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## Huntsville Center

# Bulletin

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## Huntsville Center personnel volunteer, assist with flood prevention efforts

By William Farrow  
Public Affairs Office

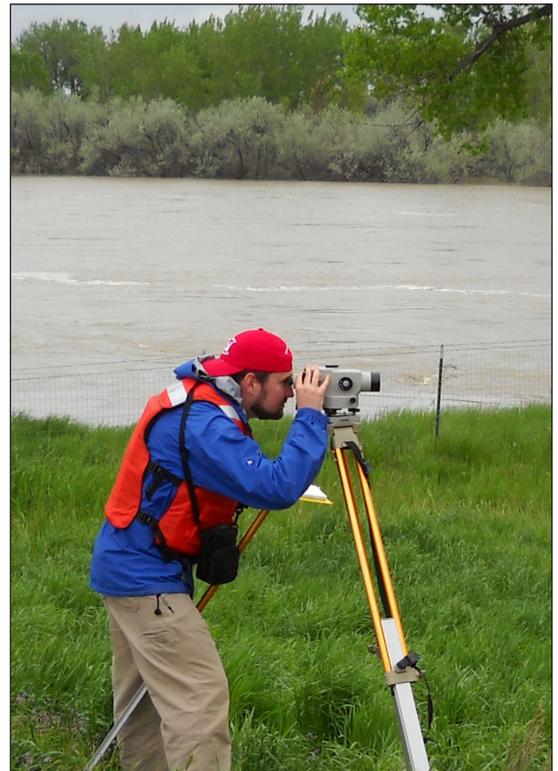
**T**he unforeseen heavy rains and runoff from record mountain snow pack caused rivers over much of the West to spill from their bank. Currently the Missouri River region is seeing its highest river levels since the historic flood of 1952.

With the floods and more threats of flooding continuing through seven states, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Northwest Division began seeking other Corps volunteers to help with its efforts to control the flooding and protect lives and property.

In May, Huntsville Center employees Carl Harms, Pat Klever and Justin Weatherwax all dutifully raised their hands and deployed in support of the Corps efforts in the region.

Since the course of the Missouri River's flow begins in Montana, that state was the first to get hit with floods as homes were inundated and roads were swamped with water from the bulging river.

From May 31-June 14 Carl Harms, an engineering technician working in Huntsville Center's Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise in Omaha, Neb., was deployed to Fort Peck, Montana taking instrument readings to monitor the dam there. He also performed visual inspections of



Courtesy photo

**Huntsville Center's Justin Weatherwax, deployed to USACE Northwest Division, conducts surveys along the Missouri River.** the dam and spillway and monitored other historical areas of concern.

"The main reason I wanted to go on flood duty was to take the opportunity to learn firsthand experience about the Fort Peck dam, since it is one of the largest dams in America. I also wanted to utilize the opportunity to go out into the field because I think that it is very important to pair what I learn and practice in the office with actual experience in the field," Harms

See **FLOODS** on page 5



Have a safe  
Independence Day!

# Commander's thoughts

**T**eam,  
June was a great month, starting with the Organization Day awards ceremony and picnic.

Congratulations to all the award winners and those of you who reached significant employment milestones. Also congratulations to the winning sports teams! The Activities Association did a super job planning the event; I hope everyone who attended enjoyed themselves.

I would also like to say congratulations to three of our employees who received prestigious awards last month.

Jonathan Winkler was named the USACE Installation Support Professional of the Year. In the six years since HQUSACE established this award, Winkler is the fifth Huntsville Center employee to win. The award will be presented at the Summer Leaders Conference the first week of August.

Charles Ford was one of two civilian Corps of Engineers employees inducted into the Army Medical Department's Order of Medical Merit as honorary members.

Charles was the first USACE employee in history to be inducted, followed by Julie Walton of Mobile District. Membership in the Order denotes distinguished service which is recognized by the senior leadership of the Army Medical Department, and is signified with the presentation of a white brass or sterling silver medallion on a maroon ribbon.

Crystal Bennett Echols received the MEDCOM Assistant Chief of Staff for Facilities/Health Facility Planning Agency's Charles E. Christ Award. The Christ Award recognizes outstanding medical architects, engineers and management personnel who have made significant contributions to health facility acquisition through planning, programming, design, construction and sustainment.

Two Christ awards are given each year; one to an Army Medical Department member and one to a member of USACE. The Corps is currently executing historic levels of Medical MILCON projects and Crystal competed for this award among USACE's best performers.



**Col. Nello L. Tortora**

The award was presented at the MEDCOM ACSFAC/HFPA Post Graduate Course in San Antonio last month.

We said farewell and thanks for a job well done to Lt. Col. David Bailey at his retirement luncheon and ceremony. Lt. Col. Bailey served with distinction for more than 22 years, and it was great to honor him at his ceremony. We'll welcome Lt. Col. William Burruss as the new deputy commander July 18. Dan Heinzelman has been the acting Deputy Commander while continuing his duties as the Director of Resource Management.

I was on the road again in June, telling of Huntsville Center's missions and capabilities. I traveled to North Atlantic Division and New York District early in the month and Savannah, Ga., the last week of the

**See COMMANDER on Page 5**

## Hails and farewells

**Welcome: Brian Park, Judith Dissette, Molly Richardson, Engineering Directorate; Cody Jean, George William Gray, Installation Support and Programs Management.**

**Farewell: Stanley Reese, Lt. Col. Michael Carr, Management Review Office; Ronald Brown, ED; Gilbert Adams, Donna Rovere, IR; Joan Theusch, ISPM; Carmen Grace, CT; Valerie Schaffner, Chemical Demilitarization Directorate; Lt. Col. David Bailey, Deputy Commander.**



**US Army Corps of Engineers**

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## BULLETIN

Commander..... Col. Nello Tortora  
Chief, Public Affairs..... Debra Valine  
Editor..... William S. Farrow



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## The *Bulletin* asks:

“How are you beating the summer heat?”



“I really don’t try to beat the summer heat, but enjoy it with a gallon of Gatorade at my side. I also try to enjoy the confines of an air-conditioned ice rink when I play hockey; but we (team) usually sweat more playing hockey than if we were outside in the heat, so the air conditioning is relatively ineffective. I take my children to the pool to beat the heat as well.”

**Mike Alexander**  
Center Contracting Directorate



“By turning down the air conditioning and keeping the ceiling fan on. If the heat becomes too much for the air conditioning and fan, I go for a swim.”

**Sarah Gregory**  
Ordnance and Explosives Directorate



“I recently moved to the Huntsville area, so I spend every second of my free time trying to locate a permanent place to live. Therefore, it is almost impossible for me to beat the summer heat. I do try to stay hydrated by drinking lots of water and consuming all the ice cream I can find.”

**Jefferey Byrd**  
Center Contracting Directorate



Information on extreme heat is found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at:  
[http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/heat\\_guide.asp](http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/extremeheat/heat_guide.asp)

# Employee Spotlight: Tom Meier

**By Jo Anita Miley**  
**Public Affairs Office**

**Where do you work and what is your job title?** Engineering Directorate mechanical engineer

**How long have you worked for the Corps?** About two years. I actually started my government service with Huntsville Center.

**In your own words, what is your job? What do you do?** My job, as I see it, is to increase the quality of Huntsville Center's facility related programs by providing matrix technical support for heating, ventilation and air conditioning, central utilities, plumbing, and other mechanical issues. The technical support we provide in Engineering Directorate comes in the form of request for proposal development, technical bid evaluations, bid walks, design reviews and any other engineer support required. In addition to being a mechanical project engineer, I am also a registered fire protection engineer. This gives Huntsville Center specialized technical ability that is unique and adds value to our work.

**Review the Campaign Plan goals and objectives. Which one(s) apply to you?** Specifically, Goal 4, Objective 4a, which is to identify, develop, maintain and strengthen technical competencies. For me, developing and maintaining technical competence and keeping customers



**Meier**

happy is very important to the Center and directly relates to our livelihood and future existence.

**How do you see your job making a difference and contributing to the Corps' success?** My job makes a difference by bringing engineering and construction knowledge to our products and the Corps. What we do as facility-engineering support makes a huge impact on the success of the Corps' mission. Our directorate is tasked to give technical support on projects and to ensure our contractor's designs meet all required codes and standards, and are of high quality. Ultimately, we become the building department, plans reviewers, state fire marshal, and the owner's Architectural/Engineering firm all rolled up into one.

**What do you love about your job?**

I love that my job fosters personal growth in a stable professional environment. I love that I work some unique and interesting assignments that support our military as well. I also love that the work I do is highly focused on technical excellence and quality. This is very important to me because these things play into my own strengths and personal interests.

**Any special moments or memories about your job you'd like to share?**

I supported the Facilities Repair and Renewal program as a technical expert on upgrades to the Rend Lake, Ill., Visitors Center project. This was an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act project for the St. Louis District. Our team worked to get a formal Unified Facility Criteria exemption from HQ USACE on fire protection requirement, in order to keep the project financially viable. I stopped by with my family to see the completed building on a recent trip to the area. My three-year old son enjoyed getting a grand tour of the building from a uniformed park ranger, and seeing the nature exhibits -which included an active indoor beehive. Although I had a minor role in this project, it was special to get a tour of the building, and share this moment with my son.

It gave me an opportunity to see how our work makes a difference.

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The **Employee Spotlight** is intended to let our Center employees shine for positively impacting our organization through mission achievements. Employees are nominated on a monthly basis, and are also featured on the Huntsville Center web site monthly, and the Headquarters, Corps of Engineers web site on a rotating basis. If you'd like to nominate someone within your office for this recognition, please contact Jo Anita Miley, Public Affairs Office, at 256-895-1585, or e-mail [JoAnita.Miley@usace.army.mil](mailto:JoAnita.Miley@usace.army.mil).

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## FLOODS

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said.

Harms also said volunteering to help was an easy choice since he lives in a region affected by the flooding.

“It was just the right thing to do” Harms said.

Pat Klever, a Project Controls officer for the Bluegrass Resident Office, Bluegrass Army Depot, Ky., said he too felt a need to pitch in.

After volunteering, he arrived in Omaha, Neb., June 4 for a 30-day tour as a miscellaneous mission specialist for the Missouri River Flood Assistance work. In that capacity, he was part of a two-man team (one of seven) patrolling the levees along the Missouri River system.

“Our responsibility was working on the levees on the “left bank” (east side) of the Missouri River from the south edge of Council Bluffs, Iowa to Nebraska City, Neb., – about 30 miles of levee.”

A Civil Engineer working in HNC’s Geotechnical Branch, Justin Weatherwax deployed to the region June 1. Since arriving, he’s also been involved in risk mitigation analysis writing scopes for emergency construction efforts and levee surveillance in a number of towns along the Missouri River basin.

“We’re mainly performing site analysis and providing advice to state

and local authorities (emergency services and public works officials) to help them come up with solutions to prevent further flooding,” Weatherwax said.

“I’ve spent a good portion of my time here performing levee surveillance looking for problems and mostly answering questions,” he said.

Weatherwax said most of the levees in the region were built by the Corps more than 40 years ago and after construction local and state authorities were given the responsibility to maintain the levees.

“Although we (the Corps) built the levees, we haven’t been responsible for maintenance of the levees, so it’s been part of my job to go out and inspect the and provide my findings back to the local authorities,” he said.

Weatherwax said he spends his days checking relief wells, seepage within the levees, and looking for any weak points in the levee or the soil below the levee.”

“Most of us have been working 12-15 hour days and it can get tiring. But we’re staffed with dedicated, well-qualified, hard-working people,” he said

Unfortunately, Weatherwax said high water is expected to continue

through the summer.

“The surveillance on the levees isn’t a weeks or days operation, but will continue for months. So every day we’re doing all we can to prevent further damage from occurring and hoping there’s no more participation until the snow pack runs through,” Weatherwax said.

Weatherwax said all the modeling and calculated predictions made annually don’t include precipitation because “no one knows when it will rain or how much rain will fall.”

From its Reservoir Control Center in Omaha, Corps engineers calculated the river’s flow according to its water control plan, which sets reservoir depths and dam releases after taking stock of fallen rain and melting snow in the Missouri basin’s 541,000 square miles.

However, the weekend of May 20 disrupted the plan when more than 5 inches of rain fell in Montana, a state with an average rainfall of 13.6 inches.

That weekend’s rains added millions of acre-feet of water to upstream reservoirs causing the massive flow of water down the Missouri.

“Any additional precipitation now is very precarious,” he said.

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## Commander

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month. I enjoy these opportunities to tell folks about the great work you all do and how we can help them.

We’re entering the last quarter of fiscal year 2011, and you all know what that means. It’s hard to imagine we can get any busier, but we will as we obligate all the year-end funds we’ll be receiving.

We’re officially into summer now. I hope everyone has plans for a great Fourth of July celebration!

Each summer the Army’s 101 Critical Days of Summer kicks off Memorial Day and runs through Labor Day.

The safety campaign reminds us that we can’t afford to lose focus on safety while either on- or off-duty. Family barbecues, swimming, fishing, softball, hiking, boating, skiing and camping are just some of the activities we like to engage in during the summer.

The prolonged hours of daylight encourages us to jam as many of our favorite pastimes into our day as possible and more activities means more potential for accidents. Please keep safety in mind in everything you do.

As always, thank you for all you do to make Huntsville Center great!

# Fire stations destroyed by tornadoes opening with temporary structures

## Huntsville Center providing resident engineer, contracting support

By Debra Valine  
Public Affairs Office

When the call came in for help with temporary structures for critical public facilities, one of Huntsville Center's engineers was quick to volunteer.

Jason Adams, Huntsville's Electronic Security Systems program manager, wanted to do what he could to help.

Following the tornadoes of April 27, 20 public facilities were identified as potentially needing temporary structures to include office space and vehicle housing.

Of the 20 facilities, seven were approved for temporary structures. The last facility was completed June 15.

"The Corps of Engineers is tasked by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) to support entities such as fire departments (including volunteer departments), police departments and city or county governments to provide temporary offices or stations until they can get the damaged offices or stations repaired or rebuilt," said Adams, the resident engineer and contracting officer representative for the critical public facilities mission.

"Before I came on board, they had already talked with many of the effected departments and performed site investigations to



Photo by Debra Valine

**Mike Maynard, left, the project's Quality Assurance person, and Jason Adams, CPF resident engineer, discuss work being accomplished on the water line that will service the Birmingham Station 18 temporary fire station.**

determine if the locations would get temp facilities."

The seven sites where the temporary facilities are being constructed are the Hackleburg police and fire station office buildings; Birmingham Fire Station 18 near the Pratt City area of Birmingham; Webster's Chapel Volunteer Fire Department in Wellington; Johnsons Crossing VFD in Hanceville; Fultondale VFD; and the North Smithfield VFD in Birmingham.

The temporary facilities are modular trailers for the offices and tent structures for the fire departments. The sizes of the facilities were determined by the number of personnel needing office space and how many trucks needed

to be housed.

The tent structures are pre-fabricated by a company in Memphis. It's a basic metal structure that is covered with a tent fabric. It is designed so that it can be put up or taken down in a couple of days.

The largest tent structure, 40' x 80', is in Fultondale where the department needed to house four large trucks, two in each bay. The largest modular unit, 41' x 62', was installed for Birmingham Station 18. Fire Station 18 is a full-time operation with requirements for office and reception areas, sleeping quarters and a kitchen area.

"I think the Birmingham 18 facility will definitely be great,"

See **FIRE STATIONS** on page 7



Courtesy photo

### Decorated

Huntsville Center's Tracey Shaw receives the Army Commander's Award for Civilian Service from Afghanistan Engineer District North commander Col. Thomas Magness. A contracting specialist, Shaw served more than six months in Afghanistan working at the contracting service branch planning and managing multiple large-dollar construction and services contracts with a combined total value of more than \$1 billion.

## FIRE STATIONS

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said Birmingham fire chief Ivor Brooks. "It's good for the guys; it will be home for them. It will be big enough. You just have to go outside to get to the trucks. It is also good for the community. I think it will be a catalyst for rebuilding the community. I do not know how long it will take to get a permanent facility built. The work and time has been very timely. I do not have any criticism. I am very happy. We just want to get into the facility and get back to work."

The temporary facilities will be available to the departments until they no longer need them, Adams said.

For the Corps' part, they are under a contract lease for the first six

months, and then if the department needs the facilities longer, they will work out additional lease time and costs with FEMA and the contractor.

"Fultondale has trucks in and they seem happy with it," Adams said. "They also seem happy with the structure at Webster's Crossing. We've had good response from all the users."

Huntsville Center has employees deployed to support many of the tornado recovery missions in multiple locations. Adams, who is also a member of Huntsville Center's Housing Planning and Response Team, is the only one from Huntsville Center working on the critical public facilities mission.

"The CPF team has been

slowly decreasing in size since I got here," Adams said. "We had multi-disciplinary engineers with a total team size of about 12 to the current staffing of four. I will be the last one to leave since I am the RE/COR. As we finish up, the remainder of the team will be going back home or moving to a different mission. The supporting district for the CPF mission was Jacksonville District."

Adams, who deployed to New Orleans for emergency support after Hurricane Katrina, plans to move to the housing mission when this one is complete.

"Since I am a native Alabamian I want to stay on this effort as long as Huntsville Center will support me in doing so."

# Center, employees recognized for service

The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville recognized eight employees and one team for their service during its annual Engineer Day celebration June 3.

**Nancy Book**, Engineering Directorate, was selected as Administrative Support Employee of the Year for her work as the senior secretary within the division.

**Ryan Black**, Office of Counsel, was awarded the Commander's Leadership Award for his superior leadership as the primary attorney and labor counselor advising the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate, to include the International Operations work.

**Carol Sargent**, Management Review Office, was awarded the Contracting Professional of the Year.

She serves as the only contracting professional assigned to the MRO and is responsible for initiating all contracting activities for the MRO mission.

**Jennifer Peete**, Resource Management, was named the Resource Manager of the Year. She reduced financial reporting time from five business days to two business days.

**Patrick Clark**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate, was named the Project Manager of the Year.

Clark provided critical project management support for a variety of highly complex state-of-the-art medical projects executed by the Medical Repair and Renewal Program.

**Mary Young**, Engineering Directorate, was named Employee of the Year. Young provided

excellent technical leadership in the MMRP as well as many other programs during the past year.

**Krysta Zurowski**, Engineering Directorate, was named the Volunteer of the Year.

Young served as vice-president of the Huntsville Center Activities Association ensuring HCAA events build stronger connections within the work force and foster a sense of community for Center employees.

**Ross Allen, Jelani Ingram and Sandy Wood**, Engineering Directorate, were named Innovators of the Year.

This team utilized the Building Information Modeling Rivit system to present their ideas to their customers.

**Thomas Meier**, Engineering Directorate, was named the Engineer of the Year.

Meier serves in several roles within the ED impacting the entire Center. In addition to supporting mechanical engineering functions within the branch, Meier serves as the fire protection engineer for the Center.

The **Utility Monitoring and Control Systems Team** received the Teamwork Award. Team members include **Lisa Nall, Gina Elliott, Laura Mabee, Matthew Morelan, Stewart Brandon, Charles Lee, Vernon Petty, Jeffrey Murrell, Omar Ching, Mark Fleck, David Hill, Joan Theusch,**



Photo by Pam Scott

Huntsville Center commander, Col. Nello Tortora holds the Army Superior Unit Award at the 2011 Engineer Day. The award is for "Meritorious Performance Service of a Difficult and Challenging Mission."

**Fiatusu Murphy, Brandy Whitehead, Tanya Murray, Carol Steuart, Corey Asher, Mitchell Duke, Ralph White, Chris Newman, Brandon Hicks, Paul Anderson, Ashley McDonald, Jay Bogus, Gary Harper, Jonathan Stephens, Dwight Fohner, Tim Fulmer, Michael Palmer, Richard Arnold, Katherine Sparks, Tina Springer, Guy Wilson, Joel Morrison, Sharon Butler, Suzanne Wear, Darren Sackett, Richard Mullady, Michael Collum, Nicholas Haas, George Crittenden, Tracey Edmonds, Jennifer McClure, Richard Himebrook, Jeff Carden, Shannon Walls, Linda Merschman and Charles Williams (deceased).** The team is noted for its expertise in delivering state-of-the-art building control systems, HVAC systems, fire alarm systems, and metering projects.

# Center PM takes USACE award

By William Farrow  
Public Affairs Office

**A** Huntsville Center employee has been named the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2011 Installation Support Professional of the Year.

Jonathan Winkler, a program manager with the Installation Planning and Programming Center of Standardization, is the fifth Huntsville Center employee to be given the award since it was established by Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers six years ago.

The USACE director of military programs established the award to recognize a USACE employee who supported the Installation Support Services program by leading or performing work that has contributed to the success of operations at the installation level of USACE.

“Winkler is being honored with this award because of his work and leadership in many installation support services that have benefitted the Army by improving the working and living conditions for soldiers, their families and civilians,” said Huntsville Center’s commander Col. Nello Tortora.

“Through his hard work, Winkler has improved the Installation Support Services Program.”

Some of the services Winkler worked on included child development centers, physical fitness facilities, youth activity centers and soldier family support centers. Winkler said Huntsville Center’s Installation Support Services benefit the Army by helping to

provide the best possible mission and quality of life support to military installations.

“My team’s work has benefited the Army primarily through support to the Military Construction program, but also benefits Army families primarily through our ties to the Center of Standardization facility types for which we are responsible which include Child Development Centers, Youth Activity Centers and Physical Fitness Facilities,” he said.

From initial requirements planning to design to construction award and through construction completion, Winkler said the ISS project lifecycle typically averages eight years from inception to completion.

Winkler said although he’s receiving the award, his success is due to the entire ISS team.

“I am most proud of how the team has worked to pull together the different phases of the MILCON execution lifecycle into a more holistic approach and understanding of impacts they have on cradle to grave execution.”

The Installation Support Professional of the Year award will be presented at the USACE National Awards Dinner and Ceremony during the Summer Leader Conference in New Orleans on Aug. 1.



Winkler



Courtesy photo

## Memorial

The dining facility at Bagram Air Field’s Mine Action Center Camp was dedicated May 30 to Senior Airman Michael Buras, an Air Force Explosives and Ordnance Disposal Airman killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan in 2010. More than 300 Soldiers, Sailors, Airman, Marines and civilians were present for the Memorial Day dedication. The dedication was the idea of Environmental Chemical Corporation contractors there who requested assistance from the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville’s International Operations branch and Bagram Air Field’s MAC to identify a fallen EOD or combat engineer service member deserving of such an honor.

# Center interior designers licensed, advance careers supporting Corps' mission



Photo by JoAnita Miley

With 3,250 hours of supervised interior design under their belts, Huntsville Center's Engineering Directorate's Architectural Branch, interior designers Lauren McCaul and Lauren Ploetze took the National Council for Interior Design Qualification examination in April and are now licensed by NCIDQ, an organization of regulatory boards and provincial associations in interior design. Both are graduates of Auburn University's interior design programs.

## By Jo Anita Miley Public Affairs Office

**T**wo U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville employees have joined the ranks of the professional interior designers.

Lauren McCaul and Lauren Ploetze of Engineering Directorate's Architectural Branch Interior Design Section passed the National Council for Interior Design Qualification Examination April 1 and 2.

Reaching this milestone in their careers is part of a five-year process from acceptance into an interior design program to completion of interior design licensing requirements.

An interior design practitioner offers or renders services in

connection with the creation and design of spaces that protect the health, safety, and welfare of people in the finished space within the site surrounding the buildings that its principal purpose is human occupancy for use.

Licensed interior designers are trained to functionally create spaces that meet building codes, life safety codes, and the standards set by the American's with Disabilities Act.

McCaul said the NCIDQ protects public health, safety and welfare by identifying interior designers who have the knowledge and experience to create interior spaces that are not just aesthetically pleasing, but also functional and safe.

"While most people think interior designers just "decorate," we have to

be able to take a new or renovated building and lay out the interiors so that all codes are met and the end users needs for things such as private offices, cubicle spaces, break areas, rest rooms, corridors and egress are met as well," McCaul said.

"This must be done while staying within the parameters of a building," she said. "The work we do can be compared to a giant puzzle- we're given the pieces and have to make them all fit."

McCaul said gaining ample real world work experience prior to taking the NCIDQ exam is very important. Interior design is a profession you have to practice to improve. It is not something

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## LICENSED

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you come out of college ready to do. A lot hinges on the experience you gain from the (interior design) businesses and the number of hours of qualifying experience in interior design work.

Candidates must obtain a bachelor's degree from a school that participates in the Council for Interior Design Accreditation and have 3,250 qualified hours of interior design experience while under a registered interior designer or registered architect before they are eligible to take the exam.

The 16-hour NCIDQ exam is given twice a year, and consists of four hour multiple choice question section and an eight-hour hand-drafted practicum. The exam can be taken in separate parts or all at once.

McCaul and Ploetze both said they wanted to get it over with, so they took the entire test at one time.

The exam has three parts; two - four hour multiple choice question sections and an eight-hour hand-drafted practicum that tests the knowledge of interior designers and deems them capable of creating and designing spaces that protect the health, safety, and welfare of people in the finished spaces. Candidates must pass all three sections before they are given a certificate.

McCaul has been with the Corps of Engineers for two years. Upon graduating Auburn University's College of Architecture Design and Construction with a bachelor's degree in interior design in 2008, McCaul took a job with the government working as an interior designer at Huntsville Center, using her work experiences to prepare her for the exam.

"My past projects have helped to

prepare me for the exam, McCaul said. "I've already worked on two major programs at the Center.

McCaul said NCIDQ is very specific about what is required to take the exam. Getting the right experience is a plus.

She used the experience she gained while supporting the Centralized Furnishings Program and Integrated Modular Medical Support Systems Program in the Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate gave her the specialized experience she needed.

Ploetze, who also received her degree in interior design

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***"The work we do can be compared to a giant puzzle...we're given the pieces and have to make them all fit."***

Lauren McCaul  
Huntsville Center interior designer

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from Auburn University, began government service with Huntsville Center as well as an interior designer on ISPM's furniture team in 2009.

Ploetze said working at Huntsville Center the past two years has been similar for her, due to an added focus on professional development.

"Working for the government has given me more opportunities for complete professional development," Ploetze said. "I was given ample time to pursue my license and afforded the opportunity to work on diverse projects."

Ploetze said working on the Centralized Furnishings Program afforded her the opportunity to

work on projects that involved solving unique interior design issues.

This has prepared her for a career where she can be utilized in any interior design capacity and makes her a strong asset to Huntsville Center.

McCaul and Ploetze said working in the Architectural Branch is very conducive to the licensure process.

They had the full support of their supervisor's, Todd DuVernay, chief of the Architectural Branch and Carol Elder, supervisor for the Interior Design section at Huntsville Center.

The Architectural Branch purchased study materials for their sections use and sponsored a study workshop in Huntsville to help them prepare for the exam.

McCaul said the professional development training doesn't stop with passing the exam. There is also a continuing education requirement that has to be fulfilled to maintain their licensure.

There are currently four licensed interior designers in the Architectural Branch including McCaul and Ploetze. The others are Amy Webb and Stephanie Woods.

Although there is no requirement at Huntsville Center for interior designers to become licensed, it's recommended for professional development. McCaul and Ploetze elected to take the exam as soon as they were eligible, to further their careers.

McCaul and Ploetze both said they also highly encourage other interior designers to pursue their professional licensure.

Currently, several interior designers within their section are in the process of pursuing NCIDQ certification as well.

# Center program furnishing Army Medical Homes

By Jennifer Sabourin  
Public Affairs Office

**A** Huntsville Center program is helping to furnish Community Based Medical Homes, the Army's primary care clinics located in off-post communities where large concentrations of Army families live.

The latest health care facilities Huntsville Center's Initial Outfitting and Transition program recently furnished are Medical Homes in Kileen, Harker Heights and Copperas Cove, communities near Fort Hood, Texas.

The IO&T program falls under Huntsville Center's Installation Support and Programs Management-Medical Operations Repair & Renewal division.

The Fort Hood Medical Homes are among 17 community-based care clinics that the Medical Command has opened in 11 communities across the continental U.S. and Hawaii.

By standing up Medical Homes, Army Medical Command is freeing up capacity at installation's main hospitals while providing more services for military families living off post.

"At its heart, the community-based medical home is health care the way it should be – easy to access, patient-centered, team based and quality focused," said Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho, commander of the Southern Regional Medical Command at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, who was the guest speaker for both opening ceremonies in Market Heights and Copperas.

The fixtures IO&T furnished in these medical homes includes



Courtesy photo

**The Herman Miller Health care Compass system of sinks and cabinets installed in the examination rooms at Army Medical Homes are designed to save space.**

everything from the waiting room chairs to the exam tables.

Sarah Coleman, Huntsville Center's IO&T project manager, said one of the latest products procured by IO&T is the Herman Miller Health care Compass system of sinks and cabinets installed in the examination rooms.

"These integrated cabinet and sink units are unique because they are low profile, which maximizes the use of space in the exams rooms," Coleman said.

Huntsville Center IO&T has furnished a total of 13 Medical Homes across the U.S. The furnishings in the medical homes are used by a staff of up to 35 Army civilian medical professionals, including physicians, laboratory technicians, administrative personnel, pharmacists and nurses.

These Medical Homes are not small facilities either. Each clinic has a minimum of 18 examination rooms, three treatment rooms, one laboratory and one blood-draw and immunization room. In addition to these rooms, there are seven offices, five storage rooms, two group practice rooms, a conference room, a large waiting room and a pharmacy. Along with the examination tables, chairs, shelves, cabinets, and other amenities, IO&T

even procured the signs labeling each of the rooms as well as the artwork adorning the clinic walls.

Coleman said at times the project has been difficult due to logistics involved in furnishing 13 medical homes.

"This has been a challenging project. There are a total of 13 separate clinics located across the U.S. From Fort Shafter, Hawaii to Fort Bragg, N.C. and they all have overlapping time lines," Coleman said. One example of the many challenges Coleman's team faced was over fabric covering waiting room chairs. She said the fabric the team ordered was a seasonal print, so when they ordered that fabric for another clinic, the company making the fabric didn't have the print available at that time.

Coleman contacted the IO&T project manager to see if they could use a similar pattern, but due to the contract, a replacement fabric was not allowed. Since the prints had to be the same in all of the medical homes, Coleman said the fabric company made the out-of-season print early for the soon-opening medical homes.

Huntsville Center's IO&T personnel have been furnishing medical homes since September of 2010.

# Renovated facility enhances Center's mission

By William Farrow  
Public Affairs Office

A multi-purpose facility leased by Huntsville Center providing more than 15,000 square feet of warehouse and office space, was recently upgraded giving the facility an enhanced capability to accommodate the Huntsville Center's Acquisition work force needs.

The offices in the Bradford Center, located a little more than a mile from Huntsville Center, have served over the years as a location to conduct source selection and evaluation boards.

However, leadership at Huntsville Center believed the space at the Bradford Center could also be used to a greater capacity. One of those people was then deputy commander Lt. Col. David Bailey, who spearheaded the renovation process to make the facility a place to conduct business as well as a space for small conferences and training sessions.

"He had a vision," said Mona Neal, Contracting Directorate. "He led the initial phase of determining what needed to be done and did a lot of the behind the scenes work to secure the funding to make the renovation happen."

Neal said in 2010, Bailey initially moved toward securing funding for the renovation the facility but it wasn't until leadership received funds for acquisition work force enhancement in February 2011 that the project moved forward when leadership received funds under Section 852 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008, Public Law No. 110-181, which directed the establishment of the Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund.

This fund permits the Department of Defense to recruit and hire, develop and train, and retain its acquisition work force.

After receiving the funding, Bailey quickly formed a team start the ball rolling on the renovation process.

Bailey pulled together Neal, Peter Cole of ACE-IT and Mark Marean of Center Logistics to move the project forward. However, the renovation required a project manager – a person to track the progress of the renovation, and it was an intern who was chosen to



Photo by William Farrow

**Dominic Ragucci, a project manager with Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate, managed the renovation of the Bradford Center, a 15,000 square foot facility which now includes an Acquisition Work Force Development training room furnished with 24 computer workstations. Ragucci took on the project as an ISPM intern.**

manage the whole project.

"My boss, Arthur Martin, came to me and said 'it's time to shine,'" said Dominic Ragucci.

Ragucci had been working at ISPM for less than a year when he was given the reigns of the project, which was a perfect fit for Ragucci who works in the facility repairs and renewal division of the Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate.

Ragucci allocated more than \$200,000 for the renovation which saw major upgrades in aesthetics and up-to-date amenities, as well as furniture and information technology upgrades.

One major change in the facility includes a new Acquisition Workforce Development training room outfitted with 24 computer workstations.

"The training of our Acquisition Work Force is crucial for the success of an organization. Without proper training and exposure to the acquisition environment, we wouldn't be able to support our mission to the degree that we must," said John Mayes, director of Huntsville Center's Contracting Directorate.

Although CT has primary use of the space, Neal said the facility is open to any Huntsville Center organization requiring a space for training or off-site engagements.

People interested in scheduling use of the facility should contact Neal at 256-895-1224.

# Center, District cleanup former arsenal site

By James Campbell  
Public Affairs Office

About 15 miles up the turnpike and across the river stand the gleaming towers of Manhattan, but in the soil beneath, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is remediating a site used for national defense long before the skyscrapers on the horizon rose to prominence.

The former Raritan Arsenal, Edison, N.J., is being investigated and remediated by the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District, and contract company USA Environmental, Inc. under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (DERP) for Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS),

Huntsville Center has been periodically involved with Raritan Arsenal site work since 1985 when it was selected as one of the first sites to receive preliminary inspection under the then-new DERP-FUDS structure.

One area of the site has been keeping experts busy for the last two years, and the fruits of their efforts, more than 3,500 ordnance items recovered, were destroyed during the last week of June.

Area 12 is the name designated to 84 acres of the site where work has been focused lately. In particular, a 21.43 acre area had a high density of anomalies, objects discovered underground that need to be investigated further, said Dorothy Richards, Huntsville Center project manager, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate.

“We’re taking every precaution to make sure the work is done safely,” Richards said.

Digital geophysical mapping allows experts to detect buried items and distinguish if they are potential munitions, said Greg Goepfert, Formerly Used Defense Site team lead, New York District. Based on the results of this survey, munitions locations were then mapped using high-resolution global positioning system data.

The GPS data locations



Courtesy photo

**This photo shows some of the ordnance recovered from the former Raritan Arsenal, Edison, N.J.**

are precise, allowing removal contractors to work more efficiently, he said.

Clearing the high density area began in March 2009 when USA Environmental, Inc., an environmental remediation company based in Oldsmar, Fla., was awarded the work.

Approximately 17.43 acres of the 21.43 acres have been cleared with 107,276 pounds of munitions debris found and removed and an estimated 3,452 ordnance items requiring destruction unearthed,

Goepfert said.

“This region is one of most densely populated areas in the country,” Goepfert said. “It’s important for us to continue this work.”

The Raritan River that made the former arsenal a strategic location for more than 45 years also highlights the importance of the Corps’ efforts there.

The Edison Wetlands Association, a nonprofit environmental organization, is fighting to make the lower Raritan River swimmable and fishable again, and works to keep the public aware of cleanup efforts at the former arsenal, said Dana Patterson, Toxins coordinator for the organization.

“We’re on the Restoration Advisory Board, and we encourage the Corps to involve the public,” Patterson said.

The former arsenal land is part of the larger lower Raritan river ecosystem the group is working to restore after decades of industrial activity.

The Corps and The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey are also working together on the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan, an effort with goals to create habitat, improve water and sediment quality, and provide access and recreational benefits to the region.

The former arsenal was operated by the Army from 1917 to 1963 and primarily served as a shipping and storage hub for ordnance and supplies. Multiple agencies and commands have conducted various cleanup efforts there since 1961, involving remediation for both chemicals and munitions.



# Shooting Smart

By Chris Frazier

Strategic Communication Directorate, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

FORT RUCKER, Ala.--Let's face it --a Fourth of July celebration without bottle rockets, Roman candles and sparklers feels incomplete.

For hundreds of Americans, though, this year's festivities will end badly because they failed to take the proper safety precautions when handling fireworks.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2008, seven people died and an estimated 7,000 were treated in emergency rooms due to fireworks-related injuries in the United States.

More than two-thirds of those injuries occurred during the weeks surrounding the July Fourth holiday, with the hands/fingers, eyes and legs being the most commonly injured body parts.

Fortunately, fireworks-related injuries are avoidable if a few common-sense rules are followed, said Ralph Apel, spokesperson for the National Council on Fireworks Safety. Apel urges those who plan to celebrate with fireworks this Independence Day to heed the following recommendations from the NCFS and Consumer Product Safety Commission:

- **Only use fireworks outdoors.**
- **Read and follow all warnings and instructions before igniting the fireworks.**
- **Ensure spectators are out of the range of the fireworks.**
- **Only light fireworks outside on a smooth, flat surface away from the house and flammable materials. If drought conditions are present, avoid using fireworks altogether.**
- **Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.**
- **Always have a bucket of water or water hose nearby.**

Even fireworks many parents consider safe for younger children to handle, such as sparklers, can cause painful injuries.

The CPSC reports that 16 percent of consumer fireworks injuries are caused by sparklers, with the

majority of those occurring to young children.

"A lot of parents don't seem to teach sparkler safety," Apel said. "If parents would get involved in teaching their children about sparklers, such as only handling one sparkler at a time and standing a safe distance away from others, they can be safe."

In an effort to reduce sparkler injuries, Apel recommends parents follow these simple safety tips:

- **Sparklers should always be used under close adult supervision.**
- **Always remain standing while using sparklers.**
- **Never hold a child in your arms while using sparklers.**
- **Never hold, or light, more than one sparkler at a time.**
- **Sparklers and bare feet can be a painful combination. Always wear closed-toe shoes when using sparklers.**
- **Sparkler wire and stick remain hot long after the flame has gone out. Be sure to drop the spent sparklers in a bucket of water after 20 minutes.**
- **Never hand a lighted sparkler to another person. Give them the unlit sparkler and then light it.**
- **Always stand at least 6 feet from another person while using sparklers.**
- **Never throw sparklers.**
- **Show children how to hold sparklers away from their body and at arm's length.**
- **Teach children not to wave sparklers, especially wooden stick sparklers, or run while holding sparklers.**

"Like fireworks, alcoholic beverages are another party favorite at many July Fourth celebrations. However, the two should never mix," said Tracey Russell, a safety specialist at the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center.

"While a fireworks display can be a beautiful sight, improper handling of fireworks can result in disaster," Russell said. "Alcohol impairs both judgment and reaction time, which increases the likelihood of an accident occurring. The safest choice is to watch a local fireworks display put on by professionals. But if you plan to put on your own show, refrain from alcohol consumption prior to and during the show." Fireworks can add extra excitement to any July Fourth celebration. Be responsible this Independence Day and take all the precautions to protect yourself and your family from a needless accident.

## FYI

Before lighting your first fuse, make sure fireworks are legal to possess and use in your city and state. The National Council on Fireworks Safety website has a directory of state laws regarding fireworks, including what items are permitted and prohibited for use. It's also a good idea to ask the local fire or police department if fireworks are legal in your area. Although fireworks may be legal in your state, there may be reasons why their use is prohibited in some areas. For more information, visit the NCFS's website at: <http://fireworksafety.com>

## **Ethics Corner**

# **Outside employment rules for work force**

**By Chris Paden  
Office of Counsel**

**S**ometimes, federal employees engage in off-duty or employment outside the federal government as part-time employment.

Before taking the job, Joint Ethics Regulation, DoD 5500.7-R, requires you to seek permission from your agency designee.

In most instances, the agency designee is your supervisor. See JER, § 3-306. Also note that in addition to the restrictions in the JER, there may be other restrictions applicable to off-duty or employment outside the federal government.

The JER permits outside employment; however, it does impose some constraints and prohibitions on it. Following are a few conflicts of interests laws and regulations that may limit your activities and you must keep these restrictions in mind at all times while engaging in any off-duty or outside employment. Specifically:

You must always ensure any specific knowledge you may have concerning the Army's current or future requirements is not divulged to a non-government entity. Additionally, 18 U.S.C. §§ 793 - 794 protect and prohibit the use or disclosure of trade secrets, confidential business information and classified

information.

You must remain sensitive to the underlying nature of any project you are assigned and the potential for the appearance of a conflict of interest if you work on any project for your non-federal employer involving Army or DoD activities. See 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502.

You may not accept compensation for any representational services involving the Federal government. You may receive payment for any services provided pursuant to a consultant agreement or other employment arrangement; provided that payment is for professional work actually performed.

You may not share in any fees or bonuses collected as a result of you or another representing a third party to the federal government. See 18 U.S.C. § 203.

You are precluded from interacting or appearing in the federal workplace of any agency as you perform this employment. This restriction prohibits you from sending e-mails, telephoning or appearing before any federal employee or officer. See 18 U.S.C. § 205.

These are just some of the rules governing outside employment.

If you are thinking about taking a part-time position outside the government, you need to come in and see me or call me at 256-895-1103.

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

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**