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NewsBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."



ACC gives children first-hand look at contracting mission

By Giselle Lyons
*U.S. Army Contracting Command
Office of Public & Congressional Affairs*

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.— Nearly 50 children joined their parents during the Army Contracting Command's Bring Your Child to Work Day to learn what ACC employees do on a daily basis.

Members of ACC and the Expeditionary Contracting Command headquarters here hosted the April 26 event at the ACC campus on Wells Road as a part of the national Bring Your Child to Work Day observance.

Children ages 5 to 19 years old and their parents started the day with refreshments and a group photo. They then broke into groups and traveled throughout a variety of stations that demonstrated what Soldiers and different command offices do. The stations included physical training exercises, video interviews, camouflage face painting, a K-9 presentation, and a rucksack demonstration.

"The face painting and the vehicles are so cool," said Cayson Steward, 9, a Hazel Green Elementary School

student and the son of Misty Steward, ACC-Redstone Arsenal Pricing Directorate.

After a quick pizza lunch, the children split into two groups based on age. The younger group headed back outside to examine new displays, including a firetruck and K-9 dogs with trainers.

New Market School student Julie Lloyd, age 10 and the daughter of Joy Lloyd in the ECC Policy Division, stayed at the PT station for a while.

"I love exercise, so this has been my favorite station," Julie said.

The older group experienced an abbreviated version of the Myers-Briggs personality evaluation and then participated in mock job interviews and critiques to show them different things to do as they prepare for jobs later in life.

"I really think the cool part was the interview. You pick a job you would be interested in and interview. It's really educational," said Allison Gabbert, 15, daughter of Col. Jeffrey Gabbert, ACC chief of staff. She also said the first-aid station was her favorite because of her interest in the medical field.

Parents loved the event as well. "This day has been amazing, great activities and so well-organized. We didn't know that all of these displays would be here," said Erika McPherson, ECC Office of the Command Counsel and mother of Erik, 13, Morris, 10, Jacob, 8, and Alicia, 6. "And the Myers-Briggs and mock interviews are just a great way to prepare them for their future. This event truly was spectacular."

See more photos, page 3.

(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

Gabriel, the 4-year-old son of Army Contracting Command employee, Jeff Ostendorff, and his wife, Heather, participated in the ACC/Expeditionary Contracting Command's "Bring Your Child to Work" Day, April 26.

Expeditionary

Responsive

Innovative

Army launches civilian training, leader development website

By **Julia Bobick**

Army Civilian Training & Leader Development Division, Army G3/5/7

WASHINGTON – To improve access to information and increase participation in Army civilian training and leader development opportunities, the Army G-3/5/7 Training Directorate’s Civilian Training and Leader Development Division launched a one-stop website.

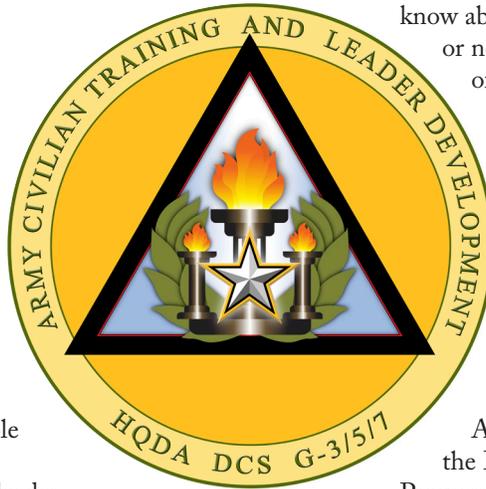
The site at www.civiliantraining.army.mil serves as an integrated resource for civilian employees, supervisors and Army leaders interested in learning more about the training and opportunities available to the Army Civilian Corps. Since several Army organizations administer the various leader development courses, developmental assignments and training, Army civilians and supervisors have in the past had to visit several different sites to find out about mandatory training and professional development opportunities.

“We wanted to provide civilians and supervisors a comprehensive site to help them more easily navigate the myriad opportunities in Army civilian training and leader development,”

said Vicki Brown, chief of the Civilian Training and Leader Development Division. “It’s our goal to ensure all civilians know about the available training, often at little or no cost to their units, and take advantage of the training that fits into their individual career goals and supports their organization outcomes.”

The updated website includes course descriptions, prerequisites and registration links for Army Civilian Education System, or CES, courses, Supervisor Development Course requirements, Competitive Professional Development and Academic Degree Training, advanced opportunities like Senior Service College, Army Congressional Fellowship Program and the Defense Senior Leadership Development Program, as well as career management tools like Army Career Tracker.

The Civilian Training and Leader Development Catalog (when fully deployed) will be the official resource for information on centrally managed civilian training, professional and leader development training opportunities, replacing the information currently found in the Army Civilian Training, Education and Development System catalog.



NewsBLAST
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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Photo by Larry D. McCaskill

ACC commemorates Holocaust Remembrance Day

Lt. Col. Steven C. Maddry, Expeditionary Contracting Command assistant chief of staff, G-6 Information Office, shares a moment to explain the importance of Holocaust Remembrance observances with his son, Steven, and daughter, Megan. His children attend Monte Sano Elementary School and had taken the day off to participate in the Army Contracting Command/ECC's Bring Your Child to Work Day.



(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

Sgt. Kwadwo Kyeremateng, Expeditionary Contracting Command administrative assistant to the command sergeant major, applies camouflage face paint on one of 50 participants at the Army Contracting Command/ECC Bring Your Child to Work Day held at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., April 26.

Bring Your Child to Work Day



(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

Alicia McPherson, 6, daughter of Erika A. McPherson, ECC administrative and civil law attorney, poses with an M136 AT4 Rocket Launcher, during a break from the Bring Your Child to Work Day activities.



(Photo by Ed Worley)

Col. Jeffrey A. Gabbert, Army Contracting Command chief of staff, welcomes participants to the Bring Your Child to Work Day activities.



(Photo by Ed Worley)

Daniel J. Gallagher, ECC director, Contracting Operations Division, shows his daughter, Emily, 9, one of several vehicles displayed during the day's activities.



Michelle A. Brown-Earlywine
*G-8 Executive Assistant
 ACC ATAAPS & DTS Program Manager
 Redstone Arsenal, Ala.*

Spotlight on...

Michelle Brown-Earlywine

‘Get ‘er done’ but the right way, not the short way’

As the Army Contracting Command lead defense travel administrator and headquarters’ super-user for the Automated Time Attendance and Production System, Michelle Brown-Earlywine provides travel assistance and guidance to the staff and subordinate commands and ensures the workforce is paid in a timely manner.

“On the pay side of the house, if the employee is not receiving pay, they’re not working; therefore, no pay plus no work equals the Soldiers’ requirements aren’t being met,” she said.

It’s a dedication and commitment she takes seriously and in which she draws from more than 13 years working with different commands. In addition, Brown-Earlywine has participated in a



Spotlight submissions must include the linked form and a high resolution photo (300 dpi). Click on the icon for the submission form.

multitude of training opportunities to include courses at the Defense Acquisition University to help in her current position.

She also is expected to earn a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Ashford University in Iowa later this year.

“The knowledge I bring to the table regarding all the travel idiosyncrasies helps our employees get to where they need to be in a timely manner,” she said. “We cannot fail in this or the mission will fail. My motto is ‘get ‘er done’ but the right way, not the short way.”

See SPOTLIGHT, page 6.

Anonymous Email Program

<https://acc.aep.army.mil/Pages/Anonymous.aspx>

The Commander’s Anonymous Email Program is set up so employees can voice their concerns or ideas freely and confidentially.

Concern/Suggestion: Command Initiatives Update

Response: Thank you for your inquiry regarding command initiatives.

The initiatives were discussed during the last Army Contracting Command town hall and were meant to be a broad overview of highly visible initiatives currently ongoing. The integration of Antiterrorism/Operational Security into contracting was highlighted due to the recently published “Integrating Antiterrorism and Operations Security into the Contract Support Process” desk reference. The desk reference addresses intelligence and industrial security within the coversheet, however

these topics are not its main focus, and therefore were not specifically highlighted. The desk reference directs the antiterrorism officer to work in coordination with appropriate staff subject matter experts (such as intelligence) to identify and mitigate risks.

An additional concern raised was regarding growing the command and the ratio of 1100-series to the rest of the workforce. Although the 1100 series comprises the largest amount of ACC personnel, 25 percent of the workforce are in a series other than 1100. During this time when budgets are decreasing we are forced to have a small workforce, but smaller workforce does not mean less capabilities. Our workforce is able to learn additional roles to accomplish the mission. For functions that require

specialized knowledge or training, individuals with such skills are sought out or the appropriate training is provided to existing personnel. ACC will consider adopting any concise, focused, training modules developed by local subject matter experts for inclusion in a just-in-time training library accessible throughout the command. This is one way to leverage our valuable human capital and continue to do more with less. As a command we strive to have the best, well trained individuals for each position.

ACC town hall slides can be found on Sharepoint (follow the official documents folder to the administrative repository tab). For more information, please contact the ACC Contracting Operations Directorate at (256) 955-5721.



(Photo by Ed Worley)

Rain fails to dampen ACC/ECC Fun Run

Despite near 90 degree temperatures and alternating heavy rains, Staff Sgt. Zabadi J. Ruiz, executive director driver, Army Contracting Command, manages to pull ahead for first place during the ACC/Expeditionary Contracting Command's 4-Mile Fun Run held April 27 at the Creekwood Park in Huntsville, Ala.

Registration to open for Army Ten-Miler's 30,000 entries

By Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Army Ten-Miler, one of the national capital area's landmark running events, is gearing up for this year's 28th annual run, Oct. 21.

Race officials confirmed that they will again implement a two phase registration process (priority and general) to distribute this year's 30,000 entries.

A new Army Ten-Miler website will feature a simpler navigation and an updated registration process that will verify expected runner finish times to ensure a more competitive race.

Priority registration began May 1 for the military and those runners who have participated in at least seven or more Army Ten-Miler races. Approximately one-third of the total 30,000 race entries are reserved for priority registration on a first-come-first-serve basis. Military runners must use a ".mil" email address to register.

Army Ten-Miler runners who've run in seven previous races can now view a searchable database on the website to verify their priority registration qualification.

On May 15, registration for the general public will open on a first-come-first-serve basis, beginning at 12:01 a.m. To register and view complete race information, visit: www.armytenmiler.com.

The Army Ten-Miler has partnered with the Richmond-based RaceIt for this year's secure, online race registration.

"Runners will find a slightly different registration design and process but we are confident that they will encounter the same seamless, efficient process that they have experienced in the past," said Jim Vandak, race director. "Our 30,000 runner field fills rapidly so we strongly encourage runners to enter early."

The flat, fast, scenic 2012 Army Ten-Miler is the third largest 10-mile race in the world and draws more than 30,000 military and civilian runners each year.

Plan before you sweat

Safety center offers tips to prevent physical injuries

By Art Powel

*Strategic Communication Directorate
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center
Fort Rucker, Ala.*

Outdoor activities are popular during warm weather, but physical injuries can put you or your family members on the sidelines during the fun.

According to the U.S. Army Public Health Command, musculoskeletal injuries are a leading contributor to the estimated 25 million limited duty days logged in the Army during an average year. Many of those injuries occur during physical training or while participating in sports. Fortunately, preventing sports and physical fitness injuries is relatively easy — all it takes is proper planning.

The Army Pocket Physical Training Guide contains a wealth of information on the planning and preparation required for safe and injury-free physical activities. Recommendations include:

Safety

- Always warm up and cool down before and after physical activity.
- Although some muscle soreness is expected following physical activity, pushing yourself too hard can aggravate injuries.
- Activities should be age appropriate. There are many ways to exercise outdoors; plan ahead so everyone in your group can participate in an activity suitable for their age and fitness level.
- Stay hydrated.



Click on the image for ACC safety message.

- Provide water for pets coming along for the fun.

Shoes

Proper footwear plays a key role in injury prevention. Keep the following tips in mind when choosing shoes:

- Shoe selection should be tailored to your particular foot type.
- The arch of your foot will help determine the type of shoe you should purchase. High arches need cushioned shoes; stability shoes are appropriate for normal arches; and motion control shoes are the best fit for low or no arches.
- Always tie and untie shoes when putting them on and taking them off.
- Shoes should be comfortable when you try them on. If they aren't, don't buy them.
- Replace running shoes when they begin to show visible wear or after 500 miles, whichever occurs first.
- The best shoe for you may not be the

most expensive. Always try on both shoes in the pair you're considering and walk around the store before purchasing to ensure proper fit.

- If possible, shop for shoes at the end of the day to accommodate foot swelling.

Clothing

Proper clothing can help prevent injuries and keep you safe by heightening your visibility to motorists and protecting against the sun's harmful rays. Remember these tips when shopping for exercise clothing:

- Select items that include reflective material if you'll be running or exercising outdoors during times of low or limited visibility.
- Items should be comfortable, light in color and fit loosely.
- Never wear rubberized or plastic suits during outdoor activities.

Environmental conditions

Find an alternate indoors location when the weather is extremely hot.

- Avoid activities near heavily traveled streets and highways during peak traffic hours.
- Avoid exposure to tobacco and other pollutants before and during exercise.
- Exercise early in the day or during the late evening if your area has a problem with smog.
- Use waterproof or sweat proof sunscreen when exercising.

For additional information on exercise safety, visit <https://safety.army.mil>.

SPOTLIGHT

continued from page 4

Born and raised in Germany, Brown-Earlywine finds the culture of living abroad amazing. She admits that "home is where you hang your hat and right now that is Alabama."

It's a home she enjoys with her 15-year-old son, Aiden; her dog, Mr.

Tucker; and, a partner of 11 years, Erin Kirkpatrick. She participates in and teaches Zumba classes and volunteers as a soccer and cheerleading coach at the YMCA.

"Zumba has become a big part of my life," she said. "It overhauls your mind,

body and spirit if you have the right teacher and good music. If you haven't tried a Zumba class, I challenge you to come attend one. You will fall in love with it. The best thing is you don't have to be a dancer to enjoy the atmosphere."



ACC in the News

These articles include mention of the Army Contracting Command.

What the customer sees

A capabilities approach to establishing a contingency contracting office

By LTC Vernon L. Meyers

916th Contingency Contracting Battalion, Fort Sam Houston, Texas

(Published in the April-June 2012 issue of Army AL & T, pages 93-95)

Contingency operations are chaotic by nature. Usually they are defined by disorder, uncertainty, and immature processes and procedures. Contingency contracting officers (CCOs) are normally among the first personnel to deploy in response

to a contingency or wartime situation. This first-in, boots-on-ground contracting presence fills the gap resulting from the Army supply systems' inability to fulfill the requirements of a rapid buildup.

<http://armyalt.va.newsmemory.com/>

Knowledge building

Lessons learned from a contracting intern's developmental assignment to Kuwait and Italy

By David M. Hampton

U.S. Army Contracting Command-National Capital Region

(Published in the April-June 2012 issue of Army AL & T, pages 128-131)

As an intern from U.S. Army Contracting Command (ACC) – National Capital Region, I had the unique experience of accompanying my agency's Executive Director, Michael R. Hutchison, and Gregory Moore, Kuwait/Qatar Reachback Branch Chief for ACC-Rock Island, IL, on a two-week

developmental assignment to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, and Vicenza, Italy. Although my assignment was only 12 days long, I learned important lessons that would have taken years to understand had I not spent time OCONUS, especially in a contingency environment.

<http://armyalt.va.newsmemory.com/>

Army places order for 24,000 M4 carbines with Remington

By Rob Curtis

Army Times *(Published April 22, 2012)*

It was bound to happen. The Army has been buying M4 carbines exclusively from Colt since 2002 (though the first

Colt M4 contract was awarded in 1996). But, as of Friday, Remington Arms has been added to that dance card. The question is whether Colt retained a portion of the contract. It appears they haven't, but it's hard to tell from the published documents.

<http://www.armytimes.com/news/2012/04/army-carbine-remington-042212w/>

A veteran and his 'forever friend'

Specially trained dogs offer companionship, hope for those suffering from PTSD

By Mike Kilen

Des Moines Register *(Published April 28, 2012)*

(Editor's note: Mitch Chapman is an employee at ACC-Rock Island, Ill.)

Eight men who suffered war stood shoulder to shoulder in a crooked line. One Iraq war veteran leaned on his good leg, the other scheduled for amputation. A Vietnam vet stood back two steps, unsteady since 9/11 when long-buried war

demons revisited.

Mitch Chapman fidgeted. His legs had to pump. That's the way it was since the armored truck he was driving in Afghanistan hit a bomb and corkscrewed backward. He hung upside down, held by a harness. After he was pulled from the truck, the vision of a lifeless leg that stuck out from under it lodged in his mind.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20120429/NEWS/304290076/A-veteran-and-his-forever-friend-?odyyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CNews>

