



# NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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

## ACC values veterans' experience, work effort

By Larry D. McCaskill

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

*With one out of every five of its civilian employees a U.S. military veteran, Army Contracting Command officials say they value the experience and work effort of their seasoned workforce.*

"Veterans are important within the federal government and especially in positions that support the military," said William Baxter, deputy chief of staff Human Capital G1.

"They bring the knowledge and experience of their military training and that translates into a valuable employee. They also have been on

the receiving end of support and offer insight as to what uniformed military personnel expect from their civilian counterparts."

A retired U.S. Air Force master sergeant, Linda L. Hindman, a secretary at ACC-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., Edgewood Division, enlisted with her best friend under the buddy program in 1978.

"I stayed in until 2003 when my husband passed away. I decided to retire to stay home with my son," said Hindman,

who served as an administrative assistant. "I definitely feel my military experience helps with my current job. It provided me

*"The Marine Corps instilled a sense of pride, structure, leadership and discipline in my life that can't be erased."*

- Tora Henry  
ACC EEO specialist

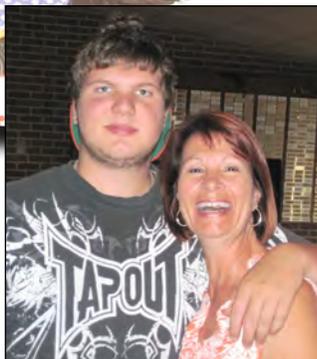
with the skills to perform in almost any position in the administrative field. I was honored to serve for 25 years."

Looking to be a part of something bigger than her, Tora Henry,

equal employment opportunity specialist, ACC EEO Office, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., decided to leave her family and friends in Beaufort, S.C., for the comforts of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C., and boot camp.

"The Marine Corps instilled a sense of pride, structure, leadership and discipline in my life that can't be erased," said Henry who left the corps as a sergeant after eight years.

See VETERANS, page 3.



Linda L. Hindman, secretary, Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., served in the U.S. Air Force 25 years.

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# Spotlight on...

For Spotlight submissions, click on the icon.

## 'I will be a Soldier for life!'

*Vanessa K. Peeden serves with the Army Contracting Command as a protocol specialist. In addition, she serves in the U.S. Army Reserve as the first sergeant of the 300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment at Gillem Enclave in Atlanta, Ga.*



**Vanessa K. Peeden**

### Describe your current position:

As the ACC protocol specialist, I am responsible for conceptualizing, planning, coordinating and executing all protocol aspects of visiting dignitaries. I also assist with special ceremonies hosted by the senior ACC leadership.

Through my Army Reserve career as a public affairs Soldier, I learned

about military customs and courtesies which have helped prepare me for the responsibilities of this job. My military experience has also taught me that the only constant in life is change itself.

### Describe your passion for the job:

This job is great because it allows me to "rub elbows" with all kinds of interesting people. I also get to attend a lot of community-related events and ceremonies. Most of all, I get to work with servicemen and women from all walks of life.

### Where do you call home? What do you do during your spare time?

The Huntsville area is home. I'm something of a novelty as I'm a fourth generation native of Lacey's Spring, Ala. The majority of people you meet here are from somewhere else.

I've been married 32 years to a wonderful man, Raoul, and we have two grown daughters and two grandchildren, 6-month-old twins.

In my spare time, I play with the twins, camp out at the Tennessee River, attend battle assemblies for the Army Reserve and work in the garden.

### How does your job support the war fighter?

My job helps the commanding general and command sergeant major make decisions on which events to attend, who to invite and other details of the event.

It frees them up so that they can focus on the more important aspects of their jobs like accomplishing the mission and watching out for the welfare of Soldiers.

### What would you like others to know about you?

In 1974, I saw a billboard for the U.S. Army saying, "Why not live in Europe instead of just visiting, join the Army," so I did.

I joined the Women's Army Corps and completed basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala. My basic training cycle was only the second to fire the M16 rifle and we didn't have to qualify.

After my initial contract, I returned home, went to college and started raising a family.

I eventually realized how much I missed the service, so I joined the Army Reserve in 1994 and have been deployed three times - once to Bosnia-Herzegovina and twice to Iraq.

In December, I'm retiring from the Army Reserve, but I will be a Soldier for life! I'm looking forward to the next chapter in life.



**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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“I see the world and the people around it so differently, having been exposed to many other cultures,” she said. “I’ve experienced the world and have a better appreciation for our diversity, similarities and differences.

Medically retired from the U.S. Air Force after 10 years, Alfort Belin III, procurement analyst, 414th Contracting Support Brigade, Vicenza, Italy, uses his experience as a contracting officer to mentor others in the brigade.

“I love to help other veterans through contracting, leadership or mentoring,” said Belin who left the service as a major. “My time in the service definitely helps here at Vicenza.”

Citing a bad economy, Christine Miller, ACC-Redstone executive officer, joined the Women’s Army Corps in 1975 after not being able to find a job.

“I spent 11 years in the service,” said Miller, who left the service as a sergeant first class and a position as brigade operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge at the Ordnance, Munitions Center and School when it was at Redstone. “I have a lot of good memories from my time in uniform, but I guess the top one would be when I was in basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala. I was selected to observe the raising of the garrison flag on Veterans Day. There are no words for the pride I felt that day being a WAC and a member of the greatest Army in the world.”

A seaman’s tale and a lack of funds for college was enough to sway Edward Domowski, contract specialist, Mission and Installation Contracting Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to join the U.S. Navy.

“I couldn’t afford to go to college,” said Domowski, who retired in 1993 after 22 years of service. “Plus a neighbor, who was in his 80s, would tell me about his days at sea in the U.S. Merchant Marine. His tales created an interest for me, and the Navy represented a chance to see the world.”

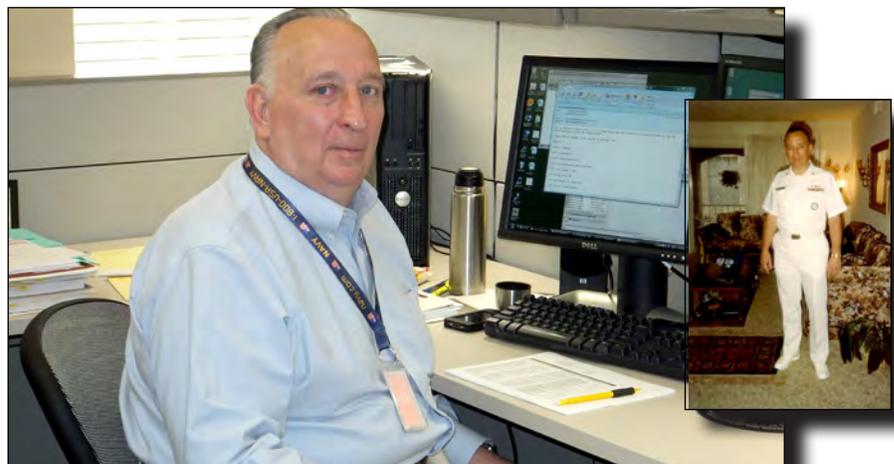
Veterans are individuals and their tales are timeless, each weaving together the fabric that is the legacy of the American military. The stories of courage, sacrifice, duty and the memory of those who committed a portion of their lives for freedom are what Americans honor each Veterans Day.



**Alfort Belin III, procurement analyst, 414th Contracting Support Brigade, Vicenza, Italy, served in the U.S. Air Force for 10 years.**



**Tora Henry served in the U.S. Marine Corps for eight years before joining the Army Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., as an equal employment opportunity specialist.**



**Edward Domowski, contract specialist, Mission and Installation Contracting Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, retired from the U.S. Navy after 22 years.**

# ACC-RI garners excellence in acquisition award

By Liz Adrian

ACC-Rock Island, Ill., Public Affairs

## ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, III. –

Several members of Army Contracting Command-Rock Island recently garnered one of two 2012 David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Awards.

Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta announced the winners Nov. 2. The winners all worked on the Small Business Set Aside solicitation for mortars and artillery through the Project Manager Combat Ammunition Systems.

According to the announcement, the Packard award is “a prestigious Department of Defense recognition of an organization that has demonstrated superior management and accomplishment in the successful execution of one or more of the Better Buying Power acquisition efficiency initiatives.” It recognizes contributions from military and civilian organizations, teams or groups in the areas of innovation and best acquisition practices.

Donna Ponce, contracting officer in the PM CAS Artillery and Mortars Branch, said that PM CAS submitted the nomination for the award.

“I was so honored that they submitted it,” said Ponce. “I had no idea they were nominating the team. It’s really nice that everyone was recognized because it was truly a team effort. This acquisition was a huge undertaking which resulted in the award of more than 30 small business contracts.”

According to the award citation, a single acquisition strategy was successfully implemented for the procurement of 53 artillery and mortar components totaling \$2.7 billion. This strategy was executed by issuing only two requests for proposals: one from ACC-RI and one from ACC-New Jersey.

The extraordinary demand was due to a surge in foreign military sales requirements for artillery and mortar items during the past five years which had depleted five-year production contracts within two years, particularly small business items. The typical acquisition process was too lengthy and costly to address these demands.

The strategy, a 10-year multiple award, indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity, best value, 100 percent small business set aside featured many contracting tools not typically used in ammunition procurement. The innovative strategy created flexible and efficient buying that can deliver cost-effective ammunition while enhancing opportunity to small business.

Several interns were assigned to work on the team.

“It was a great learning experience for new interns that were able to work on something from pre-solicitation through award,” said Ponce. “It was really a neat experience.”

Awarded at the Pentagon ceremony were: Ponce, ACC-RI; Rene Kiebler, PM CAS deputy project manager; Maryellen Lukac, PM CAS director, Business Management Division; Martin Moratz, PM CAS chief, Conventional Ammunition Division; and Arnold Rappaport, PM CAS artillery team leader.

In addition to the ceremony, Ponce and Rappaport have been invited to the Senior Leaders’ Acquisition Training Conference

at Fort Belvoir, Va., Nov. 14.

“They want us to do a 15-minute presentation on lessons learned and what we did in executing the principals of Better Buying Power that led to us receiving these awards,” said Ponce.

Michael Hutchison, ACC-RI executive director and soon to be ACC deputy to the commanding general, said he is proud of the dedication and thoughtfulness that members of the team showed throughout the past four years.

“The Packard Award is a well-deserved honor that highlights the time and effort these team members put into this strategy,” said Hutchison. “They worked diligently to help create a strategy that provides real competition for small business, an innovative buying approach, and, most importantly, cost-effective and reliable ammunition to the war fighter.”

The Packard award is sponsored by the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics.

The other award recipient recognized was the DDG 51 Shipbuilding Program Office (Navy).



(Photo by Liz Adrian)

Thirteen ACC-Rock Island employees are among the recipients of the 2012 David Packard Excellence in Acquisition Award. They include (back row, left to right): Chet Jacks, Stephanie Boozer, Beth Patrizi, Katie Crawford, Katie Crompton Silvis and Adam Elmore; (front row, left to right): Pamela Kennerly-Ignatius, Carrie Lansing, Donna Ponce, Debbie Trainor and Katie Young. Adelaide Tkatch and Ted Stanley are not pictured.

# DASA(P) visits 409th CSB, discusses contracting growth

By Rachel Clark

409th Contracting Support Brigade  
Kaiserslautern, Germany

The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement) and the commanding general of the Expeditionary Contracting Command recently visited 409th Contracting Support Brigade sites Oct. 15 -18.

During the visit, Kim Denver, the DASA (P), and Brig. Gen. Theodore Harrison, ECC commanding general, talked about the growth of the contracting field and future initiatives in acquisition.

Denver said the Army has to focus on having the right-sized acquisition force. He and Harrison emphasized the importance of accountability and that Army acquisition has to be auditable by 2014.

“We are more than a support function,” Denver said. “We are a critical part of a commander’s success.”

Denver also talked with the professional contracting Soldiers and civilians and asked for their feedback on the effectiveness of existing acquisition policies.



(Photo by Rachel Clark)

From left to right, Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, commanding general, U.S. Army Europe, talks with Command Sgt. Maj. Bentura Fernandez, 409th CSB, Col. William Bailey, 409th commander, and Kim Denver, DASA (P), about the synchronization of Army contracting agencies within Europe.

During an impromptu meeting, Denver also talked with Lt. Gen. Mark Hertling, commanding general, U.S. Army Europe, about synchronization of Army

contracting agencies within Europe.

Hertling said he has learned during his career how important contracting is for the war fighter.

## DA policy requires country brief for foreign travel

The Army Contracting Command antiterrorism staff reminds personnel of Department of the Army policy to receive specific country briefs before traveling abroad. This policy applies to both military and federal employees traveling to a foreign country regardless of whether in an official or unofficial capacity.

Contact your local antiterrorism officer for a specific country brief at least 60 days prior to the planned overseas travel to ensure a more accurate brief. Each briefing will be tailored to meet the individual’s specific travel itinerary and will include situational awareness on antiterrorism, health and welfare, and criminal and political environment of the overseas destination.

The ACC Protection Division is the proponent for foreign travel briefs for personnel stationed at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. The Redstone point of contact is David McIntosh at (256) 955-8366 or david.mcintosh2@conus.army.mil.

## Veterans offered free admission to Alabama state parks

MONTGOMERY, Ala. – In honor of Veterans Day, Alabama state parks will waive the entrance fee for veterans at all of its 22 state parks Nov. 10-11.

Anyone who indicates they are a veteran will be admitted into the

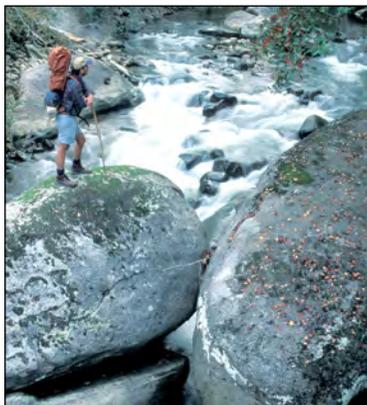
park day-use areas without charge. No identification will be required.

“Many of our historic park leadership benefited from the military experience associated with our veterans,” said Greg Lein, Alabama state parks director. “Our parks and public lands are places for reflection and serenity, and they stand as a tribute to those who have served our great nation.”

N. Gunter Guy Jr., Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources commissioner, echoes Lein’s salute.

“We are deeply grateful to our veterans for their selfless service,” he said. “This is a small tribute to those who have given us the freedom we enjoy.”

For more information about Alabama State Parks, visit [www.alapark.com](http://www.alapark.com).



(Photo by Dawn Chandler, Alabama Tourism)

A hiker contemplates the white water from his perch on a boulder.

# Soldiers conduct resiliency training with KHS students

By Staff Sgt. Michael Taylor  
21st Theater Sustainment Command

**KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany** – In support of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command's partnership with the Kaiserslautern High School, Soldiers conducted resiliency training with ninth- and 12th-grade students here, Oct. 17.

Master resiliency training is designed to enhance a Soldier's mettle, mind and mental thinking and focuses on the five dimensions of strength: emotional, social, spiritual, family and physical.

These resiliency skills have proven effective in contributing to the success of teams and leaders, families, students, executives and military personnel. Skills learned include emotion awareness and regulation, impulse control, de-

catastrophizing, putting it into perspective, effective communication, challenging negative beliefs, problem solving, and real-time resilience.

"We were invited to give them some insight on the training that their parents are going through and to provide them tools to use as they progress throughout the school year," said Sgt. 1st Class Veronica Short, a MRT for the 21st TSC.

According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry website, suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15- to-24-year-olds, and the sixth leading cause of death for 5-to-14-year-olds.

For some teenagers, divorce, the formation of a new family with step-parents and step-siblings or moving to a new community can be very unsettling

and can intensify self-doubts. For some teens, suicide may appear to be a solution to their problems and stress, according to the website.

The resiliency training provided by the MRTs was intended to help students cope with some of those issues.

"This training is much needed because sometimes they need help understanding how to bounce back from situations and how to deal with adversity," said Master Sgt. Gary Weir, contracting officer with the 409th Contracting Support Brigade and a MRT.

"The main thing that I learned was about the different traps that we get into when it comes to jumping to conclusions," said Britney M. Hall, a KHS senior. "I am glad the 21st TSC MRT's came out here because it shows that they care."



## ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

### America's new war: More soldiers die by suicide than in combat

By Paul Gattis  
(Posted on AL.com, Nov. 1, 2012)

**HUNTSVILLE, Alabama** – The numbers are as cold as the mountains of Afghanistan in winter. The trend is as relentless as the decade-long war since the 2001 terrorist attacks.

According to the U.S. Army, more soldiers are now dying by suicide than by enemy attack.

[http://blog.al.com/breaking/2012/11/americas\\_new\\_war\\_one\\_soldier\\_a.html](http://blog.al.com/breaking/2012/11/americas_new_war_one_soldier_a.html)

### Strong Bonds strengthens Soldiers, their families

By Larry McCaskill  
ACC Office of Public and Congressional Affairs  
(Published in The Redstone Rocket, Nov. 7, 2012)

A chaplain-led couples retreat is helping commanders build individual resiliency by strengthening the Army family.

Called Strong Bonds, its core mission is to increase individual Soldier and family member readiness through relationship education and skills training.

<http://www.theredstonerocket.com/content/strong-bonds-strengthens-soldiers-their-families>



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ACC safety messages.

