



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

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Huntsville Center

# Bulletin

## Mark your calendar ...

### Veterans Day Program

- Nov. 10. , 10-11 a.m.,  
in the cafeteria

### 12th Annual Huntsville Center Small Business Forum

- Nov., 18 at the University  
of Alabama in Huntsville,  
University Center.
- Check-in begins at 8 a.m.,  
forum begins at 9 a.m.

### Turkey Toss

- Nov. 18, 2 p.m.

### Food Drive

- Throughout November

### Health Benefits Open House

- Nov. 22, 10 a.m.-12  
p.m., in the cafeteria.



Courtesy photo

**Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, addresses the audience at the Oct. 19 ceremony recognizing the destruction of the last chemical munitions at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility.**

## Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility stockpile destroyed

**ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT, Ala.** – On Sept. 22, operators at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) destroyed the last of the chemical weapons stockpile located here.

A subsequent ceremony in Anniston Oct. 19 recognized the team efforts of all involved to safely destroy the Anniston chemical munitions.

The demilitarization phase of ANCDF operations started Aug. 9, 2003, following several years of facility systemization, team training and preparation. The ANCDF, which sits on a 50-acre depot remote site, was constructed between 1997 and 2001.

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center in Huntsville, Ala., was the design and construction agent for the ANCDF

facility. The Center also acquired all of the specialized equipment such as the incinerators, pollution abatement equipment and the control system for the site.

Construction oversight was managed by an on-site resident engineering office and was supported by engineering and construction specialists at the Center in Huntsville, and construction was completed in June 2001.

The Huntsville Center mission provides engineering, construction and safety support to the Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) and the Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA).and serves as the Life Cycle Project Manager for the process equipment

**See ANNISTON on page 5**

# Commander's thoughts

**T**eam,  
I want to start off by thanking all of you again for the herculean effort at year-end. We had a record-breaking year. Even after the delay with the FY11 budget and a lot of the actions being processed at the last minute, you all worked together and got the job done! We processed 6,622 actions for \$1,609,859,561 in obligations.

To top that off, we exceeded our Small Business goal! The Small Business goal for FY11 was 33 percent; Huntsville Center achieved 42.46 percent. We exceeded the goal for Small Disadvantaged Business and HUBZone and nearly met the Women Owned Small Business goal. We were very short on Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business. SDVOSB will be our focus for FY12.

October was a very busy month for Huntsville Center.

We had the Hispanic Heritage Month observance on Oct. 12 that included Puerto Rican native Dr. Edwin Nuñez as the guest speaker, the Army Materiel Command Ensemble and The Mariachis Perla Band.

November is Native American Indian Heritage Month. We will

partner with Team Redstone for an observance Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. in the Bob Jones Auditorium. Guest speaker will be Red Hawk, a nationally known motivational keynote speaker on the topics of cultural diversity, issues of social change, and structural inequality. Our Equal Employment Opportunity Office Special Emphasis Program Committee works very hard to bring these command-sponsored special observances to you. I encourage everyone to attend.

I spent time on the road, going to the pre-command course in Portland, Ore., to tell all the new commanders about the great work done by the Huntsville Center. I also attended an event in Florida that concerned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. And I wrapped up the month with a long overdue trip to Afghanistan.

As a Center, we are working on annual appraisals. The rating cycle for GS-9 through GS-11 ended Oct. 31. Please have your significant accomplishments to your supervisors if you have not already done that.

Our Small Business Office will be busy in November with the Small Business Forum Nov. 18 at UA



**Col. Nello L. Tortora**

Huntsville. This event is very successful each year. It gives small businesses an opportunity to talk with a number of program and project managers all in one location, and provides them with upcoming opportunities they may want to pursue. The USACE Small Business Conference will close out the month with a week long conference and training event Nov. 28-Dec. 2 in Washington, D.C.

We deployed three members of our Mission Planning Team to Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 13 to help with their recovery following the flooding that occurred

**See COMMANDER on Page 5**

## Hails and farewells

Hail: **Britney Estola**, Business Management Office; **Donna Randall**, Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise (Omaha); **Miguel Lang**, **Darrell Walker**, **Christopher Harvel**, **Jennifer Letson**, **Zenita Dale**, Center Contracting; **Jeff Hoki**, Chemical Demilitarization; **Monica Moran**, **Priscilla Tucker**, Engineering Directorate; **Gail Wilbur**, **Gary Robinson**, **Pamela Fisher**, **Matthew Thompson**, **Elizabeth Jackson**, Installation Support Program Management

Farewell: **Pamela Gillum**, **Jeffrey Roberts**, **Jameson Nichols**, **Catherine Hill**, CT; **Mona Neal**, **Brooke Conway**, Ordnance and Explosives; **Carl Harms**



**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:

## “What is your favorite Thanksgiving memory?”



“My most memorable Thanksgiving – I guess it would have been in 2010. My husband’s family were visiting from Florida the entire week. My family lives out west and they were unable to make the long trip to Tennessee. I had a doctor’s appointment two days before the Thanksgiving holiday, and was told that all was well and I had no major problems. Our family had a good time, eating, watching football games and just visiting. We all were thankful that we had family.

The memorable part of this Thanksgiving for me was on the following Monday, when everyone came back to work. I had a major heart attack and had bypass surgery during the same week. Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful for what we have. For me, I am thankful for my family and coworkers at Huntsville Center who were very supportive during my illness. “

**Carol Pitcock**  
Engineering Directorate



“I actually have two favorite Thanksgiving memories – they both made me stand out during the Thanksgiving holiday. My first is when I took home the First Place Award during the Huntsville Center Turkey Toss 2010 for having thrown a frozen turkey the farthest with an impressive distance of 33 feet, ten inches. It was a fun experience that made me famous at work, since I worked so hard to beat out more than 25 other Center employees to win the contest. My second memory is a quite different, and one that actually made me famous and ‘infamous’ in my neighborhood and throughout the community.

One Thanksgiving morning I awoke ready to give deep-frying a shot for the first time ... and caused a fire that affected my home and the homes of several of my neighbors. I made the necessary preparation to season the turkey and dropped it into the hot oil. To my surprise, the oil started to rise; it rose all the way to the top of the fryer with no indication of stopping. The next thing I heard was a loud BOOM as the turkey ascended into the air about 40 to 50 feet. Hot oil flew out of the fryer 15 feet in every direction, even falling on my next door neighbor’s car. As I searched the sky for my turkey, I didn’t notice that peanut oil had also leaked down the sides of the fryer and reached the flames of my propane tank. A fire ensued, spread 15 feet round the fryer and I watched as my front yard on caught on fire! Since I was unable to turn the propane tank off once the fire started, the fire kept growing until the fire department arrived and shut off the tank.

This memory also made me famous because I wrote an article about this memory that will be published in the November 2011 edition of Knowledge Magazine. Either way- I learned that deep- frying a turkey is very dangerous, especially for first timers.”

**Will Eggleston**  
Safety Office

# Employee Spotlight: Terry Stroschein

**Where do you work and what is your job title?** I work for the Chemical Demilitarization Directorate and my duty location is at our Blue Grass Resident Office in Richmond Kentucky. I am the Resident Engineer for the Blue Grass Chemical Agent Destruction Pilot Plant project.

**How long have you worked for the Corps?** I have worked for the Corps for nearly 29 years at various locations including Colorado, Kwajalein Atoll, Arkansas, Alabama, and here in Kentucky.

**In your own words, what is your job? What do you do?** As the Resident Engineer at a multi-billion dollar life cycle contract, my team and I oversee the design and construction phases of the project. The project's mission is to destroy the chemical agent munitions stockpiled at the Blue Grass Army Depot.

The Resident Office team consists of fifteen quality oversight and contract administration personnel located in two separate offices. Our Resident Office is also supported by a number of product delivery team (PDT) members located in Huntsville.

My Resident Engineer position is somewhat unique to the Center and the Corps in general as my team and I work directly with our Customer at the project site as opposed to completing a project and delivering it to the Customer. There are also a number of other stakeholders involved with the project so coordination and interface can be a very dynamic and challenging effort.

Safety is our number one priority during the current construction effort as we strive to continuously improve



Stroschein

in this area with a zero accident philosophy. Quality and production oversight and our attention to day to day contract administration matters are of the utmost importance as well. My job is to ensure my team has the resources they need and they are fully empowered to perform their jobs at a level that meets or exceeds our Customers expectations. I expect our team to not only identify non-compliant issues that may be out there but to also develop workable solutions that are in the best interest of the project, the Corps, and the taxpayer.

**Review the Campaign Plan goals and objectives. Which one(s) apply to you?** Campaign Plan Goal 3 – Deliver Innovative, Resilient, Sustainable Solutions definitely applies as our first of a kind project demands innovative engineering and construction solutions to meet the aggressive schedule our congressional leaders have mandated. The PDT has worked well with the systems contractor to implement cost saving design and construction solutions allowing the project to progress at a good pace.

Campaign Plan Goal 4 – Build and Cultivate a Competent, Disciplined, and Resilient Team Equipped to Deliver High Quality Solutions is supported by our design and construction oversight mission.

The construction activities we oversee provide an excellent learning opportunity for our younger engineers and those who have not had an opportunity to experience highly complex facility construction and process system installations. Working with experienced Contractors and other Government agencies on a day to day basis also affords us an opportunity to see how other businesses operate.

This exposure can contribute to increased technical knowledge, process improvements, and adaptation of best practices for Huntsville Center and the Corps as a whole.

**How do you see your job making a difference and contributing to the Corps' success?** The destruction of the chemical agent munitions stockpile in the Blue Grass region is high on the current presidential administration's list of priorities in our war against terrorism. My mission of ensuring the destruction plant is properly constructed and ready for operations on or ahead of schedule will be a key contributor to the success of the project and the Corps' support mission.

**What do you love about your job?** Those within the Corps that have had an opportunity to work on large construction projects will agree that the best part of the job is seeing a facility rising out of the ground toward its eventual completion. This visual progress provides a high sense of accomplishment.

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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](mailto:JoAnita.Miley@usace.army.mil).

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to the Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) and the Program Manager for Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (ACWA).and serves as the Life Cycle Project Manager for the process equipment and facility design, facility construction, equipment acquisition and equipment installation for all of the program chemical demilitarization facilities.

The Anniston Chemical Activity (ANCA) provided the safe and secure storage of more than seven percent of the nation's original chemical weapons stockpile. ANCA also was responsible for the safe transportation of the munitions to the ANCDF for destruction. The chemical munitions and agents stored at the depot contained either GB or VX nerve agent or mustard (blister) agents.

The Systems Contract for the Anniston Demilitarization Plant was awarded to Westinghouse Electric Corp., Feb. 29, 1996. The chosen technology for the ANCDF was reverse disassembly followed by incineration.

The plant was designed and constructed to withstand earthquake forces and has a ventilation system that provides negative air pressures within the plant to assure vapor containment.

All vapors and gases that left the plant passed through the pollution abatement system and carbon filters.

The munitions were loaded by hand onto conveyors that carried them into the Munitions Demilitarization Building where robotics separated the explosives and withdrawal of the agent which was destroyed in the liquid incinerator. Explosives were destroyed in the deactivation furnace and projectiles were decontaminated in the metal parts furnace.

According to Steve Light, a program manager in Huntsville's Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, the success at Anniston allowed the collection of many lessons learned that are incorporated into the two remaining facilities under construction: the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in Pueblo, Colo., and the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant in Richmond, Ky.

"Learning the successes and challenges of the munitions demilitarization campaign at ANCDF really helped us do a better job at Pueblo and Blue Grass," Light said.

"They are different types of plants and technologies, but they are required to destroy the same type of chemical munitions.

One major system development used at ANCDF was the explosives detonation technology to destroy munitions that had minor leaks in storage which had to be specially contained, also destruction of chemical agent munitions that has hardened within the munitions (called "heals") and

difficult to remove bursters (these are the explosives that explode to produce a chemical vapor in battle).

Most munitions at Anniston were incinerated in the ANCDF. However, a small percentage of munitions were too old or had the potential to leak and therefore, could not be processed in the facility. Anniston officials used a Static Detonation Chamber (SDC) to heat up these munitions to 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. This intense heat caused the munitions to self-detonate and then burn away within the sealed chamber.

"Many people from Huntsville Center have contributed to this success" Light said. "We look forward to the CMA program completion in April 2012.

Light said Pueblo and Blue Grass are not on that schedule because they use different technology. Those facilities will be completed in 2017 and 2021 respectively, Light said.

"Everyone in the Huntsville Center that touched this project should take an minute to celebrate its successes

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***"Everyone in the Huntsville Center that touched this project should take an minute to celebrate its successes ..."***

**Boyce Ross**  
Engineering Directorate director

and they should all take pride in the accomplishment of the safe elimination of the Alabama chemical weapon stockpile," said

Boyce Ross, the Engineering Directorate director.

Several senior officials attended the Anniston ceremony to include Congressman Mike Rogers and Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, the commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

Working together, ANCA and the ANCDF work force destroyed the stockpile safely – ensuring maximum protection of the installation and community population and providing treaty compliance. In March 2006, the ANCDF operators completed destruction of GB nerve agent followed by completion of VX nerve agent munitions in December 2008. Sept. 22 saw the end of the stockpile, with the completion of the third agent campaign – mustard agent.

With the completion of destruction operations, ANCDF now moves into closure operations – cleaning and shutting down the facility. CMA has safely completed disposal operations and closed its facilities in Edgewood, Md.; Newport, Ind. and Johnston Atoll, located 800 miles southwest of Hawaii.

The incineration site in Pine Bluff, Ark. has also completed its stockpile operations and is currently in the closure process. CMA continues to safely store and destroy chemical weapons stockpiles in Tooele, Utah and Umatilla, Ore.

CMA also oversees the safe storage of chemical weapons stockpiles in Blue Grass, Ky., and Pueblo, Colo.

Huntsville Center has and will continue to play a key role in the Army mission to safely destroy the Chemical Weapons Stockpile.

# Center project improves health care facilities for Fort Jackson basic trainees

By William S. Farrow  
Public Affairs Office

Huntsville Center's Medical Repair and Renewal Program, a division under the Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate, recently closed out two projects at Fort Jackson, S.C. which were combined under one contract to save the Army \$3.5 Million.

Since Fort Jackson is the Army's main production center for Basic Combat Training, the projects will also have a direct impact on the future of the Army too.

Fifty percent of the Army's Basic Combat Training load and 60 percent of the women entering the Army each year pass through the gates of the 52,000-acre installation.

Of the more than 40,000 Soldiers receiving training at Fort Jackson, nearly all of them receive some care at the McWethy Troop Medical Clinic, built in 1986, and the Oliver Dental Clinic, built in 1969.

With high traffic comes high wear and tear and both facilities were in need of renovations which included floor plan designs streamlined to improve functional area efficiency to handle increased troop activity.

Since Huntsville Center's MRR specializes in providing fast-track, efficient methods for design and execution of all types of medical facility repairs, renovations and construction projects, its program and project management, engineering, contracting and construction support was sought to coordinate the TMC and ODC projects.

However, Huntsville Center's project manager here for the Fort Jackson projects, Rex McLaury, said final approved repair and renewal designs for both projects to meet U.S. Army Medical Command healthcare standards revealed the government and contractor both benefitted from the outcome due to the Firm Fixed Price contract, minimized risk, significant cost savings, economies of scale with improved management and control of schedule, sub-



Courtesy photo

**Contractors discuss work in front of the Troop Medical Clinic at Fort Jackson. The clinic serves more than 40,000 soldiers.**

contracting performance and global market timing for material and equipment purchases.

The Oliver project for repair and renewal was awarded in September, 2008 for more than \$12 million with a completion date estimated at May 2010, yet due to customer changes and requests, the revised scheduled completion date was pushed to June 2010.

Prime-contractor JJ Kirlin, LLC, finished the projects on budget and with a May 2010 building occupancy date for the Oliver Clinic, the project finished one month earlier than expected. The TMC project was on schedule too with a ribbon cutting ceremony Oct. 4.

Once into construction, McLaury said both projects moved along very well with little to no major issues or interruption of services other than the customer's changes.

"Overall, with the complexities of these projects that required redesigns, multiple phases of construction, and coordination of activities to avoid interruption of medical service to Army recruits, the TMC and ODC projects were accomplished without significant problems," McLaury said.

"The contractor did a fine job of advanced planning and follow-up without any surprises and finished ahead of the scheduled contract completion date and was well deserving of the 'outstanding' rating they were given."

## COMMANDER

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there. Their responsibility was to assess the damage and under the direction of the Federal Emergency Management Agency determine the mission.

We currently have six employees deployed. They are primarily providing technical assistance but are moving into design, construction and expansion of existing mobile sites.

We also have two employees here

at the Center providing reach back support. This is the first time our Housing Planning and Response Team has been responsible for a mission.

While we are able to support this mission, we still have vacancies on the team that need to be filled. If you are interested, please contact Jeffrey Davis.

As a reminder, the Combined Federal Campaign is ongoing. If you have not yet received your brochure and pledge card, please see your

section keyworker or Velma Besteda in Engineering Directorate.

November moves us into the holiday season. We'll set our clocks back an hour Nov. 6 at 2 a.m. to return to Central Standard Time. The Activities Association is planning a Veterans Day activity for Nov. 10. More information will be coming out via e-mail.

And, of course, Thanksgiving is Nov. 24. Thank you for all you do to keep Huntsville Center great.

# Small business event set

**By William S. Farrow**  
**Public Affairs Office**

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is conducting its 12th annual Small Business Forum, 9 a.m.-noon, Nov. 18, at the University of Alabama, Huntsville, University Center.

This is an opportunity for small businesses to talk with contracting professionals, program managers and subject matter experts from Huntsville Center about their programs and upcoming opportunities.

The Huntsville Center supports very specialized missions that require unique technical expertise in programs that are generally regional or global and are very broad in scope.

The Center supports tasks that require a centralized management structure, integrated facilities or systems that cross geographic division boundaries; and tasks that require commonality, standardization, multiple-site adaptation or technology transfers.

Rebecca Vucinaj, Office of Small Business Programs chief, said the annual Small Business Forum is beneficial not only for small business concerns but to Huntsville Center as well because the forum is a means for Huntsville Center contracting officers and program managers to directly engage with multiple industries.

“Huntsville Center had a phenomenal and unprecedented year for fiscal year 2011 contributing to the growth and stability of our nation’s economy as 42 percent of the total prime contractor dollars awarded by the Center went to small business concerns with a total value of over \$575 million,” Vucinaj said.

“The Huntsville Center team wants to continue this momentum and is looking forward to meeting new, capable small businesses as well as take the opportunity to spend time with our many current small business contractors.”

## *Engineers earn energy certification*

**By William S. Farrow**  
**Public Affairs Office**

The Certified Energy Manager credential has become widely accepted and used as a measure of professional accomplishment within the energy management field.

Huntsville Center’s Jerrell Henley, Jason Page, Andrew Long and Patrick Lane recently were recently credentialed as Certified Energy Managers.

Begun in 1981, CEM certification has gained industry-wide use as the standard for qualifying energy professionals both in the United States and abroad.

The certification is recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Office of Federal Energy Management Programs and the U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as by numerous state energy offices, major utilities,

corporations and energy service companies.

When an individual becomes certified in a designated field, his or her professional achievement is recognized in the eyes of colleagues, government agencies, present and prospective employers, and clients.

Energy Conservation and helping the Army meet all of the new energy mandates is a core competency that has been in the engineering directorate since the mid-1980s, said Boyce Ross, Director of Engineering. “Certifications such as CEMs, lighting professionals, LEED AP etc are just a few of the critical professional credentials that our “world class workforce” possesses in order to meet the Army’s needs,” he said. The certification prerequisites are designed to take into account the possible diversity of education and practical experience an individual may have.



Henley



Lane



Page



Long

# Center changes vehicle decals

**By James Campbell  
Public Affairs Office**

Parking procedures at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, headquarters building are about to change.

Every employee with a vehicle will be required to get new window decals, said Lori Byrd, Chief of Security.

The major change to the decals is the inclusion of an expiration date, 3 years from date of issue, and employees will provide the make, model and color of the vehicle when the decal is issued.

Changing the decals by adding an expiration date provides more accountability and better security, Byrd said.

“We’re always reviewing our security posture, and we’ve determined we need to improve how we identify employee vehicles,” she said.

“These changes will primarily help us with accountability for the parking decals themselves – something that has been a challenge in the past,” Byrd said.

The dated parking decals are a little

larger and will be placed in the same spot on the inside of the windshield on the passenger side. The decals are also cling type rather than adhesive. Employees will be limited to two vehicles registered, except in special cases, Byrd said.

Each directorate at the Center’s University Square location sent representatives to meetings where parking and vehicle accountability was discussed and developed. Final approval was given by the Corporate Board with implementation scheduled to start in mid-November.

The current plan is to start issuing new decals by mid-November, alphabetically in groups. The process of getting everyone in to the new system is expected to take about three months.

Motorcyclist will just provide their vehicle information and won’t get a decal.

When employees replace a windshield, sell or otherwise transfer a car, they will have to return the decal or provide evidence of the decal being discarded, such as a memorandum from



Photo by James Campbell

**All Center employees in Huntsville will receive new decals starting in November.**

a dealer or buyer, Byrd said.

Some other recent changes to parking that have already been implemented include moving the General Service Administration vehicle fleet to a new parking area, and better identification of parking areas for employees in leased, outlying buildings near the headquarters.

## myPay account management system goes mobile

**Cleveland, Ohio** – myPay, the online pay account management system for all U.S. military personnel, military retirees, and many federal civilian employees, has gone mobile.

Now myPay users can check pay statements on the go using a smartphone or other mobile device that has a web browser.

Here’s how it works:

- 1. Launch your smartphone or other mobile device’s web browser.**
- 2. Go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.**
- 3. Login to myPay using the same Login ID and Password you use on your computer.**

myPay will automatically detect that you’re using a mobile device and load a mobile version of the site.

The myPay home page, login, Leave and Earning Statements, and Retiree Account Statements have been optimized for smartphones, and key account information is presented in an easy-to-read format.

myPay Mobile is one of a series of enhancements myPay is making this year.

All are based on customer feedback received through phone calls, Facebook and email.

myPay Mobile meets the same internationally recognized security standards that protect myPay. Security features include 128-bit encryption to protect sensitive information, firewall and intrusion detection software to block outsiders, and end-to-end encryption to protect all data sent to and from myPay.

myPay does not operate or control any wireless networks, and thus cannot guarantee the security used to access the mobile site. Users should check with their wireless service provider for information about their privacy and security practices.

Users should reference their mobile phone’s user manual to learn more about using the web browser.

If you need help with myPay, our Customer Care Center is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Eastern. The toll-free number is 888-332-7411.

*(Courtesy DFAS Public Affairs)*

# Safety office gives winter weather information

By Jo Anita Miley  
Public Affairs Office

Knowing winter weather terminology is an important aspect of winter weather safety, said Victor Taylor, chief of Safety Office at Huntsville Center.

Taylor said it is crucial that everyone at the Center becomes familiar with key weather terminology because reacting to specific weather terminology may make the difference between life and death during a winter weather emergency.

"We (Safety Office) want to keep our employees safe," Taylor said. "It's not worth it for Huntsville Center to have one of its employees injured because they don't know specifics about a winter weather event," he said.

Part of Taylor's job as chief of the Safety Office is make sure everyone at Huntsville Center knows how to keep safe during inclement winter weather.

The Safety Office does not recommend employees put their safety in danger during these situations and Taylor said unless an employee holds a

mission essential position, it is best to not attempt to drive during poor winter weather conditions.

If an employee makes the decision to stay home, Taylor said quite often supervisors are not aware of the status of their employees during a serious winter weather event which becomes a problem for the command.

"Sometimes the biggest problem for the Center during winter weather events is accountability," Taylor said.

"This is why we want to remind Center employees to contact their supervisor," he said. "Supervisors have to account for their people, whether they decide to take liberal leave or report to work during a winter weather event."

According to Taylor, many Center employees don't correctly process the weather alerts the safety office sends to the work force because they are not familiar with winter weather terms and don't realize they are putting their lives at risk when they do not follow the instruction his office gives during serious weather events.

For Taylor, preparing the work force to make informed decisions during inclement winter weather involves distributing tips about cold weather injury and prevention via e-mail and holding weather awareness safety contests during the winter months to provide familiarization with key winter weather terms to people know what to do during inclement winter weather events.

"Our main goal is to inform Huntsville Center employees on how to stay safe, so our office is proactive rather than reactive in educating Center employees about keeping safe throughout the winter season," Taylor said.

Concerned with getting the word out to Huntsville Center employees about winter weather safety as early and often as possible, Taylor provided key winter weather terms and notification processes before the winter weather season begins. Those terms are noted below.

For more winter weather safety tips or guidance on winter weather safety, call Taylor at 256-895-1583.

## Inclement winter weather notification process for Huntsville Center

With the possibility of snow and ice in future forecasts, Center employees should review the following notification process in the event of inclement weather. The weather decision will be made by the commander, who will notify the Public Affairs Office no later than 6 a.m. An announcement will be posted on the Huntsville Center Website ([www.hnd.usace.army.mil](http://www.hnd.usace.army.mil)) with any instructions as to late arrival, closure, etc., as well as on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/cehnc>) and Facebook (<http://bit.ly/HNCfbPage>). Local radio and television stations will be notified by PAO so Huntsville Center information can be included in the closure/delay information disseminated by the radio or television station. If the road conditions are such that you cannot safely get from your house to work, supervisors can approve liberal leave during the period of inclement weather.

## Inclement winter weather terminology

**Winter Weather Advisories:** Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet that cause significant inconveniences and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life-threatening situations.

**Winter Storm Watch:** Alerts public to possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, heavy sleet. Usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of Winter Storm.

**Winter Storm Outlook:** Issued prior to Winter Storm Watch. Outlook is given when forecasters believe winter storm conditions are possible.

**Winter Storm Warning:** Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, freezing rain or sleet is imminent or occurring.

**Wind Chill Advisory:** Issued when wind chill temperatures expected to be significant inconvenience to life with prolonged exposure, and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to hazardous exposure.

**Wind Chill Warning:** Issued when wind chill temperatures expected to be hazardous to life within several minutes of exposure.

**Snow Flurries:** Light snow falling for short durations. No accumulation or light dusting is expected.

**Snow Showers:** Snow falling at varying intensities for brief periods of time. Some accumulation is possible.

**Sleet:** Rain drops freeze into ice pellets before reaching ground. Sleet usually bounces when hitting a surface and does not stick to objects. However, it can accumulate like snow and cause a hazard to motorists.

**Freezing Rain:** Falls onto surface with a temperature below freezing causes it to freeze to surfaces such as trees, cars, roads.

**Blizzard Warning:** Issued for sustained or gusty winds of 35 mph or more and falling or blowing snow creating visibilities at or below one quarter mile persisting for at least three hours.



Photos by William S. Farrow

The Mariachis Perla played traditional mariachi music which was prevalent in Spanish colonial Mexico.



Dr. Edwin Nunez speaks about his beloved Puerto Rico.



The Army Materiel Band's Latin Express ensemble plays to an appreciative audience.

## Center celebrates Hispanic Heritage

By William S. Farrow  
Public Affairs Office

Huntsville Center's Equal Employment and Opportunity Office provided an opportunity for more than 60 people from the work force to attend an Hispanic American Heritage Month celebration Oct. 12 at the Center cafeteria.

On hand for the event was a live mariachi band, the Mariachis Perla, and the Army Materiel Command Band's Latin Express ensemble.

Guest speaker for the event was Puerto Rican native Dr. Edwin Nunez, a senior scientist at a local corporation. Nunez has worked on diverse projects throughout his career including projects dealing with environmental satellite data, weapons systems modeling

and simulation, radar systems and evolutionary computation and genetic algorithms. Nunez spoke extensively about Puerto Rico and the important roles the island has played in U.S. history.

Huntsville Center commander Col. Nello Tortora said the celebration was an opportunity to for the Center to recognize and observe multi-cultural diversity.

# Team Redstone, Center partners to celebrate Native American Heritage

November is Native American Indian Heritage Month and Huntsville Center is partnering with Team Redstone for an observance Nov. 9 at 10 a.m. in the Bob Jones Auditorium.

Guest speaker will be Chief Red Hawk, a nationally known motivational keynote speaker on the topics of cultural diversity, issues of social change, and structural inequality.

Chief Red Hawk is a Cherokee Indian, Founder of OPM Management Solutions, an organization established for the advancement of cultural understanding. He is an advisory board member of the Old Negev Research Institute, an institute dedicated to the

study of ancient Egyptian writings found in the “High Cultures” of the American Southwest. He is the former Chief of the Bird-Band for the American Cherokee Confederacy of Utah (retired), and also sat on the tribal council of the American Cherokee of Georgia as their tribal Medicine Man and Spiritual Leader. He still holds the honorary title of “Chief.”

Red Hawk is a traditional dancer, recording artist, graphic/fine artist, and author.

The International Library of Poetry voted him as one of the best poets of 2002. He is a master storyteller and flute player, and was recently given “Diplomat” status by the International



**Red Hawk**

Olympic Committee for his performances at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.

## About Native American Heritage Month

What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

One of the very proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the “First Americans” and for three years they adopted such a day.

In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kans., formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day. It directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red

Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval for a day to honor Indians. On Dec. 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September.

In Illinois, for example, legislators enacted such a day in 1919. Presently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday.

In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month.” Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including “Native American Heritage Month” and “National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month”) have been issued each year since 1994.

*( Courtesy of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior )*

## **Ethics Corner**

# **Potential pitfalls when meeting with contractors**

**By Chris Paden  
Office of Counsel**

**W**hen it comes to government contracting, you must have actual authority to bind the government. As axiomatic as that is, mistakes still occur. Therefore, when dealing with a contractor be mindful of what you say and ensure what you say is not taken as authorization to proceed with a contract or could be interpreted to add or change work to an existing contract. If the contractor takes what you say as direction, you may be facing an unauthorized commitment for which you may be personally liable.

If you invite contractors to come in for a technology display or capability demonstration, make sure you inform the contracting officer assigned to the program so that person can attend the demonstration or at least provide you with some cautionary reminders that the contracting officer is the only person authorized to bind the Government.

Also, be careful of how you respond to the contractor's demonstration. Statements like, "Great demo. I'd gear up if I were you because I can't imagine we wouldn't use this" may be nothing more than a platitude from you, but it may cause the contractor to spend more money developing a product or service the contractor perceived as a promise of contracts for the product from the government.

Further, when contractors come here for meetings capability briefings, even if the people meeting with them are not going to be sitting on technical boards, no one should allow the contractors to bring in food and/

or gifts. Huntsville Center employees should not accept these gestures even if they are below the \$20 limit. Any perception of an impropriety could cause us to have to re-do an entire procurement and most of ours are in the \$500-\$900 million range. That would truly be a waste of government resources.

While I was a contract law professor y instructing government personnel on the ins and outs of Government Contract Law, one of the basic tenants I tried to instill on my students was the axiom that only a warranted contracting officer has the ability to commit/obligate the government.

In fact, when it comes to government contract law, you don't get more basic. However, time and time again, government personnel run afoul of this tenant. It's easy to do. Before we get into specifics, let's review some high points of "authority." There is actual authority and implied authority. Actual authority is the easiest to recognize. You either have a warrant from the government, or in the case of a contractor, a letter from the company stating an employee has the ability to bind the company. There is also implied authority -- an assumption that an individual has authority.

For instance, a contractor building a new headquarters may meet with a lieutenant general on the job site who says a conference room's flooring needs upgrading to imported Italian marble. The contractor may assume the general is authorized to make changes. However, the general has no authority to bind the government. If the contractor acts on the general's request, the contractor does so at their own peril, and the general could face an unauthorized commitment and the command may prepare a ratification action.

If you have any questions about what authority you have in dealing with contractors, or any other ethics questions, please just contact me at extension 256-895-1103.

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