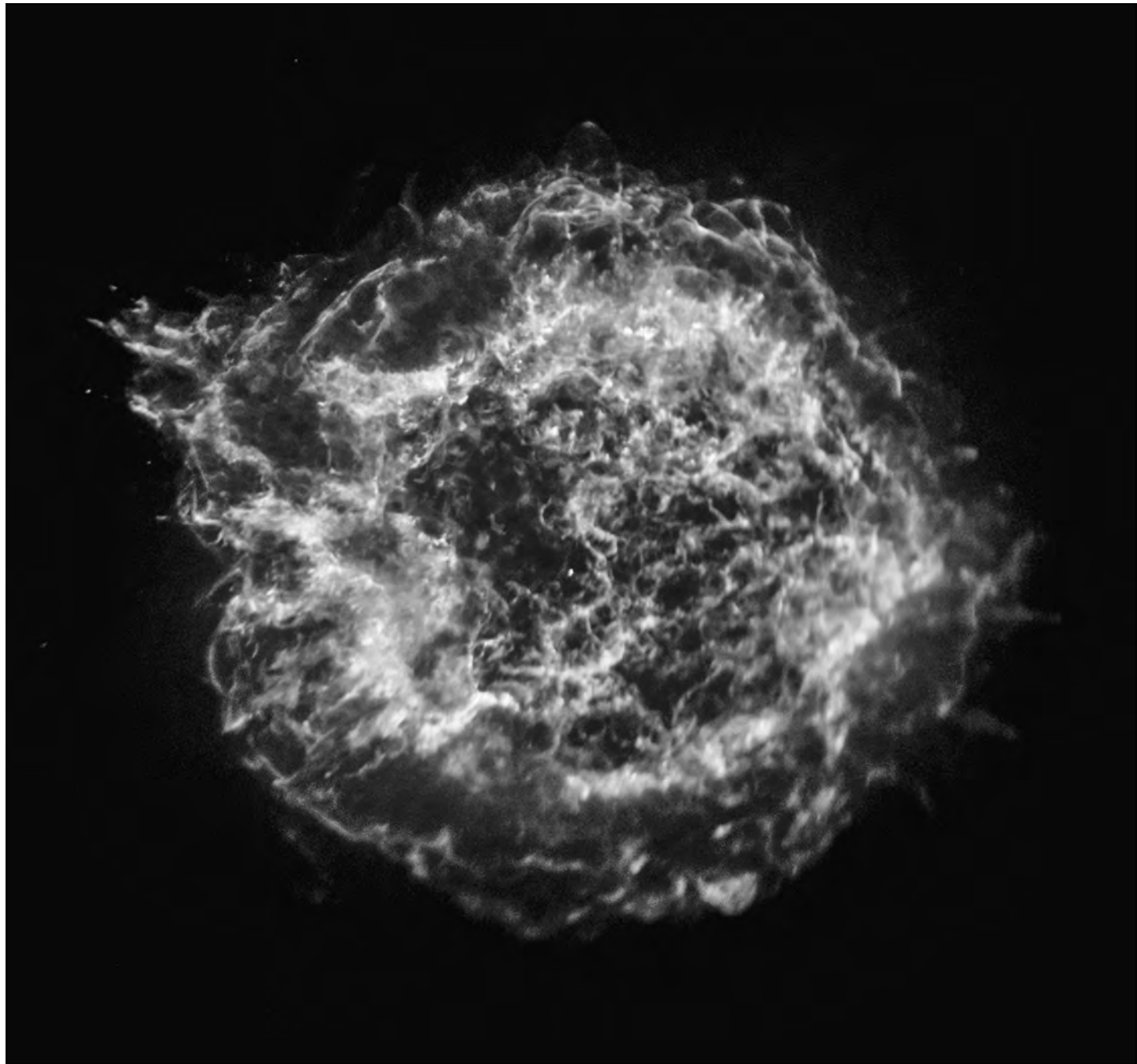
Over the course of these tests, the team pointed IXPE at two bright calibration targets: 1ES 1959+650, a black hole-powered galaxy core with jets shooting into space; and SMC X-1, a spinning dead star, or pulsar. The brightness of these two sources made it easy for the IXPE team see where X-rays are falling on IXPE's polarization-sensitive detectors and make small adjustments to the telescopes' alignment.

On Jan. 11, IXPE began observing its first official scientific target – Cassiopeia A, or Cas A – the remains of a massive star that blew itself apart in a supernova around 350 years ago in the Milky Way galaxy. Supernovae are filled with magnetic energy and accelerate particles to near light-speed, making them laboratories for studying extreme physics in space.

IXPE will provide details about Cas A's magnetic field structure that can't be observed in other ways. By studying the X-ray polarization, scientists can work out the detailed structure of its magnetic field and the sites where these particles pick up speed.

IXPE's observations of Cas A will last about three weeks.

"Measuring X-ray polarization is not easy," Weisskopf said. "You have to collect a lot of light, and the unpolarized light acts like background noise. It can take a while to detect a polarized signal."



**An image reveals remains of Cassiopeia A, a massive star that blew itself apart in a supernova around 350 years ago in the Milky Way galaxy.**

NASA Photo

IXPE transmits scientific data several times a day to a ground station operated by the Italian Space Agency in Malindi, Kenya. The data flows from the Malindi station to IXPE's Mission Operations Center at the University of Colorado Boulder's Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics and then to IXPE's Science Operations Center at Marshall for processing and analysis. IXPE's scientific data will be publicly available from the High Energy Astrophysics Sci-

ence Research Center at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

The Marshall science operations team also coordinates with the mission operations team at the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics to schedule science observations. The mission plans to observe more than 30 planned targets during its first year. The mission will study distant supermassive black holes with energetic particle jets that light up their host galaxies. IXPE will also probe

the twisted space-time around stellar-mass black holes and measure their spin. Other planned targets include different types of neutron stars, such as pulsars and magnetars. The science team has also reserved about a month to observe other interesting objects that may appear in the sky or brighten unexpectedly.

IXPE has partners and science collaborators in 12 countries. Ball Aerospace, headquartered in Broomfield, Colorado, manages spacecraft operations.



## Sports

## Curling catches on in local sports community



Photo by Bud McLaughlin

A student watches as her stone slides along the ice toward “home.”

By BUD McLAUGHLIN

Staff writer

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Curling frenzy is sweeping the world – it is the most popular Winter Olympic sport – and the Rocket City has not been left out in the cold.

With 300 members, the 4-year-old Rocket City Curling Club – the first and only curling club in the state – is growing at a phenomenal pace and recently passed the 1,000-student mark for its “Learn to Curl” classes.

The sport has become one of the most-viewed events in the Winter Olympics and is expecting a larger audience for next month’s Winter Games in Beijing. The U.S. men’s team won the gold medal in the 2018 Games in PyeongChang, South Korea.

“It really boomed in 2018,” Shane Stewart, president of the local curling club, said. “We’re going to have watch parties around the Winter Olympics next month.”

Riding the sport’s popularity, the Huntsville Ice Sports Center bought stones and brooms after the 2018 Games to begin curling here, Stewart said.

“They put it out on social media and with people at the (Ice Sports Center),” he said. “Within three weeks, we had 300 people who were interested.”

Curling reportedly originated in the frozen marshes of Scotland in the 1500s and is similar to shuffleboard. There are four players to a team and they slide 42-pound stones along a sheet of ice that is a little shorter than a standard hockey surface.

Before the matches, the ice surface is sprayed with water to create “pebbles”



Photo by Bud McLaughlin

**Rocket City Curling Club President Shane Stewart goes over the rules and safety procedures before the Learn to Curl class: “Don’t do anything to hurt yourself” and “Do as I say, not as I do.”**

which enable the stones to slide and “curl.” “A stone won’t slide on regular ice,” said Stewart, a former UAH and minor league hockey player. “The pebbles help reduce the friction and make it slide.”

Brooms are used to brush the pebbles to further help curl the stones toward a target of painted concentric circles called the house, where points are scored.

The Rocket City club has leagues three or four times a year and offers Learn to Curl classes throughout the year. The club also furnishes brooms, stones and gripper soles.

“People don’t have to go out and buy

equipment just to try the sport out,” Stewart said.

For those who want to get serious, he said, equipment is available online and “a guy from Connecticut comes down twice a year with equipment for sale.”

Despite being just four years old, the Rocket City Curling Club has sent teams to national competitions in Boston and Pittsburgh and is hosting a national qualifying event in April: The Space Race Bonspiel (curling tournament). It is a 5-and-under competition (for curlers with five or fewer years of experience) on April 1-3 and is a qualifier for USA Curling’s 5-and-Under National Championship in San Diego.

For information, visit [rocketcitycurlingclub.org](http://rocketcitycurlingclub.org).

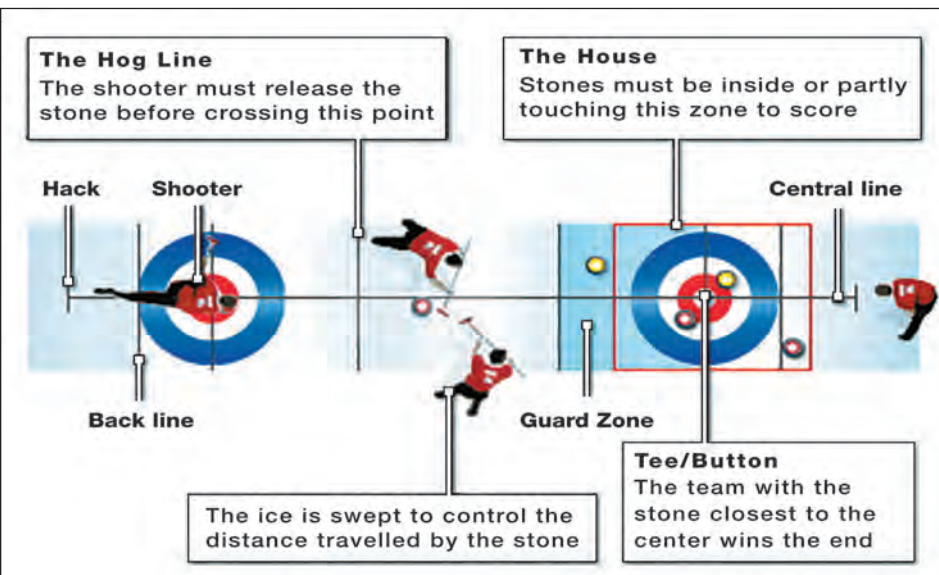


Photo by Bud McLaughlin

**Students practice their sweeping during the Curling 101 class.**



Photo by Bud McLaughlin

**The tools of the trade: brooms and 42-pound granite stones**

# 6U Redstone team steals away with win over Northern

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

*Rocket editor*

*skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com*

Khalil Jones stole the ball, dribbled the length of the court and made a layup.

Then he did it again.

The point guard finished with 12 points, six steals and six rebounds as his 6-and-under Redstone team beat Northern 18-5 on Jan. 12 at the Youth Center.

"I practiced," Jones said.

Redstone (2-0) led 4-2 at halftime before Jones scored all eight of the team's third-quarter points.

"It was the best," he said of the game.

Beau Daniel added six points, five steals, eight rebounds and two assists. Redstone outscored Northern 14-3 in the second half.

"They played hard, and defense," Redstone coach Darelle Jones said.

Northern (0-1) had just five players.

"We needed subs," Northern coach Alexis Crutcher said. "They were tired. We only played with five players. They were tired."



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Redstone's Beau Daniel brings the ball up court against Northern.**



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Khalil Jones shows his shooting touch with 12 points for Redstone.**

# Hooked on drama of athletic competition

This was must-watch TV. Georgia vs. Alabama for the national championship. As an Auburn alum, I didn't have a dog in the fight – literally – but I rooted for the Crimson Tide because I picked them to win. The game Jan. 10 lived up to the billing. The Bulldogs defense prevailed as Georgia won 33-18. It was a great ending for the col-

lege football year. Fortunately, we avid sports fans followed up with a tasty desert of NFL playoff games.

After football we can turn our full attention to college basketball and the NBA. And don't forget the Winter Olympics from Feb. 4-20 in Beijing.

I love being a year-round sports fan. Occasionally I reminisce about watch-

ing the Wide World of Sports that aired on ABC from 1961-98 while I was a kid growing up in Philadelphia.

"Spanning the globe to bring you the constant variety of sports," announcer Jim McKay said in the classic intro. "The thrill of victory ... and the agony of defeat ... the human drama of athletic competition ... This is ABC's Wide World of Sports!"

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## From the sidelines

**By Skip Vaughn**  
Rocket editor

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Sports will always offer the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.



# Your glory days in sports

By **SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

[skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com)

*How do you stay in shape?*

“Every other day, I try to go to the gym and I do cardio every single time,” Sgt. Jennifer Jean, communications NCO on the Space and Missile Defense Command commanding general’s communications team, said. “I never skip cardio. I run, I jog, I go hiking. And depending on the weather, I’ll do at home jump rope. Besides that motivation, in the Army I have to stay in shape for the ACFT (Army Combat Fitness Test). Besides cardio, I do abdominal workouts and I do a lot of back and shoulders and then a lot of at home activities such as sit-ups and weights. I’ve been working out for about six months. It has given me a purpose to work harder on myself physically and mentally.”

Jean, 25, from Miami, Florida, arrived at Redstone in November 2020 from South Korea. She joined the Army in November 2016. The Huntsville resident enjoys hiking, going on road trips with her friends and listening to podcasts. She roots for the Miami teams – the Heat, the Dolphins and the Hurricanes.



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Sgt. Jennifer Jean uses the treadmill at Pagano Gym.**



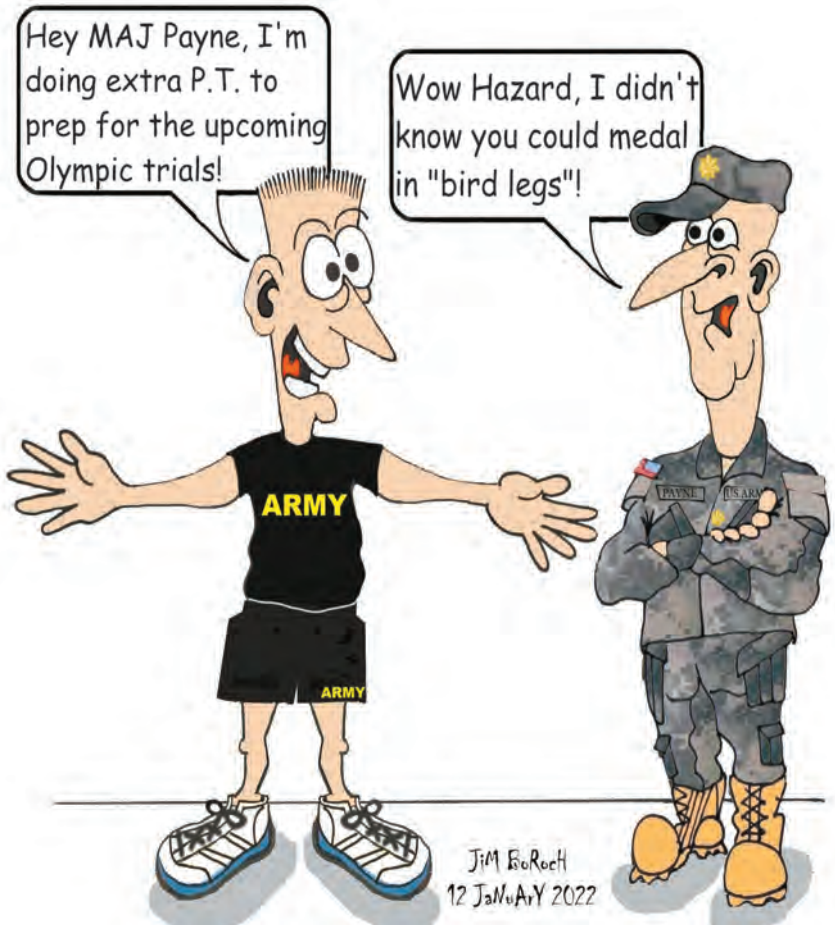
# By the numbers: My favorite David Bowie songs

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

[skip.v Vaughn@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:skip.v Vaughn@theredstonerocket.com)

1. Space Oddity
2. Changes
3. Under Pressure
4. Fame
5. Golden Years
6. Let's Dance
7. China Girl
8. Suffragette City
9. Young Americans
10. Starman
11. Ziggy Stardust



## Sports&Recreation

### Senior softball

Get into the swing of senior slow-pitch softball. They have three leagues beginning with the Rockets League for those 55 and older, the Recreation League for those 63 and older, and the Triads for 71 and up. All games will be played at Brahan Springs Park, fields 1 and 2. Practices will begin in late March, and their seasons will begin in late April. They play two games a week, ending around Labor Day. Players are needed. For information email Huntsville-srsoftball-info@googlegroups.com or call Becky Rollston of the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center at 880-7081.

## Conferences&Meetings

### Sergeants major association

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

### Warrant officer association

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

### Veterans of foreign 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](http://www.vietvethsv.org).

## MiscellaneousItems

### Men's ministry

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

# 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](http://mystar991.com) or call Kenny Anderson 883-3993.

### ACS volunteers needed

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

### Lifesaving class for Redstone

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

### Merit award scholarships

The Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club will award educational merit awards in 2022 to eligible students who are affiliated with and acting as contributing members of the Redstone military and government civilian community. There are two types of scholarships to apply for this year: RSAMCC Merit Award, for members of the club and their dependents; and the Military Community Scholarship, where applicants do not need to be a member of the club. More information and the online application form can be found on the RSAMCC webpage, [www.rsamcc.org/merit-awards](http://www.rsamcc.org/merit-awards). The deadline to apply is midnight Feb. 27. For information email [rsamccmeritawards@gmail.com](mailto:rsamccmeritawards@gmail.com). RSAMCC is a 501c private organization not affiliated with Redstone Arsenal or the Army.

### Tax assistance center

Aviation and Missile Command's Commander Maj. Gen. Todd Royar took a moment to meet with and thank the volunteers who will be manning this year's Redstone Arsenal Tax Center. The tax assistance center will be open from Jan. 24 to April 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, building 3439 on Honest John Road. Services are provided to the military community on a first-come, first-served basis, no appointments. Bring all tax documents, previous year's tax return, and completed intake form.

### Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department has released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for Jan. 3-7. The highest scores included Publix Super Market 1218 (Seafood), 5830 Highway 53, Harvest, 100; Publix Super Market 1218 (Meat), 5830 Highway 53, Harvest, 100; Oumi Sushi at Sprout's 481, 7504 U.S. Highway 72 West, Madison, 100; Whole Foods Market (Bakery), 2501 Memorial Parkway, 100; Dallas Mill Express mobile unit, 500 Pratt Ave. NW, 100; Publix Super Market 573 (Seafood), 6707 Highway 431 South, Owens Cross Roads, 100; and Publix Super Market 573 (Meat), 6707 Highway 431 South, Owens Cross Roads, 100. The lowest scores included Thanh Hung Asian Market, 8760 Madison Boulevard, Madison, 79; and Little Libby's Catfish, 234 Lime Quarry Road, Madison, 72.