



US Army Corps
of Engineers

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Huntsville Center Bulletin

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Center of Standardization awards \$8.6 million contract for Fort Campbell Child Development Center

By Jenny Stripling
Public Affairs Office

Next year, life for Soldiers and their families at Fort Campbell, Ky., will become a little easier with the development of a new child development center for children ages 6 weeks to 5 years.

The Center of Standardization at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, awarded a contract July 18 for the child development center, ages 0-5 project, at Fort

Campbell to Nationview/Bhate JV III of Birmingham, Ala., in the amount of \$7,649,768.

Under the contract, 30 child development centers will be built over the next several years across the southern U.S., beginning with Fort Campbell, covering three age groups including 6 weeks to 5 years, 6-10 years and youth activity centers.

The child development centers and youth activity centers will be built according to an Army Standard which was signed in March by Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson,

assistant chief of staff for Installation Management. The standard simplifies construction methods and reduces construction costs.

The COS for child development centers will be out in the field for all design meetings when a geographic district is preparing to design a facility at an installation. They make sure the design meets the standards for such things as square footage per child and services offered.

"The ultimate goal is to have a safe, clean and

See *CDC* on page 10

Army announces new service uniform

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Out with the old, in with the blue. The Army has made it official, the green service uniform, which has defined the service since the mid-1950s, is on the outs.

In place of the green uniform will be a variation of the blue uniform, something many Soldiers already own. Official word on the new "Army Service Uniform," or ASU, was released Aug. 20 in a message to all Army activities. The message defines the wear policy and the "bridging" strategy for transition to the new uniform.

"It's a culmination of transformation efforts that started in 2004," said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston of the new

ASU. "We had three 'Class A' style uniforms, all the same style jacket, with just a different color — the policies on how we wore accoutrements on them were different. We asked the question — if we wear one only, which would it be? And the blue uniform was the most popular of the three."

The new ASU coat, similar to the existing blue coat, will be made of a wrinkle-resistant material and will have a more "athletic" cut.

Other changes to the uniform include authorization of a combat service identification badge to recognize combat service,



Photo by Sgt. Maj. Phil Prater

See *Service uniform* on page 15

The new Army uniform

Commander's thoughts

As you all have heard by now, Huntsville Center lost another great employee recently. Ken Haynes of the Electronic Technology Branch, Engineering Directorate, passed away in August. Ken was a great engineer and family man who served this Center well for many years. Please keep his family in your prayers. He will be missed.

In August, Huntsville Center hosted Maj. Gen. Don Riley, the deputy commander, USACE. It was his first visit to Huntsville Center. We gave him a windshield tour of Redstone Arsenal, visited the Learning Center and CEFMS offices, and briefed him on Huntsville Center's missions and challenges. He seemed impressed with the scope of work being accomplished by the Huntsville Center and acknowledged

the leadership role Huntsville Center plays in such endeavors as being the first organization to convert to NSPS, make the ACE-IT transition and enable log-in to CEFMS using the Common Access Card. He said headquarters knows we are down here because of the great work we do and the great reputation Huntsville Center has within the Corps.

Patriot Day is Sept. 11. It's been seven years since the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. We're still engaged in the Global War on Terror, but we are making advancements.

From the Huntsville Center

perspective, our work with the Coalition Munitions Clearance



Col. Larry D. McCallister

Program has been very successful. In fact, as this mission is winding down, the follow-on mission, Coalition Munitions Disposal (CMD), the mission to destroy old and/or damaged coalition munitions, starts as of Dec. 18. The team working this mission has done a truly spectacular

job reducing the amount of stockpiled ammunition accumulated by the former regime in Iraq — more than 400,000 tons! In September, we will begin the transition to turn over operation of the Bayji National

See *Commander* on page 3

Hails and farewells

Welcome to new employees —

Benita G. Davis, Contracting Directorate; **Dennis Glasser**, Management Review; **Joanne Greer**, Engineering Directorate; **Michelle Harlan**, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; **Adam Humphrey**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Edward Lawrence**, Management Review; **Donna R. McMullen**, Contracting Directorate; **Karyn Meeks**, Contracting Directorate; **Connor Owens**, Resource Management Directorate; **Bonnie R. Patterson**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Claude Reindl**, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate; **Kimberly Michelle Robinson**, Contracting Directorate; **Kenneth Salter**, Contracting Directorate; **William Sugg**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Harry Weise**, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, Blue Grass

Resident Office; and **Ramona Nicole Whitmore**, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate.

Farewell to Alan Ast, Engineering Directorate; **Roland Belew**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Amber Bower**, Business Management Office; **Lisa Burger**, Resource Management Directorate; **Lt. Col. James D'Arienzo**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Michelle Harlan**, Public Affairs Office; **James Hug**, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; **Brandy Hyche**, Contracting Directorate; **Gale Keshishian**, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate; **Glenn McMaken**, Engineering Directorate; **Monica Moody**, Contracting Directorate; **Heather Oden**, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; **Randolph Scott**, Contracting Directorate; **Gavin Smith**, Contracting Directorate; **Lawrence Werner**, Engineering Directorate and **Michael Williams**, Engineering Directorate.



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BULLETIN

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

The Bulletin asks:

Sept. 11, now called Patriot Day, marks the seventh anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. How has your life been affected by this event?

My life has definitely been affected both personally and professionally. I look at things differently. When traveling I am more aware of my surroundings and more cautious of things going on around me. Before 9/11 if I saw a box or suitcase in a stairwell or outside a building I would not think that it may be a bomb. But now it does cross my mind. I would not have thought anything odd about people taking pictures of a government building or facility.



James Steele
Engineering Directorate

I don't know if 9/11 really affected the way I live, although it has affected me emotionally and patriotically. It made me more aware of American pride. Before, I took everything for granted. Also, I do see how it has affected others, with them being more afraid about their safety. I never thought much about security before. Since I am an emotional person, when I see how it affects others, it affects me.



Dean Barker
Dell contractor

Since 9/11, I am more cautious, more concerned about our lifestyle in the U.S.A. I am concerned and worried about my safety and my children's safety in the future. It has definitely brought us (Americans) down to earth and reminds us that we are not invincible. No nation is invincible.



Dorothy Lewis
Executive Office

Commander

continued from page 2

Ammunition Depot to the Iraqi Army, which is another sign of progress.

There are still plenty of deployment opportunities for Huntsville Center employees to support GWOT with this mission, supporting Iraq or supporting Afghanistan. The workloads for Gulf Region Division and Afghanistan Engineer District are growing phenomenally and they need our help. If you are interested in such an assignment, talk to your supervisor or to me.

National Hispanic American Heritage Month is observed Sept. 15-Oct. 15 to honor the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens

who trace their ancestry to Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the Spanish-speaking countries of Central and South America. Contrary to popular belief, the word *Hispanic* does not refer to race, but is an ethnic term for diverse peoples of many races and origins who hold in common the Spanish language.

The ACE-IT refresh is just about complete. There are only about 53 computers that still need transitioning and some that need to be made completely functional. The refresh team will stay after it until all computers are working. Thanks for your patience.

Well folks, it's crunch time: the end

of the fiscal year and our busiest time of the year. Supervisors will begin the annual employee appraisal process. Employees need to submit their self-assessments to their supervisors by Oct. 7 so supervisors will have enough time to complete their portions. And we will be issuing contracts up until midnight on Sept. 30.

I know a lot of you will be working long, hard hours to meet the Center's goals. I want to thank you in advance for your support in these efforts. Huntsville Center continues to be a showpiece on how the Corps can accomplish great missions for the military forces and their families around the world.

An opportunity lost

By Kevin Healy
Engineering Directorate

Commentary

Most of us can recall exactly where we were or what we were doing on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001. After surgery to repair a broken wrist in August of that year, I arrived at the medical mall for my first physical therapy session a little before 9 a.m. The place was a buzz and most folks were glued to the televisions inside. I was informed by someone in the waiting room that a plane had hit the World Trade Center. I assumed it was a small plane and didn't think too much of it.

After returning to work, I started to get more of an appreciation for what had happened as I walked past the television in the cafeteria. Being from

New York originally and recalling that I had been on the top of the World Trade Center as a tourist in the mid-1980s, seeing the towers fall was a bit more personal for me.

In August, one of my family members found and sent me some pictures taken the afternoon I was at the World Trade Center. It was October 1986, and I was home from New Orleans visiting my family. My Dad and I spent my birthday roaming around Manhattan, to include a visit to the top observation deck of the WTC.

I recall it was 106 stories up. We later stopped in a shop down somewhere in the basement levels, enjoying a beverage before taking a train back uptown.

For those who never had the opportunity to do the "tourist thing" in New York City, I thought sharing the pictures would give you a perspective that was rare prior to 2001 and which will not be possible to enjoy again.

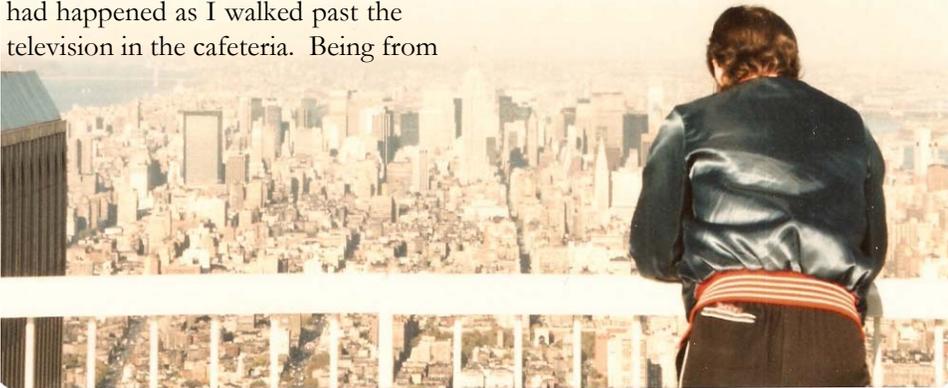


Photo by James. V. Healy

This is a view to the north of the World Trade Center. Note the Empire State Building at 12 o'clock; the George Washington Bridge to New Jersey at about 10-11 o'clock and the northeast tip of the second WTC tower.

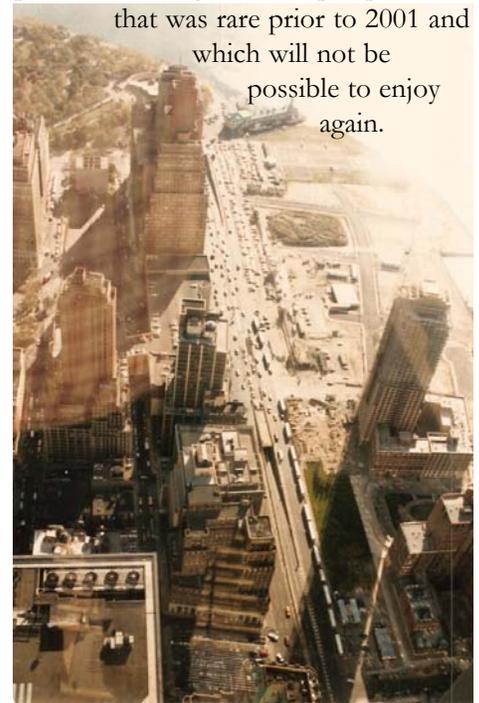


Photo by James. V. Healy

This photo was taken to the southwest looking down. Note the extreme southwest tip of Manhattan. The Hudson River is to the right.



Photo by James. V. Healy

This is a view to the southeast. The East River is below left with Brooklyn and Queens beyond. Way off in the distance is the Verrazano Narrows Bridge which connects Staten Island, right, with Brooklyn/Queens and Long Island, left.

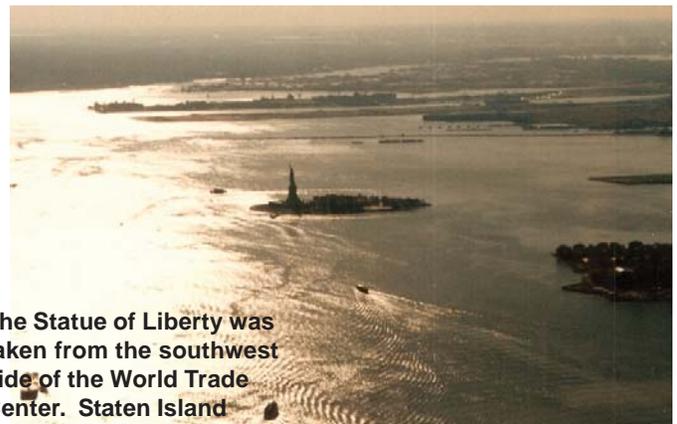


Photo by James. V. Healy

The Statue of Liberty was taken from the southwest side of the World Trade Center. Staten Island and New Jersey can be seen in the distance.

ANCDF begins last nerve agent munitions campaign

M.B. Abrams
Anniston Public Affairs Office

ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, Ala.

— The last nerve agent munition disposal campaign at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) began Aug. 2.

Following a planned, nine-week maintenance period of preparation, ANCDF employees have processed the first of several thousand M23 VX



Photo by Terry M. Sholin, Westinghouse Anniston

Casey A. Knighton, a Westinghouse Anniston employee and Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) munitions handler, removes the first VX-filled M23 land mine from its drum Aug. 2, as chemical munition disposal operations resume following a nine-week maintenance and change over period.

nerve agent-filled land mines.

Anniston Chemical Activity employees delivered the first 10 loads of land mines Aug. 1. Like 6,095 other deliveries of munitions from Anniston Army Depot storage igloos to the ANCDF, the deliveries were performed safely and without incident.

The ANCDF had been in a maintenance outage since May 24 to convert the plant from destroying VX-filled projectiles to the necessary configuration for destroying land mines. The change over work involved the removal of some equipment and the installation of new robotic mine-processing equipment. Employees were also trained on the proper and safe procedures to be used to safely dispose of the VX land mines.

“We have safely and successfully completed our sixth munition change over,” said Timothy K. Garrett, ANCDF government site project manager. “The plant and the personnel are ready to safely and successfully dispose of the VX land mines.”

During the early days of the year-long land mine disposal campaign, ANCDF will conduct a slow, steady



Photo by Terry M. Sholin, Westinghouse Anniston

Anniston Chemical Activity employees Raphael B. Nelson, left, and Daniel J. Morrow, forklift operator, safely move a pallet of VX-filled M23 land mines out of an Anniston Army Depot storage igloo on Aug. 1. The pallet was put in an Enhanced On-Site Container for movement to the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility for safe disposal the next day. The employees have Army-issued protective masks on as an added safety precaution.

ramp up to ensure safe operations take place in compliance with environmental permits and security requirements.

To date, ANCDF disposal operations have safely eliminated more than 48 percent of the munitions (more than 317,670 chemical munitions) and more than 46 percent of the agent stored at Anniston Army Depot.

USACE deputy commanding general visits Center

Maj. Gen. Don Riley, right, the USACE deputy commander since April, joins Col. Larry McCallister, Huntsville Center commander, Center directors and other Huntsville Center staff for lunch at a local restaurant during his visit Aug. 19. His one-day visit was filled with briefings about the Center's missions and visits to the USACE Learning Center and CEFMS offices.



Photo by Debra Valine

Defense Acquisition University professor, Huntsville Center learn from each other

By Becky Proaps
Public Affairs Office

It was a win-win situation for the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center Contracting Directorate and for the Defense Acquisition University.

Phyllis Roberts, a professor of Contracting at DAU South Region, recently completed a four-week developmental assignment at the Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center.

“I feel that after you’ve taught for three or four years and you’ve been out of contracting for three or four years then it is time to get back in the field and find out what’s going on,” Roberts said. “So this is really helpful to me.” She has been in contracting for 24 years — with the Navy, the Air Force, the Environmental

Protection Agency and now DAU for the past eight years.

Roberts attended meetings, reviewed performance work statements and acquisition plans, learned how Huntsville Center approached its mission, and then offered best practices by giving some tips on how the directorate can better manage its workload and also use some of the training she has developed for the contract specialists to use.

It’s also an excellent opportunity for DAU South Region.

“DAU South gets the opportunity to expose their professors of Contracting to the execution side of contracting — and they can take that current information back to the classroom where they train



Photo by Becky Proaps

Jennifer Staggs, left, and Marcus Adams, both with Contracting Directorate, discuss acquisition information with Phyllis Roberts, a professor of Contracting from Defense Acquisition University South Region. Roberts recently completed a four-week developmental assignment at Huntsville Center.

1102s (contracting specialists) across DoD (Department of Defense),” said Virginia Mitchell, chief, Pre-award Branch, Contracting Directorate. “Because we are a Center and not a District, the U.S. Army Engineering and

Support Center — Huntsville’s contracting mission in support of our programs is extremely broad (with most being national or global in scope) this experience is probably the

See DAU rotation on page 14

Chief of Engineers hosts first USACE global town hall

Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp hosted the first ever USACE-wide global town hall Aug. 5. Huntsville Center employees gathered in the cafeteria to watch and listen to the Chief’s opening comments live from the Summer Leaders Conference via a Webinar service.

Van Antwerp talked about the Corps’ new Campaign Plan, introduced the new look of the USACE Web site, provided updates about the Corps’ branding initiative and unveiled the new coin design. He also discussed two slogan possibilities during the town hall with “Building Strong” being selected before the Summer Leaders Conference ended.

For those who were unable to attend the town hall Webinar, it is available online until Nov. 3. Go to <http://www.visualwebcaster.com/event.asp?id=50402> to view the Chief’s comments and to read the draft campaign plan.

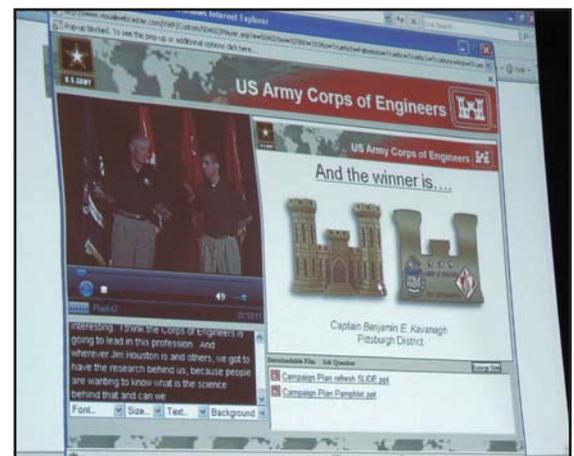


Photo by Becky Proaps

Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp hosts the first global town hall via a Webinar during the Summer Leaders Conference. During the town hall he honored the coin designer Capt. Benjamin E. Kavanagh of the Pittsburgh District, by presenting him with a coin.

Emerging leaders share leadership conference experience

The annual U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Summer Leaders Conference was held in Pittsburgh, Aug. 4-8, in conjunction with the USACE Emerging Leaders Conference. Chris Cochran, project manager in the Ordnance and Explosives Design Center, and Ryan Black, attorney in Office of Counsel, were Huntsville Center's 2008 emerging leaders. They have shared some of their thoughts and experiences about the conference here.

1. What was your most rewarding experience of the Summer Leaders Conference?

Probably the most rewarding experience was utilizing the leadership strengths I learned about to help plan and execute the presentation for the senior leaders.

2. Did the conference live up to your expectations? Were you surprised in any way about the conference?

I expected the conference to be some obtuse organizational behavior-speak, but was pleasantly surprised to see concrete ideas on how to use my leadership strengths and compensate for areas in which I am not as strong.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Ryan Black

3. What did you do to prepare for the conference? What were some of the highlights for you?

For the conference, I had to interview a senior leader in the Corps, fill out the Clifton Strengths Finder and Meyers-Briggs Surveys, and read "Good to Great". My favorite activity was the presentation, but I also enjoyed the team building activity. I sat at the table with Lt. Gen. (Robert) Van Antwerp and watched him draw his vision (literally draw his vision) of a sustainable future.

4. Would you recommend participating to others? Why?

I would definitely recommend the conference to those who are interested in the future of the Corps of Engineers. The conference really helps you understand more of what the Corps does globally.

5. Any thoughts about the conference or your experience that you would like to include?

Pittsburgh was a much nicer place than I had imagined it would be.

1. What was your most rewarding experience of the Summer Leaders Conference?

My most rewarding experience at the SLC was meeting so many bright, energetic people who are so very dedicated to the Corps of Engineers. This applies to both the ELC attendees and the SLC attendees.

2. Did the conference live up to your expectations? Were you surprised in any way about the conference?

The conference certainly did live up to my expectations. I was particularly impressed with the representatives from Gallup, Stosh Walsh and Ann Harbison, who facilitated the Talent to Lead portion of the ELC. I will continue to benefit from their discussions.

I was surprised and delighted by how much we all laughed — both at the ELC and at the SLC. Leadership is not totally about action and achievement; it is also about kindness, respect and good humor.

3. What did you do to prepare for the conference? What were some of the highlights for you?

We were required to read "Good to Great" by Jim Collins, to interview a local senior leader (I interviewed Charles Ford) and to interview an assigned senior leader who we would shadow during the SLC. I was assigned Andrew Constantaras from South Pacific Division. He has recently been promoted to the SES level and, by happy coincidence, is a good friend of Mr. Ford's — so I was immediately connected!

Because I was shadowing Mr. Constantaras during the SLC, I got to listen to several small discussions with Lt. Gen. (Robert) Van Antwerp. The Chief is developing the USACE Campaign Plan. It's in draft right now but we'll soon see the final version. During one of these small meetings, the Chief emphasized how important it was going to be to align our NSPS Objectives with the Goals and Objectives of this Campaign Plan. Considering his audience, I suspect this alignment will be most important for senior leaders but it will certainly be worth everyone's consideration.

4. Would you recommend participating to others?

I would highly recommend the ELC to anyone who has the opportunity to attend. You will learn a lot about yourself, about the great people who comprise the USACE senior leadership and about the issues at the highest level. And you will be inspired.

I cut short my vacation in Scotland by two days to attend this conference. But I wasn't really aware of how valued the conference is until I met Brett Cowan from Tulsa District. Brett's wife had a baby boy four days before he had to be in Pittsburgh for the ELC. Now that's dedication!



Photo by Becky Proaps

Chris Cochran

Center women honored during Women's Equality Day program

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

More than 100 Soldiers and Civilians from Team Redstone gathered in the Bob Jones Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal, Ala., for the 2008 Women's Equality Day program Aug. 20.

Ten Huntsville Center women were part of a "Tribute to Women" presentation to honor military and Civilian women from 1840 to present who have made a significant impact in the struggle for equality in the workplace by pioneering the way for others to occupy non-traditional jobs in fields that are traditionally held by males.

The 10-minute electronic display gave special recognition to extraordinary heroines of the women's rights movement in America who are a part of the Department of Defense and Team Redstone.

Among those honored from the Center were Dr. Michelle Crull, senior structural engineer; Debra Hendry,

civil engineer; Suzanne Murdock, chief of Military Munitions Center of Expertise; April Rafael-Adams, mechanical engineer (team leader); Beverly Richey, physical scientist; Marilyn Scott, architect; Linda Taylor, electrical engineer; Kimberly Torrance, electrical engineer; and Amy Walker, geophysicist; all from Engineering Directorate; and Jill Winsett, interior consultant and maintenance, a contract employee supporting the Logistics Management office.

Lt. Col. Carla Reed, chief, Army Equal Opportunity Branch, and keynote speaker, talked about the issues she faces in her current role, and how the decisions her office makes have significance in the struggle for equality in the workplace. She used the slide show as an example of how women have broken through the glass ceiling and achieved much success in all disciplines.

"The presentation was an excellent representation of how far the Department of Defense and the Army has grown in regard to equal employment for everyone. We (women) have reached beyond the typical stereotypes, and become the best that we can be," Reed said. "Part of my job as chief of the Army Equal Opportunity Branch is to remove any obstacles that may hinder women from entering any field of endeavor they choose. The Department of the Army is definitely a prototype for equality in pay."

Reed said diversity in the



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

Marilyn Scott, left, an architect, and Linda Taylor, an electrical engineer, both with the Engineering Directorate, attended the 2008 Women's Equality Day program held Aug. 20 on Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Both women were included in the "Tribute to Women" presentation during the program.

workplace is a growing concern for Army leaders.

"Men and women are different — with diverse needs," Reed said. "We must find a way to embrace and celebrate our differences, and understanding our communication styles is a step in that direction. Effective communication is an essential part of embracing this diversity and producing high performing teams."

Scott said it was an honor for her to be included in the slide-show presentation.

"I am pleased that Army leaders took time to celebrate Women's Equality Day," Scott said. "Being a part of this program was a great experience for me; especially to be recognized for my leadership within the Army and the Corps. Today's program was an excellent opportunity to show women in distinctive fields of discipline. To reminisce about the past can only give us a clearer idea of how far we've come."

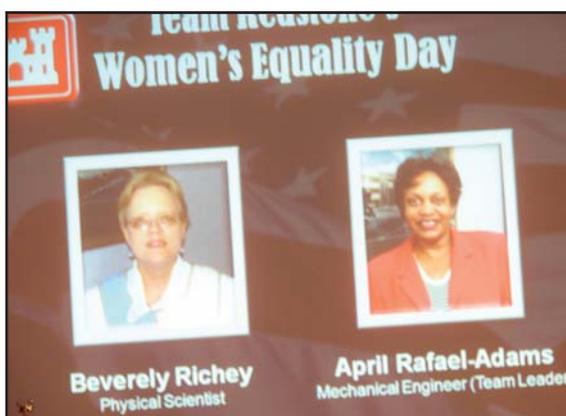


Photo by Jo Anita Miley

Beverly Richey, a physical scientist, and April Rafael-Adams, a mechanical engineer, both with the Engineering Directorate, were two of 10 Huntsville Center women included in a "Tribute to Women" during the Women's Equality Day program held Aug. 20 on Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Center well represented at DDESB Conference

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

INDIAN WELLS, Calif.

— Five hundred attendees from 20 countries attended the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board conference conducted Aug. 12-14 in Indian Wells, Calif.

It was the 80th anniversary of the Explosives Safety Board.

Nine U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Ala., employees participated in the conference, making presentations on the conference theme, Operationalizing Explosive Safety.

Huntsville Center presenters included Dr. Michelle Crull, a senior structural engineer, Engineering Directorate, who presented two papers at the conference: “Storage Method for Small Amounts of Linked 40mm Grenades (Drum Magazine)” and

“Methodologies for Calculating Primary Fragment Characteristics (The New, Improved DDESB Technical Paper 16)”; Tommy Hunt, the GIS Team Lead for Huntsville Center, who spoke on “Explosive Safety Siting Software for Army Garrisons in Installations”; and Bill Sargent, program manager of the Coalition Munitions Clearance Program, whose talk was about “Removing Improvised Explosive Device Threat Material in Iraq and the Safety Issues Involved.” Other presenters were Patrick Acosta, a senior structural engineer, who presented information on “Substantial Dividing Walls In Protective Construction”; Jim Manthey with the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise, who detailed “General Data Trends



Photo by Debra Valine

Susan Hamilton, Structures Branch, Engineering Directorate, right, talks with a visitor to the Huntsville Center exhibit at the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board conference Aug. 12-14, in Indian Wells, Calif.

Found From Final Site Inspection Reports”; and Susan Hamilton, an engineer in training, who shared information about the “Use of Sandbags for Mitigation of Fragmentation and Blast Effects Due to Intentional Detonation of Munitions”.

Jeff Coulston, chief of the Structures Branch, moderated a session on “Structural Design and

Response Models II”.

“This conference gives the explosives safety community an opportunity to come together every two years and share new ideas, new technologies and lessons learned,” Crull said. “Not only is a lot of important information shared in the technical sessions but the networking is invaluable.”

Refresher course made fun for all

To make attending the Appropriations Law Refresher training more entertaining Kay Sommerkamp, left, Office of Counsel, hosted the Huntsville Center version of the game show “Who Wants to be a Millionaire.” Carol Sargent, center, and Sandy Oliver, both from Management Review, were the lucky contestants answering one of many questions about appropriation law asked during the game.



Photo by Becky Proaps



Courtesy photo

Commander, Chem Demil director visit Russia

Col. Larry McCallister, Huntsville Center commander, visited the Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Shchuch'ye, Russia in July. The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is partnered with Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the Russian Federation and contractors to build the facility. With construction nearing completion, it is anticipated that the project will be turned over to the Russians in December. The success of the program is due to the outstanding partnership between DTRA and the Corps. Pictured are James Murray, with SAIC; Lee Branch with Parsons Corp.; Ed Powers, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, Huntsville Center; David Walley, DTRA/TVA; Col. Larry McCallister; Dmitry Sineglazov, Parsons Corp.; Pat Haas, director, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, Huntsville Center; Alexander Ivanov, Parsons Corp.; Valery Mardiyar, Parsons Corp.; Vyacheslav Mikhalev, Parsons Corp.; and Alexander Stolov, Parsons Corp.

CDC

continued from page 1

convenient place on installations for the families to bring kids," said Art Dohrman, COS program manager for the Huntsville Center. "We want to make things as easy as possible for the Soldiers and let them focus on their jobs and not have to worry about taking their children off base for day care and then rush back to work on the installation."

Huntsville Center employees from the Engineering, Installation Support and Programs Management and Contracting directorates and Office of Counsel worked with a variety of external team members including Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Fort Campbell Garrison, Louisville District of the Corps, and

the U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, who is the customer and proponent, to procure this contract.

"We have several team members who have helped tremendously," Dohrman said. "Jay Clark is an architect with Huntsville's Engineering Directorate and has been the lead on the CDC age 0-5 standard, creating the final building plans that incorporated all of the new modules and functional requirements."

Roger Young, Engineering Directorate, is the Source Selection Board chairman for the Southern Region Child and Youth Services facilities contract acquisition. Young assembled the team of experts who evaluated multiple contractors and selected those considered a best match

for the projects and contracts.

"The team worked long hours to develop design standards for these facilities that reflect the current national certification standards for child care facilities," Young said. "This project was truly a team effort."

The project engineer for the child development centers is Sandy Wood, Engineering Directorate, who has been deeply involved in the standard designs of the centers and served as an adviser to the selection boards. Lisle Lennon and Aaron Kelly, who work in the Contracting Directorate, have also played an integral part in the process.

"We are confident that we are providing Soldiers outstanding facilities where their children are safe, secure and well cared-for," Young said.

Army observes Suicide Prevention Week in September

Suicide is the 11th most frequent cause of death in the U.S.: someone dies from suicide every 16 minutes. Suicidal ideas and attempts to harm oneself are the result of problems that may seem like they can't be fixed.

The Army remains committed to the safety and well-being of its Soldiers, Civilians and Families by joining the nation and the Department of Defense in observing National Suicide Prevention Week Sept. 7-13, and World Suicide Prevention Day Sept 10. The Army National Guard and Army Reserve will observe Suicide Prevention Month from Sept. 6 through Oct. 5 to allow more time for training and awareness programs.

The Army's theme this year is "Shoulder-to-shoulder: No Soldier stands alone." This theme conveys the idea that Soldiers are stronger together, especially when times are tough.

Veterans Affairs suicide hotline now available

To ensure veterans with emotional crises have round-the-clock access to trained professionals, the Department of Veterans Affairs has begun operation of a national suicide prevention hotline for

veterans. To operate the national hotline, VA is partnering with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Veterans can call 1-800-273-TALK (8255) and press "1" to reach the VA hotline, which is staffed by mental health professionals who will work closely with local VA mental health providers to help callers.

This National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK (8255) is a 24-hour, 7-day a week, toll-free, suicide prevention service available to anyone in suicidal crisis. You will be routed to the closest possible crisis center in your area. With more than 130 crisis centers across the country, its mission is to provide immediate assistance to anyone seeking mental health services. Call for yourself or someone you care about. Your call is free and confidential.

Each month, the Lifeline Network serves more than 45,000 callers who are in emotional distress. Although suicide prevention is its primary mission, people call the Lifeline for many reasons including substance abuse/addiction, suicidal thoughts, information on suicide, information on mental

Warning signs for suicide

Seek help as soon as possible by contacting a mental health professional or by calling the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at **1-800-273-TALK (8255)** if you or someone you know exhibits any of the following signs:

- Threatening to hurt or kill oneself or talking about wanting to hurt or kill oneself
- Looking for ways to kill oneself by seeking access to firearms, available pills or other means
- Talking or writing about death, dying or suicide when these actions are out of the ordinary for the person
- Feeling hopeless
- Feeling rage or uncontrolled anger or seeking revenge
- Acting reckless or engaging in risky activities - seemingly without thinking
- Feeling trapped — like there's no way out
- Increasing alcohol or drug use
- Withdrawing from friends, family and society
- Feeling anxious, agitated or unable to sleep or sleeping all the time
- Experiencing dramatic mood changes
- Seeing no reason for living or having no sense of purpose in life

health/illness, post-disaster needs, to help a friend or loved one, relationship problems, abuse/violence, economic problems, sexual orientation issues, physical illness, homelessness issues, loneliness or family problems.

Who should call?

- Anyone, but especially those who feel sad, hopeless or suicidal should call.
- Family and friends who

are concerned about a loved one who may be experiencing these feelings

- Anyone interested in suicide prevention, treatment, and service referrals

For more information, go to www.armyg1.army.mil/hr/suicide/default.asp or www.SuicidePreventionlifeline.org.

(This information was compiled from Stand-To!, an Army information paper, the Army G-1 Suicide Prevention Web site and the National Suicide Hotline Web site.)

Sign up now for Leadership Development Program

By Toni Hamley
Business Management Office

The Leadership Development Program (LDP) Committee plans to kick off a session of LDP Level II - Leadership Assessment, LDP Level III - Team Leadership and LDP Level IIIA - Leadership for Supervisors in October. At least 20 employees must be enrolled in Levels II and III for the sessions to start in October. Information about each level is explained below, and more information and the required application packets are available at <https://hnc-ws-intra.hnc.ds.usace.army.mil/LDP/>. Please note that Level IIIA is identified as Level IV in the LDP Program Book on the Web site.

- Level II - Leadership Assessment: This level of the program provides you with the first in a series of experiences that increases self-awareness and understanding of your individual strengths and potential for leadership. Level II's duration is one year with 60 estimated work hours per participant. You will participate in two formal classes to enhance your understanding of basic leadership concepts. You will be coached on your experiences in the program. Other learning experiences include assigned readings, self-study, facilitated discussions and one reflective essay. Your participation in this training may be reflected on your

Individual Development Plan (IDP) after Oct. 1. Please contact the Level II Champions, Margaret Simmons or Michelle Crull, with questions about this level.

- Level III - Team Leadership: Through this level, you will develop an understanding of your individual strengths and talents relative to team relationships, how you can best contribute in a team environment, and what is meant by team leadership. The duration of this level is one year with 110 estimated work hours per participant. You will learn basic facilitation techniques for working in meetings and to value and creatively

LDP is designed to develop leaders at all levels within the organization, provide a consistent set of leadership tools and expose individuals to leadership opportunities.

resolve conflicts in a team environment. You will also take part in an interactive workshop to develop your team experiences with other participants that will prepare you to work with your team to complete local projects. You are coached and advised through this activity. Other learning experiences include readings, self-study and facilitated discussions. Your participation in this training may be reflected on your IDP after Oct. 1. Please contact the Level III Champions, Charles Ford or Steve Light, with questions about this level.

- Level IIIA - Leadership for Supervisors: Current supervisors and those of you who are competitive for placement into supervisory positions are strongly encouraged to participate. This level offers participants the opportunity to develop and expand their leadership perspectives. Throughout the program, you will develop regional leadership perspectives, understand and apply Corps values, and expand your leadership toolbox in a learning organization culture. You will attend formal training classes, complete a local team project that will enhance your team-building skills and prepare a case study on an approved Huntsville Center issue. Other learning experiences include readings, self-study, and facilitated discussions. Please note that LDP Level IIIA is a two-year program with 390 estimated work hours for the participants each year. Your participation in this training may be reflected on your IDP after Oct. 1 for FY09 and FY10. Please contact Level IIIA Champions, Rick Suever or Boyce Ross, with questions about this level.

If you are interested in enrolling in any of the levels, please submit a completed application packet with the appropriate supervisory endorsements by COB Friday, Sept. 5. There is an in-box for each level just outside cubicle 1G106 for you to drop off your application. If you applied for Level II or Level III in January 2008, you will need to reapply for the appropriate level based on your current interest and availability.

Postcards from Iraq

Work that touches your heart

By Tommy Nason
Gulf Region South District,
Adder Area Office, Tallil, Iraq

I'll conclude a 30-year career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers next spring with nearly half that time deployed overseas. I served three years in Afghanistan, two years in Egypt, short stints in Oman and United Arab Emirates, six years in Japan, and will complete two years as a construction representative with the Gulf Region Division South District's Adder Area Office in March 2009.

I'm grateful for the opportunity to oversee projects helping everyday people like you and me who are trying to provide the essentials to their children and grandchildren — healthy water, functioning sewers, reliable electric power, good schools and access to medical care.

When I arrived in Iraq in February 2007, they asked me to manage the closeout and commissioning of the largest project the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has in Iraq — the \$277 million Nasiriyah Water Treatment Plant that's capable of producing 44,000 gallons of fresh, drinkable water per hour along with over 60

Commentary

miles of new transmission pipe, three booster pump stations and five new elevated storage tanks. That facility is designed to serve three-quarters of a million people in five cities — it's a huge undertaking that was already nearly three years under construction, and I was very pleased to have played a role in ensuring the Iraqi Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works was getting a quality product.

Apart from that project, I've overseen the construction of over a dozen smaller water treatment facilities for tiny villages which, in many cases, will have access to clean water for the first time ever. This is the kind of work that touches your heart and I'm proud to be part of this historic mission.

I'm also looking after a variety of projects benefiting our military including what some refer to as the "mother of all truck stops," a \$24.1 million project at Tallil Air Base. Located within hailing distance of Main Supply Route Tampa, it's a key link in the supply chain that starts in

Kuwait and runs the length of Iraq. Major pieces include a Convoy Support Center capable of accommodating up to 3,600 trucks, a tactical Petroleum Terminal (with up to 10 million gallons of fuel stored in large bladders), a dining facility that will serve 3,000 meals per cycle, a fire station, and space for sleeping quarters, restrooms, and showers to accommodate 2,100 people.

USACE is located in a small compound at Tallil. We live and work together as a team — a family of very dedicated professionals trying to help Iraq move forward and enjoy its new freedoms.

My lovely wife Barbara and I have been married 26 years and we have three awesome children — Christina, 25, Melissa, 18, and James Nason III, 16. It's their support that's made all the difference in these long separations. I sincerely appreciate their steadfast love.

I'll soon be closing this chapter in my life, but the memories will be with me forever.



USACE photo
Tommy Nason



USACE photo

Construction representative Tommy Nason, left, from the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, checks on progress at the \$277 million Nasiriyah Water Treatment Plant, right, the largest USACE project in Iraq.



USACE photo

TRICARE beneficiaries can get benefit news by e-mail

By American Forces Press Service

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — The TRICARE military health system's 9.2 million beneficiaries now have an easy way to receive the latest newsletters and stay informed about changes in coverage, pharmacy updates and other news.

A new electronic delivery system is up and running, TRICARE officials said in August, and subscribing is fast and secure by clicking on the "little red envelope" on TRICARE's Web site, at www.tricare.mil.

"We're excited to offer beneficiaries a chance to sign up for the TRICARE benefit news they want and need," said Army Maj. Gen. Elder Granger, deputy director of TRICARE Management Activity. "We

have offered some limited e-mail delivery options in the past, but this new subscription service enables anyone interested in TRICARE news to sign up for a wide range of topics. It's one-stop shopping."

Subscribers can choose alerts by topics or beneficiary category, and delivery is safe and secure — an e-mail address is the only information collected. Subscribers also have a unique page they can manage any time, and they can choose to be notified as soon as news or benefit changes are posted, or select daily, weekly or monthly updates.

"One of our highest priorities is communicating with our beneficiaries and



providers," Granger said. "E-mail is now the method most people use to receive news and that will only continue to increase. This new service helps us take advantage of the technology."

The new subscription service also links users up to similar alerts available on other Military Health System Web sites, including www.health.mil, which features MHS news, debates, videos and blogs, as well as Force Health Protection and

Readiness and the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Partnership subscription options with other health-related federal

Web sites include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and DisabilityInfo.gov.

TRICARE's e-alerts are sent through GovDelivery, which also provides services to dozens of other Defense Department and federal agencies including the FBI, the Department of Health and Human Services, the CDC and the Food and Drug Administration.

(From a TRICARE Management Activity news release)

DAU rotation

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most diverse they can receive within one organization within this area. It's also a win for Huntsville Center to gain the insight and expertise of these folks, who are gaining real-time understanding regarding the issues faced within Contracting across the contracting community of practice, various solutions applied to current issues and different ways of approaching all aspects of the contracting process with every class they teach. We are intensely interested in improving how we do business. We learn from each other on many levels."

Two of Roberts' ideas have already been implemented. She provided

assistance with compliance matrices for source selection plans as well as source selection board training slides. She also developed a training module for program managers to assist them in preparing requirements packages for new and replacement contracts.

"The PM training module is going to be exercise driven after they receive some instruction; then they can start developing improved performance work statements in the classroom in the session. They can tailor it to meet their needs," Roberts said.

DAU provides mandatory, assignment specific and continuing education courses for military and Civilian personnel.

"Our students are primarily contract

specialists who work for the Defense Acquisition Workforce," Roberts said, "although we also get a lot of engineers attending the required DAU classes who are trying to obtain their Administrative Contracting Officer warrant."

Because of the success of this venture Mitchell is working with the Dean of DAU South, James McCullough, along with Ralph Mitchell, Contracting Department Chair and Reginald Parks, Business Management Department Chair, all of whom have endorsed this concept, to establish a Memorandum of Agreement in hopes of continuing the rotational assignments on a regular, scheduled basis.

From unarmed to armed

Huntsville Center transitions from unarmed guards to armed guards Aug. 25 under a Federal Protective Service, Homeland Security contract.

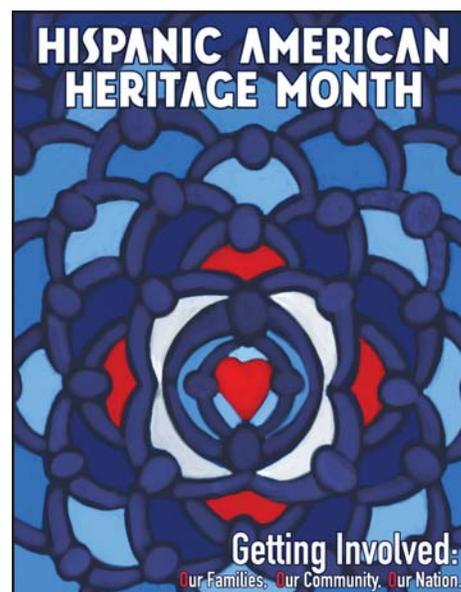


Photo by Becky Proaps

Celebrate Hispanic American Heritage Month: Sept. 15 – Oct. 15

In September 1968, Congress authorized President Lyndon B. Johnson to proclaim National Hispanic American Heritage Week, which was observed during the week including Sept. 15 and Sept. 16. The observance was expanded in 1988 to a monthlong celebration (Sept. 15 – Oct. 15). America celebrates the culture and traditions of U.S. residents who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico and the

Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. Sept. 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.



New uniform

continued from page 1

overseas service bars authorized on the jacket sleeve for both enlisted Soldiers and officers, the wear of distinctive unit insignia on the shoulder loops of the blue coat for enlisted Soldiers, authorizing paratroopers to wear the black jump boots with the blue ASU, and the decision to transition to a new short sleeve and long sleeve white shirt with shoulder loops.

It is also permissible for enlisted Soldiers to wear both overseas

service bars and service stripes on the new blue ASU coat. Officers and Soldiers in the grade of corporal and above will additionally wear a gold braid on their slacks to indicate leadership roles.

“That is kind of a right of passage as you transition from being a (junior) enlisted soldier to a noncommissioned officer,” Preston said of the gold braid.

New items for the ASU will be available in military clothing sales after July 2009.

Soldiers will be expected to possess the entire uniform by July 2014. The two key components of the uniform, the coat and slacks, are expected to cost around \$140, with modifications bringing the total cost to \$200. Enlisted Soldiers will receive an increase in their annual uniform allowance to help offset the cost of the uniform.

For more information go to <http://www.army.mil/asu/>.

(This information provided by Army News Service.)

Ethics Corner

Seeking, negotiating for post-federal employment ‘do’s and don’ts’

By Steve Feldman
Office of Counsel

For persons planning on leaving federal employment and seeking work with industry, the rules can be confusing and full of peril. Some of the rules have civil and even criminal consequences for violations. To ease employee transition into the private sector, I have summarized below some of the most important restrictions on seeking or negotiating post-federal employment:

Rule 1: You are prohibited from taking action in your official capacity concerning a person or company that has a financial interest in a matter in which you are participating while you are negotiating with that person or company. The financial interests of your spouse, your minor child or your partner could trigger this prohibition.

Rule 2: While you are participating in a matter that has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interest of a person or company, you are prohibited from seeking employment, including pre-negotiation activity, with that person or company.

Rule 3: If you are participating personally and substantially in a procurement exceeding the simplified acquisition threshold (generally \$100,000), you must promptly report in writing any contact with a bidder/offeror in that procurement concerning non-federal employment, and you must either reject the possible employment or disqualify yourself from further participation in the procurement.

Rule 4: You are prohibited from disclosing inside information to a prospective employer. This includes the unauthorized disclosure of contractor bid or proposal information or of source selection information.

Rule 5: Once you have a job, you may not participate in any matter that affects the financial interests of the company with whom you have the employment arrangement.

Rule 6: You may not use government resources (except for authorized transition assistance benefits) in job hunting.

Rule 7: Even where a prospective employer is a government contractor or other “prohibited source” of benefits to government employees, you may still accept meals, lodging, transportation and other benefits, if they are normally provided by the prospective employer

in connection with bona fide employment discussions.

Rule 8: You may obtain a letter of recommendation from other government employees on official letterhead, if (1) the letter is based on the employee’s personal knowledge of your ability or character; and (2) either [a] the employee has dealt with you in the course of his/her government employment, or [b] you are applying for federal employment. You may obtain a letter of recommendation from a Department of Defense contractor employee so long as you do not use your government position to coerce or induce the person to write the letter.

Rule 9: While still employed by DOD, you are prohibited from acting as a government representative for any person or entity, including your new employer, before any federal agency.

Rule 10: While on terminal leave, you remain a government employee and all of the above rules still apply.

As with all doubtful or potentially controversial matters concerning compliance with the ethical restraints on federal employee conduct — “C-Y-A” — Consult Your Attorney—and do so before the fact!

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