



**ELECTRONIC SECURITY CENTER HAS LONG 27-YEAR HISTORY;
UTILITY MONITORING AND CONTROLS TEAM MULTIPLIES**



By John A. Brown Jr.
MCX Technical Deputy
Electronic Security Center

You may have noticed that this bulletin has changed a bit since the last publication. That's because the Utility Monitoring and Controls team has "multiplied" into a new organization. The move means that our previously combined technical bulletin will now be devoted solely to electronic security matters. Consequently, we thought it would be a good idea to re-cap the missions, functions, roles, organization, and some history of the Electronic Security Center.

The Department of the Army realized the need existed for a cadre of experts in the specialized field of electronic security systems and they included provision for such a center in AR 190-13, The Army Physical Security Program. AR 190-13 tasked the Corps of Engineers with the mission. Soon thereafter, the establishment of the center of expertise came about when the US Army Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center was officially designated the intrusion detection systems mandatory center of expertise (IDS-MCX) on 2 DEC 1983. The roles of the new organization were formalized in the initial Program Management Plan which was issued on 4 DEC 1984.

Consisting of a staff of only 5 engineers, the IDS-MCX became a resource for US Army elements at both the MACOM and installation level. Development of a Technical Manual and a family of Corps of Engineers Guide Specifications was begun and these documents have set the standard for procurement and application of electronic security systems ever since.

The Technical Manual formed the basis for an Electronic Security Systems Design Course which has been taught to thousands of students around the world. Since then, the Electronic Security Center (ESC), as it has come to be known, has evolved into a major organization within the Huntsville Center. After several years of providing only engineering and technical support, our customers' needs drove expansion of the team's capabilities to include system procurement / installation, maintenance, and other specialized support.

As ESC capabilities grew, so did our customer base. In addition to our primary mission customer (US Army), relationships with customers from other Department of Defense agencies and a number of non-DoD agencies were established. ESC customer relationships have resulted in hundreds of successful projects such as the Smithsonian Institution, chemical demilitarization facilities, and landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty. These projects cover the full range of scope and complexity from special studies to criteria documents to site surveys, designs, and installations, maintenance and monitoring.

Today, the Electronic Security Center provides engineering, training, and other specialized technical support to our customers. These types of support are generally provided by our MCX team while our procurement and installation team provides customers the capability to buy and install electronic security systems and related equipment anywhere in the world. Within the Huntsville Center, the functional directorates are called upon to staff the Electronic Security Center integrated product delivery team. The team is made up of approximately 40 talented

individuals primarily from the Engineering, Installation Support Project Management, and Contracting Directorates. Additional support is provided by Resource Management, Office of Counsel, and other offices. The Electronic Security Center's people are the primary resource used to meet our customers' requirements and needs. Our open-ended contract families allow us to provide architect-engineer services, engineering services, and procurement / installation services to meet customers' needs anywhere on the planet.

The Electronic Security Center will continue providing the full complement of high quality support available to our customers today. Our fifth-generation procurement / installation contracts will be awarded this year and they will become our mechanism to execute projects for the next several years. ESC monitors technological and product developments within the industry and is postured to incorporate new systems and equipment to enhance customers' security needs and help mitigate risk in the most cost effective manner possible.

For example, as our world continues to morph into a network-centric enterprise, ESC is seeking out every opportunity to help maximize the impact of our customers' resources by leveraging existing network infrastructure without compromising the integrity of the time critical event reporting associated with electronic security. No doubt, the Electronic Security Center will recommend and apply network-based electronic security systems for some customers' requirements as technology and reliability of commercially available systems matures within the industry. ESC will seek to establish new customer relationships while we continue to strive to be the provider-of-choice for our existing customers as well.

Now in its 27th year, the Electronic Security Center has established itself as a leader in electronic security systems engineering and application. As the MCX for electronic security systems, ESC provides the full range of engineering support including engineering criteria development, conceptualization, criteria documents, training, and testing.

ESC also provides the full complement of electronic security systems technical services including survey, design, procurement, installation, testing, acceptance, maintenance, and monitoring. As technology matures and requirements evolve, ESC is postured to adapt by employing proven systems and equipment to meet customers' specific needs.

*This article was extracted from The Electronic Security Insider Technical Publication produced by the US Army Corps of Engineers **Electronic Security Center**. To find more articles on best security practices and other information, visit our web site at <http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil/esc> and click on the Resources link.*