



NEWS BLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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“Providing global contracting support to war fighters.”

Army announces force structure, stationing decisions

By Claudette Roulo
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – As part of its force

restructuring due to the Budget Control Act of 2011, by the end of fiscal year 2017 the Army will reduce its number of brigade combat teams from 45 to 33,

Gen. Ray Odierno, Army chief of staff announced June 25.

In addition, the general told reporters at a Pentagon news conference, the Army will shrink its active component end strength by 14 percent, or 80,000 Soldiers, to 490,000, down from a wartime high of 570,000 troops.

The Army National Guard will cut 8,000 Soldiers, he said, without making any force structure changes. And the Army Reserve will skip a planned force increase and maintain its current size of 205,000.

In all, 12 brigade combat teams will inactivate, he said, including two brigade combat teams, stationed at Baumholder and Grafenwoehr, Germany, already scheduled to inactivate in fiscal 2013.

Two brigade combat teams will remain in Europe to fulfill strategic commitments, Odierno said.

One brigade combat team will inactivate at each of the following installations: Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Campbell, Ky; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Knox, Ky; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Stewart, Ga., and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

“In the future, we will announce an additional BCT to be inactivated, which will bring the number of BCTs to 32, but that decision has yet to be made,” he said.

The Army is undergoing one of its largest organizational changes since World War II, Odierno said, noting that the end strength and force structure reductions are the result of provisions of the Budget Control Act of 2011 that aren’t related to sequestration spending cuts. “We are taking these actions as a result of the Budget Control Act of 2011,” he added.

See ARMY CUTS, page 6.



(Photo by C. Todd Lopez)

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno announced June 25 that 10 brigade combat teams based in the U.S. are slated to be reorganized by the end of fiscal year 2017. The move will reduce the number of BCTs in the Army from 45 to 33.

Refining AMC’s mission, vision

By AMC Public Affairs

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – After ten months of site visits and internal assessments, the Army Materiel Command changed its mission and vision statements.

Creating the new mission and vision began with AMC’s commanding general, Gen. Dennis L. Via, completing his initial assessment of the command. He visited each of AMC’s major subordinate

commands and combatant commanders during his first year and directed the research behind creating the new mission and vision.

AMC’s new mission is: AMC develops and delivers global readiness solutions to sustain unified land operations, anytime, anywhere.

AMC’s new vision is: The premier provider of Army and joint readiness to sustain the strength of the nation.

See AMC MISSION, page 6.

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Spotlight on...

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Staff Sgt. Diana McInnis

622nd Contingency Contracting Team, 409th Contracting Support Brigade, Grafenwoehr, Germany

Staff Sgt. Diana McInnis is a contracting noncommissioned officer with the 409th Contracting Support Brigade's 622nd Contingency Contracting Team assigned to the Grafenwoehr Regional Contracting Office. There, she buys commodities and services to support the units within and around Grafenwoehr, Germany.

What do you enjoy most about being in the military?

I enjoy being able to wear the American flag on my shoulder. I'm able to serve my country proudly and also give my boys a snapshot of what "right looks like." Of course, with serving I'm able to travel to neat, somewhat different and sometimes beautiful places around the world.

What are some of the challenges you have faced in the military?

The fact that we face different challenges day in and day out, serving in the military is a life only few members of society are willing to endure. Of course, we are taught to stay motivated, be resilient and to continue to "drive on;" however, there are some challenges that are not as easy to overcome. Personally speaking, the biggest challenges I've faced have been family separations due to deployments, back-to-back unaccompanied permanent change of station moves and countless temporary duty.

Has anything or anyone made an impact on you?

The 409th CSB's NCO of the Year competitions have taught me a lot about



Staff Sgt. Diana McInnis

myself. I'm as good as I allow myself to be. Being the only female to compete in consecutive competitions allowed me to be a leader among leaders. I say this because before, during and even after each competition, I've pushed myself physically and mentally to be the best.

What are some of your future goals?

Wow. I have a lot of goals that I want to accomplish. If I was to name a few of them, it would be to earn a master's degree in business administration.

Professionally, I'm in pursuit of my Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Level III certification. However, my most important goal is that I want to continue to support and watch my family grow!

What inspired you to pursue a career as a contingency contracting NCO?

Honestly, contracting just seemed like the next logical step for my career. Prior to reclassifying to the 51C military occupational specialty, I was a logistician as a unit supply NCO, 92A. Some of my daily duties involved making purchases with a government purchase card. I knew then that there was more out there besides GPC acquisitions and I found it in the contracting career field.

What do you like best about contracting?

I like assisting our government in helping to save the taxpayers' money. Moreover, I'm not only a responsible steward of government funds, but also of the commodities or services that will directly impact war fighters and their families.

What would you like others to know about you?

I'm in the process of clearing the installation so I can PCS back stateside. Despite my untiring efforts of clearing, I'm still training for the U. S. Army Europe's 10-miler race at the end of the month. I hope to again run in the race this year. With that being said, I'm a fitness junkie!

U.S. Army Contracting Command

Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols

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

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Students experience military training, lessons in leadership

By Capt. Kasandra B. Tharp
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SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii

– Soldiers with the 413th Contracting Support Brigade here teamed with the U.S. Army Recruiting Command to lead and mentor 50 high school student recruits through the installation Leadership Reaction Course May 29.

The Army uses the LRC to assess leadership skills and build team cohesion through a series of obstacles which require individuals to work together to negotiate.

According to the 413th team leaders, Master Sgt. Gregory Dorsey, Sgt. 1st Class Sharon Johnson-Harper, Sgt. 1st Class Rachel Harris and Staff Sgt. Charles Sykes, this cooperative effort not only helped build camaraderie and effectiveness within the unit but also afforded them an opportunity to share with the student recruits how the Army operates and trains its Soldiers.

Realizing that the LRC would be their first introduction to the Army, the combined team of USAREC and 413th noncommissioned officers developed a strategy to ease the students' anxiety. They had already anticipated that the students' emotions would range from "anxiety to excitement and everything in between."

As the students began arriving from four school districts around Oahu, one student from Mililani High School appeared to be intimidated by the team of NCOs and was even overheard expressing her misgivings about joining the Army.

Undeterred, the team divided the students into four groups, presented a safety brief and proceeded to the leadership-building course.

Initially hesitant to talk to the other recruits and the NCOs, the students gradually overcame their anxiety and began negotiating obstacles and working as a team.

"The recruits finally came together," said Dorsey. "Teach, coach, mentor is what we preach as professionals. Standards and discipline are what we look for in our Soldiers. These recruits were eager to learn and immediately showed trust in each other. They all worked together



(Courtesy photo)

Sgt. 1st Class Rachel Harris, 413th Contracting Support Brigade, introduces the high school students to one of several obstacles designed to test their leadership skills and build team camaraderie.

to negotiate the various obstacles using resiliency and the will to succeed. Regardless of the condition and severity of the obstacle, their strong personal attributes helped them prevail over those adverse conditions."

Harris agreed.

"Sometimes when we get up so high in the ranks, we tend to forget where we came from or what got us there," she said. "When asked to help with the Leadership Reaction Course, I didn't even hesitate. As NCOs and leaders, team building is what we do. We train to lead so that they can take our place and lead this great nation.

"It is funny how we can teach them to come together when we don't always want to come together as a team ourselves," Harris added. "In the end, we can all learn something from them."

Johnson-Harper shared her experience working with the future Soldiers.

"They showed maturity, greatness and had all picked MOSs (military occupational skills) that were so enduring," she said. "Most of the group had chosen the medical field. Their reasoning was

because they wanted to help others. This just proves that we still have great leaders amongst us."

At the end of the day, a few of the recruits were recognized for their efforts, teamwork and potential.

"It was fun to see and evaluate the future Soldiers," said Sykes. "The same recruit who had questioned if she had made a mistake joining later remarked that the experience was awesome and hoped her future leaders would be just as good."

Col. Martin Zybur, 413th CSB commander, congratulated the recruits on their achievement and commented on how the USAREC, 413th cooperation benefited his Soldiers.

"Conducting training at the Schofield Barracks LRC provided the 413th CSB an incredible opportunity to cement the team bonds and further the professionalism of our military and civilian personnel," he said. "By teaming with the Soldiers and recruits from USAREC, the 413th leveraged its knowledge to build those same bonds and professionalism in future Soldiers who will become the backbone of the U.S. Army."

Odierno: Unfortunately, some still tolerate sexual assault

By Lisa Ferdinando
Army News Service

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. – There are some in the Army who may not yet fully appreciate the gravity of the sexual assault situation in the Army, said Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Ray Odierno.

In a conference center, June 10, Odierno addressed a room full of mostly two-, three- and even four-star generals at the start of the Army's two-day Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention summit.

"I will tell you, from the things I see, we still have people out there who tolerate sexual assault and sexual harassment," he said. "Until we solve that problem, it's going to get worse."

The general said that leaders at all levels must address and understand that there is a problem of sexual abuse. He said it is

also a problem when commanders don't think that sexual abuse is an issue within their own unit.

Odierno told reporters that the number of people now coming forward with reports of being sexually abused has surprised him and forced him to refocus efforts on the issue. He said regarding sexual assault, the Army may have taken its "eye off the ball."

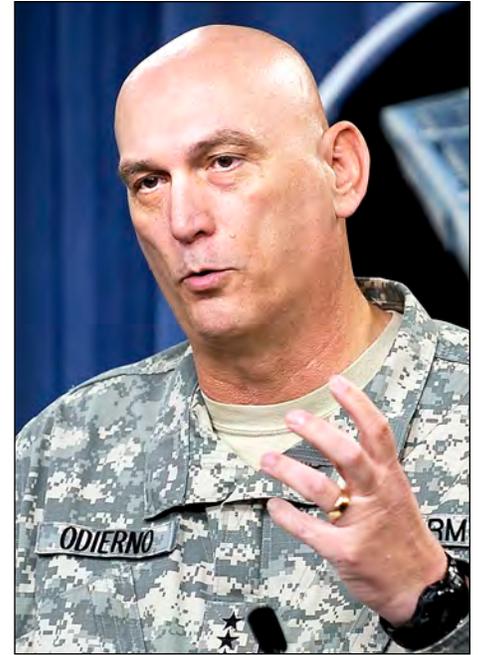
"Maybe we have a bigger problem than I imagined," he said.

The general said change starts from the top, with commands and Army leaders.

"You have to do what is right. You have to hold people accountable for their actions. That's the only way you are going to fix a problem," he said.

Odierno laid out five imperatives on which senior officers can focus, with regard to sexual assault.

See SHARP, page 5.



Gen. Ray Odierno



Scuba-diving salute!

Master Sgt. Barrett Taylor, senior enlisted advisor, Army Contracting Command-Redstone Arsenal, Ala., salutes the American flag while scuba diving off the coast of Pensacola Beach, Fla. Taylor was scuba diving near the USS Oriskany, a sunken aircraft carrier. A variety of veteran groups maintain the U.S. and Prisoner of War/Missing In Action flags on the vessel nearly 130 feet below sea level.

(Courtesy photo)

Practice situational awareness, report suspicious activity

By Stephen Allen
& Billy J. Cooper
ACC Antiterrorism Program

Protecting yourself and your family from criminal and terrorist acts is important to everyone. One way to keep everyone safe is to practice situational awareness on a daily basis and to report suspicious activity when you observe it. Understanding the threat is part of that situational awareness.

The Boston Marathon bombing April 15 brought out several key points.

First, people recounted seeing the bombers and noted their activities but did not consider their actions, such as placing a knapsack into a trash bin, as suspicious.

Second, these bombers were perhaps inspired by terrorist

propaganda and acted independently of any organization, making it nearly impossible to detect their actions through intelligence channels.

Finally, the success of these bombers will probably inspire others to conduct similar attacks, targeting large gatherings of people such as mass transit or shopping centers, or events that have cultural significance such as the 4th of July celebrations.

Your vigilance is crucial to ensuring you and your family have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Know your surroundings and make mental contingency plans should something happen.

When something doesn't seem right, go with your instincts and report it. Let the professionals determine if it's right or wrong. Acts of violence (criminal, terrorism, etc.) can be prevented.

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.



Army considers civilian victim advocates

By Lisa Ferdinando
Army News Service

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. – The Army is considering doing away with uniformed victim advocates and hiring civilians in their place, said the general in charge of the Army's personnel policy.

Lt. Gen. Howard Bromberg, Army G-1, said civilian victim advocates are under consideration as the Army moves forward with addressing sexual harassment and sexual assault in the ranks.

"I think we have to go back and rethink the role of the uniformed victim advocate, and how we pick that victim advocate," Bromberg told reporters during the Army's Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, or SHARP, summit, held June 10-11, at Joint Base Andrews, Md.

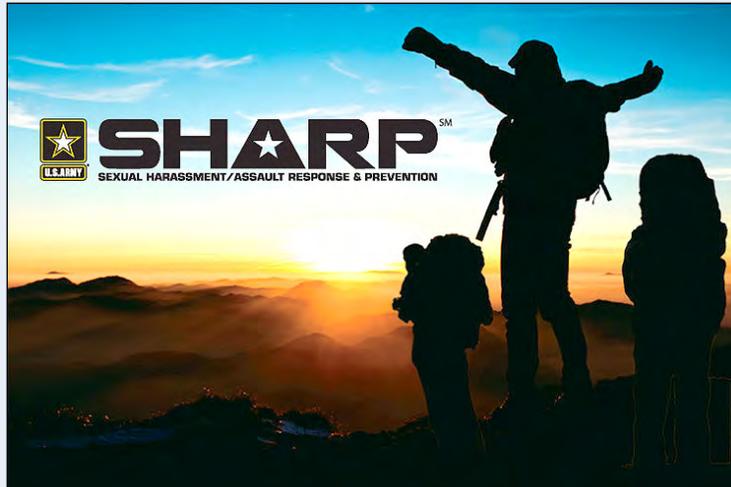
"Maybe we need to do it better than what we're doing," he said.

"One of the options we are looking at seriously is maybe the victim advocate should only be a civilian," Bromberg said.

The general said another area of consideration is eliminating the rank requirement for the uniformed advocate, saying that perhaps the advocate could be any member of the Army if that

person is the right fit.

Whether the victim advocate is a military member or a civilian, Bromberg said, the person has to fight for the victim.



"It's got to be someone who doesn't inhibit you from coming to them, but at the same time is not afraid to push against the chain of command," Bromberg said. "That's where we are going to have to strike the balance."

The Army's Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Patricia Horoho, said the priority for the Army is to make sure the right policies are in place to prevent sexual harassment and sexual abuse, and to ensure the best medical capabilities are available to protect and care for victims.

"We have to be able to focus our efforts on prevention, for this not occurring at all," Horoho told reporters

at the SHARP summit.

She said sexual abuse will never be eliminated.

"You'll never be 100 percent in anything that you do," she explained.

However, she said there are ways leaders can provide a safer environment and Soldiers can protect themselves by knowing the "red flags."

That protective environment is especially important for Soldiers in transition, since a lot of cases of sexual abuse occur when a service members is new to a unit, said Horoho.

She said it is important members are aware of how predators operate and for Soldiers to look out for

each other.

"These young service members feel uncomfortable challenging rank structure, and so having the cohesiveness and battle buddy support is very, very important," she said.

She said another key is leadership.

"They set the tone within their units of an environment where people feel comfortable coming forward with any concerns," Horoho said.

It is important for leaders to eliminate tolerance of sexual harassment, she said, so that the harassment "does not lead to the next step, which is sexual assault."

SHARP

continued from page 4

First, he said, is to protect victims, provide care to them, and protect their privacy. Also, he said, the Army must work to prevent sexual assaults from happening in the first place.

Second, he said, the Army must professionally investigate sexual assaults and take appropriate action based on the results of such investigations.

Third, the Army must "create an appropriate, positive command climate, where trust and respect are the cornerstone of what that command climate is about." Soldiers, he said, must trust that appropriate

actions will be taken by their chain of command, and there must additionally be an "attitude of respect" among those who wear the uniform.

Fourth, the Army must hold accountable individuals, units, commanders and leaders.

Finally, he said, the chain of command must be "fully engaged, responsible for everything in their unit, and accountable for what goes on inside of that unit."

"We need trust. I talk about this all the time. It's critical to everything we do," said Odierno. "The things we are asked to do require trust, the ultimate trust, the trust

that you can believe in anybody who wears this uniform, because you got to be there to save each other's lives under very chaotic conditions."

Odierno said a safe environment, free of sexual abuse, is not only imperative for Soldiers, but also for the families who entrust their children to the Army.

"This is about the health and welfare of our sons and daughters, the sons and daughters of America's citizens," said Odierno. "I want them to be proud of sending their sons and daughters into the Army."

Full sequestration beyond the current fiscal year could require another reduction in the Army's active, Guard and Reserve force structure by as much as 100,000 Soldiers combined, Odierno said.

"Our decisions are in line with the fiscal year '13 budget submission, which implements a \$487 billion reduction in DOD funding based on the Budget Control Act of 2011," he said. The Army's share of these cuts amounts to \$170 billion.

If sequestration continues into fiscal year 2014, Army reductions to end strength, force structure and basing announced June 25 will be only the first step, he said.

The Army led an exhaustive review before deciding where and how to cut, looking at the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the reductions, Odierno said. The final decision was based

on a number of criteria including the ability to train, provide for Soldiers and families and the ability to expand and regenerate forces.

Geographic distribution also was considered, not only to minimize cost and environmental and socioeconomic impacts, but also to ensure the Army was in line with the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region directed by the 2012 strategic defense guidance, he said. The 33 remaining BCTs will be reorganized.

"We will add a third maneuver battalion and additional engineer and fires capability to each of our armor and infantry BCTs in order to make them more lethal, more flexible and more agile," he said.

The changes will reduce the overall number of headquarters while sustaining as much combat capability as possible,

Odierno said. "As we inactivate brigade combat teams, we will reinvest some of the Soldiers, equipment and support personnel into the remaining brigade combat teams," he added.

AMC MISSION

continued from page 1

The AMC Strategic Integration directorate was tasked to ensure the statement adequately aligned Department of the Army requirements, national security documents and Via's intent for AMC.

"Our newly redefined mission statements express AMC's requirement to equip, sustain, integrate and enable the Army with readiness solutions and its responsibility in fully preparing and sustaining forces with innovative and cutting-edge capabilities," said Myra S. Gray, director of the Strategic Integration directorate.

"The key is readiness. It is about being poised to support the next contingency whether it is a combatant need or humanitarian one, which is why the mission statement key words are 'develop', 'deliver' and 'readiness'," she continued.

"The AMC vision reflects key tenets of unified land operations. Unified land operations are the responsibility of the Army in ensuring the nation maintains a ready land force and we (AMC) are the premier providers for sustaining the Army and joint readiness," Gray stated.

"Again, the concept of readiness is key," said Gray. "AMC remains focused on being the premier provider for the needs of the Army and joint allies in support of the nation's overall readiness for all future operations."

DCP volunteers sought

The Army Contracting Command's Deployable Cadre Program is seeking volunteers for a variety of 1102 and 1910 positions in Qatar and Kuwait. The 6-month assignments require a series of online courses and completion of a medical exam. Individuals interested in a civilian deployment opportunity, should visit www.armyhire.com/volunteer.



ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

Ultralight Robot Program Allegedly Runs Afoul of Acquisition Regulations

By Stew Magnuson

(Published in *National Defense magazine* June 19, 2013)

The Government Accountability Office has found in favor of a small, Veteran-owned business that has repeatedly protested the acquisition of small reconnaissance robots intended to be rapidly fielded to troops in Afghanistan.

<http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/blog/lists/posts/post.aspx?ID=1186>

Retired Air Force colonel takes on new mission as director of Army Contracting Command center

By Leada Gore

(Published in *The Huntsville Times* and *AL.com*, June 20, 2013)

A retired Air Force colonel will soon lead efforts at the Army's Contracting Command's center at Redstone Arsenal.

Rebecca "Becky" Weirick has been named the contracting center's executive director, coming to ACC after serving as chief of contracting for the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, National Capital Region in Washington, D.C.

http://www.al.com/business/index.ssf/2013/06/retired_air_force_colonel_take.html



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