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Huntsville Center Contracting Officer Takes Top Recognition

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – A contracting officer leading the Pre-Award Division of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville was recently selected as the best contract officer specializing in services and construction contracting for 2009.

Virginia Mitchell received the Secretary of the Army Award for Excellence in Contracting at a ceremony in Orlando, Fla., May 13. Established in July of 1997, the SAAEC recognizes and honors contracting and acquisition professionals by annually presenting awards to recognize contracting officers, contracting units/teams, and special awards for excellence in executing the contracting mission in support of Soldiers and the nation.

Principal Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Lt. Gen. William N. Phillips and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement Edward M. Harrington participated in the ceremony.

Mitchell was responsible for awarding more than 70 new contracts representing \$2.3 billion in value, which include the addition of 35 new service, construction, and supply acquisitions to replace diminishing contracting capacity.

According to Mitchell's citation, her innovative contracting methods reduced acquisition lead times, led USACE in Army Service Strategy Panel (ASSP) and DoD Peer Review process, and maximized the teaming concept and camaraderie among her staff amidst significant staffing shortages.

In his address to the audience, Phillips said "All of you are contracting warriors. Our goal is to provide the best equipment as quickly as possible, and no one does it better than Army acquisition. That's because of you and all of the hard work that you've done. You have my greatest appreciation. We are so proud of you. Thank you for what you do every day for our warfighters."

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