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Corps of Engineers' Huntsville Center celebrates 40th anniversary

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, celebrated its 40th anniversary Oct. 15. Huntsville Center, as it is commonly referred to, was established by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as Huntsville Division in 1967 with a single mission — to design and construct facilities for the deployment of the Army's Ballistic Missile Defense System.

Forty years later, the Center is still unique within the Corps of Engineers. While most Corps offices focus on locks, dams and other regional projects and receive funding from Congress, Huntsville Center has no geographic boundaries and performs its work worldwide on a reimbursable basis.

Huntsville Center does not replicate the work of other Corps offices. Instead, its programs either support other offices or are unique services not offered by others.

“We started with just one program and one mission, defense of the homeland, and 40 years later we are still focused on this mission using our specialized engineering and contracting capabilities,” said John Matthews, Huntsville Center Deputy for Programs and Technical Management, and a Huntsville Center employee since 1977. “Forty years later, we now have numerous programs that support homeland security both here and abroad.”

Huntsville Center programs have evolved from its history and experience. For example, in the 1970s, Huntsville Center was responsible for upgrading aging munitions storage facilities nationwide and installation restoration projects which eventually led to Huntsville Center's role in the cleanup of Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) for the Army.



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