



U.S. ARMY ENGINEERING AND SUPPORT CENTER, HUNTSVILLE



The Bulletin

October 2021

2021

End of Fiscal Year

■ More than \$1.9 billion
in contract actions

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
U.S. ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS,
U.S. ARMY ENGINEERING
AND SUPPORT CENTER,
HUNTSVILLE



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Commander's Thoughts

“ I continue to be extremely impressed with the passion and superior work by everyone at Huntsville Center. ”



Col. Sebastien Joly

Despite the challenges of COVID and some program reductions in our traditional stakeholder base, you all did a fantastic job in delivering a world-class program again this year. I continue to be extremely impressed with the passion and superior work accomplished by everyone at the Huntsville Center.

Although I just joined the team this summer, I immediately felt assured that the processes in place coupled with top-notch leaders and a dedicated workforce that the mission would be accomplished allowing me time to roll-up my sleeves and learn the organization.

The breadth and scope of the program is second to none and every day has been a graduate level education delivered by each of you, and I'm extremely appreciative. I know there is much more to learn and I appreciate those who feel comfortable enough to let me know how I can help them.

We had to shut down the Center in August due to a steep climb in COVID cases for our three areas. Last month President Biden signed an Executive Order (EO) mandating all Federal employees must receive a COVID vaccination.

We are still awaiting implementation guidance from the Department of the Army and HQ USACE on the mechanics of this EO and anticipate receiving them very soon. In the

meantime, we will continue our current health risk reduction measures of mandatory mask wear indoors with six foot spacing. As soon as we receive implementation guidance, we will let everyone know. If you believe you may qualify for a medical exemption, begin working with your primary care physician now.

Likewise, if you haven't received your vaccine yet, please consult with your physician on which option is best for you and your family.

For now, please continue to keep yourselves and your families safe as we appear to be on the downslope of this recent infection spike.

Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 is Hispanic American Heritage Month. November is Native American Heritage Month. Look for Angela Morton and her Equal Employment Opportunity Office staff to produce engaging materials.

Engineer Day Awards are coming up on 2 November. We are in the process of putting together a safe event allowing us to gather socially, while at the same time, socially distancing. Recognizing the outstanding work you all do is important. Look for more information on this event to come out via email this month.

Congratulations to Douglas Kohns, senior architect at the Medical Facilities Mandatory of Expertise and Standardization, has been named

the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Architect of the Year. Doug is the architect behind the COVID-19 alternate care sites and community vaccination centers.

Huntsville Resource Management Directorate's Business Practices Division team was recently recognized with the 2021 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Innovation of the Year Award. The team developed data management solutions and data visualization tools for project management at the Huntsville Center. Congratulations to team members Russ Dunford, Angela Rackard, Susan Armstrong, Jimmy Johnson, Amy Sullivan, Amanda Odem, John Dodson, Mary Hinson and Brian Tachias. Congratulations to Shah Alam, Huntsville Center ESPC program manager, and the folks who developed and executed the Center's virtual Energy Savings Performance Workshop in August. More than 200 government and industry representatives attended the event, doubling the event's participation over the last several years.

Thanks to all the hard work everyone put in for the change of command ceremony this past summer.

Thanks to everyone who welcomed the Joly family into the Huntsville Center family. I look forward to my time here.



Center closes out FY21 with more than \$1.9 billion in contract actions

By Kristen Bergeson
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Huntsville Center ended the fiscal year with more than 4,100 contract actions totaling more than \$1.9 billion in obligations for global stakeholders.

Due to ongoing COVID-19 safety precautions, Huntsville Center completed the fiscal year virtually for the second year in a row.

Despite the challenges, the Center's more than 1,000 employees delivered the program with outstanding success, said Albert "Chip" Marin III, programs director.

"Fiscal Year 2021 was another challenging year. We were in and out of COVID surges; we were in and out of physical presence in our workplaces; we ushered in a new President and his Administration and with it, several new policies and orders affecting our work;

and we lost loved ones throughout the year that impacted all of us as a Huntsville Center family," Marin said.

"In spite of these numerous challenges, Huntsville Center drove on professionally and never lost sight of why we do what we do—to ensure our military, the Federal Government and the Nation are able to perform each and every day with the tools and resources needed to do so."

The nearly \$2 billion in contract actions increased not only Department of Defense readiness and effectiveness through global medical facility renovations and modernization, resilient power and water utilities projects, military training facility updates and cyber security programs aimed at strengthening our nations' defenses, it also provided vital support to ongoing federal, state and local programs and projects aimed at improving and increasing our nation's health and safety

during the continued response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Rebecca Goodsell, Huntsville Center Office of Small Business Programs Chief, said the Center exceeded all assigned small business targets the fiscal year.

"The Center pulling together during fourth quarter led to an historic record in awards to Small Disadvantaged Veteran Owned Small Businesses, \$111 million which represents almost seven percent of all eligible dollars."

Goodsell said numbers increased over FY20 by \$40 million and more than three percent respectively.

"I am absolutely stunned and amazed by everyone's efforts to partner and the exceeding success that resulted. That's an extraordinary achievement that wouldn't have been possible without everyone pulling together as one team."



Energy program upgrading Navy installation

By William S. Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is helping the Department of Defense achieve mission effectiveness by integrating energy programs, initiatives and activities across the services.

A recent Huntsville Center Utility Energy Service Contract opportunity is providing infrastructure improvements and enhanced energy assurance and resilience across a Navy installation supporting the nation's military through the development and integration of warfare systems.

In October 2018, the Navy reached out to Huntsville Center for assistance in providing engineering and contracting support services to Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren Division.

Headquartered at Dahlgren, Virginia, NSWCDD is a shore command of the Navy under the Naval Sea Systems Command performing research and development in warfare systems design and integration.

Huntsville Center's Utility Energy Services Contracting program was the solution to the Navy's requirement as the Center's UESC program encompasses a broad range of energy conservation measures providing its customers flexibility to specifically tailor a project to a customer's energy needs.

Since the request, a \$10.5 million project has been designed for NSWCDD and is being implemented across the span of two phases.

Phase One of the project was awarded in October 2020 and provides the most energy efficient savings.

According to Rodney Ries, Huntsville Center UESC project manager, Phase One consists of approximately 50% of the overall project upgrading 15,500 existing light fixtures to LED across 35 facilities.

"This includes both interior lighting and exterior lighting, resulting in an expected annual energy savings of over \$430,000," Ries said.

Phase One is on track to be completed on schedule by the end of the year. Phase Two consists of energy and environmental compliance measures including new HVAC systems, replacing existing facility sensors, upgrading controllers and optimizing controls. Phase Two was awarded in June and is expected to begin construction of this phase in January after completion of the final designs.

"This phase has the savings potential of 1,735,082 kWh of electricity consumption resulting in a total annual savings of approximately \$244,000," Ries said.

The project is scheduled to have all equipment upgrades completed and ready for implementation by Summer of



U.S. Navy photo

Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division, Dam Neck Activity scientists and engineers assist Sailors from Tactical Training Group Atlantic during their bridge team testing of the Advanced Navigation Team Shipboard Simulation Phase 1 system in command's Naval Simulation Center. A recent U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center Huntsville Utility Energy Service Contract opportunity is providing infrastructure improvements and enhanced energy assurance and resilience at the Navy installation.

2022 with both phases of the project providing NSWCDD a total of \$10.5 million in system upgrades paid for by energy savings.

"The relationship built between the Huntsville Center and the Navy has grown exponentially and is a true example of the professional support Huntsville Center provides all branches of the Department of Defense," Reis said.

John Lee, NSWCDD facility manager, has been managing this project for the Navy from conception to execution.

Lee said the UESC project is going very well, thanks to the support he has received from Huntsville Center's UESC team.

"(The Huntsville Center UESC team) continue to provide fantastic support," he said. "I only wish I could work with them on all my projects and I couldn't be more appreciative of the professional service Huntsville Center has provided."



File photo

A World War II-era building is demolished at Fort Benning, Georgia, under the Facilities Reduction Program. Huntsville Center's Facilities Reduction Program is "Best in Class." designation used to denote contracts that meet rigorous category management performance.

FRP named Best in Class

By William S. Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

The Office of Management and Budget, with the support of the government-wide Category Management Program Management Office, announced Sept. 15 that Huntsville Center's Facilities Reduction Program is "Best in Class."

Best in Class is a contracting and acquisition designation used to denote contracts that meet rigorous category management performance criteria as defined by OMB. The BIC-designated contract represents a preferred government-wide solution and provides a unique opportunity to leverage the government's buying power.

Michelle Clark, FRP manager, said she expects program growth as new customers turn to the GSA Gateway to meet OBM Strategic Sourcing Initiative/Category Management metrics.

"Continual process improvement required by OMB/GSA designation has improved the program overall through improving our business practices and has improved our reputation and increased visibility across USACE by providing better pricing for sister districts' projects."

The BIC designation allows acquisition experts to take

advantage of pre-vetted, government-wide contract solutions; supports a government-wide migration to solutions that are mature and market-proven; assists in the optimization of spend, within the government-wide category management framework; and increases the transactional data available for agency level and government-wide analysis of buying behavior.

Huntsville Center's Facilities Reduction Program provides a simple process to respond to the federal government's requirement for demolition of excess facilities and the abatement of facility contaminants. Reducing the inventory of excess facilities, the government realizes energy and maintenance cost savings; eliminates safety hazards, nuisances, and unsightly structures; and frees up valuable real estate for future development.

The FRP provides demolition support for multiple Department of Defense installations and other federal agency locations throughout the nation. Customers include the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Department of Energy.

In addition, the FRP provides support for emergency responses to disasters causing either man-made or natural destruction.



Value Engineering program stays course despite COVID shutdown



By Kristen Bergeson
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way Huntsville Center does business, but it has not changed the business we do.

For the Center's Value Engineering Program, that means implementing innovative solutions to continue helping the Center's programs provide high-quality work in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

Through programmatic workshops to evaluate methods and processes, the program increases value and stretches taxpayer resources by proactively searching for and resolving issues.

The Corps of Engineers requires all Huntsville Center programs to conduct a VE study once every five years.

The collaborative workshops that involve contractors, stakeholders, Center employees and a VE facilitator are typically held in-person over the course of a week; however, the

COVID-19 shutdown in March 2020 prevented in-person meetings.

For the remaining programs to meet a 2021 deadline, the Center's VE program had to alter the typical workshop format, said Carlos Reis, value engineering officer.

"Value engineering is a vital part of how we deliver projects and meet the needs of our customers, so it was crucial that all of our programs complete the workshop," said Reis. "By going virtual, we were able fulfill this requirement and don't have any overdue programs."

The Center held five virtual workshops total, fulfilling the VE requirement for multiple programs: High Performance Computing, Resource Efficiency Managers, Centers of Standardization, Energy Savings Performance Contracting, Utility Energy Services Contracting, Power Purchase Agreement, and the Army Office of Energy Initiative. David Yee, a project manager for the

Center's Energy Program who recently participated in one of the virtual VE workshops, said applying the value engineering method to projects and processes ensures the highest level of efficiency.

"Often, we get caught up in the small things without addressing underlying issues, which leaves us putting out one fire after another," said Yee.

"These workshops allow us to step back, identify challenges, and streamline our processes, so we're correcting the problem as opposed to fixing the symptom."

Though the VE program isn't specifically focused on cutting costs, changes implemented following these workshops often have that result.

In fiscal year 2020, Huntsville Center estimated a net savings and cost avoidance of \$12 million due to value engineering initiatives. For fiscal year 2021, that number rises to over \$14 million, said Reis.



File photo

Workers install portions of the 8.5 megawatt-per-hour battery system at Fort Carson, Colorado. Huntsville Center's Energy Savings Performance Contracting program is considered the Army's expert in Energy Savings Performance Contracts.

ESPC virtual workshop sees attendance nearly double

By William S. Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

More than 200 government and industry representatives attended Huntsville Center's virtual Energy Savings Performance Workshop Aug. 24-26.

Shah Alam, Huntsville Center ESPC program manager, said the workshop was a great success beyond his expectations even though the workshop was dependent upon the virtual communication platform.

"Everything went well, and the quality of communication was very good," Alam said.

"Compared to prior years, our agenda included more topics and attendance was almost double." During the workshop, participants received updates on current federal energy, acquisition, and readiness policies, gained insight into the energy industry's newest products and methods, and shared experiences and lessons learned.

Alam said the workshop assists in helping the Army achieve mission effectiveness and achieve mandates imposed by laws and Department of Defense regulations by integrating energy programs, initiatives and activities.

Huntsville Center is considered the Army's expert in Energy Savings Performance Contracts and the program has saved military installations and other federal agencies millions of dollars over the last several years.

The workshop provided a forum for ESPC contractors and government personnel to discuss and exchange experiences, best practices, and ideas related to current and emerging issues associated with the ESPC Program.

Attendee Whitney Ray, Energy Manager at Fort Benning, Georgia, said she attended the workshop due to the relevance related to her position.

"We currently have an ESPC ongoing at (Fort) Benning and I wanted

to hear about best practices that I can apply," she said.

Ray provides oversight of all energy conservation and resiliency initiatives and management of facilities across the installation. She said the workshop allowed her to gain a deeper perspective on the ESPC process as a whole and gain insight and confidence in ongoing ESPC programs at Fort Benning.

"Fort Benning currently has an ongoing fence-to-fence ESPC with Honeywell that has two awarded phases including energy conservation measures such as upgrading base-wide utility metering, and lighting systems, solar inverter replacement, retro-commissioning and analytics," she said.

"The workshop gave me some opportunities to network and be able to ask follow up questions to subject matter experts that pertain to my installation that could keep us focused on the right direction."



Army Materiel Command deputy chief of staff visits Huntsville Center

By William S. Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

A senior civilian at the Army's primary logistics and sustainment command visited Huntsville Center Aug. 10 to learn more about the Center's capabilities and programs.

Huntsville Center provides specialized technical expertise, global engineering solutions, and cutting-edge innovations through centrally managed programs in support of national interests.

Center leadership presented Dr. Juanita Christensen, deputy chief of staff for logistics (G4), facilities and environmental at Army Materiel Command, a capabilities briefing focusing on the specialized technical expertise and global engineering solutions the Center deploys through its centrally managed programs.

"I didn't realize the breadth of what you do here at the Center," said Christensen. "It's not so much about the dollar amount or the number of actions but, from my perspective, it's the array of projects you are involved in."

Christensen directs and manages Army-wide facilities, housing, energy, environmental, critical infrastructure, and surety management functional programs and activities to effectively execute AMC's strategic support mission. Huntsville Center's Installation Support and Programs Management directorate is closely aligned with AMC's G4 mission.

The directorate partners with USACE major subordinate commands, districts, laboratories, and other centers as well military installation's public works directorates and other government agencies to provide life-cycle, world-wide support in providing maintenance, repair, operation, and upgrade services for facilities and infrastructure.

The ISPM directorate's support is provided through the execution of more than 30 programs that encompass the technical, engineering, contracting and program management requirements of a variety of mission areas.

Its six divisions focus on: electronic technology; energy; medical; military support and facilities and facilities technology integration.

Since 2007, ISPM has been designated the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Installation Support Technical Center of Expertise (IS-CX) providing engineering and design services in areas such as electronic security/intrusion detection systems, utility monitoring and control systems and ranges and training lands management.



Photo by Kristen Bergeson

Dr. Juanita Christensen, deputy chief of staff for logistics (G4), facilities and environmental at Army Materiel Command, speaks to Huntsville Center leadership during a visit to the Center on Aug. 10.

The directorates also provide innovative services in third party financing of energy solutions, base/facility operations, maintenance, repair and renewal of medical and non-medical facilities, furniture and furnishings and operational technology solutions for installations/facilities across the Department of Defense.

"The Center does all of the stuff that doesn't fit well into one of USACE's geographic districts or that spans a lot of boundaries," said Col. Sebastien Jolie, Huntsville Center commander.

"This gives the Corps, the Army, an additional tool to pull a group of technical experts to work on unique, challenging projects and deliver a capability that spans the entire national security apparatus."

Joly assumes command of Huntsville Center

By Kristen Bergeson
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

A new commander took over the leadership and direction of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville during a change of command ceremony Friday, July 23, at the Bob Jones Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal.

During the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Jeffrey L. Milhorn, deputy commanding general for military and international operations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presented Huntsville Center's colors to Col. Sebastien P. Joly, signifying the organization's change in leadership. Joly assumed command from Col. Marvin L. Griffin, who had served as the Center's commander since August 2019 and retired following 27 years of military service.

Joly will lead more than 1,000 employees at the Center's headquarters in Huntsville, Alabama, and its offices in Omaha, Nebraska, and Alexandria, Virginia.

He will also provide guidance and direction of the Center's global operations to include various program and project management, engineering and support disciplines totaling more than \$2 billion in fiscal year 2020.

During his speech to the hundreds of employees who either attended the event in person or tuned in via live stream, Milhorn praised Huntsville Center for its unique role as the "9-1-1 center that Headquarters USACE calls when there is an absolute tough challenge the nation needs to solve." Milhorn also noted Joly's previous success as the 53rd commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, and offered him guidance in his new role.

"It is without hesitation that we embrace you, Sebastien, to lead this organization as you have previously," said Milhorn.

"Don't change anything that you're



Photo by Michael May

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey L. Milhorn, center, deputy commanding general for military and international operations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, presents Huntsville Center's colors to Col. Sebastien P. Joly on Friday, July 23, as Col. Marvin Griffin, outgoing commander, looks on.

doing. Just pick up the phone when we call 9-1-1."

Prior to taking command of the Mobile District in June 2018, Joly served as an operations officer in the Directorate of Regional Operations and Global Force Management with the Joint Staff, J-35 and commanded the 5th Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. During his remarks, Joly praised the magnitude of Huntsville Center's mission and the professionalism and expertise of its

employees.

"The breadth and scale of the work this center is responsible for in performing service to the nation is unmatched," he said.

"For so many reasons, I really am so excited to join the world-class workforce of the Center so that I can continue my USACE education from the best and brightest."

Griffin—an Enterprise, Alabama, native—and his family plan to remain in the Huntsville area.



Deputy commander caps career of engineering hope

By David San Miguel
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

At times pausing to recompose himself, Lt. Col. Hugh Darville recalled the challenges he encountered and the successes he achieved throughout his 26-year military career during his retirement ceremony July 20 at Bob Jones Auditorium.

He leaves the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, after serving as its deputy commander and interim commander for the past four years.

Throughout his farewell address, Darville voiced how especially appreciative he was of the unwavering support he and his family received from the engineer and Army community through multiple deployments and various assignments.

Some of those assignments include overseeing humanitarian assistance and contingency construction projects; highlighting the importance of architects to Army engineer leadership; planning, design and construction of a training complex in Botswana, three theater missile defense sites in Israel, an orphanage in Moldova, and the renovation of 29 schools in Iraq, a regional hospital in Bulgaria, and two schools and three clinics in Macedonia.

A highlight of his career, Darville was responsible for the design of the master plan and key facilities for Camp Bondsteel in Kosovo – the largest contingency construction project since Vietnam, housing 7,000 servicemembers – setting the standard for future contingency basecamp designs.

It was at an assignment as the director of Training and Leader Development at the Army Engineer School, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, that Darville was reminded of the impact Army engineers had on the outside world as a result of the Kosovo deployment.

There, at the school, he recalled a chance encounter with an international student who he noticed was wearing the Kosovo flag on his uniform sleeve. It had been 15 years since that deployment, yet undoubtedly proud of his work, the colonel asked the student whether he was familiar with Camp Bondsteel.

After all, Soldiers were putting their lives in danger to end the war, to end ethnic cleansing, he said. Surely, this student was aware of our mission there. Initially, however, the student drew a blank until Darville described its location on top of a hill in a wheat field not far from the town of Urosevac.

“Oh,” the student exclaimed, “we don’t call it Bondsteel. We call it the city of hope!” Darville paused.

“You see,” he said, “that’s what makes the work that all of us do worthwhile. Taking care of Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Guardians who are willing to risk their lives for



Photo by William S. Farrow

Lt. Col. Hugh Darville, receives a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers flag signed by the Huntsville Center work force during his retirement ceremony at Sparkman Center’s Bob Jones Auditorium July 20.

others, and sometimes it’s about giving hope to others when they need it most. Many times, it’s about both. Knowing that I played some small role in both is what I’m most proud of in my military career. It’s what has made it an honor to serve our nation as a member of the Army engineer regiment and as a member of the Corps of Engineers,” he said.

“And over the past four years, it has been my great pleasure to get to know many of the highly qualified professional members of the Huntsville Center.

“In parting, I am confident that you will continue to take care of Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Guardians in ways only you are capable of doing and I am confident your projects will provide hope to many even though you will never have the pleasure of knowing their appreciation,” Darville said. “Essays!”



Photo by Kristen Bergeson

Members of Huntsville Center's Resource Management Directorate's Business Practices Division team pose for a photograph at the Huntsville Madison County Veterans Memorial. Members are Mary Hinson, Brian Tachias, Carolyn Harris, Amanda Odem, John Dodson, Angela Rackard, Russ Dunford, Susan Armstrong, James "Jimmy" Johnson. The team was recognized with the 2021 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Innovation of the Year Award.

Data management solutions team wins USACE innovation award

**By William S. Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs**

Huntsville Center Resource Management Directorate's Business Practices Division team was recently recognized with the 2021 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Innovation of the Year Award.

The team developed data management solutions and data visualization tools for project management at the Huntsville Center.

Col. Marvin Griffin, Huntsville Center commander at the time of the announcement, said the BPD team's contribution to organization yielded unprecedented results, including saving money and providing leadership with insight into program execution.

"Their work has resulted in a paradigm shift in how Huntsville Center measures, reports and executes monthly

program review boards and overall program management with regards to cost, schedule and performance," he said.

The automation process began a year ago when the BPD team adopted and employed commercial and government off-the-shelf data visualization tools, stakeholder survey tools and leveraged digital repositories for hosting video training resources, all at zero cost. Data reconciliation that once consumed over 400 labor hours is now performed in minutes saving more than \$1 million. Instead of expending more than 200 man hours per month in PowerPoint chart development, program managers and analysts now have an automated dashboard which enables PRBs to be conducted online.

Program managers are also now provided with data forensics via the

employment of Business Intelligence (Power BI) and are alerted to program data elements that warrant attention instead of executing a 100% line item review.

Chip Marin, programs and business director, said these automated processes are ending labor-intensive work while yielding more accurate data validation and empowering Huntsville Center leadership with better data and better decisions.

Griffin said the BPD team has seen their mission support requests increase threefold as executing directors see the value added to their efforts.

"The BPD team is a group of consummate professionals."

Award recipients are: Russ Dunford, Angela Rackard, Susan Armstrong, Jimmy Johnson, Amy Sullivan, Amanda Odem, John Dodson, Mary Hinson and Brian Tachias.



Courtesy photo

Douglas Kohns, wearing a white shirt in the photo above, and his team conduct architectural assessments of the Guam Memorial Hospital. Kohns has been named the USACE Architect of the Year for 2021.

Architect earns top USACE honors

**By Kristen Bergeson
Huntsville Center Public Affairs**

The architect behind the COVID-19 alternate care sites and community vaccination centers has been named the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Architect of the Year.

The award recognizes Douglas Kohns, senior architect at the Medical Facilities Mandatory of Expertise and Standardization, for his architectural leadership and support of numerous Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs medical programs, but the award specifically highlights his more recent contributions to the COVID-19 relief efforts.

Kohns developed the national architectural design standard for the alternate care sites and community vaccination centers that were quickly designed and constructed across the nation in a matter of months.

In March 2020, his team—led by Anthony Travia, Medical Center of Expertise division chief—were tasked with determining how to convert different facility types such as hotels, convention centers, stadiums, and outdoor spaces, to treatment centers

As the lead architect, Kohns had to move quickly in order to provide the engineers with necessary parameters for mechanical, electrical, and communication systems.

“We had to come up with solutions that met all of the safety and health requirements and medical requirements,” Kohns said.

“All of this was amplified by the need for speed because these facilities needed to be built in weeks, not months or years.”

Kohns said similar architectural work for a typical DOD clinic takes six months to a year, but the first ACS design plan was completed in less

than a month. Kohns has earned a reputation for rising to challenges like this ever since he began his career in construction and architecture more than three decades ago, and his interest in building and designing was apparent at a young age when he would tinker on machinery, build forts, sketch, draw and once even tried to build a motorized skate board with a chainsaw motor.

However, he would have missed his calling entirely if it hadn’t been for his wife, Kristy.

“I didn’t really even have plans to go to college, but I met my wife in high school, and she was planning to study nursing,” said Kohns.

“She was my inspiration, and I launched my entire career from her. I ended up going to a community college only four or five miles from her college.”

**See ARCHITECT
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Courtesy photo

The Onyx Super Computer at the Engineering Research and Development Center, one of five Department of Defense Supercomputer Resource Centers, consists of 212,000 processors and can perform 1.7 quadrillion calculations per second.

Huntsville Center supercomputer team provides cradle-to-grave procurement

**By Mark Dowhy, Patrick Parten
Huntsville Center High Performance
Computing Program**

When the Department of Defense needed an innovative strategy for meeting the ever-changing, highly technical requirements of its High Performance Computing Modernization Program, it called on the experts at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

Huntsville Center's High Performance Computing team was created in 2012 to provide cradle-to-grave procurement of supercomputers specifically for the HPCMP, but they are expanding their reach to offer their critical program-management and contract-support services to all government agencies. They are currently the only execution team within the Department of Defense that has three major acquisition vehicles in place to provide key supercomputing deliverables in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

The HPCMP's mission is to accelerate technology development and transition to superior defense capabilities, in order to provide DoD scientists and engineers with

the resources necessary to solve the most demanding warfighter problems through the strategic application of high-performance computing, networking, and computational expertise.

The program comprises three primary elements: five DoD Supercomputing Resource Centers, which provide large scale supercomputers and operations staff; the Defense Research and Engineering Network, a nationwide high-speed, low-latency, research and development network connecting the DSRCs and major user communities; and a collection of efforts in software applications to develop, modernize, and maintain software to address DoD's science and engineering challenges.

The High-Performance Computing Management Office is located at the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and administratively reports to the assistant secretary of the Army for acquisitions, logistics, and technology.

Huntsville Center's HPC team is a highly skilled, multi-disciplined group of subject-matter experts in the areas

of program management, project management, engineering, contracting, resource management, and legal counsel.

Additionally, the team has members with vast amounts of experience in information technology, networking, cybersecurity, hardware, training and communications infrastructure. They work closely with the HPCMO staff to strategize, plan and deliver key products and services to all of the DOD centers and their stakeholders. The critical acquisition vehicles used by the Center's HPC team provide for the procurement, testing, installation, operation, administration and maintenance of supercomputers.

This efficiency reduces defense system costs by shortening the design cycle and reducing reliance on expensive and destructive live experiments and prototype demonstrations.

Current national security events mandate the most agile and modern technology to meet the Warfighter's needs. Thanks to Huntsville Center's team of experts, the DoD is able to maintain its competitive edge on a global stage by continually modernizing its high performance computing assets.



Engineer Day 2021

475 Quality Circle (back parking lot)

12-12:30 p.m. Set up/grilling/eating

1 – 2 p.m. Award Ceremony

2- 3 p.m. Games and activities

3:15 – 4:30 p.m. Children's activities

ARCHITECT **From Page 13**

After earning an associate's degree in architecture, he joined the Army as a combat engineer and deployed in support of Operation Desert Storm in 1991. He later earned bachelor's

and master's degrees in architecture from Lawrence Technology University, but his military service has provided a constant source of inspiration in his current position, said Kohns. "As a former soldier and professional involved in medical facilities and construction, I wanted to make a bigger contribution to society by helping our

nation's veterans, to give back to those who served and those who are still serving," he said. "So I joined USACE in 2010. I have approximately 17 more years of service before retirement and cannot wait to see how not only USACE, but how this MX office and industry as a whole grows, develops and transitions."

Resource management director sees tremendous value in certification

By William S. Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

As Director of Resource Management Directorate for the Huntsville Center, Huntsville, Liz McCullough, understands the value of the business processes that enables Huntsville Center to provide specialized support to all the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' divisions and districts throughout the world.

She also understands the value of maintaining professional certification in her field enabling her to provide comprehensive resourcing and financial management advice to Huntsville Center senior management.

For more than a decade, McCullough has maintained certification in defense financial management earning her CDFM in 2011 and the CDFM with Acquisition Specialty (CDFM-A) in 2012.

McCullough said earning CDFM and then CDFM-A certification was a professional goal she had since she began working for the government.

"I have over 33 years' experience in the Comptroller career field starting as a budget analyst, accountant, and then serving in a variety of leadership positions providing financial management, budgeting, accounting, and auditing support to numerous resource management, DFAS, and internal review organizations," she said.

"Obtaining the CDFM-A was one of my life-time professional goals as an early careerist within the federal government. Achieving the CDFM-A with a continual learning experience (year-to-year), professional growth, and taking on complex job assignments, provides the Army with the ready workforce equipped to take on and solve the most complex problems...now and in the future."

McCullough said she was attracted



Liz McCullough

to the financial management industry since high school.

"I knew I wanted to attend college but was unsure of what I would major in. I was good in math and liked working with numbers. From a mere suggestion from an older sibling, I completed my first accounting course in my senior year of high school and found my niche.

In college, she majored in accounting as an undergraduate while working at a local bank as an auditing clerk. Upon completing her four-year degree (Bachelor of Accounting at Cameron University), she was hired as a full-time staff auditor.

"These initial experiences in the public banking industry drew my interest and decision to join the federal government in December of 1987 and pursue a career in financial management."

After graduating from college, McCullough said one of her professional goals was to possess a professional certification or license.

When the CDFM certification launched in 2000, she was employed with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service and her leadership there encouraged everyone working in financial management to obtain the CDFM certification to establish credibility while providing accounting services.

"I decided to get serious about pursuing the CDFM certification and take the preparatory course, which was the Enhanced Defense Financial Management Training Course. I took the EDFMTC held in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. After I completed the EDFMTC, I followed the instructions (studied the modules I felt most confident in and knew most of the material). I studied after the workday and on the weekends. I prepared and studied notecards and studied other pre-test CDFM materials. I followed the advice from the EDFMTC instructors, and I put in the hard work and extensive study time to prepare for the CDFM modules."

McCullough said the CDFM/CDFM-A has certainly had impact has had on her career.

"It (CDFM /CDFM-A) provided me first with the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to learn, apply, and grow with a successful career in the Comptroller career field.

She said maintaining her certification is also important sets an example for others in the career field.

"Leaders lead first, not by what they say, but by what they do," she said.

"(CDFM) credentials show your commitment, hard work, discipline, and tenacity to achieve a professional test-based certification. Those with the

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Policy decision improves ability to include disadvantaged small business

By William S. Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

A decision by the Small Business Administration to immediately suspend a requirement for construction contracts is a boon to Huntsville Center's ability to contract with 8(a) companies.

The 8(a) program is an SBA business development agenda to help companies with socially and economically disadvantaged ownership gain equal access to the resources needed to develop competition in the American Federal Procurement Process.

As it currently reads, the Small Business Act requires that, to the "maximum extent practicable, construction subcontracts awarded by the Administration pursuant to this subsection shall be awarded within the county or State where the work is to be performed."

However, Bibi Hidalgo, the associate administrator for SBA's Office of Government Contracting and Business Development, announced during her keynote address at the National 8(a) Association Alaska Regional Conference that SBA will be suspending the "bona fide place of business" requirement for 8(a) construction contracts, effective immediately.

"I am excited to announce today, for the first time, a new SBA policy that will help to bolster small businesses against the adverse effects of the pandemic, she said. "SBA will temporarily suspend the bona fide place of business requirement for all 8(a) construction firms."

Betty Guillot, Huntsville Center Office of Small Business Programs specialist, said the suspension is extremely beneficial to programs under the Center's Installation Support and Programs Management directorate.

"Two factors make a bona fide place of business (or BFPOB) extremely restrictive and virtually impossible for an 8(a) construction firm to propose on Huntsville Center



construction contracts (primarily Medical Repair and Renewal and Facility Repair and Renewal programs) under the prior requirement because Huntsville Center has no geographical boundaries, and Huntsville Center's acquisitions are primarily Multiple Award Task Order Contracts and places of performance are not defined at the time of award of the prime," she said.

Guillot said since the SBA is suspending the requirement, 8(a) businesses are more competitive in the contracting award process. "In the past, we routinely submitted waiver requests through the SBA for the BFPOB requirement," she said.

"While we were successful in doing so, it was an added pre-award acquisition step and it was never a 'given' that the waiver would be granted."

Rebecca Goodsell, Huntsville Center Office of Small Business Programs chief, said she is extremely proud of the efforts made to ensure contracts are awarded to United States small business concerns.

"Last Fiscal Year(FY 20), Huntsville Center awarded more than \$800 million was to small business primes. Those real dollars awarded to small business concerns help drive industry growth and stabilize our nation's economy," Goodsell said.

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desire to climb the career ladder and pursue greater levels of responsibilities with promotion opportunities should obtain their CDFM and then the CDFM-A. You can apply it across all career programs. There is no position or job in the public or government

that does not deal with how to manage or account for resources. You must understand how money works, how to account for it, how to apply it, and stay within the boundaries of public and fiscal law as a responsible steward of trust. The CDFM certification covers all aspects of dealing with money and fiscal accountability." She said as the daughter of a career Soldier, she pursued working for the federal government because it's

great opportunity to serve and make a difference. "Every day, I get the chance to help the team achieve goals, mentor and coach others, and solve problems. My current position allows me that freedom and I do not take it lightly. I am grateful for the flexibility, empowerment, respect, and trust I must set a positive example within the Resource Management Directorate and Huntsville Center."

HNC

Unique to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

Huntsville Center provides innovative engineering solutions to complex, global missions. Our team of professionals engineer adaptive, specialized solutions across a broad spectrum of global enterprise covering five main lines of effort: Energy, Operational Technology, Environmental, Medical, and Base Operations and Facilities. Our portfolios comprise 43 program areas, as well as nine mandatory and six technical centers of expertise, and 17 centers of standardization. Through partnership with Department of Defense agencies, private industry and global stakeholders, we deliver leading edge engineering solutions in support of national interests around the globe.

FY2021 40+ Programs

9 Mandatory Centers of Expertise,
6 Technical Centers of Expertise
and 17 Centers of Standardization

\$ 1.9B

**“HNC Delivers
Innovation”**

In fiscal 2021, Huntsville Center awarded contract actions totaling more than \$1.9 billion in obligations for its stakeholders.



The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, engineers adaptive, specialized solutions across a broad spectrum of global enterprise covering five main lines of effort: Energy, Operational Technology, Environmental, Medical, and Base Operations and Facilities