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Huntsville Center

Bulletin

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Ruch takes command

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

Col. Robert Ruch took command of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville during a traditional military ceremony July 26 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville's Chan Auditorium.

The organizational colors were retrieved by Charles Ford, Huntsville Center Deputy for Programs and Technical Management, who passed it in a clockwise direction to outgoing commander Col. Nello Tortora and on to Maj. Gen. Todd Semonite, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who passed the unit's symbol to Ruch, symbolizing the change in leadership. Ruch returned the colors to Ford who returned them to the flag stand.

After the passing of the colors, Semonite addressed the crowd and cited Ruch's career as a perfect fit for commanding Huntsville Center.

"We've looked deep and far to figure out who's best-of-the-best," Semonite said. "Bob's had an



Courtesy photo

Maj. Gen. Todd Semonite, right, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, passes the Huntsville Center colors to new Center commander Col. Robert Ruch at the Center's change of command ceremony July 26 at the University of Alabama, Huntsville's Chan Auditorium.

unbelievable career in service to the regiment, and an unbelievable performance as the Philadelphia (District) commander and he did a great job at Omaha (District), and Omaha isn't just a geographic district. Omaha had national missions. Not only did they perform civil works, they performed environmental missions in 41 different states, so he's done very similar work like (Huntsville Center) does on a national basis and interacted with numerous different districts. He carries through that skill set."

Semonite said Ruch is not only a perfect fit for leading Huntsville Center's current missions, but also for guiding the Center into the future.

"He also has the ability to understand where Huntsville (Center), the Corps and the Army needs to go with energy, and as much as we care about his technical competency, he's not brought in based on his past performance, he's brought in on his demonstrated potential to take this Center where it needs to go."

See RUCH on page 5

Commander's thoughts

Team,
Just last week, July 26, I assumed command of the Huntsville Center. I want to thank everyone who helped make the ceremony and the reception memorable events for myself and my family. This change of command was different in that I remained the commander of the Omaha District until that change of command was held on July 31. So, for a few days I was the commander in both places. Now that both ceremonies have been conducted, I'm ready to devote all my time to the Huntsville Center's missions and employees.

First of all, let me say what an honor it is for me to join the Huntsville Center Team. I started learning about the Center a little earlier than usual by attending the Command Strategic Review in February and then returning for a transition week in June. On each occasion, I learned a little more about the varied and diverse missions you carry out every day on behalf of USACE. Of course I have been fortunate to work with the Huntsville Center during my two previous commands in USACE.

Commanding Huntsville Center will be different than commanding a district. Huntsville Center's charter is unique in many ways. Our missions encompass some of the most cutting

edge programs in existence, and we perform those missions worldwide. That's impressive all by itself. We're looked to as the center of expertise for five mission areas, and have numerous other technical centers of expertise.

The reputation you all have built in each of those areas is vital to our continued success. I will tell you that the Omaha District has national programs, centers of standardization and several centers of expertise, so as far as understanding the big picture. I think I get it but I know I have a ton of homework to truly understand our role in Huntsville, and I promise you that I will do that homework.

In the coming year Huntsville Center plans to award a \$7 billion Multiple Award Task Order Contract that will allow installations to use third party financing to install energy production equipment that will help the installation reduce energy consumption and cost. From this contract, we should see our Energy Program experience significant growth, not just for next fiscal year, but for years to come.

In August we'll have the Summer Leaders Conference in Little Rock, Ark., where we'll be discussing changes to the USACE Campaign Plan Goals.

The revised goals probably won't be effective for some time, but knowing what the changes will be will help us



Col. Robert Ruch

develop our Implementation Plan objectives, actions and metrics for FY13. We expect the major changes will be in Goal 2, which does not impact Huntsville Center since we don't have a civil works mission, but the three goals we do support may also see some modification.

USACE's new commander, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, has started his visits to the divisions and centers. We anticipate he will visit Huntsville Center in August. Planning is under way to ensure that visit is a success. He visited Omaha twice before I left, and the visits were a great experience.

THOUGHTS

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Hails and farewells

Hail: **Col. Robert Ruch**, Huntsville Center commander; **Pamela Brown**, Center Contracting; **Jeffrey Lester** (returned from deployment), Environmental and Munitions Center of Excellence, Omaha, Neb.

Farewell: **Lynn Helms**, **Freddy Steele**, Engineering Directorate; **Mike Gifun**, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; **Jefferey Murrell** (deployment), Installation Support and Programs Management.



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BULLETIN

Commander..... Col. Robert Ruch
Chief, Public Affairs..... Debra Valine
Editor..... William S. Farrow



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The Bulletin asks:

“What advice would you give new Huntsville Center commander Col. Robert Ruch?”



“My advice would be to try to make himself available to Huntsville Center employees. Quite often, team members may feel they don’t have access to leadership to discuss relevant issues. Maintaining open, constant and reliable channels of communication is a solid asset for any commander. I’m fortunate to have a director who encourages open and transparent communication within our teams, but I know that many Center employees may not have this advantage.”

Brandy Wilkerson
Chemical Demilitarization Directorate



“A new commander has to stay in tune with what is going on with the fiscal year 13 and beyond budgets. There is a possibility that Huntsville Center may get a decrease in its workload. If this happens, we will have to look at new opportunities. He will also be presiding over a significant turnover in leadership at the Center, due to their being eligible for retirement. This will be a challenge.”

Tony Torres
Engineering Directorate



“CYA – Consult your attorney!”

Kay Sommerkamp
Office of Counsel



Know a job seeker?

For information regarding U.S. Office of Personnel Management hiring reforms, have them visit: <http://www.opm.gov/hiringreform/> or visit <http://www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads>

Employee Spotlight: Jordan Miller

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

What is your name?

My name is Jordan Miller.

What do you consider your hometown? Ardmore, Ala.

What is your job title and where do you work? I am a procurement analyst.

I work for the Huntsville Center Contracting Office in the Oversight & Operations Division; otherwise, known as the "BOB."

How long have you worked for the Corps? I have worked for Huntsville Center for seven years.

In your own words, what is your job? What do you do? As a procurement analyst, I perform a range of duties, from conducting solicitation and contract reviews, to providing training on the Paperless Contract File system.

Since all USACE contracting employees make up the National Contracting Organization, I work on special projects to support NCO initiatives.

Review the Campaign Plan goals and objectives. Which one(s) apply to you? Goal 3, Objective 3d, "Develop innovative approaches for delivering reliable infrastructure," applies to me because it aligns with NCO Strategy 3.



Miller

The Oversight and Operations Division is responsible for delivering standardized policies, processes and tools across the acquisition community.

The templates, guidelines and standard processes and tools that we implement are used to ensure efficient contract execution and administration by our acquisition work force.

How do you see your job making a difference and contributing to the Corps' success? As members of the NCO, we are charged to deliver superior acquisition solutions that allow us to execute USACE projects with enhanced buying power.

What do you love about your

job? I love that Huntsville Center is resourced with professionals who possess dynamic personalities. This is what makes the Center such an interesting place to work. I also love the challenges associated with my job--there is never a dull moment.

Any special moments/memories about your job you'd like to share? I am proud of my efforts in deploying the Paperless Contract File System at Huntsville Center and Baltimore District which allowed both organizations to move toward a paperless environment. This means savings for our customers and taxpayers.

Favorite musical artists/music style? I am a huge Metallica fan. I do like all kinds of style ranging from rock to country.

Favorite movie(s)? Perhaps two movies I could watch over and over are *Shawshank Redemption* and *Lonesome Dove*.

Favorite author(s)? Michael Connelly, John Grisham and Stephen King.

Hobbies? I am happiest spending time with my wife and family. I love University of Alabama football and going to the games (especially the National Championship games).

I also enjoy hacking around with a golf club.

The **Employee Spotlight** is intended to let our Center employees shine for positively impacting our organization through mission achievements. Employees are nominated on a monthly basis and are featured monthly on the Huntsville Center Web site. If you'd like to nominate someone within your office for this recognition, please contact Jo Anita Miley, Public Affairs Office, at 256-895-1585, or e-mail: JoAnita.Miley@usace.army.mil.

Ruch's career includes two previous commands

Col. Robert Ruch previously served as the commander and district engineer of the Omaha District headquartered in Omaha, Neb., where he oversaw an annual workload exceeding \$1 billion spread over 1,200 military construction projects in eight states, civil works projects in nine states and environmental restoration projects in 41 states.

Ruch went to Omaha from the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa. Prior to that, he served as the division engineer for the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. As the division engineer, he deployed to Iraq and served as the deputy of the Baghdad Provincial Reconstruction Team under the State Department.

Commissioned from the Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania ROTC program as a distinguished military graduate in 1986, Ruch began his military career with the 7th Engineer Battalion, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), at Fort Polk, La., as a platoon leader and company executive officer.

Follow-on assignments included liaison officer and company commander with the 2nd Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Castle, Republic of Korea, and the live fire engineer trainer for the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif. He then served as an operations officer in the Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, before moving to Fort Riley, Kan., as the S3 of the 1st Engineer Battalion, and then of the 937th Engineer Group

(Combat).

Following that he served at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Belgium, where he was the senior staff officer for NATO Infrastructure in Crisis Response Operations dealing with construction in Afghanistan and in the Balkans. He then served as the 53rd commander of the Philadelphia District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Ruch holds a bachelor's degree in geo-environmental science from Shippensburg University, a master's degree in engineering management from St. Martin's College and a master's degree in strategic studies from the Army War College. He is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the Sapper Leader Course. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Meritorious Service Medal (five oak leaf clusters), Army Commendation Medal (two oak leaf clusters), Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Department of State Meritorious Honor Award, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal (two awards), Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (three tours), the Army Superior Unit Award and the Combat Action Badge.

(Courtesy Huntsville Center Public Affairs Office)

RUCH

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Ruch said when it was time to figure out his next assignment after commanding Omaha District, he knew exactly where he wanted to go.

"I had one preference and that was to command the Huntsville Center," Ruch said. "It's always been in the back of my mind that this is a great place, and I'm thrilled. This is an absolute privilege. The

mission is diverse and challenging and there's nothing else I could ask for."

Ruch closed the ceremony by letting his work force know his expectations.

"I have three standing orders.

Number one: we work for the nation, so work hard every day.

Number two: have fun while working hard and number three: you can't

communicate enough when working a national mission like this, so over-communicate to your customers, and over-communicate with the other people in USACE and we'll do great things together."

Outgoing Huntsville Center commander, Col. Aniello "Nello" Tortora, retired from the Army after 27 years of service.

THOUGHTS

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We are well into the fourth quarter of FY12. I know you are all getting as ready as you can be for the onslaught of work heading our way. We are expecting to award between \$1.3 and \$1.7 billion worth of work by midnight Sept. 30. As of mid-July, we had awarded about half of that.

Huntsville Center will partner with Team Redstone to mark Women's Equality

Day for an event celebrating women's right to vote. The event is 10 a.m., Aug. 14, in the Bob Jones Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal. Key speaker is Jackie Kallen, who is considered the first lady of boxing. She is one of boxing's first and most successful female managers. Women's Equality Day commemorates when women in the U.S. were given the right to

vote on Aug. 26, 1920, when the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was certified.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with each of you. As a team we will continue to provide the excellent support to our customers, which is what makes Huntsville Center great. Stay safe.

Twenty answers

Getting to know the Center's new commander

1. What do you consider your hometown? Springfield, Pa. - right outside of Philly.

2. Favorite musical artists/style? I like classic country and classic rock - guess I am getting old.

3. Favorite movie(s)? It is hard to pass up a John Wayne or Clint Eastwood movie when circling the dial.

4. Favorite author(s)? James Michener

5. Favorite TV show(s)? Anything the kids will watch with me so be prepared with the latest SpongeBob trivia.

6. Favorite U.S. city you've visited? Of course I am partial toward my hometown of Philadelphia but the best part of moving around so much over the past 26 years is the great variety I have seen in visiting almost every large city in the country. Each one has something that stands out that is memorable. I will tell you that Omaha ranks right up there at the top and it is perhaps the most livable of all.

7. Favorite foreign country/city visited? Rome and Prague for big cities and the best smaller city is Brugge. Kabul and Baghdad are somewhat lower on the list but I would love to visit them in the future and see the impact of our efforts.

8. Favorite vacation spot? Truly anyplace the family can get away and relax. So many of our "vacations" are really family visits and in the end they are great, but not really vacations. We have spent a lot of time over the years visiting Branson, Mo.

9. Favorite sport(s)? Hockey, football and baseball.

10. Favorite teams/athlete? Philadelphia Flyers, Eagles and Phillies. Bobby Clarke is my favorite athlete. He was undersized, over-motivated and he was a diabetic in an era where they said he could not be a serious pro



Col. Robert Ruch

athlete with that condition. He led his team to two Stanley Cups.

11. Hobbies? Hunting and fishing. Particularly fond of training a bird dog and working with it.

12. Favorite food? Should I say barbecue since I am in the South? I like to grill and smoke food and generally like to cook when I have the time, particularly game I have harvested.

15. Least favorite food? Mayonnaise. So if we are ordering lunch...

16. Favorite holiday? Christmas, because of the kids.

17. Pets? Roxy is my German Shorthair Pointer. The kids always have a host of other animals including a guinea pig and Wendy is threatening to get new cats that will spend their days getting hair on my uniforms.

18. Prefer hot or cold climate? I like a change of seasons more than one or the other.

19. What historical figure do you admire most? Ronald Reagan.

20. What is the greatest challenge you've experienced in your Army career? Two of the most challenging occurred in the Corps. In the Pittsburgh District, as a young captain, I was tasked to take over the crew that rehabilitated the locks and dams on the Ohio, Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers. There were leadership issues as well as racial charges which were included in a Connie Chung *Eye on America* documentary. What I found is that people want good leadership that treats them fairly and I ended up having one of the most rewarding job experiences of my career.

Last year I got to lead the Omaha District through the flood of record on the Missouri River. While this was an extremely difficult time that spanned several months it was professionally rewarding to be able to see just what our great Corps employees are capable of when challenged. I am in awe of what they accomplished!

Pathways Program part of larger hiring reform efforts

By James Campbell
Public Affairs Office

Executive Order 13562 established two new programs and modified another to create the Pathways Program, and the streamlined developmental programs starting to take effect now are tailored to promote employment opportunities for students and recent graduates in the federal work force.

The Pathways Program creates an Internship Program to replace the Student Career Experience Program and the Student Temporary Employment Program with a new Internship Program; launches the Recent Graduates Program for people who have graduated from qualified educational institutions or programs within the preceding two years; and reinvigorates the Presidential Management Fellows Program for people who obtained an advanced degree within the preceding two years.

One of the most visible changes for Huntsville Center under the new program is the elimination of the STEP and SCEP programs, said Dorothy Ray, Business Management Office. Managers are currently operating in a transition period for current STEP and SCEP employees.

As of July 10, the STEP and SCEP programs no longer exist. Any new entry level positions will be filled by using the Internship Program or the Recent Graduates Program through public announcement via USA Jobs, Ray said.

The 180-day transition period for current STEP and SCEP employees ends Jan. 6, and the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center is working directly with managers to conduct the required changes.

The new Internship Program is focused on providing qualified students with paid opportunities to work in federal agencies and explore careers while completing their education, Ray

said. Additional training on the Pathways Program will be given to all supervisors soon.

The new Recent Graduates Program provides developmental experiences in the federal government, and it is intended to promote possible careers in civil service. To be eligible, individuals must have graduated from qualifying educational institutions with a degree or certificate and apply within two years of their completion date.

Veterans who were precluded due to military service will have up to six years after degree or certificate completion to apply.

The Presidential Management Fellows Program, a leadership development program for advanced degree candidates, has been expanded.

Changes include aligning the schedule with academic calendars, expanding the eligibility window, and allowing those who received a qualifying advanced degree within the preceding two years to participate. Additionally, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management was directed to set eligibility requirements and minimum qualifications standards and make the experience more robust for participants.

Agencies can appoint Presidential Management Fellows candidates from their current lists until January, and OPM will issue a new vacancy announcement in the fall.

Job seekers will soon have the ability to quickly identify Pathways Program vacancy announcements on the USAJobs website with the addition of position offering type categories for internship and recent graduate, said Tom Formby, senior federal recruitment adviser, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, during a training webcast June 7. He also

advised hiring officials to include appropriate keywords for the new programs in job announcements.

The Pathways Program is part of multiple Presidential initiatives at OPM, including an overhaul of USAJobs.com, elimination of written knowledge, skills and abilities essays on applications, allowing applicants to submit resumes and cover letters they created, ranking applicants by pre-defined quality categories instead of individual numeric score order, increased manager accountability and involvement in hiring; and improving the quality and speed of hiring.

Hiring reform results since 2010

- 86 percent of job announcements are written in plain language, up from 55 percent
- 66 percent are just 2-3 pages long, up from 24 percent prior to Hiring Reform
- 92 percent of job announcements allow people to apply with a resume up from just 39 percent
- 97 percent are free of the essay questions that used to haunt applicants, as compared to 39 percent before Hiring Reform
- 26 days shaved off of the average time to hire

(Information from U.S. Office of Personnel Management)

Center's Tyra receives scholarship

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

Huntsville Center Engineering Directorate's Kacey Tyra, a cooperative education employee and student at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, recently was awarded the William E. Bowers Engineering Scholarship.

Tyra, a 2008 Madison County High School Graduate, is pursuing a degree in mechanical engineering at University of Alabama-Huntsville where she maintains a full-time course load and keeps her cumulative grade point average above 3.0.



Tyra

William Bowers, an engineer killed by gunfire in 2004 while supporting his company's electrical power generation and distribution systems contract in Iraq.

The scholarship was established by the SEI Group, Inc., for the benefit of students and to honor the memory of Madison, Ala., resident

The scholarship is awarded to undergraduate engineering majors who demonstrate financial need, academic merit and potential to contribute to the community and the university.

Tyra said she was excited when she got the news that she was awarded the scholarship especially since she recently decided on engineering as her academic focus because it fell more in line with her new career plans in the Army.

"I want to go active (duty) aviation to be exact," Tyra said. "I've got a great opportunity to get an education while training to be an Army Officer." Tyra has worked at the Center for a year.

Contracting agreements trending into future

Traditionally the Huntsville Center has utilized Indefinite-Delivery/Indefinite Quantity multiple and single award task order contracts as a popular contracting mechanism to meet our customers' needs.

However, based on recent policy changes, the Center is now considering the use of agreements on certain acquisitions too.

Although agreements aren't new to the Center, project development teams are now exploring the full range of agreements, to include Basic Ordering Agreements as covered in FAR 16.703 and Blanket Purchase Agreements as covered in FAR 8.405-3.

Both agencies and vendors like BPAs and BOAs because they help trim the red tape associated with repetitive purchasing and once established, repeat purchases are easier for both sides.

The average acquisition lead time for BOAs and BPAs is four-to-six months versus IDIQs which are 12-24 months.

The BOA is a written instrument of understanding negotiated between a procuring activity and a contractor that contains: terms and clauses applying to future contracts (task orders) between the parties during the term; a description of supplies or services to be provided, and methods for pricing, issuing, and delivering future task orders under the BOA.

Although a BOA is not considered a contract, an order placed against a BOA is considered a binding contract. Also, given that BOAs are not contracts, there is no pricing at the basic BOA level and BOAs aren't subject

to peer review and don't require formal source selection procedures.

Utilizing BOAs are beneficial when requirements are specialized. Benefits to using BOAs are flexibility, increased competition, and the ability to utilize small business concerns. The period during which orders may be placed against a BOA may not exceed five years.

Each BOA shall be reviewed before the anniversary of its effective date and revised as necessary. Another interesting characteristic is that new BOA holders can be added at any time.

A Blanket Purchase Agreement is a simplified method of obtaining anticipated repetitive needs for supplies or services by establishing "charge accounts" with qualified sources. BPAs can be established as single or multiple awards. BPAs generally don't exceed five years but may do so to meet program requirements. Single award BPAs shall not exceed one year but may have up to four one-year options. Also, BPA holders can be added at annual reviews.

A BPA between the government and a vendor allows purchasers authorized to use the BPA to place orders by telephone or in person with simplified documentation. An example of a Center-wide BPA is the mandatory Department of Defense BPA for domestic express small package services. As with BOAs, these agreements don't require peer review.

For more information, contact Mona Neal, at 256-895-1226 or send an e-mail to: mona.p.neal@usace.army.mil
(Courtesy Center Contracting)

Mission Focus

International Operations supports Army's tasks

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

In the beginning months of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, Coalition Forces found huge caches of ammunition scattered throughout Iraq.

After realizing the magnitude of stockpiled ammunition spread across the country, the U.S. military command in Iraq turned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for support. However, it was Huntsville Center that was tasked with the mission of consolidating and destroying the captured ammunition.

"The International Operations Division, within the Huntsville Center Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, grew out of a need to support the Army in demining, environmental and other required support actions," said Bill Sargent, International Operations director.

Sargent said at the height of the Coalition Munitions Clearance program in Iraq there were 18 mobile teams operating in country to support the mission. The program destroyed more than 346,000 short tons of explosive remnants of war at more than 51 clearance sites across Iraq, he said.

Sargent explained that the completion of the CMC program resulted in the identification of a new requirement of Huntsville Center's expertise for a cost effective means for the destruction of unserviceable munitions within Iraq.

Because of this need the Coalition Munitions Disposal Program was developed and is in place to continue making Iraq



File photo

International Operations oversaw this detonation of munitions in Iraq in 2006.

and the Iraqi Army safe and self-sufficient, Sargent said.

As word spread about IO's capabilities in Iraq, the Army found IO's services could be used in Afghanistan as well.

"We've performed mine clearance at Bagram Air Base to free up space for the bases to expand its operations and now we're assisting in environmental work in drawing down the mission there," Sargent said. "We're here to support the Army. When the Army is calling us to help them, and if we can't do the job ourselves, we'll find somebody who can do the job for them."

Since the IO mission is to execute support missions for the Army and the Soldier in the field Sargent said IO teams deploy to establish an in-country presence and provide contract project oversight through other Corps entities and/or contracting officer representative presence, as appropriate

"Simply put, IO deploys teams to establish in-country presence to provide contract project oversight, therefore many of the IO personnel are required to spend a lot of time at the locations where the work is

done," Sargent said.

Project manager Chase Hamley, a former infantryman with the 101st Airborne Division, said after he got out of the Army in 2009, IO seemed a perfect job for him because it was an assurance he would get back to Afghanistan and Iraq and work with like-minded people.

"My deployment was one of the conditions of my job with IO, but that was a selling point for me, not a sacrifice," Hamley said. "Not many people are wired appropriately for the job over there, but the IO team is like-minded and a group that is really getting things done and I was glad to get on board with them." Hamley said he feels IO approaches its mission from a different angle than most Center organizations.

"I think that's a direct reflection on the people IO has in place and the way those people have implemented changes in inefficiencies they've observed over their years of experience," he said.

"The sheer scope of what the IO team and our contractors have accomplished in past years is mind boggling. I'm proud to be a part of the IO mission."

First aid attendants providing vital service for Center

**By Jennifer Sabourin
Public Affairs Office**

Throughout the Huntsville Center are employees who have received first aid training, which allows them to aid anyone when a medical situation arises.

There are 15 first aid attendants located in the Center's main building, while nine other first aid attendants are in the outlying suites and the Bevell Center. All 24 employees attend annual Red Cross training classes.

Wanda Griffin, Huntsville Center Safety Office, said the classes consist of training and certification in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Griffin said the training also teaches the employees to use an automated external defibrillator.

"Each attendant maintains first aid supplies. The Safety Office also maintains additional supplies and equipment to support the accomplishment of the duties and responsibilities of the first aid attendants," Griffin said.

Sarah Coleman, Medical Division, Initial Outfitting & Transition project

manager, is a first aid attendant on the second floor on the Center's main building. She said she became a first aid attendant because she is interested in medicine.

"I have always been interested in the medical field. I also like helping people, and I enjoy the training," Coleman said.

Coleman said she has had to use her training a few times during work, but fortunately there haven't been any major medical scares.

She keeps a first aid kit at her desk and she said people occasionally ask her for band-aids or antibiotic ointment.

She said she has had to assist some employees who have abnormal blood sugar levels too.

However, outside of work, Coleman has had a few serious situations she had to address and her first aid training came in handy. Coleman said she has helped a woman at a store who cut her head, and she has helped a man next to her in a restaurant who was having a stroke.

Coleman said the training she has received for being a first aid attendant has helped her because she knows what to do during a medical emergency.

"One of the things I really like about

being a first aid attendant is that my frequent training gives me confidence that I know how to handle emergency situations and that knowledge makes them much less intimidating," Coleman said.

While being a first aid attendant usually consists of routine medical needs, Coleman said occasionally there will be someone who needs help in difficult situations. According to Coleman, sometimes there is a large gathering of people who are looking at the person and the attendant.

"Respect your coworker's privacy," Coleman said. "If it was you in the situation, would you want everyone watching you during that vulnerable time?"

Griffin said that if there is a major medical emergency, 911 needs to be called immediately. Along with notifying the first aid attendant in the area, the Center Security should be notified that an ambulance is on the way.

She said the Center Safety Office also should be contacted to make them aware of the incident.

First Aid Attendants by building and floor

Huntsville Center Main Building

First Floor

Marcus Adams
Molisa Glass
Latonia Banks

Second Floor

Nancy Wilburn
Rex McLauri
Kristi Javins
Sarah Coleman
Virgil Green
Daniel Gaston

Third Floor

Rachel Ray

April Rafael-Adams
Wykeisa Jackson Clark
Mo Bryant
John Nevels
Leigh Ann Toth

CD Building, 4801 University Square, Suite 1

Denise Terry
Jerry Rowell

EMM Building, 4801 University Square, suite 20/21

David Becker
Walk Zange

PAX Support/ED-SC-A Building 4835 University Square, Suite 5

Amy Fortune
Theresa McFarland

OE – White Tiger Building 4901 University Square, Suite 19

Pam Draper
Sherri Anderson-Hudgins

Huntsville Center partners with Team Redstone for Women's Equality Day event

Huntsville Center and Team Redstone will celebrate Women's Equality Day: Celebrating Women's Right to Vote at 10 a.m. Aug. 14, at Bob Jones Auditorium, Redstone Arsenal.

Keynote speaker for the event is Jackie Kallen, known as "The First Lady of Boxing."

Kallen is one of boxing's first and most successful female managers.

Her life was the inspiration for the film *Against the Ropes*. She also worked as a consultant for Mark Burnett's reality TV series *The Contender*.

A show business journalist for a magazine in the 1970s, Kallen interviewed the Rolling Stones, Frank



Kallen

Sinatra, Elvis Presley and countless others. In 1977 she was assigned to interview a boxing prospect Thomas "The Hit Man" Hearns from the Kronk gym in Detroit. Kallen became fascinated with sports and began working as a sports journalist specializing in boxing.

Kallen spent a decade as Hearns' publicist as Hearns went on to face Sugar Ray Leonard in two championship fights. In the process she became well known around Detroit's boxing circles but her career

was met with sexism along the way.

Kallen made her managerial debut with heavyweight Bobby Hitz in 1988. She managed her first champion in 1991, when James Toney knocked out Michael Nunn in 11 rounds to win the International Boxing Federation World Middleweight title. Another Kallen fighter, Bronco McKart, won the World Boxing Association World Jr. Middleweight title in 1994.

Kallen was diagnosed both with heart disease and cancer during that decade, but after three surgeries she recovered and is enjoying good health.

Kallen lives in the Detroit area and manages three professional boxers, including McKart and a prospect from the Philippines.

(Article courtesy Huntsville Center Equal Opportunity Employment Office)



Photo by William S. Farrow

Get in the hole

Joaquin Tucker putts as Mike Trull (standing) and Terry Hamil look on during Col. Nello Tortora's retirement golf tournament July 25. Twenty-two teams (88 people) played 18 holes in best ball tournament format on The Links at Redstone's Patriot Course. The competition was based on teams from each floor of the Huntsville Center competing against each other. First place team for the first floor is Chris Mooneyham, John Childers, Abeyta Garrison and Jay Hughes with a score of 61. First place team from the second floor is Jack McClure, Ralph Ezell, Mark Elliott and Dave Frampton with a score of 69. First place team from the third floor is Scott Prosuch, Clayton Perry, Anthony Turner and Mike Westmoreland with a score of 74. In individual contests, Drew Choat won the longest drive contest in the men's category while Mary Bissell won in the ladies' category. In the closest-to-the-pin contest, Jay Hughes won the men's category and Valerie Clinkenbeard won the women's category.

Ethics Corner

The Hatch Act: permitted, prohibited political activities for federal employees

By Clay Weisenberger
Office of Counsel

Once again the next presidential election is just around the corner. National conventions are set for August and September followed by debates. Then we go to the polls Nov. 6. The Hatch Act, passed by Congress in 1939, limits the partisan political activities of federal employees.

All civilian employees in the executive branch of the federal government, except the president and the vice president, are covered by the provisions of the Hatch Act. As the races heat up this fall, keep in mind the following checklist of permitted and prohibited activities when engaging in political activities:

- **May** be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections
- **May** register and vote as they choose
- **May** assist in voter registration drives
- **May** express opinions about candidates and issues
- **May** contribute money to political organizations
- **May** attend political fundraising functions
- **May** attend and be active at political rallies and meetings
- **May** join and be an active member of a political party or club
- **May** sign nominating petitions
- **May** campaign for or against referendum questions,

constitutional amendments, municipal ordinances

- **May** campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections
- **May** make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections
- **May** distribute campaign literature in partisan elections
- **May** hold office in political clubs or parties including serving as a delegate to a convention
- **May not** use their official authority or influence to interfere with an election
- **May not** solicit, accept or receive political contributions unless both individuals are members of the same federal labor organization or employee organization and the one solicited is not a subordinate employee
- **May not** knowingly solicit or discourage the political activity of any person who has business before the agency
- **May not** engage in political activity while on duty (includes use of government computer/email)
- **May not** engage in political activity in any government office
- **May not** engage in political activity while wearing an official uniform
- **May not** engage in political activity while using a government vehicle
- **May not** be candidates for public office in partisan elections
- **May not** wear political buttons on duty

If you have questions, call me at (256) 895-1140.

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