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# NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

*"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."*

## Army kicks off Sexual Assault Awareness Month

By J.D. Leipold  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army launched its official recognition of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month in the courtyard of the Pentagon, April 5, with the announcement of a new theme meant to convey how the service hopes to eradicate sexual assault within the ranks.

"We own it, we'll solve it, together," said Lt. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg, Army deputy chief of staff, G-1. He introduced the new theme during the kick-off.

Bromberg explained the new theme is designed to strengthen the collective moral and ethical commitments of Soldiers, in keeping with the Army values and the warrior ethos, to preserve the respect and the dignity of every Soldier, civilian, and family member in the Army.

See AWARENESS, page 4.



(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

## Top acquisition official visits ACC, ECC

Heidi Shyu, assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology (center), shakes hands with Robert Gray of the Army Contracting Command Inspector General's office during an April 4 tour of the ACC campus on Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Looking on (left to right) are Kathy Meyers, Tracey Gonzales, Janiece Thomas and J. R. Richardson. During her visit here, she also visited personnel at the Expeditionary Contracting Command and ACC personnel in the Sparkman Center and Army Materiel Command headquarters.

## ACC-APG begins integration of 51C acquisition NCOs

By Rachel Kozak-Howard  
ACC-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

The Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground began integrating military members into its organizational structure to optimize contingency contracting and to enhance the training opportunities for Soldiers in the contracting career field.

An operations order issued by ACC detailed a 4-phase plan to attach contingency contracting teams to its

stateside elements including ACC-APG. As a result, ACC-APG will assume the management of approximately 40 military personnel, according to Col. Michael J. Rogers, ACC-APG military deputy to the executive director.

"The end state of the ACC-APG military integration will be the activation of the 926th Contingency Contracting Battalion commander at APG with four subordinate CCTs," Rogers said. "Currently, the Expeditionary Contracting Command is responsible for the

contingency mission in addition to the workload management and professional development of assigned military members.

"Although the ECC will retain responsibility for contingency operations, the day-to-day training and development of the teams will be ACC-APG's responsibility. In the event that our Soldiers are called to support contingency mission requirements, the members will be detached from ACC-APG for the duration of the deployment."

See INTEGRATION, page 4.

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# Spotlight on...

For Spotlight submissions, click on the icon.

## Danny L. Hall

### Mission and Installation Contracting Command - Fort Knox, Ky.

*Danny L. Hall is a contract administrator assigned to the Mission and Installation Contracting Command - Fort Knox, Ky.*

#### Describe your current position.

I currently serve as the senior contract administrator and contracting officer within the Contract Management Division, MICC-Fort Knox.

Of our highly visible, diverse customer base, I primarily support the garrison command and manage its higher profile service and job order contracts.

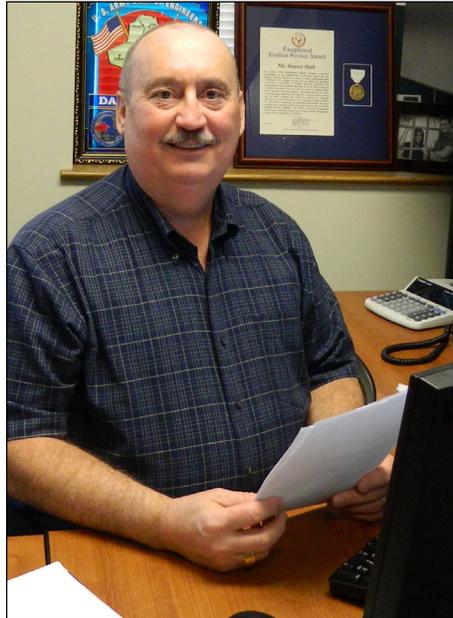
#### Describe your passion for your job.

I enjoy supporting the Soldier and the war fighter through my love of contracting. I served in the military and have a high respect for it. I enjoy the contracting challenges, the people I work with and my place of employment.

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

My home is Ekron, Ky., a nice, small community not far from Fort Knox. I met my wife, Ginger, while serving in the Air Force. We've been married for 34 years. I'm a proud dad of a daughter and a son, both who have graduated college and are doing well.

My spare time is filled with traveling with my family and motorcycle tours



Danny L. Hall

with my friends. Besides the back roads of Kentucky, I've toured the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Rockies, Yellowstone and Canada to name a few places.

#### How does your job support the Soldier?

Our Contract Management Division is annually responsible for more than \$500 million of contracts that either support the Soldier directly or support those who provide services to them. I see every day

how those contracts support Soldiers, their families and their quality of life. We also support the Warrior Transition Battalion which reminds me of their sacrifice.

#### What would you like others to know about you?

I retired from the Air Force where I also served as a contract administrator and contracting officer. While on active duty, I spent time in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates supporting Desert Storm. When the call came for volunteers to deploy, I was eager to do my part. I have deployed twice since 2009. I spent a year (April 2009 - April 2010) in Iraq and six months (February - July 2012) as an administrative contracting officer for the Defense Contract Management Agency in northern Afghanistan. I was at the same location as the former MICC commanding general, Brig. Gen. Stephen G. Leisenring.

My wife always supported me in my decision to deploy and I received tremendous support from the people I work for and with at Fort Knox. Besides having to pull extra duty while I was away, they kept in contact with me and sent generous care packages. I work with a great group of people.

**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.**



## 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.

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**NEWSBLAST**  
U.S. Army Contracting Command

# 409th CSB names top NCO

By Rachel Clark

409th Contracting Support Brigade  
Kaiserslautern, Germany

**GRAFENWOEHR, Germany** - Staff Sgt. Booker Jordan, 903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion, was named the 409th Contracting Support Brigade noncommissioned officer of the year for the second consecutive year.

The 409th CSB held its annual NCO of the Year competition here March 19-21.

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Bentura Fernandez, 409th CSB, this competition showcased the best-of-the-best and prepared the top NCO to represent the 409th CSB at the Army Contracting Command level.

"The Soldiers in this competition represent what I believe the future of the contracting NCO Corps should look like," said Fernandez.

"Besides their physical ability and outstanding Soldier skills, these NCOs have the mental acumen to represent Army contracting and embody the complete package of an outstanding NCO," Fernandez said.

Competitors spent three days facing a variety of physical and mental challenges to test their skills, knowledge and endurance. They tested their Army aptitude, contracting knowledge, physical fitness, warrior tasks and battle drills relevant to today's operating environment. They also faced board interviews and wrote essays.

For Jordan, going before the NCO board presented him the most challenge.

"This year I was the last competitor going in," explained the Columbus, Ohio, native. "As each person went into the board, I was left with my thoughts, which increased my nervousness."

Competitors were also rated on their marksmanship and orienteering skills during day-and-night land navigation, proved their mettle in a grueling road march, and tested on contracting-specific tasks to write and process multi-purpose purchase orders.

"With the support from friends and family there is no limit to how much one can accomplish," said Jordan. "I had all the support in the world during this competition."



*(U.S. Army photo)*

**Staff Sgt. Booker Jordan goes before the 409th CSB NCO of the Year board held March 19-21 in Grafenwoehr, Germany. He won the competition and will represent the 409th CSB at the Army Contracting Command level.**

## Army to hold force reduction, realignment 'listening sessions'

By Lisa Ferdinando

Army News Service

**WASHINGTON** - The Army is holding listening sessions at installations throughout the U.S. this month to hear what communities think about the force reductions and restructuring that are likely to impact their areas.

The Army must cut its force by approximately 80,000 Soldiers by 2017 to meet the fiscal reductions in the Budget Control Act of 2011.

"These listening sessions are designed to enable community members to provide their concerns and unique perspectives on topics regarding their communities," said Army spokesman Lt. Col. Peggy Kageleiry.

She said no decision has been made yet on how to reduce the Army strength to 490,000.

"The Army values community input to make the best decisions and to mitigate, as much as possible, the impact on local

communities," she said.

Kageleiry said Army leadership will consider the communities' concerns before final decisions are made. She also said the Army will preserve quality of life for Soldiers and their families, while sustaining relationships with the communities.

The Army could downsize its active component force structure from 45 brigade combat teams to potentially as few as 32, she said.

The reductions are separate from sequestration.

Kageleiry said the Army will ensure that it still is able to respond to future, unforeseen demands.

The force reductions began in fiscal year 2012 and focused initially on overseas formations. Significant force reductions in the U.S. will begin in 2014, Kageleiry said.

She said additional reductions may be necessary after President Barack Obama's 2014 budget is released and the impacts

of sequestration are assessed.

Listening sessions are scheduled this month at:

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; Detroit Arsenal, Mich.; Fort Belvoir, Va.; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Fort Gordon, Ga.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Fort Irwin, Calif.; Fort Jackson, S.C.; Fort Knox, Ky.; Fort Lee, Va.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; Fort Meade, Md.; The National Training Center, Calif.; Fort Polk, La.; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.; Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska; Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.; Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Redstone Arsenal, Ala.; and Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

## RUNNING FOR A CURE!

410th CSB helps raise money for breast cancer research

Whether running to support family and friends who've survived breast cancer or to raise awareness and funding for a cure, a 13-member team from the 410th Contracting Support Brigade led by Col. William Sanders, commmander (center), participated April 6 in the annual Susan Komen Breast Cancer Run/Walk held in San Antonio, Texas. Together with the more than 25,000 participants, the team helped raise more than \$1 million for the cause.



(Courtesy photo)

## AWARENESS

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According to G-1 statistics, there were 1,695 cases of sexual assault in the Army in 2011. Of those assaults, more than half were Soldier-on-Soldier. Nearly half of the assaults occurred on weekends, with 84 percent of the victims in the rank of E-4 and below, and 59 percent of the alleged offenders also being E-4 and below.

Since September 2008, when the Army launched its Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program, the service has sought to reduce the stigma of reporting and increase prevention, investigation and prosecution capabilities while ensuring protection of sexual assault survivors from retaliation and threats. Bromberg said the Army would continue to enhance training and increase resources while refining response capabilities.

"Every Soldier should see sexual assault as a personal issue, an issue that he or she needs to be involved in," he said. "This culture must have consistency from basic training to the halls of the Pentagon. We simply cannot have Soldiers preying on each other, because this rips apart the bonds of trust that hold our Army together in both war and at peace."

The general noted that over the last year the Army had achieved "great progress" toward institutionalizing the SHARP program. He also said strides had been made in reducing the stigma associated with reporting violent crimes. He added that commanders are seeing

significant growth in sexual assault reports.

"Sexual assault is the most unreported crime in the nation, and this increase or what we call a propensity of Soldiers to report is critical to ensure commanders can provide the support to the victims while holding offenders appropriately accountable," Bromberg said. "In 2012, we implemented a policy to have two full-time personnel as sexual assault response coordinators and victim advocates at every brigade level."

The Army increased investigation

and Judge Advocate General capabilities by adding 20 special investigators, 19 special victim prosecutors and five Trial Counsel Assistance Program attorneys to improve processes, training and offender accountability. JAG will add four special prosecutors before the end of September.

"Training is also essential to everything we do as a key component of our SHARP program," Bromberg said. "With more than 30 SHARP life-cycle training courses, we continue to improve our force's capability to address this issue at the very base of our Army."

## INTEGRATION

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Phase one of the integration began in January and was mainly the planning and preparation for the attachment of the battalion and CCTs. The 712th CCT, 722nd CCT and the 725th CCT were attached to ACC-APG in March which marked the beginning of phase two. At this point, ACC-APG assumed the management of the teams to include personnel support, workload, training and other logistical support.

The 5-member CCTs consist of two officers and three noncommissioned officers in the 51C acquisition career field. The official activation of the 926th CCBn and the fourth CCT, the 865th CCT, will take place in April during phase three. The military integration will be finalized by October with the attachment of any follow-

on forces during phase four.

"The ACC-APG integration of military will be a win-win situation for both the organization and the Soldiers," said Lt. Col. Derek Draper, chief, Garrison Contracting Division and slated 936th commander.

"The 51Cs will gain diverse contracting experience working alongside the seasoned civilian workforce and ACC-APG will benefit from the contribution of the military to the center's workload. The military will also provide firsthand knowledge of contingency contracting operations to enhance ACC-APG's expertise and customer support. The current focus of the integration is implementing a support structure to accommodate the military and ensure the well-being of our Soldiers."

# Working hand-in-hand for mission success

**By Rachel Clark**  
409th Contracting Support Brigade  
Kaiserslautern, Germany

**KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany** – The relationship between the 409th Contracting Support Brigade contracting offices and their customers represent a link that affects the successful completion of Army missions in Europe.

“We are a customer-focused organization and we measure our success on customer satisfaction,” said Col. William Bailey, commander, 409th CSB. “The 409th CSB is here to provide effective contracting support, and we will not fail.”

According to Bailey, the 409th CSB supports a large part of Army contracting in Europe and places value on supporting customers and ensuring their needs are met.

“Our customers rely on our responsiveness and effectiveness to get the best supply or service for their buck,” said Ulli Powell, contracting officer, 409th CSB Theater Contracting Center. “We support many military missions and if we don’t provide the best customer service for them and work hand-in-hand with them, it could affect their missions and their well-being.”

The organizational relationships the 409th develops are critical to mission success.

“I believe it is imperative to have a good working relationship with our contracting office and the people that support us and I believe we have this type of relationship (with the 409th),” said Valerie Daniel, Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

For the contracting team, the job does not end when a contract has been awarded. A tremendous amount of work goes into the follow up and maintenance of those contracts with management of some larger-scale theater contracts spanning years.



*(Photo by Rachel Clark)*

**Soldiers and civilians line up for lunch at the Clock Tower dining facility on the Kleber Kaserne in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The dining facility is one of the contracts serviced by the 409th Contracting Support Brigade.**

“I follow up with the requiring activity to ensure that the contract is running smoothly,” Powell said. “If it doesn’t, I ask why and get involved. I am 110 percent involved in everything that is going on.”

Contract management often requires the contracting officers to make site visits to their customers and reach out to contractors and vendors.

“Contracting plays a vital role due to our location overseas, said Maj. Roger Rodriguez, chaplain resource manager, U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart. “Regional Contracting Office Stuttgart has personally made two office visits, and they were very helpful and informative.”

Other customers agree.

“Our contracting officer has been key in making this contract work and put in long hours, went above and beyond to make the customer happy and work with us every step of the way,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Matthew Hurd, U.S. Africa Command Personnel Support Detachment.

Both customers and contracting officers

believe good communication and working relationships are integral to the success.

“Certainly meeting customer expectations is key. However, I also believe the key to customer satisfaction is customer education combined with open and constant communication,” said Daniel Jaques, 409th CSB procurement liaison.

“If we can tell the customer what it will take to create a successful acquisition and follow up with them through the process, the requirement development process will be improved and the acquisition will be successful.”

Early involvement of the contracting offices has equaled success toward the mission.

“If we didn’t support and work with our customer, the community would not be able to function,” Powell explained. “We take care of so many military units, organizations, and embassies as well as remote locations that we need to be right by their side to provide the supply and service needed. Every person working for the 409th impacts the outcome for a Soldier.”

# Dempsey: Sequestration will not affect Afghan drawdown

By Claudette Roulo  
American Forces Press Service

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** – Sequestration will have no effect on the drawdown in Afghanistan, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said April 6.

“[Sequestration] is an avalanche, not a light switch,” Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey said in a round-table discussion with members of the press traveling with him on his trip to Afghanistan.

The avalanche started March 1, he said, and is building momentum.

“We’re consuming readiness without building it, because we are taking the money that we would normally have used to build readiness of units that might deploy a year from now and we’ve had to apply it into our wartime operations,” Dempsey said. Additionally, the chairman said, the department is supporting commitments on the Korean Peninsula and the Persian Gulf.

“When you fence that off and fully fund it – and you have to fence it off, we’ve got young men and women out there in harm’s way and they will always be fully funded – when you do that, though, the risk you take begins to accrue,” Dempsey said.

By 2014 the department will face medium-term problems in maintaining



(Photo by D. Myles Cullen)

**Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, said sequestration will not effect the drawdown in Afghanistan.**

readiness, the chairman said.

“The problems we’ve got are multiplying and will multiply over time,” Dempsey added.

“We will always do what we have to do

to protect the nation and its interests,” he said.

For example, he continued, the theater air defense system recently placed in Guam was costly, “but it never crossed our mind not to do it because we wanted to save the money.”

“Money is not a factor when our national interests are threatened,” he said, “but readiness is something that has to be sustained over time.”

The cost of requalifying certain service members, like pilots, due to interruptions to training can actually cost more than the training itself would have, the chairman noted.

“The one thing that I would never do – and I know (Defense) Secretary (Chuck) Hagel feels the same way – is we’re never going to deploy a service man or woman who’s not ready to deploy,” he said.

“Sequestration is not a risk to our national security at present,” the chairman said. “But the uncertainty does make us less efficient (and) it sends a very negative message to our men and women who serve.”

The department will get through the readiness challenge, he said, but the next challenge could be retention.

Service members won’t stay in the military if they can’t do their jobs, the chairman said.



## ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

### Secretary of the Army awards spotlight excellence in contracting

By Mr. Robert E. Coultas  
(Published in Army AL&T, page 152, April-June 2013)

Eleven individuals and teams within the Army contracting community were recognized for their exceptional skill, efficiency and dedication in service to Soldiers, the Army and the nation, with the 2012 Secretary of the Army Awards for Excellence in Contracting, presented during a ceremony Jan. 28 in El Paso, TX.

<http://armyalt.va.newsmemory.com/>



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