



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Vol. 35 Issue 1
January 2014
www.hnc.usace.army.mil

Huntsville Center

Bulletin

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Photo by Bruce Hudgins

Festive command

Maj. Gen. Todd Semonite, Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, took part in the Huntsville Center's Holiday Town Hall at the University of Alabama-Huntsville Student Center Dec. 20. Gen. Semonite provided encouragement to Huntsville Center's workforce and joined Col. Bob Ruch, Huntsville Center commander, in recognizing accomplishments and presenting awards to excellent performers.

Electronic Security System team helping Fort McCoy upgrade

**By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office**

For the past three years, Fort McCoy's Directorate of Emergency Services has been working with the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's Electronic Security Systems Program to upgrade its police station, access control

points, ammunition supply point, the airfield and other facilities on the installation. Huntsville Center's ESS is the mandatory center of expertise for procurement and installation of Electronic Security Systems.

What started as a small project a few years ago quickly turned to more projects as the Fort McCoy

DES, Director Mark Fritsche, gained confidence that the Huntsville Center's ESS team could deliver for them.

"It started with a problem that needed a solution," said Col. Steven Nott, Fort McCoy's garrison commander. "The Ammunition Supply Point was not in compliance with

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Commander's thoughts

Happy New Year Team! I hope each of you enjoyed the holidays. It's now time to refocus on our mission. In early December we conducted a leadership strategic review to look at how the Huntsville Center would be positioned to meet the USACE Campaign Plan Goals.

We started off by looking at the USACE Campaign Plan Goals:

- Goal 1 – Support the Warfighter**
- Goal 2 – Transform Civil Works**
- Goal 3 – Reduce Disaster Risks**
- Goal 4 – Prepare for Tomorrow**

It's pretty impressive that we can sum up our four Campaign Plan Goals with 12 words.

We actually started laying the groundwork for our actions in July while preparing for the USACE Senior Leaders Conference in August. During the conferences – there are two per year – we receive guidance from Headquarters on the way ahead.

Taking that guidance, we then had Huntsville Center program managers – not directors – brief their assessment of their program, all 42 of them. I was impressed with the depth in our bench of leaders and program managers to make it happen, and I applaud the directors for their leader development

and you for initiative and can-do attitude.

During our off-site in December we reached out to senior leaders and asked them to join us via video teleconference to share with us how they view the past, the future and what Huntsville Center can do better for customer service.

The leaders who spoke to us were Greg Kuhr, Installation Management Command's Director of Facilities and Logistics; Bob Slockbower, Southwestern Division Corps of Engineers; Hal Alguire, Directorate of Public Works, Fort Carson, Colo.; Diane Randon, the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management; and Richard Kidd IV, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Energy and Sustainability.

From all the discussions, we determined three priority actions for Huntsville Center:

- 1. Construction Function Gap**
- 2. Strategic Communication**
- 3. Transition Plan: Sunset Chemical Demilitarization Program**

We identified a number of areas we will work on in the near-term, but I also wanted to focus our efforts on a small number of long-term actions.



Col. Robert Ruch

We are working to further the actual definition of the Construction Function Gap. We will then put some courses of action together on how we will approach the fix.

Under Strategic Communication there are three sub-elements. The Director of Programs will be the lead for strategic engagement with deploying commanders and LNOs, and a site visit by James Balocki, HQ USACE Chief of the Interagency and International Services Division, with Redstone Arsenal stakeholders.

To help improve the focus of our engagements, there is a program of ongoing communication webinars conducted monthly with senior leaders who provide us their focus. There are also other communication tools available on the Public Affairs page of our Intranet or the USACE Intranet

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Hails & Farewells

Hail: Eric Graham, Chemical Demilitarization; Amy Cole, Rosa Cotto-Ramos, Contracting Directorate; Vikki Randall, Hannah Davis, Engineering Directorate.

Farewell: Charles Felts, Stephanie Hamley, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; Levi Gabre, Susan Quick, ED; William Bonneau, Stanley Baur, Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise; Cynthi Hall, Installation Support and Programs Management.



The Huntsville Center Bulletin is printed by digital copier as an official publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Army. Inquiries can be addressed to Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Attn: CEHNC-PA, P.O. Box 1600, Huntsville, AL 35807-4301. Phone: DSN 760-1692 or commercial 256-895-1692. The Bulletin is also online at www.hnd.usace.army.mil. The Huntsville Center Facebook page is located at <http://bit.ly/HNCfbPage>. The Twitter page is located at <http://twitter.com/CEHNC>. Circulation: 500.

BULLETIN

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



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 30 percent post-consumer**

The Bulletin asks:

What's the best thing that happened to you in 2013?

S

“Holding my own in the Energy Division Fantasy Football League. I was the only female and I came in fourth out of 10 teams. Go Eagle!”

Sharon Gresham
Installation Support and
Program Management



“Coming to work here at Huntsville Center. I was at Redstone at Army Materiel Command and I took a promotion to come here.”

Edward Nixon
Information Technology Service

“Utilizing what I learned in 2012 to sharpen my skills in 2013.”

Tyrone Jackson
Installation Support and
Programs Management



Help for New Year's resolutions

Year after year, people commit to New Year's resolutions. Whether you are committing to lose weight, continue your education or save money, USA.gov has a site with links to resources to help you achieve your goals. Check out the USA.gov site:

<http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/New-Years-Resolutions.shtml>

Employee Spotlight

James Clark

USACE Architect of the Year

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

A member of the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville has received recognition from headquarters Corps of Engineers.

James Clark, an architect in the Huntsville Center Architectural Branch, Civil Structures Division, in the Engineering Directorate, was named the USACE Architect of the Year for his leadership of a diverse technical team in support of the Huntsville Center Centers of Standardization for Child Development and School Age Centers, Physical Fitness and Directorate of Emergency Services Facilities; and Fire Stations. He was also recognized for his mentoring high school and college students toward careers in architecture and promoting events for his local chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

"I feel honored to be selected as the USACE Architect of the Year. There are many talented and hard-working architects across the Corps of Engineers, and I feel very privileged to be this year's winner. I try to do my best to improve the facilities for our extraordinary men and women who serve in the armed forces," Clark said. "I think it also reflects on the quality and expertise that makes Huntsville Center the agency of choice."

Clark was selected from several outstanding nominations submitted from other Corps organizations. He said he was surprised when he learned he had won, but those who know him and work with him weren't the least bit surprised.

"Jay's customers love working with him, and he produces exceptional work,



Clark

particularly on figuring out ways to get things done," said Todd DuVernay, chief, Architectural Branch.

"His behind the scene work ranges from developing the technical portion of the furnishings program back at the beginning of the program to developing many standards and previous standard designs. He is now the project architect on COS interfacing with HQ USACE and the other COSes. Jay's efforts over the years and this year have added value to many programs; it was easy to think of nominating him for the Architect of the Year Award."

Vernon Petty, project manager, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate, has worked with Clark for more than 20 years at Huntsville Center.

"Jay has always been easy to work with, positive, responsive and will follow through on running down any problems or issues," Petty said.

"He helped develop the initial designs for the Child Development Centers worldwide. He was on the Centers of Standardization Project Delivery Team in Huntsville Center when it began," Ingram said.

"His many years with the Corps give him a unique perspective and make him an invaluable asset to other architects and engineers within the Engineering Directorate."

Clark began his career in the summer of 1982 as a summer hire student at the Corps' Tulsa (Okla.) District. He worked the following two summers in this position. When he graduated with a master's degree in 1985, he was brought on as a temporary architect. Within a year, he was promoted to a permanent architect position. In 1989, he accepted his current position with Huntsville Center.

"To date, this is my greatest career accomplishment," Clark said. "I've been fortunate to be selected as Employee of the Year a couple of times, but to be selected from the entire community of architects throughout the Corps of Engineers is quite a distinction."

Most noteworthy of Clark's accomplishments according to his nomination is that he is known worldwide as an authority on CDCs and is a source of information to both the proponent and any installation/designer responsible for a CDC design-construction or operation. DuVernay said Clark works to improve on the capability to design military facilities. Clark supports USACE Campaign Plan Goal 4: Prepare for Tomorrow.

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

McCoy

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security requirements. The question was how do we fix the problem immediately within the available resources?

“Andre Penon and Ed Pate, physical security specialists in our DES, have the subject matter expertise to do the initial analysis and create the vision,” Nott said. “From there, we reached out to the Corps of Engineers in Huntsville because we needed to get this done correctly and in a timely manner.

“I think too frequently we power up rather than power down, and not look at the ground effect you are trying to receive,” Nott said. “If Andre and Ed tell me it is going well, then I have a high degree of confidence that we are receiving a great product. They have the highest praise for the Huntsville Center and InDyne, the contractor doing the FY12 task order work. They said this is the best partnership they have seen.”

The success of the partnership is due to the willingness of the Huntsville Center and InDyne to listen to the customer, Nott said. Huntsville Center was able to do a rapid turnaround on the contract and Mike Troglin, the site superintendent for InDyne, has executed the onsite work in a safe, efficient and professional manner.

“It had to be done right, fast and within resources,” Nott said. “It is also energy efficient. We will see a

long-term cost savings from the energy efficiencies built into the projects. It is also an ongoing project. Phase I was the largest phase. The Huntsville Center’s contractor installed several dozen light poles, over a dozen cameras and upgraded some of the access gates. Phase 2 will add more cameras, upgrade the rest of the gates and enhance mobile security measures with providing three radar trailers with solar panels for traffic control.”

“We have had our third procure and install project with Fort McCoy in the past three years, and now we have added a maintenance and services contract,” said Mindy Shelton, project manager with Huntsville Center’s ESS Program. “Altogether it’s more than \$8 million worth of work.”

“We have completed lots of access control work and replacing vehicle gates,” said Daryl Britton, the Huntsville Center technical engineer on the projects.

“The installation had rolling, splitting vehicle gates. We replaced those with tilt away gates. In the Ammunition Supply Point, there were old wooden light poles that were rotten and about to fall down. We replaced those with aluminum poles with energy efficient LED lights. We have done lots of closed circuit television work and installed intercom stations at the new motorized gates.”

“It was a wonderful collaboration,”

Nott said. “It just shows you can have a great partnership with the customer, the Corps and the contractor. It is crucial that the subject matter expert have a voice and they are listened to, and that doesn’t always happen. Andre and Ed are listened to by the Corps and the contractor.”

The FY12 task order, valued at more than \$4 million, was awarded to InDyne and consists of 47 individual ESS projects. It is scheduled to be completed in January 2014. The FY13 task order, valued at \$3.8 million, was awarded to Johnson Controls and consists of 44 individual ESS projects. Johnson Controls has already begun the initial site survey, and the entire task order should be complete in early FY15.

The maintenance and services contract is an FY13 award, currently valued at almost \$400,000. This value will increase in the option years as the FY12 and FY13 task orders are completed and the equipment can be added to this task order for upkeep.

Because the ESS team has been so successful, requests for assistance are branching out into other Huntsville Center programs as well, like Facilities Repair and Renewal. Any time a need comes up, if it’s a service Huntsville Center can provide, we refer them to the appropriate program manager, Shelton said.

RUCH

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Site. The third element of the Strategic Communication Plan is a Leader Development Plan that the Business Management Office will lead. This LDP will look at how funding flows and include LDP implementation.

The Director of Chemical Demilitarization will be the lead for the transition plan to sunset the Chem Demil Program. Throughout this transition, the focus will be on taking care of people and retaining the expertise. This mission still has a

way to go before we are in a position to sunset, but planning is important, and it is critical that our experts know we value them and are planning for their futures.

The Public Affairs Office will provide direct support for each of the priority actions.

As we look into the New Year, we have several special observances coming up. Jan. 20 is the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. It’s a day to Remember! Celebrate! Act! ... A Day On, Not a Day Off. February is African American Heritage/Black History Month. The

FY 2014 theme is “Civil Rights in America”; and March is Women’s History Month. The theme for 2014 is “Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment.” Our Equal Employment Opportunity Office will send out more information on each observance.

I am looking forward to seeing what you can accomplish in 2014. You’re a great team of employees; you make Huntsville Center great.

Thank you for all you do, and remember to work and play safely.

Huntsville Center programs support Air Force medical facilities

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

A team of seven people from the Air Force Medical Support Agency visited U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville Nov. 13-14 to meet with representatives from the Center's Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate.

Over the two days, the AFMSA's personnel met with representatives from ISPM's Operation and Maintenance Engineering Enhancement and Medical Repair and Renewal programs. Discussions centered around lessons learned and execution of the \$90 million in requirements sent by AFMSA in FY13, as well as the future FY14 requirements of this valuable customer.

Huntsville Center's OMEE program provides Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity service contracts available to execute maintenance requirements for 31 Air Force Medical Treatment Facilities.

These contracts can provide scheduled maintenance, corrective maintenance, pest management, aseptic management, grounds maintenance, biomedical equipment maintenance and repair/replacement services in support of medical or non-medical facilities.

The availability of a wide range of operation and maintenance services in these basic contracts allows the AFMSA to practice "one stop shopping," thereby achieving efficiency and cost savings.

The contractors were selected for the ID/IQ based on their experience performing O&M in medical facilities and their knowledge in medical specific requirements associated with The Joint Commission and the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care.

Crystal Bennett Echols, MRR/OMEE branch chief, said the AFMSA has utilized the OMEE program for



Photo by William S. Farrow

Maj. DaNishia Barton, Air Force Medical Support Agency Sustainment Branch deputy chief, and other AFMSA team members meet with representatives from Huntsville Center's Operations and Maintenance Engineering Enhancement and Medical Repair and Renewal programs Nov. 14 to plan for the future.

many years and OMEE currently provides support valued at more than \$55 million a year for the AFMSA facilities. She said due to some "cross pollination" of personnel amongst the MRR/OMEE branch, AFMSA recently began bringing requirements to the MRR program as well.

"In FY12, this customer brought \$6 million in requirements to MRR," Bennett Echols said. "In FY13 that number increased to almost \$28 million."

During the visit, Bennett Echols said AFMSA indicated that number could possibly grow to more than \$40 million for FY14.

The Medical Repair and Renewal Program at Huntsville Center offers a fast track, efficient method for design and execution of all types of medical facility repairs, renovations, conversions, alterations, additions and construction projects. MRR provides program/project management, engineering, contracting

and construction support to multiple Department of Defense and non-DOD agencies/ locations nationwide. In FY13, this team managed more than 175 projects valued at more than \$350 million and awarded approximately \$150 million in new medical facility repair/renovation projects for Army, Air Force and Navy.

"Our meetings were very productive," said Maj. DaNishia Barton, AFMSA Sustainment Branch deputy chief. "We're very excited and impressed with Huntsville Center's capabilities. For AFSMA, the patient is our priority and all the folks at Huntsville Center are very knowledgeable about the work required to ensure we have quality medical facilities.

"Because of the services Huntsville Center provides, we have the tools available to provide medical care for the warfighter and the rest of the Air Force family and support the Air Force mission," Barton said.

Huntsville Center awards security upgrade contract

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

Seven small businesses from across the U.S. have been awarded a Multiple Award Task Order Contract, Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract with a program-based capacity of \$200 million to support worldwide Access Control Point Design-Build construction and equipment installation projects by the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

Under the contract awarded Oct. 7, the seven small businesses will provide a range of efforts to include entire ACP design and construction, ACP construction from

completed designs, and specific ACP infrastructure or equipment upgrades at various Army and other Department of Defense bases throughout the world.

Specific work to be performed is defined at the task order level.

Sharing the contract over its five-year duration are: Akima Construction Services LLC of Laurel, Md.; Ayuda Management Corporation, Broomfield, Colo.; FutureNet Group Inc., Detroit, Mich.; Ma-Chis Kawv III, LLC, Kinston, Ala.; North Wind Neu Security Services LLC, Idaho Falls, Idaho; Security Construction Services Inc., Hudson, Mass.; and Zieson

Construction Co. LLC, Topeka, Kan. Each contract includes a base year and four one-year optional years.

To date, no task orders have been awarded.

Work being performed includes roadway and traffic island construction; lighting and guard booth installation; canopy, passive barrier, gatehouse, search area and visitor control center construction; and active vehicle barrier, closed circuit television, and electronic security systems installation to increase the security and safety of our military and civilian workforce worldwide.



Courtesy photo

Huntsville Center Commander, Col. Robert Ruch (center) poses with Huntsville Center employees Bruce Railey, Jeremiah Haley, Jeff Murrell, Engineering Directorate; Kimberly Robinson, Contracting Directorate; and Louisville District employee, Carla Heck (deployed to support Huntsville Center's Ordnance and Explosives Directorate) during a visit to Kabul, Afghanistan Nov. 6.



Mission

Focus: *Huntsville Center's Year in Review 2013*

It was an innovative year for Huntsville Center serving the U.S. Forces, their families and the nation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

In 2013, Huntsville Center obligated \$1.7 billion. This year we saw more than 6,000 contractual obligations.

However, it's not all about the money. More than 800 Center employees in locations across the nation and the world make the Center a dynamic. The employees' dedication, innovation and technical expertise combined with an overall good attitude, a lot of caring for one another and general compassion for others, and you have a workforce that establishes standards and best practices and less about the business defining the individual and more about the individual defining the business.

The following is a brief snap shot highlighting a few of the projects and events of 2013.

In January, a common operating picture GIS tool created by the Center's Geospatial Information System team delivered geospatial capabilities by integrating applications, databases and location-based information to achieve situational awareness across programs, projects and applications through a common operation picture.

Also in January, the largest solar power system in the Army went online at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. The Energy Savings Performance Contract project, awarded and managed by Huntsville Center provides the sprawling desert base with a new 4.465 megawatt solar photovoltaic system, guarantees energy savings of 35,358M



File photo

In May, Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, U.S. Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers visited the Center, received briefs and spoke with Center personnel.

British thermal units per year, and reduces their energy consumption by 10 percent.

Last winter, the Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth District and Huntsville Center teamed up to complete a civil works project along the Salt Creek in Graham, Texas. This was a first for Huntsville Center's Facilities Reduction Program. Huntsville Center awarded the task order for the project under an existing FRP Multiple Award Task Order Contract.

At the end of FY12, 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. In early 2013 Huntsville Center's Information Technology Service Office stood up to offer DOD IT customers a robust program to meet their IT acquisition needs.

Last January, a survey team from the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, visited Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., and determined 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.

The first of three 275 kilowatt wind turbines being erected on Fort

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Buchanan, Puerto Rico, was up and producing energy by April. The turbines are part of a large, multi-project renewable energy/energy reduction and Net Zero Water effort. Huntsville Center awarded the \$34 million task order contract to Johnson Controls Government Systems, Milwaukee, Wis., to install wind power generation, solar photovoltaic systems, water conservation measures, and other energy conservation measures at Fort Buchanan.

Huntsville Center's public Website received a new look in 2013. The Website migrated to the American Forces Public Information Management System, the platform all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers organizations will be using. With the new look, the Center's URL has changed. It is now www.hnc.usace.army.mil, removing the last vestiges of Huntsville Division. The new Website incorporates the USACE branding that provides a uniform look and feel, using a global navigation bar at the top of the page.

Huntsville Center's Facilities Reduction Program managed a project at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in Oklahoma to remove 36 underground safety shelters and two small facilities along a line of bomb production facilities. The project used fiscal year 2012 funds and worked with the Corps of Engineers Tulsa District and McAlester garrison to complete the project in April.

Several Huntsville Center contracting professionals received awards during the 2013 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting ceremony in January. Tonju Butler, chief, Preaward Branch was named Outstanding Contracting Officer: Specialized Services & Construction Contracting, and the Ordnance and Explosives International Contracting Team, was named the winners in the Outstanding Unit/Team



File photo

Three 275-kilowatt wind turbines to be erected on Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, started producing energy in April. Huntsville Center awarded the \$34 million task order to Johnson Controls Government Systems to perform the work.

Award.

Kim Edwards, an electrical engineer in Huntsville Center's Electronic Security Branch of Engineering Directorate, was named the S.A.M.E. Young Engineer of the Year. Jeff Coulston, supervisory civil engineer and chief of the Structural Engineering Division was named the S.A.M.E. Engineer of the Year.

Huntsville Center employees volunteered to participate in Team Redstone's local "Read Across America" reading initiative March 1. Read Across America is an initiative on reading created by the National Education Association. One part of the project is National Read Across America Day, an observance in the U.S. held on the school day closest to March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss.

Six members of Huntsville Center's

Housing Planning and Response Team completed Level 2 Certification training, making them eligible to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency in response to a disaster. Garry Runyans, Engineering Directorate; Blaine Guidry, ED; Jason Adams, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; Larry McIntosh, ED; Raul Alonso, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate; and Ric Hines, Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise traveled to Suffolk, Va., for the four-day course April 2-5. The training included classroom training as well as field exercises at multiple locations that the State of Virginia is considering for development of temporary community sites to have prepared prior to a major event occurring.

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Lt. Gen. Thomas Bostick, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, visited Huntsville Center May 28-29 for the first time since becoming the 53rd chief of engineers. His visit served three purposes: gain an understanding of Huntsville Center's capabilities, talk to emerging leaders and deliver a speech to Team Redstone.

Also last spring, Huntsville Center engineers performed energy assessments at three of the eight U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pumping plants as a part of the Energy Engineering Analysis Program initiative for civil works projects and facilities. After completing the assessments, Huntsville Center's Richard Baker and Marcus Allen provided their findings during a briefing at the Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District Office. The mission of the pumping plants is to maintain surface water levels within the drainage basins at a level that prevents or limits flooding of property (inhabited and agricultural) during annual precipitation seasons.

Anniston Chemical Activity officially closed May 7. Since 1982, Huntsville Center has been involved in contracting and managing the Chemical Demilitarization plant design. ANCA employees were responsible for the safe storage and maintenance of the 661,529 chemical munitions that had been stored on Anniston Army Depot.

Government civilian employees of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville received furlough notices in June, in accordance with guidance received from Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The notices explained how the Huntsville Center will implement the mandatory 11 days – 88 hours – of furlough for more than 725 full-time employees assigned to the Center.

In September, the Center, working with the Army Energy Initiatives Task



File photo

Pat Haas, director of Chemical Demilitarization Directorate at Huntsville Center, engages students during a career discussion that was part of the mentoring event in September at Chapman Middle School in Huntsville.

Force, finished awarding the first-of-its-kind Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Multiple Award Task Order Contracts (MATOC). 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. More than 50 awards were issued for the four technologies.



File photo

Center Commander Col. Robert Ruch, traditionally flanked by the longest serving Huntsville Center employee, Larry McIntosh (left), and the Center's newest employee, Russ Dunford, celebrated the Army's 238th Birthday in June.

Resource efficiency manager helps identify big energy savings

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

The National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., is getting a replacement hospital that will improve patient care and incorporate energy savings measures that will save millions of dollars in energy costs.

A Resource Efficiency Manager working under contract with the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, was part of the design and energy planning team that helped identify seven major conservation measures that will decrease energy use by 33.2 percent. The design team, led by the Los Angeles and Sacramento districts, Corps of Engineers, included Huntsville Center's Medical Center of Expertise and Mobile District as well, and earned an Honor Award for Conceptual Design from the 2012 Chief of Engineers Awards of Excellence Program.

Huntsville Center has an Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contract with a pool of four REM contractors available to any federal agency.

According to Hossam Kassab, the REM at Fort Irwin, the Weed Army Community Hospital replacement project was conceived by the Army to improve the medical care provided to Soldiers, military families and retirees in the Fort Irwin community.

"This mission-critical project includes the design of a replacement hospital, clinic alterations, utility plant building, ambulance shelter and helipad," Kassab said. "The project combines a state-of-the-art facility design with innovative energy conservation and generation features. As the nation's first carbon-neutral hospital, this project will establish Fort Irwin as a leader in energy independence in the health care and military sectors – setting a precedent for future military facilities. My



Courtesy photo

An artist's rendition of the Weed Army Community Hospital at Fort Irwin, Calif. The hospital design includes photovoltaic and solar thermal arrays to help decrease energy use by more than 30 percent.

involvement as the REM at Fort Irwin was instrumental in the design process helping to coordinate the sustainable features of the design to work with the local climate and the existing base infrastructure."

Sustainable principles, including life cycle cost-effective practices, have been integral at each phase, from design and development through construction.

"As part of the project team, I worked to incorporate seven major conservation measures that will decrease energy use by 33.2 percent," Kassab said. "These measures will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1,403 metric tons per year below the baseline. Additionally, renewable energy systems, including a photovoltaic (PV) array and a solar thermal array, take advantage of the site's solar irradiance potential and meet all the hospital's energy needs. Clean power sources include a 2.4 megawatt solar photovoltaic array and a solar thermal array that provides a majority of the hot water the hospital requires. I successfully worked with the local utility company to help secure more than \$2 million in rebates that

will help minimize initial costs. In addition, I will be helping commission the hospital once completed to ensure the mechanical and electrical systems perform as designed."

"The Huntsville Center places REMs at installations to work with local energy program managers to identify cost-effective programs and practices to reduce energy and water costs," said Karen R. Moore, the REM program manager. "Savings generated more than offset the cost of the REM. REMs provide a comprehensive energy portfolio for the installation to reduce their energy consumption and plans to meet federal mandates to use renewable energy sources. In addition, the REM program is expanding to use REMs at higher Headquarter levels to perform energy saving audits across multiple installations and national programs."

In the May 12, 2013, 2012 Net Zero Progress Report, Hon. Katherine Hammack, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and the Environment, recommended REM as one of four best practices to achieve Net Zero.

Center's Small Business Forum well attended

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

More than 300 small business owners and representatives of small businesses from across the nation converged Nov. 7 for the Engineering and Support Center's 14th annual Small Business Forum at the University of Alabama-Huntsville's University Center.

The event provided an opportunity for business owners and representatives to meet with Huntsville Center program managers, contracting officials and subject matter experts to talk about the center's various programs and upcoming partnering opportunities.

In his address to the audience, Huntsville Center Deputy Commander Lt. Col. William Burruss expressed the importance of the forum. He also gave an overview of the Huntsville Center mission

"We want all of you to take with you today some valuable information that will help you begin the contracting process," Burruss said.

"The Corps is providing engineering solutions for the nation's engineering challenges. We want to continue to deliver vital engineering solutions, in collaboration with our partners, to secure our nation, energize our economy and reduce risk from disaster. The work you do can help us meet our mission," he said.

Rebecca Vucinaj, Huntsville Center's Small Business Programs Office chief, said the information exchanged at the forum allows participants to get answers to questions they have regarding doing business with the Huntsville Center. Attendees really look forward to attending the event because it gives them an opportunity to mingle and interact one-on-one with Huntsville Center program managers, contracting officers and technical experts.

"The goal of having a forum is to connect with small businesses and make them aware of what contracting

opportunities Huntsville Center can offer," Vucinaj said. "We also want to make sure we have the right match when executing upcoming contract acquisitions actions for these programs. It's a great networking opportunity."

An attendee, Jesse Nunn, president of Future Research Corporation in Huntsville, said the forum was very informative. He also said it was very helpful for contractors to have all the Huntsville Center key players there to explain the entire contracting process to them.

"It keeps small businesses abreast of what is going on across the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It also gives us an idea of how small businesses can contribute to the Corps' success and helps small businesses understand the change in regulations." Nunn said.



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

Lisa Harris, program manager, Huntsville Center's Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate, speaks with Jesse Nunn, president of Future Research Corporation of Huntsville, during the networking session at the 2013 Huntsville Center Small Business Forum Nov. 7.



Photo by William S. Farrow

The Creed

Charles Ford, Huntsville Center's Programs Director, works an interactive display board focused on the Army Civilian Creed. The board functions to remind Center employees that they are an integral part of the Army team and are members of the executive branch of the federal government.

Huntsville Center employees recognize National Disability Employment Awareness

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center recognized National Disability Employment Awareness Month Oct. 30 with an Individuals with Disabilities program sponsoring free hearing tests and information about the Wounded Warrior Project.

Lynn Thaler, project management specialist, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate, and chair of the Huntsville Center People with Disabilities Program, coordinated the event. Thaler said she had great participation from Huntsville Center employees for the free hearing assessments.

“The demand was much greater than I expected, and all the slots for hearing tests were filled in less than an hour on the first day that appointments were available,” Thaler said. “This is good.”

Employees were given an opportunity to set up an appointment for the hearing screenings with Thaler in advance. The assessment took approximately 15 minutes for participants to complete. If either provider recognizes any hearing issues with Huntsville Center employees during testing, each will provide employees with a free follow-up visit in a controlled environment at the medical facilities for Beltone and Balance and Hearing Center. Beltone and Balance and Hearing Center provided the free hearing tests.

Zach Watson, board certified hearing instrument specialist and president, Beltone, Huntsville, Ala., stressed how important it is for individuals to keep hearing awareness. Not paying attention to subtle cues that point to hearing problems now may cause more problems later on.

“We want to get folks into the habit of participating in yearly health



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

Michael Toth, left, licensed hearing instrument specialist, Balance and Hearing Center and Zach Watson, board certified hearing instrument specialist and president, Beltone, demonstrate how hearing assessments are performed during the Individuals with Disabilities program at Huntsville Center Oct. 30. The event was held to acknowledge National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

screening.

This allows us to follow them over a period of time to see if their hearing status changes. We can address any problems and refer them to other medical professionals if needed,” Watson said. “This also gives individuals more choices when addressing their health concerns.”

Michael Toth, licensed hearing instrument specialist, Balance and Hearing Center, Huntsville, Ala., agreed.

“There is no certain age when hearing loss occurs. Overexposure to loud noise from machinery and equipment and electronic devices can damage hearing over time. Using ear phones, headphones and Bluetooth devices may also contribute to hearing loss,” Toth said.

“Participating in this type screen is a great way to raise awareness about hearing issues. We want individuals to build on yearly hearings assessments. Once we have established a baseline during health screenings, it makes it easier for us to identify problems and track progress. We want individuals to build on yearly health and wellness

screenings, especially hearing awareness assessments.”

Thaler said her committee hopes to offer free hearing tests again in the future and will try to have it run for more than one day.

Angela Morton, chief, Huntsville Center Equal Employment Opportunity Office, said the disability awareness committee also received a great response from employees at the Wounded Warrior Project booth. Employees were able to stop by the booth set up in Huntsville Center’s main lobby and pick up information.

“The information booth helped to raise awareness on WWP.

“WWP supports employers by helping them connect with qualified candidates, providing information and education about combat-related injuries (such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury), reasonable accommodations, facilitating a productive on-boarding process and developing a long lasting relationship throughout the life cycle of employment,” Morton said.

“Hiring a wounded warrior is a smart business move.”

Center employee volunteers, instructs transitioning service members

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

Whether a service member retires after 20 years or gets out after just one tour, the Army's Transition Assistance Program helps service members and their families transition into civilian life by offering job-search assistance, financial readiness planning and related services.

Since 2010, Russ Dunford, an operations officer with the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's Executive Office, has taught a financial readiness class on a monthly basis to transitioning military families as part of the Transition Assistance Program on Redstone Arsenal.

The Transition Assistance Program consists of comprehensive five-day workshops at most military installations nationwide. Professionally trained workshop facilitators from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Labor contractors, State Employment Services, military family support services, or Veterans Employment Services staff present the workshops.

On Redstone, the 40-hour TAP training is broken down into 24 hours for DOL course material, and six hours for VA.

The remaining 10 hours are expanded to include guest speakers addressing a gamut of topics from entrepreneurship, dressing for success, benefits and financial planning.

The law creating TAP established a partnership between the Department of Defense, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Transportation and the Department of Labor's Veterans Employment and Training Service, to give employment and training information to armed forces members within 12 months of separation or 24 months of retirement.

Dunford said he participated in TAP

when he retired from military service and wanted to do something to give back and help other veterans, personally and professionally.

"I consider it a great way for our organization to give back to the community and an excellent outreach opportunity," Dunford said.

"I also see it as a way that I can give back as an individual because I once sat in those chairs looking for guidance as I transitioned from the military to civilian life. The workshop was a great source of help for me when I retired so I wanted to build on this experience and give back to those who came behind me with relevant information.

Luis Ortega, chief, Military Personnel Division, Garrison's Directorate of Human Resources, runs the TAP program on Redstone with the assistance of Barbara Moudy, chief, Transition Center. He said Redstone is not authorized an Army Career Assistance Program center, therefore, they aren't authorized any positions to conduct the TAP and all associated work that goes with it. They are 100 percent volunteer supported, so veteran volunteers with skill sets like Dunford are what keeps the program going.

"Our program started out small, but has grown over the years," Ortega said.

"We are developing more programs to help service members and will continue to evolve. We set up this program to facilitate service members who are transitioning and are assigned to this area. Otherwise, they would have to travel more than 100 miles to get to the nearest ACAP locations at Fort Rucker, Ala., Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Campbell, Ky.

Ortega said their goal is to help service members make the initial transition from military service to the civilian workplace with less difficulty and at less overall cost to the government.



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

Huntsville Center employee Russ Dunford gives service members and their families a briefing on financial readiness during a Transition Assistance Program workshop on Redstone Arsenal.

According to Ortega, TAP teaches participants to conduct job searches, career decision-making, current occupational and labor market conditions, and resume and cover letter preparation. Participants also are provided with an evaluation of their employability relative to the job market and receive information on the most current veterans benefits and financial readiness planning.

Lt. Col. Michael Harris, Army Contracting Command, said he benefited from the financial readiness training.

"I've learned a lot about taking advantage of my VA benefits and writing resumes that will help me when I begin my job search," Harris said.

"However the financial readiness planning piece made me think about how to keep my finances in order and how to make the right decisions in regards to finance that will allow me to continue to support my family after retirement. Financial readiness planning is now at the top of my list."

Contract specialist is cancer survivor

By Amy Guckeen Tolson
Redstone Rocket staff writer

It was only the size of a green pea, but it changed Patricia James' life. It began as a seemingly normal injury. Chatting with a friend one day, when James went to close her car door she caught herself right in the sternum. In pain for weeks, one day she felt what seemed like a bruise. Making an appointment with her doctor, she explained what had happened, and the mysterious bruise, that depending on how she moved, felt like a lump.

The doctor checked but didn't feel anything. Still concerned, James asked the nurse to feel for herself. She immediately found the spot. Checking again, the doctor told James not to worry, it was just a bump. Still, James worried.

"You've got to be vigilant about your own health care," said James, a contract specialist for the Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center. "Don't be stupid. Don't accept what someone else says. Are they going to die for you?" Seeking a second opinion, her new doctor immediately made James an appointment for a mammogram and ultrasound. The tests made for a long day at the doctor, as James had multiple images taken of her breasts.

"I knew something was wrong, because normally when I go I'm there not even 30 minutes, but I was there for half a day," James said. "I said to myself, 'Something is wrong, this is not right.' I have never been so photographed in my life."

It wasn't until the following Monday, as James was preparing to go TDY that she received a phone call from the nurse, asking her to come in and speak with the doctor. Pressed for time, she agreed, but after two hours in the waiting room, was ready to head home and try again another day. Putting in a quick phone call to the doctor who was in surgery, the nurse explained to James that the doctor had requested she not



Photo by Ellen Hudson

Patricia James, contract specialist f Huntsville Center, received a clean bill of health from her oncologist January 2012. James was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2002.

let her leave. The next thing James heard was the click of the office doors locking her in.

"I stayed locked in there for 30 minutes until he finally came in and told me, 'Ms. James, I'm so sorry about what happened, but I really need to talk to you. It couldn't have waited,'" James said.

The doctor explained that James needed to go into emergency surgery for a biopsy on the lump she had found in her breast. James stubbornly explained that she had a business trip the following day, and would take care of it when she got home.

"He called my boss," James said. "He told him what was going on and that he had to cancel my trip or send someone else."

The biopsy revealed a small tumor about the size of a green pea – breast cancer. Lucky she had found it early, James was given the choice to have a lumpectomy or a mastectomy. The decision kept her up all night.

"We always have pains, and I know that in the back of my mind all I'll be thinking about is cancer. I don't want my whole life to be about every pain

thinking, 'Oh I got cancer, oh it came back,'" James said. "So I opted for a radical mastectomy. When the doctor asked me, 'Are you sure?' I was teasing him and said, 'Oh yeah, I can always get some more girls.' I just didn't want to go the rest of my life wondering if I made the wrong choice."

In addition to the mastectomy, James also underwent four cycles of chemotherapy. The drugs made her gain weight. She lost her hair, everywhere except her eyebrows. Her fingernails turned black. The smell of bananas began to make her sick, and to this day the scent of certain perfumes makes her throw up. The residuals of her chemotherapy still linger. She has never gotten used to the stick of a needle. Both physically and emotionally, breast cancer has changed her.

"It's been 10 years now and I still get sick when I see my breasts," James said. "The first time I saw it all I kept doing was throwing up. It was a year before I could look at them without throwing up. When I look at the scar tissue I still have that uneasy feeling."

Throughout her battle, however, James remained strong, going through seven surgeries and finishing her college degree. She credits much of that strength to her family and friends, who kept her fighting for her love of life. More than a decade later James is officially cancer free, released from her oncologist's care in January 2012. A survivor, James works to raise awareness not only for breast cancer, but for all kinds of cancer.

"If people don't talk about it, it'll be swept under the rug," James said. "Back before we were born, that type of health conversation was taboo, you didn't talk about that. But medicine has become so modern and so far advanced that people are not dying from cancer. When I was little and heard the word 'cancer,' I figured they'd be dead tomorrow. Today people are living long lives with cancer."

Ethics Corner:

Training essential, mandatory for government employees

**By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office**

Ethics training, an annual mandatory face-to-face requirement for all government employees commenced Dec. 2 at Huntsville Center.

According to the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, the executive branch of the federal government provides a detailed code of ethics for employees. All federal employees are required to take one hour, or three modules, of ethics training.

Clay Weisenberger, assistant counsel in Huntsville Center's Office of Counsel, conducted the ethics training to Huntsville Center employees.

Weisenberger said conducting annual ethics training is important to ensure that employees are aware of appropriate government standards. Ethics training is among the most important training government

employees take because it reinforces the core values that public servants should all adhere to in the performance of their duties.

Weisenberger said government employees hold their positions as a public trust and American citizens have a right to expect all government employees to place loyalty to the Constitution, laws and ethical principles above private gain.

"We have a responsibility to strengthen the public's view that government's business is conducted with impartiality and integrity. The integrity of our organization depends on our ability as individuals to recognize ethical dilemmas and respond in an appropriate manner. Without integrity and public trust, we could not carry our mission," Weisenberger said.

Molly Richardson, Huntsville Center, Engineering Directorate, civil engineer said the main thing she got from the training was that many of the questions

she thought she knew the answer to had other aspects she hadn't considered.

"I learned a lot from the training and now I know who to go to when I have any doubts," she said. As a professional engineer, it's important to keep ethics a part of our standard. The annual ethics training helps to keep me updated."

Weisenberger told attendees to contact him or Margaret Simmons, Huntsville Center Counsel and designated agency ethics official, when ethical issues arise prior to making a final decision.

"I hope this training strengthens your understanding of the pertinent ethics issues. I also hope you will keep in mind that, no matter what the ethics issue may be, if you are not sure what to do, check with your ethics counselor before acting," Weisenberger said.

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