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NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

Sexual assault is a crime, problem all military members will fight

By Karen Parrish

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – "This is going to take all of us," Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said during a joint Pentagon news conference May 17. Sexual assault in the military is a crime and a problem that all military members at all levels will have to fight together.

He and Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, along with the service secretaries and chiefs of staff, attended an "important, productive" White House meeting May 16 with President Barack Obama to address the situation.

The meeting was important, Hagel said, because "it gave the president an opportunity to ask questions directly, and get the sense of this serious problem in our

military."

It also allowed those military leaders to share their views with the commander in chief, Hagel said. "There's not one of these people in leadership today that wants this to be their legacy."

The secretary said he spoke with the Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel, a nine-member body mandated by Congress, four selected by members of Congress and five by Hagel, that is charged with conducting a detailed review of factors surrounding sexual assault cases in the military.

"They're all highly respected, highly regarded, experienced men and women who understand cultures, society, command, and I think it's an exceptionally well-balanced group of men and women who we look to, to help us," Hagel said.

See **SEXUAL ASSAULT**, page 6.



(Photo by Erin A. KirkCuomo)

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel voiced his concern over the military's sexual assault crisis during a joint Pentagon news conference May 17.

Memorial Day weekend signals start of 'critical days of summer'

By Owen Moe

ACC Acting Director, Safety

Memorial Day weekend brings family picnics and sunshine. It also begins the "critical days of summer." It marks the end of the school year, which, for many families, means travel plans.

We concentrate on the "critical days of summer," beginning with Memorial Day weekend and ending with Labor Day weekend, because accident rates spike during that period.

On Memorial Day itself, we remember those who, with honor, courage and commitment, gave their lives in defense of our freedoms and all for which it stands.

Without their selfless duty, we would not be able to enjoy, and sometimes take for granted, the freedom we have today.

Unfortunately, Memorial Day weekend often claims the lives of friends and loved ones involved in motor vehicle and off-duty recreational accidents. The vast majority of these accidents are preventable, because more often than not they involve all those things that we know about all too well: drinking and driving, no seat belt use, fatigue, and inexperience in recreational activities. At the same time, we know the steps that we must take to eliminate these senseless accidents: composite risk management (both on and off duty), situational awareness, supervisory

involvement, and just plain common sense.

Finally, think about what each and every one of you will do to make a difference this year. Talk to your subordinates; have a meeting to discuss with your workers all the hazards that can cause accidents.

Enjoy the Memorial Day weekend and the summer days that follow. But take all the precautions to ensure this weekend and this summer are fun and that all our memories are good ones. Our goal is not a 50 percent reduction in accidents. Our goal is zero tolerance - zero accidents.

Together we can all make it happen. Be safe, stay safe, and take care of each other.

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Spotlight on...

For Spotlight submissions, click on the icon.

Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Maine

903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion, 409th Contracting Support Brigade

By Rachel Clark
409th Contracting Support Brigade
Kaiserslautern, Germany

The 903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion training noncommissioned

officer, Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Maine plans, coordinates and in some cases, executes training sessions that keep Soldiers up-to-date and ready to deploy.

Maine recently planned and conducted the 903rd's field training exercise in

Grafenwoehr, Germany.

"One of the best things about my job is seeing the training that I helped plan executed well, as with the FTX we just completed," said Maine, stationed with the unit in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

A native of Seattle, Wash., Maine wanted to be a Soldier since age 6 and joined the Army four days after graduating high school in 1983.

Maine separated from the military in 1988 and went on to own and operate a construction contracting/subcontracting business in Seattle.

In 2002, Maine reenlisted into the Army at the age of 36 to support the war effort.

In 2009, after two combat tours in Iraq with the infantry, Maine learned of new opportunities for NCOs in contracting.

"When I was told the Army was developing a military occupational series that allowed NCOs to negotiate contracts for those services, I jumped at the chance," said Maine.

While Maine continues to support the mission by ensuring Soldiers are trained and ready, he says he is excited to continue his own education and is currently working on his bachelor's degree in history.

When asked what he likes best about contracting, Maine replied, "finding ways to save the government money and still get the customer what they need to do the mission."



Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Maine

Readers are encouraged to submit comments or suggestions to the editorial staff via the mailbox icon to the right. Responses will assist the NewBlast staff in producing a publication to better meet readers' expectations and information needs.



U.S. Army Contracting Command

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ACC-Warren hosts memorial benefit bicycle ride/walk

By Kim Menzel
ACC-Warren, Mich.

In a tribute to their longtime biking buddy, Dave Menzel, more than 60 friends and family united for a benefit bike ride/walk for The Fallen and Wounded Soldier Fund, May 11.

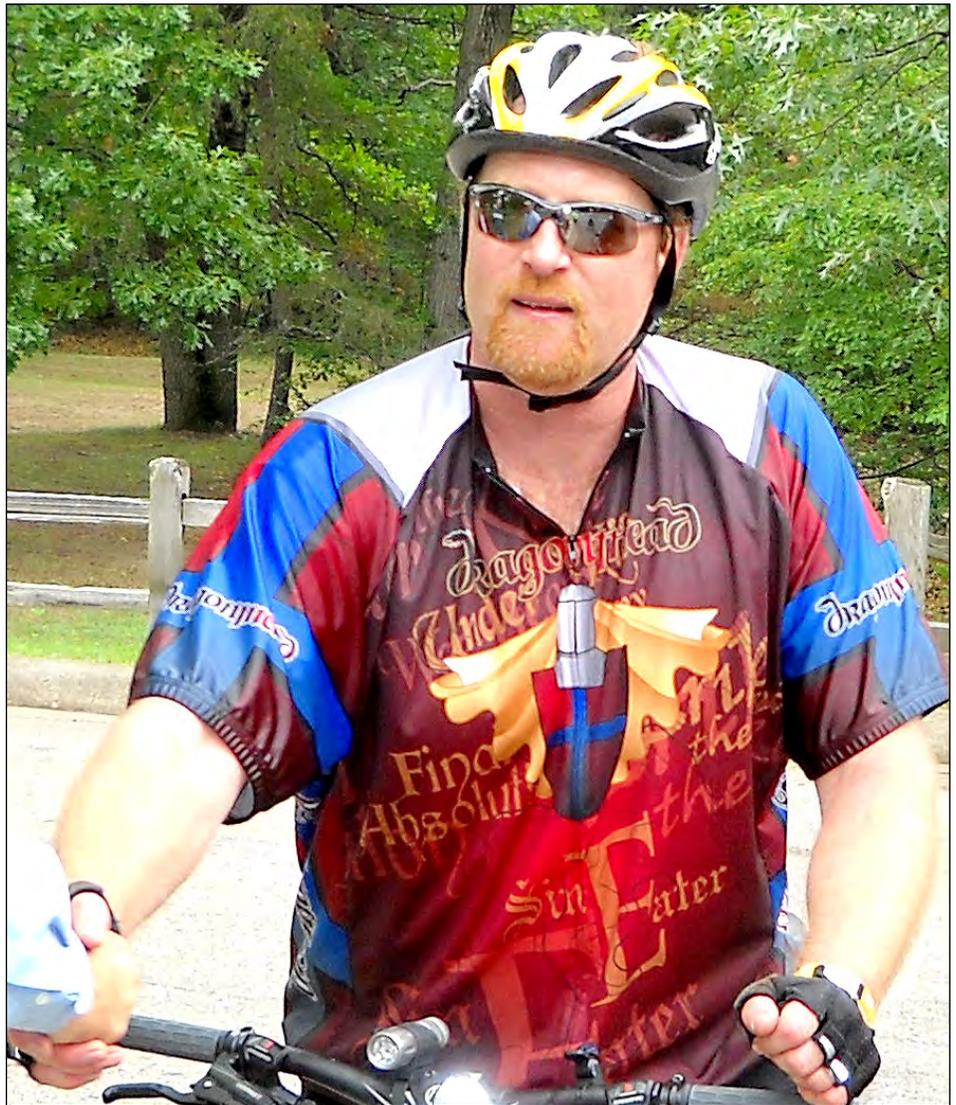
The Dave Menzel Memorial Walk and Bicycle Ride was the brain child of Tom and Lynn Zubanek, Mike Olsem and Jeff Trexler who were fellow biking enthusiasts of the Thumbs Up Bicycle Club along with Menzel. Rich Kulczykcki, pricing division chief, Army Contracting Command-Warren, Mich., helped organize the event.

The event included a 31-mile bike ride or 2-mile walk on the Macomb Orchard Trail starting at Shelby Township, Mich. The bikers stopped at the half-way point in Armanda, Mich., for breakfast before turning around and finishing the ride.

Menzel worked as the branch chief with the Program Management Acquisition Office, Armored Brigade Combat Team, for the Abrams Tank System Procurement at ACC-Warren.

In May 20, 2012, he suffered an accident, broke his spinal column and partially severed his spinal cord. After undergoing several surgeries and months of rehabilitation, he was released to his home in November still suffering from paraplegia. Three months later, Menzel developed a fever and he succumbed to complications.

“His body couldn’t fight any more,”



(Courtesy photo)

Dave Menzel is pictured before his tragic accident.

said Kim Menzel, his wife and operations director, ACC-Warren. “On Jan. 7, 2013, he passed away at the age of 50. Dave was an avid biker, so this event was a perfect memorial. The trail biked was the last one

he rode on the day before his accident.”

In all, Dave’s friends and co-workers, along with sponsors from the Shelby Local Business Network helped raise more than \$700 for the Soldier fund.



ACC-Warren friends, family and co-workers gathered for the Dave Menzel Memorial Walk and Bicycle Ride to benefit The Fallen and Wounded Soldier Fund.

Social media experts advise individuals to consider security risks

By Lisa Ferdinando
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – It's as easy as a click of a mouse or a tap on a smartphone, and in a few seconds sensitive Army information might be shared that could get Soldiers killed.

With the ease of social media, in any part of the globe, at any time, a Soldier, Army civilian or family member can post pictures from a deployment or talk about an Army mission.

But these seemingly innocent posts could actually contain sensitive information that endangers Soldiers by revealing locations, security measures, mission operations or troop movements, said the Army's social media experts.

Soldiers, Army civilians and family members need to be mindful of what they put online, with operations security at the forefront of their considerations, said Staff Sgt. Dale Sweetnam, with the Online and Social Media Division, Office of the Chief of Public Affairs.

He said this applies to whether the person is communicating as an organization or as an individual on social media sites.

"Once it's out there, it's out there," he said. "You can delete it, but if the wrong person took a screen shot, that's actionable intelligence and you can't get that back."

Sweetnam compiled the Army's Social Media Handbook and conducts training for Soldiers about the dos and don'ts of posting on social media.

"Once it's out there, it's out there. You can delete it, but if the wrong person took a screen shot, that's actionable intelligence and you can't get that back."

– Staff Sgt. Dale Sweetnam

The dos include using social media to get out the message of your command, inform the public of Army activities or stay connected with loved ones. The don'ts, said Sweetnam, include revealing sensitive information about missions, units or Soldiers.

Besides considering operations security, Soldiers must maintain their professionalism at all times, even on their off time, said Sweetnam.

They are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice and could face corrective



(U.S. Army photo)

The link to the U.S. Army Social Media Handbook - 3rd Edition can be found at <http://armylive.dodlive.mil/index.php/2012/06/social-media-handbook-edition-3/>.

or disciplinary action if they violate the rules of conduct at any time, he said. Violations would include a Soldier releasing sensitive information, insulting his or her chain of command, posting discriminatory statements, or sharing or linking to inappropriate material.

PROTECT THE ARMY FAMILY

Sweetnam said the Army encourages Soldiers to share with their families the lessons of operations security and using social media.

The Army's social media experts tell Soldiers not to use location-based social

which could reveal sensitive information about a location – information that terrorists could use to target Soldiers or Army installations.

MAINTAIN PROFESSIONALISM

A post by a Soldier or Army civilian could be potentially taken by a member of the public as an official post, said Brittany Brown with the Online and Social Media Division. That is why it is important for everyone in the Army family to always be professional, she said.

"Ultimately what we tell Soldiers and civilians is that you are responsible for anything that you put on social media sites, whether it is a Facebook page you've created in an official capacity as a Soldier or Army employee, or it's your personal page that you've only connected to your loved ones," said Brown.

She recommends that if it isn't something you wouldn't say in a public setting, then don't post it on social media, no matter how locked down your page is.

Family members are also advised of online postings when their spouses are deployed and how they're now home alone. Someone with bad intent could use that information to target the family for a robbery or worse, Brown said.

"At the end of the day, it keeps all of us safe," said Brown, noting the age-old adage, "It's better to be safe than sorry."

DCMA teams with the Army's 410th CSB



(Courtesy photo)

Col. William Sanders, commander, 410th CSB, presents Mike Gonzales, quality assurance supervisor, DCMA Aircraft Integrated Maintenance Operations Kelly, with a commander's coin for his support.

By Hi Adail Stephenson
Defense Contract Management Agency

SAN ANTONIO - Twenty-five military and civilian personnel of the 410th Contracting Support Brigade recently participated in a field tour of the Defense Contract Management Agency Aircraft Propulsion Operations Kelly office here.

DCMA APO Kelly leadership and staff provided an overview of the agency's structure, processes and mission. They also spoke about DCMA's role as information brokers and in-plant representatives for military, federal and allied government-buying agencies during the initial stages of the acquisition cycle and throughout the life of the resulting contracts.

The tour showcased the many capabilities of the DCMA APO Kelly office to 410th personnel.

"We have a deeper appreciation for the vital role DCMA plays in ensuring government supplies and services are delivered on time, at projected cost and in compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract," said Col. William Sanders, 410th CSB commander. "Our members learned useful best practices regarding contract administration and acquired helpful information that can be applied in contingency environments."

During fiscal year 2012, four brigade

quality assurance specialist interns rotated for two 10-week sessions at the DCMA APO Kelly, DCMA Aircraft Integrated Maintenance Operations Kelly and DCMA Dallas offices in San Antonio.

"Teaming with the Army's 410th CSB provided the opportunity for them to see first-hand how DCMA provides support to the Department of Defense and Contingency Contracting Administration Services," said Bob Lindberg, DCMA APO Kelly director.

Air Force Lt. Col. Heather Hanks, DCMA AIMO Kelly commander, added, "It also enabled their personnel to achieve a better understanding of the significance strong contract administration and quality assurance/surveillance play in supporting war fighters and ensuring good stewardship of taxpayer dollars."

DCMA personnel, who were involved with the teaming effort, received 410th CSB commander coins.

"I really appreciate the hard work our DCMA teammates provide to our Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and civilians on a daily basis," said Sanders, who is a former DCMA St. Petersburg commander. "The rotations afforded our interns training and mentoring by the premier contract administration offices in DOD. These experiences will enhance our capability in the contingency environment."

Former ASA(ALT) addresses AACOE contracting students

Claude M. Bolton Jr., listens for student responses to a question he asked during a presentation to contracting officers, noncommissioned officers and interns at the Army Acquisition Center of Excellence. Bolton, the Defense Acquisition University executive in residence, emphasized the importance of the contracting professional's role in the acquisition process. The former assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology spoke to the contracting students May 20 at the AACOE facility on the University of Alabama-Huntsville campus.



(Photo by Ed Worley)

SEXUAL ASSAULT

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He noted that Congress has legislation pending designed to address sexual assault issues.

"I would hope that we would have some time here, everyone would have some time, to listen to what the panel comes back with," he said, "and give them some time here to go in and really assess the problem. Why do we have the problem? How can we prevent the problem? What should we be doing better?"

Hagel noted sexual assault is a complex crime with many potential contributing factors, including popular culture, accountability and alcohol use.

"There are so many dimensions to this that I don't think you can come at it in one simple way," he said. "I get a lot of advice on this, and I listen to everybody."

Hagel particularly emphasized listening to sexual assault victims who "didn't feel their commanders were accountable enough (for victims) to be able to come forward and register a complaint, file a complaint, because they thought they

would be subject to many things, and then also having no confidence that anything would be done about their complaint."

The secretary noted he issued guidance May 17 on mandatory recertification and retraining for recruiters and sexual assault responders across the force. He is receiving weekly briefings on progress achieved, he said.

"We continue to look at every option, and we will," Hagel said. "We have to. Every option is on the table."

Dempsey added that the risks inherent to military service must not include the risk of sexual assault.

"It betrays the trust on which our profession is founded," he said. "It's a crime that demands accountability and consequences."

Dempsey noted the joint chiefs have spent the better part of a year implementing a campaign focused on prevention, investigation, accountability, advocacy and assessment.

"The emphasis on prevention is

especially important," the general said. "As the president made clear to us (May 16), we can and must do more to change a culture that has become too complacent. Now's the time for us to recommit ourselves to our profession. Now's the time for character to be valued as much, if not more, than competence. Now's the time for moral courage at every level. There can be no bystanders."

Dempsey said during his early years in service, "The Army was broken." Racial tension and drug abuse "tore at the fabric of our service."

Today's joint service is not broken. It is in fact remarkably resilient, he said. "But we have a serious problem that we must solve: aggressive sexual behavior that rips at the bond of trust that binds us together.

"Every single member of the joint force in every unit at every level must be alert to the problem and be part of the solution," Dempsey said. "Working together, we can and will restore faith in ourselves, and the trust and faith of the American people."



ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

AMC commanding general visits 'First in Support' command

By Staff Sgt. Alexander Burnett
21st Theater Sustainment Command
(Posted on DIVIDS, May 15, 2013)

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Gen. Dennis L. Via, the commanding general of U.S. Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., visited the soldiers of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, April 30 through May 4.

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/106932/amc-commanding-general-visits-first-support-command#.UZOO9HdcAdV>

ACC IT Specialist Diagnosed with Rare Tumor

By Joe Givens
(Posted on YouTube by HQAMC Public Affairs, May 16, 2013)

Charles "Chuck" Pennington explains the diagnosis of a rare tumor he had removed, after a 5-year mis-diagnosis.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBaAuFmMZk8>



Click on the image for ACC safety messages.

