

# The Next Stage

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 3

Newsletter of The Huntsville Division Alumni Association

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

## **Next Board Mtg:**

(2nd Thu each quarter)

(TBD) Oct 2020,

Another Zoom

Meeting, OR...

**2:30 pm** Faith

Presbyterian Church,

SE corner of

Whitesburg/Airport.

## **Dates to Remember:**

### **2020**

-Hopefully, a late Fall Luncheon October 17 at Green Mtn. Nature Trail. **TBD.**

-Hopefully, the annual Christmas Party at Magnolia Trace. **TBD.**

Specific details will be provided closer to the date of the event.

*Would be great to see everyone!*

*...providing, that is, CV19 is no longer a threat.*

## **Monthly:**

**1st Wed:** Ladies lunch, 11:00, Gibson's BBQ/S. Mem. Pkwy. Call Faye/551-0126 for details.

**2nd Tue:** Call Bill at 650-5400 to see about meeting for breakfast with Bill!

**3rd Wed:** Lunch now at Logan's/Balmoral, 12:00. Call Jim Gasaway/353-7199.

*All of these events are on hold until further notice.*

## **NO FALL LUNCHEON...Hopefully in October?**

CV19 has again robbed us of one of our enjoyable events...the Fall Luncheon, usually held at Brookdale at Jones Farm in early September each year. It has been cancelled to maintain safety precautions for some of the most vulnerable to CV19: us. We look forward to the day when life can resume more normally.

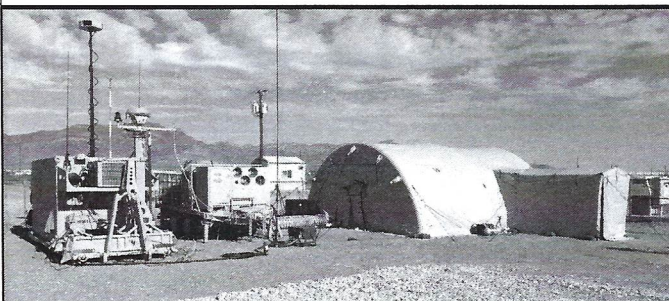
But, ***DON'T DESPAIR!*** We may have an event before you know it: Ron Clements has reserved the Green Mountain Nature Trail Pavilion for 17 October...just in case we CAN get together. We'll keep you posted either through the HDAA Facebook page, or the HDAA Info List via email.

*Positive thoughts for a CV19 vaccine, good weather... and we're at Green Mtn!  
We miss seeing our Thiokol family.*

(Note from Editor: CV19 has truly upset schedules. If not for seeing Gerald and Juanita Roberts at a local [safe] restaurant recently, we might have forgotten entirely about the newsletter. *Thanks* to you both! Almost didn't recognize you behind those masks.)

## **U.S. ARMY/HUNTSVILLE, AL & NORTHROP GRUMMAN (NYSE: NOC) HAVE SUCCESSFUL IBCS TEST @ WHITE SANDS, NM**

Shown below, a Northrop Grumman-produced Engagement Operations Center (EOC) and Interactive Collaborative Environment (ICE) emplaced at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico for the IBCS Limited User Test. [Source: U.S. Army, Huntsville, AL, 13 Aug 2020] The U.S. Army successfully engaged multiple targets during a flight test using the Northrop Grumman Corporation Integrated Battle Command System (IBCS). The test, conducted as part of the IBCS Limited User Test (LUT), demonstrated IBCS' ability to maintain continuous track custody of the targets, despite contested environment conditions, by fusing data from multiple sensors.



"We are extremely pleased with how IBCS performed during this flight test," said Kenn Todorov, Vice President and General Manager, Combat Systems and Mission Readiness, Northrop Grumman. "We have been working on an extraordinary command and control system in partnership with the U.S. Army, and our goals are the same – to get this capability into the hands of the warfighter as soon as

possible."

The first of two planned operational flight tests was conducted at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico by the soldiers from the U.S. Army 3rd Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Regiment. The test's defense laydown included an Air and Missile Defense task force including two Battery and 1 Battalion engagement operations centers, two Patriot and Sentinel radars, and three Patriot Advanced Capability Three (PAC-3) launchers connected at the component level, to the IBCS Integrated Fire Control Network (IFCN).

The test began when two cruise missile surrogate threats were launched and flew at a low altitude in a maneuvering formation through a mountain range towards defended assets.

*(continued on Page 3)*



## A Sign of the Times!

No Spring Breakfast, no Summer Picnic, no Fall Luncheon....BUT! Your HDAA Board keeps on keepin' on with Zoom Meetings, working on the Thiokol Greenway in South Huntsville, and many other projects.



July Zoom Board Mtg. Clockwise, L-R: Don/Patti Wilson, Cecil Stokes/Glenn Webb, Sam Zeman, Harold Whitesides, Ron Clements, Tom Bryant.

Business accomplished, all from the comfort of home. (Could get used to that...)

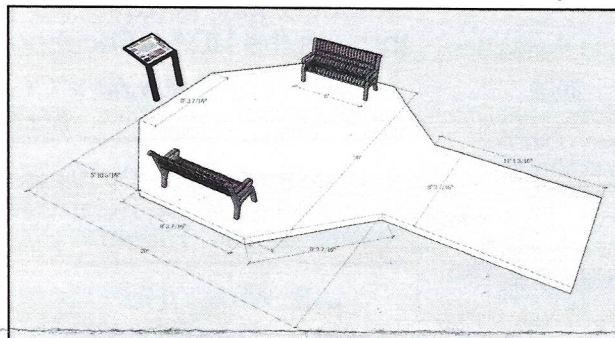
Still want to get involved in those UAH Thiokol/Archive Interviews? Contact either Cecil Stokes/[cstokes@hdad.info](mailto:cstokes@hdad.info) or Glenn Webb at [glennwebb@comcast.net](mailto:glennwebb@comcast.net) and let them know you are interested. They will schedule an opportune time for your interview which will become a permanent part of Thiokol/Huntsville Division's archived data. *Your kids/grands will thank you!*

## Friends In The News...

### Great Article Idea for Newsletter!

**Liz Zeman** suggested that folks (who might be interested) send in a paragraph or two about what they did during our CV19 lockdown to stay busy, happy, sane. It could be serious, humorous, or wildly imaginative. Please send articles to [PattiKat2@aol.com](mailto:PattiKat2@aol.com) or call Patti at 256/534-9702. *Thanks, Liz! Appreciate you thinking of us and reaching out.*

Your Board has been diligently working on getting a **Thiokol Greenway** in South Huntsville, to help preserve TC/HD history. Spear-headed by **Cecil Stokes** and **Glenn Webb** (and Glenn's son, who works on the City Planning Commission). The **Thiokol Greenway** photograph is a depiction of the proposed permanent sign to be the highlight of a sitting/observation area, depicted immediately below.



At some point, we may consider a possible covering for the area, as well as memorial brick pavers. And, we may consider minor landscape efforts around the cement base.

Your HDAA Board has already approved subsidizing the major costs. But, if you are interested in donating to the cause, contact Cecil at 256/881-2578, Glenn at 256/881-3645, or Tom Bryant at 256/883-0242.

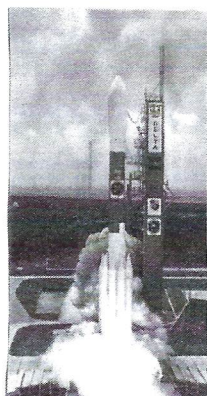
What a huge feeling of pride knowing you are a part of preserving Thiokol's history in Huntsville!

More color photos may be found on HDAA's Facebook page!

*Thanks, Cec/Glenn!*

## THIOKOL GREENWAY

In 1949 Major General Toftoy, Deputy Commanding General of the Army Ordnance Command, sent a letter to Thiokol Chemical Corporation requesting that it establish facilities on 1,028 acres of Redstone Arsenal to support the U. S. Army in research, development, and production of solid propellant rocket motors for the Army's tactical missile systems. This mission was accomplished and expanded to include all military services and NASA's space programs. During the mid 1950s Thiokol was the leading employer in Huntsville with over 2,200 people. Thiokol became a world leader in solid rocket propulsion during its 47-year presence on the Arsenal. Thiokol provided a variety of both missile defense rocket motors to the Army, Navy, and Air Force as well as space launch motors for NASA. Rocket motors developed and produced for defense systems included Hermes, Sergeant, Nike Hercules, Bomarc, Nike Zeus, Spartan, Pershing, Patriot, Sidewinder, Maverick, Falcon, Hellfire, TOW2, MLRS, and Standard Missile. Space motors included the Castor series of strap-on boosters of various sizes. In the early 1990s five major solid rocket motor companies with 12 plants were vying for cyclic federal defense and space funding. Industry consolidation involved closing six plants including Thiokol's Huntsville Division in 1996. The parent organization has changed ownership several times and has become part of Northrop Grumman Corporation.



Castor Strap-on Boosters



Hellfire



TOW



As you face west looking across Haysland Road, the Thiokol facilities were just beyond the trees inside the Arsenal boundary.

1949 - 1996



Standard Missile Boosters



Patriot



Maverick



(continued from Page 1) *U.S. Army/NOC Successful IBCS Test*

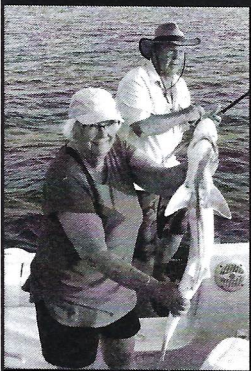
IBCS fused real-time data from all sensors into a single, accurate composite track for each threat. The soldiers were presented with engagement solutions computed by IBCS which were then executed. The soldiers launched two PAC-3 missiles controlled by IBCS that successfully intercepted both threats. IBCS was able to perform all functions successfully despite being subjected to contested environment conditions designed to disrupt the IFCN network, demonstrating the resilience and survivability of the system.

The Limited User Test, which comprises several tests, is intended to simulate realistic warfighting operations and place performance stresses on the systems to ensure it will perform as intended under the most rigorous circumstances once deployed. This LUT is conducted to inform a Milestone C decision which will transition the IBCS program into the production and operational testing phase.

IBCS utilizes multiple sensors and effectors to extend the battlespace, engage threats providing 360° protection, increases survivability by enabling early detection and continuous tracking, and delivers transformational warfighting capabilities to defeat an increasingly complex threat.

(Source: [news.northropgrumman.com/news/releases](https://news.northropgrumman.com/news/releases), 13 Aug 2020)

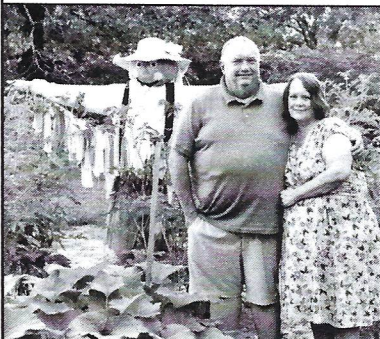
**AN ARROW CAN ONLY BE SHOT BY  
PULLING IT BACKWARD. SO WHEN LIFE IS  
DRAGGING YOU BACK WITH DIFFICULTIES,  
IT MEANS THAT IT'S GOING TO LAUNCH  
YOU INTO SOMETHING GREAT. SO JUST  
FOCUS, AND KEEP AIMING.**



Some folks just know how to enjoy life. Bet that shark gave you a good work-out! *Have fun, Nancy Webb!*



Fun Always follows **Chuck and Patti Anderson!**



**Donald & Kellie Clement** and friend enjoying the vegetables of their labor. Tomatoes as tall as they are and huge squash (?). *Looks like you got your dad's green thumb, Kellie! Great work. Set out extra forks.....*

## **COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRESS**

According to Gregory Poland, MD, Director of the Mayo Clinic Vaccine Research Group at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, CV-19 vaccines could be released to the public in two primary ways: through an emergency use authorization (possibly fall/winter 2020), or through the full regulatory licensing process (winter 2020 or spring 2021).

## **CONVALESCENT PLASMA**

Mayo Clinic and researchers are studying the use of a type of immune-based therapy called convalescent plasma — an experimental treatment that some doctors are using for people who are *seriously* ill with CV19.

People who've recovered from CV19 have antibodies (proteins the body uses to fight off infections) to the disease in their blood. Plasma is the liquid portion of the blood, and when it comes from people who have recovered, it is called convalescent plasma. It is hoped convalescent plasma will boost the ability to fight the virus, especially patients with severe CV19. It also might help keep moderately ill CV19 patients from becoming more ill and experiencing CV19 complications.

Serum (plasma with the clotting factors removed) has been used since the 1890s. Convalescent plasma was tested in small clinical studies and found to have positive effects against coronaviruses like SARS/severe acute respiratory syndrome, MERS/Middle East respiratory syndrome, and H1N1 flu. However, the very same approach was Not effective against Ebola, a filovirus.

It is not yet known if convalescent plasma therapy will be effective for CV19. In preliminary treatment, many people have benefitted, but the therapy continues to be evaluated.

(CV19 topics, above, excerpted from Mayo Clinic Health Letter, dated September 2020.)



Tom Bryant's "Paint the Sky With Color" (juried selection) to be on display at HSV Museum of Art with ~50 other photographs as a part of the HSV Photographic Society: 2020 Members' Showcase.

Dates are October 11-November 29, 2020 at the HSV Museum of Art. There will be a preview reception on Thursday, 10/8/20 from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

***Congratulations, Tom!***



# The Next Stage

The Huntsville Division Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 4185  
Huntsville, AL 35815-4185

REMINDER: \$12 DUES FOR 2020 WERE DUE 1/1/20.

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY SUBMITTED, PLEASE  
CONSIDER DOING SO SOON. THANKS!



Mon, Sep 7 — Labor Day  
Fri, Sep 11 — Patriot Day  
Tue, Sep 22 — First day of Autumn  
Mon, Oct 12 — Columbus Day  
Fri, Oct 16 — National Boss Day  
Thu, Oct 31 — Halloween  
Sun, Nov 1 — All Saints Day  
Sun, Nov 1 — Daylight Savings Ends  
Wed, Nov 11 — Veterans Day

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SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

The Next Stage is the quarterly newsletter publication of the Huntsville Division Alumni Association, Inc. Distribution: approximately 100. Editor: Patti Wilson. Its address is POB 4185; Huntsville, AL; 35815-4185.

The 2020 HDAA Board consists of : President/Tom Bryant, VP/Gerald Roberts, Secretary/Cecil Stokes, Treasurer/Membership/Charlie Thomas. Directors: (20) Ron Clements, (20) Harold Whitesides, (20) Sam Zeman; (21) John DeHaye, (21) Don Royston, (21) Patti Wilson; (22) Bill Barnes, (22) Jim Gasaway, (22) Paul McFall.

Ex-officio members of the Board are: Historian (position vacant), and Cecil Stokes/WebMaster.

Contact Cecil for details about the HDAA website and how to view more photos in color!

**Keep thinking positive thoughts that CV19 will be squelched and we can get together at Green Mountain Trail on October 17!**

## In Fond Memory...

We join the families in mourning the loss of family, friends and prior coworkers:

**George F. Kirchoff:** Who worked in Rocket Engineering in the 1970s.

**Gordon S. Streeter:** Son of Forest, who worked in Engineering.

**Dr. Carl Powe:** Consultant working logistics (COPICS) in Production.

**David K. Turner:** Son of Dave Turner, who worked in Program Management.

**Ruth W. Ward:** Who worked at Thiokol in the 1950s.

**Daniel Avon Young:** Who retired from Morton Thiokol as Plant Manager.

They will be sorely missed by us all, since they truly touched our lives.  
**Reach out to our Thiokol family members who may be suffering some way.**  
**You may be the light they need to brighten their lives.**

### Things I'm Super Good At

1. Forgetting someone's name 30 seconds after they tell me.
2. Running. Late, that is.
3. Making plans...then regretting making plans.
4. Thinking of a great comeback – an hour later.
5. Digging through the trash for the food box I just tossed, because I already forgot the directions.
6. Adding items to online carts. Then deleting.

**Thanks for submitting, Nancy Webb.**  
**We ALL need some laughter today!**

7. Googling my ailments. Then panicking.
8. Leaving laundry to wrinkle in the dryer.
9. Forgetting why I walked into the room.
10. Calculating how much sleep I'll get if I can just "fall asleep right now".