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Huntsville Center

Bulletin

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Huntsville Center engineers take special S.A.M.E awards

**By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office**

Two U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center employees received special recognition Feb. 21 from the Society of American Military Engineers Huntsville Post.

Kim Edwards, an electrical engineer in Huntsville Center's Electronic Security Branch of Engineering Division, was named the S.A.M.E. Young Engineer of the Year.

Edwards serves as a project engineer for Huntsville Center's Electronic Security Systems Mandatory Center of Expertise. According to her nomination, "Edwards served as lead engineer for conducting a Business Case Analysis for the peninsula-wide Electronic Security Systems in Korea. Technical recommendations and engineering solutions were provided which constitute the basis for the path ahead relating to Electronic Security Systems that will be installed peninsula-wide in Korea.

Edwards also led the effort to form a partnership



Courtesy photo.

Jeff Coulston and Kim Edwards show off their awards after the Society of American Military Engineers ceremony Feb. 21.

between Huntsville Center Engineering Directorate employees and students in the Alabama Agriculture and Mechanical University's Changing Lanes Mentoring Program, mentoring two students.

Jeff Coulston, supervisory civil engineer and chief of the Structural Engineering Division was named the S.A.M.E. Engineer of the Year.

Coulston has worked diligently to establish his branch as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers experts in blast design and explosives safety siting; a team that is now recognized

by all Department of Defense services as experts in these fields.

Coulston also distinguishes himself within the Corps for his ability to solve engineering problems with innovative solutions. As a recognized expert in blast design and explosives siting, he is routinely called upon to update engineering guidance documents and standard design. He is a member of the Huntsville S.A.M.E. post and a registered professional engineer in Alabama.

The awards banquet concluded a weeklong observance of National Engineers Week.

Commander's thoughts

How we will proceed as a government agency in the midst of the current budget crisis has been on everyone's mind as we move toward the March 1 deadline. At present time, nothing had been decided. If a government civilian furlough takes place, it will not start until mid-April. More details to follow. By the time this column is published I will have certainly addressed the issue with you via email or in person. The bottom line is that when we get concrete information impacting you, it will be shared.

Even with the uncertainty, Huntsville Center missions continue at the same pace and with the same energy as always. Toward the end of March we expect to award the first technology under the \$7 billion Multiple Award Task Order Contract for renewable energy.

The technologies will be awarded on a staggered schedule starting with geothermal. The schedule for the remaining technologies is solar starting in third quarter FY13 and wind and biomass in fourth quarter FY13.

I'm heading to Afghanistan in March as I make my way around to our outlying locations to visit Huntsville Center employees. I will be focusing on Huntsville-led missions but will make an attempt to see as many of our team members as possible. Our folks are doing a great job in Afghanistan supporting the Corps of Engineers and our nation, and I'm proud of each of them. Opportunities come

up from time-to-time and are sent by email from Jeffrey Davis, our deployment coordinator. If you think you might like to deploy on one of the assignments, just talk to him. He can let you know all the details.

February included National Engineers Week. During this week, we visited J.O. Johnson High School and talked to students about careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM).

We also conducted an engineering challenge: build the highest tower using marshmallows and dry spaghetti. It was a lot of fun and not as easy as it sounds. Also during Engineers Week, two of Huntsville Center's engineers were recognized by the Huntsville Post, Society of American Military Engineers. Jeff Coulston, Engineer of the Year, and Kim Torrence Edwards, Young Engineer of the Year, accepted their awards at the annual banquet.

In February we hosted an African American/Black History Month program featuring Mr. William Brown, a retired Senior Executive Service member whose 38 years of distinguished public service culminated as the deputy director, Military Programs, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Our special observances are always entertaining and educational thanks to our Equal Employment Opportunity Office staff and the Special Emphasis Committee.

Our next observance will be National Women's History Month.



Col. Robert Ruch

The 2013 theme is "Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics." National Women's History Month is an opportunity to honor and celebrate historic achievements of women. Our event will host a guest panel discussion at 10 a.m., March 27 in the cafeteria.

We're heading into spring, and for Northern Alabama, you know what that means. The weather can be unpredictable. It's a good time to review your tornado safety procedures and update your necessary supplies. Being aware of local weather conditions and being prepared in all our locations is important.

Thank you for your patience during the uncertain fiscal times we're facing. We're not out of the woods yet.

I'll keep you posted on any new developments.

Hail & Farewell

Hail: **Daniel Nordstrom, Eric Cato**, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate; Shirley Martin, Contracting Directorate. Farewell: **Roderick Carnes**, Engineering Directorate; **Britney Estola**, CT.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

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BULLETIN

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



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The Bulletin asks:

In the most difficult times what female, historical or fictional, would you want by your side and why?

“I’d want to have the late Princess Diana of Wales by my side, because she was such a great comforter. When she lived, she was always encouraging others and showing them love. She was once quoted as saying she wanted to be a queen in the hearts of the people. Having an optimistic person like her around for encouragement during difficult times would be a plus for me.”

Erica Sykes
Contracting Directorate



“The late Betty Shabazz, wife of Malcolm X. She was a great protector. Reared by foster parents in New York, she attended Tuskegee University, Ala., and returned to her home state to teach school. She joined the Nation of Islam, where she met her husband Malcom X and was part of her husband’s grass-roots movement. When they left the Nation of Islam she stood by her husband enduring some very hard times. She reared six daughters and also took in her grandson, Malcolm, until she was burned in a fire that he started in her apartment. She died three weeks later. She protected her husband’s dream and those of her family. She would be a fortress for me during tough times.”

Jerrica Thompson
Resource Management



“I’d want to have retired Gen. Ann Dunwoody, the first woman in the U.S. military and uniformed service history to achieve a four-star officer rank, becoming the Army’s top-ranking female when she received the promotion to lieutenant general and became the Army’s Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4 (logistics). She broke through what was once thought of as a male dominated threshold and excelled. I’ve known her for a long time and have seen up-close how she exhibits the seven Army values: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. She is a phenomenal woman.”

Terrance Hamil
Contracting Directorate



Women’s History Month

The 2013 National Women’s History Month theme, *Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination*, honors generations of women who throughout American history have used their intelligence, imagination, sense of wonder and tenacity to make extraordinary contributions to the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields. To learn more about the program, go to :

<http://www.nwhp.org>

Lillian Fox

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

Lillian Fox began work with the Corps and Huntsville Center as a cooperative education student in 2004.

She held jobs as a procurement analyst, intern coordinator and acquisition work force liaison prior to accepting her current position as branch chief.

While leading interns may be challenging for some, this former co-op student said she welcomes the opportunity. She said she is a great multi-tasker.

Fox wears two hats, but doesn't mind sharing what she knows about being a good leader with others in either capacity. In fact, it's part of her job.

She said she has had some very special moments during her career.

"My journey in the contracting field has been exciting. From day one, my focus has been on being prepared and remaining flexible enough to willingly adapt to change," Fox said.

"As a division chief, I have an opportunity to foster an environment where challenges are welcomed, knowledge sharing is common place and innovative thought is encouraged."



Lillian Fox

When new contracting interns at Huntsville Center are placed on the Center Contracting Special Projects Support Branch, supervised by Fox, they learn the basics of contracting and engage in the procurement of all types of unique, complex and specialized supplies, services and minor construction efforts in support of Huntsville Center.

The branch supports the Army Facilities Component System, Medical Facilities Architect and Engineer Design, Parametric Cost Estimating System and Tri-Services Cost Estimating System teams and the small operational offices at Huntsville Center.

As a contracting officer, Fox said her goal is to develop contracting professionals who use sound business judgment to meet customer needs.

Every day she said she passes on to her team her knowledge of Huntsville Center's finances, policies and procedures, interests and strategic planning as well as laws and rules governing contracts.

She also wants to build strong leaders throughout USACE's National Contracting Organization.

"A strong leader must possess a clear vision that is easily communicated, recognize what motivates those they lead and believe in a continuous development of the team," Fox said.

"I've greatly benefited from the Corps' Leadership Development Program, an excellent program designed to enhance and strengthen emerging leaders," she said.

"A Branch Chief is responsible for providing both technical and administrative supervision and workload management for multiple contracting professionals in an organization," she said.

"A contracting officer has the important job of serving as the primary business adviser and buyer for the government."

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

Center employees win big at Army award ceremony



Photo by Jo Anita Miley.

Tonju Butler, left, 2012 Contracting Officer of the Year; John Mayes, director of Contracting; and Lydia Taddesse, representative for the Center's Ordnance and Explosives International Contracting Team, the winners in the Outstanding Unit/Team Award: Contingency Contracting Award Category pose for a photo Feb. 14.

By JoAnita Miley Public Affairs Office

Several contracting professionals at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville received awards during the 2013 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting ceremony Jan. 28.

The Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting, established in July 1997, recognize and honor contracting and acquisition professionals.

These awards are presented annually to recognize contracting officers, contracting units and teams, and special awards for excellence in executing the contracting mission in support of our Soldiers and our nation.

Tonju Butler, chief, Preaward Branch and contracting officer in the Huntsville Center Contracting Directorate, competed against eight other contracting officers from around the nation to win the Outstanding Contracting Officer: Specialized Services & Construction Contracting award. Butler distinguished herself as an adept business adviser, able to balance her vast knowledge of

the regulatory environment while maintaining a firm grasp on the functional nuances of contracting. Her contributions to the Project Delivery Team consistently garnered high praise for her ability to execute the strategic mission of the Army and the Huntsville Center while delivering the right tactical contracting vehicles and actions.

The Center's Ordnance and Explosives International Contracting Team also emerged as winners in the Outstanding Unit/Team Award: Contingency Contracting award category. The Ordnance and Explosives International Contracting Team received the award for their exemplary performance in providing consistent delivery, superior professionalism and commitment to excellence, which directly impacted the war fighter and served as a force multiplier throughout the theater of operations.

John Mayes, chief of Contracting at Huntsville Center, congratulated his employees on their win saying the award was good for the National

Contracting Organization and Huntsville Center.

Omaha District, Corps of Engineers, took home the win in the Outstanding Unit/Team Award: Specialized Services & Construction Contracting category for their exemplary performance in recovering from the worst flood ever recorded on the Missouri River.

The team created new acquisition tools when necessary to ensure timely repairs were made to the flood reduction system that protects one quarter of the U.S. Huntsville Center's Contracting Directorate also was nominated in this category.

The Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting awards distinguish contracting organizations and individuals that excel in timeliness, customer support quality and contracting innovation that lead to process improvements and specific achievements in supporting the contracting mission worldwide.

All military and civilian Army contracting professionals are eligible for these awards.

Investigation of munitions response sites kick off in Pine Bluff, Ark.

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

A survey team from the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, visited Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., Jan. 16-17 to determine the operational readiness of a site project team to conduct an Army Chemical Warfare Materiel pre-operational survey.

The site project team had to prove it could operate in accordance with the approved work plan and chemical site plan for the Pine Bluff Arsenal Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study before proceeding.

Lindsey Miller, the Huntsville Center project manager; Bruce Whisenant, Engineering Directorate; Kellie Williams, Safety Office; and representatives from the Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center (ECBC) and CBRNE Analytical and Remediation Activity (CARA) conducted the survey.

“Our survey team received superb coordination and assistance from the installation’s Security Office, Safety Office, Environmental Office, Public Affairs Office, Medical Clinic and the Command Group,” Miller said.

Munitions response sites in the Bombing Mat Vicinity and the Yellow Lake Borrow Area are being investigated in anticipation of a Chemical Warfare Materiel Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study to be conducted there.

“These sites were chosen based on the historical use and chemical items previously recovered at both munitions response sites,” Miller said.

“Based on the historical photography analysis and historical records review, there is a high probability to encounter chemical warfare materiel at these two sites. For these reasons and based on the munitions response site prioritization protocol, a remedial investigation was awarded in FY 2011.”

Various scenarios such as finding a leaking chemical ordnance round,

a medical emergency and a worker becoming contaminated with chemical agent tested the knowledge of the project site team.

At the conclusion of each scenario, the survey team briefed the findings to the site supervisors.

The survey team identified a total of 32 findings or observations at the Bombing Mat Vicinity and Yellow Lake Borrow Area munitions response sites that required corrections or noted deficiencies.

The survey team recommended that the site project team met operational readiness requirements and could execute the work in accordance with the approved work plan and gave the go-ahead for the pre-operational survey Jan. 23-15.

The team successfully passed the pre-operational survey and intrusive chemical operations at the Bombing Mat Vicinity site started the week of Feb. 4 and are expected to be complete in March.

Yellow Lake Borrow Area intrusive investigation of grids will be complete by mid-May. The final RI/FS report and decision document are not expected until September 2014.

The Bombing Mat Vicinity site was used for the burning and disposal of mustard agent munitions, including German Traktor Rockets (GTRs). The area encompasses approximately 190 acres and is bounded by the Arkansas River, Phillips Creek and



Courtesy photo

A Huntsville Center survey team of prove it could operate in accordance with the approved Work Plan and Chemical Site Plan for the Pine Bluff Arsenal Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study before proceeding.

undeveloped forest to the west and north.

The Site 12 (Mustard Pits) cleanup in the 1980s included removal of 575 GTRs and more than 4,000 CAIS (K941) containing 3.5 oz. bottles of mustard agent.

The Yellow Lake Borrow Area was the impact area for a historic 4.2-inch chemical mortar range with the firing point located on the southwest shore of Yellow Lake.

Based on the Historical Record Review and aerial photography, Firing Point 3 was identified to the south, and additional impact areas were identified that warranted the expansion of the investigation area from the original fan-shaped 356 acres to 976 acres (768 acres of land).

Numerous 4.2-inch mortar rounds have been encountered during borrow area excavation and development.

The Munitions Assessment Review Board database also identified four GTRs that were recovered in or near the Yellow Lake Borrow Area.

Environmental project will clean up Redstone Arsenal's WWII munitions sites

By Diana LaChance

Redstone Rocket Staff Writer

A 30-year, \$527 million project is under way to remediate 17 suspected chemical warfare burial sites on Redstone Arsenal.

As the only organization in the Department of Defense authorized to conduct chemical warfare materiel investigations and remediation, Huntsville Center's Chemical Warfare Design Center and Ordnance and Explosives Directorate are providing the technical, safety and, through its Contracting Officers Representative, Ashley Roeske, project management and contract oversight on the project.

These sites date back to the end of World War II, when chemical weapons were drained, burned or blown up, and buried in trenches across Redstone as an effort to demilitarize the Arsenal's surplus munitions.

"In the 1940s, that was accepted practice," Jason Watson, Redstone's manager of the restoration project, said about the demilitarization. "But when the Alabama Department of Environmental Management renewed our permit in 2010, they requested that we investigate and clean those areas up."

The munitions in question include 4.2-inch mortars and 105mm and 155mm chemically configured bombs that once contained agents such as mustard gas, lewisite, phosgene, white phosphorus and tabun. It's Watson's job to figure out where they're buried.

"There are over five miles of disposal trenches on the Arsenal, if you put them end to end," he said.

To tackle such an undertaking, the project has been broken into phases. The first phase, which begins in March, is the investigative phase, which is further subdivided into a nonintrusive phase and an intrusive phase.

The nonintrusive phase will last from March to September. Watson said that



Courtesy photo

This historical photo of a burn pit on Redstone Arsenal shows how the Army often disposed of chemical munitions by draining, burning and burying them.

consists of using "handheld metal detectors to identify any anomalies and digital geophysical mapping to get an idea of exactly where everything is."

The intrusive phase will follow. "We'll dig to see the limits of the trenches – how deep they are and where their boundaries are."

Both portions of the investigative phase are being funded by the Defense Environmental Restoration Act. Once they conclude and the next phase, the restoration phase, begins in November 2014, funding will be provided by Chemical Agents and Munitions Destruction, Defense.

"That's managed through the Chemical Materials Activity out of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.," Watson said. "Their mission is to destroy chemical munitions."

Watson said the restoration phase will take considerably longer, because they have to follow precautions to ensure the safety of the project personnel.

"We only plan to run the sites two at a time because of limited resources. And since there is a potential for chemical exposure, we want to have real-time air monitoring as we're exposing the dirt," he said.

After they've been unearthed, the munitions will be taken to predetermined storage igloos where they can be safely destroyed by the CMA.

"We will dig them up and put them in the storage bunkers and then

the CMA will come and get rid of the bombs and manage the disposal process," Watson said.

"There will be several different ways to do that, mainly through a chamberized destruction so that there aren't any chemicals released into the environment."

In the meantime, those who live and work on the installation should not be concerned about possible contamination or health hazards.

"They did a pretty good job of burning them before they put them in the ground. Heat really gets rid of the chemical agents, so that's why they demilitarized them like they did," Watson said. "We have since found some chemical breakdown products, but we haven't found any of the agents themselves from sampling to date. We have fencing around these sites, but there is not any direct risk to human health or the environment from them."

Even though the investigation phase is still a few weeks from commencing, a lot of effort has already gone into laying the groundwork for the project.

"You just can't go out there and start digging up the munitions, since it is such a dangerous project," Watson said.

"We've been working on this since March of 2010, putting plans and assets in place prior to going after these, and that's where the bulk of the work is going now."

National Engineers Week

Center shares with local students

By James Campbell
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville celebrated National Engineers Week by meeting with more than 300 juniors and seniors at J.O. Johnson High School in north Huntsville Feb. 22.

"We are here to encourage each of you to consider a career in science, technology, engineering or math," said Col Robert Ruch, Huntsville Center commander.

"It's important for people like me and the Corps of Engineers to come and talk to students like you," Ruch said. "You are the future of organizations like ours."

National Engineers Week is observed by the engineering community during the third week of February to call attention to engineers' contributions to society, and the Center used the opportunity to reinforce their Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, or STEM, program with a local high school.

After the students listened to four short speeches from Center employees, each explaining how they got into their respective technical fields, their attention quickly turned to a challenge.

Ten teams of students were each given two large bags of marshmallows, one box of dry spaghetti noodles and 15 minutes to build a tower with the tallest claiming first place. After the initial confusion of the marshmallow challenge passed, students began discussing the task, and perhaps without realizing it, discuss basic engineering principles like design and evaluation or contemplating the breaking point of the materials they were given.

Mentors from the Center let the students work the problems out on their own for the most part, but each offered little bits of advice to the teams, often reinforcing good ideas the students came up with while designing and quickly building towers out of materials you would normally toast over a fire or boil in a pot of water.

Daveon Moore, an 18-year-old senior at the school, said he was excited about having an opportunity to see and hear about some of the various technical and engineering fields in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"There is so much information to take in today," he said. "One of the speakers is in the Army, and becoming an Army engineer is actually one of my career choices – I can be an Army commander and engineer like him one day if I want," he said.

See *STUDENTS* on page 9



Photos by Jo Anita Miley

Wykesia Clark, Huntsville Center Engineering Directorate, assists students at Huntsville's Johnson High School with building a tower made of marshmallows and dry spaghetti noodles in celebration of National Engineers Week Feb. 22. Clark is a Johnson alumna.

STUDENTS

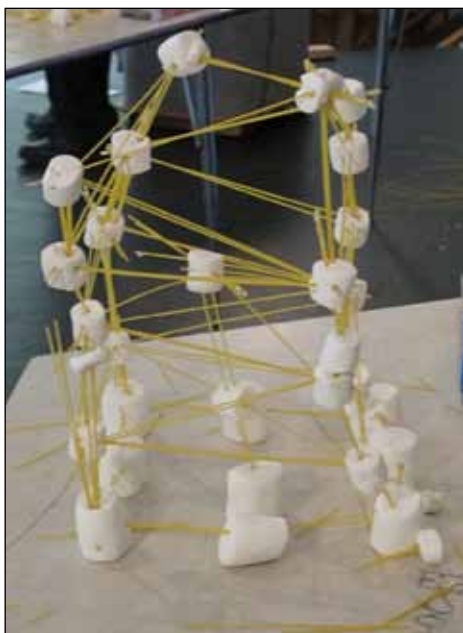
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“The speakers helped me see that there are many engineering options that I haven’t thought of yet.”

After the towers were built and measured, each student was given certificates and had a chance to ask questions.

“Many of our students say they want to become engineers but don’t know about the different types of engineers or what an engineer does,” said Lakeeta Perkins, science teacher and STEM program coordinator at Johnson High School. She said having the group from the Center there to share their experience was a good way to help students make informed decisions about their future.

Lt. Col. William Burruss, Huntsville Center deputy commander, Allyn Allison, Ashley Roeske and Lindsey Miller from the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate and William Strong, Roderick Bridgeman, Jeff Coulston, Steve Willoughby, Kimberly Edwards, Jason Page, Eldric Jefferson, Robert Jackson, Ramona Chestang and Angela Brown from the Engineering Directorate, served as mentors for students during the tower-building exercise and stayed after the event to answer questions.



Top, students from Johnson High School team together in their attempt to build the tallest tower in the competition. The competition was an exercise in engineering and design. The students only had 15 minutes to complete their structures. Above, Col. Robert Ruch talks with a Johnson High School math teacher about the importance of STEM in today’s academic setting. Left, the winning tower, which stood at 4 feet, was built by a team with William Strong, ED, as its team leader.

Tuscaloosa Army Reserve Center damaged in 2011 tornadoes being demolished by FRP

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

It's been almost two years since Alabama experienced the deadly tornado outbreak of April 27, 2011, and in many areas, you can still see signs of the destruction. Tuscaloosa was particularly hard hit.

The U.S. Army Reserve Center at 2627 10th Avenue near the University of Alabama's Bryant-Denny Stadium suffered damage as well.

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's Facilities Reduction Program removed seven facilities from the site.

"We tore down three buildings and four concrete pads," said Karl Gullatte, the project manager. "The buildings were partially destroyed in 2011."

This was a quick turnaround project for FRP. Demolition started Jan. 31 and the project was completed two weeks ahead of schedule and on budget. The site was returned to the 81st Regional Support Center at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Huntsville Center awarded the \$215,000 project to Border Demolition and Environmental Inc. out of El Paso, Texas, against an existing Mid-East Region Multiple Award Task Order Contract for facilities reduction. Border subcontracted with a local company, Blakeney Company Inc., to do the demolition.

"For projects like this, we provide program and project management support," said Dennis Bacon, the FRP program manager.

"The Corps of Engineers Mobile District's Arlyn Marheine and Brian Hicks handled quality assurance.

"This is a small project, but a very important project," Bacon said. "For this project, we received permission to take the building debris to an Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) landfill.

The buildings contain asbestos, but it was not possible to separate



Photo by Dennis Bacon

A worker watches over the destruction of the Tuscaloosa Army Reserve Center. A new \$13 million, 67,000 square foot facility replaced the old facility.

the asbestos from the other building material. We received a waiver from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. Because the material was contaminated with asbestos, we couldn't recycle like we normally would do."

Typically contractors look at a project as a commodity and sort material they can take out for salvage and recycling, Bacon said. But in this case, the buildings were taken down and removed to an ACM landfill.

The project in Tuscaloosa was just one of 47 FRP projects under way worldwide.

FRP eliminates excess facilities and structures to reduce fixed installation costs and achieve energy savings. Using the Department of Defense Facilities Pricing Guide (UFC 3-701-09) as the

cost reference, FRP achieves a simple return on investment in four to eight years from energy savings. When all cost factors are included, the simple return on investment is in the range of two years for the majority of facility removal projects.

Historically, FRP has achieved a programmatic landfill diversion rate of approximately 72 percent, significantly exceeding the Department of Defense diversion policy of 50 percent by weight where economically feasible.

In FY11, FRP had regional Multiple Award Task Order Contracts with \$240 million in capacity and a \$30 million budget.

The average cost for Army facility removal in FY12 was \$8.16 per square foot, more than a 50 percent reduction from FY04.

New Huntsville Center office offers DoD-wide information technology acquisition support

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

Customers looking for streamlined acquisition approaches to purchasing information technology now have a centralized place where they can get their support.

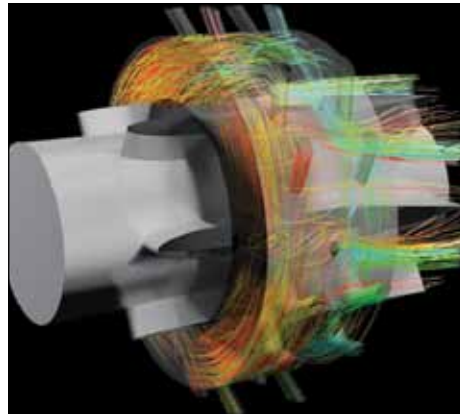
At the end of FY12, the Huntsville Center's Contracting Directorate noticed a surge in customer requests for procurement of information technology hardware, software and technical services.

With the landscape in IT procurements changing due to Department of Defense acquisition reforms aimed at improving procurement practices, many Defense Department entities were left scrambling to develop acquisition strategies for their IT requirements.

Huntsville Center already possessed a Special Projects Office to capture unusual projects passed down from other Center branches. In the fall, several IT projects surfaced and were forwarded to the SPO for execution. It was soon discovered the Center had prior experience in the IT arena and in the fall, the Information Technology Service Office was created to specialize in offering the DoD IT customers a robust program to meet their IT acquisition needs.

"Caring for these customers under a specialized program was a natural fit to implement an optimal IT procurement strategy in the best interest of the government," said Terry Patton, ITS program manager.

"We formed to directly support Defense Department customers by ensuring quality and oversight control throughout the life of the contract. By leveraging our specialized IT acquisition experience and knowledge, our team prides itself in handling IT procurement from the 'cradle to



Courtesy photo

Huntsville Center's Information Technology Service Office supports the Defense Department's High Performance Computing Modernization Program, which uses technology to research, develop, test and evaluate objectives like the flow efficiency in a turbine tank engine, seen in this advanced computer simulation.

the grave."

A specific benefit for using ITS is the fact that in the past, many DoD customers have used non-Defense Department contracts and agencies, such as General Service Administration—the federal agency that provides direct and assisted acquisitions for office space, goods and services to other federal agencies—to acquire IT.

To use non-Defense Department agencies for assisted acquisitions requires an internal waiver as well as a waiver to use a non-Defense Department contract vehicle.

Patton said he saw customers eager to streamline the process and avoid the waiver process, an important selling point among DoD customers; and in today's world of ever evolving technology needs, a streamlined process is exactly what Scott Barnhart, ITS project manager, said seems to make ITS customers happy.

"Customers are surfacing to form a relationship with us," Barnhart said.

According to Barnhart, the ITS suite of solutions provides customers access

to thousands of commercial partners and unlimited variety in information technology solutions.

Additionally, ITS provides integrated services combining services, software and hardware into a single solution.

Barnhart recalls an ITS project with the PEO Missiles and Space, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., which came to ITS with specific IT requirements.

"We noticed they also had a need for recurring, in-house IT services, so we provided a contracting vehicle for an annual multi-million dollar contract including more than 60 people to install and maintain their systems, combined all onto one contract," he said.

Since the ITS office stood up last year, the word of their services has grown to include interest from other Defense Department customers.

In January, here in Huntsville, ITS conducted an Industry Day to exchange information about industry's capability to provide sustainable, state-of-the-art, capability for the Defense Department's High Performance Computing Modernization Program, the program using a network of supercomputing capabilities to support the research, development, test and evaluation community. Over the next five years, it's expected the program will have acquisition needs reaching more than \$700 million.

Other customers ITS carries now are the Army Publishing Directorate and the Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg, N.C. Patton said ITS's project management value is focused on Information Technology acquisition and financial management excellence.

"We pride ourselves in being extremely alert to our customer's financial, contracting and legal counsel to ensure our customers' requirements are met on time, within budget and at reduced risk, resulting in best value solutions," he said.



Mission Focus:

By Amy Guckeen Tolson
Redstone Rocket Staff Writer

He may wear the uniform, but at the heart of Col. Robert Ruch is not just a Soldier, but an engineer.

“One of the really neat things as a military engineer is we get to float back and forth between the real Army and then the Corps of Engineers,” said Ruch, commander of the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

“It’s the ability to link those two together and take experiences from one and do better in the other job.”

Growing up in a family of eight kids, Ruch, the son of a naval engineer who served in World War II, was a geo-environmental science major at Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania, when he got a sneak peek at what the Army and engineering could offer him in the Cadet Troop Leader Training Program. Thinking he’d only wear the uniform for four years, the Pennsylvania native is now at 27 years and counting. Throughout his career he’s served as the 53rd commander of the Philadelphia District of the Corps of Engineers, the senior staff officer for NATO Infrastructure in Crisis Response Operations dealing with construction in Afghanistan and the Balkans, and live fire engineer trainer for the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., among other assignments.

“You love that troop time, but it’s in moving back and forth between the tactical Army and Corps of Engineers that keeps it really fresh,” Ruch said.

“The challenges are part of what really makes it rewarding. I got to help manage the biggest flood in the Missouri Basin. We did press conferences every day for 75 days straight, and as hard as that seemed, you

National Engineers Week 2013

Center’s worldwide mission cares for Army, Defense Department



Courtesy photos

Col. Robert Ruch has been in command of Huntsville Center since July.

miss the things that were the hardest because you get the most reward.”

Ruch took command of the Engineering and Support Center July 26. While physically located in the Tennessee Valley, Huntsville Center and its more than 800 employees know no boundaries in their support of the Department of Defense and other government agencies worldwide. At any given time, 25 employees from Huntsville Center are deployed in harm’s way, where they may be helping build a base camp, clearing IEDs or making sure routes are safe for Soldiers.

“We’re that shock absorber,” Ruch said. “When they need engineering expertise anywhere, they send these

folks. They read the paper, they see the threat, and they still raise their hand to say ‘I’m willing to go do that.’ They take that same skill set for what they’re doing here to where there are artillery rounds landing. I have so much respect for them. When I signed up for this I knew what I was doing, but for a civilian to stand up and say ‘yes’ is incredible.”

Ensuring future generations of engineers are there and ready to say ‘yes’ like today’s Huntsville Center employees is paramount to Ruch, who supports his employees’ efforts to go out into the community and share their love for STEM – science, technology,

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engineering and math – with local students.

“Really, as a nation, we need to work on STEM,” Ruch said. “We are not putting enough emphasis on those programs for our students. We have great school systems here and we need to get out and engage with these kids and get excited about these types of disciplines so they want to grow up and do this type of work. A majority of our engineering students are coming in from other countries and they’re going right back out the door when they’re done. We need them to stay. We need the best and the brightest, regardless of where they’re from. We need to motivate our children to think science and math are great professions. There’s no challenge in this country that the answers aren’t coming from engineering communities.”

Huntsville Center employees comprise the Corps’ work force of more than 35,000 employees in 90-plus countries working in support of ballistic missile defense, installation support, ordnance and explosives, engineering, chemical demilitarization programs and the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise. Each worker has their own mission to perform and story to tell.

“Our mission has broadened to answer whatever the requirements ask of us,” Ruch said. “We’re real proud of our role in supporting the Army and installations across the Department of Defense.”

SUPPORTING MILITARY

The world is a little safer with Melissa Kelly working behind the scenes.

Kelly, an electrical engineer who serves as a product engineer in Huntsville Center’s electronics security branch, applies her problem solver and analytical thinking mentality to protecting government agencies across the world in her line of work for the Corps. Supporting agencies such as



Electrical engineer Milissa Kelly, Engineering Directorate’s electronic security branch, said she feels her efforts promote national security.

the Department of Homeland Security, the Army, Statue of Liberty and Smithsonian, it’s engineers like Kelly who design the means to keep facilities safe, through protective measures like cameras and card readers.

“I feel like in some way I am supporting the effort to promote national security and efforts bigger than I know,” Kelly said.

Born in Meridian, Miss., ever since she was a little girl Kelly has had a knack for math and solving problems, something that comes in handy when it comes to projects like upgrading a secure room for an agency or redesigning an entire security system. A lifelong learner, she holds multiple degrees, including an MBA.

Prior to coming to the Corps two years ago, Kelly worked as an electrical design engineer for the Tennessee Valley Authority, and even dabbled in education for a time, passing on her love for STEM to future generations through tutoring and teaching high school math, in addition to electronics and basic electricity classes at Calhoun Community College.

“I thought that I could promote

science and engineering by being a good math teacher,” Kelly said. “A lot of people don’t necessarily understand what engineers do. Engineering plays a vital role in the future and security of our nation.”

SUPPORTING PEOPLE

William Eggleston III sees the whole picture, not just part of it.

In his role as safety engineer at Huntsville Center, and lead for facility systems safety for the entire Corps of Engineers – Huntsville Center is the center of expertise within the Corps of Engineers – it is Eggleston’s responsibility to ensure that from cradle to grave, safety is of the utmost importance when it comes to the construction, demolition, maintenance and utilization of a building, by thinking outside of the box when it comes to potential problems and solutions.

“There’s a lot of requirements, a lot of standards and a lot of regulations in every one of the engineering disciplines, and we look outside those norms,” Eggleston said. “We look at all the other things that are going on within the footprint of the construction project – we look at the design, the construction side, the workers who are building it and if they’re going to be safe doing the things that they need to do. It’s our job to say, ‘What about this? What about that?’”

Take for instance a brand new, state of the art hospital in Alaska, complete with an environmentally friendly all-glass atrium, that stands 90-feet high.

When the light bulbs burn out at 90 feet, how are workers to replace them? Due to the size of the doors, Eggleston said, bringing in a lift or other equipment to change the bulbs was impossible, meaning that once the bulbs are out, they’re out. It cost \$125,000 to install reels that allow workers to lower the bulbs down. Had Eggleston and his team been involved from day one, it would’ve cost only \$25,000.

“Safety engineering is 60 percent

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communication and 40 percent knowledge,” Eggleston said. “You’ve got to be able to communicate to the general officer levels, and then to the workers in the field digging a trench.”

In addition to being in charge of the health and safety of workers, such as slips, trips and falls, as well as ergonomics and occupational health at Huntsville Center, Eggleston is also responsible for the board of investigations for fatalities within the Corps, expanding their reach not just to the safety of the engineers within the Corps, but those who complete the work for them as well.

“It changes your whole aspect of how important safety engineering is within a project,” Eggleston said.

“We’ve had electrocutions and falls that have caused deaths. One of the things that a normal discipline engineer would not really look at is those actual construction workers, not the end user, the customer, but the workers themselves. We get a gamut of all of it.”

Eggleston has had the opportunity to travel the world for his job – he’s TDY 70 percent of the time – with



Will Eggleston III said as a Huntsville Center safety engineer, his focus is on occupational health and keeping construction workers safe.

Hawaii, San Diego, Sacramento and Boston being a few of his favorite stops along the way. As the father of two girls and an active participant in Huntsville Center’s education outreach to local schools, passing on not only the love, but the importance of engineering and other STEM fields, is something Eggleston feels passionately about, especially when it comes to sharing the “fun side” of engineering.

“We’re losing the engineering battle to China and Japan,” Eggleston said.

“Overseas countries are really pushing engineering. Because we are a free United States, we don’t push our kids, we let them make their own decisions, but in other countries, that’s what they have to do. What made the United States a world power is the engineers who came up with the rockets and space systems.”

Center’s public Web site overhaul moves forward

Currently Huntsville Center Public Affairs Office is executing its plan for conversion of its public Web presence to the American Forces Public Information Management System and will go live with the new public Web site March 29.

The Defense Media Activity has presented PAO with the “shells” for the new site and PAO is coordinating with directorate representatives to migrate information and continue the process of the conversion to ensure the project is completed by the end of March.

More than 80 percent of the Corps’ sites have already converted to AFPIMS and USACE headquarters Public Affairs expects the rest of the Corps Websites to complete conversion by the end of the month as well.

The new Web presence gives each Corps Website a uniform look and feel as the main layout features will be a global navigation bar toward the top of the page header.

People with questions regarding the conversion should contact their Directorate’s representatives. Any other questions and concerns can be directed to the Public Affairs Office.

People in support offices with questions and concerns should contact William Farrow, 256-895-1692, in the Public Affairs office.

Directorate primary representatives are:

- **Installation Support and Program Management:** Laura Beth Quick
- **Engineering:** Jay Plucker
- **Chemical Demilitarization:** Steve Light
- **Contracting:** Mike Trull
- **Ordnance and Explosives:** Amber Lee
- **Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise:** Martha Mitchell

Center celebrates African American/Black History Month

By JoAnita Miley
Public Affairs Office

At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington was the theme of Huntsville Center's 2013 celebration of African American/Black History Month.

Guest Speaker, William Brown Sr., former Deputy Director of Military Programs for Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, focused his speech on two crucial events in the African American struggle for equality in America.



William Brown Sr.

Brown said 2013 marks two important anniversaries in the history of African Americans and the United States. On Jan. 1, 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation set the United States on the path of ending slavery.

A wartime measure issued by President Abraham Lincoln,



Courtesy photo

Alabama Agriculture and Mechanical University's gospel choir provided music for Huntsville Center's 2013 celebration of African American/Black History Month.

the proclamation freed relatively few slaves, but it fueled the fire of the enslaved to strike for their freedom. In 1963, a century later, America once again stood at the crossroads.

Nine years earlier, the U.S. Supreme Court had outlawed racial segregation in public schools, but the nation had not yet committed itself to equality of citizenship.

Before Brown spoke, Col. Robert Ruch, Huntsville Center Commander, made opening remarks about the significance of having special emphasis programs at the Center and the Alabama Agriculture and Mechanical University's Concert Choir from Normal, Ala., provided music for the occasion.

National Women's History Month 2013

Women inspiring innovation through imagination

Each year, March is designated as National Women's History Month to ensure that the history of American women will be recognized and celebrated in schools, workplaces and communities throughout the country.

The 2013 National Women's History Month theme, Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination, recognizes American women's outstanding contributions to the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

This March thousands of programs and events will highlight the many organizations and programs working to promote women's and girls' interest and participation in STEM. From engaging elementary students in STEM to fighting pay discrimination, their efforts are actively working to expand

the opportunities in the STEM fields.

The National Women's History Project has chosen eighteen honorees for National Women's History Month who exemplify pioneering work, scientific breakthroughs, life-saving discoveries, invention of new technologies, creation of organizations, as well as the promotion of women and girls in STEM.

The 2013 honorees for National Women's History Month include: **Hattie Elizabeth Alexander** (1901-1968) Pediatrician and Microbiologist; **Marlyn Barrett** (1954) K-12 STEM Educator; **Grace Murray Hopper** (1906-1992) Computer Scientist; **Olga Frances Linares** (1936) Anthropologist and Archaeologist; **Julia Morgan** (1872-1957) Architect; **Katharine Burr Blodgett** (1898-1979) Physicist and Inventor; **Edith Clarke**

(1883-1959) Electrical Engineer; **Rita R. Colwell** (1934) Molecular Microbial Ecologist and Scientific Administrator; **Susan Solomon** (1956) Atmospheric Chemist; **Flossie Wong-Staal** (1946) Virologist and Molecular; **Patricia Era Bath** (1942) Ophthalmologist and Inventor; **Elizabeth Blackwell** (1821-1910) Physician; **Louise Pearce** (1885-1959) Physician and Pathologist; **Jill Pipher** (1955) Mathematician; **Mary G. Ross** (1908-2008) Mechanical Engineer; **Dian Fossey** (1932-1985) Primatologist and Naturalist; **Susan A. Gerbi** (1944) Molecular Cell Biologist; **Helen Greiner** (1967) Mechanical Engineer and Robotist

The 2013 honorees represent a remarkable range of accomplishments and a wide diversity of specialties.

(Courtesy National Women's History Month Project)

Ethics Corner: March National Ethics Month

**By Clay Weisenberger
Office of Counsel**

There is no better time than National Ethics Awareness Month to examine how each of us incorporates ethics into our daily decisions. “Ethics” can mean different things to different people. Some view ethics as a series of principles that establish an optional model of behavior – the “moral” thing to do, but not required by law. Others believe they have a duty to comply with their ethical standards or “do the right thing,” even when doing so conflicts with the law.

Ethics in the United States government is not an aspiration goal. It is not an extra step that one might take beyond one’s minimal legal obligations. The Army’s ethical rules are, for the most part, derived from the Code of Federal Regulations, which form the primary foundation for the Joint Ethics Regulation (JER). The JER is the “law” when it comes to required and prohibited behavior, and not a listing of “nice things to do.” Rather, it sets forth legal obligations that apply to us at all times.

On a daily basis we face situations that require application of ethical principles. In many instances the answer is obvious, but not always. Take, for instance, gifts from outside sources. Let’s say a contractor who is interested in winning business in

one of our programs wants to buy you a car. No brainer, right? Now suppose that the contractor just wants to buy you a sandwich. Imagine that this contractor is also your neighbor and your kids play together. What if this contractor/neighbor sends over a small box of Omaha Steaks as a Christmas gift?

Every USACE office has at least one person who is responsible for assisting employees when an ethical question arises. Army policy requires that ethics counselors be attorneys. At Huntsville Center, Margaret Simmons is the Designated Ethics Agency Official (aka the “DAEO”), and I serve as an ethics counselor. If your duties put you in close proximity with private organizations or contractors, you should stay in close contact with us.

As stewards of government resources, we should act as if every month is Ethics Awareness Month, and every day is Ethics Awareness Day. Sometimes the right answer is not intuitively obvious, and relying on what “feels” right may not actually be right under the JER. In many instances, doing what we think is acceptable may actually be prohibited by ethical rules.

Know the rules, seek clarification and be sure the “right” thing is really “right.”

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

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

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