



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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“Providing global contracting support to war fighters.”

ACC to host stand down as part of Army's initiative to stem suicide trend

WASHINGTON – Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond Odierno opened the service-wide suicide prevention stand down with senior leaders in the Pentagon, Sept. 27, by announcing that 237 Soldiers have potentially taken their lives so far this year and that the Army will step up its resilience training to combat the problem.

“I think one of the most important things we want to do is to start thinking about how we build Soldier and family resilience, so we’re going to establish a Ready and Resilient Campaign plan to build the capabilities within our Soldiers to solve problems on their own and to help families deal with numerous stresses that are put upon them,” Odierno said.

The chief added that the current suicide rate is trending to top last year’s loss of 283 Soldiers for the same period last year.

“These are 283 Soldiers who raised their hands, who wanted to join an institution that is greater than themselves,” he said. “They probably joined to prove themselves, maybe to move forward with their lives or maybe they just wanted to fight for their country; 283 are too many and the loss of one Soldier is one too many, no matter what the cause may be.”

Odierno said he’s confident leaders at all levels understand the stigma associated with seeking professional help and are seeking to create a command climate where individuals can come forward, admit

they have problems and seek help.

Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, Army Contracting Command, echoed the chief’s remarks and voiced her concerns regarding suicide and its impact on the Army family.

*“Remember,
no one
is alone.
Shoulder-to-
shoulder, we
can all remain
Army strong.”*

-- Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols
ACC Commanding General

“Suicide continues to be a challenge for our Army family,” she said. “It’s a devastating and senseless loss when one of our own, whether a Soldier, a family member, civilian or contractor dies by suicide.”

Nichols added that headquarters ACC along with the Expeditionary Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., will host its suicide stand down Oct. 10 as part of the Army-wide mandate to educate

individuals on how to recognize signs and to inform them of those programs available to help.

“I am asking each one of you to make a difference in someone’s life,” she said. “I encourage you to take the time to get to know your friends, co-workers and buddies a little better. Recognize the signs of someone that may need your help. If you or someone you know needs help, please contact a chaplain, call the National Suicide Prevention helpline at 1.800.273.TALK (8255) or visit the website: <http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>.

“Remember, no one is alone,” Nichols said. “Shoulder-to-shoulder, we can all remain Army strong.”



(U.S. Army photo)

Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond Odierno mandated units host suicide stand downs out of concern for the increase in suicides Army-wide.

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Army tightens fitness standards for Soldiers entering professional military education

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – Pre-war height, weight and physical fitness standards are coming back for Soldiers entering professional military education courses on or after Nov. 1.

The short explanation is: if you're heavier than you should be, or you can't meet the Army's physical fitness standards, you're not going to get into the professional military education course you're scheduled to attend.

The standards had been waived because the Army needed as many Soldiers as possible trained for the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts – but that is no longer the case.

"In 2007, when the Army was fighting two simultaneous conflicts, we instituted a physical fitness waiver for institutional training courses," said Brig. Gen. Todd

McCaffrey, director of Army training. "This ensured Soldiers attending these courses received the required education and relevant operational and combat skills training, regardless of temporary fitness issues or post-deployment recovery and reset cycles. We accepted this risk, rather than send an untrained or unschooled Soldier back to their units."

Now, McCaffrey said, the Army can afford to have Soldiers who meet both the training and fitness standards.

The policy change applies equally to courses taught in-residence and by mobile training teams.

Soldiers who are identified to attend these courses and schools will get an initial Army physical fitness test, height and weight screening. Those who don't pass the initial test will be allowed one retest. Soldiers who don't meet requirements after the second test will be removed from the course. Their service school academic



(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

Beginning Nov. 1, Soldiers not meeting fitness standards will not be allowed military course admittance.

evaluation report will also be annotated "failed to achieve course standards."

"Reestablishing the Army physical fitness test and height/weight standards into our professional military education programs reinforces the efforts the Army's senior leaders have been emphasizing on standards based training and education," said McCaffrey.

More information regarding the policy change can be found at: http://www.apd.army.mil/pdf/files/ad2012_20.pdf.

OPSEC manager advises vigilance, caution when contacted by 'scam' debt collectors

By Raymond D. Jones
ACC Operational Security Program Manager

Recently, several consumers have notified the Better Business Bureau about phone calls from alleged debt collectors who threaten legal action or arrest for non-payment. Consumers are told they must pay an outstanding debt over the phone immediately. In some cases, the callers may have social security numbers, bank information or the consumer's address.

According to the BBB, individuals who receive such a call should be vigilant and take the following precautions:

- Ask questions about the supposed debt. Signs that the caller may be trying a scam are evident if the caller refuses to identify himself and the company he represents or tell the consumer how the debt was incurred and how much is owed.
- Request proof of the debt in writing. The Fair Debt Collections Practices Act requires debt collectors to give a validation notice within five days of

contacting consumers about a debt. Then ask the caller to stop contacting you. By law, debt collectors must stop contacting consumers until the collector can provide written proof the debt is real.

- Never confirm or give out any personal information. Sometimes the purpose of a phony debt collection scam is to steal a person's identity or money. Until the caller can send written proof, never give or confirm personal information.
- File complaints with the BBB and the Federal Trade Commission. Complaints can be filed online at centraltx.bbb.org and www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov if a scam is suspected. Include all details so the BBB can spread the word to protect others.

The bottom line is unless the consumer knows without a doubt who is calling; personal information should not be provided or confirmed over the phone.

For more information, check out the website: <http://watchyourbuck.com/2012/08/29/dealing-with-phony-debt-collection-calls/>.



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MICC ensures smooth transfer of logistics contract management

By Daniel P. Elkins
MICC Public Affairs Office

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Mission and Installation Contracting Command officials stood ready for the Oct. 1 transfer of administrative control for directorate of logistics contract requirements from the Army's Installation Management Command to the Army Sustainment Command.

Centralization of contract administration is part of the service's Enhanced Army Global Logistics Enterprise or EAGLE program aimed at standardizing installation maintenance, supply and transportation services across the Army materiel enterprise while reducing costs. The MICC will become responsible for overseeing the contract administration of most DOL services in the United States.

"EAGLE represents a significant effort by the Army and the acquisition community to rein in spending at a time when our leaders are faced with historic budgetary constraints," said Pat Hogston, MICC director of strategic operations. "As vigilant stewards, we must explore every measure for reducing costs so that we can

deliver the highest quality services and equipment to Soldiers at a fair price."

In preparation for the transfer of contract management, members of a MICC integrated process team have been working closely with leaders from the ASC, Army Contracting Command, Expeditionary Contracting Command and DOL officials at Fort Benning and Fort Gordon, Ga.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Irwin, Calif.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Lee, Va.; Fort Polk, La.; and the Presidio of Monterey, Calif. Dubbed a war room, the working group has conducted numerous individual teleconferences and planning sessions over the last several weeks to ensure a smooth transition.

"As there are numerous moving parts and organizations involved, the war room concept was considered to provide a single forum for all parties to raise and discuss the many moving parts to accomplishing this mission," said Cyp LaPorte, MICC plans and programs division chief. "It was also needed based upon the importance of DOL mission functions to the sustainment of the Army and criticality of not allowing any breaks in service to Army customers during this transition period."

LaPorte explained that while under IMCOM, directorates of logistics at installations developed and submitted their contract requirements to their servicing contracting offices. This resulted in either a single, installation-wide DOL contract or multiple smaller contracts divided over various individual DOL functions.

"Under the Army Sustainment Command model, requirements will all be centrally managed at the command headquarters through an EAGLE program office," he said. "Both ASC and ACC-Rock Island (Ill.), have spent a great deal of time and effort setting up integrated process teams to review and standardize the performance work statements of each of the various DOL functions to be assumed by ASC."

LaPorte added that the transfer created a need for leaders at the ACC headquarters to review its contracting support mission for installation DOL services. That led to a decision to allow ACC-Rock Island to accomplish the pre-award mission for DOL support services because that center provides the primary contracting support to ASC.

See TRANSFER, page 4.



(Photo by Rachel Clark, 409th CSB)

409th hosts Suicide Stand Down
Col. William Bailey, commander, 409th Contracting Support Brigade, facilitates discussion about suicide with the workforce, Oct. 2., in Kaiserslautern, Germany. The stand down was part of an Army-wide initiative to reduce suicide within the Army family.

Voter registration deadlines approach

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—Army Contracting Command Soldiers and civilian employees worldwide are reminded that state voter registration deadlines are fast approaching.

Forty-eight states have deadlines as early as Oct. 6.

Individuals wishing to register can use the Federal Post Card Application online to secure absentee ballots for this year's elections.

According to Jamal Cummins, ACC voting assistance officer, individuals seeking information on registration deadlines, changes and updates, should visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program website, www.fvap.gov or contact their unit voting officer. The website also walks voters through the application process step-by-step.

"The Web page is a great tool to use for military voting assistance," Cummins said. "At the home page simply click on the desired state and get started with Register to Vote or Request Ballot, Get my Ballot Now or Track my Ballot."

For ACC staff at Redstone, a table is available in Bldg 3334-H where they can get a Voter's Assistance Guide and other information.

American voters will elect a president, vice president, every member of the U.S. House of Representatives, one-third of the U.S. Senate, and various state and local officials in November.

For more information, contact Cummins at 256.955.8575 or Sgt. Kwadwo Kyeremateng at 256.955.7707.



Spotlight on...

For Spotlight submissions, click on the icon.

NCO meets challenge, gets inducted into Sgt. Audie Murphy Club

By David San Miguel

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

Despite an initial setback of being denied membership in the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club once before, Sgt. 1st Class La Chad Jefferson was more than determined the second go-round.

The Sgt. Audie Murphy Club was started at Fort Hood, Texas, in 1986 and later spread Army-wide in 1994, to recognize those noncommissioned officers who have demonstrated performance and inherent leadership qualities and abilities characterized by those of the famed World War II Soldier.

A 51C-acquisition, logistics and technology contracting noncommissioned officer currently deployed to Kuwait as a member of the 408th Contracting Support Brigade, Jefferson was among only three selected from a field of 18 into the elite organization.

“He never retreated,” said Col. David M. Kaczmarek, commander, 408th CSB. “Instead, he embraced the challenge and demonstrated character, discipline and determination to persevere in his objectives and goal.”

The commander added that 86 of the best candidates throughout U.S. Army Central Command/Third Army who attempted to join could not make the cut.

“This truly exemplifies what Lt. Gen. (Vincent K.) Brooks (commanding general, Third Army) means by the term resilience,” Kaczmarek said.

Jefferson said he was prompted to join the club because of the challenge and what it represents.

“I wanted to set an example for other Soldiers, to show them that anything is possible as long as they apply themselves,” he said. “I developed a keen interest to become part of the club when I was a drill sergeant. The club pushes NCOs to take care of Soldiers as well as the community. It was an easy decision for me to accept the challenge.”

It was a challenge, Jefferson admits, he could not have undertaken without the constant support from his wife, Vashana; two daughters, Da’Shay and La Chadrea; three sons, Brendon McClinton, Demetrius Chambers and La Chad Jr.; as well as his sponsors from the 408th, Sgt. Maj. Ricky Orange, Master Sgt. Kimala D. Cox and Master Sgt. Scott J. McBride.



Sgt. 1st Class La Chad Jefferson

TRANSFER

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MICC contracting officials will support the ACC’s contracting center at Rock Island Arsenal by performing post-award contracting functions at the local installation level. The MICC also becomes responsible for existing EAGLE contracts.

“The contract administration portion of DOL requirements will remain with the MICC as we are the ACC presence on installations and as such are in the best position to provide local contract oversight and management,” LaPorte said.

The transfer of DOL requirements from IMCOM to ASC at the start of the new fiscal year represents only a minimal

increase in workload for members of the MICC as many local offices were already administering those contracts.

“There are numerous challenges in this process as the transfer of DOL functions is a significant effort for the Army to undertake,” LaPorte said, “but our people have the needed skills and expertise to administer the orders that will eventually be awarded by the Rock Island contracting center and transferred to our offices.”

The working group is finalizing a memorandum of understanding that includes the transition of management for EAGLE basic ordering agreement task order awards to MICC local

contracting offices. A basic ordering agreement is a written instrument between the government and a contractor that outlines terms and clauses as well as describes contracted items or services along with pricing and delivery instructions.

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



ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.



(Photo by Edward G. Worley)

Gen. Dennis L. Via, Army Materiel Command commanding general, answered questions during a Sept. 25 town hall meeting with members of the Army Contracting Command and Expeditionary Contracting Command. Via discussed the importance of contracting during his visit with the staffs.

AMC commanding general visits Army Contracting Command

By Larry D. McCaskill

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

(Published in the SILObreaker on Sept. 26, 2012)

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – Gen. Dennis L. Via, commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command, visited the U.S. Army Contracting Command and the Expeditionary Contracting Command headquarters here Sept. 25.

This was his first visit to the ACC and ECC headquarters since assuming command of AMC Aug. 7.

http://news.silobreaker.com/amc-commanding-general-visits-army-contracting-command-5_2266002210749939831

1st ID BCT deploying to Africa in pilot test

By Paul McLeary

Army Times

(Published Sept. 26, 2012)

Come spring, soldiers from the Army's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, will begin deploying to parts of Africa under a pilot test with U.S. Africa Command.

Based at Fort Riley, Kan., the "Dagger Brigade" will be the first regionally aligned brigade the Army will field as part of a new initiative to keep non-deploying units engaged globally now that rotations to Iraq have ended, deployments to Afghanistan are winding down and the service is looking for ways to stay globally engaged.

Army officials have stressed that the plan for the regionally aligned brigades isn't to deploy a fully loaded combat brigade to a particular region, but instead to train a brigade in the cultural and security issues of a particular region — be it Western Africa, Colombia or Southwest Asia — and then make that brigade available to the local combatant commander.

The plan looks like this: When the commander needs more troops, he can request a detachment from the brigade

assigned to his command for rotations that will last weeks or months to assist with everything from partnering missions or engineering projects to training efforts or security projects.

The effort with AFRICOM is the first of several planned regionally aligned brigades, two more of which are tentatively scheduled to be attached to European and Pacific commands in 2014, while a third will follow the 2/1's rotation in Africa.

The aligned brigade concept signals a potentially huge shift in how the Army understands its mission, and its global role in a postwar environment. It also signals a shift in how the Army views itself.

Meanwhile, moves such as this one and others planned for fiscal 2013 underscore the reality that as the Defense Department and the White House talk about the strategic shift to the Asia-Pacific region — and the Army follows suit — the nation's ground pounders are actually also making a quieter, but no less significant, strategic shift to Africa. The idea is that training local military and police forces to handle their own security, while also building military-to-military relationships, will not only help professionalize local security forces, but also make future American intervention less likely.

<http://www.armytimes.com/news/2012/09/army-dn092612-africa-web/>



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