



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

Army leaders say Network Integration Evaluation improving military acquisition

By **Clarie Schwerin**
Army News Service

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. – As the Army aims to balance budget cuts with critical modernization needs, the Network Integration Evaluation is setting the pace for a more efficient acquisition process, senior leaders said.

During their visit here May 14, Secretary of the Army John McHugh and Lt. Gen. Bill Phillips, military deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology,



(Photo by Sgt. Edward A. Garibay, 16th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

Secretary of the Army John McHugh sits in an up-armored vehicle during Network Integration Evaluation 12.2 at Fort Bliss, Texas, May 9.

stressed the value of the NIE construct to obtain Soldier feedback and rapidly field network equipment to meet their needs.

"We have economic challenges in this nation, and the military budget reflects those as well, but it's critical that we continue to modernize and give our Soldiers the best possible equipment, the best possible platforms with which they can do the hard work of freedom," McHugh said. "Key to that is doing it effectively, yes, but also doing it efficiently. And this NIE is a critical component to make sure that we can, in an affordable way, continue to modernize and give our Soldiers the best available equipment."

Launched in June 2011, the NIEs are semi-annual evaluations designed to quickly integrate and mature the Army's tactical communications network. To date, NIEs have yielded more than \$6 billion in cost savings and cost avoidance from the restructure of Army programs and the consolidation of test practices.

The NIEs are part of the Agile Process, the Army's new quick-reaction acquisition methodology to address defined capability gaps and insert new technologies into the overall network at a lower cost. By putting equipment in Soldiers' hands in a realistic operational environment every six months, the Army and industry can make necessary changes and arrive at a solution that can be integrated and procured in months rather than in years, Phillips said.

"That's changing the paradigm, and changing the thinking about how acquisition works," he said.

GFEBs set to streamline, standardize Army financial system

By **Betsy Kozak**
*Army Contracting Command
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.*

Lower your shields and prepare to be assimilated - resistance is futile! Star Trek fans are familiar with this command from the Borg, but now there's a new kind of Borg ready to establish a collective hive, the General Fund Enterprise Business System.

GFEBs is a Web-enabled financial asset and accounting management system designed to standardize, streamline and share critical data across the Army. This financial system was fielded through a series of waves beginning in 2008. The final wave is currently under way with the April kick-off of Wave 8a throughout the Army Contracting Command headquarters. Wave 8b will commence next month at ACC-Aberdeen Proving Ground.

"GFEBs represents the first Army-wide attempt to change the way business is conducted," stated James Carroll, GFEBs site point of contact.

See GFEBs, page 3.

Expeditionary

Responsive

Innovative

Spotlight on...

Spotlight submissions must include the linked form and a high resolution photo (300 dpi). Click on the icon for the submission form.



Christopher R. Lindberg



Christopher R. Lindberg

Christopher R. Lindberg is the Expeditionary Contracting Command director, Intelligence and Security, at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Describe your position:

I currently serve as the Expeditionary Contracting Command director for Intelligence and Security. I provide security and intelligence support for overseas and contingency operations to facilitate contracting and force protection for U.S. Army personnel deployed in support of the war fighter.

Describe your professional/ education background:

I have a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Alabama in Radio/Television/Film and a minor in Public Relations. I have also served in the Army for 14 years as a military intelligence officer with various assignments including two deployments to Iraq during the Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom 1. I joined the Army civilian workforce in

2005 and have worked in various security positions since to include assignments with U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command; Program Executive Office, Missiles and Space; and now ECC. I am also among the 50 or so individuals Armywide who have been awarded the Security Asset Protection Professional Certificate.

Where do you call home? Do you have children/grandchildren/pets? What do you do in your spare time?

I live in Madison, Ala., and I have five children (two sons, three daughters) ages ranging from 2-10. During my spare time, I volunteer with my children's sports programs and where I am also president of the Madison Pop Warner Football and Cheer Association. In addition, I have co-authored a recently published book entitled "Rise of the Red Crescent."

How does your job support the Soldier?

I provide supervision for a section that provides security, force protection and intelligence support for Soldiers deployed throughout the world.

President launches Vietnam War's 50th anniversary observance

WASHINGTON – In a proclamation issued May 25, President Barack Obama urged Americans to remember the courage and sacrifice of U.S. military members who served during the Vietnam War, and he declared May 28, 2012, through Nov. 11, 2025, as the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

In his proclamation, Obama called upon federal, state and local officials "to honor our Vietnam veterans, our fallen, our wounded, those unaccounted for, our former prisoners of war, their families and all who served with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities."

He also urged all Americans to provide "our Vietnam veterans, their families, and all who have served the fullest respect and support of a grateful nation."

"As we observe the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, we reflect with solemn

reverence upon the valor of a generation that served with honor," Obama said. "We pay tribute to the more than 3 million servicemen and women who left their families to serve bravely, a world away from everything they knew and everyone they loved.

"From Ia Drang to Khe Sanh, from Hue to Saigon and countless villages in between, they pushed through jungles and rice paddies, heat and monsoon, fighting heroically to protect the ideals we hold dear," the president added. "Through more than a decade of combat, over air, land, and sea, these proud Americans upheld the highest traditions of our armed forces."

Today, grateful Americans "honor more than 58,000 patriots who sacrificed all they had and all they would ever know," he said. "We draw inspiration from the heroes who suffered unspeakably as prisoners of war,

yet who returned home with their heads held high. We pledge to keep faith with those who were wounded and still carry the scars of war, seen and unseen. With more than 1,600 of our service members still among the missing, we pledge as a nation to do everything in our power to bring these patriots home.

"In the reflection of The Wall," he said, "we see the military family members and veterans who carry a pain that may never fade. May they find peace in knowing their loved ones endure, not only in medals and memories, but in the hearts of all Americans, who are forever grateful for their service, valor and sacrifice."

The 13-year commemoration, he said, will "honor and give thanks to a generation of proud Americans who saw our country through one of the most challenging missions we have ever faced."

GFEBs

continued from page 1

“The system will produce vital, real-time information for Army leadership and overseers such as Department of Defense and Congress,” he said. “The main objective of GFEBs is to improve accountability and stewardship and to standardize financial and business processes.”

According to Carroll, GFEBs will bring a majority of Army financial management into a single system.

“The system also empowers leaders at all levels by providing real-time costs of operations and the costs that affect their budgets,” he said. “At full deployment, GFEBs will have more than 79,000 end-users at approximately 200 Army installations worldwide and will be one of the world’s largest enterprise financial systems.”

Prior to GFEBs, the Army prepared reports to monitor and control the

obligation and expenditure of financial resources. Through the enactment of government legislation such as the Chief Financial Officer Act of 1990 and the Government Management Reform Act of 1994 and subsequent accountability laws, Congress mandated that all federal agencies produce auditable financial statements to enable more effective internal management and to hold organizations accountable for their financial activities.

“Currently, a large percentage of time is spent processing transactions, controlling interfaces and generating reports,” said Carroll. “As GFEBs is implemented, the goal is to reduce the time spent processing transactions and to focus on financial analysis activities. GFEBs will also enable audit readiness and real-time access to information for better financial decision making.”

GFEBs will replace current legacy financial systems including the Standard Operation and Maintenance Army Research and Development System used by ACC. After the initial launch of GFEBs, ACC users will face a transition period where GFEBs and SOMARDS are used simultaneously. SOMARDS will be used only to maintain legacy data until appropriations and accounts within the system are closed.

“I have experienced three main obstacles as ACC-APG approaches the go-live date,” added Becki Eberhardt, budget branch chief. “These include the natural resistance to change, increased workload demands throughout the transition period and the numerous training requirements.”

It’s a challenge, she said, the team is working through to ensure GFEBs is implemented.

Boating Safety

Whether you’re fishing, swimming or just spending a day on the water, for the uninitiated or unprepared, the water can be deadly. Taking the time to learn the nautical rules of the road will go a long way toward keeping you and your passengers safe.

Knowing your boat is the first step. Know the location of all personal flotation devices, fire extinguishers, emergency signaling devices and other safety gear. Learn how to operate the boat and how to use the emergency radio. Check the forecast before you depart and know what to do in the event of inclement weather.

The following safety devices are a must: personal flotation devices or lifejackets; a waterproof whistle; flashlights; oars; a bucket; a first aid kit; blankets; ropes; a mirror or other shiny object; and, garbage bags or a large orange plastic bag to keep your gear dry or to signal for help.

Boating under the influence doubles the probability of a watercraft accident and can be as deadly as drinking and driving. In addition, penalties may include fines, suspension or revocation of boat operator



Click on the image for ACC safety messages.

privileges and jail time.

Other tips include letting someone know your trip details. Details should include location, passenger names and approximate departure and return times.

Lastly, take a boating safety course. All military installations and most states require operators to successfully complete a boating class before they leave shore. Contact your local Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation directorate or visit <http://www.cgaux.org> to find classes and locations near you.

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



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

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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.





ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

Contracting Command ‘indescribable honor’

ACC welcomes first commanding general

By Skip Vaughn
The Redstone Rocket
(Published May 23, 2012)

Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols has come a long way since enlisting in the Army in 1975 in her hometown of Niagara Falls, N.Y.

On Thursday she reached the pinnacle of her career by becoming the first commanding general in the four-year history of the Army Contracting Command.

<http://theredstonerocket.p2ionline.com/Flip/Sitebase/data/editions/135313/img/large/2273427.htm>

Expeditionary contracting commander visits troops

By Lt. Col. Martha K. Brooks
ECC public affairs officer
(Published May 23, 2012 in *The Redstone Rocket*)

Expeditionary Contracting Command’s Brig. Gen. Ted Harrison, commander, visited the 409th Contracting Support Brigade, Kaiserslautern, Germany, May 6-10 to meet the work force and gather information about the organization.

During the visit Harrison conducted a town hall meeting, had breakfast with 409th CSB noncommissioned officers, held an officers luncheon, co-chaired several command briefs, toured the training installation and distributed commander’s coins to deserving employees.

<http://theredstonerocket.p2ionline.com/Flip/Sitebase/data/editions/135313/img/large/2273430.htm>

McCaskill to Co-Host Statewide Procurement Conference

(Posted on FM 102.9 KHOZ on May 27, 2012)

As part of an ongoing effort to equip Missouri small businesses with the tools needed to succeed, U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill will host the 24th annual Procurement Conference, a hands-on workshop to connect small businesses with resources and information about government purchasing practices and doing business with local, state and federal levels of government.

McCaskill will co-host the conference along with the Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers and the Small Business & Technology Development Center on May 31 at the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Mo. The conference is designed to put Missouri small businesses directly in touch with officials from a variety of government agencies so they can learn more about how to compete for and win government contracts.

http://www.khozradio.com/13647/mccaskill_to_cohost_statewide_procurement_conference.html

