

Redstone Arsenal offers peek behind the curtain

By **KENNETH KESNER**
The Huntsville Times

HUNTSVILLE — Regular tours of Redstone Arsenal ended in the heightened security of the 21st century, making it tough for the public to get a look at what's going on out there. So, Redstone is going to them.

More than a dozen of the 55 or so federal entities on the installation — including the Army, NASA, the FBI and even the secretive Defense Intelligence Agency's Missile and Space Intelligence Center — will have equipment, displays and demonstrations May 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bridge Street Town Centre to give everyone a peek at what goes on "Behind the Gates of Redstone Arsenal."

They picked "Behind the Gates" as a class project because it's so important that everyone in the Huntsville area know about what their

neighbors do at Redstone or in federal agencies to support our soldiers and allies, said Ken Barnett, a member of the group that organized the event.

The event will also include the Army Corps of Engineers, Defense Acquisition University and other federal agencies. DAU is organizing a scavenger hunt for kids at the retail/dining complex.

The program also will let the public learn more about the work and nearly 4,700 federal positions the 2005 Base Realignment and Clo-

sure decision is bringing here.

Everyone understands what a Mercedes or Hyundai plant does, said Sarah Savage, president and CEO of Leadership Huntsville/Madison County. But it's harder to come up with an easy image or explanation of the broad spectrum of aviation, space, missile defense, explosives and scientific research happening every day at agencies at Redstone and in Huntsville.

"This is not a product that's on a shelf," she said.

