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A Space & Missile Defense NewsWire

# THE EAGLE

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## JTAGS Soldiers conduct critical training



*Courtesy photo*

**Joint Tactical Ground Station-Korea, C Detachment, 1st Space Company, train to respond to a chemical or biological weapons attack during a recent exercise at Camp Humphreys, South Korea.**



JUNE 5, 2014

U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command publishes the Eagle bi-weekly as a digital newswire. The newswire is an authorized publication of the USASMDC/ARSTRAT in accordance with AR 360-1. The SMDC commanding general has directed that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law. The views and opinions expressed in the Eagle are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or SMDC. The Eagle is intended to inform members of the command on happenings within the Army space and missile defense community. Distribution is made to the service members, civilians and contractors, and to the general public.

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Command Sgt. Maj. James N. Ross

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## SMDC Legal NCO retires



Photo by Carrie E. David

**Col. Sarah Green, staff judge advocate, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, pins the Meritorious Service Medal onto the uniform of Sgt. 1st Class William E. Rounds Jr., senior paralegal, SMDC, during his retirement at the command's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters May 21. Rounds retires with 21 years of service.**

## Command IG retires



Photo by Carrie E. David

**Col. Fred V. Manzo Jr., U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command's inspector general, receives his retirement pin from his daughter, Samantha, and Lt. Gen. David L. Mann, SMDC's commanding general, during his retirement at the command's Redstone Arsenal, Ala., headquarters May 22. Watching (at right) is Manzo's son, Joseph. Manzo retires with 28 years of service.**

# Brigade conducts annual evaluation with Alaska battalion

**Capt. Ronald Bailey**  
**100th MDB Public Affairs**

**FORT GREELY, Alaska.** – A small team of Soldiers from the 100th Missile Defense Brigade (Ground-based Midcourse Defense) performed an External Evaluation, assessing select mission essential and collective tasks of the 49th Missile Defense Battalion (GMD) in conjunction with a large-scale exercise May 12-16.

Both the 49th Missile Defense Battalion and the 100th Missile Defense Brigade are assigned to the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

During the exercise, brigade observer-controllers and trainers executed a myriad of scripted injects to stimulate battle-drills, and assess collective training proficiency. The brigade also worked closely with the Missile Defense Agency and Fort Greely garrison on a couple of large-scale injects affecting those agencies as well.

“Training exercises of this nature on the Missile Defense Complex are significant as they familiarize emergency responders with the area and its procedures,” said Nickole Porter, a contracted System Safety specialist for the Missile Defense Agency. “It also allows them to practice their techniques and purchase the proper equipment to respond to such incidents.”

The largest of these joint injects included an extraction of an injured person inside one of the underground Silo Interface Vaults on Fort Greely's Missile Defense Complex. During this inject, Soldiers of A Company, 49th Military Police and Fort



*Photo by Capt. Ronald Bailey*

**Military Police Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, A Company, 49th Missile Defense Battalion (Ground-based Midcourse Defense), prepare to conduct an active shooter response drill as a part of the unit's annual External Evaluation at Fort Greely, Alaska, May 12-16.**

Greely's Department of Emergency Services exercised emergency ingress procedures, medical, and extraction techniques.

“Supporting Soldiers of the 49th is our primary mission in DPTMS (Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security),” said Helinka Papison, director for Fort Greely garrison DPTMS. “Coordination between the garrison and all of the units on the installation helps keep us all mission ready. We not only worked in direct support of the 49th's exercise, but also had initiated an installation wide shelter-in-place exercise to fulfill our own training/exercise requirements.”

During the evaluation, 49th Missile Defense Batt. Military Police Soldiers also participated in an active shooter exercise at a prepared location simulating an incident on the Missile Defense Complex. For the exercise, they utilized modified

weapons and Simunition rounds.

“The benefit of using a facility that the Soldiers are not familiar with, as well as Simunition rounds, adds to the realism of any exercise,” said Capt. Michael T. Long, commander, Company A, 49th Missile Defense Batt. “Active shooter scenarios rely heavily on the rules of engagement and escalation of force, but the main focus is on eliminating the active shooter. With that mindset, a Soldier still has to be aware of non-combatant individuals who may be involved. This keeps the Soldiers alert and ready to make the decision to return fire or not.”

Although some evaluations were conducted on individual level tasks such as medical and communication Army Warrior Tasks during the active shooter scenarios, these were rolled-up as a general assessment

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# Remembering the sacrifices of the nation's fallen

**Kari Hawkins**  
*Redstone Rocket*

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala.** – On Memorial Day – a national day of remembrance, recognition and honor – members of local patriotic and military organizations joined with the families of the area's fallen for the annual tribute at Maple Hill Cemetery May 26.

Taps was played, there was a rifle salute, the Huntsville Concert Band and singer Bob Smith performed patriotic music, and memorial wreaths were laid at the base of the cemetery's veterans memorial as the bagpipes sounded.

Lt. Gen. David L. Mann, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, said Memorial Day is not only a day to remember the sacrifices of fallen service members, but also to “recognize the loved ones who have been left behind.”

Of the more than 1,200 veterans buried at Maple Hill Cemetery, four stand out as representatives of the cost today's military families have paid to protect the nation's freedoms, Mann said. They are Cpl. Andrew Chris, killed in Baghdad, Iraq, on June 25, 2003; Marine Lance Cpl. Adam Loggins, killed in Anbar Province, Iraq, on April 26, 2007; Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Hall, killed in Afghanistan on June 1, 2009; and Capt. Wade Ramsey, killed in Afghanistan on Aug. 4, 2011. Chris is buried in section 105, and the other three are buried in section 36. While family members of other fallen service members who have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan were



*Photo by Kari Hawkins*

**Lt. Gen. David L. Mann, commanding general, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, and Ray Zimmerman, vice president of the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition, present the coalition's wreath for laying at the veterans memorial.**

also honored at the ceremony, their loved ones are not buried at Maple Hill Cemetery.

Speaking to all family members and friends who have lost loved ones in any of the nation's wars, Mann said, “Thank you for helping us to remember your loved one's service and sacrifice. Thank you for helping us remember that freedom is not free. Thank you for helping us remember that you are truly a national treasure.

“On behalf of a grateful nation, I salute you,” Mann added. “It is important to remember those who gave all so we can enjoy our many liberties.”

He also mentioned his son-in-law, who was killed on Nov. 23, 2005, while serving with the 101st Airborne Division in Iraq. Fallen warriors, Mann said, “leave behind

family, friends and loved ones” who must live daily with their loss.

Rachael Jackson, who is a West Point graduate and former Apache pilot, and now the wife of a service member and a mother, presented the ceremony's Salute to the Fallen.

“I have been so blessed with the opportunity to be a Soldier,” Jackson said. “I have served alongside some of the most courageous, heroic people you'll ever know.

“I have lost friends, classmates and fellow pilots. I have seen my friends recovering in hospitals after being blown up by (improvised explosive devices),” she added. “I get choked up watching homecomings, knowing the sacrifice of spouses and children as well as the Soldiers. I have said ‘thank you’ and have

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Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw

From left, Kaye Blankenship, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, Technical Center; Kathleen Riester, Redstone Arsenal Army Emergency Relief officer; SMDC Command Sgt. Maj. James N. Ross; KC Bertling, SMDC G-1 office; and Joanna Brunson, SMDC Tech Center; stand behind a check representing the \$17,380 SMDC employees raised during the 2014 AER Campaign.

## SMDC donates to Army Emergency Relief

**Jason B. Cutshaw**  
**SMDC Public Affairs**

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** – During the 2014 Army Emergency Relief Campaign, members of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command raised \$17,380 for AER.

AER is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to providing financial assistance to Soldiers, active and retired, and their families. Since its incorporation in 1942, AER has provided more than \$1.5 billion to more than 3.5 million Soldiers, families and retirees.

AER provides no-interest loans and grants for emergency travel, initial rent deposits and vehicle repairs for service members and families. It also assists with financial needs

such as household and appliance repair, dependent dental care, as well as initial home furnishings.

“AER is the Army’s emergency financial assistance organization and is dedicated to ‘Helping the Army Take Care of Its Own,’” said USASMDC/ARSTRAT Command Sgt. Maj. James N. Ross. “AER provides commanders a valuable asset in accomplishing their basic command responsibility for the morale and welfare of Soldiers. AER funds are made available to commanders having AER sections to provide emergency financial assistance to Soldiers – active and retired – and their dependents when there is a valid need.

“AER funds made available to commanders are not limited and are constrained only by the requirement of valid need,” he added. “For these

reasons, the AER assistance program is conducted within the Army structure by major commanders and their installation or organization commanders through AER sections and other related organizations.”

Ross encourages Soldiers to go to AER when an issue arises instead of trying to handle it either by themselves or going to an off-post institution.

“It is ok to ask for help,” Ross said. “Many situations faced by Soldiers, family members and retirees are unexpected and they don’t know where to go for help. Whether it’s an unexpected bill, death in the family or other reason, the local AER office stands ready to assist. People should support AER because every contribution supports Soldiers, families or retirees.”

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# SMDC, MDA join to educate force on Safety

**Jason B. Cutshaw**  
SMDC Public Affairs

**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** – Two Redstone Arsenal commands recently educated their work force about safety on and off duty.

The U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command and the Missile Defense Agency hosted the sixth annual Joint Safety Awareness Day and Health Expo to promote safety awareness May 29 at the Von Braun Complex on Redstone Arsenal.

The command is scheduled to host another Safety Day for its team members stationed at Colorado Springs, Colo., June 12.

“I want to thank you all for attending,” said David L. Mann, commanding general USASMDC/ARSTRAT. “I think it is a very powerful relationship that we have established (with MDA) and hope we continue in the years to come. I want to thank all of those folks who worked the countless hours to put this together and also thank the vendors who are here to help support this Safety Day activity.

“The Army, over the course of last year, lost 73 great Americans to accidents. Forty-four of the 73 we lost last year was due to off-duty activities,” he added. “Since July of last year, we have suffered more than 6,678 accidents that have resulted in injuries. SMDC had five accidents last year. We are not talking about tremendously large numbers, but at the end of the day we are talking about an individual and we are talking about a family that has been impacted by the accident.”

A goal of the expo is to help



Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw

**Col. Dewey A. Granger, chief of staff, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, learns about the dangers of texting and driving at the Missile Defense Agency and SMDC's sixth annual Joint Safety Awareness Day and Health Expo to promote safety awareness May 29 at the Von Braun Complex on Redstone Arsenal.**

minimize the risk of unintentional death, injury or damage caused by mishaps and to promote proactive measures within the work force. The day's activities focused on safety demonstrations and inspections performed by members of Redstone Arsenal and its surrounding communities.

“The purpose of the Joint Safety and Health Expo is to promote safety awareness leading into the ‘Critical Days of Summer,’” said Michael Wadzinski, MDA director for Quality, Safety and Mission Assurance, and MDA's designated agency safety and health official. “The Safety Expo provides information to employees to help them manage the risk from participating in seasonal activities

and reduce the potential for injury both at work and during leisure activities.

“Through this event we hope to nurture a positive safety culture within our organizations and build a strong sense of safety awareness that can be utilized by personnel during both on- and off-duty hours,” Wadzinski added.

The Safety Day expo highlighted SMDC's and MDA's commitments to employee safety and health by bringing in local vendors to demonstrate and promote safety awareness.

“The expo promotes safety within the SMDC and MDA communities,” said Randy Joyner,

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## SMDC celebrates Asian American-Pacific Islander heritage

Scott Andraea  
USASMDC/ARSTRAT SIG

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** – The sights, sounds and flavors of Hawaii and Tahiti were seen, heard and tasted May 28 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month was celebrated at the operational headquarters of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command.

A dancing and drumming group with more than 25 years of experience, Manava O Polynesia, performed at the event. The group's director is Charlene M. Maneafaiga, a contracting officer with Army Contracting Command assigned to SMDC's Colorado Springs office.

"We teach our children about their heritage through the dances and the music," Maneafaiga told the Soldiers, airmen, family members and contractor employees who filled the room.

After several adult and many young dancers demonstrated the traditions of Hawaii and Tahiti, some audience members were "drafted" to learn the Tahitian Fruit Salad dance.

With the group's dancers nearby to help and a drummer giving instructions, the audience members



Photo by Scott Andraea

*Audience members and youth from the Manava O Polynesia dance troupe perform the "Tahitian Fruit Salad" dance to conclude the May 28 celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month at the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.*

learned and swayed in the directions of imaginary fruit on a string – an apple to the right, orange to the left, banana to the front and mango to the rear.

The final performance by experienced and amateur dancers combined the motions, getting progressively faster.

Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month is conducted in May. It recognizes the accomplishments of people who

have origins in the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

### MEMORIAL DAY from Page 4

been thanked. When I see the veteran's hat, shirt, or license plate, I say a prayer."

She said her heart often aches with the question, "Why?" And God has answered her, Jackson said, with these words, "It's the story, Rachael. It's the story of unspeakable evil that threatens to overcome. It's the story of heroes who sacrifice it all to offer others a chance at life and freedom. Free from horror and evil, full of hope and purpose. It's a reflection of my story."

Quoting John 15:12-13, Jackson said when the Scripture is reflected in a warrior's life, in a Soldier's life, it shows love for God, love for others and hope for a better tomorrow.

"Soldiers who selflessly serve their country are the greatest display of God's hope and glory," she said.

The Memorial Day ceremony was hosted by the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition and by the city of Huntsville.

## SMDC DOTD director retires



Photo by Don Messmer, Jr.

*Maj. Gen. Ole Knudson, program executive for Programs and Integration, Missile Defense Agency, awards Terry Nelson, director, Directorate of Training and Doctrine, Future Warfare Center, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, the Meritorious Civilian Service Award during Nelson's retirement at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., May 21. Nelson also received the Army Achievement Medal for Civilian Service and the Honorary Order of the Noble Patron of Space. He retires with 13 years of service.*

## USASMDC/ARSTRAT congratulates its Best Warriors

Congratulations to the winners of the 2014 U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command Regional Best Warrior Competitions:

**Pacific Region:** Noncommissioned officer of the Year **Sgt. Brian D. Hester**, C Detachment, 1st Space Company, 1st Space Battalion, Osan Air Force Base, Korea; Soldier of the Year **Spc. Fernando G. Berry**, E Company, 53rd Signal Batt., Fort Buckner, Okinawa, Japan;

**West Region CONUS:** NCO of the Year **Sgt. Taveon D. Nottingham**, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 53rd Signal Batt. (SATCON), Schriever Air Force Base, Colo.; Soldier of the Year **Spc. Kristopher A. Grayson**, HHC, 53rd Signal Batt., Schriever AFB;

**East Region CONUS:** NCO of the Year **Sgt. 1st Class Isaac S. M. Fulkerson**, A Company, 53rd Signal Batt., Fort Detrick, Md.; Soldier of the Year **Spc. Kenneth A. Edwards**, A Company, 53rd Signal Batt., Fort Detrick;

**Europe Region:** NCO of the Year **Sgt. David A. Bunker**, A Detachment, 1st Space Company, 1st Space Batt., Stuttgart, Germany; Soldier of the Year **Spc. Michael A. Crider**, C Company, 53rd Signal Batt., Landstuhl, Germany.

The competitions consisted of the Army Physical Fitness Test, weapons qualification, 100 questions written examination, written essay on the Army profession, and appearance in front of a board. These Soldiers will represent their regions in the USASMDC/ARSTRAT Best Warrior Competition later in June.

Deadline for comments and submissions for the June 19 issue is June 13.

Please submit to Jason B. Cutshaw at [Jason.B.Cutshaw.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Jason.B.Cutshaw.civ@mail.mil).

# History: President Kennedy meets Nike-Zeus

**Sharon Watkins Lang**  
SMDC command historian

Given the intense schedule of an American president, it is a rare opportunity to actually demonstrate the capabilities of a technology or system. For the Army missile programs, that opportunity came on June 5, 1963.

On this date, President John F. Kennedy, accompanied by Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, Secretary of the Army Cyrus Vance, Secretary of the Navy Fred Korth and others flew to White Sands Missile Range, N.M., for a special presentation of military strength and technology.

Speaking to a welcoming crowd of Army, Navy and NASA personnel and their families, Kennedy commended everyone for their efforts.

“What you do here, what progress you make, what dedication you demonstrate makes a significant difference to the security of our country and to those who depend upon us,” After extending his thanks, Kennedy concluded “We admire what you are doing, and even more important are very grateful to all of you.”

During a two-hour presentation, the president and official party were introduced to eight key missile systems demonstrated in seven separate launches. With the exception of the Navy’s Talos missile, all of the missiles were tied to ordnance programs managed from Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

The demonstration began with the launch of an Honest John with a white phosphorous warhead.



Honest John was described as a highly reliable system, deployed around the world, and capable of employing multiple warhead types.

This was followed by the mobile Little John developed for airborne troops. The system was flown in by helicopter and launched before the reviewing stand.

Next came the Hawk, described in the Signal Corps film as a “compact package of lethal lightning” that “plucked its target from the sky.”

The final element of this first session was the Sergeant, a “largely automatic” system that was then replacing the Corporal weapons system.

After traveling to a second launch area, Kennedy and his party were introduced to a series of longer range missiles.



U.S. Army photos

(Above) President John F. Kennedy watches as a missile fires at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., during a series of tests in June 1963.

(Left) A Nike-Zeus missile is test fired June 5, 1963, during a demonstration for President John F. Kennedy.

The Nike-Hercules successfully intercepted a second Nike-Hercules missile. A Pershing missile crew, in battlefield dress, conducted a tactical demonstration to illustrate the speed at which this system could be prepared for launch. Due to the limitations of the missile range, this demonstration did not include a launch.

Two of the Navy’s Talos-guided missiles were the seventh in this series.

The production concluded with a dramatic launch of the command’s Nike-Zeus, the nation’s only anti-missile missile, which at that time was under advanced development.

According to an article in the Redstone Rocket, “A Nike-Zeus missile finished the day with an exclamation point. It thundered away from its launching pit in a high sky-scraping trajectory that left a column of smoke dotted on the bottom by a billow of dust.”

## Soldiers interact with "greatest generation" World War II veterans



*Courtesy photo*

*While on a group lunch outing during Armed Forces Week at Mission BBQ, Sgt. 1st Class Gary Grooms, B Company, 53rd Signal Battalion, and some of the B Company headquarters Soldiers met with several World War II veterans who were in town with their Honor Flight network from Central Coast, Calif. The Soldiers took the opportunity to sit down and listen to the stories of the men and women who fought for the world's freedom more than 70 years ago.*

### ALASKA from Page 3

and briefed to battalion and battery/company leadership as to the level of proficiency observed.

“Active shooter scenarios are an all-encompassing battle drill,” added Long. “Soldiers are pushed physically during the sweep and disrupt portion, but also mentally during the intelligence gathering and triage portion that has to be given to non-combatants and team members once the threat is neutralized.”

The brigade has conducted evaluations in various forms with the battalion for nearly a decade and have continually perfected their craft. Each year the coordination between the two units and other Fort Greely agencies continues to improve, allowing each of the represented groups to take their desired training evaluations to a higher level of fidelity.

“The evaluation was an unmitigated success at multiple levels,” said Lt. Col. David R. Laydon, S-3,

100th Missile Defense Bde., and overall exercise director. “The 49th had a chance to work through numerous challenging injects that tested our ability to communicate and operate directly with garrison, MDA and within our own security forces. This exercise significantly improved tactical and communication skills. We have truly become a more effective combined force.”

“Of great benefit to the execution of the evaluation was the instance of 100th Brigade Soldiers, now with the Colorado Army National Guard, having previously served with the 49th Battalion, which heightens our understanding of the challenges and circumstances that the Alaska Army National Guard Soldiers operate under,” Laydon added. “The mantra ‘One Team, One Fight’ is fully in effect for the Soldiers tasked to ‘Defend the Homeland.’”

**SAFETY from Page 6**

SMDC command safety officer. “It is an important element of SMDC’s Summer Safety Campaign and the National Safety Month. SMDC will host a similar event at Peterson Air Force Base for command personnel and their family members on June 12. It highlights and reinforces SMDC’s commitment to the safety and welfare of employees.

“The safety officer and points of contact from organizations across the command solicit and identify safety topics that interest the work force,” he added. “This collaboration with employees allows both the command and agency to bring in interesting exhibits and training that highlights important safety topics for on and off duty.”

With summer approaching, Joyner emphasized the importance of being safe, not only at work, but at home as well.

“Warm weather and higher temperatures means increased outdoor recreational activities, home maintenance projects and summer travel for leisure,” Joyner said. “Accidents around the home cause an increasing number of injuries to our work force. Safety awareness and risk mitigation should be their number one priority, no matter how ridiculous it may seem. Ensuring safety measures are in place on and off duty not only protects us but also ensures the welfare of our family members. It is vital that all personnel be cognizant of their surroundings and the associated hazards to prevent accidental mishaps.”

MDA and SMDC employees and family members at Redstone Arsenal got a firsthand chance to learn about local safety and health issues unique to Alabama and the



*Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw*

**Mark Robbie, a member of the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command G-8, tries on a bomb suit at the Missile Defense Agency and USASMD/ARSTRAT’s 6th annual Joint Safety Awareness Day and Health Expo to promote safety awareness May 29 at the Von Braun Complex on Redstone Arsenal.**

Tennessee Valley. They learned about several issues confronting them both indoors and outdoors.

Exhibits and safety demonstrations in Huntsville included: Redstone Arsenal Fire Department; electrical safety; home power; Fleet Feet; Explosive Ordnance Disposal; unexploded ordnance safety; Alabama State Troopers; Radon safety; bicycle safety;

Briggs Chiropractic Clinic; storm shelters; federal occupational health; Rocket Harley Davidson; Terminex pest control; FBI child identification and safety; Search and Rescue Team (with dogs); home security and alarms; North Alabama Firearms weapons safety; Community Emergency Response Team; U.S. Coast Guard; WAFF weather safety; Fox Army Hospital; Redstone Arsenal Veterinary Activity; Child Youth Services; Fox Army Medical Center Behavioral Health; Fox Wellness Program; Fox Occupational Health; Heritage Propane/Amerigas; Alabama Department of Transportation; Redstone Arsenal’s Substance Abuse Program and others.

“The importance of safety day is to make people cognizant of things they are not really aware of. They see it, but they don’t see it,” said Joanna Brunson, program support specialist, SMDC Technical Center Business Management Office. “We want people to broaden their knowledge that there is home safety as well as workplace safety here today. Safety is something we need to practice daily, whether it is at work, at home or while driving our vehicles.

“I think today’s event is awesome,” she added. “We want to thank the vendors who came out to support us because they are all volunteering their time. We appreciate them taking time out of their busy schedules to come down and share their knowledge with us. It is great to have SMDC and MDA come together under this format and work together to help inform the work force about the importance of safety.”

**AER from Page 5**

AER announced that as of Jan. 1, all officers, warrant officer and non-commissioned officers are authorized to submit requests for Army Emergency Relief financial assistance directly through the installation AER office.

“Based on feedback we received from senior Army leaders, including the sergeant major of the Army, we decided that this is the right thing to do,” said retired Lt. Gen. Robert F. Foley, AER director. “Over the last decade, these leaders have been entrusted with increasing levels of responsibility and have demonstrated the required trust and confidence to warrant this change.”

Lower ranking Soldiers, private thru specialist, are still required to complete the AER application and submit it to the unit company commander or first sergeant for their recommendation.

A member of Redstone Arsenal’s Army Community Service family talked about the importance of AER and how it serves service members and their families.

“The importance of AER is to identify, improve and solve emergency financial problems for Soldiers and their family members, retirees and widows,” said Kathleen Riester, Redstone Arsenal AER officer.

She said eligibility for financial assistance includes active duty Soldiers and their dependents and Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reservists on active duty orders for more than 30 consecutive days and their dependents

“Soldiers may experience an emergency, which arises suddenly, unforeseen or urgently, that requires immediate attention,” Riester added. “Assistance is normally in a loan, however grants are made in some situations. AER serves to reduce stress on already taxed families due to military lifestyle.”

She also spoke of how AER helps widows and what they need to know.

“Widows must be dependents of the Soldier or retiree at the time of the service member’s death,” Riester said. “Eligible family members must have a current dependent ID card and complete the AER application. The AER officer is always available to assist the widow with the application process. It is best to schedule an appointment but walk-ins are accepted as well.”

She also said the assistance for retirees and their families is the same for active duty, although their financial emergency maybe different.

Reister said active duty Soldiers need to know about AER programs

and that they are funded by Soldiers for Soldiers, interest free. She emphasized that all requests must adhere to the Army Regulation 930-4.

She pointed out that Redstone Arsenal’s AER provides emergency assistance to Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard personnel when the following apply: aid facilities of the applicant’s own military branch is not available; referral to the American Red Cross is not feasible; an emergency financial situation exists that warrants assistance; and authority has been obtained from the appropriate aid society headquarters.

“We want to encourage Soldiers, retirees and their families to seek out AER first,” Reister said. “If they are eligible and the emergency as defined in the AR is supported with documentation, we will do everything to assist them during their emergency crisis. If we can’t assist them financially, we will provide other resources that may apply to their particular situation.”

AER is located at Building 3443 Aerobee Road on Redstone Arsenal.

For more information about AER, call (256) 876-5397 or visit the website for application forms and financial worksheets at [www.aerhq.org](http://www.aerhq.org).

**SAFETY** Expo

USASMDC/ARSTRAT  
\*\* Safety Stand-down Day \*\*

**Thursday, 12 June 2014 | 0900-1400**

Located on the back lawn of Bldg. 3, Peterson Air Force Base

**FAMILY MEMBERS INVITED**

SAFETY ALWAYS