



US Army Corps
of Engineers

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Huntsville Center Bulletin

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*Mark your
calendar now...*

**Chief of Engineers
to visit Jan. 9-10**



Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock

**Battle of the Bulge
begins Jan. 10
Sign Up Now!!**



Corps' Learning Center takes engineering training to Iraq

**By Betsy Weiner
Gulf Region South
District Public Affairs
Office**

AN NASIRIYAH, Iraq
— Twenty-four Gulf
Region South (GRS) District
Iraqi engineers joined six of

their American counterparts
in the U.S. Army Corps of
Engineer's Construction
Contract Administration
class Dec.3-6, the first time
such a course of instruction
has been held in Iraq.

The class provides
project and resident

engineers with information
about day-to-day job duties.

"The training was
conceived by my
predecessor, Andy Adams,"
said Russell Holeman, chief
of the Engineering and
Construction Division, GRS.
"We provide a lot of
information to the engineers
in the field, but realized we
send our people in the States
through a lot of training
courses to be in (project and
resident engineer) positions.
Why not do the same thing
with the Iraqi engineers?"

"The class gives them an
explanation of how to
interpret drawings and
specifications and how to
present that information to a
contractor," he said.

"The class also teaches

See Training on page 18



Photo by Betsy Weiner

**John Briggs, a resident engineer with the Fort Campbell
Resident Office of the Louisville District, teaches a class to
Iraqi and American engineers and construction
representatives in the Construction Contract Administration
course at Camp Adder in Iraq, Dec. 3-6.**

U.S. has new secretary of defense

Dr. Robert M. Gates was sworn in
on Dec. 18, 2006, as the 22nd
Secretary of Defense. Before
entering his present post, Gates was the
President of Texas A&M University, the
nation's seventh largest university. Prior
to assuming the presidency of Texas A&M on
Aug. 1, 2002, he served as Interim Dean of

the George Bush School of Government
and Public Service at Texas A&M from
1999 to 2001.

Gates served as director of the Central
Intelligence Agency from 1991 until 1993.
He is the only career officer in CIA's history

See Defense on page 3

Commander's thoughts

Happy New Year! I hope you all had wonderful holidays with family and friends.

We closed out 2006 in fine fashion. Our holiday party was a tremendous success thanks to the organizers: Lois Grey, Cindy Halbrooks, Dawn Scott, Chiquita Goodloe-Suggs, Linda Merschman, Cyndee Oleyte and Quintessia Fuller, and all who participated by bringing in food, sharing their talents or decorating doors and conference rooms. We had great food and great fun. Congratulations again to the winners of the door decorating contest. We earned \$564.40 that was donated to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund through the Combined Federal Campaign.

As of Dec. 18, the Center was \$2,481 below its CFC goal of \$79,818. Pledges are still coming in and hopefully we will meet our goal. Thanks to those of you who participated in this very worthwhile cause.

Now that the holidays are

over, it is time to get back to serious work. We'll start the new year off with a visit from Lt. Gen. Carl A. Strock, chief of engineers, Jan. 9-10. While he's here, we will host a town hall meeting and conduct briefings within the directorates to bring the chief up to date on some of the exciting programs and projects we are working on here at the Huntsville Center.

Jan. 15 we'll honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his work to promote civil rights.

The fourth week of January brings two very important milestones for the center: conversion to the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) and ISO 9000 certification.

Effective with the pay period beginning Jan. 21, Huntsville Center's civilian work force will fall under the new pay system. The project delivery team has been working hard to make this a smooth transition. We have a lot of work ahead of us with performance

objectives and the pay pool process. I suggest you read up on NSPS and spend some time thinking about it. Samples for performance objectives are available on the Business Management Office



Col. Larry D. McCallister

(BMO) Web site. You can use those sample performance objectives to form performance objectives for your jobs. NSPS is tied to performance so it is very important that you have measurable objectives.

Also the week of Jan. 21, two auditors will be here conducting the ISO 9000 certification audit. While they are here they will be working out of the first floor conference room. They may ask you how you do your work. Then they will want to see documentation to see if you

are doing your work the way the process says to do your work. You will need to know your team metrics and Huntsville Center's Quality Policy. Also, you'll need to know where the ISO documents are located on the Intranet. You should have an icon on your desktop that will

take you directly to the documents.

We have our work cut out for us in January, but we'll have fun, too.

The Battle of the Bulge kicks off Jan. 10 and will run through April 4. The competition is open to all Huntsville Center employees, including contractors. Many of you may have made resolutions to lose weight and/or get in shape in the new year and Huntsville Center has a contest that will help you. Information on the contest is available on the Intranet and through the fitness center.

Hails and farewells

Welcome to new employees Engineering Directorate.

— Margaret Brewer, USACE Learning Center; Katherine King, Engineering Directorate; Stacy Potts, Contracting; and Brian Spear,

Farewell to Joe Cassani, Logistics Office; Wayne Shaw, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; Brian Simpkins,

Engineering Directorate; Michael Stahl, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; Earl Williams, Management Review and Fred Williams, Information Management.



US Army Corps of Engineers

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BULLETIN

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

What are you looking forward to in 2007?



Amanda Odem
Resource Management

Graduation! I will graduate from Athens State University in May with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. I hope to continue working here as a budget analyst.



Eldric Jefferson
Engineering Directorate

I am looking forward to becoming more active in the Leadership Development Program, as well as contributing to the newer programs I've recently joined. And with the implementation of the National Security Personnel System, which promotes broader skill development and more open communication with management, I see it as being a big facilitator in achieving those goals.



Christina Hicks
Contracting

In 2007 I look forward to continuing my education and moving closer to my goal of obtaining my degree. Also, I look forward to spending another wonderful year with my family whom I love and cherish. And last, but surely not least, I am excited to be able to enjoy another great year here at Huntsville Center.



Bob Thierry
Security Officer

I am looking forward to continuing to serve the Huntsville Center and enjoying the fellowship of everyone here. I am also looking forward to taking the Blue Ridge Parkway motorcycle ride into Gatlinburg.

Defense

continued from page 1

to rise from entry-level employee to director. Gates served as deputy director of Central Intelligence from 1986 until 1989 and as assistant to the president and deputy national security adviser at the White House from Jan. 20, 1989, until Nov. 6, 1991, for President

George H.W. Bush.

Gates joined the CIA in 1966 and spent nearly 27 years as an intelligence professional, serving six presidents. During that period, he spent nearly nine years at the National Security Council, and the



Dr. Robert Gates

White House, serving four presidents of both political parties.

Gates has been awarded the National Security Medal, the Presidential Citizens Medal, has twice received the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal and has three times

received CIA's highest award, the Distinguished Intelligence Medal.

A native of Kansas, Gates received his bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary, his master's degree in history from Indiana University and his doctorate in Russian and Soviet history from Georgetown University.

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

February 2006

Center renovates Fort Bragg barracks

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.

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.



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.

"I saw these barracks for myself back in 2003," said Kent Criswell, the project manager. "They would open the Soldiers' rooms and ceiling tiles would fall out."

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."

Year starts 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., that 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.

March 2006

Housing Team recognized for efforts after Hurricane Katrina

By Becky Proaps
Public Affairs Office

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The Professional Housing Management Association recognized Huntsville Center's Unaccompanied Military

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2006 YEAR IN REVIEW



Courtesy photo

The Unaccompanied Personnel Housing Team is shown with Deborah Reynolds (Office of the Assistant Secretary of Information Management Agency Family Housing Team Chief). The UPH team received the special service award in recognition of their efforts to procure furniture for families affected by Hurricane Katrina who were living in government leased housing at Fort Polk, La., and had no furnishings. Left to right are Katrena Pope, Jay Clark, Sue Werner, Katherine Atkins, Reynolds, Alicia Allen, Beatrice Hill, Heather Holder, Larry McIntosh and Debbie Bogema. Jane Davis and Marcus Searles, not pictured, also received the certificates and awards.

Personnel Housing Team at the annual professional development seminar Feb. 3 in San Diego, Calif. The team's program manager, Alicia Allen, received an appreciation plaque presented by PHMA President Michael Shelton.

Team members are Katrena Pope, Jay Clark, Sue Werner, Katherine Atkins, Alicia Allen, Beatrice Hill, Heather Holder, Larry McIntosh, Debbie Bogema, Jane Davis and Marcus Searles.

The association recognized the team for exemplary efforts to procure furniture for families affected by Hurricane Katrina who were living in government leased housing at Fort Polk, La.

The team's efforts made possible the procurement and delivery of entire houses of furniture in less than four weeks, ensuring families living in homes with nothing more than twin beds were provided furnishings for use while in the Fort Polk housing.

Center employees receive environmental cleanup awards

**By Becky Proaps
Public Affairs Office**

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. —Two Huntsville Center employees received Special Environmental Cleanup Awards Jan. 31 for their efforts with military munitions.

Addison D. Davis IV, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health) presented Carol Youkey, the chief of Military Munitions Center of Expertise at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center, and James Manthey, program manager, Military Munitions Center of Expertise, with the awards at the 2006 Army

Environmental Cleanup Workshop held Jan. 31 – Feb. 2 in San Antonio, Texas.

Youkey was recognized for her outstanding leadership and management of the Center of Expertise and for providing timely policy and technical support for the Formerly Used Defense Sites Program. Her program management and technical skills were major factors in the successful execution of the \$90 million military munitions portion for the work plan.

“This award was given to me on behalf of all the work the Center of Expertise does in support of the FUDS program, so although I was the recipient of the award, it was really in recognition of the work the dozen or so of us in the Center of Expertise have done,” Youkey said.

Manthey was recognized for his support on the development of the Military Response Sites Prioritization Protocol — a tool that prioritizes sites for cleanup based on risk due to the effect of remaining military munitions.

National newspaper recognizes Center engineer in full-page advertisement

**By Becky Proaps
Public Affairs Office**

A Huntsville Center engineer represented the Corps of Engineers and the Huntsville Center in a national advertisement that appeared in the *USA Today* newspaper Feb. 15.

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2006 YEAR IN REVIEW



Courtesy photo

Jason B. Adams, an industrial engineer in the Engineering Directorate, Cost Engineering, was one of 16 New Faces of Engineering featured in a full-page advertisement in *the USA Today* newspaper Feb. 15.

Jason B. Adams, an industrial engineer in the Engineering Directorate, Cost Engineering, was one of 16 New Faces of Engineering featured in the advertisement. Adams appeared with 15 other engineering professionals from around the country. He is also featured on the National Engineers Week 2006 New Faces of Engineering Web site with all 64 nominations at <http://www.eweek.org/site/Engineers/newfaces2006/index.shtml>.

New Faces of Engineering is a recognition program that highlights the interesting and unique work of young engineers who work in critical areas, have been out of school two to five years and are 30 years old or younger.

The Directorate of Engineering nominated Adams, a Cost Engineering Team Leader for the Military Munitions Center of Expertise, because of his outstanding engineering accomplishments so early in his career and specifically for his cost estimating work for the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate. His work was critical in conveying to Congress the magnitude

of the problem of Military Munitions and Chemical Warfare Materials (CWM) at sites once used by the Department of Defense or Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS).

April 2006

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completes last demolition in Iraq

**By Andrea Takash
Public Affairs Office**

After almost three years of hard and dangerous work, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers celebrated the last major demolition under the Coalition Munitions Clearance Program in Iraq.

Col. John Rivenburgh, commander of the Huntsville Engineering and Support Center, Dr. John Potter, chief

of the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, and Bill Sargent, program manager of the Coalition Munitions Clearance Program, traveled to Iraq to witness the last demolition and to initiate the next phase of the ordnance destruction work.

“The last demo consisted of over 248 tons of stockpiled ammunition,” Potter said. “Even though this was the last big one, there will still be some minor demolitions.”

The demolition of stockpiled munitions took place at the Arlington Depot, which was originally controlled by Saddam Hussein’s army before the war.

The destruction of ordnance items was taking place almost every day. This demolition contained items that either the new Iraqi Army did not need or the insurgents could use during attacks, such as rocket propelled grenades, hand grenades, landmines and other large ammunition.

The completion of the last demolition signifies a change in mission. Instead of a clean-up mission, the Corps will now oversee a depot operation mission.



Courtesy photo

The last major demolition under the Coalition Munitions Clearance Program in Iraq contained more than 248 tons of stockpiled ammunition.

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

Blue Roof program for damaged Katrina homes ends

By Dona Fair
Army News Service

BATON ROUGE, La.

— Another chapter in what has become one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history came to a close as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) closed its Blue Roof program for victims of the devastation caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

A team of more than 700 engineers and other volunteers from throughout 41 Army Corps of Engineers districts worldwide wrapped up a seven-month mission to provide temporary repairs to both residential and public building roofs damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, according to Kim Thomas, head of the blue roof operations based in Baton Rouge.

More than 81,000 roofs in Louisiana and more than 152,000 buildings within an 82,000-square-mile area stretching from Texas to



Photo by Becky Proaps

Col. James Darienzo, from Huntsville Center, spoke with the fifth-grade classes at University Place Elementary School, Huntsville, Ala., about Earth Day and its importance.

Alabama received temporary roofing following the two hurricanes that pounded more than 500 miles of the Gulf Coast region.

“Hurricane Katrina hit the coast on Aug. 29 and by Sept. 5 we had assessment teams flying over the region to determine the extent of the damage,” Thomas said. “On Sept. 6 we began to set up our ‘blue roof’ operations.”

“When people come up to us and thank us for what we do, it makes this job really mean something,” Thomas said. “We wear the Corps of Engineers shirts and can feel proud for the impact that we make on individual lives. We’ve gotten some bad press, but you can’t see it from the faces and the responses we get from those we help. We’re here to do a job, but not because we have to, but because we love to do it.”

May 2006

Center sponsors mock environmental exercise to celebrate 36th Earth Day

By Andrea Takash
Public Affairs Office

Fourth- and fifth-grade students donned personal protective clothing in preparation for a mock environmental exercise, where they learned first-hand how Huntsville Center completes an environmental field investigation.

The University Place Elementary School students celebrated the 36th anniversary of Earth Day April 20 by walking through the whole process, from the sampling of the mock chemicals to a personal

wash-down. Before the children started, Huntsville Center volunteers described the Corps’ role in environmental investigations and gave them the scenario for the exercise.

“We explained that our research led us to believe that the ground had been contaminated with ‘Methyl Ethyl Sue Goo.’ We told them that we were sending in teams to take soil samples of this very dangerous contaminant of concern,” said Audrey Nore, environmental engineer.

More than 100 students participated in the event.

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2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

Each grade was divided into six groups. The volunteers set up three work zones for the scenario.

“We gave the students spoons to collect the soil. They mixed the soil in the bowls to get a good representative sample,” Nore said. “Our work zones included the hot zone where the contaminated soil was located; the decontamination zone where the students were rinsed and scrubbed and removed their personal protection clothing to prevent spreading the contaminant; and the support zone where the emergency responders and safety specialist stood-by in case of an accident.”

Center awards \$20 million task order for support to Coalition Munitions Clearance

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, on March 29, awarded a Firm-Fixed Price Task Order potentially worth nearly \$20 million to provide non-personnel engineering and administrative support services in support of the Coalition Munitions Clearance Program in Huntsville and Iraq.

USA Environmental Inc., of Oldsmar, Fla., will provide support for the International Operations Center in Huntsville; and Quality Assurance/Contract Surveillance Representatives and Operational Support to Camp

Victory, Iraq.

The task order award, if all options are exercised, is worth an estimated total amount of \$19,996,258.72 for 33 months of performance.

The award is for a one-month base period with 32, one-month options.

Huntsville Center is a Corps of Engineers Center of Expertise for Military Munitions Response action cleanups.

New civilian personnel system kicked off April 30

**By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The first phase of the new National Security Personnel System launched April 30. “Spiral 1.1” includes 11,000 Defense Department civilian employees throughout the United States.

“The most important message is that we are ready,” said Mary E. Lacey, NSPS program executive officer. “Employees are trained, supervisors are trained, leaders are leaning forward and we’re ready to go.”

Lacey explained that employees in the first group to enter the program “have been working on performance standards that are outcome-based and

measurable so that as they go into NSPS they will know what performance is expected of them right from the beginning.”

June 2006

NASA counts on Huntsville Center, Mobile District to get Louisiana facilities repaired

**By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office**

While it’s not out of the question, it is a little unusual for the Corps of Engineers to be called in to do facility repair work for NASA. Usually NASA handles its own building maintenance, but after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast last August, NASA needed some help.

“After Katrina, we got a call Sept. 9, 2005, from Jimmy Guarin, who works at NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center,” said Kent Criswell, the program manager for the Huntsville Center’s Facilities Repair and

Renewal Program. “Jimmy had done an initial assessment of the damage to facilities at Michoud. He said the damage was extensive; NASA needed temporary support – that is why he

continued on next page



2006 YEAR IN REVIEW



Courtesy photo

Joe Pentecost, left, and Donald Voce of Huntsville Center's Engineering Directorate discuss damage to the roof of Bldg. 103 at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility near New Orleans, La.

called us.”

“We did an in-house assessment within 48 hours of Katrina,” Guarin said. “After that we immediately started looking for a way to expedite the repairs. This was not business as usual. Lockheed Martin had the means to do the repairs, but we knew they would be dealing with their own losses. The place was devastated.”

Lockheed Martin Space Systems — Michoud Operations manufactures, assembles and processes the space shuttle external tank at NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans. The NASA facility reports to Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. An agreement between the Corps of Engineers and NASA dated 1961 and the Economy Act allows the Corps to work for another federal agency. Huntsville Center is executing \$20 million worth of repairs at Michoud with an expected \$15-20 million more to come.

Munitions experts part of award-winning community relations team

**By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office**

While evaluating a residential community on what used to be Camp Wheeler near Macon, Ga., inspectors found a 60-mm mortar under leaf litter. The mortars also have been found within 13 feet of homes.

These inspections are being conducted under the Formerly Used Defense Sites, Military Munitions Response Program, managed by the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville. To date, 1,691 FUD sites have been identified, with 600-700 sites expected to be contaminated with unexploded ordnance. The former Camp Wheeler is one of them.

Huntsville Center, in cooperation with local Corps of Engineers districts, public officials and interested citizens, determines the potential danger from munitions and explosives of concern, develops a plan to remove the MEC or reduce its risk and oversees the execution of the plan. The local geographic district serves as the overall project manager for the investigation and response actions, and handles the real estate and public involvement responsibilities.

Partners in this project include Savannah District, Corps of Engineers; Huntsville Center; EOD Technology, Inc.; and the residents of the former Camp Wheeler, near Macon, Ga.

It was Savannah District's expertise in working with the community on this project that led to the district winning the Locke L. Mouton Community Relations Award, presented by Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This is the second consecutive year the Public Affairs Office, led by Billy Birdwell, received the award.



Photo by Robin Hawn, EOD Technology, Inc.

Media film the team flagging anomalies for further investigation during a media day at the former Camp Wheeler, Ga.

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW



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.

July 2006

Huntsville Center successfully implodes building on Fort Myer

**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.

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

Bldg. 501, named for Col. Anthony J. Tencza, housed enlisted Soldiers and their families from 1966 until 2005.

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.

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.

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

August 2006

McCallister new Huntsville Center commander

By Public Affairs Office

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Col. Larry D. McCallister assumed command of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, during a traditional military change of command ceremony July 21, at 10 a.m. at the University of Alabama's Chan Auditorium.

Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson, deputy chief of engineers and deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, passed the organizational colors to McCallister — symbolizing the transfer of leadership from Col. John D. Rivenburgh, who commanded Huntsville Center for the previous three years. Rivenburgh was also recognized at the ceremony for his 30 years of service to and retirement from the Army. As the Huntsville Center commander, McCallister will oversee programs located worldwide that include installation support, medical, ordnance and explosives, chemical demilitarization and ballistic missile defense.

McCallister comes to Huntsville after commanding the Gulf Region South District, Gulf Region Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at Camp Adder, Iraq, from July 2005 through July 2006, in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. Prior to this assignment, he was the director and command engineer (J4), Logistics and



Photo by Will Moore

Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson, deputy chief of engineers and deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, passed the organizational colors to Col. Larry D. McCallister during a change of command ceremony July 21.

Installations Directorate for U.S. Forces Japan at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

DoD announces next phase of NSPS implementation

The Department of Defense (DoD) announced in July that it will implement Spiral 1.2 of the National Security Personnel System (NSPS), a new civilian human resources system, to more than 66,000

employees between October 2006 and January 2007.

Employees have access to training materials, including a conversion tool in the NSPS 101 Course located on the NSPS Web site. This tool lets employees see an estimate of the value of their within-grade increase (WGI) buy-in as well as their career group and pay band.

The performance appraisal cycle for Spiral 1.2 employees begins on their actual day of conversion and ends Sept. 30, 2007. These employees will receive their first performance pay increases in January 2008.

For more information on Spiral 1.2 go to the NSPS Web site at www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps.

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

Military Munitions Center of Expertise receives Environmental Design Team of Year award

**By Kim Gillespie
Public Affairs Office**

Huntsville Center's Military Munitions Center of Expertise was recognized as a member of the Army Closed, Transferred and Transferring (CTT) Range Inventory team, a multi-District/Center team, and was presented with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Environmental Design Team of the Year award. Working together, the team facilitated the development of a Comprehensive Environmental Restoration, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)-focused inventory process that resulted in Army CTT Range Inventory Reports for more than 400 military installations.

"The CTT team's performance was not based on the individuals involved, but was more about the expertise each organization (districts and center) provided and how well the organizations collaborated as one Corps team," said Brad McCowan, Huntsville Center's Project Manager for the Military Munitions Center of Expertise. McCowan emphasized how well the team represented the Corps to the Army.

Huntsville Center's MMCX provided quality assurance, while Baltimore, Omaha, and Sacramento districts acted as the regional executors of the inventory effort. Malcolm Pirnie Inc. supported Baltimore District's east region work at active, Reserve, and National Guard Bureau sites, while

E2M Inc., and Tech Law Inc. (now TLI Solutions), supported Omaha and Sacramento districts for work on sites in the central and west regions, respectively. Rock Island and St. Louis districts provided document support such as historical munitions type information and Archive Search Report (ASR) lessons learned and retrieval.

The team met the Department of Defense's Military Munitions Response Program goal of completing the Preliminary Assessment (PA), four months ahead of schedule. Additionally, the Corps' CTT Range Inventory Team completed the PAs at an average cost of approximately \$22,000 per installation, compared to the other inventory approaches that are costing \$100,000-\$500,000. The inventory process ultimately will save the Army millions of dollars that can be programmed into other environmental actions.

Army Civilian Corps established

**By Andricka Hammonds
Army News Service**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Top Army leaders have announced the establishment of the Army Civilian Corps.

"The Army Civilian Corps is meant to unify the Army civilian service and embody the commitment of civilians who serve as an integral part of our

Army team," said Army Secretary Francis J. Harvey and Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker in a joint memorandum to Army personnel.

Army civilians work side by side with Soldiers deployed around the world. They have played many roles in America's fight against terror, from assisting in reconstruction projects in Iraq and Afghanistan to training Soldiers for deployment.

The Army Civilian Corps Creed and the memorandum establishing the Corps are available at the civilian personnel Web site at www.cpol.army.mil under "Top Army Initiatives."

September 2006

Town hall meetings provide insight into new commander's expectations

Huntsville Center's new commander conducted his first series of town hall meetings Aug. 24 to introduce himself to the work force and provide a glimpse into what the work force can expect from him and what he expects from the work force. He said he plans to hold town hall meetings on a quarterly basis.

"I have a simple Army motto — Mission First, People Always. This is very important to me," said Col. Larry

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2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

D. McCallister, who assumed command of the Engineering and Support Center Huntsville on July 21. "Mission is the first thing we have to get done, but people are the first things that make the mission possible."

Munitions mission proves Center critical to warfighter

By Kim Gillespie
Public Affairs Office

Supporting the Warfighter" was the theme for the 2006 UXO (Unexploded Ordnance) Forum held in Las Vegas this summer.

Kim Meacham, a technical manager for the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate's Chemical Warfare Materiel (CWM) team, explained to attendees exactly how critical Huntsville Center's work can be to supporting the warfighter in her presentation, "Chemical Munitions Encountered on the Schofield Barracks (Hawaii) Training Facility."

With 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (L) scheduled to begin construction of a battle area complex and two qualification training ranges for training its Stryker Brigade Combat Team, it was crucial that cleanup of munitions and explosives of concern (military munitions) on these active range sites be completed before the end of spring 2006. When chemical munitions were encountered in 2005 and threatened to delay project work, Huntsville Center worked with other team members to finalize a

Twenty Huntsville Center contractor employees die in Iraq during 2006

Huntsville Center is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Center of Expertise for Military Munitions. During 2006, 20 contractor employees working for the Huntsville Center's Coalition Munitions Clearance Program in Iraq died. They are:

Stephen Enright	Devon, Great Britain
David Little	Huntsville, Ala.
Alivereti Cereilagi	Fiji
Sevuloni Nawaduadua	Fiji
Josaia Seniasi	Fiji
Vilimane Rovutugaga	Fiji
Jerry A. Palinski	Dupont, Wash.
Wayne T. Schultz	Hervey Bay, Australia
Mikaele Banidawa	Yalaleva, Fiji
Vilisoni Gauna	Ono-I-Law, Fiji
Penaia K. Vakaotia	Suva, Fiji
Edward L. Cunahan	North Pole, Alaska
Carey Robinson	Orlando, Fla.
Brenton Thomas Gray	Southern Pines, N.C.
Edmund Bruwer	South Africa
Richard Todd Rhodes	Wilmington, N.C.
Rogelio Saraida	Pasay City, Philippines
Gerald Lambert	Brooksville, Fla.
Misaele Matawalu Raiwale	Fiji
Hussein Abid Mohammed	Pakistan

Chemical Safety Submission in a record-setting 35 days. Even more remarkably, only 40 days elapsed from the start of documentation until approval to proceed with clearance operations.

The Huntsville Center Ordnance and Explosives Design Center, which was requested to do the work, had already met other project challenges.

By the time work neared completion in January 2006, 140 suspect chemical munitions had been found. The remaining challenge was

14 rounds that were determined to be unacceptable to move. The other items that were determined acceptable to move were secured at the interim holding facility. Of the 14 items that could not be moved, additional evaluation determined that only six were chemical munitions that required an on-site destruction plan.

The team again worked together and on Feb. 14, the six items were destroyed successfully using the approved method of five pounds of explosives to one pound of agent fill.

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

Huntsville Center, partners test new concept for removing unwanted structures from Army installations

**By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office**

SIERRA ARMY DEPOT, Calif. — So, you work on a small military installation with some small structures you no longer need and you're looking for a cost-effective way to remove them from your inventory. The Huntsville Center is looking for the same thing.

In July, Huntsville Center paired with Sierra Army Depot in Herlong, Calif.; Sacramento District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Frankie Friend and Associates of Englewood, Colo.; B. Starling & Associates, Inc. of Mount Holly, N.C.; ICONCO/LVI Demolition Services of Oakland, Calif.; and R.J. Diven Consulting, LLC, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, to test a new concept that may provide another avenue for removing unwanted structures from Army installations while reducing costs.

The concept, the Regional Mobile Demolition Team (RMDT) Program, provides a simpler, time-saving means to remove smaller, abandoned or other excess structures that are not normally large enough to constitute a cost-effective, stand-alone project.

The Facilities Reduction Program



Photo by Debra Valine

An excavator looks like a Tyrannasaurus Rex as it “eats” the building and drops the debris into a dump truck for removal to the landfill.

has several options available for installations that need to remove unneeded structures. A Best Practices Toolbox is located on the Internet that provides information on those options at: <https://eko.usace.army.mil/frptoolbox/index.cfm>. Anyone with access to Army Knowledge Online can access the site.

Installation Support Professional of the year from Center

For the second consecutive year, a Huntsville Center employe has been selected as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Installation Support Professional of the Year.

John W. Grigg, Program Manager for the Access Control Point Program (ACPP) at Huntsville Center, was to receive the award at the USACE Senior

Leaders Conference Aug. 7 in San Diego. Last year's inaugural award recipient, Sally B. Parsons, also works for Huntsville Center. Both Parsons and Grigg are assigned to the Installation Support Center of Expertise (ISCX).

The outstanding success of Grigg's team can be attributed to the three elements of USACE Transformation—people, process and communication. An additional element that Grigg aggressively pursues is the use of technology as an enabler. Grigg was a co-developer of Engineering Knowledge On-Line (EKO), a Web portal, with Charles Schroeder of USACE's Engineer Research and Development Center—Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (ERDC-CERL). The EKO Web portal allows extensive coordination with all stakeholders worldwide, and ensures real-time project tracking and status. The Grigg-

continued on next page

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

led ACPP Project Delivery Team consists of more than 100 personnel from Army staff, major Army commands, USACE and private industry; and team members located literally from Korea to Kuwait.

October 2006

Army proposes new barricade standards that will save millions of dollars

By Andrea Takash
Public Affairs Office

It was standing-room only at the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board seminar when a Huntsville Center engineer announced that her findings on the height of barricades will save DoD millions of dollars.

“Current requirements for the height of a barricade between two ammunition and explosives (AE) stacks are causing construction and operational challenges,” said Dr. Michelle Crull, a professional engineer and senior civil engineer in the Advanced Technology Branch. “The team’s findings could save DoD \$1.9 million in soil alone at one site.”

Barricades are designed to prevent the simultaneous spread of explosions between two stacks of ammunition and explosives due to low-angle, high-velocity fragments. The barricade height is determined by the line-of-sight between two AE stacks.

After 10 months of studying and testing, the team came up with a proposal for a new design height for barricades.

Crull said this proposal would save DoD a tremendous amount of money without reducing safety standards.

(Note: The change to the height requirements was approved by the DoD Explosives Safety Board in December 2006. The U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosives Safety is working on a Value Engineering study for this project. This will save the Army at least \$67,000,000 over the next 3 years.)

Solar panels help cut energy costs at Fort Sam Houston

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

San Antonio, Texas, gets plenty of sunshine so why not convert that natural power to usable

energy? Solar power creates green energy. It’s good for the environment and saves money.

Bldg. 1350 at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio now uses a 180 kilowatt-hour photovoltaic (PV) solar panel system to augment electricity from the power company.

It’s saving the installation nearly \$6,000 a month in energy costs, and provides clean energy, no carbon dioxide emissions and less dependence on foreign oil.

Rob Jay, the installation energy manager at Fort Sam Houston, and Gene Rodriguez, Fort Sam Houston’s in-house technical consultant for PV systems, submitted the project to the Energy Conservation Investment Program (ECIP) and it was funded in September 2005. The project was completed seven months later in April 2006.

Partners in the project included the installation, the Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District, the Huntsville Center, Williams Electric Company of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., and Meridian Energy Systems of Austin, Texas.



Courtesy photo

A worker installs photovoltaic solar panels on Bldg. 1350 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The panels augment electricity from the local power company and are saving the installation nearly \$6,000 a month in energy costs.

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

November 2006

Center learns about NSPS

Huntsville Center employees participated in a series of town hall meetings Oct. 5 as part of the ongoing education process to get ready to transition to the National Security Personnel System in January 2007.

“NSPS is coming,” said Center Commander Col. Larry D. McCallister. “It is a DoD-mandated requirement. The goal of NSPS is a more competent, flexible work force that is mission oriented. Pay will be based on performance; the pay bands are broad. There will be accountability for performance at all levels and added flexibility to recruit, develop, motivate and retain our best talent.

“Your job and paycheck will remain the same,” McCallister said. “NSPS does, however, put a lot more work on your supervisors.”

Don Dixon, director, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC) at Redstone Arsenal, gave employees just enough information about NSPS to whet their appetites for more, which will happen in the training sessions. Employees will receive eight hours of NSPS training; supervisors will receive 16 hours of training.

“The key to NSPS is pay for performance,” Dixon said. “NSPS

- Recognizes and reward employees

based on contributions to the mission.

- Opens communication between employees and supervisors.
- Encourages employees to take ownership of their performance and success.
- Promotes broader skill development and advancement opportunities in pay bands.”

For more information about NSPS,

click on the NSPS button on the Huntsville Center Web site. To find out how your pay will convert from General Schedule to NSPS, you can go to the Web at: <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/>

[nsps/conversion/index.html](http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/conversion/index.html).



Removal by relocation eliminates unneeded structures at no cost to installation

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

FORT HUACHUCA, Ariz. — A public sealed bid sale of unneeded structures held at Fort Huachuca Aug. 25 and 26 resulted in the installation removing seven unneeded structures

continued on next page



Photo by Debra Valine

Margaret Simmons, Office of Counsel, left, helps Anita Norton, Resource Management, with the "write an objective" exercise during the National Security Personnel System (NSPS) training conducted Oct. 25 at the Bevill Center. All employees are required to attend the eight-hour training session — supervisors must attend a 16-hour training session — prior to Jan. 21, 2007, when the Huntsville Center will begin using NSPS.

2006 YEAR IN REVIEW

from its real property inventory at no cost to the installation.

Fort Huachuca DPW worked with the Huntsville Center and the Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District on the sale. Huntsville Center's Facilities Reduction Program, part of the Installation Support Center of Expertise, helps installations find the most cost-effective and environmentally friendly way to remove unneeded or unwanted structures.

Using a centrally funded, locally executed process, the Huntsville Center provided the funds and the on-site engineer organized the sale.

The IMA Sustainability policy requires that facility removal be accomplished in such a fashion as to reduce the negative impact on the environment.

The Army Environmental Center requires that 50 percent by weight of all demolition debris be diverted from the landfill. By removing the installations from Fort Huachuca via relocation, the project resulted in 100 percent diversion of material.

"We tried a process here that went very well," said Nancy Mehaffie, the project manager from the Los Angeles District. "We sold the buildings, so it was a success.

December 2006

Family photo helps Corps find chemical warfare materiel

**By Andrea Takash
Public Affairs Office**

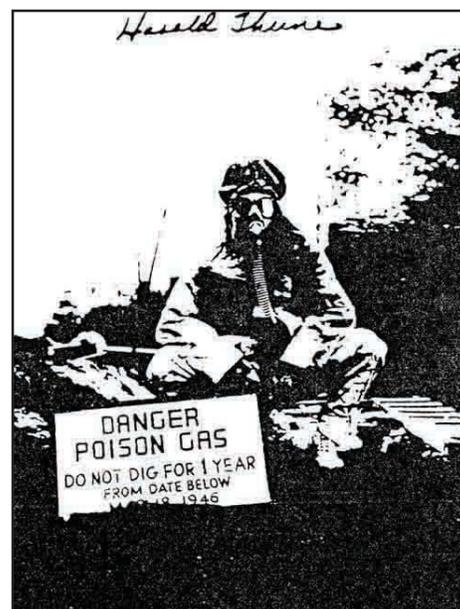
The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville and Seattle District joined together to remove chemical warfare materiel at the former Tulalip Backup Ammunition Storage Depot in Snohomish County, Wash., thanks to a letter and a picture from a concerned resident.

The Army used the former depot to store conventional munitions and chemical warfare materiel (CWM) during World War II and the Korean War.

"If it wasn't for Lila Brown's 1940s-era photo of her nephew, who was a Soldier, pointing to a sign that said 'poison gas area, don't dig for one year' we would have never known about this area of the site," said Betina Johnson, Chemical Warfare Materiel

Scoping and Security Study project manager at the Huntsville Engineering and Support Center.

The Corps team is performing a time critical removal action at the former depot, which is now owned by the Tulalip Tribe, to remove cylinders and glassware that may contain chlorine, phosgene, and in some rare cases, mustard agent.



Courtesy photo

This photo from the 1940s helped the team during the investigation on the former Tulalip Backup Ammunition Storage Depot in Snohomish County, Wash.

Army Strong - new Army advertising campaign

The Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis J. Harvey announced the new Army Strong campaign at the Association of the United States Army Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. in October 2006.

Army Strong stands for a big idea. It speaks to the truth about the U.S. Army — that Soldiers develop mental, emotional and physical strength forged through shared values, teamwork,



ARMY STRONG.™

experience and training ... that by making the decision to join the Army, an individual is choosing to recognize potential strength within him or herself and develop it further ... that an individual Soldier is choosing to take charge of his or her future and career ... that Soldiers actively choose to make a difference in their lives, their families, their communities and for their nation.

Training

continued from page 1

engineers about conferences — preconstruction conferences — and the meetings throughout the life of a contract. It presents general information about construction quality management; what to look for and how to ensure quality.

The contractor is responsible for achieving that quality, but the engineer needs to understand his or her role making sure we get a quality product that we can turn over,” Holeman said.

Holeman contacted Marilyn Lang, chief, Engineering and Construction Training Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Learning Center, in Huntsville, Ala. to export the classes to Iraq.

Instructors Alex Herrera, project engineer, and John Briggs, resident engineer, with the Fort Campbell, Ky., resident office, Louisville District, volunteered to teach the class not only for GRS, but also in the northern and central districts of Iraq.

Both men teach the course throughout the United States and both have been to Iraq on multiple tours — Briggs for three and Herrera for four.

“We both served in the al-Hillah

area doing assessments and then we traveled to Basrah to set up the original GRS office,” Briggs said. “I got the call a month ago from Marilyn and both Alex and I decided to come over. We believe in the mission and this is something we really wanted to do.”

Briggs said the course focuses on the rules and regulations surrounding contract administration and the responsibilities of the project, area and resident engineers.

“I took the course five years ago and it is the same course,” he said. “It explains how the Corps deals with its contractors — from estimations to negotiations, and how to get the quality we need from them.”

Both men recognized many of the Iraqi engineers from previous tours and that made the experience even more gratifying.

Herrera commented about the high quality of their work and their efforts to get the right information.

The instruction materials from the manuals, to the final exam, are on the leading edge of the Corps’ technology — and the feedback Herrera received from the students was “they are learning a lot. We have asked for their feedback throughout the whole course.”

“The training sessions are so useful and concentrate on the daily methods of dealing with construction projects administration,” said an Iraqi architect who works with Thi Qar Area Office. “The U.S. Army trainers gave us the solutions and the answers for all the problems and the questions that could face us at any construction site in the future.

“The Corps also supplied us with data

books which will be our references to accomplish correctly our site missions. This training should have been done before now, but overall, we are so thankful and grateful for all the people who participated to set up this training. And we hope to get more training in the future,” he said.

An Iraqi civil engineer who works with Basrah Area Office said, “The training is very interesting. It added lots of information to what we know. It has enhanced our engineering experiences and helped develop our technical skills to be able to handle any engineering difficulty and to fix any contracting violations in accordance with the project engineers.”

Briggs explained that this course was the first of its kind taught in Iraq and that the GRS Commander, Col. Gary Johnston, will evaluate feedback from instructors, Holeman and the students to determine whether he needs to bring more prospective classes in or offer other internal training here.

“GRS is the spear point to bring in the Iraqi engineers and train them to be able to take over our work in the future and to get them all here,” Briggs said.

“This group is amazing. GRS is leading the way in transferring our responsibilities to the Iraqis. One of the engineers said to us, ‘Now you are giving us the road to get to the end.’ It is exciting to be a part of it,” he said.

(Note: This was the first PROSPECT course delivered in Iraq. Two additional sessions followed the presentation at GRS, Base Camp Adder (Talil). They were held at GRC, Camp Victory (Baghdad) and GRN (Mosul). We are very appreciative of the willingness of our instructors to support this Global War on Terrorism initiative and of the excellent support provided by the USACE Learning Center course manager, Judy Armstrong, and the technician, Maryann Wentworth.)



Photo by Betsy Weiner

Instructor Alex Herrera with the Fort Campbell Resident Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District, teaches Construction Contract Coordination to a group of 30 Iraqi and American engineers and construction representatives at Camp Adder in Iraq, Dec. 3-6.

Center celebrates the holidays

The Season of Giving” came to the Engineering and Support Center Dec. 15. The day was filled with music, lots of good food and fellowship. A holiday door decorating contest gave employees an opportunity to show off their creativity and sparked a little good old fashioned competition. Food was provided pot-luck style from employees on all three floors.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Pat Haas, left, and Donna Rovere dance to the holiday music.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Col. Larry McCallister, Huntsville Center commander, takes his role as door decorating contest judge very seriously. He is checking out Project Management’s entry.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Catherine MacLachlan, security officer, left, and Dr. Lynn McCallister, right, share a toast of hot tea while Col. Larry McCallister reviews the refreshments criteria. The Internal Review Office received the Martha Stewart Presentation and Hospitality Award.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Brian McDonald, right, the point of contact and designer of the Resource Management “door” meets with Col. Larry McCallister, Huntsville Center commander, during the door judging Dec. 15. The other judges are Dr. Lynn McCallister, Col. David Diehl, deputy commander (not pictured) and Catherine MacLachlan, security officer.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Roderick Bridgeman, Retha Adams, Darlene Stapler, Severo Lopez, Yasmine Gerousis, Millie Reed, Georganne Ramsey, Linda Mershman and Donna Rovere (not pictured) made beautiful music throughout the day under the direction of Quintessia Fuller.

E-mail messages should be appropriate

By Chris Gardner
Public Affairs Office

Most people send and receive dozens of e-mails in any given day and don't think too much about it.

Every once in a while one of those e-mails makes it to the desk of Information Management Director John Samuelson because an employee was offended or shocked by inappropriate content.

"You'd be surprised at some of the e-mails I get from people," Samuelson said. "Mostly what I get are people who receive an e-mail from someone they either know very casually or

they don't know at all in the building and they take offense to what they're saying."

He said the most common complaints stem from either religiously charged or politically charged e-mails regarding controversial topics such as gay rights, abortion or promoting one religion over another.

"Employees are not supposed to use official resources to make political or religious statements, etcetera," said Margaret Simmons from the Office of Counsel. "That is why it is not appropriate to have a Bible verse on your e-mail, or to say, 'May God Bless

You' on your voice mail. These are official government resources and are for official purposes. Your own views are personal and not related to official business."

With November's elections and the recent winter holidays, Samuelson said there was a definite spike in inappropriate e-mails and the subsequent complaints. He hopes those numbers will go down soon.

"During the political season and religious holidays people feel compelled to express their ideas or beliefs," Samuelson said. "In some cases I don't feel they're trying to be offensive

to anyone, but I think they have to understand their intentions might not be yielding the results they're hoping for.

"We're here to do business for the taxpayer and support the mission," Samuelson said. "We have to make sure that what we are saying and what we are writing is professional and it's for a business purpose and it is serving the center."

Samuelson noted that even e-mails where you think the person getting the message won't be offended are a bad idea because the message could be buried in other e-mails later and end

See *Etiquette* on page 24

Battle of the Bulge Rules

- 1) All Huntsville Center employees and contractors can participate.
- 2) Register for the competition by Jan. 10 at <https://hnc-ws-intra/LifeCenter/WeightLoss>. The information you enter will remain private.
- 3) Two mandatory weigh-ins, Jan. 10 and April 4. The mandatory, private weigh-ins will take place from 8-10 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. in the fitness center. In addition to your weight, Marsha Russell, the Fitness for You director, will also use a string to determine your waist circumference measurement. At the end of the competition, the person who loses the most inches will receive extra points.
- 4) A make-up weigh-in is scheduled for Jan. 12 from 8-10 a.m. in the fitness center.

- Please e-mail Marsha Russell if you have a conflict with either of these dates.
- 5) Individual weekly weigh-ins — After the mandatory weigh-in on Jan. 10, it will be up to you to keep track of your weight by using the scales in the men's and women's locker rooms located on the first floor. When you weigh yourself, please don't wear shoes, jewelry or badges. Also, make sure to wear light clothing. By 5 p.m. Wednesday, you must enter your weight in the spreadsheet located at <https://hnc-ws-intra/LifeCenter/WeightLoss>.
 - 6) Prizes — Each week there will be prizes for the man and woman who have lost the most weight that particular week.
 - 7) Individual grand prizes — At the end of the competition, there will be

- grand prizes for the man and woman who lost the most weight.
- 8) Top office grand prize — There will also be a prize for the office that loses the most weight based on percentage. This will be calculated through the Intranet spreadsheet. So please make sure to enter your correct office when registering.
 - 9) Office captains — Each office is encouraged to nominate a captain, who will keep the office motivated and informed about events surrounding the Battle of the Bulge.
 - 10) For those who don't want to lose weight and still want to participate, you can earn bonus points by maintaining your weight and waist circumference. You will be asked to participate in both mandatory weigh-ins.

Safety, a key factor in receiving accolades

Ray Waits, Safety Manager and chief, Systems Safety Engineering, Huntsville Center, presents Don Bollinger and the Parsons Safety Team with a plaque representing 10,000,000 safe worker-hours (man-hours without a lost time accident) milestone achieved at the Shchuch'ye Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in December.



Pictured are front row, right to left: Terry Burton, Huntsville Center on-site manager (OSM); Charles (Ray) Waits; Don Bollinger, Parsons project safety director; Pramod Chokshi, Parsons deputy project manager; and Lance Lawton, Huntsville Center deputy OSM for Construction Management. Second row, right to left: Van Pinion, Huntsville Center on-site contracting officer; Neal Graham, Huntsville Center deputy OSM for Project Management; Yuri Parshakov, Parsons safety engineer; Irina Udalaya, Parsons safety engineer; and Iraida Vandysheva, Parsons safety training coordinator. Remaining rows: Sergei Kirilov, Parsons safety engineer (Ecological); Yuri Barsukov, Parsons safety administrative assistant; Olga Panidova, Parsons safety engineer; Oleg Pakhomov, Parsons safety engineer (Industrial); Liliya Amburtseva, Parsons safety engineer; Alexander Bakharev, Parsons safety engineer (Electrical); Gary Adams, Parsons safety manager; Vera Levertova, Parsons safety engineer; Svetlana Obukhova, Parsons safety engineer; Aleksander Bekryashov, Parsons safety engineer; Lubov Kozheikina, Parsons safety translator; and Andrey Baida, Parsons safety engineer (Fire). Not pictured: Maksim Nikitin, Parsons safety translator and Ildar Zainullin, Parsons safety engineer.

Spiral 1.2 launches - Spiral 1.1 appraisal period closed Oct. 31

Oct. 1, 2006 marked the launch of Spiral 1.2 of NSPS, with more than 66,000 civilians scheduled to convert to the new personnel system by the end of January 2007. Huntsville Center is scheduled to convert with the pay period beginning Jan. 21.

Organizations in Spiral 1.1 completed the first performance appraisal period on Oct. 31, and employees will receive the first performance-based payouts in January.

DoD will grant all eligible Spiral 1.1 employees the equivalent of the across-

the-board base pay increase and locality pay increase that will be received by General Schedule employees in January.

Eligible employees with

performance ratings above unacceptable will receive these payouts in the form of rate range and/or local market supplement adjustments. Employees who convert to NSPS in Spiral 1.2 between October 2006 and January 2007 will



automatically receive the January 2007 pay increase (or equivalent).

The NSPS Web site at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps> now includes a new feature accessible from the home page. "And the Answer Is" highlights important questions and answers on topics of interest identified by DoD employees, supervisors and others interested in NSPS.

As the featured Q&A is updated to cover a new topic, the previously featured Q&A will be added to the NSPS FAQ page at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/faqs.html>.

Employee sets state long distance cycling record

By Michelle Harlan
Public Affairs Office

Sept. 23, 2006, may have been an ordinary Saturday for most of us, but one Huntsville Center employee was busy setting a new state record for long distance cycling.

Rodney Darby, a civil engineer in the Site Development Branch, Engineering Directorate, woke up that morning in hopes of setting the record for the overall fastest time as well as the record time for men ages 50 to 59 on the south-to-north Tennessee cross-state ride under the guidelines set by the Ultra-Marathon Cycling Association (UMCA).

After training for and successfully completing a six-day ride along the 469-mile Blue Ridge Parkway in 2005 with his son Anthony, Darby was ready for a new challenge. An avid cyclist since buying his first 10-speed in high school, Darby and Todd Watts, Civil Structures, Engineering Directorate, set up stationary bikes in the fitness center to train indoors until the seasons changed in favor of outdoor riding.

With a crew assembled, consisting of Watts (serving as the UMCA official), Darby's son and his wife in the support vehicle, he set off from Highway 231 at the Tennessee-Alabama state line at 6:54 a.m. According to Darby and the UMCA guidelines, riders must



Courtesy photo

Rodney Darby, a civil engineer at the Huntsville Center turns onto Highway 231 to begin the race hoping to set the record for the overall fastest time for a south-to-north Tennessee cross-state ride. He completed the 121.5 mile journey in six hours and 35 minutes.

adhere to all traffic laws when attempting a biking record.

"My wife and I had driven the route the previous weekend and counted 50 traffic lights, three four-way stop signs and six turns," Darby said. "You had to follow all traffic light signals and stop at each one or run the risk of [time] deductions from the UMCA."

Weather forecasts called for thunderstorms, but the skies remained clear. "I was prepared for the worst. Luckily, except for some rain around Murfreesboro, Tenn., the weather was perfect during the ride."

As a native Tennessean, Darby liked the idea of holding a record from his home state. He stayed motivated during the trip by encouragement from his son, wife, and even passing motorists and pedestrians. "It's amazing how much energy you can derive from

someone yelling 'Good Luck' out a car window," Darby said.

"The challenge and competitiveness of it, and just seeing if I could do it," were also motivators for Darby.

At exactly 1:30 p.m. Darby crossed the Tennessee-Kentucky state line at Highway 31/Highway 231, completing the 121.5 mile journey at an official time of six hours and 36 minutes. "It was a flawless record attempt," Watts said. Other than fatigue from not consuming enough calories during the ride and getting leg cramps near the end of it, Darby said he "felt great and was ready to try it again."

Currently, Darby is training for a new cycling record that will take place in June 2007. As part of a four-member team, they will attempt to set the record for a non-stop relay along the

Blue Ridge Parkway in just over 24 hours straight.

"I am looking forward to it. The Blue Ridge Parkway is my ideal location to bike. It begins in North Carolina and ends in Virginia, and there are no stoplights. It's wide open and has tremendous views. It's gorgeous."

He also plans to set a record for the south-to-north Mississippi cross-state ride in the fall, and said he would try to defend his south-to-north Tennessee record "if someone beat it."

Darby hopes to ride as long as he can. "I just love it. It's fun to get out and see how far you can go. I get a buzz out of it." His advice to other cyclists aiming to set a record is to "Do it! If you like biking, I think you would love it and you'd want to do another."

For more information on marathon cycling and the UMCA, visit their Web site at <http://www.ultracycling.com>.

Huntsville Center commander visits disposal facility

Jimmy Martin, left, briefs Col. Larry D. McCallister, commander, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, and Pat Haas, director, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, Huntsville Center, during a visit to the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) Dec. 6, 2006. Lt. Col. Phillip Trued Jr., commander of the activity, is pictured far right. The ANCDF is one of six chemical weapons disposal facilities designed and built by the Huntsville Center. It was completed in 2001 at a cost of \$340 million. To date the facility has destroyed 142,428 GB munitions and 874,436 pounds (96,246 gallons) of GB nerve agent, and 18,124 VX rockets and 20,690 gallons of VX.



Photo by Jeremy W. Guthrie, Westinghouse Anniston Protocol Office

Local engineer named Miss Black Alabama USA 2006

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Miss Black Alabama USA 2006 is a civil engineer at the Engineering and Support Center, proving you can be smart and beautiful.

Arnecia Bradley of the Huntsville Center's Engineering Directorate competed against five other Alabama women in the pageant and was selected to represent Alabama at the upcoming Miss Black USA Pageant June 2 in The Gambia, West Africa.

The Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant was founded in 1984 to advance educational and professional opportunities for women of African-American descent. Its foundation was built on integrity and unity among African-American women. (See www.missblackusa.org for more information.)

"The pageant historically has been

held in Washington, D.C., but in 2007 it is in The Gambia," Bradley said. "It will be a great trip, but many of my family and friends will not be able to attend. Nevertheless, we begin in D.C. with three days of personal interviews, and then we leave from there to go to The Gambia."

The road to being named Miss Black Alabama USA was not the typical beauty pageant — they didn't have an official pageant. The Alabama contestants sent application packets to the Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant headquarters in Washington, D.C., and participated in numerous interviews.

The packets included each contestant's platform; talent — Bradley will perform a comedic monologue; background; academic achievement; and community involvement.

"It is with great pride that I can tell you Arnecia was the best candidate to

represent the lovely state of Alabama," said Karen Lyew, executive director and chief financial officer, Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant and Foundation. "Arnecia stood out in the process because of her intelligence and her confidence. She was able to clearly articulate her passions and goal in life along with her Platform: Math and Science Literacy: Unlocking the Doors for Educational Opportunity. Considering we are a scholarship pageant, education is our primary focus."

"This is overwhelming; it all happened so fast," said Bradley, 25, who won her first pageant, Little Miss College Station, when she was 4 years old. "I have wanted to participate in this pageant for two years. I first heard about it from a friend in Chicago; then a year ago I met Miss Black Georgia.

"It means a lot to me to be representing the state of Alabama," she said. "It's a great honor — especially since I am from Arkansas! I feel we all have something we can bring to the community. I thought this was a way I could bring my platform to the community.



Photo by Debra Valine

Arnecia Bradley, Miss Black Alabama USA 2006

Ethics Corner

A new year begins at Huntsville Center

By Margaret Simmons
Office of Counsel

Well, it is now 2007 and we are starting a new calendar year and are one fourth of the way into our fiscal year. There is a lot of activity here at Huntsville Center and we really didn't have a quiet December. Some programs have not slowed down since September, because all the work that was awarded on the contracts has to be executed.

I just want to encourage everyone to continue to come to Office of Counsel when you have ethics questions. We can give you advice in advance which will protect you. This is the one area where there is no forgiveness after

the fact, so it is important to talk with us first.

Please keep in mind a couple of things we have talked about over the year. There is information that is meant to be shared only with government employees. Be aware of where you are and whether or not a contractor can hear your conversation. If the information is not to be shared, then take your conversation to an office with a door, or to another area.

If you are a contracting officer's representative (COR), please make sure you are familiar with the contract and the requirements. Know your responsibilities and your limitations. The Contracting Officer is only a telephone call away if you need him/her to do something quickly that is outside your area of responsibility. You are

important since you are the person seeing and hearing the day-to-day activity occurring. You can help us avoid problems by letting us know if there is an issue early on. Many issues can be resolved quickly and do not turn into problems. Continue to be diligent and if you have questions, ask. Office of Counsel will help if we can.

I hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday. For some who have been on leave two or three weeks, it will be hard to jump back into the thick of things. Just remember that this has been a busy time and work continued even while many employees were not here. Be sure to check in and see what has been happening. I look forward to another busy and productive year!

Etiquette

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up anywhere.

"You don't know where that e-mail is going to go," Samuelson said. "My e-mail message might go to people it was never intended for and it might offend them."

Even if the message itself doesn't end up in a wrong inbox, it is still archived and doesn't just go away.

E-mails sent through government channels and addresses are government property and because of that are subject to subpoenas and requests from legitimate groups and agencies, Samuelson said.

Samuelson also stressed simpler etiquette-related things for people to remember when dealing with e-mail, like avoiding chain letters, making sure that e-mails are written professionally

and not writing e-mails while angry.

"You shouldn't be emotional when writing an e-mail," Samuelson said because that angry e-mail will be archived and never go away.

Anyone with questions about the appropriateness of an e-mail or message can ask either someone in the Information Management Directorate or the Office of Counsel before sending it.

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