



# The Bulletin

## USACE, Huntsville Center providing drone training for National Guard

Story on page 4



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



**Commander’s Thoughts.....3**  
**Huntsville Center providing drone training for Army National Guard.....4**  
**Partnerships set to improve, prepare Organic Industrial Bases for future.....6**  
**Energy contract saving Fort Bliss millions, providing Soldier comfort.....7**  
**Deputy commander retiring.....8**  
**Walters recognized for STEM performance.....9**  
**Employee recognition.....12**  
**Reminders for election season.....13**

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



**Commander: Col. Sebastien Joly**  
**Chief, Public Affairs: Chris Putman**  
**Editor: William S. Farrow**

*The Bulletin* is an authorized official publication, published quarterly under provision of AR 360-1, the Huntsville Center Public Affairs Office publishes The Bulletin to provide useful command information to our internal civilian and military employees. Contents are not necessarily the views of or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, USACE or Huntsville Center.



# Commander's Thoughts

**“ Although March officially began the spring severe weather season in Alabama, the greatest number of tornadoes in Alabama occur in the month of April. ”**



**Col. Sebastien Joly**

**T**eam,  
April is the Month of the Military Child, and National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. Important dates include Gold Star Spouses Day (April 5), National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day (April 9), Volunteer Appreciation Week (April 21-27), Earth Day (April 22) and the Army Reserve Birthday (April 23).

Although March officially began the spring severe weather season in Alabama, the greatest number of tornadoes in Alabama occur in the month of April.

Our Safety Office recently conducted a tornado drill to help us prepare for severe weather. All-in-all, we performed well with only a few hiccups noted.

We will continue tornado drills to ensure we all know where to go and what to do when we receive notification of a tornado watch. After the drill in mid-March, we received feedback regarding the timing of the drill. From now on, we will refrain from conducting a tornado drill during the lunch hours of 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

However, a tornado warning can come at any time during the day and we all should be prepared to take the proper actions to ensure our safety. I encourage you to review our occupant emergency plan located on

the Huntsville Center's SharePoint page under "Employee Quick Links." Employees who work in Nebraska, Virginia, and other locations outside of the Huntsville area should consult their local plans and policies and contact their supervisor with any questions.

Huntsville Center's deputy commander, Lt. Col. Dan Segura, is retiring soon. He's been the deputy since 2022 and he will certainly be missed. Filling in for Lt. Col. Segura for the immediate future will be Laura Beth Quick, currently the Human Capital Manager. Prior to her current role, she was part of the ISPM Director's Office for nine years performing a variety of assignments in areas to include internal management controls, process improvements, strategic engagement initiatives, and operating budget.

Laura Beth began her career with Huntsville Center in 2001, so she understands Huntsville Center's unique mission. I know she will perform her duties as acting-deputy commander with a breadth of knowledge, experience, and keen understanding of what her role means to the Center. Congratulations Laura Beth!

I recently received an inquiry about adding more handicap parking. There are assigned parking spots in the rear of the building for individuals requiring reasonable accommodations (RA). If you require handicap parking, please

contact the Equal Employment Office for more information on being assigned one of these RA spots.

Curtney Walters, Huntsville Center project engineer supporting Defense Logistics Agency fuels storage and infrastructure, was recognized in February at the 2024 Black Engineer of the Year Award Conference in Baltimore. Curtney received a Modern-Day Technology Leader Award for demonstrating outstanding performance in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Curtney is a very deserving recipient of the award and I am very proud of his accomplishment.

I want to extend a congratulations also to our most recent Employees of the Month, Ramona Chestang (February) and Steve Lamas (March).

Ramona is an administrative assistant with the Resource Management Directorate and according to her supervisor, she is the "Face of RM" and provides extensive support to the directorate.

Steve is our visual information specialist. A lot of Steve's work is dedicated to taking award and recognition photos. However, another aspect of his job is printing award, recognition and retirement certificates, a very valuable asset to ensure high morale within the Center.

Essayons!



Photo by Steve Lamas

Members of USACE Aviation Unmanned Aviation System (UAS) Basic Qualification Course 24-01, a five-day, 32-hour program of instruction preparing future crewmembers to operate UASs inside the National Airspace System.

## USACE, Huntsville Center providing drone training for Army National Guard

By William Farrow  
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is providing training and certification to Army National Guardsmen ordered to operate in some of the direst situations Americans may ever face.

Soldiers from the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and high-yield explosive Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP) recently completed the USACE Aviation Unmanned Aviation System (UAS) Basic Qualification Course March 18-22 at Redstone Arsenal.

The course is a five-day, 32-hour program of instruction preparing future crewmembers to operate UASs inside the National Airspace System. Chris Kernan, USACE Aviation Program's acting program manager, said course topics cover Federal Aviation

Administration (FAA), Department of Defense (DoD), Army, and USACE requirements.

"Our training method is derived from the U.S. Army Aviation and FAA Instructor's Handbooks and focuses on hands-on tasks to produce mission-ready crewmembers 'out of the gate,'" he said.

While the course is primarily focused on full-spectrum service to USACE, the course also supports the Army National Guard, Kernan said.

"A dozen CERFP Soldiers made up UAS Basic-NG Class 24-01," he said.

"They are the first of 60 CERFP Soldiers we will train this year and represent a new Army Aviation paradigm: small UAS as an enabler for immediate CBRN incident response."

The U.S. military domestic CBRN Response Enterprise includes National Guard units assigned to the National Guard's Weapons of Mass Destruction

Civil Support Teams (WMD-CSTs), CERFPs, and Homeland Response Forces (HRFs).

There is at least one National Guard CERFP in each of the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regions.

The National Guard CERFP is comprised of five operational elements staffed by personnel from already established guard units.

When directed by the Secretary of Defense through coordination with the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, and upon consent of state governors during major or catastrophic CBRN incidents, the HRF and CERFP alerts, recalls and deploys critical command and control and life-saving capabilities within six hours.

National Guard CERFP Soldiers' response to incidents involves deploying

**See *Guard***  
**Page 5**



Photo by William S. Farrow

## Deputy summit

Huntsville Center hosted U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Major Subordinate Command and Center deputy commanders for their semi-annual Deputy Commander's Summit March 4-8. Attendees addressed topics and issues related to Division and Center command and structure including IT, personnel and budget. Attendees were: Col. Craig Baumgartner, TransAtlantic Division; Col. Michael Baim, South Pacific Division; Col. Matt McCulley, South Atlantic Division; Maj. Christopher Turner, Pacific Ocean Division; Col. Jeffrey Hall, Northwest Division; Col. Robert McTighe, North Atlantic Division; Col. Jeremiah Gipson, Mississippi Valley Division; Lt. Col. Phillip Valenti, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division; Col. James Schultze and Col. Seth Wacker, Southwest Division; Mr. Randy Reynolds, Army Geospatial Center; Mr. Victor Stephenson Humphreys Engineering Center Support Activity; Maj. Joseph Henderson, Engineering and Research Development Center; Maj. John Collier, 249<sup>th</sup> Engineer Regiment, Dr. Shawn Lueders, USACE Logistics Agency and Lt. Col. Dan Segura, Huntsville Center.

## Guard From Page 4

to sites to conduct command and control, search and extraction, mass casualty decontamination, and medical stabilization to save lives and mitigate human suffering.

The National Guard CERFP mission capabilities include incident site search of collapsed buildings and structures, conducting rescue tasks to extract trapped casualties, providing

mass decontamination, performing medical triage and initial treatment to stabilize patients for transport to medical facilities by the Incident commander, and the recovery of CBRN incident fatalities.

The use of UASs in these missions is a force multiplier, as the UAS can be used to assist CERFP Soldiers in their vital yet dangerous tasks.

The National Guard is increasingly deploying and experimenting with UASs of different sizes to fit into the

organization's priorities for 2024. Ryan Strange, USACE Aviation program training and standards lead and course instructor, said USACE integration with the National Guard Bureau is a training collaboration with deeper outcomes.

"Providing this course to our National Guard Soldiers is a testament to our commitment to excellence, unity, and shared responsibility for the protection of this nation," Strange said.

# Partnerships set to improve, prepare Organic Industrial Bases for future

By William Farrow

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

A January meeting organized to discuss U.S. Army Corps of Engineers performance contracting solutions is expected to produce higher energy efficiency savings at Organic Installation Bases (OIB) and assist the Army with their plan to modernize OIB facilities.

The OIB manufactures, resets and maintains Army equipment, providing critical materiel and sustainment support to warfighters across the Joint Force. The Army's industrial base comprises of 23 depots, arsenals, and ammunition plants across the nation.

The Army's OIB Modernization Implementation Plan prioritizes and synchronizes resources toward critical facilities and capabilities to build the necessary capacity to sustain the Army's enduring and future systems produced at the bases.

The planning meetings, held at the USACE Learning Center on Redstone Arsenal, were attended by personnel from Army Materiel Command (AMC), and Offices of the Deputy Assistants Secretary of the Army for Energy Installations and Environment, Energy and Sustainability (ODASA EI&E, E&S), Department of the Army Chief of Staff (DCS G-9), Installation Management Command Headquarters (IMCOM HQ), Joint Munitions Command (JMC), Joint Program Executive Office for Armaments & Ammunition (JPEO AA).

Attending the meetings were Col. Sebastian Joly, Huntsville Center commander, Col. Daniel Bidetti, Army Materiel Command Organic Industrial Base Modernization Task Force military deputy, and Christine Ploschke, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installation Energy and Environment.

Huntsville Center Energy Division's personnel executed and facilitated the meetings attended by more than 80 people involved in planning and executing Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs) and Utility Energy Service Contracts (UESCs) through strategic direction, development, or implementation.

In fiscal 2023, the UESC Program executed 24 contract actions with \$3.6 million in obligations and \$134.8 million in capital investments and ESPC Program executed 306 contract



Courtesy photo

**A welder performs flux cored arc welding on a M1 tank at Anniston Army Depot, one of 23 Organic Installation Bases manufacturing, resetting and maintaining Army equipment.**

actions totaling \$159.4 million in fiscal 2023 obligations.

Michael Lazaro, Huntsville Center ESPC/UESC branch chief, said the meetings were important to recognize multi-agency perspectives and roadmap viable solutions to operationalize new performance contract projects in production-related facilities at OIB installations.

“The stakeholders discussed standard ESPC-UESC processes, lessons learned, as well as legal challenges in implementation of contracts,” Lazaro said.

Lazaro said the discussions led to the creation of a course of action forward with regards to four prospective installations where projects would be implemented.

“Decision-makers pledged commitment to support project deployment to tackle the difficult goal of infrastructure energy savings at production facilities that present unique challenges.”

Jon Winkler, Huntsville Center Energy Division chief, said ESPC/UESC teams have supported the delivery of OIB performance contracts at Lima Joint Systems Manufacturing Center in Ohio, Corpus Christi Army Depot in Texas, and Letterkenny Army Depot in Pennsylvania.

However, he said significant project execution hurdles have necessitated some level of innovation or pilot process initiatives in the upcoming planning of new performance contracts.

“The working group's goal is to initiate that effort and motivate new work as well as problem-solving opportunities for ongoing projects.”



Courtesy photo

A base operations and facilities noncommissioned officer of the special projects and facilities section points out a couple of Quonset huts used as billeting at Westbrook Forward Operating Base, McGregor Range Complex, New Mexico. A Huntsville Center Energy Savings Performance Contract is providing physical comfort of Soldiers training there after the contractor sprayed the Quonset huts with R-19 foam insulation resulting in a heating setpoint of 68°F and cooling setpoint of 70°F.

## Energy contract saving Fort Bliss millions, providing Soldier comfort

**By William Farrow**  
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

**A** Huntsville Center energy savings project at Fort Bliss, Texas, is saving the installation money by reducing costs related to energy consumption.

However, one aspect of the project is also aiding Soldiers' comfort during vital training exercises.

The ESPC contract guarantees that electric, natural gas, water, and operational savings will total just over \$60 million over the term of the 23-year performance period.

Huntsville Center is considered the Army's expert in Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPC) utilizing private capital to make infrastructure improvements and new efficiencies without tapping into the capital budget to support and enable the warfighter and meet energy and environmental mandates.

Dennis Lacy, ESPC project manager,

said the Fort Bliss project is a typical ESPC contract creating savings for the installation year-after-year throughout the project contract period and often replacing equipment near the end of its service life with higher efficiency energy solutions.

Lacy said the project has an eight year verified savings of more than \$2 million.

Gene Curtiss, Fort Bliss Department of Public Works (DPW), said Huntsville Centers execution of the Fort Bliss ESPC has been exceptional.

"They (Huntsville Center ESPC team) have supported me when needed, adding to the overall experience of saving our post millions of dollars in energy savings," Curtiss said. "Fort Bliss DPW continues to work with Huntsville Center on future ESPC's and hopefully they will be as successful as the ones we have done in the past," Curtiss said.

Energy conservation measures for the Fort Bliss project includes ground

source heat pump installation, water conservation, building management system and energy-efficient lighting improvement and solar photovoltaic capability.

However, Lacy said one aspect of the contract mission not only provides for the overall financial and environmental savings, but aids in the physical comfort of Soldiers training at the Fort Bliss Operational Readiness-Mission Training Complex (OR-MTC) supporting deploying and redeploying service members, Department of Defense civilians and contractors.

The OR-MTC is comprised of Camp McGregor, Camp Westbrook, Camp Dona Ana and Camp Oro Grande, which provides quality of life troop sustainment for units conducting mobilization validation certification training, and Pre-Mobilization/Exercise Training (PMET).

**See COMFORT**  
**Page 8**



Photo by William S. Farrow

## Have a seat

Charles Carson, Huntsville Center emergency management specialist, Alicia Hodge (seated) and Emily White, Huntsville Center safety specialists, demonstrate the proper use of a MOBI Evacuation Stair Chair during a training session for Huntsville Center’s safety monitors at the Center Jan. 24. Safety monitors are essential to ensuring employees follow evacuation and shelter-in-place procedures in times of emergency. The chair is used to safely route incapacitated employees down stairwells during emergencies.

## COMFORT From Page 7

Located just a few miles north of the New Mexico-Texas border, Camp Westbrook is a training site meant to mimic a Forward Operating Base (FOB) located within the deserts of Southwest Asia. A FOB is a secure military installation, most likely a base used to help with tactical operations in a geographic area.

Lacy said a necessary downsizing of the ground source heat pump at FOB Westbrook still provided savings, but did reduce the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system at the Quonset huts used by the Soldiers at the FOB.

Lacy said consequently it was determined that the contractor would

spray 80 Quonset huts with R-19 foam insulation.

“When the Soldiers walk inside from the elements of into the huts, the spray foam’s effect on the internal climate is every bit noticeable, Lacy said.” Eighty Quonset huts were sprayed with foam and occupied heating setpoint is 68°F and occupied cooling setpoint is 70°F.

Curtiss said without the spray foam, summer temperatures in most huts ran in the 80s.

“This goes without saying we had the same issues in the winter trying to get the huts out of the 60s,” he said.

Curtiss said after the spray foam was installed, there were no issues maintaining low 70s in the summer and winter temperatures around 70s too

with minimal complaints mostly due to normal HVAC issues.

Lacy said it is nice to not only reduce energy use but provide a noticeable comfort to the Soldiers improving their ability to perform with focus on the job and increased attention to detail.

“We want to do whatever we can to support our warfighters,” Lacy said.

“Often, reducing energy consumption, requires ‘turn the light off’ or ‘use less water’ training. But buttoning up – and in this case insulating a building enveloped with spray foam – is not ‘educating’ a Soldier to do anything other than walk in out of the elements into a temperate facility to perform their mission,” Lacy said.





# Deputy commander retiring

By William Farrow

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Since June 2022, Lt. Col. Dan Segura has served as U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville (Huntsville Center) deputy commander, supporting the overall mission of the organization, and ensuring the effectiveness of the employees and resources.

Segura is retiring after more than two-and-a-half decades of service to the Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Originally from Virginia, Segura graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1996 and was commissioned in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Over the years, his many assignments were diverse, yet often typical for an Army engineer.

He was assigned to 9th Engineer Battalion in Schweinfurt, Germany. He was a combat engineer platoon leader in Bosnia and Company Executive Officer in Kosovo. He was commander of the 63rd Engineer Combat Support Equipment Company at Fort Moore, Georgia, and Battalion Executive Officer for the 19th Engineer Battalion at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He saw multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

As his duties as a combat engineer were fulfilled and he gained rank, his career turned to USACE where he served as Chief of Operations for the Pacific Ocean Division and the Deputy Commander for the Honolulu District. He also served as Deputy Commander of Rock Island District and Japan District.

Prior to his assignment at Huntsville Center, he was NATO Exercise Planner for the Rapid Reaction Corps, in Lille, France. However, Segura said his last assignment was just as intriguing as his NATO assignment.

“Prior to my assignment, my knowledge of Huntsville Center was limited. In my prior USACE assignments, I heard about Huntsville Center and some of their contributions, but not in any detail,” Segura said.

Two years later, the Huntsville Center mission is no longer foreign to Segura.

“There is so much that makes Huntsville Center unique.

We have a very talented workforce with specialized skills working very unique mission sets on a global level,” he said.

Segura’s priority as deputy commander was to provide a positive leadership to the entire workforce including our offsite locations as well as to enable the support staff to be more efficient.

“The most challenging aspect of the deputy position is allowing the office chiefs to run their programs and standing



Photo by Steve Lamas

**Lt. Col. Segura, Huntsville Center deputy commander, is retiring after more than two-and-a-half decades of service to the Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.**

by to provide resources without micromanaging,” he said.

Segura said the support he received from everyone at the Center made his job easier.

“All of the support office chiefs are true professionals that understand what is needed to keep this command moving forward,” he said.

However, Segura said there is one group of people without whom he couldn’t have done his job as effectively.

“The Executive Office led by Martha Cook does an amazing job keeping the Center’s leadership resourced to do their jobs,” Segura said.

For the next deputy commander assigned to Huntsville Center (Laura Beth Quick will act as interim deputy commander until the new deputy receives assignment), Segura has words of advice.

“Support the staff and learn where you can contribute to their successes,” he said.

After he hangs up the uniform, Segura and his family are relocating to Poland.

“I have accepted a civilian position at IMCOM-Poland working with their department of public works to improve our infrastructure as well as the quality of life to those assigned in Poland.”

Segura said he looks forward to the new chapter of his life, but he will also look back at his time at Huntsville Center and his uniformed career with pride.

“I feel very lucky to have been a part of the Army family for so long,” he said.

“I have really enjoyed my time here in Huntsville. This is an outstanding organization, and the people here are friendly and professional. I will really miss the people that make this place special.”

# Walters recognized for STEM performance

**A**n engineer with the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville was recognized in February at the 2024 Black Engineer of the Year Award Conference in Baltimore.

Curtney Walters received a Modern-Day Technology Leader award for demonstrating outstanding performance in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Walters is a project engineer supporting Defense Logistics Agency fuels storage and infrastructure. He ensures proper operations and maintenance is performed on Department of Defense fuels systems in support of national defense and security.

Chad House, Huntsville Center Engineering Directorate Facilities & Systems Sustainment Branch chief, nominated Walters for the award. Upon learning he was nominated for a BEYA award, Walters said he was extremely excited and yet deeply humbled.

“To be recognized for all my contributions to the Army Corps of Engineers is truly a blessing,” Walters said. “Giving your best in everything you do can indeed lead to remarkable outcomes transcending all barriers. I am more inspired to continue to strive for excellence in all my endeavors and hope this will inspire other minority engineers to be everything you are.”

House said success in Walters’ position is incumbent upon having excellent skills in communication, leadership, management, organization, and a broad base technical knowledge of a multitude of engineering fields.

“Curtney is not only expected to provide expertise in his discipline as a civil engineer, but he must support all needs of the systems, whether mechanical, electrical, environmental, etc., to ensure continued operations,” he said.

House said one of the features



Courtesy photo

**Wade Doss, left, Engineering Directorate chief, and Chad House, right, Facilities & Systems Sustainment Branch chief, join Curtney Walters, Huntsville Center project engineer, after Walters received a Modern-Day Technology Leader award for demonstrating outstanding performance in science, technology, engineering,**

setting Walters apart from his peers is his unique approach to problem-solving.

“He thinks outside the box and comes up with innovative solutions others may not have considered. Whether it’s tackling a complex technical challenge or navigating a difficult interpersonal situation, Curtney brings a fresh perspective and a creative energy to everything he does.”

In addition to his creativity and ingenuity, House said Walters is an exceptional leader.

“He has a natural ability to inspire and motivate others and is always willing to lend a helping hand and provide mentorship and guidance to others. He communicates effectively with individuals at all levels of an organization and is adept at building strong relationships with colleagues, stakeholders, and partners.”

A native of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Walters developed a love for building and construction while working on different projects with his father, a teacher and part-time tile contractor.

Although he grew up enjoying the beaches and all island life had to offer, Walters’ path has at times been a

difficult journey filled with obstacles.

“Coming from a household of working parents with limited income to share among myself and three siblings, the struggle to finance my education almost derailed my dreams of becoming an engineer,” Walters said.

During his freshman year of college, all available funds were exhausted.

Though his parents tried their best to help, the money simply wasn’t there, and he had no choice but to withdraw from school.

However, his desire to learn and the work ethic he had been exposed to at home, wouldn’t let him give up on his dream.

“I took multiple semesters off and used the time to formulate plans to save money, reduce expenses, and apply for grants and scholarships,” Walters said.

“I changed universities, took community college-level courses, stayed off campus and even worked during Christmas and spring breaks, to afford the opportunity to get an education and obtain my degree.”

**See WALTERS**  
**Page 11**



Photo by William S. Farrow

## ERDC workshop

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineering and Research Development Center personnel convened at Huntsville Center's facility on Redstone Arsenal April 2-4 for an off-site workshop focusing on developing a proactive Installation and operational environmental implementation plan to address gaps and capabilities stated in the grassroots Army Installations, Energy and Environmental plan.

## WALTERS From Page 10

After receiving his degree from Alabama A&M University, he was hired in 2006 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District where he worked for 13 years as a Project Engineer at the Redstone Arsenal.

His projects included construction of many administrative and research facilities for the Army, Air Force, and the Missile Defense Agency. His most notable project was completed for

NASA, building the \$75 million Test Stands, including two test towers later to be used to analyze complex load combinations on the nitrogen and oxygen tanks for the Space Launch System.

In 2019, Walters accepted a position at Huntsville Center supporting the Center's Fuels Program.

Wade Doss, Huntsville Center Engineering Directorate chief, said Walters is a worthy recipient of the Professional Achievement

(BEYA) award.

"In addition to his technical skills and leadership abilities, Curtney is also deeply committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in the engineering field," Doss said.

"He has been actively involved in several initiatives to support and mentor underrepresented groups in STEM, and we have no doubt that he will continue to make a positive impact in this area."

## Employee recognition



Col. Sebastien Joly, Huntsville Center commander, presents Steve Lamas, Huntsville Center visual information specialist, with a certificate recognizing Lamas as Employee of the Month for March.



Photo by Steve Lamas

Lt. Col. Daniel Segura, Huntsville Center deputy commander, presents Ricky Tellstrom, Metering and Energy Support Services Branch chief, with the Army Civilian Commendation Medal Feb. 5. The medal recognizes Tellstrom's prior service as Director of the Center's Management Review (MR) Program.



## Ethics Corner: Reminders for election season

**By Melanie Braddock**  
Huntsville Center Office of Counsel

**A**s we prepare for Election Year 2024, it is important for all federal employees to refresh their knowledge regarding activities under the Hatch Act.

The Hatch Act limits certain political activities of civilian federal employees. The Act applies to ALL federal employees. The law's purposes are to:

- Ensure that federal programs are administered in a nonpartisan fashion.
- Protect federal employees from political coercion in the workplace.
- Ensure that federal employees are advanced based on merit and not based on political affiliation.

Note that the political activity of military personnel is governed by DoD Directive 1344.10 and are more restrictive than the rules for civilian employees.

Under the Hatch Act, political activity is defined as “any activity directed toward the success or failure of a political party, partisan political group, or candidate for partisan political office.”

Employees may:

- Register and vote.
- Place a campaign sign in a yard of personal residence.
- Display a political bumper sticker on a personal vehicle.
- Campaign for or against referendum questions, constitutional amendments, or municipal ordinances.
- Contribute their own personal funds to political parties, campaigns, or partisan groups.

- Attend political rallies, meetings, or fundraisers.
- Sign nominating petitions.
- Follow, like, or comment on social media pages of a candidate for partisan office.
- Be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections.

It is not considered “political activity” to discussing issues, legislation or policies or to attending an issue march/rally, as long as it is on the employees own time, using their own resources and they are not using their official position.

Specifically, federal employees may not engage in political activity while on duty (including during telework and remote work), in the workplace, when wearing a government uniform or badge, or using a government vehicle.

Additionally, federal employees may not solicit/discourage the participation in any political activity of anyone who has business pending before their office or use their official authority or influence to affect the outcome of an election.

Further, employees are prohibited from engaging in political fundraising at any time, whether on or off duty.

Employees may not send or forward political emails or post political messages to social media while in a Federal building – including times when they are off duty such as lunch or breaks and even when using personal smartphones, tablets, or computers.

Lastly, employees are prohibited from using government equipment to engage in political activities. As we approach this year's election cycle, please be sure you familiarize your self with the activities and make wise ethical decisions.

If you have any questions, please reach out to one of the Ethics Counselors in the Office of Counsel.

## About 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.

**FY2023**

**40+ Programs**

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

**\$ 2.5B**

**“HNC Delivers Innovation”**

In fiscal 2022, Huntsville Center awarded contract actions totaling more than \$2.5 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