



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

ACC announces leadership changes

Army Contracting Command is preparing to say farewell to two of its senior leaders.

Dr. Carol Lowman, deputy to the commanding general, will retire later this month after more than 20 years of Army service. Col. Jeffrey Gabbert, chief of staff, will soon leave for the Pentagon to become chief of staff to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology.

"The command owes a debt of gratitude to these two outstanding leaders," said Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols, ACC commanding general. "Carol is one of the founding leaders of this command and has been key to our success. She's a special friend and I will miss her wise counsel, dedication and passion for people."

In describing Gabbert's contributions, Nichols said, "Jeff has been a strong right arm and the rock of this headquarters. We all hate to see him go but the Army needs his special talents and leadership in the Pentagon."

Prior to assuming her current duties, Lowman served as ACC's second executive director from September 2011 to May 2012. Previously, she was acting director of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. She began her Army career in 1992 as a contracting intern with



Dr. Carol Lowman



Col. Jeffrey Gabbert

the Information Systems Command at Fort Ritchie, Md. She was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in March 2005.

Lowman considers her greatest accomplishment as leading the ACC.

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Accompanied by (left to right) ACC Command Sgt. Maj. John Murray; Bruce Berinato, ACC-NJ executive director; and Staff Sgt. Mario Thompson, Expeditionary Contracting Command; Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols, ACC commanding general, unfurls the organization's new colors.

CG visits Picatinny Arsenal, unfurls new colors

By Wendy M. Lopez
Army Contracting Command-New Jersey

PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J. – Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, Army Contracting Command, paid a visit to ACC-New Jersey, Aug. 9 -10

Her first visit there since assuming command, the general spoke to the contracting workforce and toured the newly renovated facilities at Picatinny Arsenal and the facilities currently under construction at nearby Fort Dix, N.J.

See **VISIT**, page 5.

AGILE

PROFICIENT

TRUSTED



(Photo by Lt. Col. Anne Edgecomb)

Secretary of the Army John McHugh talks with senior leaders attending the intermediate course of the Army Senior Executive Education Program, July 18, at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.

McHugh: Army's success depends on civilian workforce

By Lt. Col. Anne Edgecomb
Secretary of the Army Public Affairs

SOUTH BEND, Ind. – The last 11 years of conflict have once again given the nation reason to be proud of American Soldiers' incredible achievements: the sacrifices they've made, the flexibility and skill they've shown, and the strategic capabilities they've brought during a challenging time.

"This Army has not just succeeded, but it has excelled, and has done so magnificently," said Secretary of the Army John McHugh, addressing a group of the most senior career civilians during a recent professional education program. Acknowledging the critical role Army civilians have played, McHugh continued, "All of us, as part of this team, had a very important piece in that effort."

Through opportunities for professional development and education, the Army will shape the future civilian workforce, ensuring adaptive leaders with diverse experiences, who are able to solve complex problems – an effort comparable to the development of Soldiers throughout their careers. Retaining and managing talent is a

top priority for Army leaders, particularly during downsizing.

Citing the tough situation civilians have endured – pay and hiring freezes and the threat of shutdowns – McHugh said he's committed to providing civilian employees the means by which to grow, evolve and develop professional capabilities despite diminishing resources.

Speaking to senior civilians attending the Army Senior Executive Education Program at the University of Notre Dame here, McHugh said that while the Army needs to remain robust on the military side to execute missions, it must also provide for a sufficiently robust civilian workforce with money for training and modernization.

"If you don't do that, you get out of balance," he said.

Civilians make up roughly one quarter of the 1.4 million-person Army, providing a full range of skills that complement military occupational specialties. From acquisition specialists and human resource managers to medical professionals and engineers, civilians are integral to helping the Army meet its missions around the world.

See McHUGH, page 4.

CHANGES

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"It was, indeed, an honor and privilege to lead the command during a period of transition from civilian to military leadership and to work with so many great Soldiers and civilians," she said. "I've especially enjoyed working again with General Nichols, whom I had the pleasure of serving with earlier when she commanded the Expeditionary Contracting Command at Fort Belvoir, Va."

Lowman is also very proud of her long association with the disabled community. In October 2011, she was appointed by President Obama as a member of the Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled.

Following a long-postponed vacation in France with her husband, Lowman plans to establish her own consulting business.

Gabbert became the ACC chief of staff in June 2011. Previously, he served successively as commander of the Defense Contract Management Agency's Central Region; commander, DCMA Huntsville and commander, DCMA – Iraq/Afghanistan.

In October 2011, Gabbert was named the U.S. Army Acquisition Corps Acquisition Director of the Year (Colonel Level).

He is most proud of "the integrated team we built on behalf of two subordinate commands and six major contracting centers we support every day," he said. "The processes and systems we put in place will serve as our legacy to the Army Contracting Command.

"The ACC is a great place to work," he added. "Our 6,000-plus personnel are our greatest asset – it's their professionalism, dedication and friendship that I will miss the most."

He said working for Assistant Secretary of the Army Heidi Shyu will be "a great honor" and that he is "humbled" by his selection for this position.

Nichols said Keith Jackson, deputy director, ACC Mission Operations (G-3), will serve as the interim chief of staff. She expects a new deputy will be announced soon.

Tendon Valiant 2012

Contracting team supports Indonesian exercise

By Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Jackson
18th MEDCOM Public Affairs
Capt. Ji H. Oh
411th Contracting Support Brigade

MALANG, Indonesia – The annual multi-national Medical Readiness Training Exercise Tendon Valiant 2012 began June 18 at the Soepraoen Army Hospital in Malang, Indonesia.

Led by teams from the 18th Medical Command (Deployment Support) and the U.S. Army Pacific Surgeon's office, the annual six-day exercise was hosted by the Indonesian National Armed Forces - Tentara Nasional Indonesia to provide medical and dental assistance to the local residents.

Dentists, nurses, physicians and other health providers from the United States, Indonesia, Australia, Cambodia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga and Vietnam teamed up to improve military professionalism and cooperation between the Asia Pacific nations.

Considering the magnitude of the exercise, the 411th Contracting Support Brigade's 640th Senior Contingency Contracting Team from Camp Red Cloud, South Korea, was deployed to act as the lead contracting team for the mission.

"The contracting team set up a contracting office and executed the procurement/contracting process from cradle-to-grave in an operational environment," said Capt. Ji H. Oh, 411th CSB contracting management officer. "Each team member was involved in all aspects of the contracting process including everything from conducting market research to assisting in developing the requirements to creating solicitations, and awarding and modifying contracts to accommodate the medical treatment teams' needs."

Contracting requirements included supporting behavioral health and first responder seminars for medical professionals and health volunteers as well as train-the-trainer courses for Indonesian



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rodney Jackson)

Brig. Gen. Keith Gallagher, commander, Pacific Regional Medical Command and Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii, visits with local villagers during Tendon Valiant 2012. The 411th Contracting Support Brigade's 640th Senior Contingency Contracting Team provided contracting support for the six-day multi-national medical training exercise held in Indonesia, June 18-24.

National Armed Forces medical personnel and community health volunteers. This was in addition to the door-to-door house calls and a dental program in eight locations throughout Malang which was incorporated into the exercise to assist the more than 38,400 locals with health services and training.

"We have a very exciting event this year," said Army Col. Dwight Shen, a physician at Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii. "It is a new concept introduced to us by Col. Frank Newton, deputy surgeon, U.S. Army Pacific. This concept is based on developments in medical engagements by international military forces. It will improve the health care of the local population by emphasizing education and delivering treatment to the patient's home instead of having them come to see us at the clinic."

"The work that you are doing on helping with health issues in your communities is so important," said Rear Adm. Raquel Bono, command surgeon, U.S. Pacific Command, "From looking at infectious disease to looking at the things that are affecting other people in the community to include behavioral and mental health.

"We know in medicine how important it is for everyone to have health in many domains that include not only the physical condition but mental, inner spiritual and the social well being," he said. "So, I'm very grateful and I'm also impressed and encouraged by the work and participation that all of you are showing here."

In the end, Oh said, the medical team treated more than 10,000 local patients.

Spotlight on...

Serving our nation's war fighters for more than 40 years

Ruth-Ann Smith is a contract administrator with the Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Describe your current position:

I administer construction task orders under the Multiple Award Task Order Contract and the City of Aberdeen Water and Wastewater Contract. As a team leader, I train and mentor team members. This involves executing task orders, contracts and modifications.

Describe your professional/education background:

I have worked in contracting for more than 40 years. First, as a clerk typist followed by assignments as a

procurement clerk, a purchasing agent, contract specialist, contract administrator and contracting officer. I have worked in every branch in the Tenant Contracting Division, ACC-APG.

My experience has ranged from services, technology, installation support and construction. I have an associate degree in business administration.

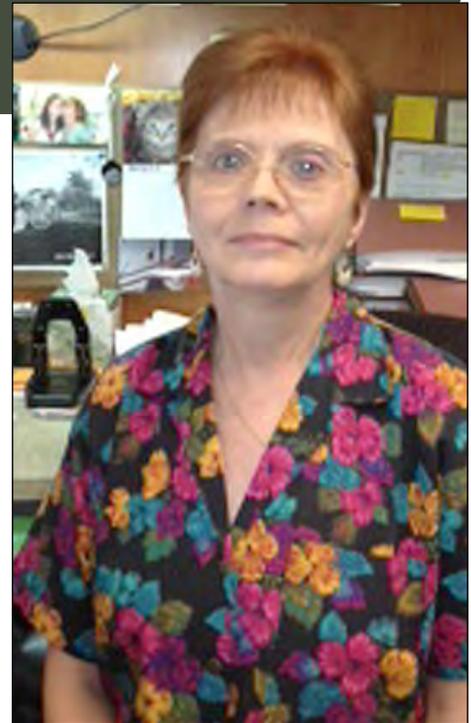
Where do you call home? Do you have children/grandchildren/pets? What do you do in your spare time?

I live in Pylesville, Md., which is in Harford County. I have two grown children, Chris and Jennifer; one grandchild, Samuel, who is nine months old; and three cats.

In my spare time, I like to read, sew, crochet, knit, care for my pets and babysit Samuel. In fact, I am looking forward to retirement so that I can spend more time with Samuel.

How does your job support the Soldier?

I support war fighters by processing



Ruth-Ann Smith

contracts to renovate and construct buildings on Aberdeen Proving Ground and Edgewood, Md. Building upgrades and new building construction provide for a pleasant environment and living quarters for our war fighters when they return home from deployment. In addition, these buildings are utilized for research and development to provide our Soldiers with better equipment for the battlefield.



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In an era of declining budgets and a reduction in active duty end strength, it's likely the civilian workforce also will be smaller, decreasing even beyond last year's reduction of 8,700 employees. And although the Army hasn't determined specific numbers for the future, budget realities indicate these cuts aren't the end.

Generally, during every post-conflict period, budgets decrease. The Army's challenge, according to McHugh, is to manage it.

"We have to get this right," he said.

In 2009, then-Secretary of Defense Robert Gates gave the services a mission to increase efficiency. McHugh said the Army has met this challenge.

"Every day for the last three years,

we've been looking for ways to do things more smartly, in a way that can help us go forward as intelligently as possible," he said. "We can manage it and shape it ourselves, or we can have it done to us."

McHugh said he knows the "irreplaceable contributions" civilians have made to the Army. "Our Soldiers forward deployed should know they couldn't have done the things they have been able to do without the kind of leadership and support (civilians) have provided."

"We are committed not to try to balance our budget requirements on the backs of anyone, and that includes the civilian workforce," McHugh said. "Without our people, we don't have an Army."

VISIT

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ACC-NJ executive director, Bruce Berinato, held town hall meetings at both Picatinny Arsenal and Fort Dix to welcome and introduce Nichols to the workforce. Attended by approximately 250 and 100 people respectively, the townhall meetings afforded the general a forum to discuss the ACC mission and communicate her vision and expectations for ACC-NJ. These meetings also gave attendees an opportunity to ask the general questions.

“The ACC-NJ workforce was honored and proud to have Maj. Gen. Nichols, the first military commander of ACC, visit these sites,” Berinato said.

A highlight of the visit was the unfurling of the new ACC-NJ unit flag by Nichols, who was accompanied by Command Sgt. Major John Murray, ACC command sergeant major; Staff Sgt. Mario Thompson, Expeditionary Contracting Command; and Berinato.

While at ACC-NJ, Nichols received briefings from each of the center’s



Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols, ACC commanding general, communicates her vision and expectations for the ACC-NJ workforce during a recent visit to Picatinny Arsenal, Aug. 9-10.

directors and members of the contingency contracting officer team. The briefings presented an overview of the ACC-NJ organization, its present workload and customer base, and the status of ACC-NJ’s

stand up activities and programs such as the Ammunition Enterprise Smart Buyer Program and the Source Selection Support Center of Excellence.



ACC in the News

This article mentions Army Contracting Command.

Overcoming PTSD: MICC contracting officer gets back in fight to help fellow Soldiers

(Published Aug. 10, 2012, in Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston)

By Ben Gonzales

Mission and Installation Contracting Command

JBSA-FORT SAM HOUSTON – A trip to today’s military hospitals reveals American warriors afflicted with many different ailments, including battle injuries, missing limbs and severe scars.

Time and medical care eventually heals all physical wounds, but some wounds leave no physical scars.

Stress and anxiety can take its toll on even the strongest Soldiers. Being under the constant barrage of mortar attack and sniper fire while fighting around the world with the fear of encountering improvised explosive devices or ambush attacks on the road every time you leave the base can wear a person down.

<http://www.jbsa.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123313608>



Click on the image for ACC safety messages.

