



US Army Corps
of Engineers™

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Huntsville Center

Bulletin

*Mark your
calendar now...*



**Combined
Federal
Campaign**

Oct. 6 - Dec. 12

Kickoff

**Oct. 6
2 p.m.
cafeteria**

Bake Sale

Oct. 6

Jail

Oct. 15

Golf Tourney

Oct. 23

**5K Run & 2.22
mile walk**

Oct. 30



Photo by Walter Zange

Events speak louder than words

It only took seconds for the fire that started in Walter Zange's living room to sweep through his house and destroy it and all his family's belongings. Fortunately he had an escape plan that saved the lives of his wife and daughter. For more, see page 6.

Medical Facilities celebrates 30th anniversary Oct. 1

**By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office**

Some 30 years ago, the Department of Defense recognized the need for one single office to handle all medical facility design work assigned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in an effort to hold down the cost of providing military health facilities.

That office evolved into today's Medical Facilities Mandatory Center of Expertise and Standardization (MX), assigned to the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville.

The MX celebrated its

30th anniversary Oct. 1.

Since its inception, the MX has provided professional, multi-disciplinary technical support services to approximately 425 medical



See *MX celebrates* on page 8

Commander's thoughts

Well, team, you've done it again. I'm proud of you. Thanks to all of you, we had a great year and a super year-end. I know many of you put in long hours to meet our year-end goals, and I appreciate it. Although the final numbers won't be in for a little while, Huntsville Center obligated an estimated \$1.4 billion in 4,968 new contract actions. That is a record high for the Center! Well Done!!

With fiscal year 2008 out of the way, we can all relax a little bit and start regrouping for fiscal year 2009. Huntsville Center remains very busy with ongoing and emerging projects. I ask you to remember that work is only one part of your life; you also have your home life. The holidays will be upon us before you know it. Please don't wait too long to take your use-or-lose leave.

On Oct. 1, the Medical Facilities Mandatory Center of Expertise and Standardization celebrated its 30th anniversary! Congratulations. Since its inception in 1978, the MX has supported approximately 425 medical treatment or medical research facility

projects totaling more than \$10 billion.

On Oct. 6, we will kick off the Combined Federal Campaign. Festivities will take place in the cafeteria starting at 2 p.m. Our chairperson, Yazmine Gerousis, has put together a program that will include motivational speakers, a video and entertainment by Benny Pitsinger. Also that day, the CFC key workers will conduct a bake sale to get us on our way to reaching our \$75,000 goal. If you have not already volunteered to bake something for the sale, you can do so by e-mailing Angel Lucke or Becky Proaps. And, if you're not a baker, just remember to bring money! Other activities this year will include the CFC jail, another bake sale, a golf tournament, a 5K run/walk, and a chili cook-off/bingo event. Look for information about each event in your e-mail and on the monitor in the lobby. Each organization has designated key workers who will have the campaign literature and your pledge form. If

you do not receive your literature and pledge form, please ask for them.

Your contributions are vitally important and go a long way toward helping charitable efforts worldwide.

Seven years ago Oct. 6 was the start of Operation Enduring Freedom, the multinational coalition military operation initiated to counter terrorism and bring security to

Afghanistan in collaboration with Afghan forces. OEF operations led to the collapse of the Taliban regime, and helped bring a measure of security and stability to Afghanistan for the first time in a generation. OEF forces continue to engage Taliban remnants and other extremists.

Just as operations continue in Afghanistan, operations continue in Iraq. Huntsville Center's Ordnance and Explosives Directorate recently has been working with the Multi-National



Col. Larry D. McCallister

See Commander on page 4

Hails and farewells

Welcome to new employees —

Tracey Berger, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Sarah E. Coleman**, Management Review Office; **Debra LaManche**, Management Review Office; **Richard E. Locklair**, Contracting Directorate; **Ashley McDonald**, Engineering Directorate; **Mona Neal**, Contracting Directorate; **Steven Richards**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Louise Steil**, Contracting Directorate; **Susan Turley**, Office of Counsel; and **William Wallace**, Contracting Directorate.

Farewell to Terry Boesch, Contracting Directorate; **Deborah Bogema**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Robert Bohannon**, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; **Robert Britton**, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; **Richard Dooley**, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; **Mark Fleming**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Robert Pollock**, Information Management Directorate; **Brittany Rich**, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; **Cynthia Tolle**, Contracting Directorate and **MacKeshia Wilson**, EEO Office.



US Army Corps of Engineers™

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BULLETIN

Commander..... Col. Larry D. McCallister
Chief, Public Affairs..... Debra Valine
Editor..... Becky Proaps

The Bulletin asks:

What is your favorite charity and why ?



Joy Rice
Contracting
Directorate

My favorite charity is Meals on Wheels. This charity is important because of what they do—they serve hot meals to the elderly. I live in a very rural area, where there is a great need for these services. With the economy being the way it is right now, things are tough for persons who may be on a fixed income, especially the elderly. My folks are in this category, and although they don't need the organization's services right now, they may later. It's good to know that Meals on Wheels is available to them.

My favorite charity is the American Cancer Society. I lost my Aunt Doris to cancer of an unknown primary seven years ago, and I really appreciate all the work the society does for cancer patients and their families.



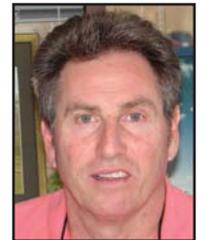
Leigh Young
Engineering
Directorate



Alicia Wilson
Business
Management
Office

One of the charities I donate to yearly through CFC is the American Cancer Society. I have had members of my family and friends stricken with this disease. I hope that my donation will help in the fight against cancer and help to find a cure.

I have several charities I believe are exceptional but I will give you two. One local charity I have always been impressed with is the Big Oak Boys and Girls Ranch that John Croyle runs in Etowah County. I think it is a special place and has really done a lot of good for kids in North Alabama and elsewhere. The other is St. Jude's in Memphis. Unfortunately I've had personal experience with friends who have had children who have gone there and the care that both the children and the families have received is exceptional.



William Johnson
Chemical
Demilitarization
Directorate



Terry Stroschein
Chemical Demilitarization
Directorate, Blue Grass
Resident Office

My favorite charity is the Christian Children's Fund. CCF provides poverty relief and hope for children all over the world including the U.S. CCF sponsors programs for early childhood development, education, health and sanitation, sustainable livelihoods and emergency disaster relief. Children are our future, and I believe we need to do all we can to help in this area.

I would not call it a charity, but a scholarship program created by Giattina Fisher Aycok Architects in Birmingham, Ala. The firm (GFA) seeks out Birmingham-area minority high school students who are interested in the field of architecture. If a high school student shows an aptitude and desire, GFA puts them through the architecture school of their choice with scholarships and offers them intern work during the summer and a job after graduation. GFA has helped more than 20 minorities study architecture at Auburn University, Mississippi State University, Tuskegee University, Notre Dame and Southern University. I was not a recipient of the scholarship program but I know several persons who took advantage of the scholarship program and are successful architects today because of the program.



Juan Pace
Engineering
Directorate

Thanks in advance for supporting CFC

By Skip Vaughn
Redstone Rocket editor

The music played, the dancers danced and the speakers spoke. Now it's up to the members of Team Redstone to respond as they always have before.

The 2008 Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign kicked off Sept. 15 in Bob Jones auditorium (on Redstone Arsenal). The annual fundraising drive runs from Oct. 6 through Dec. 12 with a \$2 million goal.

"We would like to say thank you in advance for your efforts and all that you do to ensure the success of our campaign," said Donna Johnson, chairperson of the Local Federal Coordinating Committee for CFC.

Maj. Gen. Jim Myles, commander of the Aviation and Missile Command, is the campaign's honorary chairman.

"This is our main charity event where we have an opportunity to do some wonderful things," Myles said. Last year's campaign raised \$2,240,000 to surpass a \$1.9 million goal. Like last year, the 2008 theme is "Give Today — Change Tomorrow."

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville goal is \$75,000.

The kickoff's keynote speaker was Lee Marshall, founder of Kids to Love Foundation. She started her charity four years ago to help foster children; and it is participating in its first CFC.

The approximately 15,000 employees in 36 federal agencies can give to the charities of their choice. The federal workers are in six North Alabama

counties — Cullman, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall and Morgan — plus Lincoln County, Tenn.

They can select from the 180 local and 2,200 national and international organizations in the 2008 charity listing.

"Thanks to each of you for your support," Johnson told the hundreds of attendees at the kickoff. "We definitely could not do it without you."

Linda Merschman, Resource Management Directorate, Huntsville Center, opened the kickoff with the National Anthem. She also received a coin from Myles during the event. The Liberty Belles dance team from Liberty Middle School also performed.

Everyone can contribute by cash or check. Federal employees can give through payroll deduction. Contractors are not solicited but they also can give cash or checks.

All campaign materials will be distributed to Huntsville Center employees on or before Oct. 6.

For more information, call Yazmine Gerousis, 895-1683, or Debra Valine, 895-1691, at the Huntsville Center, or the CFC Office at 876-1037.



Photo by Joe Ramirez, Redstone Arsenal Photo Lab

Linda Merschman, Resource Management Directorate, sings the National Anthem at the Combined Federal Campaign kickoff celebration Sept. 15 at Bob Jones auditorium.

Commander

continued from page 2

Forces-Iraq to stand up Task Force Safe in response to the significant issue of electrical shock, electrocutions and fires in facilities built or occupied by U.S. Forces in Iraq. Task Force Safe employees will conduct electrical, fire and safety inspections of all buildings occupied by U.S. forces in Iraq. MNF-I requested Corps support in executing this mission. As MNF-I was standing up the command cell in Iraq to oversee this operation, the Coalition Munitions Clearance

Program from Huntsville detached two personnel from our operations in Iraq, Robert Jolley and John Gardner, to help stand up the organization. Jolley and Gardner assisted TF Safe for approximately 30 days and were noted by the TF Safe commander as being critical to the successful initiation of this mission. Current actions involve the Corps mobilizing a contractor with approximately 70 electricians and 37 fire protection specialists to be located throughout Iraq. The Corps also will be sending forward approximately 20 government

electricians for oversight. With Huntsville's help, the TF Safe command cell in Iraq is now ready to receive the contractor personnel and push them out to the operating sites.

October is also very important on the personnel front. Self-assessments from NSPS employees are due to supervisors no later than Oct. 7. Pay pool panels will convene later in the month and into early November to make final determinations as to ratings and payouts. This is our second round of appraisals under NSPS so it should be

a little easier than it was last year.

Significant observances for October include the Navy's Birthday and Columbus Day, both occurring on Oct. 13 this year, Hispanic-American Heritage Month continues through Oct. 15, and Halloween is Oct. 31 — watch out for trick-or-treaters!

Remember to stay safe in all you do. Fiscal year '09 looks to be just as busy for Huntsville Center as '08 was. We need each and every one of you to keep Huntsville Center great!

Center helps design Emergency Services prototype at Fort Bragg

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

When military leaders at Fort Bragg, N.C., decided in February 2006 to build a new firehouse, nearly everyone involved wanted a “green” building.

Architects, engineers and contractors came together to plan a \$2.7 million emergency services building that would gain platinum certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.

“If the CES (Community Emergency Services) station at Fort Bragg is certified, it will be the first of its kind in the Army to date,” said Rich Schneider, an architect with the U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Lab.

Among the benefits of having green buildings are lower operating costs and increased conservation of energy and water, being healthier and safer for occupants and a visible demonstration of an organization’s commitment to environmental stewardship.

Key players from the Army Fire and Emergency Services at the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management; Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville — decided the Fort Bragg CES station will be built according to the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED program standards. The prototype is based largely on current fire station standards, but with modifications based on cost and environmental impact.

Bruce Park, chief, Logistics Services Office and chief of Army Fire and Emergency Services at the ACSIM, is the customer for the project. Park and his organization want an Emergency



BIM rendering courtesy of Huntsville Center Engineering Directorate

This is a Building Information Model (BIM) of the new emergency services facility being built at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Services Station (ESS) that will act as a combined fire, police and emergency medical service station.

Huntsville Center is the Corps’ Center of Standardization for fire and emergency facilities.

Annette Stumph, Construction Engineering Research Laboratory, and Mannette Messenger, Installation Management Command-South, were instrumental in the programming, design and development of this cutting-edge facility. The ACSIM proponent is Vincent Kam, chief, Engineering Branch.

Juan Pace and Chris Shepherd, architects in the Huntsville Center’s Architectural Branch, said the designs changed a bit over time largely due to space constraints.

“The building’s size was definitely a challenge in regard to design,” Shepherd said. “It’s equally difficult to take a space that is too small for a standard fire and MP (military police) standalone facility and reduce the scope to match the DD 1391.”

Shepherd said his primary goal is to make sure the organization’s need for both a budget-friendly and eco-friendly facility are met.

Pace took part on the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) team during the latter design charrettes. Pace said the team was led by Messenger, and was comprised of engineers,

architects, master planners, sustainability planners and modelers who came with experience, ideas and technologies that could be used to earn LEED-NC 2.2 platinum certification for the facility.

“Initially, we’d hoped to have a two-story building and a pole, but this was changed during the last charrettes. The team ended up with a design that is safer for workers,” Pace said. “It was also decided that Huntsville Center architects wouldn’t be doing the designs.”

Richard Grulich, chief of the Huntsville Center’s Architectural Branch, said an outside firm that specializes in doing environmentally friendly construction will be the architect-engineer as they try to make new “greener” standards for the ESS buildings. Grulich said this would allow them to capture new eco-friendly methodologies and systems into the standards for the facility.

“Our main focus is to identify means of offsetting certain expenses with savings in other areas and spot opportunities for synergies in the project,” Shepherd said. “Clever waste management and disposal techniques are definitely a plus in this type endeavor.”

Sustainable facilities result in reduced operational costs; enhanced health, well-being and productivity of building

See ESS prototype on page 11

Be prepared with escape plan, practice

By Becky Proaps
Public Affairs Office

It only takes a few seconds for a fire to destroy everything you own but if you have an escape plan, your most cherished “possessions” — your family — will survive to tell the story.

Just ask Walter Zange, a safety and occupational health specialist in the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise, who lost the majority of his family’s possessions in a devastating house fire in September. An electrical short in an unused electrical outlet in the living room most likely caused a spark and caught the couch, curtains and wall on fire. Zange’s wife Shirley and soon to be 4-year-old daughter Elizabeth were upstairs on the third floor of the house when the smoke detector went off.

Fortunately, because Zange had an escape plan his wife and daughter escaped unharmed.

“You have to have an escape plan and you have to practice it,” Zange said. “I bought a fire ladder about five, six months ago and checked all the smoke detectors. Two of the three smoke detectors didn’t work so I replaced the batteries. If the smoke detector hadn’t been working in the living room, by the time the smoke reached the bathroom where my wife was, it could have easily been too late.”

He stressed that just having the ladder and smoke detectors aren’t enough. It is important to practice different scenarios — to have multiple plans for different situations. The family had a plan that could apply if everyone was home and they had a plan for the times Zange might not be home. It just so happened Zange was at work and his 6-year-old son Walter was at school when the fire occurred.

It is also important to know how everyone will react in a time of crisis.

“You have to find out if someone is going to freeze up on the ladder. My



Photos by Walter Zange

This is what remains of Walter Zange’s front door entranceway, top, and family room after a fire swept through his home in September.

wife is terrified of heights so I had to coach her into getting onto that ladder when we practiced. If someone can’t do it, you have to figure out another way to get them out of the house. The children also have to know exactly what to do,” Zange said. “One night after the children went to bed, I set off the smoke detector and we practiced. We actually went down the fire ladder, down the side of the house. My daughter did exactly what she was supposed to do when this happened. As soon as she got down she went straight to the mailbox and waited for her mom.”

Zange reiterated several key points in developing an escape plan and in preparing for such an event. He said finding the correct window for the fire ladder is very important. It should be hung from a window above a flat, straight portion of the house because it is very difficult to climb out over a

garage. If you have small children keep a good, strong rope with the ladder so that you can tie the rope around their waist to either lower them down or as a safety precaution if they are able to climb down the ladder. Have a place to meet after each person gets out of the house. If everyone meets in a central location, accountability is much easier. Also take an inventory of personal belongings, furniture and other valuable items in the house and keep it in a safe place. A CD or photographs in a safe deposit box, a fire-proof safe or with relatives will make the inventory process with the insurance company much easier.

Although this was a tragic event in the Zanges’ lives he expressed his appreciation and gratitude for all the generosity and kindness he received from Huntsville Center employees and especially to David Becker, the organizing force behind the donations.

“It has been amazing at the amount of people who have come out to help and have donated. Everyone gets wrapped up in their own lives; you almost lose faith in humanity until something like this happens. The numbers of people who have donated money, time and clothes — it’s overwhelming,” Zange said. “And Dave Becker headed up everything. He was at my house half an hour after I got the phone call. He pretty much took the bull by the horns and coordinated everything so I wouldn’t have a million phone calls coming. He has made my life so much easier. If not for him, things would have been much more difficult.”

Unfortunately Zange isn’t the only Huntsville Center employee who has experienced such a tragedy. Brandon Hunt, Contracting Directorate, lost almost everything in an apartment fire a few months ago that started with a cigarette, cardboard boxes and packing paper in his next door neighbor’s apartment.

“I will never forget that day. It was about 3 or 3:30 in the afternoon. I was in a rush to try to get something done when my cell phone kept ringing. I was hoping

Home Fire Safety Do's & Dont's

- DO install a smoke detector on every level.
- DO plan your escape routes in case fire does strike.

Bedroom

- DON'T smoke in bed.
- DON'T place heaters within three feet of flammable materials.
- DON'T use heaters to dry clothes.
- DON'T use extension cords with portable heaters.
- DON'T leave heaters unattended or sleep while they are on.
- DO unplug heaters after you turn them off.

Living/Family Room

- DON'T put ashtrays on chairs or sofa arms. DON'T leave unattended cigarettes burning in ashtrays.
- DON'T staple electrical cords to walls or otherwise pierce the insulation.
- DON'T run electrical cord under rugs, over nails or in high traffic areas.
- DO clean chimneys yearly.

Kitchen

- DON'T leave food unattended on the stove. If you must leave the kitchen, take a utensil along as a reminder.
- DON'T cook while wearing sleeves that can dangle near burners.
- DON'T let grease build up on your stove or oven.
- DON'T overload electrical outlets with appliances.
- DON'T let curtains hang near a stove or range.
- DO check the kitchen before bed. Oven off? Coffee pot unplugged

Don't be one of the 4,500 Americans who die in fires every year. Follow these easy tips to stay safe in your home.

Post 9-1-1 and your doctor's phone number on each phone in the house.

General Prevention Checklist

General Safety

- SMOKE DETECTORS near bedrooms and on every level. SMOKE DETECTORS' batteries tested monthly.
- 911 — know when to call for help ... however, if in doubt call.
- Doors, hallways and stairs clear of obstructions.
- two- or three-story homes, have an alternate means of escape in the event the stairs are blocked such as an escape ladder.

Electrical Safety

- No flammable liquids stored near ignition sources.
- No frayed or cracked electrical cords.
- No overloaded electrical outlets or extension cords.
- No electrical cords near sink or stove.
- All fuses in fuse box are correct size and rating.
- All outlets have cover plates and no exposed wiring.

Alternate Heating Safety

- Plug heaters directly into wall socket and unplug when not in use.
- No alternate heaters placed where they can be knocked over.

Kitchen Safety

- No small pans on large burners or large pans on small burners.
- Do not use dish towels as pot holders.
- Turn pot handles away from front of stove.



it could wait, but after three or four calls I decided I had better call back. It was the apartment management office calling me saying there had been a fire and there was lots of damage," Hunt said. "My heart sank. Nothing in my apartment was burned, but most things were destroyed by water and smoke, which was everywhere. The roof above my apartment did burn in places, and there were

many places where the ceiling caved in with fallen tile and insulation everywhere. I lost about 95 percent of my things. All that was salvageable were bicycles and some CDs, records, audio and video tapes. I went in the apartment later to find a few things such as family heirlooms. Luckily I found most heirlooms, though not

all."

Hunt strongly recommends that anyone living in an apartment purchase renters insurance.

"It is not that expensive, but replacing lost furniture is. Also if you smoke please be vigilant about the possibility of starting a fire. It is a devastating experience and when Walter Zange came to thank me for the donation, I

could sense the pain in his voice, because it was in mine," Hunt said. "I am slowly getting over the pain. It is like you also lose a piece of your heart and soul when things you have purchased and treasured over the years are suddenly gone. Maybe the fiscal-year-end rush is taking my mind off of it some. But I wouldn't wish this on my worst enemy."

MX celebrates

continued from page 1

treatment or medical research facility projects totaling more than \$10 billion. The FY08 medical program alone is valued at approximately \$2 billion, exceeding any previous workload in the history of the organization.

“We have enjoyed our relationship with the MX and its various incarnations over the past 30 years, and look forward to the next 30 years,” said Col. Rick Bond, commander, U.S. Army Health Facilities Planning Agency. His agency identifies the need for medical facilities and works with the MX to develop designs for those facilities.

Allen Sharp, of the Wingle and Sharp architect-engineer firm, said it is always a pleasure to work with the MX, and he should know. His experience goes back 50 years — to before the establishment of the Medical Facilities Design Office.

“We have done a lot of work that came to us through Larry Delaney and the MX,” Sharp said. “All the work we have done with the MX, and even before with the MFDO, has been successful for us, and we have enjoyed working with the people because they are very knowledgeable and very professional.”

The MX is responsible for developing medical design and construction policies, technical guidance, procedures, criteria, specifications and standards that integrate medical unique design, construction and operational requirements. The organization is mandatory for all Department of Defense Medical (DoDM) medical and medical research facilities. The MX also is available on a reimbursable basis to provide support for other agencies.

The MFDO, originally a part of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, got its start Oct. 1, 1978, with four employees. Another seven employees were subsequently assigned or detailed to the office. Today the MX has 14

employees.

In 2000, as part of a Corps of Engineers reorganization, the MFDO was removed from the headquarters and made a part of the Huntsville Center, and is located at the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity in Alexandria, Va. The office was renamed the Medical Facilities Mandatory Center of Expertise and assigned to the Engineering Directorate.

The Medical Facilities MX became the Corps’ Center of Standardization in April 2005 and was renamed the Medical Facilities Mandatory Center of Expertise and Standardization.



Photo by Larry Delaney

Phil Hoge, left, Tony Hairston, John Phillips and Russ Thomason review a set of plans for the new \$800 million Fort Belvoir Hospital. The Medical Facilities Mandatory Center of Expertise and Standardization celebrates its 30th anniversary Oct. 1.

How the Medical Facilities MX developed

Oct. 1, 2008, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Medical Facilities Mandatory Center of Expertise and Standardization recognized the 30th anniversary of its creation. The following timeline illustrates how the Medical Facility Design Office evolved into the organization it is today.

- **February 1976** — The action to establish the office began when the House Congressional Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities became concerned with the cost of acquiring military health facilities. The House Subcommittee directed the Department of Defense to undertake a study whose prime purpose was to make recommendations that, if implemented, would hold down the costs of providing military health facilities and would at the same time provide an acceptable health care delivery capability.
- **August 1977** — The report titled, “Comparative Health Facility Acquisition Methodology Study (CHFAMS)” was issued. One of the primary recommendations was to designate a single office at which all medical facility design work would be consolidated within each military department (a Medical Facility Design Office).
- **Aug. 15, 1978** — The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Housing), implemented CHFAMS recommendation number 25, Centralized Medical Facility Design.
- **Sept. 18, 1978** — The Director of Military Programs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, established a centralized Medical Facilities Design Office (MFDO) in the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Military Programs Directorate.
- **Oct. 1, 1978** — MFDO started operating with four individuals.
- **January 1980** — Initial staffing completed.

Since its inception, the organization has provided professional, multi-disciplinary technical support services to more than 425 medical treatment and medical research facility projects valued at over \$10 billion.

Center employee motivates others with martial arts

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

There are guys who look like they might snap your spine if you cross them the wrong way, but Jeffrey Davis is not one of them. Soft-spoken, mild-mannered and conspicuously reluctant to punch other people, he gives little hint of the fourth-degree black belt lurking within. Davis is a world-class contender in national and international tae kwon do tournaments.

For the past three years, Davis has worked as a management analyst in the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center's Business Management Office. His primary responsibility lies in the area of manpower management. He manages the civilian work force structure at the Center, making sure there are a correct number of positions available to accomplish the mission. He is a 23-year retired veteran of the U.S. Army and a proud graduate of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Class 51 located at Fort Bliss, Texas.

Davis has a tremendous record as a competitor. His talent, dedication and experience are such that he has dominated virtually every contest he's entered. He is a member of the World Tae Kwon Do Federation, the U.S. Tae Kwon Do Union, the Amateur Athletic Union and the U.S. Specialty Sports Association.

"I've always been an athlete. I was very successful in playing basketball, football and track. I excelled in these sports, and was looking for another challenge," Davis said. "This is how I found tae kwon do. Well, maybe I should say it found me."

For Davis, the martial arts aren't about spine snapping or fighting. He said the point is the underlying values and principles he learned early on when, as a 15-year-old boy growing up in a small, south-west suburb of Chicago. Several neighborhood men taught martial arts to boys in the community to



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

Jeffrey Davis, left, spars with student Rachel Hernandez, who holds a black belt in tae kwon do.

keep them focused and out of trouble.

Davis said he had no idea how far he'd go in the sport. What originally began as an activity to keep him away from the mean streets of Chicago eventually altered his life forever. He continued in the sport throughout his high school years and entered the military. It was after he was transferred to Uijeongbu City, South Korea, that Davis began his formal training at a military base called Camp Red Cloud.

"It was at Red Cloud that I finally took the sport seriously. I learned that the five tenets of tae kwon do (courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self control, indomitable spirit) reflect that tae kwon do is a mental discipline as well as a physical one," Davis said. "Tae kwon do helps students develop improved awareness, confidence, focus, discipline, memory and respect. I knew I had found what would be my greatest challenge."

Davis said tae kwon do techniques can be used for self-defense. It's not a disabling or overly aggressive sport, but a harmonious one that brings people together, not harm them. Taking part in a competition is not to hurt or embarrass your opponent, but to test

your strength, in both physical and mental ways.

In the study of martial arts, few things are more important than mental awareness, having confidence and self-control, Davis said.

"The mental benefits of any martial art include helping each student improve in the areas of discipline, respect for oneself and others, focus or concentration, and self-confidence or self-esteem," Davis said. "The physical benefits are improved flexibility, coordination, balance, stamina, body tone, and, of course, in the ability to defend or protect oneself."

Davis said tae kwon do is a very competitive sport, with many different levels and degrees. Students can attain up to a ninth-degree black belt.

"It took me 20 years to earn my fourth-degree black belt due to the frequency of my military reassignments," Davis said.

Next summer Davis heads to Virginia to test for his fifth-degree black belt under the World Tae Kwon Do Federation.

Davis has earned a reputation as a top-notch coach, instructor and mentor. He has coached tae kwon do champions throughout the greater Huntsville-Madison County area; and is the founder of Rocket Tae Kwon Do, a martial arts program held in three locations. He teaches at the Redstone Youth Services, the University of Alabama in Huntsville Fitness Center and the Jones Valley Wellness Center, averaging more than 100 students over the course of a week.

"I really enjoy motivating others," Davis said. "I like developing their confidence level, teaching them proper self-control and helping them to recognize their own strengths and talent. Since no two students are the same, I cater the program of study according to an individual's skill level and ability.

Davis' program is very family-friendly and motivating for the young and old alike. Ramona Whitman, secretary in

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Center participates in eighth annual Adventures in Engineering Day

By Becky Proaps
Public Affairs Office

Area students used high-tech metal detectors to search Redstone Arsenal's main parade field Sept. 24 for buried "munitions" as part of the eighth annual Adventures in Engineering Day.

This event is geared for area high school juniors who are interested in pursuing college degrees in science and engineering, and it gives the students a chance to interact with several engineering agencies.

More than 180 11th- and 12th-grade students from Huntsville, Madison, Madison County, Limestone County and Arab high schools attended.

Huntsville Center employees met students as they arrived at the Huntsville

Center stop set up on Redstone Arsenal's main parade field to explain the Center's many diversified missions, the types of engineering positions available in the Corps, types of munitions and munitions safety.

Amy Walker, a geophysicist in the Geotechnical Branch of the Engineering Directorate, talked to the students about geophysical engineering and its wide variety of applications.

"I described my job as a geophysicist for the Corps of Engineers, and explained to them how we use geophysics to locate potentially hazardous munitions in order to remove them and reduce the risk to the public," Walker said. "It was also a chance for me to be an example for the female students and let



Photo by Jenny Stripling

Kenneth Shott, an ordnance and explosives safety specialist, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, explains how to use a *schondstedt* — a high-tech metal detector — to area high school students at the Adventures in Engineering Day activity on Redstone Arsenal Sept. 24.

them know that there are women engineers doing interesting work and if they apply themselves, there is nothing holding them back."

Wilson Walters, ordnance and explosives safety specialist with the Military Munitions Center of Expertise, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, showed the students several different types of munitions and explained how dangerous these items can be.

"I stressed the 3Rs of unexploded ordnance safety — Recognize, Retreat and Report — and reminded them that munitions can be found anywhere," Walters said. "Munitions can be and have been found on beaches, in grandparents' attics or basements, even in beaver dams."

For the hands-on activity, each student was handed a high-tech metal detector called a *schondstedt* and given the opportunity to simulate a search for buried "munitions."

Ken Shott, a safety specialist with Huntsville Center's Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, explained how the equipment is used to find buried munitions at formerly used defense sites and other locations across the country. The students headed to the parade field and with flags in hand searched for and marked the "munitions" they found, which were actually large timber spikes.

"The kids seemed to really enjoy using the *schondstedts* and searching for the buried spikes," Shott said. "I don't think a lot of the students knew about this kind of work before today."

The Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Command, the Missile Defense Agency, the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command, NASA - Marshall Space Flight Center, and the Missile and Space Intelligence Center, also participated.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Wilson Walters, left, an ordnance and explosives safety specialist, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, and Amy Walker, a geophysicist, Engineering Directorate, Geotechnical Branch, talk with area high school students about geophysics, career opportunities with the Corps, types of munitions and munitions safety during the Adventures in Engineering Day activity.

ESS prototype

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users; reduced material and energy use in both construction and operation; and reduced environmental impact on air, water, and habitat environmental and financial benefits to earning LEED certification.

Although this is a relatively new concept for the Army, there is a new policy for organizations to gain LEED certification.

Grulich said the LEED certification process can be lengthy, but it is definitely rewarding.

“There is extensive testing and re-testing, which includes a rigorous third-party commissioning process, offers compelling proof to you, your clients, your peers and the public at large that

you’ve achieved your environmental goals and your building is performing as designed,” Grulich said. “Getting certified allows you to take advantage of a growing number of state and local government incentives, and can help boost press interest in your project.”

Grulich said once the sustainable design components are first applied to the new CES buildings, they can be used as a guide for reworking the standards of other military construction plans, such as child care centers, fitness centers, Army Community Service centers and youth activity centers.

“When you pay to have a building certified as LEED, what you are buying is the

ability to market the certification,” Schneider said. Schneider was involved in the initial charrettes that specifically addressed design issues.

The design phase has ended, and construction of the building was scheduled to begin in September with completion in 13 months. Once operational, the new ESS building will be monitored for a year, and its costs and environmental impact will be compared to an existing fire station that was built on Fort Bragg in 2003. The cost of a standard fire station is about \$2.1 million and the estimated cost for a multipurpose “green” ESS building is approximately \$2.7 million.

In the U.S. and in a

number of other countries around the world, LEED certification is the recognized standard for measuring building sustainability. Achieving LEED certification is one of the ways an organization can demonstrate that a building project is truly green.

“The number of LEED-registered projects represents a small fraction of the hundreds of buildings under development in the Army,” Schneider said. “There is a current push within the Army to obtain the designation, since the Army now has a standard that after fiscal year 08, all facilities must be designed and constructed according to LEED Silver standard.”

Tae kwon do

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Ordnance and Explosives Directorate’s son, Miles, has been in Davis’ class since 2005. In the past, Davis allowed her to sit in on the class and participate with her son to become familiarized with the sport.

“Jeffrey is a good instructor. He is firm, but soft-spoken with the kids — very fair and patient,” Whitmore said. “I was very concerned about there being violence in the sport, so he allowed me to take part in a couple of classes to experience it for myself.”

Whitmore said Davis knows his students and really cares about their lives outside the sport, and is always concerned about their well-being.

Miles, has done exceptionally well in the program and will compete for his black belt title next year.

Tae kwon do is famed for its

employment of kicking techniques which distinguishes it from karate or kung fu. The art in general emphasizes kicks thrown from a mobile stance, employing the leg’s greater reach and power (compared to the arm). Traditional tae kwon do training generally includes a system of blocks, kicks, punches and open-handed strikes.

For Davis, tae kwon do is an analogy for his life. It has helped to define him as the type of person he is today; and to stay focused, grounded and humble.

Davis said he always finds a connection between himself and others. Tae kwon do has also given Davis a great sense of self-confidence, and it helps him to do his job better. He likes getting up and coming to work each day.

Davis has a passion for mentoring

others. He wants to stay involved in martial arts for as long as he can.

“I absolutely love what I do,” Davis said. “I get excited when I get a new student. I love inspiring people to feel good about themselves, I love to see the look on a child’s face when they finally overcome some of the fears that may come with the sport, and I am always amazed to see what they have learned over time.”

He said growth in the sport is largely because of tae kwon do programs like his that actively promote the sport.

“I tell my students they can do anything they want to do if they apply themselves,” he said. “Whether it’s in or out of the ring, their accomplishments can be unlimited. I can help them. In turn, I can keep the art alive through them.”

Ethics Corner

Riding in cars with ... contractors

Walter Roberts
Office of Counsel, Omaha

Questions about contractors and government employees riding in cars together arise frequently. This is because sharing transportation is encouraged by the media and by Army pronouncements as a way of saving gas and money, while cutting air pollution. At first blush, it just makes common sense. However, a deeper look indicates that it is actually a complex issue with a number of competing rules and concerns. This article will not tell you whether sharing a car is allowable or not. Our goal here is to introduce you to the legal concerns and encourage any sharing of transportation be discussed with your ethics counselor.

This question usually takes one of three forms:

- (1) Contractor offers a ride to a Huntsville Center employee in their official capacity.
- (2) Contractor offers a ride to a Huntsville Center employee in their personal capacity.
- (3) Huntsville Center employee in their official capacity offers a ride to the contractor.

(1) Contractor offers a ride to a government employee in their official capacity. The Joint Ethics Regulation (JER), DoD 5500.7-R, Section 4-100a, states that official travel by Department of Defense employees shall be funded by the government except where otherwise authorized by law. There are a number of possible “authorizations” depending on the facts of the particular travel. However, even if authorized, there are other issues related to sharing transportation. One concern is the appearance issue of a government employee accepting a favor from a contractor. There have been many complaints from other contractors (as well as other taxpayers) if they see their competitor riding in a cozy car with the contracting officer or technical representative. Another concern is that legally this is a gift from a contractor to the government. How can this be legally accepted and accounted for? Often it means the government employee will have to file a report on this “gift,” if they can even accept the ride. Finally, the contract provisions may have a lot of impact on this question. Was transportation for government employees purchased under the contract? Were joint trips foreseen by the provisions of the contract? This happens often in cases

where Huntsville Center employees are visiting contractor facilities.

(2) Contractor offers a ride to a government employee in their personal capacity. The law sees this as a gift made by a prohibited source to a government employee based on their position. Acceptance of such a gift is prohibited by federal law unless a specific exception to that rule applies. There are a number of such exceptions that may apply based on the specific fact situation related to each offer of travel. Of course, appearance of impropriety remains a concern here as well.

(3) Government employee in their official capacity offers a ride to the contractor. This raises the same “appearance” issues as when the contractor offers the ride to the employee. Further, it raises a number of contractual issues. If the government has already paid the contractor for the cost of their transportation, then our offer of a ride creates an illegal “windfall” for the contractor.

Maintaining your own transportation is the simplest answer. However, if the mission requires or suggests the sharing of transportation — see your Office of Counsel.

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