



# NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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

## Olympic experience resonates within Nichols

By **Larry D. McCaskill**  
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Every four years, denizens spanning the globe focus their attention on the Olympic Games. For many, it's watching their national athletes compete to bring home medals for their native countries; for others it's a dream of one day making the team. For Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, U.S. Army Contracting Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., the games are memories of past accomplishments and friendships.

A member of the 1984 Olympic team, Nichols remembers that time fondly.

"It was one of the most memorable times of my life," said Nichols, who served as a manager and assistant coach for the 1984 U.S. Olympic Women's Handball Team. "To work with elite athletes and



(USOC Archives)



(U.S. Army Photo)

### Olympian Camille Nichols and Commanding General Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols.

travel the world competing allowed me to see other countries and cultures. It also allowed me to see the immense similarities all of us humans have - pursuits of excellence and dreams. The spirit of the

games is strong, healthy and very healing."

Many are unaware of her athletic background even though it's normally in plain sight. "I had been to many different

See OLYMPIC on Page 3

## Food, fun, frolic highlight Org Day

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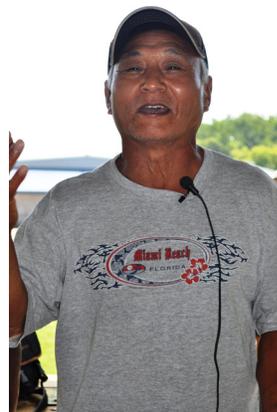
Headquarters U.S. Army Contracting Command and U.S. Army Expeditionary Contracting Command had a day of fun and frolic during their 2012 Organization Day July 25 at Point Mallard Park, Decatur, Ala.

More than 300 Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians along with their families and friends participated in a number of Olympic-style events, an innovative warm-up dance/aerobic session a talent show, golf and a variety of events for family members.

"We had a great turnout and received a lot of good feedback on the event," said William Baxter, deputy chief of staff, ACC Human Resources G1. "Those involved from both commands did an awesome job and I especially want to thank Sandy Merritt and

the org day committee for a job well done."

Staff members prepared lunch See ACC/ECC on Page 4



(U.S. Army Photos by Ed Worley)



**Agile**

**Proficient**

**Trusted**

# Spotlight on...

## Travis Petty

**Describe your current position?**

As the antiterrorism/force protection officer, I develop, coordinate and implement the 409th Contracting Support Brigade's force protection program, conducting assessments and evaluations of our antiterrorism program, our operation security program as well as our physical security program. I provide the latest vulnerability assessments to the command to ensure that the 409th is implementing the necessary countermeasures to keep our personnel safe and to continue our mission. One of my other functions with the 409th CSB is to back up the unit readiness noncommissioned officer in his absence.

**What are your hobbies/passions?**

My hobbies include playing the guitar, or at least attempting to play, and traveling throughout Europe.

**What's your background?**

My last military position was the Texas Army National Guard's 56th Infantry

Brigade and Combat Team's command sergeant major in Fort Worth, Texas. In my last assignment before joining the 409th, I was a security manager for the Department of Homeland Security in Irwin, Texas.

**How did you get to become the antiterrorism /force protection officer?**

In the military, I worked as an AT/FP officer for a couple years and really enjoyed it so I figured when I retired, I would do it full time.

**What's the most challenging and rewarding part of the job?**

The most challenging part of my job would be the ever-changing environment that I work with and of course the most rewarding is knowing that I'm doing what is necessary to keep our people safe.

**What are some of your goals?**

When it happens, to enjoy retirement with my wife of 23 years.



(U.S. Army Photo)

**Travis Petty**

*Antiterrorism/Force Protection Officer  
409th Contracting Support Brigade  
Kaiserslautern, Germany*

## Anonymous Email Program

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

The Commander's Anonymous E-mail Program is set up so employees can voice their concerns or ideas freely and confidentially.

**Concern/Suggestion:** ACC Newsblast Articles

**Response:** Thank you for your feedback regarding our weekly ACC newsletter, the NewsBlast. Our goal is to highlight the accomplishments of our global Army Contracting Command team. Regarding your concern about too much coverage of NCOs, we reviewed NewsBlast editions published over the last four months. We actually found that NCOs were the least-covered audience when compared to mentions of officers and civilians. We published 34 articles or photos featuring civilians, 24 articles or photos highlighting officers and 16 articles or photos featuring NCOs. We strive to cover every segment of the ACC family and welcome articles, photos and suggested story ideas. Story ideas should be forwarded to our Public Affairs team at: [acc.pao@us.army.mil](mailto:acc.pao@us.army.mil). Individual employees can nominate themselves for our Spotlight feature by clicking on the following link and completing the form: SPOTLIGHT.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please contact Ed Worley, our Public Affairs Chief at (256) 955-7633 or [Edward.g.worley.civ@mail](mailto:Edward.g.worley.civ@mail).

## Scheil places at AMC NCOY



(U.S. Army Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

**Kudos to Staff Sgt. Jeremiah Scheil, 413th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Shafter, Hawaii, the 2012 ACC Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, for finishing as the second runner-up at the Army Material Command 2012 NCOY competition held at Rock Island, Ill., July 16 - 18.**

**OLYMPIC**

continued from page 1

ceremonies and seen bios, so I thought I would put that tagline on my bio to see if people actually read it. I was surprised because it does catch their interest," said Nichols. "I actually just started putting that on about eight years ago; it was related to my moving around a lot, I was taking plaques out of boxes and I found my 1984 Olympic Certificate, and I realized I was really proud of it and it is a part of who I am today and that I should show that off.

"My time with the U.S. National Team taught me a lot about the sacrifices that other Americans make each and every day," said Nichols, who became involved in women's handball when she was a cadet at West Point. "The dedication and commitment and tireless pursuit of excellence helped me focus even more

on my professionalism as I continued in the Army after my Olympic experience. Honing your craft, being an expert, giving it your all: these things ring true in our Army. These things can be seen on the fields of strife and the fields of glory."

Nichols believes it takes great teams to accomplish tough and incredible things on and off the battlefield.

"This is true in athletics as well as the military. Even the individual competitive sports take a team of coaches, managers, trainers, family and friends to be successful," she said.

Not the most popular sport of the Olympics, the handball competition tends to receive little if any television time.

"Every event should be televised," Nichols said with a smile. "It is a culmination of years of sweat and tears

that these athletes went through for their five minutes of fame. The problem is no one person could actually sit through it all, it would take months. Seriously, the gold medal round for each sport should get some TV time for those thousands of supporters at home. This sport is very exciting and could really use the exposure."

A few years ago, Nichols' Olympic teammates held their 25th reunion but she was unable to attend due to scheduling. She hopes that doesn't happen again.

"I have a couple of teammates I connect with via email. I believe they are working on the 30th reunion. I hope to be able to get there. I know they all will be watching the Olympics over the next two weeks and I will be with them in spirit," she said.

**Army Sgt. Vincent Hancock Brings Home the Gold**



*(U.S. Army Photo)*

**LONDON**-With his final shot, Hancock broke into a wide grin and pumped his right fist several times in celebration of his second gold in as many Olympics.

Clad in khaki shorts, sneakers and a ball cap (plus ear plugs, protective glasses and a vest with pockets full of rounds), Hancock fired a perfect final round to set an Olympic record of 148. He also set an Olympic record in qualifying earlier Tuesday morning with 123 hits in 125 shotgun blasts. He set the previous Olympic qualification record of 121 on his way to gold in 2008 in Beijing.

Hancock is based at Fort Benning, Ga. He is a member of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit.

Read more about Hancock here: [Army Olympic Bio. \(U.S. Army Release\)](#)



Click on the image for ACC safety messages.



**U.S. Army Contracting Command**

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

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

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ACC/ECC

continued from page 1

To see and download more photos from the ACC/ECC Organization Day activities, go to the ACC Flickr page at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/armycontractingcommand/sets/72157630752421780/>



(U.S. Army Photo by Ed Worley)



(U.S. Army Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)



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