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Huntsville Center

Bulletin

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50 percent
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Mark Your Calendar

**Huntsville
Center's 13th
Annual Small
Business Forum
is 9 a.m.-noon,
Nov. 7, at the
University of
Alabama in
Huntsville,
University Center.**

Army, Center completes \$7 billion renewable energy MATOC awards



Photo by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Wind turbines, similar to the three 275 kilowatt wind turbines erected in May on Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, are an important piece of the Army's renewable energy/energy reduction effort. Huntsville Center, working with the Army Energy Initiatives Task Force, recently completed first round awards for renewable energy technologies under the \$7 billion renewable energy MATOC.

**By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office**

First round awards for solar, wind, geothermal and biomass renewable energy technologies included in the \$7 billion Multiple Award Task Order Contract Request for Proposal to develop renewable and alternative energy power production for Department of Defense installations are complete as of Sept. 23.

Altogether, 58 awards were issued for the four

technologies, comprised of large corporations and small businesses. The awards pre-qualify companies to bid on future task orders.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, developed the MATOC in collaboration with the Energy Initiatives Task Force, which was established by Secretary of the Army John McHugh in 2011. The EITF serves as the central management office for partnering

with Army installations to implement cost-effective, large-scale renewable energy projects, leveraging private sector financing. The EITF focuses on wind, solar, biomass and geothermal large-scale renewable energy projects located on Army installations in the U.S. that are 10 megawatts or greater. The EITF will use the MATOC as one of its primary acquisition vehicles to develop large-scale renewable energy projects. "Awarding

See MATOC on page 6

Commander's thoughts

Huntsville Center Team, This is the first quarterly edition of the Huntsville Center Bulletin. It contains articles that appeared on our website during the past quarter as well as a few others.

Probably bigger news is that we survived year-end! Thank you for your hard work and dedication. It is very humbling to work with such a dedicated group of professionals.

I also want to thank you for your understanding as we executed the mandatory six days of furlough. It affected all of us in different ways, and I know it wasn't easy. Hopefully we won't have to go through that again.

As a reimbursable agency, our best defense against any type of cuts is to execute our programs as well as we can for our customers!

Due to the uncertainty and restrictions on funding, activities like the Center's Engineer Day picnic and awards ceremony and Contracting's tailgate were canceled.

However, now that FY13 is over, the Activities Association is busy planning a tailgate that will take place Oct. 25 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the White Tiger parking lot. This event is in Huntsville, but I encourage our other locations to plan a similar activity.

FY13 was a banner year for Huntsville Center's Energy Program. Awards were made in all four

technologies – geothermal, solar, wind and biomass – under the \$7 billion renewable and alternative energy production for Department of Defense installations multiple award task order contract. We are now situated to more quickly award task orders for individual projects under each technology as they are identified.

We are into the Combined Federal Campaign season with the campaign running until mid-December. Nancy Book, Engineering Directorate, volunteered to lead our effort this year. She is planning activities to support CFC, so look for email with more information about those. If you do not receive the pledge forms and the CFC catalog, check with your section keyworker or get with Nancy.

This is a once-a-year campaign that consolidates pre-approved charitable organizations so that you can select the charities you want to support. Donations can be one time by cash or check, online, or through payroll deduction. It's for a very worthwhile and necessary purpose. Every dollar can make a difference.

Each fall, we observe Hispanic Heritage Month Sept. 15 - Oct. 15. The Team Redstone observance was Sept. 26, but we are also having a lunch and learn Oct. 10 from 11 a.m.-noon in the cafeteria. We'll learn about Hispanic culture, and there will be three cooking



Col. Robert Ruch

contests. Your teammates will be bringing in their best Latin meal and best salsa, and dessert to compete for bragging rights as having the best! October is also National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The theme is "Because We are EQUAL to the Task".

November is National American Indian Heritage Month. There will be an event Nov. 21 from 10-11 a.m. at the Bob Jones Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal. The theme is "Guiding Our Destiny with Heritage and Traditions".

We managed to get through the summer months with few safety incidents. Please keep up the practice to ensure October, November and December are safe as well.

We have holidays coming up: Halloween, Thanksgiving and the December holidays. Watch for safety information for each of those activities.

Thank you for all you do to make Huntsville Center great.

Hail & Farewell

Hail: William Robert, Engineering Directorate; **Wesley Trammell**, Engineering Directorate; **Shannon Robbins**, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; **Thomas Delaney**, **Tim Griffin**, Directorate of Contracting.
Farewell: Herbert Harman, **Sandra Fisher**, **Ricky Stennett**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Sandra Frye**, Environmental and Munitions Center of Excellence; **Paul Potts**, Management Review; **Bill Porter**, OE; **Andrew Bleichrodt**, **Eric Graham**, 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: *“How do you deal with stress?”*

“ I deal with stress by reading the Bible, especially during fiscal year end. Psalms 23 is a great place to start. ”

Delores Davis
Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate



“ I find things to do outside of work. ”

Jeffrey Warren
Resource Management Directorate



“ I deal with stress by listening to music, taking in more caffeine and having a sense of humor. ”

Melinda (Leigh) Young
Engineering Directorate



The Centers For Disease Control and Prevention website includes pages dedicated to dealing with stress and stress-related issues.
<http://www.cdc.gov/features/handlingstress/>

Employee Spotlight

Julie Clements

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

Being a health physicist in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers means working in a demanding environment and carrying out multiple missions all aimed at keeping workers and the public safe.

That's what makes it the most dynamic field of engineering, said Julie Clements, a health physicist in Huntsville Center's Environmental and Munition's Center of Expertise, Environmental Sciences Division in Omaha, Neb.

No two days are ever the same. Some days, she is in the office performing reviews of project plans and reports or writing guidance. Some days, she is in the field overseeing a contractor's work or performing her own radiation survey on a project.

Clements said she also wears a number of hats while performing her job. She makes sure everyone is following necessary safety rules and regulations that govern the handling of radioactive material on various programs and projects. She provides technical assistance to Corps of Engineers districts, ensuring that health physicist support is always available whenever needed. She serves as the Corps' radiation safety staff officer, ensuring the Corps' Radiation Safety Program is compliant and protective of Corps employees. Lastly, she also serves as the Corps' representative on various Army and Department of Defense radiation safety committees.

What I love most about my job



Clements performs a radiation survey at Hawthorne Army Depot, Nev.

is that I get to enjoy a great deal of variety in projects," Clements said. "I have worked on projects ranging from the cleanup of depleted uranium on a Department of Defense firing range, to decontaminating Navy ships that were in the Fukushima plume, to radon measurements in dam adits, to dismantlement of nuclear reactors for the U.S. Department of Energy and NASA. Having this variety in projects is one of the most enjoyable aspects of my job."

While the EM CX directly supports all four of the USACE Campaign Plan Goals, Clements said she focuses on Goal 1: Support the War fighter. She delivers innovative, resilient and sustainable solutions to DoD and the nation to better protect people and reduce the impact of radiation on the environment.

"My job contributes to the Corps' success because the work I do lends consistency in how the Corps executes its cleanups," Clements said. "Also, not all districts have a health physicist on staff. This often means the Radiation Safety Support team has to ensure health physics support is available and provide technical assistance to those districts when needed. We're the experts on a cleanup site."

Clements said performing her job isn't always easy. The greatest challenge for her is to satisfy all stakeholders on each project. Stakeholders can include regulatory agencies, property owners, local politicians, community groups and members of the public. Often, stakeholders have opposing views and different opinions. Balancing the differing priorities and finding a solution that is agreeable to all can be quite a challenge.

"I specialize in radiation and its effect upon people and the environment. My job gives me an opportunity to find inventive ways to minimize the effects of radiation, to better protect people and reduce the impact on the environment," Clements said.

"Stakeholders are depending on me to deliver innovative, resilient and sustainable solutions for cleanup at our sites. Clearly communicating to all stakeholders how and why we are executing a cleanup in a particular manner is paramount to the Corps' success," she said.

"I love that my job allows me to find new ways to protect our citizens and the environment."

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 quarterly basis and are featured quarterly 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.

2013 Combined Federal Campaign runs through December, Center sets \$75K goal

By Nancy Book
Huntsville Center CFC coordinator

It's the time of the year when employees are encouraged to donate to the Combined Federal Campaign. This year's motto is "I make it possible". Think about that for a moment. It's normal to wonder how my little contribution makes a difference, or if I don't give this year, will it really make a difference? The answer is YES, it does. Each amount large or small makes a big difference to the people receiving it.

The range of charities is vast. There are more than 4,400 charities in the 2013 Catalog of Caring or online at www.cfcnc.org. Find a cause that means something to you or a loved one you might want to remember with a donation. Causes range from curing cancer to helping feed local senior citizens, research of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome to caring for AIDS/HIV patients. Even millions of acres of rainforest are protected because someone wanted to make a difference.

With sequestration and furloughs, it seems everyone has had a hard time. Financial hardships have a trickle-down effect.

That means that more than ever, we need this year's support to shine like a beacon of hope. Give your contribution and know that you can say "I make it possible".

Here at HNC, it is often said we're like a family. More than that, the HNC is a family of giving people, who rise up to help those around them as shown by those volunteering to deploy, helping around the globe. Soon literature and pledge forms

will be delivered to each employee.

As chair of this year's CFC drive, I encourage each of you to complete a pledge form. CFC accepts cash, checks, payroll deductions and online pledge. HNC's goal this year is \$75,000.

The idea is not just reaching a goal, but to donate to help those who all too often cannot help themselves. However, having stated a monetary goal, there will be a "goal thermometer" to measure our success in the main lobby.

On behalf of your CFC staff, I look forward to this being a great year. Please see your local keyworker for a pledge form and booklet, or contact me and I'll be happy to help you.

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Flying High

William Eggleston, right, a safety specialist in the Huntsville Center Safety Office currently deployed to Afghanistan gives an "all good" signal while aboard an Army Black Hawk helicopter during a safety inspection training mission in September.

Courtesy photo

continued from page 1

these contracts in the four distinct technologies, geothermal, solar, wind, and biomass, will allow us to more quickly award task orders for individual future projects as they are identified,” said Col. Robert Ruch, Huntsville Center commander.

“We’re looking forward to continuing to working with the EITF and other potential DOD organizations to help implement renewable energy projects.”

The \$7 billion capacity will be expended for the purchase of energy over a period of 30 years or less from renewable energy plants constructed and operated by private firms using private sector financing. However, it is the intent of the government only to purchase the energy that is produced at the plants, and not to acquire any of the

energy generation assets.

The contractors are responsible for financing, designing, building, operating, owning and maintaining the energy plants. The government will contract to purchase the power through Power Purchase Agreements for up to 30 years in accordance with the terms and conditions stipulated in site or project specific agreements resulting from task orders awarded under multiple Indefinite Delivery (ID)/Indefinite Quantity (IQ) contracts. Project locations may be on any federal property located within the U.S. including Alaska, Hawaii, territories, provinces or other property under the control of the U.S. government for the duration of contract performance.

With DOD setting a goal to

produce or consume 25 percent of its total energy use from renewable sources by year 2025, Secretary McHugh believes the federal renewable and alternative energy contract will provide the Army with an important means to achieve its goal of one gigawatt of renewable energy projects by 2025.

For decades, the Huntsville Center has executed Army programs and specialized missions worldwide that require unique technical expertise, large acquisitions and centralized program management.

Huntsville’s Center’s involvement in the Army’s energy program started in the early 1980s with the program management and technical oversight for the Energy Engineering Analysis Program.



Photo by Bruce Hudgins

Big Thanks

Carla McNeal, Huntsville Center Recourse Management Directorate, was recently recognized for her eight-month deployment to Afghanistan with a certificate of appreciation presented by Col. Robert Ruch, Huntsville Center commander. While deployed to Afghanistan Engineer District North, McNeal worked as program manager for the Operations and Maintenance Division. This was her third deployment in three years.

Huntsville Center Contracting chief earns Leadership Award

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

John Mayes, chief of the Directorate of Contracting at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, received The National Contracting Organization's Leadership Award at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Summer Leaders Conference Aug. 5 at Fort Belvoir, Va.

"Mayes is an exceptional leader, pacesetter and change agent at the Huntsville Center, and a strong, influential voice throughout the Directorate of Contracting and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers," said Charles Ford, Huntsville's deputy for programs and technical management. "He fosters a culture and environment that embraces quality and innovation as well as streamlining initiatives and solutions."

"I am very honored to receive this award," said Mayes, who has been with the Huntsville Center for a little over five years.

"I constantly strive to set a high standard of excellence in all that I do, and to inspire others to dream, learn and become all they can be. As an individual, I believe that unquestionable integrity is critical because without it, success is not possible. To be recognized for my leadership is very humbling and rewarding, both personally and professionally."

Mayes is often sought after by other leaders in federal contracting for ideas and advice regarding matters that are unique and require innovation. He has led several teams to streamline processes and build consistency among the USACE Contracting Organization.

He spearheaded a team that looked at resources, structure and compliance for which he designed a new organization structure that implemented a business operations cell for districts

and centers across the Corps.

Under Mayes' leadership, the Huntsville Center's Contracting Directorate, executed more than 6,000 contract actions totaling approximately \$1.6 billion in fiscal year 2012 and anticipates the same or more for FY 2013. Mayes also oversees the business operations and oversight function which provides comprehensive policy, business and systems support and oversight to ensure quality execution.

During FY12, Mayes led his team in putting together one of the largest acquisition ever to be executed by USACE. This procurement is for the purchase of power from renewable energy sources valued at \$7 billion over a 30-year period. The project has extremely high visibility and is of great public interest. This project incorporates the use of a consolidated pool for both Restricted and Unrestricted sources. It will promote the use of growing small businesses more than many USACE procurements have done in the past. Mayes supports the small business program and works hard to ensure programs understand the need to meet small business goals.

Mayes said he believes strongly in professional development. He encourages his team to participate



Photo by William S. Farrow

John Mayes, chief of the Directorate of Contracting at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, and Lorronica Hamil, Business Management Specialist, review a contract. Mayes received the National Contracting Organization's Leadership Award at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Summer Leaders Conference Aug. 5 at Fort Belvoir, Va.

in professional organizations, accept developmental assignments, and pursue college coursework and advanced degrees. Mayes also partners with local rural schools to sponsor the Future Business Leaders of America as part of Huntsville Center's education outreach program.

"I really enjoy finding innovative ways to meet the needs of our customers who are supporting the warfighter and our nation," Mayes said.

"In addition to that, I love mentoring and coaching the young professionals on how to be value-added business advisors as they grow in their careers as contracting professionals."

Fort Jackson range passes 50 percent inspection

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

A modified record fire range under construction at Fort Jackson, S.C., reached its 50 percent complete milestone, which includes a construction compliance inspection performed by the Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

The successful inspection gives the range project the OK to proceed.

The Huntsville Center is the Corps of Engineers-designated Mandatory Center of Expertise for the Range and Training Land Program. The RTLTP provides centralized management and engineering support to the Army's Training Support System Enterprise. This oversight also means performing inspections on the more than 30 different types of ranges that the Huntsville Center RTLTP administers.

Huntsville Center employees William Strong, electrical engineer, and Jonathan Scott, civil engineer, both from the organization's Engineering Directorate, traveled to Fort Jackson July 23-24 to perform the first of two required inspections that are required to ensure ranges are standard and constructed properly to allow target providers to plug in their targetry and controls equipment and have a facility the Soldiers can train on for more than 25 years.

The construction compliance inspection is performed at 50 percent construction completion. The second inspection is called a target interface inspection and is done at 90-95 percent completion.

Getting the inspection done requires a lot of coordination, said William Stephenson, a program manager from the organizations Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate. Prior to doing a site visit to perform each inspection, the RTLTP project managers send a pre-inspection checklist



Courtesy photo

Huntsville Center electrical engineer William Strong performs a Construction Compliance Inspection at a Qualification Training Range on Fort Irwin, Calif., in January. The Army has tasked the organization's Range Training and Land Program to perform two mandatory inspections on new ranges before completion.

to the construction representative and the electrical section RTLTP team to determine when the site is ready for inspection. Each inspection is scheduled weeks in advance to allow additional groups such as TCM Live, the target provider, local range managers and Corps of Engineers construction representatives an opportunity to participate.

Strong said the CCI shows a mockup of each type of target on the range, with electrical and data equipment mounted on the wall of the target emplacement.

This technical inspection is crucial and can take six to eight hours to complete depending on the range size. An average range can be from 1,000 feet to 3 miles long, with 144 to 300 targets varying in four different target sizes.

"The range at Fort Jackson is 300 meters long and has 144 site target emplacements with six support buildings, to include a Range Operations Control building and Range Operations Control tower. It takes time to get the job done properly," Strong said. "Making sure the right equipment has been purchased and is

correctly installed early on and pointing out any deficiencies limits adverse cost to the government and the contractor. Performing this inspection helps to prevent delays in range construction which adversely affects the war fighter's training. We didn't have any foreseeable problems at the Fort Jackson range site."

Jason Page, an electrical engineer who also works on Huntsville Center's RTLTP inspection team, provided oversight for the CCI at Fort Jackson.

Page said big Army's making the inspections a requirement allows the construction contractor or local Corps representatives an opportunity to ask questions during the construction process.

The RTLTP team will complete the TII, a more comprehensive inspection that includes testing how the range resists extreme weather conditions in the months to come.

This inspection process usually begins three to six months after the CCI is done.

The pre-inspection checklist will again be distributed and completed, and the RTLTP team members will reconvene at the range site on Fort Jackson.

Corps team in Afghanistan destroying unserviceable, excess munitions

By James Campbell
Public Affairs Office

As U.S. forces draw down from Afghanistan, a program managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is busy destroying unserviceable and excess munitions.

Joint Munitions Disposal – Afghanistan has drawn from the experience of previous Center programs that collected both enemy and coalition munitions for destruction in Iraq and has used that experience to streamline operations in Afghanistan, said Chase Hamley, one of the JMD-A project managers.

“All joint service munitions in Afghanistan that are considered excess or unserviceable are disposed of by detonation or burning,” Hamley said.

“In some cases, it’s not economical to bring munitions back, and we don’t want anything to fall into the wrong hands.”

Since April 2012, JMD-A has destroyed more than 1,600 tons of unserviceable munitions and the process will continue until our services are no longer needed, Hamley said.

The process of collecting, securing, sorting, labeling and safely destroying munitions involves two deployed Center employees, currently Brian McComas and Frances Reilly, the invaluable reach-back expertise of the Center, and more than 70 employees from the contract firm, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology (EODT), based in Lenoir City, Tenn.

Disposal capabilities are set up to match the various types of munitions and where they are located, Hamley said. A small arms incinerator has the capability to destroy rounds commonly used in individual and crew-served weapons up to .50 caliber.



Photo by Chase Hamley

A large disposal ‘shot’ in Afghanistan using C4 and MCLIC donor charges.

Open burn methods are used for propellants and combustible materials, and open detonation, called a “shot,” is the disposal method used to destroy large quantities of munitions in remote areas. Mobile disposal teams are available to travel anywhere in the country, eliminating the risks associated with transporting large quantities of unserviceable or excess munitions over long distances, Hamley said.

“Normally we will set up at an ammunition supply point where inventory is sorted and marked, and before the process starts, we’ll inventory and sign for all the munitions we’re going to destroy,” he said.

The streamlined process involves building munitions to be destroyed into boxes while the team is still inside of a secure perimeter.

Excess materials are removed, and technicians prepare the shot based on their knowledge of explosives disposal, Hamley said.

“Setting up the shot allows us to work in a secure area where we can build the munitions into the proper configuration and ensure a complete detonation without concern of insurgent activity,” Hamley said.

Senior safety and explosive ordnance

disposal technicians monitor the setup, transport and detonation of the munitions performed in remote areas with significant security measures in place, including perimeter security support from U.S. forces and security specialists from the contract firm, Hamley said.

Handling munitions in a combat zone still involves danger, even when steps to reduce risk are in place.

“The most difficult challenge, as in any conflict area, is the ability to safely access destruction locations off military installations where many disposal events must occur,” said Nicholas Iaiennaro, EODT program manager. A company team was the target of an improvised explosive device attack earlier this year resulting in two casualties.

Another challenge is to keep local nationals who are searching for scrap materials out of the disposal area during operations and immediately after operations, until the area has been declared safe from hazards, Iaiennaro said.

“These tasks are vital for the closure of operating bases and the ultimate withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan,” he said.

UMCS, Metering programs help military, federal agencies control utility use

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

As government agencies are striving to reduce energy costs and consumption and increase use of renewable energy, many turn to the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

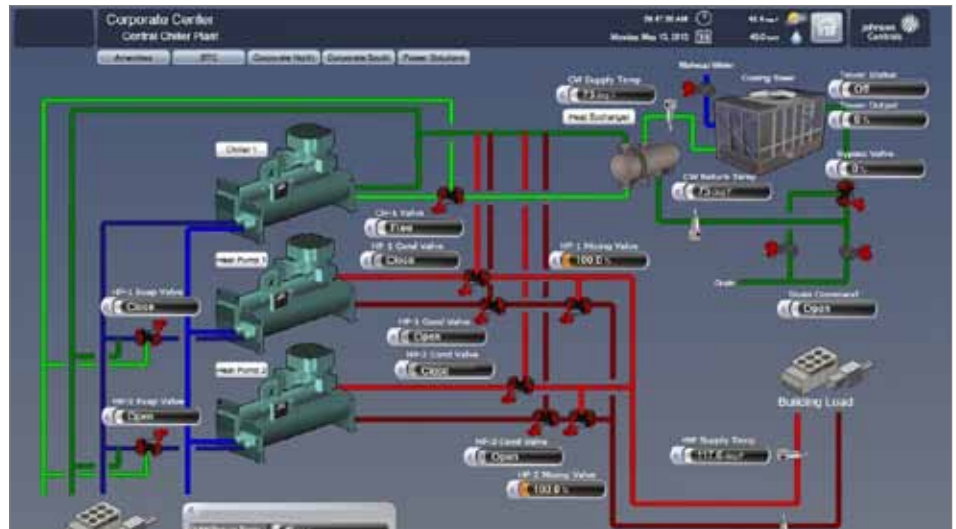
Huntsville Center, on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, manages programs that implement energy improvements and make living and working conditions better for Soldiers, Civilians and Families on military installations and other federal agencies.

One way to reduce energy costs and consumption is to identify energy conservation measures such as upgrades to utility monitoring and control systems. Another way is to be more aware of how much energy an agency is using by installing utility meters.

Huntsville Center's Utility Monitoring and Control System Mandatory Center of Expertise – UMCS-MCX – provides Department of Defense and other federal agencies a consistent approach to designing, procuring and installing complex monitoring and control systems. The Army Central Metering Program is installing meters that will measure energy consumption and ultimately be connected through the Meter Data Management System for centralized monitoring.

As of September, the UMCS program was tracking 224 projects with an estimated \$561 million value. Metering had 67 active projects valued at \$148 million.

"We do not sell our program based on energy savings," said Gina Elliott, UMCS Project Management Branch chief. "However, now that the focus in the past 5-7 years has shifted to increasing utility costs, people are



An example of pumps found in a mechanical room in a hospital. The OMEE program maintains the facility and performs preventative maintenance and repairs to these type pumps as well as other mechanical systems.

running toward UMCS. A typical UMCS project on a typical military base could save you 17-20 percent. It is quite a bit of savings."

A UMCS focuses on the control of the utilities' mechanical equipment to reduce energy usage in the smartest and most efficient way for the government. These control systems often apply to utility equipment such as boilers; chillers; heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; supervisory control and data acquisition; lighting; and alternative energy sources.

"People may think we just change out light bulbs or mechanical equipment, and although we are doing that, the bigger part is utility control," Elliott said. "The local energy managers use their UMCS system to apply control sequences that will reduce energy use. UMCS also assists the facility manager with the ability to monitor and control equipment functions, use and efficiency.

The brain of the UMCS system resides in a front-end server; this is where the data is captured and manipulated. Sophisticated software allows this data to be easily viewed on a monitor or operator workstation. From here the energy or facility manager

can make decisions and control the equipment as needed."

Installed utility meters can help control energy consumption by identifying how much electricity and other utilities are being used by location.

"We are installing electric meters on Army installations, and expect to be finished in fiscal year 14," said Alicia Allen, Metering program manager. "Once the electric meters are installed, we will start installing meters to measure water, gas and steam as well. At the conclusion of the program, more than 20,000 meters for various utilities will have been installed on key Army facilities."

UMCS and Metering are two programs managed by the Huntsville Center that help military organizations and other federal agencies monitor and control energy use. Other programs help reduce energy or install renewable energy. Huntsville Center energy programs also remove facilities that are no longer needed and are consuming energy, renovate facilities using state-of-the-art energy improvement methods, and show installation energy managers ways to manage energy.

Center program conducts range vegetation clearance at two Army installations

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

Remote-controlled construction equipment developed by the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville and researchers at the Air Force Research Laboratory recently cleared trees and brush from ranges at two Army installations.

The cleaned-up range now provides a clearer line-of-sight for weapons firing and forward observers.

According to Spencer O'Neal, Huntsville Center project manager on the program, following the initial work at Fort A.P. Hill, Va., the installation determined additional ranges should receive similar vegetation clearance to improve their utility.

"Huntsville Center used their 'innovative projects' task order contract with the Dawson Technical – Zapata Incorporated Joint Venture to perform this first-of-a-kind range vegetation clearance," O'Neal said.

During that second phase of operations, O'Neal said productivity again increased, the quality of work continued to improve and range operators found they have a valuable new tool for their ranges to provide safe and valuable training experiences.

"They plan on doing more range improvements in the coming year," he said.

O'Neal explained that live fire training ranges are a limited and valuable asset for Soldier training and most of the Army's ranges have been used extensively for decades, leaving extensive amounts of explosive "duds" on the ranges.

"While the targets and areas around them have often been stripped of vegetation by weapons training, the trees and brush in areas in front of these targets continue to grow with no acceptable technique for controlling

or removing them. Manual removals methods are too dangerous or expensive to implement and armored equipment can only protect the operator from fragmentation, but now the overpressure from larger munitions," he said.

According to O'Neal, a second, larger project at Fort Polk, La., Redleg Impact Area provided opportunities to experience different conditions of tree size, type and density, weather, and terrain.

"Dawson-Zapata Joint Venture and Robotics Fabrication Incorporated, developed and expanded the maintenance program, identified and procured an essential list of spare and repair parts, special tools and auxiliary equipment and further modified the mulchers to improve their toughness and reliability," he said.

The Redleg Impact Area has been the target for aircraft delivered bombs and rockets, artillery, mortars, antitank rockets and grenades since it opened during World War II.

O'Neal said relatively few detonations have occurred during vegetation removal and these have all resulted in no damage or only minor damage that could be repaired inexpensively in a few hours.

"As a result of these improvements in equipment and procedures, productivity has increased significantly. Although productivity is heavily dependent upon the type, size and density of trees and other characteristics of the terrain, these experiences have provided a valuable basis for estimating productivity and costs," he said.

However, O'Neal said as expected in any innovative program, there were



Courtesy photo

A mulcher used in vegetation clearance on Army ranges

many lessons to be learned.

"Earlier work at AFRL had paved the way for many applications, but cutting and mulching mature trees on a schedule and budget presented some new problems," O'Neal said.

"Tree mulching is a violent activity normally moderated by an operator who doesn't want to be thrown around inside the cab. When the operator was isolated from that punishment, the machine took a beating. Maintenance and repair activities became a major part of the project and resulted in adjustments to operating procedures and modification of the equipment to toughen them for remote control operations. On their first project, productivity averaged about one quarter acre per day, per machine – mostly due to maintenance issues."

As experience with the remote controlled equipment increased and modifications made the equipment more reliable, O'Neil said productivity increased significantly to more than half-an-acre cleared per-day per-machine in difficult areas and up to two acres per-day, per-machine on areas with brush and small trees.

Following an initial demonstration of the systems at Joint Base Cape Cod, Mass., the mulchers were subsequently deployed to perform the clearance missions at Fort Hill and Fort Polk.

Co-workers unite, form support network, help friend through illness

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

Lots of people get sick. Some of them handle their own recovery or rely on churches or family. However, not many of them get voluntary support from their workforce.

Gary East, a project manager and rehired annuitant on the Engineering and Support Center Huntsville's Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate's Metering program, is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer.

Huntsville Center employees who have come to East's aid, more commonly referred to as "Team Gary," have really stepped up to the plate to support East and his family with more than 350 hours of donated leave, a blog site, T-shirts and armband fundraiser, and weekly visits to his home.

Tracey Edmonds, who said she coordinates the "Team Gary" effort at Huntsville Center, worked alongside East on the Huntsville Center Chemical Demilitarization Directorate's Systems Engineering Division until he retired from federal service in 2010. When East returned to Huntsville Center as a rehired annuitant a year later, she had the opportunity to work with him again.

Edmonds said her directorate has close-knit ties that extend well-beyond their workday. That is why when their team received an e-mail from East explaining his cancer diagnosis in April, she made contact with his family to find out what she could do to help.

East's daughter, Emily Eckley, and daughter-in-law, Kelly East, both told Edmonds about East's love for travel and their desire to start a BlogSpot for East. Edmonds said she immediately went to work on this and within a few days, "Team Gary" was formed.

"My husband always tells me I don't ever half do anything – and in this case,



Photo by William S. Farrow

Huntsville Center Commander Col. Robert Ruch and Maj. Gen. Kendall Cox, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations, show their support for Gary East.

I guess he's probably right," Edmonds said. "I didn't mean for it to become a large effort, but there was no way around it. It just came from my heart. I knew I wanted to help Gary and his family and just acted on it."

Edmonds said the small "Team Gary" effort she started became something big really fast. The "Where in the World is Team Gary" BlogSpot and interactive virtual travel site that allows people from around the globe to make virtual visits with East was an instant hit; and the T-shirts sold like crazy.

"The BlogSpot is a way for family and friends to show their support for Gary and his wife Ann during Gary's fight with cancer," Edmonds said. "Our goal is to gather as many photos as possible from those who are praying alongside Team Gary. The Team Gary sign is taken with photos of friends and family and friends of friends at key places. Gary's family wanted to get

pictures from a dozen or more states. We reached that marker in early July."

Edmonds said several groups in the private sector have also pitched in to help out. She got a printing company in Grant to print the green (East's favorite color) "Team Gary" T-shirts at cost, another vendor purchased 25 shirts at one time, and East's local church, Rivertree Church in Owens Cross Roads, sells "Team Gary" armbands. The proceeds from all sales will help to offset East's medical costs.

George Foozer, Huntsville Center's ISPM deputy director, said he is pleased with the phenomenal support East has gotten from Huntsville Center employees.

"Typically, those who volunteer to participate in 'Team Gary' don't do it for their own benefit. They do it for the person who is affected," Foozer said. "Gary's not only a good Huntsville

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Center employee; he is also a good husband, father and grandfather. I want to do all I can to help.”

Edmonds said Corps employees at other locations as well as employees who work on Redstone Arsenal have also joined “Team Gary.” They were able to get Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, Corps of Engineers commander, and Maj. Gen. Kendall Cox, deputy commander for military and international operations, on board with “Team Gary” holding up signs at the Corps headquarters and Huntsville Center, respectively. The BlogSpot even has celebrity posts from Mrs. America, Mallory Hagan, Miss Alabama, Margaret McCord, C`ongressmen Mo Brooks and Jeff Sessions, author Homer Hickman and Auburn University football coach Gus Malzahn.

East’s family wants to create a photo

book from the photos collected for the family. Edmonds said she is excited about helping with this activity as well.

“I’d like to see folks on some of our Corps projects get involved. We want everyone included, especially those who may travel often. We’d like to get photos of people in some of our remote areas,” Edmond said. “We look forward to seeing your photo up on ‘Where in the world is Team Gary!’”

East, who is halfway through his chemotherapy, visited Huntsville Center Aug. 22 to personally thank Team Gary for their efforts. He said he is more than humbled by the support of his work family and wanted to thank each person who has been there in one way or another during his journey.

Edmonds said East still needs more help with leave donations and medical costs, so she wants to get more folks involved.

“I don’t take credit for any of this because it is a team effort. There is always something you can do to help someone who is dealing with a problem or illness,” Edmonds said.

“My parents taught me that families provide support during times of need. Gary is a member of the Corps family who needs our support. I’ll do whatever I can to help him and his family. It’s just that simple.”

Editor’s note: If you would like to make a “Team Gary” sign for the BlogSpot: take a photo, and send your submissions to morelandke@gmail.com or theeckleys@aol.com.

To make a leave donation to East, contact your local civilian personnel advisory representative.

To read more about East’s story, visit www.caringbridge.org/visit/garyeast.



Photo by JoAnita Miley

The Gift of Life

A collection technician with the American Red Cross preps Daniel Gaston, Huntsville Center Management Review Office, for his blood donation on site Sept. 20. Eleven Huntsville Center employees donated 10 units of blood during the Blood Drive. Huntsville Center employees have donated more than 160 units of blood to the American Red Cross since January. The next Blood Drive is set for Oct. 4, 6:30 a.m. - noon.

Cultural line-up planned for Hispanic Heritage Month

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from Sept. 15 - Oct. 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The Huntsville Center Equal Employment Opportunity Office Hispanic Heritage Month Special Emphasis Committee is sponsoring a Lunch and Learn on Thursday, Oct. 10, from 11 a.m. to noon in the cafeteria.

The purpose of the celebration is to honor the histories, traditions, cultures and contributions of Hispanic Americans. The program will include a fusion of fashion and music with traditional Latin rhythms, and an audio visual tribute to famous Hispanic Americans in history.

Yazmina Gerousis, who works in the Center's Business Management Office, is an event organizer for the occasion. She said she is excited about the Hispanic Heritage celebration because it will raise awareness about Hispanic culture in a very unique way.

"If you've ever wanted to learn more on Hispanic culture, then save the date," Gerousis said.

"We will have a demonstration of Latin music and dance, a cultural slideshow and fashion presentation, and a Latin Food Contest during the program. Attendees can watch Hispanic dancers perform the Latin dance styles, and learn the fun and easy steps and moves. We'll bring the sounds of Latin



Photo by JoAnita Miley

The display case in the Huntsville Center lobby is full of memorabilia celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month which runs Sept. 15 - Oct. 15.

American to life with a variety of songs and instruments. You'll also get to see authentic Hispanic clothing that will take you on a journey throughout Latin America. It is an hour guaranteed to stimulate your senses!"

Lorronica Hamil, Contracting Directorate, is also helping to coordinate the event. She said a Hispanic Heritage Month Committee member will send an e-mail to Huntsville Center employees with links to Hispanic websites for employees to have access to recipes for Hispanic dishes giving those who are interested in participating in the three cooking contests (main dish, salsa and dessert) a chance to try their hand at cooking authentic Latin cuisine.

Participants are asked to bring in their cooked food items for judging

during the event.

Angela Morton, chief of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office at Huntsville Center oversees the Commander's Special Emphasis Program at the Center.

"This event will help people understand the importance of Latinos in our history, and the contributions they've made," Morton said.

"We want to build on this learning experience. Every time Hispanic Heritage Month rolls around, we want to give our workforce an opportunity to learn something new about the Latino footprint in the U.S.," she said.

If you'd like to volunteer to help with the Hispanic Heritage Month should contact Angela Morton at 256-895-1573.

Center employees use fun activities to improve morale, reduce fiscal year-end-stress

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

Year-end requirements had many employees at Huntsville Center working harder and longer hours during the weeks and days leading up to Sept. 30.

To reduce stress and heighten morale, some Center employees found economical ways to make the workplace a bit more fun. During September, offices throughout the Center have a variety of activities scheduled to help relieve stress and build camaraderie. Events included a “Silly Hat” contest and “50’s Dress Up”, “Hawaiian,” and “Nerd” Days. Other activities included a brunch, pancake breakfast, ice cream social, pot lucks, sports walks, and making T-shirts -- all to help survive the stress of year end.



Photos by JoAnita Miley



Top right, employees from the Huntsville Center Contracting Directorate pose for a photo during “60’s Dress Up Day” Sept. 23. Top left, employees from Huntsville Center’s Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate pose for a photo during “Nerd Day. Above left, Resource Management Directorate employees enjoy healthy food at an on-site brunch Sept. 25. Above right, ISPM and Center Contracting Directorate employees organized a pot-luck lunch Sept. 25.

Ethics Corner: Using USACE name, logo correctly is important

**By Clay Weisenberger
Office of Counsel**

A private company protects its brand by registering trade and service marks. Likewise, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers protects the integrity of its name and logos with registered trademarks and internal graphic standards.

The most recognizable symbol in our organization is the current communication mark, consisting of the Corps castle logo with “US Army Corps of Engineers” written underneath. The USACE Graphic Standards Manual, EP 310-1-6, provides guidelines not only for when the mark can be used, but also the colors and sizes that must be used each type of communication medium, from signage to slide shows and brochures to business cards.

Customized logos are not

authorized for any purpose other than employee morale welfare activities. An example of allowable use or modification of the Corps logo would be for Engineer Day or year-end T-shirts. It is not permissible, however, for an individual to make logo-embellished items to sell or give away as gifts.

An exception is that activities associations, with proper approval, may enter into licensing agreements with clothing manufacturers to make logo apparel for sale to employees. For advice and assistance concerning specialized or unique applications of the mark, contact the Graphic Standards Coordinator, HQUSACE, CEIM-IV.

Use of official USACE marks and

logos for professional organizations depends on the affiliation with the organization and the method in which the mark or logo is being used.

If an individual serves in a professional organization in his or her official capacity, the organization can represent that the member works for USACE or that the Army Corps of Engineers has involvement in the organization; however, any usage of the Corps Castle logo must be approved by the US Army Legal Services Agency.

If you have a question about whether the usage of a Corps name, logo or other mark is proper, start by contacting me at 256-895-1140 or email clay.weisenberger@usace.army.mil before you act.

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