



NEWSBLAST

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U.S. Army Contracting Command

"Providing global contracting support to warfighters."

MICC deputy inducted into senior executive service

By Daniel P. Elkins
MICC Public Affairs Office

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – The Mission and Installation Contracting Command deputy to the commander was appointed to the senior executive service during a Feb. 16 ceremony held here in recognition of his exceptional skills and abilities in transforming the government.

George M. Cabaniss, Jr. joined the MICC in December and serves as the deputy to Brig. Gen. Stephen Leisenring, MICC commanding general. He became one of approximately 300 members to serve in key SES positions responsible as a link between presidential appointees and the federal workforce.

"It's an honor and privilege to be given responsibility for leading the Army's most important resource – its people," Cabaniss said. "The actions by the men and women of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command impact not only our Soldiers, federal employees and their families, but also those throughout our communities who provide critical services and materials in order for the Army to accomplish its mission.

"In an environment of fiscal challenges, it's even more vital to ensure every taxpayer dollar is spent wisely, efficiently and effectively. We owe this to our Soldiers and the American public whose support and advocacy are essential in performing the contracting mission," he said.

Cabaniss possesses a diverse background of government and private sector experience that includes more than 20 years in acquisition. That experience includes leadership positions with the Army and Navy as well as the General Services Administration. In addition, he practiced as a trial lawyer for almost 10 years in Atlanta.

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Photo by Daniel P. Elkins

George M. Cabaniss Jr., MICC deputy to the commander, and his wife, Patricia, unfurl the senior executive service flag held by Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades, MICC command sergeant major, as their son, Kyle Peterson, and Brig. Gen. Stephen Leisenring, MICC commanding general, look on.

New plans slated for ACC/ECC headquarters

By Larry D. McCaskill
ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

Plans are in motion for the Soldiers and civilian employees at the U.S. Army Contracting Command and the U.S. Army Expeditionary Contracting Command headquarters to relocate their operations to Building 4505 on Redstone Arsenal as their permanent facility.

The ACC and ECC headquarters staffs currently occupy temporary structures. Stephanie Lopez, ACC deputy chief of staff, commandant's service, installations and logistics, said that the relocatable trailers were a temporary solution; an alternative solution to provide permanent facilities for the organizations needed to be identified.

"Originally the plan was to build a new facility," said Lopez. "However, due to recent budget cuts, we've had to go a different route."

Building 4505, located on Martin Road across from the new Army Materiel Command headquarters building, is centrally located in the middle of the arsenal, making it easily accessible from all gates.

"Depending on where an employee lives, it could add 5-10 minutes to the commute, but for those who live near Gate 7 or in south Huntsville it may save 5-10 minutes," Lopez said.

Prior to the commands relocating into their permanent facilities, the building will undergo some renovations.

See RELOCATION, page 3.

ROADMAP TO SUCCESS

Internal control measures ensure health of contracting command

By **Larry D. McCaskill**

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

A simple way of explaining internal controls would be to call them checklists put in place to ensure mission accomplishment, according to Tony Gamble, an evaluator in the Expeditionary Contracting Command's Internal Review Office. In fact, he calls them roadmaps to success.

"Look at them as 'to do' lists for the job that you are responsible for," Gamble said. "It can be things like completing recurring reports or conducting scheduled reviews. There is a broad array of measures used by managers to provide a reasonable assurance that their subordinates are performing as intended.

"It's the law, but more than that, it makes sense. With fewer resources and more accountability, commanders and supervisors have to be very conscious of ways to get the job done and possibly reduce costs. Having good internal controls in place can help accomplish that," Gamble said. "They should be, and in most cases are accomplished each and every day. They are an ongoing check and evaluation of the health of how we do business as a contracting command."

Government agencies are required by law to establish internal control programs as part of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act of 1982. According to Office of Management and Budget documents, the FMFIA amended the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950 and added the requirement for ongoing evaluations and reports on the adequacy of the systems of internal accounting and administrative control of each executive agency.

Gamble said as a part of the Department of Defense component, the Army established

its managers internal control program with requirements that are continuous and direct. Army organizations are required to complete assessments annually and provide to their higher headquarters an annual statement of assurance that addresses areas of concern and also areas where they are making a difference. These statements are forwarded all the way up the chain of command and ultimately may become part of the overall Army Annual Statement of Assurance which is part of the DOD statement that is forwarded to OMB.

"When management controls are not being followed, the command faces congressional scrutiny, negative publicity or numerous studies and audits on weak or non-existent internal controls," said Gamble. "Strong management controls demonstrate to the American taxpayer that we are good stewards of the resources entrusted by them, and are providing quality business acquisition solutions to DOD and the war fighter."

"Everyone has the responsibilities of watching our resources. The senior leaders set the tone -- everyone else follows," Gamble said. "Senior leaders have the responsibility to review, evaluate, maintain and correct material weaknesses in a timely manner. In their role as Assessable Unit Managers, they have a major responsibility in the Manager's Internal Control Program process. They ensure a MICP is established and maintained, are trained to know the process, ensure evaluations are conducted, retain documentation, certify evaluations, and report weaknesses.

"If effective controls are in place, an organization's contracting responsibility becomes a lot easier in terms of submitting contracts, management and control as a result the public benefits because the

potential for waste, fraud and abuse of our resources both material and human diminishes dramatically."

Gamble went on to say that the establishment and implementation of an effective, efficient MICP includes: assessing the risk within the organization and monitoring as often as needed; identifying those issues that will negatively impact the organization's mission, and developing corrective actions.

Civilian Record Brief provides snapshot of employee's data

SAN ANTONIO, Texas – The Army has developed a Civilian Record Brief for civilian employees and their supervisors.

The one-page CRB provides a snapshot of an employee's official data pulled from the Defense Civilian Personnel Data System. By consolidating data onto a single page, employees can review their personnel data for accuracy and completeness.

Civilians can access MyBiz to self-certify and update degrees, professional licenses, occupational certifications, professional military education and technical training. It will also enable supervisors and managers to better mentor employees.

A side benefit of the CRB is the ability to use it as a foundation for and/or attachment to resumes and Individual Development Plans or IDPs. The CRB enables employees to include employment data not included in official records – such as non-Army positions, developmental assignments and military duties.

To access the CRB, employees should go to <http://acpol.army.mil> and log in via the employee portal.

–ARNEWS

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Spotlight on...

Mark A. Mohler

Originally a native of Greencastle, Pa., Mark A. Mohler settled in Hawaii as a quality assurance specialist with the 413th Contracting Support Brigade - Regional Contracting Office, at Fort Shafter.

This assignment followed his completion of a pilot Army Contracting Command CP-15 quality assurance program at Fort Dix, N.J., and his graduation from the Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor's degree in supply chain management in 2009.

Mohler said the pilot program introduced him to contracting and related quality functions he now uses on the job.

His current job entails supporting the contract administration process to include developing, revising and implementing contract quality assurance surveillance plans; revising and reporting on award free plan criteria; and, assisting in budget and

cost performance analysis.

A far cry from his previous occupation as a custom car and motorcycle shop operator in Hagerstown, Md., Mohler still enjoys working on and riding his motorcycle during his spare time.

In addition, he enjoys paddleboarding, hiking and has recently taken up scuba diving.

Currently, Mohler is overseeing a contract with the Directorate of Logistics at Fort Shafter.

This contract provides a full spectrum of services to the war fighter to include maintenance and resetting tactical vehicles in preparation for deployment, maintaining equipment in the Low Usage Program, operating the Central Issue Facility and providing transportation services for Soldiers returning or shipping off on deployment.



Mark A. Mohler
413th Contracting Support Brigade
Fort Shafter, Hawaii

APPOINTMENT

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SES members hold well-honed executive skills and share a broad perspective of government and public service commitment, which is grounded in the Constitution. The keystone of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978, the SES was designed to be a corps of executives selected for their leadership qualifications. Members of the SES operate and oversee nearly every government activity in approximately 75 federal agencies.

Headquartered at Fort Sam Houston, the MICC is made up of seven regional mission contracting centers, nine mission contracting offices and 28 installation contracting offices throughout the country. In fiscal 2011, the command executed more than 63,000

contract actions worth almost \$7 billion.

The MICC is responsible for planning, integrating, awarding and administering contracts in support of Army commands, direct reporting units, U.S. Army North and other organizations to provide the best value for the mission, Soldiers and their families. Contracting professionals at the MICC's subordinate units work with installation leadership throughout the generating force, or institutional Army, to translate their requirements into contracted materiel and services. The institutional Army prepares, trains, educates and supports the operational Army, which is made up of deployed forces.

RELOCATION

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"The plan is to have a new façade on the facility as well as some internal renovations and infrastructure improvements to bring the building up to what we consider would be appropriate for a two-star level command," Lopez said.

Renovations will start once the current tenants start vacating. Lopez said there is a possibility of starting some of the renovations, pending funding, in late 2012.

"This building will have a sufficient amount of space for the more than 500

ACC/ECC employees. The facility will be a mix of hard-wall offices and cubicles," Lopez said. "The location of the facility will be an advantage because of its proximity to the new AMC headquarters as many ACC/ECC members attend meetings regularly in the AMC facilities.

"Other advantages of ACC/ECC being collocated under one roof is the facility will be completely ours with no other tenants; the renovations will provide a suitable long-term solution for ACC/ECC headquarters

command operations. The location will be along the administrative corridor closer to the garrison, AMC, ACC-Redstone and the Sparkman Center, providing a closer connection to Team Redstone," Lopez said.

The timetable for relocating has not been established, but Lopez said the entire workforce cannot move until all renovations are completed and the existing tenants are relocated sometime around late 2014 or early 2015.

ACC-RI provides contracting training to airmen

By Travis Gerritsen

U.S. Air Force

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio – Purchasing the billions of dollars worth of items needed by war fighters is a big job often reserved for seasoned contracting professionals in theater.

Recently, first-term airmen in the contracting career field have proven their business skills through an innovative joint U.S.-based venture between the Air Force Enterprise Sourcing Group, U.S. Central Command - Joint Theater Support Contracting Command and the U.S. Army Contracting Command - Rock Island, Ill. This venture was formally kicked off when airmen arrived at Rock Island Arsenal from the ESG in July.

The ACC-RI Contracting Reachback Division is responsible for providing contracting support to war efforts from its stateside-based location.

“Since the ESG is responsible for the Air Force’s overall strategic sourcing initiative, there is little to no tactical workload to provide junior airmen with the on-the-job training necessary for the contracting Air Force specialty code,” said Air Force Maj. Fred Lacey, deputy, Non-Complex Reachback Branch. “We saw the work of the ACC-RI contracting reachback mission as a

perfect opportunity to give our airmen the necessary training and experience while directly aiding the war fighter mission.”

The ESG’s first team of six airmen, consisting of one contracting officer/trainer and five first-term contracting airmen/trainees, have completed their four-month “deployment” receiving on-the-job training and utilizing requirements supporting the war fighters in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The ESG airmen, who represent about one-third of the Non-Complex Reachback Mission manpower and about one-third of the total buying actions, support the Non-Complex Reachback Branch at ACC-RI. This branch is designated to purchase commodities from U.S.-based vendors and existing General Services Administration contractors. For fiscal year 2011, the Non-Complex Reachback Branch supported more than \$80 million worth of purchases making it the fourth-largest buying office when compared to its counterpart offices in theater.

“It’s important to note that every airmen and Soldier assigned to ACC-RI directly correlates to one less mission support asset – in this case contracting professional – required in theater,” Lacey said.

He believes the ACC-RI reachback mission is very similar to an overseas deployment.

See **AIRMEN**, page 5.

AMC to demonstrate bold, innovative technologies at Winter AUSA

By Edward G. Worley

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – The U.S. Army Materiel Command will showcase 50 years of providing new technologies in support of the war fighter during the Association of the United States Army’s Winter Symposium and Exposition, Feb. 22-24 at the Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Subject matter experts from Army Contracting Command headquarters will help staff the exhibit.

Dawn Robinson, service-disabled veteran-owned small business program manager, Army Contracting Command Office of Small Business Programs, will provide attendees information about how to do business with the Army. Linda Loy, a human resources specialist, ACC deputy chief of staff, Human Capital, will discuss ACC employment opportunities.

Giselle Lyons, exhibits and outreach manager, ACC Office of Public and Congressional Affairs, will tweet from the event and manage the ACC portion of AMC’s exhibit. Follow along at www.twitter.com/ArmyContracting or search

#WinterAUSA on twitter.

The exhibit will include displays from other AMC units.

Army Sustainment Command will showcase an interactive exhibit designed as a Vietnam-era supply tent, complete with a speaking mannequin quartermaster who, along with the touch of the items on the shelves of the supply tent, will tell the story of ASC activities supporting the overall AMC mission, including: lead materiel integrator; directorates of logistics; Army field support brigades; Distribution Management Center and the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program.

Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command will feature a hands-on display demonstrating their primary in-transit visibility tool to track surface moving cargo globally.

Logistics Support Activity will have a live demonstration of DST (Decision Support Tool). The lead materiel integrator will use DST to lead Army materiel stakeholders through the planning and execution of Army materiel distribution and redistribution.

Communications and Electronics Command will display the technology

advancements over the years in inter-group radios, ground/Soldier-mounted radios, and pilot-tracking systems. They will also feature 3D modeling technology and a 3D movie about the vision for future improvements to depot support on the battlefield.

Research, Development and Engineering Command will display helmet-mounted radio advancements over the years and Soldier communication into the future, including smart phone apps and HEADS-UP helmet electronic and display system. RDECOM will also display 50 years of research and development of uniforms, body armor, armaments, eye protection and helmets. Past, current and future initiatives in Soldier rations/MREs in terms of nutrition and preservation technology, menu expansion, nanoscales and immune enhancements products will also be displayed.

Joint Munitions Command/Joint Munitions and Lethality Life Cycle Management Command will feature an interactive touch screen of their current and future missions. They will also display the resonance acoustic mixer to demonstrate the latest in ammunition production.

Resiliency goals book app now available on androids

By Cheryl Rodewig
Fort Benning Bayonet

The Comprehensive Soldier Fitness Resiliency Goals Book, previously released as an app for iPhones and iPads, is now available for android users.

About 5,700 people have downloaded the app since its debut last summer, said Sam Rhodes, the action officer with the Directorate of Training and Doctrine who was responsible for getting the app developed, tested, revised and ready for use.

The app, which helps users gain resiliency by setting and meeting personalized goals, was spearheaded by the Systems Training Branch at Fort Benning, Ga., and the Signal Center of Excellence at Fort Gordon, Ga.

A digital, interactive version of the printed CSF Resiliency Goals Book released in 2010, the app supports the Army's CSF program by letting Soldiers, family members and government civilians connect their Global Assessment Tool results to practical exercises and email the feedback to their supervisors.

Rhodes said the app covers "the dynamics of our life, both professional and personal."

"In the past we have set goals during counseling sessions, conversations with our friends," he said. "We never had a device in which we can set our goals and go back and actually receive reminders that we have them."

The positive impact the use of goal setting could have on Soldiers after a deployment is "enormous," said Rhodes, who was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder in 2005 after three tours in Iraq and believes resiliency could be the key to counteracting the effects of post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD.

Android users can download the app at <https://market.android.com/details?id=com.fa53.resproject> or search the android market for FA53.

Apple users can go to the app store on their iPhone or iPad, search for goal setting - Comprehensive Soldier Fitness and download the app.

-ARNEWS



Photo by Larry D. McCaskill

ACC CFC chair recognized

Maj. Gen. James E. Rogers, commanding general, Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Command, presents Adam Busald, Army Contracting Command, with a certificate of appreciation for serving as a financial chair for the 2011 Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign as Harry Hallock, ACC deputy director, joins the two.

Team Redstone's goal of \$2.4 million was smashed as local federal employee's generosity netted a total of \$2,976,730.98.

AIRMEN

continued from page 4

"These extremely intelligent airmen have been given the firehouse treatment, loading them up with an incredible amount of workload," said Lacey. "It amazes me how quickly they have picked up these requirements throughout all of Afghanistan and Iraq, supported the war fighter, almost as if they were seasoned professionals. They have been a true force multiplier and it is through their efforts, we have supported so much."

The airmen on the first team have certainly valued the experience.

"There is no better way to be trained than to have a direct impact of assisting our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq," said Airman 1st Class Mikinee Moses. "There is a direct correlation with the work I do daily and the support provided to the troops and their mission. For this I have come to respect and understand the position I hold as a contracting specialist and I see the significance of building

well-constructed contracts and being an effective administrator. The work I do today affects tomorrow as well as the work done by those who will fill my position when I leave."

The experience has also made an impact on Airman 1st Class Keisha Robinson.

"Knowing that my hard work and long days provide the war fighter the drink of water, the hospital, or the vital machinery needed to provide care, reiterates how important our jobs are as contracting specialists," she said. "It gives me great pleasure to be able to support our country in such a way."

According to Robert Shofner, ESG director, the Air Force ESG intends to continue providing support to the reach back cell as long as there are war fighters in Operation Enduring Freedom and other operations requiring reachback support.



ACC in the News

These articles include mention of the Army Contracting Command.

Nation's budget affects future of aviation

Two of Redstone Arsenal's aviation leaders emphasized the need to move forward with aviation goals, adapting and changing to accommodate Army needs and budget constraints.

In separate presentations during the Joseph P. Cribbins Aviation Product Symposium hosted Feb. 8-9 by the

Tennessee Valley Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America, the Aviation and Missile Command's Maj. Gen. Jim Rogers and Program Executive Officer for Aviation Maj. Gen. Tim Crosby showed a united front in their commitment to modernize, upgrade and maintain the Army's aviation fleet while also finding ways to become more efficient.

<http://www.avionics-intelligence.com/news/2012/02/17/nation-s-budget-affects-future-of-aviation.html>

HQAMC announces its Keith L. Ware winners

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – The U.S. Army Materiel Command announces its winners of the 2011 Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Public Affairs Awards Communication Competition. First place winners will represent AMC at the Department of the Army level of the competition.

The competition is designed to recognize military

and civilian employees from AMC's major subordinate commands and direct reporting units for excellence in print, broadcast, community relations and new media.

130 entries were judged for technical excellence in accordance with the objectives of the Department of the Army's internal information program.

<http://www.army.mil/article/74086/>



Joint Dawn 2012 wraps up

By David San Miguel

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 fractal infrastructure that will impact their ability to produce quality contracts."

Joint Dawn 2012 on YouTube

Joint Dawn 2012, held from Jan. 19 to Feb. 3 at Fort Bliss, Texas, brought together a joint-service group of contracting professionals for a contingency contracting pre-deployment mission readiness exercise.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iP5YidlhOOM&feature=related>

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

