



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."



Jeffrey Crisp, deputy garrison commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Kaiserslautern, presents Lori Taylor, 903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion Family Readiness Group leader the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Family readiness group leaders presented President's Volunteer Service Award

By Rachel Clark
409th Contracting Support Brigade

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Family Readiness Group leaders from the 903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion and the 409th Contracting Support Brigade here were honored April 20 for their volunteer service.

FRG leaders Lori Taylor, Ellen McMillan and Rania Corn received the President's Volunteer Service Award for their volunteer work with the 903rd CCBN FRG. Joanie Ralston was recognized for her work with the 409th.

"As FRG leaders, they have been instrumental in supporting the vision of the FRG by organizing and planning activities, welcoming newcomers, acting as liaison to the commander and family members, and various other leadership functions of the FRG," said Lt. Col. Lynda Royse, 903rd CCBN commander.

The purpose of the FRG is to encourage resiliency among the members by providing information, referral assistance and mutual support, and also provide activities that enhance the well being and esprit de corps within the unit.

See **VOLUNTEERS**, page 2.

Nichols to assume command of ACC

Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols will become the U.S. Army Contracting Command's first commanding general at a 10 a.m., assumption of command ceremony, May 17, at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

She takes the leadership reins from Carol E. Lowman who has served as ACC's executive director since Sept. 27. Lowman will become the deputy to the commanding general.

A native of Niagara Falls, N.Y., Nichols previously served as program executive officer, Program Executive Office Soldier at Fort Belvoir, Va., and served as the first commanding general of the Expeditionary Contracting Command. She has more than 20 years experience in Department of Defense acquisition and is Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Level 3 certified in both contracting and

program management, and Level 2 certified in systems engineering.

Headquartered at Redstone, the ACC is a major subordinate command of the U.S. Army Materiel Command and includes two subordinate commands – ECC and the Mission and Installation Contracting Command – and six major contracting centers that support AMC's other major subordinate and life cycle management commands.

The command provides global contracting support to war fighters through the full spectrum of military operations. It consists of more than 6,300 military and civilian employees worldwide who awarded and managed more than 198,000 contracted actions valued at more than \$86.9 billion in fiscal year 2011.



Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols

Expeditionary

Responsive

Innovative

USO honors Dunwoody as Woman of the Year

By Army Materiel Command Public Affairs

NEWYORK – Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commander of Army Materiel Command, was honored by the USO during a May 1 luncheon in New York City.

Dunwoody shared the honors with Marillyn Hewson, executive vice president, Electronic Systems, Lockheed Martin Corporation.

At the beginning of the presentation, Dunwoody spoke with Ann Curry, co-anchor of NBC’s “TODAY” show about what our service members have accomplished in the last decade and the challenges faced by today’s generation of veterans .

“It has been a tough decade, fighting on two fronts, while responding to contingencies around the globe. When we remind ourselves that only one percent of Americans serve in uniform you can understand the kind of heavy lifting we’ve asked our service members and their families to do.” Dunwoody said. “I absolutely think today’s service members and veterans will be remembered as our next greatest generation.”

One female service member from each of the branches of the armed forces also received Military Leadership awards from the USO during the luncheon. Those awards were presented to Air Force Capt. Gina Fasciani, U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Sheen Adams, Army Sgt. Julia Bringloe, Coast Guard Lt. j.g Katherine Ustler, and

Navy Lt. Katherine Worstell.

“Today, what was once a band of brothers truly has become a band of brothers and sisters and you don’t have to look any further than these five great American service members to see why,” said Dunwoody.

During her question and answer session with Curry, Dunwoody highlighted the obligations the military has to care for returning veterans.

“We’ve made strides in care for wounded warriors and support to their families, but we have to do more,” she said. “We owe today’s vets a quality of life that’s equal to their quality of service,”

“As we reshape our armed forces for a complex and uncertain future – one thing is certain – we’ll need the dedicated men and women of the USO standing by our side wherever we serve,” she added.

Brian Whiting, CEO and president, USO of Metropolitan New York, said it was an honor and a privilege to present the USO Woman of the Year Award to Dunwoody.

“Being the first female four-star general in the United States military, she is a trailblazer and true American hero,” he said.

This event was established to recognize those women, both civilian and military, who have played important roles by providing direct or indirect support for our military during some of the most challenging times in our nation’s history.



(Photo by Kari Hawkins)

Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody (third from right), poses with award recipients following a May 1 USO Woman of the Year luncheon. Pictured are left to right: Air Force Capt. Gina Fasciani; Marine Corps Sgt. Sheen Adams; Army Sgt. Julia Bringloe; Marillyn Hewson, executive vice president, Electronic Systems, Lockheed Martin Corporation; Dunwoody; Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Katherine Ustler; and, Navy Lt. Katherine Worstell.

VOLUNTEERS

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Jeffrey Crisp, deputy garrison commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Kaiserslautern, accompanied by Command Sgt. Maj. Gene Canada, presents Rania Corn, 903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion Family Readiness Group leader, the President’s Volunteer Service Award.

Both Corn and Taylor received silver level awards for contributing between 250-499 hours towards volunteer services from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2011.

The awards ceremony was held at the Armstrong’s Club, Vogelweh, Germany and sponsored through U.S. Army Garrison - Kaiserslautern.



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\$4.6 billion contract ensures continued innovation

By Kari Hawkins
The Redstone Rocket

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Business as usual – in terms of supplying innovative hardware solutions to address aviation and missile war fighter capabilities – is going on today at the Prototype Integration Facility thanks to a new five-year, \$4.6 billion contract signed April 23.

The contract signing between the Army and Redstone Defense Systems represents nearly five years of work to obtain high-level Department of Defense and Office of the Secretary of Defense endorsement for the mission of the Prototype Integration Facility, said Danny Featherston, program manager for the Prototype Integration Facility, which is managed by the Engineering Directorate of the Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering Center.

“It’s been nearly a five-year process from the development and approval of the acquisition strategy to awarding the contract,” Featherston said.

So, it was a day of celebration April 23 when AMRDEC and Army Contracting Command-Redstone officials joined with officials from Redstone Defense Systems to sign the new PIF contract, a three-year base contract with two additional renewable years.

“A contract is executed within minutes by the simple stroke of a pen. However, it takes inordinate amounts of time and



Photo by Kari Hawkins

Army Contracting Command-Redstone contracting officer Leslie Lancaster, seated at left, and Darrell Harrison, general manager of Redstone Defense Systems, sign a \$4.6 billion contract that will continue the operation of the Prototype Integration Facility for five years. With them are Aviation and Missile Research Development and Engineering employees, including PIF program manager Danny Featherston standing far left, who worked to make the contract possible.

effort on the part of government personnel and contractor personnel to reach this very critical stage in the acquisition cycle,” said ACC-Redstone contracting officer Leslie Lancaster, who oversees the PIF contract.

“I was fortunate to have the honor of signing such an important contract and I consider this action one of the most important actions I have been associated with in my nearly 30-year career in contracting. I would have never been able to reach the point of signing this contract without the tireless dedication and professional endeavors of a very large cast of players. This contract award is a tribute to all of those individuals who worked tirelessly to reach this point and to whom I respectfully and endearingly refer to as my very closest friends.”

The team approach to the new contract is indicative of the team approach that has made the PIF successful in finding hardware solutions for its customers, said Cathy Dickens, ACC-Redstone executive director/principal assistant responsible for contracting.

“This shows it does take a team to really make things happen and that’s true for performance also,” she said.

AMRDEC’s PIF was established in 2002 to fulfill an Army need for rapid response hardware solutions to challenges faced by the war fighter in theater.

“We’ve achieved great success here at the PIF,” Featherston said. “We’ve been in operation for 10 years. We started out small and grew with demand.”

Today, the PIF provides solutions for hardware issues to all branches of the military and homeland security organizations. At any given time, the PIF is managing more than 200 projects involving hardware improvements, from developing new technology capabilities for helicopters to designing hand protection gear for operating machine guns in cold temperature environments.

“A lot of the requirements that come into us aren’t even forecasted,” Featherston said. “We address immediate needs that arise from new threats in the field, or new conditions and challenges experienced by the war fighter. We provide a solution in days or weeks or months, rather than years. We integrate new technology on existing systems or change technologies to meet new uses by the war fighter.”

See CONTRACT, page 4.



Mike Holcomb

*ACC Compound Commandant
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.*

Spotlight on...

Mike Holcomb

Commandant here to serve

By **Larry D. McCaskill**

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

Mike Holcomb may report directly to the Army Contracting Command chief of staff, but don't tell that to any of the ACC and Expeditionary Contracting Command employees on the Redstone Arsenal compound where he is the commandant.

As the Redstone Arsenal compound commandant, Holcomb has the daunting task of satisfying each of the more than 300 inhabitants on a daily basis.

That includes his supervisor, Chief of Staff Col. Jeff Gabbert.

The commandant's position grew into a section comprised of Master Sgt. Gustavas Dampier as the noncommissioned officer in charge, Karla Loyd as the supply technician with temporary help from ACC Installation and Logistic's Ray Gray managing facilities.

"The commandant section's responsibilities extend to wherever ACC and ECC employees are on the compound and sometimes off," Holcomb said. "I love my job and the satisfaction I get from



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

helping people. The downfall to the job is the more responsibility and workload that my section takes on, the less time I get to interact with the workforce."

Initially, the Sacramento, Calif., native said his position dealt more with space management and supplies. Now leading a section, his team does everything from overseeing ACC-occupied firing ranges to adjusting the temperature in the relocatables. That means developing a close working relationship with everyone from the directors to the contracted custodial staff.

"I get and respond to phone calls and emails on a daily basis from command personnel needing help," Holcomb said. "It might be obtaining an ergonomic chair or it might be helping to secure a firing range. It doesn't matter. I'm here to try to make their lives a little easier while at work."

CONTRACT

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The PIF has become a model for other AMRDEC operations throughout the U.S., which are part of the Army's Research Development and Engineering Command. It is funded 100 percent by government customers, and works with more than 2,000 companies that participate as PIF team members as required to develop hardware solutions. The PIF includes about 120 government workers and 900 contractors located at the Arsenal headquarters facility as well as other facilities on the Arsenal, at the Jetplex and Madison County Executive Airport and the contractor's location.

"We do everything from large complex

system level hardware development to engineering piece parts," Featherston said. "Because of our wide range of capabilities and projects, we need to have access to a lot of subcontractors who can add their expertise to what we are doing."

The new contract took effect immediately, although work started under the previous contract will continue for up to 18 months with the previous contractor, JVYS or Joint Venture Yulista/SESI. Redstone Defense Systems assumed contractor responsibility for all new projects that began on or after April 23. It is one of the most significant contracts signed in this fiscal year by the Army.

"This is a huge contract, not only in size but also in the impact it has on our war fighters and our nation," Lancaster said.

While the PIF focuses primarily on developing hardware solutions for aviation and missile systems, its reputation has led to its involvement in work for other branches as well as the Department of Homeland Security and foreign military sales.

"We provide economical solutions and we are concentrated on rapid delivery of quality solutions," Featherston said. "It's all about effectiveness and efficiencies for the war fighter. As long as we continue to do that, we will build on our capabilities for the future."

Now we're cooking!

By Frank McClanahan

Civilian Injury Prevention Directorate
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center
Fort Rucker, Ala.

Whether you like to grill with propane or charcoal, the end result is the same — delicious outdoor fare that has family and friends lined up with paper plates and plastic utensils in hand.

Outdoor grilling can be fun and safe, but there is an element of risk for serious injury and property damage for the uninitiated, unprepared or careless. The following guidelines will help you minimize your risk and ensure your grilling experience is safe and successful.

Grilling with propane

At the Consumer Product Safety Commission's urging, an industry standard providing several safety features in gas grills, hoses and connections was adopted in 1995. These features limit the flow of gas if a hose ruptures, shut off the grill if it overheats, and prevent the flow of gas if the connection between the tank and grill isn't leak proof. If your grill was manufactured before 1995 and doesn't have these safety features, you might consider purchasing a new one. But if your old standby still works fine and you want to get a few more years out of it, pay special attention to these safety tips:

- Set up your grill in an open area away from buildings and locations where children are likely to congregate and play, and out of close proximity to combustible materials.
- Inspect all hoses and tubes for cracking, brittleness, holes and leaks, as well as sharp bends that could block fuel flow. Periodically check the inside of tubes for spider webs, which could create blockages that result in gas backflowing into the control valves, posing an ignition risk. Flames should always burn blue; orange flames indicate an obstruction.
- Keep propane cylinders upright, and never store filled cylinders near the grill or in your home.



Click on the image for ACC safety message.

- Keep hoses as far as possible from hot surfaces and dripping grease.
- Never use gasoline as a fuel source.
- Never store filled cylinders in a hot car or trunk, as heat can increase pressure and possibly open the relief valve, allowing gas to escape.

According to the CPSC, about 600 gas grill-related fires or explosions occur annually, resulting in an average of about 30 injuries. To reduce these incidents, the National Fire Protection Association published a standard that requires overflow prevention devices on propane cylinders manufactured after April 1, 2002. The valve handles on new propane tanks have three lobes, giving them a triangular shape, while the valves on older tanks have five lobes.

Grilling with charcoal

For charcoal grilling, use only starter fluids specified for charcoal grills. Follow the instructions on the container and never apply additional fluid once the fire has been ignited; flames could travel up the fluid stream and ignite the container. If the fire is burning too slowly, rekindle it with dry kindling and add more charcoal as necessary. Be sure to keep starter fluid away from the grill and never, under any circumstance, use gasoline as a starter fluid.

Select quality charcoal for quick lighting and a long burn life. Store charcoal in a cool, dry area and keep bags of instant-light charcoal tightly closed.

Grills remain hot long after you're through barbecuing, so once finished, replace the lid, close the vents and allow

the coals to burn out completely. Soak cooled coals with water and dispose in a non-combustible container. To reduce the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning, never burn charcoal inside your home, vehicle, tent or camper. Charcoal should never be used indoors, and as with propane grills, always keep children away from open flames.

The Insurance Information Institute recommends that when grilling, whether with propane or charcoal, the chef wear a heavy apron and flame-retardant oven mitts that fit high over the forearm. In the event of a burn, run cool water over the injury for 10 to 15 minutes. Never put butter or salve on burns — these "remedies" seal in heat and cause further blistering. Seek medical attention immediately for serious burns.

Food safety

A successful cookout requires more than just good grilling protocol. Don't forget to adhere to food safety guidelines to prevent bacterial illnesses. Here are some helpful tips:

- Scour the grill's grate with a wire brush and spray the metal cooking grid with oven cleaner, rinsing thoroughly afterward. Apply a nonstick cooking spray to the grid before each use to prevent food from sticking, but never spray directly onto a hot grill, as the propellant may be flammable.
- Always keep raw meats, poultry and vegetables separate to prevent contamination.
- Wash hands with hot, soapy water thoroughly and frequently.
- Keep work surfaces clean and wash or change utensils to prevent contaminating cooked meat with germs from raw meat.
- Never place grilled meat back on the plate or platter that held it raw.

As we approach the summer season, more and more backyard chefs will roll out their trusty grills to show off their culinary expertise. By following a few safety guidelines, you can ensure your attempt at barbecue perfection doesn't go up in flames.

For more information on grilling safety, visit www.iii.org/individuals/home/tips/grilling/.

Bragg initiative seeks to recruit much needed 51C Soldiers, officers

By Maj. Douglas N. Ralph

639th Contingency Contracting Team

Mission Contracting Office - Fort Bragg, N.C.

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – As the U.S. Army reduces in size, reclassification into the acquisition corps may be an option for qualified Soldiers who want to stay in the Army.

In fact, the contracting career field is expected to grow by almost 50 percent of its current population by the end of fiscal year 2013. The career field needs more officers in functional area 51 and noncommissioned officers in the 51C military occupational skill, said Master Sgt. Jason Pitts, senior enlisted advisor, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center, Fort Belvoir, Va.

To capitalize on the situation, the U.S. Army's Expeditionary Contracting Command maintains a partnership with ASC to actively recruit for future 51Cs at Fort Bragg. The installation has almost 60,000 Soldiers and is a prime location for highly qualified candidates, said Lt. Col. Dennis McGowan, director, Mission Contracting Office - Fort Bragg.

During a two-day symposium, Soldiers were briefed, given detailed information on the acquisition corps and what it means to be a member.

Pitts and Sgt. Maj. Leatrice Person, MCO - Fort Bragg, led the effort to pull the Fort Bragg units together for the recruiting effort. They gained support from Fort Bragg's garrison, the 82nd Airborne Division and the 18th Airborne Corps command sergeants major.

According to Person, ECC pursued multiple avenues to conduct the recruitment. Once the senior leadership was on board, the ECC established contact with all the retention NCOs to get the word out.

While the rest of the Army is shrinking, as are retention benefits, the acquisition corps is growing and providing bonuses, excellent promotion opportunities, advanced civilian schooling, degree completion, and training with some of the leading U.S. business.

For more information about the acquisition corps or 51C reclassification opportunities, visit the website at: <http://live.usaasc.info/career-development/military-nco/career-planning-steps> or call (703) 805-1048.



(Photo courtesy of the 21st TSC Public Affairs)

Commander receives honors

KAISERNSLAUTERN, Germany – Brig. Gen. Andree Piggee, left, commanding general, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, accompanied by Command Sgt. Major Michael Sanchez, presents Col. Debra Daniels, commander, 409th Contracting Support Brigade, with the de Fluery Medal for her contributions to Army engineering.



ACC in the News

This article mentions Army Contracting Command.

Ain't Misbehavin' Artwork

By Mark Thompson

Time Magazine, Battleland

(Published May 4, 2012)

The Army buys lots of things for the troops, but this is one we haven't seen before. Behavioral artwork?

What's especially surprising is that Thursday's

<http://battleland.blogs.time.com/2012/05/04/aint-misbehavin-artwork/#ixzz1uBqEyCDU>

announcement was simply a declaration that the contracting office at Fort Gordon, Ga., intends to award a contract for an unspecified amount to "Perspective, LLC" of Holladay, Utah. There is, the notice says, "only one responsible Source." A quick web search shows Perspectives, plural, to be a photo studio of some kind. Strangely, it doesn't seem to have a website, or at least one Battleland can find.

