



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER ACC hosts stand down, joins Army's push to reduce suicides

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.— Army Contracting Command and the Expeditionary Contracting Command headquarters staffs participated in a variety of events here as part of their Suicide Prevention Stand Down.

The suicide stand down was part of an Army-wide mandate to educate individuals on how to recognize warning signs and to educate them about those programs available to help them. ACC and ECC conducted their event Oct. 10 instead of the Army-wide date of Sept. 27 in order to keep contracting officials free to complete fiscal year-end contracting activities.

"Suicide continues to be a challenge for our Army family," said Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, ACC commanding general. "It's



**Click on the image for
Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols'
suicide message.**

a devastating and senseless loss when one of our own, whether a Soldier, a family member, civilian or contractor dies by suicide."

According to Army statistics more

than 237 Soldiers have potentially taken their lives so far this year. The stand down is part of the Army's push to step up its resilience training to combat the problem.

"I am asking each one of you to make a difference in someone's life," Nichols said. "I encourage you to take the time to get to know your friends, co-workers and buddies a little better. Recognize the signs of someone that may need your help. If you or someone you know needs help, please contact a chaplain, call the National Suicide Prevention helpline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

"Remember, no one is alone," she said. "Shoulder-to-shoulder, we can all remain Army strong."

See STAND DOWN, page 3.



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Bernardo Fuller)

Heidi Shyu addresses the Pentagon audience following her swearing in.

Senate confirms Shyu appointment

Heidi Shyu sworn in as assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology at a Pentagon ceremony, Oct. 4.

By Kris Osborn
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Following her Senate confirmation as assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, Heidi Shyu was sworn into office Oct. 4 by Undersecretary of the Army Joseph W. Westphal.

Attended by numerous senior defense officials and members of the Army's acquisition workforce, the Pentagon ceremony was marked by a recognition for the vital mission of equipping and modernizing the Army.

As the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology,

Shyu serves as the Army acquisition executive, the senior procurement executive, the science advisor to the secretary of the Army and the Army's senior research and development official. She also has principal responsibility for all matters related to Army logistics.

Shyu's job includes the management of a 42,000-strong acquisition workforce and leadership of 13 program executive offices tasked with developing technologies and managing acquisition programs.

Frank Kendall, undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, noted Shyu's accomplishments as a leader, innovator and engineer.

See APPOINTMENT, page 2.

AGILE

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Spotlight on...

For Spotlight submissions, click on the icon.

Arctic Soldier supports Army, Air Force units

Sgt. 1st Class Dawn Simington currently serves as a 51C acquisition, logistics and technology contracting noncommissioned officer with the services flight of the 673rd Contracting Squadron at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska.

She is assigned to the 413th Contracting Support Brigade which is headquartered at Fort Shafter, Hawaii.

Describe your passion for the job.

I enjoy being able to provide war fighters what they need to get the mission done on the front line.

Supporting both Army and Air Force units helps me better understand what each service brings to the fight.

Tell us about your family and what you enjoy doing during your spare time?

I call Charleston, S.C., home. I'm married and have three children.

During my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family, working out at the gym and pursuing my master's degree.

How does your job support the Soldier?

I single-handedly am responsible for the management of all civil engineering life support contracts, most notably base custodial services valued at \$10 million.

What would you like others to know about you?

I am always a Soldier first.



Sgt. 1st Class Dawn Simington

APPOINTMENT

continued from page 1

"It is a great pleasure for me to be able to do this today," he said. "If there is one word I could use to describe Heidi, it would be professional. She is a woman who has had a remarkable career. She is a dedicated worker and dedicated to the workforce. I'm delighted to have her as a partner."

Westphal cited Shyu's focus, management skills, attention to detail and overall professionalism.

"You have been improving the efficiency of the workforce and providing a sense of professionalism, bringing creativity and innovation to the business side of our portfolios," he said. "We really appreciate your leadership and direction and we look forward to tremendous new efforts."

Following her swearing in, Shyu thanked those who supported her through the process and said she was honored and humbled to assume her duties as ASA(ALT).

"For 237 years, the Army has answered the nation's call wherever and whenever our Soldiers are deployed," she said. "Here in this building, our paramount responsibility is to provide the equipment

needed for missions and return the Soldier home safely. I humbly accept the significant responsibility that comes with this job to ensure that we maintain the best-equipped Army in the world."

Shyu also re-iterated her longstanding support for Soldiers and praised the dedication of the acquisition workforce.

The secretary also briefly touched upon her leadership vision for the future, articulating a few concepts fundamental to her investment and modernization strategy.

"I will continue determined efforts and close coordination with the Army's military and civilian leadership to develop a systemic process for setting long-term equipping priorities," Shyu said. "I refer to this as the strategic outlook which combines intel (intelligence) analysis of our current and planned investments in S&T (Science and Technology) and material development - linking it to emerging threats and capability gaps across a 30-year timeframe."

Shyu previously served as the acting ASA(ALT) since June 2011, and functioned as the ASA(ALT) principal deputy since November 2010.



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The *NewsBlast* is a weekly newsletter authorized and produced by the U.S. Army Contracting Command's Office of Public and Congressional Affairs editorial staff in accordance with AR 360-1 (The Army Public Affairs Program) to inform, educate and entertain the ACC community on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army and this command.

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the U.S. Army or this command.

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ACC's observance featured a suicide prevention and resiliency discussion led by Chap. (Lt. Col.) Charles Fields, followed by a health fair and team-building events.

The day started with a Suicide Prevention and Awareness bike ride in

which military participants stopped at historic sites along the way and listened to Mikhael Weitzel, ACC historian, describe the location's historical significance.

The command later gathered for a pot-luck lunch, followed by a chili, pulled pork barbecue and dessert cook-off.



(Photo by Ed Worley)

The ACC and ECC military and civilian workforce sample various pot-luck dishes during the command's suicide prevention stand down. For more photos, [click here](#).



(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

ACC Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles "Chip" M. Fields explains signs that may indicate someone is considering suicide.



(Photo by Ed Worley)

Joyce Courtney, ACC G-8 manpower, participates in an egg-carry contest.



(Photo by Ed Worley)

ACC Historian Mikhael Weitzel asks Army and contracting trivia questions during the suicide stand down, Oct. 10.



ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

Animals receive annual blessing at chapel

Photos by Ellen Hudson (*Published in the Redstone Rocket, Oct. 3, 2012*)

Owners brought a variety of pets for the annual Blessing of the Animals held Saturday at Bicentennial Chapel.

<http://theredstonerocket.p2ionline.com/Flip/Sitebase/data/editions/135622/img/large/2278861.htm>

AMC commander visits contracting command

By Larry McCaskill

ACC Congressional and Public Affairs (*Published in the Redstone Rocket, Oct. 3, 2012*)

Gen. Dennis Via, commander of the Army Materiel Command, visited the Army Contracting Command and the Expeditionary Contracting Command on Sept. 25

<http://theredstonerocket.p2ionline.com/Flip/Sitebase/data/editions/135622/img/large/2278878.htm>

Contingency contracting exercise preparations begin

By Larry McCaskill

ACC Congressional and Public Affairs (*Published in the Redstone Rocket, Oct. 3, 2012*)

For the fourth consecutive year, the Army Contracting Command will conduct the premier Department of Defense contracting readiness exercise for military and civilian personnel.

Formerly called Joint Dawn, the military readiness exercise is called ACC MRX-2013 and will be conducted at Fort Bliss, Texas, Jan. 15-31.

<http://theredstonerocket.p2ionline.com/Flip/Sitebase/data/editions/135622/img/large/2278882.htm>

Google trains Army's information Top Guns in data skills

DeDupe, log off! You'll crash the system

By Lain Thomson in San Francisco (*Posted in CIO, Oct. 5, 2012*)

The US Navy may have its Top Gun training school, but now the Army is sending its best of the best at systems management to a similar program at Google, to get training in industrial management tactics, techniques, and procedures.

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2012/10/05/google_army_top_gun_training/

Getting to know you

By Amy Guckeen Tolson

Staff writer (*Published in the Redstone Rocket, Oct. 3, 2012*)

Name: Bryan Samson

Position: Deputy commander, Expeditionary Contracting Command

Where do you call home?

The Finger Lakes area of upstate New York

<http://theredstonerocket.p2ionline.com/Flip/Sitebase/index.aspx?adgroupid=135622&view=double&FH=535>



Click on the image for
ACC safety messages.

