



NEWSBLAST

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U.S. Army Contracting Command

"Providing global contracting support to warfighters."

ACC realigns Miami contracting office

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Expeditionary Contracting Command's Regional Contracting Office-Miami is being realigned under the Mission and Installation Contracting Command, the U.S. Army Contracting Command announced, Feb. 9.

The action will provide more efficient contracting support to the U.S. Southern Command, according to Col. Jeff Gabbert, ACC chief of staff. The ECC and the MICC are ACC subordinate commands.

The Regional Contracting Office-Miami, currently part of ECC's 410th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, will become the ACC Planning Cell-Miami, under the MICC's Mission

Contracting Office, Fort Sam Houston.

RCO-Miami, led by Veronica Wilson, office chief, is comprised of five civil service employees and five Soldiers.

According to Gabbert, the action is a realignment of positions, moving personnel authorizations from one organization's roles to the other and does not result in the loss of any civil service positions. The five military positions will be realigned with other ECC organizations through the normal military assignment process, he said.

Gabbert said the desired end state is that the MICC will be a "one-stop shop" for contracting support to Southern Command and its related organizations, receiving contract support requests and directing

those requests to the appropriate ACC element. The 410th CSB will continue to provide overseas traditional commander activity and exercise and contingency support planning. He said all ACC contracting centers will provide reach-back capability for the overseas operations.

ACC leadership, driven by the fiscal reality of decreased defense spending, is continually looking for efficiencies to make ACC the most effective and efficient organization possible, he explained.

"We have to be good stewards of the limited budget authority we receive," Gabbert said. "Our goal is to make the command as effective and efficient as possible."

See MIAMI, page 2.

ACC extends climate survey deadline

By Ed Worley

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Army Contracting Command and Expeditionary Contracting Command senior leaders want employees to tell them how to improve their headquarters' human relations climate.

Soldiers and civilians assigned to ACC and ECC headquarters staffs can have a voice in the work environment by completing the Equal Opportunity Climate Survey by Feb. 24, according to Sgt. 1st Class Yadira Perez-Santiago, ACC Equal Opportunity advisor.

"The survey provides the opportunity for the workforce to share opinions on where we should focus attention to improve the human relations climate of our organizations," she explained. "All comments and input are anonymous. Therefore, we ask that you provide candid feedback."

See SURVEY, page 2.



(Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Sheila Sledge, 13th Public Affairs Detachment)

Lowman visits Kuwait, recognizes Soldier

Carol Lowman (right), executive director, Army Contracting Command, and Charlie E. Williams, director, Defense Contracting Management Agency, present Sgt. Errol Worme, Area Support Group-Kuwait, and a Hempstead, N.Y. native, with an award for his outstanding performance as a contracting representative, Feb. 8. Afterward, Lowman and Williams thanked the contracting officer representatives and discussed issues and concerns within the contracting command. Contracting officers write, analyze and award contracts within Third Army's area of responsibility.

Spotlight on...

Bill Baxter

By Beth E. Clemons

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. - In his new role at the U.S. Army Contracting Command, Bill Baxter hopes to use today's technology to recruit the workforce of tomorrow.

As ACC's new Deputy Chief of Staff, Human Capital, Baxter is eager to explore recruiting and outreach through non-traditional methods.

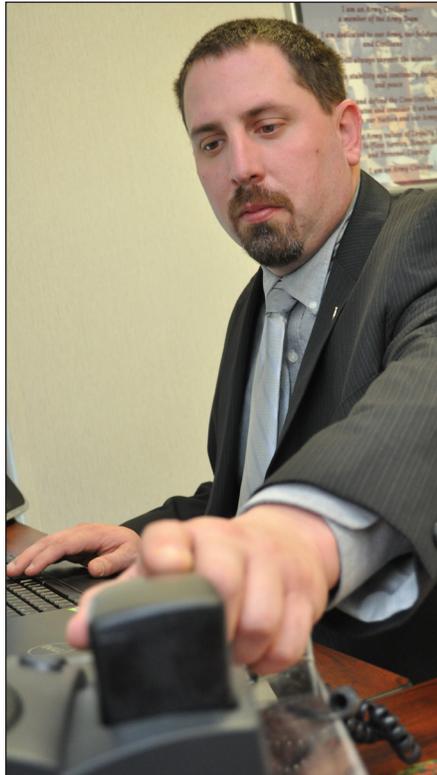
"There's a new generation of college students that don't attend traditional colleges, they come in through technical or vocational programs, attend classes online and go to school at night. These potential employees aren't reached through traditional college outreach programs and are more likely to pursue career options online," said Baxter.

Citing the growing popularity of mobile applications and smart phones, Baxter hopes to evaluate the command's current recruiting methods and make adaptations as needed.

"We need to take a strategic look at how we're recruiting and make sure we've got the right resources in the right place," said Baxter.

Baxter, who previously served as the U.S. Army Materiel Command's chief of personnel programs and policies, believes current employees are ACC's recruiters.

"People are our most valuable asset because they increase in value. As our employees grow they become ambassadors for the command and can help recruit new employees. I hope to use innovative methods to find that next generation of our workforce," said Baxter.



Bill Baxter
*Deputy Chief of Staff - Human Capital
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.*

In the near future, Baxter hopes to establish a virtual recruiter to assist with questions and application procedures on the civilian recruiting website, www.ArmyHire.com, and possibly create a human capital Twitter account to help hiring.

"Fundamentally I believe ACC has a great workforce and unlimited potential for the workforce of tomorrow," Baxter said. "I hope to use my new position to enhance and grow the command."

SURVEY continued from page 1

Carol Lowman, ACC executive director, said employee opinions are valuable because they give leadership insight into the organization's general climate.

"For your answers to be useful, you must be honest," Lowman stressed. "Don't tell us what you think we want to hear or say what others might say. Tell it as you see it."

Perez-Santiago said the survey asks for demographic information such as rank, race, and sex. Demographic information is used only for statistical analysis, she said.

ACC Soldiers and civilians should access the survey at <https://www.deocs.net/user/login/login.cfm> and use access code 1225009kIZsFX. ECC Soldiers and civilians should use access code 1225010Wb4MeT.

For more information contact Perez-Santiago at (256) 955-8387 or email her at yadira.perezsantiago@conus.army.mil.

MIAMI continued from page 1

This will be ACC's fourth organizational realignment this fiscal year; all focused on gaining organization efficiencies.

In October ACC and ECC headquarters, both located here, consolidated six headquarters functions. That same month the command announced the consolidation of its various contracting offices in New Jersey to form ACC-New Jersey.

In January, ACC announced the management-directed reassignment of 12 positions from its Washington Field Office, Alexandria, Va., to ACC headquarters here, leaving three positions in the Washington office.

Gabbert said ACC leadership, motivated by the Army's Drive to Fiscal Reality, continues to look for organizational efficiencies, indicating more changes may be on the horizon.

"The fiscal reality is we have to look for ways to be efficient without becoming ineffective," he said.

<p>U.S. Army Contracting Command Executive Director Carol E. Lowman</p>	<p>Editor David San Miguel</p>	<p>the Army and this command. The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the U.S. Army or this command.</p>
<p>Office of Public and Congressional Affairs Director Art Forster</p>	<p>The <i>NewsBlast</i> is a weekly newsletter publication authorized and produced by the U.S. Army Contracting Command's Office of Public and Congressional Affairs editorial staff in accordance with AR 360-1 to inform, educate and entertain the ACC community on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Department of Defense, the Department of</p>	<p>Send submissions and correspondence to the Office of Public and Congressional Affairs, Attn: Editor, <i>NewsBlast</i>, 3334A Wells Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898. Telephone: (256) 955-7634, DSN 645-7634 or email at acc.pao@us.army.mil.</p>
<p>Public Affairs Team Chief Ed Worley</p>		

Army Materiel Command generals moving

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – The Chief of Staff, Army, recently announced the reassignment of several general officers and senior officers within the Army Materiel Command.

Maj. Gen. Lynn A. Collyar has been selected as the commanding general, U. S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala. His previous assignment was as director, logistics operations, Defense Logistics Agency, Fort Belvoir, Va.

Maj. Gen. Kurt J. Stein, currently the commanding general, U. S. Army Tank - Automotive and Armaments Command, Warren, Mich., has been reassigned as the commanding general, 1st Theater Sustainment Command, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Maj. Gen. Michael J. Terry will become the commanding general, U. S. Army Tank - Automotive and Armaments Command, Warren, Mich. He currently

serves as commanding general, 8th Theater Sustainment Command, Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Maj. Gen. Larry D. Wyche, currently the deputy chief of staff for logistics and operations, U. S. Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal, has been named the commanding general, U. S. Army Combined Arms Support Command and the Sustainment Center of Excellence, Fort Lee, Va.

Brig. Gen. Gustave F. Perna, currently the commanding general, Joint Munitions and Lethality Life Cycle Management Command/Joint Munitions Command, Rock Island, Ill., will become the deputy chief of staff for logistics and operations, U. S. Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal.

Brig. Gen. Kevin G. O'Connell, currently the director for logistics, engineering and security assistance, J-4, U. S. Pacific Command, Camp H. M. Smith, Hawaii, will become the commanding general,

Joint Munitions and Lethality, Life Cycle Management Command/Joint Munitions Command, Rock Island, Ill.

Brig. Gen. John F. Wharton, currently the deputy chief of staff, U. S. Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal, has been named the commanding general, U. S. Army Sustainment Command, Rock Island, Ill.

Brig. Gen. Darrell K. Williams has been selected as deputy chief of staff, U. S. Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal. Williams currently serves as commander, Defense Logistics Agency, Land and Maritime, Columbus, Ohio.

Col. Duane A. Gamble, who has been identified for promotion to brigadier general, has been selected as deputy commanding general, U. S. Army Sustainment Command, Rock Island, Ill. He currently serves as director for strategy and integration, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, U. S. Army, Washington, D.C.



(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

ACC/ECC host bake off

The day was full of sugar and spice and everything nice as the U.S. Army Expeditionary Contracting Command headquarters conducted a bake-off Feb. 14 at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Ooey-Goey Butter Bar Pie by Army Contracting Command's Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray won first prize in the pie category. A Mardi Gras King Cake entered by Linda Barvincha, ECC, was tops in its category and ACC's Maj. Bill Moorehouse's Mocha-Chocolate Chip Cookies took top prize in that category. The more than 34 entries were judged by (left to right) Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis, ECC command sergeant major; Jim Westfall, ECC acting director Internal Review and Compliance Office; Col. Jerry Jones, ACC deputy chief of staff Mission Operations; and Col. Tim Strange, ECC chief of staff. Sgt. Kwadwo Kyeremateng, noncommissioned officer in charge, secretary of the general staff, tallied up the scores.

Anonymous email

The U.S. Army Contracting Command's Commander's Anonymous E-mail Program allows employees across the command to voice their concerns or ideas freely and confidentially directly with the ACC executive director.

"I assure you that my staff and I will personally review each message and take action where appropriate," said Carol Lowman, ACC executive director. "Your concerns will be addressed promptly and confidentially, but keep in mind that tougher issues may require additional time to be resolved."

One of the command's strategic priorities is to enhance the working environment and quality of life for the workforce.

"We want to ensure an efficient and comfortable work environment for all," Lowman said.

Responses will be addressed in either a message on the ACC SharePoint internal portal, a policy memorandum, or in one of the command's newsletters or publications.

The link to the commander's anonymous email can be found on the SharePoint page at <https://acc.aep.army.mil/Pages/Anonymous.aspx>.

D3I Day brings defense industry together

By Jason B. Cutshaw
SMDC/ARSTRAT

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – Members of the defense industry came together to participate in the second Design, Development, Demonstration and Integration, or D3I, program and Test Execution Services and Launch Augmentation update on Jan. 24 at the Jackson Center in Research Park West.

Defense industry professionals learned more in depth about how the D3I program is utilized to conduct research for the development and procurement of hardware components and software solutions for space, high altitude, missile defense, information integration and data exploitation, as well as enhanced war fighter capabilities.

“We have been posting information and sharing information with industry as we go through the development process, and D3I helps speed that process along immensely,” said Cathy Dickens, Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting, Army Contracting Command-Redstone. “D3I allows us to receive feedback for industry on what we need to do to improve, how we can maximize competition and who is available to satisfy our needs when it comes to contracts.

“We have received great feedback from industry as we have developed this acquisition strategy,” she added. “So what you see in this strategy is a recognition of our industry partners and what they can bring to the table and how we can minimize any deficiencies. Also, we have learned how we can stand by industry and help draw down costs and maximize performance to gain rapid turnaround with technology and support our war fighters as rapidly as possible, and that is our bottom line.”

Hosting the event once again was the Jackson Center. The 13,000-square-foot facility hosts corporate events, government and industry conferences as well as educational and research training for groups of 500-700 people.

“We are pleased to be able to support D3I by accommodating their budgetary requirements and providing services needed to make it successful,” said Jerri Robinson, Jackson Conference Center director.

The D3I program is used to implement programs including, but not limited to, Advanced Concept Technology Demonstrations, Advanced Technology Demonstrations and the Missile Defense Central Test and Evaluation Investment Program. D3I provides Space and Missile Defense Command and its customers with the ability to procure a broad range of missile defense, space and other applicable Warfighter solutions in support of developmental and operational requirements.

“D3I is an avenue that will allow us to streamline the time it takes us to field equipment for the Warfighter,” said Tom Webber, SMDC Technical Center deputy director. “We now have a method to have equipment go from ‘cradle to grave,’ and get the technology to our Soldiers quicker.

“Today is an opportunity for industry to learn the best submission process for achieving success in competition and what we are looking for in the future,” he added. “We want to make sure everyone has the same information and knows the proper channels to go through for success.”

The program includes providing anticipated solutions to include design, development, demonstration and integration of future capabilities. These efforts follow an evolutionary development of systems focused on a “Concept to Combat” philosophy which begins from design phase and ends when the system is in the hands of the war fighter.

“We are focusing everything we do on supporting our forces,” said Dr. Jack Tomkovich, SMDC Future Warfare Center operations chief. “Contracts are critical for us to continue providing services and our technical edge to our troops and one thing we have learned is that the smoother the process goes here, the quicker our troops get what they need.”

D3I not only supports SMDC and Redstone Arsenal, but all branches of the U.S. military, NASA, the Department of Energy, allies and other government agencies in mission requirements related to space, high altitude, missile defense, ground systems, information integration and data exploitation, and enhanced war fighter capabilities.

“These economic times are driving us to be more focused on streamlining the process in which we acquire technology and we hope this year we can learn more ways to accomplish that,” Dickens said. “If today is like last year’s D3I day, I am sure we will do just that.”

Derwin Rush retires

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Derwin D. Rush, contracting officer and team lead with the Army Contracting Command-National Capital Region contracting center, will retire after 37 years of government service.



“Work hard and do not allow (other) individuals to determine your destiny... and be tenacious,” Rush said.

Rush’s retirement plans include volunteer work with children in his community and four-to-five-day deep sea fishing trips.

“I plan on ‘giving back,’ said Rush. Knowledge-wise, I love giving up myself to other Individuals – whatever I can do to help.”

Frank La-Rosa retires

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – After more than 45 years Frank S. La-Rosa, general supply specialist, Army Contracting Command-National Capital Region, has filled his last supply request as a government employee.



Enlisting in the Army when he was 17 years old, La-Rosa dedicated himself to Army logistics. Becoming a warrant officer in 1981, and completing his military career after 21 years of service, La-Rosa was equipped with the expertise in three separate logistics-related career series – all of which have played a role in his Army civilian career, including the successful handling of ACC-NCR’s logistics challenges.



ACC in the News

These articles include mention of the Army Contracting Command.

Annual pre-deployment exercise attracts joint participation

By David San Miguel

FORT BLISS, Texas (Jan. 30, 2012) — “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, Texas, Jan. 19- Feb 3.

<http://www.aerotechnews.com/ntcfortirwin/mainnews/Annual-pre-deployment-exercise-attracts-joint-participation>

ESG Contracting Reachback Cell provides valuable training and fewer deployments

By Travis Gerritsen
AFMC 771 ESS/EGB

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Purchasing the billions of dollars worth of items needed by warfighters is a big job often reserved for seasoned contracting professionals in theatre. Recently, first term Airmen in the contracting career field have proven their business skills through an innovative joint CONUS-

based venture between the Air Force Enterprise Sourcing Group, CENTCOM - Joint Theater Support Contracting Command and Army Contracting Command - Rock Island. This venture was formally kicked-off when airmen arrived at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. in July 2011 from the ESG.

The ACC-RI Contracting Reachback Mission, located at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., is responsible for providing contracting support to war efforts from its CONUS-based location.

<http://www.wpafb.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123289232>

Joint Dawn 2012 wraps up

By David San Miguel
ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

FORT BLISS, Texas (Feb. 13, 2012) -- “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 fractural infrastructure that will impact their ability to produce quality contracts.”



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.

http://www.army.mil/article/73385/Joint_Dawn_2012_wraps_up/

