



US Army Corps
of Engineers

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Huntsville Center

Bulletin

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Photo by Becky Proaps

Classic car show gets Organization Day rolling

Keeping a classic 1955 Chevrolet beautiful is a never-ending “job,” but it is also a labor of love. Steve Johnson, a U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center employee and car enthusiast keeps his pride and joy spotless. Johnson brought it to the classic car show in the Center parking lot June 8 before the Organization Day activities got rolling at the Carroll D. Hudson Recreation Area on Redstone Arsenal. For more picnic photos, go to pages 6-7.

Baughman, chief counsel from 1980-1993, newest ‘Distinguished’ Gallery inductee

By Chris Gardner
Public Affairs Office

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville’s Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees quietly gained another member in June, and that’s the way he prefers.

Inductee Blake Baughman retired from Huntsville Center as chief counsel in 1993 and never looked back. It is not that he had any ill will toward the place where he had worked since 1971, far from it in fact.

He’s just a quiet guy who doesn’t like to make a big deal out of things, or of

himself.

“I’ve always preferred to be a behind the scenes person – no notoriety, no hullabaloo,” Baughman said. “My time was up and I didn’t want to come back and visit and bother people.”

Baughman, a self-described introvert, even joked at one point that a

good place for his portrait in the Gallery would be hidden behind a nearby potted plant.

His award can safely be described as a big deal though and his portrait will be prominently displayed with the other prestigious

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Commander's thoughts

July brings hot weather, a holiday and the beginning of the last quarter of the fiscal year. The final quarter is always the Center's busiest, and I don't expect this year to be an exception. The challenge of fourth quarter continues to be that customers are receiving their funds later and later, and we are the final link in the chain. We must be prepared to not only execute the actions needed, but continue to provide the quality and service our customers (who are acting on behalf of Soldiers, Families and Civilians) deserve. Our reputation for service will continue to grow as we meet the needs of MILCON Transformation.

Enhancing the quality of support to Soldiers, Families, Civilians and the public is one of the top priorities of Lt. Gen. Robert L. Van Antwerp, our new chief of engineers. Lt. Gen. Van Antwerp is genuine in his passion for service to the nation, so his leadership is a good fit for the Corps of Engineers.

His priorities and tenets, as with our previous chief's, remain focused on

areas where the Corps has unique knowledge, skills and experience, and include: Supporting the Global War on Terrorism and expeditionary missions; completing transformation of the Theater Engineer Commands; effectively preparing for and responding to disasters; enabling Gulf Coast recovery; and delivering military, civil works, and research and development projects.

The chief believes the success of our organization revolves around our ability to communicate transparently, focus on our mission and team with industry. His T.E.A.M. concept is built around the approach of matching personnel and their jobs with their best talents so employees are both happy and productive. The letters of T.E.A.M. each represent a value he expects Corps "teammates" to uphold: Trust, Excellence, All about people and Motivation. The chief expects us to

adopt these priorities, tenets and the T.E.A.M. concept as part of our Strategic Direction, which he does not see as changing but continuing to evolve.

The chief's philosophies dovetail with the results and recommendations of the recent Command Strategic Review, such as communicating and improving a Corps-wide

understanding of our capabilities; fostering trust with Districts and customers; transferring successful processes and ideas; and strengthening our partnership with the Engineering Research and Development Center. We have planned a meeting with ERDC leadership and personnel for this month so we can enhance partnership and delivery for our common missions and projects.

Our National Security Personnel System milestones continue to be



Col. Larry D. McCallister

See **Commander** on page 3

Hails and farewells

Welcome to new employees —

David Bond, Contracting Directorate; Yolanda Brown, Contracting Directorate; Maj. Mike Carr, Management Review Office; Paul Daugherty, Contracting Directorate; Jeffrey Hardin, Contracting Directorate; Holly Hoagland, Executive Office; Duncan Juergenson, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, Pueblo; Aaron Kelly, Contracting Directorate; Betty Lamb, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate, Blue Grass; Alix Moorehouse, Engineering Directorate; Wade Morikone, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate; Robert Pollock, Information Management Directorate; Rachel Sawyers, Safety Office; Kathryn Sommerkamp, Office of Counsel; Brian Spear, Engineering Directorate; and Jae Steele, Contracting Directorate.

Farewell to Joel Hoffman, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate and Robert Weis, Afghanistan Engineer District.



US Army Corps
of Engineers

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BULLETIN

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

The Bulletin asks:

What is your best summer memory?



Amy Talton
Engineering Directorate

My best summer memory is all of the annual vacations my family and I took to the beach. We stayed at the beach all day and ate seafood until we were stuffed. I think it is very important to take time out of your schedule and spend it with family.



Lois H. Grey
Resource Management
Directorate

My best summer memory is trips to the lake when I was a child. My days were filled with swimming, skiing, fishing, cooking out, playing cards and listening to baseball on the radio. A special treat, well before I could drive legally, was to drive my uncle's old truck named "the Doodle Bug" through the woods.

Last summer on July 1, I turned 30 years old. My teammates/co-workers had a surprise superstar themed birthday party for me. When I arrived they had decorated the halls and my work area with streamers. I had a big banner with my picture on it, a red carpet covering the walkway and Stevie Wonder was singing "Happy Birthday" in the background! They even presented me with a plaque declaring July 1 'Dawn Robinson' Day! Wow! That was a birthday and a summer I will never forget ... the summer of 2006.



Dawn S. Robinson
Contracting Directorate

The year was 1986. I was a sophomore at Eastern Michigan University, working as an intern for the Environmental Protection Agency in Ann Arbor, Mich. I remember enjoying one summer night listening to a jazz concert in Winsor, Canada, at the International Freedom Festival.



Spencer D. O'Neal
Ordnance and
Explosives Directorate

Commander

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successfully accomplished, and we are in the final 90 days prior to final assessments. I appreciate everyone finalizing objectives and performing interim reviews. The Performance Appraisal Application tool requires patience, but we

expect some of the issues to be resolved prior to the final assessments this fall. Again, thank you for meeting this challenge and demonstrating our organization's flexibility and determination.

Everyone associates July with the holiday. July 4 is special in that it reminds us about what it means for

Soldiers to answer the call to duty. So please, amid fireworks and backyard barbecues, take time to reflect on the meaning of Independence Day and remember the tremendous effort and sacrifices of millions of Americans who have preserved our endowment of democracy

in the past and for the future.

And finally, if you plan on traveling this July 4 or just enjoying outdoor activities with family and friends, remember to make safety your first priority! Whether it is traveling, boating or outdoor cooking, do it safely, use common sense and enjoy the day.

Corps employees rescue trapped Soldiers in Iraq

By Andrea Takash
Public Affairs Office

When the smoke and dust cleared after a deadly explosion in Iraq, a team of unassuming heroes emerged from the devastation.

Members of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Coalition Munitions Clearance (CMC) Program, came to the rescue of U.S. Soldiers after a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated on a bridge near Mahmoudiya, Iraq, June 10.

The incident killed three U.S. Soldiers and wounded six. Using a Bradley vehicle to remove piles of rubble, the CMC team freed three people from the collapsed bridge.

“My first vision was a tremendous detonation,

much larger than the typical improvised explosive device,” said Jackie Smith, CMC security manager. “As we approached, the eastern side of the overpass was down, and I could see personnel trapped in the rubble.”

Arriving just two minutes after the incident, the CMC team was the first on the scene and rushed to render aid to the Soldiers.

Scott Rider, CMC safety manager, said when the team approached the area they encountered splintered wood, exposed rebar, concrete and dazed Soldiers covered in dust from the explosion.

Despite the chaotic scene, Smith said Rider went above and beyond his job duties and took control of the rescue operation.

“Scott was not obligated to join the rescue, nor was it



Photo by Petro Giannakouris, The Associated Press

An Associated Press photographer traveling with the Coalition Munitions Clearance Program captured this scene moments after a bridge exploded in Mahmoudiya, Iraq, June 10.

his responsibility to take charge,” Smith said. “What he did was to place himself in harm’s way with total disregard for his own safety, take charge and get those in the rubble out.”

Rider said he does not think he did anything out of the ordinary. He said there was only one choice — help the injured Soldiers.

“I do not recall deciding to do anything,” Rider said. “Once I saw the injured Soldiers, the decision was made for me.”

With people being trapped under the concrete, Rider said he knew he needed to act quickly. He carried jacks up to the pile of rubble and

began removing debris to free the trapped Soldiers. Realizing the jacks were insufficient to remove the concrete, Rider devised a plan to get straps under the collapsed wall and use a Bradley vehicle to lift the wall off the trapped people.

“Scott was the one who actually placed himself in harm’s way by sliding the straps and toe cables under the t-wall so the t-wall could be lifted,” Smith said. “He took charge and got a noncommissioned officer and Iraqi interpreter out.”

Additionally, 13 CMC contractors with Armor Group Iraq assisted with providing first aid and security during the rescue.

“These brave young and not so young men risked their lives to provide aid to U.S. Army personnel,” Smith said. “In my opinion, there would have been greater injuries and probably more loss of life had these brave men not done what they did without thought to their own safety.”



Photo by Petro Giannakouris, The Associated Press

Scott Rider, Coalition Munitions Clearance Program safety manager (tan helmet, center), helps U.S. Soldiers remove rubble to rescue Soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter trapped after a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device destroyed a bridge near Mahmoudiya, Iraq, June 10.



Photo by Debra Valine

All smiles: it's retirement time

Lt. Col David Diehl, left, receives his certificate of retirement from Col. Larry D. McCallister, commander of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, during a ceremony in his honor June 27. Diehl was the deputy commander at Huntsville Center for three years and retires after 20 years of service with the U.S. Army.

A-76 Road Show travels to Huntsville Center

Corporate Information Office explains transition

**By Kim Gillespie
Public Affairs Office**

The Headquarters, Corps of Engineers, Corporate Information Office (CIO) brought its A-76 Road Show to Huntsville Center in June to discuss improving delivery and the transition of Information Management/Information Technology (IM/IT) services.

The “road ahead” is the migration from a highly decentralized service model to a world-class enterprise-wide information technology environment that allows easy, reliable access to critical information and business intelligence any time and any place.

Tony Brunner, deputy corporate information officer, emphasized that the new structure creates “partners for success” both within and outside the organization. Brunner said one of the purposes of the Road Show was to begin a dialogue with Corps organizations and ensure each one gets what it needs.

“John Samuelson is your regional information officer, and his job is to communicate your requirements,” Brunner said.

The transformation of the IM/IT structure began with the creation of the CIO. The CIO, which consists of Corps employees, oversees policy and guidance, requirements gathering, planning and service delivery. The Army Corps of Engineers-Information Technology (ACE-IT) office (a mixture of Corps and contractor employees) is responsible for daily operations, and providing systems administration, service desk and labor functions.

The ACE-IT for Huntsville Center will include three government positions, and eight contractor positions for a total of 11 ACE-IT support personnel. However, Road Show personnel noted that the number of positions supporting the ACE-IT could be modified if a major change in the organization’s mission or structure occurs. The ACE-IT began its transition preparation activities in May,

and the actual transition and handover of operations will begin in November. The phase-in will be complete by May 2008.

Gregg Hoge, Quality Management Officer for Headquarters, ACE-IT, stressed the importance and benefits of the standardization that will result from the IM/IT transformation.

“The service provider will be doing a baseline assessment of each organization’s equipment and requirements this summer,” Hoge said. According to Hoge, the baseline assessment is so critical because the original workload data was complied with in 2003 and any changes in equipment and service quality levels need to be verified prior to the ACE-IT handover of operations this fall.

There are two key components to the service provider’s contract. There will be basic services to all organizations that are firm fixed price, and there is additional support that

See A-76 road show on page 14

Center employees recognized for service

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, recognized seven employees and one team for their service during its annual Engineer Day celebration June 8. The annual event commemorates the birthday of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which turned 232 years old June 16.

Kim Gillespie was awarded the Commander's Leadership Award for her superior leadership as the Chief of the Public Affairs Office.

Donna Ragucci, Acquisition Support Division, was named the Contracting Professional of the Year for her work with the Utility Monitoring and Control Systems Program.

Ken Arrington, Installation Support and Programs Directorate, accepted the Employee of the Year Award for his work as the project manager for the UMCS program.

Sandy Wood, Engineering Directorate, was named the Innovator of the Year for leading the Huntsville Center's first Building Information team for a child development center standard design.

Jeffrey Hardin garnered the Engineer of the Year Award for providing exceptional professional engineering support for the largest medical facilities program in the 29-year history of the Medical



Photo by Becky Proaps

Kim Gillespie, Public Affairs Office, Commander's Leadership Award



Photo by Becky Proaps

Ken Arrington, Installation Support and Programs Directorate, Employee of the Year Award



Photo by Becky Proaps

Donna Ragucci, Contracting Directorate, Contracting Professional of the Year Award



Photo by Becky Proaps

Anne Williams, Engineering Directorate, Administrative Support Employee of the Year Award

Facilities Center of Expertise and Standardization.

Debra Valine, Public Affairs Office, was named Volunteer of the Year for her accomplishments in the community as a member of the Girl Scouts of North Alabama Board of Directors and at Huntsville Center where she served as the loaned executive for Combined Federal Campaign.

Anne M. Williams was selected as Administrative Support Employee of the



Photo by Becky Proaps

Sandy Wood, Engineering Directorate, Innovator of the Year Award

Year for her work as the administrative officer to the Engineering Directorate in general and the Civil Structures Division in particular.

The UMCS Program Product Delivery Team was awarded the Teamwork Award based on its efforts to increase its workload, which resulted in adding more than \$70 million worth of work and tripling project actions. Members of the team include Laura Mabee, Bill Borders, Ken Arrington, Joan Theusch,



Photo by Becky Proaps

Debra Valine, Public Affairs Office, Volunteer of the Year Award

Chuck Holland, Will White, Chris Newman, Mitch Duke, Candido Damian, Elaine Wales, Donnie Lambert, Kathy Sparks, Jonathan Stephens, James Steele, Suzanne Wear, Lisa Parker, Donna Ragucci, Chuck Williams and Linda Merschman.

Norman Blake Baughman, was named to the Huntsville Center's Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees, becoming one of only 18 employees to be honored by this distinction since 1987.



Courtesy photo

Jeffrey Hardin, Medical Facilities Center of Expertise, Engineer of the Year Award



Photo by Becky Proaps

Norman Blake Baughman, Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees



Photo by Becky Proaps

The Utility Monitoring and Control Systems Program Product Delivery Team was awarded the Teamwork Award at the Engineer Day Awards June 8. Members of the team are first row, left to right, Will White, Laura Mabee, Kathy Sparks and Jonathan Stephens. Middle row, left to right, are Ken Arrington, Chris Newman and Suzanne Wear. Back row, left to right, are Chuck Holland, Joan Theusch, Donna Ragucci and Donnie Lambert. Members of the team not pictured include Chuck Williams, Linda Mershman, Bill Borders, Mitch Duke, Lisa Parker, James Steele and Elaine Wales.

Distinguished

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inductees. He joins only 18 employees in the history of Huntsville Center to be inducted and is the first since 2005.

"I was very proud when I heard he got accepted to be in our hall of fame," said Margaret Simmons, Huntsville Center chief counsel.

Baughman was chief counsel when Simmons first started at the Center in 1991.

Baughman came to Huntsville as an assistant counsel in 1971 from Huntington District, W. Va., where he started his career with the Corps in 1963. He eventually took over the Office of Counsel reigns in 1980 after his mentor and 1987 Gallery inductee Emil Vuch retired from

being chief counsel.

Baughman said he is still surprised that he was awarded the honor.

"How do I feel? I feel good. It's flattering," Baughman said. "Do I believe it? No, I never thought much of myself."

Even if he didn't, many who were in the Center with Baughman did think much of him.

John Matthews, Huntsville Center deputy for programs and technical management, nominated Baughman for the award and described him as a solid leader and a problem solver.

"Blake was always part of the solution," Matthews said. "You would come to him with a problem and he'd tell you 'no you can't do it that way, but let's work on this and we'll find some ways that you can do it.'"

The Center's mission and programs changed a lot during Baughman's time as chief counsel. He provided legal oversight in the early stages for some of the Center's larger programs like the Chemical Demilitarization and the Center's expanding role under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program.

"He was pretty instrumental, I think, in actually working to set up policy guidance and programmatic rules for programs that first came to Huntsville Center," Simmons said.

When he retired in 1993, Baughman took up painting houses. He has since stopped that and now devotes his free time to a variety of charitable causes such as the humane society, Habitat for Humanity and the ARK (a no-kill animal shelter).



Photo by Becky Proaps

Employees cruise the parking lot checking out the pre-1980's classic cars driven to Huntsville Center on Organization Day.

Center celebrates Organization Day with classic cars, director-cooked food, fun, games

Employees and retirees of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, and their families stepped back in time June 8 then headed to the river for an afternoon of awards, games and good food.

The day began with seven classic cars, all pre-1980s, and their owners gathering in the Huntsville Center parking lot. Mike Gooding, a civil engineer with the Environmental Branch and a car enthusiast, organized the event and tallied the votes for the five categories of employee favorites. The women's favorite was Britney

Prater's 1965 Chevrolet pickup truck. The men's choice was the 1964 ½ convertible Ford Mustang owned by Bob Huie. The Under 30 and Commander's choice was the 1957 Chevrolet 150 owned by Brandon Price's grandfather Charles Hedgecock. Steve Johnson's 1955 Chevrolet was the commander's wife's choice.

Col. Larry D. McCallister, Huntsville Center commander, began the festivities at the river by handing out Engineer Day awards and recognizing families who have loved ones deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Other activities included consuming

hamburgers and hot dogs cooked by the directors, a cake walk, card games, some friendly competition on the volleyball court, the softball field and the horseshoe pit and the always popular dunking booth.

In an e-mail to the Center, McCallister thanked all those who worked so hard to organize and execute the Organization Day.

"As you know, no event like this happens by itself; it takes lots of volunteers and hard work to make it happen. Thanks to each of you for doing a super job and to Lt. Col. Jim D'Arienzo and his team for taking the reigns and leading the charge," McCallister said.

Steve Lewis, left, Anna Griggs, Kristi Javins, Charles Ford and Virginia Mitchell were the official taste tasters and hamburger "wrappers" as the hamburgers came off the grill.



Photo by Becky Proaps



Photo by Becky Proaps

Dorothy Lewis and Cheryl Jones aim for the same chair during the cake walk.



Photo by Becky Proaps

The moon bounce is always a big hit with the children, but especially with this little girl. Who wouldn't love jumping up and down and feeling lighter than a feather!



Photo by Becky Proaps

Karan Dougherty, right, handed out rings to all who wanted to try their hand at winning a free bottle of soda at the ring toss game.

Site at Fort Hamilton will see new life as grass field upon completion of removal project

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

What started as the prototype project for the National Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract for building demolition has finally come to fruition.

The project at Fort Hamilton, N.Y., had two buildings and one small utility room that needed to come down.

The buildings had contained an enlisted personnel barracks, a battalion headquarters, classrooms, administrative center (SJA Center Courtroom and Law Library), an Exchange warehouse and a storage facility. They also contained two dining facilities. Total square footage of the two larger buildings was 103,348 square feet.

“We used a Northeast Region (NERO) IDIQ award for Fort Hamilton,” said Michael Norton, the Facilities Reduction Program manager at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville. “When that first year ended, we converted it from one region to four regions, making it a National IDIQ.”

“The original cost estimate to demolish the two buildings was \$3.2 million,” Norton said. “We found a contractor who can do it for \$1.5 million, which includes the asbestos abatement.

That’s half the cost to the customer.”

The project, which started April 30, was complete by June 28, said General Engineer James P. Johnson, Fort Hamilton Directorate of Public Works.

Huntsville Center is working with the New York District Corps of Engineers, the Fort Hamilton installation and Charter Environmental Inc. to bring down the buildings by traditional demolition.

As with all removal projects, as much material as possible will be recycled or reused. The Army requirement is that 50 percent of construction and demolition debris by weight be diverted from the landfill.

The contractor estimates that 95 percent of the debris can be reused or recycled in three categories: masonry/asphalt/concrete, land clearing debris and metal.

“We are reusing the concrete from these buildings by crushing it and backfilling voids, especially the ones left from the two mechanical rooms that are below grade,” said Raul Alonso, the project manager, Huntsville Center. There will be enough crushed concrete and cinder block to fill and raise the elevation 4-6 inches.

“We are also capping off the utilities and leaving those in place,” Alonso said. “This is where the cost savings are being realized.”

Chris Ryan, the project manager for Charter Environmental Inc., said tree

branches will be chipped and the chips will be reused on-site as a soil additive, the large tree trunks will be cut and used as heating fuel, and topsoil will be stockpiled and reused as topsoil on-site.

In addition, Ryan said the metals from plumbing and heating pipes, door frames, boilers, electrical conduit, concrete reinforcing steel, etc., will be loaded into containers and sent to a scrap metal recycler.

The area is expected to be restored as a grass field starting in July, said Fort Hamilton DPW officials.



Courtesy photo

Bldg. 407 before its demolition at Fort Hamilton, N.Y.



Courtesy photo

A crawler tractor from Charter Environmental Inc. works through what was Bldg. 408, a former barracks and Law Center at Fort Hamilton, N.Y. Charter started removing Bldg. 408 in April.

FRP toolbox boasts new, improved features

By Debra Valine
Public Affairs Office

When you have a demolition or facility removal project and you're looking for answers as to lowest cost and best practice, where can you go to get quick, easy answers?

The Facilities Reduction Program Toolbox, developed by Frankie Friend & Associates for the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, provides answers to these questions and much more.

The easy-to-use Web site, located at <https://frptoolbox.erd.c.usace.army.mil/frptoolbox/index.cfm>, has three features, in particular, that walk Directorate of Public Works planners, project and program managers at Installation Management Command and the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers districts through a demolition or removal project.

The major tools are the quick estimate, the advanced estimate and the library.

The quick estimate is used as a single facility estimator. Previously, the toolbox allowed the customer to input the least amount of information and get a range of costs.

"What we have done in the new version, is give users the option to input the specific installation and the tipping fees (landfill disposal) involved and drill down to a finite cost in the quick estimate," said John Taylor, Frankie Friend & Associates. Specifying

the project installation allows the calculator to adjust rates by location; thereby, giving the user a much more refined answer.

"I use the toolbox quite a bit," said Amber Martin, a project manager with the Facilities Reduction Program. "Most recently I used it to review information on military construction Army funding. The DA Form 1391 is how the Army describes what they will construct. Within that, there is a policy requiring one-for-one demolition, which means that for every square foot they build, they have to take down the same amount of square feet. We are checking the information to make sure it meets that requirement as well as making sure there are enough dollars budgeted to remove what they listed."

Martin takes the building numbers and gets the specific data on the building and runs that information through the FRP Toolbox to generate an estimate for what it should cost to take the building down. She then compares that to what is listed on the 1391.

"Using the toolbox makes this process a lot easier," Martin said.

"I work with details and I need the level of detail that the advanced feature of the toolbox provides."

The advanced estimate feature allows a project manager to input information for multiple facilities. There is a shopping cart, like most Internet shopping sites. Multiple facility types, by common use or category

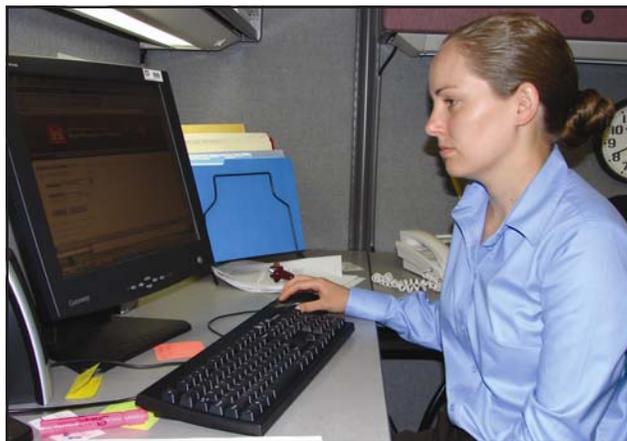


Photo by Debra Valine

Amber Martin, a project manager with the Facilities Reduction Program, uses the FRP toolbox regularly.

code, can be added and all the information the project manager needs is on the same page. There is also a mechanism for feedback for people who need to customize an estimate or ask a question.

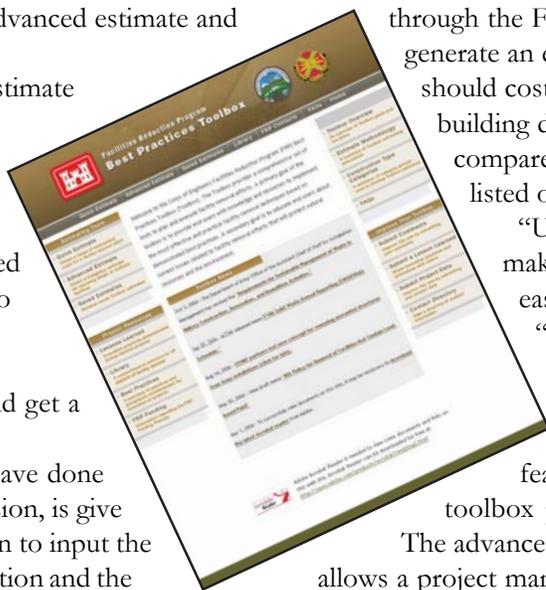
Another step was added to the advanced estimate feature that includes an estimate of the quantity, by type of construction and demolition (C&D) debris, that should be diverted from a landfill. This lets project managers know if the project meets the new Army diversion policy. Grouping select facilities helps the planner best meet the project requirement for 50 percent diversion by weight from the landfill.

When all the information has been entered, the project manager has a final, printable report that is more organized. It includes assumptions and best practices based on user input.

The library is the third component of the toolbox to be improved. It now includes a search engine so project managers can find exactly what they are looking for.

"The toolbox provides us a quicker and more uniform way to estimate demolition costs," Martin said.

"The toolbox incorporates current industry standards and gives us a better cost estimate by using industry-based practices," Martin said. "The cost per square foot used to be \$30-\$40. The Army average for demolition is now around \$10 per square foot."



Huntsville Center employee lives with husband's dangerous deployment daily

By Becky Proaps
Public Affairs Office

For many people July 4 is a holiday spent celebrating this country's freedoms with barbecues, fireworks, family and friends. For one U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, employee, it is another holiday she spends worrying about her husband's safety and praying for his safe return home from Iraq in March 2008.

"Tyler's specialty is EOD (explosive ordnance disposal). He is a bomb technician," explained Anita Ayers, a contract specialist on the Contract Placement Team. Her husband, an active duty Army staff sergeant, is assigned to the 725th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company from Fort Drum, N.Y., and is stationed at Camp Warhorse (renamed Camp Freedom 1), near Baquba, about 40 miles northeast of Baghdad, Iraq. His unit deployed in December 2006.

Communication or lack thereof has been one of the biggest challenges they face.

"We only get one five-to 10-minute phone call every three to four days if

that. Sometimes we go as long as a week. I've told him he's going to have to learn how to use a pen, because I have to hear something," Ayers said. "Everybody laughs at me because I go to every meeting and the first thing I do is apologize for my phone. It's gotten to the point where everyone understands that I have my phone with me and why I have it. It is my lifeline to him — if it rings I excuse myself and answer it because that is all I get; that is all I'm going to get for who knows how long," she said. "And everyone at the Center has been very supportive and understanding."

Communication is a big challenge, but worrying and lack of information is the most difficult part to deal with daily.

"Everyone tells you not to watch the news but that's the only link you have to information. You fervently watch it, even though it's upsetting, but you just want to know, you just want to hear something. Even when I talk to him, I know not to ask because I know he can't tell. He was injured a while back and I didn't know for two weeks," she said.

"Tyler loves what he does but unfortunately what he does over there has proven to be very, very dangerous. The day he was injured, his vehicle took a direct hit from an IED (improvised explosive device) — a targeted hit," Ayers said. "Because it was a direct hit the blast threw all three men against the roof of the vehicle. They had concussions for three days and all their ribs were bruised. But it could have been so much worse."

EOD teams are now



Courtesy photo

Anita Ayers, left, with her husband Tyler while he was home from Iraq for two weeks in June.

traveling in vehicles called Cougars (mine-protected armored patrol vehicles). "They are the new vehicles with diamond shaped hulls so when the IEDs explode they don't implode on the Soldiers," Ayers explained. "They deflect the blast away from the occupants and are ultra armored."

Ayers gets through every day by staying busy. She bought a home in Brownsboro, Ala., and is renovating it with help from her family who lives nearby.

As hard as it is for her, she admits it's so much harder for the wives with children and for some of the other young wives in the unit. Eighty percent of the unit is under 25 years old. The commander is 28; the oldest person in the unit is 36.

"Some of these wives are such heroes to me," Ayers said. "We have one wife with five children at home. It just boggles my mind; I have three



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Tyler Ayers with a Cougar — the mine-protected armored patrol vehicle — which explosive ordnance disposal teams travel in when on missions in Iraq.

See Deployment on page 13

The following are some of the free activities during the week:

Monday, July 16

6:30 p.m. Concert in the Park
Big Spring Park, downtown

Tuesday, July 17

3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Soldier Show
VBC Concert Hall

Wednesday, July 18

7 p.m. Soldier Show
VBC Concert Hall

Tickets for the Soldier Show will be available at
Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Office on
Redstone Arsenal beginning July 2 and at the
Huntsville Chamber of Commerce beginning July 9.

For a full schedule of events and discounts
go to HuntsvilleAlabamaUSA.com



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Please call 256-535-2031 for more information.

Deployment

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dogs, and I can barely get to work in the morning. I don't even grasp the concept of how difficult it really is."

And that is what Ayers wants people to understand. "People should appreciate the fact that there is a lot of sacrifice going on. Good, bad, whether you believe in the war or not those guys and gals are doing their jobs and their families are back here making it through each day," she said.

"I also wish I could make people understand how grateful they should be for the little things. People grumble because their husband didn't mow the yard or they complain about little things, and I know when he's back I will take all that for granted as well. But when you are apart and you watch the news and you know someone is killed or kidnapped, you just hope someone doesn't drive up in your driveway. Your priorities change so significantly. I wish I could convey to people to be so appreciative of all our Soldiers and to

be supportive of what they are up against every day.

"A lot of people say to me 'I see it on the news but it isn't somebody.' And it does become these massive numbers. You really forget — even with the death toll — you just see the number go up, it is just a number with no names or ages attached, but to somebody sitting somewhere cringing, it is something so different. You start to take the news a little more personally," Ayers said.

"There are people we pass every day, and we don't have a clue what they are dealing with. I have a blue star on my truck and every time I see someone else with that star on their car it's that little bit of connection of 'I don't know you but we are going through the same thing'.

On July 4 this year Ayers will spend the day with many of her family and friends, celebrating the freedoms of this country. But that night and every night before Ayers goes to bed she

looks at her clock knowing her husband is waking up. The days and nights are opposite in Iraq. "I know he's getting into the truck, and I know that someone wants to try to kill him. And that is a concept that you can't dwell on but it's the truth."

Other Huntsville Center employees who have loved ones deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq include Cheryl Jones, whose sister, Air Force Lt. Col. Pam Hill, is working with the Multi-National Force, Iraq; Donna Ragucci's son, Sgt. Jason Ragucci, who deployed to NaRay, Afghanistan in May; and Bill Johnson's son, Spc. Blake Johnson, is stationed with the 82nd Airborne Division in Baghdad, Iraq.

Note: If you would like to donate magazines or learn more about the calling cards that help Soldiers with their long distance phone calls, contact Anita Ayers.

U.S. Army reaches major chemical weapons convention milestone

By U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md.

— The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) announced June 21 the safe destruction of 45 percent of the United States' chemical stockpile, accomplishing a major Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) milestone, well ahead of the other signatory nations with major stockpiles.

"We successfully met the 1, 20 and 45 percent destruction milestones specified by the treaty while maintaining an outstanding safety record," said Dale Ormond, CMA acting director. "It is a tribute to the United States' leadership in developing and implementing chemical demilitarization technology."

The selection of 45 percent, rather than 50 percent, as the third milestone was the result of international negotiations in which the percentages selected as milestones had to correspond to a realistic timeline for meeting them.

The United States came under the provisions of the CWC in April 1997.

The treaty includes a destruction schedule for chemical weapons stockpiles and a system of regular inspections. In all, 182 nations signed the treaty. Thus far, a large percentage of the chemical weapons materiel destroyed in the world has been destroyed in the United States.

"I couldn't be prouder of the men and women of CMA and their hard work, dedication and commitment to safety and environmental compliance. Their outstanding efforts to eliminate our chemical munitions stockpile will result in a safer environment for our citizens and people around the world," said Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

"Each disposal operation has made an important contribution, and together, they have made the process more efficient by sharing their lessons learned. I am extremely proud of CMA and the government/industry team — a world class team performing a world class job," said Claude Bolton, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology.

The first U.S. chemical demilitarization facilities to destroy chemical agent under the treaty were the

Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS) in the South Pacific and Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) in Utah. JACADS operated from 1990 to 2000, although credit toward the 45 percent milestone only began in April 1997, when the treaty provisions took effect. TOCDF began in 1996 and is still operating. The Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and the Pine Bluff Binary Destruction Facility at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., completed operations in 2006. Stockpile disposal facilities are in operation at Anniston Army Depot, Ala.; Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.; Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.; and Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore. Disposal facilities at Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo., and Blue Grass Army Depot, Ky., are under construction.

The final milestone is 100 percent destruction of the nation's chemical weapons materiel. The United States successfully petitioned to have the original deadline of April 2007 extended to April 2012. Reaching 45 percent brings the Army closer to its final chemical demilitarization goal.

A-76 road show

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will be cost reimbursable.

Communication between IM employees, customers, senior leaders and commanders is also critical to the success of the transformation.

"We will have an internal feedback mechanism to

ensure customer satisfaction," said Sam Bradley, Senior Regional Information Officer for the CIO Central Region.

The IM/IT Road Show team representatives all emphasized that the IM/IT structure will provide the same level of services currently provided, and all

hardware and software standards will be maintained to support core business processes.

"The quality assurance program will also assure consistent quality support," Hoge said.

The IM/IT Road Show kicked-off the transformation to a smaller, more

efficient organization.

"The future structure includes standardization, improved security and consolidated contracts ... which will result in lower costs," Brunner said.

For additional information, visit the CIO Web site at <http://eportal.usace.army.mil>.

New Alaskan hospital has ties to Huntsville

By Chris Gardner
Public Affairs Office

The state-of-the-art, \$215 million, Bassett Army Community Hospital at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, opened its doors at the end of May after being in the works since 1997.

Throughout those years, members of the Medical Center of Expertise and Standardization (MX) from the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, provided medically unique technical expertise to the Corps of Engineers Alaska District in several aspects of the building's design and construction.

"The role of MX was to develop and maintain the medical design criteria used on the project," said John Phillips, an electrical engineer with the MX.

Though the MX helped with many design aspects of

the project, it was most involved in the building's fire protection systems and communication systems, Phillips said.

For the communication systems, he said the MX tried a unique approach, and that he thinks it paid off in the end. They separated the communication system contract out from the hospital's main construction contract.

"The end result in my mind is we ended up with the best communications systems we have ever had in a hospital construction project," Phillips said. "Separating out the contracts gave us more control and let us focus on specific details."

That added control allowed for the interfaces in Bassett's many smaller communication networks, like nurse call systems, facility security systems and the radio paging system, to work seamlessly together, he said.

That should lead to

smoother and quicker communication between everybody in the hospital, which should ultimately lead to better patient care, Phillips said.

The hospital's high-tech communication system includes 230 miles of communication cabling throughout the building.

Fire protection systems for Bassett couldn't be like those in most normal buildings for a couple of main reasons, Jeff Hardin, senior mechanical engineer at the MX, said.

Unlike the average building, where evacuation is the primary fire protection concept, as a hospital, "Defend in Place" features had to be incorporated for immobile patients at Bassett.

"This means that the response to fire is not evacuation of patients, but protection of patients in place by containment of fire and smoke, fire suppression using sprinklers or standpipe hoses, and by providing fire and or smoke areas of refuge on each patient floor," Hardin said.

He said at Bassett sprinklers are used as a primary fire suppressant, and exhaust systems are crucial to controlling smoke that could spread through the building endangering patients.

Alaska's climate also had to be taken into account when designing Bassett's fire protection systems, Hardin said.

Special precautions had

to be taken to prevent parts of the fire suppression system from freezing, like sprinkler pipes that are often filled with standing water for extended periods.

Phil Hoge, a fire protection engineer with the MX, said in areas subject to freezing, like Alaska, a dry-pipe sprinkler system is used. This means the pipes are not filled with sitting water, but air pressure fills the pipes with water when the system is activated.

They also had to make sure measures were put in place to make sure exits were not blocked by accumulating snow that regularly builds up outside, Hardin said.

Phillips said the climate outside also impacted the project as a whole and that work outside on the project could only be done from April to October because of Alaska's weather extremes.

"The Arctic environment brings on certain concerns," Phillips said. "Once it gets 30 degrees below out there, it gets pretty hard to do any outside work."

The 259,000-square-foot hospital had its official ribbon cutting at the end of May, and should be fully operational by the first week in July after all operations have been transitioned from the old Bassett Army Community Hospital.

Huntsville Center's MX has supported some 450 medical treatment or medical research facility projects totaling more than \$6 billion since its inception in 1978.



Courtesy photo

The Medical Center of Expertise and Standardization provided technical expertise to the state-of-the-art, \$215 million, new Bassett Army Community Hospital at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, that opened in May.

Ethics Corner

Continuing friendship – or cultivating finances?

**By Toby Harryman
Office of Counsel**

A reoccurring issue here at Huntsville Center involves government-contractor relationships both professional and personal. As last month's article discussed, once a person has retired, they are prohibited from representing, before the government, a private company on certain matters they previously worked while employed by the government. But what about retired employees who continue

(and sometimes cultivate) ties to current Huntsville Center personnel?

While there is nothing illegal with continuing old friendships, Huntsville Center employees must be careful not to violate the provisions of the Joint Ethics Regulation which prohibits even the appearance of favoritism when dealing with particular contractors. For example, a Center retiree (now the president of a local consulting firm representing a contractor who is competing for, or has current contracts with Huntsville Center) contacts an old friend who is

currently a program manager and suggests a lunch at a local Mexican restaurant.

The PM accepts this seemingly innocent invitation. During the lunch, the retiree inquires about the state of an ongoing acquisition within the PM's directorate. How should the PM respond?

Several laws provide guidance to the PM in this case. First, 5 CFR § 2635 directs government employees to "avoid any actions creating the appearance that they are violating the law or the ethical standards set forth in" the JER. Second, the Procurement Integrity Act

forbids the disclosure of source selection plans or other information that if released would jeopardize the integrity of the competition.

So, the PM should think twice about accepting a lunch invitation in order to avoid the appearance they are favoring one company over another. Further, discussing ongoing acquisitions may violate disclosure provisions of the PIA. If not handled correctly, this free Mexican lunch could land this PM in a very hot and spicy legal proceeding hosted by the Department of Justice.

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

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