



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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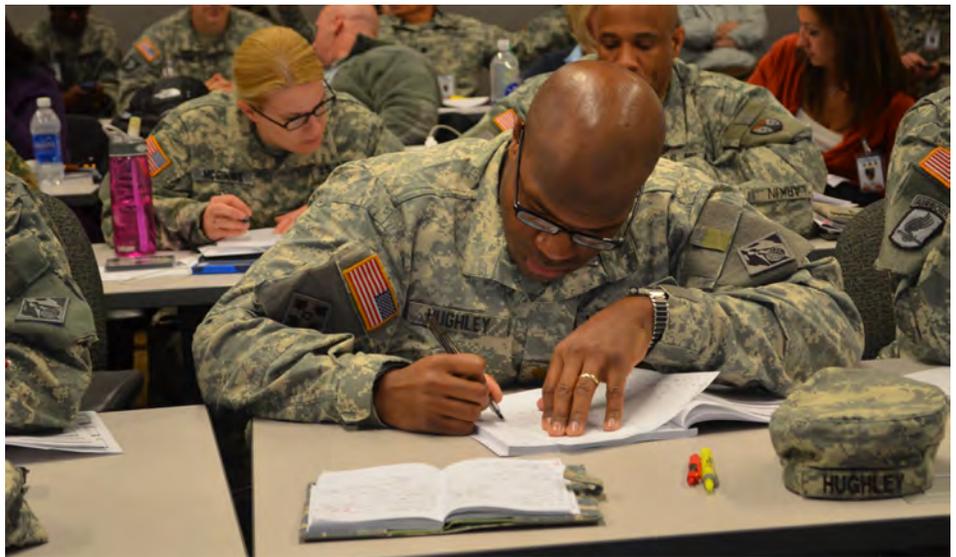
"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

Joint contracting exercise commences

ACC Office of Public and Congressional Affairs

FORT BLISS, Texas-More than 300 participants, trainers and support staff arrived at Fort Bliss, Texas, as part of Joint Contracting Readiness Exercise 2013, the U.S. Army Contracting Command's annual contingency contracting readiness exercise.

The ACC-designed forum and exercise trains military and deployable civilian contracting officers in warrior and contracting specific tasks. Trainees and cadre members from all Army components, Navy, Marine Corps, and the Air Force are participating. This hands-on training exposes contingency contracting officers to contracting and contingency challenges while affording them the opportunity to develop and exchange solutions with their peers from other services and Army components. Participants began arriving Jan. 13 and will wrap up Jan. 31.



(Above) Maj. Anthony Hughley, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C. takes notes during the introductory session of the exercise as (lower left) Brenda Clark, chief, Contract Support Division and deputy director, Mission and Installation Contracting Command-Fort Benning, Ga., inputs exercise data (U.S. Army Photos by David San Miguel)



According to Col. Timothy Strange, Commander, 412th Contracting Support Brigade, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, the exercise has five objectives:

- Provide real-world contract scenarios to minimize contingency contracting officer ramp-up time in theater;
- Sustain contingency contracting officers' warrior skills;
- Introduce theater-specific contingency contracting officer training and tools;
- Enhance contingency contracting officers' confidence to excel and work in a joint contingency environment;
- Conduct realistic senior contracting officer training for worldwide contingency missions.

Strange said the ACC team created the realistic live training exercise to replicate the conditions that contracting officers will face in Afghanistan and elsewhere. The live training is similar to the training that maneuver units receive at the training

centers. The exercise provides tools, techniques and procedures necessary to deploy with confidence and the ability to support deployed forces. This three-week exercise will train 198 contracting service members and civilians at all ranks up to brigadier general.

He said lessons learned from this exercise will be incorporated into future training exercises and into the skill sets of contingency contracting officers. The joint training will also improve interoperability between the services' contracting operations. Additionally, the exercise strives to improve contract planning and execution in a joint environment and contributes to establishing expeditionary contracting as a core and enduring Army operational capability.

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Spotlight on...

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Sgt. 1st Class Ontario Flowers

903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion Kaiserslautern, Germany

Sgt. 1st Class Ontario Flowers is the noncommissioned officer in charge for the 606th Senior Contingency Contracting Team, 903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion, 409th Contracting Support Brigade in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

A Raeford, N.C. native, Flowers has been serving in the Army for nine years. She joined the service after Sept. 11 and enrolled into the delayed entry program.

"I wanted to do my part as an American. By the time I finished basic training and advance individual training I was almost 30 years old. I always felt that I was behind the power curve in comparison to other Soldiers my age. I used

that to work hard and motivate me to be the best and excel in the military to get me where I am today," said Flowers.

While she admits she hates being away from family, she does enjoy serving her country.

"The most rewarding part is when a stranger sees me in uniform and thanks me for my service. My reply to them is "thank you for your support."

The oldest of four children, Flowers

cites her mother as an influential leader in her life, and continues to share her accomplishments.

"I grew up in a single-parent home. I watched my mother take care of myself and my three younger sisters. As the oldest I felt obligated to ease her burden. Even today I involve my mother in every one of my accomplishments. She is so

proud of me and that has a big effect on my motivation to strive to be the best I can," said Flowers.

Formerly a petroleum supply specialist, she got into contracting to secure a future for life after the military.

"I love everything about contracting. It pushes me to be a better me! I'm so motivated about my job.

"Contracting allows me to think outside of the box and not do things by the numbers. I wanted to be afforded the chance to use my brain."

Flowers' future goals are to continue to excel in the Army and retire as a command sergeant major.

"I strive to be the best leader I can be. I want someone to be able to look at me and just say...hey that's a squared away NCO."




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.

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.

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.





(Left to right) Jim Bungard, Mission and Installation Contracting Command-White Sands Missile Range, N.M.; Mike Elmore, Aviation and Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal; Debra Chaney, MICC-Field Directorate Office Fort Bragg, N.C.; Dennis Schleif, ACC-Rock Island, Ill.; and Sherri Mattern, ACC government furnished property subject matter expert, work on mapping the government furnished property accountability process. (U.S. Army Photo by Ed Worley)

Property experts tackle accountability issue

By Ed Worley

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REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—A group of subject matter experts gathered here in an effort to solve a problem that's been plaguing the Army for many years—accountability of government property in the hands of contractors.

According to David H. Groell, Property Branch chief, Army Contracting Command Operations Group here, the Government Furnished Property Continuous Process Improvement Integrated Process Team's goal is to develop a system "where ACC has standardized processes, checklists, procedures, and training. Through this process we will develop the best in class property administration system."

J.R. Richardson, director, ACC Operations Group, said ACC has a material weakness—a lack of internal controls—in GFP property administration.

"I hired two industrial property management specialists at ACC headquarters to lead the development of a comprehensive property management plan for ACC," Richardson explained. "I also stood up a GFP Property Community

of Practice. Members of the COP are part of the IPT meeting here to develop a charter, communication plan, stakeholder analysis and to do some process mapping. This Property COP is part of a bigger continuous process improvement initiative being established to put ACC on the path to extraordinary."

Groell said the government furnished and contractor acquired property accountability problem has been reported for several years. Groell said the team wants to get to the root of the problem and fix it.

"We're getting together with functional experts from across the community to hammer things out," he said. "Once we finish here, we are going to reach out to the entire ACC (property administration) community for their input."

According to Sherri Mattern, government contract property subject matter expert also in the ACC Operations Group, part of the problem is that property administrators have no standardized guidance to help them do their jobs.

"Right now we don't have the basics written down," Mattern said. "Property administrators want defined processes. Over the years, we have simply tried to fix the problem by applying band-aids.

It's time to rip the band-aids off and start healing the wounds."

The IPT kicked off Jan. 7 and will wrap up the initial session Jan. 18. Participants include representatives from the Defense Acquisition University, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement), the Mission and Installation Contracting Command, the Expeditionary Contracting Command and ACC.

The initial session was an intense, in-depth look at government property accountability processes, Groell said. The IPT's work, once it develops the processes, procedures, checklists, and training, will be an "instrumental baseline for adoption Army-wide." He estimates there are more than 6,100 contracts with the government furnished property clause 52.245-1 within ACC.

"This is a big problem," he said. "And it's about time that we did something about it. We have the support from the command staff, so now is the time."

Groell said the team will meet monthly, either virtually or face-to-face, until it completes its mission. He expects the team's first product out in the third quarter of fiscal year 2013.



ACC in the News

This article mentions Army Contracting Command.

Redstone logistics planner playing role in the birth of new nation of South Sudan



Leada Gore, The Huntsville Times

(Posted on Al.com, Jan. 14, 2013)

Logistics planning in one of the world's newest countries is a far cry from working on Redstone Arsenal. For Major James Coe, however, the experience has been both rewarding and challenging.

http://blog.al.com/breaking/2013/01/redstone_logistics_planner_pla.html

Contracting Center workers tour customers' facilities

By Maj. Terry Butler

(Posted on theredstonerocket.com Jan. 14, 2013)

The Army Contracting Command-Redstone Arsenal, Ala., Operations and Services Directorate is taking on the challenge of changing the culture of communication.

http://www.theredstonerocket.com/military_scene/article_d8d4b502-5a70-11e2-96ab-0019bb2963f4.html



Soldiers integrated into Army Contracting Command's stateside operations



Leada Gore, The Huntsville Times

(Posted on Al.com, Jan. 14, 2013)

Soldiers from the Expeditionary Contracting Command will soon be working more closely Army Contracting Command's stateside organizations. Army officials said the change will streamline command and control of operations.

http://blog.al.com/huntsville-times-business/2013/01/soldiers_integrated_into_army.html

Fort Bliss expands scope for contracting readiness exercise

(Posted on theredstonerocket.com, Jan. 16, 2013)

Contracting professionals are converging at Fort Bliss, Texas, to participate in what officials call the premiere Department of Defense contracting readiness exercise.

http://www.theredstonerocket.com/tech_today/article_c3505916-5f6b-11e2-acb9-0019bb2963f4.html



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