



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

Vol. 3, No. 42
Oct. 24, 2012

"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

Unit activation improves contracting oversight

By Joyce Costello

U.S. Army-Europe Public Affairs

CASERMA EDERLE, Italy— On Oct. 12, the 414th Contracting Support Brigade was activated as part of the Army's continued initiatives to support every Army Service Component Command with a contracting support brigade.

Col. Paul Pardew, commander, 414th CSB, has spent the last year building his organization in order to support U.S. Army Africa and its operations on the African continent.

"We've spent a lot of time hiring the right people (Department of Army civilians, Soldiers and Italian host nation employees) with contracting skill sets that we thought were going to be pertinent to the mission not only in Africa, but also on the garrison side," said Pardew. "U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza and Camp Darby are also our customers and represent three-fourths of our fiscal year 2012 contract spend for services, supplies and minor construction."

In the past year, the 414th CSB obligated more than \$62 million and executed 1,000 contract actions.

See **ACTIVATION**, page 2.



(Photo by Joyce Costello)

Col. Paul Pardew, right, commander, 414th Contracting Support Brigade, receives the colors from Brig. Gen. Theodore Harrison, commanding general, Expeditionary Contracting Command, during the unit's activation ceremony Oct. 12.

Merger creates the ACC Operations Group

By Larry D. McCaskill

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

The merger of the Army Contracting Command's Deputy Chief of Staff Operations G3 and the Contracting Operations directorate will provide the commanding general a single touch point for operations, integrating command operations with contracting operations, said ACC officials.

"We anticipate a fusing of many functions in the ACC operations center with the merger of these two organizations, especially where

complementary functions are merged to gain greater efficiency and synergy," said Col. James Fiscus, deputy director of the newly established Operations Group. "One example is in tasking. Allowing more cross-talk and vetting of taskings will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the tasking system."

According to Fiscus, many taskers previously sent to the field will now be answered within the consolidated group, thus eliminating the need to task the field. He said this process mirrors the Army Materiel Command's support to the combatant commanders and will

allow for better planning.

"Building data mining and process improvement capabilities will improve our customer service," Fiscus said. "The end result of the consolidation is improved communications, responsiveness, utilization of our resources across the command and support we provide our customers."

J.R. Richardson, formerly the director of ACC ConOps, will serve as the director, ACC Operations Group, while Fiscus assumes the deputy director and G3 roles.

See **MERGER**, last page.

AGILE

PROFICIENT

TRUSTED



Spotlight on...

For Spotlight submissions, click on the icon.

Soldier selected as Air Force NCO of the Quarter

Sgt. 1st Class Byron Milam has been selected as the U.S. Air Force 802nd Contracting Squadron, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2012. Milam is a contracting specialist with the 716th Contingency Contracting Team, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston.

A new member to the Acquisition Corps, Milam is assigned to Charlie Flight, 802nd CONS while in a training status. There, he is responsible for the medical support activities located on Lackland.

Milam was responsible for 31 contract actions in excess of \$9.2 million, including two bone marrow transplant urgent and compelling contract actions which allowed for critical life-saving procedures to be administered to airmen in need.

According to Milam, working with the Air Force has helped him learn contracting skills he can use when he transitions back to Army contracting operations.



Sgt. 1st Class Byron Milam

ACTIVATION

continued from page 1

“The 414th CSB develops contract support integration plans, executes theater contracts, coordinates external support from CONUS (continental United States) and manages contract oversight and quality assurance for deployed forces,” said Brig. Gen. Theodore Harrison, commanding general, Expeditionary Contracting Command. “I look forward to watching with pride and admiration as the 414th CSB Soldiers and civilians take their place within the ECC and in support of the Army Africa Team as a fully operational contracting support brigade.”

The new unit motto, Ethica Et Censura, translated means “ethics and oversight” which according to Pardew are critical in the contracting field.

“Quite simply, we are spending taxpayer dollars and the two things you want in government contracting are ethics and oversight to make sure that we are actually getting what we paid for under the contract,” explained Pardew.

As part of a concentration on oversight, the 414th has increased the training

and the number of contracting officer representatives to manage contracts. These CORs are critical to the oversight of contracts and ensure USARAF and USAG Vicenza receive the services and supplies required by the contract.

“Recently, during Southern Accord 12 in Botswana, we executed several million dollars in support contracts and trained CORs from USARAF and CONUS-based units,” Pardew said. “These CORs were the primary means of providing oversight of contract execution. 414th CSB Soldiers also deployed to Botswana to execute additional emerging contracting requirements and assisted the CORs with contractual issues.

“Southern Accord was a huge success and validated our emphasis on contracting training and oversight,” he said.

With the flag symbolically unfurled and the unit officially activated, Pardew said the 414th CSB will next concentrate on developing its tactics, techniques and procedures to support USARAF and USAG Vicenza.



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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 U.S. Army Contracting Command, 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.

Acquisition initiatives save Army money, Westphal says



Under Secretary of the Army Joseph Westphal spoke at an AUSA forum and explained how acquisition initiatives help save the Army money.

By Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Industry forums such as this week’s Association of the U.S. Army Annual Meeting and Exposition can save the Army money through collaboration on best business practices, service officials said.

“Whether you’re talking about personnel, finance, logistics, acquisition – these are all business functions,” said Under Secretary of the Army Joseph Westphal.

Meeting with industrial partners over the past year, for instance, has helped the Army cut in half the cost per unit for the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle now under development.

Collaboration between engineers and industry experts helped the Army identify and trade off less-crucial requirements in order to lower the JLTV price to a range of \$250,000 per vehicle, program officials said. They added these trade-offs will also help the Army to shorten the

vehicle’s Engineering and Manufacturing Development period from the traditional 48 months to only 27-33 months.

Acquisition initiatives over the past few years have helped the Army speed equipment through the development phases to Soldiers who need it in theater, Westphal said.

“We’re looking at governance of processes so that we can purchase more quickly, more effectively at best cost, best value to the taxpayer,” he said.

“We’re still going to have the difficulties of figuring out what are the best platforms,” Westphal said. “People have different opinions of how you should build a tactical vehicle of the future. So we’re still going to have those debates, but those are healthy debates, and we have them with our industry partners. I think we’re in a very good place there.”

The Army has also looked at some commercial off-the-shelf solutions to provide Soldiers what they need in theater.

See WESTPHAL, page 4.

Commanding general explains meaning of Gold Eagle 6

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

The phrase “Gold Eagle 6” doesn’t draw a lot of attention in everyday conversations unless you’re part of the Army Contracting Command and see it at the bottom of a note.

Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, ACC commanding general, uses the “Gold Eagle 6” call sign on her internal communications with the workforce as a way of identifying herself and of her pride in the command.

“I decided to use a call sign when I was assigned to the Expeditionary Contracting Command – a tactical unit – (and for me) the first time in 22 years,” said Nichols, ECC’s former commander. “I wanted us, ECC, to be proud of being a military, tactical unit. I also wanted folks to know the note was a personal one from me to them.

“I used this approach again in the CENTCOM (U.S. Central Command) Contracting Command for the same reasons. Now that I am in the ACC, I wanted us to be proud of our identity – the



gold eagle – as well as let folks know the note is from me, not the staff.”

Call signs vary from command to command but the numeric designations assigned to positions remain the same.

“Each major unit usually has a communications SOP (standard operating procedure) that outlines the call sign matrix, so they can vary from unit to unit,” said Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray ACC command sergeant major.

Gold Eagle is the fixed call sign, or verbal designation for ACC, so as the

ACC command sergeant major, Murray’s call sign is “Gold Eagle 7.” The public affairs officer is “Gold Eagle 37.” The “7” represents the command sergeant major position and the “37” is the public affairs officer.

“Black Sword” is the fixed call sign for the Expeditionary Contracting Command so ECC Commanding General Brig. Gen. Ted Harrison is “Black Sword 6” while Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis is “Black Sword 7.”

The Mission and Installation Contracting Command’s MICC 6 and MICC 7 are Brig. Gen. Kirk F. Vollmecke, MICC commanding general and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney J. Rhoades, MICC command sergeant major.

According to Mikhael Weitzel, ACC historian, the use of call signs originated with the use of the telegraph.

“Nineteenth century telegraph stations needed unique identifiers because there was only one telegraph line linking all railroad stations. Thus, a unique call sign was needed to address a specific station or operator,” Weitzel said.

See GOLD EAGLE 6, last page.

ACC-NCR contracting team garners Defense recognition

By Jeanette Lau

ACC-National Capital Region

ALEXANDRIA, Va.- Representatives from the Project Manager, Defense Communications and Army Transmission Systems visited the Army Contracting Command-National Capital Region Oct. 11 to recognize the steadfast and expert contracting support provided by the contracting center's staff.

Contracting support to PM DCATS began in late 2009 with the Army Information Technology, E-Commerce and Commercial Contracting Center, an ACC-NCR legacy organization. Among DCATS contract-related success stories is \$19 million in savings to DCATS and the Army, negotiated in fiscal year 2012 by the ACC-NCR team.

ACC-NCR employees recognized during the visit included Kimberly R. Ziegler, Karen E. McKeivitt, Jennifer D. Johnson, Warren R. Petris, Malinda G. Lazenby, Anthony Anakor, Eda M. Reisberg, Douglas J. Boorstein, Jolynda I. Alston, Jessica Wilkerson, Brian K. Petchel, and Mark J. Yarboro.



(Photo by Linda Valenzano)

Pictured from left to right, front row, are: Kelly P. Waymire, Lisa M. Davis, Anthony Anakor, Douglas J. Boorstein, Col. Clyde E. Richards, Kimberly R. Ziegler, Karen E. McKeivitt, Eda M. Reisberg, Jennifer D. Johnson and Jolynda I. Alston. Back row from left to right are: Carlton E. Brown, Jessica Wilkerson, Warren R. Petris, Malinda G. Lazenby, Brian K. Petchel, Mark J. Yarboro and Thomas J. Dunaway.

WESTPHAL

continued from page 1

"We've had to adapt to buy things quickly and off the shelf in very unique ways," Westphal said. "While we can't do that all the time – because we have rules and regulations and laws that govern how we buy and purchase materials – we've learned a lot of lessons at how to do this well."

Business operations underscore everything the Army does, he said.

"To provide trained and ready Soldiers to combatant commanders, you must have a lot of your business operations running pretty efficiently," he said. "We're doing a lot of planning to make sure we capitalize on the best things about our Army to get our business processes as efficient and effective as we can."

Collaboration with industry has helped here too. From Lean Six Sigma streamlining of processes to eliminating outdated business systems, the Army has saved considerable resources through Business Transformation, Westphal said.

The plan over the next five years is to eliminate 260 legacy systems, said Llyle Hogue, deputy director of the Business

Innovation Directorate. But he said the real challenge is to transform the culture of the Army so that leaders don't go into an operation expecting a "blank check book." He said they must now realize that the Army is in a more austere environment when it comes to budgets.

The Army is working toward full audit ability, Westphal said. On Oct. 15, he signed a Declaration of Full Deployment of a new software system that will enable Army audits, provide internal controls and support other business processes: the General Fund Enterprise System, or GFEBs.

Westphal emphasized that the Army is modernizing all of its enterprise systems.

"We're saving a lot of resources." Today versus five years ago, "it's night and day difference," when it comes to business processes, he said.

"This has really been a holistic effort on the part of the Army – the G-3; the G-2; the G-1; Manpower and Reserve Affairs; the Installations, Energy and Environment – these are all the elements of the Army coming together on a governance piece, to agree to work together."

VOTE: It's your right!

The general election for the presidency and many state and local offices is Nov. 6. If you are not registered, you are strongly encouraged to do so. One vote can make a difference.

Voting assistance officers at installations worldwide are ready to assist with the absentee voting process for all military personnel and their family members.

You can also find out more about registering to vote by going to the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at www.fvap.gov.



"The call sign was usually a two-letter code," he said. "This pattern continued in radio telegraphy operation; radio companies used two-letter identifiers for coastal stations and ship-borne radios.

"In 1912, an international standard was adopted to be used to identify a country, and the rest of the call sign an individual station in that country," he said.

"When radio telegraphy and later wireless operations were developed during and after World War I, the use of call signs became routine," Weitzel said. "Signal doctrine included the development of signal plans and orders. By 1925, the signal plans were studied in detail including the assignment of radio call signs and wave lengths."

The call signs quickly established the identity of subunits and leaders, reduced the length of transmissions and eliminated some of the confusion often caused by the ever-changing signal operation instructions, he said.

Nichols' call sign identifies the figure on the ACC distinctive unit insignia and the 6 designates her as the commanding general.

Today, while many commanders use "6"

to designate their leadership role, Weitzel said the practice of using "6" didn't begin until World War II.

"There is no official origin of the '6' designation, but it is believed that its origin dates back to World War II when the regimental combat team was the lowest level radio nets were pushed down to," Weitzel said. "The regimental commander was usually a colonel, O-6, and he would be the '6' on the radio. Being a former communications

guy myself, I find this origin the most credible."

Call signs tend to refer to different aspects of a units' lineage, distinctive unit insignia and in some instances, battles.

During World War II, Gen. George S. Patton's call sign was "Lucky Forward." "Lucky" represents the Third U.S. Army and "Forward" for his position as the unit's commanding general. Gen. Douglas McArthur simply went as "Bataan."

MERGER

continued from page 1

Before the consolidation, there were a total of 95 personnel. The new organization will have 77 employees with the remaining personnel and positions migrating to the ACC Deputy Chief of Staff Human Capital G1 or into the newly established Expeditionary Contracting Command Operations G3.

"With the standup of any new organization there will be an adjustment period for all to understand how the new organization functions," Fiscus said. "However, in most cases, it will be transparent to most of the command as

the same points of contact will remain under the new structure."

The transformation and realignment of some functions has already begun and others will continue to realign over time. Fiscus said the plan is to have all personnel operating under the new structure by Oct. 30.

"Everyone should see a positive impact across ACC, ECC and the Mission and Installation Contracting Command as the fusion occurs in operations and a greater efficiency is achieved through the synergy of the new organization," Fiscus said.



ACC in the News

This article mentions Army Contracting Command.

DoD carries weight of governmentwide small business goal

By Jolie Lee
FederalNewsRadio.com
(Posted Oct. 9, 2012)

(This story is part one of Federal News Radio's special report, The Small Business Dilemma.)

For the federal government to finally hit its 23 percent small business

goal, the Defense Department will have to step up its efforts to contract with small firms. But the nature of DoD's large contracts often leave out small companies.

In four of the last five years, if DoD had made its small business contracting goal, the federal government would have hit its overall

goal. In fiscal 2011, the government fell \$5.4 billion short. The Defense Department, with a goal of 22.28 percent for small business contracting that year, missed its mark by \$7.2 billion. Each agency negotiates with the Small Business Administration its own small business prime-contracting goal.

<http://www.federalnewsradio.com/522/3058191/DoD-carries-weight-of-governmentwide-small-business-goal>



Click on the image for ACC safety messages.

