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of Engineers

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New personnel system's final regulations sent to Congress

By Jim Garamone
American Forces
Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Ending a nearly two-year process, the Defense Department has presented the final National Security Personnel System regulation to Congress.

Acting Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England said at a Pentagon news conference Oct. 26 that Congress has 30 days to review the final regulations. The regulations will take effect Nov. 25. The changes

ultimately will affect 650,000 of the 750,000 DoD civilian employees.

Once adopted, the labor-relations portion of the system will take effect immediately. "The human resources portion — the new pay bands, the pay-for-performance system, etc. — is scheduled to progressively begin in February," England said.

Some 60,000 employees are in the first group, or "spiral," to come under the new program, officials said. But human resources officials will be very deliberate in

how the program goes, England said. In fact, the system will go through a six-month "mock period" before becoming effective.

"That is, at the end of six months, we will evaluate," England said. "We will act as if this was for real, but it will be a mock exercise in terms of the results that we can learn."

If problems arise, DoD will halt the program and adjust it. "We want the system to work right for everyone," he said.

All DoD employees will receive training in the system.

Debris removal an important part of storm recovery effort

By William Noel
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Huntsville

Note: The author deployed for 30 days to help with storm-relief work in Louisiana following Hurricane Katrina.

Removing storm-toppled trees is one of the biggest jobs in helping communities recover from a disaster like Hurricane Katrina. Two young engineers from the Corps of Engineers in Huntsville are learning firsthand just how important — and how large — the job of debris removal really is.

Audrey Nore and Brandon Price are part of the Corps' debris removal operation in Boutte, La. (pronounced "boo-



Audrey Nore, left, and Brandon Price, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center Huntsville, check the amount of debris to be removed.

Photo by April Deuel

See *Debris* on page 7

Commander's thoughts

Veteran's Day just passed by and we all need to reflect on those who came before us and



Col. John D. Rivenburgh

sacrificed a portion of their lives or gave the ultimate sacrifice so we can live and work freely today. They didn't do it for fame or fortune, but did it because it is the right thing to do. We daily support these fine men and women, both in the United States and overseas. We're now well into Fiscal Year 2006 and have lots more work to do.

In addition to the great work you all do in the Center every day, you all have truly stepped forward to support

Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma relief operations. More than 40 folks have deployed to Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Florida and many have extended.

The unsung heroes are those of you who remained here in Huntsville or at one of our project sites, taking on the burdens of those who are deployed. To each and every one of you, THANKS!

At times like this when our operational tempo is so very high, we can't forget safety. In addition, Daylight Saving Time is over and when you add morning frost and fog to the equation, even the drive to work in the morning becomes high adventure. Take care of yourself and your loved ones by wearing your seatbelts, watching the speed limits and looking out for the other guy. Each of you is too valuable to your family, your community and our Corps to lose you to an accident.

Awards

On-the-Spot

Laura Beth Quick, BMO
Cindy Halbrooks, Executive Office
Pam Fuqua, IM
Pam Draper, IM
Sharon Phillips, IM
Richard Pitruzzello, IM
Beverly Penaranda, IM
Gary Douglas, IM
Mary Lou Chapman, IM
Shirley Burke-Mitchell, IM
Roxanne Hopple, RM

Time Off

James B. Smith, MR
Mary F. Stringer, MR

Special Act/Service

Stanley Sillivant, MR
David Ghoja, MR
Sandra J. Oliver, MR

The Bulletin asks:

What is your family's Thanksgiving tradition?



Bill Noel
 Resource
 Management
 Directorate

"We all get together at my brother's house in Birmingham. We all bring different dishes."



Patricia Lomax
 Contracting Directorate

"We have a big family gathering at my grandmother's house. There are about 100 people so I only have to cook one dish."



Anita Norton
 Resource
 Management
 Directorate

"We normally go to my mom's in Virginia, but haven't gotten a tradition since moving down here a year ago."



U.S. Army Corps
 of Engineers

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BULLETIN

Commander..... Col. John D. Rivenburgh
Chief, Public Affairs..... Kim Gillespie
Editor..... Debra Valine
Editorial Assistant Joan Burns

Innovative thinking, proactive risk taking, exemplary leadership reap high-level acquisition award

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

Huntsville Center's chief, Acquisition Services Division, received high-level recognition in the acquisition field Oct. 2.

Sharon H. Butler received the Army Acquisition Excellence Award in the category of Transforming the Way We Do Business at an event that recognized

Acquisition Corps and the greater Army acquisition, logistics and technology work force," said the Honorable Claude M. Bolton Jr., Army Acquisition Executive and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASAALT), who hosted the event. "As a community, we are facing some of our greatest challenges. We are serving a nation at war and a military force that is



Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Yakovac Jr., left, director, Army Acquisition Corps and Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (ASAALT); and the Honorable Claude M. Bolton Jr., right, the Army Acquisition Executive and ASAALT; congratulate Sharon Butler, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Huntsville Center.

the accomplishments of the acquisition work force's most extraordinary members and the teams they lead.

The Army Acquisition Excellence Award recognizes an Army acquisition work force individual or team whose performance and contributions set them apart from their peers. The nominees work at all levels, from senior management to newly hired interns. The award directly reflects the outstanding achievements in support of the Soldier and the Army's Transformation efforts.

"We honored some of the outstanding men and women — military and civilian — of the Army

transforming while fighting. It is clear that we have charted the right course — increasing capability, flexibility and sustainability — and that we must maintain the tremendous momentum we have built. With great challenges come great opportunities for success.

"Our courageous men and women in uniform display unrelenting tenacity, steadfast purpose, quiet confidence and selfless heroism," Bolton observed. "Let us continue to work hard and work together to ensure their decisive victory and safe return. They face threats that change — quite literally — overnight, and their success in meeting these challenges rests squarely on our collective shoulders."

U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center Director Craig A. Spisak presided over the event as master of ceremonies. Other Army and defense acquisition senior leaders present included Dean G. Popp, principal deputy to the ASAALT and director for Iraq Reconstruction and Program

Management; Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Yakovac, military deputy to the ASAALT and director, Acquisition Career Management; Dr. Nancy Spruill, director, Acquisition Resources and Analysis, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; Tina Ballard, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for Policy and Procurement; Wimpy D. Pybus, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for Integrated Logistics Support; Dr. Thomas H. Killion, deputy assistant secretary for Research and Technology and chief scientist; and former military deputy to the ASAALT Lt. Gen. (Ret.) John S. Caldwell.

"Sharon Butler is truly transforming the way we do business within the Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through innovative thinking, proactive risk taking and exemplary leadership," said J.R. Richardson, director of Contracting, Huntsville Center, who nominated Butler for the award. "Her leadership and non-traditional contracting approach for award of contracts for construction of missile facilities for National Missile Defense at Fort Greeley, Alaska; the TEAM task order for the Energy Savings and Performance Contracting Program at Fort Bragg, N.C.; and the privatization of the water/wastewater system at Fort Irwin, Calif., are to be commended."

"I am honored — first to be nominated and I am just delighted about winning the award," Butler said. "I had no idea I had been nominated. I am thankful that the management here allows me to be creative and innovative," said Butler said.

"Everyone from the director to the commander supported me when issues came up that required me to take risks and make decisions that were out of the ordinary."

See Award on page 7

Engineers Without Borders helps build a better world

By Joan Burns
Public Affairs Office

Art Dohrman got an email from the American Society of Civil Engineers last February announcing a Web seminar about hands-on capacity building in the developing world. He had heard media reports about a humanitarian organization responsible for engineering projects all over the world, but didn't know much about the organization.

What Dohrman, a civil engineer in the Huntsville Center's Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, learned from the Web seminar introduced him to the remarkable story of how Engineers Without Borders, or EWB, began.

Dohrman learned that it all started when Bernard Amadei, a professor of civil engineering at the University of Colorado at Boulder, bought a house in Boulder, Colo.

From the telephone book, Amadei randomly chose a landscape company. By chance, three of the crew who came to do the work were natives of Belize, a small country between Mexico and Guatemala.

"One of them asked me if I would be interested in helping his Mayan village with a water distribution problem. He pointed out that since I was an engineer, I might be able to help. I told him, yes, I would be interested," said Amadei.

Two years later, Amadei received a letter from one of the landscape crew. "I worked in your back yard. Do you remember me? Are you ready to help?" he asked.

Agreeing to visit Belize, Amadei

found himself involved in what he had always dreamed of doing – directing engineering to the solution of development problems.

"Improving the lives of the 5 billion people whose main concern is to stay

Amadei returned to Colorado armed with an idea that challenged the engineering students at the university. He recruited eight students in civil and environmental engineering, and Denis Walsh, a civil engineering expert from Boulder, also agreed to help.

Since the Mayan village had no electricity, the engineering team had to be creative. They devised a ram type pump system driven by a small waterfall. The pump carries the water to an elevated storage tank to provide a constant flow of water to the village.

The engineering team, with a lot of help from the citizens of San Pablo, successfully completed the water distribution project in May of 2001.

The random choice of a landscape company out of the phone book and the completion of a sustainable solution to water distribution problems in a small Mayan village resulted in a humanitarian organization with global impact.

Engineers Without Borders has grown from a few members to more than 3,000 in a few short years. The 40 local chapters in the United States include both student chapters and

professional engineer chapters. The project list includes work in 40 different countries.

Dohrman is vice president of the Huntsville chapter. "When I went to the EWB Web site, I found that Huntsville did have a chapter, but there was only one member," said Dohrman.

Dohrman and Stephen Clanton, the sole member, began to plan for recruitment and organization of the



Courtesy Photo

Project team members from the University of Colorado at Boulder work with residents of San Pablo, Belize, installing pipe for the water distribution project in May 2001.

alive by the end of each day on our planet is no longer an option for engineers, it is an obligation," Amadei said.

The small Mayan village did indeed have water distribution problems. The only way to get water to the village was to physically carry it from a nearby river. Since most of the adult population worked at a banana plantation nearby, children were the ones who carried the water to the village.

See *Water* on page 9

Managers can look to local universities when hiring engineers

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

Without a degree from an accredited engineering school, many graduates find it hard to get a job. That's why accreditation is so important to Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University (A & M) in Normal, Ala.

Arnecia Bradley, a 2004 A&M engineering school graduate and Department of the Army intern with Huntsville Center, said accreditation is the key to landing an engineering job, especially with the government.

"I was a co-op with the Corps

"The year before accreditation came up, they made sure we followed it (the curriculum) as written," she said. "A few of the courses required labs so we preformed more lab work. The classes were more hands-on. Having the new facilities motivated the students."

Alabama A&M is up for recertification of its School of Engineering and Engineering Technology accreditation, and that's good news for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. To be hired as an engineer with the Corps, an engineer must have graduated from an accredited college or university.

Getting the university accredited was a major enabling step to Corps hiring

in the product — the student — the university is putting out.

"With the aging civilian work force, we need a pool of qualified engineers from which to recruit future workers. We have a long-standing relationship with A&M," Potter said. "A&M is a historically black land grant college or university (HBCU), so they occupy a special place in our history and culture."

The committee, which included counterparts in industry such as Boeing and Teledyne Brown, was helping the School of Engineering and Technology. "We assisted with the accreditation of the Engineering and Technology school by helping get equipment, developing curriculum and providing guest lecturers in the classrooms," Potter said.

"The Engineering Technology Departments were accredited, but we could not hire those graduates on the engineering pay scale; they could be hired only as technicians."

The department then expanded to include engineering, as well as engineering technology, and took on the name School of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

"The reason this matters to us is that the Corps of Engineers does not recognize engineering and technology as anything more than any other degree," Potter said. "But engineers who have graduated from an accredited engineering college or university can be hired as engineers, on our engineering pay scale."

To reach the students of accredited engineering universities, the Huntsville Center participates in outreach efforts with Alabama A&M, as well as the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH).

For instance, the Center supported UAH's second annual Co-op Employer Day Sept. 22. Employer Day provides an opportunity for employers and students interested in Cooperative Education to discuss the program and career fields available, but it is not a job fair. A similar event is held at A&M.



Photo by Debra Valine

Arnecia Bradley is a Huntsville Center employee in the Department of the Army intern program. She is a graduate of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University.

already," Bradley said. "The accreditation helped me get into the DA Intern Program. Without the accreditation, it's possible that I could not have been hired."

Bradley, who works in the Civil-Structures Division, Site Development Branch was a student at A&M when the school first got accredited. "I was so happy to see that happen. A lot of companies will not hire a graduate if you are not from an accredited school."

Bradley, whose degree is in civil engineering, said the curriculum at A&M continues to improve with accreditation.

managers. ABET approval is a stamp of approval at the national level. Alabama A&M received its first engineering accreditation in 2002; this accreditation cycle ensures the university continues to meet the academic requirements designed to meet industry needs.

"It gives us a new source for engineers," said John Potter, the chief of the Ordnance and Explosives Design Center at the Huntsville Center, and member of the Industrial Advisory Committee at Alabama A&M University. The committee is made up of a group of people from industry that has a stake

Mosul City renovates station, polices its own

By Polli Keller
Gulf Region North
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

MOSUL, Iraq — The Mosul City government and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are working together to renovate eight Mosul police stations. This \$1.9 million project started in June 2005 and is scheduled for completion by the end of the year. Five of the eight scheduled renovations are complete.

These repairs make better working conditions and a safer environment for the police officers working and living in the facilities. This post conflict city fell into disrepair while under Saddam Hussein's reign and needed upgrading to make the infrastructure functional. The police stations' electrical and

plumbing utilities were allowed to deteriorate and regular building maintenance was nonexistent.

These renovations included opening clogged drains to prevent flooding, installing window screens, roof repair, installing air conditioning and heating, as well as installing water lines and storage tanks and repairing restrooms.

Carpenters, masons, electricians, plumbers and painters are a few of those hired to make the repairs. At some police stations, workers and police officials live on the premises while the construction work is completed.

The police stations represent the Iraqi government at the local level; thus these projects are targeted by insurgents. The renovation contracts are paid for with coalition funds which also

represent a threat to the insurgency. Both the contractors and the workers have been threatened for their efforts to rebuild the infrastructure of Iraq.

"Local Iraqi contractors were hired to perform these services," said Frank Scopa, area office engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mosul Area Office. "These contractors accepted these jobs at a considerable risk.

"The renovations are obviously paid for with coalition funds," Scopa said. "This presents a danger to the workers. These contractors went in knowing they were risking their lives."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mosul resident office manages the construction and renovation of several projects in the area. Currently there are 80 projects in Mosul. Thirty-eight are complete, 42 are in process.

Ordnance and Explosives Directorate gets new chief

John C. Potter is the new director of the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate. He replaces David

Douthat, who is retiring.

Potter, who has been with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since 1982 and has been with the Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville since 1990, previously served as chief, Ordnance and Explosives Design Center; chief of the Ordnance and Explosives Center of Expertise; and program manager in the Corps of Engineers Ordnance and Explosives Innovative Technology.

Potter has bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Georgia Tech and a doctorate in geotechnical engineering from Ohio State University.



John C. Potter

Huntsville Center contractor suffers fatalities in Iraq

See related story on page 10

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Two U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center Huntsville contractor employees died and a third was injured Oct. 27 in Iraq.

Joe Smith, an American living in Cambridge, England, and Khaled Ali, a Jordanian national, both working for Cochise Consultancy, Inc., of Valrico, Fla., were killed when the vehicle they were riding in was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device.

The incident is under investigation.

Huntsville Center is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Center of Expertise for Ordnance and Explosives. Huntsville Center's Coalition Munitions Clearance Program is responsible for receiving, transporting, segregating and destroying captured or any other munitions posing a danger in Iraq.

Storage and disposal of the ammunition is performed at several locations throughout Iraq. To date, more than 293,000 tons of ammunition has been destroyed by the Huntsville Center program, significantly reducing risks to Iraqi citizens and U.S. personnel serving in Iraq.



Photo by April Deuel

Audrey Nore, left, and Brandon Price estimate how many loads will be required to remove the debris.

Debris

Continued from page 1

tea”), just a few miles west of New Orleans. This is the first disaster relief deployment for each of them. They were among the first people from the Huntsville Center to volunteer for disaster relief duty.

Katrina’s winds snapped off trees all over the area. Some trees as large as three feet in diameter were uprooted. Sometimes they landed on houses. Mostly they cluttered yards, downed power lines and phone cables, and blocked streets.

Nore describes their 7-to-7 days in the Louisiana heat as hard but rewarding. “I like it a lot. It’s hard being away for 30 days,” she said. “The rewarding part is hearing from the local people. They really appreciate getting the debris removed from their neighborhoods and they come and thank us all the time. It makes me feel really good about what I’m doing.”

Price said he wanted to deploy last year after Hurricane Ivan, but he was still finishing his degree in civil engineering. For Nore and Price, their days are divided between overseeing the contractor crews picking up the debris to be sure they are working safely, answering questions from the public and estimating the size of loads. They make sure the workers are wearing their hardhats and wearing their safety glasses. Using a chain saw means they must wear protective leg chaps.

Loads are taken to the “debris reduction facility.” “That’s the dump where we burn it all,” Price laughs.

A truck may have a volume of 30 yards and be able to carry two or three large trees with their root balls but only be half full, Nore said. Their estimates determine how much the contractor is paid. To estimate the actual size of a load they must climb a vertical ladder into a tower and make a visual estimate. A new tower with regular stairs is being built. “It’s been worthwhile. I feel like I’m doing my part,” Price said.

Award

Continued from page 3

Butler started working for the Corps of Engineers as a summer hire at age 16.

“When I was in college I continued to work in what would be considered a STEP position now,” Butler said. “At that time I was studying nursing, but I found that it takes a very special person to be a nurse, so I switched majors to accounting.”

She started the nursing program at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University in Normal, Ala. After completing the two-year program at A&M, she transferred to the University of Alabama in Huntsville to finish her degree.

“I changed my major to accounting because my grandmother had been sick with cancer,” Butler said. “She was in the hospital and there was nothing I could do to help her. I realized I could not be a nurse because I could not emotionally divorce myself from the situation.”

In 1980, the Corps did not have a co-op program for accounting. Former contracting directors Jim Reynolds and Ray Aldridge talked to Butler about contracting. From that point, Butler has continued to rise through the ranks to her current position.

“I have worked on almost all of the programs at the Center at some point during my career,” Butler said. “I like challenges, I like the people and I love coming up with solutions to problems. Our purpose is equipping and caring for the warfighters and their families. That mission is extremely important to me.

“I have a wonderful team that works with me,” Butler said. “I could not have achieved this without the support of the team. The Corps is like my family — I’ve been with them all my life! We have so many different types of projects here. You never get bored.”

“Sharon has a talent for unraveling complex situations, cutting away complicating or needless details, and helping everyone see the path forward,” said Dawn Scott, the administrative officer in the Directorate of Contracting. “Her approach pulls people together and helps each person envision his or her role in the solution, then move forward as a team to accomplish what many would deem unachievable. We are blessed to have Sharon on our team. Her ‘can-do’ spirit and positive attitude are infectious.”

New ways of doing business can save government money

Huntsville's Facility Reduction Program offers options for planners, builders

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

While removing a facility at Fort Rucker, Ala., two boilers were discovered to be in good serviceable condition. The plan had been to haul them away to the local landfill; however, the team knew Redstone Arsenal was looking to purchase new boilers of a similar size. A little coordination between the two installations resulted in having boilers from Fort Rucker transferred to Redstone Arsenal while providing significant savings to both installations.

This is one example of a best practice when conducting facility removal. Another recent example involves having unneeded playground equipment moved from one installation to another where a need for similar playground equipment existed.

The Facility Reduction Program at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntsville Center, has several methods for making the best decision at the best value. Harold Merschman, program manager, and his team are available to help government employees and contractors alike determine the most efficient, least costly way to conduct business.

"There is a paradigm shift under way on taking down unneeded facilities," said David Shockley, a Huntsville Center project manager working for Merschman. "Most people take down buildings with the same group of contractors they use to build or renovate them. Generally speaking, building contractors charge more to take down a building than contractors who demolish buildings for a living."

It's a matter of finding the right contractor for the job. It's called having a cost effective acquisition strategy.

"When you tear down a structure and pull out concrete foundation, it leaves holes in the ground," Shockley said. "If you take the concrete and haul it away to the landfill, you then have to buy something to fill up the hole. We have encountered cases where contractors were paid to haul away concrete foundations and then paid again to bring it back as engineered backfill after it had been ground up — sometimes even from the same contractor. What a deal, they get paid to take our concrete, grind it up and then sell it back to us on the same project. We need contractors who have the machinery to grind our concrete on our site and put it back in our hole."

Another cost-saving method for removing large pieces of concrete involves finding a source looking for large pieces of concrete and move the concrete to that source rather than to a landfill or grinding it up.

Shockley tells of another scenario involving lead-based paint and asbestos removal.

"There is a prevailing historical norm where a lot of people are trying to be conservative and do the right thing environmentally," Shockley said. "While I applaud their intent, many unnecessarily abate lead-based paint from structures to get them ready to tear down. They do it because they think it is required, but our research clearly indicates that abating lead-based paint for facility demolition is not required by state or federal regulation. If lead-based paint is abated from a structure when it isn't required, the cost is higher, and it's wrong to spend funds on things we don't have to have. When you grind the debris from a building and there's enough lead present, the waste material is classified as hazardous and must be disposed of appropriately. But it all depends on how much lead is there. There's a formula to determine how much lead will be there and tests are conducted to verify those amounts. There can be situations where choosing to abate lead-based paint prior to tearing a building down is more cost effective if the debris classification would change from hazardous to normal depending of disposal cost differences but that would be a rare event."

People also tend to use the same abatement contractors with similar scopes of work to remove asbestos prior to tearing a building down that they would use prior to a renovation project. When you get ready to tear a building down, you don't necessarily use the same standards you would use to get it ready to make it into a child care center, Shockley said. For example, if a building had asbestos floor tile in it and you were renovating, the tile would probably have to be removed and bagged manually, but if you were tearing the structure down you would probably keep the floor foamed while the big machines destroy the whole structure. The government can save a lot of money by not abating asbestos with the wrong scope.

"We often get packages to review from installations that are looking for the right way to go about doing this business," Shockley said. "We review them and let them know how we would approach it. Because we see a lot of projects at a lot of installations and because we do this for a living we often see opportunities that an installation or even local Corps of Engineer District might not see. It isn't uncommon for contracts to be awarded for less than half of what was expected after we've been involved in their acquisition strategy.

These are a few examples of how the government can work through facilities reduction issues. The team at the Huntsville Center is available to help.

"We have people here who can help others who are looking for facilities reduction solutions," Shockley said. "All they have to do is call us at (256) 895-1338 or 895-1369."

Online Toolbox offers engineers cost estimating capability, best practices, library services

Government employees and contractors can find the best way to perform a facility reduction job by using the Best Practices Toolbox which is hosted on Engineering Knowledge Online (EKO). Anyone with Army Knowledge Online (AKO) can fully access this Web site at: <https://eko.usace.army.mil/frptoolbox/index.cfm>.

The Best Practices Toolbox has three basic functions that can be very useful when planning a project:

1. It has an estimating capability that

will determine what demolition should cost based on very little provided information. These estimates also identify the minimum landfill diversion quantities that should be attained as building demolition debris is put to cost effective use rather than be blindly hauled away. It makes the probability of getting a good price much better.

2. The toolbox provides a list of best practices, such as how to deal with lead-based paint, asbestos and things deep in the ground, such as

utilities and foundations. It identifies what the best practices are based on location.

3. The toolbox also contains a technical library relating to facility removal. In addition to what the Huntsville Center team posts, electronic shelves exist in this library to allow the Engineering Research and Development Center's Corps of Engineer's Research Laboratory and the Army Environmental Center to be able to post documents directly into this online library at any time.

Water

Continued from page 4

chapter. "I wanted to be involved in helping disadvantaged people around the world to develop economic opportunities so that they could better provide for their families," Dohrman said.

That's precisely what the EWB organization is about. Amadei says that EWB is "offering a new platform, a new outlet, to people who have wanted to help and didn't know where to go."

EWB serves a dual purpose. There are professional chapters and student chapters. "The idea is for students to gain experience by doing engineering and design with oversight by the professional engineer members. Much of the actual work on the projects in a community is done by local citizens," said Dohrman.

Since EWB's focus is on sustainable development, projects are more than a simple humanitarian helping hand. Projects are designed taking into consideration the influence of the culture, local economics, existing conditions and capability of the local citizens so that the collaborative development impacts the community in a sustainable way; that is, the community itself will be capable of operating and maintaining the project

results over the long term.

The Huntsville chapter has an idea they hope to set in motion in 2007 or 2008. The project would involve rewiring automobile alternators to produce household electric power.

Each re-wired generator would be powered by a small windmill and would serve a single family. "We hope to install a prototype in a host community in Tajikistan in Central Asia, and train local residents to build and maintain the generators," Dohrman said.

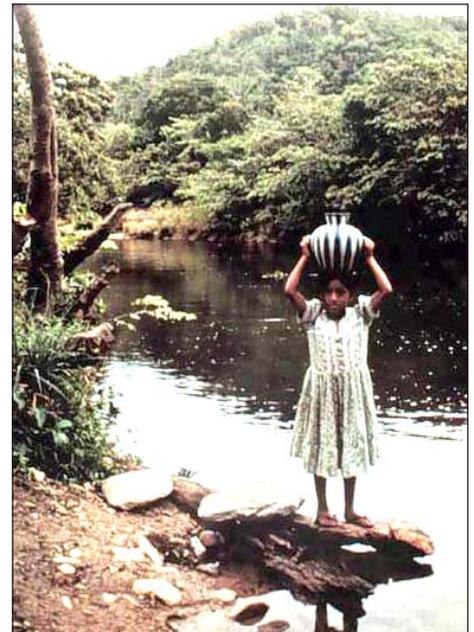
"If we don't get an assigned project in the next couple of months, we will be forced to wait until 2007 for an assignment. The organization is expanding so rapidly that there are not enough projects to go around. We've missed out on two projects because other chapters got there before we did," said Dohrman.

The Huntsville chapter meets the third Thursday of each month at noon on the University of Alabama in Huntsville campus in Tech Hall.

"Projects require expertise in civil, environmental, electrical, mechanical and structural engineering. This is a great opportunity to work with and mentor young professionals while assisting

economically disadvantaged communities around the world," said Dohrman.

For more information, contact Art Dohrman at 256-895-1623. The EWB national organization Web site is at www.ewb-usa.org.



A child carries a container of water from a nearby river to the village of San Pablo, Belize. Since adults work away from the village, children must carry water for the family.

Courtesy Photo

Jailed for a good cause



Photo by Debra Valine



Yazmina F. Gerousis, left, and Sharon Butler await bail after being "arrested" in the Combined Federal Campaign fundraiser. The CFC jail event raised \$754.37. Fund-raising events continue the first week of November. The annual fund-raising campaign continues through Nov. 11. To make a donation, see your section key worker. The Huntsville Center's goal is \$79,818.

Coalition Munitions Clearance Program in Iraq refocusing

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — For a little more than two years, Huntsville Center representatives and their contractor partners have diligently sorted tons of captured enemy munitions in Iraq. Their goal was to destroy the mountain of munitions stockpiled by Saddam Hussein that were deemed unusable and identify any remaining serviceable munitions for future transfer to the new Iraqi army.

With most of the demolition work completed, the scope of the Coalition Munitions Clearance (CMC) program is changing and new missions have been added.

"Since we started the actual demolition work in September 2003, we, Huntsville Center, have destroyed 293,000 tons of munitions," said Mike Stahl, chief of international programs. "We have another 26,000 tons secured. So altogether, we have destroyed or secured 319,000 tons. Another 92,000 tons have been destroyed or secured by

the military. That's 411,000 tons of munitions that were stockpiled by the previous regime."

Munitions ranged from 155 artillery shells to air defense missiles. These conventional munitions include everything from small arms ammunition, grenades, mines, missiles, projectiles, mortars, rocket and rifle propelled grenades, bombs and small items such as fuzes, flares and others.

Representatives from the Huntsville Center provide program direction, quality assurance and government oversight for the cleanup and disposal effort in Iraq. The Huntsville Center is the Army's Center of Expertise for ordnance and explosives cleanup.

Contractor team members include USA Environmental of Tampa, Fla.; Environmental Chemical Corporation of Burlingame, Calif.; Parsons Corporation of Pasadena, Calif.; and Explosives Ordnance Technologies, Inc., of Oak Ridge, Tenn.

"Through the course of the program, we have done demolition work at seven depots and remote

sites," Stahl said. "Demolition work is complete everywhere except one depot. At this time, two depots will remain open and have been designated as legacy depots in support of the fielding of the new Iraqi army. All the other depots have been closed.

"We have also picked up the mission to clear unexploded ordnance (UXO) in numerous locations through the country," Stahl said. Clearing UXO is an additional mission under the CMC program.

Serviceable munitions are being transferred to the new Iraqi army.

"We have been funded outside the CMC program in support of fielding the new Iraqi Army and will perform the transition of munitions from small arms to artillery shells that were determined serviceable and useable by the new Iraqi army," Stahl said. "We picked up the mission to provide depot operations at the two legacy depots for approximately a year in support of the new Iraqi army, which is currently under way."

Hospice of the Valley, Morgan County Hospice, provides critical services for terminally ill patients

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

Five years ago, Emily Durham and her family were faced with a loved one's diagnosis of terminal liver cancer. At the suggestion of their doctor, the family turned to Hospice of the Valley, Morgan County Hospice in Decatur, Ala., for help. The following is their story.

"My baby brother, Buddy, was only 42 years old when he was diagnosed with terminal liver cancer," said Durham, who works in the Chemical Demilitarization Directorate on the Russian Chemical De-mil Program. "The doctor finally told him that he had an opportunity to do what he needed to do because he didn't have long to live."

Buddy did not want to live his last days in a hospital. His doctor called Hospice of the Valley, a Combined Federal Campaign agency.

"The Hospice representative came out that afternoon and explained their values — assist the terminally ill and allow them to die with dignity," Durham said. "They provide you with information you need to know about what will happen next and what you need to do to be prepared."

Durham said Hospice helped the family with expensive medication, special equipment such as hospital beds and shower seats, home day care and nursing assistance. And that Hospice volunteers were on-call 24 hours a day.

"I could not have dealt with his final six weeks and his death by myself," Durham said. "He had a day care helper who helped him bathe, prepared his meals and gave him his medication. And he had a wonderful lady who came three afternoons a week to read to him or watch TV with him. She learned that Buddy liked blueberry muffins and she showed up with fresh blueberry muffins after that. Toward the end when Buddy would just rant, she would sit and hold his hand and listen."

When Buddy passed on, Hospice workers took care of making all the necessary phone calls and waiting with Durham and her sister until Buddy's body was taken away.

"Within minutes they were there in full force: The doctor, the grief counselor and the chaplain," Durham said. "We thought that was it, that Hospice had done their job, but they weren't finished. They have a fabulous after-death, grief counseling service that is available for a year for the immediate family. At the six-month point, they have a memorial service for their clients who have died in that time frame. That service helps bring it to closure. It did for us. We could not have made it through that without them."

Durham said that since her experience with Hospice, she has had occasion to recommend the agency to other members of her family living in Alabama and Tennessee. "They had the same experience," Durham said.

"Hospice of the Valley was a lifesaver for my sister and me. They helped my brother die the way he wanted to. That was important. Since then, Hospice has been my charity of choice."



For a job safely done

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville recently presented a Safety Recognition Award to Parsons. Parsons achieved 5 million hours with zero lost-time incidents between May 2002 and March 2005 in managing the construction of the Russian Chemical Weapons Destruction Complex in Shchuch'ye Russia, which is a significant project under the Chemical Demilitarization contract.



The U.S. government's onsite manager is Terry Burton, right. Pictured from left are Paul Wojciechowski, Parsons program manager; Lou Bauer, Parsons deputy project manager; and Ray Waits, Huntsville Center safety manager.

Courtesy Photo

Newly renovated medical facilities open

Fort Riley, Walter Reed, Little Rock clinics, labs get updated

With the Army's Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley and Great Plains Regional Medical Command Commanding General, Brig. Gen. James B. Gilman on hand, Irwin Army Community Hospital at Fort Riley, Kan., cut the ribbon and officially opened its Women's Health Center Oct. 13.

The Fort Riley health facility was one of three recently completed U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center at Huntsville, projects. Renovated facilities also re-opened Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., on Oct. 14, and the 314th Medical Group in Little Rock, Ark., in August. The Huntsville Center is the Medical Facilities Center of Expertise for the Corps of Engineers.

The more than \$7 million project at Fort Riley created a functional, modern Women's Health Center that includes a labor and delivery area, an OB/GYN clinic area and a wing of shared space that also will house any ante/postpartum requirements.

The center, which occupies the hospital's entire third floor, is furnished with all new equipment, to include ultrasounds, colposcopes and heated examination tables. The centrally located clinic, labor, delivery and operating room assure streamlined care for patients.

Comments during the open house ranged from "It's gorgeous! It is nice to have everything consolidated, allowing for better care and patient flow," to "this clinic is competitive with the Manhattan hospital. The artwork is wonderful. It's great to have the operating room in the back of the labor, delivery, recovery area."

The OB/GYN Clinic started seeing patients Oct. 25, with the Mother Baby Suite opening in November.

The ribbon cutting ceremony at Walter Reed's Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) took place Oct. 14. The \$15 million project fully rehabilitated the building space and systems to provide a modernized facility that will sustain

the AFIP mission another 25-30 years. AFIP is on the Base Realignment and Closure list and identified to be disestablished.

The 314th Medical Group's \$4.9 million medical clinic renovations started in February 2004 and were completed this summer.



Photo by Jan Clark

Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Kevin Kiley, left, and Maj. Susanna Itara, head nurse, Mother and Baby Suite, cut the cake following the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new facility at Irwin Army Community Hospital, Fort Riley, Kan., Oct. 13.

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