



# NEWSBLAST

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U.S. Army Contracting Command

*“Providing global contracting support to warfighters.”*

## Women’s group recognizes ECC Soldier for meritorious service

By **Larry D. McCaskill**

*ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs*

Lt. Col. Martha K. Brooks is this year’s recipient of the North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women’s Military Meritorious Service Award.

According to Mary Peoples, FEW North Alabama chapter president, Brooks was selected in recognition of her exemplary career of selfless service as characterized by her commitment to duty and inspirational leadership of Soldiers. FEW is a private membership organization working as an advocacy group to improve the status of women employed by the federal government.

“She has promoted a positive understanding of the armed forces between women and members of the military and civilian population,” Peoples said. “She has served as a role model in the community and the armed forces by reaching out to others, mentoring younger officers and working to improve interaction with other staff agencies, supported units and sister services.”

Brooks, the public affairs officer for the Expeditionary Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., said she was “really touched at being recognized for something I think all our Soldiers do daily and that is to take care of each other.”

A native of Huntsville, Brooks has been in the Army for 22 years. “I am only doing what I have been taught to do by my family and by my many military mentors. To have an organization like FEW single me out is a tremendous honor and a blessing.”

Peoples said when you look at Brooks’ career, “she has used her professional skills to promote diversity and equal opportunities



*Photo by Larry D. McCaskill*

**Lt. Col. Martha K. Brooks, ECC public affairs officer, is presented the Military Meritorious Service Award by Mary Peoples, president, North Alabama Chapter of Federally Employed Women.**

for military and civilian populations in her assignments. We are proud to recognize her for supporting overseas contingency operations, where she has best displayed the ideals of duty, honor and country and has epitomized the core values and the citizen-warrior attributes of her command.”

Brooks received the award today at a luncheon at Redstone Arsenal.

## Expeditionary Contracting Command revamps website

By **Beth E. Clemons**

*ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs*

Visitors to the U.S. Army Expeditionary Contracting Command’s website are in for a big surprise.

The public site, [www.acc.army.mil/ECC](http://www.acc.army.mil/ECC), has undergone a complete renovation and now includes the latest news, command information and everything Soldiers need to know about the military occupation specialty 51C, acquisition, logistics and technology contracting noncommissioned officer.

“Now all the 51C MOS information is available,” said Lt. Col. Martha Brooks, ECC public affairs officer. “We’ve made this site very user friendly for people to find any information they want to know about the 51 Charlie career field.”

A Web page titled “51C MOS” features an acquisition corps recruiting video, general MOS information and a step-by-step guide for Soldiers interested in reclassifying.

Brooks explained that the 51C MOS is in need of Soldiers and part of the goal of the new site was to provide a one-stop-shop to help them transfer.

See **WEBSITE**, page 2.

# Spotlight on...

## Maj. Donald Leath

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

Dual identities work well for super heroes. By day they tend to be the opposite of their heroic spandex-wearing selves.

For Maj. Donald Leath, the main difference between his dual identities is the clothes he wears.

“Other than the fact that I wear a suit and tie vice the Army Combat Uniform and deal with enlisted Soldiers and officers instead of interns, GS-11, 12 and 13s, the job is really not that different,” said Leath, a reservist with the 915th Contingency Contracting Support Battalion, Baltimore, Md., and a branch chief with the Army Contracting Command-National Capital Region, Alexandria, Va. “While I do interact with my civilian counterparts more, the requirements and the procedures we use to award contracts are the same.

“I was fortunate enough my freshman year to earn a three-year Army ROTC scholarship and graduate from Hampton (Va.) University with a bachelor’s degree in business management,” said Leath. “I never figured on making the Army a career.”

A husband and father of two daughters, Leath initially expected to complete his Army obligation and then move on to the corporate world, but Desert Shield/Desert Storm changed all of that. “After that experience, I figured I’d stick around a little longer,” he said.

Currently deployed in Kuwait, Leath helps ensure the 408th Contracting Support Brigade is compliant with current regulations and policies.

*“All and all, it has been a great learning experience and something else I can stick in my toolkit.”*

“I also wear several different hats – from being a coalition acquisition review board advisor to an alternate special competition advocate to being a government purchase card billing official. This ensures I never have a dull moment,” said the 22-year veteran.

“Having been on the operational side for so long I now get to see things from a strategic perspective as I deal quite frequently with the Expeditionary Contracting Command, Army Contracting Command and the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement),” he said. “All and all, it has been a great learning experience and something else I can stick in my toolkit.”



**Maj. Donald Leath**  
Branch Chief  
Army Contracting Command  
National Capital Region  
Alexandria, Va.

## WEBSITE

continued from page 1

The revamped website also has information on civilian career opportunities, senior leader biographies, a news archive and a map of all ECC subordinate locations.

“We hope the new site offers the public a glimpse into the mission of ECC and our subordinate organizations,” Brooks said.

Although the site redesign is live, Brooks says it’s still a work in progress. ECC hopes to expand the site later this year by providing more detailed information on each subordinate organization’s mission and points of contact.

Visit [www.acc.army.mil/ECC](http://www.acc.army.mil/ECC) to see the new site.

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the Army and this command.

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# Program offers acquisition career roadmap

By Daniel P. Elkins  
MICC Public Affairs Office

**F**ORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas -- Officials here have developed an Acquisition Workforce Civilian Leadership Development Program offering contracting professionals a structured, detailed roadmap for career management.

Initially created for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command workforce, officials from the Army Contracting Command exploring a similar program promptly recognized the value of the development program as not only vital to the success of the MICC but the broader Army acquisition community.

"The Army is committed to replenishing and growing our professional acquisition workforce through the enhancement of career development programs and training opportunities," said Brig. Gen. Stephen Leisenring, the MICC commanding general. "Professional development serves as a powerful tool in defending this nation and provides the processes to acquire needed capabilities."

The overarching objective of this program is to build a cadre of acquisition workforce members through various tools and developmental opportunities for future leadership roles, said Wiley Cox, a procurement analyst with the MICC Acquisition Workforce Development and Training Branch. Fashioned after the Army Workforce Development Roadmap for the Contracting and Acquisition Career Programs, he said an assessment of the organization revealed a gap in aligning the workforce with professional development.

"We realized there was a disconnect between individual aspirations and decision makers who can match individuals to opportunities," added Cox, who drew on his previous Air Force experience as one of the architects of the MICC program. "The acquisition workforce development and training team designed a program within the MICC that will develop our future leaders."

The program entails a four-phased approach and

begins with establishing career development roadmaps.

"Contracting career field members who elect to participate will now have the unprecedented ability to directly communicate their career aspirations to senior leaders who will then provide a strategic perspective on individual career paths," Cox said. "This new avenue of communication will serve to identify future leaders and also arm individuals with recommendations that allow them to maximize their growth potential."

Members who complete a roadmap should highlight functional competencies and significant business, professional and leadership skills. Senior leaders will review the roadmaps taking into consideration technical competencies, business acumen, leadership skills, and training and education accomplishments encouraged at the tactical, operational and strategic levels.

The second phase entails completion of a contracting career development plan that consists of an employee's present and past experience as well as short- and long-range goals, according to Lorraine Massie, the MICC Contract Operations Division chief. This step also includes an assessment and recommendation by an individual's supervisor.

Following completion of the roadmap and submission of a development plan, the third phase entails a review by the Acquisition Workforce Civilian Leadership Development Board. The board will consist of a panel of senior leaders who will analyze experiential and educational accomplishments as well as immediate supervisor input using specific criteria and a structured feedback approach to ensure consistency. Cox said the board will provide at least one follow-on assignment recommendation along with training and educational recommendations in a structured feedback taking into account individual accomplishments, career goals and attributes that may lead to continued professional growth and career progression.

The final phase of the Acquisition Workforce Civilian Leadership Development Program is a match of development opportunities based on recommendations by the board, also serving as tool for succession planning, Massie stated. Managing the development program for MICC members is the MICC Contract Support Plans and Operations Directorate's acquisition workforce development and training team.

The program was originally scheduled to launch in March; however, adoption by ACC for implementation across the higher headquarters level will lead to a program roll-out later this spring.

Following the launch of the program, officials from the MICC and ACC will continue to work closely to ensure individuals in the non-acquisition workforce are also folded into the career and leadership development process in the near future.

# SECURITY RISKS

## *Individuals warned of cellphone geotagging features*

By Cheryl Rodewig  
Fort Benning Public Affairs

**FORT BENNING, Ga.** – “Is a badge on Foursquare worth your life?”

The question was posed by Brittany Brown, social media manager of the Online and Social Media Division at the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs. It may sound outlandish, but in the age of social geotagging, it can be a reality.

There are a number of location-based social media applications and platforms, including Foursquare, Gowalla, SCVNGR, Shopkick, Loopt and Whrrl, currently on the market. They use GPS features, typically in the user’s phone, to publish the person’s location and offer rewards in the form of discounts, badges or points to encourage frequent check-ins.

### **Security risks for the military:**

A deployed service member’s situational awareness includes the world of social media. If a Soldier uploads a photo taken on his or her smartphone to Facebook, they could broadcast the exact location of their unit, said Steve Warren, deputy G2 for the Maneuver Center of Excellence, or MCoE.

“Today, in pretty much every single smartphone, there is built-in GPS,” Warren said. “For every picture you take with that phone, it will automatically embed the latitude and longitude within the photograph.”

Someone with the right software and the wrong motivation could download the photo and extract the coordinates from the metadata.

Warren cited a real-world example from 2007. When a new fleet of helicopters arrived with an aviation unit at a base in Iraq, some Soldiers took pictures on the flight line, he said. From the photos that were uploaded to the Internet, the enemy was able to determine the exact location of the helicopters inside the compound and conduct a mortar attack, destroying four of the AH-64 Apaches.

Staff Sgt. Dale Sweetnam, of the Online and Social Media Division, said geotagging is of particular concern for deployed Soldiers and those in transit to a mission.

“Ideally, Soldiers should always be aware of the dangers associated with geotagging regardless of where they are,” he explained.

### **General hazards for family members:**

While especially relevant for those in the military, cautions about geotagging extend to anyone who uses that feature.

Facebook is in the process of rolling out Timeline, a new layout that includes a map tab of all the locations a user has tagged.

“Timeline presents some unique security challenges for users

who tag location to posts,” Sweetnam said.

“Some of those individuals have hundreds of ‘friends’ they may never have actually met in person, he explained. “By looking at someone’s map tab on Facebook, you can see everywhere they’ve tagged a location. You can see the restaurants they frequent, the gym they go to every day, even the street they live on if they’re tagging photos of their home. Honestly, it’s pretty scary how much an acquaintance that becomes a Facebook ‘friend’ can find out about your routines and habits if you’re always tagging location to your posts.”

Most of the applications let people limit who can see their check-ins to friends or friends of friends.

“A good rule of thumb when using location-based social networking applications is do not become friends with someone if you haven’t met them in person,” Sweetnam said. “Make sure you’re careful about who you let into your social media circle.”

Even if there is nothing classified about an individual’s location, a series of locations posted online over the course of a month can create a pattern that criminals can use.

“We live in a different world now,” Warren said.

“If someone were going to get a hold of your phone, they could figure out a lot about who you are. It’s like a beacon that’s always out there communicating with towers and plotting your moves on a computer somewhere. Literally, if you don’t turn off that feature on your phone people are going to be able to recreate your whole day.”

### **Ways to stay safe:**

“In operations security, we talk about the adversary,” said Kent Grosshans, MCoE OPSEC officer. “The adversary could be a hacker, could be terrorists, could be criminals; someone who has an intent to cause harm. The adversary picks up on pieces of information to put the whole puzzle together.”

Grosshans suggests disabling the geotagging feature on your phone and checking your security settings to see who you’re sharing check-ins with.

“If your husband’s deployed and you go ahead and start posting all these pictures that are geotagged, now not only does an individual know your husband’s deployed and he’s not at home, but they know where your house is,” he said.

Ultimately, it’s about weighing the risks.

“Do you really want everyone to know the exact location of your home or your children’s school?” Sweetnam said. “Before adding a location to a photo, Soldiers really need to step back and ask themselves, ‘Who really needs to know this location information?’”

“Be conscious of what information you’re putting out there,” he said. “Don’t share information with strangers. Once it’s out there, it’s out there. There’s no pulling it back.”



# ACC in the News

*These articles include mention of the Army Contracting Command.*

## ACC employee wins Outstanding Personnel of the Year award

APG Live  
(Published March 15, 2012)

A member of the Army Contracting Command  
– Aberdeen Proving Ground won the Army Materiel

<http://apg.armylive.dodlive.mil/2012/03/15/acc-employee-wins-outstanding-personnel-of-the-year-award/>

Command's 2010 Louis Dellamonica Award for Outstanding Personnel of the Year. Timothy P. Baker, Branch Chief with ACC-APG's Huachuca Division, Fort Huachuca, Ariz. was among the recipients announced by AMC earlier this month.

## Landry volunteers his services to Tennessee in 2013

*Basketball player commits to UT*

By Ed Worley  
Army Contracting Command Public Affairs  
(Published March 14, 2012)

<http://www.theredstonerocket.com/content/landry-volunteers-his-services-tennessee-2013>

MADISON – Travon Landry doesn't consider himself to be a bluegrass music fan. He's into rap and hip-hop. But he's got a lot of the bluegrass standard, "Rocky Top," in his future.

He officially committed to play basketball for the University of Tennessee and will get plenty of chances to hear the song played by the Volunteers band at sporting events.

## NASA Mars rover @MarsCuriosity tweets the darndest things

By Paul Gattis  
The Huntsville Times  
(Published March 14, 2012)

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. -- Live, from outer space, it's a machine.

"They don't give interplanetary speeding tickets, do they?" tweeted @MarsCuriosity as the unmanned spacecraft

[http://blog.al.com/breaking/2012/03/nasa\\_mars\\_rover\\_curiosityrover.html](http://blog.al.com/breaking/2012/03/nasa_mars_rover_curiosityrover.html)

zoomed toward Mars. "I'm going 73,800 mph (118,700 kph) relative to the sun."

Welcome to the Twitter, NASA style.

In this social media society of Facebook, YouTube and the new Pinterest, Twitter has found an omnipresent niche beyond the stereotypical guilty pleasures of sharing your view of the world 140 characters at a time or simply following your favorite gossip.

## Iraq veteran joins growing army of Chevrolet Volt owners

By Gerald Ferreira  
Paddocktalk.com  
(Published March 18, 2012)

Bob Tanner isn't the kind of guy who'd revel in someone else's pain. But as fuel prices soar across the country, Tanner admits it feels good to pocket an extra \$200 a month while his friends helplessly watch their fuel bills soar.

<http://3d-car-shows.com/2012/iraq-veteran-joins-growing-army-of-chevrolet-volt-owners/>

Tanner, who served twice in Iraq as a Marine, has recently joined a growing army of money-saving Chevrolet Volt owners who are turning friends and acquaintances into believers. Since trading in his old car for a Volt in December, Tanner has cut his monthly commuting costs by two-thirds: from \$300 to under \$100 by charging nightly. The savings will come in handy given that he and his wife, Melissa, are expecting their second son in May.

