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Huntsville Center

Bulletin

On page ...

4 Employee
spotlight

5 Ford named
DPTM

7 Engineer week

10 Black History
Month celebrated

Reminder ...

National Women's History
Month-March



Gerda Lerner

Our History is Our Strength



Daylight saving time: set
clocks forward one hour
March 13.

Center moves equate efficiency



Photo by William S. Farrow

Deborah Neel, a contractor with Spectra Tech, Inc., and project manager with the centralized furniture program at Huntsville Center, performs a post-occupancy inspection on furniture at the office of Lydia Tadesse, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate contract specialist. OE recently moved into new offices located in a facility on University Square.

By William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Office

More than 200 Huntsville Center employees have relocated around the Center and University Square as part of a work space shuffle due to mission expansion.

“The changes at Huntsville Center were driven simply because Huntsville Center currently has more people than work spaces and as an opportunity arrived, we tried to put functional teams together,” said Lt. Col. David Bailey, Huntsville Center deputy commander.

“We simply outgrew our work space and had to acquire more space to house our work force,” Bailey said.

Bailey said Huntsville Center has

grown by more than 125 people since October, 2008 .

“As our mission grew, so did the work force and people were actually doubling up in cubicles,” Bailey said.

To expand, Bailey looked no further than empty space available at one of the many office facilities available on University Square, the road surrounding Huntsville Center.

“We took a logical approach to determine who moved where,” Bailey said. “We wanted to minimize moves because it’s always cumbersome to pack up an office and move it all to someplace new, but then we didn’t want to waste an opportunity to put divisions and

See **MOVE** on page 5

Commander's thoughts

Team,
I want to start off by thanking everyone for the work that went into preparation for the ISO surveillance audit last month.

Overall, we did well, but we have a little work to do before the next audit in six months.

Areas identified as needing improvement included our internal ISO audit program and our corrective action/preventative action program.

We are developing actions to address those areas noted for improvement, and you will be seeing increased activity and Command interest in these areas over the next several months.

Our ISO certification is very important to our organization. It is an internationally recognized standard of quality.

Our Quality Management System, which forms the basis for our certification, only works when each of you is engaged by:

- Understanding and living our quality policy.
- Providing our customers quality products and services through our business processes.
- Actively participating in the system by identifying opportunities for improvement, participation on process, and
- Improvement PDTs and/or serving as a process auditor.

I am confident that with your help, we can improve in these areas.

March is Women's History Month. We will be having an observance here at the Center. More information will come out by e-mail.

This year's theme is *Our History is Our Strength*. From the National Women's History Project website:

"Our shared history unites families, communities, and nations. Although women's history is intertwined with the history shared with men, several factors - social, religious, economic, and biological - have worked to create a unique sphere of women's history.



Col. Nello L. Tortora

"The stories of women's achievements are integral to the fabric of our history. Learning about women's tenacity, courage, and creativity throughout the centuries is a tremendous source of strength.

"Until relatively recently, this sphere of women's history was overlooked and undervalued. Women's achievements were often distorted, disdained, and denied. But, knowing women's stories provides essential role models for everyone. And role models are genuinely needed to face the extraordinary changes and unrelenting challenges of the 21st century."

Learn more at: <http://www.nwhp.org/whm/index.php>

And as always, thanks for everything you do to keep Huntsville Center great.

Learn more at: <http://www.nwhp.org/whm/index.php>

Hails and farewells

Welcome – Howard Swims, Marylin Dale, Resource Management; Jameson Nichols, Diana Gregory, David Curry, Center Contracting; Zack Allen, Blake Terry, Terri Downs, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; Melissa Kelly, Stephen Legate, Tabitha Davis, David Shockley, Ray Flock, Engineering Directorate; Teresa Silence, Environmental Munitions Center of Expertise-Omaha

Farewell – Lena Andrews, Lisle Lennon, Joy Rice, Lisa Parker, Jason Detko, Nadine Vasquez, CT; Michelle Harlan, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate; John Blount, Judy Pendergrass, ISPM; Brendan Slater, EMCX

Returning from deployment to Afghanistan – James B. Smith Jr., CT. Deploying to Afghanistan – Jefferey Ball, CT



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:

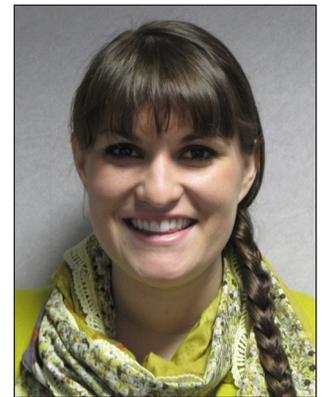
What was the most significant contribution by women the last decade?



“Women have done so much! Their advancement in the workplace during the last decade has been phenomenal. Women are in more leadership roles now more than ever. They are taking the lead and making significant contributions everywhere, from the family home to the oval office.”

Marquis Crockett
Superior Solutions

“I think the most significant contribution is Michelle Obama raising a young family in the White House. I was not around when the Kennedy’s raised their family in the public eye, but I think it takes a strong woman. With all her other obligations as first lady, I cannot imagine trying to bring up two young women as well.”



Lauren McCaul
Engineering Directorate



“Compared to a decade ago, most of the invisible boundaries society set for women was stretched individually and collectively. It is no longer effective. It was not a collective or concerted effort or an organized movement. Each individual realizing her own “self worth at the core,” achieved this significant contribution. By truly knowing one’s own worth - allows one the freedom of setting new boundry for herself at each turn of event.”

Su-Chen Chen
Chemical Demilitarization

“I believe that women’s contribution in the field of medical research has been significant. Because of the diligence and perseverance of women scientists working alongside their male counterparts, scientists have made major medical breakthroughs in the last decade with conditions such as cervical cancer and breast cancer or heart disease, to name a few. I feel the ability to survive major illnesses that were once considered to be fatal is the direct result of their efforts.”



Nancy Book
Engineering
Directorate

Employee Spotlight: Danielle Norton

Where do you work and what is your job title?

I am an office automation technician for Ordnance and Explosives Directorate's International Operations Division.

How long have you worked for the Corps?

I joined the Corps in May 2008 and have been working part time year round while attending University of Alabama Huntsville in pursuit of a degree in electrical engineering.

In your own words, what is your job? What do you do?

I enter time and attendance for IO and give other divisions of OE a hand when they need help. The majority of the time and attendance I enter is for deployed personnel in Afghanistan. I have been the sole credit card holder for the OE for over a year. I help out whenever I can tracking property, entering training and anything else anyone needs help with.

Review the Campaign Plan goals and objectives.

Which one(s) apply to you?

Goal 1. I support the operations of our team that is deployed. While I've worked for the Corps, my division has worked many projects in Iraq and Afghanistan collecting and disposing of ordnance, demining and environmental actions.

How do you see your job making



Photo by William S. Farrow

Danielle Norton, a full-time student at the University of Alabama, Huntsville majoring in electrical engineering, also works part time for Ordnance and Explosives Directorate International Operations Division.

a difference and contributing to the Corps' success?

Entering time and attendance for our deployed folks supports their efforts which makes life better for the people living there.

What do you love about your job?

My co-workers. The people I work with are amazing and give excellent advice and share their expertise. I have learned so much from them over the years, that I use every day.

Any special moments/memories

about your job you'd like to share?

Well, I like to spice up my reminder e-mails to the group about submitting their time sheets by including a short poem. I did it for a few weeks and then forgot to include one.

When I came back to work the next day, I had several e-mails from the people in my group, including the guys deployed, that missed the poem.

My little poems, as bad as they might be, brightened their day.

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.

Ford selected deputy for programs, technical management

Charles Ford became the Deputy for Programs and Technical Management at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville in December 2010 upon the retirement of the former DPTM, John Matthews.

Mathews retired following a 40-year career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Prior to becoming the DPTM, Ford served in various positions at Huntsville to include the director of Installation Support and Programs Management and director of Chemical Demilitarization.

Ford's other USACE assignments include 10 years in Incirlik, Turkey,

where he held successive positions as chief of the Contract Administration Branch, project engineer, resident engineer and area engineer there he was responsible for managing all USACE construction efforts with Turkey, Northern Italy, Northern Iraq and Cyprus. He also served a tour in Germany as the Corps' project manager for all medical clinics within Europe.

He returned with his family to Alabama in 1996 to work at



Ford

the Corps' Huntsville Center as a project manager in the Medical Facility Repair and Renewal Program.

Throughout his career, Ford has been assigned special projects including those in Krakow, Poland; Khelmenski, Ukraine; and Shchuch'ye, Russia.

Ford attended Auburn University, where he received his master's degree in Civil Engineering, Geotechnical in 1978, and a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering in 1976. He's a professional engineer, project management professional and Defense Acquisition Corps member.

MOVE

continued from page 1

teams back together where possible. For example all of Ordnance and Explosives Directorate is now located together instead of being split between the main building and Suite 24," he said.

Bailey said he began working on the project last summer and while looking for organizations that were the right size for a space available at 4901 University Square, he found that OE fit the need perfectly.

After OE moved their three geographically separated locations under one roof, the ball began rolling as empty space began showing up at other locations, allowing other moves to occur. OE's new home, more than 10,000 square feet of offices and cubicles, is in the northwestern corner of the facility simply known to most of the Huntsville Center work force as "White Tiger" due to the facility also being the home to a White Tiger Packing and Printing business located on the corner of The Boardwalk and University Square.

"By moving people into one facility, or one area of the Center, it puts employees together in the same area as their second and third line supervisor and that unity will result a more collective and united workforce in the long run," Bailey said.

Bailey admits that few people enjoy being uprooted from their cubicle, but he points out OE is now working from a building full of new office furniture and even newer technology.

The furniture procurement project, valued at more than \$400,000, was locally produced in Athens, Ala., said Deborah Neel, a contractor with Spectra Tech, Inc., and project manager with the centralized furniture program at the Huntsville Center. Neel coordinated the furniture procurement for OE.

The OE move was also the stepping stone for Huntsville Center's conversion to the Voice Over Internet Protocol.

"OE is currently a stand-alone environment for VOIP and their

move to White Tiger allowed us to connect with a local fiber optic cable and perform a lot of pre-planning and pre-positioning for the Center's conversion to VOIP," said Lee Adams, ACE-IT network engineer.

Adam's said conversion to the new VOIP allows for faster Internet speed and the addition of truly intelligent, portable phones.

Technologically, the move is completely reliant on the capabilities of ACE-IT to move computers and telephones. Peter Cole, ACE-IT chief, said the move is scheduled to be complete by April after another 200 plus work stations require set up at different location.

"We have people moving IT (information technology) two hours prior to people showing up to work and two hours after people go home for the day," Cole said.

According to Cole, almost 200 more people identified to move will be packing, moving and unpacking in their new areas with their IT hopefully already in place, plugged-in and operational.

Huntsville Center celebrates Engineer Week

By Jo Anita Miley
Public Affairs

More than 70 engineering, educational and cultural societies, and more than 50 corporations and government agencies in the U.S. observe National Engineers Week the third week of February.

The celebration of National Engineers Week was started in 1951 by the National Society of Professional Engineers in conjunction with President George Washington's Birthday, who is considered as the nation's first engineer.

The purpose of National Engineers Week is to call attention to the contributions engineers make society. It is also a time for engineers to emphasize the importance of learning math, science, and technical skills.

To recognize Engineer Week at the Huntsville Center, Engineering Directorate teamed up with the Huntsville Center's Activities Association to participate in the game show, "Who Wants to Be an Engineer" Feb. 23, in the cafeteria.

Boyce Ross, director of Engineering at Huntsville Center, acted as host for the event. Engineering Directorate employees, Levi Gabre, Maggie Crenshaw and John Nevels



Photo by William S. Farrow

Boyce Ross, right, Huntsville Center's director of Engineering, takes answers from the audience during the "Who Wants to Be an Engineer" game Feb. 23, in the cafeteria. The game recognized Engineer Week at the Huntsville Center.

competed to win prizes during the 30-minute game show.

Questions included Corps of Engineers history, Huntsville Center history and tenets of quality, technical questions and engineering trivia, which included basic questions about construction. All three contestants emerged as winners, each answering all five questions correctly.

"I participated in the event because it sounded like fun. I enjoyed being questioned and the whole 'game show' feel," Nevels said. "It was a fun twist to the typical engineering day.

Our days are definitely more technically driven," he said.

Crenshaw, a secretary in the Engineering Directorate, said she wanted to show her support for the engineering community.

This is largely why she works at the Huntsville Center – to support the engineer's efforts to get the job done," she said.

Ross said the engineers within his directorate have an enormous workload.

It was difficult to find the time to organize activities to celebrate Engineer Week, and the Activities Association

was willing to give them assistance.

Nikki Zarger, a project management specialist with the Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate and current president of the Center's Activities Association organized the event.

"It is very important that we take the time to recognize those within our profession during National Engineer Week," Ross said.

Locally, Engineer Week 2011 culminated with an Engineering Societies' E-Week Awards Banquet Feb. 24.

Severe weather preparedness key for seasonal change

By James Campbell
Public Affairs Office

Office conversations about the unusual winter snowfall followed by record high temperatures in February may soon turn to vacation planning and spring yard work.

As anticipation for warm spring weather grows, the likelihood of severe weather prompted state, federal and Center officials to remind everyone about preparing both at work and at home during Severe Weather Preparedness Week.

“We want to do everything we can do to drive home the fact this is a serious issue,” said David Nadler, warning coordination meteorologist from the National Weather Service’s Huntsville Forecast Office.

The Tennessee Valley is part of a region that can geographically favor severe weather outbreaks, Nadler said.

The National Weather Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, state emergency management agencies and other supporting organizations launched an awareness program Feb. 20 focusing on severe thunderstorms, lightning, tornado safety, flooding and flash flooding and weather radio all-hazards alerts.

Thunderstorms, lightning and flash flooding can cause injury and death even though we tend to remember the infrequent, spectacular events like tornados, Nadler said.

One thing our employees should do is review the Occupant Emergency Plan on the Center’s Intranet with special attention to the sections about weather events, said



Photo courtesy of National Weather Service

A tree rests on a North Alabama home after severe weather passed through the area March 28, 2009. National Weather Service surveys determined a tornado, rated EF-1 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale, caused this damage.

Lori Byrd, chief of Security.

“Just be aware,” said Charles Rollins, a safety and occupational health specialist from the Safety Office.

When the Safety Office makes the call to react to severe weather and get everyone to safety, we want them to react quickly, Rollins said.

We’ll monitor the situation and as soon as we get an all clear we’ll get folks back to work, he said.

Center employees at sites other than the headquarters building should ensure their on-site weather radio is working and be aware

of their specific emergency plan, Rollins said.

“It’s also a good idea to carry these thoughts about preparedness to your home,” Rollins said.

Tennessee and Alabama both observed Severe Weather Awareness Week at the end of February and included coordination meetings, drills and siren testing.

The NWS plans to highlight “Turn Around, Don’t Drown” and other educational programs about flooding and flash flooding again during National Flood Safety Awareness Week, March 14-18.

Weather on the Web

■ The websites www.weather.gov and www.noaa.gov offer educational materials about preparing for severe weather, forecasts and climate reports.

■ The local NWS office website is www.srh.noaa.gov/hun/

Logistical drawdown continues in Iraq

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press
Service

WASHINGTON D.C. – Spring is still a month away, but that's not stopping what is likely to be the largest and longest-running spring-cleaning project ever undertaken to prepare for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq by the end of the year.

As the combat mission in Iraq officially ended in August and U.S. forces reduced their footprint to about 50,000 troops, President Barack Obama heralded "one of the largest logistical operations we've seen in decades" with the exodus of millions of pieces of military equipment, property and supplies.

Army Brig. Gen. Mark Corson, commander of the Army Reserve's 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command that has overseen that mission, equated it to moving the entire city of St. Joseph, Mo., with all its people, vehicles, equipment and property, to "the other side of the planet."

And despite the immensity of the effort, it was completed 10 days ahead of schedule, he said. Now, with about two months left in their deployment, Corson's troops are continuing the logistical drawdown while laying critical groundwork for its follow-on unit to reduce the U.S. footprint in Iraq to zero by the year's end.

The drawdown operation under way now isn't nearly as dramatic as the headline-dominating images of the 2nd Infantry Division's 4th Stryker Brigade driving their convoy of armored vehicles into Kuwait in late August. But since the launch of Operation New Dawn on



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Kimberly Hackbarth

The logistical drawdown in Iraq made headlines as Stryker armored vehicles of the 2nd Infantry Division's 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, pictured here on Aug. 17, 2010, prepared to leave the country as the U.S. combat mission there ended Aug. 31. But the 103rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command continues to oversee the drawdown effort and lay plans for the unit that will complete the drawdown effort by Dec. 31, 2011.

Sept. 1, about 3,000 truckloads of equipment and gear have continued to roll out of Iraq, Army Lt. Col. Gerard Schwartz, the command's deputy support operations officer, said.

And in the months ahead, he added, the volume increases substantially. Overseeing that effort isn't simply a matter of moving everything from Point A to Point B, Schwartz said. It requires identifying what's no longer needed and can be shipped home now, what can be transferred to units in Afghanistan or elsewhere and what's simply too worn out or costly to transport.

Under specifically regulated conditions, the U. S. can transfer some of its excess equipment to Iraqi security forces. Three fixed and eight mobile material distribution teams are at work throughout Iraq, helping units categorize their property items.

"They're sorting through things that are excess ... that might potentially be used for foreign

(military) sales to get to the Iraqis" or items that could be returned to the U.S. military inventory, Schwartz said. As they do so, Schwartz said, they're ever mindful of the need to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money.

"We are certainly aware of how much has been spent in this country and how well we have been equipped, and we want to make sure everything we can possibly get back, that we can continue to use in the (U.S.) inventory, that we do that," he said.

While conducting the logistical drawdown, the 103rd ESC faces another complicating factor: ensuring that troops on the ground have everything they need until the day they redeploy.

"It's a very delicate balance," said Army Col. Kathryn Luna, the command's plans officer.

"Our No. 1 mission is to support and sustain the force. So therefore, that mission cannot fail with those 50,000 troops that we have here."

Center celebrates Black History Month

African Americans in the Military was the theme of Huntsville Center's 2011 celebration of Black History Month. Guest speaker Earla Lockhart, a local community activist, Baptist minister and educator, focused her speech on the Buffalo Soldiers, the Army regiment commissioned to patrol the American West after the Civil War. Part of the Buffalo Soldiers, 10th Cavalry, camped

in Huntsville from 1898-99 after returning from combat during the Spanish American War. Lockhart commented on the actions of the highly decorated unit and touched on the inequalities the soldiers faced in a segregated Army.

The S. R. Butler Jr. Reserve Officer Training Corps posted colors and Mutek Productions from Harvest, Ala., provided music for the occasion.



Above left, cadets from S.R. Butler High School Air Force Jr. Reserve Officer Training Corps present colors as Reneda Kelley, a Huntsville Center project support contractor with Spectra Tech. Inc., sang the national anthem. Top right, keynote speaker Earla Lockhart engages the audience. Above right, attendees review a display table focusing on U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's 50 General Service Regiments, all black engineering units active before Army integration in 1952. Right, a statue of a Buffalo Soldier sits in the Cavalry Hill neighborhood of Huntsville, Ala.

March notes Women's History Month

As recently as the 1970s, women's history was virtually an unknown topic in the K-12 curriculum or in general public consciousness.

To address this situation, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a "Women's History Week" celebration for 1978.

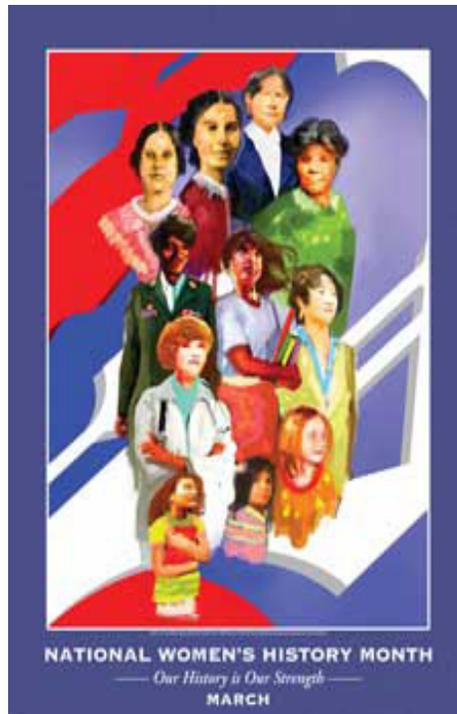
March 8, International Women's Day, was chosen as the focal point of the observance. The local Women's History Week activities met with enthusiastic response, and dozens of schools planned special programs for Women's History Week.

Over one-hundred community women participated by doing special presentations in classrooms throughout the country and an annual "Real Woman" Essay Contest drew hundreds of entries.

The finale for the week was a celebratory parade and program held in the center of downtown Santa Rosa, Cali.

In 1979, Molly Murphy MacGregor, a member of the group, was invited to participate in The Women's History Institute at Sarah Lawrence College, which was chaired by noted historian Gerda Lerner and attended by the national leaders of organizations for women and girls. When the participants learned about the success of Sonoma County's Women's History Week celebration, they decided to initiate similar celebrations within their own organizations, communities and school districts.

They also agreed to support an effort to secure a "National



Women's History Week."

The first steps toward success came in February 1980 when President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8, 1980, as National Women's History Week. In the same year, Representative Barbara Mikulski, who at the time was in the House of Representatives, and Senator Orrin Hatch co-sponsored a Congressional Resolution for National Women's History Week 1981.

This co-sponsorship demonstrated the wide-ranging political support for recognizing, honoring and celebrating the achievements of American women.

As word spread rapidly across the nation, state departments of education encouraged celebrations of National Women's History Week as an effective means to achieving equity goals within classrooms.

Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Oregon, Alaska and other states developed and distributed

curriculum materials for all of their public schools.

Organizations sponsored essay contests and other special programs in their local areas. Within a few years, thousands of schools and communities were celebrating National Women's History Week, supported and encouraged by resolutions from governors, city councils, school boards and the U.S. Congress.

Each year, the dates of National Women's History Week, (the week of March 8) changed and every year a new lobbying effort was needed. Yearly, a national effort that included thousands of individuals and hundreds of educational and women's organizations was spearheaded by the National Women's History Project.

By 1986, 14 states had already declared March as Women's History Month. This momentum and state-by-state action was used as the rational-to lobby Congress to declare the entire month of March 1987 as National Women's History Month.

In 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity.

A special Presidential Proclamation is issued every year which honors the extraordinary achievements of American women.

(This information is from the National Women's History Project Web site at www.nwhp.org. The NWHP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, educational organization committed to recognizing and celebrating the diverse and historic accomplishments of women by providing information and educational materials.)

Ethics Corner

Know the rules when seeking outside employment

By Chris Paden
Office of Counsel

One of the basic tenants of government service is that we are required to be fair and impartial. As part of that, there are some restrictions that you must be aware of when seeking other employment.

When seeking a job outside government, most people do not want to openly advertise they are considering leaving. Although understandable, it may also not always be possible to seek a job with nobody knowing.

The Joint Ethics Regulation states “An executive branch employee may not participate in any particular Government matter that will affect the financial interests of a person or entity with whom he is seeking employment. An employee is considered to be seeking employment if – the employee is engaged in actual negotiations for employment, a potential employer has contacted the employee about possible employment and the employee makes a response other than rejection, and the employee has contacted a prospective employer about possible employment (unless the sole purpose of the contact is to request a job application or if the person contacted is affected by the performance of the employee’s duties only as part of an industry).”

That means if you are negotiating for a job with an employer, or an employer has contacted you about a job and you didn’t say no, or if you made

contact with an employer about a job, then you have the responsibility to inform your supervisor about your job seeking with that employer.

The reason for that is simple: to maintain impartiality. If you are involved in seeking a job with an employer, your supervisor has the ability to re-arrange duties so you will not be able to take any action with regard to your potential future employer. So what happens if the job negotiation breaks down or if you decide that you want to stay with the government?

The JER states “An employee is considered no longer seeking employment if: either the employee or the prospective employer rejects the possibility of employment and all discussions of possible employment have ended, or two months have elapsed since the employee’s dispatch of an unsolicited resume and the employee has received no expression of interest from the prospective employer.”

In some cases, an employee may be authorized by an agency official to participate in particular matters from which he would otherwise have to be disqualified due to his job search. In other cases, an agency ethics official may determine that an employee who has sought, but is no longer seeking, employment nevertheless shall be subject to a continuing period of disqualification.”

If you are thinking about looking for other employment, or if you already are, you should know the rules. If you have any questions regarding your responsibilities concerning seeking outside employment, call me at (256) 895-1103.

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