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Huntsville Center

# Bulletin

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## **Small Business**

## **FORUM**

**9 a.m.-noon, Nov. 9, at  
UAH University Center.**

**Registration  
ends Nov. 2.**

## **FUDS tech 'fingerprints' unexploded ordnance**

**By James Campbell  
Public Affairs Office**

**T**he U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is capturing and cataloging what may best be described as the fingerprints of munitions items such as bombs, mortars, artillery projectiles and fuzes in an effort to improve how work is done at Formerly Used Defense Sites.

The Center's Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise has begun to put together a library of ordnance signatures.

To help with Corps of Engineers cleanup work at the former Kirtland Bombing Range, N.M., a team of experts traveled to two Florida museums in September.

The National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Fla., and the Air Force Armament Museum at Fort Walton Beach, Fla. had what the team needed — inert bombs from the World War II era with fins, fuzes and metal intact. Since the



Courtesy photos

**Andy Schwartz connects cables to the MetalMapper system used to catalog munitions. Those munition 'fingerprints' will be used later at remediation sites.**

museums couldn't release the exhibit pieces to the Center, the equipment to capture their fingerprints went to the bombs.

A central challenge

when remediating sites where military live-fire training took place is properly classifying anomalies, or signatures from high-end metal detection

**See *ORDNANCE* on page 5**

# Commander's thoughts

**T**eam,  
Last fiscal year, Huntsville Center set a record with a total annual program of \$1.77 billion and the award of 6,254 contract actions.

Broken down by directorates, Installation Support led with \$1.1 billion, followed by Ordnance and Explosives with \$237 million, Chemical Demilitarization with \$122 million, Engineering with \$74 million and Environmental and Munitions CX with \$29 million.

These are impressive numbers and reflect the size of our programs and projects. We also exceeded our Small Business goal! Our goal was 33 percent, and we achieved 37.5 percent overall. Great work, team.

We are working on our FY13 Implementation Plan. The USACE goals are not yet finalized, but they are close enough so that we can begin to update our actions for the coming year.

Our first meeting was Oct. 22. We've started planning the way ahead for the Center, and will communicate that to you once we have a final plan.

Last month I visited our customers at U.S. Army Medical Command, Installation Management Command and Joint Base San Antonio. Our customers are very happy for the most part.

While in San Antonio, I was able to brief our upcoming acquisitions at the Society of American Military Engineers' Industry Days. Later in the month I also briefed our capabilities at the Commander's Course in New Orleans.

November is Native American Indian Heritage Month. During the month we pay tribute to the rich ancestry and traditions of Native Americans. Throughout our history, American Indian and Alaska Native peoples have been an integral part of the American character. Against the odds, America's first peoples have endured, and remained a vital cultural, political, social and moral presence.

Tribal America has brought to this great country certain values and ideas that have become ingrained in the American spirit: the knowledge that humans can thrive and prosper without destroying the natural environment; the understanding that people from very different backgrounds, cultures, religions, and traditions can come together to build a great country; and the awareness that diversity can be a source of strength rather than division.

The Center will recognize Native American Indian Month Nov. 6, 1 p.m.



**Col. Robert Ruch**

at Bob Jones Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal. A video and discussion on Native American Indian heritage will be held at a Lunch and Learn, 11 a.m., in the Huntsville Center cafeteria.

The Combined Federal Campaign is under way. Your section key-workers should have the catalogs and pledge forms. If you have not yet received yours, you can check with your key-worker or Rhonda Pittman, who is our financial chair this year. The Center's

**See COMMANDER on page 3**

## Hails and farewells

**Hail:** Betty Guillot, Michelle Copen, Fred Cartes, Emmett Hernandez, Eunice Rose, Diane Raymond, Kathy Kelly, Tisha Fitch, Mattie Craig, Deborah Stevan, Center Contracting Directorate; Brian McComas, Anthony Isadore, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; Deeneen Benson, Resource Management; Carol Athnos, Stacy Valentino, Engineering Directorate; Nicholas Konovodoff, Chemical Demilitarization.

**Farewell:** Rachel Hernandez, Security and Law Enforcement Office, Amand Parihar, ED; Fawzy Makar, CD.



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## BULLETIN

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



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goal is \$75,000. Each year we exceed our goal, but it is a last minute effort.

If you plan to pledge to CFC, please go ahead and complete your pledge form indicating the amount and which charitable organizations you would like to support and get that form to your key-worker. The donations can be one time or pledged through payroll deductions. We are fortunate to be federal employees in a region with a booming economy and we need to remember that we are the exception. People across the country really need our help.

Don't forget to vote Nov. 6! Most of us live close enough to our voting districts that we can vote either before or after work. However, if you live outside the normal commuting distance (40 miles) and cannot get to your voting location before it closes, please get with your supervisor. Guidance on voting leave is contained in CEHNCR 690-1-5 and was sent out to everyone in March.

November is when thoughts turn to thanks. We start the month with Veterans Day and end the month with Thanksgiving.

While listing the things you are thankful for, remember our veterans. This year, the Army's Veterans Day theme is "Soldier for Life." Half of the Center's work force also served your nation by wearing the uniform. Although there are many of you who served in other branches of the military, know that the Army honors all those who have served our great nation.

And most importantly, as you start your holiday planning, whether it's parties or travel, remember to always be safe.

## The Bulletin asks: *On Veterans Day, do you have special thoughts about someone or some event?*



**Patty Mooneyham**  
Installation Support and  
Programs Management

“ I think about two of my friends who are currently serving in Afghanistan with brand new babies back home. I also pray for all of our men and women in uniform and their safe return to their families. I hope all veterans are treated with the kind of respect, dignity and honor they deserve. It saddens me and I find it deeply disturbing to know that this has not always been the case.

”



**Michael Jackson**  
Engineering Directorate

“ If I had to choose one moment that stands out for me, it would be the day I visited the wounded warriors at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center as part of a special Purple Heart presentation. It was an honor for me to meet the war fighters and thank them for their service.

”



The 2012 Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign is under way. The campaign covers the following counties in the North Alabama area: Cullman, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, Morgan, and Lincoln County, Tennessee. Federal employees working in these counties may participate in the campaign. For information regarding, visit the Website at:

[http://amcomdmz.redstone.army.mil/cfcp/cfcp\\_main](http://amcomdmz.redstone.army.mil/cfcp/cfcp_main)

# Employee Spotlight: Larry Bacca

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

**What is your job title and where do you work?** I

am a mechanical engineer in Engineering Directorate's Cost Engineering Division Operations Branch

**How long have you worked for the Corps?** I have worked for the Corps three years and for Huntsville Center a little more than a year. I've worked for the federal government since 1991.

**In your own words, what is your job? What do you do?** I provide engineering, scientific and technical services while ensuring compliance with accepted codes, standard, regulations and guidance.

I provide technical and engineering support to the Operations Maintenance Engineering Enhancement team in developing and executing task order contracts for the performance of facility Operations and Maintenance.

**Review the Campaign Plan goals and objectives. Which one(s) apply to you?** Goal 4, Objective 4a, "Identify, develop, maintain and strengthen technical competencies," applies to me because my team provides technical and engineering support to the OMEE team in review of O&M documents and contractor submittal. My duties also include the development of scopes of work and Independent



**Larry Bacca**

Government Estimates, Facility O&M Maintenance Plans, Quality Assurance Plans, Performance Work Statements, identifying facility O&M, and the management support functions for contract service and OMEE mission requirements.

**How do you see your job making a difference and contributing to the Corps' success?** I have been blessed to be a member of some awesome and successful Corps teams that make a huge difference in

medical facilities on military installations around the globe.

My current team works well together to partner with customers and our OMEE support contractors for large and small business efforts. Every position on the OMEE team is extremely critical to USACE mission success.

**What do you love about your job?** I love the people who work at Huntsville Center. I love how our people are extremely dedicated to following the USACE Vision and loyal to carrying out the USACE mission.

**What is your hometown?** I grew up in Tularosa, N.M.

**What are some of your favorite hobbies?** I like to fish and travel. I love to cook everything.

**What is your favorite book?** I have two: "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," by Dr. Stephen R. Covey and "The Holy Bible."

**Who is your favorite musical artist?** I have two: Barry White and George Strait.

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](mailto:JoAnita.Miley@usace.army.mil).



# ORDNANCE

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equipment, said Andrew Schwartz, geophysicist, from the Center's EM CX.

"It's the difference between unnecessarily excavating an area and finding junk metal or being certain of what's down there," Schwartz said. The newest sensors have the potential to reduce excavation on some sites by more than 75 percent."

That's one reason the team went to the museums in Florida where the team collected advanced electromagnetic induction signatures for various bombs and bomb fuzes using MetalMapper and the Time-domain Electromagnetic Multi-sensor Towed Array Detection System, Schwartz said.

The specialized equipment gathers complex geophysical data about the objects – data Schwartz said he likes to call metal detector fingerprints. It's still metal detection, but the specialized equipment can determine metal types, thickness and symmetry.

The bombs in question are 100-pound general purpose, practice bombs and spotting charges last dropped at what was then a U.S. Army Air Corps bombing range, last used for this type of training in 1947.

Trent Simpler, project manager and Mark Phaneuf, geologist, representing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District, joined the team from Huntsville Center collecting the bomb data in Florida.

The former range is part of an area where an airport expansion is scheduled, and the Albuquerque District is managing the remediation project.

Once complete, this will be the first use of the technology on a FUDS project, Simpler said.

The trip to the museum to gather the old bomb's data fingerprints was funded by the Albuquerque District project, but it also benefits a library the team hopes will grow to be a standard classification for subsurface items that may be unexploded ordnance.

It's said that human fingerprints are



**In Florida, one of the munitions the MetalMapper used to collect advanced electromagnetic induction signatures was the inert, 100-pound general purpose practice bomb provided by Navy and Air Force museums in the area there.**

unique, but in the case of ordnance, multiple data sets are needed for one type of munitions. Schwartz said the current library has roughly 300 ordnance signatures that cover about 25 different pieces of ordnance and related clutter.

The EM CX is also working within the Department of Defense community of experts to standardize how the data is structured, Schwartz said.

"The library needs to be specific. For example, there are over a dozen different types of 81mm mortars, each with unique signatures, but if the library doesn't have the signature for the one you're looking for, you might not get a match," he said.

These fingerprints or signatures will help the Corps investigate sites where ordnance was used and determine which pieces of metal can be safely left in the ground, freeing up more resources so the FUDS program can get to more sites sooner, said Amy Walker, a geophysicist on the team from the Center's Engineering Directorate.

"In the larger sense, these new sensors provide advanced classification capabilities that weren't there just a few years ago," Walker said. "We're still in initial stages, building up the library so we can understand what these items look like to the new sensors, but this is what's next in munitions response. It's an exciting time for the industry."

Another member of the team, Nick Stolte, an environmental engineer with the EM CX, said he thinks the long-term benefits of a detailed signature library can provide improvement at multiple levels, including planning, reporting and more efficient remediation of other UXO-contaminated sites.

From helping with a project involving a World War II-era bombing range in New Mexico to building a library that can help at locations everywhere, the Center team is counting on developing these complex fingerprints as one way to meet the multiple challenges of mitigating the risk from UXO and Munitions and Explosives of Concern at current and former military sites.



# Mission Focus: *Environmental*

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, has a wide range of capabilities to support the Department of Defense commitment to environmental stewardship.

Dedicated managers and a responsive contracting team support the technically-driven processes used by Huntsville Center to minimize customer burdens.

Huntsville Center has managed environmental investigations at hundreds of DoD sites, at large active facilities, formerly owned or used properties, government owned contractor operated locations, training areas, maintenance areas, storage areas and spill sites.

Huntsville Center has produced Remedial Design, Time-Critical and Non-Time-Critical Design and Interim Action Design Documentation for many DoD Superfund and Corrective Action sites.

The Environmental Program has expanded to meet today's environmental needs such as Environmental Management Systems (ISO 14001), stormwater management plans, spill prevention plans and baseline risk assessments.

Huntsville Center provides project design and environmental services focusing on investigations and remediation at DoD Superfund level Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Base Realignment and Closure sites.

Huntsville Center has supported the Defense Logistics Agency and Army



File photo

**A Huntsville Center representative explains the remediation processes to local residents interested in the clean up of former Camp Sibert, Ala., an area used extensively as a training area for chemical warfare troops during World War II.**

Materiel Command at large facilities around the country, and now provides environmental services for DLA's Defense National Stockpile Center, Defense Supply Center Columbus, Defense Distribution Center and Defense Energy Supply Center, as well as the Office of Secretary of Defense and the Marine Corps. Huntsville Center also provides environmental services to Corps districts, such as the New York and Sacramento districts.

Huntsville Center acts as central manager, executing CERCLA/RCRA phases; performing Environmental Baseline Studies, Environmental Compliance Assessments Surveys; establishing Environmental Management Systems conformance and training; managing programmatic integration of site data; schedules and budgets; environmental documentation; environmental permits; and small removal/remedial actions.

## Regulatory Compliance

When a DoD component has a need for environmental engineering

services, Huntsville Center uses accepted Environmental Protection Agency protocols, guidance documents and implementation directives to ensure regulatory compliance and acceptance is achieved for all actions. CERCLA actions conform to applicable OSWER directives and employ a phased progression through Preliminary Assessment, Site Investigation, Remedial Investigation, Feasibility Study, Record of Decision, Remedial Design, Remedial Action, Long Term Monitoring, Periodic Review and site closeout. NEPA actions conform to 40CFR1500-5081 and employ standard processes of Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement.

RCRA efforts conform to 40 CFR 260 and authorized state implementation requirements, including incinerator, landfill and underground storage tank requirements of the Hazardous and Solid Wastes Amendments of 1984.

**See ENVIRONMENTAL on page 7**



## Center on the panel



Photo by William S. Farrow

Huntsville Center's Tammie Learned (center), Installation Support and Programs Management Energy Division program manager, and Beverly Richey (right), Engineering Directorate physical scientist and GIS analyst, sat on a technology panel at the 2012 Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce Technology Summit at the Jackson Center in Cummings Research Park. Representatives from several notable Huntsville based businesses and federal programs led two panel discussions at the event.

## ENVIRONMENTAL

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### Environmental Monitoring

In response to Executive Order 13148 and 13423, Huntsville Center also provides EMS and environmental, Safety and Occupational Health, and Management System services to DoD agencies for development and implementation of the required training, documentation, auditing, data management and other technical support.

### Pre-demolition Assessments

Huntsville Center support to other federal agencies includes services for building repair, renovation or demolition. Environmental engineering support for these efforts includes provision of field resources for NEPA documentation. Expertise is available in-house and by

contract for development of EA and EIS documents, asbestos and hazardous materials sampling, pre-demolition remediation, recycling and landfill diversion support.

### Munitions and Explosive of Concern

Huntsville Center efforts to address MEC at Formerly Used Defense Sites, as well as active installations in support of environmental remediation or construction efforts uses expertise provided by the Environmental Program when MEC projects require integration with existing Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste site efforts. Regulatory interpretation, chemistry and risk assessment services are available and used as required to facilitate Huntsville Center MEC

program managers in completion of mission requirements.

### Implementing developing programs

Huntsville Center Environmental Engineering expertise supports active Army missions by Army Central Command in overseas locations to facilitate environmental stewardship for Army and DoD components at military Areas of Responsibility.

Huntsville Center has provided contract support for development of environmental master plans for ongoing military actions as well as post-use evaluation and clean-up criteria for impacted areas. *(This information is part of a series of articles by Huntsville Center Public Affairs Office focusing on Center missions).*

# PDT U courses delivering better projects

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

**H**untsville Center's Installation Support and Programs Management Branch's Project Delivery Team University started the fiscal year end off right Oct. 9 with its first class session focused on quality.

More than 60 employees from various Project Delivery Teams across the Center packed the room as George Sledge, chief and administrative contracting officer in the Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, taught the hour-long Quality Assurance and Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan Format, Content and Responsibilities class.

The Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan is a government-developed document used to determine if a contractor's performance meets the performance standards contained in the contract. The plan provides the structure for the government's surveillance of the contractor's performance to assure that it meets contract standards. Authority for issuance of the QASP is provided under Part 46 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

Sledge taught participants how to better utilize QA/QASP to control specification deviations, fairly evaluate contractor performance and consistently deliver quality results on contracts. Doing so identifies problems early on and ensures quicker resolution of performance issues to minimize impact on mission performance.

According to Sledge, Quality Assurance also ties into the Corps' commitment to delivering quality products within the USACE Campaign Plan. Sledge said an added focus on quality means we are making an effort to ensure the government is getting what it has paid for on a contract. He said it also helps the Center to identify, develop, maintain and strengthen its



Photos by Jo Anita Miley

**George Sledge teaches PDT University's Quality Assurance and Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan Format, Content and Responsibilities class Oct. 9.**

technical competencies.

"Our efforts will show we are doing what is necessary to meet the goal of making sure the government is getting what it paid for," Sledge said.

"We want to make sure we are providing good quality products. Whether you're dealing with difficulties or simple nonconformance on a contract, following a continuous quality assurance oversight process and having a Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan provides a systematic process to manage them."

Todd Watts, a civil engineer in the Center's Engineering Directorate, said he attended the training to keep abreast of how he can do a better job of making sure the government is getting what it has paid for on a contract. He anticipates seeing more quality-orientated training being offered at the Center.

"Having a quality/QASP class is good for the Center because it shows that we are training our employees to take an active role on our projects. Watts said. "There are a lot of employees at the Center who are new project managers who need to understand from more experienced project managers about quality. We can learn from these individuals what we should

look for when building a QASP, how to identify something that's a good measurement of quality and how to define when a contractor is not meeting this goal."

The PDT University is for all PDT members. The one-hour sessions about specific topics of interest are held every other Tuesday, 9-10 a.m., in the Center cafeteria.

For more information about PDT University contact Laura Beth Quick at 256-895-1431.

## Upcoming PDT University sessions

Nov. 6: Conducting Effective Meetings

Nov. 20: Acquisition Strategy, Acquisition Plan and Format

Dec. 4: Writing Performance Work Statements

Dec. 18: Government Travel Charge Card Program



# ACE-IT Visual Information services available

By William S. Farrow  
Public Affairs Office

For seven months Huntsville Center personnel have enjoyed the services provided by its lone visual information/technical specialist. However, many people in the Center don't know his services are available.

Bruce Hudgins, ACE-IT visual information/technical specialist, has a background steeped in graphics and media. He has a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts with a concentration in graphic design from Jacksonville State University, Ala.

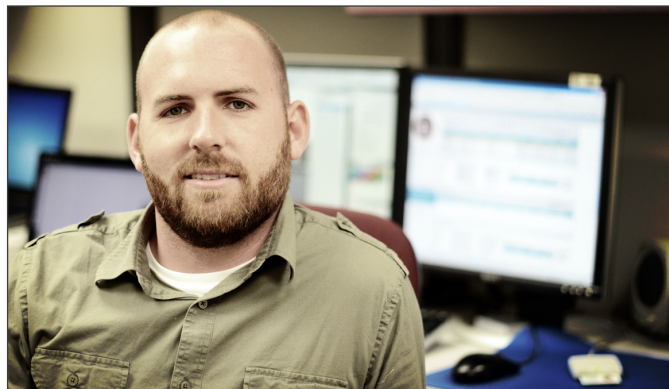
His past experiences include jobs creating graphics for training, training manuals and e-learning production for the Alabama Industrial Development Training for the Honda Project in Lincoln, Ala., desktop publishing; and graphics for print and the web at the Center for Domestic Preparedness and at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville

He's here at Huntsville Center providing support to audio visual needs for the entire center to include: laptops, projectors, microphones, speakers, phone and web conferencing. He also provides graphics support by creating posters, certificates, flyers, brochures and exhibits. He focuses his products on ensuring Corps branding is compliant.

He even provides photography and videography support. Fermin Feria, Center Logistics, recently needed photos taken of the facility. Feria originally asked Center public affairs to take the photo.

Feria said he was told Public Affairs could take the photos but that he might want to consider using the ACE-IT photography services.

"I didn't even know ACE-IT had the capability, but I put in a work order with ACE-IT and within minutes, Bruce called me asking what I specifically needed and within an hour, he'd taken the images and e-mailed



**Bruce Hudgins**

them to me and they were exactly what I needed," Feria said.

Hudgins said the Center work force needs to know he can support almost any task requested in the visual information arena.

"I am very confident in my abilities to come up with cutting edge graphics, and to edit and manipulate photos and videos into a product that the customer will be happy with," Hudgins said.

"I have extensive training and education in this

field, and I know that I can take their ideas and visions and turn them into something that reflects them and the Huntsville Center in a positive way."

## Green Island



U.S. Army Photo

**The Honorable Katherine Hammack, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment, toured energy saving projects at Fort Buchanan and Reserve sites in Puerto Rico Sept. 28. The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, has 10 active projects, including wind generation and solar photovoltaic power generation in Puerto Rico, that will save more than \$2.6 million and 37,880 MBTU when complete. Another seven projects that are expected to save \$1,083,608 and achieve Net Zero Water usage are nearing contract award.**

# Huntsville Center observes Disability Employment Awareness Month

By Angela Morton  
Equal Employment  
Opportunity Office

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, recognized National Disability Employment Awareness Month Oct. 24 with a ceremony and discussion panel featuring people working with disabilities or working in the disability field.

According to the panelists, realizing the disabled have overcome their “disability” and are capable of joining the work force is the easiest way to recognize their value.

Panelist Isaac Beavers, a case manager for the blind and visually disabled at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind Huntsville and Shoals Regional Centers, cited a recent hire of 20 of 40 blind participants from the Southeast Rehabilitation Center as one example.

“What you can do is put people with disabilities to work,” Beavers said. “We’re not talking about charity; we’re talking about opportunity.”

Panelist Linda Cole, a deaf and hard-of-hearing case manager with the AIDB Huntsville Regional Center, explained with statistics how people with disabilities are a significant portion of the population and therefore should also represent a significant portion of the work force.

The third panelist at the event was retired 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jeffery Adams, a Soldier who lost his leg to an improvised explosive device in Iraq.

Now employed as a flight test engineer for the Army, Adams remains an active member in wounded warrior projects.

Adams explained the effects of war injuries over the last decade and how hiring disabled veterans can be advantageous to employers.



Photo by William S. Farrow

**Panel participants (from left) Isaac Beavers and Linda Cole from the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind and retired Army 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jeffery Adams, wounded warrior, field questions from the audience during Huntsville Center’s recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month Oct. 24.**

“You can learn from them,” Adams explained.

He said many of the military personnel who became disabled while serving in Iraq and Afghanistan have a lot of skills to offer. He said prior to their injuries, many military disabled gained valuable skills employers desire—from building schools and libraries to negotiating with community leaders and providing security, military personnel gained problem solving skills and a strong work ethic.

However, after their injury is when many gained greater skills employers should value even more.

“They don’t quit—they suck it up and move forward,” he said. “If they are there interviewing for a job, they’ve already overcome their obstacle.”

Lt. Col. William Burruss, the Center’s deputy commander, said Huntsville Center has made great progress and given a concentrated effort to integrating Individuals with disabilities and our disabled Veterans into the Huntsville Center work force.

“We will continue to strive to hire and accommodate individuals that bring a wealth of talent to accomplishing the mission of this great organization,” Burruss said.

Also participating was the U.S. Army Materiel Command Ceremonial Band with their “Salute to the Wounded Warrior” and the Buckhorn High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps color guard.

*(William S. Farrow contributed to this article.)*



# Veterans Day 2012

## Activities:

- Nov. 5, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Veterans Day-YMCA Prayer Breakfast, Hughes Road, Madison, Ala. Tickets are \$20 for the public and free to Soldiers, veterans and families of deployed
- Nov. 12: Huntsville/Madison County Veterans Day Parade, 11 a.m., Downtown Huntsville.



## AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

2012

- Huntsville Center joins Team Redstone for National Native American Indian Heritage Month with an observance set for 1 p.m., Nov. 6 at Bob Jones Auditorium, on Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

- A video and discussion on Native American Indian Heritage is set for the Lunch and Learn, 11 a.m., Nov. 28 in the Huntsville Center cafeteria.

# **Ethics Corner: Mailbag**

## **Providing responses to recent questions**

**By Clay Weisenberger**  
**Office of Counsel**

**T**his month's **Ethics Corner** focuses on a few specific questions that were submitted to the Office of Counsel recently or that come up on a regular basis.

**I want to make a presentation to the local Rotary Club.**

**What type of approval do I need?** All presentations made to the public must first be cleared through the Public Affairs Office and the Security Office. This requirement also applies to speaking engagements at conferences and forums that are open to the public. The process to clear information for public release is outlined in Work Instruction HNC-WI-55-02, available on the Intranet Website, which also contains the Clearance for Public Release Form.

**My daughter prepares bids for a contractor that wants to bid for a USACE contract. Is this allowed?**

Yes, so long as you follow a few important steps for avoiding conflicts of interest. Notify your supervisor in writing of your daughter's intention to bid a project. Remove yourself from any direct decision-making role regarding any solicitations in which she or her company has or may become involved as an offeror.

Also refrain from giving any input into the specs, scope of work, proposals, source selection criteria, etc. Finally, do not disclose any inside information to your daughter about any projects or procurements, either actual or potential. The goal is to maintain transparency and avoid any appearance of impropriety by removing yourself from

dealings and transactions between your daughter and the Corps.

**Several subcontractors have called complaining that the prime contractor refuses to pay them. What should I do?** Dealing with subcontractors and suppliers can be tricky. While the government generally should try to avoid interfering in contractual relations between a prime and its subs and suppliers, numerous complaints about a contractor may indicate improper diversion of progress payments.

Depending on how pervasive the problem is, the appropriate action may range from reviewing the contractor's financial condition to sending a letter to the contractor's bonding company or, in extreme cases, reporting the activity to Army Criminal Investigation Division for a fraud investigation. Consult your contracting officer and the Office of Counsel before taking any action.

**Can I wear a political sticker or shirt to work on Election Day after I finish voting?**

No. A federal employee may not wear clothing, pins, stickers, etc., indicating affiliation with or support for a candidate for public office while at work or at any time in which the employee acts in his or her official capacity. You are also prohibited from decorating your workspace with partisan political items or photos of candidates, other than the official photo of the President of the United States. You may, however, wear "I voted" stickers or T-shirts to work.

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

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