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# NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

*"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."*

## Contracting officer set to work with Google, Inc.

By Rachel Clark  
409th Contracting Support Brigade

**KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany**  
– Accustomed to working within the structure and discipline of a military environment, Maj. Matthew Bisswurm is stepping into new territory after his selection for a position at Google, Inc., as part of the Army's Training with Industry Program.

Bisswurm, plans and operations officer with the 903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion, 409th Contracting Support Brigade here is the first Army acquisition officer to fill a TWI position with Google. He will begin his one-year internship with the Fortune 100 company in August and will bring back to the Army any lessons learned.

"I'm looking to bring some of the innovative processes and successful techniques that Google has used, and help integrate them into the Army," said Bisswurm.

The Army, as well as the acquisition career field, has prepared Bisswurm for this opportunity.

"I love the expeditionary side of contingency contracting," Bisswurm said. "I love doing missions and I love being on a team." Skills he will utilize at Google.

One of the objectives of the TWI is to provide Soldiers' hands-on experience in

top defense, information technology and pioneering commercial companies.

The program helps improve communication between commercial industry and the Army. Working with major corporations helps the Army speak the same language as its industry partners. Selected officers, warrant officers and noncommissioned officers are placed in jobs with industry partners and exposed to innovative industrial management tactics, techniques and procedures that can benefit

the Army. After completing the training, participants are immediately placed in a mandatory follow-on Army assignment to improve the Army's ability to interact and conduct business with industry.

"We want our guys to benchmark lessons learned and affect positive change in the Army Acquisition Corps," said Scott Green, acquisition education and training branch chief, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center.

**See BISSWURM, page 3.**



(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

## ACC chief bids farewell

During his farewell luncheon Aug. 24, Col. Jeffrey Gabbert, chief of staff, Army Contracting Command, was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal by Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, ACC commanding general.

Gabbert, who served with ACC since June 2011, moves to an assignment at the Pentagon where he will serve as the chief of staff to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology.



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# Spotlight on...

## 'Voice of the 409th' once served with Marines

*Staff Sgt. Joe Kibe is a contracting specialist assigned to the 649th Contingency Contracting Team, 903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion, 409th Contracting Support Brigade, in Kaiserslautern, Germany.*

### What are your hobbies/passions?

I have collected baseball and football cards since I was about five years old and have a nice collection of some prominent athletes. I have been involved in fantasy baseball and football leagues every year since 1997. I love playing Texas Hold 'em and have a personal goal to attend the "World Poker Tour Main Event" in Las Vegas sometime in the future.

### What's your background?

I am from Mechanicsburg, Pa. I have been married to Amy Judd Kibe since August 1999 and we have a nine-year-old daughter named Kaylie Regin. I also have an 18-year-old son, Mark David, who lives with his mother in Kansas.

I enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in December 1987 and served more than eight years. In September 2005 I enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard and volunteered to go to Iraq with the 628th Finance Detachment. Upon completion of my 15-month deployment I went to the Army recruiter to inquire about returning to active duty. Thirty-seven days later, I was back on active duty on my way to an initial assignment with the Army in Korea.

### What are some of your future goals?

I am enrolled in Strayer University and working toward a bachelor's degree in Acquisitions and Contracting. I would like to reach the rank of master sergeant with the chance of becoming a sergeant major before retirement. Staying in for 25-30 years is a possibility. I have a strong desire to be part of the team in Huntsville, Ala., that instructs our future 51Charlies.

### Why did you get into contracting?

When I decided to go back onto active



Staff Sgt. Joe Kibe

duty one of my sole purposes was to find a career field in which I could learn a valuable skill and prepare for my future. As a finance Soldier, I had already been a pay agent and worked with the contracting office in Iraq, so I knew it was a good fit. I applied for the opportunity with one of my fellow 51Charlies (Sgt. 1st Class Yolanda Spivey) when we were together at Fort Drum, N.Y.

### What's the most challenging, what's the most rewarding?

The past two months preparing for and managing the Rapid Trident 2012 contracts have been very challenging, yet rewarding at the same time. Understanding the foreign business practices in the Ukraine and Romania to ensure each contract was completed legally as well as working with 16 different nations during the exercise had its unique challenges.

### Any special accomplishments?

I'm referred to as "the voice of the 409th" by fellow NCOs and officers within the unit for my work as the narrator for Command Sgt. Major Fernandez's appointment ceremony.



**U.S. Army Contracting Command**

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# Acquisition Corps intensifies search for motivated Soldiers, officers

**By Capt. Mathis F. Wright, III**  
621st Contingency Contracting Team  
MICC-Fort Campbell, Ky.

**FORT CAMPBELL, Ky.** – As the Army reduces in size, the Army Acquisition Corps is growing.

The U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center expects military contracting positions to increase by 50 percent by the end of fiscal year 2013 and has already begun an active recruiting effort to bring eligible sergeants through sergeants first class, and second lieutenants through majors into its contracting workforce.

In mid-July, personnel from ASC, MICC-Fort Campbell, and the 904th Contingency Contracting Battalion, Fort Knox, Ky., gathered here for a one-day recruiting drive. The band of contracting professionals ventured out in small teams to reach out to Soldiers at various locations across the installation. At each location, Soldiers received take-home information and a formal brief followed by an informal question and answer session. More than 350 Soldiers attended the briefings.

“Everyone here is probably familiar with Peyton Manning and knows about his new contract with the Denver Broncos,” explained Master Sgt. Jason Pitts, ASC senior enlisted advisor of the

51C Proponent Office, “Your job will be sort of like Manning’s agent, who helped put the terms and conditions of that contract together; that’s what you’ll do for the Army.”

In addition to learning about the daily duties of a contracting officer, attendees received information on retention benefits, bonuses, promotion opportunities, advanced civilian schooling, degree completion, training with industry and other professional and personal advantages of joining the acquisition corps.

MICC-Fort Campbell led the effort in spreading the word to interested Soldiers prior to the event.

“The biggest bang for our buck was through the flyers distributed to units, retention noncommissioned officers and career counselors; then the Fort Campbell Courier (the post newspaper),” said Lt. Col. Ed Gosline, officer-in-charge, MICC-Fort Campbell.

“I am very impressed with everything I

learned in the briefing,” said Sgt. Tarcus K. Box, a Fort Campbell Soldier interested in reclassifying. “I had no idea of the impact that 51Charlies have in our military as well as outside of the Army. The promotion and educational opportunities sound excellent. I definitely plan on pursuing a place in this MOS.”

Soldiers interested in becoming 51Charlies must be physically fit, intelligent, motivated and self-starting who can operate independently. They should have excellent written and verbal communication skills and have solid computer skills.

In terms of education, they should have an inclination for business or business administration fields.

For more information regarding the Army Acquisition Corps or 51Charlie reclassification opportunities, visit the U. S. Army Acquisition Support Center website at <http://asc.army.mil/> or call (703) 805-1048.

## BISSWURM

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Bisswurm has been with the Army since 2000 and made the transition into contracting in 2008 following a second combat deployment in Iraq.

“I wanted to broaden my skills,” he said. “Being in a combat deployment, I saw the direct impact contracting had on the war fighter.”

Bisswurm added that he wants to use the skills he learns at Google and take them back with him to his next assignment.

“I want to have a different perspective on decision making, theory, manufacturing, and problem solving,” he said. “I think the Army gains tenfold on this program. The experience and insight are immeasurable.”



(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

## Job fair seeks to help veterans

Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis, command sergeant major, Expeditionary Contracting Command, meets with area employers at the Hiring Our Heroes job fair held in Huntsville, Ala., Aug. 23.

Clark-Davis was one of several dignitaries welcoming the more than 100 veterans seeking jobs from the 60-plus participating employers.

# 414th CSB deploys to support Southern Accord 2012



*(U.S. Army photo)*

**Maj. Guillermo J. Santiago, 414th CSB contracting officer, keeps in constant communications with area vendors and those supported military forces.**

**By Larry D. McCaskill**

*ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs*

As training for Southern Accord 2012 commenced, members of the 414th Contracting Support Brigade deployed and provided contracting support and more in support of the U.S. Africa Command joint exercise.

Southern Accord is a U.S. Africa Command-sponsored, U.S. Army Africa-led combined joint exercise bringing together U.S. military and Republic of Botswana defense forces to conduct humanitarian and peacekeeping exercises to enhance military capabilities and interoperability.

“The 414th has conducted four missions in support of U.S. Army Africa this year,” said Col. Paul Pardew, 414th commander, Vicenza, Italy. “This includes Southern Accord 2012. During fiscal year 2013 we have nine planned missions with the potential for involvement in other non-planned events including support to potential non-combatant evacuation or humanitarian relief operations.”

The unit currently has two contracting officers deployed to Thebephatshwa Air Base, Botswana, in support of Southern Accord.

“We’re at a very remote location in Africa with limited capabilities,” explained Maj. Guillermo J. Santiago, 414th CSB contracting officer. “Meetings with the local hardware store manager help in providing information to potential vendors. In this part of the world, personal relationships matter. Visiting a contractor and taking the time to talk with them produces results.”

Santiago said one thing he didn’t have to worry about was translators since English is the official language in Botswana. However, across Africa there are more than 2,000 languages and dialects.

“Since our arrival most of our challenges have been directly related to a challenging logistics situation on the ground,” he said.

According to Pardew, U.S. Africa Command and USARAF rely heavily on National Guard and Reserve component units and Soldiers to conduct exercises and training in Africa. This increases the level of coordination between Army units in Italy, the United States and Africa. Santiago and Maj. Michael A. Sansone met this challenge by coordinating the contracting support and requirements as well as the training of contracting officer representatives and field ordering officers.

Contract support planning and customer education remain a focal point across the 414th CSB as the brigade reaches its initial operational capability in October.

Pardew said Santiago and Sansone exemplify how the 414th has brought operational contracting support planning and execution to the forefront of USARAF’s considerations as it conducts Southern Accord 12 and prepares for fiscal year 2013 exercises and missions.



# ACC in the News

*These articles mention Army Contracting Command.*

*(Multiple publications published this article about entry-level hiring.)*

## Army Contracting Command seeking 150 recent college graduates for jobs across U.S.

By Kenneth Kesner

*The Huntsville Times (Published Aug. 23, 2012)*

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama -- The Army Contracting Command on Redstone Arsenal is pushing to hire 150 recent college graduates to fill entry-level contracting positions at locations across the United States -- including more than a dozen on the arsenal.

[http://blog.al.com/huntsville-times-business/2012/08/army\\_contracting\\_command\\_seeki.html](http://blog.al.com/huntsville-times-business/2012/08/army_contracting_command_seeki.html)

## Army Contracting Command recruiting recent college grads

*(Posted Aug. 23, 2012 on the Defense Acquisition University website.)*

Recent college graduates looking for a career in Army contracting should keep their eyes on [www.Armyhire.com](http://www.Armyhire.com) for a series of rapid-fire job announcements.

<http://www.dau.mil/Lists/spotlights/DispForm.aspx?ID=256>

## Military salutes

By Lorin Buck

*(Posted Aug. 24, 2012 on the FairfaxTimes.com website.)*

Department of the Army civilian Kimberly Ross received an Army Contracting Command Contracting Excellence Award during the U.S. Army Contracting Command's third annual contracting awards ceremony.

<http://www.fairfaxtimes.com/article/20120824/NEWS/708249736/1076/truce-called-off-in-fairfax-county-s-water-war&template=fairfaxTimes#comments>

## Commander of Army Contracting Command visits Picatinny Arsenal

By Wendy M. Lopez

*The Picatinny Voice (Published Aug. 24, 2012)*

Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, Army Contracting Command, paid a visit Aug. 9-10 to ACC-New Jersey facilities.

<http://www.pica.army.mil/eVoice/article.aspx?ArticleID=1967>



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