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NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

MICC leaders discuss realignment, way ahead

By Daniel P. Elkins
MICC Public Affairs Office

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Leaders from the Mission and Installation Contracting Command met with field directors and their deputies from throughout the command here Oct. 22-24 to conduct roundtable discussions on realignment and a strategic planning workshop.

Topics of discussion included the command's efforts over the last few months to realign the headquarters to best support the field, and the transition timeline for aligning field directorate and contracting offices to provide the best support to MICC customers.

See **REALIGNMENT**, last page.



(Photo by Daniel P. Elkins)

Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke, commanding general, Mission and Installation Contracting Command (second from left) met with MICC field directors and their deputies Oct. 22 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to discuss the command's realignment and other issues.

Strong Bonds strengthens Soldiers, their families

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

A chaplain-led couples retreat is helping commanders build individual resiliency by strengthening the Army family.

Called Strong Bonds, its core mission is to increase individual Soldier and family member readiness through relationship education and skills training.

"The program's training materials provide the chaplain with tools designed to increase individual readiness," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jose G. Herrera, Expeditionary Contracting Command. "By helping couples and families learn how to strengthen relationships by developing their relationship skills, the program contributes to comprehensive Soldier fitness."

The retreat was conducted offsite to

minimize day-to-day distractions and to maximize the training effect, he said. This retreat, a first for couples in the Army Contracting Command and ECC headquarters, was conducted in Nashville, Tenn.

Co-located at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., the ACC and the ECC chaplain sections have been collaborating to provide comprehensive spiritual fitness for all personnel on the campus through activities like weekly Bible studies and monthly prayer luncheons.

Limited to married Soldiers, the training equipped couples with the tools to work through ordinary and extraordinary conflicts that could end a marriage, said ACC Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles 'Chip' Fields.

"The itinerary is arranged in such

a way as to balance time in training and time for couples to enjoy alone in order to practice the training," he said. "The training includes role playing, instructional videos and learning in a group environment. Most of all, they get to enjoy time together and can take advantage of one-on-one time with the command chaplain."

Herrera said some mistake the retreat as a few days off.

"To those who think it is a mini-vacation, I would say come and try it. You will come away with a different perspective," he said. "There are many testimonies of Soldiers regarding the impact that the Strong Bonds weekends have had on their personal lives and on their marital and familial relationships."

See **STRONG BONDS**, page 3.

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Spotlight on...

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Serving war fighters since she was 16

Serving the contracting community since age 16 as part of the Student Temporary Employment Program with the Army Corps of Engineers, Danielle M. Moyer currently serves as a team lead and contracting officer for the Rapid Response Program at Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Describe your current position:

As the team lead for the R2 program, I manage \$16 billion multiple award indefinite delivery indefinite quantity contracts for services with a team of nine contract specialists.

Describe your professional/education background:

I have a bachelor's degree in business, administration and management from the University of Baltimore and a master's in contract management from the Naval Postgraduate School at Monterey, Calif. I am also Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Level III-certified in contracting.

Where do you call home? What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I currently reside in Rising Sun, Md., and in my spare time I enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

How does your job support the war fighter?

As team lead for the R2 program, the services I provide support the immediate needs of the war fighter. My team provides contracting expertise by awarding and administering task orders to the Department of Defense and other federal agencies to acquire critical, near-obsolete items, thus sustaining crucial weapon systems, mitigating system downtime, and serving the needs of the war fighters and peacekeepers.

Our efforts have benefited war fighters deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I lead and manage the team through the full life cycle of contract operations, including strategic development, solicitation formulation, proposal analysis, contract negotiations, contract award, administration and ultimately closeout.

We generate superior business strategies for our many customers by providing timely responses and optimal business solutions to meet constantly changing requirements and other urgencies. We focus our efforts to meet the deployed war fighter's needs through timely repair and maintenance contracts, and the procurement of repair and reset service parts.



Danielle M. Moyer



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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Commanding General
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Director
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Public Affairs Team Chief
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Editor
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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 U.S. Army Contracting Command, Office of Public and Congressional Affairs, ATTN: Editor, *NewsBlast*, 3334A Wells Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000. Telephone: (256) 955-7634, DSN 645-7634 or email at acc.pao@us.army.mil.

5 selected for promotion to colonel

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—Five Army Contracting Command lieutenant colonels have been selected for promotion to colonel, the Army announced this week.

Selectees are Robert Brinkman, Mission and Installation Contracting Command, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Martha Brooks, Expeditionary Contracting Command here; Lance Green, MICC-Carlisle Barracks, Pa.; Kevin Nash, Army Contracting Command here; and Carol Tschida, ECC headquarters.

Additionally, Maj. Anthony Adolph, the command judge advocate, 414th Contracting Support Brigade, Vicenza, Italy, was selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel by the Judge Advocate General promotion board.

“As with anything, if you put nothing into it, it is difficult to get any good results. But if you put something into it, you will reap the rewards,” he said.

Many participants had an idea of what to expect before arriving.

“I expected to receive tips and tools on how to better communicate with my wife; tools in general on ways to improve my marriage and better understand my life partner as well as interact with other military couples,” said Lt. Col. Jvon Hearn, ACC inspector general. “The retreat also gave couples some one-on-one time with each other to reflect on what they had learned and consider ways to implement those tools into their marriage and family life.”

“It was a great event and the site that hosted it was top notch,” said Lt. Col. Steven C. Maddry, ECC, Deputy Chief of Staff Information Management G6.

“I’ve attended a similar event hosted by the chaplain in one of my previous assignments, but the material was along a different subject area. I think the material that Chaplain Fields taught is very beneficial to couples. It helps couples that want to keep their marriage and family relationships strong.”

For one noncommissioned officer, the training seemed like any other training until she reached an epiphany.

“The couples talked about simple principles we had learned, but how they were presented made a light bulb go off,” said Sgt. Emanuela C. Smith, human resources NCO in the ACC Deputy Chief of Staff Human Capital G1. “The concepts, principals and techniques had a different impact on me and my spouse. My perception going in was slightly different once it was over.”

For Smith, the retreat gave her an opportunity to reflect on where she is and where she plans on going.

“I’ve noticed how I have grown and how I have changed as a person,” said Smith. “Although change is constant, the consistency of wanting to make things better and learn more still remains the same. It is very interesting as I learn how my thought process of wanting better for me, my marriage and my family continues to grow and blossom.”

According to Herrera, the command will conduct Strong Bonds events throughout the command monthly during the first quarter of fiscal year 2013 and at least two events quarterly for the remainder of the fiscal year.

“Not only will we conduct more couple retreats, but we plan to host a robust number of retreats for our single Soldiers and some retreats designed for the entire family in mind,” said Herrera. “In all cases, child care will be provided.”

“We are hoping that these training events will result in more resilient Army families as they put the skills and training they received this past weekend into action in their own lives. A more



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Trevor J. Rush)

Expeditionary Contracting Command couples from left to right, Capt. Joanne M. Douglas and her husband, Doug, join Gary and Sgt. Emanuela C. Smith, at the Strong Bonds couples retreat held in Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 25-29.

resilient Army family means a more resilient Soldier,” Herrera continued. “A more resilient war fighter is always an asset to the nation and to the Soldier’s family.”

The inspector general agrees.

“I believe the Army will greatly benefit from the program because the training provided Soldiers and their spouses gives them the tools that will help them better understand one another and ultimately improve their marriage relationship,” Hearn said. “In addition, I believe that as couples and families become stronger, it will eliminate many of the distracters that take Soldiers away from the job both physically and mentally, thus making for a better Soldier, better unit and ultimately a better Army.”



The Strong Bonds Couples Retreat was conducted for couples in the ACC and ECC headquarters at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., to increase individual Soldier and family member readiness through relationship education and skills training.

MICC-Fort Leonard Wood director set to retire

By Robert Johnson

Fort Leonard Wood Guidon managing editor

When Darlene Pemberton wakes up Saturday, it will be the first day in four decades that she doesn't work for the contracting office at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Pemberton, the Mission and Installation Contracting Command-Fort Leonard Wood director, has been working contracts for the Army here since Nov. 19, 1973, and on Friday she is officially retiring.

While not the longest-running continuous civilian worker on post, Pemberton does hold a special place in the contracting office in both terms of work and work relationships.

"I've actually held every job in the contracting office, except one – the administrative assistant," Pemberton said. "I started as a GS-4 clerk with the goal of someday making it to GS-7."

While Pemberton's wealth of contracting knowledge will be gone, it is her personality and friendship that will be missed.

"You've never met another person like Darlene," said Heidi St. Dennis. "I've known her for nearly 25 years and I've never known her to have a bad day. If you knock on her door, she will always take the time to stop what she's doing, look at

you and listen to what you have to say. She will be sorely missed."

Those comments are echoed throughout the installation.

"These people here are like family to me," Pemberton said. "Many of them working here today weren't even alive when I started this job, but they are all important to me. They are probably what I will miss the most when I leave."

Pemberton described many of the changes she has seen here and in the contracting profession over the years.

"One of the biggest changes was contracting becoming a true career field. Now we are a separate command, but in the 70s, that wasn't the case," she said. "We were under the directorate of industrial operations, and people just didn't leave the job, so that really hampered your ability to get promoted."

In 1980, the contracting career field became professionalized and while this was a minor change to people outside of the contracting office, it was a significant transformation within, she said.

"Once the career field was professionalized, you then started to see people moving up, as someone might be here for a year to meet grade requirements before moving on," Pemberton said. "It really helped open opportunities for me."

While Pemberton is retiring, she isn't stopping.



(Photo by Robert Johnson)

Darlene Pemberton

"My husband, Darrell, and I have plans to travel. My son is in the Air Force and getting ready to go to Germany, and we have plans to visit him, plus we have plans to visit a lot of sights here in the U.S. that we haven't been to," she said.

For those still working in contracting, Pemberton said she reminds them to keep up on their regulations and always keep an even keel.

While the transition to retirement may be an adjustment, Pemberton did say there is one thing she will not miss.

"Year end. I will not miss that stress at all," she said with a laugh.

Contracting brigade supports partnership-building exercise

By Rachel Clark

409th Contracting Support Brigade
Kaiserslautern, Germany

Members of the 409th Contracting Support Brigade participated in Jackal Stone 2012, a Special Operations Command Europe multinational Special Forces partnership-building exercise conducted in Croatia in September.

The brigade, headquartered in Kaiserslautern, Germany, provided contracting support at five locations across Croatia in support of the mission.

The 409th CSB's 624th Contingency Contracting Team, part of the 903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion, Wiesbaden, Germany, started planning a year ago for JS12 and integrated with

the SOCEUR logistics team to ensure all contracting requirements for the exercise were met.

"Getting our contracting teams engaged early in the planning stages ensures open communication and leads to better strategic planning," said Col. William Bailey, commander, 409th CSB.

The team, in conjunction with support provided by the 409th CSB's Kaiserslautern-based Theater Contracting Center, awarded six contracts worth more than \$1.9 million.

"What we do as contracting specialists is critical to the mission," said Staff Sgt. Joshua Thompson, 624th CCT. "While supporting SOCEUR during this exercise, we weren't necessarily in the fight but our support kept them in the fight."

The contracts provided logistical support for approximately 1,700 personnel from 18 NATO and Partnership for Peace nations; covering everything from food, vehicles, life support services, fuel, a boat lease and construction materials, but not without their own logistical challenges.

"Locating reliable vendors in the immediate area was a challenge. Most of the supplies that we are procuring are coming from sources that are located more than 100 kilometers from where we are running operations," said Sgt. 1st Class William Rawe, 624th CCT.

"This exercise has been an excellent opportunity for the team to gain experience with all aspects of the contracting process," said Maj. Jessica Kovach, contracting officer and team leader, 624th CCT.

REALIGNMENT

continued from page 1

Incorporated in the decision making are the procurement authorities and roles and responsibilities for the planned four field directorates to be located at MICC-Fort Eustis, Va.; MICC-Fort Bragg, N.C.; MICC-Fort Hood, Texas; and MICC-Fort Knox, Ky.

Command leaders from the field were also briefed by the MICC headquarters' new strategic and contract operations directorate staffs. Among the briefings were updates on acquisitions policies, tools available to help guide the contract management review process and use of the Army Contracting Command Virtual Contracting Enterprise.

Additionally, leaders discussed the integration of uniformed members with the contracting offices, improvements with the unauthorized commitment process, and workload and data integrity. A daylong workshop on strategic planning concluded the week.



Planning for Africa Endeavor 2013

Capt. Kelley Smith, contracting officer, 649th Contingency Contracting Team, part of the Kaiserslautern, Germany-based 409th Contracting Supporting Brigade, coordinates contracting requirements to support Africa Endeavor with Maj. Mike Ntenga of the Zambian army. Slated for August 2013, Africa Endeavor is the largest joint interoperability communications exercise held on the continent.



ACC in the News

This article mentions Army Contracting Command.

Hurricane Sandy impacts Redstone agencies, local contractors with close ties to East Coast

By Leada Gore
(Posted Oct. 29, 2012 on AL.com)

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama – Hurricane Sandy's high winds and destructive floods are cutting a path through the vital lines between Washington, D.C. and Virginia and the governmental agencies and contractors that call Huntsville home.

Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal are home to a plethora of government offices and contractors that either have headquarters or offices along the East Coast, particularly in Washington, D.C. and Virginia. With the storm set to pummel that area, local agencies and contractors are left waiting as flights are delayed, offices closed and work comes to a halt.

http://blog.al.com/breaking/2012/10/hurricane_sandy_impacts_redsto.html



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