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NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

Mother's wish comes true

Family reunites in Afghanistan

By Ann Jensis-Dale

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

This year Claire Jones didn't receive flowers for Mother's Day. Instead, she received a bouquet of love at an unexpected family reunion.

Claire, a procurement contracting officer with the U.S. Army Contracting Command's Deployable Cadre Program, reunited with her husband Michael, and one of their sons, U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Richard Jones, while deployed to Bagram, Afghanistan.

"I kept telling myself this is the first Mother's Day I will not receive flowers," said Claire who has been in Bagram since November.

Claire's husband Michael, an administrative contracting officer with the Defense Contract Management Agency, is also in Bagram but more



Master Sgt. Richard Jones (left) celebrates a Mother's Day reunion with his mother, Claire, and father, Michael, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan

than 30 minutes away. Although both are serving in Bagram, due to the travel restrictions, they have only seen each other twice. First when Claire arrived at Bagram Airfield and then again on Christmas day.

"I was able to see Claire on Christmas day since I was scheduled to brief lead administrative contracting officers about the contracts we have," said Michael.

Richard, who serves with the U.S. Air Force's 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron/33rd Expeditionary Helicopter Maintenance Unit, arrived the day before Mother's Day and wasn't sure that he would be able to see his parents right away.

"I didn't call my mom until Mother's Day," said Richard. "I also told my dad that I was trying to get things situated and that it probably wasn't a good day to get

together."

"Richard told me there is a possibility he will be deploying to Afghanistan in May and I told him I'd extend my current deployment for the possibility of completing my dream of serving with him and my husband," Claire said. "Serving together with my husband and son, working together to make a difference – my dream did come true."

Once Claire and Michael heard their son was arriving at the airfield, both separately began heading out to meet him.

"I called my husband to tell him Richard was coming in and I was heading to the airfield," said Claire. "He said he was doing the same."

After a few tense moments, everyone arrived safely at the airfield for a long-awaited reunion.

See REUNION, page 3.

Expeditionary

Responsive

Innovative

675th CCT supports multinational field training exercise

(Left to right) Federal Republic of Germany exchange officer Maj. Steffen Runge, U.S. Army Europe logistics exercise planner; Sgt. 1st Class Mitchell Call, USAREUR training and exercise planner; Staff. Sgt. Patty Troutman, contracting specialist, 675th Contingency Contracting Team; Maj. Phuong Nguyen, contracting officer, 675th CCT; meet with Irena Banjsak-Vukelic, operation manager, Pleter-Usluge, to oversee the payment for services provided in support of Immediate Response 2012.

Immediate Response 2012 is a multinational field training exercise focused on the platoon, company and battalion level support in organizing, controlling and supporting full-spectrum operations.

A subordinate unit of the 409th Contracting Support Brigade, the 675th CCT located in Grafenwoehr, Germany, facilitated contracting for the basic support needs including latrines, fuel, laundry, food and rental vehicles.



(U.S. Army photo)

Taking safety to heart, home

By Art Powell

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

Just because you made it safely through the day at work doesn't mean you can forget safety when you get home. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, approximately 20,000 Americans die annually in home-related accidents. Recognizing hazards and knowing how injuries occur is key to keeping everyone safe.

The National Safety Council lists the following injuries as the top home-related hazards: drowning; falls; poisoning; burns; choking and suffocation; deaths from fires and burns; unintentional overdoses; and, injury from sports and exercise.

Safety tips to remember as you prepare

your house for the summer include:

- Installing and testing smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Checking and setting the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees.
- Keeping matches, lighters and other sources of flame out of reach of small children, and ensuring electrical outlets are not overloaded.
- Keeping walkways and stairs free of toys, clutter and other trip hazards.
- Storing poisons and medications in a locked



Click on the image for ACC safety messages.

cabinet out of reach of small children.

- Checking with your doctor before beginning an exercise program, and investing in good shoes and proper gear.

For more home safety tips, visit www.nsc.org or <https://safety.army.mil>.

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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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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REUNION continued from page 1

“Man, I didn’t think that we would all be out here, but it’s good to see them,” said Richard. “God is good. I never thought I would see my parents here. One maybe, but both? That never happens. The possibility of seeing my dad increased when he took a tour in Iraq with the Army Corps of Engineers prior to his DCMA tour. Then he tells me he is going on a second tour to Afghanistan. So from there I knew it was only a matter of time before I saw him in the sand box.”

Military service runs deep in the Jones family. Claire has 29 years of federal service. Michael retired from the Army and has 18 years of federal civil service.

It was a dream for Claire to serve alongside her husband and son while deployed.

“My dream finally came true. I’ve always wanted to support our country as a family together,” she said

“My parents’ service is awesome. My dad is retired Army. I never really knew what he sacrificed until I joined the service myself,” Richard said. “My entire family supports each other and even my wife is prior service Air Force with a number of deployments under her belt. So with my family doing what we do, it’s awesome.”

Warriors pound Redstone, 16-1

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – Armed Forces Celebration Week here concluded with a double-header pitting the Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team against Team Redstone and the Huntsville All Stars.

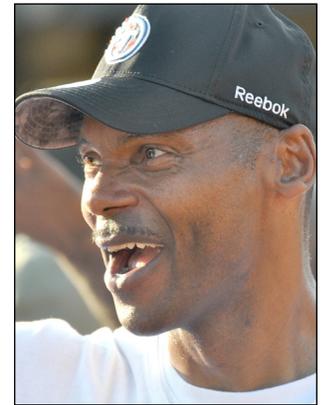
The Warriors proved a formidable force and won both games, 16-1 and 13-12 respectively.

The team consists of veterans from

operations Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and the Global War on Terror. It raises awareness, through exhibition and celebrity softball games, of the sacrifices and resilience of the military and “highlights their ability to rise above any challenge.” To learn more, visit the website at <http://www.woundedwarrioramputeesoftballteam.org>.



Wounded Warrior Nick Clark rips a hot shot to left field.



(Photos by Ed Worley)

Col. Jerry Jones, chief of staff, Expeditionary Contracting Command, played first base for Team Redstone.

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: Functional Teams

Response: Thank you for your inquiry. We appreciate the challenges that our contracting workforce encounters on a day-to-day basis. Balancing the execution of quality and timely contracts while developing a quality contracting workforce is a daunting task. The current divergent experience gap between the senior contracting professionals and employees who are new to the contracting workforce has played a major role in the contracting model (functional structure)

that is currently being used. The Army Contracting Command as an enterprise is challenged to grow our interns and junior workforce to help ensure we can continue to provide quality and timely contracting in support of our war fighters for years to come.

The current contracting model exposes a contract specialist to as many contracting processes and acquisition/contracting phases in the shortest time possible. Many contracting centers and subordinate commands currently have specialized small purchase and contract closeout teams with procurement analysts providing matrix support to the customers and Defense Contract Management Agency providing comprehensive contract administration. However, taking on the initiative of changing the contracting model across

the enterprise to reflect the functional areas you suggest would require a much more comprehensive study. We will need to study the impact to the development of the contracting workforce, the impact to the budget and most importantly the impact to our customers. Our customers seem to really appreciate having one point of contact for all phases of the acquisition process. Please know that your suggestion will be explored at our earliest convenience.

Again, thank you for your suggestion. Please know that we appreciate all you do in support of the ACC enterprise and the war fighter.

If you should have any further questions, feel free to contact the ACC contracting operations directorate staff at (256) 955-5721.



ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

Army's mishandling of Afghanistan police contract boosted costs

By Zach Toombs
iWatch News (The Center for Public Integrity)
 (Posted June 13, 2012)

As the U.S. military heads for the door in Afghanistan, one of its most important tasks is to train Afghan police to take control of the nation's security. But a billion-dollar Afghan police training contract, now being administered by the Army, has encountered some troubles, according to a new report by the Defense Department's Inspector General's office.

In just the first four months after the contract was signed in December 2010, its cost shot up \$145 million, or 14 percent. A series of late revisions has slowed the training process for Afghan police, the IG report said, and the contract has been written in a way that allows new costs to accumulate without penalty.

<http://www.iwatchnews.org/2012/06/13/9133/armys-mishandling-afghanistan-police-contract-boosted-costs>

U.S. homing in on Russian ammunition

U.S. defense department contractors reach out to Rosoboronexport for munitions

By Viktor Litovkin
Russia Beyond the Headlines
 (Posted June 14, 2012)

Five major U.S. government contractors – Alliant Techsystems Operations, Chemring Ordnance and Military Products, General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical System, Bulova Technologies and Arma Global – have approached Russia's Rosoboronexport to supply Russian-made ammunition on a subcontract basis.

The move was prompted by a tender announced by the U.S. Army Contracting Command in April for nonstandard weapons and ammunition intended for international coalition forces, including U.S. and NATO troops and their partners conducting operations in Afghanistan, as well as Afghan military units, and U.S. military units still stationed in Iraq to train Iraqi troops in counterterrorism operations.

http://rbth.ru/articles/2012/06/14/us_homing_in_on_russian_ammunition_15875.html

Dunwoody recognized for logistics excellence

By Combined Arms Support Command Public Affairs

FORT LEE, Va. – During an honors ceremony held at the Quartermaster Ball June 14, Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, Army Materiel Command commanding general, was recognized for her professionalism and service to the nation.

Brig. Gen. Gwen Bingham, U.S. Army Quartermaster General and Quartermaster School commandant, and Command Sgt. Maj. James K. Sims, U.S. Army Quartermaster Regimental command sergeant major, presented her with the Gen. Brehon B. Somervell Medal of Excellence, which recognizes individuals who excel in the area of multifunctional logistical support.

Dunwoody was also inducted into the U.S. Army Quartermaster Hall of Fame, an honor usually awarded to individuals who have been out of the active service for three years.

ACC to host CIO/G6 enterprise forum

Army Contracting Command employees are invited to participate in the Quarterly Chief Information Officer/G6 Enterprise Forum, June 28 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. to learn, share best practices and ask questions about the latest improvements in technology, tools and informational resources.

Information technology experts will address the future of CIO/G6, Standard Procurement System-Army and fourth quarter support, G6 field support and more.

Huntsville participants can attend on-site at the Morale Welfare and Recreation building located at 1500 Weeden Mountain Road on Redstone Arsenal, Ala. All others can access the DCO discussion at <https://connect.dco.dod.mil/g6enterpriseforum>.

