



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

Vol. 27 Issue 6  
July 2006

# Huntsville Center Bulletin

*Mark your  
calendar now...*



**Change of Command  
Ceremony  
and  
Col. Rivenburgh's  
Retirement  
Ceremony**

**10 a.m.**

**Chan Auditorium  
UAH campus  
Administrative Science  
Building**

## Huntsville Center and Mobile District combine efforts to clean up Camp Sibert

**By Jo Anita Miley  
Public Affairs Office**

**T**he former Camp Sibert, which is nestled away between the cities of Gadsden, Steele, Attalla and Rainbow City, Ala., sits waiting to be cleaned up.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Huntsville Center and Mobile District have joined together to clean up Camp Sibert, which is a 37,035 acre-Formerly Used Defense Site.

During World War II the U.S. Army created a stockpile of toxic and lethal chemical agents, projectiles,

ammunition and other explosives at Camp Sibert. After the war, the Army did not need Camp Sibert, and they cleaned it up according to the best practices available at the time.

The Army terminated the leases for the area in December 1946. Since then, most of the property has been privately owned, consisting of either pasture or woodlands.

Mobile District began investigating Camp Sibert in 1992 and completed a phased environmental investigation at suspect areas

**See *Camp Sibert* on page 10**

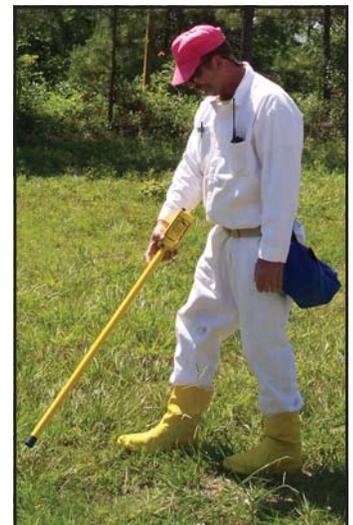


Photo by Andrea Takash

**Kerry Singler, the UXO team leader for Parsons, gives a demonstration using survey equipment that locates conventional weapons or chemical warfare materials.**



Photo by Becky Proaps

## ***Mixing serious business with lots of pleasure***

Several children attending the Huntsville Center Awards Day picnic discovered how quickly fun times could turn deadly when they visited the Huntsville City Fire Department Safety House. The children took a break from the fun and games to find out what could happen if they were ever in a house fire. The staff of the Safety House explained the importance of escaping a fire alive and calling 911. The children received firsthand experience by crawling through a smoke-filled room. They learned the importance of staying close to the ground, stopping, dropping and rolling, what the smoke does if inhaled and what to do if their family is in other rooms. For more picnic photos, see pages 8-9.

# Commander's thoughts

Happy Independence Day. What a glorious event celebrating the defining moment in our history when a small group of heroes met over several humid, dusty days in Philadelphia and returned home as proud signers of the Declaration of Independence. Eleven years later our forefathers gave us the Constitution, the document that binds us together as one nation with loyalty to our nation and that constitution, not one individual or a single political party.

When we talk about fighting for our freedom, we follow in the footsteps of many great heroes, known and unknown. Please take a moment on July 4th and reflect back on all the good we have because of those courageous few.

The efforts of everyone in the Center continue to amaze me. You all are working diligently to better serve our nation and our Army. I was so very proud when many of you responded to the Chief's call for volunteers to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I know many of you are preparing to serve if our fellow citizens are impacted by natural disasters much like last year. You have always been willing and able to travel anywhere to serve a customer inside your product line or your area of expertise, but over the last couple of years, you have become an expeditionary work force — willing to travel to meet the needs of our nation outside of your comfort zone. Whether it is post hurricane response/recovery operations or the Global War

on Terror, Huntsville Center is well represented by our best and brightest.

I challenge those of you who have not deployed to look into your crystal balls and pick some windows of opportunity when you feel you can go do your part. And as always, if you can't deploy, thanks for carrying the extra burden while our fellow employees are gone. ESSAYONS!!!



Col. John D. Rivenburgh

*The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville  
cordially invites you to attend  
the Change of Command Ceremony  
between*

*Col. John D. Rivenburgh, outgoing commander,  
and*

*Col. Larry D. McCallister, incoming commander,  
followed by  
the retirement of Col. John Rivenburgh.*

*July 21, 2006  
10 a.m.*

*Chan Auditorium, Administrative Science Building  
Campus of the University of Alabama in Huntsville*

*Buses will take employees to the Chan Auditorium.*

*Reception to follow in the Cafeteria  
at the Huntsville Center*

*Civilian: Business Attire  
Military: Duty Uniform*



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

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## BULLETIN

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

The Bulletin asks:

## ***What is your definition of patriotism and what do you do to show your patriotism?***



Brittany Prater  
STEP student  
Files Room

To me, patriotism is the love and dedication that one has to something that is worth being proud of. And the United States is absolutely something to be proud of. I feel extremely blessed and honored to live in and work for the United States. My family and I are very patriotic all year round, however, the Fourth of July is our time to shine. We host a two-day celebration complete with hundreds of visitors, barbecuing, swimming, camping, boating, and of course fireworks. It is my favorite day of the year.

Patriotism to me is the appreciation of and acknowledgment that I am a citizen of a blessed nation. I vote. I also take to heart what I do, and everyone I support. It makes a difference to the Soldiers and their families who have given up so much to ensure my freedom.



Lori Byrd  
Security Office



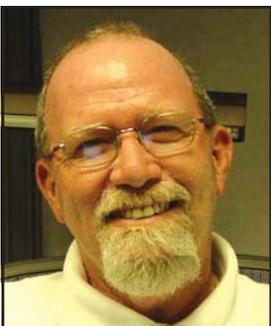
Kevin Houston  
Tech Support for  
Installation Support

Showing love, support and sacrifice for my homeland, my country. I show my patriotism by taking full advantage of the rights and opportunities given to me in my country. We are a country founded on Godly beliefs and values, so on a daily basis I strive to live a life that portrays that very image to all those I come in contact with. Finally, I give of myself wholeheartedly to those in need spiritually, physically and emotionally in my country.

Supporting your country is important. If a crisis comes around, you show it by helping everyone. I fly a flag outside my house to show my patriotism.



Waldo Battle  
Mail Room



Steven Talley  
Cost Engineering

I have a deep affection and love of my country and our flag. I am willing and prepared to sacrifice for it. God Bless America. I show my patriotism by staying informed and voting, and I try to live my daily life supporting the following words for "all people." "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

# Center employees recognized for service

**H**untsville Center recognized seven employees and one team for their service during the annual Engineer Day celebration June 16. The annual event commemorates the birthday of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which turned 231 years old June 16.

Sandy Oliver was selected as Administrative Support Employee of the Year for her work over the past year as the Administrative Officer to the Management Review Office.

Wesley Turner was awarded the Commander's Leadership Award for his



**Ginger Gruber received the Contracting Professional of the Year award.**



**John Samuelson is Huntsville Center's Employee of the Year.**



**Tim Howard was named Huntsville Center's Engineer of the Year.**

was selected to be a team member on the Corps-wide Competition Performance Work Statement team that developed a solicitation that met the realistic needs of the Corps of Engineers Information Management

superior leadership as the technical manager of an interdisciplinary team responsible for the design of the Bluegrass Chemical Agent Pilot Plant for the destruction of the Chemical Weapon Stockpile at Pueblo Chemical Depot in Colorado.

Ginger Gruber was named the Contracting Professional of the Year for her work with the Military Construction Transformation Initiative.

John Samuelson was named the Employee of the Year. Samuelson



**Sandy Oliver is the Administrative Support Employee of the Year.**



**Wes Turner received the Commander's Leadership Award.**



**Margaret Simmons received the Volunteer of the Year Award.**



**Mike Duffy was named the Innovator of the Year.**

## Engineer Day Message from Lt. Gen. Strock

**T**he proud heritage of the Engineer Regiment began when Col. Richard Gridley became the first Chief of Engineers on June 16, 1775. Since then, generations of Army engineers, both Soldiers and civilians, have answered the call to duty around the world during peace and war.

Today is no different. Throughout the past year the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has

made many significant contributions on behalf of our nation and the armed forces. Our workload increased dramatically as we met the demands to support hurricane recovery, while continuing our ongoing work in Iraq and Afghanistan. Additionally, great work continued along waterways, at recreation areas, in research facilities and at armed forces installations around the world.

We have been stressed and stretched in the past

year, but you have responded to those increased demands with great commitment and competence.

One of the most demanding missions this year has been our hurricane recovery efforts, and it is immensely gratifying to see how the team responded.

In the first hours after Hurricane Katrina hit last August, Col. Richard Wagenaar and his team from New Orleans District assessed the situation on the ground. And in a very short period of time, 3,000 people deployed

to the Gulf Coast states. Only one week before, they had been working on other missions, but they quickly redirected their efforts. That response clearly shows the great agility of an outstanding work force.

Eventually, more than 8,000 volunteers answered the call to help in the Gulf Coast states. They continue to do a tremendous job.

The team supported the Federal Emergency Management Agency by providing ice and water, temporary power and



The Quality Council includes, front row, left to right, Tammie Learned, Delores Foster, Kathy Simmons, Cheryl Renz-Olar, Debra Valine; second row, left to right, Chiquita Goodloe-Suggs, Shay Duckett, Sherry Masters, Donnie Butler, Alicia Allen, Lisa Gayman; back row, left to right, Michael Collum, Betty Neff, William F. Noel, Brett Frazier and Arkie Fanning. Members of the Quality Council not pictured include Shirley Burke-Mitchell, Dale Campbell, Gina Elliott, Jim Haywood, George Murphy, Angela Rackard, Stan Sillivant and Todd Wood.

Photos by Becky Proaps



Pam Draper, center, Lois Grey and Donna (Sue) Baber, second row, and John Sikes, back row, are also members of the Quality Council.

and Information Technology organization.

Michael Duffy was named the Innovator of the Year for his role in writing and developing an innovative pre-acquisition strategy for marketing the Corps of Engineers' capabilities to the Department of the Army for executing the Military Transformation Program.

Timothy Howard garnered the

Engineer of the Year Award for his expertise and leadership as the program manager of an interdisciplinary team responsible for the design and construction of facilities for the Missile Defense Agency.

Margaret Simmons was named Volunteer of the Year for her work with Girl Scouts of America.

The Quality Council was awarded the Teamwork Award for their efforts

in developing Huntsville Center's first comprehensive Quality Management System. The team represents a cross section of employees from a variety of directorates and small offices.

housing, installing temporary roofing and moving mountains of debris.

The team also accomplished the Herculean tasks of pumping the flood water out of New Orleans, and repairing the hurricane protection system in time for the 2006 hurricane season. Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of this achievement is that so many employees in the region suffered substantial personal losses and hardships, yet they summoned the courage to focus on the needs of others.

A strong public service ethic and willingness to ride to the sound of the guns has

allowed the Corps to meet the demands of hurricane recovery while also accomplishing our other important missions.

The pace of work to support the growth of democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq has not lessened. We have made great strides on completing thousands of projects in Iraq, and continue to help improve conditions in Afghanistan with construction of facilities and improvements to roads and bridges. And while those efforts have garnered headlines, every day there is a great deal more being accomplished

around the world. For example, we are supporting our armed forces with quality military construction and real estate services — a vitally important mission during this time of transformation.

This past year we have destroyed old landmines and ordnance in Iraq while cleaning up old ordnance here at home, continued efforts to restore the Everglades, and improved homeland security. Also, our outstanding research and development efforts were honored when the Engineering Research and Development Center was

selected as the Army's Laboratory of the Year.

I have mentioned only a very few of the many contributions made by the Corps team. I have enormous pride and confidence in you. Thank you for accomplishing so many difficult missions under demanding circumstances. Thanks to your work the past year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers added a page to the long, proud history of service to our nation. ESSAYONS!

CARL A. STROCK  
Lieutenant General  
Commanding

# Huntsville Center successfully implodes building on Fort Myer

## *Project raises the bar for building recycling*

**By Debra Valine  
Public Affairs Office**

**FORT MYER, Va.** — At 6:25 a.m. June 4, Bldg. 501 stood 12 stories tall against the backdrop of the morning sun. With a series of loud booms at 6:30, the 40-year-old housing complex came crumbling down.

It took engineers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and contractor partners 124 pounds of explosives and 15 seconds to bring the building down. All that remains to do is to crush the remaining rubble into small pieces and use it as landfill to raise the elevation of the parking lots on the west side of the site and to become an extension of the Hatfield Gate entrance of Fort Myer.

Fort Myer worked with the Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, Ala., the Corps of Engineers Baltimore District, Bhate Associates of Birmingham, Ala., and Controlled Demolitions Inc., of Phoenix, Md., on the project.

“This demolition effort is an excellent example of the Fort Myer Military Community’s outstanding partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers,” said Garrison Commander Col. Thomas A. Allmon. “The project is a true environmental success story for our Army and open communication with our partners is the key to that success.”

Imploding the building versus traditional demolition saved both time and money and is a much safer operation. The team will divert (reuse or recycle) nearly 90 percent of the building material from the landfill,



Photo by Debra Valine

**It took engineers from the Corps and contractor partners 125 pounds of explosives and 15 seconds to bring Bldg. 501 down.**

which exceeds the 2004 Army regulation that requires 50 percent diversion of materials.

“This is big. This is probably the best one we’ve ever been able to do because we’re going to be able to crush the main building,” said Bhate Associates Project Manager Greg Taylor. Bhate Associates is the firm contracted for the \$1.6 million demolition of the apartment complex.

When Huntsville Center wrote the scope of work for the project, it included the requirement to recycle — or divert — as much of the building as possible. Recycling can save money by cutting down on the cost of transporting materials to a landfill, and paying to dump the materials in the landfill.

“These particular firms — Bhate and CDI — are really committed to recycling,” said Michael Norton, the project manager with the Huntsville Center. “The recycling effort was a success because of these contractors. A lot of demolition projects just bring in backhoes, or a claw, tear it down and dump it in a landfill.”

Bhate Associates began their on-site work the first week of February.

“When we got here we wanted to try to salvage everything we could and recycle the material,” Taylor said.

Items recycled included dishwashers, stoves and refrigerators that went to Fort Belvoir, Va., in exchange for new housing for E1s through E5s from Bldg. 501. The playground equipment outside the building also was sent to Fort Belvoir.

The team offered items to Habitat for Humanity and the Jimmy Carter Foundation. Taylor estimates that 95 percent of the copper wires, 95 percent of the steel piping and 80 percent of the metal studs and screws are being recycled. Even the light posts in the parking lot are being recycled as aluminum and a whopping 60,000 pounds of sheet rock are being recycled.

Bldg. 501, named for Col. Anthony J. Tencza, housed enlisted Soldiers and their families from 1966 until 2005. *(Matt McFarland, a staff writer with the Pentagram, Fort Myer’s command information newspaper, contributed to this article.)*

# Corps Points!

## Things You Really Should Know

### Goals of the Civil Works Strategic Plan

1. Provide sustainable development and integrated management of the nation's water resources.
2. Repair past environmental degradation and prevent future environmental losses.
3. Ensure that operating projects perform to meet authorized purposes and evolving conditions.
4. Reduce vulnerabilities and losses to the nation and the Army from natural and manmade disasters, including terrorism.
5. Be a world-class public engineering organization.

### PMBP (Project Management Business Process) Principles

1. One project, one team, one project manager.
2. Plan for success and keep commitments.
3. The Project Delivery Team (PDT) is responsible for project success.
4. Measure quality with the goals and expectations in the PMP.
5. Manage all work with the PMBP, using corporate automated information systems.
6. Build effective communications into all activities and processes.
7. Use best practices and seek continuous improvement.

### Strategic Messages

**Strengthening Our National Security** — Through times of peace and war, the Corps of Engineers supports the efforts of our Armed Forces as they protect and defend our nation by supplying innovative

engineering and technical solutions when and wherever we are needed.

**Energizing the Economy** — The Corps is important to many aspects of our nation's economy. Our water resources infrastructure plays a critical role in the success of our vibrant, dynamic economy by keeping goods and services moving. Our infrastructure protects us from natural and manmade disasters. We are working with our partners on the federal, state and local levels to ensure our nation continues to move forward on an economically prosperous and sustainable path.

**Enhancing Our Environment** — As our population and economy grow, our nation must carefully manage and enhance our environmental resources while ensuring prosperity for our children and future generations. This is a familiar challenge to the Corps, and we are ready, willing and able to provide both leadership and partnership in this important arena.

**Working Openly and Collaboratively** — The Corps is committed to working with our partners and stakeholders to develop technically sound, economically justified and environmentally sustainable solutions in an open, transparent way.

### Communication Principles

1. Listen to all constituencies both inside and outside the Corps of Engineers regarding issues of importance to them, respecting their viewpoints.
2. Communicate early, clearly, completely, honestly, accurately and often with all constituencies on issues of importance.

3. Incorporate communication as an integral part of the project management business process.
4. Be accessible to all constituencies and respond promptly without censorship or misinformation.
5. Proactively inform the public and other constituencies of the Corps' vital role in areas where we have special expertise.
6. Do what we say we will do.

### Environmental Operating Principles

1. Strive to achieve environmental sustainability. An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.
2. Recognize the interdependence of life and the physical environment. Proactively consider environmental consequences of Corps programs and act accordingly in all appropriate circumstances.
3. Seek balance and synergy among human development activities and natural systems by designing economic and environmental solutions that support and reinforce one another.
4. Continue to accept corporate responsibility and accountability under the law for activities and decisions under our control that impact human health and welfare and the continued viability of natural systems.
5. Seek ways and means to assess and mitigate cumulative impacts to the environment; bring systems approaches to the full life cycle of our processes and work.
6. Build and share an integrated scientific, economic and social knowledge base that supports a greater understanding of the environment and impacts of our work.
7. Respect the views of individuals and groups interested in Corps activities, listen to them actively and learn from their perspective in the search to find innovative win-win solutions to the nation's problems that also protect and enhance the environment.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Some Huntsville Center employees and their families take it easy under the trees, trying to stay cool.

# Let the fun times roll

Employees and retirees of the Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville and their families spent a day in the park celebrating the Corps of Engineers' birthday with awards, games and good food. Vincent Park on

Redstone Arsenal was the place to be June 16. Col. John Rivenburgh, commander of Huntsville Center, opened the festivities with a short invocation, followed by the call to "come and get it." Some of the day's activities included a cake walk, face painting,

digging for buried treasure, and everyone's favorite, the dunking booth.

In an e-mail to the center, Rivenburgh congratulated the picnic team for a job very well done. "Diane, Joseph and I had a great time and trust you and yours did as well,"

Rivenburgh said. "My personal thanks to our organizing committee for putting it all together; to Public Affairs for running the awards ceremony and to Joe Kemner for the great music and PA system. I also appreciate all the senior leaders who bravely



Photo by Will Moore

Lt. Col. David Diehl, deputy commander, Huntsville Center, was a good sport about participating in the most popular activity at the picnic. The dunking booth was a big hit.



Photo by Andrea Takash

"Hula-hooping" is not as easy as it looks.



Photo by Becky Proaps

**Karen Gentry, front, Project Management Directorate, and Sherri Anderson-Hudgins, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, keep the drinks flowing to the employees attending the annual picnic.**



Photo by Becky Proaps

**Another satisfied customer. Heather Foster, right, daughter of Delores Foster, Small Business Office, painted children's faces during the picnic.**

took their place in the dunking booth — it was fun for me, and I think for all who got to throw balls and do their best to dunk us.

Also, thanks to all who made the day a success for all the youngsters — your kindness and patience went a long way toward making their day a success, as well.”

The picnic planning team consisted of Kim Kirkland, Cindy Halbrooks, Chiquita Goodloe-Suggs, Anna Griggs, Rachel Sawyers, Diane Mims, Dawn Scott and Liz Hayes.



Photo by Becky Proaps

**Col. John Rivenburgh, Huntsville Center commander, speaks to employees at the picnic.**



Photo by Becky Proaps

**Come and get it. When the announcement was made, people lined up for their choice of barbecue, hamburgers or hot dogs.**



Photo by Will Moore

**The cake walk was another popular activity at the Huntsville Center picnic. Many people went home with goodies they won.**

# Camp Sibert

continued from page 1

in October 2005. The investigation concluded that a Removal Action was required.

During the next three years, work will occur in four stages over 20 plus locations at an estimated cost of \$70-\$100 million.

“Our first stage involves brush clearing in order to gain easier access to the areas that need testing. Next, a geophysicist processes the information and compiles the findings,” said Joseph Cudney, project manager for Parsons, Inc., prime contractor for the cleanup project. “We then use this information to validate the necessity for funding of this program. Our last phase involves a determination of how to interpret the data and define our goals.”

The Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) teams use both magnetometers and electromagnetometers, which are similar to metal detectors, to locate an anomaly. An anomaly is an area that has been identified as a possible location for buried conventional weapons or chemical warfare materiel.

“In 2002, we identified approximately 532 anomalies. Our aim is to locate and uncover anomalies one at a time,” Cudney said.

After the Corps located a 4.2 inch chemical mortar determined to be filled with phosgene, a gas that causes eye, skin and respiratory irritation, a team from Non-Stockpile set up the Explosive Destruction System, which allowed them to safely destroy the mortar.

“Although several types and calibers of weapons were fired at Camp Sibert, we know that the 4.2-inch mortar was the heavy weapon used in most training,” said Sherri Anderson-Hudgins, project manager for Huntsville Center.

Projects with suspected chemical warfare materiel require more manpower and technology than projects with just suspected

conventional warfare.

“It takes special equipment to identify possible weapons and chemicals,” said Ken Shott, a Huntsville Center Ordnance and Explosive Recovered Chemical Warfare Materiel (RCWM) safety specialist.

The D2Puff is an example of one key piece of equipment. This computer program monitors weather conditions while the teams are investigating the site.

“We run downwind exclusion zones every 15 minutes to make sure that there are no weather interferences,” Cudney said. “If the wind is blowing in the wrong direction, we stop work or erect a vapor containment structure in the appropriate areas.”

There are many people from various technical fields working together to make the project a success.

“We have about 30 people working the sites, four days a week, 10 hours a day,” Shott said. “There are three UXO technicians who actually go out and investigate the field sites for chemical warfare materiel and ammunition.”

Huntsville Center and Mobile District are working together to make sure the public is kept informed.

“We still have three more years to go; so it is important that we keep the public informed every step of the way,” said Karl Blankenship, Mobile District project manager.

“In the past, landowners would find hazardous waste and munitions. They



Courtesy photo

**The Technical Escort team packages an item during a pre-operational exercise at the former Camp Sibert.**

were not told how to properly discard the items,” Anderson-Hudgins said.

Anderson-Hudgins has already participated in several public involvement meetings concerning the project and the Corps’ involvement at Camp Sibert.

“It is my job to make sure that all the processes are followed and our operation runs as smoothly as possible,” she said. “There are always challenges on any project.”

Gaining the right to enter certain parts of Camp Sibert remains a challenge. The Corps must receive a right of entry from the property owner before beginning any work.

“There are 300–500 different owners whose property is part of the former Camp Sibert,” Cudney said.

Although many landowners in the area have readily cooperated with the Corps, some have refused.

“We generally have a good working relationship with the landowners. We hope that by building trust with these landowners, others will begin to eventually see what we are doing is helping their community,” said Dave Becker, Huntsville Center Ordnance and Explosive RCWM safety specialist.

“We can get the job done with everybody involved working together as a team,” Becker said.

# Couple experiences Iraq deployment together

By Andrea Takash  
Public Affairs Office

One adventurous married couple from Huntsville Engineering and Support Center traveled to a dangerous part of the world to support the troops and witness history in the making.

Carol Steuart, project engineer in Huntsville Center's Electronic Security Systems section, and Terry Steuart, project manager in Huntsville Center's Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, left Huntsville, Ala., five months ago to embark on a yearlong journey in Iraq.

Even though they both work at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq, they are in separate offices with different missions.

"I am the resident engineer at the Victory Area Office, South," Terry said. "I manage a variety of construction projects, such as schools, water networks and sewage networks, in the Baghdad vicinity."

"I work on the opposite side of the base as a construction representative for the Victory North Resident Office," Carol said. "I do quality assurance for construction of several projects inside the base, such as canal pumping stations, canal cleanup and sewage pump stations."

Terry said he enjoys completing projects that directly affect the living conditions of the Soldiers and the Iraqi people, but there are certain aspects he doesn't enjoy.

"My least favorite aspect of the job is having a project blown up by insurgents during the final stages of completion. Since I have been here, we have had two projects in the final stages of completion get blown up by insurgents," Terry said. "It is very dangerous to go outside the base to look at my projects."

Carol, on the other hand, works on projects at the base and doesn't have the worries of going into hot zones.



Courtesy photo

**Carol Steuart, project engineer in Huntsville Center's Electronic Security Systems section, poses with local children near Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq.**

"I can visit my sites daily, and I have a closer relationship with some of the Iraqi contractors," she said.

After a long and hard day of work, the couple reunites and unwinds in their own living quarters. They both said the living conditions aren't bad.

"We lived in one room for about four months. Then, they finally got us moved in to joint rooms. We have been able to move about a little better by sleeping in one room and using the other room to sit and watch TV," Carol said.

"When you compare our living conditions to the Iraqis, we have it pretty good," Terry said.

Carol and Terry had some advice for others considering deploying to Iraq.

"It's hot; so bring some cool clothing and expect to work long hours. Be prepared for dorm living

with public bathrooms. If possible bring your own battle buddy like we did. Also, be mentally prepared to be away from your families," they said.

Despite the daily challenges, Terry said the experience is very rewarding, and he is impressed with the resiliency and dedication of the Iraqi workers.

"Iraqis keep on plowing through the terror, deaths of family members, kidnappings, loss of property and all the things our forefathers went through to gain our independence. Sometimes we don't realize it because the media reports so much of the negativity of this war, but there are some good people here in Iraq who risk their lives daily in the attempt to acquire the same freedom that we take for granted. Our prayers are that they will stay the course. Their fear is that we will abandon them before they acquire this freedom," he said.

Even with the danger at the project sites and threat of insurgents, Terry said the Corps is making progress in helping rebuild Iraq.

"The Corps is completing many projects in Iraq. I have just closed out 14 contracts that include four sewer projects, three water projects, three council buildings and four schools. We are making great strides getting schools ready for the students," he said.

"Once we get the infrastructure up and running, I believe the people will settle down and start making a life."



Courtesy photo

**Terry Steuart, project manager for Huntsville Center's Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, poses with local farmers' children near Camp Victory, in Baghdad, Iraq.**

# ECONPACK software offers chance to assist military construction process

*Training classes available to all who work with MILCON economic analyses*

**By Will Moore  
Public Affairs Office**

**M**ilitary construction procedures can be daunting. One of the major challenges is the Economic Analysis required by Congress for projects over \$2 million. The Economic Analysis is a high visibility document that involves weighing alternative construction possibilities such as whether to renovate, lease or undertake a new construction to determine the most cost-effective solution based on a 25-year life cycle.

Luckily ECONPACK economic analysis software can assist. The Huntsville Center acquired the ECONPACK project in 1985 and has been the assigned responsibility agent and development center since.

Stephen Gibson, an information technology specialist at the Huntsville Center, has been involved with ECONPACK since its creation. Gibson and Betty Fletcher, a military construction analyst also at the Huntsville Center, are coordinating the development of a JAVA version that will run both in Web browsers and as a standalone package. Computer Sciences Corporation also has worked on much of the

programming involved. Management Technology Associates has provided documentation and training support, quality assurance and a help desk.

ECONPACK is primarily used for military construction but the package is generic enough for any economic analysis.

"It was written to be generic because economic analyses are done for many things," Gibson said. The program's versatility has made it the standard economic analysis program for the Department of Defense and has led to more than a thousand users from MILCON contractors to White House staffers.

One of ECONPACK's greatest virtues is how user friendly it is. Kevin Burleson, a master planner with Redstone Arsenal Garrison, regularly uses the package and says it is straight forward and didn't take long to learn.

If using a new program seems intimidating, there is a three-and-a-half day training course that can help. The Prospect Courses are generally offered once or twice a year depending on the number of people who register and are available to anyone who works with MILCON Economic Analyses. Workshops are also offered that provide



Photo by Will Moore

**Betty Fletcher, left, a military construction analyst at the Huntsville Center, works closely with Donna Smigel, the Corps of Engineers Headquarters' ECONPACK proponent, and Stephen Gibson, an information technology specialist at the Huntsville Center who has been involved with the software since its creation.**

on-site training for agencies that have several people who need to learn the software. The courses cover economic theory related to the program and how to use it.

Donna Smigel is an economist working at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters and is ECONPACK's proponent. She establishes policy about what goes into Economic Analyses and has reviewed all the Economic Analyses for Army MILCON, but Huntsville Center will assume that duty in a few months. She, Fletcher and Gibson teach the training courses.

Representatives from agencies including NASA, Army Reserves and the Navy have attended the training sessions.

The next session will be a workshop July 10 in Salt Lake City for the Army Reserves.

Smigel said the courses generally get high approval ratings. Burleson, who took the course shortly after he began using the program, said the course was very helpful for learning the software format and what to expect from it.

Smigel is proud of ECONPACK's adaptability and that the software incorporates users' requests. Smigel points out, "bottom line: this is the customer's program not ours."

Changing technologies and the resulting threat of becoming obsolete are some of ECONPACK's biggest obstacles. The wide array of agencies that use the package also create challenges.

"We have to make things specific to them but it's also a plus to be able to support different agencies," Gibson said. "I forget the obstacles sometimes because it has been such a successful program."

# Five Huntsville Center contractor employees killed in Iraq

By Public Affairs Office

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala.** — Five U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center Huntsville contractor employees were killed in Iraq in June.

Wayne Shultz, 34, from Hervey Bay, Australia; and Penaia Vakaotia, 32, from Suva, Fiji; Mikaele Banidawa, 46, from Yalalevu, Fiji; and Vilisoni Guana, 43, from Ono-I-Lau, Fiji, were killed June 8 when the vehicle they were riding in was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device.

The four worked as security specialists and were employed by ArmorGroup Iraq, which is headquartered in London.

Edward Cunahan, 41, from North Pole, Alaska, was killed in a work-

related accident. A Department of the Army investigation is being conducted to determine the cause of the accident.

Cunahan worked as an ammunition handler and was employed by Tetra Tech Foster Wheeler, Inc., which is headquartered in Morris Plains, N.J.

This brings the number of contractor casualties killed under the Coalition Munitions Clearance program since September 2003 to 26.

“Our condolences go out to the families,” said Bill Sargent, program manager, Coalition Munitions Clearance Program. “Our personnel are highly trained and experienced and are doing a superb job, but it remains a very dangerous mission. We have logged over 18 million man-hours

doing ordnance and explosives remediation in Iraq. Worker safety remains our top priority.”

Huntsville Center is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Center of Expertise for Military Munitions. 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 450,000 tons of ammunition has been destroyed by the Huntsville Center program, significantly reducing risks to Iraqi citizens and U.S. personnel serving in Iraq.



Courtesy photo

Accepting the award from Terry Burton, the U.S. government’s on-site manager, is Don Bollinger, Parsons’ safety director for the Russian Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility. Pictured from left to right are Lou Bauer, Parsons deputy project manager; Terry Burton; Don Bollinger; Ray Waits, Huntsville Center’s safety manager and Defense Threat Reduction Agency task manager for safety risk; Steve Depew, Parsons project manager; and Lance Lawton, USG deputy on-site manager.

## Safety performance recognized

**T**he U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, in conjunction with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency

(DTRA), presented Parsons with a special safety plaque recognizing tremendous safety practices in managing the construction of the

Russian Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Shchuch’ye, Russia. This is an important and notable project for the Center’s Chemical Demilitarization

Program.

Parsons achieved 7.5 million exposure hours with zero lost-time accidents between May 2002 and January 2006.

# Huntsville Center issues \$29 million contract for combat readiness support team services

By Public Affairs Office

**HUNTSVILLE, Ala.** — The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, on June 2 awarded a multiple award task order contract worth up to \$29.1 million to four businesses to perform Combat Readiness Support Team Services.

The purpose of these contracts is to support

planning for military installations, ranges, training areas, facilities, lands, utilities and related issues.

The four businesses are: Avila Government Services in Alexandria, Va.; Colorado Datascape in Colorado Springs, Colo.; John Gallup & Associates in San Diego, Calif.; and RexRoad APG in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The contracts will replace the Engineering and

Support Center, Huntsville's Planning Services contracts.

The awards are for one base-year with four option years (total of five years). The total programmatic contract value is \$29.1 million dollars.

All four companies are small businesses. The Center received a total of five proposals.

Projects may include range development plans,

training investment strategies, theater training strategies, Summary Development plans, utilities support studies, Installation Compatibility Use Zone studies, land use studies and Force Modernization/Force Integration studies.

Huntsville Center serves as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Mandatory Center of Expertise for Ranges.

## Life center offers variety of healthy programs

By Marsha Russell  
Life Center Director

**T**he Huntsville Life Center is alive and well. The convenience of an in-house facility is an added benefit for maintaining a healthier lifestyle because it can save time — something we all need more of.

Some of the Life Center's programs have included

- **The Buddy Program** — A monthly contest between "buddies" who work out the most days in that month. First, second and third place winners are posted.
- **Walk across America** — Three routes from Huntsville posted on a map of America gave members the incentive to walk, run, cycle or swim to their destination in three months.
- **Walk across Europe/Walk around Great Britain** — Same as above but with different scenery.
- **Walk to the Beach** — A map of the Southeast gave us three choices — Gulf Shores, Ala., Myrtle Beach,

S.C., and Daytona Beach, Fla.

- **Walk, Run, Cycle, Row, Step or Swim** — These programs promote a realistic and fun way to get the recommended cardiovascular exercise each week.

- **Triathlon** — An in-house program that awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold medals and is a great incentive to strengthen the heart and the muscles.

- **Biggest Loser Contest** — geared to weight loss.

- **Team Fit** — Eight weeks of energetic competition between 14 teams of four people. Each team had to pick an exercise from a list that changed weekly. They even got to name their teams. (This one is my favorite.)

Nine classes are offered weekly — Pilates classes have been very popular lately (these classes concentrate on core muscles — abdominals/low back/

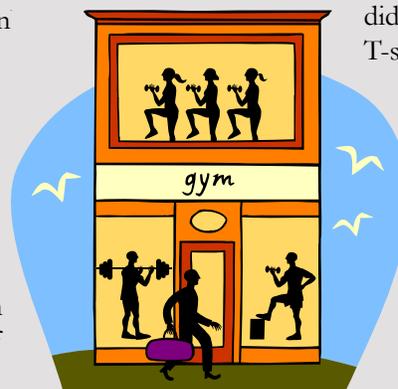
gluts). Step 'n Sculpt, Butts 'n Guts and Muscle Works are also offered.

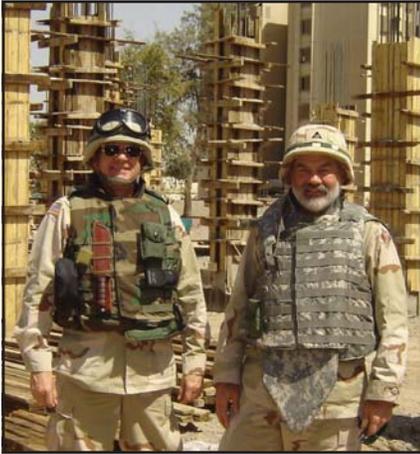
Each year the Life Center staff sponsors a health fair that includes screenings, demonstrations, drawings and lots of helpful information regarding health and fitness.

Congratulations to our recent Walk to the Beach finishers. You did awesome. Wear your T-shirts with pride and keep up the good work.

The next program is a surprise.

To join the Life Center you must be a government employee or active military and complete a health screening and orientation. Spouses and dependents over 15 years old may also join. Most doctors urge their patients to exercise so what are you waiting for. Call 895-1108 for more information or if you have questions.





Courtesy photo

## Getting the job done

Two Huntsville Center employees, Gerald F. Ramos, left, and Stanley A. Reese, are standing in front of the construction site of a new Academy for Health and Sciences Building, intended as a new training facility for health care workers in Baghdad, Iraq. They are dressed in what's called "battle rattle" or flak jacket and Kevlar helmet. For this particular project, Ramos is serving as the project engineer providing technical direction to the Iraqi construction company doing the work. Ramos is providing technical expertise in concrete placement. The job is being managed out of Reese's International Zone Resident Engineer Office, which is part of the Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Central District.

## Buckeye System brings new digital capability to warfighters

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

**FORT BELVOIR, Va.** — A system initially adopted to help the Army Corps of Engineers detect invasive vegetation growing in coastal waterways is giving warfighters an edge in the Global War on Terror.

"Buckeye," a digital imaging system that's installed on an aircraft, gives ground commanders a bird's-eye view of the area in which they're operating, Army Capt. Jed Richards, research and development coordinator for the Army's Topographic Engineering Center here, told American Forces Press Service.

Featuring a high-quality digital camera with an extra-large focal frame, Buckeye "looks" nearly straight down from an aircraft and captures images of the area below. Analysts on the ground eliminate any distortions as they combine these multiple shots into one extra-large image, Richards said.

These overlapping images create a "stereoscopic pair" that enables viewers wearing special polarized glasses to see the image in three dimensions, said Michael Tischler, a physical scientist here.

"So when you do this for an entire city, you create a series of three-dimensional images," he said.

The Army Corps of Engineers, the

U.S. government's civil-works arm, initially tapped into this capability to identify nonnative plant growth before it began choking coastal areas. But its workers quickly recognized Buckeye's adaptability to its combat-support mission as well.

Buckeye has "a zillion applications" for warfighters, Tischler said.

For example, the system's 3D capability, provided in a detailed map that includes grid coordinates, gives troops a level of situational awareness simply not possible from standard overhead imagery.

"And there are a lot of benefits to that," Tischler said. "You are able to see heights, the lay of the land, (and) you are able to plan better. You're able to get a better idea of what is there."

Troops can use it to rehearse patrols through areas where they've never been and identify potential sniper locations, evaluating them via a laptop computer or a hard-copy printout. "If you're getting a briefing before moving into a city, you can look at this and say, 'This is the route we'll take in, and these are the critical points as we move along,'" Richards said.

But unlike a traditional map, Buckeye enables troops to evaluate their operating area from different vantage points. "So if I'm on top of a building, this is the view I have," Richards said, pointing to a Buckeye image from an

Iraqi city.

"This is the city I lived in for six months," he said. "And before I drove in, I had no idea what to expect. But if I had seen this image, it would have been a huge benefit. This gives incoming units a familiarization with the area before they ever hit the ground."

Troops on the ground are giving Buckeye a resounding thumbs up.

"The feedback we're getting from the field is that they're using it and loving it," Richards said.

The first Buckeye system deployed to Iraq in November 2004, where the 1st Stryker Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, from Fort Lewis, Wash., put it through its first combat application.

Multinational Corps Iraq got its own Buckeye system in November 2005, and the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) is currently operating it.

The 10th Mountain Division, in Afghanistan, got the Buckeye system in late May.

Buckeye's simple design — basically a camera, gyroscope and computer processor — and the fact that it needs only a pilot, operator and processor to operate makes it a simple, low-cost tool for the terror war, Richards said.

"The troops on the ground really appreciate the resolution and the capability of this data set," he said. "It's giving new capabilities to the warrior."

# **Ethics Corner**

## **Who Is David Safavian?**

**By Margaret Simmons  
Office of Counsel**

**D**avid Safavian was the former head of procurement policy at the Office of Management and Budget. He was tried in May 2006 for making false statements and obstructing investigations during his tenure as chief of staff at the General Services Administration from May 2002 to Jan 2004, before he joined OMB.

On June 20, a federal jury found David Safavian guilty on four of the five charges involving lying and obstructing official

investigations. He was cleared on a fifth charge of obstructing an investigation by the Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

What does this have to do with ethics? The jurors found that Safavian made false statements to an ethics official at General Services Administration by concealing that he assisted Jack Abramoff with agency activities and by stating that the lobbyist did all his work on Capitol Hill.

The jury also found that Safavian had lied to GSA's inspector general regarding his association with Abramoff at the time of a 2002 golf trip to Scotland

that they took together. Safavian claimed a personal relationship with Abramoff. He wrote a check for \$3,100 to cover his portion of the golf trip. However, prosecutors claim the trip actually cost about \$17,500 per person.

Safavian did not fully disclose what activities he was involved in at GSA when participating in various social events with Abramoff. He made his own interpretation regarding whether or not there could be even a perception that he and Abramoff could be "doing business."

By failing to fully disclose

and discuss potential areas of conflict, it appears that the jurors concluded there was evidence of improper influence.

Safavian now faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine for each of the four counts. The sentence will be decided at a hearing scheduled in October.

Remember that in order to protect yourself, you need to be sure you provide adequate information to the agency ethics official when seeking an opinion.

Let the ethics official do his/her job. You will benefit in the long run.

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