



# NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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*"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."*

## 2013 ACC NCOY competition goes virtual

By **Larry D. McCaskill**

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During this year's Army Contracting Command Noncommissioned Officer of the Year competition, participants and judges will rely on technology more than ever as portions of the event will be conducted virtually.

Due to budget constraints, portions of the 2013 ACC NCOY competition will be conducted through video conferencing. The competition is scheduled for May 6-10.

"In some ways this will challenge our NCOs even more," said Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray, ACC command

sergeant major. "The 12-mile foot march and the physical fitness test will be conducted at their home stations. Events like the formal board and exams can be done at home station but will be evaluated through the video teleconference. It certainly puts a different wrinkle on things. Performing in front of a camera can be a bit stressful."

Murray said ACC will select the best-qualified NCO to compete at the 2013 Army Materiel Command Best Warrior Competition. Units will assign sponsors for competitors whose primary mission is to be readily available to assist their competitors for the duration of the competition.

"It's great to watch the competition

and see the warrior spirit not only in the competitors but from their unit sergeants major and others watching the events," he said. "Competition is a part of the Army and one of the attributes that make it so great. Everyone strives to be the best. An event like the NCO of the Year competition is one of the ways that individuals can demonstrate, without a doubt, who is the best."

The competition is open to all ACC NCOs in the rank of sergeant through sergeant 1st class. NCOs wishing to compete should contact their unit's senior NCO for more information or go to the ACC NCOY website on SharePoint, <https://acc.aep.army.mil/NCOY/default.aspx>.



(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

### Army Inspector General visits ACC, ECC

Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, Army Contracting Command, escorts the Army Inspector General, Lt. Gen. Peter M. Vangjel, during a visit to the ACC and Expeditionary Contracting Command headquarters at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., April 10.

## Budget challenges impacting readiness

By **David Vergun**

Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Army leaders told Congress that the readiness Americans have come to expect from the Army is at risk if sequestration and continuing resolutions are allowed to go on.

Lt. Gen. James L. Huggins Jr., deputy chief of staff for Operations, U.S. Army, and three other Army generals testified to that at a hearing before the House Armed Services Committee, Readiness Subcommittee, April 16, regarding the Army's readiness posture.

Huggins told lawmakers bigger impacts in fiscal year 2014 will be felt if the budget is not addressed. Cost deferments in training and modernization this fiscal year will be pushed back to the next, "compounding risk" and creating a "magnitude of challenges ahead."

See BUDGET, page 7.

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# Spotlight on...

For Spotlight submissions, click on the icon.

## Master Sgt. Samantha Weatherspoon Army Contracting Command - Rock Island, Ill.

By **Liz Adrian**

ACC-Rock Island, Ill.

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Master Sgt. Samantha Weatherspoon, the senior noncommissioned officer for contracting at Army Contracting Command-Rock Island, Ill., says she's friendlier than she looks.

"As I get reassigned and moved to new places, I guess I have a demeanor that some people think looks mean, but no one tells me until after they get to know me," said Weatherspoon. "After they get to know me, they tell me that they are surprised I'm so nice. So, I guess I don't look as friendly as I actually am. Lately, I am making a point to smile a lot more."

Weatherspoon is in her third year of contracting, and has been assigned to ACC-RI since November. This is her first time serving as senior NCO, which she said mainly entails taking care of the Soldiers assigned to ACC-RI from advising and mentoring to determining rotations and training.

She said she likes the position because she is learning a lot, it is fast-paced, and she gets to see the results of her work on a daily basis.

"There are a lot of things that I didn't know about human resources, because I never had to worry about it," said Weatherspoon. "After serving in this

position, I've really come to appreciate the people who do human resources, and I really enjoy seeing others' satisfaction with the work that we do."

The senior contracting NCO position has always been on the ACC-RI Table of Distribution and Allowances, but wasn't filled until recently. Weatherspoon was assigned the position because ACC-RI is in the process of standing up the 920th Contingency Contracting Battalion, and a military person was needed to help this transition go smoothly.

"I'll do everything I can to make sure that the 920th battalion and the four contingency contracting teams that stand up have the support they need until they get their entire battalion staff online," said Weatherspoon.

Originally from Houston, Texas, Weatherspoon has been in the Army for 14 years. She started her career as a unit supply specialist at Fort Hood, Texas, and has been stationed at bases all over the world before landing at Rock Island Arsenal.

"After Fort Hood, I was stationed at Vilseck, Germany; Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo; Iraq; Fort Benning, Ga.; Camp Hovey, Korea; Fort Carson, Colo., where I deployed to Afghanistan; and then to Sacramento, Calif., where I was assigned to my first contracting job at the Corps of Engineers," she said.

Weatherspoon said her favorite



Master Sgt. Samantha Weatherspoon

assignment was Germany, though she didn't realize it was her favorite at the time.

"There was so much to do," said Weatherspoon. "The community is so close knit because there is no family, so all you have is the military."

While stationed in Germany, one of her favorite things to do was to go shopping, especially in the Czech Republic's flea markets.

"The base where I was stationed was only 45 minutes away from the border, so we would drive there on weekends and go shopping for crystal," she said. "Poland was the best place to go for pottery."

See **SPOTLIGHT**, page 3.

*NewsBlast readers now have a feedback tool to provide input about the weekly newsletter. Click on the mailbox icon to the right and submit your comments or suggestions. Responses will assist the editorial staff in producing a publication to better meet readers' expectations and information needs.*



## U.S. Army Contracting Command

Commanding General  
Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols

ACC Command Sergeant Major  
Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray

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.

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NEWSBLAST

# Shyu to ACC: ‘Army leadership has your back’

*Editor’s note: Army Contracting Command public affairs had an opportunity to ask Heidi Shyu, the Army acquisition executive and assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, a few questions about Army contracting. She visited ACC and the Expeditionary Contracting Command headquarters at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., on April 4.*

**ACC:** When you think about Army contracting, what is the first thing that comes to mind?

**Shyu:** The strength of our military and civilian workforce. When I receive a Contracting Enterprise Review, or I see the team during a visit to an installation, and especially when I was at the Joint Contracting Readiness Exercise, I meet and interact with amazing folks. It is great to see men and women, civilian and military working in partnership to provide commanders and their Soldiers what they need.

**ACC:** If there is anything, what would keep you up at night when thinking about Army contracting?

**Shyu:** Besides sequestration? The scope of the mission; it is tremendous. Now, I don’t just mean the number of contracts that are awarded, that is big, but what is even more impressive is the way it is accomplished. The rules and regulations adjust continuously and there are important goals that must be met, like those with small businesses and important programs to support such as AbilityOne. In light of all the requirements, the men and women in Army contracting accomplish the mission. It is impressive. There is something else, deployed Soldiers and civilians in harm’s way. I think about them often.

**ACC:** If you were advising a new



*(Photo by David San Miguel)*

**Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols, ACC commanding general, escorts Heidi Shyu (center), the Army acquisition executive and assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, through the ACC compound April 4.**

contracting professional 1102 Army civilian, or 51C Soldier, someone with two to three years experience, what would you tell them?

**Shyu:** I would ask all of our civilians and Soldiers to improve their knowledge on fair and reasonable price determinations and cost and pricing fundamental principals – whether working negotiated or simplified acquisition procedure contracts. We have faced challenges in this area: Mi-17 (Department of Defense Inspector General) report on Should Cost, UH-60 drip pans, to name a couple. We can improve in this area and improvement will be long-lasting with our newer folks on board early.

**ACC:** Do you have a message for the workforce?

**Shyu:** I do. The Army appreciates what you do. From the secretary on down, key leaders are aware of your contribution to the Army. Yours is a tough mission. And it will get harder as we approach fiscal year end. I know, across the Army, 33 percent of our contracts are awarded in the fourth quarter. I also know that the chief of staff of the Army is personally involved in the prioritization of workload and the directive to accomplish 80 percent of (operations and maintenance) obligations by July 1. Normally, this occurs on July 31 and, to my knowledge, never has it had this level of support. The Army leadership has your back. We ask that you do everything you can to ensure that the Army gets the best product and services to our Soldiers.

Thank you for all that you do.

## SPOTLIGHT

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Her love of shopping continues to this day as she and her 12-year-old daughter, Alexandria, – who she calls her “little battle buddy” – are always searching for great deals. They also love skating, bowling and going to the movies.

Besides caring for and having fun with her daughter, Weatherspoon said

she spends the bulk of her time finishing her degree in management studies with a minor in business law and public policy through the University of Maryland. She has been diligently plugging away at the degree through reassignments and deployments and said that she should be finished this summer. This fall, she hopes

to start her master’s degree in management and leadership.

“I will have a little bit of a break between classes and I hope to take Alex up to Minnesota to the Mall of America,” said Weatherspoon. “I always wanted to go, and now that we’re close enough that we can drive, I really want to get up there.”

# Selective retirement board could affect 1,200 field grade officers

By C. Todd Lopez  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – In August, the Army will convene a Selective Early Retirement Board for lieutenant colonels and colonels. The move is just one part of a larger Army effort to meet its congressionally mandated end strength reduction.

Currently, about 500 colonels and 700 lieutenant colonels in the Army Competitive Category meet the criteria for the SERB. While the board may select up to 30 percent of those officers for early retirement, it's expected many officers may opt instead to apply for voluntary retirement.

Those who meet the criteria for the August SERB include active duty colonels in the Army Competitive Category who have been a colonel for more than five years; and lieutenant colonels who have been at least twice non-selected for promotion to colonel.

While the SERB is necessary to both reduce the size of the Army and appropriately shape the officer force for the future, it is a difficult action for the Army to take, said Lt. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg, Army G1.

"It's hard to do, because we're doing it to people who have supported us tremendously with great honor and service to the nation and service to the Army

over the last 12 years while we have been engaged in the fight," he said.

Bromberg said the SERB is not just about force reduction, it's also about force shaping and about ensuring opportunities for other officers to move up in rank.

"What we have seen in the last ten years or so is that the average officer is staying about 10 percent longer than the norm," Bromberg said, saying that colonels that might have retired with 25-26 years a decade ago are now staying for 28 or 29 years in service. "It's just because they want to serve, which is very commendable. But unfortunately, in order to shape the Army, we are going to have to bring that down."

See SERB, page 5.

## College partnership helps contracting professionals reach educational goals

By Larry D. McCaskill  
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The Army has reached a formal agreement that will enable 51C noncommissioned officers to receive academic credit for completion of various military courses necessary for certification in the contracting career field.

The agreement between Excelsior College, Albany, N.Y., and the Army will allow 51C NCOs to receive college credit for the following Army Acquisition Center of Excellence courses: the Army Acquisition Foundation Course, the Army Intermediate Program Management Course, the Army Acquisition Intermediate Contracting Course, and the Army Basic Contracting Course.

"Excelsior College is a non-profit school with a Defense Acquisition University partnership already, plus they are actively involved in the College of the American Soldier and Sergeants Majors Academy," said Master Sgt. Jason Pitts, 51C proponent NCO, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center, Fort Belvoir, Va. "It was a perfect blend

between contracting and staying in line with ongoing Army initiatives."

According to Pitts, the USAASC Center of Excellence and Excelsior College worked on the agreement and curriculum review. The Army Contracting Command provided NCOs to participate in the military occupational skill interview and review process. This ensured the college understood the complex business interactions/experiences the officers and NCOs receive in their daily duties.

"Ninety eight percent of all the NCOs in career management field 51C are assigned to the Army Contracting Command," said Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray, ACC command sergeant major. "The 51C military occupational specialty requires NCOs to have a bachelor's degree in order to obtain contracting certification. NCOs should receive bachelor and graduate-level business credits for the military contracting education they attend. In order to ensure they get the maximum credit they deserve, we partnered with Excelsior College to get them a solid foundation toward completing their education."

Upon completion of the four military courses, the college will

award 51C NCOs 43 semester credits toward a bachelor's degree in one of its business degree programs.

The program, which was created six months ago, is open to officers, NCOs and civilians who have graduated from the center of excellence.

According to Pitts, individuals who want to take advantage of this program should visit their installation Excelsior College representative and bring with them college transcripts, their service school academic report and other pertinent information for evaluation. The school will conduct a review and award credits and set the individual on the path to receive a bachelor's degree in professional studies in business management.

According to Pitts, Excelsior waived the initial evaluation and sign-up fee, but it participates in the "Go Army Ed" program and standard rates apply. It is the only bachelor degree program offering this service but there is a partnership with Webster University for a procurement and acquisitions management master's degree.

For information on the Webster program, go to <http://admissions.webster.edu/admissions/graduate/masters/proc.asp>.

# Fort Bragg team awards multimillion dollar contract in 34 days

By Ryan Mattox

MICC Public Affairs Office

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## JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas –

Members of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Fort Bragg, N.C., played a critical role in meeting an expedited need to establish a comprehensive training and support program for Iraqi defense forces.

Iraqi government officials requested assistance from the United States through foreign military sales for obtaining goods and services in support of their defense forces personnel. The U.S. Army Security Assistance Training Management Organization at Fort Bragg is responsible for the requirement for support, personnel, facilities, transportation, supervision and non-personal services items to perform training services in support of the Iraq International Academy in Iraq.

Due to the nature of their mission, SATMO officials needed it quickly and turned to a team of contracting experts at MICC-Fort Bragg to develop the \$45 million requirement for the academy. The academy will be the centerpiece for professional military education of Iraqi senior leadership within its ministry of defense.

MICC-Fort Bragg officials said the estimated time frame for an award with a value of \$45 million, such as the Iraq International Academy contract,

is typically 280 days from the date of involvement.

“Through coordination and a group effort with all key players, we were able to award this requirement in 34 days,” said Anne Talbot, chief of the installation pre-award division for MICC-Fort Bragg.

*“Through coordination and a group effort with all key players, we were able to award this requirement in 34 days.”*

Anne Talbot  
MICC-Fort Bragg

According to Talbot, there were a few obstacles they needed to overcome during the process.

“Personnel resourcing is always challenging,” Talbot said. “We shifted workload from the assigned contract specialist to ensure the Iraq International Academy was her sole focus. This caused a shift in additional work to other contract specialists within the division. As the division chief and awarding contracting officer, I also had to frequently shift focus to ensure the award time was completed while juggling management of the division.”

Additionally, MICC-Fort Bragg contracting officials were in constant communication with the principal assistant responsible for contracting through the MICC field director office at Fort Bragg to ensure all necessary reviews and approvals were accomplished and

allowed the team to meet the expedited award date.

As difficult as it was to shorten this process to 34 days, the contracting officer still felt the process was the same as with any other award process; however, meeting the expected Feb. 28 award date would be a challenge. The MICC-Fort Bragg team was able to meet the customer’s expedited needs by shifting resources and priorities and effectively communicating with each other.

“Everyone involved from the MICC-Fort Bragg, MICC-FDO Fort Bragg and PARC had to shift resources to focus on this award to ensure success,” Talbot said. “One difference between this award and other awards was the level of detail in reporting our milestones during the process. Because of the level of visibility for an expedited award like this one, we were required to report to the PARC through the MICC-FDO our timelines and challenges twice a week.”

MICC personnel are responsible for providing contracting support for the war fighter across 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 more than \$6.3 billion across the Army, including more than \$2.6 billion to small businesses. The command also managed more than 1.2 million Government Purchase Card Program transactions valued at an additional \$1.3 billion.

## SERB

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Promotion rates to colonel over the last two years have been low, he said, at about 35 percent or lower. He said asking some colonels to leave will clear up spots for new officers to put the eagle on their shoulder.

“Younger lieutenant colonels will still see that opportunity to continue to serve,” he said. “What we don’t want to do is have people say ‘oh, (I) won’t ever get promoted.’”

For the Army to meet the mandated end strength goal of 490,000 Soldiers by fiscal year 2017, it must start making cuts now, Bromberg said.

The SERB will meet on or about Aug.

13. When the board results are approved by the secretary of the Army, which is expected to happen in January 2014, those officers selected will have no more than seven months before they must retire. It’s expected the retirement date for officers selected by the 2013 SERB will be no later than August 1, 2014.

Officers who know they meet the criteria for the SERB, but who choose to volunteer to retire instead of face the SERB, can benefit from an extended advance-time for submitting retirement paperwork. Typically, an officer can put in retirement paperwork a year in advance. Bromberg said that has been extended.

An officer could put in retirement paperwork in June, for instance, before the August SERB, and plan his retirement date for September 2014. Officers who choose to voluntarily retire must have their requests in to Human Resources Command no later than July 8, 2013.

Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh first notified general officers of the SERB late last month, and Bromberg followed that up with a message to personnel officers and staff Army wide, shortly after. Additionally, a Military Personnel message on the subject was released April 4.

# Fort Benning holds first MCoE industry day



*(Courtesy photo)*

**Pat Billins discusses lessons learned and process improvement suggestions during an industry day outreach event March 28 at Fort Benning, Ga. Billings is the chief of the contracting division at MICC-Fort Benning.**

**By Daniel P. Elkins**  
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More than 65 industry representatives from throughout the country took part in the 1st Industry Day conducted March 28 by contracting officials at Fort Benning, Ga., in support of the Maneuver Center of Excellence and installation operations.

The event brought together representatives from 13 of the 14 prime contractors as well as contracting officer representatives, Soldiers and federal employees teaming together to execute a multiple award task order contract valued at more than \$400 million and administered by the Mission and Installation Contracting Command-Fort Benning.

A multiple award task order contract is awarded following a single solicitation to two or more prime contractors to provide the government similar services or products. Those prime contractors then compete for future requirements, or tasks orders, the government places against the MATOC throughout the contract period. This approach results in an expedited acquisition process.

Steve Sullivan, the director of MICC-Fort Benning, said the contract supports the center and garrison operations community in areas such as training development, doctrine development,

capability development, training instruction, and simulations and analysis.

The director credits the collaborative planning efforts between his staff and the MCoE over six months for the success of the business outreach event. Despite having no budget with which to work, he said the 14 civilians and Soldiers from MICC-Fort Benning played an instrumental role in the execution of the event.

“The industry day was extremely successful. Many participants voiced their appreciation for the event, requesting that it be conducted semiannually,” Sullivan said. “Perhaps the most noteworthy accomplishment of the day was the fact that we improved communications between industry and government concerning procedures and what the future holds when considering sequestration.”

The Maneuver Center of Excellence is responsible for the training and leader development of every infantry and armor Soldier – from private to colonel. It provides NCOs and officers in those career branches initial, mid-level and senior-level Army professional development training.

Center officials estimate Fort Benning’s average daily student training load at approximately 12,000 service members receiving instruction in more than 180 courses. They anticipate training approximately 96,000 service members this year.

## Guidance clarifies mandatory sources for contracted services

**By Daniel P. Elkins**  
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**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas –** Acquisition workforce members in the Mission and Installation Contracting Command are following revised procedures aimed at ensuring equitable consideration between small businesses and nonprofit agencies for award of Army contracts.

The MICC command policy memorandum on the required sources for the acquisition of service published March 18 provides explicit guidance on contracting sources to ensure appropriate

acquisition strategy decision making by MICC contracting officers, according to Lynette Ward, an assistant director for MICC Small Business Programs here.

The guidance also ensures procurement actions meet statutory requirements established by the Federal Acquisition Regulation. Part 8 of the FAR identifies required sources of supplies and services while part 19 implements the use of small business programs.

“It clarifies mandatory source procedures, stresses the importance of adequate market research, and provides a standardized decision-making process when developing acquisition strategies,” she said. “This will enable contracting

officers to appropriately satisfy their zest for supporting both the AbilityOne program and maximizing opportunities for small business.”

The policy requires members of the contracting workforce to accomplish necessary planning and market research to provide for the acquisition of commercial items and promote full and open competition to ensure that customer requirements are being met in the most efficient, effective, economical and timely manner. Procurement planning includes a determination of what sources exist to meet the government’s needs. The number and nature of the sources factor into that procurement strategy.

**See GUIDANCE, page 7.**

# GUIDANCE

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The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act requires the government to purchase available supplies or services on a procurement list from participating nonprofit agencies at prices established by the U.S. AbilityOne Commission. Those services may include janitorial and custodial, administrative, document management, call centers, fleet management, warehousing and distribution of federal supplies, full facility management, recycling, food service, laundry, and grounds maintenance.

The commission sets and approves a fair market price for products and services on the procurement list when purchased from designated nonprofit agencies. For a commodity or service to be added to the procurement list, a set of criteria must be satisfied in accordance with federal codes.

The FAR allows contracting officers to acquire services not on the procurement list from other sources. AbilityOne nonprofit agencies may continue to compete for such contracts without preference or priority unless a potential agency has its own status under a socioeconomic program.

Ward said small business specialists located at MICC contracting offices throughout the nation are called upon to engage early in the acquisition process to provide guidance to contracting personnel and customers on the consideration of small business.

"Supporting both the AbilityOne Program as well as small business programs such as woman-owned and service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses assists in strengthening our nation's economy," Ward said.

She added the clarifying policy, available at the MICC SharePoint site, also benefits the command's mission partners with the timely delivery of customer service.

"Having clear guidance will expedite the procurement process, allowing contracting officers to engage the most effective strategies to meet customer needs," Ward said.



(Photo by Lt. Col. Michelle Sanner)

## ECC general visits Huntsville elementary school

**Brig. Gen. Ted Harrison, commanding general, Expeditionary Contracting Command, reads to students at the Blossomwood Elementary School, Huntsville, Ala., during the school's Family Reading Night event April 9. Blossomwood administrators often seek out local dignitaries to spend time with students.**

# BUDGET

Reduced spending for personnel, training and modernization will also limit the Army's ability to adhere to the commander in chief's Defense Strategic Guidance, which was designed to sustain U.S. global leadership, he said.

Specifically, Huggins said budget cuts have resulted in the curtailment of around 80 percent of unit training.

Asked what type of training non-deployed Soldiers are getting, Huggins responded that they are limited to training at the squad level. They are not able to train to higher levels within larger-scale exercises at the national training centers.

Some Soldiers are getting the training they need, however. Those Soldiers include those preparing to go to Afghanistan, those in Korea or preparing to go to Korea, and those who are part of the Army's Global Response Force. All of those, he said, need to be at higher readiness levels.

The general concluded that strategy must drive the way ahead and force structure should then follow, the way ahead should not be resource-driven.

## DEGRADED LOGISTICS

Lt. Gen. Raymond V. Mason, deputy

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chief of staff, Army G4 (Logistics), said that as the drawdown continues, he's especially concerned about getting equipment out of Afghanistan and getting it reset so it can be used again.

The equipment drawdown in Afghanistan "is orders of magnitude harder than in Iraq," he said.

The tenuous overland route through Pakistan and equipment beat up by extremes in temperature and terrain make the process "slow and fragile" he said, adding that a lot of it is being airlifted out, an expensive way to conduct retrograde.

Once the equipment gets back to the U.S., it's shipped to depots and arsenals across the country for reset. But the civilian workers there who make up the Army's "organic industrial base" are preparing to be furloughed soon, he said. That reduction in manpower will delay reset of equipment, which means it will take longer to return equipment to the units that need it for training.

As well, contracts are being cut, including second, third and fourth-tier suppliers, many of them small businesses, he said. This is creating gaps in the supply chain and the industrial base.

# ACC HOSTS 'BRING IN THE SPRING' BIKE RIDE



Col. D. D. Mayfield, Expeditionary Contracting Command, G3 Operations and Plans, gives a victory salute.



Mikhael E. Weitzel, Army Contracting Command historian, explains the role Redstone Arsenal played in space research. His briefings were part of the command's history bike ride.



(Photos by David San Miguel)

Soldiers and civilian employees participated in a "Bring in the Spring" bike ride through Redstone Arsenal, Ala., April 12. The ride was followed by a town hall meeting to recognize and update employees on issues and a potluck luncheon.



## ACC in the News

This article mentions Army Contracting Command.

### Community honors Army civilians of year *Association's top award goes to Cathy Dickens*

By Kari Hawkins

Assistant editor

(Published in the Redstone Rocket, April 10, 2013)

Cathy Dickens has long admired the work of several Redstone Arsenal civilian leaders who have stood at the podium as the top Department of the Army Civilian of the Year during the annual awards program presented by the Redstone-Huntsville Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army.

And now she joins them.

[http://www.theredstonerocket.com/news/article\\_49e2037c-a1f6-11e2-9667-001a4bcf887a.html](http://www.theredstonerocket.com/news/article_49e2037c-a1f6-11e2-9667-001a4bcf887a.html)



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