



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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“Providing global contracting support to war fighters.”

JCRX-13 participants share experiences

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FORT BLISS, Texas - After five days of warrior task training during the Army Contracting Command’s Joint Contracting Readiness Exercise 2013 here, participants are “feeling it.”

More than 200 Soldiers, sailors, Marines, and DOD civilians are attending the military contracting and warrior task training.

“This is the place to be in so far as making contacts and meeting some of the people you’ve worked with in the field,” said Kimberly Kilpatrick, Mission and Installation Contracting Command-Fort Bragg, N.C. “I’ve participated in all of the warrior training and I have to say my legs are sore. It really gives you an appreciation for Soldiers.”

See JCRX-13, page 3.



(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

JCRX-13 participants learn various first aid techniques during the warriors skills training portion of the exercise. More than 300 military and civilian contracting professionals converged on Fort Bliss, Texas, Jan. 13-31, to prepare for possible deployment in support of contingency operations worldwide.

Cleanup, remediation contract management shifts to MICC

By Daniel P. Elkins
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JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Officials here are undertaking administration and oversight responsibilities for one of the largest contracts in the Mission and Installation Contracting Command following award Jan. 10 of the first task order for environmental remediation.

Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., awarded a contract for environmental cleanup and remediation as part of the Army’s Environmental

Remediation Multiple Award contract. The contract, valued at \$480 million, was awarded to 19 contractors representing both small and large businesses.

Management of the U.S. Army Environmental Command contract now shifts to the MICC’s Environmental Contracting Division here, which conducted a post-award conference in December to better prepare the more than 100 in attendance representing contractors.

“The post-award conference was very successful with very positive feedback from everybody,” said Veronica Romero, chief of the MICC Environmental Contracting Division. “It provided a forum to inform

and educate contractors about expectations and policies after they’ve been awarded a contract. Additionally, it provides them a forum for any further questions they have to get answered.”

Information briefed during the conference also included special provisions of the contract, how task orders are competed, subcontracting work, ordering, minimum guarantees, contract lengths and debriefs. Romero said the conference also included time for conducting one-on-one appointments for individual contractors to discuss topics not covered in the open forum.

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Spotlight on...

For Spotlight submissions, click on the icon.

John D. Bertsch

Headquarters, U.S. Army Contracting Command

John D. Bertsch is a procurement analyst with Headquarters, Army Contracting Command's Operations Group, Management Assessment Division.

Describe your current position:

As a procurement analyst my principal job function is to perform procurement management reviews of ACC contracting activities throughout the enterprise. I provide contracting and acquisition advice and guidance to personnel, plus perform a wide variety of special projects.

Describe your passion for the job:

This is my 35th year working for the federal government, having begun as a 19-year-old with the Air Force during the Vietnam War.

I began my civilian career with Volunteer in Service to America working in northern Nevada with underprivileged children. When my VISTA service ended, I moved to Sacramento and was fortunate to get a job as a clerk-typist. From these beginning points, I have enjoyed a very successful career, living overseas (12 years) and in five different states. I've deployed to Southwest Asia, spent several months in Kuwait and I have served on a long temporary duty assignment in Saudi Arabia. Every job I've had has entailed extensive travel and that is a wonderful part of working for the Army.

Where's home? Tell us about your family.

I grew up in Sacramento, Calif., the state's capital city. It was a great place

being equidistant between the Pacific Ocean and Sierra Nevada mountains.

I met my wife, Kathi, in 1985 while attending a month-long course at the Army Logistics Management College at Fort Lee, Va. By the next summer, we were married and on our way to my permanent duty station at the Harry Diamond Laboratories in Adelphi, Md.

We have three daughters. Kaitlyn is an Army first lieutenant stationed in Hawaii and has just returned from a deployment supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in the Philippines. My middle daughter, Kirsten, is also an Army first lieutenant currently deployed to Afghanistan with the 101st Airborne Division. My son-in-law, 1st Lt. Russ Baker, is deployed to Afghanistan too, but at a different location from Kirsten. My youngest daughter, Kamryn, is a college student. Our granddaughter, Owynne, lives with us while her mom is deployed.

My spare time revolves around traveling to historic sites and national parks. While in Germany, we traveled throughout Europe, North Africa and Southwest Asia. I enjoy bike riding and like to travel long distances during the weekend. My main hobby is doing genealogy research. Computers and the Internet have literally opened up records of all types and I can enjoy it all year long. I have about 18,000 records of people that I have some connection to. Another main hobby was serving with the Air Force Reserve until I recently retired after more than 33 years.

See SPOTLIGHT, page 4.



(Photo by Melody Sandlin)

Maj. Gen. Del Turner, commanding general, U.S. Army Security Assistance Command, recognizes John D. Bertsch with the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service.



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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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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.



USASAC town hall recognizes ACC support

Courtesy U.S. Army Security Assistance Command

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Maj. Gen. Del Turner, commanding general, U.S. Army Security Assistance Command, praised Army Contracting Command for its support to the security assistance enterprise.

Turner also presented an award to John D. Bertsch, a procurement analyst with Headquarters, ACC Operations Group, during a town hall and employee recognition ceremony at USASAC's headquarters on Redstone Arsenal Jan 7.

Bertsch provided support to the SAE while serving as the ACC liaison to USASAC where his contributions improved customer support to the command and facilitated key working relationships between ACC and USASAC.

During his two-year stint with USASAC, Bertsch was also responsible for co-locating two senior-level ACC contracting experts within the USASAC headquarters to ensure key leaders could gain immediate access and timely information on contracting milestones affecting foreign military sales.

While addressing the group, Turner iterated that security assistance is an enterprise effort, requiring the collaboration and cooperation from individuals across

numerous organizations to accomplish the mission. As an example of cooperative effort between the various commands within the enterprise, he pointed to ACC and its work with USASAC and the Army Communications-Electronics Command in developing a set of knowledge-based applications that allow all members of the SAE to see FMS contracting milestone information down to the requisition level.

In October 2012, ACC's Virtual Contracting Enterprise implemented a daily feed of contracting information through the FMS system of record, Centralized Integrated System-International Logistics, allowing case workers to immediately see the current status of contracts. The establishment of FMS-specific fields in the VCE was the result of a collective effort over four months by personnel from USASAC, ACC and CECOM. During that time they identified and quantified the VCE data to feed into CISIL.

Once configured, the VCE data is used specifically to populate the line-level information in the Security Assistance Enterprise management resource to allow case workers to immediately see the status of contracts, including milestones like the completion of acquisition requirements packages, target award dates, contract award dates and the contracting number for a single requirement on a case. More importantly, SAE members can now

identify and engage in specific contracting actions which may require additional attention.

Effective Jan. 1, ACC directed of all its commands and contracting centers to implement VCE to improve the FMS process and allow much-needed visibility into contracting related data, from both a pre and post award environment. As a result of this effort, the SAE gains significant efficiencies by saving time and eliminating the requirement for additional phone calls or email traffic to obtain contracting updates.

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She hopes the feeling is mutual since staying in the barracks is a bit different than what Kilpatrick is accustomed to.

"I hope the Soldiers see we are trying to connect with them on their level," said Kilpatrick, who hadn't slept in a barracks since 1991 when she was in the Air Force.

One Soldier clearly sees herself in those going through the training. Staff Sgt. Channel Pederson, is a new 51C acquisition, logistics and technology contracting noncommissioned officer in the 900th Contingency Contracting Battalion, Fort Bragg.

"They needed people to help run the equipment and they selected me," said Pederson, who entered the acquisition career field less than a year ago. "I'm fortunate to do this because I'll be one of the trainees next year. This kind of gives me an upper hand on next year because I get to see things from a different point of view than the trainees."

According to Angelina McGrogan, MICC-Fort Bragg, the warrior task training is great for any Soldier or civilian who might be deploying down range.

"All of this training would really help if you are deploying," said the former Soldier. "The combat medical training was very realistic. It's much different putting a tourniquet onto a bleeding dummy.

"I personally enjoyed the weapons training, but I think that the most useful training for me would be the medical piece," she said. "That way I could save my buddy and shoot the enemy."

CLEANUP

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"We also provided guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the contracting officer, contracting officer representatives, contractor, ombudsman and small business," Romero said. "It's important that contractors understand the contracting officer is the only individual who can obligate the government."

Award of the task order last week for environment remediation at Aberdeen Proving Ground to EA engineering for \$934,285 was the first of three initial task orders. Additional tasks will be awarded for Makua Military Reservation, Hawaii; and Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, in the coming weeks. Work anticipated to be conducted throughout the United States and Puerto Rico as part of the ERMA

contract will be accomplished under the Installation Restoration, Military Munitions Response, Base Realignment and Closure, Compliance Cleanup or Operational Range Assessment programs.

The MICC is responsible for providing contracting support for the war fighter across Army commands, installations and activities located throughout the continental United States and Puerto Rico. In fiscal year 2012, the command executed more than 58,000 contract actions worth more than \$6.3 billion across the Army, including more than \$2.6 billion to small businesses. The command also managed more than 1.2 million Government Purchase Card Program transactions valued at an additional \$1.3 billion.

Officer shares stories, brings MLK legacy to youthful students

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Col. James Lewis, chief counsel for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command here, shares stories of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a puppet show to preschool and kindergarten students at the Xplor School at Round Rock, Texas, Jan. 21.

He visited with the students to educate them on the importance of the work done by King to champion civil rights in America.



(Photo by Lt. Col. Patricia Lewis)

SPOTLIGHT

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How does your job support the Soldier?

My job requires extensive knowledge, experience and education, which impacts how I can best serve the Soldier. Through performing PMRs, I help ensure the Army contracting works the way it should and this benefits the Soldier – getting what is needed and at a fair cost to everyone.

I just completed a two-year assignment as a liaison to the U.S. Army Security Assistance Command. This was an unbelievable opportunity to work with outstanding Soldiers and civilians. I loved working with foreign military sales and

the international environment. This job allowed me to interact daily with ACC contracting centers and FMS country officers. One of the remarkable aspects was that everyone at USASAC from the commander, deputy commander and chief of staff on down were accessible and wanted to be fully engaged to ensure both U.S. and international partners receive needed military materiel.

What would you like others to know about you?

My career as an Army employee in

contracting and acquisition has brought me immense satisfaction. I have been offered opportunities for personal growth and advancement throughout my career. In turn though, it's my desire to give back where possible and help others realize the many blessings we enjoy. I hope to continue living a life of honesty and integrity that helps me foster the best in all with whom I come in contact.



Spotlight on...

Anonymous Email Program

<https://acc.aep.army.mil/Pages/Anonymous.aspx>

The Commander's Anonymous Email Program is set up so employees can voice their concerns or ideas freely and confidentially.

Question: Has early optional retirement been approved? If not, will DSR be authorized, as of July 20, 2013, without waiting for reasonable offer or registering in the PPP?

Response: Thank you for your inquiry. Voluntary Early Retirement Authority and Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay (VERA/VSIP) are incentives which can be used to help

downsize or reshape a workforce. VERA/VSIP authority was not requested for the ACC-NCR closure because the positions are not being eliminated, they are being transferred to other ACC locations. The command wishes to retain as many employees as possible, especially since many of the positions are in the contracting career field which is experiencing significant shortfalls.

Discontinued Service Retirement (DSR), on the other hand, is an entitlement for ACC-NCR employees who meet DSR eligibility requirements

and are facing separation after declining management directed reassignment outside the commuting area. DSR eligibility is based on factors such as age and years of service and is not dependent upon the Priority Placement Program. More information is available on the ACC-NCR transition website at: <https://acc.aep.army.mil/sites/acc-ncr/zNCR/Pages/Home.aspx>.

If you have any additional questions the G-1 NCR Transition Team is available at 703-428-0066.

ACC experts make 'great strides' in government property accountability

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—A group of subject matter experts who gathered here Jan. 7-18 made “great strides” in mapping the accountability of government property in the hands of contractors, according to one of Army Contracting Command’s subject matter experts.

Known as the Contract Government Property Continuous Process Improvement Integrated Project Team, the group’s goal is to develop a system in which ACC has standardized government property accountability processes, checklists, procedures and training, according to Sherri Mattern, government contract property subject matter expert, ACC Operations Group.

“I feel like the past two weeks was a huge success,” she said. “We realized that this is not a small tasking that we are undertaking, but our goal of having standardized, transparent processes with auditable internal controls is long overdue. The entire contract government property community wants us to succeed. We have assembled a group of functional experts that are passionate about our goal to establish a best in class ACC Government Property Program. We know that this is

going to take a lot of work, but this IPT is up for the task.”

George Holland, Contract Administration Division chief, ACC Operations Group, agreed.

“We are very pleased with the initial IPT efforts,” he said. “This is a command-wide IPT initiated to ensure all perspectives of the command are considered to create a best in class contract government property administration program across ACC. We are now working on getting representation from each of the major subordinate organizations to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to provide input to the process flows and procedures.”

Mattern said the group met its initial goal of starting the development of auditable internal controls to include process flows, procedures and checklists for each of the government property roles and responsibilities.

“Writing process flows, procedures and checklists sounds easy until you are faced with starting the process yourself,” she said. “We have to tie our processes in with the other stakeholder processes.

“This is not the time for tunnel vision,” she added. “We cannot just be concerned

with the (career field) 1103 Property Administrator responsibilities. We also have to include the aspects of all environments to include the contingency environment. This IPT now understands that we are not only looking at the property administrator role, but all the roles in the overall property administration process. This understanding is a very significant accomplishment.”

Mattern said there are obstacles, including the potential for resistance to change.

“Even though some of these requirements have always been there, they have not always been properly accomplished,” she said. “So, they may be viewed as a ‘change’.”

Getting buy-in from all stakeholders is crucial to the success of what the IPT is attempting to accomplish, she added. “We just have to effectively communicate that our processes will add value by alleviating issues with government property that tend to arise during acquisition process.”

The IPT will continue to meet monthly via teleconference beginning Jan. 23, and will include members of the ACC Government Property Community of Practice.



ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

Seminar designed to teach small business owners ins and outs of working with Army contracting

By Leada Gore

(Posted on AL.com, Jan. 15, 2013)

Small business owners wanting to learn more about military contracting are invited to attend an upcoming seminar hosted by the Army Contracting Command and the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville and Madison County.

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

More than 300 battlefield contractors train at Fort Bliss

By Cathy Hernandez

(Aired on 4Local News on Jan. 18, 2013)

EL PASO — Battlefield contractors who work alongside military and government personnel in war trained at Fort Bliss.

More than 300 battlefield contractors were training in hopes of saving lives.

<http://www.kdbc.com/news/more-300-battlefield-contractors-train-fort-bliss>



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