



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

ACC realigns two contracting offices

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—Army Contracting Command has realigned two of its contracting offices that serve overseas customers.

ACC realigned the ACC Planning Cell-Miami, Fla., and the Mission and Installation Contracting Command-Fort Wainwright, Alaska, from the Mission and Installation Contracting Command to the Expeditionary Contracting Command, according to Scott Romero, chief of Current Operations, ACC Operations Group. The changes were effective Dec. 2.

Romero said the realignments provide more efficient contracting support to the

war fighter.

"Aligning the regional contracting offices to ECC establishes a direct support relationship that will provide unity of command efforts for U.S. Army operations in support of combatant commanders with overseas responsibilities."

Romero said the ACC Planning Cell is now the Regional Contracting Office-Miami. It is a subordinate unit of ECC's 410th Contracting Support Brigade, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The 410th provides exercise and contingency planning support to U.S. Southern Command, including

direct contracting support for the SOUTHCOM commander's office.

MICC-Fort Wainwright became the Regional Contracting Office-Alaska, part of ECC's 413th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Shafter, Hawaii. The 413th supports mission operations, provides operational contract support planning and day-to-day installation contracting support to U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Army Pacific and Army installations in Alaska.

He said the realignment will not result in any permanent change of station moves.

SDDC AQ employee earns 'Outstanding Performer' award



(Photo by Mark Diamond)

Carol Sinnard was recently recognized as Headquarters SDDC Outstanding Performer of the Quarter.

By Mark Diamond

Surface Deployment and Distribution Command Public Affairs

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, III.

— Carol Sinnard, a contract specialist assigned to Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command's Acquisition Center, was recently named Headquarters SDDC Outstanding Performer of the Quarter.

According to Karen E. Osborn, chief of contracting, SDDC Acquisition Center, Sinnard sets the standard for government professionals during a time of shrinking budgets and fiscal constraints.

Osborn said Sinnard, wearing her business advisor hat, went above and beyond in coaching her Defense Personal Property Program - known as DP3 - customers in the development of their requirements packages.

"She provided guidance and training,

and her hands-on efforts ensured an exceptionally well-defined performance work statement that greatly increased the opportunity for competition and set the stage for an \$11 million savings," Osborn added.

The director said Sinnard mentored her customers in the proposal evaluation and source selection processes, and worked closely with them during source selection, ensuring a timely and accurate proposal evaluation.

"In fact," Osborn said, "the source selection process went so exceptionally well that the contracts attorney stated it was the best source selection she had seen."

Sinnard's work didn't stop there.

"Following the contract award, Carol diligently worked with her customers, as well as both the new and old contractors, to develop a contract transition plan," Osborn said.

See AWARD, page 3.

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Spotlight on...

For Spotlight submissions, click on the icon.

Army changed me in so many positive ways

Sgt. Maj. Samuel D. McCray is the U.S. Army Contracting Command's G-3 Operations Division sergeant major. Previously, he served with the 65th Medical Brigade in Yongsan, Korea.

Describe your current position:

I serve as the enlisted advisor on all matters concerning training, plans and operations for the ACC.

Describe your passion for the job:

The passion I have for my job as a Soldier and leader is found in a quote by Joseph Campbell - "Passion will move men beyond themselves, beyond their shortcomings, beyond their failures."

I have served in the military for more than 30 years, and it's not because of the great pay. The Army changed me in so many positive ways.

Before I joined the military, I didn't give much thought about people outside of my immediate family, shyness ruled my life, and I didn't do very well in school. Now, I go out of my way to speak to people and help others. I'm still shy, but no one can tell. Well - everyone that reads this article will know now.

The confidence I gained in the military has put me where I don't let my shyness interfere in the things I need or want to do in life. And a college degree is something I never thought I would get. Now, I have a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, and I'm working towards a master's degree.

This passion I have for the military will always remain strong in me. I especially enjoyed my years as a company first sergeant where I was able to directly work



Sgt. Maj. Samuel D. McCray

alongside our Soldiers.

This is also why I plan on becoming a Junior ROTC instructor when I retire next year. It will be another opportunity to help influence and mentor our next generation of military leaders.

Where do you call home? Tell us about your family and what you enjoy doing during your spare time.

I call Pensacola, Fla., home and my wife, Cynthia, and I have been married 24 years. Our son, Bryant, is a freshman at Alabama A & M University and our daughter, Amber, is a freshman at Columbia High School.

Off duty, I love spending time with my family, playing sports and fishing. My wife's favorite family-time event is the family listening to her talk. She just loves to talk!

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.




U.S. Army Contracting Command

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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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South Dakota Guard contracting team activates for deployment to Afghanistan

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen
South Dakota National Guard Public Affairs

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Family, friends and co-workers joined together at Camp Rapid for an activation ceremony for four soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 1978th Contingency Contracting team Nov. 28.

Maj. Matthew Symonds, Capt. Paula Moore, Sgt. 1st Class Jack Hahne and Staff Sgt. Amanda Galdo will deploy for a nine-month tour to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Rapid City-based 1978th will plan for and coordinate all contracting functions at a brigade or combat team level.

"We work with contracts that deal with anything from purchasing food to construction projects," said Maj. Matthew Symonds, 1978th commander. "We are here to make sure the military is a good steward of our taxpayers' money."

The unit will be responsible for assisting with the development and administration of contracting support plans, policy and appendices in support of operational, contingency and deliberate plans associated within an area of responsibility.

"We're very excited about the opportunity to apply what we've learned in the past four years," said Symonds. "The South Dakota National Guard has trained us well and has instilled confidence in us to accomplish our mission."

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, the adjutant general of the SDNG, addressed the audience during the activation ceremony.

"Even though this is a small unit, they are a big deal," said Reisch. "We have four



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Tangen)

Capt. Paula Moore, a Rapid City, S.D., native and member of the 1978th Contingency Contracting Team, South Dakota Army National Guard, hugs her friend, Audrey Montileaux, after the unit's activation ceremony Nov. 28.

members who will be split up into four different areas overseas. Their function is critical in the operations overseas. Without them everything would come to a halt."

The South Dakota National Guard has a rich history of deploying service members in time of need.

"The South Dakota National Guard has been sending people out the door to do missions the state and nation

has needed for more than 150 years," said Reisch. "We have a developed a tremendous legacy over that century and a half. There is no question in my mind that this unit will continue to enhance the legacy of the SDNG."

The unit will report to Camp Shelby, Miss., to complete several weeks of theater-specific training prior to deployment overseas. This is the first mobilization for the 1978th.

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"She again used her expert contract administration skills to negotiate a \$63,000 savings for the plan. Her hands-on approach and attention to detail also assured a smooth transition, with no impact to service support of the DP3 program."

Osborn added that Sinnard

accomplished all of this while continuing to perform her already full workload of contract administration duties for the consolidated Web capabilities, information assurance and DP3 contracts, which total more than \$26 million.

"This was the SDDC contracting center's most challenging fiscal-year-end

ever, and Carol was a top contributor to its success while simultaneously juggling eight other year-end procurement actions," Osborn said. "Her efforts were certainly instrumental in SDDC AQ's success in award of all contract requirements for the last quarter of fiscal 2012."

Army launches winter safety campaign

By Strategic Communication Directorate
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. – The U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center officially launched the Army Safe Winter campaign Nov. 26, providing leaders, Soldiers and safety professionals valuable information to augment their seasonal safety programs.

The campaign is the second of four installments of the “Know the Signs” safety effort.

“As an Army, we’re doing extremely well regarding accidental losses,” said Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Edens, director of Army Safety and commanding general, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center. “Fiscal (year) 2012 was our best year in more than a decade, and this year we’ve seen further decreases in fatal accidents.

“The last thing we want to have happen is Soldiers use that good news as a reason to drop their guard,” he said.

Private motor vehicle accidents remain the number one killer of Soldiers. Inclement weather during winter can heighten risk while driving, whether on two wheels or four.

“Believe it or not, more Soldiers were killed on motorcycles during January and February this year than sedans and other

“The last thing we want to have happen is Soldiers use that good news as a reason to drop their guard.”

– Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Edens
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

conventional vehicles,” Edens said.

“Leaders have to know what their Soldiers are doing and stay engaged on the hazards they may face, even if it seems counter intuitive to the time of year,” he said.

The Army Safe Winter campaign includes informative articles and posters

that heighten awareness of cold weather hazards.

“These campaigns have become the focal point for seasonal safety programs,” he said. “That’s a good thing, because it continually challenges us to think of new and creative ways to relay the information.”

Edens, however, advises leaders not to use this information as a crutch.

“Safety is a lot more than briefings and bulletin boards,” he said. “It’s about the safety culture within the organization, and it begins with leader engagement at the lowest level.”

The Army Safe Winter campaign website can be found at <https://safety.army.mil/multimedia/CAMPAIGNSINITIATIVES/KnowtheSigns/WinterSafety2012/tabid/2385/Default.aspx>.

Contracting history...

During World War II, contracting officers helped re-open clerical supply manufacturers in liberated France and Belgium to supply items like typewriters and stationary. These efforts freed up much-needed cargo space on the ships

steaming from the U.S., provided low-priority necessities to the Army, and helped jump-start the rebuilding of the European economy.

Source: Army Contracting Command historian

ACC commanding general meets with community leaders



(Photo by Giselle Lyons-Bodin)

Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, U.S. Army Contracting Command, enjoys a visit with Huntsville, Ala., Mayor Tommy Battle, Nov. 30, in his office overlooking the city. During the visit, Nichols presented the mayor with a brief overview of the command’s worldwide contracting mission and discussed with him the importance of jobs and small business.



(Photo by Ed Worley)

Madison, Ala., Mayor Troy Trulock pays an office visit to the U.S. Army Contracting Command, Nov. 30. During the visit, Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, ACC commanding general, briefed the newly-elected mayor on the command’s worldwide contracting mission and its importance to the city.