



Vol. 3, No. 19
May 17, 2012

NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

ACC welcomes its first commanding general

By Giselle Bodin

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols became the first commanding general of the U. S. Army Contracting Command today during an assumption of command ceremony here.

Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, Army Materiel Command commanding general, welcomed Nichols during the ceremony with nearly 500 Soldiers, Army civilians and guests in attendance.

Dunwoody spoke highly of Nichols.

"Major General Nichols is a true Army superstar," Dunwoody said. "She is a dynamic innovator, strategic thinker, and hard-charging commander, and I am thrilled that she is taking the reins today."

Nichols comes to ACC from Fort Belvoir, Va., where she was the Army's Program Executive Officer, Soldier. She previously served as commanding general, U.S. Central Command Contracting Command in Iraq. In September 2008 at Fort Belvoir, she became the first commanding general of the Expeditionary Contracting Command, one of ACC's two subordinate commands. Nichols is a 1981 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and has more than 20 years experience in Department of Defense acquisition.

Nichols succeeded Dr. Carol Lowman, who relinquished her duties as executive director to become the deputy to the ACC commanding general.

"ACC has done some amazing things since we were established in 2008. I want to keep us on this path of success while strengthening our team, maturing our capabilities and expanding our foot print,"



(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, left, accepts the U.S. Army Contracting Command flag from Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general, Army Materiel Command, during an assumption of command ceremony held at Redstone Arsenal, today. Click on the image above to view more photos of the ceremony.

said Nichols. "I'm eager to learn more about what you do and how I can help."

ACC provides global contracting support to Soldiers through the full spectrum of military operations. ACC consists of more than 6,300 military

and civilian personnel at more than 115 locations worldwide. The command awarded more than 198,000 contracts in fiscal year 2011 valued at more than \$86.9 billion.

Expeditionary

Responsive

Innovative

409th CSB welcomes new commander

Brig. Gen. Theodore Harrison, commanding general, Expeditionary Contracting Command, (right) passes the colors of the 409th Contracting Support Brigade to its new commander, Col. William Bailey, during a change of command ceremony held at Panzer Parade Field, Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Click on the image at right to view more photos of the ceremony.



(Photo by Rachel Clark)

Anonymous Email Program

<https://acc.aep.army.mil/Pages/Anonymous.aspx>

The Commander's Anonymous Email Program is set up so employees can voice their concerns or ideas freely and confidentially.

Concern/Suggestion:

Canvass Job Announcements vs. Competitive Job Announcements

Response:

Thank you for your inquiry. Canvass job announcements are one of several recruitment sources which managers can use to place well-qualified candidates in vacant positions in a timely manner. This recruitment source is limited to current federal employees who already have competitive status and are located within the same

commuting area and area of consideration in which the position is advertised. Announcing a job via canvass does not imply that the position is slated to be abolished, only that the selecting official is willing to consider lateral candidates. Applicants placed through canvass announcements are limited to reassignment opportunities only; employees cannot be permanently promoted via canvass announcements. Canvassing can be a useful way to fill jobs quickly. It is also a great way to provide career broadening opportunities to the workforce. Please do not hesitate to contact the Army Contracting Command Human Capital G-1 staff if you have additional questions.



U.S. Army Contracting Command

Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols

Office of Public & Congressional Affairs
Director
Art Forster

Public Affairs Team Chief
Ed Worley

Editor
David San Miguel

The *NewsBlast* is a weekly newsletter 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 (The Army Public Affairs Program) 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 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.

Send submissions and correspondence to the Office of Public and Congressional Affairs, ATTN: Editor, *NewsBlast*, 3334A Wells Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000. Telephone: (256) 955-7634, DSN 645-7634 or email at acc.pao@us.army.mil.

Too busy to drive!

Commentary by Bob Van Elsberg

*Strategic Communication Directorate
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center,
Fort Rucker, Ala.*

I looked in the rearview mirror and couldn't believe my eyes. There, maybe a car length and a half behind me, was a woman doing her eyebrows. She appeared to be using a mirror attached to her sun visor. I couldn't believe it. We were doing 55 mph in afternoon rush hour traffic in Kansas City, Mo.

I marveled as I watched her in the mirror, angling her eyebrow pencil. She obviously had one eye focused on the mirror; I could only hope she was watching me with the other. Then it occurred to me that if I had to suddenly hit the brakes she could easily poke her eye with that pencil or, worse yet, never slow down and hit me from behind.

Obviously distracted driving isn't a man or woman thing – how many times have you watched anyone, regardless of gender, eat, shave, do their hair, read, play with a laptop or find other things to occupy their time behind the wheel? Is it that driving has become so boring, or maybe



Click on the image to view the ACC safety message.

some folks are just trying to be masters of multitasking?

Here are some distracted driving tips from Farm Bureau Insurance to keep you on the straight and narrow:

- Change your ways and recognize the activities that distract you, such as eating, talking on the phone or changing a CD. Once you recognize these distractions, you can work to eliminate them.
- Make a plan. Know your route in advance and make sure you clearly understand your directions. Check the weather and road conditions. If you're

traveling with children, ensure they are properly buckled up and you have items to keep them occupied, such as books on tape or soft toys.

- Manage your time so you don't have to multitask or drive aggressively on the road.
- Don't let your drive time become your downtime. Driving isn't the time to catch up on phone calls, personal grooming or dining.
- Scan the roadway to ensure you're aware of others at all times. Be prepared for other drivers to be unpredictable.
- Concentrate on your driving. Make sure you're not upset or tired when getting on the road. This is not the time to have a serious or emotional conversation with your passengers.
- Pull over in a safe place if you need to do something that will take your eyes and/or mind off the road.
- Reduce the use — use technology sensibly.
- Take a refresher class. Everyone can pick up bad habits through the years. A driver improvement course can raise your awareness and help you assess your driving behaviors.
- Buckle up, every trip and every time.

For more information on distracted driving, visit <https://safety.army.mil>.

MICC to host event, reaches out to small business

By MICC Public Affairs Office

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Officials from the Mission and Installation Contracting Command here are hosting free small business and industry outreach events the first week of June at Fort Sam Houston's Blesse Auditorium to provide information on Army contracting opportunities.

The small business event takes place June 4 from 1-5 p.m. and begins with an hour-long training session. Sign-in and networking begins at noon. Following the training, small business representatives will have a matchmaking opportunity to meet individually with contracting officers and members of the MICC Office of Small Business Programs to discuss

contracting opportunities in more detail.

An industry outreach event takes place June 5 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sign-in and networking begins at 7:15 a.m. The event will present forecasted contracting opportunities from the U.S. Army's Forces Command, Installation Management Command, Reserve Command and Training and Doctrine Command. The forecasts are intended for informational and marketing purposes and not a specific offer or commitment by the Army to fund opportunities.

Both events are open to all industry representatives whose companies can provide products and services to the MICC. Industry representatives interested in attending the small

business or industry outreach events should register by May 26 at www.army.mil/micc. Those planning to attend both days should register for each event. Identification will be required during sign-in.

Blesse Auditorium is located in Building 2841 at 3630 Stanley Road on Fort Sam Houston, which is just inside the Harry Wurzbach Highway gate.

The MICC is responsible for providing contracting support for the war fighter across Army commands, installations and activities located throughout the continental United States, Alaska and Puerto Rico. In fiscal 2011, the command executed more than 63,000 contract actions worth almost \$7 billion across the Army.

ACC recognizes, awards contracting winners

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – The U.S. Army Contracting Command presented 30 individual and eight team awards at the third annual ACC Contracting Awards ceremony held here last night.

“It’s an honor for me to recognize the recipients for their hard work and dedication,” said Carol Lowman, ACC executive director. “These contracting professionals exemplify the best of this command and are the type of individuals others can aspire to become.”

The awards are presented for excellence in acquisition, contracting and small business. Selectees were recognized for their outstanding achievements between Oct. 1, 2010 and Sept. 30, 2011. An awards panel comprised of representatives from ACC, the Expeditionary Contracting Command, the Mission and Installation Contracting Command and the ACC contracting centers reviewed more than 200 nominations before making the selections.

This year the big winner was the ACC-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., with nine awards. Teams and personnel from the ACC-Redstone Arsenal and the Expeditionary Contracting Command each received seven awards. Mission and Installation Contracting Command tallied five awards. ACC-Warren, Mich., and ACC-Rock Island, Ill., received three awards each and teams and personnel from the ACC-New Jersey and ACC National Capital Region were awarded two.

The following awards were presented:

Outstanding Contingency Contracting Officer – Officer:

*Maj. Christopher Center
MICC-Fort Drum, N.Y.*

Outstanding Contingency Contracting Officer – Noncommissioned Officer:

*Master Sgt. Julie Saorrone
ECC-Fort Knox, Ky.*

Outstanding Contingency Contracting Officer – Civilian:

Sabin Joseph, ACC-APG

Outstanding Contracting Officer – Major Weapon Systems:

Shannon Jewell, ACC-Warren

Outstanding Contract Specialist - MWS - Specialist:

Shannon Hepner, ACC-Warren

Outstanding Contracting Officer – Other Than Major Weapon Systems:

Gwen Meadows, ACC-APG

Outstanding Contract Specialist - OTMWS:

*Lisa Nakamoto
ECC – Fort Shafter, Hawaii*

Outstanding Price Analyst – MWS:

Stephanie Benfante, ACC-N.J.

Outstanding Price Analyst – OTMWS:

Richard Jenkins, ACC-NCR

ACC Excellence in Acquisition Leadership – MWS:

Joan Detchemendy, ACC-RSA

ACC Excellence in Acquisition Leadership – OTMWS:

Gregory Davies, ACC-APG

Outstanding Procurement Analyst – MWS:

Stephanie Pascale, ACC-N.J.

Outstanding Procurement Analyst – OTMWS:

*Maj. Donald Leath
ECC, 408th Contracting Support Brigade
Camp Arifjan, Kuwait*

Outstanding Workforce Development Specialist – Individual:

Roxanne Barbaris, ACC-APG

Outstanding Workforce Development Specialist – Team:

Career Management Team, ACC-NCR

Outstanding Intern of the Year Award – MWS:

Adam Kimbro, ACC-RSA

Outstanding Intern of the Year Award – OTMWS:

*Kimberly Ross
MICC- YUMA Proving Ground, Ariz.*

ACC Innovation Award – MWS:

*Apache Sensors Division-Performance Based
Logisites Team, ACC-RSA*

ACC Innovation Award - OTMWS:

*Expedited Professional & Engineering
Support Services and Strategic Services Team
ACC-RSA*

ACC Innovation Award - Non-Acquisition:

Adelphi Team, ACC-APG

ACC Ability One Award:

Deborah Ault, MICC-Fort Knox

Outstanding Mission Support/Business Operations Award – OTMWS:

Contracting Operations Team, ACC-APG

Outstanding Mission Support/Business Operations Award - Non-Acquisition:

*Human Resources/Strategic Planning Team
ACC-Warren*

Outstanding Active Duty Military Officer Award – MWS:

Lt. Col. Jeffrey Caldwell, ACC-RSA

Outstanding Active Duty Military Officer Award – OTMWS:

*Maj. Matthew Phelps
ECC, Kadena Air Base Korea*

Outstanding Active Duty NCO Award – OTMWS:

*Sgt. 1st Class Adriana Underdue
ACC-APG*

Acquisition Change Advocate Awards – OTMWS:

Carole Hubbard, ACC-RSA

Acquisition Change Advocate Awards – Non Acquisition:

Enterprise Resource Team, ACC-APG

Excellence in Direct Sales Contracting:

Debbie Broyles, ACC-RI

Small Business Specialist of the Year:

*Ann Arketeta-Rendon
MICC-Fort Sill, Okla.*

Small Business Champion:

Melanie Johnson, ACC-RI

Small Business Champion:

Bryan Sasaki, ACC-RSA

Small Business Champion:

Donna Campbell, ECC-Fort Shafter

Small Business Program Supporter of the Year:

Bethany Rosser, MICC-Fort Eustis, Va.

Customer Service Excellence Award:

*ECC, 413th Contracting Support Brigade
Fort Shafter*

Personal Development Achievement Award:

Adelaide Tkatch, ACC-RI

Personal Development Achievement Award:

Joseph Clay, ECC-Fort Shafter

Public Affairs Liaison of the Year:

Betsy Kozak, ACC-APG

Click [here](#) to view photos of the award presentations.



ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

Army Contracting Command's first general takes reins at Redstone Arsenal

By Kenneth Kesner
The Huntsville Times

(As published in The Huntsville Times, May 17, 2012)

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama – The young Army Contracting Command is celebrating a milestone as Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols becomes its first commanding general in a time-honored flag ceremony this morning on Redstone Arsenal.

“It’s such an incredible honor to be sitting in here,” she said Wednesday during an interview in her new office. “To command at all at this level in the Army is just amazing for me, personally.”

http://blog.al.com/huntsville-times-business/2012/05/army_contracting_commands_firs.html

Bragg initiative seeks to recruit much needed 51C Soldiers, officers

By Maj. Douglas N. Ralph
639th Contingency Contracting Team, Mission Contracting Office-Fort Bragg, N.C.
(As published in the U.S. Army Materiel Command Eye on AMC, May 11, 2012)

As the U.S. Army reduces in size, reclassification into the acquisition corps may be an option for qualified Soldiers who want to stay in the Army. In fact, the contracting career field is expected to grow by almost 50 percent of its current population by the end of fiscal year 2013.

<http://www.army.mil/article/79560/>

