



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Vol. 28 Issue 8
August 2007

Huntsville Center

Bulletin

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*Mark your
calendar now...*

**Women's
Equality Day
Luncheon**

**Aug. 23
11 a.m.**

**Redstone
Arsenal
Officers' and
Civilians' Club**



Photo by Jay Clark

The natatorium at the Fort Benning fitness center includes a lap pool, a recreational pool with a fountain and a hot tub.

Benning fitness center showcases design criteria

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

Soldiers and Family Members at many installations exercise in older facilities that offer basic equipment and limited space, but few frills.

With the dedication of the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Fitness Center June 29 at Fort Benning, Ga., Soldiers and Family Members there now have a 100,000 square

foot, state-of-the-art exercise facility.

The new \$19 million physical fitness facility is the result of a renewed push for what the Army Corps of Engineers calls Centers of Standardization. The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, is the Center of Standardization for physical fitness centers.

The Smith Fitness Center is one of the first built using

the physical fitness center criteria, and it's also the largest to date, according to architect Jay Clark, Engineering Directorate. Clark worked with Janet MacKinnon, the Fitness and Aquatics Program Manager for the U.S. Army Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, and other regional and installation sports and fitness experts to

See Fitness Center on page 8

Commander's thoughts

We begin August with two new "teammates" added to the Executive Office.

Rick Suever, our former chief of Civil Structures, was selected as the director of the Business Management Office, and John Loyd, chief of Advanced Technology, will be acting deputy commander. I believe both individuals truly embrace the concepts of T.E.A.M. that our chief of engineers champions: (T) trust, (E) excellence, (A) all about people and (M) motivation. Their knowledge, experience, and most importantly, their attitudes will be invaluable to the organization as we prepare to end fiscal year 2007 and begin fiscal year 2008.

We will also be incorporating the chief of engineer's priorities, tenets and philosophies, which I will continue to pass on and emphasize during the coming months. You each have received a wallet-sized booklet entitled, "What Every Employee Should Know." Please ensure you are familiar with the strategic directions, philosophies, initiatives and key messages provided in the booklet; particularly the 4 Cs and 4 Es, which the chief almost always incorporates into his discussions.

You will also be hearing "SIW" which is the chief's code for "share information willingly" (and on the flip side, "SIS" — "steal ideas shamelessly," i.e., don't reinvent the wheel if you don't need to). Communication, creative thinking and motivation drive success, and the

chief expects every project to be considered a legacy project. The chief answers his phone with "How may I serve you?", and this is what Huntsville Center is all about — serving its customers and leaving a legacy of successful projects that support the missions of the Corps, the Army, the Department of Defense and other government organizations — Army strong and engineer ready!

As we prepare to close out this fiscal year and enter the new one, we will be reviewing and revising many of our metrics. This is necessary to ensure we are not only monitoring the end result, but also the parts of the process that may impact how we get there. For instance, management controls is not a once-a-year function, but should be something we monitor as part of our daily functions. Things like our ISO 9001 process can help us track our management controls. Small Business contracts are also part of how we meet our projects and objectives and must be part of the planning and execution process that we monitor on a regular basis rather than compiling numbers at year end.

We will also continue to see changes as we transition to the new Information Management/Information Technology organization. It is critical that we

support the wall-to-wall inventory this month, and the reassessment/validation of our workload requirements that will follow. Please continue to support our regional information officer, John Samuelson, and contact him with any questions and concerns you may have. We have successfully placed all IM government



Col. Larry D. McCallister

employees who are not retiring in other positions throughout the Center. This has been a challenging time for these employees, but they have been outstanding in their support and their hard work in ensuring we have a seamless change to our new service model.

I want to encourage each of you to remain vigilant in safety. By using composite risk management to identify hazards and taking steps to remove those hazards by following our plan, we can reduce the number of accidents that occur. Composite risk management training is mandatory for all employees. If you have not had the chance to complete it, I ask that you make this a priority. Army Strong!

And in closing, please remember August celebrates Women's Equality Day. I hope you will join me at the Redstone Arsenal luncheon recognizing Huntsville Center's honorees on Aug. 23 at the Redstone Officers' and Civilians' Club.



US Army Corps
of Engineers

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BULLETIN

Commander..... Col. Larry D. McCallister
Chief, Public Affairs..... Kim Gillespie
Editor..... Becky Proaps

Two Huntsville Center contractor employees killed in Iraq

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — Two contractors working for the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, died July 9 in Iraq when the vehicle they were riding in was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device.

Daryl De Thierry, 34, from New Zealand, and Serupepeli Vunisa Buruso, 33, from Fiji, worked as security specialists for Armor Group Iraq, which is headquartered in London.

This brings the number of contractor casualties killed while

working for the Coalition Munitions Clearance Program since September 2003 to 38.

“Our condolences go out to the Families,” said Bill Sargent, program manager, Coalition Munitions Clearance Program. “Our personnel are highly trained and experienced and are doing a superb job, but it remains a very dangerous mission.”

The incident is under investigation.

Huntsville Center is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Center of Expertise for Military Munitions.

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 400,000 tons of ammunition have been destroyed by the Huntsville Center program, significantly reducing risks to Iraqi citizens and U.S. personnel serving in Iraq.

The Bulletin asks:

What do you do to beat the summer heat?



Shawn Willie
Spectra Tech Inc.

I like to take strolls out by Madison County Lake on Saturdays in the summer. To beat the summer heat, I go out there early in the morning just as the sun is beginning to rise. It feels good to be near the water while there is a nice early breeze blowing. It is so peaceful and serene and the temperature is just right.

I like to go swimming with my 2-year old daughter and my husband.



Holly Hoagland
Equal Employment
Opportunity Office



Robert Jackson
Engineering
Directorate

I beat the summer heat by trying to stay indoors during the middle of the day. I stay hydrated with plenty of water and sports drinks. I’ll go for a swim occasionally, and I usually dress down by wearing basketball shorts and sleeveless shirts when I’m outdoors.

I like to relax in the pool, on a float, with sunglasses/ sun visor on, playing a Jimmy Buffet or Bob Marley CD and a cold refreshing beverage in hand.



Aaron McLemore
Chemical Demilitarization
Directorate

Huntsville Center structural engineer named VIP member of Cambridge Who's Who

By Becky Proaps
Public Affairs Office

A structural engineer in the Advanced Technology Branch with the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, has been named a VIP member of Cambridge's Who's Who Among Executives and Professionals.

"I'm very flattered," said Dr. Michelle Crull of the selection. "When I realized what the Cambridge representative was telling me, I must admit I wondered 'why me?'"

It should not have come as a surprise to Crull. "The Cambridge Who's Who selection committee hand picks these special VIP

members based on their accomplishments, academic achievement, leadership and service," said Lori Deville, the Premier Member Services director. "With a doctorate in structural engineering, more than nine years of experience as an engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and her involvement in numerous engineering organizations and associations, her elevation to 2007-2008 VIP status is a well-deserved honor."

Just a few of her accomplishments include being selected as the Corps of Engineers Civilian Engineer of the Year in 2003, receiving the Coastal America Partnership Award in 2004 and receiving a Commander's Award for Civilian Service in 2006 for her efforts as a champion of the Leadership Development

Program Level 2 at Huntsville Center.

"Being selected by Cambridge is a great honor," Crull said. "As an engineer, being selected as the Civilian Engineer of the Year was huge to me. This is right up there with that award."

Cambridge's Who's Who is dedicated to providing networking opportunities to individuals in all professions.

"One of the biggest advantages of being selected is the networking. I wouldn't be where I am without networking. Knowing the right person to call when you have a

question is invaluable. And it's not just people in your field; you never

know when you might have something that's way out of your area that you need help with," Crull said.

Crull received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1982 and a

master's degree in civil engineering in 1985 from the University of Mississippi. She graduated from Vanderbilt University with a doctorate in structural engineering in 1989. Crull is a member of the Huntsville Post of the Society of American Military Engineers.



Photo by Becky Proaps

Michelle Crull

Handy information booklet now available to all employees

The booklet, "What Every Employee Should Know" has been distributed to all Huntsville Center employees.

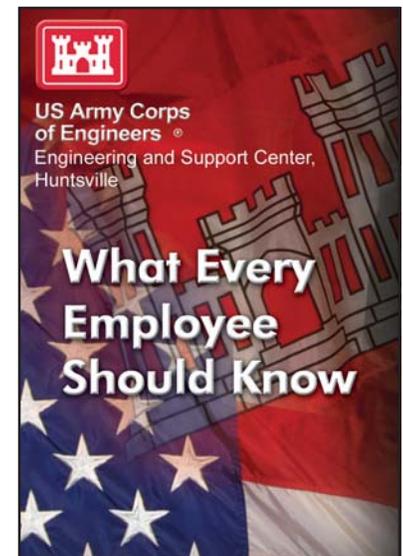
The booklet is a wallet-sized guide summarizing Corps of Engineers' guidance and strategy "that every employee should know," Col. Larry McCallister, Huntsville Center commander, emphasized.

"Our strategic vision, direction and campaign goals directly support the Army and the nation, and it is important that everyone remains familiar with them," he said. "This booklet provides an easy and portable reference."

The new chief of engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, has also asked that

employees incorporate his philosophies and tenets into their everyday work habits. "The chief expects everyone to be a 'teammate' and to know what T - E - A - M, the four C's and the four E's represent. Additionally, the chief asks that you practice what he refers to as SIS (Steal Ideas Shamelessly) and SIW (Share Information Willingly) so you, or someone else, is not reinventing the wheel!"

If you did not receive a copy of the booklet, or need additional copies, please contact the Public Affairs Office.



Those World War II buildings have to go

Huntsville Center helping remove outdated wood structures at Fort Polk

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

World War II-era wood buildings used to be a quick, easy, inexpensive option for office space and Soldier housing on Army installations.

As the Army transitions to the new modular force, newer, more up-to-date buildings are needed and the old wood buildings are being torn down.

Fort Polk, La., has 340 World War II wood buildings.

The Installation Management Command contacted the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, to manage the demolition at Fort Polk. Huntsville Center is working with the installation; Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and Bhate Associates Inc. on the project.

A \$1.3 million contract awarded to Bhate Associates Inc. to remove 58 wood buildings — 294,148 square feet — is in progress. Demolition started May 4 with completion expected in August. Follow-on contracts will be awarded for the remaining 282 buildings.

“We’re making a dent in the wood building inventory at Fort Polk,” said Michael Norton, the program manager for the Facilities Reduction Program at the Huntsville Center. “Fifty-eight buildings is a large footprint — about three-quarters of a mile will be cleared for new use by the installation.”

All the concrete from the project is being taken to the installation’s recycling center where it will be crushed and reused as road base, said Gary Westby, the Fort Worth District project engineer at Fort Polk. Any asphalt will be taken to a separate recycling center on the installation. All other construction and demolition debris is being hauled off



Photo by Jacob Rothberger, Corps of Engineers Fort Worth District

Bhate Associates is working with Fort Polk, La., and the Corps of Engineers to remove 58 World War II wood structures.

the installation to a private landfill.

The wood is used to a lesser extent. It has little value because the wood was treated with non-prohibited chemicals and reuse is limited. It can be crushed and used as a defoliant along fence lines, Norton said.

As of July 13, 40 of the 58 buildings had been taken down.

“It’s a pretty straight-forward operation,” Westby said. “Keep it wet, knock it down, break up the slab or piers, haul off the debris, cap the utilities, plant grass seed and move on to the next one.”

It doesn’t take long to demolish the building, Westby said.

“A two-story building across the street came down in three hours,” he said. “Of course, it takes longer to clear the area of debris after the building comes down.”

Phillip Gamble, the site superintendent, said Bhate has exceeded the installation’s recycling expectations. “Everything that can be recycled is being recycled.”

“We’ve been very pleased with the way the contract is progressing,” said Scotty Goins, a program manager for the Directorate of Public Works at Fort

Polk. “We are really pleased with Bhate’s work. They are conscientious of our needs and requests and work with us pretty good.”

Goins said a key to the project’s success was working out the details of the project at a pre-demolition meeting.

“In our master plan, we have identified facilities in the out-years,” Goins said. “We will take these vacant lots and construct new facilities in the future. We save a lot of money because the water, sewage and gas are already in place. There is also less environmental impact because the site was previously disturbed, meaning that the land is already cleared and utilities are already in place.”

Goins said two individuals deserve a lot of credit for the project’s success.

“Robert Hughes, Fort Polk’s project manager with DPW, has done a great job when we have had to relocate folks. He found homes for them. He also identified furniture that had to be moved prior to demolition. Bernard Harris, DPW’s field guy, also deserves credit for the project’s success. He goes out every day, meets with the

See World War II buildings on page 10

City destroyed by tornado starts recovery process

By Andrea Takash
Public Affairs Office

It only took 15 minutes for a vicious tornado to destroy 1,100 homes, displace 2,000 residents and completely alter the landscape of Greensburg, Kan.

On May 4, the eye of an Enhanced Fujita level five (EF5) tornado, slammed into the town and destroyed almost 95 percent of its structures. The Enhanced Fujita scale measures intensity of tornadoes.

With the utter devastation at hand, the city of Greensburg needed maps to correctly portray the new layout of streets and buildings.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) turned to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tulsa District for help in rebuilding the city's mapping system.

Tommy Hunt, the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) team leader

for the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, answered the call for a GIS technician. Hunt deployed to Greensburg June 4 to July 3.

"After working Hurricane Ivan in Florida and then Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and Mississippi, I really couldn't believe what I saw when I arrived in Greensburg," Hunt said. "Hurricane Katrina impacted several million people in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, but there were only 2,000 people who lived in Greensburg. At this time, no one from Greensburg lives in their primary residence."

Hunt served as a GIS program response team member in Greensburg and became an integral part of FEMA's Geospatial Intelligence Unit (GIU).

"FEMA made me part of their team," he said. "This made my job easier because FEMA kept me informed."

Hunt needed this up-to-date

information to create accurate maps of the city. The framework of roads and structures changed on a daily basis, and Hunt dedicated himself to designing precise maps.

"When I first arrived, I designed maps that provided the emergency shelter locations, which was vital information for contractors and other people working in town," Hunt said. "I also updated road closure maps. These maps kept police and emergency responders informed on what roads were closed."

David Whitlock, FEMA's GIU lead for this disaster, said Hunt fulfilled a needed function in Greensburg.

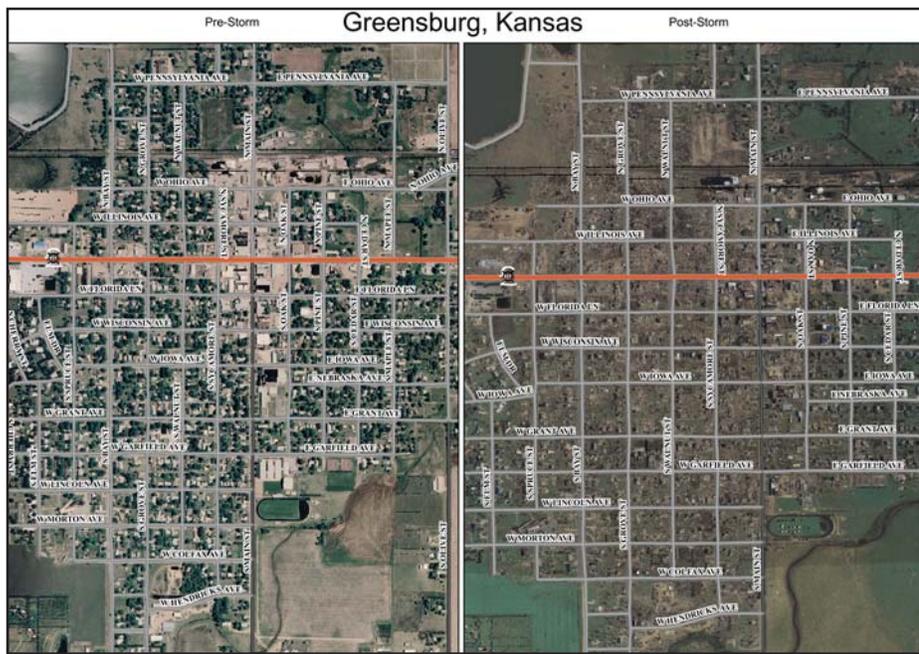
"Since Tommy's background is in civil engineering and GIS, he was able to understand what the contractors needed," Whitlock said. "He actually was able to envision products. He was very proficient in his job."

Hunt also supported the Global Positioning System (GPS) location efforts for FEMA's temporary housing sites. Once completed, the group site will hold 347 mobile homes for the displaced residents.

Not only did the tornado destroy homes it also damaged the city's infrastructure, including water, sewer, gas and electrical power supplies. Even 30 days after the storm, Hunt said water and power was still limited. He said connectivity with the outside world was the biggest challenge of his deployment.

"We were accessing large data sets created by other contractors and other FEMA offices," he said. "Then we were creating products of this disaster to provide to the joint field office in Wichita, Kan. We only had satellite link communications, and the weather severely impacted that capability."

Despite the challenges, Hunt said he benefited both personally and professionally from this deployment.



Courtesy photo

This split screen graphic shows Greensburg, Kan., before and after an EF5 tornado tore through the town May 4.



Photo by Tommy Hunt

The tornado that struck Greensburg, Kan., May 4 destroyed 1,100 homes and displaced 2,000 residents.

“From a personal and professional standpoint, the deployment was benefiting because I got the chance to watch the town recover,” he said. “Professionally, I benefited by working a very technical job hour to hour that I don’t get to do in my normal job at Huntsville Center.”

Hunt said at the end of his 30 days he witnessed significant changes, but the town faced a long road to recovery.

“I saw a big difference by the close of my deployment,” he said. “There was a lot of debris gone. People were rebuilding. I watched one couple start building their home the day after they received the permit.

“Even though I saw glimmers of hope in the city, many people were still discussing if businesses would even reopen,” Hunt said. “The only full grocery store in town wasn’t sure if they would return. The hospital closed, and nobody knew if it would ever reopen.”

After Hunt returned from his deployment, Dustin Ray from Huntsville Center’s Geographic Information Systems team replaced him as the Corps representative on FEMA’s GIU team. Hunt said he would go back to Greensburg if needed.



Photo by Greg Henshall, FEMA

Since the tornado destroyed almost 95 percent of Greensburg’s buildings, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are updating the city’s mapping system.



Photo by Tommy Hunt

These residents in Greensburg, Kan., started rebuilding their home, which was destroyed by the May 4 tornado, the day after they received the building permit.

Fitness Center

continued from page 1

come up with the criteria. The team looked at what fitness facility functions already existed on the installation and what functions were needed. Flexibility was built into the design so installation commanders can adapt the new facilities to their requirements.



Photo by Jay Clark

The Fort Benning fitness center has a 10,000 square foot, open air weight room that includes a cardio theater.

“We found installations had too many basketball courts and not enough aerobic space,” Clark said. “We use standardized criteria rather than plans to get exactly what the installation needs, for instance, more weight rooms.”

Huntsville Center worked as a consultant on the design charrette for the project. Savannah District, Corps of Engineers, had the lead for construction. Savannah District awarded the construction contract to Turner Construction. Huntsville Center is now involved in buying the office furniture and furniture for the lobby and pool.

“Standardized information we get from Huntsville is always a help,” said Tim Morris, Savannah District Corps of Engineers’ senior project manager for Fort Benning. “It is a beautiful facility that came in ahead of schedule. The commanding general wanted the grand opening by July 4, and we held the ribbon cutting June 29.”

“We presented the standard, answered questions and reviewed the final design,” Clark said. “We worked with Fort Benning officials to resolve any issues that surfaced during construction. For instance, the request for proposal did not specify the right type of aerobic flooring so they came to us and we worked that issue.”

Clark said the team learned they need to develop very detailed criteria and make sure the RFP reflects that. The aerobic flooring was one example; the climbing wall is another.

“They would have liked it to be taller,” Clark said. “There were pipes in the construction they

weren’t aware of. We need to make sure all this is addressed in the criteria.”

Clark said planners also had to consider how to address anti-terrorism and force protection issues.

“To get the image that we want to have in these new facilities but include some of the constraints we have in Army construction like force protection and energy conservation is very challenging, especially on tight budgets,” Clark said. “The structure has special reinforcing and special frames. The glass must meet certain requirements, too.”

What we are trying to push is a design that is more like what you would see at a college, university or a community center — a state-of-the-art facility, Clark said.

“It is a great facility,” said Ken Wetherill, Fort Benning’s sports director. “Everybody did a great job on this. Overall the consensus has been positive. There are some personal preferences that people would have liked to see,

but overall, lots of good feedback on the new facility.”

Amenities include:

- A 10,000 square foot, two-story weight room with a cardio theater.
- A cardio area in a balcony where you can be out of the way, but watch what is going on in the weight room below.
- A smaller balcony with cardio equipment that overlooks the lobby and the pools.
- A three-court gymnasium for basketball and volleyball.
- A natatorium that has a lap pool and a recreational pool as well as a hot tub.
- A large aerobic room that can be divided into two rooms.
- A women’s weight room where there is specially designed equipment and a spinning room.

“I think we’ve brought the fitness center designs to a modern level,” MacKinnon said. “It is wonderful to see a fitness facility with an open air concept.”

A similar, but larger, fitness center is being constructed at Fort Bliss, Texas. It will be built with the same criteria. Once complete, it will be the largest in the Army with approximately 120,125 square feet. There will be five basketball courts. Corps of Engineers’ Little Rock District is working with Fort Worth District on that project.

“Fitness is critical for Soldiers,” MacKinnon said. “FMWRC conducts three surveys (Sample Survey of Military Personnel; Survey of Army Families; Leisure Needs Survey) that address needs of Families and Soldiers. Every survey ranked fitness facilities as No. 1. It is becoming increasingly important to Families. Within MWR, fitness facilities remain No. 1 in importance and actual use. It is wonderful when Soldiers enjoy using a facility for recreation which also helps them with mission readiness. They get two-for-one!”

Hails and farewells

Welcome to new employees — Marta Anerton, Contracting Directorate; Deborah Jean Bogema, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; Jenna Fanning, Executive Office/Small Business Office; Patricia Jeffery, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; Christine L. Katterheinrich, Contracting Directorate; Monique Koeleveld-Sanders, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; Patrick Lane, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; Mark Harold McDonald, Engineering Directorate; Kim K. Phillips, Engineering Directorate; Joshua L. Whitt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Learning Center; and Alicia Wilson, Business Management Office.

Farewell to Patricia Adams, Contracting Directorate; Carl Boquist, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate; Larry Cottles, Information Management Directorate; Walter Lewis, Engineering Directorate; Charles Mack, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; Barbara Pate, Engineering Directorate; Millie Reed, Resource Management Directorate; and Donna Rovere, Resource Management Directorate.

Five steps to 'greener' car

Preventive maintenance saves gas, environment

By Car Care Council

It doesn't matter if the car you're driving is new or old, big or small. There are preventive maintenance steps every vehicle owner can take to make sure their car is as "green" or environmentally friendly as possible, says the Car Care Council.

By following five simple preventive maintenance steps, you can help protect the environment by improving gas mileage, which in turn saves money at the pump.

1. The first step is to keep your car properly tuned for optimum performance. A well-tuned engine delivers the best balance of power and fuel economy and produces the lowest level of emissions. A 21st Century tune-up for modern vehicles includes the following system checks: battery, charging and starting; engine mechanical; powertrain control (including onboard diagnostic checks); fuel; ignition; and emissions. A 21st Century tune-up can improve gas mileage by an average of 4 percent. Fixing a serious maintenance problem, such as a faulty oxygen sensor, can improve gas mileage by

as much as 40 percent.

2. The second step is to regularly check and replace dirty air filters. An air filter that is clogged with dirt, dust and bugs chokes off the air and creates a "rich" mixture — too much gas being burned for the amount of air — that wastes gas and causes the engine to lose power. Replacing a clogged air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10 percent, saving about 15 cents a gallon.

3. The third step is have the spark plugs checked — if they haven't already been checked as part of the tune-up — and replaced if necessary. A vehicle can have four, six or eight spark plugs, which fire as many as 3 million times every 1,000 miles. This results in a lot of heat, electrical and chemical erosion. A dirty spark plug also causes misfiring, which wastes fuel.

4. The fourth step is to maintain the cooling system of your vehicle. A cooling system thermostat that causes the engine to run too cold will lower the fuel efficiency of a car by as much as one or two mpg. There also are improved radiator caps on the market

today that allow the cooling system to operate at a higher temperature before boiling over, increasing the system's efficiency and reducing emissions.

5. The last step toward keeping a "green" car is to properly maintain and repair your car as outlined in

the council's Car Care

Guide. The guide helps drivers understand their car, the care it needs, and

when it needs it and why. Single copies of the free guide may be ordered on the Car Care Council Web site, www.carcare.org.

In addition to proper vehicle maintenance, vehicles can be more fuel-efficient if tires are properly inflated and if drivers observe the speed limit, avoid aggressive driving and excessive idling, and adhere to an errand list to eliminate extra trips to the store for forgotten items.

For a free copy of the council's Car Care Guide or to learn more about how to maintain your vehicle, visit www.carcare.org.



Women's Equality Day event set for Aug. 23

Government agencies in Huntsville will observe Women's Equality Day Aug. 23 with a program beginning at 11 a.m. at the Officers' and Civilians' Club on Redstone Arsenal.

During this program, each agency will recognize and present Equal Employment Opportunity awards to employees for outstanding career achievements and to employees of the year in the professional and administrative categories.

The EEO Supervisor of the Year Award will be presented to a supervisor or manager



for significant contributions to the accomplishment of EEO program goals, i.e., through his or her efforts extended EEO to minorities, women, disabled applicants and employees.

The keynote speaker is Sharon A. Houy, the associate deputy director with the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Tickets will go on sale Aug. 6 for \$12 and can be purchased from Sonja Rice, in the Huntsville Center EEO Office. Anyone from Huntsville Center planning to attend the function should RSVP to Rice by Aug. 15.

Pete Geren named 20th Secretary of the Army

By Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C.

— The Honorable Pete Geren became the 20th Secretary of the Army July 16, following his nomination by President George W. Bush and confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

As Secretary of the Army, Geren has statutory responsibility for all matters relating to the U.S. Army: manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications and financial management.

Geren is responsible for

the Department of the Army's annual budget and supplemental of \$170 billion. He leads a work force of more than one million active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers, 230,000

Department of the Army civilian employees and 280,000 contracted service personnel. He has stewardship over 15 million acres of land.

Geren was the Under Secretary of the Army until Feb. 21, 2006. He was named Acting Secretary of the Army March 9.

Geren joined the Defense



Courtesy photo

**Pete Geren,
Secretary of
the Army**

See Geren on page 12

World War II buildings

continued from page 5

contractor, takes photographs and takes care of all the paperwork to ensure the project is well-documented," Goins said.

Fort Polk, home to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division; 1st Combat Support Brigade (Maneuver Enhancement); and the Joint Readiness Training Center, is supporting the war on terrorism by providing training rotations focused on the Contemporary Operational Environment and Counterinsurgency operations for the Army's light infantry and special operations forces by deploying home station, National Guard, and reserve component forces in support of Operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle and Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Phillip Gamble, Bhate Associates

A pile of rubble is all that's left of a World War II wood building at Fort Polk, La. The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers, and Bhate Associates are working to remove 58 wood buildings.

HQ approves new center of expertise

By Monique Farmer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Omaha District

In the past, customers with hazardous waste cleanup questions contacted one Corps of Engineers organization; customers with military munitions cleanup issues contacted another Corps organization.

To gain efficiencies, Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, decided to combine the two organizations into one center of expertise.

The decision aligns the Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste Center of Expertise (HTRW CX) out of Omaha with the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's Military Munitions Center of Expertise (MM CX) to address both types of cleanup issues.

The organizational move will not require HTRW CX employees who work in Omaha to relocate to Huntsville Center.

The new and improved center of expertise is expected to achieve full operating capability no later than Nov. 11. Headquarters USACE will announce the name of the new center in the near future.

"Overall, I think this is a very good move," said Carol Youkey, chief of the MM CX, who helped develop the proposed realignment study. "The timing is right, and it fits into the perspective of being as efficient and lean as we can and still get the mission accomplished."

Youkey said the realignment proposal team explored a number of factors before green-lighting the organizational move. Factors considered included similarity of mission, the possibility for increasing efficiency due to overlapping roles, Huntsville's history of housing several CXs, the potential for streamlining personnel processes and realignment

costs.

In its report, the realignment proposal team noted initial startup costs, potential higher annual costs, geographic separation and the fact that the new CX would not be aligned under a local command as potential disadvantages.

"We expect some things such as cost savings will simply occur over time," Youkey said.

This is not the first time headquarters has considered approving the organizational move. In 2001, Huntsville Center and the HTRW CX collaborated to develop a similar proposal for realigning the HTRW CX. At that time, the recommendation did not receive approval from headquarters.

"Throughout the years, Department of Army environmental staff members have expressed some confusion regarding the MM CX and HTRW CX and have not totally understood why there are separate centers of expertise performing very similar functions," said David Jaros, acting chief of the HTRW CX.

"This move makes sense from a mission perspective," Jaros said. "It allows us to build on the strengths of both organizations. We have similar capabilities, similar strengths. As a combined organization, we're enhancing those, and there will likely be more opportunities for us to expand our collective workloads."



Courtesy photo

Huntsville Center's packaging team conducts a pre-operational survey prior to starting a removal action for chemical agent identification sets at Fort Benning, Ga.

Implementation of the realignment plan will occur in phases. Currently under way, Phase I will conclude Sept. 1. It entails the Environmental Community of Practice leading meetings involving Northwestern Division, Omaha District, the HTRW CX and Huntsville Center. The meetings will ensure realignment actions are identified, and that milestones are outlined and assigned to appropriate action offices.

Phase II will span from Sept. 1 through Nov. 10. Actions identified in Phase I will be completed during Phase II. Final implementation will take place during Phase III, following the completion of all planning and transition tasks.

"This really embraces the 'one door to the Corps' approach," Jaros said. "The biggest benefit our customers will see is that they will be able to get support on any environmental cleanup issue from one USACE organization. If they have a munitions question, we can handle that. If they have HTRW questions, we can handle those too."

Ethics Corner

Fox in the henhouse? Yes or no!

**By Toby Harryman
Office of Counsel**

Many Huntsville Center employees currently work with or around contractors. It is not uncommon for a contractor to occupy office space next to a government employee. When contractors work in such close proximity to government employees, ethical issues can arise.

One of the most serious issues is the protection and/or disclosure of procurement sensitive or otherwise protected contract information. Generally speaking, government personnel are prohibited from releasing this type of information to contractors. But what about when contractors actually work for a contracting officer or specialist to help prepare and assemble contracts for award? Isn't that the same thing as letting the fox in the henhouse?

Not really. 5 CFR 2635.703 states that government employees shall not use non-public information for private gain, either personally or through another. However, contractor employees are not bound by the same ethical rules and regulations that government employees are. To ensure contractors working with non-public information at Huntsville Center are required to protect non-public information, all will sign a non-disclosure agreement when in processing.

This agreement serves as a binding contract between the government and employee that states a contractor is obligated to protect non-public information just as if they were a government employee. It also permits a remedy in the event a contractor does violate any terms of the agreement. Contractor employees who advise on procurements are also subject to the disclosure prohibitions of the

Procurement Integrity Act, 41 U.S.C. § 423.

Should all contractor employees sign a broad non-disclosure agreement when they come into the "hen house?" Yes, and government employees should ask a contractor employee if he has before providing him with non-public information. If the answer is yes, then contractor and Huntsville Center employees may share and receive necessary non-public information. A non-disclosure agreement does not, however, authorize a contractor employee access to classified information. Contractor employees seeking access to classified information need a security clearance.

So as year end approaches, let us take full advantage of our contract co-workers and enjoy the skill and experience they bring to Huntsville Center!

Geren

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Department in September 2001 to serve as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense with responsibilities in the areas of inter-agency

initiatives, legislative affairs and special projects. He also served as Acting Secretary of the Air Force from July to November 2005.

Before joining the Defense Department, Geren was an

attorney and businessman in Fort Worth, Texas.

From 1989 until his retirement in 1997, Geren was a member of the U.S. Congress, representing the Twelfth Congressional

District of Texas for four terms. He served on the Armed Services, Science and Technology and the Public Works and Transportation Committee during his tenure in the Congress.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ENGINEERING AND SUPPORT CENTER, HUNTSVILLE
P.O. BOX 1600
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35807-4301**

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