

# RedstoneRocket

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## State salutes service members, veterans and families



Photo by Megan Gully

**Redstone Senior Commander Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker and Alabama Rep. Howard Sanderford join Gov. Kay Ivey as she declares Feb. 24 “Military Appreciation Day” in Alabama.**

**By MEGAN GULLY**

*Army Materiel Command Public Affairs*

**MONTGOMERY** – An Alabama native and military officer thanked the state’s leadership for their support to the Armed Forces, veterans and families.

Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker, deputy commanding general to Army Materiel Command and Redstone Arsenal senior commander, accepted the state’s Military Appreciation Day Proclamation and spoke to the Alabama Legislature during a Joint Session, Thursday.

“I am so proud to be here, representing all our service members, veterans and families as Alabama once again pledges its support to our military,” Walker said on how Alabama is known across the nation as a military-friendly state. “I stand

here today as proof of that legacy.”

The son of an Army veteran and an Army civilian, Walker grew up in Lineville and said that Clay County is known as the county that produces volunteers.

“What makes this state so special is that it is not one family, one county or one region of the state that raises their right hand in defense of our nation, it is the whole state,” he said about the approximately 26,000 Alabamians serving in the military and the more than 377,000 veterans living in the state.

Alabama hosts five military installations across the state including Redstone Arsenal, Anniston Army Depot, Fort Rucker, Maxwell Air Force Base and the Coast Guard Aviation Training Center in Mobile.

“The best part of our story is the story

of our people, those who currently wear the uniform, veterans, retirees, Department of Defense civilians and contractors, and their families,” he said. “Our people demonstrate the best qualities of this nation. They give their time, energy and brainpower to every mission they face and they are what make Alabama truly exceptional.”

While in Montgomery, Walker met with key Alabama lawmakers, members of the Military Stability Foundation and Alabama National Guard Assistant Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Jerry Martin.

Prior to the joint session, the Alabama House of Representatives passed several military-friendly bills focused on improving quality of life for military

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### MILITARY

Modernization summit showcases technology.

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### COMMUNITY

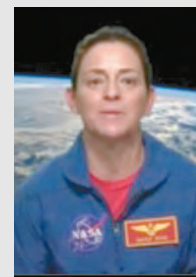
National Guard band plans concert tour.

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### FEDERAL

Astronaut emphasizes need for teamwork.

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### SPORTS

Senior softball seeks parity among teams.

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## RocketViews

## See the humanity behind America's Soldiers

I'd like to bring your attention to a couple of video projects the Rocket wrapped up this week.

I know. You're thinking, "I'm not here for your shameless plugs." I get it, but stick with me. I have a point.

The first one I want to talk about is a video we released for Black History Month that featured three Soldiers talking about race, inclusion and diversity in today's Army. More importantly, these three individuals were open and honest about some of the challenges they've had to face in life to get where they are today.

Without a doubt, each of them is an inspiration.

The second project was a series of videos of Soldiers and civilians reading children's books for the upcoming Read Across America event.

These videos will be distributed in several ways to all of the local schools.

### Snippets

By Jonathan Stinson  
Assistant editor

This is the second year the Rocket has participated in this event. Prior to the recent pandemic, these events had been held in person and the participants were able to interact directly with the children they read to. The virtual option can't replace that in-person interaction, but it still provides the kids with a chance to see different people from different backgrounds who are all doing their part in serving our country. It especially provides a different view of those in uniform and has the potential of leaving a positive impression on our

most impressionable.

I mean it's hard to project an intimidating demeanor when you're reading "Green Eggs and Ham" by Dr. Seuss.

With the events that unfolded in Ukraine last week, the people involved in both of these projects jumped to the front of my mind.

I recalled how many of those in uniform talked about reading to their kids. There were even a couple who participated because they were practicing in anticipation of their first child.

I thought about the reasons the Soldiers in the Black History Month video gave for not just joining the Army but staying in the Army.

Reasons like the Army was the best opportunity for them to get out of where they were and build a life for themselves or the Army was one place where they thought they would be treated fairly and

given an opportunity to reach for their dreams.

Projects like these are important because when the explosions start halfway around the world and you turn on your TV to see a bunch of nameless faces all wearing the same uniform, it's easy to forget there are people in that uniform.

Society today is probably more desensitized to violence than previous generations. I'm not sure if it's because there's more violence and bloodshed or if it's just because we have a front row seat to more of what happens thanks to 24-hour news and social media.

The more we can show the humanity behind our Soldiers, I hope the more people will understand the sacrifices they're asked to make and appreciate it just a little more.

## Quote of the week

"It's in your hands to make the world a better place. Go out and do it. God bless you."

— Dikembe Mutombo  
At the NBA Legends awards show during All-Star weekend in Cleveland

## Send your letters to editor

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

## On this date in history: March 2

**In 2012:** A tornado outbreak occurred over a large section of the Southern United States and into the Ohio Valley region, resulting in 40 tornado-related fatalities.

**In 2002:** The U.S. invasion of Afghanistan, Operation Anaconda, began. It culminated March 19 after killing 500 Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters, with 11 Western troop deaths.

**In 1983:** Compact discs and players were released for the first time in the United States and other markets. They had previously been available only in Japan.

**In 1836:** The Declaration of independence of the Republic of Texas from Mexico was adopted.

## RedstoneRocket

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# First responder spotlight

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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## What is the best part of your job?

"To be able to make a difference in the lives of other people in a way that's immediately observable and rewarding," Nick DeWeese, firefighter at Station 4 at the Airfield, said.

DeWeese, 40, from Hazel Green, has been a Redstone firefighter since 2005. The Taft, Tennessee, resident has two sons and a daughter, ranging in age from 3 to 13. His hobbies including playing music, running and working out. He said he plays the guitar, banjo and "a little bit of mandolin." DeWeese roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Nick DeWeese

## Crimes, accidents & other occurrences

The Directorate of Emergency Services, Law Enforcement Division, provided the following list of reported incidents Feb. 13-19:

**Feb. 13:** Redstone police responded to Gate 9 for a possible driver under the influence. Once contact was made, they noticed the driver was speaking incoherently and moving around erratically. The individual voluntarily admitted to ingesting illegal drugs within the past six hours which police believed made the driver unfit to operate a motor vehicle. Due to the driver's condition, the field sobriety tests were not performed. The driver was apprehended and transported to the police station and while there the Redstone Fire Department was notified and responded to evaluate and administer medical treatment. The driver was transported by Huntsville Emergency Medical Services Inc. to Huntsville Hospital and was admitted for treatment. The individual received citations for DUI and for driving with a suspended license and released to the care of Huntsville Hospital. The vehicle was towed away by a local wrecker service.

**Feb. 14:** Redstone police received a tip about an individual working on the installation with an active arrest warrant. The National Crime Information Center confirmed the individual had a warrant with the Huntsville Police Department for failure to appear on a charge of driving while suspended. Police apprehended the individual on the warrant. The individual was later released to a Huntsville

police officer.

**Feb. 16:** A vehicle was stopped at Gate 9 for speeding. The National Crime Information Center revealed the driver had a suspended license. The driver and passengers gave conflicting accounts of why they were in the area. There was a strong odor of cigars, a known coverup for marijuana use, in the vehicle. When requested, the driver gave consent to search the vehicle resulting in two extra-large heat-sealed bags of marijuana and a 3-ounce container of THC wax with a vaporizing pen; and the passenger relinquished a small Ziploc bag of marijuana. The total combined weight of the marijuana was 2.5 pounds. The driver and two passengers were detained and the Huntsville Strategic Counterdrug Team was notified and responded. Due to the quantities of marijuana, the investigation was relinquished to STAC. The driver and one of the passengers were transported by STAC officers to the Madison County Jail for processing. The vehicle was removed by the other passenger.

**Feb. 17:** The driver of a government vehicle told Redstone police about a parking lot accident which occurred earlier in the day. While attempting to turn into a gated area of a building, the vehicle struck a fence post and had minor damages.

Citations included one for driving left of the center line, three for failure to obey traffic control device, one for use of cell phone while driving, five for expired registration and 23 for speeding.

# Tell us about ...

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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## Your military career.

"I attempted college but I joined the Army in 1990 as air defense artillery," Bobby Rumsey, a retired sergeant first class, said. "Did two and a half years, got out. Within six months, I was missing the Army and within a year I was back in. In October 1993 I came here to Redstone Arsenal to reclass to be an ammunition specialist. I did 18 more years to 2011. I did a total of 20 years, one month and seven days. I did Desert Storm in air defense artillery in 1991. I've been to Afghanistan once (in 2002) and Iraq twice (from 2005-06 and 2008-09). I loved my entire time in the military. The camaraderie, the brotherhood. It taught me to have a large world view, and our impact on the world today. And not necessarily as an Army but our impact as people, the effect we have on the world. I retired in 2011 as a sergeant first class."

Rumsey, 50, from Rosalia, Kansas, is a real estate agent with Century 21 Power Homes. The Owens Cross Roads resident has three grown children – two sons and a daughter. He enjoys hunting, fishing and reading. Rumsey roots for the Alabama Crimson Tide.



Bobby Rumsey



Courtesy photo

## Service commended

On Thursday, Garrison Commander Col. Glenn Mellor presents the Civilian Service Commendation Medal to Brady Gallagher. This was in recognition of Gallagher's exceptional work while assigned as the Garrison supervisory strategic planning specialist from October 2020 through this month. His unwavering commitment was instrumental in mission accomplishments of the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.



# Know your laws: Filing patents overseas

By ANN DENNEN

Huntsville lawyer

My previous articles have discussed filing for patent protection in the United States with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. However, oftentimes patent applicants desire to seek patent protection in foreign jurisdictions.

One option in seeking protection in foreign jurisdictions is to use the Patent Cooperation Treaty international application system. The PCT system is an efficient and cost-effective way for patent applicants to seek multinational patent protection in over 150 contracting states (jurisdictions).

A PCT patent application must be filed within 12 months of the earliest effective filing date of the United States patent application. In this regard, if a United States patent application claims priority to a provisional patent application, the PCT application must be filed within 12 months of the provisional patent filing date. If no provisional was filed, the PCT application must be filed within 12 months of the nonprovisional patent filing date. Once the PCT application is filed, the applicant is given 30 months to file in foreign jurisdictions. One upside to this method of filing in foreign jurisdictions is that it provides applicants time to decide in what countries it would be

beneficial to have a patent application.

The patent application is filed with the U.S. Patent Office at month zero. This establishes the first effective filing date. At month 12 from the first effective filing date, an international application is filed with the Patent Cooperation Treaty receiving office claiming priority to the patent application filed at month zero. At 16 months, the receiving office issues an international search report and written opinion. The ISR and the written opinion can provide insight into the international patentability of the subject matter of the invention disclosed in the international Application. At eighteen months, the International Application is published, along with the ISR and written opinion. Optionally, Applicant can request a supplementary international search and/or file a demand for international preliminary examination of the international patent. If applicant requested a supplementary international search and/or a demand for international preliminary examination, the international preliminary report on patentability and the supplementary international search report are transmitted. At month 30, applicant must choose which international jurisdictions in which applicant desires to seek patent protection. Each country selected performs its own examination of patentability.

An applicant also has the option to file a patent application in a foreign jurisdiction directly. This option allows an application to enter the examination process faster than the PCT route. For example, an applicant may choose to file an application in a country or region (e.g., the European Patent Office) where



the company will first commercialize or where the examination process is typically easier and/or shorter so they can have a granted patent faster. This may be helpful for an emerging company's fundraising activities. Also, there are jurisdictions (e.g., Taiwan, Argentina) that are not covered by the PCT, and an applicant must file their application in those jurisdictions directly if applicant desires patent protection in these jurisdictions. If needed, an applicant may also choose to file a PCT application and in certain jurisdictions directly in parallel.

*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.*

## Getting to know you

By TIM HANSON

Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

**Name:** Savannah Taylor**Position:** Columbia country program manager, Security Assistance Command**What do you like best—or are looking forward to—about the career field you're in?**

I'm most looking forward to working with our international partners, being exposed to different cultures and building new relationships

**How did you end up in this career field? Or why did you want to be in this career field?**

I grew up an Army brat which gave me an extreme amount of reverence and patriotism for our country. I hope through my position I can help make the U.S. Army's allies and partners more equipped and capable.

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

Like most kids, I love animals so I wanted to be a veterinarian.

**What do you hope to accomplish in 2022?**

This year I hope to become confident in foreign military sales case management for my position, as well as build friendships with my co-workers. Personally, I hope to get involved in my church by serving

**Who is your hero, and why?**

My dad has been my hero my whole life. He served 24 years in the U.S. Army while receiving extraordinary accomplishments such as a Bronze Star medal, the Ranger tab, and senior parachutist. What was more impressive was his ability to still be present throughout my childhood, coaching every ball team I was on.

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

I would go back to Italy where I studied abroad.

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

"Today think about all that you are instead of all that you are not."

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# Military

## Modernization summit showcases new technology

By MICHELLE GORDON

*Aviation and Missile Command Public Affairs*

Subject matter experts from throughout the Army, industry and academia gathered both in person and virtually for the first Organic Industrial Base Modernization Summit Feb. 8-11 at Redstone.

Hosted by the Aviation and Missile Command Logistics Center Industrial Operations Directorate, the goal of the event was to look at how emerging technologies are being implemented at Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, and Corpus Christi Army Depot in South Texas. In addition to emerging technologies, it also provided a forum for representatives from each of the depots to share ideas and lessons learned regarding modernizing their decades-old facilities.

The summit began with an OIB modernization overview presented by Col. Richard Martin, deputy director for the Army Materiel Command OIB Modernization Task Force, who spoke more broadly about OIB modernization efforts taking place across the Army's depots, arsenals and ammunition points worldwide.

"This is an Army effort," Martin said. "It's Army Materiel Command in coordination with [the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology]."

Martin laid out the framework for the Army's 15-year modernization strategy, noting that everything he discussed was pre-decisional, as it will be briefed to the secretary of the Army later this month and ultimately go before Congress later this year.

The six areas of focus included: updating policies and regulations, redefining workloads, modernizing facilities to support the workloads, ensuring the facilities include modern technology and are agile enough to be used for multiple weapons systems, synchronizing funding, and aligning the workforce to meet the workload demands.

Of the six areas, Martin said modernizing facilities is one of the main efforts.

"If you look back at the OIB over the last several decades, much of the big infrastructure has been around since the World War II industrialization period," he said. "We've done some improvements and maintenance along the way, but this is the most significant Army modernization effort in 40 years – since the start of the Base Realignment and Closure process."

Martin described the OIB modernization plan as a once-in-a-generation opportunity and said it is critically important to implement the plan now in order to sustain the future weapons systems of tomorrow.

When discussing automation and aligning the workforce with future systems, Martin emphasized that modernization does not mean reducing the workforce or replacing them with robotics. Rather, he said it will reduce the risk to the employee.

Paul Jonas from the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University reiterated Martin's statement when he briefed the advancements WSU is pursuing as part of their partnership with the Army. He used the Joint Autonomous Repair Verification and



Photo by Michelle Gordon

**Col. Richard Martin, the deputy director for the Army Materiel Command Organic Industrial Base Modernization Task Force, provides an overview of OIB modernization efforts taking place across the Army's depots, arsenals and ammunition points worldwide Feb. 8 during the first OIB Modernization Summit.**

Inspection System as an example. The JARVIS II is a helicopter blade inspection robot that will automate some of the more risky blade inspection and repair processes at Corpus Christi.

"Once we have the digital data, there are automated processes that can minimize the risk for the employee," he said. "Robotics automation is not here to replace the employee; what we want to do is take their hands out of the process and keep their brains in it."

Jonas discussed other modernization efforts, such as additive manufacturing and the impact it can have when it comes to replicating parts for legacy Army systems. In 2018 WSU was able to scan and replicate non-structural parts for Army aircraft with 3D printing within 35 days from planning to completion – a process that could be extremely beneficial in an uncertain environment with supply chain disruptions.

The OIB Modernization Summit also included briefings from industry partners about an emerging technology which would allow depot artisans to remain

working while also interfacing with experts and radio-frequency identification, which is currently being used to track parts and could eventually be used to eliminate the need for paper copies of property books.

Tom Ray was one of the champions for the summit. He serves as the director of the ALC Industrial Operations Directorate and frequently travels to the depots. Ray said during his travels he hears about the challenges at each depot, as well as how they are solving some of those challenges. That is how the idea for an OIB summit started – as a forum for the depots to get together, share best practices and also hear about emerging technology from partners in both industry and academia.

"Our artisans at Letterkenny (Army Depot) can take a circuit from the 1980s or 1990s and bring it back to 100% reliable, while adding on technology to bring it up to today's standards," Ray said. "At Corpus Christi (Army Depot), they take engine components that have been in service and bring it back to zero hours."

**See Modernization on page 6**

# Modernization

Continued from page 5

He described the processes at both facilities as “amazing” and said it is important for the Army to be able to sustain their own systems. He added that with new technologies coming out, they are starting to look at what sustainment of those new technologies is going to look like.

“This organic industrial base is our ability to sustain parts and repair parts, so the Army can make the decision on how long we want to sustain weapons systems,” Ray said. “However, we also want to ensure we are aligned with new weapon systems technology, so we are looking at future requirements and projecting future needs, so we are ready for future missions.”



Photo by Michelle Gordon

**A 3D model of an aircraft searchlight cover was one of the first digital twin parts created by Wichita State University as part of its partnership with the Department of Defense. The additive manufacturing process can be used to create parts that are no longer produced by the original equipment manufacturer for legacy weapons systems.**





Courtesy photo

## AUSA community partners

Maj. Gen. Robert Rasch, the program executive officer for missiles and space, gave updates Feb. 22 for community partners of the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army. From left are Todd Johnston, community partner, BDO; Rhonda Sutton, chapter president; Rasch; and Mike Bryce, vice president of community partners. The breakfast had 100 attendees.

# COVID-19 FAQs

**Question:** Do I need a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot?

**Answer:** Everyone 12 and older should get a booster shot after they have completed their COVID-19 vaccine primary series. People ages 12 to 17 years old can only get the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster shot. People ages 18 years and older should get a booster dose, and either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna (mRNA COVID-19 vaccines) are preferred. Currently, a booster shot is not recommended for children younger than 12.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



# Redstone celebrates Women's History Month

By **TERRI STOVER**

*Security Assistance Command Public Affairs*

March brings many things to celebrate, like weather getting warmer, spring break for students, and National Women's History Month.

Team Redstone will observe this monthlong celebration with a video of Lisa Jox, the assistant commander for corporate operations, Naval Supply Systems Command. She is a Senior Execu-

tive Service member at the Department of the Navy, in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania.

The Security Assistance Command is the host of the 2022 Women's History Month observance. One of the USA-SAC satellite offices is located in Pennsylvania, near the Naval Supply Systems Command. Working in collaboration with the Navy, USASAC is pleased to showcase Jox and her many accomplishments in her over 30-year career.

Jox is a leader in the Naval enterprise human capital management field. She has managed the worldwide HR operations, leading a staff of over 1,000. Other functions within the Navy included delivering Department of Navy civilian HR policies, to include implementation strategies and assessment of those policies.

Early in her career she worked at the U.S. Naval Academy in civilian HR. While at the USNA, Jox served as a key team member on special assignment assisting the standup of U.S. Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany in 2007.

This video will be made available for all of Team Redstone on March 15. Contact your Public Affairs Office for more information, or go to Security Assistance Command Facebook on March 15.

National Women's History Month is an honorary observance of March in the U.S., as designated in 1987 by Congress, in recognition of women's many accomplishments.



**Lisa Jox**

# Lease cases support Army's exportable training model

By ADRIANE ELLIOT

Security Assistance Command Public Affairs

The Army's foreign military sales process incorporates unique ways to support allies and partners while strengthening U.S. foreign policy.

Security Assistance Command manages Army FMS operations, and in addition to executing traditional FMS cases, the command executes rare, but beneficial no-cost leases.

"It's a formal agreement between two nations, much like a memorandum of understanding, laying out the parameters for the limited-time use of U.S. weapons and support equipment," said Thomas Browning, a foreign military sales case manager for the Tank and Automotive Armaments Command.

Browning, along with fellow TACOM CM Margaret Yamamoto, recently coordinated a lease case for U.S. allies Thailand and Indonesia. Both partner nations leased military weaponry and sent 200 Indonesian and Thai Soldiers to Hawaii to participate in the annual large-scale joint exercise alongside the Army's 25th Infantry Division.

The lease was logistically and financially beneficial to the allied nations, who would

normally have had to transport military weaponry and materiel to Hawaii.

"The main goal is to integrate our allies for interoperability that will prove crucial in combat operations and other real-world scenarios," Browning said. "This is nothing new. We travel to their region of the world to conduct exercises, and in this case, they are traveling to Hawaii to participate in this event."

What makes this case unique is the rarely used no-cost lease, and the fact that allied nations took part in the first-ever, exportable combat training center initiative.

Until this exercise in October 2021, about 5,000 25th ID Soldiers would travel every year from Hawaii's Schofield Barracks to the 240,000-acre Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana. In 2020, the 25th deployed over 5,000 Soldiers, nearly 350 containers, helicopters and over 1,500 vehicles to sharpen their warfighting skills at JRTC.

But Army officials noted that the combat training center located in central Louisiana is nothing like the Pacific environment where the 25th ID would fight its next fight. It was also clear that the Army could save millions of dollars if the exercise was hosted where the Soldiers reside, in this case at their home station in Hawaii, with its maritime-



25th Infantry Division photo

**Indonesian soldiers train the United States' 25th ID troops in Hawaii in October 2021. The Indonesian army, along with the Royal Thai Army, received no-cost leases for U.S. equipment to participate in the joint training exercise. They are also among the first partner nations to participate in the Army's new exportable combat training center concept.**

jungle terrain.

"We have not cut any (JRTC rotations) – two have moved to exportable," Maj. Gen. Sean Swindell, assistant deputy chief of staff, explained in a June 2021 Army release. "We recently published our Arctic strategy, and we are (also) going to come up with an

Arctic rotation in fiscal 2022."

The Army's current combat training centers are located at Fort Polk, Fort Irwin (National Training Center in California), and Hohenfels (Training Area in Germany).

# Langhout joins state's Engineering Hall of Fame

By AMY TOLSON

DEVCOM Aviation & Missile Center  
Public Affairs

Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center Director Jeff Langhout speaks of the Army values often – loyalty, duty, respect, honor, integrity, personal courage, and most importantly, selfless service.

Langhout's adherence to those values has helped him make decisions and recommendations that are in the best interest of the Army he has served since 1986. In honor of the engineering contributions and achievements he has made to the nation as a civil servant, Langhout was inducted Saturday into the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame.

"I am honored to receive this recognition and to represent the thousands of tremendous professionals that make up the AvMC," Langhout said. "This great Army organization has played such a pivotal role throughout the last 60 years to ensure the security of our nation. I have been blessed to have had a number of wonderful assignments with our Army, so many great bosses and mentors that have all poured themselves into me to help me mature and improve my leadership skills."

Founded in 1987, the State of Alabama

Engineering Hall of Fame recognizes the "outstanding accomplishments and contributions of individuals, projects, and corporations/institutions that have brought and continue to bring significant recognition to the State of Alabama." Langhout joins four AvMC alumni – Richard Amos (2010), Robin Buckelew (1995), Ronnie Chronister (2013) and William Craig (2014) in the Hall of Fame.

"To be in the same group as those great leaders is a tremendous privilege," Langhout said. "This event date is extra special, as it occurs on what would have been my dad's – a licensed professional engineer – 97th birthday. I am blessed to celebrate with my bride, Jackie, and our family, Grace, Robert and Claire, as well as some dear friends. I am grateful to Auburn University and to the committee and persons that nominated me for this award."

A longtime Huntsville resident, Langhout, as leader of the largest engineering workforce in Alabama – the DEVCOM Aviation & Missile Center – more than qualifies to be among this year's inductees, according to those who nominated him.

"Jeffrey Langhout is a national asset, and his experience and achievements in the national defense industry, as well as his commitment to his alma maters, to



Jeff Langhout

this state and to our country, make him an ideal candidate for induction to the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame," said Christopher Roberts, Auburn University president-elect and dean of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

Langhout, who aspired to be a Roadway truck driver, airline pilot or meteorologist when he was a child, has come a long way since his first job as a newspaper carrier for The Huntsville Times. With engineering degrees from both Auburn University and the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Langhout has held several key positions across multiple Army domains since becoming a civil servant.

"Perhaps most recognizable among his accomplishments are those made while chief engineer for the Chinook Helicopter program, through which he and his Team Chinook family helped save millions of taxpayer dollars and countless American lives in a time of war," according to his nomination packet.

After serving as the director of the Army's Ground Vehicle Systems Center for more than two years in Michigan, Langhout returned to Huntsville in early 2021 as the AvMC director. He is recognized as the only Army engineer to have led multiple research, development and engineering centers. As DEVCOM AvMC director, Langhout leads a work-

force comprised of almost 11,000 civilian, military and contractor engineers, scientists, researchers and support staff in delivering advanced technologies and functional engineering expertise in support of the Army's aviation and missile materiel enterprise.

"What keeps me motivated today is the same thing that motivated me to become an Army employee 30-something years ago," Langhout said. "I really do believe we can change the world. I know that sounds like a cliché, but I believe as a federal employee, you are only limited by your imagination and your tenacity. To be a part of the national security infrastructure is to be a part of something much bigger than yourself. I felt that way in 1986 and I feel that way in 2022."

He is a member of the Association of the United States Army, the Army Aviation Association of America and the Vertical Flight Society. In 2020, he earned the top recognition from the National Defense Industrial Association for his leadership on Detroit Arsenal and impact to the Michigan industrial base. Other honors include the Army's Superior Civilian Service Medal in 2021, AUSA Civilian of the Year in 2011 (finalist), the Honorable Order of St Michael (Bronze) in 2006, and Achievement Medal for Civilian Service in 2004.

He can now add 2022 Inductee to the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame to that list.

"Jeff is an outstanding engineer and leader," said Barry Pike, who retired from civilian service as director of the AvMC Technology Development Directorate in 2020. "He has made significant and lasting contributions to our nation's defense and our Army. He continues to lead and develop a preeminent workforce ensuring our Soldiers have the right equipment, training and support at the right time and place while continuing to provide innovative technology solutions for our enduring national security needs."

The DEVCOM Aviation & Missile Center, headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, is the Army's research and development focal point for advanced technology in aviation and missile systems. It is part of the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM), a major subordinate command of the U.S. Army Futures Command. AvMC is responsible for delivering collaborative and innovative aviation and missile capabilities for responsive and cost-effective research, development and life cycle engineering solutions, as required by the Army's strategic priorities and support to its Cross-Functional Teams.



# Human factors engineering valued at test center



Photo by Collin Magonigal

**Shauna Legan, a human factors engineer at the Redstone Test Center, takes part in HFE testing at the Aviation Flight Test Directorate. HFE applies information about human behavior, abilities, limitations, and other characteristics to the design of tools, machines, systems, tasks, jobs, and environments for productive, safe, comfortable and effective human use.**

**By CHRISTY BARNETT**

*Redstone Test Center Public Affairs*

How do you ensure a 5-foot-tall female and a 6-4 male can both reach all the needed instruments in a cockpit to safely fly a helicopter? That's where Human Factors Engineering comes into play.

HFE applies information about human behavior, abilities, limitations, and other characteristics to the design of tools, machines, systems, tasks, jobs, and environments for productive, safe, comfortable, and effective human use. Essentially, it is to make life easier.

HFE has been utilized in Army aviation test and evaluation for decades. At the

**See Center on page 12**

# Center

Continued from page 11

Redstone Test Center's Aviation Flight Test Directorate, HFE is inherent in most test and evaluation processes. Including HFE into early phases of design and testing, especially tests of operator workload, can help reduce issues or problems down the road.

Shauna Legan is an engineering psychologist at AFTD. Her two-person team primarily supports aviation testing but provides HFE support to other directorates at the center as needed.

"The most fascinating part of HFE testing is that we address operator perceptions," Legan said. "Not only do we test the functional characteristics of test ar-

ticles, but how the operator views, interprets and interacts with the test articles. The most rewarding testing comes from overall usability assessments. Does the respective test article(s) improve the operator's ability to meet the mission objectives by being easier? Does it decrease workload or provide key information at the right time by enhancing situational awareness? HFE focuses on the pilots, crew chiefs, and system operators rather than on the physical characteristics of aircraft. Essentially, we're looking out in the best interest of the human, in the human-machine interface."

Because of the nature of HFE, it's not unusual for Legan to 'size' up new teammates at RTC, particularly those of varying heights who might be recruited for a specific mission. Occasionally, due to her small stature, Legan herself has to become part of the test, ensuring females of a certain size are able to perform tasks safely and effectively. Her passion for HFE is well-known at AFTD.

"AFTD's HFE team does a fantastic job testing the latest technology in aviation systems. Their focus on the human machine interface is critical to ensuring Soldiers get the best possible equipment and that they are using it in the safest manner," Justin Powell, deputy commander for AFTD, said. "While new technology may provide enhanced aircraft capability, Shauna ensures that the pilot's mental workload remains at a manageable level. Otherwise, use of the new capability could interfere with other critical flight tasks, resulting in an accident."

"My background is engineering psychology and my master's degree is in industrial/organizational psychology," Legan said. "I took a Human Factors Engineering course as an undergraduate and I was hooked. I immediately switched majors from biology to psychology and never looked back. Throughout graduate school, I worked with the Naval Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory in Pensacola, Florida, which is where I developed the aviation focus. My other teammate was the opposite. She had the aviation background (former Black Hawk pilot) and was working on her graduate degree in psychological research, tests and design when she discovered HFE. We are a two-person team at the moment, but are looking for additional team members."

# DAU Corner

## **Mentoring Moments Series: Career Development Programs...an investment in your career journey**

*Thursday, 03/03/2022  
9:30 A.M. CST*

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

This webinar will highlight career development opportunities. Panel members will discuss their own experiences within their respective career development program and answer any questions. Join us for this webinar to determine if a career development program is right for you or someone you mentor!

## **CONNECT Live!**

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

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

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

## **DCMA CIG Virtual Office Hours for March 2022**

*Thursday, 03/03/2022  
11:30 A.M. CST*

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

In an ongoing effort to streamline the acquisition lifecycle, DAU has partnered with the DCMA Commercial Item Group (CIG) to host a series of virtual Office Hours intended to continue the open dialogue and information exchange between the DoD and Industry. DAU and DCMA hope to promote transparency, dialogue and discussion about commercial acquisition and price reasonableness, with the end goal of improving the overall commercial acquisition environment.

## **COR Office Hours**

*Tuesday, 03/08/2022  
10:45 A.M. CST*

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

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



# Strategic command builds bench with direct hiring

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command  
Public Affairs

Having direct hire ability is leading Army technologies in the right direction.

In addition to direct hire authorities provided by the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Defense, the Space and Missile Defense Command Technical Center is able to leverage special authorities provided to directly hire engineers and scientists, veterans, support staff and students to fill critical and hard-to-fill positions for the command.

“These authorities provide managers and supervisors who participate in career fairs and recruiting events the ability to extend tentative job offers and letters of intent to candidates during the events,” Chad Marshall, SMDC Tech Center Personnel Management chief, said. “Having this capability is very important as we work to diversify our recruitment efforts beyond the typical vacancy announcement.”

He said SMDC is a rare organization that is designated as a Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratory as well as a Major Range and Test Facility Base and can utilize direct hire authority.

“Many of our recently implemented hiring efforts stem from the Technical Center’s implementation of the STRL Laboratory Demonstration Project in 2020,” Marshall said. “The hiring efforts that we implement are done with the intent to align our processes with the Technical Center director’s priorities of building and retaining a quality workforce, sustaining long-term relevance for the Technical Center in our core mission areas, and focus on the Ronald Reagan Ballistic Missile Defense Test Site operations and sustainment.”

Marshall said for many years, the Tech Center has used the DOD Science, Mathematics, and Research for Transformation Scholarship-for-Service Program to hire science, technology, engineering and mathematic talent. He added that beginning this summer, the Technical Center will host participants of the DOD Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-Serving Institutions Summer Research Program.

The program provides motivated un-



dergraduate and graduate students in STEM disciplines the opportunity to perform summer internships within DOD laboratories and provides a bridge between the classroom and real-world experiences.

“The Technical Center is one of 10 DOD organizations participating in the program,” Marshall said. “Earlier this month, the Technical Center was able to participate in the first STRL STEM Virtual Career Fair hosted by DOD. From that event, we are now in the process of hiring our first participants in the Technical Center’s STEM Student Employment Program, allowing us to bring in additional interns at the undergraduate and graduate levels and helping ensure we maintain a solid bench of science and engineering talent.”

He said it is vital for the Technical Center to be able to quickly hire personnel to successfully compete for talent against other local government agencies as well as the more than 300 defense contractors operating in the Huntsville area.

“Many of these defense contractors are able to extend job offers on the spot and onboard personnel much more quickly than what is typically done in the federal government,” Marshall said.

“Having these direct hire authorities is one of several flexibilities we employ to allow the Technical Center to better level the playing field with industry and academia.”

Marshall said the Tech Center engineers possess degrees in the disciplines of aerospace, electrical and electronics, or mechanical engineering, while scientists possess degrees in physics, computer science or mathematics.

“Roughly half of our engineers and scientists have advanced degrees,” he said. “However we are not just pursuing scientific and engineering talent, we also require a strong support staff to ensure the Technical Center is prepared to maintain and advance technology. Many of our business staff possess degrees in accounting, business administration and finance.”

The Technical Center leader explained how important Marshall has been in making direct hiring possible for the command and how they will benefit in the future.

“Dr. Marshall is the ‘gold standard’ when it comes to understanding and implementing the authorities granted to us as a Science and Technology Reinvention Laboratory,” Thomas Webber,

SMDC Technical Center director, said. “DHA is just one of those authorities, and Dr. Marshall ensures we implement it properly and in compliance with higher level guidance. Dr. Marshall is a critically important member of the Technical Center team and does an incredible job executing our personnel hiring authorities.”

Webber said that DHA is an amazingly beneficial tool that enables the Technical Center to recruit technical talent in the highly competitive market here in Huntsville, and it provides the flexibilities to rapidly bring skilled workforce from outside the government at the grade levels and salary commensurate with their industry experience.

“It’s imperative that we build and retain the technical skills necessary to ensure the Army maintains its technological superiority,” Webber said. “DHA is a powerful tool that when used appropriately will ensure we remain competitive and maintain the skilled workforce needed to develop future capability for the Army. I have been very impressed at the skill level and amazing talent we have brought in under DHA and look forward to continuing that trend into the future.”

# Young engineers, scientists produced by technical lab

By JASON CUTSHAW

Space and Missile Defense Command  
Public Affairs

The Space and Missile Defense Command not only grows technology, it also grows young engineers and scientists in its Technical Center's Concepts Analysis Laboratory.

The CAL, established in 2004, provides a state-of-the-art laboratory environment where interns can experience practical applications and develop skill sets needed for current and future SMDC programs.

The CAL exposes interns to various types of engineering through assigned technical projects that support the Technical Center and other command programs. After completing their internship, they transition to specific technology programs within SMDC directorates to continue their technical growth.

"I have always been fascinated by computers and building things," said Wezley Sherman, a general engineer with the SMDC Ground Station Developer Space Directorate's Communications, Command, Control and Intelligence Division. "I believe that the path to become an engineer chose me."

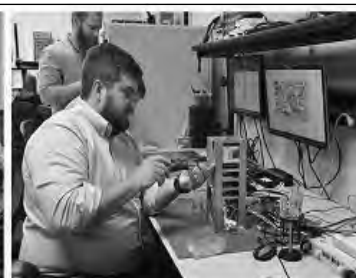
Sherman graduated from Arizona State University in 2019 with a bachelor's in software engineering. Shortly thereafter, he joined the CAL through Science, Mathematics and Research for Transformation, a scholarship for service program meant to bring science, technology, engineering, and mathematics majors into Department of Defense positions.

Sherman said he learned about the program in 2017 from a friend in college. He said he was excited about opportunities to work with space systems and saw the program as the perfect segue into his desired career path.

"SMDC has been a great employer and has presented opportunities to work on incredible projects," Sherman said. "All of the engineers at SMDC have been incredibly knowledgeable and great mentors throughout my career here. The CAL helped prepare me for my current career path as an engineer by providing an environment where I was able to explore my interests within the command."

Another path to SMDC for CAL engineers is through the University of Alabama in Huntsville's Systems Management and Production Center. Their goal is to support other government agencies through assigning engineering interns to government facilities.

Kaylee Ray, a freshman at UAH, applied to the SMAP Center in spring 2021



## SMDC CELEBRATES ENGINEERS WEEK



to be a research aide in the Concepts Analysis Division. She will graduate in 2025 with a degree in electrical engineering, a subject with which she said she has always been interested.

"My love of engineering began as a little girl, when I would work on projects with my great-grandfather," Ray said. "We would build things together and he would tell me stories from when he was in the Army."

Ray's father is also an engineer who worked at SMDC for 17 years.

"I saw that he was doing important work that would help a lot of people," Ray said. "I became an engineer because I wanted to do work that I knew would help people."

Ray said the CAL is instrumental in helping her prepare for a career in engineering.

"I have the best mentors who include me in the projects they are working on and help me understand their purpose," she said. "I have been able to quickly learn a lot of technical skills that will put me ahead in my career."

Mary Olivia Miller, a general engineer with the CAD on a SMART scholarship, learned of that program while serving as

a SMAP intern with SMDC.

"SMAP allowed me to establish connections with people within the CAL and SMDC as a whole," Miller said. "The financial support provided by the SMART program was a blessing that allowed for me to focus on my research and ultimately my career, without having to worry about student loans or a job search after graduation. I wouldn't hesitate in recommending either program to future engineers based on the connections and experience I gained in both."

Miller said she has always enjoyed building things, whether out of Lego sets or scrap wood and nails, in her grandparents' workshop, and she enjoyed physics in high school.

"After visiting different organizations on Redstone Arsenal, I knew I wanted to pursue a degree in engineering and ultimately work to support the Department of Defense," Miller said. "My grandfather was a Korean War Army veteran, and I knew how proud he was to have served his country. I attribute my desire to become an engineer largely to him, thanks to both his patriotism and his willingness to let his granddaughter play with a hammer and nails."

Miller graduated from the University of Alabama with both a bachelor's and a master's in mechanical engineering.

"My time in the CAD has prepared me for the future by exposing me to missions and projects throughout the Technical Center," Miller said. "Since the first summer I worked in the CAD, I have been given so many opportunities to work on projects that have a direct impact on the warfighter. I've collaborated with other young engineers of various disciplines to support Tech Center projects, as well as worked alongside seasoned Army civilians to whom I can always go for advice."

Miller said while working in this environment, she has been able to see the work that goes into a research project from every discipline of engineering.

"One of the main reasons I have enjoyed working at SMDC is the fact that what we do here is truly meaningful," she said. "Across the Technical Center, there are projects that are actively supporting the security of our Soldiers and of our nation as a whole. Being able to contribute to these missions has already given me a sense of fulfillment, and I hope to continue supporting in whatever way I can."



## Community

# National Guard band visits for local performances

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

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The 41st Army Band will be marching into Redstone Arsenal this summer and sharing musical talent at events throughout the region.

Based in Jackson, Mississippi, as a part of the Mississippi National Guard, the band is comprised of 37 members and directed by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Casey Kirk, the bandmaster and commander of the unit.

Just as all National Guard units meet monthly to prepare for their missions and two weeks per summer, the band is committed this year to Redstone Arsenal, Kirk said.

They are already booked for a number of performances, including one for veterans at the Floyd E. Tut Fann Home, another at the U.S. Veterans Memorial Museum, and several Armed Forces Week events, including the popular July 4 Concert in the Park and fireworks display in Huntsville. There, they will play as an ensemble featuring traditional patriotic music such as John Philip Sousa marches and the Star-Spangled Banner, among other favorites.

At some points during their time in the area, members will break into smaller groups for missions under such names as Category 6, a jazz band; Magnolia Brass, a brass quintet; and C.F. Brass, a rock/pop band.

The individual group's repertoires range from concert music to country, rock, jazz and gospel, Kirk said.

"We can be in different locations at the same time with our music performance teams," said Kirk, who has degrees in music education and percussion performance, and is an assistant professor of music and director of bands at Belhaven University.

Soldiers in the band range in age from their 20s to their 50s. Most of them have music degrees. Some, like Kirk, are band directors, while others are music performance students in college.

They come from all parts of Mississippi and other states in the Southeast, including some from as far as Louisiana, Georgia and Tennessee.

"All of us have pretty extensive musical training in our civilian lives, and through the various courses that Soldiers are required to complete throughout their Army career," Kirk said.

They go through a rigorous audition



**The C.F. Brass Band is one of several groups within the 41st Army National Guard Band.**

Courtesy photo

process and once accepted, must go through 10 weeks of basic training and 10 weeks at the Army School of Music at the Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base in Virginia Beach, Kirk said.

After that, they meet once a month on weekends to do Army training. They have to qualify in weapons expertise and soldiering skills each year. But their main activity when they gather is to rehearse and accomplish their National Guard objectives.

Members make a six-year commitment and can renew thereafter, Kirk said,

adding that some members of the band have been involved for over 30 years.

Kirk said the band's roots go back to World War II.

According to the Army website, the band was awarded federal recognition as a permanent unit in the Mississippi Army National Guard in 1962 in Oxford and was transferred to Jackson in 1967.

The overall theme of the band is "to tell the story of the Army, and build esprit de corps in order to foster the will to fight and win," Kirk said. "This is a special thing, to be involved with the

armed forces."

The band has performed throughout the country, including at various festivals, battle sites, memorials and the Pentagon, and has traveled overseas to places in South America and northern Africa.

There is some availability in the band's schedule during their time at Redstone Arsenal. For more information, or to make a request, you may contact the unit at 601-313-6348 or via email at casey.b.kirk.mil@army.mil.



# Housing residents survey extends to Monday

**By BUD McLAUGHLIN**

*Staff writer*

*bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com*

The Redstone Arsenal Housing survey deadline has been extended.

Tenants who haven't filled out the annual CEL survey have until Monday, March 7 to complete it. It only takes 10 minutes to complete the survey.

Surveys were mailed to tenants Jan. 11 and they should have been received Jan. 13. If a new survey and passcode are needed, follow the directions below:

Check your spam folder. The initial email came from [ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com](mailto:ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com).

Check with your spouse, partner or other household members to determine if they received the email.

Each household may only complete one survey.

To obtain a survey link, send an email to [ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com](mailto:ArmyHousingSurvey@celassociates.com). The email must include the installation name and the tenant's street address including unit number, if applicable. The address information is needed to ensure each household completes only one survey.

# Photo Booth

By Skip Vaughn

## What is your favorite pastime?

"Hiking. I've been hiking for 10-plus years. I go about once a week. The location varies. Since I was new to Huntsville – I've only been here a couple of years – it has helped me see Huntsville in a different way. Having a background in long distance running is how I got started in hiking." – **Ilian Mondragon, T700 project engineer, Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center**



# State

Continued from page 1

members and their families. The bills will go to Gov. Kay Ivey for signature and included assistance with military spouse licensing, advanced school enrollment for military children, and the establishment of a Space National Guard and Space JROTC program for high schools. These are part of 22 military-friendly bills the Alabama legislature has passed in the last two years.

“You never know the impact you have when a spouse can continue their career, or a child has an easy transition into their new school,” Walker said. “Please continue looking after our military families. It is one of the most important things we can do for our service members.”



Photo by Megan Gully

**Lt. Gen. Donnie Walker, Redstone senior commander, speaks to a Legislative Joint Session honoring Alabama's service members, veterans and Department of Defense civilians in the State House Chamber.**

# Birthday party celebrates Gold Star youngsters

Photos by ERIN ELISE  
Staff photographer

There were smiles galore at the Gold Star Kids Mock Birthday outing Feb. 19 at Main Event. Gold Star families are survivors of fallen service members.





# Comedian finds world of humor in uniform

By BUD McLAUGHLIN

Staff writer

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Who knew that joining the Army would lead toward a career in standup comedy?

Maj. Jody Fuller definitely didn't have that in his plans.

But, nevertheless, he has been successful on this career-path and is bringing his show to The Summit next month.

The Opelika native, who served three tours in Iraq, was named "one of the 15 Southern stand-up comedians that will make you laugh 'til you cry" by "It's a Southern Thing," and GI Jobs Magazine listed him as "One of 15 Veterans taking the comedy world by storm."

"I was always the funny guy growing up," Fuller said.

It was a strange route, though, he took to the stage. After high school, he enlisted in the Army and served four years as a medic. He then enrolled at Auburn-Montgomery and graduated with a degree in marketing/business management in August 2001.

A month later Fuller's world – and everyone else's – changed.

"After 9/11, I decided to go back into the Army and was accepted at OCS (officer candidate school)," he said. "I was going to go through OCS at Fort Benning."

This is when the comedy bug bit.

"Before I had to report, I went to an open mike (comedy show) in Birmingham," he said. "'I like this' I thought."

"I left for the Army and did some comedy for OCS



Courtesy photo

**Comic Jody Fuller served three tours in Iraq.**

at Fort Benning."

And then Fuller took his act on the road, so to speak.

"I was assigned to Fort Lewis in June 2003 and did some open mikes in Seattle," he said. His first deployment to Iraq was from 2003-04 and he did some of his

act there and a friend videotaped a performance.

Which led to a gig in Las Vegas when he returned stateside.

"Wendy's Good Taste Comedy Challenge," Fuller said. It was a nationwide competition with the top five vote-getters winning a trip to the Comedy Festival in Las Vegas. "I submitted the clip and was voted to the top five."

In 2006, Fuller left active duty to join the Alabama National Guard and continued to tickle funny bones.

"I was doing a little bit here and a little bit there," he said.

Fuller's Dothan-based Guard unit (1203rd Engineer Battalion) was deployed for a year to Iraq in 2007 and his hometown (Opelika) unit, the 111th Ordnance Group (EOD), was deployed in 2010.

"That unit was the Group Headquarters over the 441st Ordnance Battalion out of Huntsville, who was deployed with us at the same time," he said.

It was here where his fame preceded him.

"I met my home unit commander, a colonel," Fuller said. "He said, 'So, you're the infamous Capt. Fuller.'"

He transferred to the Army Reserve in 2014 and was promoted to major and his comedy also took off.

"It has been bonkers," Fuller said. "I've been blessed to entertain troops around the world."

"I've performed in 36 states; I get to see a lot of people."

Fuller said his comedy style is storytelling as opposed to jokes and one-liners.

"Most everything I say is true, or based on truth, or embellished," he said. "I can do the same comedy for troops and (civilians)."

"It's a fun style."

# Veterans coalition benefits from evening of laughter

By BUD McLAUGHLIN

Staff writer

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There will be plenty of chuckles and guffaws at the "Evening of Laughter" in April.

But the event is for a serious cause: it's to benefit the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition. Tickets are \$50 per person, which includes dinner, to see comic and retired Maj. Jody Fuller perform at The Summit on April 2.

"This to help our member organizations," Coalition President KC Bertling said. "We're an umbrella, a communications conduit, for the organizations."

Bertling, in her third year as the president, said the event is a fundraiser and a social opportunity for the organizations. The groups get 50% of every ticket they sell, she said, and there is a competition among them to sell the most tickets.

"It's to help them get to know each other and to help them raise money," she said. "This is a really good deal – for \$50, you have dinner and fun with friends."

"It's really good for them to get to meet and know each other."

Bertling said she was asked three years ago to serve the unexpired term of the previous president. Since then, the pandemic struck and the organization didn't meet and she was not able to really get anything done to help raise money.

"The board asked me to stay on as president because they said they didn't have enough time to see what I can do," she said.

So, she proceeded to show them.

"I met Jody at a VFW convention and he was so funny," Bertling said. She made a proposal to the board to bring him here for a benefit show and they gave her the OK.

Bertling, who also volunteers for a Korean War veterans group, said she is planning a Memorial Day luncheon and a Founders Day event in October.

Working for the coalition takes a lot of time but, she said, "I like to get in there and get dirty."

For information on being a sponsor of an "Evening of Laughter" or to buy tickets, email presidentcoalition@gmail.com.

Courtesy photo

**KC Bertling is president of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition.**



# Virtual town hall airs rising threat of drug abuse

By **REBECCA SALLEE**

Staff writer

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A Facebook Live town hall focusing on the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on mental health, substance abuse and accidental overdoses in Madison County will be held Thursday from 6 to 7 p.m.

Partnership for a Drug-Free Community, a local nonprofit organization, is hosting the virtual town hall, which will feature a panel of guest speakers "in the round," said Wendy Reeves, executive director.

"Just this week we've had four overdose deaths in Madison County. Last year, there were more than 100 suspected overdose deaths," Reeves said. "The number has grown significantly since the start of the pandemic, and that's what we're going to talk about on March 3."

With an opportunity for community members to participate via Facebook, four panelists will discuss the topic and answer questions.

The panel is comprised of Lucy Douglas, a certified mental health and substance abuse counselor; Carl Wilkerson,

an additions/mental health professional; Dea Calce, a paramedic and chief operations officer for Huntsville Emergency Medical Services Inc.; and Laura Edwards, a peer support specialist who has been in recovery for eight years.

Partnership for a Drug-Free Community was established more than 30 years ago to focus on youth drug, alcohol and tobacco prevention, Reeves said.

In 2020, the agency started the Recovery Resource Hub program, which provides an impartial one-stop shop where people with substance abuse disorder or addiction can talk to a peer support specialist and receive an assessment to determine the level of care they need. Treatment options, including some funded by the state, are provided based on that assessment, and there is no charge for the services, Reeves said.

Anyone can participate in the town hall, with or without a Facebook account, by visiting Partnership's page at [www.facebook.com/thepdfc](http://www.facebook.com/thepdfc).

For more information on the town hall or on Partnership, call Reeves at 539-7339, or email [wendy@thedrugfreepartnership.org](mailto:wendy@thedrugfreepartnership.org).



## TALK ADDICTION

Join Partnership for a Drug-Free Community's Town Hall to explore how the pandemic has impacted mental health, substance use, and overdose deaths in Madison County.



**LAURA EDWARDS**  
Peer Support Specialist



**LUCY DOUGLAS**  
Licensed Professional Counselor  
and Master Addiction Counselor



**CARL WILKERSON**  
Associate Licensed Counselor and  
Advanced Alcohol and Drug  
Counselor



**DEA CALCE**  
Huntsville Emergency Medical  
Services, Inc. (HEMSI) Chief  
Operations Officer



Thursday  
March 3, 2022

**FACEBOOK LIVE**  
**6 TO 7:30 P.M.**

[FACEBOOK.COM/THEPDFC](https://www.facebook.com/thepdfc)

# Community leaders hear perspective from Washington

By BUD McLAUGHLIN

Staff writer

[bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:bud.mclaughlin@theredstonerocket.com)

As Russian forces moved into Ukraine, Sen. Tommy Tuberville didn't pull any punches.

"You've got bullies around the world and (Russian President Vladimir) Putin is one of them," he said last week. "The United States should support Ukraine and provide assistance to Ukraine's military through weapons and funding for emergency equipment."

"It's important we help Ukraine as much as we can. I call on my colleagues in the U.S. Senate and our allies to ensure Russia pays a heavy price for Putin's aggression."

Tuberville, R-Ala., said he supported economic sanctions against Russia but they should already have been in place. Tuberville commented on the situation at the Von Braun Center during last week's Washington Update hosted by the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber. It was the senator's first appearance at the annual event.

"We probably should have put sanctions on money, banks, five or six months ago to just kind of let them know, hey, this is what's going to affect," he said. "This is how it's going to feel. If you put sanctions on after the fact, they're not going to turn around and backtrack from where they came from."

"They're going to stay where they're at."

The former Auburn head football coach addressed Huntsville's role in national defense and space – including the Space Command.

"We're fighting hard for Space Command," he said. The agency is scheduled to

**See Update on page 25**

Photo by Bud McLaughlin

**Sen. Tommy Tuberville addresses business and civic leaders at the annual Washington Update.**



# Update

Continued from page 24

move its headquarters to Redstone Arsenal from Colorado Springs but Colorado lawmakers and others are fighting to keep it there.

“Space is going to be very important to national defense,” Tuberville said. “Missile defense is going to be huge.

“It belongs here ... you deserve it.”

Tuberville also cited the importance of the Arsenal’s status with defense – world-wide.

“Around the world, Huntsville is known,” he said. You can be proud of it.”

A member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he urged continual building of the nation’s military.

“We need a killing machine ... that’s what our military is about,” Tuberville said. “We want people to be afraid of us. We want people to understand that we want peace through strength, as President Reagan said.

“And to get that is what you do here in Huntsville. You do it more than anybody else.”

Photo by Bud McLaughlin

**Sen. Tommy Tuberville speaks to reporters after the Washington Update.**





# Center partners with cyber technology school

By KATIE DAVIS SKELLEY

DEVCOM Aviation & Missile Center Public Affairs



Photo by Haley Myers

**AvMC Director Jeff Langhout addresses students and attendees at a ceremony Feb. 22 formally establishing a relationship with the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering.**

Building the technological workforce of the future begins today.

The Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center and the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering officially signed a Partner in Education Agreement Feb. 22, formally establishing a relationship between DEVCOM AvMC's Software, Simulation, Systems Engineering and Integration Directorate and the magnet high school. A ceremony to commemorate the agreement was held on the grounds of Oakwood University, where the school is currently located.

Beginning this fall, ASCTE will select students to participate in an internship at S31. Interns will work in a team environment while experiencing lab environments, learning project management and project lifecycles and applying risk management framework principles as they pertain to present cyber rules and regulations, among other integral real-world skills. They will become well-versed in high-level cyber understanding, system administration understanding and network engineering, as well as time management, personnel management and conflict resolution.

"I have an ulterior motive here," AvMC Director Jeff Langhout said to the ASCTE students at the ceremony. "You do not have to wear a uniform to be a part of the United States Army. Now I know what you see on television are young men and women that have volunteered and put on the uniform and we are so thankful for every one of them.

"But there's also 350,000 or so people like me that wear a suit, well, not many of us wear suits. But I want you to know that our Army can't do what they do without the great civilians. So my agenda here is I want you to see that you have an opportunity to also contribute to the security of the nation."

**See School on page 27**

# Annual national contest tests photography skills

By REBECCA SALLEE

Staff writer

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Picture this: you snap a digital photo, send it in to a national Army MWR contest, and win a prize.

All eligible MWR patrons are invited to submit their photos in the MWR national Digital Photography Contest, but the deadline is near: submissions are due by March 15.

Sponsored by the Arts and Crafts program at the Installation Management Command (also known as IMCOM G-9) at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, the contest invites participants to enter one photograph in each/any of seven categories: animals, design elements, digital darkroom, military life, nature and landscapes, people, and still life.

Entries are submitted to one of two divisions, active-duty military members or other eligible patrons.

Participants must complete an online profile and submit images through the official website and follow a number of rules and guidelines, including the following:

Files must be submitted in high-resolution jpg format between 150KB and 2MB, and suitable for printing at 300 dpi.

Photos that include a name or date stamp will be disqualified.

Photos taken for official duty (including training aids) are not eligible.

Photos must include descriptions in the form of brief "explanatory text."

Submissions must be original and completed within 12 months from the start of the current contest year. Photos entered in previous contest years may not be resubmitted.

Photos must have unique identification titles. "Untitled" photos will be disqualified.

Participants are asked to log in and view their submissions to be sure their entries are properly uploaded.

Some photos may be entered in more than one category.

For example, a landscape with strong lines leading up to a person that you photographed in Korea could be categorized in Nature and Landscapes, People or Design Elements, as explained on the rules page.



Photo by William Pulley

**William Pulley from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., took first place in the 2017 Army Digital Photography Contest in the Eligible Patrons division, Animals Category, with a shot he called "Eagle Battle."**

Amy Kosby, a program analyst for Leisure and Travel at Fort Sam Houston, said the organization has had photo contests since 1948.

She anticipates about 1,000 entries to be submitted this year.

The contest will be judged by professionals in the digital automation field, and prizes include \$300, \$200 and \$100 cash for first, second and third prize in each category, respectively.

Rules note that judges are not required to award all prizes in each category.

For more information, visit [www.armymwr.com/programs-and-services/arts-crafts/digital-photo-contest](http://www.armymwr.com/programs-and-services/arts-crafts/digital-photo-contest).

## School

Continued from page 26

ASCTE was founded in 2018 as the nation's only high school focused on the integration of cyber technology and engineering into all academic disciplines. The public, residential magnet high school serves more than 150 students grades 9-12 from Alabama. Tuition for the school is free.

The relationship with ASCTE will allow AvMC to strengthen students' understanding of cyber and engineering technology, especially as it pertains to supporting the warfighter and national defense. It also exposes students to the vast career opportunities at the center, which in turn may influence their future career decisions.

"Cyber shouldn't necessarily be its own discipline, it should be integral to everything that is engineering," Langhout said.

The partnership has been two years in the making, but it is just the beginning, said ASCTE President Matt Massey.

"We don't want to just be the lighthouse here," Massey said. "We are going to be the model for other schools in Alabama, but also be a national model too. We have schools across the nation looking at what we're doing. And it will be a ripple effect."

Photo by Haley Myers

**Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering President Matt Massey, left, and Combat Capabilities Development Command Aviation & Missile Center Director Jeff Langhout sign a partnership agreement which will result in students at the school given the opportunity to participate in internships at DEVCOM AvMC's Software, Simulation, Systems Engineering and Integration Directorate.**



# Veteran remembers beautiful country with bomb craters

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com

1st Lt. Steve Milburn arrived in Vietnam in November 1968 for the first of his two tours, but both were shortened by injury.

"I got wounded on both of them, got two Purple Hearts," the Madison resident said.

He arrived as an adviser to the 44th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion located in IV Corps, the Mekong Delta.

"As an adviser I was responsible for ensuring that the Vietnamese chain of command had as much access to the assets that could possibly be made available to them," he said.

The Ranger battalions were highly mobile. They conducted sweeps and they provided flank or area security for other units' operations.

But in spring 1969, he was injured for the first time: a clavicle wound, a bone fragment wound to his right leg, and he lost the knuckle of his index finger on his right hand. He was medically evacuated, recuperated and volunteered to return to a Ranger battalion in Vietnam.

The captain returned to the Mekong Delta in August 1969. He became a senior adviser to the 42nd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion.

That late September, they conducted an assault on a mountain cave complex. At one of the entrances, an enemy assailant stood up and shot him on the right side of his chest with an AK-47.

"The guy was about 20 feet away from me," Milburn said. "He shot me, and I shot him."

Milburn was again medically evacuated, this time with a chest and lung injury. He was hospitalized and sent home to the U.S. His war was over.

Drafted in 1960 after dropping out of college, he spent eight years as an enlisted Soldier before being commissioned as an officer. He described what he remembers about Vietnam.

"It was hot, damp and lots of bugs," he said. "And I was fortunate to work with good Soldiers. Vietnamese Rangers were good Soldiers."

"I remember flying over very green, wet country. Lots of rivers and canals. Lots of jungles, rice paddies, those kinds of things. Just flying in a Huey. I couldn't believe what a beautiful country that was – slowly being destroyed by war. That was my vivid recollection of Vietnam – bomb craters and artillery craters."

Asked about the fear of being in combat, he said, "There's a difference between being scared and being afraid. That difference is: Thinking about something beforehand, you're scared; during the event, you're afraid but you just go ahead and do your job."

He received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal, and the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster for valor. He was inducted into the Madison County Military Hall of Heroes in 2005.

Milburn retired from the Army as a major in February 1982 at Fort Monroe, Virginia, after almost 21 years in uniform. He served as an Army civilian for

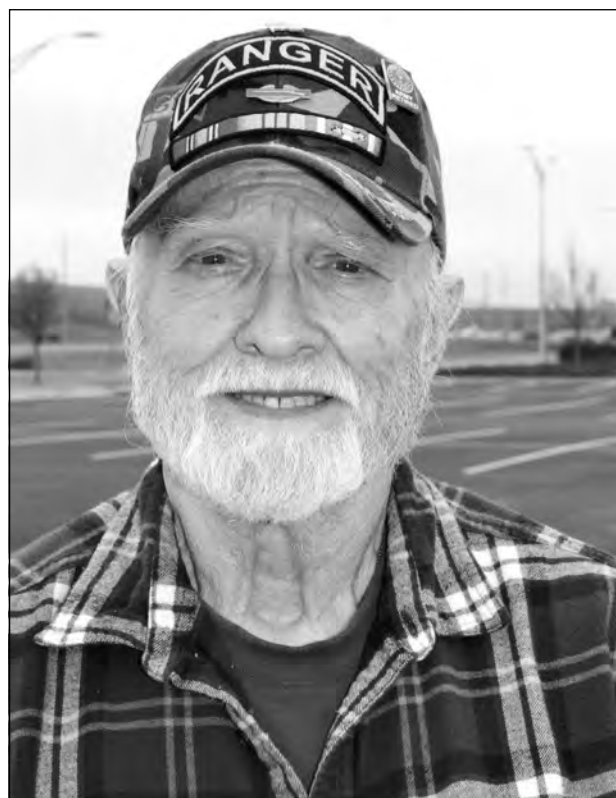


Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Madison resident Steve Milburn, a retired major, worked 24 years as an Army civilian before retiring from Redstone at the end of 2007.**

## Vietnam revisited Part 359 in series

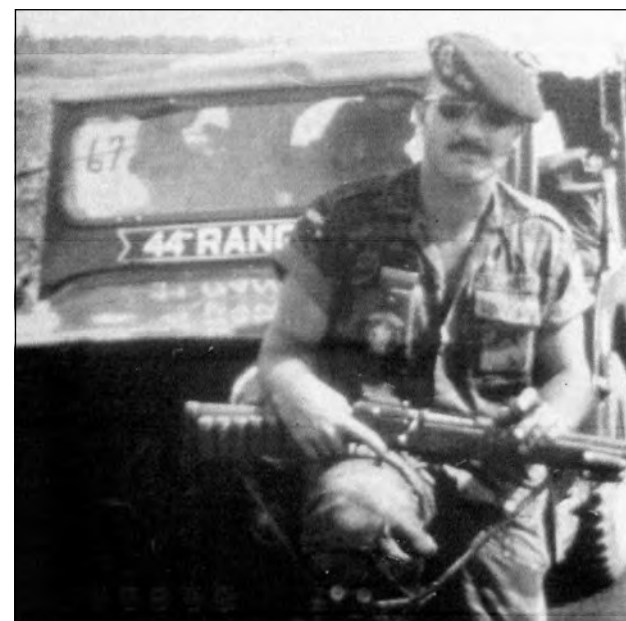
the next 24 years. He was a deputy project manager in Orlando, Florida, when he was reassigned to Redstone to become director of the targets management office in November 2000. He retired at Redstone, Dec. 31, 2007.

Born in Joplin, Missouri, he grew up in Southern California. His military career began after he left San Bernadino Valley College. He received a bachelor's in management and accounting from Columbus University in Columbus, Georgia, in 1973. He received a master's in management and finance from the University of San Francisco in 1985. Milburn received certification as a federal contracting officer in 2008 from the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

He and his wife of 35 years, Karlene, have a combined three children – two sons and a daughter – and four grandchildren. A second daughter died in 2019.

The retired major no longer competes in pistol shooting. Milburn, 80, is a member of the Madison County Military Heritage Commission and he occasionally visits various local veterans organizations. He has a 70% disability rating from Veterans Affairs.

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



Courtesy photo

**1st Lt. Steve Milburn, an adviser to the 44th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion, leans against his jeep in January 1969 at the Cambodian border.**



Courtesy photo

**Capt. Steve Milburn was assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division in Germany in 1970-73.**

"Thank God I live near Huntsville, Alabama. Huntsville has recognized Vietnam veterans and taken us to their hearts," he said "I traveled a lot with my job here in civil service. I traveled to a lot of cities. And certain cities like Fayetteville, North Carolina; Columbus, Georgia; Killeen, Texas; they all put forth recognition for Vietnam veterans."

*Editor's note: This is the 359th in a series of articles about Vietnam veterans as the United States commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.*



# Soldier/civilian/family readiness briefs

By Army News Service and Defense Department websites

## Contract award announcements

The Boeing Co., Mesa, Arizona, was awarded a \$103,774,884 modification to contract W58RGZ-20-C-0037 for AH-6 aircraft. Work will be performed in Mesa with an estimated completion date of May 30, 2025. Fiscal 2010 Foreign Military Sales (Thailand) funds in the amount of \$103,774,884 were obligated at the time of the award. Army Contracting Command, Redstone Arsenal is the contracting activity.

## World ready to respond to Russia

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has visited with the leaders of the frontline NATO states in Vilnius, Lithuania, the day after President Joe Biden told the American people that he believes Russian President Vladimir Putin has decided on war with Ukraine.

“As of this moment, I’m convinced he’s made the decision (to invade Ukraine),” President Biden said during a news conference Feb. 18. “We have reason to believe that.”

The president further said that he expects Russian forces to target Kyiv – Ukraine’s capital city and largest metropolitan area.

In Vilnius, Austin held bilateral talks with Lithuanian leaders including President Gitanas Nauseda, Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte and acting Minister of National Defense Gabrielius Landsbergis.

During a news conference with Landsbergis at the Ministry of Defense, Austin spoke directly to the people of the region. “I want everyone in Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia to know — and I want President Putin in the Kremlin to know — that the United States stands with our allies,” he said. “As I made clear in Brussels this week, we take our obligations to NATO and to our allies seriously. Our commitment to Article 5 is ironclad.”

Austin said that Russia has been building its capabilities in and around Ukraine and in Belarus for months. Those forces “are uncoiling and are now poised to strike,” he said.

He noted that the United States has deployed a 4,000-Soldier infantry brigade combat team from the 82nd Airborne Division to Poland. A Stryker squadron from the 2nd Cavalry has taken 1,000 U.S. Soldiers to Romania. Another Stryker company is moving

to Bulgaria and still another is deploying to Hungary.

On top of this, 8,500 U.S. service members are on heightened alert, should the North Atlantic Council activate the NATO Rapid Response Force.

And the United States is not alone. The NATO allies are solidly united against Russia’s actions. “Rather than sowing divisions among allies — which we know Mr. Putin would like to see — NATO has shored up its defense and deterrence posture,” Austin said. “Mr. Putin says he doesn’t want to see a strong NATO on his western flank. That’s exactly what he’s getting.”

Even at this late hour, war is not inevitable, Austin said, and Landsbergis agreed saying “we should leave a space at the table of diplomacy to those who want to be at that table. But if that seat at the table remains empty, we need to state clearly that we’re ready to defend ourselves.”

U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken is scheduled to meet his Russian counterpart.

And Putin could close a different path. “The United States — in lockstep with our allies and partners — has offered him another opportunity to pursue a diplomatic solution,” the secretary said. “We hope that he takes it. We hope that he steps back from the brink of conflict. We hope he de-escalates.”

The Russian forces are uncoiling, the secretary said, and moving closer to the Ukrainian border. “That facilitates their onward movement,” he said.

The forces Putin has put in place — combat forces, logistics units, aviation, hospitals, command and control nodes and more — are the capabilities needed to strike. “Having done this before, I can tell you that that is exactly what you need to attack and the stance that you need to be in to attack,” the career Soldier said in answer to a question.

Even then, it is not too late to choose peace. He noted that when he was a battalion commander in the 82nd Airborne Division in 1994, he and his unit was on an aircraft ready to jump into Haiti. “Somehow en route, a diplomatic solution was reached, and we turned that operation around,” he said. “So, I believe that we should continue to try up until the very last minute.”

Still, no matter what Putin decides, the United States will stand with allies and partners, Austin said. “Together, we will work to overcome any challenge to European peace and stability.”

# MWR prices expected to increase in March

**From combined reports**

When the government increased the minimum wage to \$15 per hour effective Feb. 3, the impact was felt throughout the Garrison's Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

This translates to an estimated 35% increase in personnel expenses, and that number is expected to be much higher as the effect to benefits (insurance, retirement, etc.) is further analyzed.

What this means to MWR customers is potential price increases beginning in March.

"It will affect anything that has any costs related to it," Derrick Gould, the MWR director, said. "It won't affect the gyms or library which don't have associated fees."

Those impacted include post restaurant prices, golf fees, bowling fees, the Java

Cafe, Challenger Bingo, and Outdoor Recreation. Some fees have already gone up; others will increase by June 1.

Ed Nunn, chief of business operations division for Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said all his activities are reviewing their prices to make determinations within 30 days.

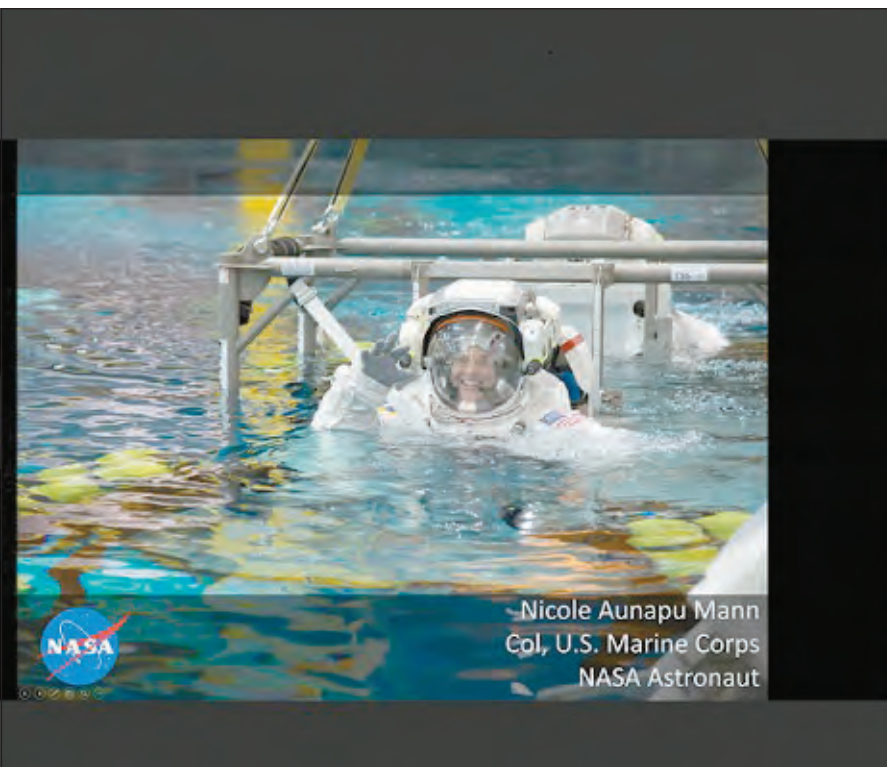
As a Non-Appropriated Fund activity, MWR is required to be self-sustaining like any business in the local community and must generate additional revenue to offset the added expenses that result from the federal minimum wage increase.

"Therefore, effective sometime in March, many of our prices will be revised to ensure that we are properly positioned to sustain operations," Nunn said.

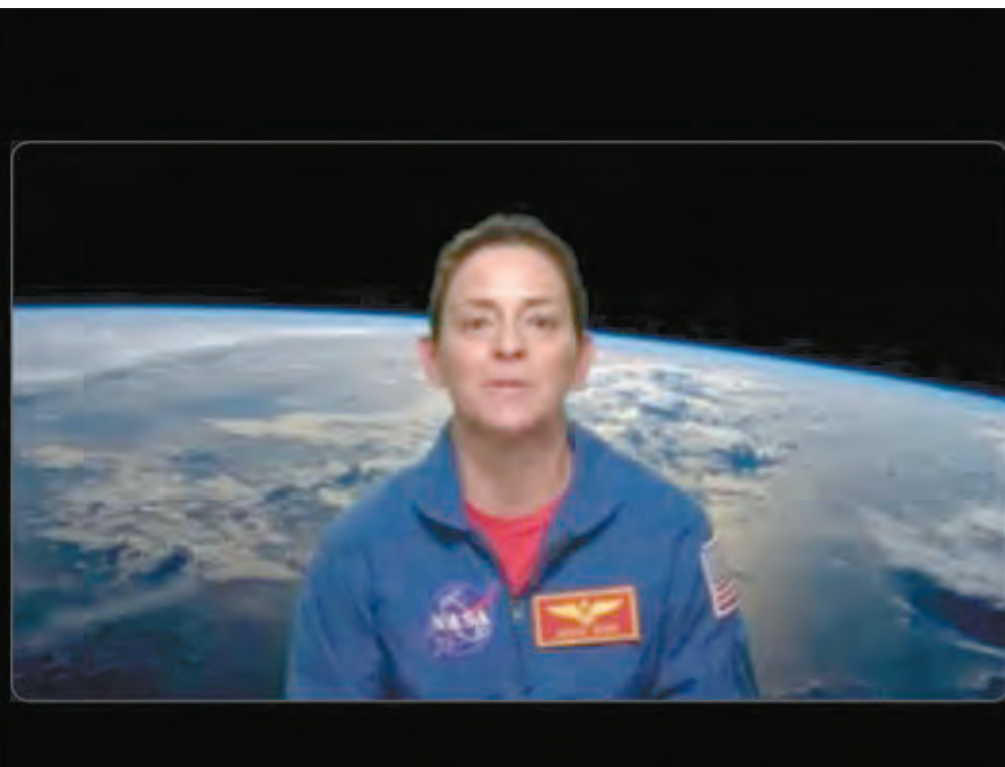
"This decision was not taken lightly and is not in any way meant to increase profit. In truth, they will only serve to cover the added costs resulting from the federal minimum wage increase."

## Federal

# NASA astronaut emphasizes need for teamwork



Nicole Aunapu Mann  
Col, U.S. Marine Corps  
NASA Astronaut



**NASA astronaut Nicole Mann, a colonel in the Marine Corps, talks about safety during the Mission Success is in Our Hands virtual lecture series on Feb. 17.**

NASA graphic

By WAYNE SMITH

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Astronaut and pilot Nicole Mann understands the importance of not permitting any deviation in an organization's safety culture.

A colonel in the Marine Corps, Mann deployed twice aboard aircraft carriers in support of combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. She is training for NASA's SpaceX Crew-5 mission to the International Space Station.

"It's important we work together as a team because everyone of us is responsible for assuring mission success and safety," Mann said during the Mission Success in Our Hands virtual lecture series on Feb. 17. In "Longevity in NASA's Most Dynamic Era Yet," Mann shared lessons she's learned about persevering through complex challenges as a team and remaining engaged in the intense, exciting era of human spaceflight NASA is currently traversing.

Mann said she's amazed at all the initiatives NASA is pursuing, from the current mission aboard the International Space Station and Commercial Crew program to the Artemis Generation.

"There will be challenges and we need to remain resilient and dedicated to our job," Mann said. "It's important we stay vigilant as we move through this era."

Mann discussed her flight training and recalled a time when pilots she was working with became overconfident and started pushing the envelope by straying away from their safe glidepath.

"There was a deviation from our safety culture," Mann said. "The deviation was noticed, we needed to make a correction, and we did. A breakdown in our safety culture can begin with one person."

Mann also discussed the importance of self-care, calling it one of the most important expeditionary skills.

"If you don't pay attention to yourself, and you don't get enough sleep, and you don't get the proper diet and exercise, you're going to find you're not going to be as efficient," she said.

Marshall Center Director Jody Singer introduced Mann, saying she was a prime candidate to be one of the first astronauts for the Artemis Generation and could be the first woman on the Moon. The Artemis program will see NASA send the first woman and first person of color to the Moon. A sustained presence on the Moon will also be the gateway to explore Mars and the Solar System.

NASA selected Mann as one of eight members of the 21st astronaut class in June 2013. Mann previously trained for the Boeing Starliner mission and is a former safety and training officer for the T-38 Talon supersonic jet trainer. She most recently completed a tour as the assistant to the chief for exploration. Mann also led the astronaut corps in the development of the Orion spacecraft, Space Launch System, and Exploration Ground Systems.

The California native holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in mechanical engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy and Stanford, respectively. Mann served as a test pilot in the F/A-18 Hornet and Super Hornet.

The goal of Mission Success is in Our Hands is to help team members make meaningful connections between their jobs and the safety and success of NASA and Marshall missions through shared experiences discussions, awards, and recognition.

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



# NASA assembly facility director a natural engineer

By DANIEL BOYETTE

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center

Lonnie Dutreix was seemingly destined to be an engineer. The director of NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, Dutreix spent his childhood taking things apart to see how they worked.

"When I was 12, I saved my grass-cutting money and bought an old Honda SL70 motorcycle with a stuck engine," he said. "I rebuilt the engine and got it running. That turned into working as an automobile mechanic during high school and college."

Dutreix earned a bachelor's in electrical engineering from the University of New Orleans in 1986, then was hired by Rockwell/Rocketdyne to test space shuttle main engines at National Space Technology Laboratories – now NASA's Stennis Space Center.

"I was lucky enough to witness a space shuttle main engine test on Test Stand A1 when interviewing and I was hooked," he said. "Long story short, I was hired and began my 34-year endeavor in human space flight."

Dutreix hasn't lost his tinkerer nature. He still enjoys restoring old hit-miss engines, working on cars, and repairing various devices.

"I am that engineer who will spend hours trying to fix something I can buy new for five dollars," he said.

**Question: Last summer, Hurricane Ida presented challenges for Michoud employees both at work and home. What did it mean to you to see their perseverance?**

Dutreix: It was very inspiring. We had team members who had significant damage to their homes and vehicles and were without power for weeks to months. Some lost their homes entirely and had to temporarily relocate their families. As we were reaching out to those co-workers to support their recovery, we had crews of Michoud employees who returned to the site to protect the Artemis critical flight hardware, which was in various stages of production throughout the factory. The roofing crews repaired over 150,000 square feet of roof damage, while the custodial crews pumped approximately 45,000 gallons of rainwater off the factory floor. To restore the critical purges on the flight hardware, our High Voltage crew worked around the clock to connect diesel generators to facility power distribution panels, providing power to purge carts. Within days of the storm, we had secured the facility and established power to critical circuits which enabled assessment teams to quickly inspect flight hardware. Seven days after the storm, we began to reopen the facility to essential activities.

**Question: You've worked at America's rocket factory since 2017. What has been your most rewarding moment during that time?**

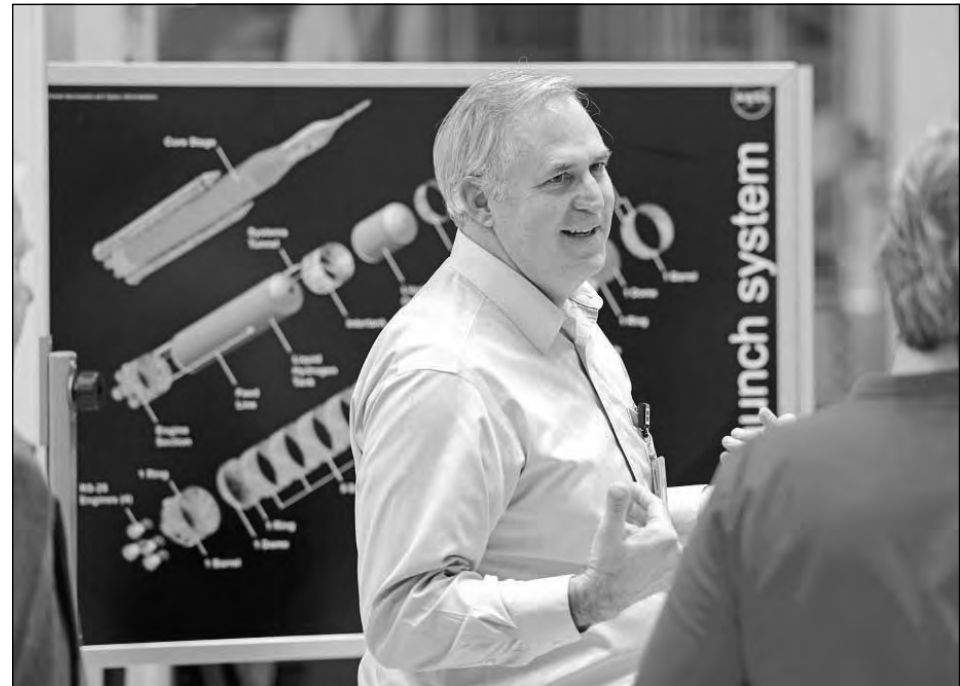
Dutreix: Completing and shipping the Space Launch System core stage and Orion crew module to support the Artemis I launch has certainly been the most rewarding moment. On a more personal level, improving the culture to be more inclusive, mentoring the next generation of the Michoud family, and updating the facility for future sustainability has been, and is, very rewarding. I know this sounds like a cliché, but I want to "Leave Michoud better than I found it." As the director of Michoud, what my team and I are doing today is setting up our successors for tomorrow.

**Question: Michoud was built in the early 1950s. Recently, Michoud received \$241 million to update the facility. What does that mean for Michoud and how does that affect the facility's sustainability?**

Dutreix: It's extremely important for near-term critical facility upgrades to support mission milestones and, a more strategic outlook, attracting and retaining the next generation workforce at Michoud. A significant amount of the funding will replace the 70-year-old roofing systems on the main 2 million-square-foot manufacturing building as well as other manufacturing support buildings. The new roofing systems are rated for Category 3 hurricane code compliance. The funding also supports a new automatic switching 16-megawatt generator to provide critical facility power during local/regional power outages caused by weather events. These improvements significantly improve the overall facility weather and energy resilience.

**Question: How do employees feel about the improvements that are forthcoming?**

Dutreix: The employees are very excited, especially the next-generation workforce. We are updating not only the roofing system but also improving the personnel space within the buildings. We are updating restroom facilities, office spaces, and facility lighting, and added a mini-mart. Attracting and retaining the younger workforce is key to sustaining the critical skills to enable future missions.



NASA photo by Michael DeMocker

**Michoud Director Lonnie Dutreix gives Louisiana Sen. Sharon Hewitt a tour of the facility Dec. 3, 2021. "What excites me most about the future of space exploration is being part of the beginning of a new mission: Moon and Mars," Dutreix told the Marshall Star. "Also, experiencing this era with the next generation of space explorers. I remind them, as I do myself, that they are part of something very few people in the world have the opportunity to do. And their challenges today will be their 'fond' stories to the next generation."**

**Question: How does the Michoud team define and achieve mission success?**

Dutreix: At the top level, the Michoud team defines success by delivering quality Artemis hardware, safely, to meet program milestones. To achieve this success, we have processes, procedures, facilities, tools, and materials that integrate to produce the desired outcome. But, without dedicated and talented people, there isn't success. So the Michoud team achieves mission success by focusing on the success of each employee. We have experienced typical growing pains during the first-time builds of the Artemis hardware. But as a team, we have met those challenges, learned those lessons, implemented improvements and, most important, have transitioned to a Michoud team, and not a group of independent organizations, contractors, and individuals.

*Editor's note: Daniel Boyette, an LSINC employee and the Marshall Star editor, supports Marshall's Office of Strategic Analysis & Communications.*

NASA photo

## Tasty virtual event

Celebrity chef Daniel Thomas displays a tray of ingredients during his live cooking presentation for team members of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center on Feb. 15. As part of Black History Month, Marshall hosted the virtual event "Nutrition for the Mission – A Taste of Soul on the Trip to Mars." Thomas, who is also an author and CEO, shared his story of dreaming to cook for U.S. presidents from a young age and discussed the link between science, space, and healthy eating. Thomas demonstrated preparing "space gumbo" astronauts could enjoy on their trip to Mars. "I'm a healthy eating ambassador," said Thomas, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. "My mission is healthier food. This is a way to take a little soul on the mission to Mars." Thomas said he would love to be the first chef in space as the primary chef for astronauts. His training also includes business management, restaurant ownership, biology, anatomy, physiology, and psychology. A native of Washington, D.C., Thomas is a private chef, senior adviser and consultant. NASA's theme this year for Black History Month was "Black Health and Wellness." Marshall's Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity sponsors the Special Emphasis Programs for the center.



## Sports

# Senior softball director wants evenly matched league



Photo by Skip Vaughn

**Vince Smith singles up the middle to drive in the winning run in the bottom of the seventh as green beats gray 25-24 last May 17 at field 2 in Brahan Spring Park.**

**SKIP VAUGHN**

Rocket editor

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After more than a decade, Gary Wilkison has returned as director of the 55-and-over Rockets league in Huntsville Senior Softball.

"I did it 12 years ago (2010-11)," he said. "I've been in the league; this is my 17th year. I'm getting old. I started when I was 55, I'm 72 now.

"I think I've seen a pretty steady growth in the league over those years."

Wilkison succeeded last year's director, Chris Maggio, at the helm of the six-team league. The season starts April 4. They will play a 35-game schedule from April to mid-September at Brahan Spring Park.

"We're trying to keep the league competitive but still have a good time doing it,"

Wilkison said. "We're trying to grow the league, maintain the six-team level and maybe add a team or two over the next few years."

The returning teams include green, royal blue, navy blue, maroon, red and gray. Wilkison said the league will probably reorganize some of the teams and hold a draft the last week of March to ensure a competitive balance.

"The whole idea is not to have a really good team and a really bad team," he said.

Games will be held on Monday and Thursday nights at 6 and 7:30 at fields 1 and 2 in Brahan Spring Park.

Wilkison has played for the navy blue team for a while but he's uncertain who he will play for this year. He said he will not be a coach.

Anyone 55 and older is welcome to sign up. You must turn 55 by Dec. 31 of this year. If interested call Wilkison at 656-0517 or Becky Rollston of the Huntsville Senior Center at 880-7081.



# NBA all-star weekend shines light on legends

This was an avid sports fan's dream. I had flashbacks of my childhood NBA heroes in their primes.

I watched the telecast of the National Basketball Association all-star game held Feb. 20 in Cleveland, Ohio, which culminated their all-star weekend. At halftime they recognized the top players from the NBA's 75-year history.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Magic Johnson. Larry Bird. Julius Erving. Michael Jordan. And so on. They were all there along with today's stars, including LeBron James.

It was only fitting that James hit the winning shot of his team's 163-160 win over Kevin Durant's team. Durant didn't play because of injury. Stephen Curry

made 16 3-pointers and scored 50 points and received the Kobe Bryant award as the game's most valuable player. Both James and Curry are from Akron, Ohio.

What a great culmination for a weekend celebrating the NBA's 75th anniversary.

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**From the sidelines**

**By Skip Vaughn**  
Rocket editor

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# Your glory days in sports

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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*What is the highlight of your athletic endeavors?*

“Winning the club hockey national championship with UAH 40 years ago, 1982,” Bud McLaughlin, staff writer for the Redstone Rocket since Jan. 5, said. “I was a goalie and played from 1980 to ’82. The coach was Joe Ritch. The administration suspended the UAH program due to lack of a conference. The decision was made May 2021.”

McLaughlin, 67, 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.

Courtesy photo

**Bud McLaughlin, now a Redstone Rocket staff writer, played goalie for the UAH hockey team from 1980-82.**



# By the numbers: *My favorite warm weather songs*

By SKIP VAUGHN

Rocket editor

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1. Here Comes the Sun (The Beatles, 1969)
2. I Can See Clearly Now (Johnny Nash, 1972)
3. Lovely Day (Bill Withers, 1977)
4. Sun Goddess (Ramsey Lewis featuring Earth, Wind & Fire, 1975)
5. Summer Madness (Kool & The Gang, 2014)
6. Summer Breeze (Seals & Crofts, 1972)
7. Hot Fun in the Summertime (Sly and the Family Stone, 1969)
8. School's Out (Alice Cooper, 1972)
9. Saturday in the Park (Chicago, 1972)
10. Summertime (Abbey Mitchell, 1935)
11. Summertime Blues (Eddie Cochran, 1958)
12. Summer Song (Louis Armstrong, 1961)
13. Surfin' Safari (The Beach Boys, 1962)
14. Surfer Girl (The Beach Boys, 1963)
15. Those Lazy, Hazy, Crazy Days of Summer (Nat King Cole, 1963)
16. Surf City (Jan & Dean, 1963)
17. Under The Boardwalk (The Drifters, 1964)
18. California Girls (The Beach Boys, 1965)
19. Summer in The City (The Lovin' Spoonful, 1966)
20. Summer (War, 1976)
21. Summer Nights (John Travolta and Olivia Newton John, 1978)
22. Walking on Sunshine (Katrina and the Waves, 1983)
23. The Boys of Summer (Don Henley, 1984)
24. Summer of '69 (Bryan Adams, 1985)
25. Summertime (DJ Jazzy Jeff & the Fresh Prince, 1991)
26. California Girls (Katy Perry featuring Snoop Dogg, 2010)
27. Summer (Calvin Harris, 2014)
28. Cool for the Summer (Demi Lovato, 2015)



# Rocket Announcements

## Sports & Recreation

### **Ladies golf association**

The Redstone Arsenal Ladies Golf Association will have a welcome sign-in brunch March 9 at 10 a.m. at the Links clubhouse. Anyone interested in joining the group for the season scheduled from March until the end of September is invited. A brunch will be served. For more information, call Kathleen Stirling 874-4249.

### **Benefit golf tournament**

The Redstone Arsenal Military and Civilians Club will hold its second annual Pineapple Open on April 22 at the Links. Early bird registration ends March 15 and saves each participant \$20. General registration ends April 15. It's a Four Man Scramble, \$90 per person which includes green fees, cart, continental breakfast and lunch, along with a swag bag. For more information, visit [rsamcc.org/fundraising](http://rsamcc.org/fundraising).

### **Bass/kayak tournament**

The Tennessee Valley Chapter of Army Aviation Association of America will sponsor their annual Bob Vlasic

Classic Bass/Kayak Tournament at Jackson County Park, May 12. Entry is \$30 for kayakers and \$60 for boaters and will launch at safe light 5:30 a.m., weigh in 2 p.m. There is a 100% payout. Places will be determined by number of entries and five fish total: (length) Kayak and (weight) Boat. There is also Big Fish (length) prize for Kayak, \$200; and Big Fish (weight) prize for Boat, \$400. A picnic will follow. For more information, call Kayak: Mitch Delk 755-0730 and Boater: Rich Arnold 842-9061.

### **Senior softball**

Get into the swing of senior slow-pitch softball. They have three leagues beginning with the Rockets League for those 55 and older, the Recreation League for those 63 and older, and the Triads for 71 and up. All games will be played at Brahman 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](mailto:Huntsville-srsoftball-info@googlegroups.com) or call Becky Rollston of the Huntsville/Madison County Senior Center at 880-7081.

**See Announcements on page 45**

So MAJ Payne, you've got them jumping thru hoops?

Another last minute HQ tasker!



## 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

### Intermediate civilian education class

Registration is open for a resident Intermediate Civilian Education System class scheduled April 4-22 at Toftoy Hall. The course is open to any GS 10-12 (and equivalents) within 50 miles of Redstone Arsenal. Applicants must be complete with CES Foundation and Intermediate CES Phase 1. Apply at [www.atrrs.army.mil/CHRTAS](http://www.atrrs.army.mil/CHRTAS). For more information, contact the CES manager at [thomas.v.olszowy.civ@army.mil](mailto:thomas.v.olszowy.civ@army.mil).

### Men's ministry

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

### Young citizen of month

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

### Wreaths Across America event

The Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit, sponsored by the Maple Hill, Rainbolt and Huntsville Chapters of Daughters of the American Revolution, will be held March 20 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Cabela's parking lot, 7090 Cabela Drive NW. This free event is open to the public.

### 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.

# RocketAnnouncements

### 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 is open through April from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, building 3439 on Honest John Road. 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.

### Comedy show/dinner

North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition will present "An Evening of Laughter with Jody Fuller" comedy show and dinner April 2 at The Summit. Tickets are \$50 per person, dinner included. Social starts at 5:30 p.m. and dinner/show at 6. Purchase tickets online at <https://conta.cc/3fE2KjL> or contact KC Bertling at 541-0450 or [presidentcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:presidentcoalition@gmail.com).

### Thrift Shop job position

The Redstone Thrift Shop is looking to hire an assistant manager for a six-month trial period. This position requires knowledge in retail sales, data entry and organizational skills. Excellent computer skills, including Microsoft Office with software and hardware troubleshooting abilities. The assistant manager will work with volunteers and paid staff. He or she must have good interpersonal skills, be dependable and enthusiastic with a positive attitude; must be able to multitask; will oversee donations, consignments and must be able to lift up to 25 pounds. Post access is preferred. Work hours are 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday and 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. the first Saturday of the month excluding holiday weekends. Resumes are accepted at [rsamanager@knology.net](mailto:rsamanager@knology.net). Apply by close of business March 9. For more information, call Sophie Gentry 881-6992 or email [rsamanager@knology.net](mailto:rsamanager@knology.net). The Thrift Shop is a nonprofit organization on Redstone Arsenal; it is however not affiliated with Redstone or the Army. This is not a government job.

### Marksmanship clinic

The Revolutionary War Veterans Association's, Project Applesseed will conduct a ladies only two-day rifle marksmanship clinic and telling the history of what led up to and the events of April 19, 1775. The clinic will be in the South Huntsville area at Hobbs Island Shooting Range, 3682 Hobbs Island Road, from March 12-13. For more information or to register, go to <https://applesseedinfo.org>.

### Military service displays

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

### St. Patrick's Day parade

The 45th annual Ellen McAnelly Memorial St. Patrick's Day Parade is scheduled March 12 at 11 a.m. in downtown Huntsville. The community event, organized by the Irish Society of North Alabama, will be taking place for the first time since 2019. Organizers are looking for groups to join the parade. The parade, presented by Straight to Ale Brewing, welcomes a variety of groups of all sizes such as clubs, families, organizations, businesses and sports teams. For more information, call Lisa Bollinger 468-5612 or visit [IrishSocietyNA.org/parade.php](http://IrishSocietyNA.org/parade.php).

### Charity car show

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

### Health department ratings

The Madison County Health Department has released its weekly food/lodging establishment ratings for Feb. 14-18. The highest scores included Publix 1642-Seafood, 7129 Wall Triana Highway, Madison, 100; Publix 1642-Meat, 7129 Wall Triana Highway, Madison, 100; Publix 1642-Deli, 7129 Wall Triana Highway, Madison, 100; Publix 1642-Bakery, 7129 Wall Triana Highway, Madison, 100; Summer Fun, 1815 Slaughter Road, Madison, 100; Pendot Montessori, 115 Rebecca Pines Drive, Madison, 100; Cookie Fix, 300 Pelham Ave. SW, 100; Super Target 1346 (Starbucks), 6275 University Drive NW, 100; Super Target 1346 (Bakery), 6275 University Drive NW, 100; Heavenly Sinwiches, 11220 South Memorial Parkway, 100; Hobbs 231 Nutrition, 13136 Memorial Parkway, 100; Costco Wholesale 356 (Meat), 1205 North Memorial Parkway, 100; and Yellowhammer Event Space, 2600 Clinton Ave., 100. The lowest scores included Haru Korean Sushi, 8760 Madison Boulevard, Unit L, Madison, 82; Another Broken Egg Café, 2722-D Carl T. Jones Drive, 81; Residence Inn by Marriott, 6305 Residence Inn Road, 80; and AKI Japan Inc., 6125 University Drive, Suite B, 73.