



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

AMC commander addresses workforce on potential impact of furloughs



Gen. Dennis L. Via, commanding general, Army Materiel Command talk to Army Contracting Command employees during a September 2012 visit. (U.S. Army Photo by Ed Worley)

By Kelly Ann Dewitt

Army Materiel Command Public and Congressional Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. - The commander of the U.S. Army Materiel Command spoke to Headquarters employees about budget concerns, the looming sequestration and potential furloughs during a Feb. 25 Town Hall meeting here.

Gen. Dennis L. Via addressed the workforce, telling audience members that he wanted to ensure he shared information on the budget uncertainty, its impact on the command, and its personal impact on the workforce.

"It is disconcerting professionally and personally, and I share those concerns with you," Via said. "As your commanding general, I can tell you we will continue

to be transparent in the potential effects of sequestration. We will listen to your concerns, and we will do everything we can to sustain our war fighter, our AMC employees and families," Via said.

Sequestration is a provision in budget law that will trigger major across-the-board spending cuts March 1 unless Congress agrees on an alternative.

Via noted the importance of taking prudent measures, and encouraged employees to prepare personally and professionally for the pending budget cuts.

AMC and other Army and Department of Defense organizations received guidance in early 2013 on the impacts of the potential sequestration, combined with the issues with the Continuing Resolution Authority. That guidance included a hiring freeze, the release of term employees, the release of

temporary employees at the end of their current appointment, and the potential for a furlough of 22 non-continuous days.

"I realize what a significant burden (furloughs) will have on our employees' family finances - we all have mortgages, rents, college students - I know this is not insignificant in any way," Via told the workforce.

He also reassured the workforce that senior Army and DoD leaders continue to communicate with Congress on the serious repercussions to national security, the valued workforce, and the communities that surround AMC installations, depots and arsenals.

"While we hope (sequestration and the furloughs) will never be executed, it is absolutely prudent that everyone begins taking steps to mitigate the impact and to emerge resilient and 'Army strong'," he said.

Soldiers are exempt from the furlough, according to AMC's G-1, William P. Marriott, as are AMC civilians deployed in support of the war fighter. No other AMC employees, including the most senior employees in the organization, are exempt from the potential 22-day, or 176 hour, furlough.

He also encouraged AMC employees to read the Office of Personnel Management guidance on furloughs (<http://www.opm.gov/faqs/topic/furlough/index.aspx>).

"It answers questions like 'Are my high-three affected,' and 'Can I take leave during the furlough period'," Marriott said. "The more information you have, the better understanding you will have, the better we can get through this."

Employees who read the frequently
See AMC, page 6

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Spotlight on...

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Dorothea Marie Cooper MICC-Joint Base Lewis-McChord

Proud to serve Soldiers



Dorothea Marie Cooper greets Gen. Dennis L. Via, commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command during a recent visit to Joint Base Lewis-McChord. (U.S. Army Photo)

Dorothea Marie Cooper is the deputy director and chief of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command-Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Contracts Division.

Describe your current position:

As the dual-hatted deputy director and chief, Contracts Division, I serve as the contracting business advisor for our installation customers for the totality of the acquisition life cycle. I supervise and direct personnel and functional

activities for the Contracts Division, which includes execution and administration of installation contracts.

Describe your passion for your job:

I love creating a product that has so much value for our military members and our country. Working in contracting allows me the opportunity to feel like I make a difference. I especially enjoy teaching contracting Soldiers to embrace the importance of our trade. Providing a product that helps execute the military

mission makes you proud. I am lucky to be able to serve in this capacity.

Where do you call home? Tell us about your family:

I live in Tacoma, Wash. I have been married for 33 years. I have six brothers and sisters, and lots of nieces and nephews. I have five rescue dogs that take up my extra time. After working all day, it is off to home for our nightly walks. I love spending time with my family and friends. I love to sing with my husband with our karaoke machine at home.

How does your job support the Soldier?

We execute and administer contracts that help feed our military members, provide chemical latrine services out in the field, support deployment training, cell phone service, room assignments at the barracks, and aircraft services, to name a few. Without these services our military members would not be mission ready.

What would you like others to know about you:

I am lucky to work with so many great civil servants and Soldiers. I am proud to be a government employee, who is honored to serve our Soldiers and airmen at JBLM.

U.S. Army Contracting Command

Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols

ACC Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray

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.

Director, Office of Public & Congressional Affairs
Art Forster

Public Affairs Team Chief
Ed Worley

Acting Editor
Larry D. McCaskill

Public Affairs Team
Giselle Lyons, Beth E. Clemons

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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.



Furloughs nothing new to federal employees

By **Mikhael Weitzel**
ACC Command Historian
Mikhael.e.weitzel.civ@mail.mil

Furlough history since 1977

Federal employees are facing the specter of being furloughed because of the fiscal year 2013 federal budget sequestration.

Historically speaking, there's nothing new about federal employees and furloughs.

Toward the end of 1995, Congress had yet to appropriate funds and as a result, 284,621 federal employees received a 21-day furlough while another 475,608 worked without pay. Eventually, Congress sorted everything out and those federal employees received compensation. The Department of Defense found exclusion from this record-setting furlough when President Bill Clinton signed the Department of Defense Appropriations Act on Nov. 30, 1995.

In the 20 years before the 1995 furlough, federal agencies experienced 17 shutdowns and employee furloughs. Some of these shutdowns lasted only a day and one went virtually unnoticed, occurring over the Columbus Day weekend in 1990.

In the September 1997 Congressional Research Service Report for Congress titled "Shutdown of the Federal Government: Effects on the Federal Workforce and Other Sectors," James P. McGrath said in all prior shutdowns, federal employees placed on furlough were paid retroactively when Congress passed and the president signed subsequent legislation authorizing such payment.

Before too much stock is placed in the hopes that history will repeat itself, these furloughs were considered emergency furloughs and they each covered one continuous period of time, and for the most part were unexpected.

The potential of a furlough this time is different. If implemented, the DOD alone will set the historic record for the number of federal employees placed on furlough and may tie or exceed 1995's 21-day record.

Fiscal Year	Date Gap Commenced	Full Day(s) of Gaps	Date Gap Terminated
1977	Thursday 09-30-76	10	Monday 10-11-76
1978	Friday 09-30-77	12	Thursday 10-13-77
	Monday 10-31-77	8	Wednesday 11-09-77
	Wednesday 11-30-77	8	Friday 12-09-77
1979	Saturday 09-30-78	17	Wednesday 10-18-78
1980	Sunday 09-30-79	11	Friday 10-12-79
1982	Friday 11-20-81	2	Monday 11-23-81
1983	Thursday 9-30-82	1	Saturday 10-2-82
	Friday 12-17-82	3	Tuesday 12-21-82
1984	Thursday 11-10-83	3	Monday 11-14-83
1985	Sunday 9-30-84	2	Wednesday 10-3-84
	Wednesday 10-3-84	1	Friday 10-5-84
1987	Thursday 10-16-86	1	Saturday 10-18-86
1988	Friday 12-18-87	1	Sunday 12-20-87
1991	Friday 10-5-90	3	Tuesday 10-9-90
1996	Monday 11-13-95	5	Sunday 11-19-95
	Friday 12-15-95	21	Saturday 1-6-96

Hutchison visits Madison mayor's office



Madison, Ala., Mayor Troy Trulock (left) explains the city's development plan for the Interstate 565 corridor to Michael Hutchison, Army Contracting Command deputy to the commanding general. Hutchison and Trulock had an introductory office call Feb. 25 in the mayor's office. (U.S. Army Photo by Ed Worley)

NewsBlast readers now have a feedback tool to provide input about the weekly newsletter. Click on the mailbox icon to the right and submit your comments or suggestions. Responses will assist the editorial staff in producing a publication to better meet readers' expectations and information needs.



ACC receives five awards for contracting excellence

By Beth Clemons

ACC Office of Public and Congressional Affairs
beth.clemons@us.army.mil

EL PASO, Texas – The U.S. Army Contracting Command collected five awards at the 2012 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting ceremony.

The awards ceremony recognized teams and individuals in 11 categories and was held Jan. 28 at the El Paso Marriott in conjunction with the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting workshop.

ACC award winners are:

AbilityOne Program:

Deborah A. Ault, Mission and Installation Contracting Command, Fort Knox, Ky.

Outstanding Contracting Officer - Systems, Research and Development, Logistics Support (Sustainment) Contracting:

James M. Owens, ACC-Redstone, Ala.

Outstanding Contracting Officer - Installation Level – Directorate of Contracting:

Sandra E. Kim, 413th Contracting Support Brigade, Hawaii

Outstanding Unit/Team Award - Systems, Research and Development, Logistics Support (Sustainment) Contracting:

Fiscal Year 2013-2015 Stryker Life Cycle Requirements Contract Team,

ACC-Warren, Mich.



Sandra E. Kim, 413th Contracting Support Brigade, (left) accepts her award for Outstanding Contracting Officer from Heidi Shyu, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology). (U.S. Army Photo)

ACC-Warren, Mich.

Outstanding Unit/Team Award: Installation Level – Directorate of Contracting:

Regional Contracting Office Hawaii, 413th Contracting Support Brigade.

The Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting were established in 1997 to recognize contracting and acquisition professionals that excel in timeliness, customer support and

contracting innovation and led to process improvements and specific achievements in supporting the contracting mission worldwide. All military and civilian Army contracting professionals are eligible for these awards.

The awards were presented by Heidi Shyu, ASA(ALT) and Kim Denver, deputy assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement).

Nominations for 2013 ACC annual awards due Feb. 28

Nominations for the 2013 Army Contracting Command Annual Awards are due Feb. 28.

The goal of the awards program is to foster a sense of accomplishment and pride in the organization by acknowledging actions that encourage civilian and military employees to achieve the highest levels of performance and service. These awards are applicable to military personnel below the rank of brigadier general and civilian personnel equivalent to GS-15 and below.

“A person should consider nominating a co-worker or mentor for an award to publicly recognize his or her exemplary performance of duty and extraordinary



achievements to the organization they serve,” said Kirk Martindale, award program coordinator, ACC Human Capital G1. “Acknowledging exceptional performance will ultimately encourage and motivate others to set higher standards of accomplishments.”

Awards are based on a variety of

evaluation criteria in various categories including successful program management, individual accomplishments and others.

The award criteria period is from Oct. 1, 2011 to Sept. 29, 2012.

Nominations must include a one-page narrative justification describing the achievement to be recognized and explaining how the achievement works to meet the award criteria.

All award nomination packets must be submitted electronically to the ACC Awards Program Mailbox at usarmy.redstone.acc.mbx.hqacc-accawards@mail.mil. For more information, contact Martindale at 256-955-8536.

Emergency operations plan in place

By **Larry D. McCaskill**

ACC Office of Public and Congressional Affairs
larry.d.mccaskill.civ@mail.mil

REDSTONE ARESENAL, Ala.-In the event Army Contracting Command and Expeditionary Contracting Command Soldiers and employees are directed to stay away from their Redstone Arsenal campus, a plan is in place to help the command continue operations.

"For ACC and ECC, a major emergency situation or event that damages our buildings, power source, or information technology support has the potential of putting us out of business. So we have a Continuity of Operations Program in place," said Daniel E. Morgan, chief, Protection Division, ACC Operations Group. "A COOP event could affect ACC's and ECC's ability to perform the tasks or functions we were organized to perform."

According to Morgan, the reason for a COOP plan is to ensure that ACC's and ECC's mission-essential functions can continue without or with only a limited interruption.

"Think of COOP as an insurance policy for an organization," he said. "Simply put, ACC and ECC provide a unique capability to our supported activities and the United States Army. If we are faced with a major emergency event, such as a terrorist attack like 9/11 or a major natural disaster (like the tornado outbreak here in April 2011) we must be ready to continue to perform our mission-essential functions."

The need for an organization to continue operation in an emergency is practiced throughout the Department of Defense, state and local governments, as well as hospitals, schools, banks and many businesses. Morgan said the Federal Emergency Management Agency even provides free online training and planning guidelines.

"When done well it will ensure that an organization can continue to perform its mission-essential functions regardless of the emergency situation it is faced with," said Morgan. "ACC and ECC have organized COOP teams. These individuals are required to be prepared to operate



Daniel E. Morgan

from an emergency relocation facility, somewhere other than their normal place of work, for a period of a minimum of 30 days. These essential employees are issued identification badges and other equipment to enable them to perform from alternate work areas."

Morgan said employees with COOP responsibilities work with their supervisors to ensure their position descriptions are updated and reflect their COOP responsibilities. In addition, all employees need to have a situational telework agreement signed by their supervisor and on file. Telework agreements enable employees to work from home if needed during a COOP event.

In the event that a COOP event occurs or is predicted to occur, the ACC Operations Group will notify and assemble the ACC/ECC crisis management team and make a decision on how to respond.

"The CMT is composed of the commanders, deputies to the commanding general, the chiefs of staff and all senior directors of both ACC and ECC," he said. "If the decision is made to execute or activate our COOP plan, then the plan becomes an order, and the work force will be informed of the decision using our

emergency notification system and our telephonic recall rosters."

ACC and ECC employees can help by ensuring they are prepared for an emergency.

"Destructive tornados are a fact of life here and preparedness is the key," Morgan stressed. "All ACC and ECC employees should develop a disaster supply checklist for their home and family.

We live in the Tennessee Valley, an area where tornados can and have occurred in every month of the year."

Morgan said the best way to be ready for an emergency before it happens is to anticipate one will happen sooner or later.

"Preparation is the key. Being ready to respond and ensuring that your family is prepared to deal with the aftermath of that emergency, perhaps without you, are important," he said. "If an employee is a member of one of our COOP teams, they should understand that they may be asked to perform their COOP duties during some very trying times."

In order for the plan to work, ACC and ECC employees must do their part.

"We need to make sure that all employees with COOP responsibilities are ready to perform their functions," he said. "We worked as a combined ACC/ECC staff to determine what our mission-essential functions are, but without the necessary people to perform these essential functions we will face a significant challenge."

Morgan said the command conducted a COOP exercise in May where all teams were exercised and a local emergency relocation facility was used. The command will do a similar exercise this year. He added that his office is working with other ACC elements away from Redstone Arsenal to ensure they have a COOP plan and program at their levels.

The bottom line for Morgan is to have employees ready to continue to operate and function away from their normal places of duty.

"Success is having the necessary people to continue the execution of our mission essential functions, from an alternate location, for as long as necessary until we can return to our normal operations," he said.

asked questions and who still have questions are encouraged to ask through a link on the G-1 portal.

Via echoed Marriott's sentiments on the workforce educating itself on the potential challenges.

"It is important to inform yourself. Take time to go on the site; read and research the information and see what is there," Via said. "My intent is to share with you what we know. My commitment is to be transparent with you as information comes out."

Despite the fiscal constraints, Via reminded AMC employees of the critical nature of the mission.

"AMC is involved in every fabric of the Army right now. We are significant to the readiness of the Army - that's what we deliver every day. That's what we provide," he told the workforce. "We hope (sequestration and furloughs) won't occur, but we have to prudently plan in case it does.

"We will meet the mission first, and then take care of all of our employees to the best of our ability. That's what the leadership is committed to, and that's what I'm committed to.

"AMC will meet our mission critical requirements. We have to remember there are men and women deployed in harms'

way," he added.

Maj. Gen Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, Army Contracting Command, wants to assure ACC employees that they are not alone.

"We are doing everything we can to establish steps the command may need to take during this time of fiscal uncertainty," she said. "Through prudent planning, we are hoping to minimize the adverse impacts of this budget crisis while continuing to support our most important customer - the Soldier. The Army and ACC will not compromise that effort."



ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

Ala. Army officer deploying to Calif. for Oscars

Picked up by the Associated Press and posted on more than 50 sites nationwide

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) — An Army officer stationed in Alabama has accepted a mission to interview celebrities attending the Academy Awards in Los Angeles.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=Ala.+Army+officer+deploying+to+Calif.+for+Oscars>

'User-friendly process' earns special recognition

Quad-Cities Online, Feb. 24

On Jan. 25, Col. John P. Hannon, Army Contracting Command-Rock Island acting executive director, presented Matthew J. Rosebrough, acting chief of supply and services, Directorate of Logistics, Army Sustainment Command, with an SES coin from Michael R. Hutchison, former ACC-RI executive director.

<http://qconline.com/archives/qco/display.php?id=628556&query=digest>

Buying the best for war fighters

The Redstone Rocket, Feb. 20, 2013

By Kari Hawkins

Brig. Gen. Ted Harrison's acquisition career has literally followed the Army's "better buying power" all over the world.

http://www.theredstonerocket.com/around_town/article_343b92ea-7b6d-11e2-b3a4-001a4bcf887a.html

Army upgrades security, collaboration, home use with joint enterprise license

www.army.mil

By Margaret McBride

WASHINGTON (Jan. 15, 2013) -- The Army, along with the Air Force and Defense Information Systems Agency, have access to the newest versions of Microsoft products, including Microsoft Office 2013, SharePoint 2013 and Windows 8, under a \$617 million joint enterprise license agreed to in December.

<http://www.army.mil/article/94335/>



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