NEWS RELEASE

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Fort Belvoir's Pence Gate upgraded, ready for traffic

By Debra Valine

FORT BELVOIR, Va. – Testing of the largest active vehicle barrier system in the Army to date will complete a $17.1 million project here to upgrade six access control points and prepare them for the Automated Installation Entry system that will be installed later this year.

Testing occurred Feb. 21-25.

Pence Gate was a small part of a larger effort that included work accomplished as part of Base Realignment and Closure as well as the Access Control Point Equipment Program.

Work included installing the infrastructure and equipment required to support AIE, a system that will be used to validate identification cards against national databases to ensure the person is authorized to be there. The BRAC portion of the project widened roadways and installed barriers and additional ID check lanes. The ACPP project placed guard booths, generators, barriers and other equipment at 13 traffic ID check lanes.

"Pence ACP is unique because of its terrain and real estate constraints," said Amber Martin, the ACPP program manager at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville. "The hospital site and other facility sites were close to the ACP, so a unique barrier solution had to be developed to ensure Army standards were met."

The upgrades brought the ACPs up to Army standards. Guards will have a higher level of protection, and improved conditions will allow for more efficient processing of vehicles.

"The ACP is the first impression that employees and visitors have when entering the installation," Martin said. "They are areas where visitors can be helped if they need directions and are where guards can assess potential issues with vehicles trying to gain access to the installation. ACPs are also the installation's first line of defense if there is an incident that the installation community needs to be protected against."

Partners in the project include Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers; Omaha District, Corps of Engineers; Huntsville Center, Corps of Engineers' Electronic Security Center of Expertise and ACPP; Fort Belvoir, Va.; Office of the Provost Marshal General; Product Manager – Force Protection Systems; and Johnson Controls, Inc.

"This project is important because ACPs are one of the tools that garrison commanders use to protect the people who protect us," Martin said.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was tasked to field portable physical security equipment to all Army installations worldwide after 9/11. After fielding portable equipment, the program was tasked to place permanent equipment at the ACPs in order to better manage traffic flow while maintaining required security levels.

To date, 30 of 34 installations in the U.S. and 36 of 36 overseas installations have received equipment upgrades to 128 of the 138 funded ACPs. In addition, 17 installations have planning actions complete with another eight installations having received safety system upgrades to their existing equipment. In all, the ACPP managed 95 projects worldwide.

ACPP has the contracting and management capabilities and experience to provide design, equipment and infrastructure upgrades and maintenance to ACPs worldwide. The program is experienced and capable in executing ACP design, construction and maintenance projects in accordance with all applicable Department of Defense and service specific standards.

The ACPP at the Huntsville Center has been executing a centrally funded program called the Access Control Point Equipment Program in accordance with the priorities of OPMG for more than 10 years.

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