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Huntsville Center employee honored as S.A.M.E. Engineer of Year

**By Becky Proaps
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A U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center employee received special recognition Feb. 20 from the Society of American Military Engineers (S.A.M.E.) Huntsville Post. Arthur Dohrman, the chief of the Geotechnical Branch, Civil Structures Division, in the Engineering Directorate, and the Huntsville Center Engineering Directorate liaison to the Corps of Engineers Center of Standardization Program, was named the Huntsville Post's Engineer of the Year.

"I was totally surprised, and I'm honored to be selected for this award," Dohrman said. "We have a lot of very smart, very talented people at Huntsville Center and to be singled out like this is a great distinction."

Dohrman was selected from a highly qualified group of candidates from industry and government agencies.

Huntsville Center is responsible for 17 separate standards of the approximately 45 standards maintained throughout eight Corps offices. Dohrman worked closely with a team of project managers, resource managers, contract specialists, engineers and architects to develop and/or improve criteria for these facilities. After specific construction projects were identified, Dohrman led the teams in developing the contract scopes of work for these same facilities. This required a rare combination of technical expertise, planning and budgeting capability, and dealing with complex interactions between customers and proponents.

Dohrman was surprised when he learned he had won, but those who work with him and know him were not surprised.

"Art and I have worked together for more than 25 years, and I have always admired his professionalism, his dedication to public service and his dedication to his family," said Roger Young, chief, Civil Structures Division, Engineering Directorate. "Art is seen by his peers as a leader and someone who can be relied upon to accomplish difficult tasks and help others do so as well."

Boyce Ross, director of the Engineering Directorate, Huntsville Center, agrees with Young's assessment.

"Art was a wise mentor, tireless worker, optimistic cheerleader or pitiless taskmaster as the situation required, and was able to bring disparate groups together to successfully accomplish a staggering COS workload," Ross said. "In addition, Art exhibited considerable foresight by actively supporting the Engineering Directorate's desire to accomplish significant portions of the design in-house. He developed and successfully defended a budget request to Headquarters, USACE that supported heavy development and utilization of in-house multidisciplinary Building Information Modeling (BIM)-based design for two years in a row. This is helping Huntsville Center develop and maintain a world-class BIM team.

"Art is an engineer that has 'all the right stuff' to be a military engineer," Ross said. "He is a retired lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserves so he understands the military, and he is an expert in his field of geotechnical engineering. He has great leadership and management skills that have enabled him to run some of the Center's most complex programs. As a supervisor he has demonstrated exceptional people skills, and his service to his community is also well-evidenced."

Dohrman has worked with Huntsville Center for 29 years and with the Corps for 33 years. He started with the Mobile District before coming to Huntsville Center. Dohrman is PMP (Project Management Professional)-Certified, supports the Society of

American Military Engineers, the Huntsville Land Trust, the Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club and the University of Alabama Huntsville Chapter of Engineers Without Borders.

His advice to other engineers is simple and straightforward.

“Know your stuff, know how your work fits into the big picture, respect and support your team members and be adaptable,” Dohrman said.

“Engineers are stereotyped as being more concerned with ‘things’ as opposed to ‘people’. We should always remember that everything we do is both FOR people, so that they have better, safer or healthier places to live and work, and WITH people, both our teammates in the Corps and our contractor partners.”

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