



U.S. ARMY ENGINEERING AND SUPPORT CENTER, HUNTSVILLE



# The Bulletin

April 2021

# Returning Ready

IMPLEMENTATION OF HUNTSVILLE CENTER'S RETURN-TO-WORK PLAN

**PAGE 3**

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, engineers adaptive, specialized solutions across a broad spectrum of global enterprise covering five main lines of effort: Energy, Operational Technology, Environmental, Medical, and Base Operations and Facilities



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U.S. ARMY ENGINEERING  
AND SUPPORT CENTER,  
HUNTSVILLE**



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# Center implements return to work Phase 2a

## From staff reports Huntsville Center Public Affairs

As the Army eases restrictions on an installation-by-installation basis informed by a conditions-based transition framework, Huntsville Center is also making risk-informed decisions based on objective assessments of COVID-19-related risks to the force and impact on our program delivery.

On April 19, supervisors, senior leaders and essential project delivery teams will initiate reduced restrictions and incrementally return up to 25% of our employees to work in Huntsville Center facilities. Center leadership will continue mitigating the effects of a pandemic outbreak and supporting community and governmental pandemic response efforts.

Given the diversity of our programs and worldwide missions, significant authority is delegated to directorates and separate office chiefs and supervisors to implement measures, as appropriate, for our workforce and the environment in which they work.

Within that authority, directors, separate office chiefs and supervisors must protect the workforce and ensure the risk of COVID-19 transmission in workspaces is mitigated to the maximum extent possible while maintaining appropriate staffing levels and operating in alignment with federal, state, and local guidance.

Col. Marvin Griffin, Huntsville Center commander, initiated PHASE 2a (REDUCED RESTRICTIONS) of the Huntsville Center Recovery Plan, by incremental resumption of facilities-based operations. If conditions are permissible, Phase 2b is set to begin May 17 with no more than 50% of the workforce returning to Huntsville Center facilities.

Phase 3 begins is set to begin July 5 with 100% of the workforce returning

to work. Throughout all phases, supervisors have the authority and responsibility to determine their employee's return to the workplace.

As COVID-19 remains a significant threat, we must position Huntsville Center to incrementally resume normal operations. However, safety guidance remains in place throughout the return-to-work stages.

### Safety Guidance

**Face Coverings:** Per Department of Defense policy, all civilians, contractors and visitors must wear a mask or approved face covering when inside any Huntsville Center facility or in an outdoor shared space on Huntsville Center leased property.

### Exceptions:

- Individual is alone in an office with floor-to ceiling walls and a CLOSED door
- Brief periods of time when eating and/or drinking. Must maintain distancing per CDC guidelines.
- Security requires mask lowered for identification.
- Reasonable accommodation for employees with a disability.

### Mask/Face Covering Type and Fit

- Masks MUST fit properly with no large gaps around the sides of the face. Masks must cover nose and mouth at all times
- Masks NOT allowed include masks with ventilation valves, masks that have less than two-layers, or face shields or masks that allow light to pass through when held up to a light source.
- Face shields are not an authorized substitute for masks.
- All personnel — whether vaccinated or having tested positive for COVID-19 and recovered — are required to wear a face covering.
- All face covering/masks must comply with DoD, DA, and CDC

standards.

**Enforcement:** Supervisors will ensure employees consistently adhere to the face covering policy. See Huntsville Center Supervisor's Guide for Deliberate Return to Facilities for additional instructions.

**Sanitation:** Frequently wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and use hand sanitized distributed throughout our facilities. Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands. Practice routine cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched objects and surfaces such as workstations, keyboards, telephones, handrails, and doorknobs. Dirty surfaces can be cleaned with soap and water prior to disinfection. To disinfect, use products that meet EPA's and are appropriate for the surface. Cleaning materials will be provided by Huntsville Center logistics office. Avoid using other employees' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible. Clean and disinfect them before and after use.

**Workspace:** Regular and recurring telework should be used to reduce close contact between workspaces when spacing is not possible for those personnel returning to the workplace in any phase. All other personnel remain on COVID-19 Telework until their required return to the workplace phase is executed.

**Distancing Requirement:** All employees must maintain at least a 6-foot distance from other people, whether indoors or outdoors, while on/in a HUNTSVILLE CENTER facility or grounds.

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## RETURN

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**Temperature Screening:** Employees are asked to check their temperature at home or prior to entering Huntsville Center facilities. Employees with temperature greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit will NOT enter the facility. The employee will notify their supervisor and discuss options (telework or leave). Each facility has a digital thermometer available to check temperatures.

**Exhibiting COVID-19 Symptoms:** If employee exhibits COVID-19 symptom-they will NOT come to work. Employee will notify their supervisor and discuss options (telework or leave) and will not return until they obtain confirmation of not having COVID or until they complete a quarantine in accordance with current Army guidelines.

**Close Contact with COVID-19 Positive Individual:** If an employee is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual, or a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19, the employee will not come to work or enter any Huntsville Center facility for any reason. Employee will notify their supervisor and discuss options (telework or leave). Awaiting COVID-19 Test Results. If awaiting results of a COVID-19 test due to symptoms or close contact with a COVID-19 Positive individual, do NOT enter Huntsville Center facilities. Employee will notify their supervisor and discuss options (telework or leave). Do not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation is met. See requirements at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>.

**Fully vaccinated employee:** Notify your supervisor of exposure. Fully vaccinated personnel, as defined by the CDC, are not required to leave the workplace, or stay out of the workplace if they have been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual. Personnel who have

tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and who have recovered are not required to remain out of the workplace even if they have been in close contact with someone who is suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19. If you are in close contact with an individual notify your supervisor.

**Asymptomatic, non-immunized person:** If you have been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual, or a member of your household has tested positive for COVID-19, do NOT come to work or enter an Huntsville Center facility for any reason. If you learn that you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 while you are in a Huntsville Center facility, gather your work belongings and exit the building. Notify your supervisor and discuss your options (telework or leave). You are required to remain at home for 14 days after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19 per the CDC guidelines Watch for COVID symptoms.

### Returning to the Workplace.

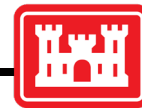
Generally, asymptomatic, non-immunized personnel with potential exposure to COVID-19 should not return to the workplace until they have a confirmed negative COVID-19 test (IAW DOD PFHPG Supplement 15, REV1 or have followed the self-quarantine period (e.g., 14 days starting on the date on which close contact occurred.) Close contact per DOD guidelines means a person has spent more than a total of 15 minutes in a 24-hour period within six feet of a COVID-19 infected individual. Close contact includes the period of contact starting from two days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic persons, two days prior to test specimen collection. Close contact includes those individuals wearing a mask.

*NOTE:* An O6 or SES may authorize exceptions to the above requirements for mission-essential activities in accordance with guidance provided in DOD FHPG Supplement 18.

**“This has changed the way we do business, but it has not changed the business we do.”**







Courtesy Photo

An Army helicopter crew arrives at Fort Knox, Kentucky's Godman Army Airfield at sunset in May. A Huntsville Center energy savings performance contract replaced the airfield's antiquated electrical and lighting system making the airfield the Army's first to use all LED lighting.

## Energy savings contract revitalizes airfield

By William S. Farrow  
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

**A** Huntsville Center Energy Savings Performance Contract project awarded in 2017 received the 2019 Association of Energy Engineers Region III Energy Project of the Year award.

The 2017 ESPC project saw an investment of more than \$25 million to improve the heating, ventilation and air conditioning as well as lighting and water improvements at the 109,000-acre Army installation located south of Louisville, Kentucky.

However, one aspect of the ESPC wasn't part of the original Center's project development team that issued the contract is sharing the success of ESPC project's contract modification upgrading airfields to LED lighting with other installations. In 2019 Huntsville Center awarded a fully funded \$5.4

million modification to the contract's task order to improve mission readiness and secure infrastructure by upgrading lighting and replacing decades- old wiring on Fort Knox's Godman Army Airfield. The airfield originally began operation in 1918 and the cable and control technology was 1940s- era infrastructure.

Dennis Lacy, Huntsville Center ESPC project manager said due to the age and condition of the aging infrastructure, heavy rains would often cause system blackouts and loss of mission.

Lacy also said airfield repairs cost to Fort Knox's Department of Public Works was more than \$250,000 annually over the last five years. Financial costs to the installation paled in comparison to how a thunderstorm could impact the mission.

In May 2019, the airfield experienced a failure of the airfield lighting

infrastructure resulting in an overarching safety and operational issue for the Army.

Lacy said the ESPC provided upgrades to a 100-year-old lighting infrastructure and upgraded the lighting to LEDs, the first use of LEDs on an Army airfield ever.

"This project not only provides energy savings to Fort Knox, but also ensures Godman Army Airfield will provide continued support to Army Reserve Aviation Command and aviation multi-service joint training and operations," Lacy said.

Robert Dyrdek, Fort Knox energy manager and utility services officer, said lighting issues often affected the mission there and pilots were often even turned away.

Dyrdek said thanks to the contract, heavy rains will no longer overwhelm the integrity of the lighting system.



# Energy savings program leads to Fort Riley energy efficiency award

By William S. Farrow  
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Army Garrison Fort Riley used a Huntsville Center acquisition tool resulting in the installation receiving the Army's Energy Efficiency 2020 Project of the Year Award.

Huntsville Center is considered the Army's expert in Energy Savings Performance Contracts, a tool used to support the Army's Installation Energy and Water Resilience Policy as reflected in Army Directive 2020-03.

In consultation with the garrison, the contractor— known as the Energy Service Company— provides capital and expertise to make comprehensive energy and water reduction, energy resilience and security efficiency improvements on facilities and maintains them in exchange for a portion of the generated savings.

For the Fort Riley project, Southland Energy incorporated energy conservation measures from 11 technology categories in over 445 facilities on the installation.

The \$62.5 million infrastructure improvement provides annual energy savings of \$4.3 million, 8 percent greater than the guaranteed savings, said Kirk Ross, Huntsville Center ESPC project manager.

"The partnership between the garrison, ESCO, Huntsville Center and other Army stakeholders requires a high degree of commitment and work in good faith from the partners to enable successful outcomes as an ESPC is a long-term relationship," Kirk said.

Huntsville Center's Energy Savings and Performance Contracting program incorporates the Department of Defense Risk Management Framework process to achieve an

Authority to Operate for Fort Riley's Energy Management Control System allowing for enhanced monitoring and adjustment of facility operations.

Fort Riley Directorate of Public Works' energy branch used Huntsville Center's ESPC program to add up more than \$2.6 million in cost savings. That six-figure saving was just a part of what earned them the Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Award for Energy Efficiency.

The 41st Annual Secretary of the Army Energy and Water Management Awards were announced in October during a ceremony presided over by the Honorable Alex A. Beehler, assistant secretary of U.S. Army Installations, Energy and Environment; and Daniel Klippstein, assistant deputy chief of staff, G-9 Headquarters.

The ceremony was held via Microsoft Teams. "As the Army continues its focus on energy and water resilience, efficiency and affordability, we are very excited that our installation energy managers and stakeholders are also adapting to make smarter energy and water choices, ones that will not only save taxpayer dollars but more importantly allow installations to maintain critical operations during an unexpected grid outage," Beehler said.

The physically distanced ceremony didn't lessen the impact of the DPW energy team achievement. According to the DPW Director, the resulting award was the culmination of more than just cost-consciousness on the job. It also had to do with the way the efforts to privatize Fort Riley's utilities were handled and the benefits that will be evident in future years.

"So this is a huge accomplishment," said Jeff Williamson,

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# Lanier named Modern-Day Technology Leader

By Kristen Bergeson  
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

**M**ike Lanier, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers project director and team lead for the Huntsville Center's Medical Facilities Center of Expertise and Standardization, was named a Modern-Day Technology Leader at the 2021 Black Engineer of the Year Awards.

The award is given to women and men who are shaping the future of engineering, science and technology. The nomination packages go through a rigorous review and recommendation process by a panel of leaders from industry, government and academia.

Lanier, who has served as a senior project director for the Medical Facilities MX since 2011, is currently the team leader of the Project Management Branch.

According to Brian Prediger, deputy chief of the Medical Facilities MX, Lanier played a vital role as the Huntsville Center Project Director for USACE's national response to the COVID-19 crisis.

"[His] leadership and strategic communications were critical for the rapid implementation of alternate care facilities to support surge clinical



**Mike Lanier**

populations," Prediger wrote in his nomination letter.

"Mike's team led technical response to the crisis that was briefed to the President and was implemented successfully in such locations as the Javits Center (New York) and McCormick Place (Chicago)."

In recent years, Lanier has also contributed his leadership and technical expertise to numerous projects including the Infectious Disease Facilities replacement at Fort Detrick, Maryland, and a future Defense Health Agency project to replace a hospital at Royal Air Force Base Lakenheath in Suffolk, England.

Lanier said the life-saving potential of the projects he leads serves as daily

inspiration for his work.

"These buildings are made to heal, but if done incorrectly, they can kill," Lanier said. "Seeing firsthand the importance of what we do and seeing the impact of the finished product is really an honor."

Lanier not only strives for success in his own life, he fosters it in others by serving as a mentor to junior employees and volunteering with community service organizations.

He is currently the president of the Prince George's County, Maryland, chapter of 100 Black Men, an organization whose mission is to encourage, engage, and challenge African-American youth to exceed their expectations. His work with 100 Black Men has involved the creation of a coding boot camp and an award-winning robotics team for students.

"Historically, these underserved communities have not had the resources or exposure to STEM education, so we've tried to provide that in various ways. We also provide mentoring services to teach them the soft skills that are so important for success," Lanier said. "These students are our future, so I take great pride in what we're doing."

## **FORT RILEY** From Page 6

Director of Fort Riley's DPW. "The Energy savings performance contract coupled with the Utilities Privatization have culminated at a similar time frame bringing \$1.3 billion to the Fort Riley utilities Infrastructure. While disparate actions, they have a common goal of energy and water efficiency. Both actions were originally scoped and planned in 2012 with the ESPC Phase I awarded in fiscal year 2017, phase II in FY 18 and phase III in FY 19 plus three of the four utilities – electric, water, wastewater and gas - distribution systems awarded in FY 18 and the gas awarded in FY19."

The contracts not only released Fort Riley from the burden of management and maintenance on these systems but with their implementation, they made a way to guarantee energy savings into the future.

"The UP contracts are to bring the distribution systems and plants up to code, resulting in safe and reliable utilities," Williams said.

"As the contracts mature, we'll see additional savings beyond the current 14.8% in energy intensity reduction and 10.2% in water reduction. Conserving Army resources ensures that we can focus resources on Readiness."

Hadassa Baker, an engineer with the Fort Riley Energy Branch said those significant savings included upgrades to about 280 facilities. She explained the varied individual projects included things like replacing outdated heating, ventilation and air conditioning controls; updating one of the central chiller plants; updating boilers, installing energy-efficient lighting and efforts in water conservation all played a role. Total future savings for the term of the contract are expected to be around 128,999,949,575 BTUs in energy and 37,815,000 gallons of water. All of that adds up to around \$92 million.

# CIS2 program supports Fort Worth District's U.S. Army North renovation project

By William S. Farrow  
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Huntsville Center's Communications Infrastructure and Systems Support program, or CIS2, provided design and renovation support U.S. Army North's Building 44.

The CIS2 Program utilizes a dedicated, multidiscipline Project Delivery Team to provide support for the survey, design, acquisition, installation, testing, and/or maintenance of facility communications distribution systems.

The CIS2 program worked in concert with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth District.

The district is renovating several floors of the Building 44 including the installation of Facility Communication Distribution Systems.

The design-bid-build project provides ARNORTH with classroom, video tele-conference systems, enclosed offices, and collaborative area interface requirements to adequately perform mission requirements.

The Building 44 project was established in 2019. Salome Taggart, CIS2 Program Manager, said a design was initially prepared as a design-build project like the one in progress for the Joint Operations Center in the historical Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle.

However, Taggart said the design of the Building 44 renovation was complete before the design-build project could be implemented for the FCDS. This reverted to a more traditional design-bid-build project.

The design was completed in August of 2020 after several delays due to requirement changes, Taggart said.

The final product was solicited competitively on Army Computer



Hardware Enterprise Software and Solutions with five responses and a single award.

"Despite the limitations implemented due to COVID-19 and the limitations enacted by Army CHES for the end of the ITES-3H contract, the project was awarded under budget and within schedule," Taggart said.

The work is planned and executed in accordance with the Unified Facilities Criteria standards and Telecommunications Distribution methods, the scope of work performed by the team includes telecommunications interior infrastructure planning and design, facility-related cybersecurity systems and telecommunications spaces, pathways,

cabling and systems and interconnecting components necessary to support the infrastructure of voice, data and video systems.

Located at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, ARNORTH is the Army component of U.S. Northern Command delivering command and control of the Department of Defense homeland defense efforts and coordinate defense support of civil authorities.

Its mission is to conduct homeland defense, civil support operations and theater security cooperation activities and controls deployed forces as a Joint Task Force or Joint Force Land Component Command.





# Huntsville Center spotlights engineering

By Kristen Bergeson  
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

**H**untsville Center joined other federal agencies and groups from around the world Feb. 21-27 to celebrate National Engineers Week.

The annual observance is a time to celebrate how engineers make a difference in the world, increase public dialogue about the need for engineers, bring engineering to life for students, and ensure a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce.

As a specialized branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, one of the world's largest public engineering, design and construction management agencies, Huntsville Center is home to more than 200 talented engineers who use their ingenuity and expertise to solve some of the nation's toughest challenges.

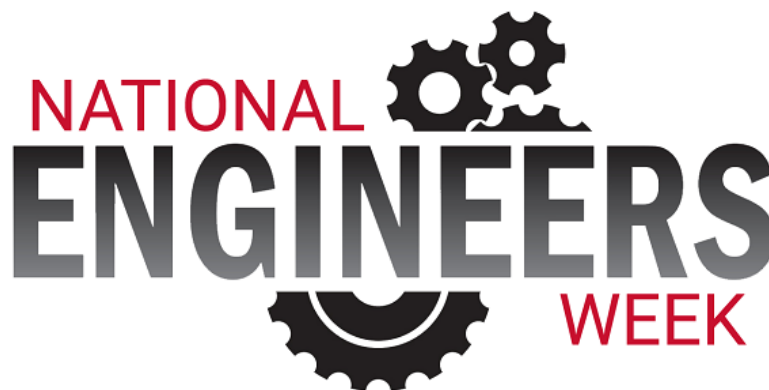
One of the newest engineers at Huntsville Center is Andrew Boston, who joined the team in July 2020 as a safety engineer in support of the Facility Technology Integration Division, Planning and Programming Support, and the Fuels Branch.

Though his education and career initially focused on chemical engineering, Boston said he has enjoyed his work as a safety engineer, a role he has served in with multiple USACE districts since 2016.

"I really love doing safety because I've gotten to do work with so many different things: diving, drones, medicines. I've even done legal work where I look to make sure we're following the appropriate safety measures to protect workers," said Boston.

"From my perspective, it never gets boring." He added that another reason he loves his job is the ability to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

"I am motivated by the fact that



government has the ability to make some of the biggest impacts possible on everyday life for people," said Boston.

"That makes me want to set a high bar and achieve it."

Boston demonstrated this ability to its fullest extent with his work in support of Operation Blue Roof, a program offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency through USACE that provides homeowners in disaster areas with fiber-reinforced sheeting to temporarily cover damaged roofs until permanent repairs can be made.

His experimental work using aerial photography and drones to conduct site assessments of homes damaged by Hurricane Michael in 2018 sought to reduce the risk of injury for employees, decrease program costs, and speed up the recovery process for residents affected by the storms.

When he was called to provide guidance following Hurricane Laura in 2020, he demonstrated the advantages of his efforts on an even larger scale.

Maj. Gen. Diana Holland, commanding general of USACE Mississippi Valley Division, later recognized Boston's professionalism and technical expertise with a commander's coin for his work in support of Operation Blue Roof.

Wade Doss, director, Huntsville Center Engineering Directorate, said the Center's greatest strength is its

people, and he agreed with Boston that USACE provides unique opportunities for engineers.

"We have an extraordinarily gratifying mission supporting our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines," said Doss.

"And our engineers get to explore a range of interests by working on a diverse portfolio of projects."

Huntsville Center is home to 43 programs covering five lines of effort—Energy, Operational Technology, Environmental, Medical, and Base Operations and Facilities. Entry-level engineers new to the Center are assigned a two- to three-year training plan that includes on-the-job rotations through each of the different branches and divisions, giving them experience in a variety of disciplines, he said.

For students interested in pursuing a career in the engineering field, Doss offered two pieces of advice: start early and choose wisely.

"First, try to get into the workplace as early as you can through a high-school or college co-op program that will help to acclimate you to the professional environment and expose you to the day-to-day of your desired profession," said Doss.

"Second, pick a specialty you're passionate about. If you follow the first piece of advice and spend some time in the workplace, you'll be able to make a better decision."



Guest speaker for the Team Redstone Black History Month celebration, Dr. Carlton Byrd, senior pastor of the Oakwood University Church, addresses a virtual audience during the filming of the event in February. Byrd spoke on the theme of the Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity.

## Center celebrates Black History Month

By William S. Farrow  
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Huntsville Center was the host agency for the Team Redstone Black History Month celebration in February.

This year's theme is the Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity.

Although COVID-19 protocol prevented the event to include a live audience, the Center's Equal Employment and Opportunity office produced a virtual event to raise awareness of African Americans' contributions and commemorate and acknowledge critical roles African Americans have played in shaping American culture and ideals.

A video of the event was posted to

Huntsville Center's DVIDS website for all of Team Redstone to view.

Guest speaker for the event was Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, senior pastor of the Oakwood University Church at Oakwood University in Huntsville. During the event, representatives from the Center's Black History Month "panel" presented a slide show production featuring prominent African Americans and their accomplishments and video performances by Oakwood University Gospel choirs.

During the event, Col. Marvin Griffin, Huntsville Center commander, said each annual celebration of Black History Month leads to new discoveries about the triumphs of the human spirit and inspiring accounts of everyday people rising above the indignities imposed by prejudice.

"These stories are not only an important part of African-American history, but an essential part of American history," Griffin said.

"Today, it is clear that African-Americans have significantly impacted the development of the social, political and economic structures of the United States and the world."

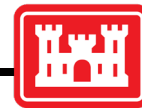
The event's guest speaker, Dr. Byrd, then took the podium to deliver a speech focusing on the struggle many African Americans feel are continuing today.

"We still live in a society where racial, social and economic injustice are still commonplace," Byrd said.

However, Byrd said a key to combatting injustice in the African

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# SAAPM 2021

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

## Building Cohesive Teams Through Character, Trust & Resilience

Protecting Our People Protects Our Mission



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DoD Safe Helpline: 877-995-5247

### **BHM** From Page 10

American community relies on the community's ability to build strong African American families.

"Our theme today -- Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity -- is important when it comes to our children. For the success and stability of the black family, it's important for our children to know black history and the accomplishments and success of black people."

Byrd said there is importance in passing down history,

insight and faith to children in the African American community, especially through first-hand accounts of today's African American seniors.

Byrd said It's not enough to for African American children to learn the plight of their community through today's media sources.

"We must get back to sitting down with our children and talking about our values and our history," Byrd said.

"We (African Americans) are people of a natural oral tradition and we need to pass down our history through the spoken word."



# About Huntsville Center

# HNC

## Unique to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

Huntsville Center provides innovative engineering solutions to complex, global missions. Our team of professionals engineer adaptive, specialized solutions across a broad spectrum of global enterprise covering five main lines of effort: Energy, Operational Technology, Environmental, Medical, and Base Operations and Facilities. Our portfolios comprise 43 program areas, as well as nine mandatory and six technical centers of expertise, and 17 centers of standardization. **Through partnership** with Department of Defense agencies, private industry and global stakeholders, we deliver leading edge engineering solutions in support of national interests around the globe.

## FY2020 40+ Programs

9 Mandatory Centers of Expertise,  
6 Technical Centers of Expertise  
and 17 Centers of Standardization

# \$ 2.4B

*“HNC Delivers  
Innovation”*

In fiscal 2020, Huntsville Center awarded contract actions totaling more than \$2.4 billion in obligations for its stakeholders. More than \$800 million were small business awards.



The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, engineers adaptive, specialized solutions across a broad spectrum of global enterprise covering five main lines of effort: Energy, Operational Technology, Environmental, Medical, and Base Operations and Facilities