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Huntsville Center

# Bulletin

## ***On the inside ...***

### **Small business forum set**

■ Page 5

### **MRR's Groh recognized with medal**

■ Page 6

### **12 USACE priorities posted**

■ Page 7

### **Improving morale, reducing stress**

■ Page 8, 9

### **Center's suicide stand down set**

■ Page 10

### **Disability Employment Awareness Month**

■ Page 11

## **Medical Facilities Center of Expertise shares award spotlight**

**By James Campbell  
Public Affairs Office**

**T**he U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville has ties to a winning project in the 2012 Chief of Engineers Awards of Excellence program, with professionals from the Medical Facilities Center of Expertise and Standardization supporting the U.S. Army Health Facilities Planning Agency, Fort Bliss, Texas; contract firm Rogers Lovelock and Fritz, Inc., Orlando, Fla.; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District in their design of the new Weed Army Community Hospital, Fort Irwin, Calif.

The project earned the Design Category Honor Award in Conceptual Design for what the six member jury said was a ground-breaking concept.

By aiming for net-zero energy use, a noteworthy if not remarkable achievement on any project – let alone a hospital – this project seeks to break the past stereotypes in medical design of reliance



**An architectural concept design of the Weed Army Community Hospital, Fort Irwin, Calif.**

on energy and natural resources, according to the six-member jury comprised of government and industry experts.

"The Center's team wrote a project-tailored set of engineering instructions and submittal documentation requirements for the project, essentially defining the medical-specific design scope for the Architect-Engineering design effort," said Yashpal Kainth, Southwest Region project director, MCX.

The A-E for the project was selected, with MCX input, from one of five unrestricted firms engaged in the Center's Medical Indefinite Delivery, Indefinite Quantity contract mechanism, which enabled us to get under design in a very rapid time frame, Kainth said.

The MCX project and technical teams participated in early planning meetings and the design charrette in order to familiarize themselves with the site and work closely with base engineering personnel,

**See AWARD on page 5**

# Commander's thoughts

As of press time, we were closing in on year-end. Final figures aren't in yet, but Huntsville Center has exceeded its workload – going from \$1.6 billion in FY11 to approximately \$1.7 billion this year. I want to thank everyone for pulling together to meet our year-end challenges. Along with the hard work were some activities designed to build teamwork and relieve stress. I think it worked.

Last month I was able to start visiting our customers and stakeholders. I spent time with the DASA (E&S) Mr. Richard Kidd and EITF Executive Director Mr. John Lushetsky and they were extremely complimentary in their remarks dealing with our team.

The same went for a visit with senior Health Affairs personnel from OSD, Army, Navy and Air Force. This month I plan to visit our Chemical Demilitarization site at Blue Grass, Ky.

In September we started working on our FY13 Implementation Plan. The Chief revised the USACE Campaign Plan Goals a little, and we are working to ensure our actions line up with the new goals as well as the 12 USACE Priorities.

The 12 USACE Priorities (see page 7) are displayed in the trophy case in the lobby and will be circulated further once finalized. The Campaign Plan Goals are

expected to be finalized by the end of the calendar year.

October continues Hispanic Heritage Month until Oct. 15. The observance was Sept. 25 on Redstone Arsenal.

October is also Disability Employment Awareness Month. Our Equal Employment Opportunity Office has an event planned Oct. 24, from 10-11 a.m., in our cafeteria. I hope you can all join us.

Held each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

This year's theme is "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can YOU Do?"

Oct. 10 we will conduct suicide prevention training for supervisors. Supervisors will then provide training to employees. Unfortunately, suicide continues to be a problem, not only for active duty military, but also civilian employees and family members. The training will focus on minimizing suicidal behavior by training our employees on how to recognize signs of suicidal behavior, intervention strategies and how to refer individuals for care.

Our goal is to ensure the safety and



Col. Robert Ruch

health of Huntsville Center employees. If we are aware of what to look for, we can help stop this tragedy from occurring.

At the end of the month is Halloween. Kids love to get dressed up and get free candy. There are lots of safety tips such as don't get in a car with a stranger, cross the street safely, check the candy, etc.

In this area, a lot of places sponsor trunk or treat events. Keep safety in mind when attending those events as well. It may seem like a safer environment, but your children will still be around a lot of people they don't know. So, keep safety in mind while you have a fun and safe Halloween.

## The Bulletin asks: "How will you show your boss appreciation on National Boss Day Oct. 16?"



"I have several bosses so one of the ways I will show them my appreciation is to actually tell them how much I appreciate their leadership. I will volunteer to take on more responsibilities that will free them to perform their supervisory duties. I'll also find ways to reassure them that I can be trusted to do my job."

**Ruth Smith**  
Installation Support and Programs Management



"I suppose I might tell him Happy Boss Day, give him a small gift and take him out to lunch if he doesn't already have plans. Management is a lot of hard work; so I think Boss Day is a great opportunity to say thank you to those who help develop good employees within our organization."

**Jeffrey Hoki**  
Chemical Demilitarization Directorate



"I will take the time to show him that I appreciate what he has done for me by thanking him for giving me a chance to show him my capabilities. He saw a potential for success in me and made the decision to make me a part of his team. It means a lot for me to have him as my supervisor, and he should know it."

**Angela Brown**  
Engineering Directorate

### Hails and farewells

**Hail:** Drew Lange, Mary Young, William Strong, Engineering Directorate; Keri Daniels, Nathaniel Cunningham, Edward Dingle Jr., Center Contracting Directorate; Vernon Petty, Installation Support and Programs Management.  
**Farewell:** Tom Weeks, Jamie Hubbard, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; Nicholas Moore, CT; Victoria Walker, ISPM; Carol Zurowski, ED.



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### BULLETIN

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



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Army officials announced the winners of its greatest inventions competition Sept. 19. A team of combat veteran non-commissioned officers, as well as U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command field-grade officers, reviewed and voted for the Army Greatest Inventions of 2011. To see the inventions, click:

[http://www.army.mil/article/87543/Army\\_announces\\_greatest\\_inventions\\_of\\_2011/](http://www.army.mil/article/87543/Army_announces_greatest_inventions_of_2011/)



# Employee Spotlight:

## Bob Selfridge

By Jo Anita Miley  
Public Affairs Office

**What is your job title and where do you work?** I am a chief geophysicist in Engineering Directorate's Geotechnical Branch.

**How long have you worked for the Corps?** I have worked for the Corps and Huntsville Center for 15 years.

**In your own words, what is your job? What do you do?**

I apply geophysical techniques to solving environmental and engineering problems at home and abroad.

My team is heavily involved in applying innovative solutions to improve safety, data quality and production in the Military Munitions Response

Program. To achieve these ends, we mount geophysical detector arrays on helicopters, boats, underwater remotely operated vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles and tracked vehicles.

The majority of our projects at Huntsville Center are with the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, which includes the Conventional Ordnance Design Center, Chemical Warfare Design Center and the International Operations Division. Our geophysicists also work closely with Army and Air Force labs and

assist other Department of Defense organizations with special research programs.

**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 we have a national and international



**Bob Selfridge uses a man portable simultaneous electromagnetic and magnetic detector to look for potential buried munitions at Martha's Vineyard, Mass.**

mission that requires unique, specialized, expert technical competencies to achieve mission success for the Department of Army and Defense Department activities. The geotechnical branch provides customer solutions that help drive technology transfer from the research, development, test and evaluation arena to the task execution level with our large pool of ordnance contractors. We also work with developing robotics systems for brush clearing operations and geophysical

surveying operations looking for buried munitions.

**How do you see your job making a difference and contributing to the Corps' success?** For more than 15 years, geophysicists at the Center have been instrumental in improving our contractors' capabilities moving from an analog detector methodology to a digital geophysical mapping approach that is now the industry standard used throughout the nation. DGM has allowed us to improve our data processing techniques to detect items at deeper depths than in the past, and dramatically improving our success rate for buried item recovery while providing a long-term digital site record. We now have the capability to survey in areas previously not accessible like ponds, swamps, rivers and oceans. So we are improving production rates and reducing overall project costs on Corps projects and are an integral part in the technology transfer process.

**What do you love about your job?** I enjoy the people I get to work with and meet as part of my job. My project team is an amazing multi-disciplinary group of individuals. I also get to meet landowners across the globe as our teams literally work in their back yards. I also love that I get to ask the question on a daily basis, "How can we improve this process?" After brainstorming within our office, we have an opportunity to test our ideas and evaluate the cost and performance impact these changes make on the Military Munitions Response Program.

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](mailto:JoAnita.Miley@usace.army.mil).

## AWARD

continued from page 1

hospital facility management and the contract firm on critical issues such as energy conservation design, availability of utilities and preliminary engineering system selections for the new facility, Kainth said.

"This year, more than 70 nominations were submitted – more than double that over each of the last six years," said Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, USACE commanding general, in a Sept. 4 letter announcing the winners.

"A jury composed of nationally-recognized design and environmental

professionals have singled out 15 projects and individuals for awards this year. The number and level of awards given by the juries indicate the high standard of work produced by every team who entered."

The annual Chief of Engineers Awards of Excellence program dates back to 1965, but this spring, the Corps of Engineers unveiled a more comprehensive awards program which combines the USACE Sustainability Awards, Energy Hall of Fame and the Design and Environmental Awards Programs into a new all-encompassing program.

The new Awards of Excellence Program recognizes and rewards exceptional performance by individuals and teams demonstrating excellence in overall quality, sustainability or energy performance by supporting Corps of Engineers goals, such as those in the USACE Sustainability Plan and Executive Order 13514: Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance.

Some of the USACE winners went forward to compete in the federal Green Gov awards program.

## Small businesses invited to discuss programs with Huntsville Center officials, managers

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is conducting its 13th annual Small Business Forum, 9 a.m.-noon, Nov. 9, at the University of Alabama, Huntsville, University Center.

Rebecca Vucinaj, Huntsville Center Small Business Office chief, said the event is an opportunity for small business representatives to talk with contracting officials and program managers from Huntsville Center about the Center's programs.

"We'll provide an overview of regulation changes over the past year that affected small business concerns and highlight upcoming procurements," Vucinaj said. "This is a great networking opportunity since small business firms with similar interests meet and often team together to go after some of the Center's larger procurements."

Vucinaj also said larger business representatives looking for small businesses to support their subcontracting goals are also in attendance.

Vucinaj said the biggest procurement opportunities for small business concerns during FY13 will be support for the following programs: Utility Monitoring and Control Systems; Operations & Maintenance Engineering Enhancement Program; Initial



File photo

**Business owners and people representing small businesses from across the nation convened in Huntsville last year for Huntsville Center's 12th Annual Small Business Forum. The forum allows Huntsville Center representatives and business owners and representatives to talk about the Center's programs and future opportunities.**

Outfitting and Transition Services; Design/Build Services for Access Control Points and Energy Conservation Investment Program; Architect and Engineering Services for Medical Repair and Renewal.

Pre-registration opens Oct. 1 for the Small Business Forum and is highly encouraged to help ensure appropriate representation of subject matter experts.

Registration is free with information available on the Web at <http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil>.



## Groh's work recognized with Army Achievement Medal



Photo by Bruce Hudgins

**Col. Robert Ruch, Huntsville Center commander, left, presents Lt. Cmdr. Brandon Groh with the Army Achievement Medal Sept. 10. Groh is a civil engineer and an officer in the U.S. Public Health Services Commissioned Corps where he serves as an expert in the field of health care facility construction and renovation.**

### By William S. Farrow Public Affairs Office

**L**t. Cmdr. Brandon Groh, a project manager with the Medical Repair and Renewal Program, was presented an Army Achievement Medal Sept. 10, by Col. Robert Ruch, Huntsville Center commander.

As a Public Health Service Officer assigned to MRR, Groh is detailed to the Center as a subject matter expert in the field of construction and renovation in health care facilities.

According to the citation, Groh's efforts helped MRR projects realize cost avoidances in excess of \$400,000. This past year Groh managed 20 task orders valued at more than \$53 million. The primary project locations he's served are Fort Detrick, Md., Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Bragg, N.C.

Groh, a Lafayette, La., native, graduated with a bachelor's of science degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Colorado-Boulder before receiving his commission.

The U.S. Public Health Service

Commissioned Corps is the federal uniformed service of the U. S. Public Health Service and is one of the seven uniformed services of the U.S. Officers of the PHSCC receive their commissions through the PHSCC's direct commissioning program.

Wearing the same uniforms as the Navy with special corps insignia, PHSC officers hold ranks equivalent to those of naval officers. Although classified as noncombatants, PHSC Corps officers may be directed to serve as part of the armed forces by the president or detailed to a service branch of the armed forces.

Groh said he is proud to be the first USPHS officer detailed to the Corps of Engineers and humbled to be recognized for his work here at the Center.

"I sincerely hope the word of my good work spreads and USACE can find more ways to incorporate PHS officers into the vital programs that protect, promote and advance the health and safety of our nation, Groh said.

## Mission Focus:

### Medical Repair and Renewal Program

**T**he Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate's Medical Repair and Renewal Program at Huntsville Center offers a fast track, efficient method for design and execution of all types of medical facility repairs, renovations, conversions, alterations, additions and construction projects.

MRR provides program/project management, engineering, contracting and construction support to multiple Department of Defense and non-DoD agencies/locations nationwide.

Last fiscal year, MRR managed more than 100 projects valued at more than \$350 million and awarded approximately \$118 million in new medical facility repair/renovation projects for the U.S. Army Medical Command, the Air Force, the Navy and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

MRR also supported the local Corps of Engineers districts and installation departments of public works in the execution of various medical projects that could not be executed with available district/DPW resources. The key to MRR's success is the innovative use of Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contracts covering all 50 states and territories. These contracts, and how MRR uses them, offer many benefits and advantages.

The MRR program maintains Blanket Purchase Agreements, Architect Engineer Services and Design Build/Construction IDIQ contracts available to execute customer requirements.



# Twelve USACE Priorities



- Support the Combatant Commander and Support Central Command in winning the current fight
- Support the Army and nation in achieving energy security and sustainability goals
- Develop USACE 2020
- Streamline USACE business and governance processes
- Transform civil works to deliver the best possible products and services to the nation
- Build strong people and teams through leader development and talent management
- Enhance our interagency disaster response and recovery capability
- Ensure critical enabling technologies
- Strengthen and further teamwork in the joint engineer force in support of Joint Force 2020
- Partner with Installation Management Command to deliver and maintain enduring installations and contingency basing
- Build strategic engagements with all customers and teammates
- Support the Engineer Regiment

## Service Contract Approval Request updated

**T**he Service Contract Approval Request, or SCAR, is intended as a single-source tool for both the requirements and contracting communities and as a comprehensive compilation of all regulatory and statutory requirements related to Army service contracts (see FAR 7.502 Applicability).

A "service contract" is for tasks to be performed, rather than supplies to be delivered. As detailed in the policy, the following are not considered services subject to the SCAR process:

- Manufacturing/production contracts
- Utilities
- Subscriptions
- Off-the-shelf software
- Vertical construction (although repair and maintenance of facilities are considered services)

- Help desk and customer service support incidental to equipment or off-the-shelf software purchases
- Software licensing agreements and updates (customized software development, maintenance and upgrades, however, are considered services)
- Foreign military sales/services; Manufacturer's warranties (extended maintenance/repair beyond the standard manufacturer's warranty, however, is considered a service)
- Delivery services incidental to a supply purchase

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army - Manpower and Reserve Affairs recently updated the SCAR to incorporate recent regulatory changes. Effective Oct. 1, the SCAR (version dated 10 August 2012) shall be used and completed for all new services acquisition requirements and all other versions are obsolete.

If an acquisition already had an approved/certified SCAR in the file, they do not need a new one.

However, each new services requirements package must include a completed SCAR. Additional detail on the specific changes as well as the updated SCAR can be located at the link:

<http://www.asamra.army.mil/scra/documents/ServicesContractApprovalForm.pdf>

Project delivery teams are encouraged to carefully review the updated SCAR and work closely with their requiring activities to facilitate the use of the latest revision of the form (see AFARS 5107.503(e)). If you have questions, please consult your chain of command or contact the Oversight and Operations Division in the Contracting Directorate.

(Article courtesy Center Contracting)



# Fun, activities improve morale, reduce stress during end of fiscal year surge

By JoAnita Miley  
Public Affairs Office

Year-end requirements have many employees at Huntsville Center working harder and longer hours during the weeks and days leading up to Sept. 30.

To reduce stress and heighten morale, some Center employees have found inexpensive ways to make the workplace a bit more fun.

During September, offices throughout the Center have a variety of activities scheduled to help relieve stress and build camaraderie.

Events included a “Tailgate” and “Chili Cook-Off” contest and “Crazy Hat,” “Twin,” “Hawaiian,” and “Nerd” Days. Other activities included pot lucks and making T-shirts--all to help survive the stress of year end.

An increase in the workload this fiscal year has caused many offices to scale back on year-end social events, Joaquin Tucker, contract specialist and special projects officer in Contracting Directorate co-chairs the committee responsible for improving morale in his office. Tucker said his office has taken a more conservative approach to year-end social events.

Elizabeth Jackson, an administrative assistant in the Center’s Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate, is responsible for year-end activities this year. She said her office will host limited social gatherings.

“ISPM will only participate in two activities this year – a silly hat contest and a sit-down dinner Sept. 30,” Jackson said. “It was fun to dress up and see the wacky hats our team wore for the contest,” she said. “It took away some of the focus on our hectic year-end schedule.”

Tucker said he was very pleased with the amazing employee turnout for many of the Center Contracting year-



Above, Jeff Blackmon, Installation Support and Programs Management, Angela Morton, Equal Employment Opportunity Office and Clay Weisenberger, Office of Counsel, take their time judging submissions for the Chili Cook-Off contest held in the Center cafeteria. Right, Carla McNeal, Resource Management Directorate, leads her office in a fun walk to provide physical activity for stress relief.

end social events. Several employees in Contracting agreed.

“Our management highly encourages us to do this,” said Mona Neal, chief of the Oversight and Operations Division.

“Although we have several event days during year end, we start out with our annual tailgate,” she said. “It’s a great way to let off stress, get to know one another and create that team effort – I love it!”

Victor Taylor, Safety Office chief, said his office is concerned that employees know where to go for help to deal with year-end stress. Although

participating in fun an activity does help; there are several resources available to help them to relieve year-end stress, whether work or home induced.

“One resource available to government employees is the Employee Assistance Program at Redstone Arsenal, who provides trained counseling professionals to help employee deal with their stressors,” Taylor said.

“Another resource is the Center’s Wellness Center,” he said. “Supervisors are also willing to work with employees and are another valuable resource.”



Above, Installation Support and Programs Management Director Valerie Shippers (center) won the ISPM silly hat contest. Below, one of the most well attended events annually is the lunch-time “tailgate Party” set up in the Center parking lot.







# Grand Theft Auto vs. Trick or Treat...

## Understanding disclosures of information in the public domain

By Dave Grob  
G-2, Army Foreign Disclosure

There is no shortage of useful and interesting information that folks have access to by way of that little “Google Machine” they have sitting on their desk. Since we are dealing with the World Wide Web, it is stark but obvious reality that access to information on the Internet is global.

Where this becomes problematic for the disclosure community is our understanding of and applying the definition of what we actually consider to be information residing in this public domain.

According to Department of Defense Instruction 5230.29, “Security and Policy Review of DoD Information for Public Release,” information intended for placement on Websites, or other publicly accessible computer servers available to everyone without access controls, still requires review for public release if it meets certain criteria (see paragraph 1 of Enclosure 3 to DoDI 5230.29 for criteria).

However, if the information is posted to a publicly accessible DoD Internet forum that anyone can access without access controls, then it has been posted with the foreknowledge and consent of the U.S. government.

The DoD has made a conscious decision to place this information, which it owns, in the public domain for the viewer’s benefit and use.

Suffice it to say, the DoD is not the only source for DoD information on the Internet. Any number of non-DoD or non-DoD affiliated Websites currently hosts copies of

official reports, briefings and doctrinal/technical publications of interest to a foreign or international audience. If this information has not been vetted and identified for public release, then the DoD doesn’t consider it as having been released into the public domain. As a means of illustration, let’s look at a couple of examples and supporting analogies.

### Grand Theft Auto

You find yourself walking down the road. It’s hot and your feet are dogged tired. You come across a car parked on the street. The driver’s side door is open, the keys are in the ignition, the engine is running and the air conditioning is blasting cold air.

There is no sign, warning or other information telling you that you’re not free and invited to hop in and drive way. You know it’s not your car. Do you jump in and drive away? Of course not. Now consider the above scenario within the context of DoD information posted or hosted on a non-DoD Website.

A foreign government official wants to get a copy of a particular Army publication that can be found in the public domain on a non-DoD Website.

The document can be found simply by “Googleing” the title. It can clearly be found and obtained by anyone and on a site without access controls. Do you just go ahead and download a copy or send them the link you found? Of course not, just like you wouldn’t hop in the car and drive away. At a minimum, you are going to look at the particular publication’s distribution statement.

If the publication is marked for Public Release, then you are free to

act on a previously made affirmative decision by the government to place the information into the public domain.

If the document is not marked for Public Release, then you don’t know the intent of the owner nor do you have their consent to disclose. Both are essential policy requirements necessary to ask and have answered in the affirmative before you can disclose the information sought.

### Trick-or-Treat

Since my children are adults, I now take the easy way out on Halloween. I place the candy I’m willing to provide the trick-or-treaters in a bowl on the porch with a sign that reads “Do not ring the doorbell-please take only one.”

I ensure that the only items placed in the bowl are individually wrapped, brand name, commercially available candies. In doing this, my actions portray an obvious intent to make these treats available in an unfettered manner to anyone and everyone who comes to my door.

The treats I have left would be considered, by a reasonable person, to be appropriate for the forum or venue they are being offered. Once they take the candy, they are free to do with it what they wish.

They can eat it, trade it or toss it out when they get home as all of this is well within the intent of why I placed the treats out there in the first place.

Now consider the above scenario within the context of DoD information posted or hosted on a DoD Website that is available to everyone; without access control. A country you are

See DISCLOSURES on page 11

## DISCLOSURES

continued from page 10

working with is interested in learning about the Army’s Maneuver Center of Excellence.

You hop on your “Google Machine” and type in “maneuver center of excellence” and one of the hits you get is publicly viewable Website of <http://www.benning.army.mil/>.

You notice that this official Army Website contains information available to all as well as information/sections that require Army Knowledge Online access. In short, the information/sections that a person can access without controls or special permissions represent “the candy in the bowl.”

The foreign government can take as much as they want, when they want and do with it what they will.

Since the foreign government approached you on the subject of the MSE, you have the option of either forwarding them the link, or even building your own briefing off of the publicly available information.

Neither of these options requires any further foreign disclosure or OSR review since the Army (in accordance with DoDI 5230.29) has already made a conscious decision to place this information in the public domain.

The Army has demonstrated its intent to share this information in an

unfettered manner and the Army also is in the position to rightfully grant its consent for it.

As you look to either evaluate requests for information residing on the Internet or educate your command on the policies and procedures relating to it, remember to focus your physical and intellectual efforts on the issues of intent and consent.

Your understanding of all this and your ability to effectively communicate it is critical in the difference between a sweet treat (the candy in the bowl) and an apparent sweet ride (grand theft auto).

### Future of the Corps?



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

Students from the Madison County School District congregate at the Huntsville Center career table to learn about careers with the federal government Sept. 7 during the Madison County College and Career Expo sponsored by Junior Achievement of North Alabama. More than 6,200 juniors and seniors from the Huntsville and Madison County school systems, and several local private schools, attended the two-day educational outreach event Sept. 7-8 in the Fitness Center at the University of Alabama-Huntsville.



# Center’s suicide stand down set for Oct.10

By William S. Farrow  
Public Affairs Office

Sept. 27 Armywide suicide “stand down,” ordered by Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, was seen as a way to empower leadership to prevent further loss of life due to suicide.

However, due to mission requirements, Huntsville Center’s stand down is set for Oct. 10.

The stand down is meant to familiarize all members of the Army family with the health promotion, risk reduction, suicide prevention and comprehensive Soldier and family fitness resources available in the Army.

At the Center, supervisors will receive their training from 9-noon in the cafeteria. Supervisors are then responsible for providing training to subordinates.

The length of the office training will be determined by whatever “chain-teaching” requirements the Center is given.

Maximum participation is required and people who miss the training will have to attend a make-up session conducted by their supervisors, Oct. 11-12 and Oct. 15-16.

“This is an extensive effort throughout the Army,” explained Victor Taylor, Huntsville Center Safety Office chief. “But, suicide is a problem for Soldiers, their families and civilian employees. No one is exempt from excessive stress and its many effects (including suicide).”

Taylor said after the training sessions are complete, each attendee will sign an attendance roster which will be maintained by the directorate or subordinate office and each office is responsible for providing their consolidated completion report to the Safety Office by Oct. 16. Supervisors who do not report 100 percent completion will need to provide the number of employees who did



not complete the training with an explanation as to why the training wasn’t completed.

After compiling the attendance rosters, Lt. Col. William Burruss, Huntsville Center deputy commander, will direct the Center’s report to the G-3 at HQUSACE by Oct. 19.

The stand down training will focus on how to improve the health and discipline of the force and reducing the stigma associated with seeking care for behavioral health issues.

The stand down was issued after Austin visited installations around the Army and listened to Soldier feedback and suggestions, said Walter O. Morales, chief of the Army Suicide Prevention Program.

“He realized more work was needed to address the issue of suicides in the Army and to ensure the awareness and training momentum continues,” Morales said.

The last Armywide suicide prevention stand down took place in 2009. During that event, Morales said, the Army used the “chain teach” approach to push information down to Soldiers.

“For example, the Army required that specific training materials would be used and specific training requirements met, although some supplemental

training was allowed, such as leader-led discussions,” he said.

This time, Morales said, the stand down will be different.

“Activities and training will be less prescriptive,” he said. “Commanders now have the flexibility to assess the needs of their units and customize the training and activities.”

Although the stand down is just for one day, Morales said training and activities were conducted throughout September, which is recognized in the Army as Suicide Prevention Month.

Efforts will likely continue into October, particularly for the Reserve Component.

The theme this year for suicide prevention month -- “A healthy force is a ready force” -- reflects the Army’s awareness that healthy people and mission go together, Morales said.

“We’re not just worried about suicides, we’re concerned with the overall fitness and well-being of our Soldiers, Army civilians and family members,” he said.

“It is especially important that leaders lead the charge in changing the Army culture, wherever seeking help for suicide or other issues is stigmatized.”

*((David Vergun, Army News Service, contributed to this article))*

# Submersible takes investigation to new depths

By Kate Newton  
Louisville District

Towed sensor array technology developed and built by the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville and Science Applications International Corporation has been put to work by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District to help identify underwater anomalies in the Kishwaukee River at Camp Grant, Ill.

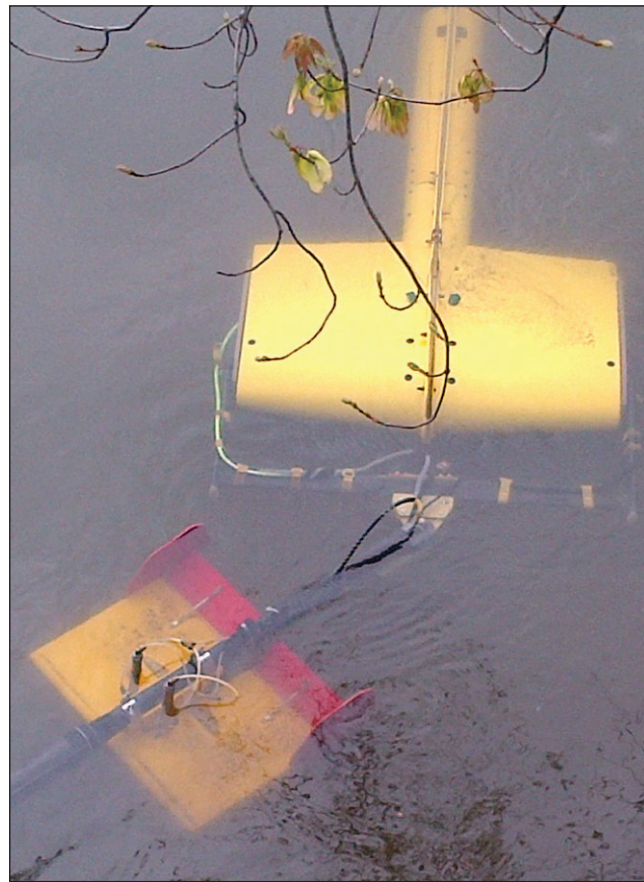
This technology will also be evaluated for use in an upcoming Chesapeake Bay survey at Fort Monroe, Va.

This new underwater technology, the Underwater Simultaneous EMI and Magnetometer, called USEMS, employs a two-sensor array to locate underwater anomalies. The first sensor array, a magnetometer, detects ferrous metals including those that are buried deep below the silt line. The second sensor array, electromagnetic, detects all metals, including aluminum and brass, found on the bottom or just below the silt line. USEMS is the only marine system in the world to simultaneously deploy these two sensors.

“This dual array system allows geophysicists and explosive ordnance disposal specialists to work together in streamlining the number of anomalies that are investigated,” said Brooks Evens, the Louisville District technical manager for the two projects. “It can help distinguish between a cannonball that might be in the channel or an old boat motor that doesn’t need our attention.”

The submersible “fish” containing the two sensors looks much like a miniature submarine and is towed behind a boat attached to a carbon fiber boom.

The fish’s depth is controlled by an operator on the boat as the fish is towed one to two feet off the bottom of the riverbed. The fish’s EMI sensor sends out electromagnetic pulses to



*(Photo by Kate Newton)*

**New underwater technology is used in the Kishwaukee River at the former Camp Grant near Rockford, Ill., to help detect and characterize anomalies on the riverbed.**

detect buried metal. In addition, the fish’s magnetometer sensor measures disruptions in the Earth’s magnetic field caused by buried ferrous metal. The strength of the signals is plotted and used to determine which anomalies to investigate.

Geophysicists analyze the characteristics and then turn over a “dig sheet” to EOD specialists who then use an underwater camera for further exploration and resolution of the anomaly. The benefits of the innovative technology seem endless.

“It reduces man-hours — we’re able to cover larger zones with fewer man hours, which helps to cut cost,” Evens said. “It saves time, money and makes everything safer.”

USEMS development was funded from the Environmental Security

Technology Certification Program, and the Huntsville Center team has been working with districts on two other pilot sites to refine the technology.

The submersible proved successful in the river at Camp Grant in Rockford, Ill. in the spring. Camp Grant is a World War II Formerly Used Defense Site, used from 1915-1947, that required remediation of several rifle ranges and investigation of the Kishwaukee River, which divides the park in two.

In April, USEMS was used to identify and then investigate 35 “flagged” anomalies. Of those 35 anomalies, none were identified as munitions or explosives of concern, or MEC. Only rusted rebar, road signs and farm implements were found in the river.

“Camp Grant worked out really well,” Evens said. “It will allow us to consider expanding the current Land Use Controls out into the river or to say we don’t need to continue searching the river bottom for MEC. This helps to confirm that the river presents a low probability for encountering MEC.”

“This type of technology was a perfect solution for the Camp Grant site,” said Valerie Doss, Camp Grant project manager. “We might possibly use it again in Spoon River at Camp Ellis as well.”

Since things worked out so well in Illinois, the Corps also plans to use USEMS as one of the potential underwater technologies at Fort Monroe in Virginia in the summer of 2013.



# October recognized as National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Each October, National Disability Employment Awareness Month is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities.

This year's theme is "A Strong Workforce is an Inclusive Workforce: What Can You Do?"

Huntsville Center will recognize NDEAM at 10 a.m., Oct. 24, in the cafeteria. There will be a panel discussion on the theme by:

■ **Retired wounded warrior, 1st Lt. Jeffrey Adam** - While serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Adams of the Louisiana Army National Guard was injured when an improved explosive device was detonated approximately 10 feet from him and resulted in the loss of his left leg. Adams was medically discharged and presently works as a flight test engineer for the Army. He remains active participating in wounded warrior projects and Disabled Sports USA.

■ **Linda Cole** is employed by the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind at the Huntsville Regional Center. She presently serves as Case Manager where she provides services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Cole is responsible for initiating a late deafened and hard of hearing adult support group, developing educational workshops for the deaf community, and a deaf lab where people can use and borrow assisting devices. Cole is a graduate of Athens State University with a bachelor's degree in Personnel Psychology. She is a graduate student of Alabama A & M University with a concentration in Rehabilitation Counseling.

■ **Issac Beavers** attended the Alabama School for the Blind. He graduated from the University of



Alabama in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and presently serves as the case manager for the blind and visually impaired at the AIDB Huntsville and Shoals regional centers. Beavers is a member of various committees and boards including the Alabama State Blind Advisory Council, Alabama A & M Rehabilitation Advisory Committee, and the ASB for the Blind Advisory Board. He is currently president of the Alabama Chapter of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired and the president of ASB Alumni and Workers Association. He is a Rehabilitation Services Administration Scholar in the Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling Program at Auburn University.

America has been celebrating the contributions of workers with disabilities since creating a National Physical Disability Employment Awareness Week in 1945.

Since then the celebration has been expanded to a month and now emphasizes the contributions of people with all disabilities from all ethnic and racial groups. Upon its establishment in 2001, the Office of Disability

Employment Policy, Department of Labor, assumed responsibility for NDEAM and has worked to expand its reach and scope ever since.

Although led by ODEP, NDEAM's true spirit lies in the many observances held at the grass-roots level across the nation every year. Employers, schools and organizations of all sizes and in all communities are encouraged to participate in NDEAM.

A salute and tribute to the wounded warriors of this nation will be performed by the Army Materiel Command Band Ensemble. The posting and retrieving of the colors will be presented by the Buckhorn High School Color Guard.

When a workplace is welcoming of people with disabilities, employers gain needed skills and new perspectives on ways to confront challenges and achieve organizational success.

Employees with disabilities gain dignity, respect and self-determination. And, most importantly, society as a whole benefits from a more inclusive culture where every person is valued for his or her contributions.

All are invited and encouraged to join in on this very worthy occasion. *(Article courtesy Huntsville Center Equal Employment and Opportunity office.)*

# DOD, Redstone, Huntsville Center recognize Hispanic-American achievement



Huntsville Center celebrated Hispanic American Heritage Month with Team Redstone. The Center placed second in the Team Redstone static display competition. Yasmina Gerousis, Business Management Office, accepted the award.

By Terri Moon Cronk  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - National Hispanic Heritage Month gives the Defense Department an opportunity to recognize the significant contributions made by the nation's Hispanic-Americans, said Stephanie Miller, Department of Defense's Diversity Management director.

The observance, which began Sept. 15 and runs to Oct. 15, also provides the department an opportunity to reflect on diversity and inclusiveness, Miller said during a Sept. 11 American Forces Press Service interview.

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta has said diversity is important to the department's mission success and inclusion for military and civilian workers, she said. Not only does that bring a variety of background skills, language and cultural competencies DoD will need in the 21st century, Miller said, but diversity also fosters an environment where people feel they can achieve whatever they want.

"There are no barriers standing in the way of their personal success," she added.

Huntsville Center joined Team Redstone to honor and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a ceremony Sept. 25 at Bob Jones Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal. Personnel representing Huntsville Center submitted an entry to the Team Redstone static display contest. Huntsville Center placed second in the competition.

Census figures for 2009 show more than 50 million Hispanics live in the U. S., making them the largest minority

group. In 2011, Hispanics comprised 11 percent of active-duty military and nearly 17 percent of new recruits, Miller said. "Reflective of the nation, the Hispanic population for both military and civilians has continued to grow, particularly in the last decade since 9/11 in critical areas such as science, technology, engineering and math fields where we know there will be advancement opportunities," Miller said.

Pentagon officials are excited about the growth of Hispanic-Americans and what they will continue to achieve, she added.

"As National Hispanic Heritage Month has evolved from just a week in the 1960s to the monthlong recognition event in the late 1980s, so too has the recognition for Hispanic-Americans [in DoD]," Miller said.

Military leaders provide outreach programs in the Hispanic community, Miller added.

"We're very well-received in the Hispanic community. It's amazing to see some of our uniformed service members, especially junior officers and the junior enlisted, getting to engage with Hispanic high school or college youths," she said. "We have folks who go out and compete in rocket competitions and help [with] simulator experiences," Miller said.

"It gives (Hispanic-Americans) a broader view of what opportunities are inside DoD in uniform and as civilians. It's a unique way of recognizing the population and how much we value that presence within the department."



## **Ethics Corner**

### **New advisory on speaking and similar engagements**

**By Clay Weisenberger  
Office of Counsel**

**T**he Office of Government Ethics recently clarified when a federal employee's participation at an event constitutes "otherwise presenting information on behalf of the agency," such that acceptance of free attendance is permissible under the Standards of Ethical Conduct for Employees of the Executive Branch.

Unless an exception applies, an employee may not accept a gift from a prohibited source or a gift that is given because of the employee's official position.

The Standards of Conduct contains two exceptions by which federal personnel may accept a gift of free attendance at an event, if certain requirements are met.

The first exception is for "widely attended gatherings," which permits an employee to accept free attendance to certain large events when there has been a determination by the agency that attendance is in the interest of the agency because it will further agency programs and operations.

The second exception allows free attendance for "speaking and similar engagements." This exception has been applied more narrowly to allow free attendance only on the day of an event when the employee is assigned to participate as a speaker or panel participant, or "otherwise to present information on behalf of the agency at a

conference or other event."

The OGE advisory states that the "speaking and similar engagements" exception requires *actual participation* in the event and the conveying of information *through a presentation or other remarks*.

Traditionally this provision, which covers an employee who is assigned to take an active but less formal role than that of a speaker or panel member at an event, has been interpreted to permit attendance when there is a mere "possibility" that the attendee might give remarks.

The federal employee may accept an unsolicited gift of free attendance only if the event's host has agreed in advance that the employee will make informal remarks on behalf of the agency to attendees. An employee's "presentation" need not be given from a podium or stage, but the employee must nonetheless communicate the agency's message in a deliberate, substantive presentation.

For example, when an employee is serving as an agency liaison to a particular outside organization, active participation at periodic meetings or ongoing working groups would qualify as "presenting information on behalf of the agency" because the employee has been assigned to communicate a specific agency message.

If you have any questions, call me at (256) 895-1140 or email [clay.weisenberger@usace.army.mil](mailto:clay.weisenberger@usace.army.mil).

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