



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

Vol. 35 Issue 4  
October 2014  
www.hnc.usace.army.mil

## Huntsville Center

# Bulletin

### **On the Inside ...**

Senior Leadership  
Development  
Fellows learn more  
about Headquarters  
USACE operations

■ Page 6

FRR project  
completing  
renovation of  
historic Air Force  
Personnel Center

■ Page 9

Energy Savings  
Performance  
Contract sets Fort  
Buchanan on path  
toward achieving  
Army's net zero goal

■ Page 10

Project delivery  
team recognized for  
excellence

■ Page 11

Chemical  
demilitarization  
program nearing  
end

■ Page 14

Kentucky students  
visit Center as part  
of STEM tour

■ Page 22



Courtesy photo

### **Open for business**

Defense Threat Reduction Agency Director Ken Meyers (center) assists with cutting the ribbon signifying the opening the 7,535 square foot Bio-Safety Level-3 facility addition in Otar, Kazakhstan Aug. 27. Huntsville Center provides construction management oversight and engineering support in designing and building the BSL-3 facility as well as an 86,111 square foot Central Reference Laboratory in Almaty, Kazakhstan. DTRA supports cooperative agreements with host nations focused on bio-terror threats outside the continental U.S. by providing facilities and equipment to monitor and detect potential endemic threats. In addition to the two facilities in Kazakhstan, Huntsville Center also supports DTRA with a rehabilitation of existing facilities in Armenia, Kenya and a Central Public Health Laboratory and National Public Health Laboratory in Afghanistan.

## Huntsville Center workforce sees record breaking fiscal year end

By Jo Anita Miley  
Public Affairs Office

**H**untsville Center is on its way to a record-setting fiscal year. As of Sept. 18, the organization had executed actions valued at more than \$1 billion.

The actual figure is expected to exceed \$2 billion the last week of September.

This is why teamwork at the Center is never more important than it is every

September as employees work to obligate funds, said Charles Ford, Huntsville Center Programs Director.

Ford oversees all programs and projects at the Center. He said collaboration is integral to having a great fiscal year.

"I am proud of the project delivery teams, especially how they are aiming for optimal customer satisfaction," Ford said.

"Our organization's

success is largely due to their ability to meet the customer's need – everything we do is customer-driven."

The PDTs, made up of engineers, program and project managers, resource managers, contract specialists, lawyers and others, work together to get all expired funds off the books and obligated before the end of the fiscal year, Ford said. The

See **YEAR END** on page 5

# Commander's thoughts

September was Suicide Prevention Month. We take the annual training, and it's important.

We have had a few instances since I have been here where we had an employee that seemed to be considering suicide. I'm happy to report that in each of these instances the employee is doing well at least partially because the supervisor noticed there might be a problem. We need to take care of people. I have been very happy with what our supervisors are doing. I believe in one instance, we may have saved somebody's life. Knowing what is available, such as the Employee Assistance Program at Redstone Arsenal, is important. I am really happy to see supervisors referring employees to EAP.

Year-end is always a stressful time here at the Center. A lot of work goes into ensuring we meet all our requirements.

By mid-September, we had already obligated half a billion dollars more than we had at this time last year, putting us well on our way to a record-breaking year. I'm proud of the work you do all year, but especially so at year-end.

As we move into FY15, it's time to update the Campaign Plan Goals and Huntsville Center's plan to support those goals. The USACE Campaign

Plan has four goals and everything we do at Huntsville Center supports one or more of those goals. The Chief likes to say four goals, 12 words. The only change to the wording of the goals is in Goal 1. It went from Support the Warfighter to Support National Security.

- Goal 1** – Support National Security
- Goal 2** – Transform Civil Works
- Goal 3** – Reduce Disaster Risks
- Goal 4** – Prepare for Tomorrow

In addition to the goals, there are 16 Priority Actions, listed below by goal.

- Action 1a2:** Engage/integrate USACE capabilities to achieve Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental and Multinational effects
- Action 1b2:** Develop USACE capacity for asset management
- Action 1c3:** Successfully design and construct sustainable buildings
- Action 1d2:** Improve USACE partnership and outreach
- Action 2a1:** Implement planning modernization process
- Action 2b1:** Implement a watershed-based budget development process
- Action 2c1:** Improve methods of delivery
- Action 2d1:** Implement the USACE infrastructure strategy



**Col. Robert Ruch**

**Action 3a1:** Maintain and improve readiness with contingency capabilities

**Action 3b1:** Enhance National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) support

**Action 3d1:** Engage USACE capabilities in interagency strategic objectives

**Action 4a2:** Improve knowledge creation/sharing and technology transfer

**Action 4b1:** Improve integrated strategic engagement and communication

**Action 4c3:** Improve acquisition execution with policy, process and professionals

**Action 4d1:** Shape our future workforce

**Action 4d4:** Prepare agile leaders to operate in the Army's complex environment

See **RUCH** on page 5

## Hails & Farewells

**Hail:** Sarah Gregory, Engineering Directorate; Erica White, Wanda Hampton, Contracting Directorate; Kamekia Hardiman, Kristi Henry, Resource Management Office; Heidi Connelly, Bridgett Knatt, Claude Roberts, Mike Bosley, Alonzo Fairley, Rae Kim, Reginald Williams, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; Tara Clark, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate.

**Farewell:** Charles Samuel, William Root, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate; Lt. Col. Patrick Stogner, Management Review Office; Kathleen Kelley, Patluke Ragucci, Mike Collum, Kristin Daggert, James Kiesling, CT; Karen Shockley, Engineering Directorate; Hanna Davis, ISPM; Sarah Gregory, OE; Kevin Oats, Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise.



**US Army Corps of Engineers**

The Huntsville Center Bulletin is printed by digital copier as an official publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Army. Inquiries can be addressed to Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Attn: CEHNC-PA, P.O. Box 1600, Huntsville, AL 35807-4301. Phone: DSN 760-1692 or commercial 256-895-1692. The Bulletin is also online at [www.hnc.usace.army.mil](http://www.hnc.usace.army.mil). The Huntsville Center Facebook page is located at <http://bit.ly/HNCfbPage>. The Twitter page is located at <http://twitter.com/CEHNC>. Circulation: 500.

## BULLETIN

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



Printed on recycled paper  
 30 percent post-consumer

# The Bulletin asks:

## *How do you think food trucks have impacted morale at Huntsville Center?*

““ The food truck option boosts morale in two ways: it’s readily available and it promotes team building. We can order our food in a short time, and we have an opportunity to mingle with our fellow teammates. I’ve noticed that people who don’t normally come out of their cubicles at our main building and our outer buildings are now coming to get food. ””



**Hiram Banuchi**  
Center Contracting Directorate



““ Now I don’t have to leave the Center to grab a bite to eat during lunch. Now I don’t have to deal with heavy traffic, bad weather or similar nuisances during my lunch hour. It’s less stressful and I can get a whole lot more work done. The vendors also provide us with good food choices that fit every taste. ””

**Yasmina Gerousis**  
Business Management Office

““ Since we don’t have a contractor on site (providing lunch) at our cafeteria anymore, the trucks give us a great option for a hot lunch without having to leave the premises. It also gives us time to eat together inside the cafeteria area or outside on the patio tables. I think it’s a plus for everyone involved. ””



**Raven Nall**  
Center Contracting Directorate

**Like the food trucks? Let the activities association know, fill out an ICE comment card online**



An Interactive Customer Evaluation website allows Huntsville Center employees to rate certain services and aspects regarding Huntsville Center, including providing Huntsville Center Activities Association with up to a 4,000 character comment or suggestion via the ICE website. Check out the Huntsville Center ICE website at:

[http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site\\_id=1202&dep=DoD](http://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=1202&dep=DoD)

## Carol Elder

By Jo Anita Miley  
Public Affairs Office

During the Strategic Leaders Conference in August, the Corps of Engineers recognized a member of Huntsville Center as one of its top performers. Carol Elder, from the Engineering Directorate's Interior Design Section, was named USACE Interior Designer of the Year for her work on several Huntsville Center programs.

This award is given annually to the Corps employee who has distinguished himself or herself through professional excellence, achievements and superior performance in interior design.

Elder was nominated for her superior accomplishments in managing several complex interior design projects including Furniture, Integrated Medical Furniture, Initial Outfitting and Transition, Centers of Standardization and other projects across the nation and around the globe. Her effective leadership and management expertise resulted in the successful completion of projects that have benefited many communities worldwide.

"It's an honor for me to receive this award. I have a passion for what I do, and it means a lot to be recognized for these contributions," Elder said.

Growing up in Read's Mill, Alabama, Elder said she has had an interest in architecture, construction and history since she was 7 years old.

She attended Auburn University and earned a degree in building science with strong emphasis in architectural design, which she used to work for companies in the private sector before joining Huntsville Center in 2008. Since then she has made significant contributions



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Interior Designer of the Year Carol Elder.**

to the work of the Corps on complex projects by working together with team members and customers to execute design projects across the country and overseas.

As the section chief for the Interior Design Section, Elder leads a team of 27 interior designers at Huntsville Center through skillful participation and coordination with project delivery teams and customers. She coordinates work with her teams and customers to execute unique design projects. She leads the team in the development of furniture item descriptions in the acquisition of more than \$150 million of furniture each year. She leads the team that procures another \$50 million to \$100 million in medical furniture and equipment and has worked with HQUSACE and Community of Practice members to firm up career requirements for interior designers.

Elder holds certifications from the National Council for Interior Design Qualification and Construction Specifications Institute as a construction documentation specialist.

She is also a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design accredited professional.

Elder was nominated for her exceptional work by her supervisor, Todd DuVernay, chief, Architectural Branch. According to DuVernay, Elder's work on the Furniture and Furnishings Program led to the acquisition of almost \$1 billion worth of furnishings for a wide variety of facilities.

"She works diligently to provide designs, processes and the quality of the Huntsville Center's work environment and our projects," DuVernay said. "Her efforts in the Interior Design Section have yielded a highly qualified, credentialed and dedicated team."

Outside of her work at the Center, Elder is involved in several other leadership roles. She is a local CSI officer conducting meetings and leading community training and informational events for the local chapter. Her work with CSI also affords opportunities to collaborate with other professional organizations on training events and community service projects.

Elder said she devotes a lot of her time to mentoring interior designers she supervises or others within her community. She was a charter member of the local chapter of the Project Management Institute in Huntsville.

"I love mentoring others and helping with their professional development," she said.

"Training others, investing in others to help them realize their professional goals, and providing guidance for reaching milestones in their careers as interior design professionals is very meaningful to me. This is what I love most about my job."

---

The **Employee Spotlight** is intended to let our Center employees shine for positively impacting our organization through mission achievements. Employees are nominated and are featured on quarterly 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 email: [JoAnita.Miley@usace.army.mil](mailto:JoAnita.Miley@usace.army.mil).

## Year End

continued from page 1

PDTs are co-located throughout the Center, and that plays a large role in their success.

According to Ford, this will be the Center's largest year overall and largest year-end for the amount of actions and the size of those actions.

"We have already obligated a half billion dollars more than we've ever done by this time in past years, and we've done it with less expense. It also seems to be one of the smoothest fiscal year ends we've ever had," Ford said.

"I can attribute this success to a number of things: the PDTs' ability to work project issues early on, streamlining processes, having more cohesive PDTs and extra collaboration between the members of the PDTs," Ford said.

"When I talk to contracting officers, program managers, the various technical leads and our resource management, everyone is confident they will execute everything."

Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate projects make up the majority of the workload in Huntsville Center when you consider the number of people (Engineering, Contracting, Resource Management staff, etc.) touching ISPM-generated projects.

Valerie Shippers, ISPM director, said in overall obligated dollars, ISPM obligated more than \$1 billion – or 66 percent – of the Center's total obligation of \$1.7 billion in FY 2013.

## RUCH

continued from page 2

Now, what does all that mean to Huntsville Center? Leadership will meet in early December to work out how Huntsville Center will continue to support the goals and priorities. I don't see our approach changing much; we already work hard to meet the goals and actions, and I think we do a pretty good job.

What I want you to do is think about how the work you do supports the Campaign Plan goals and priorities. Make supporting the goals and actions part of your FY15 performance objectives.

Through Oct. 15 we are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, "A Legacy of History, a Present of Actions and a Future of Success."

Huntsville Center is partnering with Team Redstone to

Shippers said having a successful fiscal year-end takes a tremendous planning effort. Program and project managers usually coordinate new business for Huntsville Center, working closely with potential customers throughout the year. However, during September, the roles are reversed and it is often the customer making the initial contact with Huntsville Center.

"We try not to turn down any new projects, if possible," Shippers said.

Shippers said ISPM takes on a large portion of their projects during the fiscal year-end. The team takes calls from customers up to Sept. 30. She explained that customers find out they have to obligate their funds before they expire. They often rely on ISPM to take in their funds when they get money at the last minute and take advantage of projects Huntsville Center has already identified and is ready to award.

"The deadline for taking in new contacts at year-end has changed," Shippers said.

"In the past, there wasn't any special guidance for accepting bids, so the contracting officers on the PDTs helped them work through any challenges. Now, a change to a Federal Acquisition Regulation requirement involves allowing adequate time (30 days) for the bid process. We must comply for fair

competition, so we try to explain any risk involved in this process to our customers. Even with this set in place, we expect to exceed last year's actuals."

Colleen O'Keefe, director of the Contracting Directorate, is responsible for more than 240 contracting professionals whose job is to provide advice on acquisitions and recommend innovative contracting solutions.

O'Keefe said she is eager to take part in what will be her first fiscal year-end at the Center.

"By getting CT folks involved early in the acquisitions process, we've been able to streamline our processes to execute early on," she said.

"Our contracting officers have a solid foundation, are knowledgeable and are empowered to work with the PDT to come up with the best solutions. We are willing to work hard and put in long hours to support the mission – we'll get it done." O'Keefe said.

Shippers said her team can't have a successful year-end without also having other USACE enterprises in the districts on board to get the work done, performing quality assurance and contractual oversight in the field.

"It takes a team effort. I think no one at the Center wants to fail our customers, so we work hard to get the job done," Shippers said.

present a Hispanic Heritage Month Observance scheduled for 10 a.m., Oct. 7, in the NASA Activities Center, building 4316.

Ethnic observances are conducted to enhance cross-cultural awareness among all Soldiers, Civilians and family members.

November is Native American Heritage Month, and Huntsville Center will have its own observance. More information will follow on that.

As we head into the new fiscal year and cooler weather, please take time to review and update your emergency response plans both at home and work. It's always best to be prepared. I'm proud of all you do for Huntsville Center and the nation. Keep up the great work.

# Senior Leadership Development Fellows learn more about Headquarters USACE operations

By Debra Valine  
Public Affairs Office

A program started this year is affording Huntsville Center employees an opportunity to work at Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for four months to learn how USACE operates.

Sally Parsons, Sheron Belcher and Todd Watts, all from Engineering Directorate, are the first to participate in the Senior Leadership Development Fellow program. Parsons went on the first assignment, Belcher is at headquarters through October and Watts will take the next rotation.

The idea for the program came about when Charles Ford became Huntsville Center's Programs Director. He said he realized he didn't sufficiently understand how USACE HQ operated, and he did not appreciate how Huntsville Center fit into the big picture.

He said it became apparent to him that most of the Center's employees were in the same position.

"A lot of people – including us – think of us as a district, but we direct report to HQ. That makes us a division-level organization with execution mission; which is unique within the Corps," Ford said. "I wanted to elevate our strategic engagement with USACE HQ."

The assignment doesn't come with a set of duties. Ford said he expects each employee to talk to as many people as possible, attend as many meetings as they can and work from there.

The employees selected for the program this year responded to an email sent to the Center's employees asking if anyone was interested in the assignment. Ford said he plans to recruit three more individuals sometime in the first quarter of FY15. He is looking for self-starters, people who are highly motivated, flexible and adaptable.

"I'm not looking for a specific

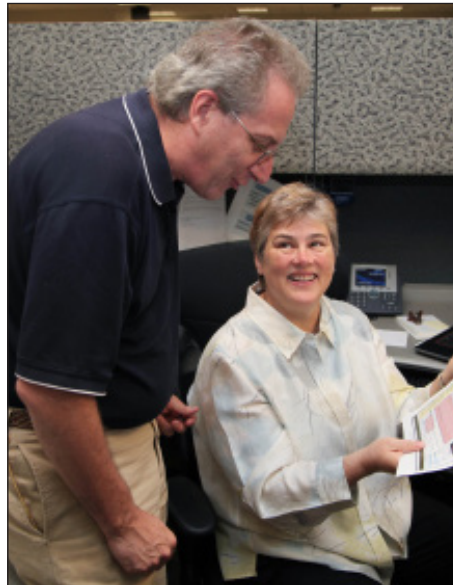


Photo by Mikell Moore

**Ed Gauvreau, left, chief of the Installation Support Division, Planning Branch, discusses a project with Sheron Belcher, Huntsville Center's Engineering Directorate, during her four-month assignment at Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the Senior Leadership Development Fellow program.**

discipline," Ford said. "Employees in Contracting, Resource Management or any other directorate can submit a resume. They just need to be able to operate independently."

Parsons, now the chief of the Planning and Programming Branch at Huntsville Center, said she employed self-guided learning at headquarters.

"I made many office calls with HQ leadership and attended a lot of meetings across several offices and programs," Parsons said.

"The idea is to come away from this experience with a better idea of what goes on across the Corps enterprise, rather than focusing on what happens in the few offices and people I've dealt with routinely over the years. So, instead of limiting myself to working with Installation Support personnel, I attended a number of Contracting peer reviews, Acquisition Policy Community

of Practice, and Contracting Policy CoP meetings; Military Construction issues meetings; a Civil Works meetings with Office of Management and Budget; USACE Operations Center briefs; and Cyber Threat Working Group meetings.

Parsons said she produced some products, too, such as trying to get funding for the Commercial Utility Program, facilitating development of a draft CUP Strategic Plan, trying to improve USACE's support to the Defense Critical Infrastructure program and enhancing cyber security for Industrial Control Systems.

"Some of the things I worked on at HQ have followed me back to HNC," Parsons said.

"I'm still helping the Corps to lay out how we can be leaders in Industrial Control System cyber security, which is something I enjoy doing. It gave me a lot of Continuing Learning Points, too. And I made new friends, both at HQ and in the D.C. community."

Parsons said she absolutely recommends the opportunity to anyone who is interested.

"I tell anyone who asks me that I highly recommend taking the opportunity if you get the chance," Parsons said.

"It's good exposure for you as an employee. It benefits the Center to have people here who understand HQ better. And it benefits all of us for HQ personnel to understand HNC's mission and capabilities."

According to Belcher, who is the USACE Unified Facilities Guide Specifications Database Manager at Huntsville Center, the time at headquarters has been informative and fun.

"My goals while in this assignment were to learn about the greater Corps of Engineers and to act as an advocate

See *FELLOWS* on page 7

# Center's new deputy commander in place

Huntsville Center's newest deputy commander is Lt. Col. Kendall Bergmann, who assumed the position Aug. 11.

Bergmann came to Huntsville Center from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District, Minnesota, and was deployed to Afghanistan in support of the Transatlantic Afghanistan District as the Area Officer in Charge for Regional Command North and Regional Command East.

He has also been assigned to the Division West, First U.S. Army with assignment in Bismarck, North Dakota, as the senior Army adviser to the National Guard in North Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Bergmann was commissioned into the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from the Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, Reserve Officers' Training Corps, in May 1990.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from Texas Tech University in May 1991.

His previous assignments include



**Lt. Col. Kendall Bergmann**

platoon leader and executive officer, Company C, and battalion maintenance officer, 4th Engineer Battalion, Fort Carson, Colorado; battalion adjutant, assistant operations officer and company commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 41st Engineer Battalion, Fort Drum, New

York; engineer company, infantry battalion staff and engineer battalion staff observer/controller, Operations Group, National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California; project manager for Assistant Chief of Staff Engineers, Eighth U.S. Army, Seoul, Korea; brigade logistics officer, division artillery (reorganized to 5th Maneuver Brigade); division knowledge management officer, 1st Cavalry Division; brigade engineer and brigade plans officer, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Bergmann's military education includes the Engineer Officer Basic Course, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and the Infantry Officer Advance Course, Fort Benning, Georgia.

His awards and decorations include: Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

## **FELLOWS** continued from page 6

for the Center," Belcher said.

"All my years with the Corps of Engineers have been in the same branch at the Huntsville Center. I thought it important to see what and how other elements function; see a bigger picture of the Corps of Engineers. I have gained a fuller understanding of the breadth of the Corps' missions, activities and influence. I have also gained an understanding of how the Huntsville Center is regarded from the Headquarters perspective," she said.

"HNC plays a vital role in implementing enterprise and national level program mandates that have high visibility for the Corps. I was amazed how often I overheard Huntsville mentioned, favorably I might add, in telephone conversations around me. In carrying out my assignments in the fellowship I have become more familiar with HNC organizations and people that I haven't had occasion to work with. I believe the fellowship experience will allow me to look at my duties in a different light as well as feel more involved in Huntsville Center activities."

In her spare time, Belcher took advantage of being in Washington, District of Columbia.

"One of the draws to the fellowship was to take full advantage of being in, and take in all of the sites that I could," Belcher said.

"So far I have enjoyed the downtown festivities on the Fourth of July including the concert on the Capitol's west lawn (that is the concert where they use real cannons playing the 1812 Overture); a concert at the Kennedy Center; spent nearly every weekend visiting several of the Smithsonian museums, the Library of Congress, Dupont Circle, Eastern Market and other D.C. landmarks; and had a personal tour of the Capitol with someone from Mo Brooks' staff. I am waiting for cooler weather to tour Mount Vernon and the Lincoln Cottage. I have also been able to share the experience playing tour guide to visiting family and posting my adventures on Facebook."

Watts, chief of the Architect-Engineer Contracts and Criteria Branch, said he is ready for his rotation.

"After spending four weeks at the Civilian Education System (CES) Advanced Course in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, I am very excited to embark on my next leadership development opportunity," Watts said.



Photo by Jay Woods

### **Afghan review**

Transatlantic Afghanistan District Commander Col. Pete Helmlinger (left), and Huntsville Center Commander Col. Bob Ruch review details during a command briefing Ruch received during his August visit to the district. Ruch also visited with Huntsville Center personnel deployed in support of operations in theater.

## **Solar technology contractors meet to discuss upcoming project at Redstone Arsenal**

**By Debra Valine  
Public Affairs Office**

**C**ompanies pre-qualified to compete for solar technology projects met Aug. 20 at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, to go over the Request for Proposals for the task order to build a renewable solar energy facility capable of producing up to 18,000 megawatt hours per year on the Arsenal.

In all, 49 solar companies, both large and small businesses, are eligible to submit proposals for the project.

Twenty-three of the 49 companies attended the event, seven of them small businesses. Proposals were due Sept. 23.

The project, developed by Redstone Arsenal's Directorate of Public Works, the U.S. Army Office of Energy Initiatives and Huntsville Center, is the first Power Purchase Agreement project to be developed using the \$7 billion capacity renewable and alternative energy power production for Department of Defense installations

Multiple Award Task Order Contract awarded by Huntsville Center. The MATOC involves third-party financed renewable energy acquisitions and involves no Army or Department of Defense capital, or Military Construction appropriation. The Army or DOD will purchase the power from contractors who own, operate and maintain the generating assets. The MATOC's total estimated value of \$7 billion capacity refers to the total dollar value of energy available for purchase under all Power Purchase Agreement task orders for their entire term (up to 30 years).

At the meeting, senior leaders discussed the importance of the project. Richard Kidd, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Energy and Sustainability, gave an overview on why renewable energy is important to the Army. Kidd said the Army is committed to renewable energy.

"We look at renewable energy as a means to secure energy for our installations," Kidd said.

"Renewable energy will be part of what the Army does from now on both tactically and at its installations."



# FRR project completing renovation of historic Air Force Personnel Center

By Debra Valine  
Public Affairs Office

**R**enovations ongoing for a number of years at the U.S. Air Force Personnel Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph in Texas are nearly complete, and while the exterior of Bldg. 499 has been restored to its historic look, the interior has significantly changed.

Huntsville Center's Facilities Repair and Renewal Program, the Fort Worth District and the Air Force Personnel Center's engineering staff at Randolph started the renovation project in 2009 with first the A-Wing and then the C-Wing of building 499. This was the first comprehensive renovation of building 499 since the first building was built in the 1930s.

The more than \$73 million project renovated, furnished and outfitted 200,000 square feet of office space and incorporated state-of-the-art features that increase energy efficiency and provide a better working environment for employees. The improvements meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver criteria.

A-wing renovations were completed in November 2013; C-wing was complete Sept. 14.

"The renovations consisted of demolishing the interior of each wing and replacing closed office space with an open plan and some offices," said Ron Brook, Huntsville Center's project manager.

"All the building systems – heating, ventilation and air-conditioning, electrical and plumbing – were installed as new, the exterior was repainted and new modular furniture was installed in each wing."

Other upgrades included Americans with Disabilities Act compliant features, including a new elevator.

"The project took five years to complete," Brook said.

"Through it all, we worked very



Courtesy photo

**The U.S. Air Force Personnel Center at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph in Texas has been restored to its historic look. The Facilities Repair and Renewal project was the first comprehensive renovation of the building since it was built in the 1930s.**

closely with the project team members. Coordination between Huntsville Center, the Air Force Personnel Center and Fort Worth District Quality Assurance was excellent."

The original buildings housed enlisted Airmen and featured the Spanish Colonial Revival-style architecture and terra-cotta clay roof tiles. The structure's trademarks were arches that led to open-air porches. Over the years, each of the arches was filled in leaving only a small rectangular window.

Now, energy efficient and antiterrorism/force protection compliant windows fill in the arches, helping to reduce electrical usage and provide better climate control and natural light for the building's interior.

While the exterior may resemble the original structures, the inside has been transformed into open office space using system furniture.

According to Ralph Williams, the AFPC engineer for the project who is now retired, the interior is much more flexible. Before, as missions changed and personnel were moved around, they were just located anywhere there was space, Williams said. Now personnel can be grouped by function, and if the

mission changes and furniture needs to be re-configured, the systems furniture allows for that.

Williams said the Air Force came to Huntsville Center when other agencies could not accept the project without money in hand. All the projects were awarded near fiscal year-end with end-of-year funds.

"We had an execution strategy, but we had to find an agency willing to develop and advertise our projects in advance of funding," Williams said. "Huntsville Center has been absolutely outstanding. We could not have done it without you all. We are very pleased that the project ended up in your court."

Huntsville Center uses Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity service construction contracts covering all 50 states plus U.S. territories and limited overseas locations. These contracts and how they are used have many benefits and advantages.

"Huntsville Center was able to do things that were out of the ordinary and extraordinary," Williams said.

"I do not think anyone else could have done the job and provided the same level of customer service Huntsville Center provides."

# Energy Savings Performance Contract sets Fort Buchanan on path toward achieving Army's Net Zero

By Julia Bobick  
Public Affairs Office

The Army Corps of Engineers' first and only Energy Savings Performance Contract to include wind power generation is nearly complete at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

One of several energy conservation measures implemented through the ESPC, two wind turbines will produce an estimated 5 percent of the energy consumed by the installation.

In addition, a total of 21,824 solar photovoltaic panels will produce about 5.5 megawatts of power, which is at least 60 percent of the installation's current power demand at its peak production.

Through the ESPC, managed by Huntsville Center, the Army has also replaced old chiller systems and package and split-type air conditioners with more efficient units, replaced rooftop mounted package air conditioners with a central chiller plant at the post exchange, installed cool roofs and energy management controls, replaced window-type air conditioners with mini split inverter-driven units, installed LED lighting and other efficient interior and exterior lighting systems and installed solar thermal water heaters.

Two ESPC measures instrumental toward helping Fort Buchanan achieve the Army's Net Zero water program goals were the implementation of a potable water well to reduce reliance on Puerto Rico's Aqueduct and Sewer Authority and installation of a 2 million-gallon irrigation lake fed from a previously government installed non – potable ground water well that will supply the necessary water to a new irrigation system at the post golf course, according to Yamil Hernandez, Fort Buchanan Directorate of Public Works Environmental Division.

"In combination, all measures are



Courtesy photo

**One of two wind turbines on Fort Buchanan stands next to one of its many solar installations. The two wind turbines will produce an estimated 5 percent of the energy consumed by the installation, and a total of 21,824 solar photovoltaic panels will produce about 5.5 megawatts of power, which is at least 60 percent of the installation's current power demand at its peak production.**

expected to save about 30 percent of the fort's energy demand and 60 percent of potable water demand, well in excess of current federal requirements," Hernandez said.

Estimated savings resulting from all the conservation measures is more than 59,000 MBtu per year and more than \$4 million in avoided costs.

Through an ESPC, an energy services company provides the capital and expertise to make comprehensive energy and water efficiency improvements or implements new renewable energy capabilities on government facilities and installations, and maintains them for a specified time period.

There is no upfront investment by the Army, according to Wes Malone, project manager at Huntsville Center, which manages 85 to 90 percent of the Army's ESPC portfolio.

"With an ESPC, your energy budget doesn't go down; you still pay for your utilities and the savings pay for the service through a given payback period," Malone said.

"The utility bill is reduced by the energy conservation measures that were implemented, but the extra money goes to the contractor to pay for the work that was done and continued maintenance of the new systems."

The high utility rates in Puerto Rico,

which at 28 to 30 cents per Kilo-watt hour are nearly double the rates in the continental United States, make ESPC renewable energy projects very attractive options for the Army, Malone said.

"In any ESPC, you have to factor in the amount you pay in utilities and the financing interest rate to determine how much work you can do for a project to still be in the Army's best interest."

Photovoltaic installations in Puerto Rico have a payback of about 20 years, in contrast to an average of 37 years in the continental U.S., according to Hernandez.

"For this reason, we have also required that for all new construction on post at least 33 percent of the building's daytime power needs be supplied through solar photovoltaic energy in order to ensure energy independence," Hernandez said.

"By being more self sustainable and applying sustainability principles in our building designs, revitalizations, construction, retrofits, and operation and maintenance, we not only help ourselves to be more independent and augment our operational readiness, but also help our neighbors to have a more stable power and water infrastructure capacity."

# Project delivery team recognized for excellence

By William S. Farrow  
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recognized a Japan Engineer District project delivery team as the 2014 PDT of the Year for Excellence at the 2014 Strategic Leaders Conference awards dinner at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, Aug. 7.

The 13-year project, completed in 2013, built a new U.S. Navy Hospital-Okinawa at Camp Foster. The new hospital replaces the hospital at Camp Lester.

The hospital, the largest overseas Naval hospital, serves a beneficiary population of 55,000 active duty personnel, family members, civilian employees, contract personnel and retirees, and provides referral services for nearly 189,000 beneficiaries throughout the western Pacific.

Huntsville Center's Medical Facilities Mandatory Center of Expertise and Standardization played a key role in the PDT's design of the new hospital.

The Pacific Ocean Division, Japan Engineer District and its Okinawa Area Office led the PDT that also included the POD Regional Technical Center, Navy Medicine West-Okinawa Detachment, USNH-O, U.S. Marine Corps Facilities Engineer, U.S. Forces Japan and the Okinawa Defense Bureau for the Government of Japan.

Phillip Hoge, John Phillips, Jim Meade and Jeffrey Hardin from Huntsville Center's MX supported the PDT with the entire design, advisement and problem resolution during construction, an on-site inspection near facility completion, and advisement and assistance during the final building commissioning.

"We were there from day one of the design kickoff, which starts with development of a Criteria Package, more or less akin to a concept level design," said Hardin, a mechanical engineer and technical team lead.

Hardin said for nine years, the MX participated in every design meeting



Courtesy photo

**Marines, sailors and distinguished guests cut the ribbon during a ceremony signifying the opening of the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa on Camp Foster in 2013. Huntsville Center's Medical Facilities Mandatory Center of Expertise and Standardization played a key role in the design of the new hospital.**

with the Architectural Engineer and GOJ throughout CP development and final design.

In addition to providing quality assurance oversight of all medically unique aspects of the design, Hardin said the MX found itself in the unofficial role of consulting engineers to the AE, due to GOJ and AE lack of familiarity with U.S. construction and building codes and standards.

While the project required strict adherence to U.S. life safety and fire protection regulations, including stringent U.S. Joint Commission requirements, it was also subject to Japanese laws and regulations.

Hardin explained that the Japanese AE tasked with designing the four-story, 442,827 square foot hospital had limited knowledge or experience with U.S. codes, criteria or engineering practices, so it became an MX task to teach and ensure design compliance with U.S. healthcare criteria.

"The project had to comply with host nation criteria too, and it can be extremely difficult to satisfy both," Hardin said.

"But with the considerable aid of Japanese code experts with the JED and OAO and the AE team, we were able to successfully meet both sets of criteria."

Beyond codes and criteria, Hardin

said other challenges were using an interpreter for many hundreds of hours of face-to-face discussion to reconcile differing "good engineering practices" and also the travel involved by the MX to work with the PDT.

Unique design features of the new hospital include: earthquake resistant "base isolation" foundation system; ice storage to reduce peak power demands of cooling systems; rooftop solar electrical panels and four-day, full-capacity emergency back-up of generator and fuel and potable water and sewage storage.

As the largest medical facility constructed under the GOJ Host Nation Program, the USNH-O represents dedication and selfless service of the hardworking team.

"Thirteen years of TDYs to Okinawa involving a 27-28 hour door-to-door journey each way were a trial," Hardin said.

However, Hardin said all the hard work, obstacles and thousands of miles traveled paid off for the MX team and the PDT.

"It is always pleasing to be recognized for doing your job well, even when you are only part of the accomplishment," Hardin said of the USACE award.

# Center sustains worldwide fueling capability

By William S. Farrow  
Public Affairs Office

Huntsville Center's Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate manages a maintenance and repair service program sustaining worldwide fueling capability to the Department of Defense and other agencies.

The Defense Logistics Agency-Fuels program provides maintenance, inspection, repair and emergency response actions at 212 DLA sites on military installations world-wide under the jurisdiction of DLA-Energy.

In 1980 DLA approached Huntsville Center to award contracts for the creation of operations and maintenance manuals for Defense Fuel Supply Center coastal sites.

DLA then requested Huntsville Center develop a recurring maintenance contract to provide periodic and preventive maintenance and minor repair services and actions.

"The program will double in the next 12-18 months as more than 200 Air Force sites are brought into the recurring maintenance and minor repair program," said Dennis Bacon, DLA-Fuels program manager.

"We are increasing our DLA-Fuels staff at Huntsville Center commensurate with the program requirements," Bacon said.

"We have the expertise and ability to support multi-service installations and customers in maintaining and repairing fueling equipment in compliance with federal, state and local code, criteria and regulations."

Maintenance is executed in a decentralized manner with each DOD installation providing a "site representative" responsible for developing the scope and subsequent verification of work completion to standard.

The program provides additional quality assurance via the use of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers local district offices and periodic Huntsville Center visits as added checks and balances.

DLA Energy provides funding to the military services for sustainment, restoration and modernization and military construction for fuel-related projects to executing agents through centrally managed programs.

Within USACE, Omaha District executes the military construction, service and recurring maintenance, tank inspection, project and planning studies missions in support of DLA-Energy and the services.



Courtesy photo

**A recently renovated service control point at Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana, ensures fuel is delivered to the Air Force 2nd Bomb Wing's stable of B-52 Stratofortresses (seen in background), a long-range heavy bomber serving as a vital component to the Air Force Global Strike Command. Huntsville Center's Installation Support and Programs Management Defense Logistics Agency-Fuels program manages a maintenance and repair service program sustaining worldwide fueling capability to the Department of Defense and other agencies.**

As the program has grown, the DLA-Fuels team has experienced a great appreciation for the program that provides direct support to the U.S. military's global deployment capability.

Bridget Knatt, DLA-Fuels administrative staff, is new to the Corps of Engineers and Huntsville Center, having come on board the program in July.

She said before getting involved with the program she had limited knowledge of the span of work Huntsville Center and ISPM does to support the U.S. military services.

"The Army Corps of Engineers is a new experience for me so I thought that the Corps was only about constructing buildings and dams," she said.

"Now, working on the DLA-Fuels team, I know that we provide services to many federal agencies such as the Defense Logistics Agency."

Wes Trammell, DLA-Fuels lead engineer, said the fast-paced program requires a committed team working together to ensure the program's success.

"Enjoying your job makes all the difference when you are involved with something as high speed as this program," Trammell said.

"The team atmosphere directly relates to the success of our program and ultimately to the support we are providing to DLA, the service control points and to the warfighter."

# Range clearance in Afghanistan led by Center team

By Julia Bobick  
Public Affairs Office

With U.S. forces operating in Afghanistan for more than 12 years – from a few thousand in 2001 to a peak of about 100,000 troops in 2011 – a number of ranges were established across the country for training on everything from small arms to artillery.

Cleaning up those ranges and returning the land to the Afghan people in a usable condition has become the mission of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville. More than 175,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance and 1,300 land mines have already been discovered and destroyed through the Center's range clearance program, expected to run at least through December 2015.

"Every piece of ordnance that's recovered from a range and destroyed is one less for a Soldier or civilian to find down the road. Afghanistan is a good place to be, and it's a good mission to have," said Chase Hamley, a project manager in the International Operations Division of Huntsville Center's Ordnance and Explosives Directorate.

Huntsville Center, the program executing agency for U.S. Forces – Afghanistan, awarded a contract to Sterling Global Operations Inc., headquartered in Lenoir City, Tennessee, in December 2013 with the first task order to identify the U.S. ranges scattered across Afghanistan, to include the type of munitions used on the range and the range boundaries.

Many ranges will be closed and cleared in accordance with Afghanistan Mine Action Standards.

As of Aug. 12, 55 ranges had been identified for clearance, and another nine sites are being investigated.

Huntsville Center still receives new range clearance requests as the military continues its drawdown in Afghanistan.

The second phase is the surface clearance – munitions sitting on the



Courtesy photo

**A contractor performs the dangerous work of manual munitions clearance activities on a range near Makuan in Afghanistan's Kandahar province.**

ground or slightly buried – and data logging to detect and map metallic anomalies below the surface that could indicate buried munitions.

"In live-fire ranges, the biggest thing you are worried about is unexploded ordnance. We reduce the risk a great deal just by completing the surface clearance on the identified ranges," said Bob Britton, a program manager in the OE International Operations Division.

"What we are doing is so important, but with more than 60 ranges it's also a big challenge – there's a lot of acreage associated with this mission – and a lot of ordnance; in a matter of months the contractor removed some 30,000 grenades from just a couple of ranges."

The good news is that, since these are fairly contemporary ranges, there is a lot of information about the ranges and how they were used, and the number of types of munitions employed is limited, which helps with clearance and disposal efforts,

according to Kevin Oates, who worked in the Military Munitions Division of Huntsville Center's Environmental Munitions Center of Expertise.

As the surface clearance is completed, the IO team determines the appropriate process for phase three, subsurface clearance, based on the weapons used at the range, topography and soil type, Oates said.

In addition, they take into consideration how the Afghans intend to use the land in the future – will it be farmland, will it be developed for housing, or will it likely be left unused.

The IO team draws on the vast expertise of not only the OE directorate staff, but also various experts across the Center who can enhance their mission.

"Everyone knows what we're doing and what's on the horizon and it makes it easy to talk through our options and chart out the best courses of action," Hamley said. "Having receptive management helps, too – they know that surrounding themselves with the right people and listening to all the recommendations ensures our continued success."

Oates and Nick Stolte, a Huntsville Center EM CX employee deployed as an environmental chief for U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, are working with Jason Burcham, from the Center's Environmental and Utilities Branch, to develop a consistent decision logic for determining where a subsurface clearance may be required based on their extensive experiences surveying and clearing active U.S. ranges and performing cleanup and remediation at U.S. Superfund hazardous waste sites.

"Basically, we're providing another perspective and helping identify what steps and information need to go into the decision-making process for the sub-surface range clearance in Afghanistan," Oates said.

"I'm very excited about the work because I think we will rapidly be seeing some very tangible results."

# Chemical demilitarization program nearing end



Courtesy photo

With construction complete in 2001, the Anniston, Alabama, Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (shown here in 2013 shortly before it was demolished) was the first destruction facility for which the Huntsville Center managed construction start to finish &mdash; a big success for the Center.

## By Julia Bobick Public Affairs Office

**D**esignated as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Life Cycle Project Manager for Chemical Demilitarization more than 24 years ago, the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's chemical demilitarization program is now nearing the end of its mission.

The completion of construction at Kentucky's Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant – anticipated for July 2015 – will bring an end to the chemical demilitarization program, which has had a role in the design and/or construction of all nine of the Army's chemical agent destruction facilities.

"We've been successful in helping destroy a horrible tool of war – chemical agents," said Steve Light, chief of the Chemical Demilitarization Directorate's Alternative Technologies Division. "It's incredibly satisfying that we've been a part of that process."

Huntsville Center's official role in Army chemical demilitarization activities began in 1981 when the then Huntsville Division and the U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency signed a memorandum of understanding to establish roles for a program for demilitarization of obsolete

chemical weapons.

In 1982, Huntsville Center began design development for the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS) on Johnston Island in the Pacific, the Army's flagship facility for destruction of chemical weapons using incineration technology – the preferred method for chemical weapons destruction at the time.

Huntsville Center engineers used lessons learned at JACADS, including site and process adaptations, to design the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at the Deseret Chemical Depot in Utah, which was the location of the largest original stockpile of nerve and blister agents in the United States.

By the end of 1987, Huntsville Center was in the process of designing eight chemical weapons disposal facilities at continental U.S. military installations storing chemical munitions:

- Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah (completed in 1996);
- Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at Anniston Army Depot, Alabama (completed in 2001);
- Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at Umatilla Chemical Depot, Oregon (completed in 2001);
- Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at Pine Bluff Arsenal,

Arkansas (completed in 2002);

- Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at Edgewood Chemical Activity area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland (completed in 2002);
- Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at Newport Chemical Depot, Indiana (completed in 2003);
- Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant at Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado (completed in 2012); and
- Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant at Blue Grass Army Depot.

The Center was initially the program manager for Army chemical demilitarization facilities, but did not execute the construction, according to Light. Because of the complexity of the facilities and construction requirements, Light said it became increasingly important to have a single Corps entity responsible for each facility from the initial design through the completion of construction. In 1990 the Army Corps of Engineers appointed Huntsville Center as the Life Cycle Project Manager for Chemical Demilitarization and in 1992 the Center officially received the chemical demilitarization facility construction

See **CHEMICAL** on page 15

mission. Huntsville Center's mission at each location ends when construction is complete and the facilities are turned over to prepare for technology approved destruction operations.

"It really brought a construction role to Huntsville Center – something we never really had before," Light said.

"We were known for providing complex project design and program support, but not for having construction resident offices, which many of the other Corps of Engineers districts have. We were authorized and tasked to provide construction staffs and product delivery of very complex construction sites."

A Huntsville Center employee since 1991, Light has been working on the chemical demilitarization program for more than 17 years.

He said the chemical demilitarization program has been very successful because of its close working relationship between the Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, Engineering Directorate, and construction staffs.

At the peak of the chemical demilitarization program, Huntsville Center had about 200 employees working on design and construction of five facilities, each with fully staffed resident offices.

The Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility was the first destruction facility for which the Center managed construction from start to finish — a big success for the Center.

The U.S. government also assigned the Huntsville Center as U.S. construction oversight agent for chemical demilitarization activities in the former Soviet Union in 1998 because of its established expertise in the developing designs and managing facility construction.

The Center provided contract planning, management and on-site program management for construction planning and assisted in inspecting the



Courtesy photo

**With concrete walls 26 inches thick, the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant's Munitions Demilitarization Building has the most complicated blast walls of the entire program. Designed to protect workers in the unlikely event of an explosion, the walls are made of layers upon layers of rebar and self-consolidating concrete that required seven days to cure.**

quality of the construction to ensure the plant would successfully operate the Russian Chemical Weapons Destruction Complex at Shchuch'ye.

The Center finally wrapped up the extensive mission in 2012.

For each U.S. site, Huntsville Center staff has developed initial design requirements for the highly-automated state-of-the-art disposal facilities and identified and procured appropriate equipment – to include the specialized robots that transfer materials to the appropriate processing stations at the Pueblo and Blue Grass facilities – based on the approved destruction technology.

While the first five facilities used incineration technology, the technology changed to bulk neutralization at Aberdeen and Newport, neutralization followed by biotreatment at Pueblo, and neutralization followed by supercritical water oxidation at Blue Grass.

"It's a great feeling to know that

we could build such complex plants and achieve a very, very safe record – in terms of both personnel and operational safety. The safety statistics show that the U.S. government far exceeded industry standards," Light said.

"That's something Huntsville Center and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are very proud of."

About 30 people in the Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, including a dozen or so staff at the Blue Grass plant office, are guiding the program toward completion.

"It's challenging to be losing so many subject matter experts in this program because the Center currently has no follow-on program of the same scale," Light said, "but we are extremely proud to be able to reflect upon the great accomplishments over the past 30 years which the Huntsville Center has contributed to make this nation and world a safer place to live and work."

# Mission Focus: Energy Engineering Analysis Program

By Julia Bobick  
Public Affairs Office

With a proven track record of helping federal agencies and military installations identify successful ways to reduce energy and water consumption and increase efficiency, the Army Corps of Engineers' Energy Engineering Analysis Program has expanded its efforts to ensure USACE-owned civil works facilities are also as efficient as possible. Helping both USACE and external customers comply with federal mandates to reduce energy and water use has both economic and sustainability benefits.

"We are looking at ourselves to set the example," said Raúl Alonso, EEAP program manager at the Huntsville Center. "Our customers are responding aggressively to identify conservation measures so they can plan and request project funding for implementation."

The EEAP team conducts holistic facility assessments, also referred to as energy audits or surveys, to identify cost-saving energy and water conservation measures that will help achieve near-term federal energy policy goals of a 30 percent reduction in energy consumption and a 16 percent reduction in water usage by 2015.

The Corps of Engineers instructed and funded Huntsville Center to perform several civil works facility energy audits as a pilot project in fiscal year 2011 starting with its energy hogs – facilities that constitute at least 75 percent of the total USACE civil works facility energy use.

Taking on the civil works energy survey mission has been somewhat challenging as structures run the gamut from traditional office and administrative buildings to engineering yards, locks and dams, repair and supply bases, pumping stations and facilities along waterways.

The EEAP team physically inspects every facility to assess the energy generation process, distribution systems and controls, building envelope (including windows, walls, roofing and insulation), lighting, internal mechanical/electrical loads, HVAC systems, and any other energy-consuming, energy-generating or energy-interfacing systems, according to Alonso.

He said they also review recent utility bills to ensure agencies aren't being overcharged, as well as to identify any possible rate reductions or cost savings that could potentially be achieved through working with the utility company.



Photo by Sarah Gross

**Underwater structures, known as parasitics, are placed into the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal as part of the electric barriers project in 2010. The electric barriers deter the inter-basin establishment of Asian carp and other fish through an electric field in the water. The Center helps Corps of Engineers facilities like Chicago District's electric fish barriers - which are already using the best technology available for their specific operation - to find alternatives for reducing energy consumption.**

Then they develop comprehensive reports for each facility identifying specific conservation measures and they "do the math" so customers can see both the recommended investment and potential cost savings for each conservation measure.

As of June, the EEAP team, led by project manager Michael Braddock, completed audits at 27 covered USACE facilities yielding 412 energy conservation measures, averaging an annual cost savings of \$1.3 million with a capital investment of just under \$9 million.

Simple payback equates to 6.6 years, which means the projects pay for themselves within seven years. Across the entire program, more than 4,900 ECMs have been identified at Department of Defense installations, Reserve centers and federal agencies with an annual cost-savings of some \$154 million and an average four-year simple payback on the investment. Program-wide estimated annual energy savings is more than 7.3 million MMBtu, which is enough electricity to power nearly 200,000 houses for a year.

Alonso added that there are unique USACE facilities with process-related energy consumption, such as fish barriers, locks and dams. These facilities are already using the best technology available for their specific operation and the recommended energy conservation measures would yield minor cost savings.

One such example is the Chicago District's Electric Barriers installed in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal to deter the spread of growing invasive Asian carp populations through an electric field in the water.

The initial EEAP audit report identified five ECMs that would reduce the barrier's \$721,000 annual energy bill by only \$17,000 at an implementation cost of \$78,000.



# First-ever Energy Savings Performance Contract for a Corps of Engineers Civil Works project underway

By Debra Valine  
Public Affairs Office

**M**obile District is embarking on the first-ever Energy Savings Performance Contract executed for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works project that could set the stage for other USACE districts.

Mobile District is teaming up with Huntsville Center to improve the infrastructure along the Tennessee-Tombigbee (Tenn-Tom) Waterway, which the district manages.

The project kicked off July 9. During its 21-year performance period, the Tenn-Tom ESPC is expected to save the Corps of Engineers a projected \$5.05 million in energy costs.

Huntsville Center awarded the \$2.8 million ESPC to Siemens Government Technologies Inc., of Arlington, Virginia, May 30. The length of the contract is 21 years, 11 months, which includes the construction phase that is scheduled to start in January and be complete in the summer of 2015. The contractor will install, replace or retrofit elements of the Tenn-Tom's infrastructure — primarily lighting at its 10 locks and dams.

"A lot of time was spent getting it right," said William (Wynn) Fuller, chief of Operations for Mobile District.

"Along the Tenn-Tom, our facilities are scattered over 234 miles, so that's a lot of different facilities. It was important to see this as an opportunity to take advantage of ESPC. The measurement and verification are going to be critical.

"It was an education process for both of us," Fuller said. "Mobile District had to understand the proposed methods, outcomes, etc., that Huntsville Center intended to use — particularly third-party financing,



**This map shows the Tennessee-Tombigbee (Tenn-Tom) Waterway, managed by the Mobile District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mobile District is teaming up with Huntsville Center to improve the infrastructure along the waterway through the first-ever Energy Savings Performance Contract executed for a Corps Civil Works project.**

Huntsville Center had to learn about the unique aspects of Civil Works projects, particularly navigation. Civil Works is a different animal altogether.

"I am optimistic that working together we can accomplish our goals in terms of reducing energy consumption," he said.

The Tenn-Tom is a man-made waterway that links the Tennessee River to the Tombigbee and Black Warrior rivers. When the Corps of Engineers completed its construction in 1984, the project offered the nation's midsection an alternate route to the Port of Mobile and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Tenn-Tom encompasses 110,000 acres of land that is used by more than 3 million people for recreation annually.

The project stimulates economic development, provides outdoor recreational opportunities, supports

navigation and enhances wildlife habitat.

ESPCs leverage industry expertise and private sector financing to make infrastructure upgrades to federal facilities to reduce energy and water consumption, and reduce the waste stream. An energy savings contractor guarantees the improvements will generate sufficient savings to pay for the project during the term of the contract, which cannot exceed 25 years.

The ESPC incorporates a process for measurement and verification of the annual savings so that the payment to the Energy Services Contractor never exceeds the actual savings.

"This project award demonstrates that we can use ESPCs to leverage third-party funding at our civil works sites to help us reach our national sustainability goals and energy independence," said John Coho, the Corps of Engineers' Energy Coordinator and Senior Adviser for Environmental Compliance.

"It is going to be a model for others down the road, and I fully expect we will be able to use it at sites along other rivers as well."

Huntsville Center is the Corps of Engineers' technical center of expertise for ESPC, and as such, brings years of experience managing ESPCs for military projects, which includes solar and wind turbine projects at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico.

The three wind turbines will produce an estimated 5 percent of the energy consumed by the installation. A total of 21,824 solar photovoltaic panels will produce about 5.5 megawatts of power, which is at least 60 percent of the installation's current power demand at its peak.

# Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Presidio now connected to Army's Meter Data Management System

By Debra Valine  
Public Affairs Office

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, and Presidio of Monterey, California, are among the latest installations to connect advanced electric meters to the Army's enterprise-wide Meter Data Management System that allows energy managers to monitor energy consumption from a building level and use that information to help reduce energy consumption and cost.

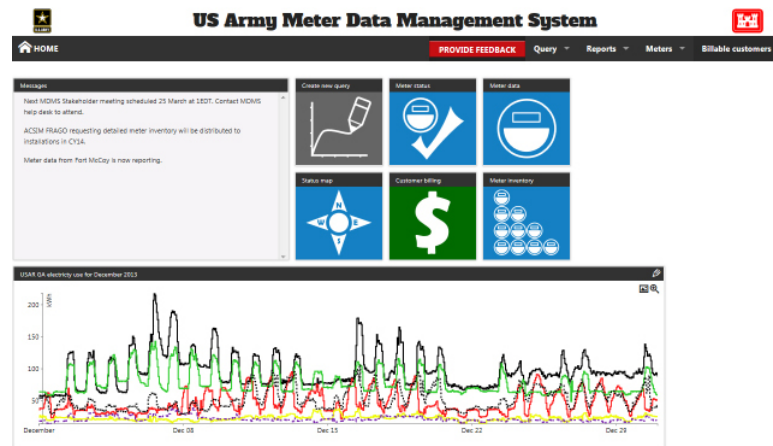
Huntsville Center manages the \$230 million Army Central Metering Program. AMP was initiated in response to the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which requires federal facilities to be metered with advanced meters where practical.

Most military installations were originally designed to measure electricity, gas and potable water only at incoming master meters.

Resource managers and policy makers have long desired meters on individual buildings, such as those that utilities have provided for homes and businesses for over a century.

The Center started installing advanced electric meters in 2008 and to date has installed nearly 8,000 of the 8,500 electric meters planned; 1,200 meters are connected to the MDMS and are reporting electric energy use by installation. The goal is to capture 65 percent of the Army's energy use at the building level. Advanced electric meters are being installed on buildings that meet Office of the Secretary of Defense criteria: buildings had to consume an estimated \$35,000 annually in energy costs to be considered economically justified for metering. The \$35,000 per year cost equates to buildings of 29,000 square feet and larger.

By placing the building meters downstream from the master meters,



A screen shot of the Army's Meter Data Management System user interface.

consumption can be measured and usage patterns identified with far greater detail and accuracy.

"Our program is coming down to finishing the electric meter requirement from EAct 2005," said Porscha Porter, a Huntsville Center electrical engineer who has been the program manager since 2012.

"It has been a challenge to get all these metering systems installed and reporting automatically. Installing meters on the building was easy; getting the systems accredited and reporting meter data across the Army network has been quite the challenge.

"Now that we have crossed the major hurdle of the system accreditations, it's getting a little easier to get the systems online," Porter said.

"Being able to show progress and success is leading to more cooperation and more installations embracing MDMS. Some of the installations with their own internal data gathering systems in place are now seeing the usefulness and benefit of the enterprise level MDMS system and the additional tools it provides to the energy managers."

MDMS collects installation meter data in 15-minute increments and stores it in a secure environment indefinitely so users can access the information on their office computer/workstation.

The system provides garrisons, regions and headquarters personnel with energy consumption metrics that can be used to develop energy conservation measures

that streamline the energy manager's efforts, improve the accuracy and speed of documentation for reimbursable tenant billing, and directly measure and verify the success or failure of ECMs.

"Ms. Porter has the background to work through the technical complexities of this program," said Valerie Shippers, director, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate, Huntsville Center.

"She routinely works with command-level personnel at the Network Enterprise Technology Command, Army Commands, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to resolve systemic issues threatening the meter installation, system accreditation and system installation."

"Our main function as the Army's program manager has been getting all the key stakeholders together and working the critical program issues and challenges, leading and facilitating the decision-making by providing sound recommendations and technical solutions needed to connect these systems," said Porter, who regularly briefs general officers and senior executives on the program's status.

"We are still in the education phase of the program," Porter said. "It is fairly new for some of the users so they are getting used to the system."

# Commander briefs world-wide capabilities to allies

By William S. Farrow  
Public Affairs Office

When you think of foreign military sales, you may not consider the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

However, USACE does have a role.

Representatives of Huntsville Center and Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers met with a group of foreign liaison officers associated with the Army Program Executive Office – Aviation in July to provide an overview of the Corps' services available through the Department of Defense Foreign Military Sales program.

Col. Robert Ruch, Huntsville Center commander, and Janet Phillips, HQ U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, deputy chief of Security Assistance, provided basic information about the Corps and Huntsville Center capabilities to military officers from Australia, Canada, Israel, Korea, Taiwan and the United Kingdom.

The foreign officers are assigned to Redstone Arsenal for face-to-face coordination for the aircraft their nations procure. However, the aircraft – be it rotary wing, fixed wing or unmanned aerial vehicle – are but one element of a system, and Ruch and Phillips took the opportunity to help the officers understand USACE and Huntsville Center's capabilities to support the very systems their nations procure.

Phillips explained USACE capabilities through federal authorities including Foreign Military Sales and Foreign Military Financing, Arms Control Act and Section 607 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

She gave examples of how the Corps has worked with other nations citing the Corps' Institute for Water Resources planning and management projects in Brazil and Bahrain and the Corps' Army Geospatial Center information technology support in Canada.

"The Corps is typically looked at as an engineering and construction organization, but we also provide engineering solutions and services, too," Phillips said.

Ruch provided an overview of Huntsville Center's mission areas such as chemical demilitarization, engineering, ordnance and explosives, and installation support with a focus on the Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate's Energy Division.

Ruch said because Huntsville Center is not limited by geographic boundaries, the Center can provide effective, innovative engineering solutions anywhere on the globe. He also explained Huntsville Center has five Mandatory



Photo by Rusty Torbett

**Col. Robert Ruch, Huntsville Center commander, center, and Janet Phillips, Headquarter U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deputy chief of Security Assistance, provided a capabilities brief to foreign military officers at the Army Program Executive Office – Aviation at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama in July.**

Centers of Expertise: Medical Facilities; Army Ranges and Training Lands; Electronic Security Systems; Environmental and Munitions, and Utility Monitoring and Control Systems.

"We (Corps of Engineers and Huntsville Center) are a dynamic group of people and we have always welcomed any projects that strengthen partnerships with our strategic allies," Ruch said.

Russ Dunford, Huntsville Center operations officer, said the USACE/Huntsville Center capabilities information briefing was set up to provide a conduit to the international officers allowing them to gain a greater understanding of the Corps of Engineers in general and Huntsville Center's specific mission capabilities so they have the information to communicate with their nations' military chain of command.

"Relationships matter, and it is the desire of USACE and Huntsville Center that in the future should an ally require an engineering requirement, they remember all the resources in their arsenal to accomplish their requirement," he said.

"Whether it's civil works or military installation support, Huntsville Center can enhance and further solidify engineering options via relationships with our allies," Dunford said.

Australian Maj. Mike Hansen said the briefing gave him insight into the structure of the USACE and a great appreciation for all the work Huntsville Center is doing in the field of energy reduction.

"I was particularly interested in the metering program and the other energy management strategies," Hansen said. PEO-Aviation streamlines aircraft acquisitions and is the single direct reporting link to the Army Acquisition Executive and is the total life cycle system manager of the Army's rotary wing, fixed wing and unmanned aircraft systems.



# Contracting Corner: GSA contracting vehicle helps contracting professionals, customers

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

**H**untsville Center contracting professionals now have a new General Services Administration contract vehicle available to them which can save time, money and resources procuring complex professional services.

Known as a total professional services solution, One Acquisition Solution for Integrated Services offers various commercial and non-commercial services including program management, management consulting, logistics, engineering, scientific and financial.

Markesha McCants, a GSA Direct Client Support Division employee assigned to Huntsville Center, said the new OASIS and OASIS Small Business are both multiple award, Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contracts available for use by federal agencies to procure complex professional services.

McCants said the OASIS contract vehicle allows for maximum flexibility in regard to contract type and at the task order level, a variety of contract types may be used including cost-reimbursement, firm fixed priced and hybrids.

“Simply put, OASIS increases efficiency. Using OASIS allows our customers to reduce time when compared to the time they would spend on developing a separate contract. In addition to saving customers time, resources and money, OASIS provides customers with several additional benefits,” McCants said.

“Through the use of OASIS, customers receive small business credit, have access to best-in-class service providers and have access to several tools such as sample documents, templates and a pricing tool.”

McCants said federal agencies also have access to OASIS Small Business, a 100 percent small business set-aside contract and OASIS has very-high subcontracting goals for

small businesses.

She said OASIS is also advantageous because it has no program ceiling and has a five-year base and one five-year option.

Other benefits federal agencies receive when using OASIS to procure complex professional services include:

- Ability to use any contract type, since OASIS provides support for both commercial and non-commercial requirements.
- Access to 28 North American Industry Classification System codes and six exceptions or 34 codes. The 34 codes/exceptions are allocated among seven NAICS code pools. Agencies can solicit task order proposals from contractors holding awards in the pool with the NAICS code that matches the agency’s requirement.
- Access to standardized labor categories. The labor categories are aligned with occupations, as outlined in the Office of Management and Budget’s Standard Occupational Classification system. OASIS offers meaningful proposed rate comparisons at the task order level – apples to apples.
- Access to the automated pricing tool. The automated pricing tool can be used to build realistic estimates for the labor portion of requirements and create Independent Government Cost Estimates. Ability to reserve task orders for exclusive competition among SB categories and receive small business credit.

“I believe the GSA OASIS team designed an innovative contracting solution that can meet our customers’ needs and streamline the acquisition process. We assist customers in any way that we can. So contact us anytime.” McCants said.

For more information about OASIS contact the local GSA representative McCants at (256) 509-9538 or visit the GSA Website at [www.gsa.gov/oasis](http://www.gsa.gov/oasis).

## New Huntsville Center Contracting Director takes helm

**By Jo Anita Miley**  
**Public Affairs Office**

**C**olleen O’Keefe is the Center’s new chief of contracting. She oversees acquisition services and solutions in support of the Center’s missions.

Prior to joining the Center, O’Keefe served as the first regional contracting chief of the Transatlantic



**Colleen O’Keefe**

Division where she provided advice on complex contracting issues and gave oversight on contingency contracting operations.

O’Keefe’s 22 years’ experience in contracting includes more than 10 years in supervisory positions and working

with a variety of contract actions including contingency contracting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

She is Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act certified at Level III for Contracting and Acquisitions, certified Level I in Program Management and Life Cycle Logistics, and a member of the Army Acquisition Corps and the National Contract Management Association.

# Local students get glimpse of science careers

By Jo Anita Miley  
Public Affairs Office

Students from the Academy of Academics and Art shared their enthusiasm about careers in architecture and interior design at Huntsville Center with exclamations like “awesome,” “neat,” “cool” and “wow” during a Science, Technology Engineering and Math activity put on by center workers Aug. 28.

Huntsville Center employees Jelani Ingram, Erin Hamilton and Elizabeth Stiles, Engineering Directorate, led the hour-long STEM discussion and a design demonstration for 20 sixth-seventh-and eighth-grade students at the magnet school.

Rebecca Phillips, a science and math teacher at the school, said she wanted to mix art and science together to create an exciting student learning activity that helps students remember key concepts.

Her goal was to introduce students to a STEM activity to show them, that with a bit of imagination, you can turn almost any science lesson into an art activity that would hold students’ attention.

According to Phillips, her idea worked.

“I’ve never seen my students so engaged with a STEM activity,” Phillips said.

“They were applying the information they were being given by the speakers to what they are currently studying in this class. Although we have just started this semester and have only covered a few concepts, this gives them a better understanding of some of the cool design career clusters under STEM.”

The students also received lots of career advice from Ingram, Hamilton and Stiles.

“I’ve been interested in becoming an architect since I was 6 years old and my favorite pastime back then was watching the workers on scaffolding as they remodeled buildings to support projects in downtown Denver,” Ingram said.



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

**Center interior designer Elizabeth Stiles explains design concepts and how she came into the interior design career field to students at the Academy of Academics and Art during STEM discussion Aug. 28.**

“If you have a creative mind, an eye for beauty and a knack for solving technical problems, you may want to consider becoming an architect.”

Hamilton, an interior designer with the Center, told the students she never imagined she could pursue an interior design career with the federal government.

“I love that I get to make a difference. I work on projects that make a difference in the lives of military service members and their families,” she said. I want to make sure you know this is an option for you if you’re interested in pursuing a career in design.”

The speakers emphasized how important it is for government organizations to reach back and inspire the next generation of STEM professionals. The Corps of Engineers is being proactive in this regard by promoting STEM awareness at every level.

Phillips said she welcomes future visits from the Corps for the remainder of the school year. She’s already

scheduled visits from more Huntsville Center scientists, engineers and project managers.

“Schools in our district need more of this type interaction with STEM professionals,” Phillips said.

“The students need to hear more professionals talk about what they do, and how they prepared themselves.”

As a teacher, Phillips said every student may not deem everything she says about a STEM career is completely accurate.

“After all, I haven’t worked in these career fields, so I am giving it to them secondhand,” she said.

However, having discussions about STEM career paths with subject matter experts working in the career fields provides Phillips with an opportunity to introduce them to career fields firsthand.

“It opens their horizons and they get to understand that there are some unique and exciting STEM career fields out there.”

# Kentucky students visit Center as part of STEM tour

By Jo Anita Miley  
Public Affairs Office

For the second consecutive year, Boyce Ross, Huntsville Center director of engineering, welcomed students from the Upward Bound Program at Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College in Harlan, Kentucky.

Ross provided students with an overview of the Army Corps of Engineers and Huntsville Center.

Ross, a native Kentuckian, also explained he was one of their own and through focusing his education and coursework in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math enabled him to begin his career with the federal government as a student hire.

“After more than 30 years, I’m still passionate about my career,” Ross told the students who participating in the National Science Foundation’s Upward Bound STEM summer program. The students visited the Center as part of a Team Redstone STEM tour.

The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.

Huntsville Center employees hosted the two-hour stop for high school and college-age students from low-income families and families in which neither parent holds a bachelor’s degree.

The STEM tour for Upward Bound students is funded by the National Science Foundation and focuses on STEM to build interest for emerging careers.

Huntsville native and president of Southern Kentucky Community and Technical College, Lynn Moore, coordinated the trip with the Redstone Garrison’s outreach coordinator, Megan Gulley. She said she wanted the students to see what “her” hometown can offer those who enter STEM career fields.

Moore said the program consists of hands-on activities in various career industries, workplace readiness training,



Photo by Julia Bobick

## A Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College Upward Bound student looks at architectural drawings during career discussion.

team building, goal setting and personal motivation, in addition to employer site visits and job shadowing experiences in STEM specific fields.

“Upward Bound provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance,” Moore said.

“We are looking for good STEM information. We hope this tour will raise awareness of all that is available out there for our students. We want them to know how they can acquire the skills necessary to get good technical jobs.”

Jelani Ingram, an architect with the organization’s Architectural Design Branch, arranged for students to visit Huntsville Center Engineering Directorate’s Building Information Modeling training area to participate in four hands-on activities: BIM modeling, architectural and interior design capabilities, civil structures and geotechnical cleanup.

Also mentoring students during the STEM demonstrations were Antonio Torres, Roderick Bridgeman, Danice Bulls, Amy Walker, Michele Maxson, Debra Edwards, John Pitsinger, John Nevels, Will White, Stephanie Wood and Jacqueline Johnson, all from the Center’s Engineering Directorate.

Pat Haas, chief of the Center’s Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, also participated.

During the visit, students received focused mentoring and applicable career advice from Huntsville Center employees.

Bridgeman, chief of the Mechanical Engineering Branch at Huntsville Center told students focused study in math, science and technology courses are stepping stones to many fascinating careers.

“It is also very important that you have a positive attitude, can get along well with others and work as a team,” he said.

Visits to Redstone included stops at the Redstone Test Center — a high tech test and evaluation component for the Army — and NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center. The students visited local private industry STEM-based businesses too.

Moore said she welcomes more STEM visits and mentoring opportunities with the Corps.

“I see the light bulbs coming on in their minds, Moore said.

“They are thinking about the future. Taking the time to mentor them today has changed their lives for the better.”

# Food trucks offer Huntsville Center employees unique lunch options

By Jo Anita Miley  
Public Affairs Office

From the moment the first food truck pulled into the parking lot at Huntsville Center July 28, lunchtime at Huntsville Center has never been the same.

As long as Huntsville Center employees keep coming, the food trucks are here to stay.

“Part of our job is to provide conveniences to our employees,” said Lequita Byrd-Craig, president of Huntsville Center’s Activities Association.

“Whether it is activities to relieve stress such as Team Spirit Day or providing creative lunch options like the food trucks during the work-week, the Activities Association is working to improve morale and build esprit de corps at the organization.

Byrd-Craig said employees are leaving the Center to pick up something for lunch or ordering takeout because there isn’t a full service cafeteria. This means they have to deal with traffic and other stressors at lunchtime.

“We wanted to help with this problem so we brought the food trucks on board and gave them another option to stay,” she said.

Judging by the steady flow of traffic to and from the food truck on the days one is available, many have decided to take advantage of this option.

“The trucks have been on Redstone Arsenal for some time now and it’s working out well (there). I’m glad these vendors have decided to include Huntsville Center on their route,” said Victor Taylor, chief of Huntsville Center’s Safety Office.

Taylor and his staff also worked with Huntsville Center’s Security and Logistics offices to get some quick modifications done to the area to make sure the food trucks have a safe and secure location at the Center.



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

**Huntsville Center employees, Becky Sandoval and Andora Dothard, purchase lunch from a truck at the Center in July. A 2013 Huntsville City Council ordinance allowing food trucks to operate in the Rocket City has made the mobile restaurants – a collection of more than 30 trucks operating throughout the city and serving a fusion of cooking styles and genres – a popular lunchtime option for Huntsville**

The team made a few modifications to the east side privacy fence and parking lot erecting a large canopy in place near where the food trucks park to ensure the steady stream of employees traveling back and forth to purchase food can do so without any problems, especially during inclement weather conditions.

“Having the canopy out there to shade the area and easy access is a plus for me. I’ve also grown fond of the tasty brisket tacos that are available to us on Wednesdays,” said Tammy Moore,

Employees said they appreciate Huntsville Center’s leadership’s decision to have the food trucks at the organization. It shows them someone cares about their quality of life in

the workplace.

Huntsville Center Commander Col. Robert Ruch introduced the current food truck vendors to Huntsville Center employees during the Center’s Organization Day in June.

Badd Newz BBQ and Food Fighters Bustrant served up food to more than 200 employees and their families during the event.

Ruch said that the length of time the food trucks stay is left entirely to the employees. Service will continue only if profitable for the vendors.

There’s more to come in the way of food truck vendors as two new trucks were added to the Huntsville Center route in September.

# ***Ethics Corner:*** Social Media and the Hatch Act

**By Clay Weisenberger  
Office of Counsel**

**O**ver the past 10 years, social media has transformed life as we know it. With 1.23 billion users, Facebook is now the second most accessed website, behind only Google. Once considered a time-waster, social media sites are now outlets for breaking news, global networking and political organization.

For instance, social media was instrumental in the Egyptian Revolution of 2011. One Egyptian activist tweeted during the protests, “We use Facebook to schedule the protests, Twitter to coordinate and YouTube to tell the world.”

Twitter notably impacted the 2012 U.S. presidential election, providing a platform for journalists, politicians and voters to engage with the political process in innovative ways – all in 140 characters or less. With over 20 million tweets, the election was the most tweeted event in history.

As midterm elections approach, remember that Hatch Act restrictions extend to social media. The following guidance refers to Facebook and Twitter, but the advice applies across all internet platforms.

## **Political affiliation in the political**

**views field:** Federal employees may identify a political party affiliation on their social media page, while also listing their employment and official position.

**Advocacy for or against a political party or candidate:** The Hatch Act does not prohibit federal employees from expressing opinions concerning partisan political candidates and political parties. However, they are prohibited from engaging in “political activity,” that is, activity directed at the success or failure of a political party, partisan candidate or partisan political group, while on duty. Thus, federal employees may not advocate for or against a political party, partisan political group, or candidate for partisan public office through any social media platform while on duty or in the federal workplace.

**Political contributions:** Federal employees may not solicit, accept or receive political contributions at any time. Thus, at no time should they suggest or ask anyone to make contributions to a political party, partisan political candidate or partisan political group. Further, they may not provide links to the contribution page of any of those entities’ websites.

**Comments of others:** If a federal

employee’s “friend” posts a link to the contribution page of a political party, partisan candidate or partisan political group, or otherwise solicits political contributions, the employee does not have to take any action. The same advice applies to any tweets directed at a federal employee; however, the employee should not “like,” “share” or “retweet” the solicitation, or respond in any way that would tend to encourage other readers to donate.

**“Following” or “Liking” a political party:** It is okay to “friend,” “like” or “follow” a political party, partisan group or candidate, so long as the employee observes restrictions regarding political activity while on duty and does not solicit, accept or receive political contributions.

**Creating a blog, Facebook page or Twitter account anonymously or using an alias:** Permissible, but the same restrictions on political activity and contributions apply.

As always, if you have an ethics question, call me at 256-895-1140 or email [clay.weisenberger@usace.army.mil](mailto:clay.weisenberger@usace.army.mil)

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED