

Letters to the editor

Your outpouring of support appreciated

These past several days have been extremely difficult for all of us. We have witnessed acts of terrorism and cowardice; but we have also witnessed acts of compassion, courage and generosity.

I know we will recover from the recent tragic events. We are a proud and resilient people. But I know that nothing will bring back the lives of our loved ones or our friends. I know too that nothing will ever be the same. Sixty years ago our parents and grandparents awoke to discover that their country was under attack. Pearl Harbor changed America. The atrocities of Sept. 11 have changed America and the world once again.

I have implemented many measures to heighten security at Redstone Arsenal. My primary focus since taking command has been the safety of the thousands of Arsenal employees and residents and ensuring that we have been able to account for all of our civilians and soldiers.

At the same time, I must ensure that we are ready and

able to provide whatever support the Defense Department and our president require of us in the days ahead.

We are working with local officials to minimize delays at the gates to the Arsenal; but we must anticipate that this level of heightened security will be with us for quite some time. Your outpouring of support has been truly gratifying... from offers of money, assistance, blood donations, and counseling services, to personal calls of concern.

There are over 6,000 families directly affected by these attacks who are in pain. Now is a good time to reach out and embrace them, to provide them with the support they need.

God bless you... and God bless America.

Maj. Gen. Larry Dodgen
commander,
AMCOM and Redstone Arsenal

Redstone Arsenal gate hours change on schedule

Employees who work on Redstone Arsenal need to be aware of current gate hours. Gate hours have been changed to accommodate the traffic flow coming onto the Arsenal.

In response to the tragic events Sept. 11, Redstone Arsenal remains on heightened alert. However, everything possible is being done to reduce the long lines of traffic at the gates and to ensure your safety. You can help by giving yourself extra time to get to work, driving with extreme caution, and being courteous.

Listed below are current gate hours. You may want to keep this schedule in your automobile for easy reference. (Note: There is no Gate 6.)

- Gate 1 - Martin Road East — Open Monday through Friday 5:30 a.m. to midnight; weekends and holidays open 6 a.m. to midnight. (Note: Monday through Friday 5:30-8:15 a.m., inbound traffic only; 3-6 p.m.,

outbound traffic only.)

- Gate 2 - Buxton Road — Closed.
- Gate 3 - Redstone Road — Open Monday through Friday 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.
- Gate 4 - Patton and Neal Roads — Open (unmanned).
- Gate 5 - Hansen Road — Closed.
- Gate 7 - Martin Road West — Open Monday through Friday 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed weekends and holidays.
- Gate 8 - Goss and Patton — Closed.
- Gate 9 - Rideout Road — Open daily 24 hours. (Note: 5:30-10:30 a.m., right inbound lane is only for vehicles with three or more occupants.)
- Gate 10 - Patton Road — Open daily 5:30 a.m. to midnight.

Weapons prohibited from incoming vehicles

Motorists should be careful about what they bring onto Redstone Arsenal, particularly during these days of heightened security.

Guns and other weapons are prohibited from off post, according to Maj. Dave Dunn, the provost marshal. Drivers should have their security badge, an up-to-date decal, a military ID or military family mem-

ber ID.

"They shouldn't be bringing any weapons with them when coming onto the Arsenal because during searches they'll be confiscated," Dunn said.

Security at military installations increased after the terrorist attacks Sept. 11 on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

Terrorism unfair to the innocent

It's not fair that we have to wait hours in line to get onto Redstone Arsenal while choking on exhaust fumes. It's not fair that guards have to work double shifts in all weather to protect us. It's not fair that civilians have to work extra hours — giving up evenings and weekends with our families. It's not fair that thousands of innocent Americans died just so a few cowards could make a point. It's not fair that a few criminals can do so much to rob us of our precious freedoms to fly safely and comfortably, to drive our highways without worrying who will dart recklessly in and out of traffic or run red lights with impunity, to use our computers without continually improving our virus protection, to discard a receipt without worrying how someone will steal our identity. It's not fair that my insurance was canceled because a thief smashed my truck window and stole my computer soon after a coward hit my vehicle and left the scene.

Cowardly criminals are not fair, and it's time the vast majority of honest citizens started fighting back.

Morton Archibald
Huntsville

Gate 9 landscaping needs more work

I would like to say that it is a shame to look at the landscaping around the new Gate 9 while driving in and out of RSA every day as do hundreds of others. One would think that after the many thousands of dollars spent and considering the long length of time that it took to build this new entrance, this would be considered and treated as a showpiece; but it is instead crowded by dead shrubs, trees and weeds that are taller than the shrubs. One would think that after the expense that was made for this that it was to be a focal point to all that come to Redstone but instead it looks like an abandoned field. Now before someone tries to counter what I am saying by mentioning that if I think this is so bad that I could go clean it up myself, well remember that it is not my job to do. I don't know whose job it is but it is not mine and since I do pay more than my share of taxes then they should take care of this. The rest of the Arsenal is pretty much well kept but this area is not. Who has dropped the ball?

Name withheld by request

Editor's note: Redstone Arsenal Support Activity provided the following response. "The contractor who

See Letter on page 3

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