



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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“Providing global contracting support to war fighters.”

DOD, AbilityOne honor 8 ACC employees

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—Eight current and former Army Contracting Command employees have been recognized by the Department of Defense and the U.S. AbilityOne Commission for their work supporting the AbilityOne Program.

They received the AbilityOne Commitment in Action Award, announced Oct. 9 by Richard Ginman, DOD’s director of Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy.

AbilityOne creates employment and training opportunities for people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities, empowering them to lead more productive and independent lives. Its primary means

of doing so is by requiring government agencies to purchase selected products and services from nonprofit organizations employing such individuals.

ACC’s recipients are:

- Jason Detko, chief, Contracting Policy/Head of the Contracting Activity Support Division, ACC Contracting Operations, Redstone Arsenal
- Arthur Harris Jr., acting chief, Contract Closeout, ACC-National Capital Region, Alexandria, Va.
- Carol Lowman, who retired in August as ACC’s deputy to the commanding general, Redstone Arsenal
- Henry Molnar, procurement analyst,

Contracting Policy/Head of the Contracting Activity Support Division, ACC Contracting Operations, Redstone Arsenal

- Michael Patterson, chief, Field Support Division, ACC Contracting Operations, Redstone Arsenal
 - Tim Pugh, who retired in September as chief, Business Process and Field Support Section, Mission and Installation Contracting Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas
 - Mark Vaccaro, procurement analyst, 409th Contracting Support Brigade, Kaiserslautern, Germany
- See ABILITYONE, page 4.

ACC employee recognized with community partner award

By Liz Adrian

ACC-Rock Island Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. – Joan Wysoske, chief, Army Contracting Command-Rock Island’s Contract Closeout Branch, was chosen as a 2012 Chicago Lighthouse Community Partner Award recipient Oct. 18.

Wysoske and Carolyn Young, ACC-RI chief, Reachback Division, will attend an award presentation at the Chicago Lighthouse in Chicago.

Wysoske received the award because of the support the Closeout Branch provides to visually impaired Chicago Lighthouse employees. Six contracting professionals, two warehouse personnel and a supervisor from Chicago Lighthouse are assigned to work under the task order awarded by ACC-RI to Chicago Lighthouse under the AbilityOne program.

See LIGHTHOUSE, page 3.



(Photo by Liz Adrian)

Joan Wysoske (far right) stands with members of her team. She was recently recognized for her support of visually impaired Chicago Lighthouse employees.

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Spotlight on...

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Staff Sgt. Bryan A. Tucker

General's driver 'all fired up'

A combat veteran with multiple deployments under his belt, Staff Sgt. Bryan A. Tucker currently serves as the Army Contracting Command executive driver for Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, ACC commanding general, and ACC Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray.

Describe your current position:

In addition to driving, I am also responsible for managing the sergeant major's day-to-day schedule and travel arrangements.

Describe your passion for the job:

Not only do I have a passion for doing a good job as executive driver, I love being able to make a direct impact on Soldiers and seeing them through their growth. My real passion is being a leader of Soldiers.

Tell us about yourself, your family and what you enjoy doing during your time off.

I was born and raised in West Covina, Calif. My wife, Kati, and I have a two-

year-old son, Ronald.

I love spending time with my son. I also enjoy fishing, working out and watching sports with an ice cold beverage.

How does your job support the Soldier?

Right now, I think my job plays a very small role in supporting the Soldier.

I just want to work hard every day and be an asset to this command. I plan to take advantage of this opportunity to be surrounded by senior leaders.

When I leave here and return to a line unit, I think my time spent here will have made me a more complete leader - therefore, making me a better leader of Soldiers.



U.S. Army Contracting Command

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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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Acquisition Support Center recognizes ACC Soldiers

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

Two U.S. Army Contracting Command Soldiers have been named as recipients of U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center 2012 Army Acquisition Awards.

Col. Michael Hoskin, 413th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, received the Secretary of the Army Acquisition Director of the Year at the Colonel Level. Sgt. 1st Class Eric Sears, 414th CSB, Vicenza, Italy, received the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) Contracting Noncommissioned Officer Award for

Contracting Excellence.

"I'm proud to see members of the command recognized for their valued efforts," said Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, ACC commanding general. "The effort put forth by the ACC workforce is nothing short of phenomenal. The awards are well deserved. Kudos to all and thanks for the good work that you do."

The awards will be presented at a Nov. 7 luncheon in Arlington, Va., in a ceremony that pays tribute to the uniformed and civilian professionals working behind the scenes providing combatant commanders and their Soldiers the weapons and equipment they need.

ACC-NCR hosts suicide prevention stand down

By Jeanette Lau

ACC-National Capital Region Public Affairs

ALEXANDRIA, Va. – Personnel with the Army Contracting Command-National Capital Region contracting center here took time after a hectic fiscal year-end wrap-up to conduct a suicide prevention stand down Oct. 4.

The day featured a town hall meeting hosted by Jack Cunnane, ACC-NCR deputy director, resiliency training provided by Chaplain (Maj.) Steven J. Moser, Office of the Pentagon Family Life chaplain, and concluded with a tailgate picnic in the lot adjacent to the building.

Although September was Army Suicide Prevention Month, part of ACC-NCR's observance of this Army initiative was rescheduled so the entire ACC-NCR workforce could participate.

With humor and personal examples, featured speaker Chaplain Moser presented resiliency training, leading the standing-room-only audience in exercises designed to encourage effective stress management and increase one's resilience to its ill effects. Moser's presentation was a perfect complement to the focused training provided in mid-September by ACC's own, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles M. "Chip" Fields.



(Photo by Jason Detko)

Happy (fiscal) New Year! On Oct. 4, ACC-NCR employees took a moment to celebrate a successful year-end and to welcome the new fiscal year with a tailgate party.

Following the morning's activities, ACC-NCR commemorated year-end and suicide prevention awareness with a tailgate barbecue in the parking lot behind the building. With casual dress encouraged for the day, many wore team jerseys, demonstrating that nearly every

football team has a fan at ACC-NCR. With the workforce contributing to the effort, a huge offering of picnic fare and barbecue grill set the stage for ACC-NCR team members to relax and mingle with others throughout the organization.

LIGHTHOUSE

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Wysoske is surprised that her management of the employees would be considered distinctive enough for an award.

"I treat them as an integrated part of the team," she said. "I don't treat them any different than anyone else on the team."

Wysoske added that the only difference between the Chicago Lighthouse employees and other members of the team are the reasonable accommodations that have been made, things like reassigning data entry to a procurement technician for visually-impaired employees who find maneuvering the database difficult, and adding equipment and software to work stations to make viewing small print easier.

"The accommodations we've made have been minimal," she said. "The key is finding what aspect of the job is harder or easier for them and then their

supervisor, Elliot Boston and I work around that. With some very small process improvements, they are performing at the same level as anyone else on the team."

Wysoske said she and other ACC-RI leaders have been very pleased with the output by the Chicago Lighthouse employees. A contract was awarded during the last week of fiscal year 2012 to bring on an additional six or seven contracting professionals and a procurement clerk, all from Chicago Lighthouse.

AbilityOne is a mandatory source for contract management services. The task order for these services was awarded under the overriding AbilityOne contract that was then assigned to the National Industry for the Blind or the National Industry for the Severely Handicapped as leads. In this case, NIB took the lead, which

subcontracted with Chicago Lighthouse which was the closest regional agency to Rock Island Arsenal.

Young said the entire ACC-RI organization is proud of Wysoske's work with the Chicago Lighthouse employees.

"This award is reflective of her personal and professional commitment to providing opportunities for individuals with visual impairment," said Young. "Our organization benefits because of these employees who are helping perform an enormous, time-intensive and important mission."

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Small business specialists tackle training, workload

By Daniel P. Elkins
MICC Public Affairs Office

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Twenty small business specialists from throughout the Mission and Installation Contracting Command gathered for an internal business meeting Sept. 17-20 in San Antonio, Texas, to build greater awareness of policies and strengthen core skills.

Conducted by the MICC Small Business Programs staff, the training offered small business specialists valuable guidance in performing their roles and fills a void in training following the formal instruction they receive after appointment to their positions.

“This training provides local contracting office small business specialists the latest in MICC initiatives and recent legislation as well as an overview of recurring small business contract management review findings and solutions,” said Sandy Spiess, the MICC Small Business Programs associate director. “It also provides small business specialists a great opportunity to interact and network with each other since working one-deep has its challenges.”

The training included accountability, integration, outreach events, contractor meetings and monthly reporting. Small business specialists also examined relevant sections of the Federal Acquisition Regulation to include the Government Purchase Card Program, competition, market research, acquisition strategies and plans, participation proposals and ordering. Members of the MICC headquarters staff also provided additional instruction on congressional affairs, professional development and the Acquisition Milestone Agreement program.

Rosa Elmore is the MICC small business specialist at Fort Campbell, Ky. She said what she most gained from the meeting was greater insight on the importance of the small business specialist’s role within the MICC organization as well as an ability to cross-feed issues with other MICC small business specialists.

“Meeting everyone for the first time at the training brings it all together – office of small business programs and MICC small business specialists,” Elmore said. “We are a team, although not in the same



(Photo by Daniel P. Elkins)

Barbara Brown evenly distributes end-of-year contracting workload to Mission and Installation Contracting Command small business specialists. Brown is an assistant director for the MICC Small Business Programs office at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

location, we all have the same mission.”

This was the first opportunity to meet face-to-face for many of the small business specialists, who primarily exchange information by telephone or through computer chat sessions on a daily basis.

“It is very valuable. We discuss similar problems we might have within our different organizations and help each other with finding solutions to any issues we might have,” Elmore said. “When we met at the training for the first time, we felt like we have known each other forever. We all seem to love what we do, helping others.”

That approach of helping others proved beneficial. Because the meeting fell in the final two weeks of the government’s fiscal year and the busiest time of year in federal acquisitions, small business specialists took

only a brief break at the end of the day and then as a team went to the tedious task of catching up on reviews of justification and approvals, market research reports, acquisitions strategies, small business coordination records and other contracting documents.

“I was very impressed. After a long day of training, they delved right into their workload helping each other out. This was the first time in my experience that I’ve seen small business specialists working together as a group and sharing the workload to ensure all reviews were completed,” Spiess said. “All of them were putting in 12-plus-hour days to ensure mission accomplishment, and I did not hear a single complaint.”

See **SMALL BUSINESS**, page 5.

ABILITYONE

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- Former ACC-NCR employee Jackie C. Woodson, who was competition advocate and chief, Contract Closeout. “These awards symbolize ACC’s commitment to the AbilityOne program,” said Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, ACC commanding general. “I’m proud of the work we do every day to help our brothers and sisters with severe disabilities. I’m especially proud of our award winners, and that ACC employees earned eight of the nine awards presented to the Army.”

Ginman said his office and the

AbilityOne Commission have been working during the past year to recognize acquisition professionals who “demonstrated a commitment in action to increasing business with AbilityOne. I congratulate these award recipients and express appreciation to our workforce for their steadfast support of the AbilityOne Program.”

Ginman said the DOD continues to be AbilityOne’s largest customer, procuring more than \$1.8 billion of products and services in fiscal year 2011.

Public speaking group empowers ACC-RI employees

By Liz Adrian

ACC-Rock Island Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND, III. – Communication skills are essential for successful contracting professionals and a few Army Contracting Command-Rock Island employees are actively engaged in exercising their public speaking abilities at monthly international training in communication meetings.

The Arsenal Island ITC, also known as POWERtalk International, is a business-oriented public speaking group that is available to all organizations on Rock Island Arsenal. ACC-RI employees currently comprise the bulk of ITC participants and hold four of the five officer roles: Michael DeBisschop, president; Angela Quinn, vice president; Bridget Purdy, secretary; and Andrea Lovell, parliamentarian.

The group meets between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month. Since the meetings are considered training, ACC-RI may pay the associated fees and provide participants continuous learning points.

“I think that had the ITC not been available to me, I would not be practicing public speaking on a regular basis,” said Quinn. “This opportunity is wonderful and is helping me get even more comfortable with the idea of speaking in front of people for any purpose – work, personal, anything.”

DeBisschop believes the group membership offers many benefits, including building communication skills necessary to move into ACC-RI leadership roles, networking with people in other commands and applying skills to civic organizations in the local community.

He also said that both introverts and extroverts can benefit by attending meetings.

“I think people, such as myself, who are quick to give opinions can overshadow the ability of other people to contribute,” said DeBisschop. “It teaches me to be more controlled and to help bring people into conversations. For those people who are more likely to sit back and allow other people to speak, this is a place where people gain the confidence to speak up, contribute and



(Photo by Liz Adrian)

Michael DeBisschop, ACC-RI contract specialist and ITC president, (at podium) speaks with Steve Slininger, an ITC member from Joint Munitions Command.

bring a different perspective to work functions.”

One benefit that goes beyond public speaking is increasing individuals’ workplace flexibility. For example, one of the ITC officials was unable to attend the Sept. 11 meeting, resulting in Quinn performing additional tasks.

“During the workday, there is an idea on how things are going to go, but at the last minute, due to work constraints, the schedule changes so we need to be very flexible and adaptive,” said DeBisschop. “As Angie demonstrated by taking on multiple roles that weren’t assigned to her previously – it really increases our ability to adapt.”

As newly installed officers, DeBisschop and Quinn hope that more people from ACC-RI will join the ITC. Currently there are 11 members, but the ITC can have up to 30 members.

This group definitely benefits individuals who have issues with public speaking, interviews, speaking up at team meetings, speaking up in high-visibility meetings and even speaking up at the town hall, said Quinn. “I want people to hear about the ITC, show an interest in the group, become a part of it and participate in it regularly.”

SMALL BUSINESS

continued from page 4

Assembled together in one room, the MICC staff and small business specialists teamed to tackle the combined workload.

“Everyone stayed until there were zero reviews left at the end of the night,” Spiess said. “It was also great to hear them offer suggestions and advice to each other when a small business issue came up during the review. This was the utmost in networking.”

She hopes the opportunity to network reassures those in attendance that there is always a team of people willing to help.

Although they are one-deep serving as the advocate for small business, they are

not alone, Spiess said.

According to the associate director, the MICC small business specialists returned to their respective duty stations Sept. 21 and to what is becoming a more visible program given today’s economic challenges.

“Small business specialists play an important and integral role in providing that maximum practicable opportunity for small businesses to compete for MICC awards,” Spiess said. “By integrating themselves into office procedures for acquisition planning, they can advocate early in the game and help to identify

capable small business vendors.”

She explained that historically, small business has helped strengthen economic growth and job creation. During a 15-year period, small businesses created more than 60 percent of all new jobs in the nation.

The MICC is responsible for providing contracting support for the war fighter at Army commands, installations and activities located throughout the continental United States and Puerto Rico. In fiscal 2012, the command executed more than 58,000 contract actions worth almost \$6.3 billion across the Army, including \$2.6 billion to small businesses.

Military training realigned under G1

By **Larry D. McCaskill**

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

To reduce redundancies, the Army Contracting Command realigned its training mission from the deputy chief of staff operations G3 to the deputy chief of staff human capital G1 effective Oct. 1.

According to William Baxter, deputy chief of staff human capital G1, the decision was made to realign military training to the G1 to improve training oversight in some areas and, more importantly, to develop a common operating process for both civilian and military training.

"We are realigning all training assets under a single staff element," he said.

"This will allow the command to better develop a common operating picture for contracting skills development for our civilian and military workforce."

According to Baxter, civilian training has been under the G1; however, military training was under the G3.

He said the merger enhances the command's ability to provide the desired training and career development opportunities that the command's integrated workforce needs, regardless of whether the training is military or civilian.

"The new training branch will report directly to the G1," Baxter said. "As we integrate military and civilian training, it is important that we take an even closer

look at training and development to ensure we have the best programs in place for our total workforce. Current plans are to bring a military deputy G1 on board to serve as the primary leader over the training programs."

The move will only affect those individuals who are being realigned from the G3 into the G1, Baxter said. Eight positions are being realigned to the G1. Six of the positions are currently filled.

"Employees will see this as a seamless transition," he said. "The only change they will experience will be improved services and a more comprehensive approach to the management of their training and development from the headquarters staff."



ACC in the News

This article mentions Army Contracting Command.

Soldiers pay tribute to fallen Delta Raiders

By Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke
Commanding General, Mission and Installation Contracting Command
(Published in the San Antonio Express-News, Oct. 15, 2012)

They gathered. After all the years, they still get together to remember their friends and brothers. They prayed for those who were not there. Tears were shed. And to honor their ultimate sacrifices, they placed dog tags of each hero who died during the Vietnam War on a memorial board. Their fallen brothers are not forgotten.



Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke talks to members of the 101st Airborne Division's Delta Raiders at an Oct. 5 memorial service in Lockhart honoring the 54 soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/opinion/commentary/article/Soldiers-pay-tribute-to-fallen-Delta-Raiders-3950563.php>



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