



# NEWSBLAST

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U.S. Army Contracting Command

*“Providing global contracting support to war fighters.”*

## Renovated Long Barracks new home to MICC

By Daniel P. Elkins

*Mission and Installation Contracting Command*

**FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas** – Mission and Installation Contracting Command officials here marked their move to the historic Long Barracks with a ribbon-cutting ceremony today attracting more than 250 distinguished military visitors, local civic leaders and guests.

“Today’s ceremony marks a new chapter in the life of this historic structure and a new chapter in the Mission and Installation Contracting Command,” said Brig. Gen. Stephen Leisenring, MICC commanding general. “This building has been an integral part of much of our Army’s history. It’s an old soldier indeed and one that will now continue to serve the Army and Joint Base San Antonio for many years to come.”

Renovations to the Long Barracks costing approximately \$25 million got under way in September 2009 and now affords members of the MICC more than 72,000 square feet of modern office space and storage. That includes more than 220 cubicles, 53 offices, five conference rooms, eight large and small break rooms, and two source selection evaluation board meeting rooms.

After sitting vacant for a number of years, the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission decision to move approximately 14,000 additional people to Fort Sam Houston breathed new life into the renovation efforts of the historic barracks. The concerted efforts of the Society for the Preservation of Historic Fort Sam Houston and other preservation organizations helped ensure architectural features were preserved to achieve the appearance of the barracks.

Initial construction of the barracks dates to 1885 and was completed in 1887 with the addition of its distinctive sally port and four additional barracks forming a 1,084-foot long line of nine contiguous, two-story barracks. The building, which came to be known as the Long Barracks, served as home to a variety of units and missions throughout its history.

Attending the ceremony and recognized by Leisenring was retired Master Sgt. Givens Forsythe, who was assigned as a cook to Headquarters Company, 23rd Infantry and lived on the first floor of Bldg. 613 in 1939.

“I’ve been in and out of this building a few times, and it’s a beautiful building,” Forsythe said. “The ceremony was really



*(Photo by Ed Dixon)*

**Brig. Gen. Stephen Leisenring presents retired Army Master Sgt. Givens Forsythe with a brick symbolizing the men and women who served at Long Barracks as ACC Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray looks on. The brick was collected from the barracks during the \$25 million renovation project. Forsythe served at Long Barracks in 1939.**

something; I won’t forget it.”

The 91-year-old Lytle, Texas, resident said his duties as a cook in an era before refrigeration included hauling 300-pound blocks of ice to coolers to keep food cooled. Earning \$21 a month as a private, he and his fellow cooks fed Soldiers three meals a day for as little as 37 cents a day.

Forsythe transferred to the Army-Air Corps in October 1940 as an aircraft mechanic, supporting the Berlin Airlift. He retired as an Air Force master sergeant in July 1960.

The Long Barracks now serves as home for the MICC headquarters, Mission Contracting Center-Fort Sam Houston and Mission Contracting Office-Fort Sam Houston, whose members moved in last week.

# Spotlight on...

## Master Sgt. Julie A. Saorrone

A native of Aibonito, Puerto Rico, Master Sgt. Julie A. Saorrone was recently recognized for her contributions in support of the Army Contracting Command's premiere pre-deployment exercise, Joint Dawn 2012, held at Fort Bliss, Texas, Jan. 19 until Feb. 3.

According to Sgt. Maj. Dennis Richardson, senior enlisted noncommissioned officer, 904th Contingency Contracting Battalion, 412th Contracting Support Brigade, Saorrone reclassified into the contracting career from a previous assignment with the brigade S-1 as a Human Resources NCO.

Though she already led a successful Army career in HR, Saorrone said it was a much needed change she felt drawn to after seeing an advertisement for 51-Charlies (acquisition, logistics and technology contracting NCOs). She adds that this change affords her multiple

avenues to lead and train Soldiers as well as demonstrate her commitment to supporting the war fighter, military contingency operations abroad and disaster recovery efforts at home.

Valued as one of the top achievers in the command, the master sergeant serves as the 904th plans and operations NCOIC at Fort Knox, Ky., and was recently selected as the panel NCOIC for the fiscal year 2008 Command Sgt. Maj./Sgt. Maj. Selection Board.

A dedicated wife and mother of two, Saorrone found it difficult to leave her family behind but felt it necessary to deploy to Afghanistan for a year to gain the experience as a contracting NCO. This experience proved valuable in the planning and execution of various exercises for the unit and the command.

She has done this while pursuing her bachelor's degree in general science.



**Master Sgt. Julie A. Saorrone**  
Operations Noncommissioned Officer  
904th Contingency Contracting Support  
Battalion, Fort Knox, Ky.

## Stop Loss Special Pay deadline extended

The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay has been extended to Oct. 21, 2012, providing those eligible more time to apply for the pay under the program guidelines.

"Even with extensive outreach efforts, and tremendous support from the president, Congress, the Department of Veterans Affairs, veteran and military service organizations, and friends and family around the world, some qualified individuals have not yet applied," said Juliet Beyler, acting director of Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management.

"We highly encourage anyone who may be eligible to apply for this pay; you have earned it."

RSLSP was established to compensate for the hardships military members encountered when their service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss authority between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible members or their beneficiaries may submit a claim to their respective military service in order to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status.

When RSLSP began on Oct. 21, 2009, the services estimated 145,000 service

members, veterans and beneficiaries were eligible for this benefit. Because the majority of those eligible had separated from the military, the services have engaged in extensive and persistent outreach efforts, to include multiple direct mailings, public service announcements, and continuous engagements with military and veteran service organizations, social networks and media outlets.

To apply for the pay, or for more information on RSLSP, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>.

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the Army and this command.

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# Impact felt after six months at the headquarters

By Larry D. McCaskill

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

After almost six months as the Army Contracting Command's Deputy to the Executive Director, Harry Hallock sees things from a brand new perspective.

"I definitely have more insight into the pressures that come down on folks at the headquarters from personnel at levels higher than the headquarters," said Hallock, who is returning to ACC-Warren, Mich., as the executive director, he'll be an even bigger asset and a champion for the headquarters.

"I have a much better idea of how this enterprise runs and as a result, it will make me a better director once I get back to Warren," he said.

"Harry has done a superb job as our deputy and I have appreciated his wise counsel, advice and support," said Carol Lowman, ACC executive director. "Bringing a field perspective to our headquarters, he helped sharpen our focus and made us all better. Harry really cares about people and we'll miss him."

One area where he knows he can make a big difference is response times to requests received from the headquarters staff.

"There were requests where we would push back and frankly it was because of ignorance on our part," said the Michigan native. "I now have some insights that I think will allow us to be more discerning about the things we push back on. There's no reason to waste time and energy, in the field and in the headquarters, on things that simply are what they are and we just have to deal with them. That would make ACC-Warren and ACC headquarters more efficient."

"I've been in this business for 32 years in a pretty big command. I've had interactions at the different levels – headquarters Army Materiel Command, Department of the Army and the Office of the Secretary for Defense levels – so you sort of get comfortable thinking; yeah I know how this enterprise works. I realized I was kidding myself. The truth is you don't know until you are up there doing the job at that level and that's what I've gained here. I've gained the perspective of things at the headquarters level and as a result I better understand the pressures that come down from Congress, from the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and the rest. Those pressures are different from those at the major subordinate command level and I never realized how much was filtered before it got down to my level."

"I have a better understanding now as to why taskers come down the way they do. Now I have a clearer picture of why and how things are requested from this level. We may not understand why, but that's ok. There's a reason why it was asked for and I understand better now that many times that's more than enough," he said.

According to Hallock, having been through the experience, it would be great to rotate each of the directors in the field through the headquarters at some time in some form or fashion.

"I realize it would be difficult and almost on the order of impossible, but when the opportunity presents itself, there is no



Photo by Larry D. McCaskill

**Harry Hallock has a chat with Deborah Van Heest, ACC executive assistant, prior to leaving the headquarters as its deputy to the executive director for the past six months.**

doubt in my mind that we would all learn more and benefit from the experience," he said.

One of the most important things for Hallock was getting to know and working with the ACC staff.

"I feel I am a consensus builder and I would like to feel I did a little bit to bring the headquarters staff and those in the field together on issues that affect the entire command," he said. "Working with the staff members here was incredible. I'm really impressed with the caliber of talent here and the hard work and effort to run this enterprise and feel fortunate to have been a part of it firsthand. There's no doubt that there are some fantastic people working here at the headquarters and I saw that every day I was here."

# Army launches apps Marketplace prototype

By Army Chief Information Officer/G-6

WASHINGTON – The newly launched Army Software Marketplace prototype now delivers 12 mobile training applications for Soldiers to use on personal phones or tablets.

The publicly-facing apps were developed by Army training schools in the Connecting Soldiers to Digital Apps initiative. The apps, now approved for Army-wide use, are available online via [www.marketplace.army.mil](http://www.marketplace.army.mil).

When fully implemented, the Marketplace will deliver web-based and downloadable applications to all devices approved for use within the Army's Common Operating Environment on the Army network.

“The apps Marketplace is at the center of Army efforts to radically reduce the time to deliver applications across the force,” said Lt. Gen. Susan Lawrence, the chief information officer/G-6. “This prototype is a first step in establishing and exercising new submission and approval processes that will eventually enable Army members, organizations and third-party developers to release applications for Army-wide distribution.”

The Marketplace prototype brings together key Army stakeholders to focus on implementing industry-proven agile software-development practices – such as increasing collaboration early on between end-users and developers, and delivering software to users in short release cycles.

Currently, the Marketplace prototype supports publicly-facing



Graphic illustration by Chris Duerk

**Sgts. 1st Class Russell Houck, left, and Nanette Williams of the Pentagon's Executive Communications Team try out Army-approved apps on personal phones and tablets while Master Sgt. Douglas Wilderman looks on.**

apps on personal iOS devices. Soon, it will also support publicly-facing apps on android devices. Among the apps available now are: The Soldiers Blue Book, Army Values, Army Social Media Handbook and Developing a Performance Work Statement.

“Training aids, planning tools and other apps in the Marketplace give Soldiers easy access to information we need to keep current,” said Sgt. 1st Class Nanette Williams, Army Executive Communications Team at the Pentagon.

## Security officials offer tips to prevent equipment theft or damage

By Michelle Tucker-Baker

ACC G-3 Security/Force Protection Division

and Jennine Gilbeau

ACC G-6 Enterprise Architecture/Information Assurance Division

Army Contracting Command security officials offer these tips to help prevent the theft or damage of government furnished equipment and portable electronic devices while transporting or traveling away from the office.

### Transporting

Ensure the device is authorized for transport or travel prior to removal from the office.

Store the device in a good-quality case or sleeve and keep the laptop case locked at all times.

Store the common access card separate from the device.

Physically protect all devices from theft and damage when they are not in use.

Keep laptops and personal devices in

the cab where the air is likely to be coolest and not in the trunk where the heat can seriously damage electronic components and can prove costly. Remove the device from the vehicle after parking.

Always safeguard sensitive data and personally identifiable information. Loss of either is reportable and could jeopardize the ACC workforce.

Lock down your laptop when at the offsite location or bring it with you whenever you leave your workspace.

### Traveling

Keep the device with you at all times.

Place the device on the conveyor belt at airport security only after the belongings of the person ahead of you have cleared the scanner. If you are delayed, keep your eye on the device until you can retrieve it.

Keep the device near you on the plane instead of in the overhead storage bin where it could get knocked around or inadvertently picked up by someone else as they rush to exit the plane.

Verify your equipment/device is still in the bag after deplaning.

At your destination, always ensure the device is properly secured.

Be prepared. Place all PII, either for official use only and/or any other sensitive information in your encrypting file system folder on your device to encrypt the data in accordance with appropriate Army regulations and federal law. Ensure these measures are maintained and, if the device goes missing, the data should be secure.

Make sure all security applications, anti-virus software and firewalls are up-to-date prior to removing the equipment from the office.

Remember, it is the user's responsibility to protect assigned government furnished devices. Should damage, loss or theft of a GFE or PED occur, immediately report the loss to Ken Purdin, ACC Physical Security Office, at (256) 955-8202 or Billy Cooper at (256) 955-8203 and contact the ACC/ECC privacy act official, Jennine Gilbeau, at (256) 955-9441.

# ACC-Kuwait hosts vendor conference

By Spc. Bradley Wancour  
13th Public Affairs Detachment

**KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait** – Army Contracting Command-Kuwait and the 408th Contracting Support Brigade hosted the 2012 Kuwait Vendor Conference at the Kuwait Hilton Resort here, March 11.

The purpose of the conference was to discuss the steps needed for civilian businesses to enter into a contract with the U.S. government, said Lt. Col. Robert Brinkmann, ACC-KU commander.

“We explained everything: how to register to do business with the government, where to look for solicitations, how we evaluate, award and administer contracts, and finally how they get paid,” said Brinkmann.

More than 200 companies preregistered for the event, and despite harsh weather conditions, more than 300 event participants from all over Southwest Asia attended, said Maj. Marty Crouse, ACC-KU operations officer.

“Attendees included Kuwait and

U.S. firms that provide office supplies, furniture, building materials, electronics, as well as construction and renovation services,” said Crouse. “Also in attendance were representatives from the American embassy, Office of Military Cooperation-Kuwait, American Business Council of Kuwait, and the local Kuwait chapter of the Association of the United States Army.”

The conference wasn’t intended to accept bids or grant contracts, but rather to grow the pool of potential contractors in order to save the U.S. government money in the long run, said Brinkmann.

“The more competition between vendors, the better prices we get based on a free-market system,” Brinkmann explained.

This conference also fostered goodwill with local contractors in the interest of enabling the U.S. government’s mission in Kuwait, stated Brinkmann.

“There was a lot of substantive interaction between the local contractors and the participating government agencies” said Crouse.

Participants were given the opportunity to interact throughout the conference and question U.S. government panel participants, which included representatives from Army Contracting Command-Rock Island, Army Corps of Engineers, Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, Defense Contract Management Agency, Defense Logistics Agency, Area Support Group-Kuwait, and contracting officers from ACC-KU.

The conference gave both ASG-KU and ACC-KU leadership the chance to explain the important role local vendors play in the relationship between the U.S. and Kuwait.

Overall, the 2012 Kuwait Vendor Conference was a success, Brinkmann and Crouse agreed.

“It was a good event, we should do it again next year,” said Brinkmann.

ACC-KU and the 408th Contracting Support Brigade is dedicated to supporting the mission in Kuwait by ensuring service and supply contracts are maintained by strengthening the U.S. – Kuwait partnership.



Photo by Spc. Bradley Wancour

**Local contractors circulate through several information booths at a vendor conference held at the Kuwait Hilton Resort, March 11. More than 200 companies and 300 participants from all over Southwest Asia attended the event.**

# HERO 2 HIRED

## Website aims to transform heroes to hired civilians

By C. Todd Lopez  
Army News Service

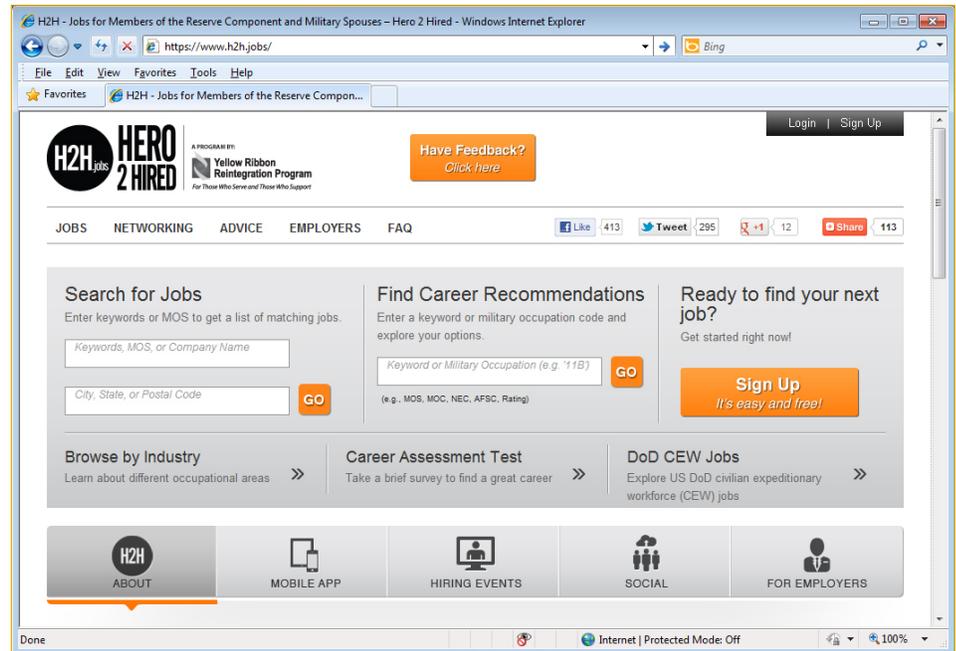
WASHINGTON -- A new website championed by the Army is aimed squarely at Soldiers ready to leave the service, to help them find jobs that best match their knowledge, skills, abilities and interests.

The website, [www.h2h.jobs](http://www.h2h.jobs), for Hero 2 Hired or H2H, is part of a larger, ongoing Army effort to make easier for Soldiers the transition from military life to civilian life.

The Hero 2 Hired site includes more than 3 million real-time job listings, said Col. Edward D. Mason, chief, Army transition policy initiative, who also said the “jobs are all relatively fresh and new.” The colonel said the site uses an algorithm to weed out “stale jobs.”

The site allows Soldiers to search in a particular zip code or city for jobs, using their military occupational specialty as criteria for the search. A search in Kansas City, Mo., for jobs that might be suitable for a soon-to-be-separating infantryman yields 42 available jobs, for instance.

The site also provides “career recommendations” to Soldiers, based on their military occupational specialty, or MOS. A search on the site for careers that might be suitable for an infantryman yields results like “police identification and



Courtesy graphic

The website [www.h2h.jobs](http://www.h2h.jobs) is aimed at Soldiers ready to leave the service, to help them find jobs that best match their knowledge, skills, abilities and interests.

records officers,” “aircraft cargo handling supervisors,” and “correctional officers and jailers.”

The site actually returns 25 career recommendations for that search, and includes average national pay for each as well as projected number of openings available in each field and growth potential.

The site also includes a “career path exploration” option that involves a 14-question test for Soldiers to answer to identify career choices they might not have thought about before. “A lot of people think if you were a truck driver in the Army, you need to be a truck driver outside,” Mason said. “Well, maybe you don’t want to drive trucks. And not everybody that has been in infantry needs to be a security guard.”

The test “qualifies your interests and identifies career fields you may be more interested in,” Mason said. Also on the site is the option to develop and post a resume so that the 50,000 employers who have vowed to hire veterans can find the most classified separating service members.

According to Army officials, more than 130,000 Soldiers separated last year. For Soldiers preparing to separate, the Army is looking for ways to smooth the transition,

said Mason. The H2H website is just one part of the Army’s plans to recreate the process to transition Soldiers out of the Army.

Mason said the Army’s re-engineering of the transition process makes it a “commander’s program.” That, he said, puts more responsibility on leadership to ensure Soldiers are involved in transition programs.

“The commanders are responsible for tracking their people,” Mason said. Previously, Soldiers slated to leave the Army might have “fallen through the cracks.” Now, Mason said, “we are trying to put discipline into the process. And move it from attendance, to making it an outcomes-based program.”

The transition process, Mason said, will begin a year before a Soldier’s end-of-service date and will ensure ample time to provide Soldiers with the greatest opportunity for success after their military service.

When Soldiers become successful as civilians, Mason said, that’s good also for the Army. “Soldiers will be great ambassadors for the Army, and that helps sustain the all-volunteer force.”



# ACC in the News

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

## Army's chief of chaplains addresses prayer luncheon

By Skip Vaughn  
The Redstone Rocket  
(Published March 21, 2012)

During these times of change for the nation and the Army, the Army's chief of chaplains has advice for everyone. "Put your trust and faith in God always," Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Donald Rutherford said. "For He will never turn his back on us."

Rutherford was the guest speaker for the Army Materiel Command Prayer Luncheon held Monday at The Summit. More than 300 people attended.

<http://www.theredstonerocket.com/content/army%E2%80%99s-chief-chaplains-addresses-prayer-luncheon>

## Army contracting command moving into new HQ at Fort Sam Houston

By James Aldridge  
Web editor – San Antonio Business Journal  
(Published March 26, 2012)

Fort Sam Houston will dedicate the Long Barracks on Tuesday, March 27, which will serve as the new headquarters for the U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command.

The U.S. Army completed construction on the original barracks in 1887. Since then, the barracks has served as home to a variety of units and missions throughout its history. The Long Barracks consists of nine contiguous, two-story barracks.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2012/03/26/army-contracting-command-moving-into.html>

## Army contracting key for nation, Q-C

(Letter to the Editor, Quad-City Times, from Michael R. Hutchison, executive director, ACC - Rock Island, Ill.)  
(Published March 26, 2012)

As the U.S. military presence in Iraq comes to a close and the drawdown of troops in Afghanistan begins, contracting work in these overseas environments remains an important focus of the U.S. military. This is important to the Quad-City area because one of the largest contracting centers that supports our men and women in uniform, as well as the civilian and contractor employees who support them, is located here on the Rock Island Arsenal.

The Army Contracting Command Rock Island is a contracting center comprised of approximately 500 professionals living in the Quad-City area. From the middle of the Mississippi River we are diligently supporting our soldier customers worldwide.

[http://qctimes.com/news/opinion/mailbag/army-contracting-key-for-nation-q-c/article\\_ab339a0a-76dc-11e1-a8fa-001871e3ce6c.html](http://qctimes.com/news/opinion/mailbag/army-contracting-key-for-nation-q-c/article_ab339a0a-76dc-11e1-a8fa-001871e3ce6c.html)

