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NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

Officials discuss post-war requirements

By ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, ILL.— Contracting and Logistics Civil Augmentation Program officials met here for three days focused on planning for post-war Southwest Asia operations.

The Operational Contract Support/LOGCAP Worldwide Requirements Meeting, Oct. 29-31, was hosted by the Program Management Office, LOGCAP, in coordination with Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, G-4, Logistics.

It provided a collaborative forum for key stakeholders within the operational contract support community, partner agencies and supported commands to discuss operational support requirements that can or may be met by OCS capabilities.

The event, which drew about 85 people daily, also served to define and develop techniques and procedures that ensure OCS is leveraged into the planning and execution of supported unit training events and future military operations. Its focus was at the action officer level for planning.

Key stakeholders included representatives from the Department of the Army G-4, the Combined Arms Support Command, the Expeditionary Contracting Command, Army Service Component Command G-4 and Combatant Command Joint Logistics.



(Photo by Jon Connor, ASC Public Affairs)

Brig. Gen. Theodore C. Harrison, commanding general, Expeditionary Contracting Command, discusses operational contract support for post-war Southwest Asia operations.

ACC launches 2012 Combined Federal Campaign

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—Army Contracting Command and Expeditionary Contracting Command headquarters staffs kicked off their Combined Federal Campaigns earlier this month. This year's campaign theme is "Give Today. Make a Bright Tomorrow."

Established in 1961, the CFC has been the world's largest and most successful workplace campaign, raising more than \$7 billion.

This year, ACC/ECC's committee has a goal of raising \$50,000 in pledges. The finance chair for this year's campaign is

Victor DuBose, ACC deputy chief of staff, Security and Intelligence, G2.

He stressed that there are many reasons to donate to the campaign.

"Besides knowing that you are contributing to a worthwhile cause, workplace giving is easy and supported by ACC leadership," said DuBose.

"The CFC is a chance for you as a federal employee to designate your financial contributions to the charities of your choice," said Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, ACC commanding general. "It's a successful program that allows you to focus

on individuals and families who really need your help."

The campaign is scheduled to run through Dec. 14 and Soldiers and civilian employees at Redstone Arsenal can make donations through any of the key workers listed: Dawn Scott, Contract Operations; Gail Sims, Operations Group; Mary Lyle, G1; Scott Barkalow, G2; Larry McCaskill, Public Affairs; and Terika Farmer, ECC-Command Council.

All other ACC employees should see their unit CFC representatives to contribute.

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Spotlight on...

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Contracting officer of Croatian origin supports Jackal Stone 12 exercise

By Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia

“What I saw here during the Jackal Stone exercise is great. This is a real partnership between the Croatian and U.S. armed forces,” said Maj. Jessica R. Kovach, contracting officer and team leader, 624th Contingency Contracting Team, part of the Kaiserslautern, Germany-based 409th Contracting Support Brigade.

I am glad to have the opportunity to work with Croatian soldiers,” she said. “For me it is a great honor.”

A graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Kovach, is a second generation American of Croatian descent and has served with the U.S. Army for more than 10 years.

Her grandparents were born in Croatia and migrated to America where her parents were born.

This was Kovach’s second visit to Croatia. Her last visit was two years ago when she stopped at Zadar, Split,

Dubrovnik and Plitvice Lakes while on vacation.

“Here I feel truly excellent. Everybody is kind,” she said, adding that she likes the music and food, especially the sarma, a dish of grape, cabbage or chard leaves that her grandmother used to prepare.

Kovach was quite surprised when she saw sarma on a restaurant menu during her visit there.

“Unfortunately, I don’t know how to speak Croatian,” she said. “I’d like to learn.”

As a member of the U.S. armed forces, she has deployed to Iraq, and just before the exercise, spent seven months in Djibuti, Africa.

That she chose the military profession is not surprising because as she explains, her father was a member of the U.S. Air Force where he worked as an engineer.

She knows that her grandparents came somewhere from northern Croatia but she does not know where exactly.

Therefore, she said, a lot of research to find her roots still lays ahead.



Maj. Jessica R. Kovach

Military services observe Warrior Care Month

By David Vergun
Army News Service

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – This month the military services will observe Warrior Care Month, commemorating the sacred obligation and enduring mission to care for the nation’s most wounded, ill and injured service members and to support them as they transition back to the force or leave military service.

The theme for this year’s observance is “Success through Transition - Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship.”

Across the Army, leaders will host employment fairs, professional development sessions, open houses, media days, adaptive sports and reconditioning events, and

celebrate the resiliency of Soldiers and their families. Wounded, ill and injured Soldiers from Warrior transition units will engage local community groups, sharing personal experiences from health care to training, education and employment.

On Nov. 19, the Warrior Transition Command will launch an employment campaign and, on Nov. 20, host a joint-service sitting volleyball competition in the Pentagon. Similar activities and engagements are planned across the Army.

Many of the events are listed on the Army Warrior Care Month website:

http://www.army.mil/article/90737/Army_hosting_events_during_Warrior_Care_Month/.



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MICC employee wins \$100,000 lottery

By Daniel P. Elkins
MICC Public Affairs Office

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – For most people, when something flashy catches their eye, it is typically a piece of jewelry or a sports car. For the deputy director at the Mission and Installation Contracting Command-Fort Polk, La., it was a \$5 scratch-off lottery ticket.

After Simone Curtis finished visiting with her sister, she made a quick stop at a nearby convenience store to buy tickets for a multi-state lottery. At the register, a flashy \$5 “Cash Frenzy” scratch-off lottery ticket caught her eye, and she asked the cashier to add one of them to her purchase.

“I always say if you want to win big, you’ve got to play big,” Curtis said.

She returned home and began making a late breakfast before giving the scratch-off ticket another thought. Using a spoon,



(Photo by Daniel P. Elkins)

Simone Curtis was overwhelmed to discover she won \$100,000 lottery.

she paused from her cooking to scratch the ticket and reveal its numbers.

“By the time I got to the last number, I was just hoping to win my \$5 back,” she said.

Upon finding a match with that last

number, she went to a nearby convenience store to verify whether or not the ticket was a winner. The clerk verified it was a winning ticket, but could only refer her to the nearest lottery claims office to learn the amount.

Curtis requested a day of leave Oct. 22 to travel to Alexandria, La., where she was overwhelmed to discover the ticket was a \$100,000 top prize winner. Lottery officials presented her with a check and a Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement.

“I was a nervous wreck driving back home to the bank with that amount of money in my car,” she said.

Although the amount of money pales in comparison to the multimillion dollar contracts she manages, she said it is the odds that strike her as more amazing.

“The odds and probability that I was in that town and picked that location to buy a ticket, it definitely happens once in a lifetime,” Curtis said.

2012 Federal health benefits season opens

The Office of Personnel Management officially announced the 2012 Federal Employees Health Benefits open season will run from Nov. 12 through Dec. 10, 2012.

During this time, employees can enroll, change or cancel existing enrollment in Federal Flexible Spending Account Program, Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program, or Federal Employees Health Benefits Program accounts.

Participants can find specific federal benefits open season information on the OPM website at <http://www.opm.gov>.



(U.S. Army photo)

MICC, ECC join forces to support career day

Yamileth Moneymaker of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command (far right) teamed with Expeditionary Contracting Command Soldiers: Staff Sgt. Antonio McMillian of the 410th Contracting Support Brigade (second from right) and Staff Sgt. Laniece Bowman of the 412th CSB (third from right), to participate in the Lamar Elementary Career Day Nov. 8 in San Antonio, Texas. The event gave the students a chance to learn about the Army community as well as build relationships with the school staff for future school involvement and mentorship opportunities.



(Photo by David San Miguel)

Fun day of golf

Army Contracting Command and Expeditionary Contracting Command staff take time off for a tournament of fun golf, Nov. 6, at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Here, Lt. Col. Kevin M. Nash, ACC, shows his winning form putting while his playing partners cheer him on.

ACC-NCR graduates fellows, interns

By Jeanette Lau
ACC-National Capital Region

The Army Contracting Command-National Capital Region celebrated a career milestone for four Army Materiel Command Fellows Program participants and 32 contracting interns with a graduation ceremony Nov. 9.

Brig. Gen. Joseph L. Bass, director for contracting, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement), was the guest speaker. He shared experiences from his career, reminding the graduates about the value of customer service and the importance of its support to the war fighter.

Bass said contracting officers and others have a key role in the development of contracting professionals. He encouraged the graduates to consider positions and assignments that would broaden their knowledge and add to their professional experiences.

Following the presentation of certificates and commander's coins, a reception provided time for graduates and their guests to interact with each

other, as well as meet with Bass.

This event marked the end of more than two years of training, rotations and progressively complex challenges in contracting assignments as part of the ACC-NCR Intern Program. The AMC Fellows Program, established in 2000, was designed to build a multi-functional, mobile cadre of qualified personnel through a five-year program.

Graduating fellows included: Tony Adams, Jennifer Haveron, Ken Lutes, and Ken Zeng. Graduating interns included: Emmanuel Abban, Brett Allen, Jolynda Alston, Donald Burris, Hamilton Cunningham, Sharon Davis, Jorge De Leon, Michael Dennie, Shataya Dove, Veronica Gaines-Turner, Shonn Gilkes, Sharron Grayson-Harmon, Keith Gregory, David Hampton, Aretha Jones, Carol Lake, Willie Marbury, Andrew Martin, Shola Martyn, Tariq Miakhel, Michael Mike, Aaron Nance, Grant Njoku, Vann Petway, Nancy Santana, Matthew Schupbach, Erin Stevenson, David Struble, Jose Vasquez, Jacqueline Verrine, Shannon Welch and Nikita Wimper.



ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

Contracting brigade supports partnership-building exercise

By Rachel Clark
409th Contracting Support Brigade

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Members of the 409th Contracting Support Brigade participated in Jackal Stone 2012, a Special Operations Command Europe multinational Special Forces partnership-building exercise conducted in Croatia in September.

The brigade, headquartered in Kaiserslautern, provided contracting support at five locations across Croatia in support of the mission.

<http://www.theredstonerocket.com/content/contracting-brigade-supports-partnership-building-exercise>



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