



“Providing global contracting support to warfighters.”

Nichols named new ACC commander



Brig. Gen. (P) Camille M. Nichols

The Chief of Staff, U.S. Army announced today that Brig. Gen. (P) Camille M. Nichols will assume command of the U.S. Army Contracting Command.

Previously selected for promotion to major general, Nichols currently serves as the Program Executive Officer, Soldier, at Fort Belvoir, Va. A 1981 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., she has more than twenty years of Department of Defense acquisition experience.

Brig. Gen. Nichols was the first commander of ACC's Expeditionary Contracting Command at Fort Belvoir from January 2007 until November 2009.

Prior to her current assignment, Nichols served as the commander, U.S. Army Central Command Contracting Command.

The date for the ACC change of command has not been determined.

With headquarters at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., the U.S. Army Contracting Command provides global contracting support to soldiers through the full spectrum of military operations. ACC consists of more than 5,800 civilians and soldiers at more than 115 locations worldwide. In fiscal year 2011 ACC awarded and managed nearly 198,000 contract actions valued at more than \$86.8 billion.

Annual pre-deployment exercise attracts joint participation

By David San Miguel
Headquarters, Army Contracting Command

FORT BLISS, Texas – “The simulations were real, the sounds were real – I left there feeling that I could actually save someone's life,” said Capt. Gina Ferguson, 634th Contingency Contracting Team, Fort Riley, Kan., of the training she received during Joint Dawn 2012 exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas, Jan. 19- Feb 3.

Ferguson is among the more than 250 military and civilian contracting officers participating in the U.S. Army Contracting Command's pre-deployment joint readiness exercise.

According to Col. Jeff Morris, commander, 412th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, part of the Expeditionary Contracting Command, the exercise is designed to enhance the ECC's mission of providing contracting support to Army and other Department of Defense organizations operating outside the continental United States.

Now in its third iteration, the Joint Dawn exercise has expanded to include participation by military and civilian contracting officers from the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, as well as the Army National Guard and Army Reserve.

Including the other services more fully exposes participants to how they will operate in a joint contingency environment to support the warfighter, Morris said. “This is a pre-deployment exercise geared toward deployment into the CENTCOM (U.S.



Master Sgt. Emily Toomey, California National Guard, eyes the terrain during one of the many scenarios during Joint Dawn 2012.

Central Command) theater of operations working with the CENTCOM Contracting Command.”

In addition, the exercise includes combat engagement skills training, Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle roll-

Spotlight on...

Edward Thomas

Edward Thomas works in the U. S. Army Contracting Command's Deputy Chief of Staff for Resource Management, Budget and Accounting Division as the lead accountant directing accounting and financial managerial issues related to financial data across all ACC components.

"My job supports the Soldier by ensuring that funds are available to pay, clothe, provide equipment, and train soldiers all while ensuring public funds entrusted to him is not used fraudulently, wasted, or abused," said Thomas, an avid roller skater.

Thomas is the command's point of contact with the Army's major financial system implementation General Fund Enterprise Business System. The system will usher in and facilitate Army's compliance with the Federal Manager's Financial Integrity Act and other Office of Management and Budget initiatives.

Thomas, a Washington, D. C. native, has worked in several financial and financial related disciplines with the Department of Treasury, Department of Defense and Department of the Army. He has a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in business administration. He is pursuing a professional certification in project management.



Edward Thomas
Budget and Accounting Division
ACC Deputy Chief of Staff for Resource Management

Expanded training scenarios enhance Joint Dawn 2012 experience

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Col. Jeff Morris, commander, 412th Contracting Support Brigade, discusses Joint Dawn 2012 particulars with Jacqueline Crea, a reporter with News Channel 9 in El Paso, Texas

over egress, tactical combat casualty care, weapons systems familiarization and virtual battle space simulation. Other scenarios challenge participants to ensure they are technically proficient to execute their contracting mission. This includes purchase requests and commitments, close-out actions, commander's critical information requirements, contracting ethics issues and simulated confrontations with disgruntled customers.

Navy Cdr. Michael Curran from the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisitions and Procurement at the Pentagon, added that this was the first time the Navy was invited to participate.

"The Navy and Army have very different cultures," he said. "This exercise is a great opportunity to train and learn how the Army conducts its contracting business to ensure that the warfighter is getting the best that we can provide."

Ferguson agrees. She added that having the other services, the different ranks and civilians included, is a great collaboration.

"It starts building teamwork here and gives us the confidence we need to go into theater and to work with someone we're not normally familiar working with," she said.

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The *NewsBlast* is a weekly newsletter publication 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 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.

Send submissions and correspondence to the Office of Public and Congressional Affairs, Attn: Editor, *NewsBlast*, 3334A Wells Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898. Telephone: (256) 955-7634, DSN 645-7634 or email at acc.pao@us.army.mil.

ACC office moves continue at Redstone

By Larry D. McCaskill
Headquarters, Army Contracting Command

Putting together a puzzle is an art that requires patience and an eye for detail. Imagine the puzzle pieces continuing to shift before all of them are in place. If you are up to the challenge then you must be a member of the U.S. Army Contracting Command's Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics and Commandant Services.

As more ACC and Expeditionary Contracting Command members arrive at the headquarters compound at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., the need for additional space has surfaced.

According to Mike Holcomb, ACC commandant, the move will help to consolidate offices with their personnel as well as enable the command to turn over space that belongs to the Redstone Arsenal Garrison.

"We want to make sure that offices here are consolidated as much as possible for team synergy," Holcomb said. "We've been able to obtain additional space off the compound, but on the installation, where we can satisfy requests to place coworkers within the same proximity."

Approximately 70 staff members will move from their current offices in the Redstone Arsenal compound to the former NCO Academy, Building 3329. Personnel from Contracting Operations, the Office of Small Business Programs, the Office of the Inspector General and some of the legal staff will be making the move.

Once those moves are complete, plans include moving current Deputy Chief of Staff, Chief Information Office personnel from their current space, personnel from the Quality Assurance team, Safety and Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence and Security and Mission Operations into new locations.



John Bertsch, Army Contracting Command, Contracting Operations, foreground, places binders and other office materials into moving boxes. Contracting Operations and other offices are moving from the ACC campus into other facilities on Redstone Arsenal. (Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)



Televised spiritual fitness

Deborah Van Heest, left, and Mary Lyle look on as U.S. Army Contracting Command Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles "Chip" Fields reaches out to members of the command via a video telecast of his monthly spiritual fitness luncheon. (Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

Applications for absentee ballots available online

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—Army Contracting Command Soldiers and civilian employees worldwide can use the Federal Post Card Application online to secure absentee ballots for this year's primary and general elections.

According to Jamal Cummins, ACC voting assistance officer, the Federal Voting Assistance Program Web site, www.fav.gov, walks voters through the application process step by step.

For ACC staff at Redstone, there is a voter assistance table in Bldg 3334-D where voters 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 between now and November.

For more information contact Cummins at 256-955-7745 or Sgt. Kwadwo Kyeremateng at 256-955-7747.



General Officer Announcement

U.S. Department of Defense Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta announced today that the President has made the following nomination:

Army Lt. Gen. Dennis L. Via, for appointment to the grade of general and for assignment as commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala. Via is currently serving as the deputy commanding general/chief of staff, U.S. Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.



ACC in the News

These articles include mention of the Army Contracting Command.

SMA Chandler: 'We have an incredible Army'

By Keri Hawkins
USAG Redstone



REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. -- Redstone Arsenal happened to be a test ground for more than missiles and helicopters on Jan. 10-11.

It also became the first try at moving

the board of directors meetings of the Army's sergeants major out of the Pentagon and to different installations throughout the U.S. And for the Army's top enlisted Soldier -- Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond Chandler -- it was well worth the effort in his initiative to ensure Soldier leadership understands the full range of capabilities within the Army's civilian and military work force.

http://www.army.mil/article/72098/SMA_Chandler__We_have_an_incredible_Army_

Fort Bliss Hosts combat training for contracting soldiers and civilians

By Jacqueline Crea
Multimedia Journalist
News Channel 9

<http://www.ktsm.com/news/fort-bliss-hosts-combat-training-for-contracting-soldiers-and-civilians>

Army Contracting Command to welcome first commanding general

By Kenneth Kesner
The Huntsville Times

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama -- The Army Contracting Command, which is headquartered on Redstone Arsenal,

will soon welcome a new leader.

The Army Chief of Staff's office announced today that Brig. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, who has been selected for promotion to major general, will assume the command. The date for the change of command has not been determined.

http://blog.al.com/breaking/2012/01/new_leadership_announced_for_a.html

Space and Missile Defense Command on Redstone Arsenal launches new contracting plans

By Kenneth Kesner
The Huntsville Times

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama --The Army Space and Missile

Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command is launching a new way of contracting for its technology research and development programs that is aimed at getting the best new tools more quickly into the hands of troops for

http://blog.al.com/huntsville-times-business/2012/01/space_and_missile_defense_comm_1.html

