



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

ACC recruiting recent college grads through rapid-fire hiring campaign

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Recent college graduates looking for a career in Army contracting should keep their eyes on Armyhire.com beginning today for a series of rapid-fire job announcements, according to Army Contracting Command's human capital director.

ACC will be hiring up to 150 recent college graduates to fill entry-level positions at a number of U.S. locations, said Bill Baxter, ACC deputy chief of staff, Human Capital G-1. The jobs will be posted on Armyhire.com, the command's civilian employee recruiting website. A number of hiring authorities will be used to make tentative job offers quickly, he said.

"We're looking for the brightest and most talented people to join our team of world-class contracting professionals to help transform the way the Army buys its goods and services," Baxter said.

He said the entry-level positions will be available at the GS-7 pay grade and selected applicants will be assigned to the contract specialist career field.

Baxter confirmed that ACC is still in the midst of a command-wide hiring pause for most of its civilian vacancies, but explained that the entry-level positions are being funded by Headquarters Army Civilian Training, Education, and Development System to help manage future attrition in the contracting career field.

People interested in applying must have a current copy of their college transcripts and an up-to-date resume at USAJOBS. Applicants will also be required to



complete an online assessment.

Applicants should be "energetic and highly motivated graduates," Baxter said, with strong math, analytical and communication skills. They must meet the following requirements:

- Have a bachelor's degree
- Be a United States citizen
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.95 or higher
- Have the ability to obtain and maintain a secret security clearance
- Have a minimum of 24 academic hours in business-related disciplines such as accounting, finance, economics or marketing.

For more information and to review job postings, go to Armyhire.com.



(Photo by Betsy Kozak)

CG unfurls new ACC-APG colors

Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, Army Contracting Command, unfurls the new ACC-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., flag during her recent visit there. She was assisted by ACC Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray (left); Staff Sgt. Larin Harris, 722nd Contingency Contracting Team; and Steven R. Bryant, deputy director, ACC-Aberdeen Proving Ground. See ACC-APG, page 3.

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Spotlight on...



Maj. Brenda F. Perry

Supporting military missions, nation during major disasters

Maj. Brenda F. Perry is the chief, contracting support operations with the 412th Contracting Support Brigade at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Describe your current position:

I support U.S. Army North during major disasters within the U.S. Northern Command area of responsibility by providing contracting teams when requested.

Describe your professional/education background:

I have a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University in organizational development and human resources. I

am Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Level III-certified in program management and Level II-certified in contracting.

Where do you call home? What do you enjoy during your spare time?

I call home Mountain Home, Idaho, and I have two dogs, Picasso and Rymbrant. During my spare time, I enjoy running.

How does your job support the Soldier?

As a contract specialist, I procure goods and items that ensure the war fighter has all the necessary tools to conduct the mission.

409th CSB deputy joins expert panel, addresses 'Doing business in Europe'

By Rachel Clark

409th CSB - Kaiserslautern, Germany

FRANKFURT, Germany – Tony Baumann, deputy to the commander, 409th Contracting Support Brigade, spoke at the Europe Joint Engineer Training Symposium held here July 10-12.

He was one of four subject matter experts asked to participate in the "Doing Business in Europe" panel for E-JETS. The panel discussed the various aspects that need to be considered when doing business in Europe from the perspective of Department of Defense design and construction agents as well as the U.S. Army Contracting Command.

Baumann discussed German labor laws, taxation issues and the effect of the U.S. Army Europe transformation.

The 2012 E-JETS was designed to meet the needs of military engineers and facility managers in the European theater and companies desiring to do business with DOD in Europe and Africa. The conference offered attendees up to

12 professional development hours over a two-day period, with sessions covering topics facing military engineers and DOD installations: joint engineer contingency operations, energy, environment and facilities asset management. E-JETS speakers hailed from the European Region and included other DOD representatives.

Baumann has more than 28 years of federal service, and has held various positions in contract negotiation, contract pricing, contract policy, production management, and program management. As deputy to the commander, he helps manage operations for the 409th CSB and its ten subordinate regional contracting offices which award over \$1 billion in contracts annually supporting the U.S. Army in Europe.



Tony Baumann



U.S. Army Contracting Command

Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols

Office of Public & Congressional Affairs
Director
Art Forster

Public Affairs Team Chief
Ed Worley

Editor
David San Miguel

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MICC awards \$326 million to small businesses in July

By Daniel P. Elkins
MICC Public Affairs

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – More than \$326 million in contracts were awarded to small businesses throughout the nation in July by contracting officials with the Mission and Installation Contracting Command.

Through July, MICC contracting officers have awarded more than \$1.6 billion in contracts to small businesses representing 44.7 percent of total small business eligible dollars awarded by the command this fiscal year. The MICC’s small business goal is 47.5 percent.

A revision to small business goals by the assistant secretary of the Army for Acquisition Logistics and Technology in April 2012 led to a goal increase for the MICC from 47 to 47.5 percent.

“The goal increase is welcomed news by

small business owners,” said Sandy Spiess, the MICC Small Business Program associate director. “A half percentage point increase in the fiscal 2012 small business goal equates to approximately \$32.5 million more in small business awards.”

The command’s small business program consists of directors here and specialists at 40 sites around the country who work closely with small business representatives to ensure maximum opportunity to compete for Army contracts is afforded across all small business categories.

Small business officials here monitor each small business category throughout the fiscal year to ensure they are on track to achieve award goals established by Army Contracting Command officials. The amount of contract dollars awarded, percentage achieved and goal in each small business category through July include:

- Small disadvantaged business: \$834

million awarded to achieve 22.8 percent toward a goal of 24 percent.

- Service-disabled veteran owned small business: \$314 million awarded to achieve 8.6 percent toward a goal of 6 percent.
- Woman-owned small business: \$310 million awarded to achieve 8.5 percent toward a goal of 10 percent.
- Historically underutilized business zone: \$306 million awarded to achieve 8.4 percent toward a goal of 10 percent.

The MICC is responsible for providing contracting support for the war fighter across Army commands, installations and activities located throughout the continental United States, Alaska and Puerto Rico. In fiscal 2011, the command executed more than 63,000 contract actions worth almost \$7 billion across the Army, including \$2.8 billion to small businesses throughout the country.

CG visits ACC-APG, uncases new colors

By Betsy Kozak
ACC-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Members of the Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., gathered Aug. 6 to witness the official uncasing of the organizational colors during a ceremony officiated by Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, ACC commanding general and Steven R. Bryant, ACC-APG deputy director.

About 700 employees attended the ceremony either in person or by video teleconference at ACC-APG’s six remote site locations.

The ceremony and town hall kicked-off Nichols’ two-day site visit with ACC-APG. During the visit, she received briefings from the center’s division chiefs who provided an overview of ACC-APG’s mission, customers, workload, current initiatives and challenges. She also toured the APG facilities and met with customers.

“The organizational colors embody

the spirit and essence of the unit,” said Gregory L. Davies, ACC-APG chief of staff and ceremony narrator. “It is the colors that signify a unit’s history and symbolically portray the glories, accomplishments, failures, joys and sorrows of its members.

“The organizational colors embody the spirit and essence of the unit.”

– Gregory L. Davies
 ACC-APG chief of staff

“This uncasing ceremony marks a new beginning for ACC-APG,” Bryant said. “As a contracting center, we are proud to be a member of the ACC under the direction of its first military commander, Maj. Gen. Nichols. We have a professional team of contracting employees and look forward to a successful future with the integration of military members across

the organization.”

Members of the U.S. Army Reserve’s 915th Contracting Support Battalion, headquartered in Baltimore, Md., also attended the uncasing ceremony. Lt. Col. Ruby Renee Lardent, 915th commander, presented a certificate of appreciation to ACC-APG for supporting the training of Army Reserve contingency contracting Soldiers.

Immediately following the ceremony, Nichols addressed the forum in a town hall meeting.

“It is truly an honor to be here with ACC-APG to mark this significant event,” Nichols said. “Supporting our Soldiers is our number one purpose.”

Nichols encouraged all members to work as a team with a focus on mission success. She also challenged everyone to improve contracting support across the Army by developing efficient and effective solutions and to improve partnerships with customers through collaboration.

409th CSB provides contracting support across Europe

By Rachel Clark,

409th CSB, Kaiserslautern, Germany

With a geographic footprint spanning across 104 countries, the 409th Contracting Support Brigade in Kaiserslautern, Germany, is the Expeditionary Contracting Command's support link on the European and African continents.

"One of the biggest challenges for contracting officers is providing support to some challenging logistical requirements," said Col. William J. Bailey, commander, 409th CSB, and the principal assistant responsible for contracting – Europe.

"This is true while providing sustainment contracting services in our garrison environment or contingency contracting in a deployed environment," he said. "Whether we are contracting for mules to cross the mountains of Afghanistan, camels in the Middle East or trains, planes and cars in Europe, we have to do so in a fashion that will ensure we meet our customer's requirements and enable them to accomplish their mission on time."

The 409th consists of one battalion and nine contingency contracting teams spread across Germany who provide support to 15 Army installations.

In the Ukraine, Capt. Kelley Smith, 649th Contingency Contracting Team, Kaiserslautern, was part of the support team for the Joint Chiefs of Staff exercise Rapid Trident 2012. The exercise included 1,394 people from 16 nations. A total of 156 U.S. participants worked alongside exercise partners training on international security assistance force-focused peacekeeping tasks in field training and command post exercises.

Synchronizing multiple exercise funding sources provided challenges to established contracting planning timelines, Smith said. The mission was successfully executed and served as an example for complex expeditionary contracting operations.

In Belgium, Roland Becker, a contracting specialist in the Regional Contracting Office Benelux, supported the 68th World War II D-Day commemoration by writing contracts for food, generators, light stands, latrines, and fencing for the event that supported more than 200 military members on temporary



Two Ukraine soldiers (left) discuss the military contracting mission with Sgt. 1st Class Fred Warren, 170th Brigade Combat Team, and Capt. Kelley Smith, 649th Contingency Contracting Team contracting specialist. Smith and members of the 649th CCT were in the Ukraine in support of Rapid Trident 2012, a Joint Chiefs of Staff exercise conducted July 16-28.

duty in Normandy, France.

"My first big event was the 60th anniversary commemoration of the Normandy landing in 2004," said Becker, who has been in contracting for 10 years. "The goal was to be able to support 1,000 Soldiers" during the historic event.

Anita McLain, contracting officer, Theater Contracting Center, Kaiserslautern, works on a component of a total maintenance contract for the area. This large-scale contract, which awarded more than \$400 million in services, covers everything from grounds maintenance, equipment maintenance and repair, as well as construction projects for the various bases.

McLain said it can be a challenge on both ends as none of the three on-site military personnel are contingency contract specialists.

"What they lack in knowledge, they make up for in the willingness to cooperate and support," McLain said of the Soldiers who work in conjunction with contracting specialists assigned as reachback for operations for Israel. "They

have to deal with the language barriers while interfacing with the contractors on the existing contracts and they do all the leg work when gathering the information necessary to submit the packages for new requirements."

In Latvia supporting Saber Strike 2012, contracting officers Maj. Paul Tomcik and Staff Sgt. John Manurs from the 606th Senior Contingency Contracting Team, Kaiserslautern, work multiple contracts for fuel, life support areas, rental vehicles, bus transportation, and material and handling equipment.

"Support to exercises such as Saber Strike provides contingency contracting officers the opportunity to work in a dynamic environment where we can offer contracting solutions from cradle-to-grave in a short span of time," Tomcik said. "This exercise allows us to leverage the contracting assets from Latvian and Estonian defense forces as well as the U.S. embassies in Latvia and Estonia to provide our customer with the necessary support to conduct the exercise successfully."

See 409th CSB, page 6.

Local children look to chaplain for answers



(Photos by Ingrid Murray)

Harper Rasmussen has fun trying on a helmet and protective vest.

By Larry D. McCaskill
ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. - Not one to turn down an invite, Army Contracting Command's Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles "Chip" Fields found himself fielding questions from a very inquisitive group of local children at the Grace United Methodist Church Sunday School here.

Ingrid Murray, wife of ACC Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray, was talking to a group of children, kindergarten to fifth grade, when one child talked about his dad serving in the Army and who was presently deployed.

"One of the other kids said 'well he doesn't get to go to church then'," Murray said. "I knew right then that this was an opportunity to help them understand a little more about the Army."

Soon after, she mentioned the conversation

to Fields who immediately set up a visit with the children.

"It was very important to him to let the children know that the Soldiers' spiritual needs were being met no matter where the Army sends them," Murray said.

The meeting with the children generated a lot of interest in the chaplain and his role in the Army.

"They were inquisitive and excited about the chaplain's kit. Sunday school ends at 10:30 a.m., but they didn't leave until 10:45 a.m.," Murray said.

According to Fields, the riveting conversation included answers to why the Army has chaplains, the equipment chaplains use in the field and how those tools correspond to what they knew about church.

"They wanted to handle everything," Fields said after showing the children his chaplain's kit as well as his helmet and protective vest.

"A famous preacher (Harry Ironside) once said, 'Put the cookies on the bottom shelf, so the children can get to them'," Fields said. "One of the hardest things for a theologian to do is refrain from speaking like a theologian when talking to people, even more important when talking to children.

"I learned how to take deep spiritual truth and make it understandable to even the youngest of students there," he said.

The chaplain said he hoped the children left understanding that the assembling of believers is an important aspect in an individual's overall spiritual growth and this is made available no matter where people congregate.

Murray said the chaplain's visit exposed the children to a whole new world.

"The following Sunday, one of the children said that they liked the Army preacher and told their mom about the experience," Murray said. "I've also had several parents tell me how much their child talked about Army people going to church anywhere in the world. Now the children have seen firsthand how church is conducted by the Army even if it is in the desert. One parent admitted she had never really thought about Soldiers in the field and going to church."



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles "Chip" Fields



Left to right: Harper Rasmussen, Daniel Pizitz and Nicholas Marden explore the contents of the chaplain's field kit during Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles "Chip" Fields recent visit to the children's Sunday School at Grace United Methodist Church.



Maj. Paul Tomcik (left) and Staff Sgt. John Manurs from the 606th Senior Contingency Contracting Team, Kaiserslautern, work with a representative from the Latvian defense force during Saber Strike 2012.

409th CSB

continued from page 4

Meanwhile in Cameroon, another team from the 606th SCCT worked through challenges normally associated with developing contracts in Africa.

“This exercise brought plenty of challenges but we were able to meet them head on and accomplish the mission on time and under budget,” said Maj. Mark Corn, 606th SCCT, of African Endeavor 2012 in Douala, Cameroon. “We had continuous support from the U.S. Embassy in Yaounde’, the host nation, and reachback with the 903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion. Overall, more than 200 coalition and African partners were able to test the interoperability of their communications equipment and receive valuable training during the exercise.”

Sgt. 1st Class Cathleen Stadler-Frazier, 409th CSB operations and plans noncommissioned officer, who recently returned from a deployment in

Djibouti, Africa, said the key to getting the job done is teaching the locals how the Army does business.

“While deployed to countries like Djibouti, where resources are limited, we educated vendors of small businesses how to do business with the government,” Stadler-Frazier said.

Whether it’s supporting exercises including Saber Strike 2012, African Endeavor 2012, Rapid Trident 12, or providing theater sustainment, Command Sgt. Maj. Bentura Fernandez, 409th CSB command sergeant major, said the 409th CSB plans and executes efficient, effective and agile contracting support for U.S. Army Europe,

“Not a day goes by where a 409th Soldier isn’t deployed providing contracting service to the Army,” Bailey added. “The 409th CSB is going to be ready to provide contracting support anytime, anywhere.”

CG unveils ACC-Warren’s new flag, recognizes workforce

WARREN, Mich. – Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, Army Contracting Command, visited Army Contracting Command-Warren July 20 to unveil and present its new unit flag, meet with its leadership and host a town hall.

During the town hall, Nichols discussed the command mission as well as her vision and expectations with the contracting workforce.

She presented several awards to include the Secretary of the Army Excellence in Contracting Award to Shannon Jewell; the ACC Enterprise Award to the ACC-Warren Human Resources/Strategic Planning Team and the ACC-Warren Base Realignment and Closure Automation Sub-Integrated Process Team.

As the contracting officer for the Light Tactical Vehicle Team, Jewell successfully negotiated and awarded a unilateral modification definitizing an Undefined Contract Action for the HMMWV vehicle production contract with AM General in the amount of \$1.6 billion. Her efforts resulted in significant savings for customers and allowed them to procure additional HMMWVs with the residual funds to support the Afghanistan National Army.

See ACC-WARREN, page 7.



Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, ACC commanding general, presents the new ACC-Warren flag to Harry Hallock, executive director, ACC-Warren, during her visit there July 20.

ACC-WARREN

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The ACC-Warren HR/Strategic Planning Team received the Outstanding Mission Support/Business Operations Award for successfully balancing manpower and mission through a major internal organizational realignment to enhance contracting services, the BRAC of the Rock Island, Ill., Contracting Office; the recruitment and outreach of 118 new employees; the implementation of performance management initiatives; the management of more than 800 personnel at six geographic locations; and, the negotiation of 18 reimbursable support

agreements.

Team members included Stacey Pisarski, Kristen Rolfsmeyer, Joy Manciero, Judy Marchlewicz, Monica Camp, Haley Hoke, Nicole Smith and Kim Murphy.

The ACC-Warren BRAC Automation Sub-IPT team received the ACC Innovation Award - Non-Acquisition for its efforts in changing the processes, procedures and automated systems to successfully transfer more than 13,000 contracts valued at an estimated \$2 billion in annual obligations from the Rock Island

Contracting Office to Warren; Columbus, Ohio; Richmond, Va.; Philadelphia, Pa.; and, Picatinny, New Jersey.

Team members included David Osburn, Michael Boedeker, Sherri Henderson, Faye Vauters, Marvin Ballinger, Patricia Trueman, Lori Batty, Sharon Pilkowski, Michael Timmreck, Arlene Chlopick, Elaine Vanhee, Judy Secord, Erica Allbritton, Sheila Smith-Ireland, Nancy Preece, Rose Wiater, Mary Hernandez, Kriss Ricci, Jan McCann, Cindy Austin, Cheryl Russell and Becky Stouffer.



ACC in the News

This article mentions Army Contracting Command.

Alabamians in the Military

(Posted in the Montgomery Advertiser Aug. 18, 2012)

Department of the Army civilian Joan R. Detchemendy received an Excellence in Acquisition Leadership award during the U.S. Army Contracting Command's third annual contracting awards ceremony.

Detchemendy is a contract specialist assigned to the Army Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal. She has worked in federal service for 11 years.

<http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/article/20120819/NEWS02/308190024/Alabamians-Military>



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