



US Army Corps
of Engineers

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Huntsville Center

Bulletin





**Huntsville Center's
Holiday Celebration
"A Season for
Sharing"**

Dec. 7

**Town Hall/Employee
Recognition
Ceremony
10 a.m.**





Chili cookoff winners

Judges selected Kim Gillespie's chili the most unusual; Marty Fisher's best tasting; and Rachel Sawyers' the hottest in the Combined Federal Campaign Chili Cookoff Nov. 20. The event raised \$185 for CFC. For more CFC photos and information, see pages 6 and 7.

Photo by Becky Proaps

Directed Demolition Services contract speeds demolition effort to remove smaller structures

By Chris Gardner
Public Affairs Office

MILITARY OCEAN TERMINAL SUNNY POINT, N.C. — The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's newest building demolition program kicked off here with the removal of four 10,000 gallon above-ground diesel fuel tanks that had been unusable and taking up space for years.

The Directed Demolition Service program, a part of Huntsville Center's Facilities Reduction Program, provides Army installations with an easy way to eliminate small excess structures, like the tanks and associated structures at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point (MOTSU).

"It's great to see the tanks finally go," said David von Kolnitz in MOTSU's Department of Public Works. "Working with DDS has been wonderful. All I had to do was send them the plans and take care of the necessary forms."

The old diesel fuel station was used in the past to refuel locomotives at this major port for the Army on the Atlantic Ocean.

Tightening of temporary explosive storage regulations made the location of the tanks unacceptable and they became unusable. They became giant concrete rectangles taking up space along the installation's main road.

That's where DDS came into play. DDS is a centrally managed and

centrally funded program that provides for the demolition of relatively small structures, like storage bunkers or observation towers, at continental U.S. Army installations.

Installations that need these structures removed can contact either Huntsville Center or Installation Management Command to get their projects into the program. The demolitions are funded by IMCOM, so costs to the installation are minimal.

"DDS gets rid of the things that are hard to get rid of through normal demolition channels because they might not have building numbers or square footage associated with them," said

See *DDS* on page 11

Commander's thoughts

Season's greetings! December brings the holidays and the spirit of unity and giving. I'm extremely proud of Huntsville Center's support of the 2007 Combined Federal Campaign. As of the final week in November, we had pledged more than \$47,000. We hosted several fundraisers, including a Halloween door decorating contest, doughnut sale, bake sale, bingo, chili cookoff, and aluminum can recycling which resulted in nearly \$1,270 for the CFC general fund. We are at 65 percent of our \$75,000 goal, and I ask that if you have not made a pledge you will consider one of the numerous charities (of which many are local) to designate as a recipient of your gift.

Huntsville Center's December holiday celebration also focuses on the spirit of sharing. We are collecting toys for "Toys for Tots," assisting our sister service, the Marine Corps Reserve, which organizes the toy drive each year.

We will also come together for a morning of camaraderie on Dec. 7, when we will have holiday music and an employee recognition ceremony.

Camaraderie was also apparent when I visited some of our Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise (EM CX) personnel in Omaha, Neb. These folks previously comprised the Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste Center of Expertise and are now combined with our former Ordnance and Explosives Military Munitions CX. This new combined Huntsville Center Directorate was stood up on Nov. 11 and with their combined expertise they are providing world class support to the nation in remediation expertise for chemicals and explosives found around the

world. I held a town hall style meeting while visiting the team in Omaha, providing them with

information about what Huntsville Center does and responding to their questions. This partnership will enhance our role for policy and guidance for environmental and military munitions work.

The new EM CX is one of many factors that affect our strategic

planning. The Business Management Office has the lead and is hosting a second offsite (the first was held in November) this month as we finalize our path forward and our work for the Army.

The Corps' role in the context of the Army's future was a topic



Col. Larry D. McCallister

See *Commander* on next page

Hails and farewells

Welcome to new employees — Charnis Boards-Bailey, Contracting; Eileen Broady, Contracting; Chester Dailey, Contracting; Virginia Dale, Engineering; Susan Duff, Business Management Office; Jennifer Ellzey, Engineering; Stephen Evans, Engineering; Larry Fisher, Chemical Demilitarization - Blue Grass Chemical Activity, Ky.; Mark Fleck, Engineering; Deborah Hall, Internal Review; Sharon Howard, Ordnance and Explosives; Joy Jackson, Engineering; John "Perry" Johnson, Engineering; Jeanette Mathena, Contracting; JoAnita Miley, Installation Support and Programs Management; Jeff Murrell, Engineering; Tanya Murray,

Chemical Demilitarization, Christopher Neve, Engineering; Monique Nixon, Engineering; Brandi Prosser, Resource Management; Kimberly Pugh, Contracting; and Robert Tucker, Engineering.

Farewell to Wanda Baker, Information Management; Felix Banis, Ordnance and Explosives; Chad Berthelson, Ordnance and Explosives; Kevin Oaks, Ordnance and Explosives; Dawn Robinson, Contracting; Sandra Sims, Resource Management; Jenna Fanning, Small Business Office, and Megan Thompson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Learning Center.



US Army Corps of Engineers

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BULLETIN

Commander.....	Col. Larry D. McCallister
Chief, Public Affairs.....	Kim Gillespie
Editor.....	Becky Proaps

The Bulletin asks:

What's been the best thing to happen to you in 2007?



LaVance Griffin Jr.
Engineering
Directorate

The best thing that happened to me this year was starting my position here at the Corps. In my short time here, I have already enjoyed the opportunity of working with skilled individuals on assignments that provide me with excellent work experience.



Patsy Saisuwan
Ordnance and
Explosives Directorate

The best thing that's happened to me in 2007 is that I took a job with the Corps of Engineers and moved here (Huntsville) to my historical house in Five Points. And you know the year is not over yet.

Commander

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discussed by the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Small Business Conference last month in St. Louis, Mo. The Chief particularly emphasized the amount of work we will be performing on the Military Programs side of the house in support of Army transformation. As he said, "We can't do it alone," so the opportunities for contractors, both small and large businesses, will be tremendous. An estimated \$50 billion construction workload is expected during the next five years, all tied to dates when units report to the installation.

We plan to address our potential contracting opportunities at our Small Business Forum scheduled for Dec. 14 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville's University Center. Huntsville Center is committed to working with small

businesses, and we see the potential to partner with small business on many of our programs such as Centers of Standardization, which are key to Army transformation efforts. We are relying on our contracting partners to ensure we meet the goal of completing quality facilities at Army installations in less time and at a lower cost.

Other events being hosted by Huntsville Center in December include an Industry Day Conference, Dec. 11 at UAH's Chan Auditorium and the Army Energy Summit Workshop II, Dec. 11-12 at the Holiday Inn Downtown.

The Industry Day Conference will focus on Utility Monitoring and Controls Systems. It will present the Army's contracting objectives and requirements for the UMCS program while gathering information to assist the Center in structuring the overall acquisition strategy

for the next generation of contracts based upon the assessment of industry capability and capacity.

This second Energy Summit is being conducted to help define program issues for organizations or agencies providing energy-related services to Installation Management Command with a special emphasis being placed on meeting the Army's renewable energy goals.

Partnering is again the focus of the Ordnance and Explosives Stand Down scheduled for the week of Dec. 11. The annual event brings together representatives from the Department of Defense, Department of the Army, USACE personnel and invited stakeholders and regulators, and OE contractors under contract to USACE. The Stand Down includes everything from case studies and new guidance documents, to geophysical processes and

procedures, sampling and analysis processes. The overall purpose is to provide guidance relative to the ordnance work executed by USACE. Huntsville Center personnel do a great job hosting this event, which serves as great value to those conducting ordnance-related work. As the Chief of Engineers says, "Share information willingly," and that's exactly what we are doing.

Much of the success of our ordnance work is based on our safety record. Safety is an important topic at this time of year. Please take extra precautions around the house to ensure lights, fireplaces or other holiday related items don't pose a risk around your home. Also remember to practice defensive driving and obey all traffic laws. A safe holiday season is to be cherished.

May you each have a wonderful holiday and happy new year!

USACE wants small businesses on its bus

By Kim Gillespie
Public Affairs Office

The 11th annual U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Small Business Conference was conducted Nov. 5-9 in St. Louis, Mo. This year's theme, "USACE/Small Business Partnerships: Are you on the bus?" recognized the important role of small business as USACE transforms from being a good organization to a great one," said Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, USACE Chief of Engineers.

Anthony Bell, Chief of Small Business Programs, USACE, kicked off the conference, noting it was his and the Chief of Engineers' first USACE Small Business Conference. "I challenge you to let me know if there is another agency that has a conference that provides this kind of access to its leadership," Bell said, gesturing to the rows of Corps of Engineers district and division commanders in attendance.

Dr. Robert D. Wolff, executive director of the Society of American Military Engineers (SAME, which partners in hosting the conference), announced an all-time record attendance of almost 1,000 consisting of 50 percent small business, 30 percent government and 20 percent large business representatives. All 66 of the business booths also sold out, split 50/50 between large and small businesses. Wolff noted several improvements to the 2007 conference including badges identifying small businesses by category, a networking directory that listed all USACE commanders and businesses attending the conference and a small notebook ("Small is good," Wolff emphasized!).

The Chief of Engineers served as the conference's keynote speaker, and he opened his speech by asking small businesses, "How can we make your life better?" Van Antwerp answered his rhetorical question by providing a

summary of what was going on in the Corps, framed in the context of what is happening in the Army.

Van Antwerp said the Army Chief of Staff uses four words to describe the Army's priorities: sustain, prepare, RESET and transformation. Sustain refers to sustaining the fight and ensuring that the Army has everything it needs. "Prepare for the future," Van Antwerp said. "How we prepare for a world of consistent conflict," he said, "involves you, us and the installations." Van Antwerp detailed how the active duty Army will increase in size over the next several years, and how this will impact installations and their needs.

RESET involves the equipment the Army currently has and uses, and keeping it up to 100 percent mission capable. Van Antwerp used the Army's Brigade Combat Teams as an example of what transformation means by explaining how this increase in troops can impact an installation. "We've got \$3 billion of work at Fort Bliss, Texas," he said, noting that these BCTs need barracks, facilities and all other types of support. "We've got plenty of work, and we can't do it ourselves," Van Antwerp said.

Van Antwerp also said that history may view our current work load as not only a "hey day" for the Corps, but as a "hey day" for small businesses. But he also said the Corps needs to look at small business awards in different ways. "What's the dollar value that small business is getting? What are the elements of large business contracts that could

be small? What about being a systems integrator?" he asked. "The world is getting flatter and smaller" is how he summarized the changes to small business contracting.

Van Antwerp emphasized that local small businesses should be another aspect that the Corps should consider when planning its acquisitions. But he encouraged small businesses to make sure Corps district commanders are aware of their capabilities for that region.

Competition was cited by Van Antwerp as another factor the Corps was studying. "This is a two-way process. Industry has indicated it would prefer we have two or three contractors rather than five," he said. "Because it costs more to do design-build, we are looking at this closely. What goes on here has an effect on us — we are listening to you."

Van Antwerp saved his best advice for last and related a story about a lumberjack competition he witnessed in Alaska, in which an older and less muscular lumberjack managed to chop

See *Small Business* on page 5



Photo by Kim Gillespie

Delores Foster, left, and Tommy Savage of Huntsville Center's Small Business Office discuss Huntsville Center's upcoming Small Business Forum with Anthony Bell, Chief of Small Business Programs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at the 11th Annual USACE Small Business Conference, Nov. 5-9 in St. Louis.

Small business opportunities will be discussed at local forum

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville will be welcoming small business representatives from around the country at its eighth annual Small Business Forum Dec. 14 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

“Coming on the heels of the Army Corps of Engineers’ National Small Business Conference in St. Louis, our forum is shaping up to be a very informative session for all,” said Huntsville Center Deputy for Small Business Programs Tommie Savage. “The forum will be an opportunity for people from industry to interact with representatives from the product delivery teams and also allow government personnel to interface with and learn about small businesses that they may not have otherwise been aware of.”

Huntsville Center will discuss various contracting opportunities beginning with fiscal 2008 and ranging through fiscal 2012.

“The goal is to connect with small businesses and make them aware of what contracting opportunities Huntsville Center can offer,” said Delores Foster, Huntsville Center small

business specialist.

The opportunities set to be discussed will range from demolition to range and training land design to all facets of work dealing with ordnance and explosives.

Opportunities discussed will be for projects throughout the U.S. and the world.

“Huntsville Center’s mission has no geographic boundaries, so our projects are all over the world,” Foster said.

Project/program managers will be at the event along with people from all levels of contracting.

One of the areas discussed at the forum will be the Centers of Standardization work that will be growing at Huntsville Center in the near future. Huntsville Center’s goal is to exclusively use small businesses for the Centers of Standardization work.

“Our contracting goal for the

Small Business

continued from page 4

more wood than his younger, more physically imposing competitor. The point to the general’s story: “Pace yourself. You are doing this for the long haul,” he said. Van Antwerp said the winner of the competition, when asked his secret, said “Sharpening my ax.” Van Antwerp said the man was able to pace himself and set his priorities by using the time he

appeared to be resting to actually increase his productivity by sharpening his ax. Van Antwerp’s advice to the conference was “Sharpen your ax on small business.”

Van Antwerp also encouraged district commanders to hold special sessions at their districts to have service-disabled veterans come in and present their businesses’ capabilities.

“We can sharpen our axes

on this,” he said.

Van Antwerp concluded with several goals for conference attendees. These included the need to take teamwork to a different level; complete Army transformation; be on the cutting edge for the next deployment plan; and prepare for natural disasters; deliver on-time both civil works and military programs projects; communicate transparently; and work in teams with

8th Annual Small Business Forum



Friday, Dec. 14, 2007
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

University of Alabama — Huntsville campus
University Center, Exhibit Hall
Huntsville, Alabama

- **Huntsville Center’s acquisition strategy will be presented.**
- **Project/Program Managers will be available to discuss Huntsville Center opportunities.**
- **Registration is available online at www.hnd.usace.army.mil. (Registration Dec. 14 is 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.)**

For more information, contact the Small Business Office at 256-895-1384 or 895-1050.

Centers of Standardization work is part of the Corps’ commitment to supporting small businesses,” Savage said.

The estimated combined dollar value of all the future contracting opportunities be discussed will be well into the billions.

Questions about the forum should be directed to Savage at 895-1384.



Tasty, fun efforts raise cash for CFC

Cookies, breads, cakes, brownies, fudge, chili, bingo ... raising money for Combined Federal Campaign has never tasted so good or been so much fun. November's fundraising efforts: bake sale, chili cookoff, bingo and a recycled can drive raised \$570 that goes toward the Huntsville Center's Combined Federal Campaign goal.

This year's campaign ends Dec. 7. As of Nov. 21, Huntsville Center employees had contributed \$47,413 through payroll deduction and cash donations.

October's fundraisers raised \$692.60 for a grand total of \$48,675.80. The Center's goal is \$75,000.

It's not too late to give today to change tomorrow. Please see your section keyworker, Dawn Scott in Contracting or Debra Valine in Public Affairs to make your contribution.



Kim Kirkland, right, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate, calls out the bingo numbers, while Kristi Javins waits to see if the number is on her card. The bingo fundraiser Nov. 20 raised \$185 for the Combined Federal Campaign.



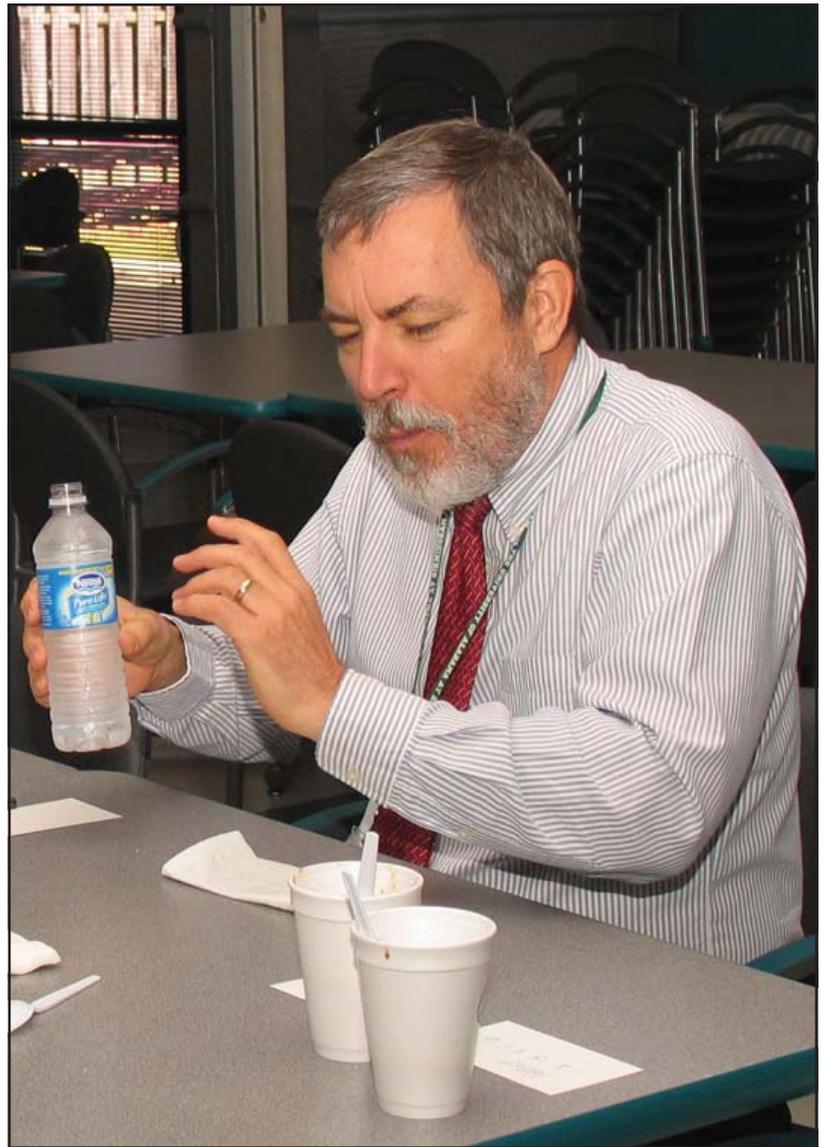
Stella Robinson, Shequila Farrelly and Alix Morehouse, look over the donated baked goods during the CFC bake sale. The bake sale brought in \$244.50.



Deanna Buford, Carlson Wagonlit Travel Office, claims her prize for a successful bingo!



Chad White helps load cans for the recycling center. The aluminum can drive conducted as part of America Recycles Day Nov. 15 raised \$24.70 for CFC.



Now that's hot chili. Rick Suever's reaction says it all.

Photos by Becky Proaps



Employees line up for a \$3 bowl of chili Nov. 20 for the CFC chili cookoff that raised \$185 toward the Center's goal of \$75,000.



Chili judges Rick Seuver, left, J.R. Richardson and Charles Ford sample each of the pots of chili before selecting the winners. Marty Fisher took top honors for the best tasting chili, Rachel Sawyers won for the hottest and Kim Gillespie gets to brag that her entry was the most unusual.



Photos by Debra Valine

Mark Fleming, director of Huntsville Center's Range and Training Land Program, gives an overview of services Huntsville Center provides for range designers.

Range designers meet to discuss projects, issues

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Designing and building modernized training ranges for today's warriors takes a lot of coordination. To help keep Army range planners up-to-date, each year the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sponsors a three-day Range Designer Workshop.

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, facilitated the workshop that focused on Corps execution of Live-Fire Range and Training Service Support (TSS) Military Construction Army (MCA) program support.

Some 47 attendees from the Corps of Engineers, Installation Management Command, Program Executive Office

— Simulations, Training and Instrumentation; Army Training Support Center, Tank Automotive Command and Army Environmental Center discussed issues such as environmental considerations, planning processes, line-of sight technology and unexploded ordnance, among others.

Another 30 attended the Range Configuration Control Board, conducted in conjunction with the Range Design Workshop.

The workshop agenda separated discussions into planning and programming, design, and construction. Districts provided critical feedback and lessons learned related to current processes as well as review of FY07 to FY10 MCA programs.

Mark Fleming, the Range and Training Land Program director, gave an overview of planning services provided by Huntsville Center.

A key planning tip, he said, was to get the announcements out early.

Huntsville Center, the Corps' Range Center of Standardization and Mandatory Center of Expertise for Ranges, provides direct support

to Department of the Army, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans in the form of standardized and modernized range designs. Huntsville Center is responsible for executing training facility designs.

"We are not offering a cookie cutter solution," Fleming said. "You cannot put the same range footprint on every piece of land. It won't work. It will not achieve the training results you are looking for at that installation. All the different terrain features, temperature and vegetation factors come into play."

Since 1984, the beginning of construction of standardized ranges, more than 750 ranges have been constructed.

"Huntsville Center is involved in range development from the very beginning and can help districts and installations work through issues that arise," Fleming said.

Some MCA policy issues affecting range planning include:

- Infrastructure rule: 10,000 linear feet. "Notional stationing of five brigades in the continental U.S. for a total of \$390 million," Fleming said. "However, you have an infrastructure bill that is in addition to that \$390 million that includes power, water, roads and primary utility systems in the cantonment area."

See Ranges on page 9



Jim Vandersand explains his project to the group at the range workshop Oct. 30-Nov. 1 in Nashville, Tenn.

News Briefs

Thrift Savings Plan Web site offers free e-mail subscription service

The Thrift Savings Plan is happy to offer a free e-mail subscription service. This service allows participants to receive notifications by e-mail when new information is available on the TSP Web site. With this service, you automatically receive an e-mail when there is new or updated information on the TSP Web site for items of interest to you — without having to visit the TSP Web site to check for changes.

This is a free service sponsored by the TSP and provided through GovDelivery. Your e-mail address will be used to notify you when updates are made; it will not be used for any other purpose by the TSP.

To subscribe to this service go to <http://www.tsp.gov/curinfo/emailupdates.html> and follow the steps. (You will be directed to the TSP service on the GovDelivery Web site.)

Note: As a subscriber, you can make any of the following changes by clicking the link corresponding

to the change you would like to make:

- Add subscription choices to your preferences
- Delete subscription choices from your preferences
- Change your e-mail address
- Add a password or modify your password
- Temporarily suspend this service
- Cancel this service

Now — annual participant statements

Keeping in touch with 3.8 million participants can be a challenge — even with the TSP Web site.

However, beginning in February 2008, TSP is introducing something new — an annual participant statement. You will receive your annual statement in the mail (even if you are checking your quarterly statements online). You will also be able to access the statement on the Web. Your annual statement summarizes all of the activity in your TSP account during the year 2007. It will also show you:

- a summary of your account

activity by fund,

- your account's investment performance for 2007,
- your year-end investment mix and contribution allocation,
- your year-end account balances for the past five years,
- the status of any outstanding loans you may have,
- the amount of your cumulative contribution since you started participating in the TSP, and
- your primary beneficiary(ies).

Although the TSP encourages you to view your quarterly statements online, the mailed annual statement will help ensure you don't lose contact and, at least once a year, give you an update on the plan. To make sure you receive your annual participant statement, make certain the TSP has your correct address. When reporting a change of address, contact your agency or service if you are currently employed. If you are separated from service, report your address change directly to the TSP.

(From October 2007 Highlights, a TSP newsletter)

Ranges

continued from page 8

- Unexploded ordnance clearance – limited footprint
- Environmental mitigation. “Environmental mitigation must be in the footprint of the range for it to be an MCA cost,” Fleming said.
- 1 for 1 square foot demolition. “This pertains to heated and cooled facilities, such as range control,” Fleming said. It does not apply to the entire training area.
- Fiber optics and reach-back. “There is no valid training requirement for fiber optics and reach-back,” Fleming said. “There are other communications available, such as cell phones. This cannot be paid for as part of the range project.”

- Surface danger zone validation.

“I was very pleased with what was presented at the workshop,” said Jim Vandersand, a contractor working with the Southwest District, Corps of Engineers. “It was apparent that Huntsville Center has been working on their processes since last year's workshop. It was a good exchange of information by the instructors and between the participants.”

Vandersand said the most important things he took away from the workshop were: how the switch over to center of standardization and how the FY10 program will be implemented and how the unexploded ordnance design and funds request processes have been improved and documented.

Unexploded ordnance: a threat to Soldier, Civilian safety

By Chris Frazier
U.S. Army Combat
Readiness/Safety Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala. — A recent unexploded ordnance accident that claimed the life of a Soldier is serving as a deadly reminder to be extra cautious when handling munitions.

The Soldier was digging in front of his quarters when he discovered a yellow cylinder resembling a caulk tube. Once the Soldier brought the tube out of the ground, he banged it against a wall to knock the dirt off and determine what he was holding. The device, which turned out to be a BLU-97/B Combined Effects Bomb, exploded, killing the Soldier and wounding another.

The BLU-97 submunitions are yellow, soda-can-sized bomblets that are dispensed in large numbers to attack “soft” area targets. The bomblet case is made of scored steel designed to break into about 300 preformed ingrain fragments for defeating light armor and personnel.

The body of the BLU-97 is

cylindrical in shape, about 20 centimeters long and has a 6 centimeter diameter. However, military and foreign munitions can come in a variety of types, sizes and shapes and may not be easy to recognize. They include, but are not limited to, small-arms ammunition, projectiles, cartridges, bombs, rockets, pyrotechnics, grenades, blasting caps, fuzes, simulators and raw explosives.

According to the Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange, when encountering UXO, always follow the 3Rs of explosive safety:

- **Recognize** the munition.
- **Retreat** from the munition. Do not touch or disturb it, but move carefully away, walking out the same path the area was entered.
- **Report** the munition and its location.

Since fiscal 2005, there have been three Class A Army accidents resulting



Photo by Bonnie Docherty, Human Rights Watch

Army safety officials urge Soldiers and Civilians to be cautious when encountering unexploded ordnance like this BLU-97 submunition.

from Soldiers handling UXO. These accidents caused the deaths of three Soldiers. By following the 3Rs of explosive safety, Soldiers and Civilians can help prevent future fatalities. In combat areas or on training ranges, it's best to remember, “If you did not drop it, do not pick it up!”

For more information on UXO safety, visit the Defense Environmental Network and Information Exchange's UXO Safety Education Program Web site at www.denix.osd.mil/uxosafety.



Housing PRT needs you

The Housing Planning Response Team is still looking for a few good people to provide support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the development of temporary housing for disaster victims.

If you are interested, please contact Lt. Col. James D'Arienzo via e-mail or call 895-1473.

The volunteer form and the Housing PRT job descriptions are located on the Huntsville Center Intranet site at <https://hnc-ws-intra.hnd.usace.army.mil>.

Flu shots

Ray Waits, chief of the Safety Office, gets his free flu shot Nov. 20 at the Huntsville Center from Capt. Carly Skarphol. Medical personnel from Fox Army Health Clinic came to the Center to make it easier for personnel to get the shots. If you missed this opportunity to get your flu shot, they are still available at Heiser Hall on Redstone Arsenal on Wednesday mornings through December.



Photo by Becky Proaps

DDS

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DDS program manager Amber Martin of Huntsville Center. “It’s harder to get funding for these kinds of projects. With DDS we can fund these. We can come out and get them done quickly and cost effectively and helps installations get rid of their unneeded structures.”

DDS simplifies the demolition process by cutting overhead and administrative costs associated by using already set up demolition contracts with certain small businesses that can mobilize for projects throughout the country. Crew day prices are already fixed into the contracts and specialized



Photo by Chris Gardner

Amber Martin, Directed Demolition Service program manager; Alan Berdall, GEM Technologies site manager and David von Kolnitz, with the Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point Department of Public Works, look inside a torn open fuel tank. It was one of four 10,000 gallon tanks removed.

equipment costs are added on a case-by-case basis.

For this project, Huntsville Center used an existing contract to mobilize a team from GEM Technology based in Knoxville, Tenn., to clear the diesel fuel station. GEM is the DDS demolition contractor for the southeastern region of the country.

The MOTSU project was the first test for the DDS program and Martin said while she would have liked it to go a bit quicker, it was an overall success.

“The MOTSU demolition was a success and we learned a lot of lessons here that we’ll be taking into account as DDS continues,” Martin said. “All in all, we completed the job pretty quickly and at a much lower cost than if it had been done without DDS.”

Martin estimated the MOTSU demolition cost about 30 percent less than it would have cost without using the DDS program. The work took about half a day longer than originally planned.

She also said 100 percent of the waste from the project was recycled, including more than 404 tons of concrete that was surrounding the fuel tanks and more than 25 tons of steel from the tanks and associated piping. Even the chain link fence that was around the station was saved for use elsewhere on the installation.

The cleared area will likely be used for a U.S. Department of Agriculture inspection station, von Kolnitz said.

The MOTSU project was the first of many DDS projects already planned throughout the country. DDS is only geared for Army installations now, but could include future projects for other services.

Ethics Corner

Holiday parties – good food, good times and good grief – more ethics pointers



By Toby Harryman
Office of Counsel

With the holiday season upon us, it is time for holiday parties and office festivities. These events are fun and appropriate, however, they can also present ethical pitfalls. This article will discuss some of the most common “party pitfalls” for government employees.

1. Attending contractor-sponsored holiday events.

These functions represent a type of gift, and therefore the rules prohibiting the acceptance of gifts from a prohibited source (certain contractors) apply.

- a. Government personnel may attend social events sponsored by non-prohibited sources if no one is charged admission (e.g., most holiday receptions and open houses).
- b. Widely attended gatherings. The widely attended gathering exception allows government personnel in their personal capacity to accept free attendance at an event that is open to a wide audience or represents a range of persons interested in the subject matter. However, free attendance is a personal gift to government personnel and must occur on their own time.
- c. Government personnel may attend events in which the cost is \$20 or less (and the individual has not exceeded the \$50 limit on gifts from that source for that calendar year).

2. Office Holiday Events. Huntsville Center has numerous holiday events — many attended by contractors. Below are the general guidelines for these events:

- a. Contractor attendance at government events. Contractors who work at Huntsville Center may be invited and attend Huntsville Center functions as long as their attendance is approved by the contractor’s supervisor and the time spent at the function is not billed to the government.
- b. Contractor contributions to cover the cost of the event: Contractor personnel may pay their share of the fee to cover the actual cost of refreshments or may bring food to share if others are doing the same. These are not considered gifts, but rather the cost of their share of an office function or lunch.
- c. Gifts between government and contractor employees. Gifts from contractors or their employees to government personnel may not exceed \$20. And gifts from government to contractor personnel are generally acceptable if they are personal in nature. However, gifts from government personnel to contractors, if given in an official capacity, are generally not appropriate because they might interfere with the official past performance rating and run afoul of fiscal restrictions. Be sure to check with the contracting officer and your legal adviser if this is being contemplated.

And, as usual, there are absolutely no restrictions on all gifts of chocolate (no matter what the cost) to the Office of Counsel!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED