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Ford selected as Huntsville's deputy for programs and technical management

By Debra Valine

Charles M. Ford became the Deputy for Programs and Technical Management at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville in Huntsville, Ala., Jan. 2, upon the retirement of the former DPTM, John Matthews.

Matthews retired following a more than 40-year career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Prior to becoming the DPTM, Ford served in various positions during his 15 years at the Huntsville Center to include the director of Installation Support and Programs Management and director of Chemical Demilitarization.

Ford also brings many years of field construction experience overseas as well as program and project management to the job.

“When I was in construction, I was on an installation working directly with the garrison commanders and directors of public works,” Ford said. “I understand some of the issues that come up when programming and budgeting for projects. I am also familiar with issues that come up when operating facilities on the garrisons.”

Ford's other USACE assignments include 10 years in Incirlik, Turkey, where he held successive positions as chief of the Contract Administration Branch, project engineer, resident engineer and area engineer. As the area engineer, he was responsible for managing all USACE construction efforts with Turkey, Northern Italy, Northern Iraq and Cyprus. He also served a tour in Germany as the Corps' project manager for all medical clinics within Europe. He returned with his family to Alabama in 1996 to work at the Huntsville Center as a project manager in the Medical Facility Repair and Renewal Program. Throughout his career, Ford has been assigned special projects including those in Krakow, Poland; Khelmenski, Ukraine; and Shchuch'ye, Russia. He also served in the U.S. Army as a captain from 1978 to April 1983.

“One of the things I want to do is have Huntsville Center recognized as a tool in the Installation Management Command's toolbox,” Ford said. “Huntsville Center project managers work with Corps of Engineers Districts to provide facility-level solutions. I also want to partner with Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to develop solutions at the programmatic enterprise level. Huntsville Center has a wealth of experience and diverse program areas that can be leveraged at both levels.”

Ford attended Auburn University in Auburn, Ala., where he received his master's degree in Civil Engineering, Geotechnical in 1978, and a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering in 1976. He is a professional engineer, project management professional and Defense Acquisition Corps member.