



# NewsBLAST

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U.S. Army Contracting Command

*"Providing global contracting support to warfighters."*

## BACK TO BASICS ACC/ECC host 5-mile road march

By David San Miguel  
ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

Taking full advantage of the mild, spring-like temperatures, 60 military and civilian members of the Army Contracting Command and the Expeditionary Contracting Command took to Vincent Park at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., to participate in the command's 5-mile road march, Feb. 23.

According to Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray, ACC command sergeant major, the road march is part of a series of activities hosted by the command to help build morale and camaraderie.

Every month, the command tries to conduct an esprit de corps-building event, he said, to bring everyone together and out of the office for some type of physical activity.

Murray added that in previous months, the command had conducted some fun runs.

"We wanted to take it up a notch," he said. "So this time, we conducted a 5-mile fun run/walk with a 30 lb. rucksack on our backs."

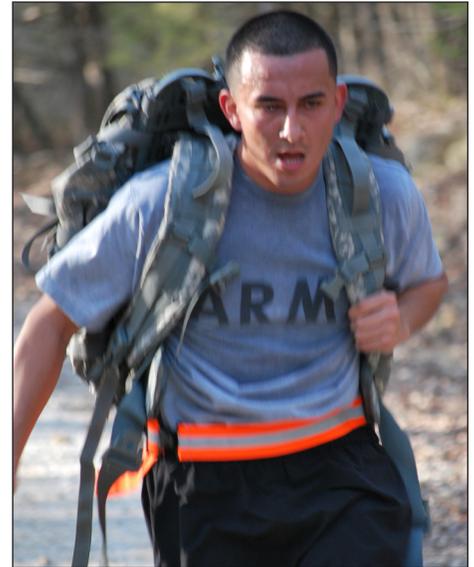
Though the civilian employees were invited to participate in the road march, most opted out of carrying the rucksack and ran or walked the 5-mile course.

The sergeant major said the activity brought back many fond memories for some Soldiers and those ACC/ECC

employees who've previously served in the military.

For the Soldiers, Murray added, these road march memories may soon become a part of their future as the Army raises its endurance standards to meet current and future contingency requirements.

Next month, he said, the command will conduct an urban orienteering course.



Near exhaustion yet determined to complete the march, Staff Sgt. Zabad J. Ruiz, ACC Command Group, presses on.



Photos by David San Miguel

Sixty ACC/ECC military and civilian employees participate in a "back to basics" 5-mile road march as part of the command's initiative to strengthen morale and camaraderie. For more photos of the march, click on the photo.

# A child's curiosity leads to historic find

By Larry D. McCaskill

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

As a child, Deborah J. Hunter's curiosity would lead her down a path resulting in a brush with a significant historical figure.

A military family member, Hunter lived most of her youth in Germany in the culturally and ethnically diverse world of the U.S. military.

"My father was in the Army and all I knew was that I was always around different people and we all got along," said Hunter, special assistant to the executive director, Army Contracting Command. "I have to say, looking back I was pretty naive about a lot of things."

Having never experienced racism, Hunter couldn't make any sense of it.

"My father was reassigned to Korea so my mother and I went to live in Farmville, Va., where I was born. I couldn't believe how things were."

Farmville was the home of R. R. Moten High School, one of the five plaintiffs that challenged segregation in public schools and would become part of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*. This decision declared segregation in public education unconstitutional.

Living in a world filled with segregation and injustice, Hunter asked her mother for answers. Her mother told her to write a letter to someone who might be able to answer her questions better than she could. The response she got lit a fire from within.

"I have received and greatly appreciate your very kind letter. I am gratified in your interest in our work," the reply read. "It is an inspiration to me and all who are committed in the struggle for human rights and dignity." The letter was signed by Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Back then, I didn't understand the relevance of it, but it did make me feel better about some things," she said. Not much later, Hunter attended a civil rights march with her mother that included Stokley Carmichael and other civil rights leaders.

In 2002, Hunter lost her mother. Going through her mother's important papers she made a startling discovery. Her mother had saved the letter.

"I was pretty shocked. It had been decades since I had seen it," she said. "Not only had she saved the letter, she saved the envelope with some notes she had scribbled down.

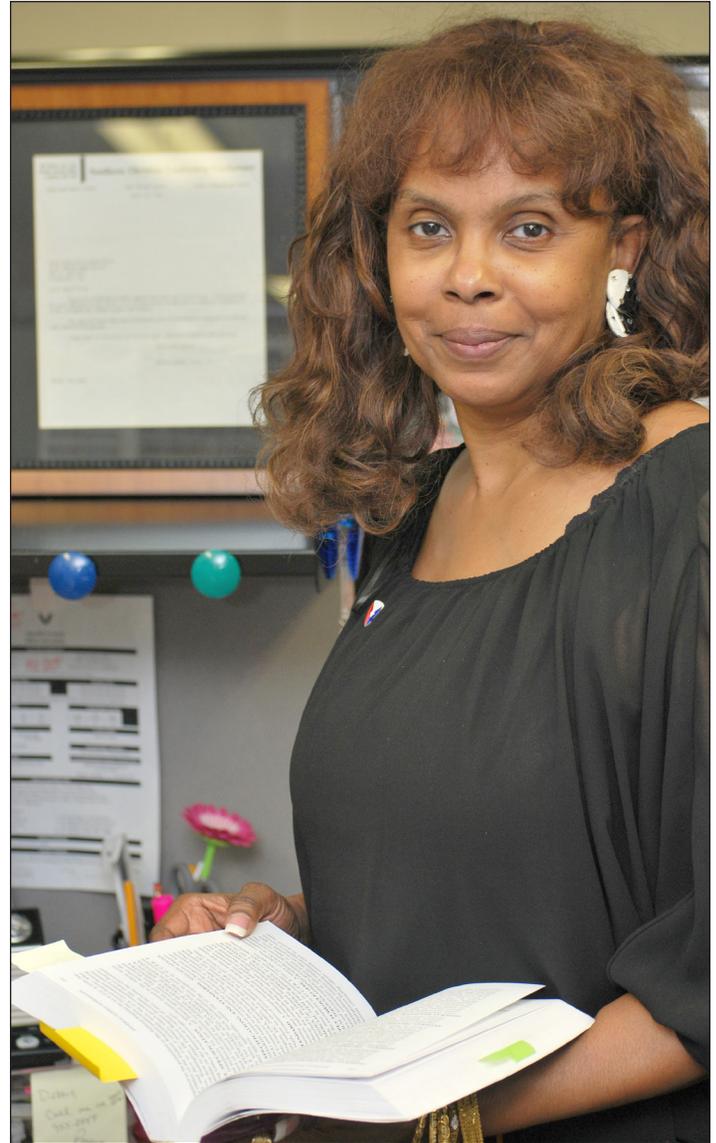


Photo by Larry D. McCaskill

**Deborah Hunter, ACC special assistant to the executive director, proudly displays her signed letter from Martin Luther King, Jr. She rediscovered the letter while going through her mother's papers following her death in 2002.**

Decades later, Hunter's involvement with civic organizations continues and she sees no reason to stop.

"As a nation we've come a long way. Many people my age never thought they'd see a black president. My mother would be so proud and happy if she could have seen that," Hunter said. "We still have some room to grow and I am certain we will."

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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.

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## Spotlight on...

### Kane E. Leedy



**Kane E. Leedy**

*Army Contracting Command -  
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.*

A family man, Kane E. Leedy enjoys spending as much time as possible with his wife, Shannon, his 10-month-old son, Charlie, as well as with other members of his family.

Born in Missouri, Leedy grew up in Woodbridge, Va., graduated from high school in Conway, S.C., and earned a bachelor's degree in financial management from Clemson University and a master's degree in management from Florida Institute of Technology. This was followed by a stint as a contracting intern with the Naval Air Systems Command in Patuxent River, Md.

In 2006, Leedy transferred to Belcamp, Md., to begin work with the Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., as a team leader/contracting officer supporting the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization.

It was a move that not only brought him closer to his family geographically, but one he says has provided him with a lot of experiences he would not have obtained if he had stayed with the Navy.

Knowing that IEDs are the terrorist's weapons of choice because, according to Leedy, "they require limited skills to build and they produce dramatic results with little time and money invested", the contracting officer feels especially privileged to work with the JIEDDO. The JIEDDO's goal is to drive down the effectiveness and frequency of IED attacks which helps protect the Soldier in theater.

In addition to spending his off hours with family, the contracting officer enjoys working out by lifting weights and doing various forms of cardio exercise when, of course, he's not rooting for his alma mater, "Go Clemson!"

## Army encourages citizen participation - VOTE!

**By Jacqueline M. Hames**  
*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON -- Among the many freedoms Soldiers fight to defend, the right to vote is one of the most fundamental and officials at the Human Resources Command want to help the entire Army family exercise that privilege.

The HRC, in partnership with the Federal Voting Assistance Program is working to make the voting process easy and accessible to Soldiers, their families and Department of the Army civilians.

Lt. Col. Stewart Stephenson, chief of the Soldier Programs Branch with the HRC, emphasized the importance of registering, updating information and voting.

"Our mission, our charge, is informing Soldiers on their right to vote," Stephenson said. "Our goal is to (get) everybody that wants to vote, whether it's a family member, a DA civilian, a Soldier,

(to get them to) understand they can vote, they know how to vote, they are afforded the opportunity to do that, and that they know where to go to get assistance."

There are more than 5,500 voting assistance officers, from company to installation level to help with the voting process, Stephenson said. "Every Army installation has a voting assistance officer."

Voting assistance officers are there to help individuals register and cast their vote," he said. Voting assistance officers provide things like voter registration forms and informing individuals how best to return the ballots. Army Contracting Command's voting assistance officers are Jamal Cummins and Sgt. Kwadwo Kyeremateng.

Individuals can also visit the FVAP website at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) to register and get information on submitting ballots for each state.

Individuals who are deployed or who have recently moved should update their

information so that officials can send them an absentee ballot.

"If you hit 45 days before the general election and you haven't gotten anything from your local election official, don't wait for them," Stephenson advised. "There's a federal absentee write-in ballot. Fill that out, send it in. They may pass in the mail, but you still got your vote in."

These absentee ballots can also be found on the FVAP website.

During the election season, individuals are also reminded to observe Department of Defense ethical guidelines and policy restricting political activity.

Generally speaking, don't do anything that might give the impression that you are speaking for the Army, or that the Army specifically endorses a political party, Stephenson said.

For more information on voting assistance policies, contact Cummins at (256) 955-7745 or Kyeremateng at (256) 955-7747, or visit [www.hrc.army.mil](http://www.hrc.army.mil).

## Tillman scholarship deadline draws near

Individuals wishing to apply for the Pat Tillman Military scholarship to help fund their college degrees have until midnight Pacific Standard Time on March 16.

Cpl. Tillman was an NFL football player with the Arizona Cardinals when he joined the military in 2002 to serve with the U.S. Army's 75th Ranger Regiment in Afghanistan. Two years later, he was killed and his family established the scholarship in his honor.

The scholarship is open to all veterans; active duty, National Guard and Reserve members and their spouses.

All applicants must complete the

Free Application for Federal Student Aid packet in order to be considered for funding.

Tillman Military Scholars are expected to maintain full-time enrollment in a U.S. accredited institution unless they are assuming part-time status during the semester they will graduate.

Scholarship funding can only be used toward a single post-secondary degree.

For more information, visit <http://www.pattillmanfoundation.org/tillman-military-scholars/apply/frequently-asked-questions/page> or e-mail [scholarships@pattillmanfoundation.org](mailto:scholarships@pattillmanfoundation.org).

## ACC SharePoint site offers training

At the Army Contracting Command, SharePoint has become an essential tool. Users not familiar with the web-based collaboration site can now find training and tutorials online at: <https://acc.aep.army.mil/TrainingCenter/default.ASPX>.

The site offers computer-based training and tutorial videos on a variety of SharePoint topics including calendars, workflows and libraries.

## OPSEC warning

Be cautious about completing surveys. Many of the "surveys" ask for a considerable amount of personal information. You never know who, or how, the information will be used. Practice Good OPSEC!



## ACC in the News

*This article includes mention of the Army Contracting Command.*

### AMC: Paving the Way with a 21st-Century Construct and a 'Factory to Foxhole' Logistics Connection

By Dennis Steele  
Senior Staff Writer, Army Magazine

**Q:** AMC has played a large role in the drawdown of Operation New Dawn in Iraq and is playing a large role in sustaining Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. From your perspective, provide an update.

**GEN Dunwoody:** *As I watched GEN Austin and Deputy Secretary of Defense Carter furl the colors when we closed our operations in Iraq, I was surprised when my eyes filled with tears during the ceremony. I reflected back with pride on the contributions and sacrifice our service members, our civilian corps and our families made over the past 10 years, both to support the war, and to complete the responsible drawdown plan. This last decade has been tough. It's touched almost every sustainer and every logistics organization in the Army, but we have much to be proud of. Hands down, our greatest accomplishment was and is our ability to support our joint warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan, regardless of the many other demands placed on AMC.*

[http://www.ousa.org/publications/armymagazine/archive/2012/03/Documents/Dunwoody\\_0312.pdf](http://www.ousa.org/publications/armymagazine/archive/2012/03/Documents/Dunwoody_0312.pdf)

### PEO Soldier takes the lead on soldier situational awareness

By Barry Rosenberg  
*Defense Systems*

Feb 21, 2012, BG (P) Camille Nichols was appointed to lead the Army's Program Executive Office Soldier (PEO Soldier) in March 2011.

However, she will be moving on shortly as she was selected in early February for her next assignment as commanding general of Army Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., a position she will assume in May.

<http://defensesystems.com/articles/2012/02/08/interview-bg-camille-nichols.aspx?admarea=DS>

