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Huntsville Center Bulletin

U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville

Huntsville Center helps Army surpass performance contracting milestone

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Hail & Farewell

Hail: Amanda Sticker, Paul Evans, Bethanie Thomas, **Engineering Directorate;** Karen Spanier, Kristina Frith, Tiffany Campbell, Kavi Spence, Lena Andrews, Lt. Col. Brian Meinshausen, Rafael Monge, Felicia Culbertson, Gim George, Melissa Watkins, Tawanda Agee, Antonio L. Mastin, Hykeem Walker, **Center Contracting;** Mike Madcharo, **Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise;** Quintessia Fuller, Traketa Johnson, Melodie Schroder, Africa Welch-Castle, Terry Twist, Lisa Maddox, **Installation Support and Programs Management;** Tracy Withrow, **Human Resources;** Ed Granados, **Ordnance and Explosives**

Farewell:
Blaine Hoskins, Eric Graham, **ED (Chem Demil);** Rae Kim, Tyler Yell, Casey Helton, 1st Lt. Paul Kelly, Camille Hodge, **ISPM;** Sarajane Rubert, Frank DeBoer, **Resource Management;** Diana Rodenas, Andrew Cameron, Jose Gamboa, Jill Freeman, James Bales, **CT;** Bryan Preer, **Small Business**

On the cover

This aerial view of the solar photovoltaic array at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. was taken Jan. 8, 2013. The panels cover 42 acres and provide more than 4 megawatts of electricity to the installation. (Photo courtesy of Solaria)

Commander's thoughts

Team,

What a great fiscal year! You executed nearly 5,500 actions totaling more than $2.14 billion. Well done! Those numbers may change as the dust settles, but we should have firm numbers by the end of October. I appreciate all the hard work you accomplished; this place was "on fire." More importantly, I can tell you that our stakeholders and end users truly appreciate your efforts.

As we enter the new fiscal year, you may have been wondering about a continuing resolution. President Obama signed the continuing resolution Sept. 29, which means the government is funded until December, when a more detailed budget is expected to be worked out.

I've had the chance to meet with many of you and have formed some initial observations. I'll be sharing them with you in more detail around the middle of October – once I have had a chance to package them into an easily understandable format. But here are some of my initial thoughts.

Huntsville Center is truly a high performance organization. Two things the Center is known for are the technical expertise of our employees (read: YOU), and a positive, customer-focused attitude where you WILL find a way to get the mission accomplished for our stakeholders. It is not easy. Although people often joke that USACE is slow and expensive, I almost NEVER hear that from stakeholders when I talk to them. Instead, they focus on the fact that they have incredibly challenging engineering issues and are looking for the technically correct solutions. Our stakeholders are savvy, and they understand that the right answers to complicated take time and require experts. That's exactly why you exist and what you do every day.

It's great to be around professionally certified individuals. It's something I support. I believe that in the process of getting your certification, you will learn something, you will gain confidence, and when our stakeholders see the professional certifications, they know we are giving them the right answers. We'll continue to invest in helping our personnel obtain and maintain their certifications.

During October, we observe National Disability Employment Awareness Month to raise awareness about disability employment issues and celebrate the many and varied contributions of America's workers with disabilities. Our Equal Employment Opportunity Office is sponsoring a Disability Employment Awareness Program Oct. 20 at 10 a.m. in the cafeteria. The program agenda will consist of a panel discussion with members of the Huntsville Center workforce on the 2016 theme, "#Inclusion Works, Make Inclusion a Core Value." For additional information and special accommodations, please contact Sonja Rice, sonja.m.rice@usace.army.mil, 256-895-1573. I look forward to seeing you there.

Thanks folks for a job well done.

Col. John S. Hurley

Take note

- **Huntsville Center Small Business Forum is Oct. 12, 8 a.m.-noon, Jackson Center.**

US Army Corps of Engineers

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BULLETIN

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Employee Spotlight
Shannon Ward

Emerging leader learns strengths, weaknesses

By Kaitlyn Davis
Public Affairs

It takes hard work and dedication to become a leader in the workplace as one Huntsville Center project manager recently learned.

Huntsville leadership selected Shannon Ward of the Engineering Directorate to be this year's Emerging Leader.

During the weeklong Executive Governance Meeting at USACE headquarters in early August, Ward participated in rigorous classes, group activities, meetings and completed a project, all geared toward leadership development.

'My strengths (as a leader) are, I'm good at listening, (and) I'm good at giving advice. My weakness was coaching.'

Throughout the week, Ward shadowed Director of Civil Works James Dalton as he mapped out a general plan for the Corps' future until 2020.

The program taught Ward what her strengths and weaknesses are as a leader, she said.

"My strengths (as a leader) are, I'm good at listening, (and) I'm good at giving advice," she said. "My weakness was coaching because I'd never done it."

Coaching is a leadership method that prompts a leader to listen and ask questions until the team member arrives at his or her own answer.

Although Ward learned how to better her leadership skills, she has always been a strong leader. Ward's supervisor, Geosciences Branch Chief Blaine Guidry, acknowledged this characteristic when he asked her if she would be interested in attending the program.

"In everything she does she shows these (leadership) abilities — from volunteering to help out with the Huntsville Activities Association, to developing her technical and leadership skills on a daily basis," Guidry said.

"She is a great person, and I expect great things from her in the future, and (I) felt like the (Emerging Leader Program) was a good path for her, and (the Huntsville Center), to help hone her leadership qualities."

Ward plans to implement her training into her job as a project manager for explosives ordnance removal.

She also hopes to continue in Huntsville Center's leadership program.

"I would like to be a part of (the leadership program) and make it more accessible to those here at the center," she said.

If more employees went through leadership training, it might benefit the Huntsville Center.

"It would drive those individuals that want to be in a higher position," Ward said. "It would also help supervisors in how they mentor, speak and motivate their employees."

Shannon Ward

The program challenged participants to plan out their future so they can obtain higher positions in their career field, she said.

But while the program encouraged its students to create a clear vision of a career path, the program also prompted them to experience multiple career areas in their workplace.

"Another key thing that they talked about was, don't just stay so focused in your area, branch out," Ward said. Ward left headquarters full of new ideas to bring back to the Huntsville Center about branching out to become better a leader.

"It's interesting, and hopefully, we can get more people out there and doing (the Emerging Leader Program)," she said. "It's a great thing."

The ***Employee Spotlight*** is intended to let Center employees shine for positively impacting the organization through mission achievements. Employees are featured quarterly in the Huntsville Center Bulletin. If you'd like to nominate someone within your office for this recognition, please contact William S. Farrow, Public Affairs Office, at 256-895-1694, or email: **william.farrow@usace.army.mil.**

The Bulletin asks:

What is the hardest part about year-end?

"Tracking the 40-91s is the hardest part of year-end because you don't know if they got it right or not."

Tammy Moore
Center Contracting

"In my branch (Environmental Protection and Utilities), we worked hard with our PDTs during the months leading up to September to help ensure that year-end is less stressful."

Michael Malone
Engineering Directorate

"Considering and managing the second and third order of effects of the actions we take in RM-F the last week of the fiscal year. We don't operate in a vacuum and the transactions we process can have a ripple effect throughout other organizations in HNC."

Connor Owens
Resource Management

"The hardest part of year end is balancing work and family life."

Reneda Kelley
Center Contracting

Center welcomes new commander

Col. John S. Hurley assumes command from Lt. Col. Burlin Emery

By Julia Bobick
Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville

July 29 began another chapter in the storied history of the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, as Col. John S. Hurley assumed command from Lt. Col. Burlin Emery.

Presiding over the change of command, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General Maj. Gen. Richard Stevens acknowledged the contributions of Huntsville's previous leader Col. Bob Ruch, who retired in May after nearly four years as the Center commander, before recognizing Emery for being "a stabilizing force" and sustaining "the momentum and energy of the command" as the interim commander.

"We are all fortunate you are staying with this team," Stevens said to Emery, who returned to his former position as deputy commander.

Stevens said it's an honor to welcome the Hurley family to another USACE organization.

"The Huntsville Center is a phenomenal command, and I have no doubt you will lead it to even greater heights and further achievements."

Huntsville Center's path has been filled with twists, bumps and turns during its nearly 50 years, Stevens said. "The foundation of that path, however, has been absolutely one of undeniable technical expertise and resolute commitment, and those truly are the hallmarks of the Huntsville Center."

Hurley comes to Huntsville from USACE's Japan Engineer District where he had been the commander since July 9, 2013. Prior to that, Hurley served as the deputy commander of the USACE Transatlantic Division. The New York native, with a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering from the U.S. Military Academy and a master's degree in sociology from Northwestern University, is a licensed Professional Engineer in Missouri, a registered Project Management Professional and is Ranger, Airborne and Air Assault qualified.

Photo by Julia Bobick

Col. John S. Hurley assumed command of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, July 29.

"I have seen the reports and heard from stakeholders how the Center takes the time to understand what the warfighter needs to better accomplish its mission, and then the Center figures out how it can deliver. This is a truly exceptional mindset in the bureaucracies of today," said Hurley, who added that he's greatly impressed with the level of professionalism and dedication to quality that exists in the Center.

"This mission agility isn't about maintaining relevance and it isn't about job security - it's about making the nation stronger today than it was yesterday. The Center is uniquely positioned to do just that. I consider myself very lucky to be joining such a great organization, and it will be my distinct privilege to work with each of you."

Stevens said it truly is the people here who make Huntsville Center such a remarkable team.

"It's really not enough for me to just stand up here and say, thank you for your service and in many cases thank you for your sacrifice," Stevens said. "The dedicated public servants who make up this Center truly do deserve the thanks of our nation for what they do every day to ensure the prosperity and security of our nation."

Huntsville team heads to Baton Rouge to support Louisiana flood recovery effort

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs

You never know when an emergency will arise, which is why the Temporary Housing Planning and Response Team at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, stays trained and ready to deploy when needed.

The Huntsville team received the call Sunday to head to Louisiana to help with the flood recovery effort.

A Presidential declaration of a major disaster for the State of Louisiana (FEMA-4277-DR), was signed Aug. 14, after Louisiana was hit with a record flood that destroyed/damaged property and displaced thousands of people from their homes.

The Huntsville team is one of six in the Corps of Engineers trained to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency with temporary housing and/or critical public facilities following a natural disaster, such as the recent flooding in Baton Rouge. Teams from USACE's St. Paul District and Huntington District were previously deployed.

"A total of 20 Huntsville Center personnel deployed to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to support the temporary housing mission for the areas impacted by flooding in August 2016," said Alden Neva, the team's mission manager. "Huntsville Center personnel will work out of the FEMA Joint Field Office in Baton Rouge."

Other team members include Jon Wilson who will be an action officer; Shah Alam, mission specialist; Robert Zendler, database manager; Bonnie Smith, administrative assistant; Beverly Richey, GIS specialist; Matthew Urbanic, contract specialist; Jackie White, electrical engineer; Mark Fleck, cost engineer; Darren Mulford, construction engineer; Sherri Anderson-Hudgins, site engineer; Brett Frazier, sanitary engineer; and quality assurance inspectors Sheron Belcher, Clay Weisenberger, Dan Gaston, Horace Spoon, Larry McIntosh, John Nevels, James Dunn and Susan Vanderbeck.

Photo by Jay Woods

Chris Klein (L), South Atlantic Division, temporary housing program manager and Jon Wilson (R), a haul and install action officer from Huntsville Center, give an in-brief to newly arrived Quality Assurance Representatives.

Photo by Michael May

Col. John Hurley, Huntsville Center commander, talks to members of the Center's Housing Planning and Response Team before they leave.

The team's primary purpose will be to determine, designate and design sites for temporary housing units, conduct site surveys, complete site inspections, conduct quality assurance inspections upon placement of the temporary housing units, and provide whatever additional assistance is required by FEMA.

"With the quality of the people who have volunteered for this rigorous effort, the Huntsville Center Temporary Housing PRT will be able to provide valuable expertise in helping Baton Rouge citizens recover from this natural disaster," Neva said.

All housing missions are executed upon receipt of mission assignments from FEMA under the authority of the Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) (Public Law 100-707) and in compliance with policies and guidance of the National Response Framework (NRF). Mission stakeholders include the impacted states and local governments.

USACE and FEMA are the primary agencies for the execution of temporary housing missions, in coordination with state and local governments, Neva said. Successful implementation of a temporary housing mission requires close coordination and cooperation from state housing officials, federal and state environmental agencies, State Historic Preservation Office, state and local building code officials, state and local health departments, public utilities and elected officials.

BASEOPS contract supports Fort Wainwright

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs

A Huntsville Center Base Operations Program (BASEOPS) maintenance and operational services contract is taking on one the most strategically important locations in the world — Alaska.

The $9.5 million Single Award Task Order Contract (SATOC) was awarded June 3 to Aleut Facilities Support Services (AFSS) of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"This contract is different for us because we aren't just ensuring facility maintenance support for Fort Wainwright garrison; we're ensuring facilities support on some of the most important training ranges within in the Department of Defense," said Xavier Thigpen, Huntsville Center BASEOPS project manager.

The contract calls for maintenance and operational services for all facilities and subsequent facility systems, components and equipment on Fort Wainwright, as well as the 670,000-acre Donnelly and 260,000 acre Yukon training areas that are part of the 67,000-square-mile Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) .

Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and other multi-national military forces use the JPARC to conduct training during joint mission exercise programs such as Northern Edge and Red Flag-Alaska.

Although most of the training areas are vast wilderness, they are spotted with range control and support facilities, storage facilities, observation towers and other structures associated with carrying out large-scale military exercises.

The contract also supports the 3,807-acre Black Rapids Training Site that supports Army Northern Warfare Training Center operations and includes a barracks, classrooms and dining facility.

U.S. Air Force photo

Airmen and Soldiers observe operations from a range control facility June 8 during Red Flag-Alaska 16-2. A $9.5 million U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Base Operations Program maintenance and operational services contract ensures facility maintenance support for Fort Wainwright garrison as well as structures located on the Donnelly and Yukon training areas and the Black Rapids Training Site. The Donnelly and Yukon training areas are part of the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex that provides a realistic training environment allowing U.S. and multi-national military unit personnel to train for full spectrum engagements.

Thigpen said although the contract is similar to other BASEOPS contracts, this may be the most challenging taken on to date because of not only the vast areas of the ranges, but also because of interior Alaska's rugged climate.

"It's an inhospitable climate for much of the year, but we are customer-focused and dedicated to ensuring obligations are met," Thigpen said.

Thigpen said when it came down to it, the services offered by BASEOPS were perfect for the Garrison's Department of Public Works' specific needs.

"They were looking for a facility maintenance and service contract to support preventative and corrective maintenance and operations of certain facility components, and our contracting vehicle was exactly what they were looking for," Thigpen said.

John Wentz, Fort Wainwright Department of Public Works Engineering Design Branch project manager, said his department came upon the BASEOPS Program while working with the Huntsville Center's Utility Monitoring and Control Systems Center of Expertise.

"In working with Huntsville (Center) we began noticing Huntsville (Center) had a lot of programs capable of tackling very complex technical projects so we began asking about installation support capabilities, and we found out about Huntsville Center's BASEOPS Program," Wentz said.

Wentz said the base operations contract procured under Fort Wainwright Mission Installation Contracting Command didn't encompass all the scope requirements needed to support the installation.

"We were looking to fill that void. We were looking for a one-stop-shop to perform preventive and corrective maintenance rather than disjointed requirements on IDIQ (indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity) contracts," Wentz said.

"Huntsville Center's BASEOPS service order process provides this ability for us along with providing a quick response time."

Huntsville Center helps Army surpass $1 billion performance contracting milestone

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs

When the Army Materiel Command's Anniston Army Depot in Alabama signed a $20 million Utility Energy Services Contract with Alabama Power Aug. 11, the Army surpassed a presidential challenge to award $1 billion in Energy Savings Performance Contracts by the end of 2016.

This contract will enhance the Army's readiness efforts by allowing Anniston to run more effective and efficient daily operations.

The President's Performance Contracting Challenge set the goal of $4 billion in ESPCs and UESCs across the federal government. The Army's share of that goal was $1 billion.

In response to the PPCC, the Army has contracted for 127 individual projects, or task orders, totaling $1.015 billion. This represents 33 percent of the federal government's total performance and 68 percent of the Department of Defense's total efforts.

While the Anniston Army Depot contract was not awarded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Huntsville's Energy Division was instrumental in helping the Army reach the PPCC goal. Huntsville Center's cumulative ESPC and UESC capital investment represents 78 percent of the Army total.

The Huntsville Center is considered the USACE Technical Center of Expertise for ESPC. Much of Huntsville Center's success can be attributed to having all members of the project delivery team co-located and its streamlined acquisition processes.

"In order to help the Army achieve the $1 billion milestone not one person could do it alone," said Jason Bray, Huntsville Center's ESPC program manager. "That is why at the Huntsville Center Corps of Engineers, we have program and project managers working with project delivery teams centrally located to strategically plan and execute Energy Savings Performance Contracts and Utility Energy Service Contracts.

"Having all members of the PDT close together assists with keeping the process efficient and effective," Bray said. "Customers come to Huntsville Center because they know that they will be provided with a team effort, and the partnership between the agency, the customer, and the energy service company or energy utility provider brings a holistic approach that both helps meet Army energy initiatives as well as a better quality of life for personnel manning the installations."

The Army has a long history of using performance contracting that predates the president's challenge. Since 1992, the Army has been aggressively pursuing energy savings and currently has the largest energy savings performance contracting program in federal government. The Army's 624 individual projects, or task orders, represent private investment of more than $2.5 billion.

These contracts are important to the Army, said Katherine Hammack, assistant secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment. Federal agencies like the Army can leverage their utility budgets and take the steps essential to enhancing resiliency, achieving cost savings, and improving operations and maintenance, with no up-front costs to the government.

File Photo

Three wind turbines at Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico, are estimated to produce more than 5 percent of the installation's power while 21,824 solar photovoltaic panels there will produce about 5.5 megawatts of power, which is at least 60 percent of the post's current power demand at peak periods.

U.S. Air Force Photo

Airmen report for duty at the 12th Space Warning Squadron at Thule Air Base, Greenland. Huntsville Center awarded a $38 million contract to perform miscellaneous upgrades to facilities at the remotely located air base.

FRR contract upgrades Thule Air Base

Huntsville Center awarded a $38 million task order contract to Serco Inc., of Colorado Springs, Colorado, June 3, to upgrade facilities at the Air Force's Thule Air Base in Greenland.

Under the contract, Huntsville Center's Facilities Repair and Renewal Program and Serco Inc. will provide testing and upgrades to the High Altitude Electromagnetic Pulse (HEMP) Protection of Ballistic Missile Early Warnings Systems and miscellaneous architectural, mechanical and electrical upgrades at the air base.

The services contract was awarded on the Resilient Power and Mechanical Systems Basic Ordering Agreement and has a period of performance of five years. The project will enhance and modernize the radar's HEMP protection in support of the U.S. Air Force Space Command and U.S. Strategic Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The project kicked off June 23; work is expected to be complete by June 2021.

The base is located about 700 miles north of the Arctic Circle and 950 miles south of the North Pole, but also halfway between Washington, D.C., and Moscow, which was one reason it was built during World War II and expanded during the 1950s.

During the Cold War, the Air Force looked north for the front-line of defense against the Soviet Union. Thule was chosen as a base for intercepting bomber attacks from the northeast and for refueling U.S. long-range bombers directed at the Soviets.

In the 1960s, the base population reached as high as 10,000. Today, about 150 Airmen work with as many as 400 civilians during the winter at the Department of Defense's most northern base.

The 23rd Space Operations Squadron's Detachment 1, more commonly known as the Thule Tracking Station, located 3.5 miles northeast of the base, is one of eight Air Force Satellite Control Network tracking stations that relay satellite performance and mission data between polar-orbiting satellites and agencies, including the DOD and NASA.

About 13 miles northwest of the main base, the 12th Space Warning Squadron's Ballistic Missile Early Warning System provides early warning detection of intercontinental ballistic and sea-launched ballistic missile attacks against the United States and Canada and tracks polar-orbiting satellites. In 2009, the detachment under the 21st Space Wing upgraded to its current early-warning radar system, which can detect softball-sized objects more than 3,000 nautical miles away.

Huntsville Center's Facilities Repair and Renewal Program, in Huntsville, Alabama, offers a fast track, efficient method for design and execution of all types of facility repairs, renovations and minor construction. This program is available to all USACE districts and their customers as part of the command's one door to the Corps policy.

Center awards Fort Campbell solar project

Working with the U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, awarded a $15 million contract July 6 to BITHENERGY Inc., a Baltimore-based small business, for a 3.1 mega-watt solar array that will complete the installation's state grant requirement for a 5 MW solar array.

The contract, also known as a Renewable Energy Service Agreement (RESA), is the first small scale contract awarded against Huntsville Center's Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Program Multiple Award Task Order Contract.

The 27-year RESA for the 3.1 MW array is phase two of Fort Campbell's 5 MW solar array, which will be the largest Army solar array in Kentucky. Construction is expected to be complete in October.

The RESA is being funded through third-party financing and an $800,000 grant provided by the Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program. Phase one, completed in September 2015, is a 1.9 MW portion of the array being executed through a 10-year Utility Energy Services Contract (UESC) with Pennyrile Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation and a $3.1 million Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy grant from the State of Kentucky.

Through the RESA, the Army will purchase and consume the energy that is produced at the on-site renewable energy generation facility.

The contractor will finance, design, build, operate, own and maintain the production facilities on 25 acres of land leased from Fort Campbell during the entire contract period of performance.

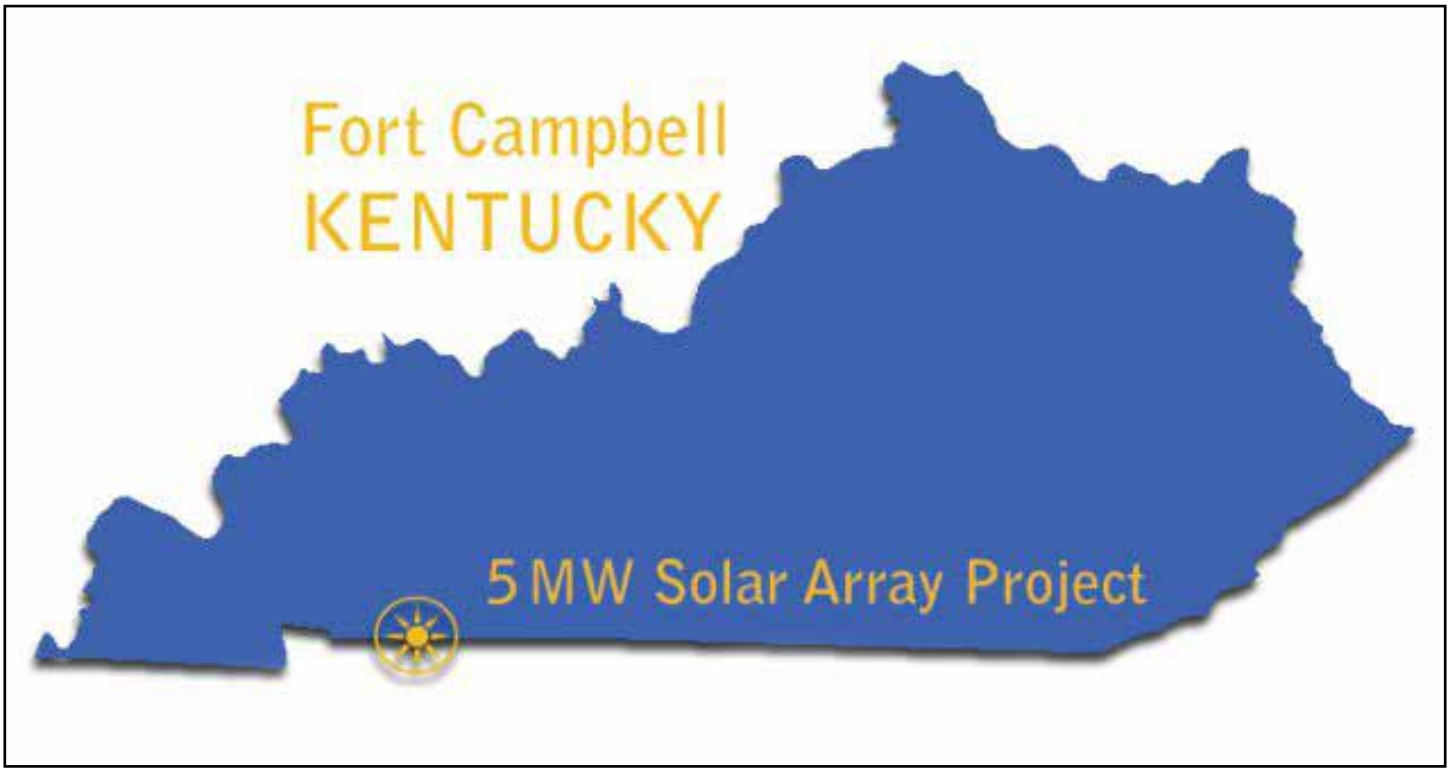
The award culminates a Huntsville Center-led project development and acquisition effort, with reach-back support from the Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI), using two third party finance vehicles together (3.1 MW PPA and 1.9 MW UESC) to optimally meet the 5 MW renewable energy requirements at Fort Campbell.

"This project truly showcases how the Army can be innovative and effectively leverage the energy tool box to meet an installation's renewable, security and resiliency needs," said Paul Robinson, chief of Huntsville Center's Energy Division.

Huntsville Center's PPA Program provides life cycle project management and serves as an acquisition partner to the OEI for large-scale renewable energy projects (10 MW or greater.

Huntsville Center also provides project development and full administration of small scale renewable energy projects (less than 10 MW) in direct support to Army and Department of Defense installations. The UESC Program negotiates contracts with local electric, gas and water utility companies that enable the utility companies to provide federal agency customers with comprehensive energy and water efficiency improvements and demand reduction services.

Huntsville Center Public Affairs



Air Force turns to Huntsville Center for access control point support

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs

Since 9-11, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, has been helping Army installations comply with stricter access control point requirements.

Now, the Air Force is taking advantage of 15 years of experience by using a Huntsville Center contracting vehicle to ensure sustained security at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.

Huntsville Center's Access Control Points (ACP) Program's maintenance and services multiple award task order contract (MATOC) guarantees active barrier systems (ABS) — electro-mechanical equipment that can prevent passage of vehicles when engaged — receive preventive and corrective maintenance and emergency repairs ensuring any threat vehicles are stopped before they enter the installation.

Jeffery Neilsen, Air Force Civil Engineer Center director of operations said his agency and the Air Force Installation Contracting Agency were putting forth efforts to secure an enterprise-wide contract for barrier maintenance when he learned of the Center's MATOC.

After reviewing the Center's MATOC, Neilsen said he felt it would be a good fit for the New Mexico Air Force base, especially since in-house maintenance was being used to maintain its active vehicle barriers (AVB).

"We determined Holloman was in a situation where the MATOC could be a benefit," Neilson said.

"The costs associated with using in-house AVB maintenance is higher as the manpower dedicated for AVB maintenance isn't funded, and the time Holloman's Airmen dedicated to AVB maintenance would be best used elsewhere."

Courtesy photo

Active vehicle barriers installed at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, can prevent passage of vehicles when engaged. The Air Force is using Huntsville Center's Access Control Points (ACP) multiple award task order contract (MATOC) to ensure barrier preventive and corrective maintenance and emergency repairs are performed by contractors, freeing up personnel from the base's civil engineer and security forces Airmen to focus on higher priority tasks more associated with their career fields.

Col. Robert Brown, 49th Mission Support Group commander, said the demands for maintenance and testing of the barriers was a tremendous task for his security forces and civil engineers.

"Like all Fightin' 49ers they willingly accepted the challenge and completed it as directed, but ultimately it just didn't make sense to do it in-house," Brown said.

"By utilizing the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center MATOC to accomplish maintenance and testing, rather than personnel from the 49th Civil Engineering and 49th Security Forces squadrons, we can return those Airmen to higher priority tasks more associated with their career fields."

Ron Brook, Huntsville Center's ACP Program manager, said although the Holloman MATOC is a pilot program, he said he hopes the Air Force sees the value of the Center's ACP Program and continues to utilize the program service-wide.

"The program isn't just capable in executing maintenance projects," Brook said.

"The ACP design and construction MATOC is also a valuable tool, and I hope Air Force leadership will learn more about ACP Program capabilities as they see the requirements for upgrades rise in the near future," Brook said.

"Huntsville Center's ACP program is tried and true. We've provided program oversight for more than 250 AVBs at 225 gates on more than 40 Army sites.

"We've been doing this a long time and over the years we certainly have gained the expertise," Brook said.

Holiday wish grants boy trip to Space Camp

By Amy Guckeen Tolson
Redstone Rocket Staff writer

It's the gift that will continue to give for years to come. When retired Lt. Col. Russ Dunford's family asked him what he hoped to find under the Christmas tree last year, Dunford knew that his grandmother's old adage had finally come true — "At some point in your life you make the mental transition that it's better to give than receive."

"I'm certainly at that point," said Dunford, chief of operations for the Corps of Engineers' Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

Instead, Dunford wanted to give the gift of opportunity to a young man or woman growing up in southern West Virginia, where Dunford was born and raised. He wanted to send them to Space Camp.

"The movie 'October Sky' very much portrays where I'm from today," said Dunford, pointing to the film, which depicts the early years of NASA engineer Homer Hickam growing up in West Virginia. "It's coal oriented, it's timber oriented. Right now it's probably the closest thing to a Depression-era area you'll find. It's just economically depressed.

"Great people, but we just don't know the opportunities that exist. I remember when I was at Meadow Bridge Elementary I didn't even know where Huntsville, Alabama, was. Until I was in the Army I had never been west of the Mississippi, and I thought you had to have a passport to get to Kentucky."

Come Christmas morning Dunford found a single gift box under the tree that contained an essay, "Why I would want to go to Space Camp." Unbeknownst to him, his wife and daughters had contacted his former elementary school seeking a student who might be interested in attending Space Camp. Conner Mullins, with a love for aviation and the like, fit the bill perfectly and won the essay contest. The family modeled the selection process after the Huntsville Quad-A (Army Aviation Association of America) Space Camp Scholarship program, which Dunford had volunteered and supported in the past. But the Quad-A focus is Huntsville — reaching back to an area that knows little of Huntsville was the desire.

Russ Dunford, chief of operations for the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, celebrates a successful week of Space Camp with Conner Mullins, who hails from Dunford's hometown in West Virginia. Dunford sponsored Mullins' week at Space Camp.

For one week in July, Conner took in the sights and sounds of Space Camp, learning about space, rockets and missions, and meeting other campers not only from across the U.S., but the world. His parents came and stayed and visited the Rocket City as well.

"This was an opportunity for Conner to see things that most people have only ever heard of or dreamed of," said Conner's mom Shelley Mullins. "He was able to meet people from not only other states but also other countries. He was able to be placed with people who have similar interests as him and was able to hear and see firsthand that dreams do come true with hard work and dedication. He was able to learn about things that I, as his mother, have only ever been able to read to him about."

Conner is taking those lessons back to school this fall. With aspirations to have his pilot's license by the time he's 16, the 11-year-old now checks in with his mom every day to see if she's found someone to help make that goal a reality. With a love for basketball, but a realization that he's probably not destined to go pro, Conner instead looks at the sport as a way to pay for his engineering or aerospace degree.

"Not only has Space Camp helped to foster his career goals, but it is helping a very shy and quiet little boy learn how to speak in public in front of a crowd," Mullins said. "He will be presenting to his school, and possibly to a few other schools close by us, about his experience and how it has changed him. We are hoping it will get more children interested in science, space, math and engineering. It has sure done it for Conner."

But perhaps the greatest lesson of all was the very idea that started it all — it is better to give than to receive.

"The experience for Conner and our family was not only about Space Camp, but also a strong lesson in giving," Mullins said. "Conner met two people, Russell and Joan-Marie (Dunford), who are true givers. In today's society it is a constant struggle to teach your children how to give from the kindness of your heart, the true humanitarian side of life, and ask for nothing in return. What Russell, Joan-Marie, Annie and Abby have offered him is not only a path to a dream, but a chance to see that good people do exist."

Courtesy photo

Retired Huntsville Center employees Art Dohrman, Bob Nore, Steve Pinke and Craig Zeigler, and current employees Mike Gooding, Tommy Hunt and Steve Willoughby participated in the Mountain Outreach program.

Corps workers lend a helping hand

By Kaitlyn Davis
Public Affairs

Every summer three engineers from the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, travel to Kentucky, roll up their sleeves and spend a week donating their time and sweat to help a family in need.

Civil Engineer Tommy Hunt, Chief of the Electronic Security Branch Steve Willoughby and Civil Engineer Mike Gooding work together every June to build a home for an underprivileged family through Mountain Outreach.

Mountain Outreach is a non-profit service organization operated by the University of the Cumberlands.

Since its inception in 1982, students and volunteers have completed 147 home building projects and completed renovations to hundreds more.

The program's outreach includes numerous service projects that help provide children, the elderly and financially struggling families with critical and urgent needs.

"It's a pretty poor area so (Mountain Outreach is) helping one family at a time," Gooding said.

The men start on a Monday and work alongside other volunteers all day until they finish the house on a Thursday or Friday.

"It's not an easy week," Gooding said. "This year it was hot, extremely hot. So it's a tough week to build. It's a lot of work (but) a lot of fun."

Camaraderie and the new friendships that form during the week make the labor easier, Willoughby said.

At the end of the week, the house is a "dried and lockable structure," but the interior is not yet completed, Hunt said.

In about a month the house is totally finished, he said.

"So a family goes from a trailer with the floor falling in or maybe living with some other family member, a month later, five weeks later, to (having) keys to their own house," he said.

The hard labor is definitely worth the feeling of gratitude and accomplishment afterward, Willoughby said.

"You do a lot, but you feel like you get more out of it," Willoughby said.

"You don't feel like you've expended anything."

Hunt, Willoughby and Gooding volunteer through Weatherly Heights Baptist Church, where Hunt is a member. Hunt recruited the other two men for the summer program.

After around 30 years of involvement, the church continues to participate in the Mountain Outreach program, Hunt said.

Building for the Mountain Outreach program is infectious, Willoughby said. "You know, we're very blessed," he said.

"I get 26 days off a year as a government employee. It's nothing for me to give a week of my time. So I said (to Hunt) 'okay I'll go with you,' and then I was hooked after that."

The experience puts life in perspective, Willoughby said.

Team Redstone commemorates women's right to vote

By Katie Davis Skelley
Redstone Rocket

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex."

As the country prepares for a presidential election with its first female major party candidate, it is easy to forget that women have held voting rights for less than a century.

Members of Team Redstone gathered Aug. 23 to celebrate Women's Equality Day and the 96th anniversary of women gaining the right to vote. The Corps of Engineers' Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, hosted the event at Bob Jones Auditorium, with musical entertainment provided by the Huntsville Center Ensemble and the Army Materiel Command Band. The keynote address was given by Emmy-winning journalist Lee Marshall, who spoke of her work as a foster child advocate.

"I have two daughters, but I have a lot more children than that," Marshall told the crowd.

She shared about her decision to leave her career as a television newscaster to devote her time to her family and to her organization, Kids to Love (www.kidstolove.org). A former foster child herself, Marshall felt a calling to grow the nonprofit that saw its start in her garage. This year, Kids to Love expanded to also serve Georgia and Mississippi, in addition to Alabama and Tennessee, and provided 5,168 backpacks full of school supplies across those four states to kids in need. The organization also started a technical training program this year and is preparing to open its first group home for teenage girls.

Marshall said that like the women who fought for equality a century ago, her organization is fighting for equality for foster children — children who don't have a voice. She quoted a sobering statistic that 75-80 percent of foster children end up in the prison system and that Kids to Love is working to reduce those numbers. Through the KTECH program, students learn applicable mechanical, electrical and computerized technology skills for the manufacturing industries. The program which started in 2016 has a 100 percent employment rate for their graduates.

Photos by Bryan Bacon

Col. John S. Hurley, commander, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, introduced keynote speaker Lee Marshall, CEO, Kids to Love Foundation.

Lee Marshall spoke to the audience about the importance of equality for all during the Team Redstone observance of Women's Equality Day Aug. 23. The event was hosted by the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

"We aren't just giving our students equipment to work on," Marshall said. "We give them the best to work on, because they deserve it."

Marshall extended a challenge to those in the audience — a request to look around the community and make their own difference.

"I want to challenge you to find your passion to give back," she said. "Let this next half of your life focus not on success, but on significance."

A musical tribute was performed by the Huntsville Center Ensemble in honor of 37-year-old mother and engineer Maj. Lisa Jaster of the Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center, who in 2015 became the first female Army Reserve officer to graduate from Ranger School. Jaster is only the third woman to earn her Ranger tab after the ban on women in combat was lifted last year.

As part of the observance, an essay and static display contest was held with the essay winners as follows: Stephen D. Cooper, Army Contracting Command, first place; Sylvesta Lee, Missile Defense Agency, second; and Viola Lipscomb, Aviation and Missile Command, third.

The display winners were Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, first place; Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, second; and the Missile Defense Agency, third.

Huntsville programs team up to ensure power for chemical demilitarization operations

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs

In 2003, when the Chemical Demilitarization Program at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, started a project to build the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant (PCAPP) in Colorado, safe and secure storage of the chemical munitions was the remaining mission on the Pueblo Chemical Depot. Now, after years of design, construction and systemization, the plant started operations in September.

A power reliability risk assessment review by Huntsville Center's Engineering Directorate in 2013 showed that if the depot's cantonment area mission support and the PCAPP chemical demilitarization facility complex both were operating at full power demand, their collective electricity needs would exceed the capacity of the existing power system, said Steve Light, the Huntsville Center program manager for the Program Executive Office, Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PEO ACWA). A minimum of 10 MVA (mega volt amps) additional power capacity was needed to meet the mission needs of the PCAPP project and allow for some future growth.

"With the need established, we explored several alternatives," Light said. "One, we went back to Omaha District. Working through Omaha would require a lengthy acquisition strategy; we were looking at a year's worth of time to get that done before we could get the design and installation underway.

"We then looked at in-house alternatives within Huntsville Center's contract capabilities," Light said. "We looked at Facilities Repair and Renewal to see if they could award construction of a power system. Another program within the Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate — one that deals with power all the time — was the Utility Energy Services Contracting Program. UESC offered some obvious alternatives to provide design and installation of a substation. After considering all the viable options, UESC was selected as the delivery mechanism."

Photo by Billy Swinnea

The power delivery team performs a pre-energize safety walk down prior to power transfer to transformer #3 at the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant in Colorado.

"Chem Demil came to us and asked us to install a substation at the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant in Colorado to take the load off the existing substation," said Lisa Harris, the Huntsville Center's UESC program manager. "We used an existing General Services Administration areawide utility contract to award the project to Black Hills Energy in March."

The Huntsville Center's Energy Contracting Branch determined awarding under BHE's GSA areawide was the most cost effective and efficient method of awarding the substation to enable PCAPP's mission to stay on schedule. The six-month project will start closeout in September.

BHE, the energy service provider, installed a 20MVA 115 kilovolt (kV) substation adjacent to the PCAPP existing substation, Harris said. The new (third) substation is segregated from the existing 20 MVA PCAPP substation to demark the difference in ownership. The Army will own, operate and maintain the new substation that will include a new independent switchgear/control house. Two of the existing 13.8 kV feeders originating from the existing control house will be intercepted and rerouted to the new substation control house in order for the depot power to be separated from the PCAPP power.

"Installation required a lot of coordination," Harris said. "We had to execute critically timed power outages

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Career fairs help students make important life decisions

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs

Photo by Debra Valine

Huntsville Center's Atidya Williams, Aimee Ghee and Todd DuVernay speak with students about careers available in the Corps of Engineers during a career fair at the University of Alabama, Huntsville's Fitness Center.

The Corps of Engineers is looking for a few good engineers … scientists, architects, contract specialists, financial analysts, and the list goes on and on.

To help get the word out, the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's Human Capital Management Office attends career fairs such as the one Sept. 8 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Career fairs attended by Huntsville Center included Alabama A&M University and the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Additional career fairs are being planned for the fall and spring.

"We're not recruiting for specific vacancies at these career fairs," said Atidya Williams. "We provide students with information about the types of positions that are available or may become available at the Huntsville Center, and show them how they can apply for vacancies announced on USA Jobs."

Jeremy Hastings, a cybersecurity major at UA Huntsville, said, "I'm looking for a job. Cybersecurity is definitely the hot field right now. Hopefully I will see where the opportunities are in Huntsville." Hastings will graduate in spring 2017.

The Pathways Programs offer clear paths into federal service for high school, undergraduate and graduate students in addition to recent graduates through federal internships or full-time careers. The programs provide meaningful training, mentoring and career development opportunities and may lead to permanent positions within the federal government.

Pueblo

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and coordinate outages with the installation and the PCAAP contractor, Bechtel, to assure no mission impacts. We had to have a backup generator in place to ensure 100 percent operational capability."

Due to the nature of the electrical work, extensive Huntsville Center Safety Office work was done by Will Eggleston, safety engineer, to coordinate electrical outage procedures and safety measures.

During the UESC project installation, Chem Demil and BHE team members called upon Sebesta Inc. for design, Hooper Corporation for installation, Electrical Power Systems for integrated system testing and Energy Systems Group (ESG) for project integration and management," Light said. "Billy Swinnea, ESG's onsite project manager, did an extraordinary job to ensure everything was installed correctly and safely and ensure no mission upsets. Dave Micklewright, representing USACE's Omaha District, was the government's onsite quality assurance manager.

"This high performance team collectively contributed toward a very successful project," Light said. "Because of this team's effort, we were able to deliver power requirements on time to assure mission execution of weapons destruction for PEO ACWA."

The Explosive Destruction System (EDS), which augments the main plant by destroying munitions not suited for automated processing, started its first operational campaign in March 2015 and completed it in February 2016. All stockpiled chemical weapons are expected to be destroyed by 2020.

New specifications created for ESS

By Kaitlyn Davis
Public Affairs Office

Huntsville Center worked with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and published two new Unified Facilities Guide Specifications in May.

These guide specifications pertain to Electronic Security Systems and Electronic Security System Acceptance Testing. The guidance includes the requirements security systems must meet and procedures on testing the systems once those requirements are met.

"Electronic security systems are a key element of physical security at DOD installations, enhancing the protection of facilities, equipment, and people against a range of criminal and terrorist threats," said ESS Mandatory Center of Expertise Technical Deputy Charles Malone.

The ESS guide specifications encompass software, installation and a broad range of security equipment including cameras, sensors and card reader systems.

Within a period of three years, the two construction agents for the Department of Defense updated and merged their ESS guide specifications together to create one unified tool for all the services to use.

"The purpose of the guide (specifications) is really to support military construction," Malone said. Their collaboration includes up-to-date technology for the ESS guide specifications and examples of testing procedures for the ESS Acceptance Testing guide specifications, he said.

"The unification and a refresh on technology and standards — those are really what we're most proud of about the documents," Malone said. Users of this new guidance have the opportunity to improve it by submitting their suggestions through a Criteria Change Request, Malone said. For complete guidance, go to wbdg.org.

Photo by Michael May

Good Neighbors

Dr. Bill Carswell, executive director, Energy Huntsville, and Jay Newkirk, chairman of the board, Energy Huntsville, join Paul Robinson, chief, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's Energy Division, Porscha Porter and Jeffery Watts as the Energy Division received the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' 2016 Good Neighbor Award for its collaboration and partnership with Energy Huntsville, during a video teleconference Aug. 25. Energy Huntsville is a non-profit dedicated to growing the region's economy in the energy sector and establishing the city as the go-to technology center for solutions to energy programs and projects.

Facilities Reduction on Acquisition Gateway

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs

Federal agencies looking for expertise and cost effective demolition solutions need look no farther than the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Since 2004, the Huntsville Center's Facilities Reduction Program (FRP) has provided commercial demolition expertise to Department of Defense and other clients. Recently FRP partnered with the federal Facilities and construction community to offer demolition services to the entire federal government through the Acquisition Gateway.

Incorporating government-wide demolition "best practices" has enabled Huntsville to offer solutions with reduced costs, sound business practices, shortened schedules, and in many cases, reduced installation energy consumption.

"Projects under the FRP might include removal of buildings, structures, water towers, parking areas, power plants, antennas, bunkers or any other constructed item that no longer serves a purpose on the property," said Chris Shepherd, Huntsville Center's FRP program manager.

A recent example of the type of work that can be accomplished using one of four regional multiple award task order contracts involved the removal of 45 World War II-era buildings totaling nearly 407,000 square feet a Fort Benning, Georgia.

Another project at, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, provided a pilot project that removed World War II-era buildings at a cost of $10.31 per square foot, and of the 1,717 tons of material removed, 1,246 tons was either reused or recycled.

Over the years, the program has grown to include relocation of transportable facilities and disassembly of metal structures, providing customers with additional opportunities for recycling and re-use.

In fiscal years 2004 through 2015, FRP removed more than 22 million square feet from Real Property inventories with an overall landfill diversion by weight of 70 percent. The cost per square foot to achieve complete facility removal and a fully restored site has decreased 25 percent during the 12 years of FRP operation from about $16 in 2004 to about $12 today.

In 2008, FRP began providing facility removal support to NASA and the Defense Logistics Agency. The program customer base has since grown to include Army's Installation Management Command, Army Materiel Command, U.S. Army Reserve, U.S. Missile Defense Agency, the National Guard, and the U.S. Air Force.

"Working with FRP takes the guesswork out of developing the project," Shepherd said.

"As the Facilities and Construction Category Manager, I would like to promote one of the Category's proven Government-wide solutions.

— Mary Ruwwe, General Services Administration

FRP starts by working with the customer prior to award by managing project development, developing performance work statements, producing schedules, developing project management plans, preparing and soliciting requests for proposals, evaluating proposals, making selections and awarding asbestos containing material and other regulated material (ACM/ORM) surveys and developing government demolition cost estimates.

"After the contract is awarded, FRP manages project execution, contract administration, quality assurance, safety, track and report status, process modifications, process invoices, review submittals, and evaluates and responds to requests for information," Shepherd said.

FRP reviews and approves safety plans and work plans, conducts inspections and resolves issues. The demolition contract Final Report contains all waste stream diversion and recycling data, proof of chain of custody for ACM/ORM, and a summary of work actions that can be used by the customer for reporting and real property management. Huntsville Center collaborates with the local geographic district for on-site support.

Additional benefits of using FRP for your facility removal projects include:

- Compete contracts with low price technically acceptable selection criteria
- Enable material re-use toward salvage value to offset removal price.
- Avoid unnecessary lead-based paint abatement.
- Apply appropriate asbestos abatement standards for demolition vs. renovation.
- Crush concrete and use on-site as backfill.
- Allow demolition contractor to propose the most cost and schedule efficient means of facility removal.

To expedite the award of projects, FRP manages Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contracts covering all 50 states plus U.S. territories and overseas installations that are in place to support this program. Included are four regional Multiple Award Task Order Contracts for executing demolition and a Single Award Task Order Contract for Specialized Demolition Expertise.

Striking an ethical work/life balance

By Melanie Braddock
Office of Counsel

You often hear people say to keep your work and personal life separate, but have you ever thought that there was an ethics reason to do that as well? There is!

In July 2016, according to the Army Times, "military officials relieved a senior officer (Army Maj. Gen. David Haight) from a key post in Europe after determining he had misused government resources while having an extramarital affair, the Army has confirmed."

Beyond the personal choices, the Pentagon Inspector General's investigators determined that Haight had spent nearly 24 hours on his government cellphone and sent more than 800 emails on his military computer to his mistress. The Pentagon IG's office issued a formal letter of reprimand that effectively ended Haight's 30-year career.

While we are at work, we are to use all of our time and talents to support the USACE mission. Employees shall use official time in an honest effort to perform official duties, unless authorized under law or regulation to use official time for other purposes. 5 C.F.R. § 2635.705(a). "Official use" includes emergency communications; communications deemed necessary in the interest of the Government; and "morale and welfare" communications by DOD employees on extended deployments. "Authorized purposes," include:

(a) Brief calls home while TDY to notify family of official transportation or schedule changes.

(b) Personal communications from the workplace that are most reasonably made while at the workplace when the Agency Designee determines that such communications:

(1) Do not adversely affect official duty performance;

(2) Are of reasonable duration and frequency, and, whenever possible, made during personal time (such as after duty hours or lunch periods);

(3) Serve a legitimate public interest (such as keeping employees at their desks, enhancing professional skills of the employees; job searching in response to government downsizing).

(4) Do not reflect adversely on DOD; and

(5) Do not overburden the communication system and create no significant additional cost to DOD (including long distance telephone charges).

Additionally, employees shall not use his or her public office for his or her own private gain, for the endorsement of any product, service or enterprise, or for the private gain of friends, relatives, or persons with whom the employee is affiliated in a nongovernmental capacity, including nonprofit organizations of which the employee is an officer or member, and persons with whom the employee has or seeks employment or business relations." 5 C.F.R. § 2635.702.

If you have any ethics questions, please see one of the Ethics Counselors in the Office of Counsel (Margaret Simmons, Clay Weisenberger or Melanie Braddock).

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