



US Army Corps
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Huntsville Center

Bulletin

*Mark your
calendar now...*
**Huntsville
Center Engineer
Day Awards and
Organization
Day
June 3
Monte Sano
State Park
(Directions to park
are on page 9)**

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Center personnel deploy, help with tornado disaster relief

By William Farrow
Public Affairs Office

Huntsville Center is deploying personnel to assist with relief efforts after the April 27 tornadoes that roared through the south.

As of May 26, there are 11 Huntsville Center personnel assisting with various efforts said Jeffrey Davis, Huntsville Center deployment coordinator. Davis said he received the first tasker for a volunteer May 16.

Under the National Response Framework, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is assigned as the primary agency for Emergency Support Function #3 – Public Works and Engineering.

In Alabama, the Corps assists FEMA by coordinating federal public works and engineering-related support, as well as providing technical assistance, engineering expertise, and construction management to recover from the tornadoes.

With Mobile District leading the USACE coordination efforts in



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

Workers load trucks with debris May 18 in south east Huntsville, Ala. Under tasking from Mobile District, three Huntsville Center personnel are currently deployed in Alabama working as debris removal quality assurance

Alabama, Davis said South Pacific Division, Los Angeles District had the lead to provide temporary housing units to those people left homeless by the storms.

Immediately following the storms, they were given a 30 day task to set up shop and begin work. Mobile District was tasked with debris

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Commander's thoughts

Team,
The tornadoes of April 27 wreaked havoc across northern Alabama and greatly impacted everyone; some more than others.

It saddens me to know some of you lost homes while many more had damage to your homes. Thankfully no Huntsville Center employees were seriously injured. While things can be replaced, losing your home and belongings is still a devastating blow.

Through all this, Huntsville Center employees have shown we are one big family. The care and concern you have shown to your neighbors and co-workers is noticed, and it helps.

There are many of you who helped unofficially and I want to recognize your hard work too. When your communities needed you most, you helped. You cut trees and cleared debris and gave clothing and food. You are what makes Huntsville center great.

We are working with Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to help support the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Jeffrey Davis, Deployment, Housing PRT and Family Readiness Network Coordinator has 40 volunteers waiting for direction. He has 18 taskers currently and expects more to come.

We are conducting a survey to

understand what you enjoy most about working here. While we have been conducting exit surveys for employees who leave the Huntsville Center, it is also important for us to understand what our employees enjoy about working at the Huntsville Center. Each of you has specific reasons why you choose to work here and we would like to know more about them.

When offered the survey, please select the answers that best describe your feelings about the questions being asked. I encourage you to be candid and provide additional comments as necessary.

The survey link will be sent to you from Sandy McAnally and will take less than five minutes to complete. You can access the survey through 15 June.

Each of you contributes to making the Huntsville Center a great place to work. I look forward to hearing from you.

I am also looking forward to seeing everyone at the Engineer Day awards ceremony and picnic June 3.

This annual event is a fantastic way to recognize and celebrate our employees who are doing a fantastic job for the Center, the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Army.

I want to thank those of you who



Col. Nello L. Tortora

took the time to nominate employees for recognition in each of the categories of the Engineer Day awards program. We had many nominations and it was hard making decisions on the winners. Congratulations to the winners! Keep up the great work.

We hold this annual organization day event to commemorate the Corps' birthday, and also the U.S. Army's birthday.

The Army's birthday is June 14; Engineer Day is June 16.

The U.S. Army was established June 14, 1775, to defend our nation. From the Revolutionary War to the current operations taking place around the world, our Soldiers — and Civilians — remain Army Strong with a deep commitment to our core values and beliefs. This 236th birthday commemorates America's Army — Soldiers, Families and Civilians — who are achieving a level of excellence that is truly Army Strong. You can find out more about the Army birthday on the web at www.army.mil/birthday/236.

Hails and farewells

Welcome: Felicia McBride, Jeffery Byrd, Hillary Smith, Laronica Hamil, Center Contracting Directorate; **Sarah Gregory, Chase Waites**, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; **Joseph Broyles**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Ivor Gilkes**, Small Business Office; **Lucille Poniatowski**, Internal Review; **Angela Brown**, Business Management Office

Farewell: Yolanda Brown, Myra Maack, Center Contracting Directorate; **Sun Desantiago**, Business Management Office; **Tameyra Bohannon, Lee Shockley**, Engineering Directorate.



US Army Corps of Engineers

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BULLETIN

Commander..... Col. Nello Tortora
Chief, Public Affairs..... Debra Valine
Editor..... William S. Farrow



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The *Bulletin* asks:

“Were you prepared for the storms of April 27?”



“I was prepared for the tornados and, to my surprise, the six-day power outage. We live next to family and all of us pooled our resources. We went to one house for a tornado shelter, another house had a generator to keep food, and all of us helped to keep the family going until the power was restored.”

Jennifer Peete
Resource Management Directorate



“I was not prepared at all for such a disaster. As I’m sure many people did, I brushed off the warnings after having experienced dozens of tornado warnings in my life. I sat by the windows in my top-floor apartment and basically ignored the sirens. I am extremely lucky none came through my area. In the future, I am going to follow what has been taught to me my whole life: stay alert, follow advisories, take cover. There is no room for complacency in such extreme circumstances.”

Ryan Bowers
Engineering Directorate



“No, I wasn’t prepared. I just moved here from Texas and I haven’t experienced anything like this before; to drive around and see the devastation was incredible. To better prepare myself I would pay closer attention to the local news weather, make sure I have a full tank of gas, plenty of non perishable items and some cash on hand.”

Becky Sandoval
Contracting Directorate



“Next time I’ll watch the news reports more closely to stay informed about what’s happening with the weather. My family has also considered buying a storm shelter.”

Herbert Broussard
Security Office

Employee Spotlight: Willie Stokes

**By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office**

Where do you work and what is your job title? I am the records manager for Army Corps of Engineers-Information Technology.

How long have you worked for the Corps? I have worked for the Corps for more than three years.

In your own words, what is your job and what do you do? My primary job is managing and overseeing the operation of day-to-day files maintenance policy guidance and serving as the local authority for record keeping procedures for the files record program at Huntsville Center.

Overall, records management addresses the life cycle of records, or the period of time records are in the custody of federal agencies. Records management involves planning, controlling, directing, organizing, training, promoting, and other managerial activities involved in records creation, maintenance and use and disposition in order to achieve adequate and proper documentation of the policies and transactions of the federal government and effective and economical management of agency operations.

Review the Campaign Plan goals and objectives. Which one(s) apply to you? Goals three and four of the USACE Campaign Plan apply to me and the ACE-ITT organization.

I Provide responsive service to our customers, run an effective and efficient business in support of our customers, attract and retain skilled



Willie Stokes

personnel records coordinators and leverage innovations to transform our service capabilities. More specifically, I “deliver innovative, resilient, sustainable solutions and build and cultivate a competent, disciplined, and resilient team equipped to deliver high quality solutions,” through managing the records management process.

How do you see your job making a difference and contributing to the Corps’ success? The job I perform on a daily basis contributes greatly to the Corps’ success. As records within offices reach their disposal date and are destroyed, vital storage space is freed up in the Center.

As the Corps’ workforce continues to grow, so does the need to free up space within the facility for other

purposes. Under my leadership, the files maintenance program has seen substantial growth and development due to the important responsibility and effort in providing Army-wide records management.

What do you love about your job? I love that my current job gives me the opportunity to make a difference. My job allows me to train others. I love being a coach, mentor and motivator for the records coordinators I train within the Center.

For me, having well-informed records coordinators capable of correctly preparing documents for storage and disposal purposes is vital to the success of the records management program.

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes that’s not obvious to the general work force.

Any special moments/memories about your job you’d like to share? On May 1, I taught a Web teleconference for the records coordinator’s at our off –site locations.

The training allowed me to provide new information to them.

(In the records management field), many things have changed over the years and getting the updates to them allowed afforded me an opportunity to make sure each coordinator has ample tools to continue to make progress with the records at their location. It was an innovative way to get feedback about my role in the records management program.

I received an enormous amount of positive feedback from this training opportunity.

The **Employee Spotlight** is intended to let our Center employees shine for positively impacting our organization through mission achievements. Employees are nominated on a monthly basis, and are also featured on the Huntsville Center web site monthly, and the Headquarters, Corps of Engineers web site on a rotating basis. If you’d like to nominate someone within your office for this recognition, please contact Jo Anita Miley, Public Affairs Office, at 256-895-1585, or e-mail JoAnita.Miley@usace.army.mil.

STORMS

continued from page 1

removal. However, as many people involved in relief efforts soon realized in the immediate days following the storms, the destruction was much greater than anticipated.

“When they (Los Angeles District Housing Planning and Response Teams) came to Alabama, they realized they needed more boots on the ground than they had committed, so they contacted South Atlantic Division and put out a tasker through Mobile District requested help from USACE employees in the area willing to deploy and help. That’s when we began seeing requests for volunteers,” Davis said.

According to Davis, of the 11 Huntsville Center personnel deployed, seven are assisting as housing PRT quality assurance inspectors ensuring the temporary housing provided to those left homeless by the storms is appropriate.

Not only are housing PRT quality assurance personnel inspecting the temporary housing units hauled in to relieve the housing needs, they inspect any moving parts like doors and drawers as well as the stoves, outlets, faucets, smoke detectors, and fire extinguishers that have to be examined before a home can be signed off as being complete and ready for residents.

Mobile District has since began contracting debris removal teams throughout the state, and the three Huntsville Center employees working on the debris quality assurance teams are mainly ensuring contractors and Corps tonnage and load numbers match as debris is removed.

After volunteering to deploy, Bonnie Smith, Installation Support and Programs Management project management specialist, went to Birmingham, Ala., to receive a tasker from Mobile District to work as a debris removal quality assurance inspector. Little did she know she would be inspecting debris removal in familiar territory.

“I lived in Tuscaloosa so I really knew the area hit hardest,” Smith said.



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

Debris lines a Harvest, Ala., street awaiting removal May 16. Although Huntsville Center isn’t directly involved in the debris removal process, many citizens called Huntsville Center asking for assistance with debris removal. Huntsville Center personnel pointed the callers to FEMA and other government officials for help.

“I’ve never seen anything like this in my life and I just wanted to cry, but I was afraid to cry because I thought they might pull me and send me back and I really wanted to stay here and help.”

One tasker Davis received May 18 was a request from the USACE Critical Public Facilities PRT for a resident engineer with Contracting Officer Representative authority to take responsibility for the temporary replacement of critical public facilities, such as classrooms, health clinics, fire and police stations and other public service facilities, as requested by FEMA.

Jason Adams, Electronic Security Systems program manager, has COR authority and previous emergency response experience and immediately

volunteered. Adams said he got a feel for the emergency response after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the gulf coast in 2005.

“I deployed to New Orleans for over a year and got the feel for it there so when I got the opportunity to help here, I volunteered. It’s great to get out there and help,” Adams said.

Adams is working as the resident engineer for the Critical Public Facilities mission at the Regional Field Office in Birmingham, Ala., overseeing the installation of temporary structures in Birmingham and outlying areas.

Davis said he thinks there will be more opportunities for Huntsville Center personnel to deploy in support of relief operations.

People interested in volunteering should call 256-895-1329.

Huntsville Center engineer detailed to Mobile District, fills significant role in relief efforts

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

A Huntsville Center employee currently detailed to a one-year assignment with Mobile District helped with the Alabama tornado recovery effort here in Madison County. Neal Graham, a project manager with the Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate took on the job of resident engineer with the Federal Emergency Management Agency led Federal Response Team May 6.

Graham is scheduled to return to from his Mobile District detail to Huntsville Center at the end of July. FEMA has set up a Regional Field Office in Birmingham, Ala. to support the Federal Response Teams. Graham said he communicates with legal, environmental, contracting, quality assurance, safety, and security teams on a daily basis to receive the current guidance to make sure that the teams comply with local, state and federal government laws.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has tasked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with removing what they have estimated to be more than 1 million cubic yards of debris that must be sorted, loaded and disposed of in north central Alabama. The cleanup effort will take place over the next 60 days.”

Graham oversees the operation of the debris removal effort for Blount, Cullman, and Limestone, Madison, and Morgan counties in north central Alabama. Much of Graham’s day is spent supervising two large debris removal teams that have been put in place for Madison and Cullman counties.

The debris cleanup effort will take place for the next 60 days, and more teams will be set up as contingency operations continue to grow. Graham

said he anticipates standing up teams in other sections of the state by the end of the week.

The cleanup takes significant coordination effort, and has requested 40 Corps employees to fill the contingency positions needed to support the effort, Graham said. To date, he has filled 11 vacancies.

“We have set up a process. Once Corps employees are selected for positions, they go to Birmingham, Ala. to receive their assignment and are then sent out to sites,” Graham said. “We have filled engineering and construction, contracting and real estate, public affairs and administrative support and park ranger positions for this effort, he said. “It takes many different people to make something like this work. Every position is important to us.”

Graham said the Corps of Engineers awarded Phillips and Jordan; a contractor based in Robbinsville, N.C., the contract for the debris removal because of their expertise in disaster recovery. Graham worked with Phillips and Jordan during past deployment and was given a chance to see how rapid the contractor’s crews are in responding to the needs of a community during a disaster effort.

The contractor debris teams will not remove items from commercial areas or go onto private property, he said. Residents are asked to place items along the right of way in residential areas.

This is not the first time Graham



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

Neil Graham, Mobile District, (center) reviews a debris collection map with team leads Clifford Williams, Charleston District, and Joyce Taylor, Wilmington District, May 18 in a Harvest, Ala., subdivision hit by a tornado.

has volunteered to help with other contingency efforts. He deployed during Hurricane’s Ivan, Katrina, and Operation Blue Roof. Graham said although he knew he would sign up for future deployment opportunities, it was the location of his current assignment was a surprise for him, and has become his most memorable one.

“I’ve responded to disaster efforts before, but never dreamed that it would be in my own back yard,” Graham said. “I am proud to help those who were devastated by the disaster that occurred on April 27,” he said. “I enjoy helping out wherever I am needed. This is what I’m trained to do.”

Graham attributes his past deployments and work as a project manager at Huntsville Center to preparing him for his current position.

He said the experience he gained by working in the Chemical Demilitarization and Facility Repair and Renewal programs gave him the right skill-set needed for the mission.

Corps senior leader conducts EEO training at Huntsville Center

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs Office

More than 75 Huntsville Center managers and supervisors attended mandatory Equal Employment Opportunity training May 19-20.

James Braxton, USACE director of EEO, gave the focal point training class, 'Leadership and Development: Creating a Positive Workforce,' during four training sessions held over a two day period in the command conference room.

Braxton said the training is required for managers and supervisors, and is part of the annual mandatory EEO requirement set out by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Department of the Army Office of Diversity and Leadership. It is intended to give leaders an overview of the workforce in the 21st Century, provide new ways for managing employees, and foster diversity in the workplace.

Braxton said he would like to change the way EEO is viewed by those in leadership positions within the Corps'.

"EEO is not just about race and gender anymore – there are far more issues that we will have to deal with," Braxton said.

"We must find better ways to reach our employees in the 21st Century," he said.

"We have to figure out how to overcome the barriers that divide us in the workforce - this is what EEO is about."

Employees from other USACE locations were given an opportunity to attend the training. Jeffrey Dziedzic, deputy director of the USACE Learning Center attended the training with other supervisors and managers from his organization.

Dziedzic said he really appreciated Braxton's approach to the topic of



Photo by Jo Anita Miley

The director of USACE equal employment opportunity, James Braxton, gave a training class, 'Leadership and Development: Creating a Positive Workforce' during four training sessions held at Huntsville Center.

diversity.

"His taking a different approach rather than the generic definition of what someone might think diversity is or is not was great. I also liked that Braxton used his personal life experiences as examples. This was a plus for him.

"I definitely benefited from the EEO training. I experienced many "aha" moments during the session that I attended," Dziedzic said. "Mr. Braxton's use of analogies and examples were excellent ways to bring his point

across, and another advantage for me," he said. "I took notes where I might not otherwise take notes, because I really appreciated the message he was sending."

The format for the training also included discussions on how to define conscious leadership, manage leadership challenges, understand cultural context, and work effectively across the organization.

For information about EEO training opportunities, contact Angela Morton at 256-895-1573.

Well displayed

The Huntsville Center was well-represented in the Team Redstone Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month display contest. The display in the lobby, put together by Unhui Nguyen, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate, Bettie Doss, Resource Management Directorate, Jeffery Davis, Executive Office, and Lori Byrd, Chief of Security, was the third place winner in the essay contest May 26. The display spotlighted the many sacrifices and contributions Asian-pacific American Soldiers, civilians, and families have made for our Army and nation.

Photo by Jo Anita Miley



Center dress addressed, business casual best

By James Campbell
Public Affairs Office

Somewhere in the middle between the business-formal attire worn for an executive interview and the jeans, t-shirt and sandals worn for a trip to the corner store is acceptable workplace attire, but selecting clothing too far to the casual side of the two extremes could cause problems.

“Every year at about this time, it’s good to remind everyone about professional standards of dress,” said Martha Cook, executive officer. “It’s getting warm, and pretty soon it will be hot. The heat doesn’t change the standard.”

Business casual is probably the best term to describe the acceptable standard of dress at Huntsville Center. While the finer points of business casual can be argued, it generally means that people dress professionally-- looking a bit more relaxed than formal, yet always neat. Business casual most often means people don’t wear jeans, men’s shirts have collars and the selected styles of clothing represent what most people would consider conservative.

What may be easier to outline is what isn’t acceptable-- like gym clothes, shorts, rumped, ripped or clearly dirty clothing, inappropriately revealing styles,

and flip-flops.

“The standard is what is appropriate, and since we are a professional organization, we expect folks to dress professionally,” said Margaret Simmons, Huntsville Center counsel. “A supervisor has the responsibility to send an employee home, on their own time, if the employee is not dressed appropriately for the day.”

In the go-to publications for questions about this sort of thing, both *Emily Post’s Etiquette* by Peggy Post and *Service Etiquette* by Cherlynn Conetsco and Anna Hart, the authors agree that the terms “business casual, dressy casual and smart casual” all add up to looking professional. Both books and several popular websites about work culture offer lists of what is, and what isn’t appropriate, but it may be easier to ask.

If an employee has questions, they should discuss appearance standards with their supervisor, said Cook.

“As a customer service organization, a professional appearance instills a level of confidence in our customers,” said Dan Heinzelman, director of Resource Management. “In my view, a professional appearance tells our customer we are organized, detailed and disciplined.”

Another area that can be overlooked

is footwear. Flashy athletic shoes, flip-flops, and house slippers are not acceptable in the office, said Cook.

“First impressions do matter, and being the customer-focused organization that we are, our professional image should be important to us,” said John Mayes, Center chief of Contracting.

“Being professionally and properly dressed demonstrates that you care about your personal image and the image of the organization.”

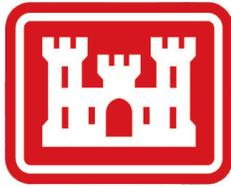
“Another thing to remember is that if you go to visit a construction site, what’s appropriate to wear in the office may not be allowed,” said Charles Rollins, safety specialist, Center Safety Office.

Because of safety concerns, personal protective equipment and different attire can be required, so it’s probably best to check in advance.

There’s also a difference between jeans worn to wash the car and denim pants that look presentable and professional. It just takes a little thought to make sure the correct pair of pants is selected for work on a casual Friday.

“We like to keep Friday as a more casual day,” said Cook. “But, it’s always important to keep in mind that we still have to look professional.”

U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center



June 3

Monte Sano State Park



**Engineer Awards at 10:30 a.m.
Sports Awards at 3:30 p.m.**



Catered by Granville's Gourmet Ribs and Barbecue (pork, chicken)



Softball, volleyball tournaments

Bingo, cake walk, carnival games



Families welcome too (but please, keep pets on a leash)



2011 Engineer Awards and Organization Day



Directions

← I-565 →

Take I-565 East to exit 17B
Governor's Drive
Go 4.5 miles up Governor's Dr.
Turn Left onto Monte Sano Blvd.

→ Governor's Drive →

→ Monte Sano Blvd →

→ Nolen Ave →

Drive 2.5 miles, turn right onto Nolen Ave.
Drive to Monte Sano State Park, through toll booth, park and enjoy.

Come on, hang out

Wind tunnels at NASA Langley removed by FRP

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

A Facilities Reduction Program project to remove wind tunnels and supporting facilities at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., is making history in more ways than one and is saving NASA a lot of money.

Langley officials approached the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's FRP program manager about demolishing four wind tunnels and related structures. The FRP helps government agencies eliminate excess facilities and structures to reduce fixed installation costs and achieve energy savings.

Specific facilities being demolished at Langley are the 30-foot x 60-foot full scale wind tunnel, two 8-foot tunnels that are large concrete structures, co-located next to each other, and the 16-foot transonic wind tunnel complex, which includes 10 wind tunnel support facilities. The 16-foot complex also includes an administration building that will remain in place.

Huntsville Center, NASA Langley, the Corps' Norfolk District, Charter Environmental (prime contractor) and Neuber Environmental (subcontractor) are partners on the project.

Work got under way in January on the \$3.75 million project. The project is ahead of schedule and is expected to be complete in October, ahead of the projected completion date of Dec. 31.

"NASA's original estimate for the full scale wind tunnel and the 16-foot wind tunnel was \$8.4 million," said Thad Stripling, Huntsville's FRP program manager.

"We will remove those two tunnels as well as the other two with related structures for \$3.75 million – that's less than half the original estimate."

This project is unusual for the FRP since it's a NASA facility rather than a Department of the Army facility and the wind tunnels have historic



Workers destroy a wind tunnel at NASA's historic Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va. The tunnels were used to test aircraft prior to World War II. Demolition of a historic structure requires years of planning and preparation.

significance. Several large components of the full scale tunnel and smaller historic artifacts from the full scale and the 8-foot transonic pressure tunnel were salvaged for display at NASA Langley and other locations, including the Smithsonian. Some of the artifacts, such as 35 fan blades from the 16-foot transonic tunnel, are being incorporated into the structural design of new NASA Langley facilities. A full list of salvaged items is available at http://crgis.ndc.nasa.gov/historic/Salvaged_Artifacts.

"This project is very interesting because of its complexity. These wind tunnels are historical structures that were used to test the capabilities of various aircrafts since before World War II," said project manager Mindy Shelton, Huntsville Center's FRP. "Jeff Shea from Charter and Mark Frank from Neuber are working exceptionally well with NASA personnel to execute this extremely complex project on schedule and within budget."

Between closure and demolition, the

Full Scale Wind Tunnel was recently used in the Cameron Diaz movie "The Box".

Demolition of a historic structure requires years of planning and preparation, according to Mary Gainer, Langley's historic preservation officer. Memorandums of Agreement with the Virginia Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation defined mitigation measures to be undertaken by NASA. These measures included preparation of Historic American Engineering Records, artifact salvage and curation, a public interpretation website and public display on the NASA Langley campus.

During their lifetimes, the wind tunnels were used for aeronautics research. In more recent years the tunnels were used for space applications such as shuttle. Officials at Langley determined the wind tunnels were no longer needed and decided to remove them to reduce maintenance and

See FRP on page 11



Workers on lifts take down large components of the full scale tunnel. Smaller historic artifacts from the full scale and the 8-foot transonic pressure tunnel were salvaged for display at NASA Langley and other locations, including the Smithsonian.

FRP

continued from page 10
associated costs.

“Many studies were done to determine the use of these facilities,” said Cheryl Allen, Construction of Facilities program manager. “These tunnels used older technology and didn’t answer today’s aeronautics research questions.”

Allen said she was attending a NASA facilities meeting when she heard Stripling give a talk on his program’s capabilities.

“At the time we were working with a small local contractor who really didn’t have the level of capability that Thad was presenting,” Allen said. “Thad’s numbers were too good. So after the meeting, I cautiously enquired about removing what we had at Langley. Thad had talked about removing traditional structures such as housing, office buildings, etc., but he was excited about the challenge of the wind tunnels. Removing the wind tunnels was not a capability NASA had. But

being part of the same government family, through an MOA we were able to tap into the FRP. It’s been a great find.”

Allen said three of the tunnels are on Air Force property that NASA has used on a no cost lease since around 1917. Once the wind tunnels are removed, the property will be returned to the Air Force.

On the NASA side, the area will be used as a parking lot to support the Integrated Engineering Services Facility.

FRP typically averages recycling 70 percent of the materials from a project. This project included steel and other valuable metals from the power systems and concrete, some of which will be kept on-site to be used as backfill.

“This project will be interesting because our recycling numbers will be off the chart due to the steel and concrete,” said Jeff Shea, Charter’s site superintendent. “We’ll probably exceed our recycling goals.”

“The full scale wind tunnel had a

lot of transite asbestos that went to an appropriately permitted landfill and wood that went to a commercial waste landfill,” said Skip Schroeder, a NASA project manager. “We looked for ways to recycle the wood, but because of the way the building was to be demolished, this was not feasible. The 16-foot wind tunnel is almost all steel and very valuable from a recycling perspective.”

FRP removed structures at Langley last year, has done work for NASA in the past at the Michoud Assembly Facility in Louisiana, and has a current project at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland.

“Working with the Army Corps and the contractors has been a great experience. Last year the FRP took down 20 of our buildings, mostly old office and storage space,” Allen said. “There has been a bit of creative problem solving with this project when unknown issues surfaced, but it is now going well. I’m already working on statements of work for future projects with FRP.”

Ethics Corner

What is permissible use of government equipment?

**By Chris Paden
Office of Counsel**

What Is Permissible Use of Government Equipment
During my annual ethics training I conduct, I go over what is permissible use of government equipment.

One would think that after a couple of years of government service that people would figure out what is permissible use and what is not. For instance, if I walked down the hallway at Huntsville Center and asked 20 people if I was okay to visit a gambling site using their government computer, 20 out of 20 would say that the use was impermissible. They would be right.

Yet, in other areas, those 20 randomly selected folks may hesitate in answering.

Take for example the website Facebook. If I asked those 20 folks if it was permissible to visit Facebook using that same government computer, I venture to guess that 50 percent would say impermissible and the other 50 percent would say permissible. Both would be right. Facebook was originally a sites that was automatically blocked when you tried to access it from your government computer.

However, since the Department of Defense recognized in February 2010 that social media sites are integral to operations across the Department of Defense, the restriction to Facebook was lifted.

Does the access to Facebook then mean you can take advantage of all of Facebook's features like its chat function? In fact, in the permissible use policy we all signed regarding government computers, it specifically states that utilizing chat functions are prohibited. In other words, it is impermissible to chat with your friends on Facebook using a government computer.

Remember, the rule to follow when using government equipment is that only official use of government equipment is allowed.

You might be well-served if you just ask yourself: "If my supervisor walked up, would I continue doing what I was doing, or would I close my browser." Obviously, if you are uncomfortable with allowing your supervisor observe your online activities, it is probably an indication that what you are doing falls outside of permitted use of government equipment.

If you have any questions regarding what specifically you may or may not be allowed to do, send me an e-mail at roger.paden@usace.army.mil or give me a call at 256- 895-1103.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED