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Huntsville Center

Bulletin

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Capacity crowd attends \$7 billion renewable energy contract pre-proposal conference

**By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office**

The U.S. Army and Corps of Engineers achieved a milestone Aug. 22 when more than 600 interested individuals attended the pre-proposal conference for the \$7 billion Renewable and Alternative Energy Power Production for DoD Installations Multiple Award Task Order Contract.

The Corps of Engineers, through its Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, issued the MATOC Request for Proposal Aug. 7 for \$7 billion in total contract capacity to procure reliable, locally generated, renewable and alternative energy through power purchase agreements.

The \$7 billion capacity would be expended for the purchase of energy over a period of 30 years or less from renewable energy plants that are constructed and operated by contractors using private sector financing.

The solicitation is posted on the Federal Business Opportunities website at: www.fbo.gov or <http://go.usa.gov/Gd6>

The solicitation closes Oct. 5.

The conference, hosted by the U.S. Army Energy Initiatives Task Force and the Huntsville Center at the Bob Jones Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal, presented an overview of the RFP and allowed an opportunity for a questions and answers session. All presentations, questions and answers will be posted as an amendment to the solicitation on the Federal Business Opportunities website. A video of the



Photos by William S. Farrow

John Lushetsky, Army Energy Initiatives Task Force executive director, speaks about the Army meeting its renewable energy goals.

conference will be posted to the Army EITF website, www.armyeitf.com, and the Huntsville Center website: www.hnd.usace.army.mil

The conference places the Army one step closer to putting a contract vehicle in place that will help installations meet mandated energy goals.

Col. John Hamilton, Redstone Garrison commander, opened the conference by telling attendees the importance of renewable energy

See **CROWD** on page 5

Commander's thoughts

Team, Huntsville Center is now front and center on HQUSACE's radar screen. When we posted the \$7 billion Power Purchase Agreement Multiple Award Task Order Contract Request for Proposals Aug. 7, we moved into the limelight. The RFP release was followed with the pre-proposal conference Aug. 22. The capacity crowd shows us interest in the MATOC is huge.

Congratulations to our team – Energy, Contracting and Office of Counsel– for the work they did coordinating with the Energy Initiatives Task Force to successfully execute the pre-proposal conference. One of Lt. Gen. Bostick's, our new Chief of Engineers, listed priorities is to support the Army and the nation in achieving energy security and sustainability goals and Huntsville Center is leading the way.

The Summer Leader's Conference in Little Rock was fruitful. There was a lot of talk about the new chief's priorities and potential changes to the Campaign Plan. There was also discussion on how to integrate the Campaign Plan with the Chief's top 12 priorities. General Bostick has a lot of pride in what we do in the Corps of Engineers and particularly likes to place an emphasis on our service to the Army. The \$7 billion MATOC was a pleasant surprise to him. We are on the radar screen in

a good way right now. I expect he will take a lot of interest in learning more about our mission when he comes down here later this month.

The new chief and his team at HQ are changing some of the Campaign Plan objectives and their strategic outcomes. These changes will influence the supporting actions in our Implementation Plan. As we plan our actions for the FY13 IPLAN, we will be paying special attention to the way we measure progress. I am very focused on metrics and actions; the metrics need to be meaningful.

Last month, the Equal Employment Opportunity Office wrapped up its series of lunch and learns with Interviewing for Success. The sessions were sponsored by the Federal Women's team on the Special Emphasis Committee. Other topics were Dress for Success and Writing for Success.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sept. 15. During the month, we recognize the many Americans of Hispanic descent who have made outstanding contributions to our nation.

We also honor Hispanic Americans for their strong tradition of service in the Armed Forces. These proud patriots have fought in every war since our founding, and many have earned the Medal of Honor for their courage. Hispanic service men and women have shown their love for the U.S. by



Col. Robert Ruch

answering the call to serve, and we owe them and their families a tremendous debt of gratitude. Their patriotism and valor have added to the character of our nation.

Huntsville Center will partner with Team Redstone to honor and celebrate this event on Tuesday, Sept. 25, at 10 a.m., in the Bob Jones Auditorium, Redstone Arsenal. All are encouraged to participate.

It's end of year time. I'm looking forward to seeing how Huntsville Center handles the stress of year-end.

I've heard good things about how the team pulls together to get the work done by Sept. 30, which this year is a Sunday. We're in for a lot of work, but a lot of fun, too.

Hails and farewells

Hail: **Lori J. Cordell-Meikle**, Internal Review Office; **Terri Llewellyn**, Installation Support and Programs Management; **James Allison Jr.**, **Robert Sachuk**, Engineering Directorate; **Carroll Smith**, Center Contracting.

Farewell: **Gary Dissette**, Business Management Office; **Patrick Klever**, Chemical Demilitarization, Bluegrass, Ky.



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BULLETIN

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



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The Bulletin asks:

“What are your outdoor plans for fall?”



“I’m moving into a new home. So I’ll fix up the landscaping, purchase outdoor furniture and put in a pavestone patio. When I lived in Ohio, fall was the time to get things ready for winter; but I don’t think that will be necessary here in Alabama.”

James Allison Jr.
Engineering Directorate



“I plan to walk more, as much as possible, outdoors. I’ll spend lots of time on my screened-in back porch, puzzling, listening to my music and relaxing. It’s my favorite hangout and like a sanctuary for me. As fall arrives and the weather becomes cooler, I look forward to spending more time there just gazing at the beauty of God’s creation.”

Barbara Tolliver
Business Management Office



“I’ll take my youngest child to the Chattanooga Aquarium and nearby zoo. I’ll take my oldest out to drive more, since he has his driving permit. This will be a great opportunity for him to get in some practice driving before winter comes. I also look forward to driving around town and looking at the trees changing colors and taking photos. Fall is one of my favorite seasons.”

Tammy Moore
Center Contracting Directorate



DoD certifies key energy investments support combat capability

The DoD’s proposed budget supports the military’s operational energy goals according to a report released in August titled “Energy Investments for Military Operation: for Fiscal Year 2013. The report is online at:

http://energy.defense.gov/FY13_OE_Budget_Cert_Report.pdf

Employee Spotlight:

Will Eggleston

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

Will Eggleston works as a Department of the Army Intern/Safety Engineer in the Safety Office at Huntsville Center. Eggleston says he works in the most fun field of engineering. Although safety is no laughing matter for Eggleston, he often looks for fun and creative ways to show employees on USACE projects how to be safe.

“I love to make keeping safe FUN - whether it’s inspecting or surveying workplaces, processes, products or other systems for compliance with established safety and occupational health policies or standards or identifying potential new hazards at work sites,” he said. “I’m in a great career field.”

Since Huntsville Center’s projects are not limited by traditional geographical boundaries, Eggleston takes an active role on project delivery teams at other Corps districts and divisions, accepting safety programs for Huntsville Center related projects.

Eggleston works with other safety professionals to develop safety and occupational health standards, regulations, practices and procedures to eliminate or control potential hazard to higher levels of management throughout USACE.



Will Eggleston

“It is better to be proactive than reactive when it comes to safety,” Eggleston said.

“Since employees’ lives are at stake, safety is my driving force.”

Eggleston said he thinks safety is everyone’s responsibility. He said he wants to increase safety consciousness in the workplace. This is why he looks for ways to make keeping safe more enjoyable for employees at Huntsville Center and throughout USACE.

“Other fields of engineering don’t

allow the same degree of creativity that I have as a safety engineer,” Eggleston said.

“We get to create an environment in which everyone embraces safety, values human life, and demonstrates that value in their actions and decision.

Eggleston said since safety engineers cultivate a culture of ‘prevention’ within an organization, safety engineers are supporting USACE Campaign Plan Goal 1 by delivering support to combat, stability and disaster operation through forward deployed and reach back capabilities including support to the Army, the nation and international partners in domestic and military contingencies.

With his work involving applying safety and occupational health laws, regulations, principles, theories, practices, and procedures to advise on or resolve technical matters dealing with occupational safety and health requirements, he is also supporting Campaign Plan Goal 3: Delivering effective, resilient sustainable solutions, by reducing risks.

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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to energy security on Army installations. He cited the power outages in Huntsville following the April 2011 tornadoes as an example and discussed the challenges of improving energy security and sustainability while remaining cost conscious.

Col. Robert J. Ruch, the Huntsville Center commander, talked about the goals the U.S. Army, the EITF and the Huntsville Center hope to achieve with the RFP.

“This is a huge opportunity for the Army, and we’re glad you want to be part of it,” Ruch said.

“We are truly excited to be leading this effort that will help installations meet mandated energy reduction goals far into the future. Increasing energy security is a top priority for DoD and Army leadership, and this effort will lead to enhanced energy security and sustainability for our installations.”

This past April, the White House announced that the Defense Department was making one of the largest commitments to clean energy in history by setting a goal to deploy three gigawatts of renewable energy – including solar, wind, biomass or geothermal – on Army, Navy and Air Force installations by 2025.

That is enough energy to power 750,000 homes. The Army’s goal is one gigawatt of that total. These goals support the broader DoD goal to enhance installation energy security and reduce installation energy costs.

“This MATOC is a key contracting vehicle that will be used to procure reliable, locally generated, renewable and alternative energy through establishing a pool of qualified firms and contractors with solar, wind, biomass and geothermal technologies to compete for individual power purchase agreements,” Ruch said.

By awarding the contract, the Army will increase its agility by streamlining acquisition processes to develop large-scale renewable energy projects that use private sector financing.



Attendees check in at the Renewable and Alternative Energy Power Production pre-proposal conference at Bob Jones Auditorium Aug.22. More than 600 people interested in the proposal attended the conference on Redstone Arsenal.

This approach will help speed overall project development timelines to ensure the best value to the Army and private sector.

John Lushetsky, the EITF’s executive director, spoke about the role of the EITF in helping the Army meet its renewable energy goals.

“To reach the Army’s goal of deploying one gigawatt of renewable energy by 2025 will require a different way of doing business with the private sector. The issuance of the MATOC is a clear milestone for us, and the significant interest we’ve seen from industry indicates that we are on the right path. The EITF has worked closely with the Huntsville Center to make the MATOC a streamlined and agile tool for the government to procure power from large-scale renewable energy projects. We reviewed and responded to more than 900 comments from industry to make this the best product possible. We think we accomplished our goal but ultimately the people in this room will tell us if we’ve got it right,”

Lushetsky said.

Attendees at the conference said the information was helpful and the partnering opportunities were important.

Kurt Adams, executive vice president and chief development officer for First Wind, Portland, Maine, said the explanation of how pricing would work was very beneficial since he has projects that range greatly in price per kilowatt hour.

Artis Brazee, vice president for operations, MCC Construction Corporation, said the opportunity to speak with the other conference attendees about possible partnerships was helpful.

“This is a unique effort and partnership with the EITF, USACE and other DoD agencies,” Lushetsky added.

“We want to create processes and pipelines that will help ensure Army energy security, and ultimately, to make the Army the preferred partner with industry in developing large-scale renewable energy projects.”

Neel selected for fellowship program

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

Deborah Neel, a project manager in Huntsville Center's Installation and Support Programs Management's Central Furnishings Program, was recently invited to be in the fourth group of the U.S. General Services Administration Sustainability in Procurement Fellowship Program.

Nineteen people were selected from an open solicitation and they came from various federal government agencies. Neel is the only candidate selected from the Army.

According to the GSA website, the SPF program is a professional development program that provides employees in-depth training on sustainability. The program covers regulatory requirements, industry trends, systems thinking concepts and provides hands-on sustainability project experience. As part of the fellowship, each employee will receive training in relevant sustainability in procurement topics, perform substantive work on sustainability initiatives and assume an active role in the government-wide sustainability community.

President Barack Obama in the Executive Order on Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance (EO 13514), committed the federal government to leading by example in making ambitious and broad improvements in the overall sustainability of the federal government. GSA understood the importance of procurement in meeting this requirement and as a result, the Sustainability in Procurement Fellows program was launched in February 2011.

Each candidate participates *in situ* for six months for 20 hours per week. The program begins in late September.

This intensive program aims to empower its alumni to serve as tomorrow's federal sustainability leaders



Deborah Neel

and enable them to serve as knowledge resources for staff government-wide.

A background in sustainability, environment and/or procurement is not required. However, successful candidates are individuals with the ability to communicate clearly and concisely, think critically, work corroboratively and who hold themselves and their work to a high standard of excellence.

Successful fellows are those who have a desire to leverage procurement to increase the sustainability of the federal government and are persistent in achieving this goal.

In order for fellows to gain the professional knowledge and experience necessary to become sustainability change agents, they are expected to: Work on at least two projects; read a book a month and lead one weekly book discussion; participate in various interagency meetings by phone and engage in work groups as appropriate; engage in web training exercises; actively engage with fellows from the current and past cohorts on sustainability in procurement topics/initiatives and participate in two mandatory training seminars in the Washington, D.C. area.

Mission



Focus:

Central Furnishings Program

Huntsville Center is the agency responsible for executing the Army's centrally managed furnishings program for furniture and furnishings for Army installations worldwide. The program's mission is to buy initial issue furniture and furnishings in accordance with annual work plans and manage delivery of those items to the new/renovated facility by the beneficial occupancy date. The program also provides for replacement furnishings to meet the installations' requirements. Services provided by Huntsville Center include assisting the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and Installation Management Command in annual budgeting and work plan formulation; preparing and executing the acquisition plan for worldwide procurement of furniture and furnishings; developing and maintaining current minimum quality specifications for the furniture, fixtures and equipment; evaluating and awarding supply and services contracts to vendors offering the best value to the government; managing the delivery of the FF&E to coincide with the often dynamic BOD; measuring and evaluating program efficiency and cost effectiveness; serving as the clearing house for end user comments and lessons learned and recommending or implementing improvements to program management and acquisition strategies.

Emerging leaders Preston, Miller attend Senior Leader Conference

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

Two Huntsville Center team members selected as emerging leaders attended the USACE Emerging Leader Conference and Strategic Leader Conference in Little Rock, Ark.

Braden Preston, a structural branch engineer, and Jordan Miller, Contracting Directorate procurement analyst, attended the conference which focused on moving the Corps into 2020 and potential future problems senior USACE leaders will likely have to resolve.

Preston and Miller both said it was a great opportunity to attend the Emerging Leaders and Senior Leader Conference. Preston said the first three days of the event were spent with other emerging leaders attending leadership training and group exercises.

“The leadership training provided by The Flippin Group, was by far the best leadership training I have experienced,” Preston said. “The Flippin Group instructor’s main focus was on the importance of mentoring and relationships, building on this with topics of encouragement, experiences and commitment vs. compliance. The ELC was a great opportunity to network with my peers in other USACE districts. Sitting at the table with peers from headquarters, divisions, districts and centers, provided me with several different perspectives and a greater understanding of USACE as a whole.”

Miller said he came away understanding that USACE plays a vital role in mitigating many of the nation’s toughest challenges such as developing sustainable energy solutions, leading overseas and domestic contingency operations, and energizing the economy.

“This made me proud to work for USACE, because the projects that we execute matter to our nation and allies, and have a lasting impact on our war fighters



Courtesy photo

Jordan Miller and his mentor James Hearn, Northwest Division regional business director, at the Senior Leader Conference in Little Rock, Ark.

and citizens. For me, this drove the fact that what we do is much bigger than the individual and that it truly takes a dedicated and diverse organization of people to get the job done,” Miller said.

During the SLC, each emerging leader was assigned a senior leader to shadow for three days allowing the emerging leaders to see how senior leaders worked with their peers.

Preston spent his time with Afghanistan and Iraq war veteran Nate Self who was representing the Flippin Group.

As an Army Ranger Captain in 2002, Self led a group of Soldiers atop Takur Ghar Mountain in Afghanistan to rescue a missing-in-action Navy SEAL. What ensued was the highest-altitude battle ever fought by U.S. troops – and seven of the first 10 men to die in the War on Terror fell there. The effort was dubbed “Rescue on Roberts Ridge.” Self was widely recognized as a national hero, awarded a Silver Star, Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, and he was invited by President George W. Bush to be a guest at the 2003 State of the Union Address.

“I got to spend some time

personally talking with Nate and it was awesome to witness his humility and sincerity,” Preston said.

Preston said he was also allowed to sit in on a press conference with Katherine Hammock and Gen. Thomas Bostick as they released the RFP for the \$7billion MATOC that Huntsville Center has been working on.

“It was pretty cool to see these folks first hand working under pressure,” Preston said.

Miller was paired with James Hearn, Director, Regional Business for the Northwestern Division. “He provided great insights on leadership and career development,” Miller said.

“I gathered that successful personal development and leadership development is dynamic and continuous – it never stops. I am appreciative that he took the time to engage me and answer all of my questions. I could tell he had a love for teaching and mentoring, so I consider myself blessed to have that experience with him and hope to continue talking with him in the future,” Miller said.

Command Services Executive position to oversee services contracts

Starting in 2005, the Department of Defense took a hard look at its spending and what they found was a huge gap in oversight. More than half of the Army's budget is spent on services.

Unfortunately, with the significant amount of money being spent there are a number of cases where oversight falls to the wayside. There are a large number of factors that contribute to this, but the two main contributors are:

1. Some leaders/commanders do not have the necessary processes and tools in place to provide adequate oversight for their service actions.
2. The personnel working on service acquisitions lack proper acquisition training.

To combat these problems, the Command Services Executive position was created. Each service and major command has a Senior Executive Service employee serving as their CSE, charged with maintaining an enterprise view of services to achieve Secretary of the Army John McHugh's goal of reducing spending on services by 5 percent across the Army. All Service Acquisition Strategies over \$10 million shall be submitted to the CSE by way of each organization's Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting. The command service team, which is comprised of different leaders across the

Corps of Engineers (i.e. Legal, Engineering, Construction, Contracting, etc.), serves under the CSE and reviews the strategies to evaluate potential cost savings that may be achieved by taking advantage of an existing government contract vehicle to acquire the particular services. By locating these vehicles and optimizing their use, the Army hopes to reduce cost and create savings throughout the Army's service acquisition lifecycle.

The CSE ensures that all command personnel are properly resourced and trained to support the full lifecycle of services acquisitions, from requirements generation through service award and administration. Each CSE ensures that semi-annual services acquisition forecasts as well as quarterly services costs savings reports are provided to the appropriate portfolio managers and portfolio coordinators, as well as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Services.

CSEs have stimulated valuable discussions on how Huntsville Center approaches service contracting. The Contracting Directorate is working hard to ensure we satisfy these new requirements while considering all options in determining the best approach to each service acquisition. *(Courtesy Center Contracting Directorate. For more information, contact Mona Neal at 256-895-1226.)*

Center partners with Redstone for Hispanic Heritage Month

Huntsville Center will partner with Team Redstone to honor and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 25 in the Bob Jones Auditorium, Redstone Arsenal.

The Center will participate in the Redstone essay (Sept. 19 deadline) and static display (Sept. 20 deadline) contests on the 2012 national theme: Diversity United, Building America's Future Today. All are encouraged to participate.

Hispanic Heritage Month begins Sept. 15 and celebrates the anniversary of independence for five Latin American countries—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico declared its independence on Sept. 16 and Chile on Sept. 18.

National Hispanic Heritage Month

is celebrated in recognition of the historical and cultural contributions of Hispanic Americans. The annual observance is a 31-day celebration beginning on Sept. 15 and ending Oct. 15.

The term Hispanic or Latino, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, refers to Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin regardless of race. On the 2010 Census form, people of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin could identify themselves as Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or "another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin."

According to the 2010 Census, 50.5 million people or 16 percent of the population are of Hispanic or Latino origin. This represents a significant

increase from the 2000 Census, which registered the Hispanic population at 35.3 million or 13 percent of the total U.S. population.

The rich cultural traditions of the Hispanic American community have made a remarkable impact on American society.

Throughout our history, Hispanics have enriched the American way of life, and we recognize the millions whose love of family, hard work and community have helped unite us as a people and sustain us as a nation. The point of contact for this event is the Huntsville Center EEO Office.

For more information, contact Angela Morton at: angela.p.morton@usace.army.mil or call 256-895-1573. *(Courtesy Huntsville Center Equal Employment Opportunity Office)*

Center Contracting graduates nine from CP-14 Internship Program

By JoAnita Miley
Public Affairs Office

Nine Center Contracting interns received certificates marking the completion of their three-year intern program at a Huntsville Center ceremony Aug. 16.

John Mayes, chief of Contracting, presented certificates to Lequita Byrd-Craig, Sentrae Davis, Brandalyn Fox, Jill Freeman, Melody Hinkle, James Long, Nicholas Moore, Paul Wiggins and Katrena Winchester. Jacqueline Woodson, deputy Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting-Winchester, attended the event that also recognized employees marking service milestones.

Mayes challenged the interns to use their current jobs to learn as much as possible and add as much value as possible to the teams where they will be assigned. Woodson shared wisdom and lessons learned through her own career path, encouraging them to do their very best.

“As a leader in the contracting profession, it is significantly important to me that we train and mentor these interns into outstanding contracting professionals who understand why we do what we do, and who uphold the highest level of integrity. In the days of shrinking budgets, it is critical that our interns understand the importance of achieving the best value for the government, as well as how to get the team to a successful end. This is our ultimate goal for all who go through this program,” Mayes said.

For Wiggins, graduating the Huntsville Center intern program is a career milestone.

Wiggins said he took advantage of all training opportunities that were available to him. He successfully maneuvered rotation on the Furniture team, managed the 852 Program



Photo by Bruce Hudgins

Nine interns graduated from the CP-14 program Aug. 16. In Attendance were (from left) John Mayes, Jackie Wilson, Nicholas Moore, Paul Wiggins, Melody Hinkle, Jill Friedman, Katrena Winchester, Lydia Tadesse, Monte Long and Sharon Butler. After this graduation, 34 interns remain in the program.

during a three-month rotation at the Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Contracting Organization, served as the lead contract specialist on a suite of high visibility acquisitions with the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller, and led the team of contract specialists that prepped, planned and hosted the 2012 Intern Summit in Huntsville.

“It has definitely taken a lot of sacrifice and hard work on my part, but was well worth the effort,” Wiggins said. “It was a great experience. I came, I saw, I conquered!”

Terrence Hamil manages the intern program for the Contracting Directorate. Hamil said this is the directorate’s fourth formal intern graduation.

“To date, approximately 16 interns have graduated from this program. We have an additional 34 interns remaining in the program,” he said.

The CP-14 intern program prepares individuals to assume positions as

journeymen contracting professionals. Interns gain experience through on-the-job training, formal classroom training, and rotations through different teams within the Contracting Directorate to learn skills related to procurement of services, supplies, construction, and oversight and policy functions.

Interns can also be selected to fill rotational assignments outside of Huntsville Center at HQ USACE; the PARC office(s) and other districts/centers. Upon completion of the intern program, each individual graduates with a Level II Defense Acquisition Certification in Contracting.

To be eligible for the intern program, candidates must have a bachelor’s degree in any discipline, 24 hours in business-related courses such as accounting, finance, management, economics, marketing, contract law, higher level mathematics such as calculus, etc., and a 2.5 grade point average.

For more information on the program, call Hamil at 256-895-1258.

Huntsville Center's Moore leads state's 4-H Club shotgun team to national competition

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

Huntsville Center's Karen Moore, a program manager with Installation Support and Programs Management Energy Division, is also head coach of the Winston County Four-H Club shotgun team that recently represented Alabama at the National Four-H Club Shooting Sports Invitational in Grand Island, Neb. Moore's grew up around guns and was only natural for her to become a certified shotgun instructor for the 4-H Club program and volunteer her time as the team's coach. Shotgun competition runs deep in Moore's family as her son, Kurtis, is on the team and her brother, Kenny Robinson, was the primary instructor for the Winston County Shooting Sports Team.

"He (Kenny) got my son, Kurtis, interested in the sport and he asked me to become a certified instructor to be able to take care of some of the practices when his job took him out of town," Moore explained.

In the spring, before state competition, Robinson asked Moore if she could take over full-time since his son (Moore's nephew) had decided to focus on his future with the Army National Guard and no longer compete.

Moore accepted the position, but she wasn't quite sure about her coaching capabilities. Any self-doubt was soon eliminated as her team won the Alabama state competition.

"I wasn't expecting our team would take first place but we did well in both skeet and trap," she recalled.

After winning the state championship, the team's next competition would be the national competition in Nebraska.

But there was an obstacle. Because the team wasn't a school-sanctioned program they received little funding. It was estimated that more than \$5,000



Courtesy photo

Coach Karen Moore and son, Kurtis, at the 4-H Shooting Sports Invitational at Grand Island, Neb. The Alabama team placed 13 in the national competition.

would need to be raised to send the team to Nebraska.

Thanks to hard work of the team and Moore's direction, they raised the funds needed to attend the event through fund-raisers and from donations

"Thanks goodness I had skills in marketing and a degree in human resource management to guide the team through the fund-raising process," she said.

Beside raising money to get to Nebraska, Moore recalls the team facing other obstacles on the trip to Nebraska when two team members traveling together had their shotguns stolen.

For competitive shooters, not just any gun would replace the ones they lost—the boys had practiced with those particular guns for the past four years.

She said the team was already nervous about competing in the nationals, but more so when two of their members had to get used to firing a "new" gun. However, when the team reached Nebraska, other 4-H'ers did all they could to help.

"When I checked the team in at nationals, I had to ask about borrowing guns that matched the style guns they

use," Moore said.

She said Tom Person, the National Chief Range Officer, not only found guns matching the stolen guns, he also helped the team overcome yet another obstacle—the lack of experience shooting sporting clay.

"Alabama doesn't compete in the Sporting Clays so we had a leading expert and professional shooter, Jim O'Conner, practice with us and give us tips for improvement so we would be competitive with the other teams. We placed in the top 10 for Skeet and Sporting Clays but lost momentum for the trap."

The next obstacle before the team was the Nebraska weather. Moore said on the first day of competition it was 104 degrees with 40 mile-an-hour winds and the second day was around 70 degrees and pouring down rain.

"I've never seen clays thrown into heavy wind but then again, we were in Nebraska," she said.

However, the Alabama team did well enough to earn the respect of the 4-H Club National Staff and competition. The Alabama team's main category was shooting skeet and one team member had a score of 96 out of 100 and placed 11 in the skeet category. Moore said they were so impressed with the Alabama team's ability to keep competing that a sign was hung in the auditorium that read "Alabama is what 4-H is all about."

Alabama 4-H Club rules state that once members compete in a National event, they can no longer compete.

"Our senior team has now completed their mission and placing 13th overall in the Nationals is great for Alabama," Moore said. For Coach Moore, the future of 4-H Club shotgun competition shines bright and she is looking forward to coaching next season. "We have so many junior kids interested in continuing the sport."

Life Center keeps up with latest exercise trends

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

In the past year, the number of employees registered for fitness classes in the Life Center has increased by more than 30 percent – with 57 new members being added since January – and the principal reason behind the increase is due to the latest exercise trends.

“We’ve had a recent explosion of employees who are coming to the Life Center to work out,” said Marsha Russell, Life Center Director.

“We are excited to see a real burst in participation in all our fitness programs,” she said. “I think it’s largely due to our dealing with different fitness styles – Zumba, Pilates, Yoga, pump, cardio blast, – we offer them all here.”

Russell said she and fitness instructors Crystal Huddleston and Ashley Russell offer Center employees a multitude of exercise activities for all ages and can cater classes to meet employee’s individual needs as well. She loves that her job allows her to positively impact the lives of employees at the Center.

According to Russell, exercise groups within the Life Center are like family. Members form close bonds over a period of time that filter over into the work environment, creating a unique camaraderie that fosters great work relationships. Recent fitness challenges have also inspired members to push themselves beyond their normal workout to achieve excellence or work together as a team to reach their fitness goal.

When Center employees make the decision to eat right and start an exercise routine, Russell said she knows she is doing her job well.

“It’s amazing to watch the different groups work out, due to the vast difference in work out styles,” Russell said. “We (fitness staff) are willing to design a workout routine to fit any



Photos by Jo Anita Miley

Robert Jackson lifts weights on bench in the Life Center as a workout partner spots him. The Life Center has seen an increase of use by more than 30 percent.



Life Center manager Marsha Russell (forward) leads a Zumba class.

particular exercise style. There are many different ways to stay fit.”

According to Russell, diverse groups like the “Pumpers,” the Yoga and Pilates group, the p90Xers, the Combat fans, Cross Fit guy, the Zumba girls and the “Million Pushups-in-a-Year” Club,” and the Olympics Corps Contest all come with totally different fitness needs. She is there to monitor the groups and make sure everyone’s fitness needs are met.

“I love the way the groups have

taken off,” Russell said. “For instance, The Olympic Corps Contest,” one of our newest fitness events is going very well. Some Life Center members are going for the gold and some for whatever they can fit in. The main thing is more of them are getting active. They are challenging each other to work harder to stay fit.”

Russell said she and her staff will continue to keep up with current fitness trends. Her goal is to make sure Center employees are made aware of what fitness options are out there and expose them to it.

Robert Jackson, Engineering Directorate, has been a part of the Life Center for more than two years.

Jackson said his overall health has improved largely due to starting a fitness plan with Russell. According to Jackson, Russell helped him to stay on task when he wanted to begin a fitness program. He also said Russell is the ultimate fitness trainer.

“Having a fitness center on site is a great perk for Huntsville Center employees,” Jackson said. “More employees than ever are now joining the life Center - Marsha’s enthusiasm about health fitness is contagious,” he said.

Ethics Corner

Crunch time is here

By Clay Weisenberger
Office of Counsel

As the days get shorter and the nights crisper, many at Huntsville Center are gearing up for the most important of seasonal events: college football (and the end of the FY). As we roll into September, remember the 14 Principles of Ethical Conduct. These principles make up our official code of ethics, of which there are four that are particularly relevant to federal procurement.*

Principle 3: Employees shall not engage in financial transactions using non-public government information or allow the improper use of such information to further any private interest. Information is power. Proprietary information is valuable to contractors looking for an edge over competitors. You are expected to safeguard that information.

Principle 4: An employee shall not, except pursuant to such reasonable exceptions as are provided by regulation, solicit or accept any gift or other item of monetary value from any person or entity seeking official action from, doing business with or conducting activities

regulated by the employee's agency, or whose interests may be substantially affected by the performance or nonperformance of the employee's duties. Never solicit gifts in your official position. If contractors offer them, consult the OC before accepting.

Principle 6: Employees shall make no unauthorized commitments or promises of any kind purporting to bind the government. Not everyone is authorized to enter into agreements, bind the government, or spend the government's money. Understand your authority and think carefully about what you say or do when communicating with contractors.

Principle 8: Employees shall act impartially and not give preferential treatment to any private organization or individual. Perception is often reality in the eyes of the public. Avoid any appearance of impropriety. Think about how your actions look through the eyes all parties affected and the taxpayers.

*The entire code is available on the Office of Government Ethics website at: <http://www.oge.gov/>

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