



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Contact:
Debra Valine
(256) 895-1694

Huntsville Center is open

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. – The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville is open and operating on generator power thanks to a tremendous effort by a dedicated team working through the weekend.

The Center had been closed Thursday-Sunday due to the power outage caused by the severe weather that hit Northern Alabama Wednesday.

A liberal leave policy is in effect for employees who need to take care of families, or property. Employees are encouraged to call their supervisors for accountability purposes.

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who were impacted by the disaster. It’s been a hard few days for all of us,” said Col. Nello Tortora. “First and foremost, take care of your families. That is what is most important. It will take some time before things get back to normal for a lot of folks.”

Messages about the Center’s closure were sent out by e-mail, social media, on the Huntsville Center web page when it became available, and relayed to local news media. Employees may not have received the messages because they did not have power to access to the Internet or telephone.

“We apologize for the intermittent communication,” said Lt. Col. David Bailey, Center deputy commander. “We know many of you lost power and could not access telephone or Internet services. However, when something like this happens, it is important that you let your supervisors know your status. It is critical that we account for all our employees.”

By Saturday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Information Technology, Logistics and Contracting team had leased a generator that provided power to the Center’s servers enabling Blackberry and remote access to government computers.

A second much larger generator was located Friday afternoon and installed Sunday that allowed Center employees to return to work Monday.

In the meantime, Center leadership is identifying mission essential personnel who may be temporarily relocated to other nearby Corps of Engineers district offices or be allowed to telework from home. Because the Huntsville Center’s missions are global, it is critical that projects continue to be managed to meet deadlines for projects such as barracks and administrative furniture for buildings built in support of Base Realignment and Closure. Huntsville Center manages the purchase of furniture and furnishings for the Army.

“We’re doing everything we can to get the Center back up and operational,” Bailey said. “Right now, we just ask for everyone’s patience.”

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