



NEWSBLAST

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U.S. Army Contracting Command

"Providing global contracting support to warfighters."

Joint Dawn 2012 wraps up

By David San Miguel

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

"Joint Dawn 2012 is the beginning, not the end of your preparation to deploy," said Heidi Shyu, acting assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, via a video message to the exercise participants, Jan. 27.

Entering into the final phase of the two-week mission readiness exercise, Shyu also encouraged the participants to continue their efforts to support the war fighter and to anticipate those challenges that lay ahead – "to understand the environment in which they'll be deployed – the culture, the low literacy rate, a developing banking system and the fractal infrastructure that will impact their ability to produce quality contracts."

According to Brig. Gen. Joe Bass, commanding general, Expeditionary Contracting Command, it's a tall order but one which the planners took into account when they formulated then conducted the first exercise in January 2010, only two years after the ECC was established.

Now into its third iteration, Joint Dawn 2012, held Jan. 19 – Feb. 3 at Fort Bliss, Texas, has grown from an initial 34 participants to more than 250.

This year, in addition to a contingent of Army Contracting Command and ECC personnel, the exercise included a mix of military and civilian contracting professionals from the Air Force, Navy, Marines, Army Reserve and Army National Guard to simulate joint regional contracting centers supporting U.S. Central Command missions abroad.

During the initial phase of the exercise, participants were given extensive warrior skills training to better equip them to survive



Photo by David San Miguel

Brig. Gen. Joe Bass, commanding general, Expeditionary Contracting Command, shares his philosophy on contracting and support of the Soldier with the Joint Dawn exercise participants.

and operate in a hostile environment. This entailed weapons familiarization and qualification, survival training, convoy operations and medical skills training.

"The better we train our folks, just like any function in the Army, the better they will be able to support the war fighter, whether it be logistics or war fighting or contracting," Bass explained. "We want to give them the best training possible – the most realistic training so that they're better prepared to do their mission when they get forward deployed."

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Mike Curran, office of the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy (acquisition and procurement), agreed. He

said the exercise gave him "a good idea of what he might expect while deployed."

Curran noted that the contracting scenarios presented were developed based on actual occurrences in Afghanistan.

These reality-based training scenarios coupled with a high operational tempo "gives us the confidence to face whatever comes our way," he said. "In addition, it offered us an opportunity to train alongside our Army counterparts."

A main tenant of the exercise is to have the services train in a joint environment much like they would operate in support of contingency missions abroad.

See JOINT DAWN, page 2.

MICC contracting experts help build future acquisition leaders

By Daniel P. Elkins

Mission and Installation Contracting Command
Public Affairs Office

FORT BLISS, Texas – Almost four dozen Mission and Installation Contracting Command employees and Soldiers can be found working alongside their counterparts from the Expeditionary Contracting Command and sister services.

The teaming of civilian and uniformed acquisitions personnel to improve the training illustrates the importance of integration efforts already under way across MICC and ECC units.

“As we bring Soldiers more and more into contracting operations, it’s essential that we integrate them with our civilian professionals who have grown up in contracting,” said Brig. Gen. Joe Bass, commanding general, Expeditionary Contracting Command. “Because these Soldiers will be asked to be contracting leaders when they go downrange, it’s imperative that we all remain mindful that

we’re training future commanders.”

“My primary job here is to review contract files for areas where (trainees) can improve and streamline the things they do,” said Robert Ashe, a procurement analyst at MICC’s Mission Contracting Center-Fort Eustis, Va. “This training is vital since many of us have different perspectives. Not only will it provide us a little better understanding, but it can also be incorporated into our training back home. If I can understand them better, I can train them better.”

For some who have previously deployed, some of the training serves as a refresher.

“A lot of the trainees have deployed in their basic branch or in a non-contracting job. While we may have deployment experience and be familiar with the field environment,” said Maj. Thomas Goerling, MICC Installation Contracting Office - Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. “Very few of us have deployed as a contracting officer before, that’s why we’re here, to gain some semblance of this critical knowledge before

we get over there.

“When overseas, you’re going to be working with these same people. So to have that cross-reference and knowledge working with the other services and civilians, it’s critical,” he said.

The trainees will leave Joint Dawn with a greater assurance in executing their acquisitions mission.

“In the end, we want contracting officers who are confident in their ability to survive on the battlefield, capable of using theater specific tools and authorities, and ready to excel with confidence in a joint contingency environment to support the war fighter,” said Col. Jeff Morris, commander, 412th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, who is running this year’s readiness exercise.

“Every action, every type of contract, every scenario is something that we will likely run into but not necessarily in six days,” Goerling said. “If you’ve seen it before then you have a better chance of dealing with it when happens for real.”

JOINT DAWN

“It’s the same environment they’re going to operate in when they go into theater,” Bass said. “So, we wanted to expose them to working with the other services and civilians so that it’s not new to them when they get there.”

Rear Adm. Althea H. “Allie” Coetzee, executive director, DASN AP, added that though most of the Marines and sailors have experienced deployment, this exercise offered those that hadn’t an opportunity to “see what the other services bring to the table.”

She recommended those few who hadn’t yet deployed to take full advantage of this unique opportunity.

“Take advantage of the resources available to you,” she said. “Take advantage of the

continued from page 1

other services, partner with them. Work with them and learn from them.”

“We all wear the uniform,” Curran said. “We all serve our country and support the war fighter. We need to work together to ensure they get the best we can provide.”

Kim D. Denver, deputy assistant secretary of the Army (procurement), agreed. He visited with the exercise participants and delivered some words of advice to those pending deployment.

“Contracting is a team sport and it takes a team to make sure you accomplish the mission,” he said. “And as we’re executing our contracts, let’s make sure we’re providing that Soldier what he needs for mission success.

“It is the Soldier that is executing the

mission,” he said. “That’s where our focus should be.”

Denver also advised the participants to “remain diligent.” He cited the multitude of changes in how business is conducted... “what the press is saying... what those outside our environment are saying about us and what they’re saying about Afghanistan.”

“You’re on the front lines and it doesn’t matter whether it’s in contracting or outside,” he said. “We are the stewards of the taxpayer’s dollars and we have to make sure we protect those interests and protect the reputation of the U.S. government. Contracting is critical... set the standard in all that we do.”

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the Army and this command.

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Combined contracting operations creates ACC-New Jersey

The operations of the Army Contracting Command-Picatinny have expanded to include an ACC contracting activity at Fort Dix, creating a new organization officially established in October 2011 called the Army Contracting Command-New Jersey.

The mission of ACC-NJ is to plan, direct, manage and execute the full spectrum of contracting, acquisition support and business advisory services in support of major weapons, armaments, ammunition, information technology and enterprise systems for the Army and other Department of Defense customers.

“The objective of the new organization is to further enhance the contracting capability at Fort Dix, improve effective and efficient customer support, enhance workload distribution, and more effectively retain experienced acquisition workforce personnel across ACC,” said Bruce Berinato, ACC-NJ executive director.

Contracting activities at Picatinny have gone by different names over the years, including the Joint Munitions and Lethality Contracting Center and ACC-Picatinny.

As a result of the realignment, the organization’s name was changed to ACC-NJ to reflect the regional nature of the contracting mission.

This is a logical step in maturing and strengthening Army contracting,” said Carol E. Lowman, ACC executive director. “Although our command has been in business for a little over three years, we’ve made fantastic progress in the way the Army buys its goods and services. With the merger of our two contracting centers in New Jersey, I’m confident we can do an even better job of providing our Soldiers and civilians with the tools and support they need to ensure the defense of our great nation.”

Major customers for ACC-NJ at the

Picatinny location include the Program Executive Office for Ammunition; the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center; the Program Executive Office for Ground Combat Systems; the Program Executive Office for Soldier, and the Program Executive Office for Special Operations Forces Warrior.

The expansion of ACC-NJ into a regional contracting center has resulted in the growth of its customer base to include the Program Executive Office for Enterprise Information Systems; the Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical; the Army Cyber Command and the United States Army Logistics Innovation Agency.

“Our portfolio of customers has greatly expanded from a \$3 billion business base to potentially a \$5 billion business base,” said Paul Milenkovic, ACC-NJ deputy director.

Be healthy by choice, not by chance

February is Heart Health Month and is a great time to take a stand against apathy and arm oneself with awareness and a plan. Why? Our bodies are unique and complex machines, but we all share a universal risk from common enemies that kill and injure millions annually: heart disease and heart failure, stress and an unhealthy lifestyle. Consider all the family and friends that are affected and hard-earned dollars wasted fixing our preventable medical issues... even worse, the quality years and self confidence we’ll never enjoy because of unfulfilled plans to lose those 10 or 20 pounds, eat a little healthier or stress less. From that perspective isn’t health a great choice?

Tips for becoming healthier

Quit Smoking

Enroll in the next tobacco cessation class at a local Army health center. The classes, physical and any medication dispensed are free at most locations for Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians, and you can even use sick leave to attend classes.

Lower your cholesterol

When dining out, try these tips: avoid foods described as: buttery, buttered, fried, pan-fried, creamed, escalloped, au gratin (with cheese) or a la mode (with ice cream). Order first so that you will not be influenced by other’s choices and order foods that are steamed, broiled, grilled, stir-fried or roasted.

If you opt for dressing on your salad, order it on the side. Dip your salad fork into the dressing, then into the salad. You will consume less dressing if you just get a taste of it on each mouthful of salad, rather than pouring it over the salad.

Ask the chef to remove the skin from poultry and to prepare your food without butter or cream sauces. Alternately, ask for the sauce on the side so you can control how much is consumed.

Put fun back into exercise; ride a bike with a child, play tennis and other outdoor games with family and friends; do it together.

Lose weight: even 10 losing pounds can reduce or help prevent high blood pressure in overweight individuals.

Switch to the “DASH Diet.” The Dietary Approaches to Stop High Blood Pressure diet focuses on foods high in calcium, potassium and magnesium. These nutrients can lower blood pressure. Talk to your doctor about switching.

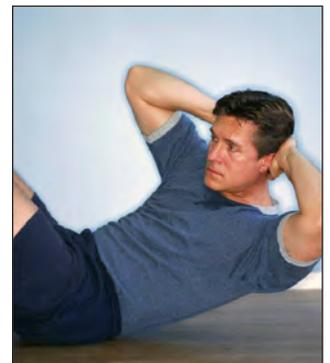
Limit your sodium intake by avoiding processed meats, canned foods and using herbs rather than salts for extra flavor. Good goal: under 2300 mg daily.

Individuals are advised to consult a physician prior to starting any exercise regimen. No matter what exercise you do: stop if it hurts, you feel dizzy or pressure in your arms, chest or throat.

See Your Dentist

Scientists have correlated poor periodontal health with heart disease. Seeing your dentist just twice annually can reduce bad breath, keep your smile pretty and can save significant time, money and pain.

(Provided by Army Materiel Command, G1 Wellness Division)



Spotlight on...

Silentip LeRoy

Recently returned from a six-month deployment in Kuwait, Silentip LeRoy, a contract specialist assigned to the Mission and Installation Contracting Command - Presidio of Monterrey, Calif., has served a total of 23 years with the Department of Defense.

An Army veteran, LeRoy served four years as a Russian linguist voice/signal interceptor and intelligence analyst prior to hanging up the uniform.

It was 26 years ago that she was first introduced to the Monterrey landscape while a student of the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center.

A self-proclaimed “gym rat,” LeRoy enjoys working out and hopes someday to return to the bodybuilding circuit. Her last competition was 16 years ago at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

She has a son, Christopher, who is currently stationed with the Army at Fort Polk, La., and a grandson, Aiden.

LeRoy supports all Installation Management Command customers with responsive, appropriate and professional contracting support to ensure mission success.



Silentip LeRoy

*Mission and Installation Contracting Command
Monterrey, Calif.*

Contracting remains growth area for Army

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – While the U.S. military will shrink in the coming years, the contracting career field will buck the trend and grow, officials at the U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center said.

The field is open to all Soldiers, officer and enlisted, and the total Army population in the military occupational specialty will double by the end of fiscal 2013, officials said.

Those selected will become part of the Army Acquisition Corps.

The Corps needs more officers in functional area 51 and noncommissioned officers in military occupational specialty 51C.

Typically, Army looks for officers in their sixth or seventh year of service. “We would like to have them starting to look at the career field when they are lieutenants, but they transfer to the career field after they have their branch qualifying job as a captain,” Army Maj. Anthony Maneri said.

The enlisted side is a bit different. The service targets sergeants and staff sergeants under 10 years of service. “They must be in balanced or overstrength military occupational specialties,” said Army Master Sgt. Jason Pitts, a specialist at the center. “There are over 180 MOSs, and there are only nine that are not eligible, so pretty

much any Soldier is eligible.”

Those interested must submit a reclassification packet to the Acquisition Support Center at Huntsville, Ala.

Soldiers selected for the 51C MOS may

qualify for a \$2,000 transfer bonus. There is no re-enlistment bonus, because “right now our people are staying in,” Pitts said. “It’s a great job.”



ACC in the News

This article mentions the Army Contracting Command.

Annual pre-deployment exercise attracts joint participation

By David San Miguel

Army Contracting Command

FORT BLISS - “The simulations were real. The sounds were real. I left there feeling that I could actually save someone’s life,” said Capt. Gina Ferguson, 634th Contingency Contracting Team, Fort Riley, Kan., of the training she received during Joint Dawn 2012 exercise at Fort Bliss, which began Jan. 19 and continues through Friday.

Ferguson is among the more than 250 military and civilian contracting officers participating in the U.S. Army contracting Command’s pre-deployment joint readiness exercise.

<http://www.forthoodsentinel.com/story.php?id=8426>

