



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Vol. 27 Issue 1
February 2006

Huntsville Center Bulletin

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*Mark your
calendar now...*

Black History Month Activities

Feb. 17
"Who's Who" Character
Show
Command Conference
Room
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Feb. 23
Trivia-Quest
Command Conference
Room
2 - 3 p.m.

7th Annual
Small Business
Open House



While Soldiers are away, Huntsville Center renovates barracks at Fort Bragg

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

While Soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division are deployed fighting the Global War on Terrorism, the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is busy renovating their living quarters back at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The Barracks Triage Program is an Army-wide effort to improve the living conditions of Soldiers.

See *Barracks* on page 11



Courtesy photo

Bill Fallon with Warren's Heating and Air Conditioning installs parts in the mechanical room of one of the buildings being renovated at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Studying engineering process can lead to best work, lowest cost

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

Everyone wants to get the best deal possible for the least amount of money.

At the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, the Corps of Engineers uses the value engineering process to improve the quality and value of projects. A demolition project at Fort Hamilton, N.Y., saved the Installation Management

Agency \$2.1 million. Another project to upgrade a storage area road at the Pueblo, Colo., Chemical Depot used a geotechnical investigation to optimize the design for the road upgrade. And a third project improved the function and quality of a non-standard military operations in urbanized terrain (MOUT) site at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Value engineering is a management tool that can be used alone or with other

management techniques and methodologies. The complementary relationship between value engineering and other management techniques increases the likelihood that overall management objectives are achieved.

"The thing that makes it different from other analyses is that it uses a creative team approach and analyzes the function of the item or

See *Value* on page 5

Commander's thoughts

Happy New Year. This new year brings new opportunities and challenges for both the Center and our Corps.

The Department of Defense and our Army are working through the actual implementation of last year's BRAC decision. The only thing everyone is sure of is that there currently aren't enough funds to build all the facilities in the program. What does that mean for us?

Master planning has long been under-resourced across the Army. We have master planning expertise and equally important, we have demonstrated our ability to centrally manage programs with decentralized execution. USACE has asked us to manage the Corps' master planning effort and I believe there will be many opportunities as installations look for the most efficient and effective ways to accommodate their new units and organizations.

Districts are going to be very busy

executing the massive amount of military construction (MILCON) associated with BRAC.

The amount of operations and maintenance (O& M) work is not going to diminish, and we may even see more as organizations repair and renovate as opposed to building new — facility repair and renewal (FRR). Security requirements will only increase as our enemies become more sophisticated — electronic security system (ESS). Medical facilities will require upgrades and expansion to meet changing patient loads — medical repair and renewal (MRR). All good for our Center.

The cost of utilities continues to climb. Just look at your monthly bill or really look at what you are paying at the gas pump. Installation "must pay" utility bills cut deep into other maintenance accounts. Reducing costs

and finding alternate ways to take care of utility needs are becoming more important every day. Our energy programs can help in all arenas. Our utility rate intervention work has

resulted in \$60 million in cost avoidance over the past six years and there are many cases looming. Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPC) provide an alternative to using MILCON for energy savings projects.

All-in-all, our future looks pretty good. We can't rest on our laurels,

though. Each of us has to look for new opportunities — either new work or places where our existing customers can save funds. We also owe it to our customers to continue our efforts to keep costs down. Don't waste time talking about rent, IM/IT costs — look for other innovative ways to reduce our costs.

Thanks again for all you do and for all you will do for Soldiers and their families.



Col. John D. Rivenburgh

The Bulletin asks:

What makes your sweetheart special?



Donna Parker
Installation Support

"A lot of things ... he is a very good person, and he treats me like I'm the most important person in the world. He sends flowers all the time; he's just sweet!"



Raul Alonso
Chemical Demilitarization

"What makes her special — she's there in good times and in bad times, for better or for worse. She can juggle her daily home chores, three children and a part time job."



Wanda Welch
Engineering Directorate

"He'll do for me before he does for himself. He gives his all. He's special in every way."



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers

The Huntsville Center Bulletin is printed by digital copier as an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Army. Inquiries can be addressed to Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Attn: CEHNC-PA, P.O. Box 1600, Huntsville, AL 35807-4301. Phone: DSN 760-1693 or commercial (256)895-1693. Web address: www.hnd.usace.army.mil. Circulation: 1,000.

BULLETIN

Commander..... Col. John D. Rivenburgh
Chief, Public Affairs..... Kim Gillespie
Editor..... Becky Proaps

Volunteers needed for MATHCOUNTS

MATHCOUNTS is a national math coaching and competition program that promotes middle school mathematics achievement through grassroots involvement of local volunteers, educators, industry sponsors and students.

Each year the local regional competition begins in conjunction with National Engineers Week Feb. 19-25. This year's local competition is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 18, at Challenger Middle School in Huntsville.

Dan Long, Chief, Cost Engineering, is organizing Huntsville Center volunteers for this community event. Volunteers are needed for approximately three to four hours to

monitor and grade tests, and to help award trophies. No experience or mathematical background is needed according to Long.

Long has been associated with MATHCOUNTS for more than 20 years, six of those since beginning work at Huntsville Center. Long compared the MATHCOUNTS competition to a sports playoff.

"The winners at the local level proceed to state competitions, where the top four 'MATHLETES' and top coach earn the right to represent their state or territory at the national level," Long explained. However, unlike with sports competition, participating schools select students to compete individually or as part of a team.

"Recognition at the state and national levels includes scholarship money," said Long. "But more importantly, this type of competition is helping to prepare our nation's future engineering work force," he added.

The Feb. 18 regional competition will include eight four-person teams. Teams participating include: Academy for Arts, Challenger Middle School, Covenant Christian Academy, Hampton Cove Middle School, Horizon Elementary School, Huntsville Middle School, Providence Classical School, and Randolph School.

Employees interested in volunteering to support the MATHCOUNTS competition on Feb. 18 should contact Long by e-mail or phone at 895-1801.

Two engineers nominated for national advertisement

National Engineers Week will be Feb. 19-25. Founded in the United States in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers, it is always celebrated the week of George Washington's birthday because he has been described as America's first engineer.

As a key part of the National Engineers Week, New Faces of Engineering is a recognition program that strives to promote the accomplishments of young engineers by highlighting their engineering contributions and the resulting impact on society. This year the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville has two nominees — Jason B. Adams, an industrial engineer in the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, and Todd L. Watts, a civil engineer in the Engineering

Directorate. Adams provides cost engineering and estimating expertise to the

directorate. His work has been critical in conveying to Congress the magnitude of the problem of unexploded ordnance at sites once used by the Department of Defense. Adams has provided critical cost engineering support for the Formerly Used Defense Sites Military Munitions Response Program. He assisted with the development of more than 1,000 cost-to-complete estimates for Munitions and Explosives of Concern with an estimated remediation cost of about \$10.7 billion. He also successfully created



Jason B. Adams



Todd L. Watts

better and more cost effective alternatives and addressed concerns for the Chemical

Warfare Material Scoping and Security Study by determining the magnitude of chemical hazards and costs associated with remediation of the hazards by creating cost estimates. He performed extensive coordination with numerous contractors, project managers and Corps of Engineers personnel and compiled and analyzed data that reduced the cost estimate down to \$146 million, a reduction of more than \$800 million.

Watts is the technical manager for the Pueblo, Colo., Agent-Disposal Pilot Plant Project. While keeping

in mind the mission of destroying aged chemical weapons and reducing the risk to communities surrounding these stockpiles, Watts is involved in managing the design, construction, operation and closing of a nearly \$2 billion project. Watts currently leads a team of 15 multi-disciplinary engineers who work with the prime contractor to assure the design meets all the specialized criteria needed for the plant to function safely and efficiently.

The engineers selected for the New Faces program will be featured in a full-page ad in USA TODAY during Engineers Week. The National Engineers Week Foundation will profile each of the top individuals at eweek.org. The profiles will be on the National Engineers Week Web site at www.eweek.org.

Engineer makes special deliveries to Iraqi children

By Polli Barnes Keller
Gulf Region North

MOSUL, Iraq — After years of tyranny and war, the children of Iraq have almost nothing and are very grateful for each gift they receive.

Lana Aziz, an Iraqi citizen and junior engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, coordinates the collection and distribution of shoes and school supplies for Iraqi children. With each gift she gives to a needy child, she also gives joy and hope to their lives.

Throughout her childhood, Aziz watched as American organizations sent clothing and items to local churches in her community. She watched as the goods were distributed, and noticed some didn't make it to the families that needed it the most. Dismayed at the lack of support for American generosity and the misdirection of goods, Aziz decided if she could, she would do something about it.

While on assignment for USACE in the local villages last year, she found that opportunity. She noticed the

Aziz put the word out through co-workers, friends and family that she was collecting shoes. Word spread quickly, and before she knew it, shoes came rolling in. Church groups from the States, Aziz's family, and friends of friends rose to the challenge and collected about 150 pairs of shoes, which Aziz

distributed in Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. The collection effort was a huge success and well received by those in need, she said.

Now, more than seven months later, packages again began arriving addressed to Aziz. She opened the boxes and was happily surprised to find not only shoes for the children, but school supplies and toys, as well. Aziz's response to the unexpected generosity was, "If they send it, I will deliver it!"

Word travels fast when there is good news to spread, and the story of Aziz delivering goods to schools last year made it all the way to Texas and Utah. Donations came not only from Aziz's family members, but also from friends' families, friends of friends, churches, schools and large corporations.

Contributors included the Southwest Airlines maintenance and engineering department in Dallas; Hewlett Packard in Richardson, Texas; and the second grade class from the William



Photo by Polli Barnes Keller

Children in Dohuk, Iraq, show their happiness at receiving special delivery from Lana Aziz, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division employee and native of Iraq, who now collects donations to benefit Iraqi children

Penn Elementary School in Salt Lake City. Aziz received toys, school supplies, candy and shoes.

She and Lt. Col. Greg Gunter, USACE Gulf Region North deputy commander, traveled to two schools in Dohuk and delivered the goods.

"It was an honor to take part in such a noble and worthwhile effort initiated by Ms. Aziz," Gunter said. "It was heartwarming to see that the generous gifts sent from within Iraq, as well as the United States, found their way to the children at these two schools."

The class in Utah received photographs of their delivered donated goods. "My students and I were ecstatic when we put your photos on the big screen and saw our red Christmas houses," their teacher commented. "Seriously — we went crazy!"

She added, "What a joy it was to actually see our school supplies and cards in the hands of those beautiful Iraqi children!"

In one year of employment with USACE, Aziz moved up within the ranks from interpreter to junior engineer. She graduated from Mosul University in 2004 with a degree in computer engineering and worked part time for the U.S. Embassy on Forward Operating Base Courage.



Photo by Polli Barnes Keller

A school principal in Dohuk, Iraq, left; Lana Aziz; and Lt. Col. Greg Gunter, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region North deputy commander discuss the delivery of donations to the school.

children lacked proper shoes for the cold environment. This gave her the idea to collect shoes for the needy and make sure they were distributed to those who truly needed them.

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method of whatever you are looking at,” said Gina Elliott, the Huntsville Center’s value engineering officer.

“In today’s environment of tight budgets, short schedules and competition, value management should be important to you,” Elliott said. “Performing value management/value engineering efforts can allow you to ‘team’ with your customer, optimize your project and reduce cost. The value methodology used in performing value management/value engineering efforts is a proven, systematic approach to getting the best value project.”

Examples of this past year’s successes in value engineering include the projects at Fort Hamilton; Pueblo; and Fort Irwin.

Fort Hamilton, N.Y.

The Facility Reduction Program saved \$2.1 million on the Fort Hamilton, deconstruct project.

“Fort Hamilton had requested \$3.3 million to do what they considered to be fairly standard demolition at Fort Hamilton,” said Valerie Clinkenbeard, the chairperson for developing the acquisition plan.

“Installation Management Agency thought the original cost estimate was totally out of line, so they asked Huntsville Center to do a value engineering study using in-house resources and contractor support. Our study concluded that if you

incorporated some of our recommendations that this project could be done for approximately \$1.2 million.”

Because Fort Hamilton had already received a bid from a small business that was double what the study recommended, officials there said the study was ridiculous. However, using that project as a hypothetical scenario for acquisition planning purposes, Clinkenbeard’s team was able to prove to Fort Hamilton and the IMA that the value engineering approach worked.

Of the 18 proposals reviewed, not even one approached the original cost estimate.

“Using this information, we convinced Fort Hamilton and IMA that the proposed cost was out of line,” Clinkenbeard said. “We proved the original bid was unreasonable. We subsequently awarded the contract to two companies — one found a way to re-use the concrete. That meant we did not have to pay for disposal of the concrete.”

The Army has used construction firms for deconstruction, which amounts to reverse construction, Clinkenbeard explained. If a company that specializes in deconstruction is used, they can re-use 80 percent of the material. They can do the job for about half of what the Army traditionally paid for the same job.

“At the time, IMA could not afford to pay the other bidder’s price,”

Clinkenbeard said. “Because of the savings, we ended up being able to fund the project. Otherwise this work would probably have been pushed out a few years before it could be done.”

Any savings realized would be rolled back into the demolition program. A law was passed a few years ago that said the Army could not increase the number of square feet, so to be able to rebuild, the Army had to have square footage banked.

Pueblo, Colo.

When planning for the Storage Area Road Upgrade Project at the Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado, the value engineering study proposed a cost-effective way to verify the existing conditions, according to Art Dohrman, the project manager. The value engineering team members looked at the in-house design, which was conservative and provided no geotechnical data. The value engineering study proposed performing a geotechnical investigation, then optimizing the design.

“The geotechnical investigation gave us more confidence that the design would work,” Dohrman said. “We initially did a visual inspection of the road. During the value engineering study, it came out that we probably should verify what was there. Lynn Helms in Geotechnical Branch knew people at ERDC and got them lined up to go do some nonde-

structive testing. Those tests verified that conditions were what we thought they were — our assumptions were correct for the project.”

The geotechnical investigation verified the underlying base was in consistent good shape throughout, but the top layer was coming up in pieces. We proposed that they replace the top layer with two inches of asphalt, Dohrman said.

Fort Irwin, Calif.

The Range and Training Land Program used value engineering when planning for a non-standard MOUT at Fort Irwin. Of 10 value engineering proposals received, five were at least partially implemented.

These were value-added proposals — no cost savings, but improved function and quality.

“The value engineering process, while synchronized with mandated training requirements and standards, allows the Corps of Engineers to provide our Soldiers with the highest quality training facilities at the most feasible cost,” said Mark Fleming, program manager, Ranges and Training Land Program. “As tax payers, this integrated process adds value.”

“I want the VE effort to be helpful to the project managers wherever help is needed — quality, sustainability, saving time or money, etc.,” Elliott said. I want to target the areas that need optimization, not just do it for the sake of doing it.”

Contracting Directorate files room revamped for more efficient, simple service

By Joan Burns
Public Affairs

Keeping up with 25,000 file folders can be a daunting task not just because that number is overwhelmingly large, but because that's the approximate number of folders typically used to contain the official records of the government contracting process at the Huntsville Center. Like any large-scale process, manual operation can engender error.



Photo by Joan Burns

STEP students Christina Hicks, left, Brittany Prater and Nina Hicks provide files room support for the FileTrail contract file library tracking system.

A new Internet-based file system solves the problem for the Center. When a Contracting Officer (CO) or a contract specialist needs an official contract file, the administrative file support person on the other side of the half door at the entrance to the files room takes the request.

File room support personnel access the FileTrail software program to locate the contract file, retrieve it from the shelf and use the hand-held barcode scanner to scan the contract number on the file folder and record the name of the person receiving the file.

The process is simple and efficient — very different from the process

formerly used. In the past, contracting officials as well as project managers or even administrative employees could go to the files room and access a contract file, remove its contents and replace them with a “check-out” card.

“It was an ‘on-your-honor’ system with no librarian present and no security guard at the door,” said Tracey Shaw, program manager for the installation and operation of the new FileTrain file system. “File information was returned in an erratic manner, if at all; some file information was simply lost. With the current system, only contracting officers or contract specialists are allowed to check out contract files.”

The official contract file contains records of such things as purchase requests, funding availability, requests for proposals, government estimates, cost and pricing data, technical analysis, price negotiation

information, the signed delivery order or modification, any audit reports required and the notice to proceed.

“Contract files are the official record of the obligation of taxpayers’ money,” said Jordan Miller, secondary project manager for the new process. Contract files can be used as a guide for setting up a new contract folder; or to get information to process a variety of tasks. Contracting officials handle contract modifications, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, task orders to provide a service and delivery orders to provide a product.

The length of time a contracting official may keep and use the contract file varies with the required task. There

is no time limit; however, the FileTrail program alerts file room administrative personnel on the selected return date and if the contract file has not been returned, file room personnel will send a reminder to the person who has the file.

The new system, implemented in the fall of 2005, has created a working environment similar to a library. “We don’t have to waste time and effort looking for files. It also gives our customers confidence,” said J.R. Richardson, director of Contracting.

The FileTrail implementation team, included employees in the Huntsville Center’s student training and employment program, called STEP. Michael Mathis, a STEP employee, serves as the project manager and Jordan Miller, also a STEP employee, serves as the secondary project manager.

Miller describes the new system as the “rebirth of the contract files room.” Colorful labels on each file folder identify the procurement number, site name, vendor name and year of the action. “The new system provides an easy and more efficient way to fulfill customers’ needs. It allows files room personnel to trace each file outside the area,” Miller said.

One of the most difficult tasks the implementation team faced was the solution to mobilizing the more than 16,000 official contract files so the contractors who entered the necessary information could have access to the files. The team decided to assign file bins to each shelf to maintain the order of the files. The team also relocated more than 5,500 files associated with future contract closeout actions. This will accelerate the closeouts and provide much needed space for active contracts.

See *Files Revamp* on page 7

Administrative re-employment rights approved for new Fort Bliss construction mission

The Fort Worth District has been given the design and construction mission for a \$3 billion program to provide facilities for re-stationing up to four brigade combat teams and a multi-functional aviation brigade at Fort Bliss, Texas, and it is anticipated to take four to six years to complete.

Because of the magnitude of this project, approval has been granted by Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, commanding general, Corps of Engineers, for administrative re-employment rights for USACE non-clerical employees who transfer to the Fort Bliss Program Office in El Paso, Texas. Employees may be hired for three-year assignments with additional one-year extensions granted, for a total not to exceed six years, if needed, and guaranteed return to their previous positions in USACE. Granting administrative re-employment rights

minimizes the disruption of Government work and facilitates the movement of essential employees for this critical program.

The following criteria must be met by individuals requesting these administrative re-employment rights:

- The individual must currently serve in a career or career-conditional appointment in the Corps of Engineers,
- in the competitive service,
- have completed their probationary period,
- hired for non-clerical positions,
- agree to be stationed at the Fort Bliss Program Office in El Paso,
- meet the minimum qualifications and other basic requirements for the position to be filled, and
- be appointed without a break in service of one workday or more.

Phase I, which provides troop facilities only, will require 273 buildings

Phase II will include additional support facilities

Up to 100 additional employees will be hired to support this large-scale construction program in the coming year.

All of the positions for this program will be advertised through the U.S. Army Civilian Personnel Web site at www.cpol.army.mil. Click on **Employment**. Click on **Search for jobs**. Click on **State** and insert Texas. Press **Get Results** and you will see a listing of all vacancies for Fort Bliss in El Paso. All the announcements will annotate those positions that have administrative re-employment rights.

For more information on re-employment rights related to these positions, contact U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Southwestern Division, Human Resources, Jerry Sosebee at (817) 886-1170 or Jeff Hair at (817) 886-1187.

Files Revamp

continued from Page 6

Contracting Directorate personnel are pleased with the work of the implementation team. "I am extremely proud of the hard work Mike Mathis and Jordan Miller put into this project. Without their personal dedication to this project, we would not have succeeded in completing the project on time and avoiding change orders," Shaw said.

The STEP employee program at Huntsville Center also has provided administrative files room personnel to support the new process. "Looking the file up in FileTrail allows us to pinpoint where the file is

and who has it or who had it last. This system is beyond helpful, to say the least," said Christina Hicks, who attends Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Brittany Prater, a student at Calhoun Community College, said, "After observing the process of implementing FileTrail and now using the system daily, I believe that it is the most important asset to the overall success of the files room."

"The FileTrail system should help in keeping the files room organized," said Nina Hicks, a STEP employee who attends Alabama A and M University.

Kathy Simmons,

Contracting Directorate's Business Management Division team leader applauds the new process. "The benefit of being able to track a file from setup phase to the closeout phase,

showing the complete history throughout, is a great achievement," Simmons said.

The implementation team members also believe in the new process.

"As HNC continues to be a leader in

business, it is necessary to find ways to continually improve processes. With the implementation of FileTrail, Huntsville Center will not only improve in this area, but set the standard," Mathis said.



Photo by Joan Burns

FileTrail implementation team members Michael Mathis, left, Jordan Miller and Tracey Shaw explain the newly implemented FileTrail filing system for official contract files at the Huntsville Center.

New look for Huntsville Center Web site

Huntsville Center's Web site has a new look, but its Web pages retain the same addresses.

The new look is a Headquarters initiative that emphasizes the Corps Vision — One Team: Relevant, Ready, Responsive, Reliable.

Every Corps District, Division and Center Web page is now consistent and recognizable as part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Web site will continue to be updated and changed as part of this initiative. Every effort will be made to ensure Huntsville Center's Web site information remains current and relevant. If you would like to take a look at the new Huntsville Center Web site, go to <http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil>.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Pam Draper or Becky Proaps.

Start date for new personnel system pushed back at least three months

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Defense officials have scaled back the initial group of civilian employees to fall under the new National Security Personnel System to 11,000 in the first group from a previously scheduled 60,000, officials announced Jan. 18.

The implementation date also was changed from Feb. 1 to April 30.

Personnel officials have been seeking feedback on proposed rules from employees, managers, human relations specialists and employee unions for several months. That feedback "led us to conclude we need more time to focus on simplifying the performance management design, getting performance objectives right, and ensuring the system is simple, clear and understandable," NSPS officials said in a statement on the program's Web site.

The NSPS is intended to streamline cumbersome personnel rules and make it easier for managers to both reward stellar performance and correct sub-par performance among the DOD's 650,000 civil-service employees.



The system also includes a means to rate leaders on management functions.

"DoD is committed to making the NSPS transition as smooth as possible for the work force. Ensuring that we 'take the time to do this right' has always been a principle in our event-driven implementation approach," officials said on the program's Web site.

"We want to make sure that our employees, supervisors and leaders fully understand this system, and that they have the tools to succeed in a results-focused, performance-based environment."

The commander's NSPS Town Hall scheduled for January was postponed because of DOD's decision to revamp the performance management aspects of NSPS. The Town Hall will be rescheduled when the major commands are given the green light to proceed.

According to Toni Hamley, human capital manager, Business Management Office, it is unclear at this time whether the projected NSPS implementation date of October 2006 for the Huntsville Center will be delayed as a result of DOD's efforts.

For the latest information about NSPS, go to www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps.

February is Black History Month

Two special events slated to bring black history to life

The Commander's Special Emphasis Program Committee is sponsoring two events in celebration of African American/Black History Month.

The "Who's Who" Character Show will be presented Feb. 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the "As a matter of Fact"

Trivia-Quest will be Feb. 23 from 2-3 p.m. Both programs will be in the Command Conference Room.

The "Who's Who" Character Show will be presented to the HNC audience through many talents, i.e., singing, acting, playing musical instruments, dancing, writing and poetry.

HNC employees will create a historical scene celebrating the stories, lives or events of famous black Americans.

For the "As a matter of Fact" Trivia-Quest the CSEP Committee will take excerpts from information submitted or gathered from interviews with HNC employees. This information along with other historical facts will be sent by

electronic mail throughout February to HNC employees to provide the answer to the quest or identify the person involved in the Trivia-Quest.

If you would like to participate in the Who's Who" Character Show, submit information for the Trivia Quest, or find out more, please contact Sonja Rice at 895-1575.

Huntsville Center starts year with flurry of contracts, task orders

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Since November 2005, the Engineering and Support Center has awarded contracts and task orders totaling more than \$1 billion to companies that will provide electronic security systems worldwide, management of coalition munitions clearance depots in Iraq, and mobile munitions clearance in Iraq.

Ten contracts totaling \$500 million for development and maintenance of electronic security systems worldwide went to Cirrus Technology Inc., SEI Group Inc.,

Government Technical Services LLC, and Johnson Controls Bldg Sys LLC, all of Huntsville; LVW Electronics of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Infotec Systems Corporation and Infotec Systems Corporation (Small Business) of Summerville, S.C.; Williams Electric Company Inc. of Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.; Siemens Government Services of Reston, Va.; and Northrop Grumman Technical Services Inc. of Herndon, Va. The contracts were awarded between Nov. 23, 2005, and Jan. 4, 2006.

On Dec. 28, 2005, Huntsville Center awarded task orders totaling \$538.5

million for a 36-month effort to two companies: Tetra Tech ECI of Huntsville, Ala., and EOD Technologies of Knoxville, Tenn., will conduct mobile munitions clearance operations at multiple locations in Iraq.

A separate task order for management of the coalition munitions clearance depots in Iraq also was issued Dec. 20, 2005, to EOD Technologies Inc.; the amount of this contract is estimated at \$152,112,965 for a 36-month effort.

Safety Office conducts annual safety inspection

**By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office**

Members of the Safety Office performed the annual Standard Army Safety and Occupational Health Inspection (SASOHI) of the Huntsville Center the week of Dec. 19, 2005. The safety team inspected all offices to ensure that current safety policies and procedures are being followed, and no safety violations exist.

“I am pleased to report there were no major findings; however, there are some areas that need improvement if we are going to maintain our safe work environment,” said Donnie Butler, acting Safety Officer. Butler noted that taking these necessary measures will help improve

the health and welfare of all employees.

“One of the most common findings throughout the building was the use of space heaters that did not comply with Huntsville Center policy,” Butler said. Portable space heaters can pose a major workplace fire safety hazard. Fires can be caused by space heaters without adequate safety features, space heaters placed near combustibles or space heaters that are improperly plugged into outlets.

“I ask each of you to review the precautions to be taken when using these heaters. If you have questions concerning the proper selection and use of space heaters, please contact the Safety Office,” Butler added.

Another recurring finding



Photo by Becky Proaps

This is an example of one of the violations found during the annual safety inspection done in December 2005.

was the accumulation of combustibles in office areas and storage rooms. In other words, clutter. “This should be an easy fix team. Take a moment to examine your work area and properly store or discard any unnecessary paper or trash,” he said.

The Safety Office has established a process to

notify each department concerning the results of the inspection.

“Each office is being notified of their deficiencies, and will be given a time table for making any necessary corrections,” Butler said.

Several offices received special recognition for their efforts. “Of the 18 separate office areas inspected, five had no shortcomings: Security, Internal Review, EEO Office, Ballistic Missile Defense Directorate and Management Review,” Butler said. What set these offices apart are daily inspections of their work areas and the prompt correction of any safety hazards.

“Congratulations to them,” Butler said. “Let’s all learn from their examples.”

King's dream alive, prospering

**By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office**

History is undeniably made up of key events that shape our future and extraordinary leaders who influence our destiny. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. emerged as the leader of black Americans in a time when America was darkened by social inequality and racial injustice. King rose to fame when he came to the aid of Rosa Parks, the Montgomery, Ala., black woman who refused to give up her seat on a segregated Montgomery bus to a white passenger. During this era, American blacks were restricted to second class citizenship by racist laws and customs. To break these laws often meant detainment and degradation by law enforcement authorities and the legal system. Beatings, imprisonment and sometimes death awaited those who defied this system.

Within a span of 14 years from 1954 to his death in 1968, King provided this nation with a road map that allowed all people to travel together and share in the abundance of this great democracy. At a time when hope was waning, King's tactics of non-violent protest and passive resistance became a candle of hope for black Americans, and America as a whole.

Team Redstone marked the 20th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a luncheon Jan. 12 at the Officers and Civilian's Club.

Dr. Virginia Caples, interim president of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University spoke to about 375 persons on the many triumphs of King, during the Civil Rights movement in America. Caples linked the Montgomery bus boycott and the March on Washington with its stirring "I Have a Dream" speech, the passage of the Civil Rights and Voting Rights acts and the winning of the Nobel Peace Prize, the trouble within the movement, and King's

chilling last sermon, "I've Been to the Mountaintop" with its references to the "Promised Land" as events that served to shape his requiem.

She then compared the last events of King's life to the chilling shrill of a swan's last song as it completes its final life action and gracefully succumbs to death. Caples focused her audience toward the theme and purpose for celebration and spoke on the topic



Dr. Virginia Caples, interim president of Alabama A and M University was one of several guest speakers at Team Redstone's 20th anniversary Jan. 12, of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"Can I Get a Witness?" Many in the audience became tearful as she referred to the agony King experienced as a black man struggling for equality and justice within a culture overflowing with racism and discrimination. She also revealed her own personal heartache concerning the social injustice and racial inequality that exists in America today.

Caples left the crowd pondering a question that captures the theme for the celebration: "Whether Soldier or civilian, we must realize that the Dr. Martin L. King Day holiday is more than just a day off — it is a day on — for reflection and remembrance. Now that we have reached the Promised Land [referred to by King], what are we doing in the Promised Land?"

Ultimately, this is a question that Dr. King might ask were he alive today."

Spec. Ken Juan Simon, an Army Soldier assigned to Headquarters, Headquarters Garrison Redstone, was very solemn about being selected to attend the event. Simon, who grew up in the Washington, D.C., area, said he feels that much of King's work did not filter up into the mainstream culture of the North.

"Living in the South allows me to 'see' how courageous Dr. King was, instead of just hearing someone else talk about it," Simon said. "I admire Dr. King's not being afraid to change the way things were back then. His courage trickles down to my generation, and so on. I'm here to pay homage to a man who was not afraid to speak out for what is right, and try to make a positive change," he added

Claudia Rhen, division chief of the Cost Analysis Division, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, said her reason for being there was more group-oriented, since Dr. King's message unified people.

"Dr. King's vision altered humanity." Rhen said. "In essence, he spearheaded a humanity that was moving blindly toward destruction, and set things back on course." she said.

"This is the 20th year for this observance, and we look forward to making each year even more dynamic to honor Dr. King," said Bridget Elmore, an equal opportunity specialist at Redstone Arsenal and one of the organizers for the event. "It brings unity. As I scan the room and view the diverse cultural makeup of the persons who fill the Officers Club today, it is clearly evident that Team Redstone has captured the heart of Dr. King's revolutionary vision of a universal table of brotherhood for all mankind. In light of all the racial and discrimination issues in private industry, the military has made leaps and bounds to make Dr. King's dream of a color-blind society a reality for men and women who serve our nation as Soldiers and civilian workers," Elmore concluded.



Photo by Dorothy Moore, Redstone Arsenal Photo Lab

Efforts rewarded with plaque of appreciation

Dr. Richard Amos, left, deputy to the commander, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, presents Gerald Shepard, chairperson for the Huntsville Center's 2005 Combined Federal Campaign and Col. John D. Rivenburgh, right, commander, Huntsville Center, with a plaque of appreciation during a CFC awards ceremony Jan. 30 at the Bob Jones Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Huntsville Center contractor suffers fatality in Iraq

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — A U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center Huntsville contractor employee died and another was injured Jan. 19 in Iraq. Stephen Enright, 29, a British citizen of Devon, United Kingdom, worked for Armor Group of London, England — a subcontractor providing security to

Environmental Chemical Corp. of Lakewood, Colo. He was killed when the vehicle he was riding in was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device.

“Our condolences go out to the family,” said Mike Stahl, Chief, International Operations, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate. “Our personnel are highly

trained and experienced and are doing a superb job, but it remains a very dangerous mission.”

The incident is under investigation.

Huntsville Center's Coalition Munitions Clearance Program is responsible for receiving, transporting, segregating and destroying captured or any

other munitions posing a danger in Iraq. Storage and disposal of the ammunition is performed at several locations throughout Iraq.

To date, more than 293,000 tons of ammunition have been destroyed by the Huntsville Center program, significantly reducing risks to Iraqi citizens and U.S. personnel in Iraq.

Barracks

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Partnering with Huntsville Center in this effort are Savannah District, the Fort Bragg Directorate of Public Works and the Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence.

At Fort Bragg, work is being done in three phases, four barracks at a time. “I saw these barracks for myself back in 2003,” said Kent Criswell, the project manager. “They would open the Soldier's rooms and ceiling tiles would fall out.”

Initially, Fort Bragg contacted the Savannah District Corps of Engineers

with the project. Savannah District contacted Huntsville Center. The Facility Repair and Renewal Program is repairing 13 barracks at a cost of approximately \$1 million each.

“We have turned over the first phase,” Criswell said. “We are 80 percent finished with the second phase. The third phase will depend on barracks swing space availability. We are doing the job faster, safer and cheaper than the Air Force proposed.”

“The Resident Office Team led by Nat Hermann and the Huntsville Center has done a terrific job of executing this critical program under

very tight timelines,” said Judith Hudson, deputy director, Directorate of Public Works, at Fort Bragg. “The results are dramatically improved living conditions for Fort Bragg Soldiers.”

The contractor executing the project is Vanguard Contractors Inc. Vanguard won a safety award for this project in November 2005.

“Bragg may go back to Savannah or they may work directly with us for future projects,” Criswell said. “Savannah has a resident engineer on this project and we have a good relationship. Things are going really well right now.”

Ethics Corner

When can a contractor ride in a government vehicle?

**By Margaret Simmons
Office of Counsel**

It depends on the facts. A rental car is considered a government vehicle if it is being used for official travel. If you, a government employee, and a contractor employee are attending a meeting and are TDY, it would seem to make sense that you could share a vehicle to go to and from the airport, hotel and meeting location together. It would, after all, save money, and ensure everyone arrived at the same time. But are those the factors that have to be evaluated to determine if this is allowable under the ethics rules? No.

Generally an Army employee who is engaged in official travel in a vehicle that is paid for by the Army

may not permit the contractor employee to ride in the vehicle. However, there are exceptions. The specific facts must be presented to the ethics counselor who will determine if this is allowable under the ethics rules. If it is, this should be noted on the Army employee's travel orders in case anyone raises a question later.

One example where a contractor employee can ride in the government vehicle is where the government employee and contractor employee are attending a meeting and the place where the meeting is to be held limits the number of vehicles that can be allowed access. If the meeting is for official purposes, and both the Army employee and contractor employee are attending to conduct official business, then they could ride in the same

vehicle to and from the meeting.

Here is another example of a situation that might arise. An Army employee and a contractor employee must attend a meeting in Atlanta, Ga. The meeting is to conduct official business. The contract provides for the contractor to be reimbursed travel expenses to attend meetings.

The Army employee plans to drive a government vehicle from Huntsville, Ala., to Atlanta. The Army employee has a good working relationship with the contractor employee and would enjoy the company on the drive to Atlanta. After all, they are going to the same meeting for official purposes. Can the contractor employee ride in the government vehicle with the Army employee? Based on these facts, the answer

would be no. There could be other relevant facts that could make this answer "yes."

The point to remember is that a government employee cannot automatically offer a ride to a contractor employee, or vice versa, just because it might save time and money.

If you plan ahead, Office of Counsel can work with your particular situation to see what may or may not be allowable. Please make sure you get our input before you act.

If you want to ride with a contractor, there are different factors that have to be evaluated. We'll address those in the March Bulletin.

(Editor's Note: This column will appear regularly. If you have an ethics questions contact Margaret Simmons.)

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