

# Military Integration at ACC-APG

By Betsy Kozak-Howard



(Left to right) Army Contracting Command - Aberdeen Proving Ground's Lt. Col. Derek Draper, chief, Garrison Contracting Division; Col. Michael J. Rogers, military deputy to the executive director; Maggie Combs, chief, Strategic Initiatives; and Frank Brigham, chief, Manpower/Management Branch, plan for the activation of the 926th Contingency Contracting Battalion with four subordinate contingency contracting teams. (Photo by Betsy Kozak-Howard)

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 the Army Contracting Command detailed a four-phase plan to attach Contingency Contracting Teams to each of the five Contracting Centers including ACC-APG. As a result of this military integration, ACC-APG will assume the management of approximately 40 military personnel, according to Col. Michael J. Rogers, Military Deputy to the Executive Director of ACC-APG.

“The end state of the ACC-APG military integration will be the activation of the 926<sup>th</sup> Contingency Contracting Battalion 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.”

Phase one of the integration began in January and was mainly the planning and preparation for the attachment of the battalion and CCTs. The first three CCTs ( 712<sup>th</sup> CCT, 722<sup>nd</sup> CCT, and the 725<sup>th</sup> CCT), will be attached to ACC-APG in March which marks the beginning of phase two. At this point, ACC-APG will assume the management of the teams to include personnel support, workload, training, and other logistical support. The five-member

CCTs consist of two officers and three noncommissioned officers in the 51C acquisition career field. The official activation of the 926<sup>th</sup> CCBn and the fourth CCT (865<sup>th</sup> 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 Commander of the 926<sup>th</sup> CCBN. “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 first-hand 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.”