

South Supports the Wounded Warriors *by Sylvia Stokes*

On Nov. 8, DAU South Side Riders along with the Semper Fi riders and 100-plus other bikers rallied in support of the Wounded Warriors' arrival at the Huntsville, Ala., Airport. The group provided motorcycle escort from the airport to the Westin Hotel. The motorcade included volunteer members of the Madison County Sheriffs and local police departments. DAU employees participated in the flag line at the airport and in the arrival and welcoming committee at the hotel.

While awaiting the heroes' arrival at the airport, we watched as the reception line grew longer and longer. Passersby joined in, wanting to take part. Some held flags and welcome signs. Others announced their praise and thanks for the event. A few who were just getting off of the plane joined in the line with their carry-on luggage.

Imagine being part of an event responsible for bringing a smile to the faces of heroes wounded in war. There are no words to explain the rush of emotion as you stand there in the flag line applauding, encompassed by a feeling of humility. You watch as the heroes and their families' small grins spread into broad smiles bursting with emotion.

Their eyes glaze, and you know that what you are doing is cherished and appreciated. Some bow their heads to fight back the tears. Others cry. The sight of a mother's joyful tears streaming down her face as she walks beside her son's wheelchair lets you know where courage is found and expressed. A wife holds her husband's hand, signifying her love and ultimate sacrifice to America.

Let us never take for granted Veteran's Day and the men and women who have served in the armed forces and who risk their lives for ours.



Grand Opening at Aberdeen

On Nov. 30, Capital & Northeast (CNE) Region's site at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Md., held a ribbon-cutting ceremony commemorating the grand opening of DAU's permanent facility; centrally located on post, within a short 10-minute commute for the majority of the thousands of acquisition workforce members at the nearly 100-year-old Army installation.

Ceremony participants included Dean **Bob Daugherty** (CNE); Gary Martin, deputy to the commanding general, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) and a member of the senior executive service (SES), and **Jim Oman**, director of the APG Site and Senior Service College Fellowship (SSCF) Program. The event was attended by multiple members of the SES, numerous individuals from the APG Acquisition Workforce and community, DAU faculty and staff, as well as current fellows and alumni from the SSCF program.

Remarks were made by Messrs. Oman, Daugherty, and Martin preparatory to cutting the ceremonial ribbon, which was followed by a guided facility tour. The event concluded with an informal reception in the student lounge.

The grand opening of the APG facility represents the culmination of more than three years of planning and coordination, and the efforts of multiple individuals. Further, it symbolizes, in a very tangible way, DAU's commitment to provide a superb learning environment for members of the acquisition workforce, and marks the completion of an earlier plan to establish a training site to support the Base Realignment and Closure Commission-directed relocation of CECOM from Fort Monmouth, N.J., to APG.



Mr. Oman, Dean Daugherty, Mr. Martin and Ms. Parker Bennett.

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