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Huntsville Center

Bulletin

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Earth Day Message: Building Green

**By Maj. Gen. W.B. (Bo) Temple
Acting Chief of Engineers and
Commanding General of the
Corps of Engineers**

As we approach Earth Day 2012, it affords us the opportunity to look back on the recent gains the Corps of Engineers has made in its environmental sustainability and stewardship efforts.

As the nation's environmental engineer, we manage one of the largest federal environmental missions in the U.S., touching the lives of nearly every American. The challenges facing the Corps are enormous, everything from sustainable design and energy security to ecosystem restoration.

In light of the increasingly constrained fiscal environment, it is even more important to find ways to reduce the cost of operating our facilities and executing our missions – and help our customers do the same.

We've spent the past two years focused on supporting national priorities for energy security and reducing the cost of operating our government, conserving natural resources, and helping to create jobs by investing in energy and water efficiency at Corps facilities.

In his recent state of the union address, the president restated his challenge to make our government more cost effective and energy efficient, and he specifically challenged the Department of Defense to develop new clean energy sources on public lands.

As we look forward to developing the fiscal year 2014 budget, I see these challenges as new opportunities for the Corps of Engineers to apply its



Maj. Gen. Temple

diverse talents to accelerate progress on Sustainability and Energy Security goals, while simultaneously reducing the burden that vehicles and facility energy have on our operations and maintenance funding.

We are positioned to leverage the full scope of the talents and capabilities housed at Huntsville Center and the Engineer Research and Development Center to take the Corps forward as a facility owner/operator and to advance our customers' sustainability goals as well.

With the contracting and technical abilities at Huntsville Center and ERDC, and the newly established Energy, Sustainable Design and Life Cycle Costs Centers of Expertise that are standing up Corps-wide, I think we have all the necessary tools at our disposal to take the Corps forward.

Sustainability and stewardship go hand-in-hand – we must be good stewards of both

See GREEN on page 5

Commander's thoughts

Team,
We spent most of March preparing for the Command Strategic Review. I want to thank everyone for the huge effort that went into preparing for the CSR that will take place April 9-10.

We do an overwhelming amount of great work for USACE; this is our opportunity to present that work to Headquarters and also to make sure we are strategically aligned with the USACE and Army Campaign Plans.

It all starts with the USACE Campaign Plan; we localize it with the Huntsville Center Implementation Plan and our Lines of Effort; and bring it into focus with your individual *My Plan*. I hope you are capturing how your work supports the IPLAN and Campaign Plan for your annual appraisals.

On the second day of the CSR, we'll pause for a reception in honor of Maj. Gen. Merdith "Bo" Temple who will be retiring in May. The reception will be in the cafeteria from 1-2 p.m. It will be a great time to say good-bye and wish him well in the future. He has been a good friend to the Huntsville Center and many of you know him. We'll all miss his support.

In March we had visits from Mike Schultz who is acting for Stacey Hirata, chief of Installation Support at

USACE, while he is on deployment and the Department of the Army Inspector General team, which was here to inspect our Contracting Directorate.

We've also had a recent visit from Jim Balocki, the chief of International and Interagency Services. While he was here, he gave an excellent presentation on resume writing for the work force.

I visited the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in Colorado in March. I am amazed at the amount of progress and the complexity of the project. Our Chem Demil team has done a great job.

March was also Women's History Month. The Huntsville Center partnered with Team Redstone on the observance. The display in our lobby placed second in the display contest. Congratulations to Suzanne Murdock, Valerie Clinkenbeard, and the Center women depicted on the posters in the display.

A separate program by the Federally Employed Women saw Contracting's Mona Neal receive an Outstanding Career Achievement Award. Congratulations to Mona! The award was presented March 21.

The first in a series of lunch and learns sponsored by the Special Emphasis Committee was presented March 22 and talked about writing tips, how to apply for positions in USA



Col. Nello L. Tortora

Staffing and how selections are made.

The next session will be in June and will be about dressing for success on a budget. Later in the summer the final session will be about interviewing.

Our program areas continue to excel as evidenced by the recent Environmental Excellence Award presented to our Facilities Reduction Program for a project at Fort Hood.

The award recognizes demolition and environmental remediation as well as environmental stewardship and is presented annually by the National Demolition Association. Great job!

Thank you to each of you for what you do to keep Huntsville Center great.

Hails and farewells

Hail: **Anna Nebelsick**, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; **James Buhr**, **Victoria Walker**, **Lili Miller**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Barbara Tolliver**, Business Management Office; **Trey Herston**, **Melissa Stram**, **Tamika McWilliams**, Logistics Management Office; **Larri Gilbert**, **Eric Garcia**, Medical Center of Expertise (Alexandria, Va.); **Leah Mott**, **Terrence Hamil**, **Phyllis Watson**, Center Contracting Directorate; **James Allison**, **Brenda Diaz**, Engineering Directorate.

Farewell: **Lawrence Seeba**, **Carol Spratley** (Blue Grass, Ky.), Chemical Demilitarization Directorate; **Mary Murphy**, RMO; **Joseph Solsky**, Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise; **Ryan Hargis**, Center Contracting Directorate.



US Army Corps of Engineers

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BULLETIN

Commander..... Col. Nello Tortora
Chief, Public Affairs..... Debra Valine
Editor..... William S. Farrow



**Printed on recycled paper
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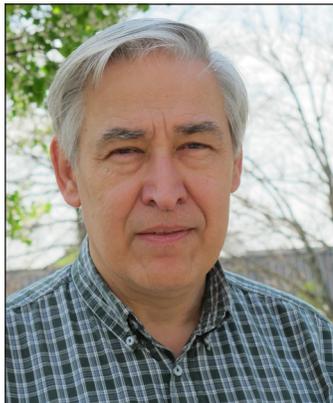
The Bulletin asks:

How do you think employees can show appreciation for administrative professionals on Administrative Professional's Day?



"I'd recommend giving your administrative professional employees a nice card and gift and treating them to a nice meal. We want to make it a special occasion for our administrative professional, so we allow her to pick the restaurant of her choice, during a time when there isn't a long wait and her schedule will allow her to take the time to enjoy the moment. We usually throw in a surprise or two that our team can agree on as well. Most of all, we want her to know how much we appreciate her."

Arthur Martin III
Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate



"I don't think you should wait until Administrative Professionals Day to show appreciation. When you've got a good administrative employee, you have a gem and a very valuable asset. For me, it is important that I don't wait to show my appreciation on this day. I try to put forth some extra effort and do little things from day-to-day. My team always sends our administrative professional flowers, treats her to lunch and provides an appropriate gift card."

Lynn Helms
Engineering Directorate



"A lot of folks don't recognize the supporting services that these employees provide for us on a daily basis. They are usually the backbone of the organization. They take care of important tasks for us like timekeeping, travel and training, which frees us up to direct our attention to the mission. I usually show my appreciation for my administrative professional by giving him or her flowers and a personal thanks for all they do to support us and the Corps."

Phyllis Watson
Center Contracting Directorate

Nominations sought for Engineer Day awards

Engineer Day awards will be presented June 1 at the Center's annual picnic. Information about how to nominate and the categories will be sent out via e-mail. You'll have until April 20 to submit nominations. Any employee can nominate someone for an award; it doesn't have to be the person's supervisor.

Employee Spotlight: Howard Swims

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

Howard Swims has a very challenging job at Huntsville Center ensuring all Huntsville Center programs are funded correctly and managers are spending appropriated funds wisely.

Swims joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in March 2002 and worked as a budget officer and a finance officer at Seattle District in Seattle.

He began working at Huntsville Center in March 2011 when he accepted his current position as chief of the Programs Budget Division in the Resource Management Directorate.

Additionally, Swims works on a key customer initiative focused on finding innovative new ways to get timely and accurate funding information to programs and their customers so they can make informed financial decisions concerning the Center's budget.

The important message Swims wants his budget and program analysts to take to these customers is built around the directorate's standardized business processes and fiscal readiness.

Everything is built around the concept that his team is ready to execute the Center's fiscal requirements.

Swims said each day there is something new and different on the financial horizon, and he and his team are up for the challenge.

He wants to get the word out throughout the Corps that this team is prepared and has the financial skills and savvy to assist customers with their budgetary concerns.

Swims said another key element of his job relates to recruiting and



Howard Swims (standing) reviews incoming project fund data with employees Carla McNeal, Sharron Brooks, Kathryn Norton and Amanda Odem during a recent Resource Management staff meeting.

retaining a strong team. As a leader, he is tasked with getting the right people into the right positions.

This can be a difficult task because his job requires a strong analytical skill set which is mostly acquired through time and effort. He seeks team members who are available and ready to assist with unique customer needs and can keep customers engaged during the entire budget process.

Employees reporting to Swims said they see the job he does each day making a difference and contributing to the Corps' success.

"Howard is a good supervisor and excellent mentor – with a vast wealth of knowledge and experience in finance and budget," said Amanda Odem, management analyst for the directorate.

"He likes to think out of the box and finds new ways to get the job done."

Odem said Swims guides her team on a daily basis and uses every moment as a teaching one. Although he openly shares information with his team, he allows them the benefit of handling things themselves in order to gain

practical problem solving skills.

"Even when I have to elevate an issue to him, I know he will support me and give me more options to consider for a customer," Odem said.

"He is also willing to 'take the heat for us' when we make a decision that may be unpopular with a customer, but is a viable solution for project needs" she said.

Swims said his most special moments and memories concerning his job have been tied to the daily challenges of fiscal convention, and mentoring employees. Thinking "outside-of-the-box" as it relates to funding accountability can be difficult at times. However, he and his team work together to find innovative ways to meet unique customer needs.

"I love that my job gives me an opportunity to be a good steward of government funds and be an example for others," Swims said. "The tone is set from the top, and everyone follows," he said.

"For me, it's crucial that the message I give my team and our customers is always a positive one."

The **Employee Spotlight** is intended to let our Center employees shine for positively impacting our organization through mission achievements. Employees are nominated on a monthly basis and are featured monthly on the Huntsville Center Web site. If you'd like to nominate someone within your office for this recognition, please contact Jo Anita Miley, Public Affairs Office, at 256-895-1585, or e-mail: JoAnita.Miley@usace.army.mil.

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our financial resources and our natural resources. The Corps manages almost 12 million acres of public lands and waters in 43 states, an area equivalent to the size of Vermont and New Hampshire combined.

These public lands and waters are homes to incredibly diverse habitats and in some cases to species found nowhere else in the world. In carrying out our regulatory mission, USACE must carefully balance decisions to protect our nation's aquatic resources, ensuring no net loss of wetlands while issuing about 90,000 permits to the American public each year.

Perhaps one of the greatest environmental legacies that the Corps and nation can leave for future generations is ecosystem restoration.

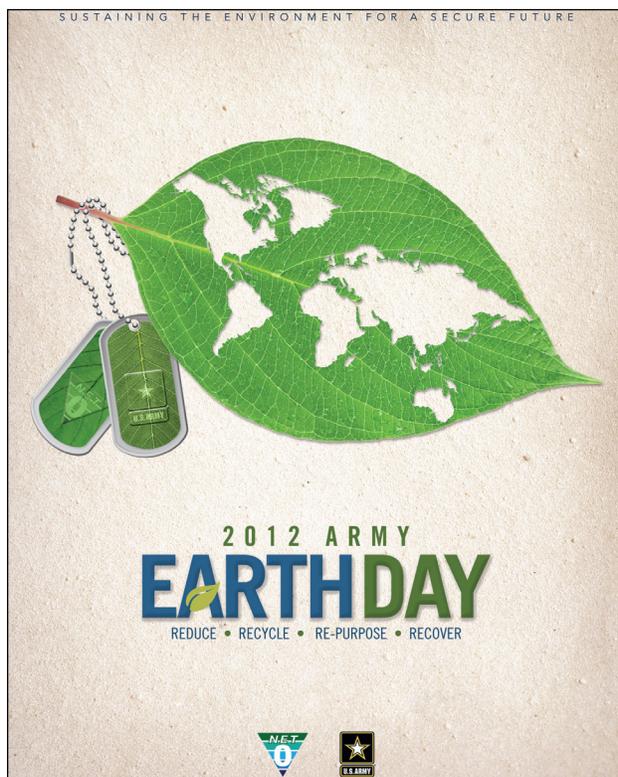
Across the country we are working with multiple federal and non-federal agencies and organizations in system-wide efforts to leverage the national investment in the interest of ecosystem restoration.

The Administration has named five high-priority ecosystems for restoration, and it is stunning to realize the landscape and natural resources that existed when these areas were inhabited by native tribes and explored by early settler.

Of the *Chesapeake Bay*, Captain John Smith recorded in his journal, "Heaven and earth have never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation," and described oyster reefs that lay as thick as stone.

Before it became known as the *Everglades*, a complex system of interdependent ecosystems that include cypress swamps, the estuarine mangrove forests of the Ten Thousand Islands, tropical hardwood hammocks, pine rockland, and the marine environment of Florida Bay, the Seminoles called it Pahay-okee, meaning "Grassy Water."

The Gulf Coast, which stretches from Southern Texas to the Western Florida panhandle, became a part of the U.S. in the early 19th century through the Louisiana Purchase and the Texas Revolution, and has been subject to the most devastating hurricanes to ever come



ashore.

The California Bay Delta, also known as the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, is an example of an inverted river delta, one of only a few worldwide. The fan-like area of the delta moves downstream, as the two rivers are forced to exit the Central Valley through the Coast Range via the narrow channel known as the Carquinez Strait, which leads to the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

Early European settlers were astounded by both the variety (some 150 species) and quantity of fish in *the Great Lakes*, the largest group of freshwater lakes on Earth.

During the settlement of America, these lakes and their rivers were the only practical way of moving people and freight.

These are diverse ecosystems that are different from each other in a number of ways, including the maturity of interagency activities already under way, nature of the issues and varying level of existing Corps investment.

The goal is to restore degraded

ecosystem structure, function and dynamic processes to a more natural condition.

Ecosystem restoration also provides economic benefits through construction projects, and perhaps more importantly, improves the quality of life for all of those in the watershed, offering recreational opportunities, restored habitat for wildlife and new green space in urban areas.

Community and school groups often have a hands-on way to get involved in smaller-scale efforts, from wetland planting to oyster reef

creation to learning opportunities at Corps projects.

The breadth and depth of skills found within the Corps' work force gives us the ability to seek the best solution to the environmental challenges that we deal with on a daily basis: sustainability, climate change, endangered species, environmental cleanup, ecosystem restoration and more.

It is only by working together with federal, state and local partners, academia, private industry and non-governmental organizations that we will be able to "turn the tide" after centuries of degradation and neglect of our natural resources.

We owe it to future generations to restore the delicate ecosystems that have been lost, and ensure that the Corps' and the Army's activities leave the smallest environmental footprint possible.

Thank you for all you do to support our environmental efforts...we are not just **BUILDING STRONG®**, but **BUILDING GREEN!**

Neal recognized for career achievement

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

Mona Neal, a Procurement Analyst Team Lead in Huntsville Center's Contracting Directorate, was recognized during the Women's History/Outreach Awards Luncheon March 21, with an Outstanding Career Achievement Award from the North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women.

The award commends her for her "outstanding and exceptional support during her Federal service career, and for her accomplishments while serving as a Procurement Analyst" at Huntsville Center.

The citation for the award notes Neal leading many "challenging projects at the Corps which led to successful outcomes, directly resulting from her ability to build coalitions within her sphere of influence and her initiative to get the job done."

Neal said she was thrilled when she found out about the nomination and then very honored as the recipient.

"Of course this is a wonderful personal achievement for me, but also

great recognition for contracting professionals that work here at Huntsville Center," Neal said.

"I think receiving this award speaks volumes for the contracting leadership - specifically their commitment to training and mentoring the acquisition work force within the Corps."

Neal has been working at Huntsville Center for approximately three years.

During her 22 years in federal service, she quickly progressed through the federal pay grade system beginning as a GS-03 clerk typist up to her current GS-14 procurement analyst position. This also included a four month temporary promotion as GS-15 division chief.

"Mona is one of the best contracting professionals working for the U.S. Army," said John Mayes, Contracting Directorate chief and award nominating official.

"She is dedicated and always looks for ways to help meet the customer's needs instead of just saying no because it looks too



Neal

hard. If it can be done, she will help find a way to do it. She is very deserving of this award recognizing her as one of Huntsville's distinguished federally employed women," Mayes said.

Set asides now allowable under GSA Schedules

Small business set-asides are now allowable when using General Services Administration Schedule contracts and also under an Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract.

An interim rule to the Federal Acquisition Regulation was published and became effective on Nov. 2, 2011 in Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-54 which allows agencies to partially or fully set aside acquisitions for small businesses when placing orders and/or establishing blanket purchase agreements under FAR 8.4 and also when placing orders under FAR 16.5.

The preference programs from FAR 19 are still not mandatory, however any of the business concerns in FAR 19.000(a)(3) may be set aside.

This includes small business, 8(a) business development participants, HUBZone small business concerns, service-disabled veteran-owned small business concerns, and economically disadvantaged women-owned small business concerns and women-owned small

business concerns eligible under the Women-Owned Small Business Program.

These orders placed against schedule contracts may be credited toward the ordering activity's small business goals.

Even though set-asides are now allowable under GSA Schedules, the entirety of FAR 19 still does not apply to FAR 8.4. The socio-economic designations are now recognized under the schedules program, but directed (sole source) contracts to 8(a) companies are not permissible.

This interim rule provides a great deal of flexibility for government contracting officers and their customers and will help agencies in achieving their small business goals.

During the acquisition planning stage, market research should reveal small business opportunities that will allow the contracting officer and customer to determine if a set aside is in the best interest of the government.

Full details can be found at:
<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/2011-27786.htm>

(Article courtesy Center Contracting)

Facilities Reduction project earns award

By James Campbell
Public Affairs Office

A Facilities Reduction Program project managed by the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center shared the spotlight with Boston-based contractor Charter Environmental, Inc. and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District quality assurance officials for the project receiving the 2012 National Demolition Association Environmental Excellence Award, March 13, in San Antonio.

The project involved abatement and demolition of the 60-year old Prichard Stadium Sports Complex to make room for a new hospital at Fort Hood, Texas.

A significant accomplishment is the recycling and reuse of 99.56 percent of the debris, said Thad Stripling, Center Facilities Reduction Program manager during the project.

“The demolition of Prichard Stadium Sports Complex at Fort Hood, Texas, is one of our most successful FRP projects. The sports complex sat on a 60-acre site and included a 5,500 seat stadium with concrete bleachers, running track, parking lots, site and stadium lighting, utilities, fencing, a baseball complex and underground utilities,” said Bob Delhome, president of Charter Environmental Inc.

When work was complete in



Courtesy photo

Workers take down the 5,500 seat Prichard Stadium at Fort Hood, Texas. The space will be used to make room for a new hospital.

October 2010, a flat, graded site was ready for Fort Hood officials to hold a ceremonial groundbreaking for the new \$534 million Carl R. Darnell Army Medical Center just two months later.

It may be hard to imagine how a collection of recovered debris from demolition of an old sports complex could be reused, but the site was ripe for recovery due to the durable nature of the materials, Stripling said.

The innovative reuse of materials cited in the award included stockpiling crushed concrete on site for future construction, salvaging lighting fixtures for use in the new stadium, reusing telephone poles on a firing range, saving chain link fence for future use, using revenue from recycled metals to fund

community events for Army Families, and saving plaques and memorials for placement at a new sports venue.

“The Army standard is 50 percent (by weight) landfill reduction, and the program average is 72 percent -- this project is an example of finding ways to go well above that average,” Stripling said. “It’s also good to see recognition from outside organizations for this project,” he said.

The National Demolition Association that recognized the sports complex project with the Environmental Excellence Award represents more than 1,000 U.S. and Canadian companies that offer standard and full-range demolition-related services and products. The association also promotes environmental education and stewardship.

The Center’s Facilities Reduction Program eliminates excess facilities and structures to reduce fixed installation costs and achieve energy savings. The program has eliminated more than 159 million square feet of excess facility inventory for various government customers since 2004. Charter Environmental has worked on FRP projects with the Center since 2006.



Photo by William S. Farrow

Supervisory training

Richard Lewis, Team Redstone's Employee Assistance Program professional, addresses Huntsville Center's supervisors. The Employee Assistance Program provides education and understanding of employee issues to protect organization's losses caused by employee's personal problems relating to alcohol and drug abuse, stress, anxiety, depression, financial hardships and other issues.

Tips ensure top efficiency of front-loading washers

By Deb Clark and
Deborah Neel
Central Furnishings Program

Repair issues and customer complaints have increased at installations with front-loading washing machines. However, helping customers understand the problems and providing suggestions for use and care are keeping the machines running and reducing costs.

The Centralized Furnishings Program, managed by Huntsville Center, purchases high-efficiency, front-loading, commercial-grade washing machines with Energy Star ratings required by policy. Products procured from General Services Administration Schedule 51V, 105-002 for barracks are from a variety of well-known manufacturers.

Manufacturers' models vary in the number of problems reported and the specific problems identified.

For example, the repair history for one particular brand of front-loading washers has been documented as unusually high. The maintenance issues most often identified are broken door parts and pump failures.

While typical wash cycles are about 45 minutes, HE front-loading models can have cycles lasting for up to 115 minutes. A user may get frustrated and try to open the door, but it's locked throughout the cycle. Door parts are easily broken when this happens as some models only have plastic clips to hold the door closed.

More frequent pump failures in some HE models are caused by a combination of horizontal tub design and users forgetting to remove small objects from their clothing. Additionally, using the wrong detergent, or too much detergent, can cause damage over time.

To reduce avoidable repairs, "User Guidelines" posted in barracks' laundry rooms highlight proper use of the appliances:

Along with end user education, the



Photo by Master Sgt. Mitch Jackson

One of the advantages of a front-load washer is the ability to stack the dryer on top, achieving space savings.

careful selection of washers can help mitigate problems.

Placing a residential washer in a commercial setting voids all warranties. Buying a residential machine for a laundry room environment will typically void the warranty as soon as it is in place. Commercial application is considered to be any time you have a centralized laundry room outside of a home environment.

Residential laundry machines cannot handle the wear and tear of a laundry room, even if they have "commercial parts" or are "commercial technology". Make sure the units are commercial grade and not just for certain parts like "commercial grade motor."

"Commercial technology" means just that and is usually labeled to make the residential machine seem better. Likewise, "heavy duty" is still a residential machine unless it is specifically labeled as a commercial machine.

A commercial machine is built specifically for the purpose of being able to run multiple times every single day. This means a longer-lasting machine and saved money in parts and service, or a replacement machine. A commercial machine also has a much better warranty.

Commercial machines are simpler to

operate. This means less repair costs caused from frustrated and confused operators. Commercial machines have easier maintenance resulting in lower labor costs.

The commercial washers that meet Energy Star or Federal Energy Management Program standards also offer slightly higher capacity than many of the residential market products.

Additionally, there are no Energy Star top load commercial washers on the market. Design considerations such as increasing the ratio of dryers to washers even more will reduce the overall cycle time for the user and reduce frustration with the extended wait.

The Centralized Furnishings Program and GSA are working with manufacturers to ask them to incorporate design changes such as possibly including an emergency button to interrupt the cycle and unlock the doors and similar features that might help reduce the repairs.

The benefits of front- and top-loading HE washers – that qualify as energy efficient – are in reduced electrical consumption and in lower water use. Better moisture extraction achieved by faster spin rates reduces drying time and energy consumption.

Cycle interruption due to an unbalanced load is rare. Since there is no center post agitator, the clothes will be more tangled and wrinkled, but dryer.

This reduces the next process time – drying. Front-loading HE washers clean more efficiently using less water and a high-speed spin. One of the advantages of a front-loader is the ability to stack the dryer on top, achieving space savings.

With the proper selection of washers and instruction of users, Army Installations can expect more successful outcomes with HE washers. (*Benjamin Otte, Interior GSA Sales Manager, provided purchasing and user information for this article.*)

MetalMapper changes munitions investigations

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

Huntsville Center geophysicists field tested innovative technology that will provide a better idea of the physical properties of buried metallic objects at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., in March.

The new innovative geophysical instrument that gives geophysicists a better idea of the physical properties of buried metallic objects was recently field tested by Huntsville Center's Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise, Military Munitions Division and Huntsville Center's Military Munitions Design Center.

John Nebelsick, chief of the Military Munitions Division, said operators of the system have a better understanding of what they are looking at below the surface and the instrument allows for the clearance of more land for the same amount of money.

"MetalMapper allows us to take measurements of buried metallic items and make very sound, scientific guesses as to what those items might be based on the measured parameters," Nebelsick said.

When looking at munitions (in the past), geophysicists marked any anomaly that showed up and had it dug up. But now with the MetalMapper, geophysicists can make a reliable prediction as to whether or not the item is a potential unexploded ordnance or just metal fragments, Nebelsick said.

Nebelsick describes the MetalMapper as an advanced electromagnetic induction system configured for the detection and characterization of UXO. He said the MetalMapper is the result of several years of research and development activities in the area of characterization of buried metallic objects in order to reduce the costs of remediating sites contaminated with UXO. The system uses time domain electromagnetic principles to induce electrical currents



Photo by William S. Farrow

Matt Glover, Bob Selfridge, Deborah Edwards and Michelle Maxson train on the use of the MetalMapper at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

in buried metallic objects and then measures the response to the induced currents.

He said this technology represents a significant departure from existing, commercially available EMI instruments for UXO detection.

Nebelsick said MetalMapper's most important application is for use as a system for cued-ID target characterization. In the cued-ID mode, data are acquired at a location in close proximity to the target.

Precision static measurements at that location permits the calculation of the target characteristics. These target characteristics are then used to generate a prioritized dig list that identifies each target as either needing removal or non-hazardous.

"This is a paradigm shift from the way munitions have been investigated in the past," he said. "With MetalMapper, we can better identify and estimate the nature of the anomaly and only those anomalies that have characteristics of UXO will be dug up. However, this approach will leave metal in the ground

which will require close coordination with stakeholders and the regulatory community. If it's just fragments from exploded ordnance, then we aren't as concerned about it because it's essentially just metal buried in the soil; it's not an environmental liability. However, you still have to assess the risk associated with the chemical constituents that were inside the munitions."

Nebelsick said MetalMapper can be used to get a relatively accurate estimation of the size and shape of buried metallic objects to determine if the object is potentially a UXO. "Explosive Safety experts will have a greater understanding of what it's going to take to dig it up," he said.

One of the people trained to use the MetalMapper thought the training went really well.

"After a week in the field, I learned how to assemble the device and run the software to gather field data," said Nick Stolte, Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise environmental engineer.

Freedom Pen Project provides hand-crafted pens to Servicemembers, Wounded Warriors

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

One Sunday every month, a dedicated group of Woodchippers gathers on Redstone Arsenal to create – or turn – wood pens that will be shipped to Servicemembers stationed in foreign countries in harm's way and Wounded Warriors.

Frank Brown, a project manager with the Central Furnishings Program, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is one of nearly 130 volunteer Woodchippers who shares his skill to show his support of the country's Servicemembers.

Brown regularly attends the Sunday turn-a-thons.

"I wanted to make pens as gifts for the wedding party for my son's wedding. So I took the class at the craft shop," Brown said. "At the completion of the class, Boyce Allen, the instructor, joked that we were now expected to attend at least one turn-a-thon. It seemed like a good cause and a chance to get additional experience making pens, so I attended the next one. It's a great group of folks, and a terrific cause, so I have made most of the sessions since then."

The Woodchippers are active and retired military, DA civilians, NASA employees, government contractors and civilians from the local community.

In March, the group turned 100 Freedom Pens. The group meets at the Redstone Arsenal Morale, Welfare and Recreation Arts and Crafts Center.

Another 132 pens were turned in by other woodchippers and members of the International Association of Pen Turners.

The Freedom Pen Project started in Virginia in 2004. Since 2007, the Redstone Woodchippers have shipped more than 8,000 pens, according to Boyce Allen, the Woodshop lead at



Photo by Debra Valine

Woodchipper Frank Brown creates a Freedom Pen at the Redstone Recreation Arts and Crafts Center. The pen will go to Servicemembers or Wounded Warriors.

the Arts and Crafts Center. The group receives financial support from local businesses as well as wood donated for the project.

Custom pens that are not created as part of the Freedom Pen Project are available for purchase at the Arts and Crafts Center, which is open Wednesdays 1:30 – 8 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Pens cost \$25 and up. For more

information, call 256-876-7951.

Brown, a retired Army colonel, has been turning pens for the project for 2-3 years.

"In addition to spending time with a great group and turning pens for a good cause, at almost every session, someone will have a new technique, or material, or tool that they share with the group that helps us all get better," he said.

Engineer by day, brawler by night

Her passion for sports leads her to mixed martial arts competitions

**By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office**

By day, Huntsville Center's Molly Richardson is a mild-mannered structural engineer in the Center's Engineering Directorate.

By night she is Molly "Pretty Girl Swag" Richardson, the tenacious brawler. A mixed-martial arts fighter.

For the past eight months, The 5-foot, 3-inch, 115 pound engineer has trained to compete as an amateur mixed-martial arts fighter.

MMA is a full-contact, combat sport that allows the use of both striking and grappling techniques, both standing and on the ground, including boxing, wrestling, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, muay Thai, kickboxing, taekwondo, karate, judo and other styles. Fighters must be trained heavily in striking and grappling in order to succeed in the cage.

Richardson said she has played sports her entire life – soccer, softball, basketball, tennis, and even football. She is also a wide-receiver and kicker for a semi-professional all women's football team called the Huntsville Tigers.

Participating in sports usually reserved for males athletes has always been an interest for her.

However, she said it wasn't until June when she landed a permanent job at the Center that she realized she had found her ultimate sport.

"I played soccer all the way through college and wanted a good workout when I moved here," Richardson said.

"One of my friends was training in MMA, and told me it was a killer workout (which it definitely is) and it turned out that I really liked the combat side of the sport," she said.

There is also a huge mental aspect of the sport. Richardson said training as an MMA athlete is almost like chess.

"You have to try to read ahead on



Courtesy photo

Molly Richardson (left) and opponent Anna Smith, put up their dukes before their mixed martial arts bout March 24 at the Von Braun Center's Propst Arena. Richardson's first fight ignited a passion and has her training for more.

what your opponent's game plan is and what their next move might be," Richardson said.

"Except you only have a split second to change your next move and plan to counteract theirs."

Richardson said she also loves the excitement that comes with combat sports like MMA. Because of this passion, she decided to begin competing in the sport and officially launched her fighting career March 24 in a face-off with another amateur MMA fighter, Anna Smith, at Huntsville's Von Braun Center's Propst Arena.

"It was a good fight, with some intense moments," Richardson said.

"During the last part of the match, my opponent was able to pin my arm behind my back in a way that I couldn't get it loose, which gave her the win by arm submission," she said. "I learned a lot in the octagon that I will use as I train for my next competition.

Although Richardson didn't prevail, fighting in this match was the first step on the path to launching her career into the MMA world.

She said the fight was a testament to the effort she has put into the sport so far and gave her a glimpse of what she

needs to do to succeed in future bouts.

Because athletes normally only plan one fight ahead, Richardson said she doesn't know when she will compete again, but she is very eager for this opportunity. She will work closely with her trainer, Jason Carley of Riviera Fitness, to train for her next fight.

"I love competing and I can't wait to get back into the cage again," Richardson said.

Preparing for a match is a huge effort that requires lots of preparation inside and outside of the ring.

Richardson said each fighter needs a great trainer and good sponsors to get some visibility within the MMA world.

"As a fighter, I focus on improving my fighting skills through strength and conditioning training. Outside of the gym, I am looking for sponsors willing to support my efforts and accomplishments," Richardson said.

"Several sponsors supported me in my first fight - Knuckleheads Sports Pub and Restaurant, Partners Bar and Grille, XtremeXile and the Huntsville Tigers," she said.

When asked how a person can begin MMA fighting, Richardson said finding a local gym or training facility that offers MMA classes is the first step.

In addition to training, participating in local amateur MMA fights is extremely important for visibility and experience. Huntsville was a great place for her to do both.

Richardson said her initial goals with MMA were to learn self-defense and to keep in shape.

However, she has gained a lot more than she bargained for and anticipates a great future competing in the sport.

Now she would really like to continue to compete and maybe even go into higher levels of competition within MMA.

Richardson said she'd like to explore other combat sports. But for now, MMA is her passion.

Ethics Corner

Rental Car questions and answers Part II

**By Margaret Simmons and Lisa Gayman
Office of Counsel**

The remaining Qs and As regarding government rental cars are provided below:

Q: Where can I drive my rental while on TDY and still be covered for my “official travel?”

A: This includes travel to and from the airport; to and from your lodging location to your TDY; to and from your place of worship; to and from places to eat; trips to the doctor, drug store, laundry or dry cleaning establishment, barbershops, and “similar places required for the traveler’s subsistence, comfort or health.”

Q: Why should I decline the insurance or collision damage waiver offered by the rental agency?

A: Government employees are self-insured by the government. These are unnecessary expenses and are not reimbursable to the traveler.

Q: I just finished dinner and when I got outside to my rental I noticed damage to the vehicle - what do I do?

A: In order to protect yourself, contact the local police and insist upon a police report. You must immediately notify the rental car company to report any damage the moment it’s noticed.

Q: My family came with me on TDY. Can they

drive my rental car?

A: No. Only the authorized government employee on official travel orders is authorized to drive the car.

Q: My family came with me on TDY. Can they ride in my rental car?

A: Individuals may be transported with a government employee only when there is available space, there is no additional government cost, there is no deviation from the route that the vehicle will take for the official business, and the size of the vehicle authorized must be no larger than that required for the performance of the official business.

Q: I was just involved in an accident and asked by the police officer for a copy of my insurance - what do I provide?

A: You need to provide a copy of your rental agreement papers.

Q: The officer doesn’t understand that the rental agreement papers are my insurance papers after I explained I’m on government travel and covered by the US Rental Agreement, now what?

A: Call the rental company. Do not provide your personal insurance.

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