



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

Vol. 3, No. 25
June 27, 2012

"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."



(U.S. Army photo)

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno answers questions about the Army's future at the Council of Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C.

Odierno addresses Army's future, budget cuts

By Katie Nelson & William Garbe
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army's chief of staff said the force will focus more in the future on supporting combatant commanders around the world, especially in the Pacific.

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno answered questions about the future of the Army, June 20, at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, D.C.

Odierno sat down with Foreign Affairs editor Gideon Rose to follow up on a commentary he authored regarding transition in the Army.

"The strategic environment is changing, it's becoming more complex and the solutions to the strategic environment are constantly changing," Odierno said. "And so we have to think about how we're going

to change with them."

The general cited the necessity of creating a force prepared for situations beyond the Middle East.

"We've taken them [Soldiers] to conduct missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and other places," Odierno said. "So one of the first priorities I have is making sure that they remain now dedicated to the Pacific region as we shift our emphasis."

Throughout the 2000s, the Army grew to meet the demands of combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, Odierno said. Now, it must adjust once again.

"As we look to the future, we have to look at the strategic environment," he said. "And what I worry about is we have to maintain a balanced portfolio within the Department of Defense in order to deal with the great uncertainty that is out there."

See ODIERNO, page 5.

ACC Today now available online

The latest edition of the U.S. Army Contracting Command's quarterly online magazine, *ACC TODAY*, is now available online at <http://www.acc.army.mil/today/issue-2012-2.html>.

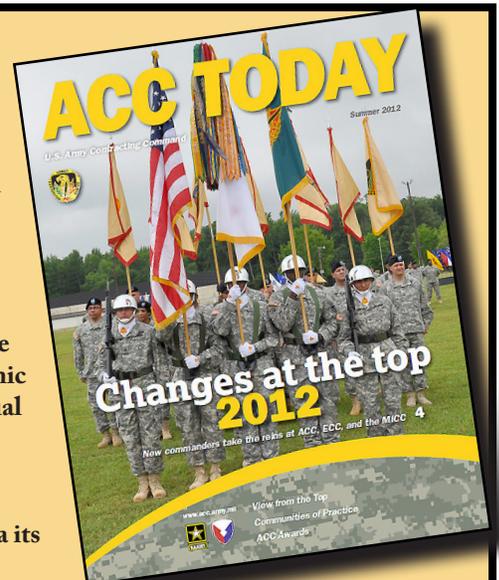
The Summer 2012 Edition includes:

- ACC-APG assists AbilityOne
- New general officers take the reins at Army Contracting Command
- GFEBS changes the way the Army does business
- Program integrator provides embedded contracting expertise to PEO Soldier
- A Mother's Day family reunion in Afghanistan

ACC TODAY is no longer available in print. This online version follows the Army's decision to publish digital magazines (i.e. *Soldiers*) to eliminate printing and distribution costs.

If you have ideas or submissions for the magazine or if you wish to be added or removed from the electronic distribution list, contact the editorial staff at acc.pao@us.army.mil.

ACC TODAY readers are also invited to follow news, events and activities on the ACC homepage via its social media sites.



Expeditionary

Responsive

Innovative

Anonymous Email Program

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

The Commander's Anonymous Email Program provides Army Contracting Command Soldiers and civilians the opportunity to voice their concerns or ideas freely and confidentially.

Concern/Suggestion:
Administration Employees

Response: Thank you for your inquiry regarding more opportunities for administration employees. The Army Contracting Command family is made up of a diverse group of individuals working in several career programs or military occupational specialties. Seventeen percent of our ACC civilians are in non-acquisition positions, including most of our administrative staff. All Army civilians are assigned to 22 distinct career programs, managed

by career functional representatives at headquarters, Department of the Army; the Army Materiel Command and ACC. The new Army Career Tracker is a useful tool for exploring career resources for an employee's particular career program and can be found at the following link: <https://actnow.army.mil/wps/myportal/act/Civilian/CivilianHome>.

ACC headquarters has a dedicated staff member within our Human Capital/G1 Division, Julie Lumpkins, who is responsible for communicating non-acquisition workforce career opportunities and assisting with identifying training opportunities. At each center/command, activity career program managers are well-versed in opportunities for their entire workforce. Employees should take the time to meet with their activity career manager and schedule a discussion with

their supervisors about their short- and long-term career goals, to include training and their individual development plans. The 5 United States Code Section 4107(a) prohibits providing training "for the sole purpose of providing an employee the opportunity to obtain an academic degree or qualify for appointment to a particular position for which the academic degree is a basic requirement." However, training that contributes significantly to meeting an identified center/command need may be paid or reimbursed within budgetary limitations.

Thank you for your dedication to the Army and your continued support of our war fighters.

If you have any additional questions please do not hesitate to contact the ACC G1 at (256) 955-8561 or Julie Lumpkins at (256) 955-8519.

My not-so-fun Fourth of July!

By Gunnery Sgt. (Ret.) Jeff Carlson
U.S. Marine Corps, Lafayette, Ind.

What holiday is better than the Fourth of July? None – especially when you're an 11-year-old boy fascinated with firecrackers, bottle rockets and anything that goes "boom!"

One afternoon, my friends and I decided to start the festivities a little early and headed to a local fireworks stand. We looked in awe at all the wonderful Chinese-made packages of fun and picked out our favorites.

With our purchases in hand, we rode our bikes back to Eric's house because his parents were never home. Eric searched inside his house for something we could blow up and returned with several of his brother's model cars. After loading the cars with fireworks, we spent the next hour destroying them.

Once the cars were satisfactorily dismantled, it was time for the bottle rockets. At first, we'd light them, step away and watch them explode in the air. After a

while, we decided it would be more fun to shoot them at various things in the yard. While this was fun, it was not very smart or safe.

Once the bottle rockets ran out, it was time for the big finale – Roman candles! For those who aren't familiar with Roman candles, they are long, narrow cardboard tubes that shoot fireballs. As I held one of the Roman candles, I noticed a warning on the side that stated, "Do Not Hold in Hand." "Really," I thought.

"How can we enjoy the fireballs if we don't hold them?"

Throwing caution to the wind, we ignored the warning and held the Roman candles anyway. It started wonderfully – suddenly, as I pointed mine at a tree, I felt a searing pain in my right hand. The candle had exploded! The warning label was right.

I nervously looked at my hand to survey the damage – a blister the size of a silver dollar, and I was now in horrible pain. Luckily, that was the extent of the damage.

Take my advice and heed the warnings. They're there for a reason.



Click on the image for ACC safety messages.



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.



Rockin' *his way*

Story & photo by Liz Adrian
ACC – Rock Island, Ill., Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. – Monday through Friday, Anthony P. Rosata is a cool-headed, polite, hardworking and funny Army Contracting Command-Rock Island systems analyst. But ask the crowd at one of his band's shows about his persona and you'd get a whole different list of descriptors: heavy, loud and brutal, for instance.

After-hours, Rosata is a guitarist in the heavy metal band, My Pal Trigger. The band has been together for three years and has released its first recording, "The Damned EP," a demo featuring three songs that can be found on the Internet.

Rosata began playing the guitar in 1998 as he was getting ready to graduate high school. He met James A. Davis III, a member of a cover band that played Metallica, Slayer and other metal bands.

"It looked so fun that I knew I had to play guitar, so I bought a cheap little guitar and just started playing," he said. "I could barely play anything and I didn't even know how to change my strings."

Soon after picking up that first guitar, Rosata played in his first metal band and opened for bands such as Mudvayne and even played at the Ozzfest.

Since then, he has played in several other bands, including one that was more commercial radio rock than heavy metal.

"That band got some airplay regionally and we were on our way up with TV deals," said the systems analyst.

While the band's music ran as background tracks on two episodes of MTV's "Road Rules Challenge" and one episode of MTV's "Spring Break," it decided to disband due to creative differences.

After that band broke up, he and Davis created My Pal Trigger and decided they wanted to create southern-rock, bluesy kind of music.

So, how did the band transform from southern-rock and blues to death metal?

"We would warm up and Ruben (Villegas, the band's drummer) would blast beats with his snare and he blew us away," Rosata said. "We realized he was being underutilized so we decided at that point to just have fun and be as brutal as possible and be a metal band again."

Rosata's interest in becoming an original artist began as a youth when his grandfather would play "Pop Goes the Weasel" and "Puff the Magic Dragon" on his acoustic guitar.

See ROCK, page 4.

A systems analyst by day, Tony Rosata wails away on his guitar at night as a member of a heavy metal band.

Spotlight on...



Manuel R. Medeiros

Working as a team to serve Soldiers

Manuel R. Medeiros is currently assigned to the Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Fort Drum, N.Y., and is slated to deploy to Afghanistan to serve with the Defense Contract Management Agency.

Describe your current position:

I am a contract administrator for Blanket Purchase Agreement calls and construction contracts at Fort Drum.

Describe your professional/education background:

I have been working as a contract specialist for three years now. I have done both pre and post award contracting. I graduated from the Military College of Vermont, Norwich University, with a bachelor of science degree in business management.

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

A military brat, I didn't consider any

of my dad's duty stations as home since I'd never be there more than two years anyway. So, I consider Yonkers home because it's where I spend summers, breaks, vacations and holidays. During my spare time, I enjoy the outdoors, i.e. beaches, parks and shooting ranges with my girlfriend, Samantha Kavanagh. (She actually went out coyote hunting with me.) I also enjoy going to the movies, hanging out with friends and going to the park with her daughter, Leah.

When I return from deployment, I plan on taking Samantha with me on a trip to Europe.

Though I don't have any pets now, I would someday like to get a dog, either a German Shephard or Husky.

How does your job support the Soldier?

Anything the Soldier doesn't already have or can't get for himself, my team and I get it for him. That's important to me whether the war fighter knows it or not.

It's a team effort and I see what I do and my office does as a part of that team.

ROCK

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He says the joy of creating metal music is directly connected to the adrenaline high he gets.

"It's exciting and challenging to play," Rosata said. "It's physical. I'm tired and sweaty afterwards."

My Pal Trigger got a break this winter when it was invited to compete in a battle of the bands at a popular venue for live music in the Quad Cities.

"What that did for us was incredible," he said. "We developed a following from it. We had so much fun and the crowd interaction was just incredible."

Sue LeGros, an ACC-RI procurement analyst, said she typically listens to hard-rock, rock and alternative, and has an appreciation for metal, but doesn't consider

herself a metal head. Nevertheless, she has seen My Pal Trigger a few times.

"They put on a great show," said LeGros. "It's loud, of course, which is good, and lots of energy that pulls you in. They have an awesome time through their music and because they do, so do you."

Rosata acknowledges that not everyone will like My Pal Trigger's music.

"It is brutal music," he said. "It's really heavy and not for everybody. The people that do like this type of music seem to like our band. As an artist, you do what you do and because one person doesn't like it, you're not going to change for them."

Rosata says that he and the other members of the band are mainly just "enjoying the ride and having fun," but he

added, they have developed merchandise and other professional materials.

"We're emulating what successful bands are doing," he said. "We are prepared for a situation where, if there is someone who can do something about moving us to the next stage, we are ready to go."

As if he wasn't busy enough with My Pal Trigger, he also recently created another band, The Cattle Brains, along with Chad Clark, an U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center employee.

"Cattle Brains is just plain rock," said Rosata. "We're going to submit some songs to placement agencies to try to get on the air."

ACC contracting NCOs promoted to sergeant major

The Army Contracting Command recently congratulated three of its 51C acquisition, logistics and technology contracting noncommissioned officers upon being frocked to sergeant major pending their promotion and following graduation from the Sergeants Major Academy, yesterday at Fort Bliss, Texas.

The three were among 564 students who endured the 10-month-long course and will now join the ranks of ACC's select few.



Sgt. Maj. Eliecer M. Quintero
905th Contingency Contracting Battalion
412th Contracting Support Brigade
Fort Bragg, N.C.



Sgt. Maj. Sandra C. Williams
906th Contingency Contracting Battalion
411th Contracting Support Brigade
Daegu, Korea



Sgt. Maj. Marlon D. Cooper
903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion
409th Contracting Support Brigade
Kaiserslautern, Germany

Military homeowners PCSing now eligible for short sales

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Military homeowners with transfer orders are now eligible for short sales under new guidance issued to mortgage servicers, Consumer Finance Protection Bureau officials announced June 21.

Military homeowners will be eligible for short sales, even if they are current in their mortgages, Edward J. DiMarco, director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, said. They will also be exempt from deficiency judgments from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac when receiving permission for a short sale and relieved of any request for cash, contribution or

promissory note so long as the property was purchased on or before June 30, 2012.

“These changes will make it easier for members of the armed forces with mortgages owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac to honor their financial commitments when they are issued a permanent change of station order,” DiMarco said.

The bureau, along with mortgage service industry regulators, is issuing joint supervisory guidance to address mortgage service practices that pose risks to military homeowners, Richard Cordray, the bureau’s director, said.

Roughly a third of active-duty military personnel PCS each year. Of these, about 185,000 are homeowners who have to sell

their houses and move. Many find they owe far more on their homes than they’re worth in the current market.

Robert L. Gordon III, assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy, said the Defense Department welcomes the bureau’s leadership.

“The military lifestyle poses unique challenges to our troops and their families,” he said. “Throughout frequent moves, deployments and transitions they must remain resilient and strong in order to be mission ready.”

Homeowners with questions or complaints may contact the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau at consumerfinance.gov or (855) 411-2372.

ODIERNO

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Odierno also addressed the topic of sequestration as a “forcing function” established by Congress to achieve agreement on deficit reduction.

“If I just look at the parameters of the bill which says every line item in the Department of Defense budget will take a 10-to-12-to-15-percent cut across the board, [that] creates all kinds of chaos within our system,” he said.

Should the Joint Select Committee on Budget Reduction fail to find an effective way to slash \$1.2 trillion from the national deficit or pass alternate legislation, money from government programs will be sequestered. The bulk of those funds will be taken from the military. The Army is already cutting \$487 billion from its budget.

Odierno said the Army would have to re-evaluate defense strategy if

sequestration took place. This reevaluation would require a reduction in troops, and a combined reduction of the active and reserve components.

“I think it would put us beyond the fringes of what I consider to be acceptable risk for us to be able to respond to this broad variety of threats,” Odierno said. “So, to me, I think it’s dangerous.”

The general said Americans should be mindful that people around the world pay attention to the actions of the United States, and that decisions, or lack of decisions on the part of American lawmakers, could heavily influence global opinion of the United States.

“If we continue to be perceived as being in a political deadlock where we’re not getting much done,” Odierno said, “I think that might be interpreted in some cases as being weak.”

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. CDT to learn, share best practices and ask questions about the latest improvements in technology, tools and informational resources.

A panel of information technology experts will be available to address topics such as 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>.