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NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

Army to close National Capital Region contracting center

The U.S. Army will close its National Capital Region contracting center next year, the Army announced Nov. 16.

Army Contracting Command-National Capital Region, located in Alexandria, Va., will be closed July 20, 2013, and its workload distributed to other contracting centers operated by the U.S. Army Contracting Command.

The workload redistribution affects 260 civil service positions and six military positions. All ACC-NCR civil service employees will be offered their current position at the new locations. Soldiers will be reassigned through the military personnel system.

"This was a difficult decision," said Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, U.S. Army Contracting Command, headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. "But as good stewards of the taxpayers' money, we must make the most effective and efficient use of our resources, including our people. We have a position for all of our valued employees and will work diligently to make their transition to their new job locations as easy as possible."

High employee turnover and operating costs were the primary factors for closing the center and redistributing its workload to other ACC contracting organizations, according to Gene Duncan, acting chief, Operations Division, ACC Operations Group, and project officer for the transition. ACC-NCR employee turnover was more than 30 percent between Oct. 1, 2010 and June 30, 2012, compared to normal workforce attrition of between eight and 10 percent. By moving the organization from a highly competitive area, turnover will be reduced, the

workforce will stabilize and the already strong customer service and contract quality will improve, he said.

"We have a position for all of our valued employees and will work diligently to make their transition to their new job locations as easy as possible."

– Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols
ACC commanding general

The Army predicts the move will save about \$13 million annually, once the transition is complete, through increased efficiencies, reduced facilities and information technology costs, reduced turnover and reduced locality pay at most locations as the positions are moved outside the National Capital Region.

ACC-NCR's workload will be distributed to ACC contracting centers at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. (87 positions), Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. (79 positions), Warren, Mich. (10 positions), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. (32 positions), and Redstone Arsenal, Ala. (22 positions) as well as to the Mission and Installation Contracting Command offices at Fort Knox, Ky. (10 positions) and Joint Base San Antonio, Texas (12 positions). An element of 14 positions will remain in the National Capital Region at Fort Belvoir, Va., to handle support functions including customer support, coordination and Government Purchase

Card oversight.

Employees will have until Jan. 8, 2013, to accept or decline the management-directed reassignment. Employees who decline transfer will be eligible to register in the Priority Placement Program, a Department of Defense system designed to help displaced employees. In addition, ACC will provide relocation and transition assistance. Employees may also be eligible for placement through the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Plan for positions outside the Department of Defense.

"There will be another option within ACC," Duncan said. "Under the ACC Command Assistance for Placing Employees Program, employees who decline the management-directed reassignment will have the opportunity to indicate interest in other ACC locations. Selecting officials will receive information regarding those employees' skills and certification levels. The gaining selecting official will make the selection. Employees selected under this program will receive travel orders and must report to the gaining location no later than July 20, 2013."

Army Contracting Command provides global contracting support to Soldiers through the full spectrum of military operations. ACC consists of about 6,800 civilians and Soldiers at more than 100 locations worldwide. In fiscal year 2012 ACC awarded and managed more than 228,000 contract actions valued at more than \$74 billion.

In fiscal year 2012, ACC-NCR executed more than 4,600 contract actions valued at \$1.84 billion.

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Spotlight on...

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Contracting jack-of-all-trades fortunate to serve under good leadership

Bilal M. Shain is a contracting officer assigned to the Expeditionary Contracting Command's 409th Contracting Support Brigade headquartered at Kaiserslautern, Germany. He currently works at the Regional Contracting Office in Seckerheim, Germany.

Describe your current position?

I'm a contracting officer working all aspects of contracting. I work small



Bilal M. Shain

and large dollar requirements from cradle-to-grave, advise on unauthorized commitments, mentor and act as chief when necessary. I guess you'd call it I'm a contracting jack-of-all-trades.

What are your hobbies/passions?

I enjoy woodworking, repairing and restoring old furniture. Wood is a living product - kind of like contracting - a rewarding finished product if handled with care. My passions are my family and friends. I only have one older sibling but many aunts, uncles and cousins. In a nutshell, I have a very big family spread out all over the world with most in the U.S. Another passion I have is an honest love for people.

What are some of your goals?

I only have two. One is to settle down in New Jersey or somewhere in Tuscany, preferably Tuscany. The second is to write a book, not a best-seller, maybe just something for my children and grandchildren to remember me by.

Why did you get into contracting?

I guess like all people I needed a job. A job that turned out to be a very demanding and at times rewarding profession. If anyone takes contracting like a job, you are definitely in the wrong job.

Any special accomplishments?

In the 1970s, I worked at the Contracting Agency in Fuerth/Nurnberg where I helped establish the Grafenwoehr sub office. After that, it was setting up Augsburg and then Wurzburg before

I transferred to Stuttgart. There, I took over the Small Purchases Branch, then contract administration and on several occasions served as acting chief. Currently, I am working closely with the embassy and attaché to complete several U.S. Africa Command unobligated commitments. Thus far, I have been able to get one approved by the Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting.

I have always been fortunate to have served under some very good leaders. If it were not for the leadership and all their support, I don't think I would have ever made contracting my profession. I would have never been able to make it on my own.

This is what makes the difference.



U.S. Army Contracting Command

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Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols

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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.

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NewsBlast readers now have a tool to provide feedback about the weekly newsletter. To access the feedback tool, click on the mailbox icon to the right. The questionnaire is brief and will only take a few minutes to complete. Responses, however, will assist the editorial staff in producing a publication to better meet readers' expectations and information needs.



Army launches 'Hire a Veteran' campaign to debunk myths

By Emily Anderson
Warrior Transition Command

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – With more than 80,000 disabled veterans expected to enter the workforce over the next five years, the U.S. Army Warrior Transition Command launched a national education campaign to address employers' concerns that impede the hiring of wounded, injured and ill veterans.

At a National Press Club conference Nov. 19, WTC launched "Hire a Veteran" to debunk the myths around post-traumatic stress disorder, reasonable accommodations and transferability of military skills.

"Our goal for this campaign is for employers to gain clarity on how well military skills translate to civilian employment; post-traumatic stress disorder/traumatic brain injury; and reasonable accommodations – which will result in the employment of more wounded warriors," said Brig. Gen. David J. Bishop, WTC commander and assistant surgeon general for warrior care and transition.

"We hope to amplify the incredible value our wounded warriors bring to the civilian workforce given their unique training and experience," he said. "We hope to illuminate the fact that PTSD and TBI are treatable conditions which are not unique to the military and that most individuals affected go on to have productive, successful lives."

The campaign includes a 10-minute educational video providing solutions to the three obstacles, a two-minute "trailer" video, radio spot and an online employer toolkit.

The campaign was built on research conducted by the Society for Human Resource Management, the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. Founded in 1948, SHRM represents more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries.

"I'll admit that our members are telling us there are challenges when it comes to recruiting, hiring and retaining veterans," said Jeff Pon, SHRM chief human resources and strategy officer. "The good news is this: employers want to hire veterans and they are actively interested in hiring veterans."

"Two-thirds of employers surveyed by SHRM said they have hired veterans within the past 36 months," he said. "This

is a significant jump from 2010, when just over half of organizations said they had done so."

Tim Isacco, Orion International chief operating officer, spoke at the press conference and agreed with the idea of veterans having difficulties translating their military skills to the civilian workforce.

"There is often times a disconnect when it comes to translating a 'military' resume into 'civilian' or understanding a veteran's background and skill set to determine a best fit," he said. "It is vital for corporate America to realize that while all veterans are trained within a military occupation that brings a specific level of training and qualifications, veterans universally possess many soft skills that make them invaluable within the workforce such as leadership, tireless work ethic and proven performance under the most difficult of situations."

Retired Staff Sgt. Paul "Rob" Roberts shared how the Army supported his recovery at a Warrior Transition Unit for third-degree burns, PTSD and TBI and then helped him secure employment.

During his recovery, he worked with occupational therapists and transition coordinators to identify a new career path.

"When I took my oath, raised my hand and swore to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic — I meant it. So if I couldn't serve in the Army any more, I knew I wanted to serve my country by working for the federal government whether it was for the CIA, DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) or FBI."

Through an Operation Warfighter internship with the DEA, and then polishing his resume and interview skills at a Fort Belvoir, Va., job fair, Roberts gained employment with the FBI.

"The Army tears you down in basic training and builds you back up as a leader with training and experience," Roberts challenged the audience. "Isn't that what you want for your company?"

For more information on the WTC "Hire the Veteran" campaign, view the materials at www.WTC.army.mil.

WARRIOR CARE MONTH 2012 – OPEN LETTER TO OUR ARMY COMMUNITIES

November is traditionally the month when Americans reflect on the service of our Nation's Veterans and give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy because of their courage and sacrifice. Since 2008, the Military Departments have observed "Warrior Care Month" during November as a time to reaffirm our country's commitment to care for and support our wounded, ill and injured Servicemembers and their Families. The theme for this year's joint observance is "Success through Transition – Education, Employment, and Entrepreneurship."

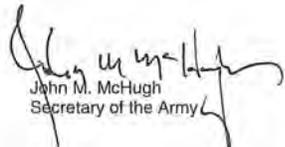
Since this program began in 2007, approximately 50 percent of all Soldiers in Warrior Transition Units have returned to the force. Approximately 23,000 of them are back in the fight and our Veterans who do leave military service are prepared to lead strong and productive lives. This program, overseen by the Warrior Transition Command, currently cares for 10,000 Soldiers in Warrior Transition Units and 9,000 Army Veterans through the Army Wounded Warrior Program.

Warrior care goes well beyond providing the highest quality medical care possible to these Soldiers. We help wounded, ill and injured Soldiers to achieve employment and educational goals so they may return to their civilian communities prepared to succeed. And we are not alone in this important endeavor. We are grateful to the educators and employers across the Nation who recognize the unlimited potential and invaluable contributions of these men and women and open their doors and hearts to them.

Warrior Care Month is the time to tell this story and to pay tribute to those who have sacrificed so much for the defense of our Nation. There is no greater calling than helping to heal our brothers and sisters in arms when they return home from battle. Together, let's celebrate the resilience and strength that our wounded, ill and injured Soldiers demonstrate every day. Army Strong!


Raymond F. Chandler III
Sergeant Major of the Army


Raymond T. Odierno
General, United States Army
Chief of Staff


John M. McHugh
Secretary of the Army



ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

Answering the call

Veterans honored for their service to the nation

By Matt McKean

(Posted in the TimesDaily.com on Nov. 13, 2012)

Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis, Expeditionary Contracting Command, is quoted in the article.

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis stood at a podium looking out across a room in Tuscumbia Church of Christ Annex filled with veterans and their families.

“They opened the door so I could serve (our country),” said Clark-Davis, a 1980 graduate of Deshler High School. “They passed the torch to me and now I have the privilege to pass the torch to the next generation.”

<http://timesdaily.com/stories/Answering-the-call,198691>

Tuscumbia celebrates Veterans Day indoors

By Marie Waxel

(Program aired on WAFF48 News-TV on Nov. 12, 2012)

Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis, Expeditionary Contracting Command, is quoted in the article.

TUSCUMBIA, AL (WAFF) - Monday morning's rain forced Veterans Day celebrations inside in the Shoals.

All the rain forced Tuscumbia to cancel their parade, but it did not stop the city's salute to veterans.

<http://www.waff.com/story/20076340/tuscumbia-celebrates-veterans-day-indoors>

Army closing Virginia contracting office, 22 positions moved to Redstone Arsenal

By Leada Gore / lgore@aol.al.com

(Posted on AL.com Nov. 16, 2012)

The U.S. Army will close its National Capital Region contracting center, located in Alexandria, Va., next year. The move will relocate 22 positions to Redstone Arsenal.

http://blog.al.com/breaking/2012/11/army_closing_virginia_contract.html

Arsenal to receive extra workload after Army contracting office closes

By Ed Tibbetts

(Posted on the Quad-City Times Nov. 16, 2012)

The closing of an Army contracting office in the Washington, D.C., area will mean additional workload at the Rock Island Arsenal.

The Army Contracting Command said Friday afternoon that its office in Alexandria, Va., is closing, with 260 positions to be distributed to about a half-dozen other locations. That could mean an additional 87 new contracting employees at the Arsenal.

http://qctimes.com/news/local/arsenal-to-receive-extra-workload-after-army-contracting-office-closes/article_2984624e-304c-11e2-97b1-001a4bcf887a.html



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