

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
**REDSTONE ARSENAL**  
1941 - 2016



Cover photograph: Major Carroll D. Hudson breaks ground  
for the Redstone Ordnance Plant, October 25, 1941

Acknowledgements: Material from this book was taken from the archives of various predecessors of the U.S. Army Aviation Command which was the senior command of Redstone Arsenal (now under the U.S. Army Materiel Command). We gratefully acknowledge the work of all of those who have served as historians for the U.S. Army at Redstone Arsenal over the past 75 years. Of special note Mrs. Mary T. Cagle, considered Redstone Arsenal's first historian, and the person she mentored and was the installation's command historian for the last 30 years, Mr. Michael "Mule" Baker. Their works have been used to create this book. Special thanks to the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library and the Madison County Records Center for their assistance and for many of the photographs used in this book. We also like to thank the work of the *Huntsville Times* for capturing so much of the U.S. Army's history at Redstone Arsenal and throughout north Alabama.

Disclaimer: The thoughts and views in this book do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Army or the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

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Produced by  
The U.S. Army Materiel Command  
4400 Martin Road  
Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898

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Huntsville Arsenal Locomotive, 1944

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## Foreword

This year, Redstone Arsenal and its dedicated workforce of military, civilians, and contractors celebrate 75 years of exceptional service to the United States Army, our Armed Forces, and the Nation. To honor this very special anniversary, *The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Redstone Arsenal, 1941-2016*, was prepared. The pages that follow highlight Redstone's achievements throughout the decades, and the unique relationship that exists between the Arsenal and the surrounding Tennessee Valley community.



To those who helped shape Redstone Arsenal into the installation it is today, as you read this publication, I hope you will enjoy reminiscing about your collective contributions and achievements. To those who will build a new chapter in Redstone's history, let this commemorative book inspire you to continue the legacy of achievements for many years to come.

When future historians write about Redstone Arsenal, I have no doubt that they will continue to praise the efforts and contributions of Redstone Arsenal – what is now a Department of Defense and Federal Center of Excellence – to our national security during this unprecedented complex period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. L. Via".

Dennis L. Via  
General, USA  
Commanding



Gate 1 (Martin Road), 1962



# Preface

*"I think George and myself did a good job for two country lads."*

Lawrence Goldsmith, June 16, 1941

So wrote Lawrence Goldsmith to Congressman John J. Sparkman in the early summer of 1941. The winds of war were brewing and Goldsmith, George Mahoney, Sparkman, and senior Alabama U.S. Senator Lister Hill worked together to convince the Army to put down roots in Huntsville, Alabama.

As Redstone Arsenal celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, take a look back at the story of how a World War II manufacturing facility turned into a major Federal Center of Excellence, moving beyond making bombs and gas masks to headquartering a world-wide logistics operation, managing the Army's missiles and rockets and aviation fleet, and welcoming partners from a wide spectrum of disciplines.

None of this could have been accomplished without the ardent support and work of the local communities and the Congressional delegations that have represented Alabama so well for these many years.

This work is dedicated to tens of thousands of workers who have labored at Redstone Arsenal over the past 75 years.

COMPONENT	NUMBER	LBS-EXP
Black Powder		300,000
One Model	50,000	
Fuzes all Model	100,000	10,000
Primers		20,000
Raw W.P. Amm		300,000

Ammunition warehouse sign

# **Chapter One: The 1940s**



Prior to the Army coming to Huntsville, the city was known as "the Watercress Capital of the World." The photo below shows watercress being harvested.



Downtown Huntsville, 1932

## The winds of war

The line "Huntsville was a sleepy Southern town before the Army came" couldn't be further from the truth. Huntsville, as the capital of Madison County, was a major trading center for North Alabama for a variety of commodities. It was also a major banking center. With major rail lines, the Tennessee River, a plentiful labor supply, and power from the Tennessee Valley Authority dams, it would be exactly what the Army was looking for in early 1941.

On the eve of the United States' involvement in World War II, Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, was the only chemical manufacturing installation of the Chemical Warfare Service. Consequently, the Chief of the Chemical Warfare Service requested that the War Department acquire additional facilities to supplement Edgewood's production. About 30,000 acres of land suitable for construction purposes were required for the site of the additional facilities. The land was to be located inland, far enough from the seacoast to provide sufficient protection. Also needed was access to adequate rail, water, and highway transportation; sufficient fuel and electrical power; and ample construction materials and enough raw materials for subsequent operations. Areas considered for the site included Florence, Huntsville, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama; El Dorado, Arkansas; Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri; Toledo, Ohio; Memphis, Tennessee; and Charleston, West Virginia.



Dallas Mill



# Huntsville has it

On July 3, 1941, the War Department announced that a site on the southwestern edge of Huntsville, Alabama, had been selected as the location for the new chemical munitions manufacturing and storage plant. Not only was this area an inland site, but its numerous mountain ranges afforded additional protection. Moreover, the tract of land selected contained over 30,000 acres which were available at very reasonable prices. The transportation facilities, labor conditions, and climate, health, and living conditions of the area were considered to be excellent. Material for construction and raw material for manufacturing could be obtained easily. Also readily available were large supplies of soft coal and fuel oil. The water supply and sewage disposal presented no problems. Finally, the Tennessee Valley Authority could furnish the required electric power.

The *Huntsville Times* released two editions on July 3, 1941. The first edition (top) was distributed with fire trucks from the Huntsville Fire Department when the Army made the announcement from Washington, D.C.

The evening edition (bottom) contained more details about the new Chemical Warfare Service facility including a more specific amount the plant was going to cost.



## The story behind the story...

I. SCHIFFMAN & COMPANY

INCORPORATED  
HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

June 16, 1941

AIR MAIL

Hon. John Sparkman,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear John:-

Many thanks for everything that you have done. General Porter assured us on last night before leaving that Huntsville was his selection, and that the project will be released from the War Department sometime this week. It is a larger project than I thought (\$45,000,000.00). Work, according to their information, will be begun by July 1st, and must be completed within a nine-months period.

I think George and myself did a good job for two country lads. We entertained them royally, and they spoke very, very highly of you. They also impressed upon us that Huntsville was the only point that no politics entered into. They also stated that they had looked at fifteen other sites, as far west as Omaha, and that Huntsville was by far the ideal spot.

I am writing you this, as I know you will contact General Porter immediately upon his arrival in Washington today at noon.

Thanks again from all the population of Madison County. You have done a wonderful job, and you can bet that we all appreciate your tireless efforts.

With best wishes, and kindest regards,

Sincerely,

*Lawrence Goldsmith*  
Lawrence Goldsmith

LBG:ML



LAWRENCE GOLDSMITH



GEORGE MAHONEY

Time may have forgotten George Mahoney and Lawrence Goldsmith but the actions of these two businessmen were key in bringing the Army to Huntsville. Mahoney, a local men's clothing retailer, and Goldsmith, a prominent land owner, worked with U.S. Representative John J. Sparkman to get the Army to choose Huntsville as the location for a new chemical warfare plant. They personally escorted Major General William Porter, Chief of the Chemical Warfare Service, in June 1941 to the area where Redstone Arsenal is now. Senator Lister Hill, then the senior senator from Alabama, worked behind the scenes to promote then Colonel Porter to the rank of Major General and have him named Chief of the Chemical Warfare Service just weeks before Major General Porter visited Huntsville and made the selection of Huntsville for the new plant.

## Huntsville Arsenal

The War Department announced on July 24, 1941, that the official name of the new chemical munitions plant was Huntsville Arsenal. The Chemical Warfare Service proposed that the site be named Sibert Arsenal in honor of Major General William L. Sibert, a native of Gadsden, Alabama, and the first Chief of the Chemical Warfare Service from June 1918 to February 1920. The name Sibert, however, was reserved for Camp Sibert, a training center of the Chemical Warfare Service which was established at Gadsden in 1942. It was subsequently deactivated at the end of the war.

The first Commanding Officer of Huntsville Arsenal, (then) Colonel Rollo C. Ditto, arrived in Huntsville on August 4, 1941, and broke ground the next day for initial construction of the arsenal. By March 1942, the arsenal's first production facility had been activated. Huntsville Arsenal became the sole manufacturer of colored smoke munitions and was also noted for its vast production of gel-type incendiaries. The arsenal also produced toxic agents such as mustard gas, phosgene, lewisite, white phosphorous, carbonyl iron, and tear gas. During World War II, more than 27,000,000 items of chemical munitions with a total value of over \$134.5 million (or \$1.7 billion in 2016 dollars) were produced. Personnel of Huntsville Arsenal won the Army-Navy "E" Award (a War Department honor for excellence) four different times for their outstanding record in the production of war equipment.

# The Huntsville Times

## 500 Job Hunters Swarm Into City Many Seek Employment With Projected War Chemical Plant

Approximately 500 men stormed the local office of the Alabama State Employment Service this morning, seeking jobs with the \$47,000,000 war chemical plants soon to be established here. About half of the job applicants were from outside Madison county, it was learned, some of them coming here from Childersburg, where they were unsuccessful in securing jobs at the munitions plant there. Interviewers of the employment service said they were unable to give the applicants any information regarding employment in the huge new war chemical plants, but accepted routine applications in routine.

## Col. R. C. Ditto Reaches City Commander Of Chemical Arsenal Arrives Here From Pittsburgh

Col. R. C. Ditto, who will be commanding officer of the Huntsville Arsenal, arrived here today from Pittsburgh, Pa. He was accompanied by Lieut. Munn, his aide, and his secretary. Col. Ditto's offices are expected to be located in the Armory, pending construction of temporary offices buildings on the arsenal site. Work on these offices is scheduled to get under way this first of this week. Several additional car-loads of lumber to be used in the building have arrived, and were being unloaded and transported to the site today. Lt. Col. Walker J. Ungentliem, liaison officer for the Chemical Warfare Service during the construction of the arsenal, is scheduled to reach the city Wednesday.



Brigadier General Rollo C. Ditto

## Arsenal Offices Opening Sept. 15 500 To 600 Personnel To Occupy Six New Buildings

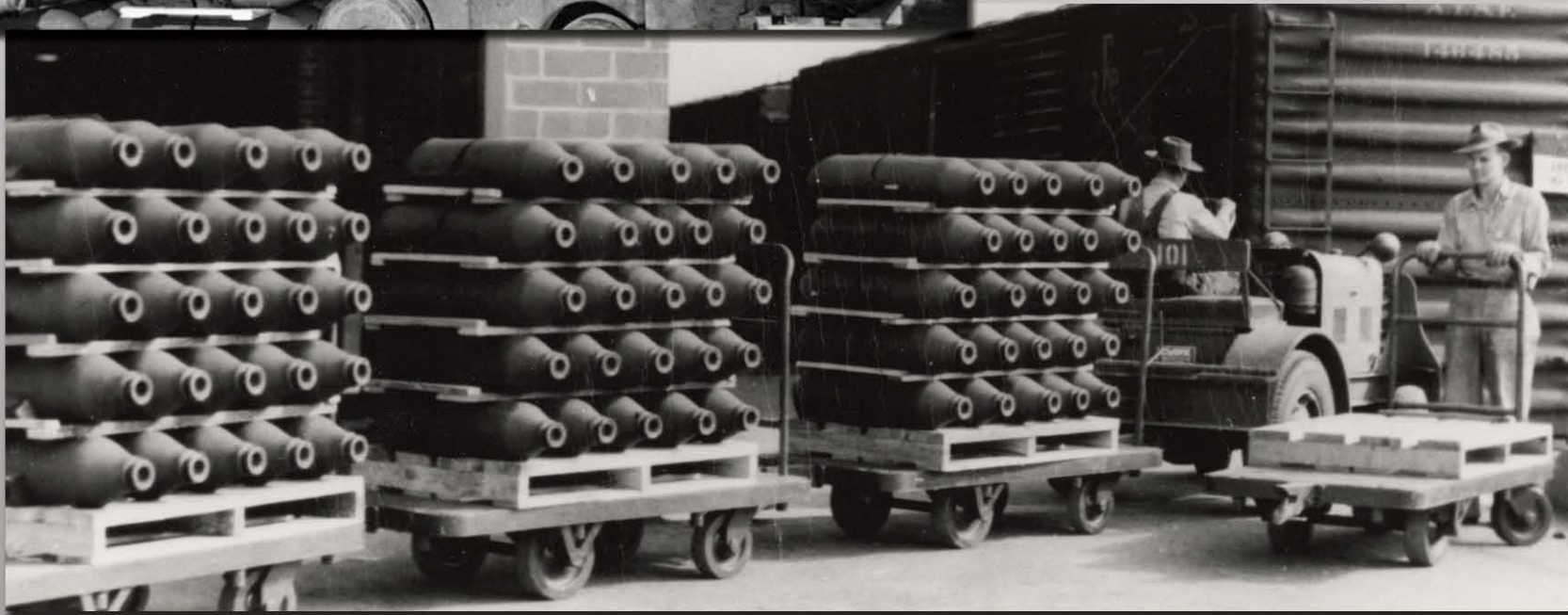
Between 500 and 600 Army officers, engineers, contractors, personnel and clerical workers will move into six temporary office buildings in the arsenal area Monday morning, Sept. 15, according to an announcement today by Col. R. C. Ditto, arsenal commander. One building will be used exclusively by the Chemical Warfare Service, two by the engineering firm of A. Wittman, Rayburn and Smith, and two by the engineering quartermaster, course of the construction. As yet, no arrangements have been made for transporting private personnel other than the office vehicles, Col. Ditto said. The Chemical Warfare Service, in the Armory, and contractors at the school gymnasium and West Hunt-ville, he said, will be vacated during the C. A. will be vacated during the coming weekend. It was stated.



## Gulf Chemical Warfare Depot

Included in the acreage composing Huntsville Arsenal was more than 7,700 acres which were to be used for construction of a depot area. Accordingly, the War Department formally established the Huntsville Chemical Warfare Depot on March 6, 1942. Located in the extreme southern portion of Huntsville Arsenal bordering the Tennessee River, this depot received, stored, and issued such Chemical Warfare Service material as munitions, bulk chemicals, decontaminating apparatuses, protective materials, and gas mask spare parts. To avoid confusion with Huntsville Arsenal, the War Department changed the name of the depot to the Gulf Chemical Warfare Depot on August 10, 1943. Almost 3 years later, the term "Warfare" was dropped from its title.

Gulf Chemical Warfare Depot activities



# Redstone Ordnance Plant

Recognizing the tremendous economy of locating an Ordnance shell loading and assembly plant close to Huntsville Arsenal, the Chief of Ordnance decided to build a facility to be known as the Redstone Ordnance Plant on a 4,000-acre tract east of and adjacent to Huntsville Arsenal. On October 6, 1941, the first Commanding Officer of the Redstone Ordnance Plant, (then) Major Carroll D. Hudson, arrived in Huntsville and finalized the construction plans. Groundbreaking ceremonies occurred on October 25, 1941, and the War Department officially activated the Redstone Ordnance Plant on February 5, 1942. One year later, on February 26, 1943, the plant was redesignated Redstone Arsenal.

The only government-owned, government-operated arsenal established by the Ordnance Department during World War II, Redstone Arsenal produced such items as burster charges, medium and major caliber chemical artillery ammunition, rifle grenades, demolition blocks, and bombs of various weights and sizes. In fact, between March 1942 and September 1945, over 45,200,000 units of ammunition were loaded and assembled for shipment. The arsenal also perfected the technique of mass production of tetrytol, a highly explosive binary mix used in certain bursters, boosters, and demolition blocks. For their outstanding services in the manufacture of munitions, Redstone employees won the aforementioned Army-Navy "E" Award five different times.

## The Huntsville Times

July 8, 1941

## \$6,000,000 Ordnance Plant Authorized Here

WASHINGTON, July 8 (AP)—The War department announced today a \$6,000,000 assembly plant would be operated near Huntsville, Ala., in conjunction with a previously announced Chemical Warfare Service arsenal to cost \$41,293,000.

The department said that since the new plant would be on the Chemical Warfare Arsenal grounds, about eight miles southwest of Huntsville, no additional land would be required.

The plant will employ about 370 persons per shift, the department said.



Major Carroll D. Hudson



Colonel Hudson gives remarks during an Army-Navy "E" Award Ceremony



# Colonel Carroll D. Hudson



The Huntsville Times



Clockwise, upper left: Colonel Hudson giving tour of Redstone to Congressman Sparkman, 1943; Dr. Wernher Von Braun, Dr. Richard Porter, Hudson, 1952; *Huntsville Times* announcing Hudson's return to Redstone, 1948; Hudson riding trails on Redstone Arsenal, early 1940s; Hudson being saluted by Major General Jerry Max Bunyard, 1985; Hudson downtown Huntsville, 1945; Hudson reviewing installation plans, early 1950s



## Building two arsenals

The first challenge was the construction of both Huntsville and Redstone Arsenals. The land was a collection of very small communities with names such as "Pond Beat," "Mullins Flat," and "Hickory Grove." The inhabitants of these communities had to move first before construction could begin.

### The Huntsville Times

July 8, 1941

#### 12,000 Will Be Required In Constructing Arsenal

Three Shifts Planned; Additional Homes,  
Schools And Enlarged Hospital Facili-  
ties Needed, Says General Porter

Approximately 12,000 men will be at work here within a short time in the construction of Huntsville's \$41,253,000 arsenal, Maj.-Gen. William E. Porter, commanding officer of the Edgewood, Md., arsenal, revealed today in an address before the Rotary club.

"Three shifts of 4,000 men each will be engaged in the construction over a period of approximately eight months," General Porter said.

Condensation of the estimated 20,000 acres of land needed for the war chemical plant will begin in a few days, the general stated.

"We hope the plant will be in full operation within 18 months," he added.

"Three classes of workers will be employed in both the construction and operation of the arsenal," General Porter said. "Many highly skilled engineers and schemata will be needed, as well as white collar workers and laborers."

"Huntsville's arsenal will be no fly-by-night war defense industry," he asserted. "It will be a permanent industry, and adequate provision has been made for the erection of a sufficient number of new residences to house the expanded population."

"Likewise," he added, "it will be necessary to expand and enlarge Huntsville's schools and hospital facilities."

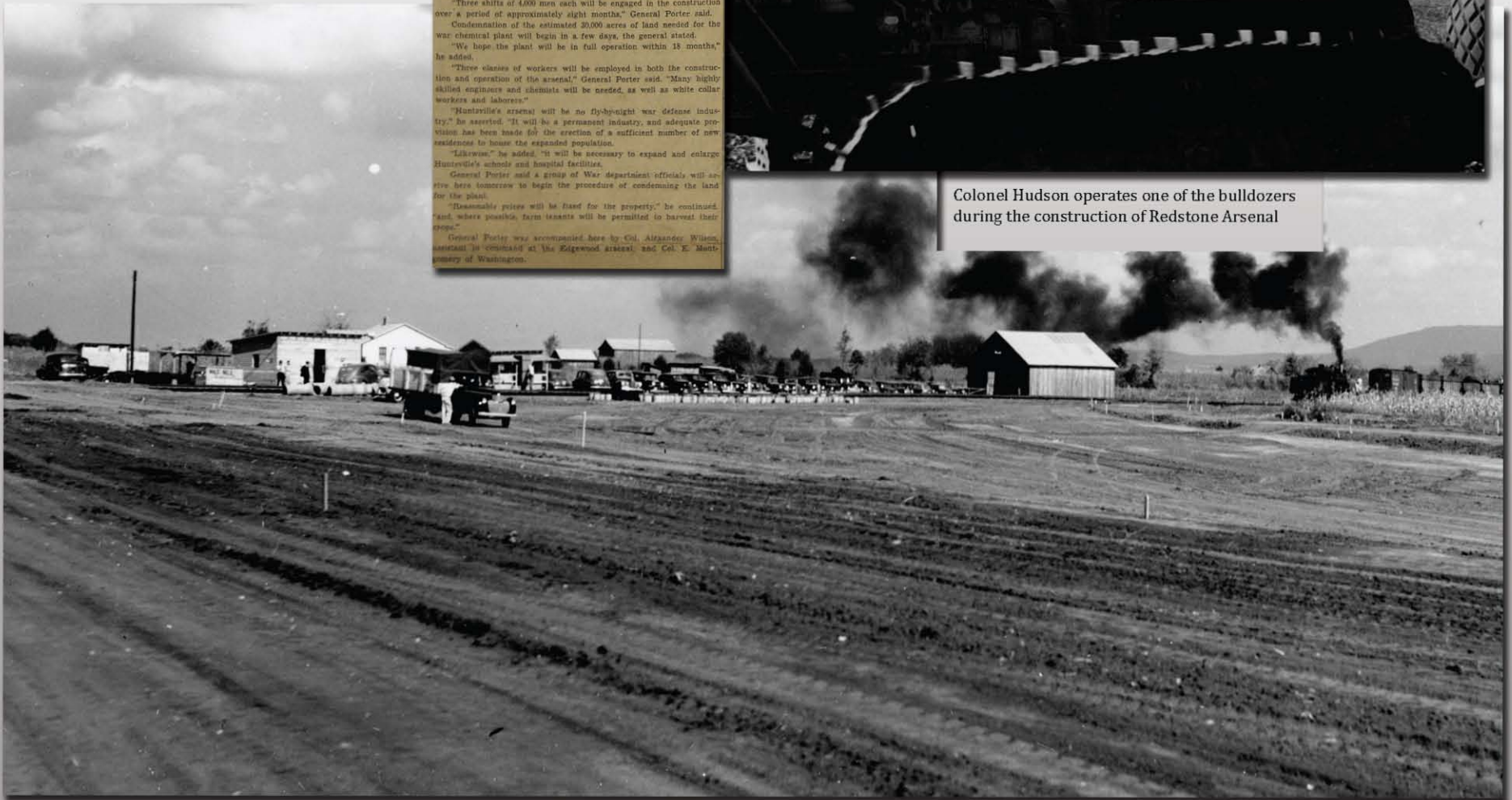
General Porter and a group of War department officials will arrive here tomorrow to begin the procedure of condemning the land for the plant.

"Reasonable prices will be fixed for the property," he continued, "and where possible, farm tenants will be permitted to harvest their crops."

General Porter was accompanied here by Col. Alexander Wilson, assistant in command at the Edgewood arsenal, and Col. E. Montgomery of Washington.



Colonel Hudson operates one of the bulldozers during the construction of Redstone Arsenal



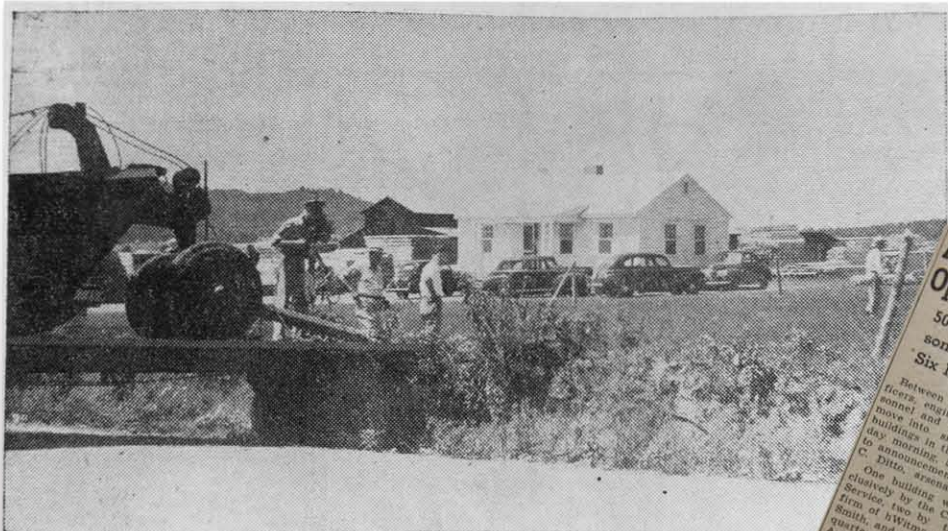


Photo by Hubert Williams  
**FIRST ARSENAL OFFICE**—Shown above is the first of a number of temporary offices used by the construction companies while building Huntsville's \$47,000,000 arsenal, situated near the Madison pike on the 30,000-acre arsenal reservation.

*Huntsville Times,*  
 August 12, 1941



**Arsenal Offices  
 Opening Sept. 15**  
 500 To 600 Per-  
 sons To Occupy  
 Six New Buildings

Between 500 and 600 Army officers, engineers, contractors' personnel and clerical workers will move into six temporary office buildings in the arsenal area Monday morning, Sept. 15, according to an announcement today by Col. R. C. Ditto, arsenal commandant.

One building will be used exclusively by the engineering service, two by Chemical Warfare Service, and two by the construction firm of H.W. Man. The engineering and construction contracts were awarded to the firm by the arsenal commandant, Col. Ditto.

As yet, no arrangements have been made for transporting private personnel other than in the arsenal vehicles, Col. Ditto said. The Chemical Warfare Service, the arsenal's largest contractor, will be using the arsenal's own trucks for the school bus and the West Huntville Y. M. C. A. will be vacated during the coming weekend, it was stated.

*Huntsville Times,*  
 September 8, 1941

## Arsenal Residents Given Until Nov. 30th To Move

All Crops Within  
 Area Expected To Be  
 Harvested By Then

*Huntsville Times,*  
 October 15, 1941

Persons living within the boundaries of the Huntsville Arsenal reservation were notified officially today to vacate the premises they now occupy, and to leave the reservation on or before Nov. 30, 1941.

The official notice, released yesterday by Brig. Gen. R. C. Ditto, commanding officer, follows:

"The Federal government, having taken possession of the Huntsville Arsenal reservation on July 25, 1941, all persons now residing within the boundaries of the reservation will vacate the premises they now occupy and leave the reservation on or before Nov. 30, 1941."

Gen. Ditto's notice is in line with the policy of the government in permitting sharecroppers, tenant farmers and cash renters, as well as landowners, plenty of time to harvest their crops before they are required to vacate the premises.

Crops within the reservation have been valued at from \$800,000 to \$1,000,000, and more than half of this is expected to be returned to the government, because many of the crops will be harvested.

Appraisers have started work figuring out the amount of damage that has been done to crops where it was essential that work be carried on.

Out of approximately 1,250 persons residing within the boundaries of the reservation, it was estimated that around 200 have moved off, and others are in a position to move on short notice.



Warehouse construction, Redstone Arsenal 1941

## First headquarters buildings



Building 7101 was the headquarters building to Redstone Arsenal. Opened in 1942 and located on Redstone Road, it was used by various Army commands until it was demolished in 1985. The Federal Bureau of Investigation built a new facility on the same location where Building 7101 once was.

Building 111 was the headquarters building to Huntsville Arsenal. Opened in 1942, it has served a variety of activities since its opening, to include serving as an officer's club and the Redstone Garrison headquarters. Located on Goss Road, it is still in service today.





First Lieutenant Percy E. Rideout

As a Chemical Warfare Service installation, the leadership of Huntsville Arsenal decided to name roads for those who died in service to this Nation during World War I. The Ordnance Corps' Redstone Arsenal, on the other hand, used only functional names for their roads (for example, Redstone Road, Line Road, Warehouse Road).

Rideout Road was named after First Lieutenant Percy E. Rideout, who was killed in action on October 9, 1918 in France. Martin Road is named for Private Herbert B. Martin, a First Gas Regiment member who was killed in action July 5, 1918. Buxton, Digney, Goss, Patton, Hansen, McAlpine, Mills, Neal, and Shields

## The roads of Huntsville Arsenal

Roads were also named for members of the First Gas Regiment.

Years later, Brigadier General Thomas K. Vincent, a Commander at Redstone Arsenal in the early 1950s, decided that roads should be named after members of the Ordnance Corps. Wadsworth Drive, for example, was named after the first Chief of Ordnance, Colonel Decius Wadsworth, who served as Chief from July 1812 to June 1821. Skinner Drive was named after Colonel Leslie A. Skinner, a rocket pioneer who developed the Bazooka.

In 1981, fifteen roads were named after soldiers from the Huntsville/Madison County area who died in Vietnam. These names include Lewter Road for Specialist 4 Stanley R. Lewter and Hicks Road for Staff Sergeant Prentice W. Hicks.



# Need for workers...

While both Huntsville Arsenal and Redstone Arsenal were being built, efforts were focused on hiring the massive workforce that would be needed to run both activities on a 24 hour a day basis. The problem was the City of Huntsville only had 13,050 citizens in 1940 and both arsenals expected to employ close to 20,000 workers. After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, many men went into the Armed Forces, necessitating the inclusion of women to fill critical wartime labor needs.

VOL. 1 - No. 38      REDSTONE ORDNANCE PLANT      WEEK OF FEB. 22 - FEB. 29

## REDSTONE PARK TO BE READY FOR OCCUPANCY SOON

**NEW WAR BONDS DISTRIBUTION PLAN ASSURES DELIVERY WITHIN 15 DAYS**

More than 100 War Savings Bonds, in- ar- im- to up in ary- ed up olve for

**WORKERS DESIRING LIVING QUARTERS URGED TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS NOW**

Above is a panorama of Redstone Park, the War Housing Project constructed for the benefit of the plant employees. It is located at Parlay, less than two miles from the south entrance to the reservation. Those interested in obtaining living quarters in the Park should make application to Personnel.

Houses in Redstone Park, which was designed and constructed for the benefit of Redstone employees, are almost ready for occupancy and those desiring dwelling space should turn in their applications immediately.

This was the announcement Tuesday from Captain William H. Stevens, the plant's Housing Officer, who stated that full information regarding the project

Redstone Eagle, February 29, 1943

## REDSTONE NEEDS -- LABORERS at once!

*Patriotic Citizens of Huntsville, Madison County and Alabama, Not Presently Employed In War Work—Are Called Upon To Apply For Work At REDSTONE ARSENAL At Once! In Order To Avoid Delay In Final Victory --- And Needless Loss Of American Lives . . .*

**ACT NOW!**

**NEEDED:**

**APPLY NOW** at the U. S. EMPLOYMENT OFFICE -- North Side of Square  
Just Say **"I WANT A JOB AT REDSTONE"** --

This Advertisement Paid For By A Group Of Local Citizens And Concerns In Cooperation With Officials At Redstone Arsenal--

Advertisement in the Huntsville Times, 1943

## Dormitory Units Given Redstone

### Project Is Approved By Federal Housing For Women Employes

A project to build 100 dormitory units for women at Redstone arsenal has been approved by the Federal Public Housing Authority, and a representative from Atlanta will be in the city tomorrow to discuss plans with Lieut. Col. Carroll D. Hudson, commanding officer.

Huntsville Times, May 13, 1943

Notice of approval was wired here, today by Congressman John J. Sparkman and Senator Lister Hill.

Details of the plan have not been released, but it is understood that the arsenal feels there will be a definite need in the near future for these units for single women to live on the arsenal reservation.



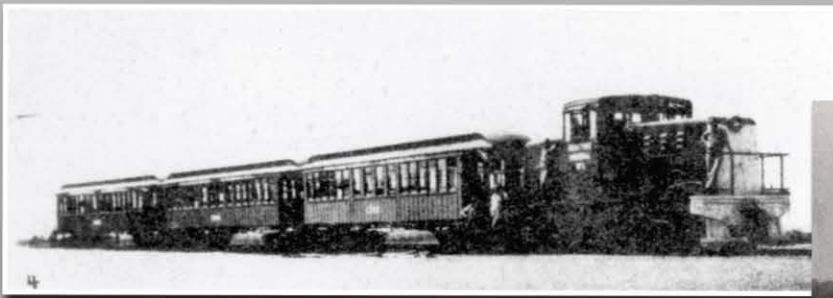
## ...and where to put them

To help the situation, the Army built "Redstone Park." Located in an area near Buxton Road and Farley Elementary School off of South Memorial Parkway in Huntsville, Alabama, construction began on August 19, 1942, and was completed in early 1943. During the war, Redstone Park was occupied exclusively by Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville Arsenal employees, with precedence being given to Redstone personnel.

A passenger train was used to transport workers from Redstone Park at the southeastern end of the installation to the manufacturing lines. About 75 miles of railroad track connecting Huntsville Arsenal, as well as lines to the Gulf Chemical Warfare Depot and Redstone Arsenal, were completed in December 1941. At the peak of the railroad activity at Redstone Arsenal, 1,970 cars per month moved along the tracks.



Redstone Park



# The World War II workforce

The first civil service employees - a janitor, a secretary, and a mail clerk - were hired at Huntsville Arsenal on July 12, 1941.

By the war's peak, almost 20,000 personnel worked at Huntsville Arsenal and Redstone Arsenal. At one time, women comprised the majority of the workforce.

By September 1945, Redstone Arsenal had loaded and assembled over 45.2 million units of ammunition, while Huntsville Arsenal produced more than 27 million items of chemical munitions.



Shipping unspecified materials, Huntsville Arsenal

Inspecting gas masks, Huntsville Arsenal



Huntsville Arsenal's newspaper



Redstone Arsenal production line



Redstone Arsenal identification badge

# REDSTONE EAGLE

REDSTONE TO CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY OCTOBER 6  
PLANT SETS ENVIABLE RECORD IN ONE YEAR PERIOD

## THE OLD SHELL GAME by CUFFLESS JOE

Old Lt. Billert, "How that I've in the empty mouth, I've gotten pick some better, oh, about you."



Good luck letters are all the more, they don't come from half a page, but if you don't do exactly what they say they'll bring bad luck to you for some way. You had several of them and as have you do you know what I do in time, but if we see getting that, what you do do!



Mr. Weibel ground and turned quite pale, then someone closed a drawer in which he tall. A sign in his net made you know, and let's the smartest thing that ever did from— Mr. Weibel and his friends think he, about like you to strike his neck under his chin, and you too wrap the around your finger like all men.

Miss Fred Inghide and Margaret More laughed and had fun while while riding on the mountain the other night. But Margaret hollered with wild fright as Miss Fred's horse passed and tried to bite.



Lt. Colonel Nelson initiates the operation of the big "meta" that were so helpful in bringing Redstone Ordnance Plant to a rapid and successful completion.

On the not so busy morning of October 6, 1941, Correll H. Nelson, a Major in the Ordnance Department of the Army of the United States, walked to the center of a north Alabama cotton field and turned over a handful of earth. That simple gesture on the part of the then Major Nelson marked the beginning of what today is the Redstone Ordnance Plant.

October 6, 1941: Three full months before Pearl Harbor. Then, in William in the United States, but not immediately to millions more, it was highly improbable. But to the War Department, a certain type of ordnance establishment was essential, one which may, for weeks scores of engineers and draftsmen had toiled over their blueprints and drawings, brought into visionary form a production unit help needed to supply fighting forces with necessary material—and when, no orders were to be taken, Redstone was on its way.

Three weeks before, armed with orders of command—and an appropriation, Major Nelson arrived in Huntsville to begin the Redstone undertaking. He started from scratch. The facilities with the arsenal was merely a ground level. Men and machinery followed in the Major's wake. From that low on the building of Redstone was a step of rapid achievement.

On October 6, there will be an appropriate ceremony marking the ground breaking of Redstone Ordnance Plant just a year ago. Lt. Col. Correll H. Nelson will officiate and the presence of his staff as well as the members of the United States Army of the Military Order will be invited.

### AMBIGUOUS THOUGHT PLANNED

Redstone Arsenal's post newspaper

# Dangerous work

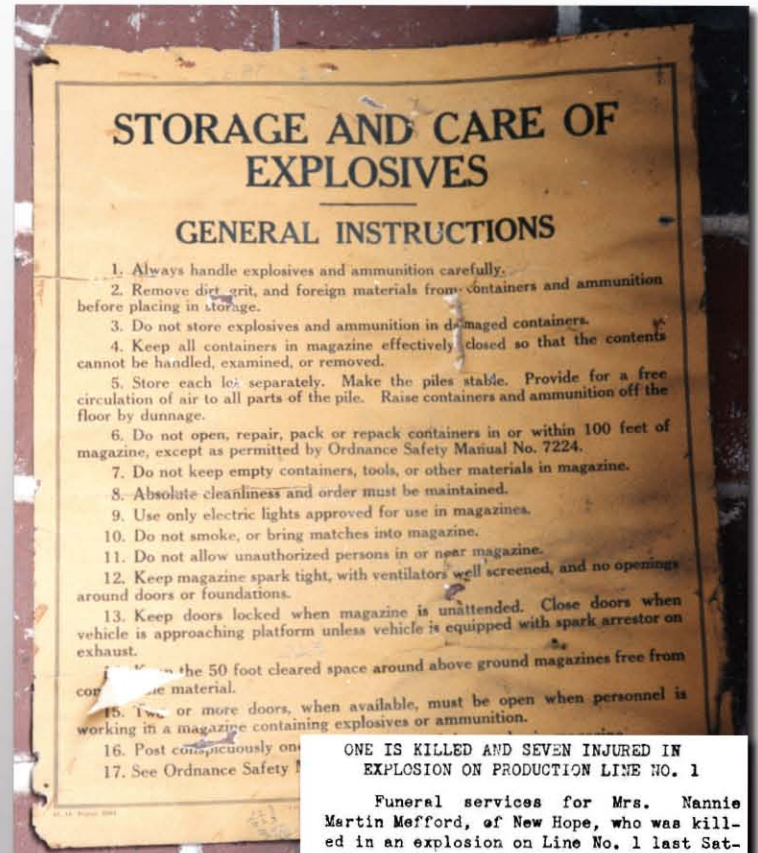
Given the hazardous nature of the work at Huntsville Arsenal and Redstone Arsenal, accidents and casualties were not unexpected phenomena. Both installations' high level of safety consciousness and stringent safety regulations, however, held such accidents and casualties to a minimum during the war years, considering the volume of hazardous materiel produced. There were eight fatalities from the start of production in February 1942 through July 1945.

On April 21, 1942, Easter Posey was killed during an explosion at one of the Huntsville Arsenal's incendiary bomb manufacturing lines. On August 14, 1943, the first serious explosion at Redstone Arsenal occurred on Line 1, killing one woman and injuring seven other workers.

The Army Air Force crews who flight tested these munitions were not immune to the dangers posed by the materiel they helped to inspect. On June 27, 1944, all three crewmen were killed in the crash of a B-26 Martin Marauder shortly after leaving the Huntsville Arsenal Airfield.



Easter Posey



Sign in Redstone Arsenal Warehouse



B-26 Marauder

**Three Killed When Bomber Crashes Here**  
**Fatal Accident Occurs To West Of Arsenal, After Engine Trouble**  
 A B-26 Martin Marauder of the Army Air Corps, a plane that has been attached to the Huntsville arsenal during recent weeks for experimental bombing tasks, crashed this forenoon at a point between 9 and 10 miles west of Huntsville, killing all three members of the crew, and later was utterly destroyed by the explosion of the bombs that it carried.

Huntsville Times, June 27, 1944

**ONE IS KILLED AND SEVEN INJURED IN EXPLOSION ON PRODUCTION LINE NO. 1**

Funeral services for Mrs. Nannie Martin Mefford, of New Hope, who was killed in an explosion on Line No. 1 last Saturday night, were held Monday afternoon at the Old Bethel cemetery, Owens Cross Roads. Representing Redstone at the services were Captain Bascom Owen, Lieut. Joe W. Richardson, Milton Frank, and Mrs. Johnny Hughes.

Mrs. Mefford was the only fatality in the blast which injured seven other production line workers. One of these, Mrs. Mildred Smith Hess, of Athens, is still in the Huntsville Arsenal hospital as the result of injuries but is expected to recover.

The cause of the explosion which occurred at 11:26 p.m. Saturday night, shortly before the close of the night shift, is still being investigated by Army authorities.

Although the amount of damage was not announced, Lieut. Col. Carroll D. Hudson, the arsenal's Commanding Officer, stated that it was not extensive.

Huntsville Arsenal Patriot, August 22, 1943



After the Redstone Arsenal commander Colonel Hudson learned in 1942 that office employees were wearing civilian uniforms at other installations, a military type uniform was selected for the arsenal's female employees. Interested women voluntarily bought their own outfits, which were the color of the WWII officer's "pinks." Even those women who could not actually wear the outfit during working hours wanted a uniform. According to the Redstone Eagle, "Every girl on Line 3 has the [complete] outfit... and proudly wears it. It makes her feel that she really is the 'man' behind the man behind the gun."

## Uniforms for civilian workers



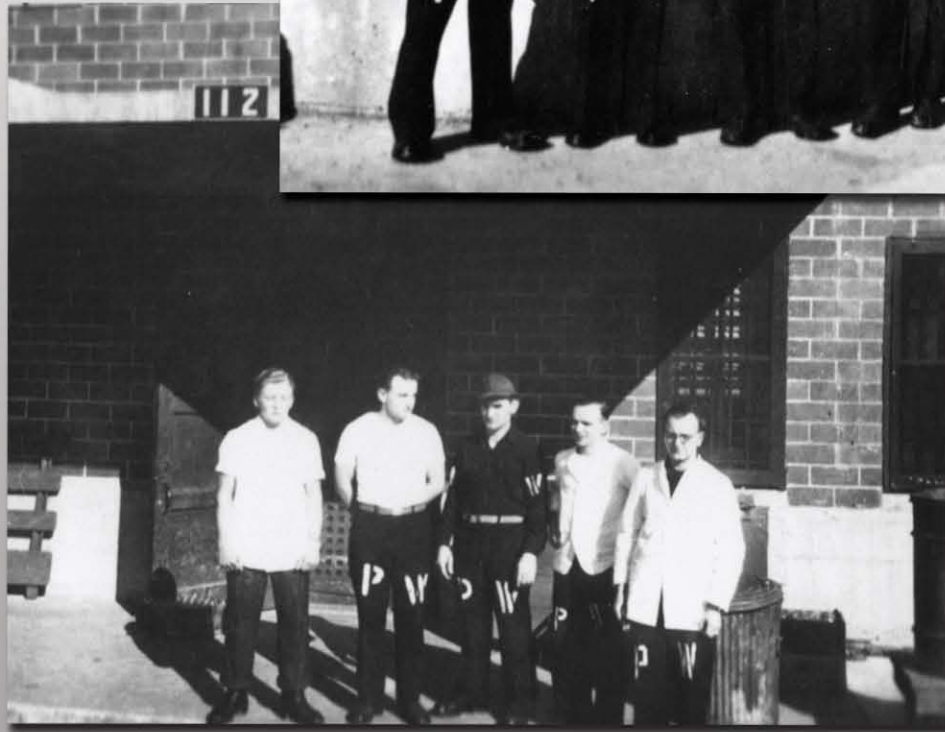
## Huntsville Arsenal's prisoner of war camp

One of the lesser known structures located on Huntsville Arsenal during World War II was a prisoner of war (POW) camp. The Army Corps of Engineers built the original camp for 250 prisoners in 1944, but the remainder of the facility was constructed under the supervision of the Post Engineer using POW labor.

Prisoner labor was used for a variety of tasks, such as working as mechanics for the Motor Pool; laboring for the Engineering Services Division at the sawmill, in the limestone quarry, or on the rock crusher; assisting with the mosquito control program; and serving as cooks and kitchen help at the Huntsville Arsenal Officers Club. Approximately 1,100 captured German soldiers were imprisoned on the arsenal at one time.

According to Karl Spitzenpfeil, a former prisoner who returned to visit the arsenal in June 1982, "life in the Huntsville camp was not a hardship." Although the prisoners had to work hard, there was always enough to eat; there were occasional outings for swimming; and there were two cases of beer for each prisoner on his birthday. In addition, the Army paid the POWs 80 cents a day for their work and allowed the prisoners to use the money to buy things at the post commissary.

Located on what is now Dodd Road, northeast of the present gate into the NASA test area, no traces of the arsenal's prisoner of war camp remain.



Both undated photographs were taken near Building 112 (off Goss Road). Building 112 still stands today.







Huntsville Times,  
December 2, 1948



**Army Will Open Bids On Arsenal**  
**Engineers To Check Estimates Submitted At 1 P.M. Tomorrow**  
 Tomorrow may be a red letter day in the history of Huntsville industrial development. Bids will be opened at 1 o'clock tomorrow afternoon on leasing of facilities at the Huntsville arsenal by the district office of the Corps of Engineers at Mobile.

## "The Detroit of the South"

The history of the Keller Car may be one of the most unusual stories in this installation's history. After World War II, Huntsville Arsenal offered unused facilities for lease to private enterprise. In August 1947, Huntsville Arsenal's Building 471 (later known as 4471), formerly devoted to the manufacture of gas masks, was leased to the Keller Motors Corporation.

The Keller Motor Car Company went public on the New York stock exchange in late September 1949. Within a few days, half of the stocks were sold. Company executives celebrated with a festive dinner on October 4, 1949.

Company founder George Keller was late coming down to breakfast on October 5, 1949. Worried friends rushed to his room and found him still in bed, dead of a heart attack. The company soon thereafter folded.

Decades later, NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center used Building 4471 as a warehouse. In 2013, NASA mothballed the building and soon thereafter had it removed. But before the building was destroyed, word got out that the birthplace of the few remaining Keller Cars would be no more. Two Keller Cars came back to Building 4471 for one last visit on May 14, 2013.



Keller Car sales brochure

Keller Cars being built



Huntsville Times,  
October 6, 1949

**KELLER PRESIDENT PASSES**—George D. Keller, 56 (above), chairman of the board, president and director of the Keller Motors Corp., died of a heart attack last night about midnight in his room at the Algonquin hotel in New York City, where only two days before he had received the final word from the Securities Exchange Commission that the Keller stock issue had become effective. He entered the employ of the Studebaker Corp. in 1914, and was with that corporation for 28 years, rising to the position of vice-president. He resigned in 1943 to follow his dream of founding an automobile firm of his own, to produce cars in the low-priced field.



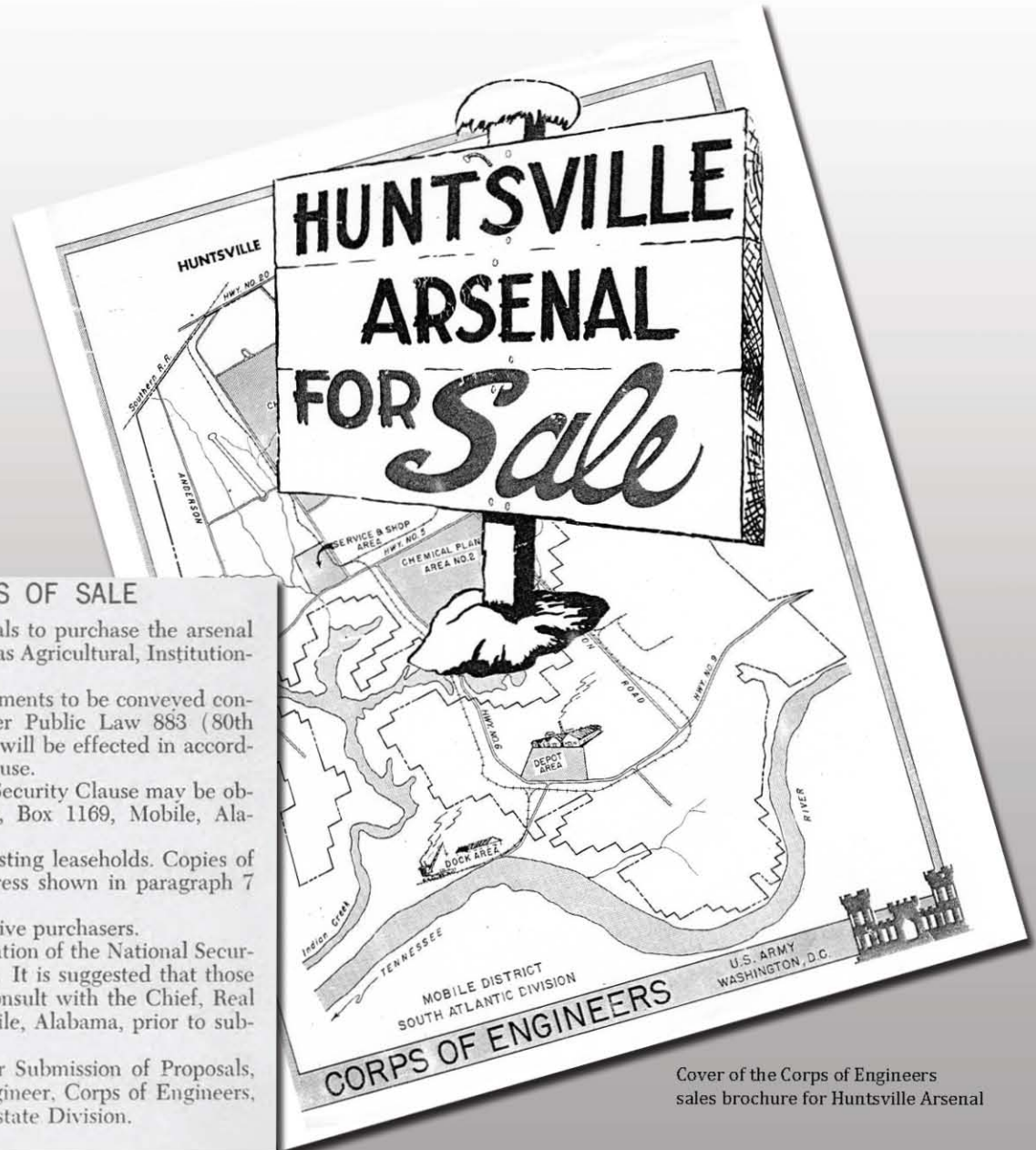
Keller Car at Building 4471, May 14, 2013

## Want to buy an *arsenal*?

Redstone Arsenal was placed on standby status in February 1947. By the end of the year, the Secretary of the Army had decided to declare Huntsville Arsenal excess to the needs of the Chemical Corps. On November 9, 1948, the Chief of the Chemical Corps informed Huntsville Arsenal that it was being removed from the surplus category and placed on standby status for possible use by the Department of the Air Force. When the Air Force subsequently decided against using this arsenal, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army directed that Huntsville Arsenal be advertised for sale by July 1, 1949.

### BRIEF OUTLINE OF CONDITIONS OF SALE

1. Sale will be consummated through competitive proposals to purchase the arsenal as a whole, (Item 78) or by individual units classified as Agricultural, Institutional or Industrial.
2. Inasmuch as a major portion of the lands and improvements to be conveyed constitute a part of the National Industrial Reserve under Public Law 883 (80th Congress), disposal of such lands and improvements will be effected in accordance with the provisions of the National Security Clause.
3. Full data in regard to the provisions of the National Security Clause may be obtained from the District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, Box 1169, Mobile, Alabama.
4. All sales of Huntsville Arsenal shall be subject to existing leaseholds. Copies of existing leases are available for inspection at the address shown in paragraph 7 below.
5. The property is now subject to inspection by prospective purchasers.
6. Qualified proposals contingent upon waiver or modification of the National Security Clause must be approved by the Munitions Board. It is suggested that those firms or persons wishing to qualify their proposal, consult with the Chief, Real Estate Division, Office of the District Engineer, Mobile, Alabama, prior to submission of proposals.
7. Additional details of sale, together with Invitation for Submission of Proposals, will be furnished upon application to the District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, P. O. Box 1169, Mobile, Alabama, Attention: Real Estate Division.



Cover of the Corps of Engineers sales brochure for Huntsville Arsenal

# The Huntsville Times



VOL. 40, NO. 188

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1949

25c PER WEEK

## Fort Bliss, Texas, Rocket Office To Be Moved To Redstone Arsenal

### Johnson Leads Military Brass To Ft. Benning

**Heads Of All Services On Hand For Infantry To Demonstrate Work**

FORT BENNING, Ga., Nov. 4 (AP)—The nation's military high command, led by Defense Secretary Johnson, converged on this home of the infantry today to see how the foot soldier fights.

The meeting of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of the Defense Department and three armed forces was slated to bring the new Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Forrest P. Sherman, to his first meeting in the field with his colleagues.

Word was received here last night that Sherman had changed plans and decided to make a one-day flying trip to Benning to join the commanders of the Army and Air Force in what the Defense secretary calls a "cross education" program for all the services.

This was the second such meeting for the high command. A month ago Johnson and the Pentagon brass got together on a carrier, so that the Army and Air Force could see how the Navy waged war. That time Admiral Louis Denfeld, deputy Navy chief, was the ranking Navy officer.

For the Joint Chiefs—General Omar Bradley, chairman of the

### Why Your Paper Is Day Late

Many mail subscribers of The Huntsville Times have been receiving their papers a day late since the coal and steel strike began.

This is due to the temporary removal of the Joe Wheeler train, both morning and evening, running between Sheffield and Chattanooga. It makes connection with other trains at Decatur, as well as with star routes along the Southern.

Until these trains are restored, there is no way that late deliveries of papers to subscribers can be avoided. Please bear with us until normal train conditions are restored.

### Oddities In The News

DENVER, Nov. 4 (AP)—This is my federal. The clergy, in a racket, I want no religious songs. This is going to be a perfectly "rational funeral." So spoke the recorded voice of Oscar O. Whitnack, 29, at his own funeral yesterday.

There was no eulogy or religious music. He had made the wedding and planned his funeral several months ago. The cause of the former editor of the Denver Post Open Forum expired.

I am so abject and have been so many years." He attacked religion, the Bible and beliefs in God. At the end there was a pause. Then barely audible his voice said: "That's all."

The record was placed in the racket and buried with Whitnack's body in Crown Hill cemetery.

LONDON, Nov. 4 (AP)—Lunatics on the BBC were treated last night to a sonata in D minor for piano, celli— and alarm clock.

The clock sounded over the air last 26 seconds.

Then an announcer dashed forward, shipped open the

### Ching To Meet John L. Lewis This Afternoon

**Action Apparently Due Soon To End Disastrous Strike Of Coal Miners**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (AP)—Cyrus S. Ching today arranged a meeting with John L. Lewis—the first step in new government efforts to end the coal strike.

Word of plans for a meeting this afternoon was leaked by reliable sources shortly after Lewis made a bid to effect a settlement with a part of the soft coal industry. Lewis offered to negotiate in Chicago tomorrow for an agreement covering mines in the two states of Illinois and Indiana.

Ching, the Federal mediator, chief arranged to visit Lewis at the mine workers' headquarters here at an unspecified hour in the afternoon.

The time was left uncertain, because Ching was on his way here from steel strike talks in New York.

This afternoon's conference, authorized sources indicated, may pave the way to a joint meeting between Lewis and soft coal operators next week in Washington.

The leader of the miners had made earlier announcements.

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 4 (AP)—When the lights went out suddenly last night during a school open house program, the children kept right on singing, weaving baskets and reading aloud.

The youngsters didn't learn, in fact, until after they 300 words had left that, because of a blown fuse, they had performed in darkness.

The children were students at the Overbrook School for the Blind.

BOSTON, Nov. 4 (AP)—Boston University Bandmaster Edgar Edgeware admitted today some of his musicians carry a bottle of alcohol in their pockets because of a curfew for anti-air football.

### Truman Plans 1950 Stumping For 'Fair Deal'

**Reception In St. Paul Heartens Him To Take His Views To People**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (AP)—ABOARD TRAIN ENROUTE TO

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 (AP)—Presidential campaign's determination to stamp the country again next year to elect "Fair Dealers" to Congress was strengthened today afternoon was learned by reliable sources shortly after Lewis made a bid to effect a settlement with a part of the soft coal industry.

Ching, the Federal mediator, chief arranged to visit Lewis at the mine workers' headquarters here at an unspecified hour in the afternoon.

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The leader of the miners had made earlier announcements.



COMES HEAD OF GREATER REDSTONE— Col. Carroll D. Hudson, commanding officer of Redstone Arsenal, revealed this morning the detailed plans for enlargement of the rocket research plant here, by consolidation with it of the rocket unit situated at Fort Bliss, Texas. Colonel Hudson will be in charge of the combined installation.

### Involves About 900 Civilians And Soldiers

**100 German Scientists Among Those Who Will Be Transferred Here**

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4 — Senators Lister Hill and John Sparkman and Congressman Bob Jones released the following announcement this morning:

"We are pleased to announce the transfer of the Army's Rocket Research and Development Suboffice at Fort Bliss, Texas, to Redstone Arsenal at Huntsville.

"This transfer will involve 500 military personnel, 100 German scientists, and approximately 65 civilian employees.

"In addition, approximately 235 civilians will be locally. Those to be employed will, for the most part, be in clerical positions.

"It is estimated approximately \$4,000,000 will be made by moving the plant to Fort Bliss buildings are available at Huntsville, permits are available.

## The Huntsville Times

Colonel Hudson Returns

Huntsville welcomes the return of Col. Hudson to the command of Redstone Arsenal, as the return of an old friend, genuinely liked and respected.

It is for him, too, like a return home, for he set up the Redstone Arsenal, planned it, built it, and expanded it during the war years. It became one of the outstanding ordnance installations in the country.

His return to duty here is an indication of the importance attached to the new work that will be conducted at the Arsenal in rocket experimentation.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C., 14-June-1950

Section I  
Section II  
Section III  
Section IV  
Section V  
Section VI

GENERAL ORDERS  
No. 19

HUNTSVILLE ARSENAL, ALABAMA—Discontinued; portions consolidated with Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

OHIO RIVER ORDNANCE WORKS, HENDERSON, KENTUCKY—Discontinued.

OHIO RIVER MINE DEPOT, FORT MONROE, VIRGINIA—Discontinued.

SUBMARINE SERVICES SCHOOL, FORT MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY—Consolidated with the Adjutant General's School, Fort Lee, Virginia.

NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROMOTION OF RIFLE PRACTICE—Change in membership.

RESCUSSIONS—Obsolete general orders pertaining to duties of Secretariat retained.

I. HUNTSVILLE ARSENAL, ALABAMA.—Effective as of 1 April 1950, Huntsville Arsenal, Alabama, a class II installation under the jurisdiction of the Chief, Chemical Corps, was discontinued and the portions retained by the Department of the Army were consolidated with Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, a class II installation under the jurisdiction of the Chief of Ordnance.

LAG 680.1 (1 May 50)

Colonel Hudson's return to Huntsville made the front page of the November 30, 1948, *Huntsville Times* and was also noted in the paper's editorial page.

# Special Focus: What has survived 75 years



Only two things remain on Redstone Arsenal on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the installation that pre-date the U.S. Army's arrival: the Harris House and cemeteries.

The Harris House was built in the mid-1800s. It was originally located next to a large antebellum-type house on what is now known as Buxton Road. It has served as quarters and as office space.

Cemeteries were located throughout the installation before the U.S. Army built the installation. Some cemeteries were moved to other locations. There are several cemeteries still located throughout the installation.

The Redstone Rocket—Sept. 5, 1984—Page 3

### Harris house built around pre-Civil War building

BY ED PETERS

The Harris house on the arsenal is "too attractive, too interesting and too historically important to discard," according to an authority on old buildings in the area.

The Lee house was located about 100 yards west of the Harris house. It was sold and moved off the arsenal in 1974 and partially reconstructed on a site west of here.

Harvie Jones, of the Jones and Herrin architect-



Cemetery located on Vincent Drive

(Top) Harris House, 1930s; (Bottom) Harris House 2016

## Special Focus: Remnants of war still stand

Question: what do you do with thousands of empty crates? Well, the U.S. Army was left with that dilemma as unused munitions returned to the installation after World War II. Instead of burning the crates, the Army sold them to local citizens.

One citizen, Mr. Burton Stroupe, bought many of the crates. The World War II veteran built large portions of a house with the surplus lumber. Located on Governors Drive in Huntsville, the house still stands today.





Redstone Arsenal gate, early 1950s

## **Chapter Two: The 1950s**

# The Von Braun Team comes to Huntsville

The year 1950 ushered in the next chapter of Redstone Arsenal's history. The Secretary of the Army approved the transfer of the Ordnance Research and Development Division Sub-Office (Rocket) at Fort Bliss, Texas, to Redstone Arsenal on October 28, 1949. Among those transferred were Dr. Wernher von Braun and his team of German rocket scientists and technicians who had come to the United States under "Operation Paperclip" during 1945 and 1946. This team worked on the rocket and missile program for Germany during World War II.

An intelligence officer, (then) Colonel Holger N. Toftoy, had convinced the U.S. Government that this team could advance this Nation's rocket and missile program. Toftoy personally persuaded the Army to relocate the Von Braun team to Redstone Arsenal. It has been said before and it's true: all members of the Army team at Redstone Arsenal to this day owe a debt of gratitude to Toftoy for his efforts.

After its transfer to Redstone Arsenal, the Ordnance Research and Development Division Sub-Office (Rocket) was redesignated the Ordnance Guided Missile Center on April 15, 1950.



Von Braun shortly after his surrender, 1945



A German V-2 being flight tested at White Sands Missile Range



The Von Braun team at Fort Bliss, Texas, 1949



(Then) Colonel Toftoy inspecting a mine, 1944



### The Greater Redstone Arsenal Installation

The juicy news about Redstone arsenal finally broke this morning. It was the most heartening piece of information that has come to this area since the war days.

First confidential reports were received several weeks ago, but all details were not completely worked out, and the final decision not made, until this week. The release of the news came early today.

Removal of the Fort Bliss rocket research unit here will mean that about 500 soldiers, for guard purposes, will be stationed in the barracks at the corner of Jordan lane and Madison pike; 100 top German scientists, who have made long study of rocket propulsion, will be located here; 65 civilians, now in the employ of the Fort Bliss office, will be transferred to Huntsville, while some 235 clerical workers will be employed from among local people.

In round numbers, this means approximately 900 persons are involved in the enlargement of Redstone and its facilities.

The transfer will not be immediate. Col. Hudson states it cannot be made until early in 1950.

That gives a little breathing space for Huntsville to prepare for the housing of many of these people.

But housing them is not the only problem. Thiokol, and Rome and Haas, lack a good deal of reaching the maximum of employment. Most of them are, or will be, top bracket people, who will want homes, or apartments, suitable for their needs.

It should be clearly understood in advance that most of the surplus housing available here now will not meet the needs or the requirements of the technical and scientific people who are going to be employed in connection with the Redstone operations.

It should also be remembered that this is a peace-time project, and that there will not be the mad scramble for housing that prevailed when the arsenals were being built.

To meet the wishes and requirements of the type of scientists and technicians who are coming to Redstone, on a permanent basis, a good many more houses are going to be necessary. These people are not of the class who can be, or will be, accommodated in most of the surplus housing that now exists here. Many of them will want to buy their homes, if price and location are right.

The enlargement of Redstone arsenal is a great break for Huntsville, but the community must realize that it has some obligations, on its part, to provide housing and living accommodations that will be in line, both in price and in quality, with what the newcomers have had in the sections of the country from which they come.

A Huntsville Times editorial column in late 1949 announces a new era in Huntsville's history



U.S. Highway 72 in North Alabama was a two-lane highway in 1950

### Quarters Of Guided Missile Area Set Up At Redstone Arsenal



#### Major Hamill And Advanced Group Arrive

80 Enlisted Men Also In Vanguard Of More Than 800 Being Added

Members of the 9330th Technical Service Unit (TSU) are seen in a group photo in front of a building at the Redstone Arsenal. The photo is part of an editorial column in the Huntsville Times from late 1949.

Huntsville Times, April 16, 1950



9330th TSU

Another almost forgotten chapter in Redstone Arsenal's history is the story of the 9330th Technical Service Unit (9330th TSU). On October 3, 1945, the U.S. Army assigned the 9330th TSU to provide military support to the early activities of the Von Braun Team at Ft. Bliss, Texas. When the team was transferred to Redstone Arsenal in 1950, the 9330th TSU was also transferred.

Members of the 9330th were mostly draftees who had completed their education in the fields of electrical, structural, and mechanical engineering. They mentored under the German rocket experts and assisted with the development of some of the Army's earliest rocket and missile systems. The number of enlisted men assigned to the 9330th TSU peaked on August 24, 1954, to 506. The unit was dissolved on February 6, 1957. Many members of the 9330th TSU stayed at Redstone Arsenal after completing their service obligation and found employment as civil servants and contractors in the missile and rocket fields.

## The work begins

Many of the buildings in 1950 were in disrepair. The Army rocket team needed to build the type of specialized facilities that were successfully used in both Germany and White Sands Missile Range.

When fabrication of the first Army missile "Redstone" (originally called "Major") began in 1952, the Army was faced with a dilemma: refining a missile depended on a propulsion test stand. But an inflexible law stated that no funds for research and development could be spent constructing facilities. Rather than wait for funding, Redstone missile engineers designed an interim test stand for \$25,000, the maximum amount allowed for constructing facilities without Congressional approval.

In 1953, when the first Redstone missile was completed, the interim test stand was ready. The first test occurred in April 1953.



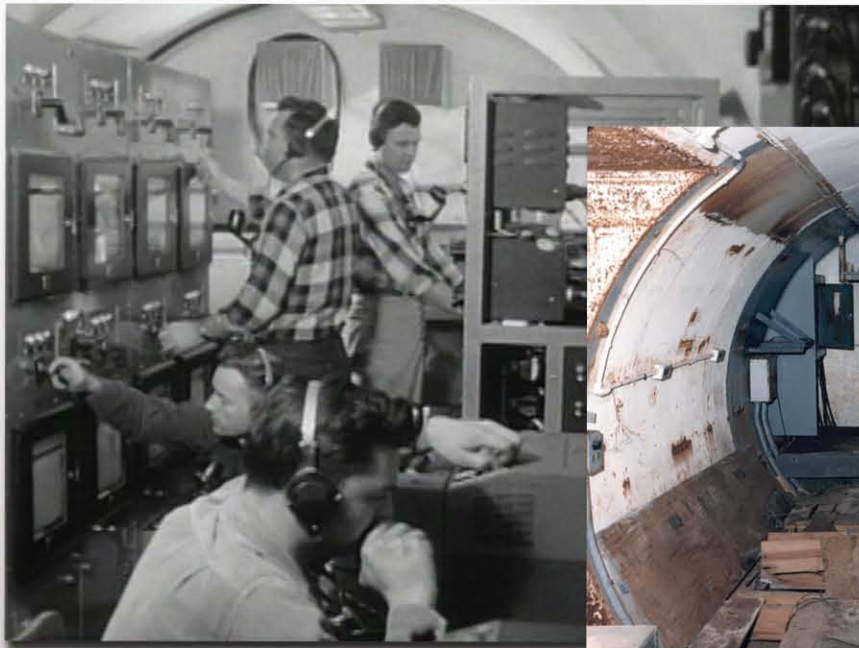
Testing a Redstone, 1956



Redstone test site



World War II building, 1950



Inside the block house, 1956



Inside the block house, 1993

The block house, used for observations and receiving telemetered data during tests, was constructed from three surplus chemical steel tanks covered by a mound of dirt. The three tanks contained 1,500 square feet of usable space for test engineers.

A total of 364 tests were performed between April 1953 and June 1961. In 1985, the National Park Service designated the site as a National Historic Landmark. Historic tests conducted include the test of the "Jupiter-C" missile which launched the Free World's first satellite, Explorer I, into space on January 31, 1958, and the modified Redstone missile which sent the first American, Astronaut Alan B. Shepard, Jr., into space on May 5, 1961. As of Redstone Arsenal's 75th anniversary, the test stand was still viewable.



Exterior of blockhouse, 2016



Landmark marker in front of test stand

# A legendary school is built

With the advent of new rockets and missiles being developed, the Office of the Chief of Ordnance and the Chief of the Army Field Forces approved Redstone Arsenal as the site for guided missile courses in February 1951. Colonel Hudson officially established the Provisional Redstone Ordnance Center on March 3, 1952. For almost 50 years, this school trained warfighters in all U.S. forces and many allied forces in the operation, maintenance, and repair of many U.S. Army developed rocket and missile systems. Later renamed the Ordnance Missile and Munitions Center (or OMMCS), and in 2002, the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School (OMEMS), the school was moved to Ft. Lee, Virginia, in 2011 under the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) action.



Original guided missile school building



Building 3300, OMMCS (1960s)



Building 3300 (1990s)

## Ordnance school closes doors, clears books

*Longtime tenant goes to Fort Lee*

By **SKIP VAUGHN**  
 Rocket editor  
[skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com](mailto:skip.vaughn@theredstonerocket.com)

Workmen carried various items from what remained of the empty classrooms and offices. The last Soldiers and civilians made their final plans for what was left in the former school building.

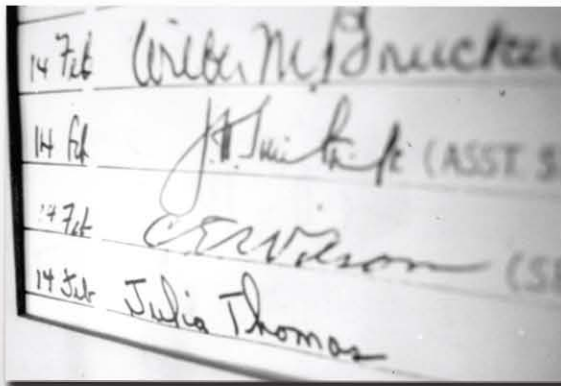
Building 3301 was all that remained of the Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School, which has moved to Fort Lee, Va., as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure decisions. And that building is to be turned over to the Garrison today.

*The Redstone Rocket*, September 14, 2011

# The Goddard House



Goddard House, 1956



Guest book

Built around 1835 by James Manning, the U.S. Government bought this two-story farmhouse in 1941 when it purchased the land that would become Huntsville Arsenal. The building was remodeled in 1942 and used as quarters for arsenal personnel until 1953. As the arsenal's guided missile and rocket program assumed national importance during the mid-1950s, the number of visiting dignitaries increased with few suitable accommodations available on the arsenal. It was decided to make use of the otherwise unusable farmhouse by moving it to the Redstone Arsenal headquarters area (known as the 7000-area of Redstone Arsenal).



Goddard House living room, 1960s

Newly renovated and furnished, the VIP guesthouse was ready for occupancy by February 1956. The first to sign the guest book was Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson. The guesthouse was officially named "Goddard House" in May 1956 in honor of Dr. Robert H. Goddard, the "Father of American Rocketry." Among the other notables who stayed in the house were Fred Friendly and Edward R. Murrow of CBS News, various Secretaries of Defense, and Secretaries of the Army. In 1972, Melvin Laird was the last Secretary of Defense to stay in the Goddard House.



Goddard House, 1969



Goddard House, 2014

Over the years, the house underwent extensive renovations, face-lifts, and refurbishments. The exterior clapboard siding gave way to stucco and later to yellow brick. Although evaluated for the National Registry of Historic Places, the numerous structural and design changes prohibited the old house from achieving official historic recognition. The U.S. Army Garrison Redstone ordered the structure destroyed in January 2016, just months shy of Redstone Arsenal's 75th anniversary celebration.

# The post newspaper of record

Though both World War II installations had "newspapers" (or more accurately, newsletters), February 5, 1952, marked the beginning of Redstone Arsenal's newspaper, *The Redstone Rocket*.

Carrying the official disclaimer of "*The Redstone Rocket* is published by (a company), a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army... Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an official expression by the Department of the Army," *The Redstone Rocket* was one of the only ways all soldiers and civilians of the installation received the news of post activities for the years preceding the digital age.

Historians, archeologists, and researchers have used articles and photographs recorded in *The Redstone Rocket* for many years. In 2008, the Command Historian of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, Mr. Michael "Mule" Baker, worked with the U.S. Air Force in Montgomery, Alabama, to have all of *The Redstone Rockets* digitally preserved.

# The Redstone Rocket

Technical Library  
Redstone Arsenal  
Huntsville, Alabama

VOL. 1: NO. 1

REDSTONE ARSENAL, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

FEB. 5, 1952

## First Dimes Tally Passes \$1,800

### Count Doubles 1951 Amount

#### Drive Chairman Stone Congratulates Arsenal On Excellent Showing

Redstone Arsenal people opened their hearts and pockets to the 1952 March of Dimes appeal to contribute at least \$1,800. CWO Hubert L. Stone, drive chairman, reports. The total does not include amounts from collection boxes turned in Monday, Stone added.

The Redstone Arsenal March of Dimes for 1952 already more than doubles the 1951 campaign total of \$800.89.

In expressing his thanks to all arsenal personnel for their generosity, Stone said:

"The excellent showing, once again demonstrates the warm open-heartedness of the American people, and of those at Redstone particularly.

"In spite of the fine work of the many sub-chairmen aiding with the campaign, our contribution could not have been so outstanding without the support of all employees.

"This interest and support will go a long way in Redstone's and Madison County's effort for the march of polio."

The arsenal members of the annual March of Dimes campaign held in Madison County.

Those assisting with the drive at the arsenal included:

Vic Bubbett, Public Information Section, co-chairman; Sub-chairmen, C. D. Hopkins, Purchasing and Contracting; Capt. Vernon Hight, Post Commissary; Cpl. Lloyd A. Himes, NCO Open Mess; Miss Evelyn Coffman and Sgt. Henry L. Jones Transportation; Chief O. L. Green, Civilian Police; CWO Stanley L. Scott, Special Agent in Charge.

(Continued On Page 2)

### Arsenal Typist Hurt In Wreck

#### Wanda Limbaugh Hurt And Friend Is Killed When Car Hits Bridge

Miss Wanda Limbaugh, 18-year old Post Ordnance clerk-typist, is recuperating today from injuries received Saturday afternoon in an automobile accident Saturday afternoon in which another woman was killed.

According to the Highway Patrol, Miss Limbaugh received a broken collar bone and shoulder, and Miss Lois O. Hasty, 21, Huntsville telephone operator, was killed, when their car crashed into a concrete bridge abutment and skidded 325 feet down Huntsville Pike near the city limits.

The Highway Patrol quoted Miss Limbaugh as saying the accident occurred shortly after the car, driven by Miss Hasty, passed another car.

An investigation by the Highway Patrol showed the left wheels of the car left the pavement, causing the car to crash into a concrete culvert abutment. The trunk and center section of the car were torn off.

The accident investigation shows the car hit a ditch, flipped on its side and skidded down highway about 100 feet. The car then turned on its top, skidded another 160 feet, then righted itself.

Miss Limbaugh also told highway patrolmen she remembers hitting the ditch.

(Continued On Page 2)



**THREE RECEIVE DECORATIONS**—Lt. Col. Henry R. Jordan, S-3, receives an Oak Leaf cluster to the Bronze Star Medal from Col. Carroll D. Hudson, arsenal commander. Col. Jordan was decorated to receive awards in a special review ceremony. (Continued On Page 2)

Projects, (center) also received an Oak Leaf cluster to the Bronze Star. Cpl. Willis J. Lancaster (at right) Signal Corps installer and repairman, received the Bronze Star. In the background are part of the two platoons of 3523 ASU and 9330 TSU men witnessing the ceremony. (U. S. Army Photograph.)

### C'mander Greets Paper's First Issue

Col. Carroll D. Hudson, commanding officer of Redstone Arsenal, welcomes the first appearance of *The Redstone Rocket*, as an aide in accomplishing the assigned missions.

On the initial issue, the colonel said:

### Redstone Soldiers Win Merit Awards

A Bronze Star medal and two Oak Leaf clusters to Bronze Star medals were presented to Redstone military personnel Feb. 1 by Col. Carroll D. Hudson.

The awards were received by Lt.-Col. Henry R. Jordan, director of Personnel and Administration;

### Sponsoring Boards Welcomes Rocket

Sponsors of *The Redstone Rocket*, the Civilian Welfare Council and the Central Post Council, join in wishing this new enterprise success. Their joint statement is as follows:

"The Civilian Welfare Council and the Central Post Council, as the co-sponsors of *The Redstone Rocket*, join in wishing this endeavor

First edition of *The Redstone Rocket*

**The Redstone Rocket**  
**Gen. Vincent Commands Arsenal**



# Redstone Arsenal's first Commanding General

Colonel Hudson left Redstone Arsenal for the last time on May 7, 1952. Redstone Arsenal received its first Commanding General on June 15, 1952 when Brigadier General Thomas K. Vincent assumed command. Vincent was previously assigned to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.



Brigadier General Vincent and (then) Brigadier General Toftoy

Under his command, Vincent continued to foster the strong working relationship with the local community. He participated in Huntsville's community celebrations and authorized the first public display of an Army missile, the Hermes, on May 14, 1953. General Vincent commanded Redstone Arsenal until September 1, 1954. He died at his residence in Alexandria, Virginia, on September 9 1956. On June 12, 1957, "Vincent Hall" was dedicated in his honor at the (then) Ordnance Guided Missile School. Later, a major road at Redstone Arsenal, Vincent Drive, was dedicated in his honor, as well recreational facility, Vincent Park.

**TO MY CO-WORKERS AT REDSTONE ARSENAL—**

Upon the occasion of completing 26 1/2 months as your chief at Redstone Arsenal, and also completing almost 37 years of commissioned service in the United States Army, I find that laws and regulations remove me from active duty.

I want to thank each of you, civilian and military, regardless of your position or assignment, for the very important part you have played in making my administration successful. In so doing you have made the Redstone Arsenal a center of scientific and technical knowledge in this new and important defense field. Without the wholehearted cooperation of each one of you, the teamwork and willingness to go ahead under trying conditions in many cases, this goal would not have been achieved.

I wish I could say to each of you personally what is in my heart at this time. I would try to let you know how grateful I am to each of you and how I shall ever treasure the memories of this my last and finest assignment in the Army. No finer reward can be mine than to have known you, worked with you, shared your joys and sorrows, and to have been accepted as one of the great Redstone team.

My best wishes to each of you.

Sincerely,  
**THOMAS K. VINCENT**  
 Brigadier General, USA  
 Commanding

Brigadier General Vincent's note published in *The Redstone Rocket*, August 31, 1954



Brigadier General Vincent (bottom right) with the Madison County Army Advisory Committee, August 12, 1953

**The Redstone Rocket**  
 VOL. VI, NO. 6      REDSTONE ARSENAL, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA      JUNE 5, 1957

**IN MEMORY OF LATE REDSTONE GENERAL**  
**OGMS Building to Be Dedicated As Vincent Hall**

**CEREMONY SET AT AOA MEET**  
 Missile Display Is Also Scheduled

The dedication of Vincent Hall and one of the world's largest displays of guided missiles will highlight the three-day meeting at the American Ordnance Association's Guided Missile Branch here 11-13 June.

The building dedication, in memory of the late Brig. Gen. Thomas K. Vincent, first commanding general of Redstone Arsenal, and the missile display will be held at the Ordnance Guided Missile School, the afternoon of June 12.

U.S. Gen. Emerson L. Cunningham, Chief of Ordnance, and Frank B. ...

Brig. Gen. Thomas K. Vincent



# The City and the U.S. Army

The City of Huntsville celebrated its Sesquicentennial in 1955. Throughout the entire decade of the 1950s, the Army and Huntsville worked hand in hand to ensure continued growth and prosperity.

Major General Toftoy, as the senior mission leader of Redstone Arsenal, was asked to write a letter to the City of Huntsville in the year 2005. That letter was revealed in the city's Bicentennial celebration by Redstone Arsenal's senior mission leader in July 2005.



LT. GEN. HICKEY GUEST OF HONOR

## Arsenal Is Set For Big Sesqi 'Day' Tomorrow

Tomorrow is the "big day!" It's Redstone Arsenal Day of Huntsville's colorful 150th birthday party—the Sesquicentennial celebration. As its special the big day!

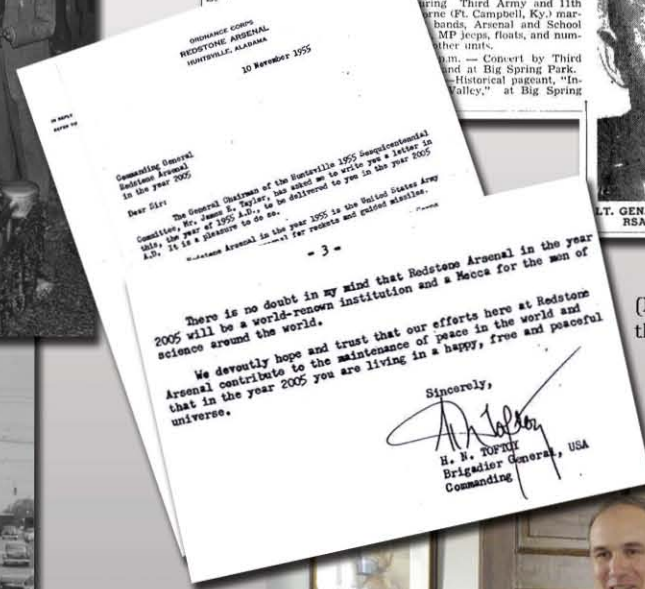
Tomorrow is the "big day!" It's Redstone Arsenal Day of Huntsville's colorful 150th birthday party—the Sesquicentennial celebration. As its special the big day!



LT. GEN. THOMAS F. HICKEY  
RSA Day Honor Guest



(Right) Time capsule being buried, 1955



(Left) Toftoy's letter to the citizens of 2005



Downtown Huntsville sign, 1955



Doris Toftoy Williams, (then) Mayor Loretta Spencer, and Major General James H. Pillsbury read Toftoy's letter in 2005





Citizenship ceremony, Huntsville High School, April 14, 1955

Thirty-nine of Redstone Arsenal's German-born scientists, along with the wives of two of the Operation Paperclip group, were sworn in as U.S. citizens at the Federal Courthouse in Birmingham, Alabama, on November 11, 1954. On April 14, 1955, in an unprecedented ceremony held at Huntsville High School, an additional 109 German-born scientists, technicians, and members of their families became American citizens. Among those taking the oath of citizenship was Dr. Von Braun.

The Army's Hermes missile, the first U.S. missile ever put on public display, was donated to the City of Huntsville in 1956. The missile was placed on the corner of Airport Road (the original location of the Huntsville airport) and Memorial Parkway. That missile remains on display.



**HUNTSVILLE GETS MISSILE**—A Hermes missile was officially presented by Redstone Arsenal to citizens of Huntsville and Madison County last week. In the above picture are Maj. Gen. John B. Modoris, commander of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency (left), and Brig. Gen. H. N. Tolley, Arsenal commander, both of whom spoke at the dedication. A historical marker was unveiled by two Huntsville children, Bobby Cooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cooper (center left), and Carol Record, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Record.

**HERMES MISSILE IS PRESENTED TO AREA CITIZENS**

A Hermes missile, the Army's first surface-to-surface guided missile, was officially presented to the citizens of Huntsville and Madison County by Redstone Arsenal in a brief ceremony last week.

In making the dedicatory talk, Brig. Gen. H. N. Tolley, Redstone commander, cited the "significant development," that came from the Hermes project which were later employed to achieve greater performance and accuracy in Nike, Corporal and other weapons systems.

"The most recent example of direct application to Hermes work is the adaptation of one of the efficient Hermes-developed rocket engines as the main power plant for the power plant for the earth satellite which the President of the United States announced a few months ago," the general said.

"The Hermes, he said, is the most appropriate missile to put on public display "to represent the interest, the progressive spirit, and the achievements of the Huntsville-Madison County - Redstone community."

The missile is located at a new park on the Parkway at Airport Road. A historical marker identifying the missile, placed by the Huntsville-Madison County Chamber of Commerce, was unveiled by Carol Record, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Record, and Bobby Cooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Cooper.



Hermes missile, Airport Road (2004)



Hermes missile, May 14, 1953



# Major General Holger N. Toftoy: "Mr. Missile"

Though tens of thousands of individuals have contributed to the success of Redstone Arsenal's many missions over the past 75 years, no other person had more of an impact to this installation's history than Holger Nelson Toftoy.

As noted earlier, (then) Colonel Toftoy personally convinced the Army to relocate the Von Braun team to Redstone Arsenal. In 1952, Toftoy was assigned to Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, as Director of the Ordnance Missile Laboratories, which was responsible for planning, technical control, and supervision of what had become the U.S. Army's guided missile and rocket development program. He was promoted on November 1, 1952, to brigadier general. He succeeded Brigadier General Vincent as the Commanding General of Redstone Arsenal on September 1, 1954. Toftoy was promoted to Major General on September 30, 1956, and remained at Redstone Arsenal until July 28, 1958, when he assumed command of Aberdeen Proving Ground.

In 1960 General Toftoy retired from the Army due to ill health. He died on April 19, 1967, at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

Of the numerous awards and honors received by General Toftoy during his life, perhaps none were more gratifying to him than a plaque placed in Big Spring Park in Huntsville, Alabama, by grateful citizens to honor the man known locally as "Mr. Missile," a man who had a great deal to do with turning the small cotton town into the rocket capital of the world.



Toftoy with the Madison County Army Advisory Committee, 1955

Toftoy and Senator [John J. Sparkman



## GEN. TOFTOY GETS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

### Secretary of Army Makes Presentation

Secretary of the Army Wilbur M. Brucker last week presented the Distinguished Service Medal to Maj. Gen. H. N. Toftoy, former deputy commanding general of AOMC.

Gen. Toftoy assumed the duties of Commanding General, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, this week.

The ceremony took place in the office of the Secretary of the Army at the Pentagon.

GEN. TOFTOY GETS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL Award Presented by Army Sec. Brucker



Plaque for Toftoy unveiled at Big Spring Park, 1958



Toftoy Hall dedication, November 3, 1967



Toftoy and Dr. Von Braun, 1958

★ ★ ★

### Toftoy's Contribution

Dr. Werner von Braun summed up pretty accurately Tuesday night the contribution of Major General Toftoy, who leaves soon for another post. Said he:

"Had it not been for his big heart and sense of duty, there would be no Redstone, no Jupiter, no Explorers."

That's it in a nutshell. One sentence tells the whole story of his major contribution to this nation's defense efforts.

EMOTION GRIPS GENERAL

### Toftoy Receives A City's Thanks

By JOE HOCHSTEIN  
of The Times Staff

Emotion gripped Maj. Gen. H. N. Toftoy briefly last night. Tears choked off his words as the general spoke at the unveiling of a monument to his home in Big Spring Park. He had been speaking for about two minutes when his voice broke.

"At this point, all I can say is . . . thank you," he said abruptly, and sat down to a warm ovation from about 125 persons who had turned out for the special event at Huntsville's Civic Center basement. A host of speakers credited Toftoy with having made Huntsville the Army's missile center.

Principal speaker was Frank Pace, who was secretary of the Army when Toftoy was promoted from colonel to brigadier general

Nov. 1, 1958. Toftoy came to Redstone Arsenal in May, 1952, became post commander on Sept. 1, 1954, and became deputy commander of the Ordnance Missile Command when the command was set up on March 23 last year.

"He (Toftoy) presented an original idea of compelling utilization," Pace said, commenting that Toftoy "is known properly as the father of the missile in speakers credited Toftoy with the Army."

Remembering Toftoy's flight when World War II for research and development in rocketry, Pace described the general as modest, gracious, and confident.

Turn To Page 2, Column 1

Huntsville Times,  
July 25, 1958



Toftoy Day celebration, July 2002

## Major General John B. Medaris

One of the most nationally-known generals ever to serve at Redstone Arsenal was Major General John Bruce Medaris who commanded here from 1956 to 1960. He led the Wernher von Braun Team of German and American engineers to some of its most memorable achievements. Medaris was famous for his swagger stick in his hand, his attention to formalities in his dress and appearance, his bluntness, and the sports cars that he loved to drive. He was widely respected for his courage to make decisions. In fact, he was once quoted as saying that "I may not always be right, but I am never in doubt." During his command, he was a guest on a number of national television shows such as "The Today Show," "Meet the Press," and "Face the Nation." He also appeared in numerous television documentaries on the space program. And, he made a number of appearances before Congress trying to secure funding and/or support for the programs he managed. He was very successful, with his budget for Fiscal Years 1959 and 1960 approaching \$2 billion (\$16.3 billion in 2016 dollars), or about 25 percent of the Army's budget for those years.



Medaris is welcomed to Redstone Arsenal by Major General Toftoy, January 30, 1956

# The Redstone Rocket

VOL. IV: NO. 41 | REDSTONE ARSENAL, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA | JANUARY 31, 1956

## RSA Welcomes Gen. Medaris



### ABMA CHIEF ASSUMES DUTIES

Major Gen. John B. Medaris tomorrow assumes his duties as commanding general of the newly formed Army Ballistic Missiles Agency at Redstone Arsenal. General Medaris, who was chief of the Industrial Division, Office, Chief of Ordnance, prior to his assignment here, was welcomed to the Arsenal yesterday in impressive ceremonies. Upon his arrival from Nashville at Redstone's Gate 1, he was met by Brig. Gen. H. N. Toftoy, Arsenal commander, and escorted to the parade ground on the south side of Post Headquarters. There he was met by an honor guard consisting of 50 men from the 9377th Security Detachment and the 296th Army Band from Fort McClellan, Ala.



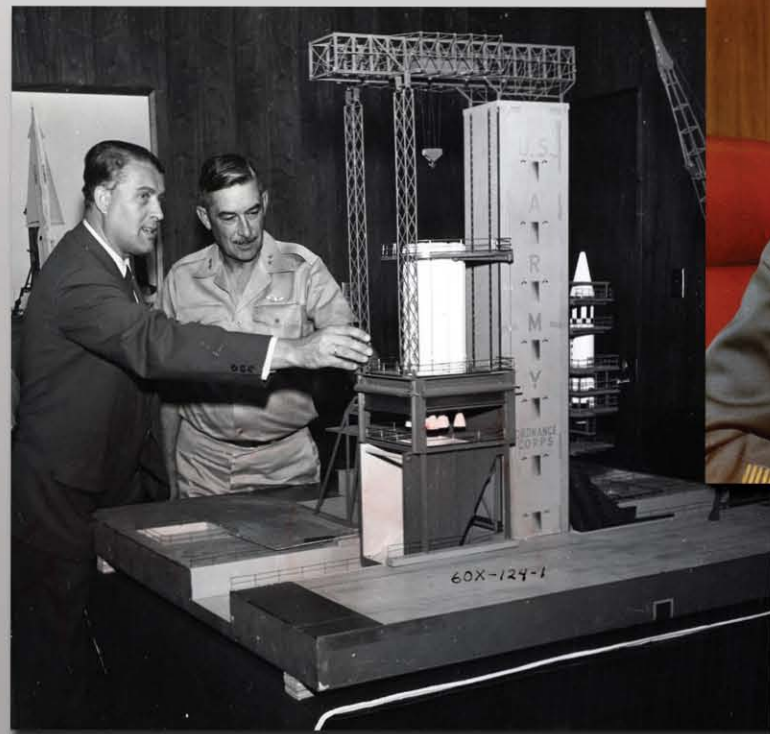
Army Ballistic Missile Agency (ABMA) activation, February 1, 1956



Medaris receives flight instruction, 1957



Reading the morning briefing



Dr. Von Braun briefs Medaris on Saturn test stand, 1958



Holding Nike Hercules model

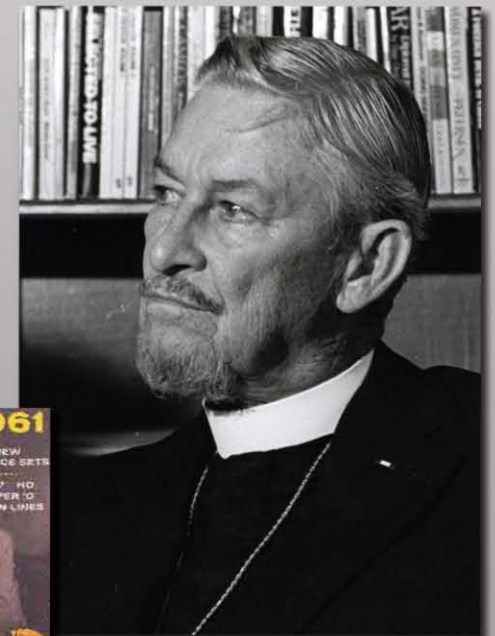
Lionel Trains promotional materials

**Gen. Medaris Joins Toy Train Firm**

New York, Aug. 3 (AP) — Maj. Gen. John B. Medaris, former head of the worldwide Army rocket and guided missile program, today became president of a toy train manufacturer.

Lionel Corp. announced Gen. Medaris' new position. He also was elected a director. Lionel has been without a president since last October.

Lionel has long been the nation's largest manufacturer of electric trains and accessories. It also makes other electric and mechanical toys, chemistry sets and sporting equipment.



Father Medaris

General Medaris ended his military career in January 1960. After trying several post-military retirement jobs and battling cancer on two different occasions, General Medaris became an ordained episcopal priest around 1970. In May 1990, the National Space Club sponsored an event at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum that saluted the U.S. Army's pioneering achievements in space. For this event, the Secretary of the Army created the Major General John B. Medaris Award for Army Achievement in Space which worthy recipients received for making or who had already made a significant space-related contribution to the Army and the Nation. Too ill to attend, Medaris wrote that "...I challenge you to continue the spirit of adventure of space for it presents an opportunity which is clearly limitless." Medaris died on July 11, 1990.

# Dr. Wernher von Braun

Dr. Wernher von Braun was one of the most important rocket developers and champions of space exploration during the period between the 1930s and the 1970s. As a youth, he became enamored with the possibilities of space exploration by reading the science fiction of Jules Verne and H.G. Wells. He was the chief of the missile division that created the V-2 missile for Germany during World War II.

Von Braun and his team surrendered to the U.S. Army in 1945. Under Operation Paperclip, they were brought to Fort Bliss, Texas, where they taught U.S. scientists and engineers the workings of the V-2. In 1950, Von Braun's team moved to Redstone Arsenal where they would develop the Army's first missiles and rockets.

On July 1, 1960, his rocket development team was transferred from ABMA to the newly established National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) George C. Marshall Space Flight Center. Von Braun became the first director of that center.



(Left to right) Medaris, Von Braun, and Toftoy, 1956



Von Braun in front of Building 4488 in 1958



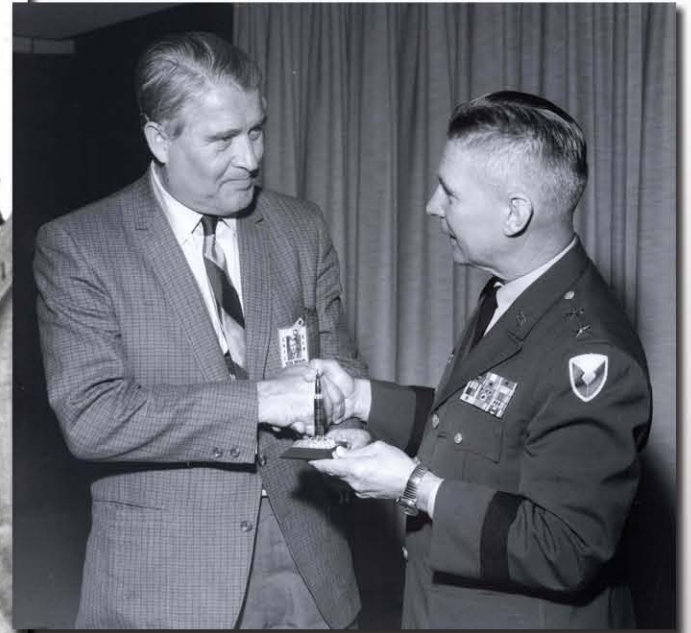
ABMA Development Operations Division



Von Braun in blockhouse, Cape Canaveral, Florida



Von Braun receives a gold medal for distinguished federal civilian service from President Eisenhower, January 21, 1959



Von Braun and Major General Charles W. Eifler, September 1969



Von Braun gives remarks at "Von Braun Day," February 24, 1970

**The Huntsville Times**

Vol. 67, No. 86      Huntsville, Alabama, Friday, June 17, 1977      Price 10 Cents

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**SPACE SCIENTIST DR. WERNHER von BRAUN**  
In Portrait Taken During Rocket Pioneer's Huntsville Days

## Von Braun Dies Of Cancer at 65

*A Pioneer In Space Loses Bout*      *Memorial Services In Huntsville Are To Be Announced*

**ALEXANDRIA, Va.** — Dr. Wernher von Braun, who was synonymous with American space technology for more than a quarter of a century, died Thursday at Alexandria Hospital here after an extended illness with cancer.

Von Braun had been in poor health for sometime. He underwent surgery in 1975 for removal of a malignant liver tumor and began curtailing his activities at that time.

He had surgery again last year and had been confined to the hospital for long stretches. He continued to work and keep abreast of space exploration even while confined to the hospital, reading and collecting his papers which will be permanently displayed at the Alabama Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville.

The 65-year-old scientist and his family were members of Huntsville for 23 years when Dr. von Braun served as technical director and chief of the U.S. Army's Rocket Development Division at Redstone Arsenal, and later became director of the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, a National Aeronautics and Space Administration field center.

President Carter, in a statement issued at the White House, said: "To millions of Americans, Wernher von Braun's name was inextricably linked to our exploration of space and to the creative application of technology. He was not only a skilled engineer, but also a man of bold vision. His inspirational leadership helped mold and maintain the

Memorial services for Dr. Wernher von Braun were being planned today but the time and place had not been decided.

It is unknown whether any members of the Von Braun family will be in attendance.

**AT MID-DAY PLANNERS** were attempting to decide whether the service should be at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity or at the Von Braun Civic Center.

A memorial mass will be said for Dr. Von Braun Wednesday at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd at Winter Park, Fla., where the Rev. John Bruce Medaris is a priest. The Rev. Medaris was commanding general of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency at Redstone Arsenal during the early years of the space program.

**DR. VON BRAUN** died Thursday at 3:30 a.m. EDT at an Alexandria, Va., hospital, where he had been confined since last October in his final bout with cancer.

Burial was conducted later in the day at an undisclosed location. The family prefers that no details of the burial be released for "at least two or three weeks," a spokeswoman said.

# Space Capital of the Universe

When Major General Medaris' team began work in 1956, they had the primary mission of fielding the Army's first intermediate range (1,500 mile) ballistic missile, the Jupiter. By August 1958, this system was delivered to the U.S. Air Force for early deployment overseas. The Jupiter later proved to be a significant bargaining chip in the Cuban Missile Crisis.

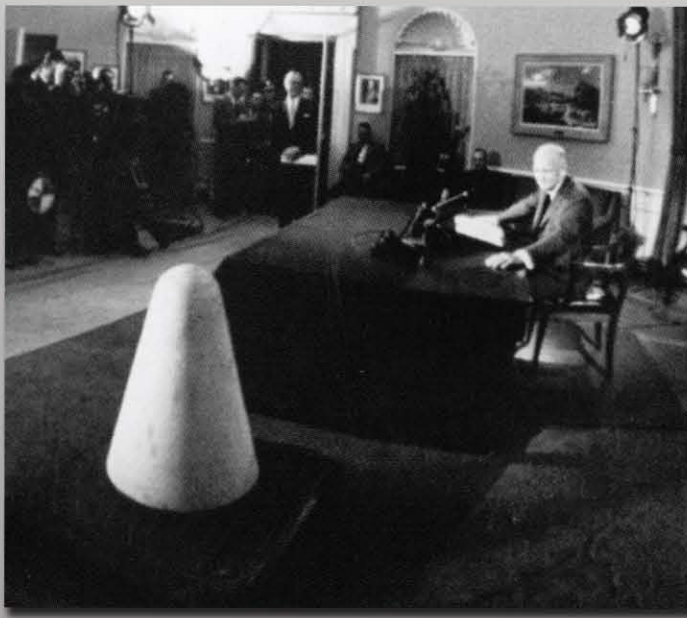
It was also during this time that the U.S. Army at Redstone Arsenal made a number of contributions that helped lay the foundation for U.S. space exploration. In August 1957, they recovered intact a nose cone from a Jupiter-C flight test, the first time that a man-made object had been retrieved from outer space. celebration.



An Army Jupiter prepares for launch



A Jupiter with Air Force markings



Before a national television audience, President Eisenhower displays a nose cone from a Jupiter missile, August 7, 1957



Billboard seen in Huntsville, Alabama, 1959





Huntsville Times, October 4, 1957

# RUSS SATELLITE SIGHTED OVER S.F.

**San Francisco Chronicle**  
**Russ 'Moon' Circling Globe--18,000 mph**  
 Tiny Satellite First Into Space  
 Reds Beat U.S.—

# Herald Tribune

## Dog in Sputnik II Alive, May Return; Half-Ton Satellite Is 1,056 Miles Up



(Left) Explorer 1 satellite

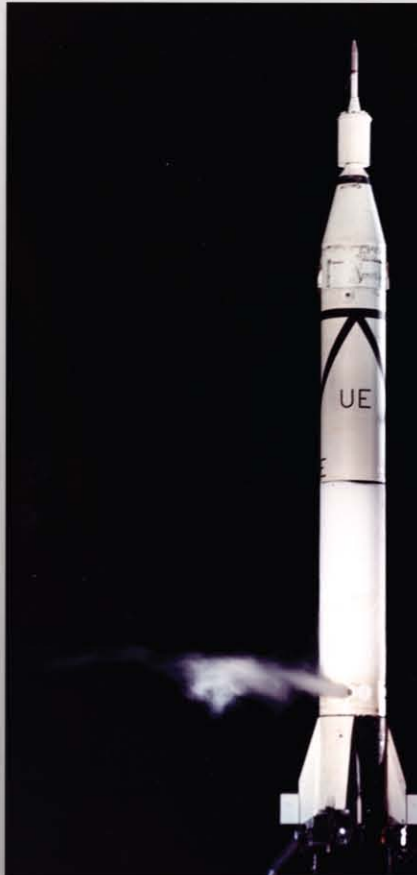
In October and November of 1957, the Soviets launched Sputniks I and II, shattering American dreams of scientific and technical superiority. Amid mounting public pressure to respond to the Soviet challenge and due to the repeated problems with the Navy-managed satellite program known as Project Vanguard, the U.S. Army was given the green light and successfully launched the Free World's first satellite, Explorer 1, on January 31, 1958, a mere 84 days after receiving the mission. The U.S. Army at Redstone Arsenal faced and met this challenge to not only restore U.S. prestige, but also to jumpstart the extraordinary growth and tradition of excellence that became a hallmark of both the Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville communities.

**The New York Times**  
**U. S. SATELLITE IS 'WORKING NICELY'; ARMY ORDERED TO LAUNCH ANOTHER; ALSO PLANS RECONNAISSANCE 'MOON'**  
 Explorer's Top Height 1,700 Miles—Orbit Takes 2 Hours  
 DATA SENT BACK

New York Times, February 1, 1958



(Left to right) Dr. William Pickering, Dr. James Van Allen, and Dr. Von Braun at the Explorer 1 press conference, February 1, 1958



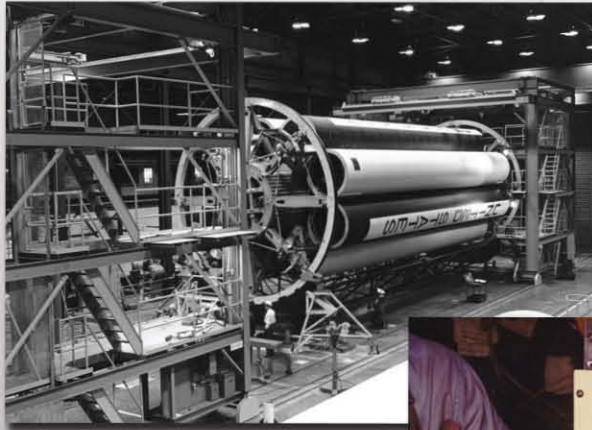
Jupiter-C RS-29 prepares for launch, January 31, 1958

UNCLASSIFIED  
 MESSAGE THAT THE SATELLITE WAS IN ORBIT

Message that the satellite was in orbit

# Army in space

Other noteworthy achievements by the U.S. Army at Redstone Arsenal in the space field during this period included initiating the development of the million-pound thrust engine named Saturn that became the nation's moon rocket. The U.S. Army also sent two primates, monkeys Able and Baker, into space aboard a Jupiter missile and recovered them safely, the first successful recovery of living beings from a flight into space.



Saturn assembly



Saturn engine test



ABMA's launch facility, Cape Canaveral, Florida



Monkey Baker





Building 4505

## Expansion in the 1950s

Two buildings built during this time were Building 4505 and Building 4489, positioned across the street from each other on Martin Road.

Building 4505 was opened in October 1958 and served as the Headquarters for the Army Ordnance Missile Command. Major General Medaris spent his last two years in command there. In the 1960s, it would serve as the Nike-X Project Office Building. As the decades past, Building 4505 would house the Missile and Space Intelligence Center and the Missile Defense Agency. In 2015, the building was totally gutted, rebuilt, and re-opened in January 2016 to serve as the Headquarters to the U.S. Army Contracting Command.

Building 4489 served as a film studio. The Army pictorial series, "The Big Picture," was produced for a time in the building. Thousands of productions ranging from internal documentation to films produced for the national media were created in the building. It was destroyed in 2008 to make room for a new building - Building 4400, the new headquarters building for the U.S. Army Materiel Command.



Building 4489



# National spotlight

Not only were the work and activities at Redstone Arsenal during the 1950s covered in the local Huntsville media, but by the national media. Dr. Von Braun, Major General Medaris, and Major General Toftoy were nationally recognized names throughout the country and around the world. Medaris alone was on NBC's "Meet the Press" twice, as well as interviewed on Edward R. Murrow's "Person to Person" "live" from Redstone Arsenal. Major General Toftoy was interviewed by Mike Wallace of CBS News and appeared in an episode of "This is Your Life." Von Braun was featured in a "Wonderful World of Disney" episode as well as having graced the covers of the major newsmagazines of the era. By 1960, both Medaris and Toftoy had retired. But Von Braun would continue to garner national and international media coverage for another decade as his team at the Marshall Space Flight Center put the first humans on the moon.



# The Nickerson Affair

The highest profile court-martial in Redstone Arsenal's history took place June 25-29, 1957. Earlier in the year, *The New York Times* had obtained a classified document which contained details of the U.S. Army's missile program. Colonel John C. Nickerson, Jr., a member of Major General Medaris' staff, was charged with laxity concerning security and safeguarding military information. Media from around the country descended on Redstone Arsenal. One report noted that 71 reporters covered developments in the trial.

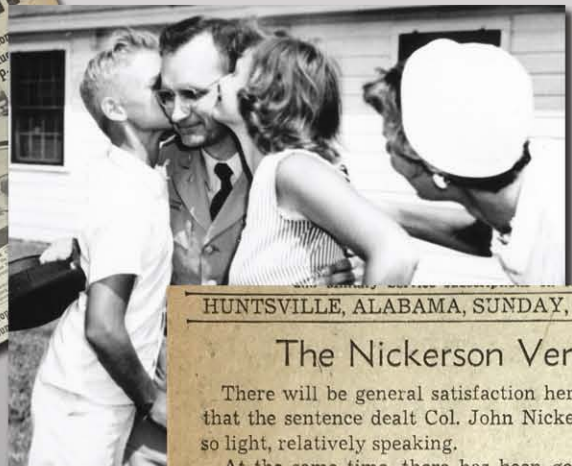
Nickerson, who pleaded guilty to 15 counts of breaching Army security regulations, faced the possibility of a 30-year prison sentence and dismissal from the service. The charges against him were based on Nickerson's release of a document containing defense secrets, along with a personal memorandum highly critical of the Defense Secretary's decision to limit the Army's missile and rocket R&D role to ranges of 200 miles or less.

On June 29, 1957, the general court-martial board passed a relatively light sentence on Nickerson: suspension from rank for 1 year, forfeiture of \$100 pay per month for 15 months, and an official reprimand. A few weeks after his trial ended, Nickerson was assigned to duty as a construction inspector in the Panama Canal Zone.

In July 1958, the Army restored full security clearance to Nickerson and reassigned him as ordnance officer of the U.S. Army Caribbean Command with headquarters in the Canal Zone. Nickerson subsequently returned to the continental United States as ordnance officer at the Air Defense Center and commanding officer of the 61st Ordnance Group at Fort Bliss, Texas. On March 1, 1964, Nickerson and his wife were killed in an automobile accident near Alamogordo, New Mexico.



Colonel Nickerson



HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA, SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 1957

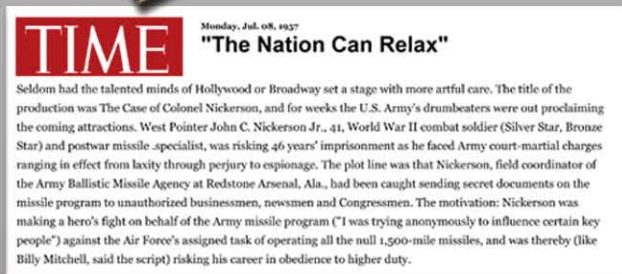
### The Nickerson Verdict

There will be general satisfaction here, we believe, that the sentence dealt Col. John Nickerson has been so light, relatively speaking.

At the same time, there has been general recognition and acceptance of the fact that he had been indiscreet in some of his conduct, and that in his campaign he perhaps had gone too far in bucking Secretary Wilson and carrying the ball for the Army in its desire, not only to perfect a medium range missile, but also to have its operational use for protection of Army troops in case of some future war.

But much of this was forgotten, or passed over lightly, in admiration for the man, the officer, who had the courage, the ability to fight for his cause; the conviction to battle for what he believed was best for his country.

Huntsville Times, June 30, 1957





# The Huntsville Times

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1960

ASSOCIATED PRESS — WIREPHOTO

## The Weather

Cloudy and cool with scattered showers tonight. Saturday, cloudy and warmer. Low tonight, 28; high Saturday, 30.

SEE WEATHER PAGE 2  
40c PER WEEK

CHICAGO DAILY NEWS SERVICE

## Rockets, Fame, Expansion Marked Area's Best Decade

### Pay, People At New High For Arsenal

21,996 On Payroll In Five Agencies Draw \$132 Million

### City's Growth Tied To Army

#### Most Records Of Community Fell During The Span Of The Fifties

A fitting goodbye to the Fabulous Fifties crackled through Huntsville shortly after midnight Monday as the decade's end was marked by outbursts of fire.

## **Chapter Three: The 1960s**

# The Army's mission changes

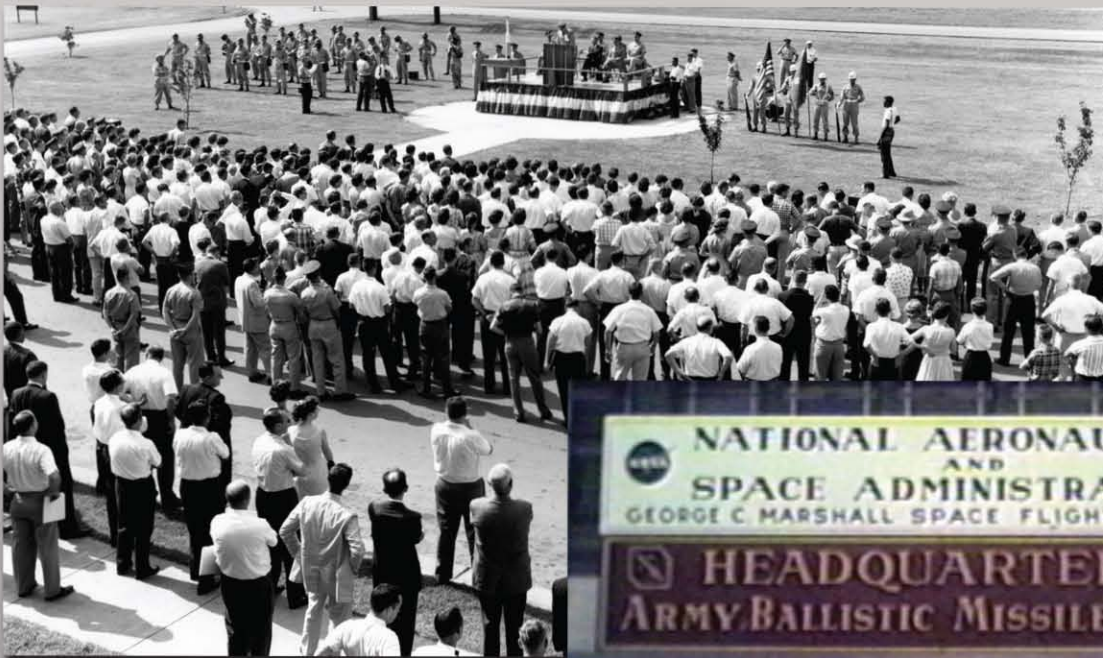
The U.S. Army's role in the space field began to change dramatically when President Dwight D. Eisenhower concluded that it would be in the Nation's best interest to make the Von Braun team a part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (or NASA). As a result, on July 1, 1960, the Army officially transferred about 4,700 Army civil service employees and more than \$100 million (or \$800 million in 2016 dollars) in facilities and equipment at Redstone Arsenal and Cape Canaveral, Florida, to NASA's George C. Marshall Space Flight Center.



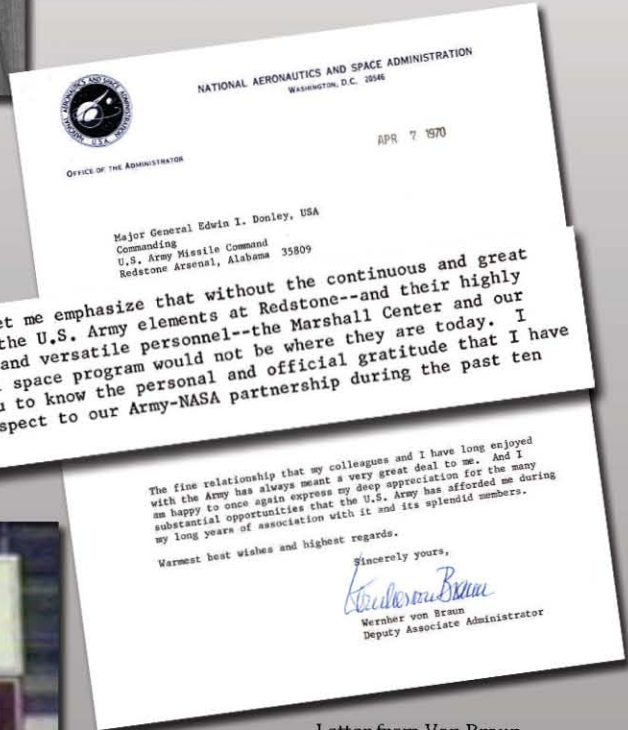
(Top and bottom) Army/NASA transfer ceremony, July 1, 1960



September 8, 1960



Sign on Building 4488



Letter from Von Braun to Army's senior mission commander



# The last major construction for 30 years



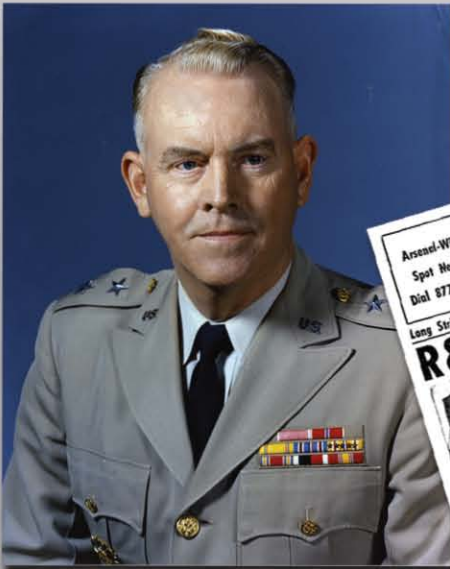
(Top) Building 5250 in the 1960s (Right) Building 5250 open house October 15, 1960



Historically speaking, Redstone Arsenal has always been growing. Sometimes, it's been a little slow. After the creation of NASA in 1960, the next major U.S. Army building to open was on October 15, 1960. Building 5250 (now the David G. Harris Building) was opened on a Saturday so that the local community could see the new building with a public open house. Over 15,000 came for the event.

A few years later in March 1964, McMorrow Laboratories was opened. Major General Francis McMorrow was the only senior mission commanding general to die while still in command. The Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, (then) Lieutenant General Frank S. Besson, Jr., came to officiate the opening of the facility.

The next major Army building to open wouldn't happen for another 30 years.



Major General McMorrow



Opening of McMorrow Laboratories, March 12, 1964

# The Redstone Army Airfield

The arrival of President Eisenhower in September 1960 started an unusual era for one of Redstone Arsenal's oldest entities: the Redstone Army Airfield.

As previously noted, the airfield was built by Huntsville Arsenal to assist in the testing of weapons built. After World War II, the airfield remained inactive. However, the era which saw the installation transform into the center of the Army's rocket and missile activities necessitated the activation and upgrading of the airfield's facilities.

After ABMA was activated on February 1, 1956, Major General Medaris "... requested that the Arsenal air strip be completely turned over to [ABMA] as the responsible agency for operations and security," since it was the only organization "...operating aircraft from the air strip physically located at Redstone Arsenal." In response to this request, the Redstone Arsenal Commander, (then) Brigadier General Toftoy, turned over the airfield to ABMA on February 15, 1956.

The first control tower was opened on July 2, 1956. Major General Medaris was one of the first commanders to be an active aviator.

The airfield served as the backdrop for some of the installation's most important visitors. In the span of four years from 1960 to 1963, the airfield played host to one visit from President Eisenhower and two visits from President John F. Kennedy. In the ensuing decades, the airfield would welcome numerous Presidents and Vice Presidents.



Control tower, 1956



President Kennedy is greeted by General Besson, September 11, 1962



President Kennedy receives honors, September 11, 1962

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington  
October 17, 1962

Dear Mr. Secretary:

My recent trip to the Redstone Arsenal was a most memorable one and I am truly appreciative to you and the other members of the U. S. Army for making this an informative and particularly worthwhile visit. Having the opportunity to see this part of the Army's missile and rocket research has given me and, I am sure, other members of the Government, a greater appreciation of the Army's important role in this field.

I was greatly impressed by the Army's "in-being" capability and by its energetic and forward-looking approach. Indeed, the excellent displays and demonstrations were very well done and left me with a distinct impression of outstanding military accomplishment.

Please convey my thanks and word of commendation to General McMorrow and to the appropriate members of the U. S. Army Missile Command.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,  
(signed) John F. Kennedy



President Kennedy at Redstone Arsenal, May 18, 1963



President Kennedy talks with Marshall Space Flight Center Director Dr. Wernher von Braun, May 18, 1963



President Kennedy addresses a crowd of over 10,000 for Armed Forces Day, May 18, 1963

One of the most unusual gatherings at the airfield took place on August 26, 1962. The Army allowed the Reverend Billy Graham to conduct one of his "revivals" at the airfield. An estimated crowd of 35,000 saw Mr. Graham, a record that has never been broken at the airfield.



# The origins of today's U.S. Space and Rocket Center

Since World War II, the Army at Redstone Arsenal has wanted to share the activities of the installation with the local population. This was accomplished by taking rockets and missile downtown for the citizens to see. As the Army's rocket and missile inventory continued to grow in the 1960s, Redstone Arsenal leadership developed a missile and rocket park. Located off Patton Road on the installation's most northern border, the area was open to the public on a permanent basis in 1968.



**The Rocket**

Published by Jack W. Hoffhaus, Hartselle, Ala., a private individual in no way connected with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by the publishers and writers herein are their own and are not to be considered an official expression by the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised.

VOL. XVII; NO. 2      REDSTONE ARSENAL, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35809      MAY 22, 1968



**SNIP! SNIP! SNIP! SNIP! SNIP!**—Five civilian and Arsenal officials take a well-coordinated snip at the ceremonial ribbon, the falling segments of which indicate the official opening of the Army Missile Display. Guests at the opening were Mayor Glenn H. Hearn, second from left and W. L. Halsey, Chairman of the Huntsville Army Advisory Committee, second from right. At center is Maj. Gen. Charles W. Eiffler, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Missile Command. At right is Col. Paul B. Shuppener, Commandant of the Missile & Munitions Center & School, and at left is Col. J. N. Jean, Director of the Arsenal Support Operations Directorate. The Display will be open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Approximately 7,000 persons viewed the Display over Armed Forces Day weekend when it opened.



(Above, all) Army's missile display area located off Patton Road

# The Redstone Rocket

VOL. XVII; NO. 13

REDSTONE ARSENAL, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35809

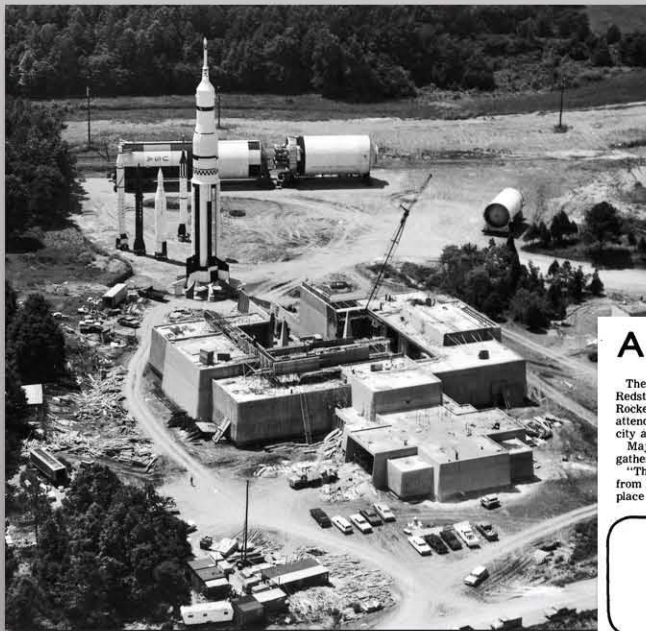
AUGUST 7, 1968



**BREAKING GROUND FOR NEW ALABAMA EXHIBIT CENTER—** Army, MSFC, local and state officials saw three and work reach a milestone last week when ground was broken to signal construction of the Alabama Space Science Exhibit Center at the intersection of Alabama Highway 20 and Madison Pike. Left to right are Edward O. Buckbee, Director, Alabama Space Science Exhibit Center; State Senator Jack Giles, Member, Alabama Space Science Exhibit Commission; Dr. Wernher von Braun, Director, Marshall Space Flight Center; Martin J. Dority, Director of the

Alabama State Bureau of Publicity and Information, and representing Gov. Albert Brewer; former Lt. Gov. James B. Allen, Chairman of the Commission; Maj. Gen. Charles W. Eifler, Commanding General, U.S. Army Missile Command; and Huntsville Mayor Glenn H. Hearn. Completion of the center, expected to draw thousands of tourists annually, is scheduled in about a year. The Army made available approximately 36 acres of Arsenal land to the Center which is being designed to tell the story of military and space accomplishments at Huntsville.

Groundbreaking for Space and Rocket Center



Construction of Space and Rocket Center



Artist concept of museum



(Left to right) Astronaut "Rusty" Schweickart, Dr. Von Braun, and Major General Edwin Donley at the grand opening of what was then called "The Alabama Space and Rocket Center," March 27, 1970

Meanwhile, the Army worked in conjunction with NASA and the state of Alabama to create a more permanent center where Army rockets and missiles, along with NASA vehicles, could be displayed. The Army donated the initial 35 acres for what would be called the "Alabama Space and Rocket Center." Ground was broken on July 31, 1968. The center officially opened its doors on March 17, 1970. Ten years later on March 27, 1981, the Army donated another 350 acres to the (later renamed) U.S. Space and Rocket Center and the City of Huntsville for further expansion of the museum and for the creation of recreational facilities for the city.

## Army transfers 350 acres to Space Center

The Army formally passed 350 acres of Redstone Arsenal to the Alabama Space and Rocket Center March 27 in a brief ceremony attended by Rep. Ronnie Flippo, and state, city and county officials.

Maj. Gen. Robert L. Moore, told the gathering:

"The Army is pleased that this acreage from Redstone Arsenal will now be used as a place for education and recreation for all the

people and especially pleased that it will be used in a way that will directly benefit the people in this community who have honored us with their friendship for so many years."

The land will be used by the Space and Rocket Center for an \$11 million expansion to be developed in three phases over the next decade. The city of Huntsville will also develop a portion of the tract as a public park. Flippo introduced legislation, endorsed and

sponsored by the entire state Congressional delegation, adopted last year to transfer the land, expanding the Space and Rocket Center's property 10 times. Its original 35 acre site, also once part of the arsenal, was transferred to state ownership more than a decade ago to clear the way for construction of the center.

Praising the Army in his brief remarks, (Continued on page 5)

# The Redstone Rocket

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Circulation 14,000

April 1, 1981

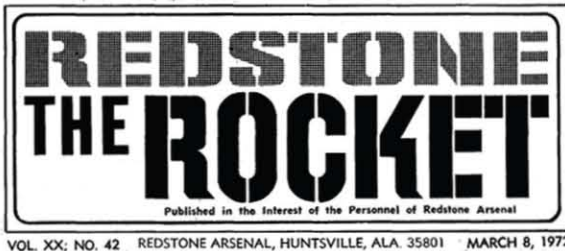


Bus toppled by the April 3, 1974, tornado

# **Chapter Four: The 1970s**

## Uncertain future

The decade of the 1970s saw Redstone Arsenal go through its most uncertain period in its history. With the war in Vietnam winding down and with NASA's missions to the moon nearing an end, the number of personnel employed at Redstone Arsenal declined. Defense budget cuts threatened to end many of the missile and rocket systems already being developed.



### Army Future In Area Depends On Congress

The Secretary of the Army said bluntly here last week that the future of Army activities in this area is in the hands of Congress.

Robert F. Froehle made that response to a question during a meeting with local newsmen Tuesday afternoon after spending several hours at the Missile Command, Missile and Munitions Center and School and the Safeguard System Command.

"Obviously what goes on here is vitally important to the Army," the Secretary said. "But it is impossible to predict the future of any military installation. If Congress, in its wisdom, determines to cut the defense budget then we must determine how and where to take those cuts.

Mr. Froehle said he regretted he did not have more time to spend here and planned to return. In particular, he said, he wanted more time to talk with enlisted men and junior officers.

"I was very pleased with what I saw and with the leaders with whom I talked," he said.

Asked what advice he would give industry in bidding on Army work, the Secretary responded:

"Be realistic, not only when bidding but while implementing the contract."

His comments on other topics:

## The Army Story Must Be Told

American soldiers in Europe are outmanned and outgunned by the Soviets and it's time citizens in this country know of the imbalance, the senior Army officer who directs development and procurement of Army missiles and equipment told a Huntsville audience Thursday night.

"Right now the best tanks, fighting vehicles and the best of a variety of other types of weapons are in the hands of the potential enemy," Lt. Gen. Donald R. Keith, Deputy Chief of Staff for Research, Development and Acquisition, warned.

"The American people want the best equipped Army in the world defending them and their interests. They do not have it now and I'm not sure they know it."

Alluding to a recent television special on



General Keith (left) chats with General Means (back to camera) during briefing.

*"American people want the best equipped Army defending them . . . They do not have it now . . ."*

Quote from then Lieutenant General Donald Keith, May 31, 1978

Quantity isn't the only imbalance, however, he noted. "Soviet T-72 and T-64 tanks are superior to anything we have in the field," General Keith said. "Our armored personnel carrier doesn't even belong on the same battlefield with the Soviet Infantry Fighting Vehicle."

## Vietnam Era Over

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Soldiers now on active duty will not lose any benefits as a result of President Ford's proclamation ending the "Vietnam era" as of May 7, DoD reiterated last week.

In the proclamation to Congress, Ford ended some veterans benefits as of May 8 and asked Congress to terminate others. "The terminations will not affect the eligibility of millions of Vietnam veterans or those presently in the armed forces," Ford said. The proclamation is in line with actions taken by other presidents after World War II and the Korean conflict, DoD pointed out.

DoD said persons without prior service who start active duty May 8 and later will not get about a dozen veterans benefits presently received by persons on active duty or previously discharged honorably.

These benefits include a payment of up to \$250 for funeral and burial expenses and an allowance of up to \$150 for a burial plot, if not buried in a National or U.S.-controlled cemetery.

Among other benefits new enlistees will not get are VA-provided drugs and medicines under certain conditions, special consideration for service disability pensions, non-service connected disability pensions and, under certain time limitations, a

presumption that a psychosis resulted from active military service.

New enlistees coming on active duty after May 7 will still receive GI bill education and training benefits and the various types of loan guarantees, but those entering service after June 30 would lose all GI Bill education and training benefits under the President's proposal to congress.

The proposed bill, DoD said, would include terminating the accrual of entitlement to Predischarge Education Program (PREP) benefits, while permitting a soldier on active duty before June 30 to continue to accrue eligibility for education benefits until his first discharge or release after June 30.

The proposed bill also would expressly continue the present loan guarantee benefits of the GI Bill while establishing July 1, 1985 as a final termination date for using GI Bill education benefits.

The Army has determined that it will not terminate Project Ahead if Congress legislates and end to the GI Bill, according to DA.

Officials say the Army will increase its emphasis in advertising for the program toward in-service personnel currently eligible for GI Bill benefits and encourage new enlistees to save toward education and enrollment in Project Ahead institutions.

Pentagon officials emphasized that in-service education programs will continue, with an increase in them expected as a result of the proposed GI Bill losses.



ACCURACY IS THE KEYNOTE—Metrology and Calibration was one of the MICOM facilities General Henry A. Miley, Jr., toured during his visit last week. J.C. McKinney, Chief of the Army Standards Laboratory, explains the operation as a technician calibrates a standard resistor from another Army calibration laboratory.





# A presidential visit

President Richard M. Nixon paid a visit to Huntsville in February 18, 1974, participating in the downtown "Honor America Day." Senior mission commander Major General Vincent H. Ellis greeted the President at the Huntsville Airport and accompanied him into the city. This was President Nixon's only visit to the Rocket City.

Rohm and Hass, the contractor which came to assist the early efforts of the Army missile and rocket program in the 1950s, left in 1971. The company's legacy was in its pioneering effort in missile and rocket propulsion technology. The building, located on Redstone Road, reverted over to the Army.

(Below) President Nixon is greeted by senior mission commander Major General Vincent Ellis, February 18, 1974



## the ROCKET

VOL. XXII; NO. 37  
FEBRUARY 13, 1974



PRESIDENT NIXON

### President Visits Huntsville

President Richard M. Nixon has scheduled a public appearance in Huntsville Monday afternoon. Officials of the Sertoma Club of Huntsville announced on Monday that the President had accepted their invitation to participate in ceremonies in Big Spring International Park. The event will be the second annual "Honor America Day", a special project begun by the local Sertoma Club which has spread throughout the nation. Mayor Joe Davis has asked local business and industry to allow employees to attend and has also called upon local schools to close for part of the day to permit all school children to see and hear the President. The day is a federal holiday and activities at Redstone Arsenal will be closed. Gerald W. Ludick, president of the Sertoma Club, said the program would be held in the park with the speakers' stand placed near the spot where his club erected a 30-ton monument and eternal flame last year.

The Redstone Rocket — January 6, 1971

## Rohm And Haas Leaves Redstone

A 21 year partnership closes out tomorrow as the Rohm & Haas Company turns back to the Army Missile Command the buildings and facilities it has operated for more than two decades as the Redstone Research Laboratories. Confirmation of inventory, rendering of final operational accounts and transfers now in progress are expected to be completed by the end of January on schedule thus ending a phase out begun last March when the Missile Command informed the company that a shortage of research funds would make it impossible to continue the contracts under which Rohm & Haas had been operating beyond the current year. The company's written legacy in its pioneering effort in missile and rocket propulsion technology — much of it classified—amounts to more than 600 technical reports, 61 patents and 38 others applied for and still pending. Its major contributions to the success of Army rocket and missile work were recognized in July with

the award of the Department of the Army Certificate for Patriotic Civilian Service to the Laboratories. Outstanding Civilian Service Medals were also presented by the Commanding General of the Missile Command at the same time to Dr. Ralph Connor, Chairman of the Board of the parent company; O.H. Loeffler, who served as resident manager for many years, and Dr. Henry M. Shuey, whose work in propulsion chemistry was exceptionally valuable to the defense of the United States. Dr. Connor was instrumental in bringing Rohm and Haas to Redstone Arsenal at the Army's request in 1949. The Redstone Laboratories also performed research of great value to the other military services. The Company began an aggressive effort to relocate or find new jobs for the 248 individuals working in the Redstone Laboratories as soon as it received notification 10 months ago of the necessity to begin a phase out. Eighty three individuals have

already transferred or will transfer to jobs at Rohm and Haas operations elsewhere in the country. Forty of that group have been placed with a relatively new company affiliate, Micromedic Systems, here in Huntsville. The company said 74 others have found employment elsewhere. Eighty four of the Laboratories employees are being separated involuntarily. Rohm and Haas plans to keep a two man personnel office in Huntsville throughout 1971 to administer employees benefits and assist in a continuing effort to find jobs for those involuntarily separated. The company is also continuing a small unit, The Huntsville Defense Contract Office, headed by Dr. Shuey, in Huntsville to continue work supported by the Safeguard System Command. It will be quartered with the personnel office in space sublet from Micromedic Systems in the Huntsville Industrial Center. The buildings and facilities formerly used by Rohm & Haas at Redstone have been assigned to the Missile Command Directorate of Research and Engineering.



Rohm and Haas facility

# Tragic day



A Southern Airways flight crashed in rural Georgia on April 4, 1977, carrying many civilians and soldiers from Redstone Arsenal. Six were injured and seven were killed in the crash.

Four men were en route to Boston on business for the Patriot Project Office, headed for a meeting the following day with representatives of Raytheon, the system's prime contractor. Three of the four died, including William Gudaitis, chief of the program management office; Major Edward Rosler, cost analyst; and Thomas Mazingo, a procurement analyst supporting Patriot. Leland Lavender, chief of the system engineering division, survived.

On March 16, 1999, the newly-renovated William V. Gudaitis Visitors Complex was dedicated in memory of the Redstone people who died in the 1977 crash.



Historical marker in New Hope, Georgia



# TOW goes to war

Not all the news in the 1970s was negative. Redstone Arsenal made history when the Army's Tube-launched, optically-tracked, wire-guided – or TOW – missile in its airborne configuration became the first American-made guided missile to be fired by U.S. soldiers in combat on May 2, 1972. The airborne TOW served in Vietnam until 1973.

## Our TOW Goes To War:

### General Tells Of Tank Kills

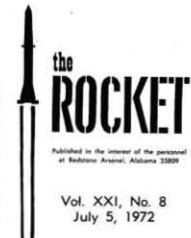
WASHINGTON — Two Army helicopters firing TOW missiles killed 26 tanks and blasted 39 other point targets including trucks, artillery pieces and ammunition dumps in less than two months of combat in Vietnam, the Director of Army Aviation said last week.

Brigadier General William J. Maddox also told newsmen during a Pentagon briefing on June 27 that a limited number of ground-based TOW systems had killed 12 tanks, including nine in a single action near Fire Base Nancy northwest of Hue during the night of June 25.

His statements were the first official acknowledgment that the TOW system had been committed to combat.

The UH-1B "Huey" gunships equipped with the stabilized sight, fire control equipment and launchers of the XM-26 system (airborne TOW) developed by the Missile Command and Hughes Aircraft, TOW prime contractor, and successfully tested at Redstone in firing tests during 1967 and 1968 had been participating in a test program at Ft. Lewis, Washington, when the decision was made to use them in battle.

Maddox said the two helicopters and a basic load of missiles were airlifted to Vietnam five days later. The TOW Project Office, assisted by other elements of the Missile Command and Army Materiel Command, coordinated the deployment of the airborne and ground-based systems.



UH-1 with TOW missiles

# Testing the Enterprise

One of Redstone Arsenal's most unusual visitors arrived on March 13, 1978. The space shuttle "Enterprise," a full-scale model of what future shuttles would become, came to the installation riding on top of a specially modified Boeing 747. The purpose of the visit was to test the model in NASA's vibration test facility.



Vibration test facility

# The Rocket

VOL. XXVI; NO. 42  
MARCH 15, 1978

**New MIRADCOM Office**  
Page 9

**MMCS Saves Energy**  
Page 13

## Shuttle Display This Weekend

The odd couple arrived at Redstone on schedule Monday morning. Enterprise — the first space shuttle orbiter — and its carrier 747 touched down about 10 a.m. on a spring-like morning. Final plans were not yet firm as this issue went to press Monday night, but if all goes

More photos on page 11.

well MSFC plans to put the shuttle on public display this weekend. Tentative plans were to admit the public through Gate 9 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Any changes will be announced by local press and radio.

The first shuttle will be at MSFC until late fall undergoing a variety of tests. It will never actually fly in space and is to be returned to California following tests here. Several hundred invited guests of the Marshall Center watched the carrier plane and shuttle land Monday morning. Operations involving removing the shuttle from the carrier plane and moving it over roads to building 4755 were closed to the public. MSFC has no plans for further public events following the scheduled two days of display this weekend.



### Odd Couple

ORBITER ENTERPRISE atop its transport craft sails onto the arsenal. Observers watch along Rideout Road.



Shuttle moving down Rideout Road

# A direct hit

Redstone Arsenal witnessed its most destructive natural disaster in the installation's history on April 3, 1974. On that evening, an F-4 tornado destroyed a large portion of Redstone Arsenal's northeastern quadrant. At the time, the Army's missile school was located in the area that was hit. Fortunately, no one was killed on Redstone Arsenal. But the surrounding Huntsville/Madison County area did not fare as well. Along with massive, widespread destruction throughout all of north Alabama, there were numerous casualties in the surrounding communities.

the  
**ROCKET**

VOL. XXII, NO. 45  
APRIL 16, 1974

**the good neighbor.**  
The Huntsville Edition

**Blood Urgently Needed**

The Red Cross Headquarters is at Redstone today on a regular visit. The news are the same as usual but the building has changed to Redstone, the North-South Williams Building. Blood is needed. Approximately 100 units have been shipped to Huntsville in a steady flow since victims.

The Rocket is published in the interest of the personnel at Redstone Arsenal, by the Engineer Printing Co. a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army. Opinions expressed by writers herein are their own and are not to be construed as official expressions of the Department of the Army. The appearance of advertisements in this publication does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the products or services advertised.



Redstone Road, Daylight, Apr. 4.

**The Tornado . . . .  
Had Redstone's Number On It**



Photo of destruction taken the day after the tornado struck

# Special Focus: The Weather

The April 3, 1974, tornado that touched down on Redstone Arsenal was not the first tornado to hit the installation, nor would it be the last. In fact, severe weather has impacted Redstone Arsenal during its entire existence.

For the first half of Redstone Arsenal's history, flooding from the Tennessee River would often cause the installation to be split into two, making portions of the southern half of the post to be inaccessible. Snow storms, though infrequent, would cause the installation to be shut down for different lengths of time.

Only one weather event would close Redstone Arsenal for a week: the April 27, 2011, north Alabama tornado outbreak. Though the installation itself was spared, power lines feeding the post and the local community were severed.

# The Redstone Rocket

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VOL. XVI; NO. 32 REDSTONE ARSENAL, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35809 DECEMBER 20, 1967

# TORNADO HITS ARSENAL



RECOGNIZE THIS PICTURE?—A pile of rubble is all that remains of three buildings on Redstone Arsenal which caught the brunt of the tornado early Monday morning. Shown here are portions of Buildings 7411, 7412 and 7402, which were completely destroyed. These buildings were located on Warehouse Road which was hardest hit by the pre-dawn twister.

## Wind Fells Buildings, Power Lines

Redstone Arsenal officials are still assessing damage resulting from Monday's tornado which claimed at least two lives, injured scores and damaged the homes of hundreds in Madison and other North Alabama Counties.

No value has been set as yet on property loss on the Arsenal but it is expected to be substantial.

No one was injured during the tornado on the Arsenal.

Severest blows of the twister which struck before 4 a.m. were dealt on the southern portion of Redstone, following a pattern similar to those of the wind storm which resulted in considerable property damage on the Arsenal.

# Redstone Rocket

www.theredstonerocket.com

May 4, 2011 Vol. 60 No. 18 PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

## Weather wreaks havoc in region

Arsenal closed for days  
Basic services provided

By KAM HAINES  
Huntsville editor  
kham@redstone.army.mil

Redstone Arsenal's military, employee and retiree base remains throughout North Alabama and South Tennessee. And so does its concern when those Arsenal community members along with their families and neighborhoods are threatened by devastating disasters.

Concern for the welfare of Arsenal community members as well as for residents throughout the area turned into real-time action in the days following April 27, when numerous tornadoes brought destruction to North Alabama.

"We're very fortunate the Arsenal itself has extremely limited physical damage," said Garrison commander Col. John Hamilton.

There are some trees down and some roofs damaged. But physical damage, for very little reason, is minimal.

Yet, during a Friday overnight of the storm affected by the tornadoes, Arsenal leaders could see "huge patches of destruction from multiple tornadoes all around the Tennessee Valley. All around Redstone Arsenal and all around Huntsville. The city was impacted more on its periphery," he said.

On Redstone, an electrical services team to a fault around 5:30 p.m. April 27, generators were activated immediately to ensure critical services continued, including Arsenal support of military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Marshall Space Flight Center's support to the space station and the upcoming space shuttle launch.

"Strategic hubs that are needed to stay up 24/7 have backup generator power," Hamilton said. "But if power is out for an extended period of time (more than a week), there will be an impact on everyday support that goes beyond the critical mission support."

During ensuing days, the Garrison responded to community needs, opening its stores and providing social services to Arsenal-connected families impacted by the tornado or the loss of electricity.

Emergency support activities began at 8:30 a.m. on April 27 when the Garrison's Installation Operations Center began operations about 100 Alabama residents' local reports of pending tornado activity in the area. Daily watch operations in the IOC include the employees of the Garrison's Current Operations Branch, but that team goes on activation of the

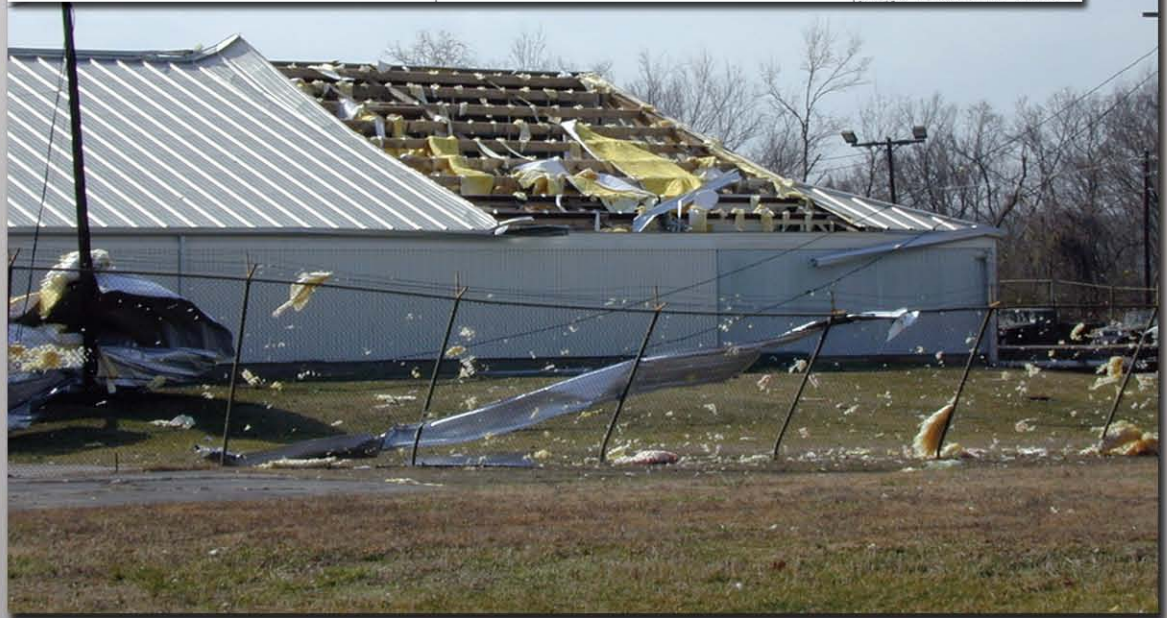


Tim D'Ambrosia of the Installation Operations Center, at right, talks with Garrison employees Ed Sanchez, standing, and Paul Walters about providing emergency support to the Redstone Arsenal and local communities following the April 27 tornado disaster in North Alabama. On a daily basis, they are members of the Garrison's Current Operations Branch that monitors, assesses and plans for emergency situations on the Arsenal.



Retired Chief Warrant Officer Howard Lockwood, who works for the Missile Defense Agency, tops off his Dodge Dakota at the shopping on Saturday. Although the car line was long, he said he only had to wait 15 to 20 minutes to fuel up. "They're moving pretty good," he said. "But when I get in line, 20 cars get in

See Weather on page 20



February 2000 tornado damage



[Top and bottom] March 1973 flooding



February 1960 snow storm



**Redstone Rocket**  
[www.theredstonerocket.com](http://www.theredstonerocket.com)  
 February 19, 2014 Vol. 63 No. 7 PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

*Snowed in*  
 Hazardous winter weather  
 closes post Feb. 11-12

Schools, businesses and Redstone Arsenal were shut down last week because of dangerous driving conditions.  
 Photo by Ellen Hudson

**DANGER NOT**



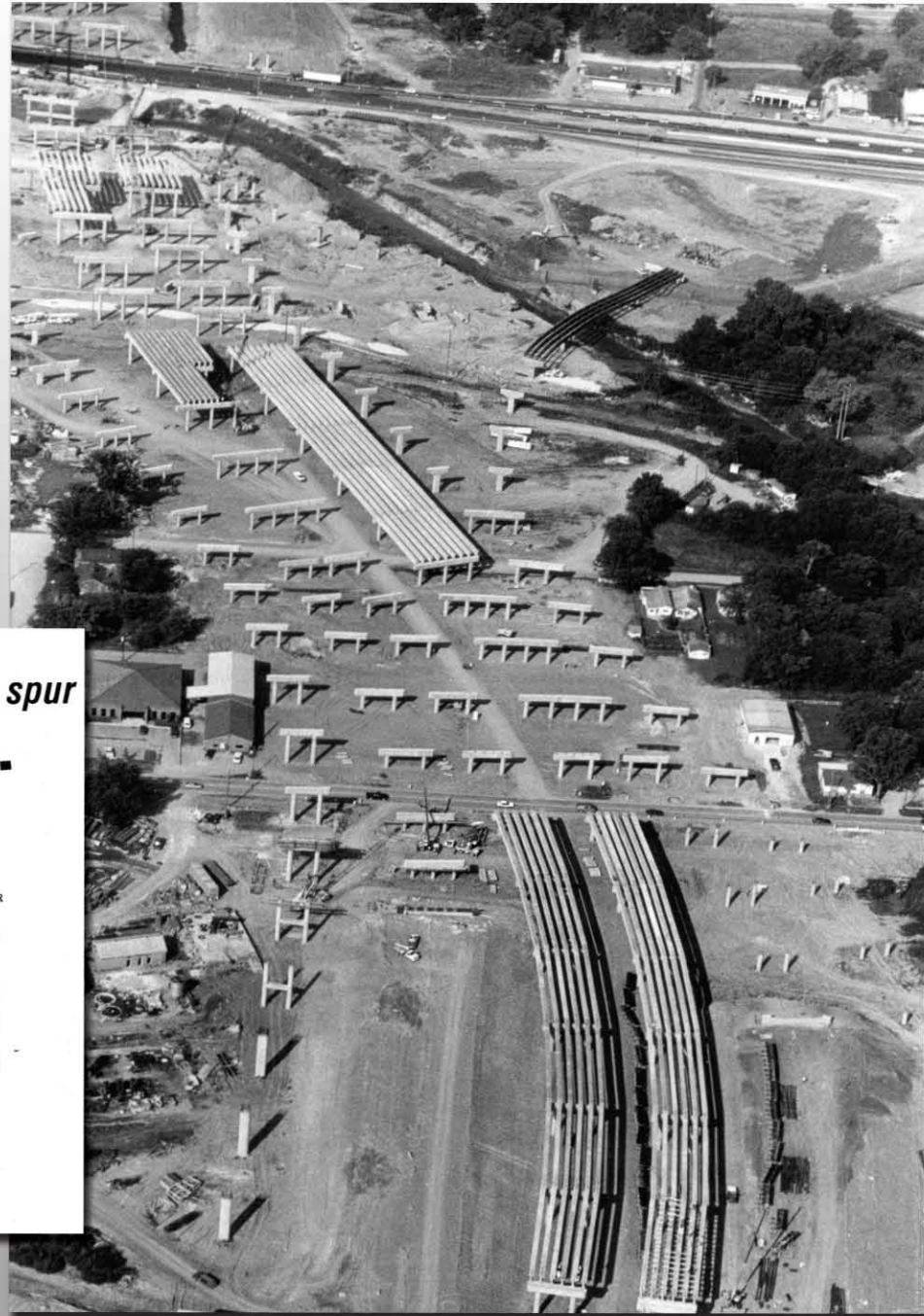
Signing of the INF Treaty, December 8, 1987



# **Chapter Five: The 1980s**

# Building for the future

Redstone Arsenal began positioning itself for the future in the 1980s. Congressional leadership pushed legislation which authorized the state to begin construction of an interstate spur to connect the Huntsville/Madison County area with Interstate 65. Previously, the Huntsville Metro area was connected to Interstate 65 by two roads. The project required Redstone Arsenal to once again donate land to the State of Alabama. Completed in the late 1980s, the new interstate - I-565 - would become a major selling point for future Base Realignment and Closure Commission (or BRAC) considerations.



Page 14—The Redstone Rocket—Mar 7, 1984

## Army plans land transfer to state for interstate spur

The Army plans to transfer to the state of Alabama a narrow strip of land on the arsenal's north boundary along the route of the proposed Interstate 65 spur.

The new west-east artery across Huntsville will slice off a strip of Army land 200-250 feet wide and roughly two miles long, according to Dave Bryant of the master planning section at Facilities Engineering.

No firm date has been established for the Army land transfer but the state is already acquiring right of way west of the arsenal for the I-565 project, Bryant said. The new interstate highway spur bisects Huntsville, linking I-65 at Mooresville and Highway 72 east.

Impact to the arsenal will be minimal but traffic flow on Rideout Road may be affected during construction, since the new highway will pass under Rideout Road. The state will be responsible for bridging Rideout over the interstate.

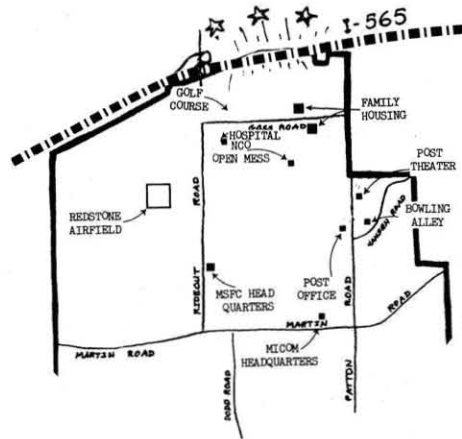
To keep disruption to arsenal traffic at a minimum during construction, "Most probably they will try to work out a time thing so they won't work during rush hour," Bryant believes.

It is not known when construction will commence. The interstate spur will have exit ramps to the arsenal and to Rideout Road north. "Ramps will be much as they are now for Highway 20 but constructed to interstate standards," Bryant said.

The right of way will slice off the northernmost portions of Test Area 3 and the ammunition supply point training area but will not impact the golf course. There are no buildings or structures along the route but the state will have to move an electrical substation belonging to the Army. All Army real estate will be situated south of the interstate spur.

Bryant said the Army and the state worked together to come up with a route that would cause the least possible disruption to the arsenal.

"There's going to be a little bit of impact but not anything that can't be worked out," said Bryant.



APPROXIMATE ROUTE of I-565 along arsenal boundary is shown on map.

I-565 construction

# Russians come to Redstone

The Pershing missile system had been a Redstone Arsenal-managed project since the late 1950s. By the late 1970s, the program received top Department of Defense priority. The Pershing II, with a range of 1,100 miles, had vastly improved pin-point accuracy. With the deployment of the Pershing II in Germany in the early 1980s, negotiators from the United States and Soviet Union agreed to eliminate intermediate range ballistic missiles from both countries inventories.

The Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile Treaty – or INF Treaty – was signed on December 8, 1987. The treaty called for the on-site inspection of facilities in both nations which either produced or managed these systems. On July 15, 1988, an Air Force C-141 aircraft landed at Redstone Army Airfield, carrying inspectors from the Soviet Union. They would make visits here several more times before the verification portion of the treaty expired.



(Above) A Pershing II motor being destroyed at Longhorn Army Ammunition Plant, Karnack, Texas



(Left) A Pershing II test firing

## Redstone Rocket

Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal AL. July 20, 1988

### Soviet inspectors visit Redstone

Inspectors eat American food, comment about hot weather during visit

**BY SKIP VAUGHN**

History was made at Redstone Arsenal at about 9:20 a.m. Saturday when a C-141 carrying 20 Soviet inspectors and their U.S. escorts touched down at the airfield.

The Soviet men, two 10-member teams, shook hands with awaiting officials and waved to reporters before boarding two Army buses. Their first visit to Redstone was part of the on-site inspections agreed to in order to ensure compliance with the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty between the U.S. and Soviet Union.

Pershing II, managed at Redstone, is among the intermediate range nuclear missiles the countries have agreed to eliminate under the INF treaty.

"No problems that I'm aware of, everything seems to be going perfectly," said Air Force Capt. Matt Giese, a public affairs officer assigned to the U.S. On-Site Inspection Agency (OSIA).

The two Soviet inspection teams that arrived here were part of four groups—a total of 40 Soviets—who came to the U.S. last week to tour eastern U.S. sites. The first group went to Fort Sill at Lawton, Okla. the second group went to Longhorn Army Depot at Marshall, Texas; and the other two groups came to Redstone. These initial visits were "baseline" inspections, to verify data exchanged between the two sides. Similar inspections are being conducted by the U.S. at Soviet sites. "We're just checking each other's numbers," explained Air Force Capt. Matt Durham, an OSIA public affairs officer.

At about 5 a.m. Saturday, the Soviet inspectors said they wanted to travel to Redstone to see two of the three sites designated for their review here. These include a launcher repair facility, and a missile storage area where less than six Pershing motor stages are stored, according to Dave Harris, public affairs officer for the Missile Command.

The two Soviet teams came here from Dulles International Airport in Washington. The two OSIA

**ON POST—** Soviet inspectors board Army buses after arriving at Redstone airfield Saturday morning.

spokesmen— Giese of south Texas and Durham of Lexington, Ky. —talked with reporters who were cordoned off from the airplane and buses at Redstone airfield.

"Under the treaty, we can be here 24 hours plus eight if they'd like to stay another eight," Giese said. In response to questions, he said the Soviets had made no comments to him and that they were resting during the long flight.

Reporters were allowed to take photos of the inspectors' arrival and departure at the airfield. They were

not permitted to accompany the Soviets during the inspection. On June 13 news media representatives were given a preview of what the Soviets would see here.

On Sunday, the Soviets were bused to the airfield for their return trip to Washington about 3:30 p.m. "We had a 24-hour inspection," Giese said. The Soviets finished inspecting the launcher repair facility at 10 a.m. and the missile storage area at 10:10, he said. They ate hamburgers and hot dogs for lunch.

"I can tell you one thing," Giese said, in response to questions about the Soviets. "They said it was hot."



INF inspection team, July 15, 1988

# Software engineering

The Life Cycle Software Engineering Center, located near the Redstone Army Airfield, opened in June 1986. A major addition was opened in July 2001.

The Software Engineering Directorate is one of the U.S. Army's Life Cycle Software Engineering Centers. They provide "cradle to grave" software engineering support to Army customers around the world. They also perform system/software maintenance, new product development, and services such as system/software acquisition.

## Ceremony opens center for battlefield automation



A ceremony last week officially opened a building here that serves as a place for designing and developing computer technology to meet the needs of new weapon systems.

"This is a big day for a lot of folks that had a hand in making this center a reality," said Maj. Gen. Thomas Reese, MICOM commander. The life cycle software engineering center is located in a remote area near the Redstone airfield. It serves as home for the Battlefield Automation Management Directorate.

Reese credited former commanders and others "who carried the ball" for bringing the center about. The Army is in the midst of the largest modernization ever in peacetime, he said. "It's you men and women who are doing the job in the center that are ultimately responsible for making those programs work," Reese said. "Our ultimate responsibility is to the soldier."

The MICOM commander added that he was proud to be part of a winning team. Reese cut the ceremonial ribbon along with Huntsville Mayor Joe Davis; Dr. William McCorkle, director of the Research, Development and Engineering Center; and Col. Philip Dombrowski, director of Battlefield Automation Management Directorate.

McCorkle told the officials, workers and guests that the project began in 1979 and was completed this year. Construction started about two years ago on the building that cost about \$8 million, he said.

Life cycle software engineering means supporting, from start to finish, the computer programs used in today's weapons. This software—what Dombrowski calls the computer "brains"—controls a variety of tactical functions. These functions include everything from finding the target, to shooting at it. The main purpose of the software engineering center is to support the project offices in developing and fielding systems with imbedded computer systems. It supports 17 automated weapon systems managed by the Missile Command.

"We have roughly 250 personnel in the building now," Dombrowski said. This includes about 100 government workers and 150 contractor people.

October 21, 1998 *Redstone Rocket* Page 8

### Software engineering annex represents decade journey

Construction will consolidate the center's work force in 2000

By Lisa Vaughn

A project that took nearly a decade of planning and congressional support will now take only two years to build.

The groundbreaking for the Life Cycle Software Engineering Center annex was held Monday with representatives from Congress, Redstone, the Corps of Engineers, and the construction contractor. A \$25.9 million contract to design and build the annex was awarded in August to Turner Universal Construction Company of Huntsville.

"We have gathered here today to observe a major milestone in the history of AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal," Maj. Gen. Ernest Gibson, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command and Redstone, said.

"The annex, to be located next door to the existing center near the airfield, will enable the center to consolidate its workers. Hundreds of its workers are now located in trailers and other sites on and off post. When completed in 2000, the annex will accommodate 460 people.

The Software Engineering Directorate provides software support from technology research during acquisition and missile system development/acquisition to fielding and maintenance.

"This facility will be unique," William Craig, director of Software Engineering Directorate, said. "It will house a unique capability not just in the Army but within the Department of Defense."

The other speakers at the ceremony included Sen. Richard Shelby, Sen. Jeff Sessions and Rep. Bud Cramer.

"We're here working together to bring this to reality here for a very long time," Shelby said. The official beginning was October 1989 with formal identification of the proposed Military Construction Authority Project.

"We're proud of you, we'll continue to work hard for you, and good luck," Cramer said.

The existing center, building 6250, was originally intended for 250 people but currently holds nearly 500. Some 250 will remain in that building when the annex is finished.

Construction is expected to be completed by May 2000. The Software Engineering Directorate should be fully functional in the facility by October 2000.

The two-story annex will be 182,300 square feet and include laboratories, high-bay, engineering work areas, cafeteria, conference and training facilities, and a tactical hard stand.

**BREAKING GROUND**—From left are Col. David Harwood, commander of the Missile District, Corps of Engineers; Cramer, Shelby, Gibson, Sessions, Craig, and Russ Burns, president of Turner Universal Construction Company.

Photo by Lisa Vaughn



Software Engineering Center

# The Redstone Rocket

Vol. XXXI No. 31

January 5, 1983

## Army and city eye steam plant venture

BY ED PETERS

A proposal from the city of Huntsville to MICOM to jointly develop, own and operate a refuse-fired boiler plant has been enthusiastically received here.

The proposed facility would be put into operation in 1985 on the arsenal's east boundary and generate low-cost steam for the installation by burning tons of household trash and other refuse gathered in the city's daily trash pickup.

Under the proposal the city will build and equip the plant. MICOM will operate and maintain it.

The city plans to issue bonds to finance the estimated \$37 million cost and pay off the debt over 25 years with steam payments received monthly from the Army. After 25 years the plant would be sold to the Army for a dollar.

After months of discussion with arsenal officials, Mayor Joe Davis formally proposed the cooperative venture on Dec. 27. That same day the city council had unanimously approved it in a special late-afternoon meeting. Final Army and DOD approval of the project is anticipated.

In their proposal the city said that the project benefits citizens of Huntsville by providing a long term solution for waste disposal, benefits MICOM with low cost energy from a renewable resource, and will have the energy equivalent of 150,000 barrels of oil per year.

City trucks will deliver trash to the facility, sited near the extreme south end of Triana Blvd. on an unused area of the arsenal of about 20 acres, and haul away the ashes.

"It appears to us to be practical and mutually advantageous. We can get steam by this method cheaper than we can produce it," said Facilities Engineering's Ted Kornman.

The arsenal presently spends about \$5 million yearly on oil and gas to generate steam.

Kornman said the refuse-fired boiler plant will meet the arsenal's steam requirements "a minimum of seven months of the year" and might meet it year-round when winters are mild.

The arsenal intends to overhaul and keep the big oil-fired boiler plant in Bldg. 4725 to augment the

refuse-fired facility. Also, a small refuse-fired boiler plant under construction on Mills Road in the 5400 area will be in operation burning trash generated on the arsenal.

Under the cooperative venture with the city, the arsenal will have at least 25 percent over the cost of producing its own steam, Kornman said.

The savings takes into account that the refuse-fired plant eliminates the need for a big coal burning plant that was scheduled to be built here at a cost of \$80 million, according to Tom Hood, deputy facilities engineer.

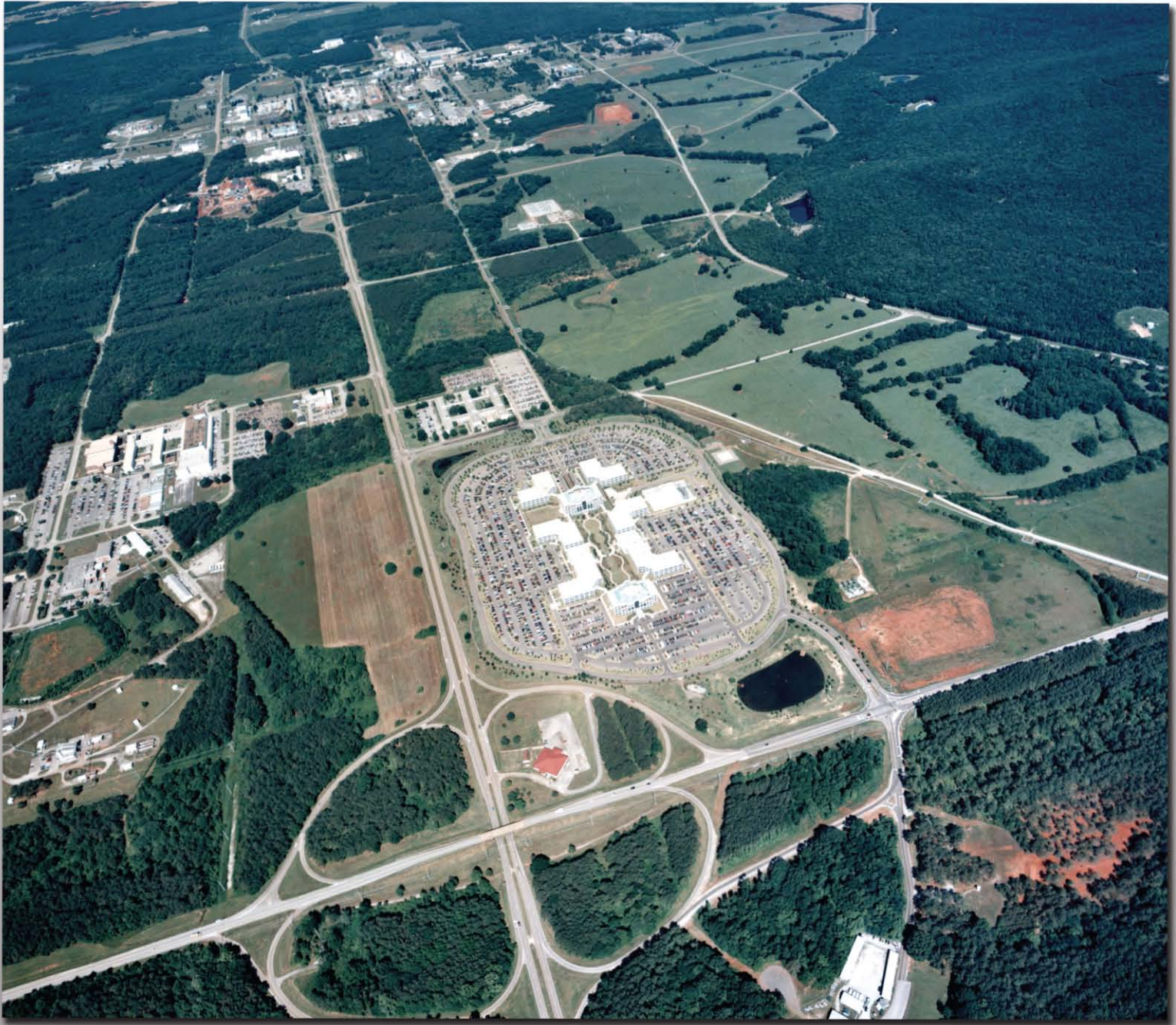


(Left) Steam plant



## About those pipes

Maybe one of the most frequently asked questions visitors and incoming personnel to Redstone Arsenal have is "what's with all of those silver pipes around post?" Those are steam pipes and for many years, they have been used to heat the buildings on Redstone Arsenal. Decades ago, coal-fired steam generating plants were used to produce steam. In the 1980s, Huntsville City officials and Redstone Arsenal leadership came together to build a refuse-fired plant. It was a win-win plan for both parties. Trash generated by Redstone Arsenal and the city would be burned, eliminating much of the trash that would otherwise fill landfills. In turn, the steam would be used by Redstone Arsenal.



Martin Road looking west, 1999

# **Chapter Five: The 1990s**

## Celebration of patriots

The 1990s saw the largest deployment of missiles and rockets developed at Redstone Arsenal in combat, along with growth that hadn't been seen since the 1950s.

Redstone Arsenal had never seen so much direct involvement in combat with Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm since World War II. Virtually every system the U.S. Army Missile Command had developed or managed went to Southwest Asia.



Patriot battery, Southwest Asia, 1991



Downtown Huntsville parade, June 1991

The Redstone Rocket—June 5, 1991—Page 3

### Community's Celebration of Patriots to parade downtown

BY SANDA MARTEL

City and county officials hope the town will shut down to honor troops who served in Operation Desert Storm, their families and the hundreds of workers who designed and supported the hardware used in the Persian Gulf War.

The Celebration of Patriots parade through downtown Huntsville on June 11 at 1 p.m. will be followed by a program in Big Spring Park at 2 p.m. City and county offices will close for the afternoon, and businesses in the area are being encouraged to follow suit.

Maj. Gen. William Chen, commander of the Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, has given supervisors permission to release all non-essential employees from regular work assignments to attend the parade.

Maj. Gen. John Peppers, deputy commander of the Strategic Defense Command, has also excused employees to attend or participate in the parade.

More military hardware than the city has ever seen will be in the parade, as well as displayed in the Senior Center parking lot on Church Street.

*More military hardware than the city has ever seen will be in the parade, as well as displayed in the Senior Center parking lot on Church Street.*

Some 35 defense contractors will enter decorated floats in the parade. For example, Thiokol Corporation, manufacturer of the propulsion systems for several weapons used in Operation Desert Storm (including Patriot and Hellfire) is entering a float with a Patriot motor painted red, white and blue.

All civilian employees who played a role in designing or supporting equipment used in Desert Storm are invited to join the parade. Lowe Avenue, the staging area for the parade, will be blocked off from traffic around 10:30 a.m. Those joining the parade need to find the hardware along Lowe Avenue they wish to walk behind.

Each piece of hardware has been assigned a parade number that will be visibly displayed: Dragon — 010; TOW missile — 013; M901 Improved TOW vehicle — 014; Bradley Fighting Vehicle — 018; Ground launched Hellfire — 024; Hellfire — 025; FIST-V — 031; Multiple Launch Rocket System — 033; Army TACMS — 037; TMDE calibration van — 040; Stinger missile — 042; Avenger system — 044; Chaparral missile — 047; Vulcan gun — 050; Hawk missile — 053; Patriot missile — 064.

Call Lt. Col. Joe Paddock at 876-2303 for more information about participating in the parade.

Immediately following the parade a 45-minute program will begin in Big Spring Park at the corner of Williams and Church Streets. Several heroes from Operation Desert Storm will speak briefly.

Country music artist Bobby Goldsboro will be featured performer. He will sing several patriotic selections, including a song he wrote and will perform for 12 elementary student finalists in a Celebration of Patriot poster contest that was sponsored by the Madison County Commission.



# BRAC expansion



Groundbreaking for the Sparkman Center, November 1992



(Top and left) John J. Sparkman Center

The 1990s witnessed some of the first major construction projects for the Army since the early 1960s. Ground was broken for the John J. Sparkman Center for Missile Excellence in November 1992. The building was opened in August 1994.

With 686,790 square feet of new office space, Redstone Arsenal was well positioned for BRAC recommendations from the Department of Defense. The 1995 BRAC realigned the aviation mission of the Aviation and Troop Command with the Missile Command. The U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command was established on July 17, 1997.



## Redstone Rocket

VOL. 44 No. 25 Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL June 28, 1995

### BRAC panel moves jobs to Redstone Arsenal

WASHINGTON— The Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission decided Friday to move 2,569 federal jobs to Redstone Arsenal and combine Army aviation and missile functions there in a single new command.

The commissioners voted 5-1 with two abstaining to accept recommendations of the Defense Department and Army to close the Aviation and Troop Support Command

in St. Louis and move Army aviation management, aviation research and development and the Program Executive Office Aviation to Redstone. The System Integration Management Activity-West, also in St. Louis and an element of MICOM, is included in the decision and will also move to Redstone.

The lone negative vote was cast by S. Lee Kling, a Missouri businessman.

In a related action, commissioners decided without voting not to order the Space and Strategic Defense Command to move from a leased office building in Huntsville to Redstone. The Missouri congressional delegation had urged the commission to do that in the belief that moving SSDC to Redstone would block the transfer of aviation functions and jobs from St. Louis.

Huntsville civic leaders praised the deci-

sions and predicted the Tennessee Valley would eventually also gain thousands of contractor jobs as a result as aviation support contractors shifted here from St. Louis.

The commission votes were part of a two-day decision process in which the eight commissioners decided to close or realign 177 defense installations.

Other decisions impacting Alabama in-

See BRAC on page 16



U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command activation ceremony, July 17, 1997

# A birthday and a President

In other news during the 1990s, Redstone Arsenal celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1991. A golden anniversary gathering was held on June 13, 1991, at the Von Braun Civic Center in Huntsville, Alabama. Estimated attendance at the commemorative dinner was 1,300. General William G.T. Tuttle, Jr., the Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, was the featured speaker. The *Huntsville Times* and *The Redstone Rocket* both ran special editions of their respective newspapers.

The last President of the United States to touch down on Redstone Army Airfield was President George H. W. Bush. President Bush made a speech on June 20, 1990, at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. Redstone Arsenal's senior mission commanding general at the time, Major General William S.C. Chen, greeted the President.

*"Who could doubt that the Army missile program still had 'The Right Stuff' after seeing the performance of the Patriot and other Army missile systems during Desert Storm."*

General William G.T. Tuttle, Jr.,  
Commanding General of the U.S. Army Materiel Command

**Redstone receives accolades upon golden anniversary**

The long on the cake for Redstone's 50th birthday is not in its own right. That's why the Army Materiel Command is celebrating the occasion on June 13 at the Von Braun Civic Center. Estimated attendance at the commemorative dinner was 1,300.

At a luncheon in the presence of the President G.W. Bush, Major General William S.C. Chen, commander of the Army Materiel Command, welcomed the President to the airfield. "Who could doubt that the Army missile program still had 'The Right Stuff' after seeing the performance of the Patriot and other Army missile systems during Desert Storm," Chen said.

# Happy 50th birthday, Redstone!

## Redstone Rocket

Vol. 40 No. 23 Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL June 12, 1991

### Redstone was born in war, grew serving nation



HEADQUARTERS TODAY — This is the scene outside the MICOM headquarters, building 5258 on Martin Road.

**All part of history**

Yet all of it is an interesting, if not vital part of the installation's history, a history that for practical purposes began on July 3, 1941, the day the Ordnance Department distributed *The Huntsville Times* extra announcing the Army would locate a \$40 million chemical warfare plant here. Will down in the story was the additional information that a decision to locate a \$6 million ordnance plant adjacent to the chemical plant was expected shortly.

# Redstone Rocket

Vol. 39 No. 25 Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL June 27, 1990

## President receives 'warm' reception at Redstone

**BY SKIP VAUGHN**

It was hot — too hot to be standing in the sun waiting for an official's arrival — even if it was the president of the United States.

The assembled members of the news media, with their cameras and other equipment, stood atop a specially designated trailer at Redstone Army Airfield waiting for President Bush to arrive Wednesday morning, June 20. His brief visit would not be for the public, but to speak at a Republican campaign luncheon downtown and to make some remarks at the Marshall Space Flight Center on post.

Security was tight, just as could be expected for the nation's chief executive. Secret Service members, military police, Huntsville police and others easily outnumbered the press representatives. "I feel safe," quipped a television cameraman. "I truly feel safe." About half an hour before Bush arrived, members of the press had to leave the airfield and wait on the sidewalk outside while the airfield was "swept" — checked by a police dog — for any weapons.



ARRIVAL AT AIRFIELD — President Bush is welcomed by Maj. Gen. William Chen upon arriving at Redstone Army Airfield.

*Huntsville Times* special edition front cover artwork, June 1991

REDSTONE ARSENAL  
CELEBRATES 50 YEARS  
1941-1991  
The Huntsville Times

# Missile intelligence



The Richard C. Shelby Center for Missile Intelligence opened on December 17, 1999. Its occupant, the Missile and Space Intelligence Center (or MSIC), had its roots with the Army Ballistic Missile Agency in the late 1950s as an office to gather intelligence on foreign missile and rocket programs. MSIC, which operates under the auspices of the Defense Intelligence Agency, occupied Building 4505 for many years until this new complex was opened in 1999.

The 220,000 square foot complex consisted of four buildings and two connecting modules. Features included 100,000 square feet of administrative office space and 120,000 square feet of laboratories, auditorium, training rooms, support facilities and more. There was also a fitness facility, with walking trail, a snack bar, and a 398-seat auditorium.



(Top and left) MSIC campus

## Bush dedicates Shelby site

Ex-president joins other dignitaries at ceremony here

By JOE GUY COLLIER  
Times Business Writer  
*Huntsville Times*  
Dec. 17, 1999

The man with the crew cut dressed in a dark, gold-striped Navy uniform approached the podium.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the program begins in two minutes," he said. "At this time, please remove all intelligence community badges."

It wasn't exactly the preamble given at a typical building dedication. Then again, this wasn't the typical building dedication.

Former President George Bush headlined a list of dignitaries on Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal this morning that was the military intelligence equivalent of a Mensa gathering.

Bush, who headed up the CIA before becoming president, was joined on the stage by current CIA director George Tenet, Defense Intelligence Agency director Vice Admiral Thomas Wilson and U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The contingent gathered at Redstone to dedi-



## Redstone Rocket

Please see BUSH on A11 Defense Intelligence Agency VOL. 48 No. 52 Published in the interest of personnel at Redstone Arsenal, AL December 15, 1999

### Intelligent construction

MSIC moves into new building early and within cost

By Joe Collier

The defense agency responsible for missile and space intelligence will move the relocation in a new building at Redstone Arsenal.

The Richard C. Shelby Center for Missile Intelligence will be dedicated Friday on the home of the Defense Intelligence Agency's Missile and Space Intelligence Center. MSIC has already moved into the \$33 million facility on Friday.

It's named for Sen. Richard Shelby, the Tennessee Republican who chairs the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Shelby was instrumental in obtaining funding for the construction project.

See Shelby on page 17

Huntsville Times, December 17, 1999



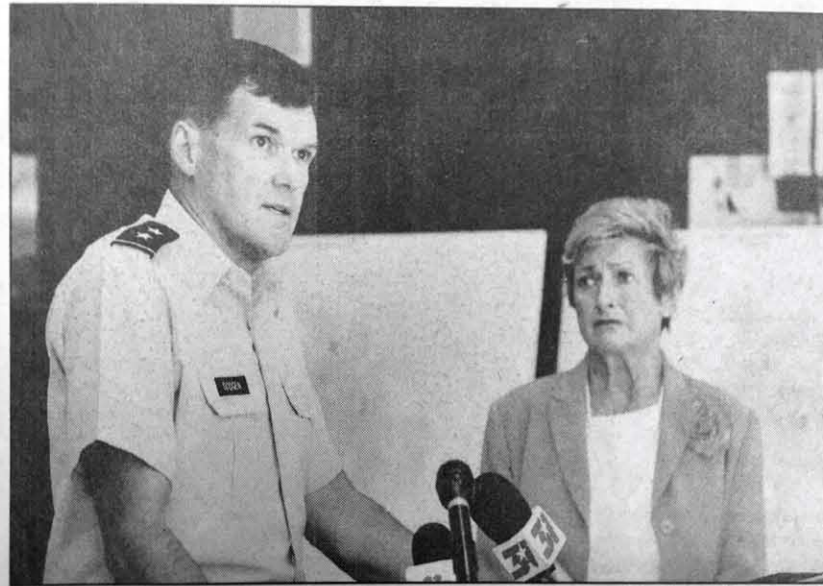
"History of Redstone Arsenal" display at the City of Huntsville's Bicentennial Celebration, July 2005

# **Chapter Six: The 2000s**

# September 11, 2001

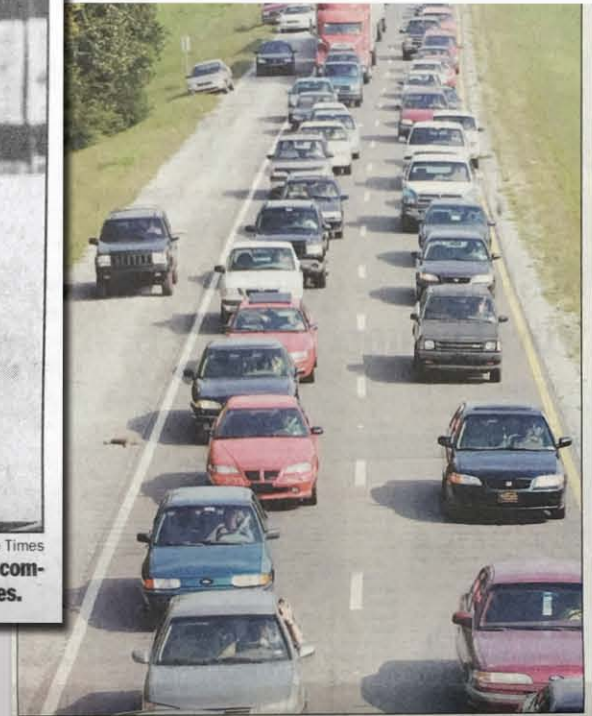
On September 10, 2001, General John G. Coburn, Commanding General of AMC, presided over the change of command ceremony between the outgoing AMCOM commander, Major General Al Sullivan, and the incoming commander, Major General Larry Dodgen. Major General Dodgen held his first staff meeting on the morning of September 11, 2001. After hearing the news of the multiple terrorist attacks, he closed and secured the installation, the first time the post had ever been closed because of a national security situation. Major General Dodgen also met with community leaders and held a joint press conference that day.

The installation was re-opened on September 17, 2001. Never before in Redstone Arsenal's history had security measures been put in place whereby every single vehicle entering the post was thoroughly inspected. Before September 11th, the gate's guard force was relatively small. After September 11th, Army National Guard soldiers augmented staffing of the gates.



Glenn Baeske/Huntsville Times  
**During a Tuesday press conference at Huntsville City Hall, the new Redstone Arsenal commander, Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen, speaks as a solemn Mayor Loretta Spencer watches.**

*Huntsville Times, September 12, 2001*



Michael Mergel/Huntsville Times  
 Looking north from the Old Madison Pike overpass, traffic stretches into the distance on Research Boulevard at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday.

## Workers play a waiting game as checks clog Arsenal traffic



(Above and right) Conducting security checks



(Left) Securing the perimeter

# Building for the future

As Redstone Arsenal once again supported the warfighter in the early part of the decade with Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, the installation continued to build for the future. In May 2001, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command (SMDC) announced that it was leaving a building it had leased for decades in Research Park and building its first permanent facility on Redstone Arsenal. So began the first phase of construction off of Martin Road that was named the Von Braun Complex. A ribbon cutting ceremony for Building 5220, SMDC's new building, was held on January 20, 2004.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, or FBI, broke ground for their Hazardous Devices School in 2002, their first major training facility on Redstone Arsenal. Opened in September 2004, the \$23 million facility included three administrative and classroom buildings containing nearly 54,000 square feet, along with 14 practical exercise training villages on 295 acres.



## A four-star destination

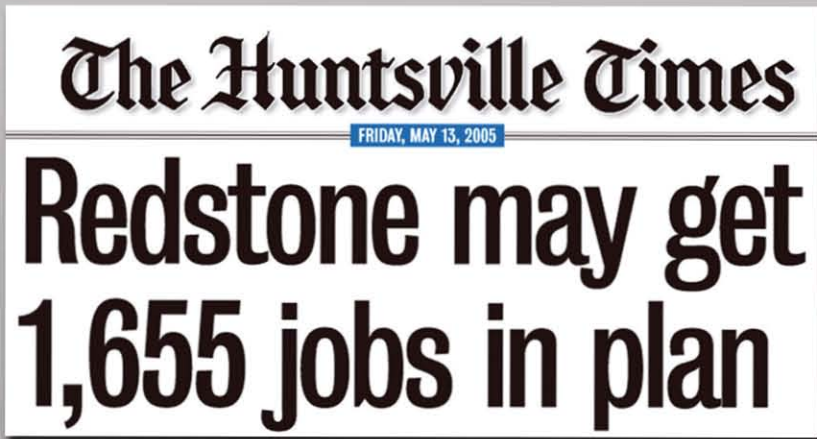
Maybe the biggest news in Redstone Arsenal's history was the 2005 BRAC announcement. The installation would be home to a four-star command: the U.S. Army Materiel Command, or AMC.

Since September 11, 2001, AMC was looking for a more secure location for its headquarters. It moved from its Alexandria, Virginia, location to Fort Belvoir, Virginia, in 2003. The BRAC 2005 decision would give AMC its first permanent headquarters in its almost 50 year history.

The 2005 BRAC decision also called for the AMC Band, the U.S. Army Security Assistance Command, the Missile Defense Agency, the 2nd Recruiting Brigade, the Space and Missile Defense Command Headquarters, and activities in rotary wing research and development to come to Redstone Arsenal. The installation would gain 1,655 civilian and military positions.



The AMC shoulder sleeve insignia



## Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission

### Final Report to the President



DEFENSE BASE CLOSURE AND REALIGNMENT COMMISSION  
2011 South Clark Street, Suite 200  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone: 703/692-2100

September 8, 2005

George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The 2005 Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission is proud to present its Final Report for your consideration. As required by law, the Commission thoroughly and objectively reviewed the domestic installation closure and realignment recommendations proposed by the Secretary of Defense on May 11, 2005.



(From left to right) Madison City Mayor Sandy Kirkindall, Madison County Commissioner Mike Gillespie, U.S. Congressman Bud Cramer, and Huntsville Mayor Loretta Spencer announce the BRAC decision at Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, May 13, 2005



## Work starts on Army Materiel Command headquarters



## Construction begins

General Benjamin Griffin, AMC's Commanding General, broke ground on the new AMC Headquarters on September 17, 2008. Employees from AMC's Headquarters at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, began moving to Redstone Arsenal.

The \$105 million facility would be headquarters for both AMC and one of its subordinate organizations, the U.S. Army Security Assistance Command. The two headquarters, adjoined by a common lobby, were slated for completion in January 2011.



(Above) Early construction, June 2009

# Redstone Arsenal's era of mass construction

By the end of 2009, much of Redstone Arsenal was under construction. Spurred by the 2005 BRAC decision, the installation became a blur of groundbreaking and ribbon cutting ceremonies.

For example, the first 2005 BRAC-related facility, the U.S. Army's 2nd Recruiting Brigade, opened October 14, 2009. The \$7.2 million, 25,000 square-foot building serves as headquarters for the brigade that recruits one-fifth of the Army's Soldiers.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives began construction of their National Center for Explosives Training and Research in November 2007. Opened in October 2010, the \$30 million facility consists of 83,500 square feet of classrooms, a mock courtroom, laboratories, a full suite of audio-video facilities, and offices.



**Construction news**

## Law enforcement agency knocks on Redstone's door

**ATF training site under construction**

By KELLEY LANEVILEY  
Staff writer  
kanevile@theboom.net

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was looking for a place to put its explosives training. Redstone Arsenal met its needs.

"We can't expand where we are," Jeff Groh, chief of ATF's explosives training branch, said. "So we have been looking for a new location. This location with these attributes best fits our mission."

The first phase of the training center construction began last November. It will be a convertible facility in that it will initially house classroom areas and offices until the main building is completed in mid-2010. Once those have moved into the larger

the end of August. Construction of the second, 83,000 square foot building is scheduled to follow. Both buildings will be located between Patton and Hansen roads.

"The other portion of the construction project involves a new 300-acre test range on the south side of the Arsenal along the Tennessee River. It includes observation areas and explosive storage magazines. Crews are preparing the site for the special needs of ATF, including some major league dirt."

"Because of explosives being used, they had to have dirt with-out rocks and debris in it," Green said. "We found a place where we could get dirt that had already been sifted and the debris removed. They also sell it to ballparks. This is the same dirt as on Turner Field (in Atlanta)."

Plans are also in the works to make use of additional space that base realignment and closure will leave vacant. McKinley and

Corkern ranges are being planned for ATF use once the Ordnance Munitions and Electronic Maintenance School moves to Fort Lee, Va.

"We will be converting them as they (OMEMMS) vacate," Green said.

The facilities and ranges already in use at Redstone are part of what drew the bureau here, Groh said. The organizations on post doing similar work provided the rest of the incentive.

"The biggest reason for coming here is the capabilities that Redstone already has," Groh said. "It fits with what we're trying to do. There are other entities here doing similar things. We can work together to make everyone better."

Besides working with existing Redstone organizations, ATF works with other federal agencies. They provide training in

**ARTIST'S RENDERING—** The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives training facility, currently under construction, will be located near Patton Road.

Courtesy graphic

for the project, said. "The raised computer floor comes out. The ceiling can be raised."

The first building is nearing completion. All 9,000 square feet of it are scheduled to be ready by

See Explosives on page 5

# Last of large-scale BRAC footprint becomes reality

## The last and a first

On August 21, 2009, ground was broken for the last BRAC-related facility. Redstone Arsenal leadership turned ceremonial shovels for a \$46.5 million building project that included the Rotary Wing Center Hangar Facility and the Redstone Test Center's new headquarters buildings.

Indirectly related to the 2005 BRAC, construction of new general officer housing continued during this period. In anticipation of the influx of General Officers coming to Redstone Arsenal after the BRAC 2005 decision, this initiative by the City of Huntsville to give housing to Redstone Arsenal started in 2003. By June 2007, a total of ten new general officer's quarters had been built and given to Redstone Arsenal as a gift from the City of Huntsville. These new quarters replaced outdated houses which were built in the late 1950s.



General officer's housing used from 1957 to 2003



# **Chapter Seven: The 2010s**

# Touchdown

The BRAC-related construction that began in the late 2000s was finally completed in this period. The year 2010 saw Redstone Arsenal elements which had supported the warfighter in Iraq slowly wind up operations. But this period would be forever known as a history-making chapter in Redstone Arsenal's history. For it was during this time that Redstone Arsenal witnessed two firsts: the first four-star U.S. Army General to ever establish a command on the installation. And Redstone Arsenal would host the first female four-star General in United States history.

General Ann E. Dunwoody assumed command of AMC on November 14, 2008, the same day she was promoted to four-star general. She remained at AMC's Headquarters at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, until April 27, 2011. General Dunwoody officially opened AMC's new Headquarters building at Redstone Arsenal on June 15, 2011, with a "touchdown" ribbon cutting ceremony. Installation and community leaders attended the event. Redstone Arsenal was now in the same league as the other two Army installations which hosted four-star commands.



General Ann E. Dunwoody



General Dunwoody and Lieutenant General Dennis L. Via, Deputy Commanding General, AMC



## Headquarters enhancements

Redstone Arsenal's first four-star headquarters had two additions within the first few years of opening. First, a parade field with amphitheater seating was built. This facility would host numerous and varied command events and ceremonies. Next, a cafeteria was built next to the headquarters complex. Named the "Lakeside Café," this stand-alone building provided both AMC and U.S. Army Security Assistance Command employees the benefit of a full-service post cafeteria.

## More BRAC-related openings

The decade of the 2010s witnessed more BRAC 2005 openings and activities. The 389th Army Band, known as the AMC Band, opened its doors to a brand new state-of-the-art facility on January 24, 2011. The \$4.4 million, 16,082-square-foot facility would house the first Army band on Redstone Arsenal since the departure of the 55th Army Band in 1975.

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) expanded its facilities in phases during this period. Moved to Redstone Arsenal as part of the BRAC 2005 decision, the largest building of what would be named “The Von Braun Complex” (MDA facilities and the Space and Missile Defense building) opened in October 2011. Called “Von Braun III,” the \$221.8 million, 840,000-square-foot facility was state-of-the-art in design, furnishings and technology. Von Braun III featured an 800-seat auditorium, 700-diner cafeteria, 120 conference rooms, barber shop, dry cleaners and laundry, convenience store, a coffee shop, ice cream and snack store, supply store, fitness center, a Dr. Wernher von Braun exhibit area, a basement area for classified work, full video-conferencing capabilities, and six floors of office space for 2,600 employees. When “Von Braun IV” opened in 2014, the complex housed over 5,500 workers.



55th Army Band



The Von Braun Complex



# Pershing Park

After the Ordnance Corps moved the munitions and electronics school to Fort Lee, Virginia, in 2011, there were many unused buildings. Redstone Arsenal's leadership transformed a large portion of the area into Pershing Park, an area dedicated to serving the workers of Redstone Arsenal. Services such as badging, education center, and morale, welfare, and recreation components that were for many years scattered throughout the installation, were now consolidated into one area.

Pershing Park formally opened on June 13, 2013.

## Redstone Rocket

www.theredstonerocket.com

June 19, 2013 Vol. 62 No. 24 PUBLISHED IN THE INTEREST OF PERSONNEL AT REDSTONE ARSENAL, AL

### Post opens heart of customer service

Community Welcome Center launches with dedication

By KARI HAWKINS  
Assistant editor  
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The "front door" to Team Redstone's corridor for customer service is now officially open.

During a ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday, Team Redstone leadership invited the community to visit the Gen. John J. Pershing Community Welcome Center. It is the newest addition to what is now considered Redstone's city center zone, officially known as Pershing Park.

The Community Welcome Center -- which is the new home of Army Community Service, several Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation activities, and an expanded Java Cafe -- joins a neighborhood that includes the One Stop for human resources, the Staff Judge Advocate Office, the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center and Education Center, among other services.



Pershing Park, 2016

# Redstone Gateway

In 2010, the Army leased to the City of Huntsville almost 500 acres for an “enhanced use lease” facility. For 50 years, the Army would lease the land for commercial development. Ground was broken for what would be called “Redstone Gateway” on August 23, 2010. Redstone Gateway would accommodate up to 15,000 jobs moving into the area in the coming years, and would offer approximately 4.4 million square feet of office space, including 1.2 million square feet of secure office space and an additional 124,000 square feet of convenience retail, restaurants, hotels, and more.



## New facility aims to target and stop terrorists

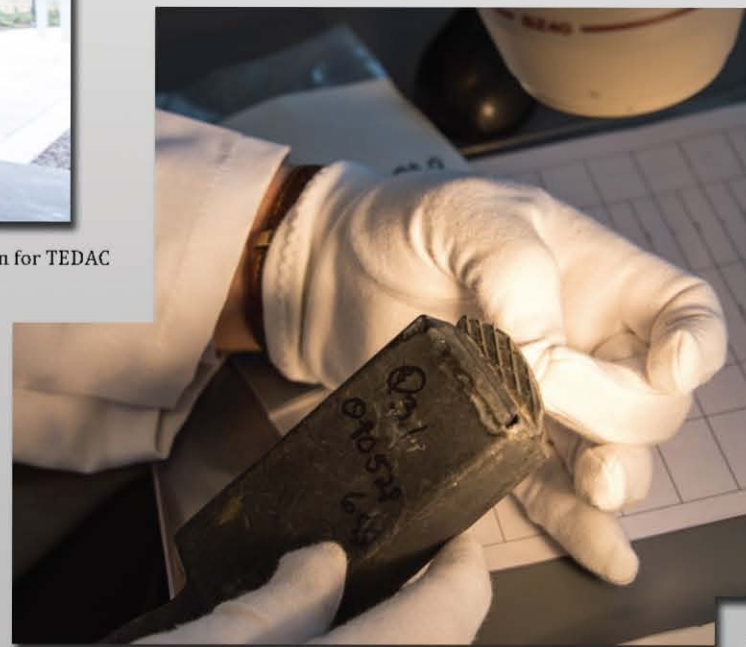
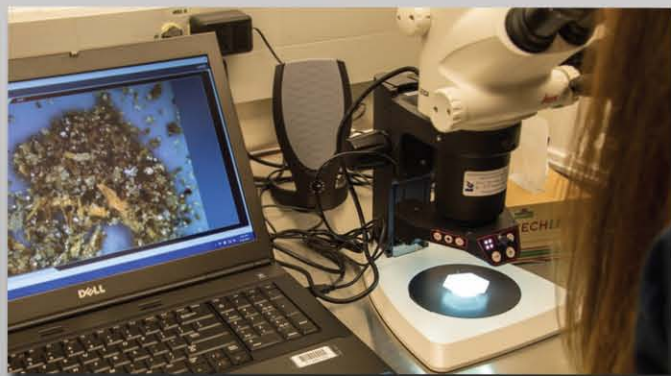
## Department of Justice expands its footprint

The FBI opened the \$125 million Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center (or TEDAC) on February 16, 2016. FBI Director James Comey, U.S. Senator Richard Shelby, and other officials took part in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the occasion. TEDAC is a multi-agency organization that performs a critical function in the fight against terrorism.

Before TEDAC's creation in 2003 in Quantico, Virginia, no single government entity was responsible for analyzing and exploiting intelligence gleaned from improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Since then, TEDAC has examined more than 105,000 IEDs from around the world, providing intelligence to the military, law enforcement, and the intelligence community at home and abroad.

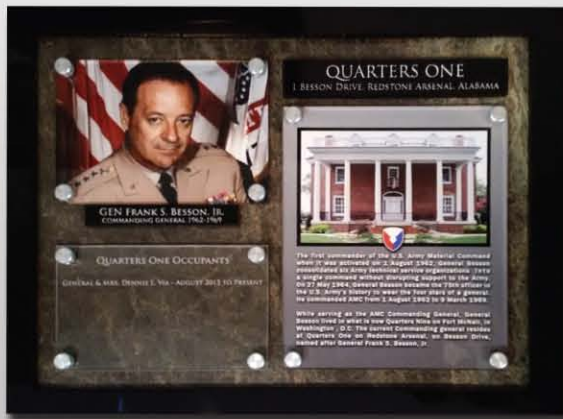


AMC Deputy Commanding General Larry Wyche, U.S. Senator Richard Shelby, and FBI Director James Comey cut the ribbon for TEDAC



# One Besson Drive

In 2015, construction of general officer housing culminated with the completion of the house for the AMC commanding general. The street was named "Besson Drive" in honor of AMC's first commanding general, General Frank S. Besson, Jr., who commanded AMC from its inception in 1962 to 1969.



First occupants of One Besson Drive, General Via and Mrs. Linda Via



# AMC assumes role of Senior Command for Redstone Arsenal

After taking command of AMC on August 7, 2012, General Via set in motion a sequence of events to have AMC assume the role of Senior Command. One year after he took command of AMC, the Army officially gave the AMC Deputy Commanding General the title of Senior Commander, effective July 31, 2013.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
200 ARMY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0200

5 August 2013

DACS-GOM


MEMORANDUM FOR Commanding General, US Army Installation Command

SUBJECT: Senior Commander, Redstone Arsenal (Sr Cdr, RSA) Designation Change

1. The Chief of Staff, Army designated the Deputy Commanding General, US Army Materiel Command as Sr Cdr, RSA effective 31 July 2013.

2. POC for this memorandum is MAJ Matt Gillespie, matthew.e.gillespie@us.army.mil, (703) 697-2599.

Very respectfully,

  
JOSEPH R. CALLOWAY  
COL, GS  
Chief, General Officer  
Management Office



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND  
4400 MARTIN ROAD  
REDSTONE ARSENAL, ALABAMA 35898-5000

AMCCG

07 AUG 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Appointment of Commander

By the direction of the President, GEN Dennis L. Via, GO, is appointed commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, 4400 Martin Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000 (W0GWAA) effective 7 August 2012.

  
DENNIS L. VIA  
GEN, USA  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

# A new hub for distinguished visitors

Historically, many senior military, federal, state, and local leadership officials have visited Redstone Arsenal. With the arrival of AMC in 2011, those visits increased exponentially.

Acting Secretary of the Army Patrick Murphy and General Via



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Martin Dempsey and General Dunwoody



Secretary of the Army John McHugh and General Via



Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James and Lieutenant General David L. Mann, Commanding General, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command

## Four-star community relations

Continuing a tradition that dates back to the beginning of Redstone Arsenal, General Via and members of his team have been actively engaged in community events and affairs.



# AUSA comes to Huntsville

Since 2014, the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) has made Huntsville, Alabama, the permanent home for its winter meetings. Traditionally held in March of each year, AUSA attracts all elements of the U.S. Army to discuss the current state of the Army.



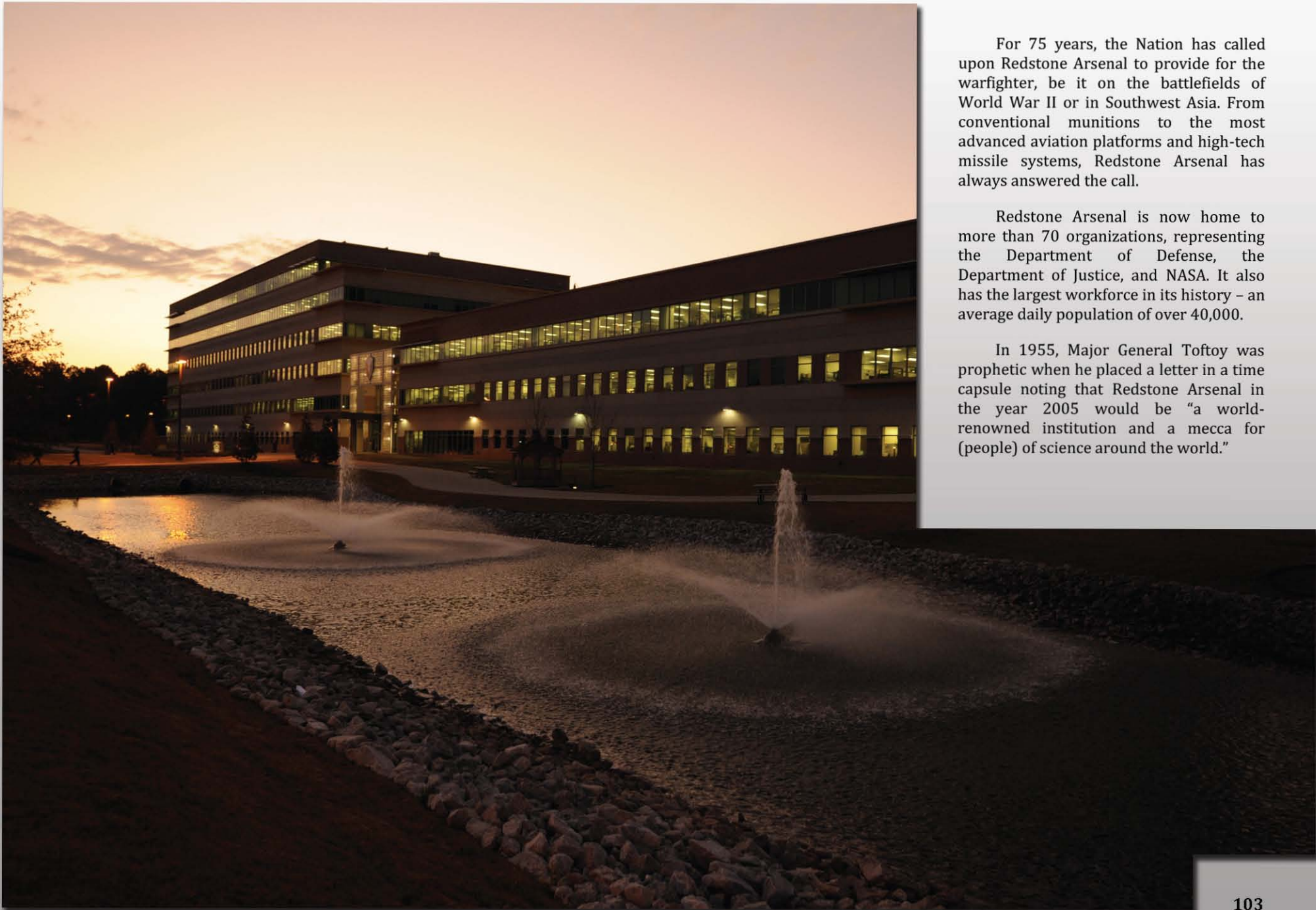


## Another 75 years

For 75 years, the Nation has called upon Redstone Arsenal to provide for the warfighter, be it on the battlefields of World War II or in Southwest Asia. From conventional munitions to the most advanced aviation platforms and high-tech missile systems, Redstone Arsenal has always answered the call.

Redstone Arsenal is now home to more than 70 organizations, representing the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, and NASA. It also has the largest workforce in its history – an average daily population of over 40,000.

In 1955, Major General Toftoy was prophetic when he placed a letter in a time capsule noting that Redstone Arsenal in the year 2005 would be “a world-renowned institution and a mecca for (people) of science around the world.”





View of the Tennessee River from the southern border of Redstone Arsenal, 2016



**"I believe that Redstone has a great future...  
Redstone is a shining star for the United  
States Military."**

**U.S. Senator Richard Shelby  
March 17, 2005**



Produced by  
The U.S. Army Materiel Command  
4400 Martin Road  
Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898  
2016