



US Army Corps
of Engineers

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Huntsville Center

Bulletin

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*Mark your
calendar now...*

Engineering
Jeopardy
Feb. 22
2 p.m.

Center cafeteria



**Black History Month
Celebration**
Feb. 27
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Center cafeteria



Photo by Tim Bohannon

Huntsville Center's Coalition Munitions Clearance program personnel assist at the scene of a Marine Corps tank accident in Western Iraq. The accident left the Marines' communication equipment and main guns inoperative. CMC personnel secured the area and called a medical evacuation helicopter for one seriously injured Marine.

Munitions clearance team helps stranded Marines

By Kim Gillespie
Public Affairs Office

The Soldier's Creed states, "I will never leave a fallen comrade." Army Civilian and contractor employees feel the same way.

On Jan. 14, a convoy supporting the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center's Coalition Munitions Clearance (CMC) program

encountered two Marine Corps M-1 tanks involved in a serious accident on a remote road in Western Iraq.

The accident left the Marines' communication equipment and main guns inoperative and one of the six Marines seriously injured.

The convoy personnel, that included CMC project management specialist Tim Bohannon and 22 employees of security

contractor Armor Group Inc. (AGI), set up a security perimeter and treated the injured Marine until the medical evacuation helicopter and the Marine Corps Quick Reaction Force (QRF) arrived.

"Needless to say, these Marines were in a very vulnerable position," Bohannon said. The CMC

See **Accident** on page 15

Commander's thoughts

The year is off to a quick start, and February will see the pace quicken. Our most important task this year is awarding contracts. Almost 50 percent of our acquisitions must be re-awarded, and we are also awarding new contracts, for work such as Centers of Standardization, which are critical to the Army's "grow the force" and re-stationing efforts. This impacts everyone in the Center, and we must ensure that our acquisition personnel, who include not only contracting, but our engineers and project managers, get the support they need. Our reputation depends on our ability to deliver what we have promised. We have built a name for this organization by "meeting the challenge," and I know we will continue to find new ways, such as our recently established contract award team, to support the Warfighter and their Families.

We are also preparing for our annual ISO surveillance audit, which is

required to retain our ISO 9001 certification. Our ISO certification has been the cornerstone of our quality and effectiveness. We are now enhancing the processes with Lean Six Sigma. We come into February with 21 employees having completed Green Belt training from areas across the Center, and we will begin our next green belt training in April. Lean Six Sigma is intended to increase your effectiveness, but it is also a way of forming new teams to improve or create a better system.

An engineering value management system (EVMS) is under way at the Pueblo Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant. The EVMS is used to measure the contractor's performance in regard to price and schedule. If the contractor meets the measures, they receive an incentive bonus. These are

used for cost-plus incentive contracts and require certification of the measures. Reviews of the EVMS are under way,

and the final visit for EVMS certification will be this month. When I visited the site in January, the team was busier than ever. Construction is ramping up, and we will continue to need experienced personnel to support this program. I'm proud of our outstanding safety record with this program,

and our EVMS effort is a win-win situation for us and the contractor.

February includes National Engineers Week, which recognizes and publicizes the role engineering has played in our society and the numerous disciplines in the field. This year's theme is "Engineers make a world of difference," which could certainly



Col. Larry D. McCallister

See *Commander* on next page

Hails and farewells

Welcome to new employees —

Margaret Evans Brewer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Learning Center; **Jessica Cantrell**, Military Munitions Division, EMCX; **Deborah Lynn Clark**, Installation Support and Programs Management; **Carol Denise Elder**, Installation Support and Programs Management; **Laura Anne Fursdon**, Installation Support and Programs Management; **John Gardner**, Ordnance and Explosives; **David H. Groell**, Ordnance and Explosives; **Jennifer Hardwick**, ULC; **Bill Hudson**, Engineering; **Kenyata Denise Johnson**, Installation Support and Programs

Management; **Gale Keshishian**, Chemical Demilitarization; **Ronald W. Qualls**, Installation Support and Programs Management; **Diana Rodenas**, Contracting; **George Randy Smith**, Installation Support and Programs Management.

Farewell to Dave Aldridge, Engineering Directorate; **Jane Davis**, Contracting Directorate; **Martha Fisher**, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; **Quintessia Fuller**, Resource Management Directorate; **Nina Hicks**, Contracting Directorate; **Danny Mardis**, Engineering Directorate and **Don Voce**, Engineering Directorate.



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 the best Valentine's Day present you have received or given?

I received my first Valentine's Day gift from my fiancé about five years ago. It was definitely not your average gift! It was a real red rose dipped in 24k gold! Every year for Valentine's Day Grogan Jewelers sells these gold dipped roses. So each year I get another rose. It is so romantic and the great thing about them is that I get to keep them forever unlike real roses!



Jennifer Ellzey
Engineering Directorate



Shirley Burke-Mitchell
Contracting Directorate

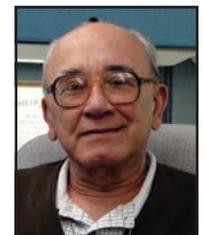
The best Valentine's Day gift I ever received was finding out I was pregnant. While I didn't actually get the news on Valentine's Day, it was close enough and has turned out to be the best gift/blessing ever! Why? Our daughter, Sarah Nicole, has been a bundle of joy and completely changed my life and priorities. Nothing in life is more precious, and I couldn't love anyone more.



Tom Weeks
Ordnance and Explosives Directorate

The best Valentine's Day gift I ever gave was a diamond ring to my wife for our 32nd anniversary.

Until I left my native country of Colombia, in South America, St. Valentine's Day was nothing special, just another day in February. After a few years in the States, having fallen in love, married and fathered six kids I learned the full significance of Feb. 14. But it was my last Valentine's Day in Saudi Arabia that left a lasting impression. The American kids (boys and girls) I had helped with homework, looked after during our trips through the kingdom, and with whom I had shared movies, good and bad times, etc., had prepared a big card with their "artistic" renderings, names and wishes on it surrounding that magic four-letter word "LOVE". I had kept that treasure until recently when my apartment was broken into and a few of my belongings disappeared. By the way, Colombia now celebrates Valentine's Day.



Severo Lopez
Engineering Directorate

Commander

continued from page 2

describe the Corps of Engineers' role in engineering. Boyce Ross, director of Engineering, and his directorate do a great job each year of hosting an event for the Center. This year's event — Engineering Jeopardy — will be Feb. 22. I encourage all the directorates to consider forming a team and challenging the Engineering Directorate teams. I also encourage all our engineers to think about speaking at a local school to inform

students about the rewards and variety of the engineering profession. If you are interested, just contact the Public Affairs Office and they will assist in setting up a visit.

February is also Black History Month. It commemorates and celebrates the contributions to our nation made by African Americans. I encourage everyone to participate in the activities associated with this event. Team Redstone hosts a luncheon, and our Equal Employment Opportunity

Office has a fun event planned Feb. 27.

Additionally, February honors George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays with Presidents Day. While most of us recognize it as a long holiday weekend, it is also an opportunity to learn more about American history. Washington had a lifelong interest in military arts, and his military strategy forced the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. So don't just think of this holiday as a day off or sale day, think of it as part of

our Army's history.

Surprisingly, Lincoln had an "engineering" connection. Lincoln was the only president to receive a patent, for a device for lifting boats over shoals.

Holiday weekends also include holiday travel, so please remember to put safety first. Also, roads at this time of year can include additional cold weather hazards, so make sure you are prepared for the driving conditions. Thanks for all you do for the nation, the Soldiers and their Families!

New contracting branch forms at Huntsville Center

By Kim Gillespie
Public Affairs Office

Huntsville Center has a new contracting branch that is unique, just like the Huntsville Center mission. “The contract pre-award team will focus on the administrative activities and challenges that are unique to Huntsville Center’s large procurements,” said Virginia Mitchell, branch chief of the Pre-award Branch.

With more than \$6.5 billion in contract capacity being replaced within the next two years, this new approach will allow for more consistency and allow the Product Delivery Teams (PDTs) to focus on the execution of contracts rather than the award process, according to Mitchell.

The creation of a pre-award contract team was a result of several factors including the overall reorganization of the Contracting Directorate, strategic planning and the

cyclical nature of Huntsville Center contracts.

“Our highest priority is how to best serve our customers. They depend on the timeliness and quality of our contracts,” Mitchell said. “The regulations and requirements on the pre-award side (of acquisitions) have also undergone many changes recently. This ensures we can implement the acquisition process effectively and efficiently.”

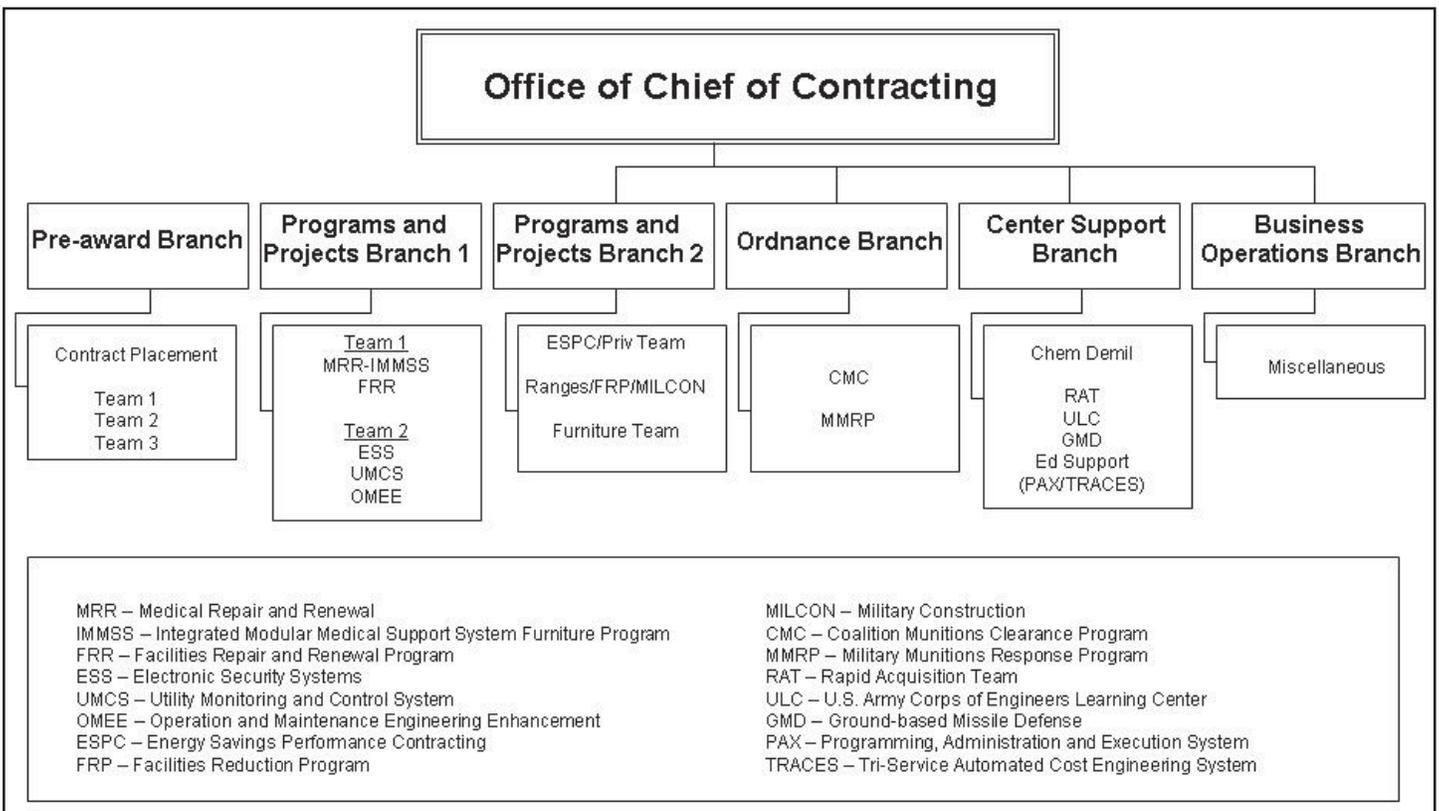
The pre-award team will also be available to assist during the fiscal year end and other surge times, according to Mitchell.

The new contracting pre-award team will consist of Mitchell, an acquisition manager, a legal adviser and three contracting officers who will each lead a contracting team. Stan Lee, acquisition manager, intends for his role to be as a facilitator who ensures the products and input required from engineers and project managers are timely and complete.

“Huntsville Center engineers have traditionally had a role in contracting, particularly in the past when we had more A-E (architect-engineer) work,” Lee said. “We need to use the resources we have effectively, and our engineers can be instrumental to the success of our acquisitions by assisting with our pre-award preparations, especially in the drafting of numerous pre-award documents where most of the content is related to the technical requirement itself.”

Contracting has a pre-award branch (contract placement team), but according to Lee, the goal is to create a team that has the hands-on experience, knowledge and working relationships with the Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting (PARC), Headquarters USACE and the Department of the Army in order to facilitate new acquisitions that are needed by the various product line PDTs.

See *Contracting* on page 12



Former HTRW Center of Expertise brings wealth of knowledge, history

By Andrea Takash
Public Affairs Office

The advent of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Program in 1980 marked a historical turning point for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The EPA turned to the Corps to provide design and construction oversight of hazardous waste cleanups under the Superfund Program. Knowing that this was no small task, Headquarters USACE asked Corps divisions to submit proposals to determine what division would be best suited for this nationwide program.

"HQ chose the Missouri River Division to be the Superfund Design Center," said Kevin Coats, acting director of the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise (EM CX).

"Omaha and Kansas City districts were the lead districts for design, while geographic districts performed construction oversight."

With the passage of the 1986 Superfund Law, the EPA added the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP), which brought in Department of Defense environmental cleanups. During the next four years, the Superfund



Courtesy photo

The Environmental Compliance and Management Division, in the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise includes, from left to right, Mike Filips, Doug Taggart, Brenda Bremer, Eric Critchlow, Stan Bauer, Sandi Zebrowski (division chief), Rick Waples, Kellie Kachek, Rod Dolton, Kate Peterson, Dave Splichal, Ed Bave and Mark Mimick. Not pictured are Merton Cota, Sandy Frye, Mary Johansen and Beverly VanCleaf.



Courtesy photo

The Environmental Engineering and Geology Division in the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise includes, from left to right, Elena Webster, Mike Bailey, Bill Crawford, Gregory Mellema, Jim Peterson, Carol Dona, Dave Jaros (division chief), Sam Bass, Vern St. John, Dave Becker, Hugh Rieck, Lindsey Lien, Rick Osborn, Chuck Coyle and Rich Stricker. Not pictured is Heidi Novotny and Terry Tomasek.

and DERP missions grew large enough that other divisions wanted to get involved.

"Since the programs were growing, HQ USACE decided to decentralize the design function for DERP and Superfund," Coats said.

"This at the same time as making a strategic decision that a centralized technical QA (quality assurance) function would be created using Missouri River Division staff."

The CX was established in two steps. In 1991, the

center was designated as the Radioactive and Mixed Waste CX. Then a year later, the name changed to the Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) CX. This remained the

See HTRW CX on page 10

Facilities Repair and Renewal Team upgrades Service Processing Center in Puerto Rico

By Jo Anita Miley

While it's not unusual for Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate's Facilities Repair and Renewal Division to upgrade facilities, this is the first time the team has worked with the Department of Homeland Security.

In the past, FRR has worked traditionally with customers from the Army, Navy, Air Force and the National Guard. According to Michael Murphy, FRR program manager, working with a new customer such as DHS can be very advantageous for the Center because FRR has been able to support customers that other programs like Utility Monitoring and Control Systems and Electronic Security Systems have brought in.

"By bringing in new customers, it not only provides opportunity for your program, but opportunities for other programs. DHS is a somewhat new agency that was established at the end of 2002; they do not have a construction support branch like USACE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) is for the U.S. Army. We have been able to step in to help fill this role for DHS," Murphy said.

Under the terms of the new \$2



Courtesy photo

The Aguadilla administration building houses men and women who may be illegal immigrants and/or potential felons and criminals detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

million contract with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, FRR is completing several task orders to improve safety and other standards for DHS detainees at San Juan, Puerto Rico's Aguadilla Service Processing Center.

Raul Alonso, the FRR project manager for the site, has been working closely with Marc Reynolds, the DHS project manager at Aguadilla, to make sure the necessary upgrades to the facility will help them stay in compliance with current environmental health and safety standards.

Alonso said he wears two hats, performing PM functions for Huntsville Center Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contracts and as the PM forward for the Engineering and Construction Support Office. There are various Corps of Engineers PM forwards across the nation assigned to customs border patrol sectors that perform this function. Alonso is acting as the USACE PM forward for the Ramey, Puerto Rico, and Miami customs border patrol sector regions.

Alonso is fluent in Spanish, and said this can be an asset in an area where a majority of the island is Spanish speaking only.

Reynolds said DHS wants to make sure that men and women detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement are being afforded the required levels of healthcare, safety and humane treatment.

The team will upgrade current operational standards to ensure the



Courtesy photo

The security perimeter fence will prevent unauthorized access into the parking area of the Special Processing Center (SPC). The gate allows vehicle and pedestrian access into the SPC and serves as the only entry and egress access point through the new secured perimeter fence.

safety and security of detainees at the Aguadilla facility. These upgrades include installing a fire suppression system and replacing a security perimeter fence. Installing the fence was among the first tasks to be completed.

In Puerto Rico, suspects are found on nearby bordering islands and then brought to Aguadilla for processing.

"In the past, an abandoned and dilapidated fence was all that separated detainees from the rest of the population," Alonso said. "The new security perimeter fence consists of razor and concertina wire, and its purpose is to deter detainees from trying to escape."

The team also has taken an active role in remodeling the facility with both interior and exterior upgrades. These upgrades include adding perimeter lighting, upgrading detainee restrooms, reconfiguring the electrical system and replacing an old roof according to current industry standard.

Alonso said his PM forward duties entail facilitating and coordinating the

See *Aguadilla* on page 12

February is Black History Month: show off your talents during special program

History, achievements highlighted during month

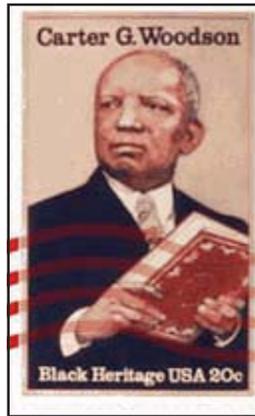
The Commander's Special Emphasis Program Committee is looking for talented employees to share in the celebration of African American/Black History Month.

In celebration of this month, and the 2008 theme, "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism," the CSEP is sponsoring a talent program and a variety of other events.

"Who Said That" — a quiz of matching the quote with the person who said it

along with other historical facts will be sent by electronic mail throughout February. Huntsville Center employees are encouraged to participate and compete for special prizes.

With emphasis placed on the origins of multiculturalism all talent should be related to the story, history and life of Black/



African Americans' contributions to the American society.

The AA/BH program is scheduled for Feb. 27 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Huntsville

Center cafeteria.

Anyone interested in participating in the program should contact Sonja Rice no later than Feb. 15, at 895-1575, or e-mail her at

sonja.m.rice@usace.army.mil. The Equal Employment Opportunity Office is in Room 1H002.

Carter Woodson was often called the "Father of Black History" because he started the movement to educate Americans about cultural diversity and democracy. The second week in February was originally set aside for the celebration to coincide with the birthdays of two influential men — Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln.

Huntsville Center's new Mission and Vision

MISSION

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center serves the U.S. Forces, their Families and the nation by providing specialized technical expertise, global engineering solutions and cutting edge innovations in support of national interests.

VISION

A world class workforce with an expeditionary mindset providing effective, innovative, global engineering solutions to unique, complex and high-risk missions in strengthened partnership with our strategic alliances, in support of the Warfighter, their Families and the nation.

'Deal or No Deal' game show lover gets her chance

By Becky Proaps
Public Affairs Office

On Jan. 16, millions of people watched Shequila Farrelly win \$36,000 on one of the most popular games shows on television "Deal Or No Deal."

Farrelly watched herself on the big screen at the Redstone Lanes Bowling Center on Redstone Arsenal, surrounded by family and friends who had organized a viewing party in her honor. Little did the viewers at home know that the process of getting to that moment had taken almost a year and that the experience was worth so much more than the actual dollar amount she won.

Farrelly, an office automation specialist with the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's Coalition Munitions Clearance Program since September 2007, loved the show from the first time she saw it and made the bold and confident statement that one day she would be a contestant on the show.

In April 2007, while stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., with her husband,

Staff Sgt. Patrick Farrelly, a combat engineer in the U.S. Army, and her two children, Patrick, 14, and Naidya, 13, a coworker saw a notice on the "Deal Or No Deal" Web site for an open casting call in Oklahoma City, Okla., 400 miles away.

"I found out on Thursday about the casting call, so on Friday after work, I put the kids in the car and drove to Oklahoma," Farrelly said. "When we arrived at the auditions at 6 a.m. Saturday morning, there were already 6,000 people in line. We made 6,001 but we got in line anyway. By the time all was said and done there were about 10,000 people there that day.

"They took groups of 10 people into a room, and we were given 30 seconds to sell ourselves," Farrelly said about the audition process. "They didn't prompt you or ask questions — you just talked. I was still talking five minutes later."

Farrelly told the audition team about being approached by a man while she was playing slot machines in Atlantic City, N.J., a few months earlier. He told her to play machines with the name "King" in them. Later that evening she spotted a King Tut

slot machine, dropped \$17 in and after two spins won \$1,500. "Of course about an hour later I was back in the ATM line, but I hit it like he said I would," she said.

Farrelly also talked about how much she loved watching talk shows and the volunteer work she did with children and other military spouses who are dealing with deployments and military life.

"I told them how I used to make up these crazy songs for the children so I danced and sang a couple of the songs for them," Farrelly said.

Whatever she did worked because they told her to come back the next day to do a mock taping. The taping went well and afterward they said they would be calling her.

Months passed. Farrelly and her family moved to Huntsville and onto Redstone Arsenal in August. She started a new job at Huntsville Center in September, and then if life wasn't crazy enough, she got the call she had been waiting for.

"One day in October my phone rang. This person said 'Hi, this is Nina from 'Deal Or No Deal.' We want you to come out and do the show,'" Farrelly said. "This was on a Wednesday, and two weeks later I was in Los Angeles; it was that fast. And they wanted everything — family member names, names of people I had worked with, friends, everybody."

The big day finally arrived in November. She headed to Los Angeles with her two children, her mother from Pensacola, Fla., an aunt from Ardmore, Ala., and her aunt and uncle from Huntsville, Vivian and Davie R. Williams. Her husband who was at Fort Riley, Kan., preparing for another deployment to Afghanistan when she received the call



Photo by Becky Proaps

Shequila Farrelly, gives an interview to Daniel Farmer, a reporter/cameraman from WAFF, Channel 48 News, about her experience as a game show contestant on "Deal Or No Deal."

and who she hadn't seen since August was flown to Los Angeles for the show. The show allows every contestant to have three supporters on the stage. One was her husband. The other two were very special friends.

"They flew in one girlfriend I hadn't seen in 11 years, Sara Jefferson, from Fort Richardson, Alaska, and another I hadn't seen in two years, Kenya Davis, from Fort Riley, Kan. Both are military spouses."

The theme for the show was a salute to military spouses. "They decided the theme after they selected me as a contestant," Farrelly said. "They found out what was important to me. They could see that for the last 17 years my whole life was all military. Everything I talked about was military related because that's what affects my kids and me."

Nov. 7, the day the show was taped, was unlike any other day Farrelly has ever experienced.

"We were sequestered. Once we went into the studio that morning we were not allowed to have cell phones or make phone calls out to anybody and you couldn't leave," Farrelly said. "They put us in a dressing room and everyone came to me. The makeup person and the hair person came to the dressing room. They had food — anything we wanted to eat or drink. Everything we wanted or needed was right there and they wouldn't let us out. We also couldn't take any pictures before or after the show."

Then the moment she had dreamed about for months arrived — she headed out onto the stage with the audience screaming all around her for an experience of a lifetime — sensory overload as she put it.

"They don't let you see or meet Howie (Mandel, the host) or the girls ahead of time. Your first meeting is right there on stage," she explained. "They say he's standoffish but he wasn't. I gave him this huge hug and he actually hugged me back. Then they bring the girls out. I noticed one was missing and the next thing I know here comes Ellen Degeneres onto the stage in the little green dress like the other girls were wearing carrying one of the cases. She was the first celebrity briefcase girl. Everyone went crazy. That was a huge surprise."



Photo by Becky Proaps

Former Huntsville Center employee Marty Fisher, back center, and Jeffrey Davis, a current Center employee, front right, were among the friends and family who enjoyed the moment with Shequila Farrelly at her viewing party Jan. 16 of "Deal Or No Deal."

And the surprises continued to come throughout the show. There were seven \$1 million cases to choose from instead of the usual one. Because the show was focusing on military spouses, Brig. Gen. Dana Pittard, the former commanding general of Iraq Assistance Group, presented Farrelly with an Army commanding general's coin for her dedication and work with military families. And she was surprised at how much goes on during commercial breaks.

"As soon as they cut to commercial someone is patting your face and putting on lip gloss and bringing you water and checking your makeup and combing your hair," Farrelly said. "Howie goes off to the side; the girls are dancing and throwing out candy to keep the audience up and excited. It gets crazy during commercial time."

Farrelly selected Case 10 at the beginning of the show. She did not have a method for picking the remaining 25 cases but she did have solid reasoning behind selecting Case 10.

"First of all I love Anya (the model holding the case). I was born in the 10th month. My husband asked me to marry him on the 10th. I lost my grandmother who was my rock and my world on the 10th," Farrelly explained. "On the day I did the tryout for the show I was sitting in Row 10, Seat 10. I knew 10 was my number."

The taping process took about two hours to complete even though Farrelly would have been happy to have let it go on much longer.

"Everyone wants to focus on the money and the money is great. I can't wait to get the check in the mail. And initially I just wanted to do the show because I love the game, but the experiences that came out of it are what mean the most," Farrelly said. "I got to do some amazing things and meet people I would never have had an opportunity to meet. It brought friends and family together. I was able to see my husband and he spent time with the kids before he deployed. It was an unexpected visit because we didn't know if we'd see each other before he left for Afghanistan. It was an amazing, over the top, crazy, insane rollercoaster ride from the phone call to the day I left on the plane and still today I think 'was that crazy or what. Can I do it all again?'" Farrelly said.

"I told my husband 'you know how you have these top things you did — I'm a mom so the birth of my two kids is number one, but honey we're in trouble because I'm trying to decide if marrying you or being on the show is Number 3,'" Farrelly said. He laughed and said "I think it should be Number 1."

Few people would argue it was an experience of a lifetime and made memories she and her family will cherish forever.



Photo by Bob Blankenship, Redstone Arsenal Photo Lab

Dedication receives recognition at CFC awards ceremony

Maj. Gen. James R. Myles, chairman of the Tennessee Valley Combined Federal Campaign and commanding general of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command, left, presents Dawn Scott, center, with a Certificate of Appreciation for her work as the coordinator of the Huntsville Center CFC fundraising effort. Col. Larry McCallister, commander of Huntsville Center, right, accompanied Scott to the Victory Celebration awards ceremony Jan. 22. Huntsville Center contributed \$79,139.65 to CFC in the 2007 campaign.

HTRW CX

continued from page 5

center's official name until Nov. 11, 2007, when it combined with the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's, Military Munitions CX to form the EM CX.

For more than a decade, the HTRW CX staff dedicated itself to providing quality assurance and technical transfer support to Corps districts. Through the years, the HTRW CX has experienced many successes.

"Our handling of the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) was a huge success," Coats said. "Congress tapped the Corps to take over FUSRAP from the Department of Energy. Under the general direction of HQ USACE, the CX played the primary role in transitioning the program from DOE for USACE execution. The CX was responsible for standing up the implementation plan and making contract capacity available to districts from former DOE contractors.

"The program has been going on for 10 years, and the districts have accomplished a lot of cleanup. The CX has now assumed its traditional role as responsible for quality assurance work and technical reviews," Coats said.

The HTRW CX also used its expertise overseas by establishing the first Field Force Engineering (FFE) Environmental Support Team (EnvST) in Iraq.

"The HQ USACE program management function for the FFE EnvST was transferred to the HTRW CX in October 2005," said Mary Johansen, Environmental Support Team program manager. "The EM CX continues to utilize its expertise overseas through management of the FFE EnvST team and providing reach back support to deployed troops on environmental issues."

With these successes have come obstacles for the CX, but the staff has risen to the challenges.

"We have continuously transformed to support customers and HQ proponents," Coats said. "I believe our realignment with Huntsville Center

makes the CX most optimally placed to be effective for our customers."

Despite the realignment to one CX, Coats said there are still challenges ahead.

"There is a collective challenge to get where the Corps needs to be for the Military Munitions Response Program," he said. "Now having an integrated CX organization addressing both MEC (munitions and explosives of concern) and MC (munitions constituents) will make it easier. We are organizing to be effective in completing the HTRW component of the Installation Restoration Program and settling in for the long-term in addressing the MMRP element."



Courtesy photo

The Environmental Sciences Division in the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise includes, from left to right, Terry Walker, Brian Hearty, Julie Clements, Kevin Coats (division chief), Chung-Rei Mao, Christy Krause, Joe Solsky, Jan Dunker, Anita Meyer, Marvene Seaman and Mark Fisher. Not pictured are Carrie Ables-Hamre, Thomas Georgian, Rick Hines, Martha Mitchell and John Nebelsick.

AKA Sorority turns 100: Center women still committed to cause started in college

By Michelle Harlan
Public Affairs Office

For 100 years a common goal to “provide service to all mankind” has guided more than 190,000 women from around the world to give back to their communities, including 10 U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville employees.

These women, all members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, act as role models, mentors and loyal friends to young women and each other.

Howard University in Washington, D.C., founded the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the first Greek letter sorority established for African-American women Jan. 15, 1908.

Members are comprised of college-educated women who are dedicated to community service.

The organization will celebrate its 100th anniversary for a week during July. Sorority sisters, along with their family members, plan to gather in Washington, D.C., for a variety of activities such as city tours, lunches, golfing, a parade and a performance by Patti LaBelle.

“It’s a lifelong commitment that doesn’t end after college,” said Lillian Taylor Fox, Contracting Directorate.

Ten AKA members work in various directorates throughout Huntsville Center. Having access to an instant community has helped them adjust to living in a new city or starting a new job.

“Based on what has been fostered inside each of my AKA sisters, we know that we have lifetime ties that can never be broken,” said Janice Jamar, Contracting Directorate.

“We may not work together or see each other, but there is an invisible bond that we share.”

“Having sorority sisters on the job

has provided me an opportunity to meet people, make friends and become a part of a community. It’s a feeling of reassurance knowing that I will always have a network of friends to fall back upon,” said Monica Moody, Contracting Directorate.

Members of the sorority share a loyalty that extends beyond monthly meetings or social gatherings.

“Our job does not stop after eight hours at the Center. We are tutoring and mentoring year round — from little ones to the elderly,” said Gail Hodge, Contracting Directorate. “We try to be great role models and set good examples.”

“I really enjoy projects involving our young ladies who are in dire need of positive examples,” said Betty Fletcher, Engineering Directorate.

The Madison Graduate Chapter of AKA hosts events such as a black history trivia bee for middle school students and an Angel Pageant for girls ages 4 to 13. They volunteer at homeless shelters serving food and also support the Christian Women’s Job Corps by providing job training and collecting clothing donations. The Huntsville Graduate Chapter works directly with undergraduate AKA



AKA Sorority members at Huntsville Center include, front row, left to right, Kim Torrence, Engineering Directorate and Shamekia Underwood, Contracting Directorate; second row, left to right, Gail Hodge and Lillian Taylor Fox, both in Contracting; third row, left to right, Shay Duckett, Logistics Management; Joanne Troupe and Janice Jamar, both in Contracting. Inset, left, Monica Moody, right, and Betty Fletcher, are in Contracting. Not pictured is Sharon Butler, in Contracting.

chapters at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and Alabama A&M University, as well as hosts the AKA Debutante Presentation and Ball.

The sorority not only enriches the community, but also provides the members with opportunities to network and for personal growth.

“It has given me the opportunity to enlighten the traits and characteristics within me that I previously possessed. Joining Alpha Kappa Alpha gave me the opportunity to excel in those and many more areas,” said Shamekia Underwood, Contracting Directorate.

“AKA has given me a new perspective on the importance of always reaching out and helping make a difference in someone’s life,” said Shay Duckett, Logistics Management Directorate.

Contracting

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“This is the teamwork vision for acquiring new contracts: Leverage the in-depth acquisition knowledge and experience of the pre-award team with the extensive requirement and market conditions knowledge and insights of the PDT. This has not been realized yet. It is a work in progress, but it offers great potential for excellence and efficiency,” Lee said.

Contracting officers for contract placement include Lisle Lennon, Team 1, who will oversee awards for Medical Repair and Renewal (MRR) and Facilities Repair and Renewal (FRR), and design-build awards to support Centers of Standardization and the Ordnance and Explosives program. Contracting officer Earl Johnson will support Team 2 for all energy-related contracts, while contracting officer Tonju Butler will manage awards for Team 3 which covers all other services and programs.

“The pre-award branch covers contract placement for most of Huntsville Center’s programs and

projects. However, PAX and TRACES will continue to be serviced by the contracting directorate’s center support branch,” Mitchell said.

Each contract pre-award team member provides consistency for their area of expertise. Because Huntsville Center’s large procurements are done less frequently (usually every few years) the pre-award team can draw upon the same experienced individuals rather than starting from scratch each time. In addition to the legal template, templates for other aspects of the process are being developed, and these will be “mapped” to make access easier, Mitchell said.

The contract award team will monitor the core competencies of the pre-award process and ensure accessibility to resources, while remaining external to the Contracting Directorate, Mitchell said.

“Having an acquisition manager who monitors the acquisitions and whose role is to resolve impasses and tap resources will help us prevent problems before they happen. It gives us an advantage we did not have before. This is much more



Photo by Becky Proaps

The new contracting branch members are front row, left to right, Chris Katterheinrich, Marta Annerton, Monica Moody, Vicki Vandermier; remaining rows, left to right, Jeanette Mathena, Toby Harryman, Paul Daugherty, Aaron Kelly, Jennifer Staggs, Tonju Butler, Virginia Mitchell, Earl Johnson and Lisle Lennon. Members of the team not pictured are Lilian Taylor, Richard Mullady and Stan Lee.

effective than trying to matrix personnel to support each project,” Mitchell said.

One change Lee is determined to make is getting the pre-award process out of its “sequential” and “just-in-time” document preparation mode.

“Rather than waiting for each step of the process to be ‘completed’ before initiating the next deliverable, we can be working some actions concurrently and preparing documents before

we need them so that minimal time is required to get a document ready for approval when its turn comes up in the process,” Lee said.

The team also will be responsible for forecasting and planning future acquisitions.

“We are now aligned with the Center’s strategic plan and are positioned to support the goals and objectives of the organization. This can help take us from ‘Good to Great,’” Mitchell said.

Aquadilla

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various projects at his assigned CBP sectors with other Corps offices in Jacksonville, Fla.; Fort Worth, Texas; Savannah, Ga.; and Mobile, Ala.

According to Reynolds, the Corps has played an important role in the mission of homeland security, especially in light of recent terrorism

threats around the globe.

“The Army Corps of Engineers has been very helpful in assisting Customs and Border Protection with our numerous projects in Puerto Rico,” Reynolds said. “The knowledge and contract oversight has helped us stay on schedule with the ultimate goal to provide the facilities

necessary for CBP to perform our mission in protecting our homeland.”

Murphy and Alonso agree this new contract illustrates the FRR team’s ability to provide a wide range of support to non-traditional customers.

“We want to get the message out there that we (FRR) can do these type projects for other agencies,” they said.

Chemical Demilitarization Directorate looks to Azerbaijan for latest project

By Chris Gardner
Public Affairs Office

Most people have probably heard of Azerbaijan, but being able to point it out on a map might be a different story.

The small, about Alabama-sized, country sandwiched between Iran to its south and Russia to its north will be home to one of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's latest overseas projects.

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) has asked Huntsville Center's Chemical Demilitarization Directorate to oversee the design and construction of a national laboratory that is being constructed as part of the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program. This laboratory is part of a joint effort to monitor endemic threat agents, establish strategic research partnerships, detect potential pandemics and prevent bioterror attacks. Once constructed, the laboratory will serve as the national human and veterinary diagnostic and research center in Azerbaijan with both biological safety level two and three diagnostic and research space and will be connected to several CTR-upgraded regional diagnostic laboratories.

Neal Graham, Huntsville Center's acting resident engineer in Azerbaijan's capital, Baku, said the lab will be used for studying and detecting diseases like bird flu, swine fever, brucellosis and other pandemic types of threats.

Huntsville Center is providing oversight for the design of the facility and is expected to assist the Azerbaijanis in construction oversight functions in the future. The Department of Defense Cooperative Threat Reduction Program is funding the design phase of the project, and the Government of Azerbaijan will pay for and execute the actual construction.

"The laboratory — referred to as a Central Reference Lab — will serve as the hub of the Threat Agent Detection and Response network in Azerbaijan," said Jennifer Brewer, DTRA Baku Office chief and project manager for the Biological Threat Reduction Program. "It will have a museum to house isolates of especially dangerous pathogens as well as a central data repository to collect data from regional labs."

Graham has been working closely with DTRA officials and officials in Baku.

"We deal mostly with representatives from the Ministries of Health, Emergency Situations and Agriculture within the government of Azerbaijan," Graham said. "Our conversations at this particular juncture are primarily focused on continuing to define and refine the joint needs in Baku and surrounding regions of Azerbaijan in supporting and implementing an effective Biological Threat Reduction Program."

DTRA has experience working with Huntsville Center from the Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility in Shchuch'ye, Russia.

"We want to ensure the government of Azerbaijan has a quality project and felt that providing construction management support would benefit both sides," said Shawn Cali, the Biological Threat Reduction program manager. "To do so we felt that a governmental representative would be

best and based on past CTR work with the Corps, it was recommended that we use Huntsville."

The laboratory project in Azerbaijan could open doors for future Huntsville Center work.

DTRA has completed projects throughout the region in countries like Kazakhstan, Georgia and Ukraine and will likely be embarking on more projects similar to the work in Azerbaijan in the future.

It could also possibly lead to more involvement for the Corps as a whole in the country.

Graham said that despite the seemingly remote location, Baku has emerged as a fairly western style city after the fall of the Soviet Union.

"The city is growing at such a rapid pace, and they have embraced the



Map of Azerbaijan

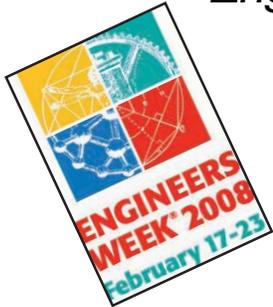
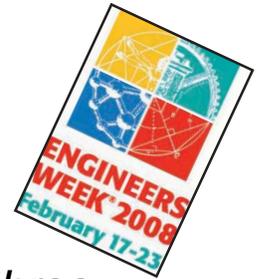
western style of design while preserving the European/Eastern architectural treasures that exist in the city," Graham said about Baku.

As Azerbaijan continues to grow and expand, there has been talk about the Corps possibly aiding the country in the future with infrastructure issues such as updating their national building codes, utility stations and transportation routes, Graham said.

Engineering Jeopardy is coming

Feb. 22, 2 p.m.

Huntsville Center cafeteria



Engineering Directorate is looking for two or three teams from other directorates to challenge the Engineering Directorate teams.

Form your 4-person team now.

Contact Wanda Welch by Feb. 19 with your team's names or for more information.

Put your thinking caps on and come have a good time.



Courtesy photo

Introducing the 2008 graduating class of Lean Six Sigma

Twenty-one Huntsville Center employees have finished Green Belt training in Lean Six Sigma, an analysis tool that combines Lean principles, getting rid of waste which saves time and makes work more meaningful, with Six Sigma principles, which reduce variation and defects in the products delivered to customers. They graduated Feb. 1. The Green Belt candidates are, front row, left to right, Bill Ferguson, Management Review Office; Steve Light, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate; and Sandy McAnally, Business Management Office. Back two rows, left to right, Laura Mabee, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; Tammie Learned, ISPM; Greg Vaughn, CD; Paul Haviland (instructor); Rick Suever, BMO; Betty Neff, BMO; Cheryl Renz-Olar, ISPM; Mike Williams, Engineering Directorate; Valerie Clinkenbeard, ISPM; Greg Mellema, Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise; Patsy Saisuwan, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; Greg Havo, CD; Keith Angles, OE; Angela Rackard, Resource Management Directorate; Cassandra Mora, Contracting Directorate; Dawn Scott, CT; Kara Pleasant (from SMDC), Lydia Tadesse, CT; Todd Wood, ED; Paul Babbit (instructor) and Chiquita Goodloe-Suggs, Internal Review Office.

Accident

continued from page 1

program has lost more than 40 contractor personnel during convoys from site to site because of insurgent activities, so they were aware of the danger the Marines faced. The CMC 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.

“When faced with a situation like this, your personal well-being takes a back seat to protecting the fallen service member. Once on scene, it became our duty to protect these fallen comrades, and ensure they received medical attention as quickly as possible,” Bohannon said. “I believe no one in the coalition would have done any less.”

The accident is still under investigation, but it appeared that one tank was towing the second tank when the tank being towed “threw a track,” and both tanks ended up on their sides. Bohannon credits AGI team leader Keith Morpus’ professionalism and quick thinking with the success of the rescue.

“In my opinion, Keith, as well as all other members of the Armor Group security team, acted bravely and professionally,” Bohannon said. “Keith was on the radio even before we arrived informing his teammates of what was going on and what he was seeing. Keith, and the other team leaders, kept a

constant flow of information going so that no team member was uninformed.”

Bohannon also credits the Marines with their quick thinking and grace under pressure.

“One Marine decided that since they had no comms they would throw a smoke grenade to try and get someone’s attention,”

‘I believe no one in the coalition would have done any less.’

— Tim Bohannon

Bohannon said. “We would have come across the wreck site anyway, but the smoke did put us on alert.”

Bohannon also credits Armor Group and the Department of Defense for the exceptional training they have that allows personnel to effectively handle just such a dangerous emergency situation.

“Both Armor Group and DoD train their employees in the very same types of emergencies we saw here. Establishing and maintaining a proper security perimeter, evaluating casualties and calling in MEDEVAC are all things taught in the military and reinforced with specific pre-deployment and in-country training,” Bohannon said.

The CMC program has approximately 10 Department of the Army Civilians, 601 contractor

employees and 794 local nationals in Iraq supporting its mission. And this wasn’t the first incident where CMC personnel have supported the coalition forces in a dangerous situation.

Bill Sargent, Huntsville Center’s chief of international operations for the Ordnance and

Explosives Directorate, recalls two other instances where CMC personnel helped the military in potentially catastrophic situations. According to Sargent, last June a CMC convoy was approaching a bridge when an insurgent detonated his vehicle under the bridge.

“Our contractors attached with Corps of Engineers personnel assisted the Soldiers in securing the site and initiated actions to rescue trapped Soldiers,” Sargent said.

In a second incident, an Army helicopter experienced mechanical problems and set down near a CMC mobile site.

“Our folks were watching them and we made sure no one slipped up on them. They were alone in the desert,” Sargent said. “We then dispatched a

security team to secure the site and get the helicopter crew into a secure environment.”

The CMC mission has played a major role in reducing the availability of former Iraqi munitions to insurgents by destroying more than 400,000 tons since the program began in 2003.

“Obviously, our mission to destroy former Iraqi munitions which could be used as IEDs (Improved Explosive Devices) is extremely important to the overall mission in Iraq. But ancillary to this main mission is direct and indirect support to coalition forces,”

Bohannon said. “This comes in many forms such as providing emergency assistance, such as this tank incident, and sharing intelligence with the Marine Corps and Army gathered from convoy missions and from the CMC high tech surveillance equipment it employs at certain sites. In addition, our remote sites occasionally host nearby Marine Corps and Army units and provide much needed hot meals, MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) facilities and safe havens when needed.”

The CMC convoy was only delayed about an hour, but according to Bohannon, it was a very worthwhile 60 minutes.

“The AGI personnel did an outstanding job and potentially saved the lives of all these Marines. If we had not come along in a timely fashion, insurgents may have played a role in these Marines’ futures.”

Ethics Corner

Of donkeys and elephants

By Toby Harryman
Office of Counsel

2008 is an election year and with that comes a variety of ethical issues for government employees. There are many laws, regulations and directives that govern the political activities of federal employees. There are even more regulating political activities of uniformed service members. This column will provide a list of prohibited and permissible activities for federal Civilian employees.

Prohibited activity:

- Use of official authority or influence to interfere with an election
- Solicit or discourage political activity of anyone with business before their agency
- Solicit or receive political contributions
- Be candidates for public office in partisan elections
- Engage in political activity while:
 - on duty or in a government office
 - wearing an official uniform
 - using a government vehicle
 - wear partisan political buttons on duty

Permissible activity:

- Be candidates for public office in nonpartisan elections
- Register and vote
- Assist in voter registration drives
- Express opinions about candidates and issues, even by government electronic mail (but only to personal friends and not to a large audience in an effort to solicit)
- Contribute money to political organizations
- Attend political fundraising functions
- Attend and be active at political rallies and meetings
- Join and be an active member of a political party or club
- Sign nominating petitions
- Campaign for or against referendum questions or municipal ordinances
- Campaign for or against candidates in partisan elections
- Make campaign speeches for candidates in partisan elections
- Distribute campaign literature in partisan elections
- Hold office in political clubs or parties

If you have any questions regarding your political activities, feel free to stop by the Office of Counsel to discuss further.

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