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Huntsville Center

Bulletin

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File photos

Huntsville Center Commander Col. Nello Tortora, right, shows the Huntsville Center history wall to then Deputy Chief of Engineers Maj. Gen. Merdeth “Bo” Temple.

Tortora reflects on his time as Huntsville Center commander

**By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office**

July 26, Col. Nello Tortora will relinquish command of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville to Col. Robert J. Ruch. Tortora assumed command July 28, 2009.

During his tenure, he identified three challenges he faced as commander and how he faced those challenges.

“The first challenge was just the tremendous workload the Center was experiencing,” Tortora said.

“When I arrived in 2009, defense budgets were surging as a result of the convergence of many significant events:

two overseas contingency operations; significantly increased military construction and operations and maintenance budgets; and stimulus-funded projects from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This convergence resulted in the perfect storm for all of USACE and placed some incredible demands on Huntsville Center.

“We faced these challenges by doing a number of smart things,” Tortora said. “First, it is all about people. Making sure our team was resourced and ready to accomplish the mission. Making sure the troop-to-task ration was right. We grew the Center by 160 people and focused on hiring people

See TORTORA on page 5

Commander's thoughts

Team,
Well, here it is, my final
Commander's Column.

July will see many "lasts." My last business meeting, July 18; my last project review board, July 24; the first and last Col. Tortora retirement golf tournament, July 25; my retirement dinner, July 25; and, of course, the change of command, July 26.

Last month we started paving the way with the new leadership at Huntsville Center and HQ, USACE.

Col. Robert Ruch, who will become the Huntsville Center commander July 26, visited us the week of June 4.

This was Col. Ruch's second visit to the Center. He was here for the Command Strategic Review. Each visit helps him get more familiar with the Center's mission and capabilities. I ask each of you to welcome him as you did me and do all you can to make his transition a smooth one.

Maj. Gen. Todd Semonite, the new deputy commanding general, visited us June 7; Mr. Mike Mazzanti, the chief of the Programs Integration Division, Civil Works Directorate at HQ, visited June 13; and Dr. Christine Altendorf, chief of the Environmental Division visited June 18.

With each visit, we briefed our

capabilities and talked about ways each of the leaders could leverage our expertise and champion Huntsville Center.

The organization day picnic and awards ceremony June 8 gave us an opportunity to come together to have some fun and recognize folks doing great work for the Center. We also celebrated the Army and Corps of Engineers birthdays.

I want to thank the Huntsville Center Activities Association and all the volunteers for helping make the day a success, and congratulate each of the award recipients. It's their hard work and dedication that makes the picnic and awards ceremony such a successful event for all of us and our families.

We're entering the fourth quarter, and you all know what that means: year-end is coming up. My advice is to go ahead and take some time off if you have it scheduled, but also be very proactive and start pre-positioning projects we expect to award by Sept. 30. If we do that, it will help make year-end less painful for everyone.

Now that summer is officially here, enjoy the warm weather with family and friends. Summertime can be a great time for fun, but with an increase in activities comes a greater chance for accidents to



Col. Nello L. Tortora

happen. Stay safe in whatever you do.

Serving as your commander has been a highlight of my 27-year Army career. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with the Center's professional and caring team.

Thank you for making my tenure here and Huntsville Center great. And, thank you for all the great work you are doing for our nation, our Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers!

Hails and farewells

Hail: **Rachel Hernandez**, Security Office; **Thomas Stennett**, Installation Support and Programs Management; **Nicholas Aprea**, Center Contracting; **Brecken Montgomery**, Engineering Directorate.

Farewell: **Col. Nello Tortora**, commander.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

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BULLETIN

Commander..... Col. Nello Tortora
Chief, Public Affairs..... Debra Valine
Editor..... William S. Farrow



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The Bulletin asks:

“What makes the July Fourth holiday special for you?”



“Because my second grandson, Blake, was born on the Fourth of July. We usually celebrate with cookouts, family gatherings and of course fireworks.”

Nancy Wilburn
Executive Office



“The fourth of July is very special to my family. I am the ‘baby’ of 24 siblings so each year on July Fourth, we celebrate by having a fabulous, fun and exciting barbecue and fireworks show. This celebration started with my parents years ago. We all gather at the pavilion on our parent’s property and we put up tents for shade and set out tables and chairs for at least 100 people. As you can imagine, it’s like a small family reunion with all my sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and special friends.”

Angie Andrews
Center Contracting

Fireworks part of your holiday celebration?



Fireworks and celebrations go together, especially during the Fourth of July. Remember, fireworks can be dangerous, causing serious burn and eye injuries. You can help us prevent fireworks-related injuries and deaths. How? By working with a national, state or local organization where you live to promote fireworks safety in your community. For more information on fireworks, check out the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission’s fireworks Website:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/info/fireworks/index.html>

Employee Spotlight: Braden Preston

By Jennifer Sabourin
Public Affairs Office

Where are you from? What's your hometown? I was born and raised in Athens, Ala. I currently live in the east Limestone community.

Where do you work and what is your job title? I work for the Huntsville Center Engineering Directorate in the Civil/Structural Division Structural Branch.

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

In your own words, what is your job? What do you do? I support the Civil/Structural Division and the ISPM Directorate as the project engineer for the ACP Program. As the PE for this program I serve as a liaison between ISPM and our Engineering department.

We work together to develop new acquisitions, develop scopes for new projects, provide review and oversight during the design and execution of ACPs, and provide customer support for the operation and maintenance once we have completed the Access Control Points.

I provide support to the Energy Execution Program and Facilities Repair and Renewal Program by performing design reviews and scope development.

I work in the Explosives Field developing Explosives Safety Site Plans. In this field we support our customers by establishing Explosives



Preston

Safety Plans in accordance with the Department of Defense standards.

The Safety Plans are then approved by the DoD Explosives Safety Board and serve as explosives storage guidance for our customer to carry out their mission.

How do you see your job making a difference and contributing to the Corps' Success? As a team member and leader of Project Development Teams here at Huntsville Center, I stay actively involved in our acquisition processes and project execution. Staying engaged enables the PDT to understand and manage our customers' expectations which produce an overall successful project for the Corps.

What do you love most about your job and why? I enjoy being able to work on a variety of projects.

I work projects that are technical and require me to exercise my engineering knowledge, while on other projects my role is focused more on the customer, scope, schedule, budget, etc.

I enjoy being able to mix these different roles throughout the week to keep things exciting. I enjoy finding new ways to utilize our resources to bring new work and new customers to Huntsville Center.

Any special moments or memories about your job you could share?

I have been privileged in the past to serve as the Structural Engineer on Centers of Standardization Building Information Modeling design projects. I believe some of my most memorable moments here at Huntsville Center have come out of those experiences in the "BIM Pit."

It was a great opportunity to be on the cutting edge of computer automated design and to be able to focus my attention on learning a new skill.

Even more so, I was able to develop some great friendships with co-workers while working on those projects.

Any special hobbies or interests that keep you busy when not at work? When I am not at work, I am always looking for an excuse to go fishing or hunting. Bass fishing and White Tail Deer hunting have always been two of my favorite hobbies.

Now that I have two sons, I am able share this time with them and pass on things I have learned.

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.

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with the right skills to get the job done. Second, we focused on delivery of the project, product or service on time. This was extremely difficult given the demanding time lines we were up against. We were successful by listening to our customers, ensuring that processes and systems were in place and adjusted as needed, defined expectations, tracked schedule, cost and quality metrics and focused all efforts on delivery to meet our customer requirements. Easier said than done, but our people got it done. Third, we had to organize for combat. We had to adjust our organization to support the Army. A great example was having the vision to realize the significant need of our ordnance and explosive expertise in overseas contingency operations. We decided to stand up and resource an International Operations Division leveraging our program and project management, technical and acquisition expertise and projecting it into Iraq, Afghanistan and other parts of the world. This is a huge success for the Center and makes a significant contribution to saving Soldiers' lives in OCO."

Strategic planning

Tortora said the second challenge was developing a strategic plan for the future – looking to 2020.

"What became clear is that after the surge in budgets there would be a downturn in defense spending, and we would need to adapt our organization to best serve the needs of the Army and the Defense Department," Tortora said.

"We set out to do this in early 2010 by first assessing what we were doing and whether or not it would lead us to where we want to be as an organization. Then asking, are these missions we should continue to put our effort into? And are there missions we should further develop or are there new missions we should develop?"

"We leveraged some of the best and brightest teams in the Center to analyze



Col. Nello Tortora, Huntsville Center commander, talks about Huntsville Center's missions and future potential contracts to business representatives during the



Col. Nello Tortora, Huntsville Center commander, center, visits a construction site at the Bluegrass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in Kentucky.

our 40 programs and assess what we were doing and whether or not we needed to change anything," he said. "The key is we wanted to determine where we add the most value to the USACE enterprise and our customers and then as a follow-on in our Implementation Plan, what would be our focus on enhancing our value."

The teams asked basic questions: which of our programs are most aligned with our Charter? which are we most passionate about? what drives our economic engine; and what do we want to be best in the world at?

"We found that our highest ranked

See TORTORA on page 6



Col. Nello Tortora, Huntsville Center commander, center, visits Center staff deployed to Afghanistan in 2011.

programs were those that had strong proponents here, in Headquarters and within our customer organization,” Tortora said.

“They are programs that have their foundation in one of our Centers of Expertise. They provide a significant amount of in-house work; are stable programs in terms of funding; our contribution adds great value for our customer; they are directly linked to our charter; they have a manageable level of risk; and they employ the resources of all our functional areas within the Center.”

The analysis helped the team develop a set of lines of effort for the future, develop a strategic plan and form the annual IPlan that details specific actions to achieve the outcome specified in the Center’s lines of effort and the USACE Campaign Plan.

“I am very proud that our team has published the Center’s first strategic plan based on our lines of effort that will continue to form the actions we need to take to achieve strategic outcomes,” Tortora said.

Energy goals

The third challenge was to adapt to the Army’s significant challenge and new emphasis on meeting mandated energy reduction goals, he said.

“This required us to quickly stand up a new Energy Division to help the Army meet its energy goals,” Tortora said.

“It was also a great opportunity for Huntsville Center to showcase its expertise and ability to develop and execute innovative programs and acquisitions. The best example of this is the new Federal Renewable and Alternative Energy Power Purchase Agreement ID/IQ. This large and complex acquisition will contribute immensely to meeting the Army’s goal of leveraging \$7 billion in private sector finance for renewable energy projects. Bold in its conception, it is a perfect example of the Center’s



Col. Nello Tortora, Huntsville Center commander, presents a Center coin to Rev. Earla Lockhart, 2010 African American Heritage Month observance guest speaker.

culture of innovation and being first with the most to support the Army. Our new Energy Division has stepped up to the demand and is delivering on programs and projects that are helping achieve Energy Security.”

See *TORTORA* on page 7



Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and Col. Nello Tortora, Huntsville Center commander, meet to chat about the Center mission

Tortora said the most exciting aspect of his job at the Huntsville Center is the people.

“I have never been someplace where there is more passion about what we do,” Tortora said.

“Likewise, the technical expertise is the foundation of what we do, and our technical experts are a humble group who are making an incredibly positive impact. Being on this team has been an extremely humbling experience. It is a team that demonstrates Army values in all they do, is extremely proud and passionate about their work; understands that we must deliver for service members and their families; and has fun doing it. Their dedication to USACE, the Army, and the nation is what excites me.”

Evolving mission

“I am not convinced that everyone always understands the importance of adaptability, innovation and that we must lead in this regard,” Tortora said.

“The old adage that the only thing

See *TORTORA* on page 8



Col. Nello Tortora, Huntsville Center commander, presents Marine Sgt. Donald Fachko, with a symbolic toy for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys For Tots program during December 2011 Town Hall meeting.



Col. Nello Tortora, Huntsville Center commander, presents a memento to Katherine Hammack, assistant secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and the Environment during her visit to the Center in 2011.

constant in the Army is change holds as true today as ever. We must always understand our customer's mission and requirements and as there are changes adapt and innovate to add value to their mission. The medical program is always a great example. We started out just procuring MRIs and doing minor renovations to install the new equipment. Looking to add value, our Medical Support Team developed Medical Repair and Renewal, Medical Furniture, and Maintenance programs that just this year executed \$500 million in work."

Tortora said he sees the future of Huntsville the same as the past. He said we must continue to leverage foundation expertise to develop programs, acquisitions and projects that support the Army, DoD and the nation. To do this, we must continually assess the environment we are in and then adjust, adapt, innovate, implement and deliver.

Mission accomplished

Now that his 27-year Army career is coming to a close, Tortora recalls a few memories he has of his time wearing the Army uniform.

"There have been so many great memories it is unlikely that I can do justice to any of them," Tortora said. "Most of the great memories are not about anything I did, but what we were able to accomplish as a team. The great memories are about the relationships ... personal and professional. I consider myself blessed to have met my wife, Karen, while we both served in Honduras. Twelve years later we were blessed when Nicholas was born. The fun and loving family memories while serving at some 20 different addresses will always be cherished.

"The memories from the great leaders I served under," he continued. "I consider myself so incredibly fortunate to have served under the command of

some of the most positive, genuine, caring leaders ever; selfless leaders who coached and mentored me throughout my career.

"Certainly, the memories of the officers, non-commissioned officers, Soldiers and civilians that I have had the privilege to serve will be unforgettable," Tortora said.

"Their list of accomplishments is too long to cite. They met every challenge, exceeded every expectation, and displayed initiative and courage in service to our nation in peace and war. They inspired me each and every day and serving with them is the highlight of my career.

"I am humbled and deeply honored to have served as commander of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center. This is the perfect way to end a 27-year career. Thanks to each of you for making our nation, Army and Corps of Engineers great."

Interests in energy programs growing

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

Recent visits from the deputy commanding general, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and two senior executive service members provided Huntsville Center with opportunities to promote its ability to play major roles in the Army's Energy Campaign Plan.

Within a span of two weeks the Center received visits from Maj. Gen. Todd Semonite, Mark Mazzanti, chief of the Programs Integration Division for Civil Works at HQ USACE, and Dr. Christine Altendorf, chief of HQ USACE Environmental Division.

However, a chance to meet with more than 40 USACE civil works program managers attending a civil works programming class at the USACE Learning Center may be just as productive in spreading the word about Huntsville Center's capabilities in the energy arena.

While attending the course here in Huntsville, the program managers took a few hours to visit the Center and receive a capabilities brief and more specifically, briefings on the Center's Energy Division programs.

The Energy Division's specific programs are the Energy Savings Performance Contracting, Energy Engineering Analysis Program, Resource Efficiency Manager Program, Army Metering Program, Commercial Utility Program and Energy Conservation Investment Program.

"The purpose was to give them a feel for what the Center does for the Army and the nation with an emphasis on our energy programs," said Wade Doss, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate's Facilities Division chief.

Doss said any time he can highlight the Center's energy programs it's an opportunity to tell people about how those programs can save the Army and



Photo William S. Farrow

Will Irby, right, Installation Support and Programs Management, provides information to more than 40 visiting USACE district civil works program managers regarding various Huntsville Center programs. Irby concentrated much of his briefing on the Center's energy programs.

the Department of Defense money, as well as help other government agencies save money and resources.

"There are so many opportunities for the Center to support the civil works side of USACE. It just makes sense to share and emulate what we are doing for the Army with our fellow USACE entities." Doss said.

He said reaching the people working America's water resource development activities, flood risk management, navigation, recreation, and infrastructure and environmental stewardship at the USACE district levels is beneficial and a step toward possibly forging future working

relationships.

JoAnn Combs, a program analyst in the Huntington District's project management department, said she found Huntsville Center's energy mission very interesting and possibly useful for her district's future.

"I was really impressed with the work going on in the Energy Division," she said.

"I work a lot with the Department of Energy so I think having a better understanding of Huntsville Center's capabilities in the energy arena is something I'll can take back (to Huntington.)"

USACE Civil Works

- **Civil Works' Mission and Vision: Dedicated to providing quality, responsive service to the nation in peace and war.**
- **The Directorate of Civil Works is a major component of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.**
- **The Civil Works mission also includes emergency response.**

Hard work pays off

Center employees recognized during Engineer Day ceremony

By Jennifer Sabourin
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville celebrated its annual Engineer Day at Redstone Arsenal's Carroll D. Hudson Recreation Area June 8.

The event, which also served as an Army birthday celebration, began with an awards ceremony recognizing outstanding employees and their service to Huntsville Center over the past year. Col. Nello Tortora, Huntsville Center commander, presented awards to each of the following employees:

Administrative Support Employee of the Year - Kristina Gilliam from the Public Affairs Office. She received this award for her administrative work in

public affairs and also for her assistance in the executive office, business management office and safety office.

Contracting Professional of the Year - Jason Polk. He is the contracting officer and team leader for the Huntsville Center's Centralized Furniture Program, which provides furniture for installation barracks and offices. Polk installed a process reducing the overall time needed to execute a contract award reducing the overall cost to the government.

Engineer of the Year - Clark Ramsey. He is the lead engineer on the Range and Training Land Program Mandatory Center of Expertise electrical branch. Ramsey is also the subject matter expert

for the Army for electrical design issues concerning range design and construction.

Innovator of the Year - Amy Walker, Engineering Directorate, for her work in advancing the emerging technology of ordnance classification as part of the Military Munitions Response Program.

Program Manager of the Year - Amber Martin from the Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate. She provided security upgrades for Army installations and Naval hospitals ensuring safer and more secure Access Control Points. She also improved the external customer

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Ramsey



Martin



Polk



Gilliam



Miley



Butler



Ross



Besteda



Gale



Walker

AWARDS

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satisfaction survey scores from the ACP Programmatic customer from a 2 to a 5, the highest rating possible.

Resource Manager of the Year -

Helen Gale of the Center's Resource Management Directorate. Gale received her award for assisting others from various offices. She also managed several budgets and is a member of the Command Information Management Board. Gale is also the subject matter expert concerning fee-for-service and provides advice and assistance to both internal and external customers.

Volunteer of the Year -

Velma Besteda, Engineering Directorate. She served as Huntsville Center's representative on the Combined Federal Campaign for the past two years. Besteda used various fund raising techniques, such as bake sales and contests, to help Huntsville Center surpass its goal of \$75,000.

Commander's Diversity Award -

Jo Anita Miley, Public Affairs Office. She was a program manager with the Commander's Special Emphasis Program Committee. She planned seven and conducted five community relations/outreach events reaching more than 2,000 students. Miley is also involved in planning and executing events that help employees understand differences among the diverse work force.

Commander's Leadership Diversity Award -

Boyce Ross, Engineering Directorate director. He received this award by encouraging employees to volunteer to support educational outreach, community relations and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math events. Ross also has a diverse group of individuals who are in leadership positions throughout the Engineering Directorate and USACE.



Photo by Bruce Phillips

Col. Nello Tortora, left, awarded Operations and Maintenance Engineering Enhancement the Huntsville Center Teamwork Award. Accepting the medals are Monte Long, Althea Rudolph, Karen Spanier, Rick Owens, Susan Parsons, Christopher Andres, Zach Allen and Miguel Lang. Team members not pictured are Randy Hilton, Terri Downs, Ruth Smith, Doug Wilson, Tom Corcoran, Larry Baca, Chet Dailey, Merle Jones, Karen Gentry, Marna Harless, Terri Llewellyn, Michelle Petty and Steve Feldman.

Commander's Leadership Award -

Sharon Butler, Center Contracting. She has executed many difficult contract actions, including a contract for constructing missile facilities at Fort Greeley, Alaska, in support of the National Missile Defense Program. Butler is now a division chief leading more than 60 contracting professionals in 15 programs.

Huntsville Center Teamwork Award -

Operation and Maintenance Engineering Enhancement. OMEE is a medical program providing services to operate critical medical facility infrastructures and maintain building systems. OMEE supported more than 22 million square feet of DoD hospitals, clinics, laboratories, medical centers and medical training facilities.

Wilson named Distinguished Citizen

Former Center employee James Wilson was presented with this year's Distinguished Citizen Award. Wilson is now retired, but served in several leadership roles during his more than 20 years at Huntsville Center. Wilson's contributions to the Center include establishing a new Special Project Branch in 1986, which is now known as Management Review. Wilson also received several awards and honors, including the De Fleury Medal in 2005, the Commander's Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, Federal Women's Program Equal Employment and Opportunity Supervisor of the Year and numerous performance and on-the spot awards while a Huntsville Center employee.



OPORD 2012-53

Online tool managing contracting officer representatives' paperwork

The director of the National Contracting Office recently published Operation Order 2012-53 to provide standard operating guidance for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Contracting Officer Representatives, COR Supervisors, contracting officers and project team members regarding the use of a web-based portal for all relevant COR actions.

This OPORD is applicable USACE-wide and requires a prospective COR to create a profile and process a nomination package for one or multiple contracts and/or orders online.

In accordance with the new guidance, all USACE districts and centers will complete implementation and begin use of Virtual Contracting Enterprise Contracting Officer's Representative Module by Aug. 1.

The VCE CORM is an online tool for nominating, appointing, tracking and managing COR nominees, existing CORs and their required documentation.

The three major phases in the COR process are: 1. nomination, designation and appointment of the COR based on competencies, experience and training; 2. performance of COR functions 3) termination of COR appointment.

The Contracting Officer, the COR, and COR management have specific roles and responsibilities in each of these phases.

The online tool is Common Access Card-enabled and available to all members of the Department of Defense with Internet access and an Army Defense Knowledge Online account.

The module provides an integrated management system where users can upload training certificates, appointment letters, reports and termination letters. It has an automated e-mail notification system to alert COR supervisors and contracting officers of pending actions for approval. It also identifies the varied levels and complexity of acquisitions and COR training types A, B and C.

Procurement Instruction Letter 2012-06 outlines the policy for certification and training of CORs. All CORs appointed on or after Aug. 1 are required to meet the new certification and training requirements.

Proper development and implementation of VCE CORM will result in enhanced contractor oversight, sharing of information and documentation of activity.

The point of contact for the new OPORD is Lelani Banks. For more information, call her at 256-895-9472.

(Article courtesy Huntsville Center Contracting Directorate)

Defense Department releases mobility device strategy

The Department of Defense announced June 15 the release of a mobile device strategy that identifies information technology goals and objectives to capitalize on the full potential of mobile devices.

The strategy focuses on improving three areas critical to mobility: wireless infrastructure, mobile devices and mobile applications and works to ensure these areas remain reliable, secure and flexible enough to keep up with fast-changing technology.

"The Department of Defense is taking a leadership role in leveraging mobile device technology to improve information sharing, collaboration and efficiencies," said Teri Takai, Department of Defense chief information officer.

"As today's DoD personnel become increasingly mobile, a wide variety of devices offers unprecedented opportunities to advance the operational effectiveness of the DoD work force. This strategy will allow mobile activities across the department to converge toward a common vision and approach."

The scope of the DoD mobile device user base is significant, with more than 250,000 commercial mobile devices and several thousand Apple and Android operating systems, including pilots.

The Mobile Device Strategy is intended to align the progress of these various mobile devices, pilots and initiatives across DoD under common objectives to ensure the warfighter

benefits from these activities and aligns with efforts in the Joint Information Environment.

"The DoD Mobile Device Strategy takes advantage of existing technology, the ability to use or build custom apps, and a work force increasingly comfortable with mobile devices," said Takai.

"This strategy is not simply about embracing the newest technology -- it is about keeping the DoD work force relevant in an era when information and cyberspace play a critical role in mission success."

For more information, go to: <http://www.defense.gov/news/dodmobilitystrategy.pdf>

(Article courtesy Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense Public Affairs)

Metering systems approved for network use

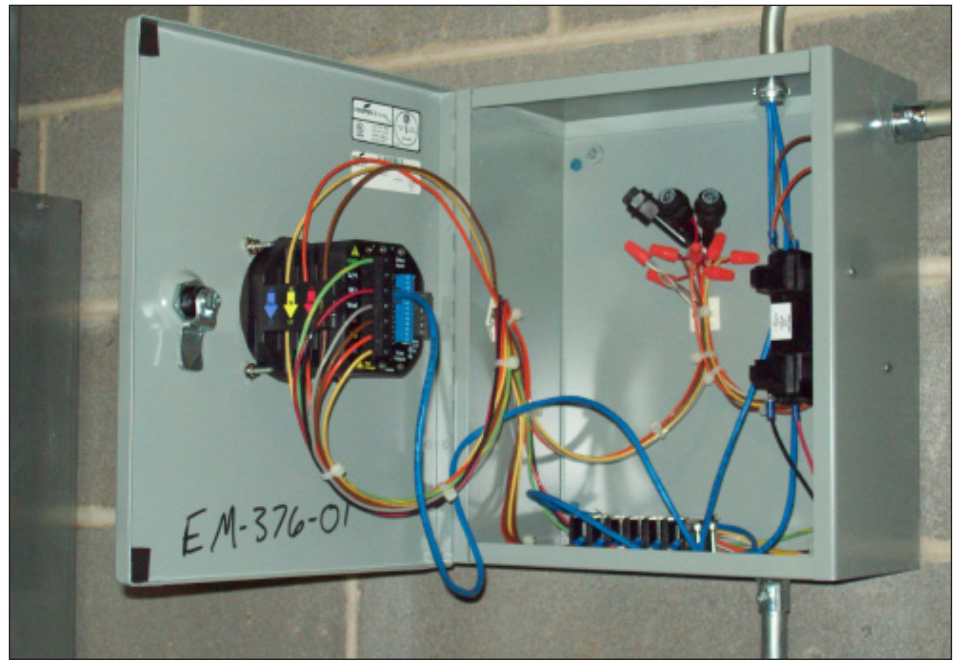
By James Campbell
Public Affairs Office

Huntsville Center has four configurations of advanced power meters approved for use by the U.S. Army Network Command as of June 1.

The Enterprise Energy Data Reporting System received notice May 23 that systems from Honeywell Inc., of Morristown, N.J., and Tridium Inc., of Richmond, Va., were approved as network-worthy, joining configurations from Johnson Controls Inc., of Huntsville, Ala., and Quark Communications, Inc., of Cardiff, Calif., said John Trudell, Huntsville Center Meter Data Management Systems program manager.

The certification allows Energy Managers, Departments of Public Works and other facility managers to continue toward their mandate to record and report energy use, Trudell said.

Thousands of advanced metering systems have been installed across the Army since 2008 and many are reporting locally. The more complex task of certifying these systems to work across the service's enterprise network will eventually allow for Army-wide



File photo

This meter, installed at a facility on Redstone Arsenal in 2009, provides customers with a centralized view of energy and water consumption, energy efficiency and energy management.

reporting and diagnostics, Trudell said. Recent developments include an urgent push for network certification from an Army Executive Order in 2011 that directs existing, Army-wide metering efforts to continue and earn network certification and identifies U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the program manager.

The Army Central Meter Program

aims to meet requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 by providing customers with a centralized view of energy and water consumption, energy efficiency and energy management.

Testing of two other configurations is expected to finish this year, with one in August and the other in October.

The Army Metering Program

- In the past, the U.S. Army facilities did not use meters to measure electricity or natural gas usage; rather, installations received one big energy bill that was not broken down by individual buildings.
- That situation started to change with the passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which requires metering in federal buildings by Oct. 1, 2012.
- The Huntsville Center is responsible for managing the execution of the Army Metering Program (and other energy programs) for the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and the Installation Management Command.
- It is estimated that 12,200 electric meters will be required for the Army to meet the congressionally mandated requirements.
- To date, Huntsville Center's metering program has installed more than 8,000 electric and 3,000 natural gas meters at 48 major installations.

Future Center leaders develop through coursework, ready for increased responsibility

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

Twenty one Huntsville Center employees recently completed coursework designed to provide the participants with the leadership skills they need to use as they progress in their careers.

The experience gained by 18 graduates of the Leadership Development Program Level II and three graduates of LDP-III A are particularly important in an employee's career development according to Rick Suever, Huntsville Center's Business Management Office chief.

"The Civilian Education System courses are a prerequisite to any of the advanced training offered by the Army and DoD," Suever said.

The Huntsville Center Leadership Development Program consists of a number of levels that are designed to provide participants with the leadership skills they need to progress in their respective careers.

The program structure is based on the following premises: Leadership learning is a career-long effort, not just a one-time event; leadership skills needed vary depending upon an employee's responsibility; structure minimizes the time between training and direct application of the skills learned.

Suever said the LDP is not intended to be sequential. "Participants sign up for the level most appropriate for their responsibilities, regardless of whether or not they completed any lower levels," he said.

Although participating in the LDP program isn't mandatory for Center employees, Suever said every employee needs to know there are tools available to prepare them for leadership.

"This training not only helps you develop the skills necessary to lead effectively, the understanding of the leadership role also helps you become



Photo by William S. Farrow

Rachel Ray, Engineering Directorate, makes her final essay presentation prior to the presentation of Leadership Development Program Level II graduation.

a better team member. The long-term viability of the organization depends on how well we are able to perform in both roles," he said.

Blaine Guidry, Engineering Directorate project manager and LDP Level II graduate agreed with Suever's assessment.

"The LDP curriculum helped me develop a foundation of leadership skills that I can use to build on for future development as a leader at the Center," he said.

"The skills I learned in communication, change, time management, and strengths as well as different leadership styles, will carry forward with me in everything I do. I recommend this program to anyone at the Center that is interested in developing their leadership skills."

Suever said he is leading an evaluation of the program with an intent to align it with Headquarters USACE guidance contained in Engineer Regulation 690-1-1214 USACE Leadership Development Program.

The ER was signed last year and identifies the required elements of a

multi-tiered program. Under this ER, HQUSACE will sponsor the level IV program.

Leadership Development Program – Level II

Graduates Receiving

Certificates: Andrew Bleichrodt, Ryan Bowers, James Campbell, Deborah Clark, Stephanie Curths, Lillian Fox, Blaine Guidry, Jerrell Henley, Adam Humphrey, Jelani Ingram, Brian Johnson, Jacqueline Johnson, Tracy Lynch, Rachel Ray, Jerry Rowell, Brian Spear, Adam Sunstrom and Teresa Whalen.

Leadership Development Program – Level III

Graduates Receiving

Certificates: Rex McLaury, Cheryl Renz-Olar and Jean Allan.

Engineer Day picnic Center's popular party

Huntsville Center's Engineer Day Awards Ceremony recognized the Center's top performers with awards for their hard work. However, the Center's employees and their families showed they play hard too as the picnic portion of the celebration featured the food, fellowship and activities that makes the annual event so special to the hundreds of attendees. Although local barbecue was catered for the event, there was plenty of activity surrounding the many grills (top right) brought to the event. While the softball games provided folks with a chance to show off their batting skills (right) and the annual volleyball tournament was as popular as ever (far right), cornhole players (below) showed their tossing skills at the trendy lawn game in which players take turns throwing bean bags at a raised platform with a hole in the far end. With a karaoke DJ available, there was an opportunity to show off singing skills although most people preferred to do the Wobble (below right).



Photo by James Campbell



Photo by William S. Farrow



Photo by Bruce Phillips



Photo by James Campbell



Photo by James Campbell

Ethics Corner

Know the rules for giving retirement gifts

**By Clay Weisenberger
Office of Council**

As we prepare for the retirement of our commander, many of us will show appreciation for this service and achievements by purchasing a gift or contributing to the purchase of a group gift. There is nothing wrong with honoring superiors, subordinates and coworkers as they depart Huntsville Center, so long as you follow a few simple guidelines.

In general, gifts to supervisors are allowed on appropriate occasions, such as birthdays or holidays. These occasional gifts may not exceed \$10 in value. Exceptions to the rule include special occasions like marriage, illness, or birth of a child, as well as “events that terminate the superior-subordinate relationship,” such as retirement or a PCS transfer. To help clarify the retirement gift rules, let’s answer a few common questions.

How much can I spend on an individual gift for a retiring supervisor or co-worker in a higher pay grade? There is no express limit on individual gifts. The test in determining the price of the gift should be whether it is appropriate to the occasion.

How much can I contribute toward a group gift? Group members may not solicit contributions of more than \$10 from other group members.

What is the total maximum value of a group gift? Group gifts are limited to a maximum of \$300. Some of you may be thinking, “Group gifts are capped at \$300, but individual gifts are unlimited?” Absolutely correct. That is another story for another time.

Can we pitch in to give money as a present? A popular retirement gift idea from days gone by is the old retirement reception money tree. Under today’s ethics regulations, cash is never an appropriate gift. Gift certificates may be purchased, so long as they have no intrinsic value and cash cannot be given on the balance after a purchase.

Are we allowed to have a reception with cake and punch? What about a band? Yes. The cost of food, refreshments and entertainment provided to the employee and his or her personal guests to mark the special occasion does not count toward the \$300 limit. Note: This is not to be paid with appropriated funds.

What about retirement gifts to those who are not supervisors or in a higher pay grade? There are no legal restrictions on gifts given to peers or subordinates; however, common sense (and good taste) should apply.

If you have questions, please feel free to call me at (256) 895-1140.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ENGINEERING AND SUPPORT CENTER, HUNTSVILLE
P.O. BOX 1600
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35807-4301**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED