



US Army Corps
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Huntsville Center

Bulletin

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Chief engineer visits Huntsville

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, visited Huntsville Center May 28-29 for the first time since becoming the 53rd chief of engineers.

His visit served three purposes: gain an understanding of Huntsville Center's capabilities, talk to emerging leaders and deliver a speech to Team Redstone.

Col. Robert Ruch, Huntsville Center commander, senior leaders and program managers discussed with the chief the Center's capabilities with an emphasis on energy, medical, ordnance and explosives and overseas contingency missions. Bostick also visited the Army Materiel Command and the USACE Learning



Photo by James Campbell

Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, right, gathers information about the Huntsville Center mission from Col. Bob Ruch, Huntsville Center commander, during a mission brief May 28.

Center.

Ruch thanked the commanding general for coming to the Center and taking an interest in what we do here.

"This was extremely

helpful," Bostick said. "It took me too long to get here. There are things you are doing that are in line with the Campaign Plan. You are

See CHIEF on page 5

Huntsville Center employees receive furlough notices

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

Government civilian employees of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville received furlough notices earlier this month, in accordance with guidance received from Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The notices explain how the Huntsville Center will implement the mandatory 11 days – 88 hours – of furlough for more than 725 full-time employees assigned to the Center. Furlough time off for part-time employees will be prorated, based on work schedule. Furlough days will begin July 8 and will continue through

the end of the fiscal year.

Employees have the opportunity to respond to the notices following the process outlined in the notification.

"Because of the way we do business at the Huntsville Center, I have set Friday as the standard furlough day," said Col. Robert Ruch, commander,

See FURLOUGH on 7

Commander's thoughts

Although we had hoped it wouldn't come to this, furlough time is upon us.

You should have received your notification of intent to furlough. You have seven days from the date you received your notice to respond.

You'll receive another letter – the decision letter – prior to the start of furlough days. Bottom line is we are required to conduct 11 furlough days through the end of the fiscal year.

Our leaders have done a great job fighting to keep this furlough to as few days as possible to minimize impact to employees.

As we adjust to shorter hours during the furlough period, we have to keep year-end in mind. We need to work as aggressively as possible to obligate any funds we receive from customers.

Overtime and compensation time until the end of the fiscal year will only be approved by me, and only in certain instances where the overtime is necessary to protect the health, safety and security of personnel or property; to ensure the direct and timely provision of services and materiel to a deployed unit or to units that are preparing to deploy; or to perform similar mission critical functions.

We may not have a stress-free year-end, but everyone is doing a remarkable

job in these days of uncertainty.

I hope you had an opportunity to meet our commanding general Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick while he was here.

He visited Huntsville Center to get an overview of the many and varied missions you perform on behalf of the Corps of Engineers, the Army and the nation. I know he was impressed with all you do and went home with a better understanding of Huntsville Center.

He said he was motivated and excited based on all he saw and heard. I am extremely proud of the work we do here at the Center and am thrilled that the Chief of Engineers shares that sentiment.

While he was here, Lt. Gen. Bostick also had the opportunity to be the keynote speaker at the Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month event at the Bob Jones Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal.

This was the first time the Huntsville Center took the lead for one of these special emphasis events, and Angela Morton, Sonja Rice and the Special Emphasis Committee did a fantastic job.

This month we'll say farewell to Rick Suever, the chief of the Business Management Office. He's retiring at the end of June after 37 years of federal service. Rick's been



Col. Robert Ruch

an asset to the Executive Office and the Center, and his work to keep the Center on track over the years has been instrumental in achieving the reputation we enjoy today.

He's led us through countless Command Strategic Reviews, IPLAN reviews, senior leader visits, etc., and we'll miss his expertise. He has served as a mentor to me as I learned about this command over the past year. We wish him and his family well in their future endeavors.

Also this month we celebrate the Army's 238th Birthday June 14.

Now that Memorial Day has passed, summer activities are getting started. Remember to keep safety in mind as you enjoy the weather with family and friends. Thank you for all you do.

Hail & Farewell

Hail: James Croom, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate; Lanny Powers Jr., Installation Support and Program Management Directorate

Farewell: Betty Lamb, CD/Bluegrass; Matthew Duncan, Lelani Banks, Contracting Directorate



**US Army Corps
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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 is a father's most important trait?

“ I'd say dedication and selflessness. I'm a father of two, ages 11 and 5. Becoming a father and single parent at the same time was life changing for me. My children's needs come first, so I've changed the way I think to accommodate them. I quickly learned that life is no longer about me, it's about them. It's not about my dreams, but their dreams. Maturity is also very important when rearing children. The greatest challenge that a man can face is being there for his children 100 percent. Maturity is responsibility. ”



Paris Coleman
Center Contracting Directorate

“ To always make himself available to his kids. I am a father, so it's important that my kids know I'm easy to get to when they need me. ”

Bob Sanchez
Army Corps of Engineers-Information Technology



“ I actually have three traits that come to mind. I think a father's most important traits are putting his family first, loving unconditionally and leading by example. My father has definitely demonstrated these traits throughout my life. I'm also very blessed to call my father my friend. ”

Latonia Grant
Resource Management Directorate



Suggestions for family activities for this Father's Day and every day can be found at the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse Website at <http://www.fatherhood.gov>

Employee Spotlight

Laura Stiegler

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

When Laura Stiegler began working at Huntsville Center in 1981, she had one goal in mind – to learn all there was to know about contracting and build a great career. More than 32 years later, she said she has done both.

Stiegler is a procurement analyst in the Oversight Branch of the Center's Contracting Directorate. She reviews acquisition documents to ensure they are in agreement with all regulatory, statutory and policy requirements. She also serves as a conduit between the directorate's Business Oversight Branch and the Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting in Winchester, Va.

Stiegler also has held positions as a procurement clerk, purchasing agent, contract specialist, small business specialist and procurement analyst at the Center.

Her work in the Oversight Branch supports Goal 4 of the 2013 USACE Campaign Plan.

By engaging in continuous process improvement, she is able to mentor new contracting team members. Keeping abreast of policy changes and industry updates helps to build resilient people, teams, systems and processes to sustain a culture of collaboration, innovation and participation to shape and deliver strategic solutions for contract vehicles.

Stiegler has seen her share of commanders coming and going at Huntsville Center, 13 to be exact.



Laura Stiegler

For some, this can be a negative; but Stiegler points out she is proud to have worked for the Corps for such a long time. She attributes the seven Army Values as her inspiration for staying at the Center.

"I think the Army Values are especially important for those who serve in contracting jobs," Stiegler said.

Demonstrating the values of Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage are all important, and have definitely helped me succeed in my career," she said. "However, I've always made a special effort to demonstrate loyalty to the Corps throughout my career."

Stiegler said her greatest challenge in her current position has been keeping current with ever-changing policies. However, it is equally important to pass this information on to others in the directorate.

In 2005, Stiegler deployed to the former USACE, Gulf Region Division, where she worked as a contract specialist, delivering innovative contingency contracting solutions alongside U.S. Soldiers and local nationals.

For Stiegler, it was an added plus to work under the current USACE Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, who was then serving as the commander of the Gulf Region Division. She said she had an amazing time during her deployment to Iraq.

Stiegler said what she loves most about her current position is that she gets to help train the next generation of contracting professionals. More specifically, she likes to mentor new or less experienced team members.

Team member Melanie Braddock, also a procurement analyst in the Business Operations Branch said Stiegler is a great mentor.

"Laura is a dedicated employee with a vast knowledge of how things have been done at the Center down through the years," Braddock said. "Our team can benefit from this knowledge and experience. Since joining the BOB team, she also has taken great pride in keeping up with the myriad of changes in contracting. She has become a trusted resource for information for our staff."

The **Employee Spotlight** is intended to let Center employees shine for positively impacting the organization through mission achievements. Employees, or teams, are nominated on a monthly basis and are featured monthly on the Huntsville Center website. 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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doing a lot of interagency work. They are seeking our technical talent and other things. It is really about going out and showing them what we can do. You're doing great work. I enjoyed the entire visit."

Bostick spoke with more than 40 emerging leaders about the world situation and how the Corps of Engineers fits into the big picture, the Corps' mission in light of recent budgetary challenges, the USACE Campaign Plan and the importance of having good leaders within the organization.

"America is looked at as a 'super power' among world nations in regard to its military strength, and the Corps is looked at as a 'superpower' in regard to disaster response in our nation," Bostick said. "What this term depicts is a lot broader than what we do in Afghanistan. We also support the war fighter on installations at home.

"We must transform the way we do our budgeting, such as up-front budgeting and up-front payments. We must maintain the same level of fiscal responsibility at all times," Bostick said.

"We must use strategic engagement and strategic communication to relay clear, consistent and concise messages when we go out, especially when it pertains to water infrastructure. Much of our nation's goods and services come through the Corps. We must take advantage of every situation where we get an opportunity to get this message out there.

"In regard to reducing disaster risks, we can't just think disaster doesn't happen very often and not prepare for it," Bostick said. "We have to continue delivering support that responds to, recovers from and mitigates disaster impacts to the nation. When disaster occurs and the nation calls on the Corps, we have to be ready."

Bostick said all these projects worldwide require people, which makes recruiting and retention two major

"I like telling others about what we do and how we do it. I like talking about our core competency – We build things, and we do it well."

Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick
Commanding General of the U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers

issues facing the Army and the Corps.

This is why Goal 4 is so important for the future of the Corps.

"We prepare for tomorrow when we recruit, retain, develop future leaders," Bostick said. "Diversity in the work force is very important. We've got to spend more time on developing and building diverse teams. I think young employees bring energy, enthusiasm and creativity into an organization. They have new ideas no one has ever thought about."

Bostick said replenishing the work force is not going to automatically happen. The Corps has to grow future leaders from the ground up – a competent leader knows how to grow first-rate employees.

When Bostick began speaking about the Corps of Engineers' leaders, there was no doubt he felt strongly about having capable leaders within the organization. His leadership philosophies are largely based on his military training and mentoring experiences. It is the framework he has used throughout his career. He encouraged employees to be passionate about their work.

"You don't lead by email, and you can't lead if you are not approachable," Bostick said. "Take time to talk with your people face-to-face. Find someone within your organization who is approachable and make that person the point of contact to deal with issues. Communicate, communicate and communicate."

Bostick gave the keynote speech for Team Redstone's Asian-Pacific

American Heritage Month Observance May 29 in the Bob Jones Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal. Bostick said Asian-Pacific people are part of the diverse team that helps make America strong.

"The strength of a team is gained through diversity of ethnicity, gender, etc.," Bostick said.

"It is important for us to celebrate the contributions Asian and Pacific Islander Americans have made to our Army and nation. Today, there are 18.2 million Americans of Asian descent, and 1.4 million Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander heritage - I'm proud to be one of them."

Bostick said Asian-Pacific Americans helped in the fight for our nation's freedom, citing Asian-Pacific American heroes in military history. He also shared with the audience his personal observations as a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy.

"I was at the academy when the first female cadets came to West Point. Many were not ready for this change including Academy leaders, and that had an impact on how those cadets were treated. Our superintendent said women will never be at West Point, but was later relieved," Bostick said.

"Ultimately, 62 of the 119 women who came to West Point in 1976 graduated. They now count among their ranks general officers, Rhodes Scholars and world class athletes. Can you imagine denying the Army that kind of talent and potential?"

Bostick said he loves his chosen profession and does not hesitate to tell people.

"I like telling others about what we do and how we do it. I like talking about our core competency – We build things, and we do it well.

"I'm a leader who has taken great pride in leading people at all levels within the Army. It's my passion," Bostick said.

Anniston chemical disposal mission complete

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

With the casing of its colors during a May 7 ceremony, the Anniston Chemical Activity officially closed.

ANCA employees were responsible for the safe storage and maintenance of the 661,529 chemical munitions that had been stored on Anniston Army Depot.

During eight years of demilitarization operations at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility, the Anniston chemical munitions stockpile was safely eliminated.

However, Huntsville Center employees played a very important role in the stockpile elimination too. They actually designed the plant, oversaw construction and equipped the facility with the tools needed to carry out the mission.

Since 1982, Huntsville Center has been involved in contracting and managing the Chemical Demilitarization plant design with Parsons, said Steven Light, Huntsville Center Alternate Technologies Division chief.

"In 1995, a full on-site resident office of approximately 30 Huntsville Center personnel managed the construction phase over approximately a four-year period and then turned over the completed weapons demilitarization complex to the customer to activate systemization and operations phases to destroy stockpiled weapons," Light said.

According to Light, during site

construction Huntsville Center had approximately 200 dedicated engineers and management working on the project.

At times, the project was quite challenging—more so than simply overseeing construction of facilities.

"It was a very unique program to destroy chemical weapons not really meant to be reverse-assembled," he said.

Light said other challenges included installation of electronic security systems, construction craft sequencing, vendor equipment installation, configuration management of plant design/construction changes, weather, safety practices and quality assurance, to name a few.

Seven percent of the U.S. chemical weapon stockpile was located within the confines of the Anniston Depot. The stockpile included 142,428 GB nerve agent munitions; 219,374 VX nerve agent munitions; and 299,727 mustard-filled munitions. Collectively, the munitions held some 2,254 tons of



Photo by Jennifer Bacchus

Sandra R. Sexton, ANCA chief of staff, holds a canvas sleeve as Jesse Brown III, ANCA civilian executive, and Col. Darryl Briggs, U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency Director of Stockpile Operations, roll up the ANCA flag that is being held by Anniston Army Depot Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Marcon at a program commemorating the history of the Anniston Chemical Activity during a closure ceremony.

chemical warfare materiel. Storage and demilitarization operations were safely concluded in September 2011.

At its peak, ANCA had more than 170 employees. The number of employees is now less than 40, a reduction achieved primarily through attrition and retirements.

Concurrent with ANCA's closing is the ongoing effort to close the incinerator. Following many months of decontamination work within the incinerator facility, plans are being finalized to begin the demolition of the ANCDF. Demolition of the facility is expected to begin later this year.

Mission Focus:

The Department of Defense was directed by Congress through Public Law 99-145 to be the government agency responsible for destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile.

To comply with treaty agreements and congressional mandate, destruction of these weapons was to be completed

Chemical Demilitarization Directorate

by 2007. An additional five-year extension was exercised so the program could meet the 2012 deadline. The Chemical Materials Agency was created in February 2003 and combines the demilitarization and storage functions under a single organization. The program manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives is responsible for the

disposal of the chemical weapons stockpile at Pueblo, Colo., and Blue Grass, Ky., and has a congressional deadline of 2017.

Huntsville Center is the Corps of Engineers' agent for facility design and facility construction of chemical demilitarization facilities.

(Information taken from Chemical Demilitarization fact sheet)



Courtesy photo

Supporting the Air Force

This photo shows the exterior of the new clinic at Spangdahlem Air Base. The clinic was turned over to the Air Force this spring. The project began in 2008 as a part of theater consolidation efforts. Huntsville Center's Medical Facilities Mandatory Center of Expertise and Standardization, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District and German Contract Firm LBB-Trier were responsible for the \$28 million facility.

FURLOUGH

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Huntsville Center.

"Employees and supervisors will have some flexibility, but most of our employees need to be available on the same days for planning and executing our missions. Our focus is on meeting the needs of our customers in this challenging situation.

"At this time, we do not expect the need for furlough beyond 11 days during fiscal year 2013," Ruch said. "If additional furlough days/hours become necessary, you will receive another written notice.

"I recognize the difficult personal financial implications of any furlough, no matter how limited its length," Ruch said. "I will make every effort to keep you informed as additional information regarding the furlough becomes available."

According to Rick Suever, chief of the Business Management Office,

although the standard furlough day is Friday, employees will have the flexibility to voluntarily adjust their furlough days within a consecutive two pay period block to take more than one furlough day per week with supervisory approval.

In addition, employees on TDY or in training will have to adjust their furlough days.

"Employees will project their furlough days on the projected time sheet prior to the start of each pay period," Suever said.

"If you have previously approved annual, sick, court, military leave or leave without pay projected that is later designated as a furlough day, the time off will be recorded as a furlough and you will be placed in a non-pay status for the day."

The following websites may provide useful information related to the furlough as you consider changes in

your personal situation necessitated by the furlough:

- OPM guidance and Frequently Asked Questions - <https://intranet.usace.army.mil/centers/hnc/pages/home.aspx>.
- Tax withholding and pay related information - <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.aspx>.
- Employee Benefits Information System – where you manage your benefit contributions - <https://www.abc.army.mil>.

For answers to questions about Combined Federal Campaign contributions, please call Anita Norton, Resource Management, at 256-895-1359.

Also, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available if you need assistance with any personal matters.

"I appreciate your patience as we have waited for official guidance on whether or not we would have to implement furlough days," Ruch said.



Courtesy photo

Huntsville Center electrical engineer Mark Allen records data off of an electric motor at a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pumping plant in Arkansas. Allen and Richard Baker, a mechanical engineer at Huntsville Center, evaluated three of eight pumping plants to determine how the plants can become more energy efficient.

Center engineers assess pumping plants

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

Two Huntsville Center engineers recently performed energy assessments at three of the eight U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pumping plants as a part of the Energy Engineering Analysis Program initiative for civil works projects and facilities.

The mission of the pumping plants is to maintain surface water levels within the drainage basins at a level that prevents or limits flooding of property (inhabited and agricultural) during annual precipitation seasons.

Two plants assessed were in Arkansas and the other was in Louisiana.

After completing the assessments,

Huntsville Center's Richard Baker and Marcus Allen provided their findings during a briefing at the Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District Office.

"We scheduled one week to drive to three of the eight pumping plants, Baker said. "The findings at the three plants visited were expected to also apply to the other five pumping plants."

Baker said plant evaluations were holistic and included analysis of pumping systems, building envelopes; heating, air conditioning, and ventilation systems; interior and exterior building lighting; and HVAC and lighting controls. Water pumping itself is often conducted by use of diesel engines or electric motors.

At the brief, Baker and Allen

identified energy inefficiencies and wastes at the plants and proposed energy related projects that could enable the pumping plants to meet energy goals and the energy reduction requirements mandated by Executive Orders and Energy Policy Act.

Energy use at the eight pumping plants is intensive, and costs powering the eight plants can run more than \$50 million annually.

Allen said USACE will use the report as a template to evaluate the remaining five plants.

"In addition, there will be facility upgrades that will prove to be cost effective, although the major energy use (for pumping) cannot be economically reduced," he said.

First awards made under \$7 billion Center's renewable energy MATOC

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, working with the Army Energy Initiatives Task Force, recently awarded the first of its kind Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Multiple Award Task Order Contracts (MATOC) May 3 for the first technology under this contract to support renewable energy on Defense Department installations.

Individual MATOC awards are being staggered by technology starting with geothermal. Announcement of awards for the remaining technologies, solar, wind and biomass, are anticipated for staggered release through the end of calendar year 2013.

The total amount for all awards under the Renewable and Alternative Energy Power Production for DoD Installations MATOC will not exceed \$7 billion. The MATOC will be used to procure reliable, locally generated, renewable and alternative energy through power purchase agreements.

The \$7 billion capacity would be expended for PPAs to procure energy over a period of 30 years or less from renewable energy plants that are designed, financed, constructed, operated and maintained by contractors using private sector financing.

The five companies awarded contracts for use in competing and awarding PPA task orders using geothermal technology are Constellation NewEnergy, Inc., Baltimore, Md.; ECC Renewables, LLC, – Burlingame, Calif.; Enel Green Power North America, Inc. – Andover, Mass.; LTC Federal, LLC, Detroit, Mich.; and Siemens Government Technologies, Inc., Arlington, Va.

The contracts provide a three-year base with seven one-year options, for a total ordering period of 10 years.

Having these contracts in place will expedite the acquisition process for

future projects.

Huntsville Center, working on behalf of USACE with the Army's EITF, issued the Request for Proposal for the \$7 billion Renewable and Alternative Energy Power Production for DoD Installations MATOC on Aug. 7, 2012.

These contracts will place the Army one step closer to meeting the Congressionally mandated energy goal of 25 percent production and consumption of energy from renewable sources by 2025 and improving installation energy security and sustainability while remaining cost conscious.

"In our current fiscal environment, attracting third-party money to build renewable energy production facilities that will allow military installations to purchase energy at a pre-determined rate without building, owning and maintaining the facility is the right thing to do," said Col. Robert Ruch, Huntsville Center commander.

"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."

In April 2012, the White House announced the Defense Department was making one of the largest commitments to clean energy in history, by setting a goal to deploy 3 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 1 gigawatt of that total. These goals support the broader DoD goal to enhance installation energy



Courtesy photo

Construction workers complete electrical connections on phase 2 of a solar microgrid project at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. Fort Hunter Liggett is one of six pilot installations selected by the U.S. Army to be Net Zero energy, meaning the installation will create as much energy as it uses.

security and reduce installation energy costs.

By awarding these contracts, the Army will increase its agility by streamlining acquisition processes to develop large-scale renewable energy projects that use private sector financing. This approach will help speed overall project development time lines 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 1 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 Huntsville Center to make the MATOC a streamlined and agile tool for the government to procure power from large scale renewable energy projects."

Reverse auctioning takes advantage of new, innovative acquisition techniques

By Lillian Fox
Contracting Directorate

A good auction is pretty exciting. In the hit reality TV shows such as *Storage Wars* or *Texas Car Wars*, there is something exhilarating about watching people bidding to obtain a desired item.

Huntsville Center could be the focus of its own niche auctioning reality series based on an interesting acquisition tool that reduces procurement lead times, increases competition and exposure to small business vendors and drives tremendous cost savings.

That tool is a reverse auction, where the roles of buyer and seller are reversed with the sellers bidding to obtain contracts from the buyers, and prices decrease as the sellers offer competitively, which lowers their proposed prices.

The Army established this reverse auctioning contract vehicle with Fedbid (www.fedbid.com), a web-based marketplace for business-to-government e-commerce. The concept is pretty simple.

The government independently conducts market research to determine if reverse auctioning is the most appropriate strategy for meeting a requirement. If the determination is made to use reverse auctioning, the contracting officer posts a solicitation for supplies or services as a buyer on the system and sets a target price based upon the government estimate.

The government then identifies any selection criteria and selects various seller segments and contracting vehicles, such as full and open, small business, other socioeconomic groups, CHES vendors, GWACS, etc.

Once posted, a team of FedBid consultants searches for market place sellers providing services or supplies to maximize competition. All interested sellers then have the ability to submit a proposal, quote and/or bids. Sellers

can competitively lower their bids as many times as they choose until the closing date. This repetitive bidding ultimately drives the costs down for the buyer by reversing the auction. When the closing date and time has passed, the contracting officer is provided with the resultant documentation for evaluation and a fair and reasonableness determination.

What Requirements Work Best?

Reverse auctioning is ideal for simple commercial supplies and services that can be firm fixed priced. The top five most common product categories typically purchased using reverse auctioning procedures are information technology (equipment, software, supplies, etc.), medical and laboratory equipment, furniture and communications equipment. The top five most common service categories are lease or rental of equipment, maintenance and repair of equipment, IT services, housekeeping services and installation services.

How Do We Benefit?

Through the use of reverse auctioning, Huntsville Center has the opportunity to realize many benefits. The method usually increases competition, reduces schedule, decreases workload, increases cost savings and assists with meeting small business goals.

Under the Army reverse auctioning contract, FedBid offers a dedicated force of personnel who scan and contact marketplace sellers when an opportunity is posted. All solicitations posted to FedBid are also automatically transmitted to the official Government Point of Entry, FedBizOpps.gov (www.fbo.gov). These two combined ensure maximum exposure of the requirement and enhances the competitive environment. The products and services procured through the site are commercial items so the contracting officer can specify request for proposal/

request for bid time frames that are shorter than the typical 30-day open period. On average, most solicitations are open four-to-five days. Once a solicitation has closed, the contract specialist and contracting officer receive an easy-to-evaluate package which has all of the competitive data compiled and sorted. This reduces the administrative time associated with organizing the data before making final determinations.

Reverse auctioning is a growing method for acquiring commercial items in the federal, state and local governments, as well as commercial and educational arenas. In FY12, there were more than 30,000 buys awarded through the Fedbid site, which rendered more than \$142 million in savings. Approximately 78 percent of those buys were awarded to small businesses. In particular, the Army has realized approximately \$39 million at a savings rate of 12 percent in FY12.

Over the past couple of months, Huntsville Center has awarded five buys through the site, achieving \$79,057.00 (6.4 percent) in savings against the IGCE. Of those five buys, the Center has awarded more than 91 percent of dollars to small businesses concerns.

Are you Interested?

As we approach the end of FY13, consider requirements that may be good candidates for reverse auctioning. As you can see, there is potential to save the government dollars during these fiscally difficult times. In addition we can continue to set the standard high and continue to exceed small business goals while saving taxpayer dollars.

Two branches have been identified to pilot the use of the reverse auctioning: the Engineering Directorate Special Projects Branch and the Medical Programs Support Branch II.



Army promotes National Safety Month

Michael J. Negard
**U.S. Army Combat Readiness/
Safety Center**

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — June is National Safety Month, and senior Army Leaders are asking Soldiers, Army civilians and their family members to educate one another on risk and influence behaviors surrounding the leading causes of preventable injury and death.

National Safety Month coincides with the beginning of summer, historically the deadliest time of year for Soldiers off duty.

To help leaders, Soldiers, Army civilians and safety professionals

enhance their personal risk management during National Safety Month, the USACR/Safety Center launched a dedicated Website June 1 at <https://safety.army.mil/NSM>, containing posters, informational videos and feature articles addressing four core topics: civilian injury prevention, ground operations, aviation operations and driving safety.

While much effort will be put into awareness during June, senior Army leaders urged all members of the Army Family to remember safety is a day-to-day commitment and responsibility.

“Across every Army unit and every installation, safety is everyone’s

responsibility,” said Gen. Raymond T. Odierno, Army chief of staff.

“Leaders, Soldiers, Army civilians and family members are encouraged to use National Safety Month to evaluate their safety measures both on and off duty.

“It’s imperative that leaders continue to make safety a priority and that Soldiers take seriously the actions that put themselves and others at risk.”

National Safety Month will complement the current Army Safe Summer campaign, which includes materials targeted to specific seasonal hazards and began May 24 and runs through Sept. 3.



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

Lobby shopping

The Huntsville Center Activities Association sponsored a book fair in the Center’s lobby May 16-17. The HNCAA received 12 percent of the money from book sales for the activity funds account that will help support organizational day in October.

Ethics Corner: Maintaining impartiality in performing public duties

**By Clay Weisenberger
Office of Counsel**

What situations raise appearance concerns?

Buck's duties with the Corps of Engineers require him to perform technical reviews for furniture purchases by Huntsville Center under the Army Unaccompanied Personnel Housing furniture program.

His mother just took a position as CEO of AllCase, a furniture manufacturer and frequent quoter on furniture program Requests For Quotations. Buck worries that it might "look bad" if he participates in technical reviews for acquisitions involving AllCase. After some research, however, Buck decides that his mother's employment is not a "disqualifying financial interest" under 18 U.S.C. § 208(a).

Should Buck disregard his concerns and perform technical reviews for furniture buys that are quoted by AllCase? No.

While no actual financial conflict of interest exists under the statute, employees must take steps to avoid the appearance of partiality. Situations presenting significant

appearance concerns arise when an employee is called upon to participate in a matter and the employee knows that—

The matter is likely to affect the financial interests of a member of the employee's household; or
One or more party to the matter is (or is represented by) --

Someone with whom the employee has or is seeking a business relationship that involves something more than a routine purchase;

A member of the employee's household or a relative with whom the employee has a close personal relationship;

A person for whom the employee's spouse, parent or dependent child serves as an officer, director, trustee, general partner, agent, attorney, consultant, contractor or employee;

A person or organization for whom the employee has, within the last year, served as officer, director, trustee, general partner, agent, attorney, consultant, contractor or employee; or

An organization, other than certain political organizations, in which the employee is an active participant.

If you are faced with a situation that falls within one of the above categories, your first step is to assess whether a reasonable person might question your impartiality should you participate in the matter. In making this determination, seek assistance from your supervisor and counsel.

Remember: Your honesty and integrity are not relevant considerations in this determination.

If your impartiality could be called into question, you should not participate unless the Designated Ethics Agency Official determines that the benefit to the government resulting from your participation outweighs concerns about public perception regarding the integrity of the agency's programs and operations. Not all appearance problems fall into the above categories. The steps outlined herein also should be followed if you are concerned that other circumstances may raise a question about your impartiality. As always, if you have an ethics question, call me at 256-895-1140 or e-mail clay.weisenberger@usace.army.mil before you act.

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