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NewsBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

413th CSB Soldier captures ACC NCO of the Year title

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

NCO of the Year

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. - After three days of intense competition, Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Scheil, 413th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, was named the 2012 U.S. Army Contracting Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Year during a ceremony here June 8.

ACC Commanding General, Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols and Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray congratulated and praised Scheil and the other NCOs worldwide who competed in this year's event.

"It is awesome to see our warrior contracting spirit reflected in the eyes of these Soldiers," Nichols said. "I thank you for coming forward and going above and beyond what was asked of you. You truly exemplify the warrior ethos."

See NCOY, page 3.



(Photos by Larry D. McCaskill)

Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols, commanding general, Army Contracting Command, presents the ACC 2012 NCO of the Year award to Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Scheil, 413th CSB's 715th Contingency Contracting Team, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.



NCOY competitors undergo weapons qualification with the Engagement Skills Trainer at Fort McClellan, Ala.



Staff Sgt. Deaquennet Thomas, 411st Contracting Support Brigade, Yongsan, South Korea, negotiates the land navigation course as part of the NCOY competition held June 6-8.

Expeditionary

Responsive

Innovative

Spotlight on...



Maj. Marian W. Feist

Providing the best service to our Soldiers

Maj. Marian W. Feist is assigned to the 412th Contracting Support Brigade's 721st Contingency Contracting Team at Rock Island, Ill.

Describe your current position:

I supervise a team of five contracting specialists and have recently been deployed for a nine-month tour in Afghanistan. We deploy once every three years.

Describe your professional/education background:

I have a master's degree in Public Administration and a bachelor's degree in Business Management. In addition, I will get my Level I contract certification later this month.

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

I call Rock Island, Ill., home but originally I am from Waynesville, Mo. My

husband, Terry, and I have two children, Derrick, 21, and Catherine, 20. We also have two dogs and three cats.

During my spare time, I enjoy reading, cooking, exercising, camping and vacationing with my husband.

How does your job support the Soldier?

I contract for commodities, services and construction that war fighters need to do their job stateside and during deployment. My team in Rock Island and down range in Afghanistan provides the best customer service to our customers that we possibly can. I always try to maintain a positive attitude and try not say "no" to the customer, but find a way to fulfill the requirement in a legal and cost-effective manner.

Staying cool, playing it safe!

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

Hanging out at the pool or beach on hot summer days is a great way to beat the heat, but water-related activities come with certain risks. Don't let an accident kill your fun this summer — know your limitations and mitigate the hazards to ensure your day in the sun and surf doesn't end in tragedy.

Strong swimming skills are essential if you plan to be on or near the water. If you're not already a swimmer, check with your local Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation directorate for swim lessons. The Red Cross and YMCA also regularly schedule classes for both novice and experienced swimmers.

Always swim with a buddy; a swim

buddy can provide valuable assistance or call for help in an emergency.



Click on the image for ACC safety messages.

Open bodies of water like rivers, lakes and the ocean have a number of hazards that aren't found in regular swimming pools, primarily currents and a propensity for rapidly changing conditions. Therefore, it's ideal to swim only in areas supervised by lifeguards.

Above all, never mix alcohol and swimming. Alcohol weakens your judgment, balance and coordination; impairs your swimming and diving skills; and makes it harder for the body to stay warm.

To learn more swimming safety, visit the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center's interactive Water Safety website at <https://safety.army.mil/safetycity/pages/water/watersafety.aspx>.

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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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.

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NCOY

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Scheil, an acquisition, logistics and technology contracting NCO with the 413th CSB's 715th Contingency Contracting Team, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, outscored his fellow NCOs with consistent scores in 13 events that challenged the Soldiers' mental and physical skills.

"I guess I did better than I imagined," Scheil said. "Competitions like this keep you up to date and motivated to do what you need to do as a Soldier. Yes, we are contracting specialists, but we are Soldiers first."

Scheil finished with 2,657 points out of a possible 3,540.

"Events like this help to prepare a Soldier to be a better leader. Coming down here and meeting all these great NCOs has given me the chance to learn even more from them," said Scheil. "I haven't done most of the tasks in a while so I have been practicing with my team and Soldiers back at Fort Wainwright."

Murray was impressed with how each of the NCOs pushed forward and gave each challenge their best effort.

"Over the past three days, each of these competitors has endured long hours and demonstrated great stamina, technical and tactical skills in completing 13 different tasks," Murray said. "I am very proud of each one of them. Throughout this competition I could see that warrior spirit in each of the competitors as they gave 110 percent effort in each event. They have represented their units well. Each one of the brigade representatives demonstrated that they are the best within their units for their technical and tactical knowledge, competence and execution of Army tasks."

The NCOs competing this year were: Scheil, Staff Sgt. Booker Jordan, 409th Contracting Support Brigade, Kaiserslautern, Germany (first runner-up); Sgt. 1st Class Lachad Jefferson, 408th Contracting Support Brigade, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait (second runner-up); Staff Sgt. Desmond Culler; 410th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Staff Sgt. Deaquennet Thomas, 411th Contracting Support Brigade, Camp Humphries, Republic of Korea; and, Staff Sgt. Brandon Carroll, 412th Contracting

Support Brigade, Fort Sam Houston.

The annual event included a formal board, an urban orienteer course, day and night land navigation, weapon qualification and a challenging foot march up one of the mountains at Redstone Arsenal's Vincent Park, complete with 40-pound rucksack.

Each of the NCOs received a certificate of achievement, a box of Army chocolates, an ACC lanyard and various coins of excellence from the ACC leadership. Jeffers, the second runner-up, also received a mini ACC football signed by Nichols and Murray. Jordan, the first runner-up, received a trophy and a signed mini football.

In addition to the items listed above, Scheil received an Army Commendation Medal, an NCO of the Year trophy, and a full-size signed ACC football.

Scheil will represent ACC at the Army Materiel Command's NCO of the Year competition in July.



(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

Sgt. 1st Class Lachad Jefferson, 408th Contracting Support Brigade, Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, dons his protective mask. He was one of six NCOs vying for the ACC NCOY title.

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: Telework

Response: Thank you for your inquiry regarding telework. The Army Contracting Command Human Capital G-1 has been working with managers to assist them in understanding the concept and purpose behind the telework program. On March 13 ACC hosted a forum for the command's supervisors to discuss the recent changes surrounding the telework program and ways to make the program successful. As part of the training, supervisors were briefed on the need for managers and employees to discuss specific telework arrangements and determine appropriate and effective practices for the teleworker to interface with leadership, coworkers, customers and other key agency staff and ensure customers' needs come first. This may include:

- Planning the days you come into the office around your customers' needs
- Having your incoming phone calls forwarded to your telework site, checking voice mail on a regular schedule and responding to them just as you would if you were in the office
- Sending and receiving email as if you were in the office
- Conducting or participating in conference phone calls from your telework site
- Before you go home to telework, making sure you have all the items you need for your telework day
- Coming in for special meetings or office emergencies

In the final analysis, telework is a paradigm change for everyone. Managers and employees are entering into a new era, and the command supports telework where and when possible. Please do not hesitate to contact the ACC G-1 if you have additional questions.

Army Contracting Command to celebrate Army's 237th birthday

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Army Contracting Command Soldiers, civilians and family members worldwide will celebrate the Army's 237th birthday June 14.

The theme for this year's celebration is "America's Army: The Strength of the Nation." Army units around the globe are expected to mark the birthday with a variety of events including the traditional cake-cutting.

"We serve in the greatest Army the world has ever known," said Maj. Gen Camille M. Nichols, ACC commanding general. "Our Army has been America's decisive force of action since the Revolutionary War. We have a long legacy of protecting our nation and we continue to add to that legacy every day.

"As we celebrate our Army's birthday, we are reminded of our Soldiers, civil servants and contractors still serving in Afghanistan; we're reminded of our National Guard Soldiers standing by at home to respond in the case of natural disasters; of our civilian workforce doing their all to support our forces; our families being supportive and ever vigilant at home; and we're reminded of our veterans past and present," she said. "Happy birthday to every member of our Army family."

ACC Soldiers and employees at Redstone Arsenal can celebrate the Army's birthday at the Activity Field behind the Morale Welfare and Recreation building on Patton Road June 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The celebration includes food service available through vendors.

At 11:30 a.m., the Army Materiel Command Band will play the National Anthem, followed by remarks by the mayors of Huntsville and Madison, and Team Redstone senior leaders. The ceremony will conclude with the traditional cake-cutting and singing of the Army Song.

The Army birthday party here is a part of Armed Forces Celebration Week, a series of events allowing local communities to show support for the military. Events include a proclamation signing, a military-themed concert in Big Spring Park, U.S. Army Soldier Show performances and the U.S. Army 237th birthday celebration.

A special event this year is the Wounded Warrior Amputee softball game against Team Redstone leaders at 5 p.m. June 15. Col. Jerry Jones, Expeditionary Contracting Command chief of staff, will play and Army Contracting Command Chap. (Lt. Col.) Charles "Chip" Fields will deliver the invocation. The game will be played at the Metro Kiwanis Sportsplex, 3590 Patton Road, Huntsville. F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 187th Fighter

Wing, Alabama Air National Guard, are scheduled to perform an "Honor Flyover" at 4:45 p.m.

Information about Armed Forces Celebration Week events is available at http://www.huntsvillealabamausa.com/calendar/2012/061112_afw_events.pdf.

More information about the Army birthday, including links to senior leader birthday messages, is available at <http://www.army.mil/birthday/237/index.php>.



ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

'Soldier Show' wows audiences during Armed Forces Week

By Venton Blandin
WHNT-19 News (Posted June 12, 2012)

Dozens of men and women wanting to become a soldier took the military oath in front of hundreds of strangers Tuesday. One long-time soldier even committed to serving more time in the Army. It all happened prior to the 'Soldier Show' performance at Huntsville High School.

"This is actually soldiers entertaining soldiers," said Sergeant Drake Delucca.

<http://whnt.com/2012/06/12/soldier-show-wows-audiences-during-armed-forces-week/>

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https://amcom1.redstone.army.mil/portal/page/portal/PAO_Page_Group/PAO_Command_Publications_Page/PAO_Command_Pubs_Center_Portlet/C25C8D21F17B0635E0440021287E6AFA

