



NEWSBLAST

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"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."

ACC integrates ECC Soldiers into stateside operations

By Ed Worley

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REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—In an effort to streamline command and control of its military contracting Soldiers, the Army Contracting Command is attaching portions of its Expeditionary Contracting Command forces to several of ACC's stateside organizations.

The action reduces the ECC span of control from the day-to-day oversight of Soldiers executing their stateside contracting mission, allowing the ECC commander to focus on overseas installation and contingency support, explained Lt. Col. Kevin Nash, ACC Integration project officer.

It also gives the Mission and Installation Contracting Command and ACC contracting centers direct supervision of Soldiers supporting stateside operations within their organizations, he said.

Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, ACC commanding general, said her intent is to "streamline mission command, better manage our military contracting Soldiers' workloads and enhance contracting Soldier professional development.

"This action provides greater predictability for our civilian contracting leaders in assigning work to Soldiers in their offices," she said. "It also provides greater professional development opportunities for contracting Soldiers as they are offered increased contracting experiences."

Nichols said it also allows ECC to focus on the day-to-day overseas contracting mission and operational contract support tasks associated with Army Service Component Commands.

See **INTEGRATION**, page 5.



(Photo by Ed Worley)

Valerie Tipton provides Staff Sgt. Wallace Newton some advice on a contract. Newton is a member of the 626th Contingency Contracting Team, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., and has been a contracting specialist for four months. Tipton is a contracting officer in the Base Operations Division, Army Contracting Command-Redstone Arsenal.



Lt. Col. Alonzo B. McGhee

IN MEMORIAM

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—Army Contracting Command is mourning the loss of one of its Soldiers and friends.

Lt. Col. Alonzo B. McGhee, 44, a logistics management specialist assigned to the ACC Operations Group, died Jan. 4.

"Alonzo was a vital leader in the ECC Operations Division and the devoted father of his three children. Our sympathies and support are extended to his family, and I ask that you

continue to keep them in your prayers," said Brig. Gen. Theodore Harrison, commanding general, Expeditionary Contracting Command.

A native Georgian and graduate of Georgia Southern University, Troy University and Central Michigan University, McGhee served his nation faithfully for more than 22 years.

He is survived by his father Zack Miller Jr.; his mother, Julia Jackson; his children: Alonzo II, Austin and Aleena; and three siblings.

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Spotlight on...

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African deployment fulfills Soldier's professional, personal needs

By Larry D. McCaskill

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Maj. James Coe says living in an environment without roads, bridges, traffic laws, a sanitation system or a power grid isn't as bad as one might think.

Coe, a logistics planner in the Army Contracting Command deputy chief of staff logistics G4, Redstone Arsenal, Ala., deployed to the African nation of South Sudan as part of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, or UNMISS.

According to the U.N. website, the birth of the Republic of South Sudan on July 9, 2011, was the culmination of a six-year peace process that began with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005. The mission is to help the nation establish conditions for it to develop.

"It's been a month since my arrival in South Sudan and it's quite interesting and a good assignment," said Coe, a native of Mansfield, Ohio. "South Sudan is exactly what you might expect from an emerging African nation."

Upon his arrival, Coe was not surprised to see a struggling government that had a smaller military and saw an influx of foreign cash and contractors and environmental issues such as land mines from years of civil war.

In the UNMISS Joint Logistics Operations Center Plans section, Coe serves as the unit's logistics plans officer. He says his ACC job and his U.N. position are as different as night and day.

"On the surface, it seems like it would



(U.S. Army photo)

Maj. James Coe (third from left) supports the U.N. contracting mission in South Sudan with (from left to right) Maj. Upendra Srivastava, India; Capt. Joshua Sims, Australia; and Adamu Dauda, Nigeria.

be the exact same thing. The two positions have some similarities and distinct differences," said Coe, a husband and father of four. "The logistical planning and coordination aspects of each job are similar; however, the logistical support provided to contingency operating bases here is more heavily involved with the construction/engineering of facilities in support of the mission rather than the requisitioning/accountability of equipment or the distribution of most classes of supply. It's all logistics, but definitely of a different variety of flavor here in South Sudan."

Previous deployments to Kuwait, Qatar and Afghanistan provided Coe with the experience of working in a joint environment and adapting to austere living conditions.

See SPOTLIGHT, page 3.

NewsBlast readers now have a tool to provide feedback about the weekly newsletter. To access the feedback tool, click on the mailbox icon to the right. The questionnaire is brief and will only take a few minutes to complete. Responses, however, will assist the editorial staff in producing a publication to better meet readers' expectations and information needs.




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JCRX-13 expected to draw more than 200 contracting professionals

Contracting professionals will begin to converge onto Fort Bliss, Texas, starting Jan. 15 to participate in what military officials are calling the premiere Department of Defense contracting readiness exercise.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Army Contracting Command is conducting a contracting readiness exercise for military and civilian personnel. Formerly called Joint Dawn, the Joint Contracting Readiness Exercise or JCRX-13 will be conducted at Fort Bliss Jan. 15-31.

"We're expanding the scope of this year's training," said Col. Timothy Strange, commander, 412th Contracting Support Brigade, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. "Participants can

look forward to working on more than 100 contracting actions, not to mention some hard-to-handle injects."

The 412th is the lead organizer for the exercise.

The number of exercise participants has increased each year. In 2010, 34 contingency contracting officers attended the training held at Fort Riley, Kan.; in 2011, training at Fort Campbell, Ky., included 115 participants; and the 2012 training at Fort Bliss had 159 military and civilian trainees. Exercise coordinators expect more than 200 participants at this year's exercise.

"We're anticipating visits from a lot of senior leaders," said Lt. Col. Joshua R. Burris, commander, 905th Contingency

Contracting Battalion, and JCRX-13 officer-in-charge. "We're set up to handle visits from senior DOD and DA officials. Last year, Mr. (Kim) Denver, deputy assistant secretary of the Army (procurement); and Rear Adm. Allie Coetzee, executive director, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy (acquisition and procurement), came by. This year we're planning visits from the Hon. Heidi Shyu, assistant secretary of the Army acquisition, logistics and technology and Army acquisition executive; the Hon. Dr. Sally Matiella, assistant secretary of the Army financial management and comptroller; and Lt. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, deputy commanding general, Army Materiel Command."

SPOTLIGHT

continued from page 2

"Working on a U.N. staff is a drastically different experience than most assignments an average Army officer will ever have," Coe said. "It is a truly joint/international experience. Everyone in my section is from a different nation and either Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine. The cultural and service-specific differences are many so the challenge comes in how to effectively communicate with everyone without offending anyone, or misinterpreting messages or having any misunderstandings."

The language barrier, traditions and customs of numerous nations melting into one organization can sometimes prove very difficult, Coe said, but he relishes the opportunity to overcome any obstacle.

"In this environment a U.S. officer operates independent of U.S. forces," said Coe. "You are truly in the hands of bosses, usually from a nation other than your own, that you work for on the

ground. It's a situation that most U.S. troops will never experience."

Work challenges aside, Coe said the deployment has given him the opportunity to visit a place he's dreamed of visiting, but also the chance to help make a big difference.

"I've always wanted to see Africa. Africa, in my mind, represents a great opportunity to help and assist in the development of another culture in need," he said. "As an American of African descent, it also represents the homeland neither I, my parents nor grandparents ever knew."

"I enjoy interacting with the Sudanese people in a lot of ways; experiencing their foods, speaking with them directly about their lives and experiences and observing their growth as a new nation. They are truly a beautiful culture and a very positive, upbeat group of people despite the problems their nation has faced over the years," he said.

AMC deputy tours ACC, ECC campus

Brig. Gen. Theodore Harrison, commanding general, Expeditionary Contracting Command, greets Lt. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, deputy commanding general, Army Materiel Command, accompanied by Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, Army Contracting Command. McQuiston visited the ACC and ECC leadership at their Redstone Arsenal, Ala., camp Jan. 7.



(Photo by Larry McCaskill)

Safety Tiger Team seeks to identify best practices, establish ACC, Army contracting safety standards

By **Larry D. McCaskill**

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The Army Contracting Command's Safety Office staff is seeking comments and best practices from the contracting community as it moves to establish standardized contract safety processes.

"Contract safety is a critical program that ACC depends upon to ensure quality services are provided to the war fighter," said Jerry L. Waibel, ACC safety director. Contract safety is the analysis of risk to government employees, equipment or facilities due to contracted operations.

Until now, Waibel said the safety community has been working outside of the contracting community to ensure safety procedures are adhered to.

"To take this project to the next level, safety professionals are working directly with the contracting community to develop relationships and provide awareness of established safety processes," he said. "The commander's intent in establishing this tiger team is to standardize contract safety processes and procedures command-wide."

Currently, contract reviews are the responsibility of the requiring activity and contracting officer representatives working with the contracting officers.

"The Army depends on CORs to conduct surveillance during the performance of a contract. Safety professionals assigned to the tiger team have the responsibility of assisting the CORs when needed," Waibel said.

"The critical element here is to include safety professionals in the planning process to identify risk, and include site-specific safety requirements in the statement of work/performance work statement based on that risk," he said.

"One thing to remember is that safety awareness starts at the ground level," Waibel said. "We will never be able to enforce safety standards from the headquarters. The requiring activities have to provide that service."

Waibel said every requiring activity has a safety staff supporting its organization.

Many times the COR is in the same organization.

"Contract safety is a critical program that ACC depends upon to ensure quality services are provided to the war fighter."

– **Jerry L. Waibel**
ACC Safety Director

"When that's the case, it makes it easier for the COR and the safety staff to work together," he said. "Our challenge is to integrate safety into the requiring activities' planning processes, and then to provide the contracting officer a method for checking that safety elements have been considered."

"We are addressing the challenge by including all the stakeholders in the process and starting a discussion for establishing a process for contract safety program management across the Army," he said.

Once implemented, contracting officers and their representatives will have a process to ensure contract safety processes are considered, Waibel said.

"The contracting officer is responsible for everything in a contract, but the reality is that we will not train and certify contracting officers to be safety professionals," Waibel said. "The contracting officer will need to have a method of checking whether the safety community has completed its task and the safety community will have to step up and become involved in the process."

Waibel expects integrating the safety processes within the contracting community should take about six months.

Individuals are encouraged to submit comments and best practices to Waibel at jerry.waibel@us.army.mil.



(Photo by Larry McCaskill)

(Left to right) Eddie Curet, Andrew Cabral and Jerry Waibel of the Army Contracting Command's Safety Tiger Team map out Army-level contract safety processes and synchronize ACC policy and procedures.

Brig. Gen. Ted Harrison, ECC commanding general, said the realignment will help 51C contingency contracting Soldiers develop their contracting skills.

“Future military operations will continue to demand expeditionary contracting Soldiers who are trained and ready to meet Army Service Component Command needs,” Harrison said. “ACC integration allows the Expeditionary Contracting Command’s 51Cs to hone their skills in day-to-day contracting missions in Mission and Installation Contracting Command installation contracting offices as they support the Army’s generating force. This ‘work as they fight’ strategy will prepare them to deploy and support Army operational forces anywhere in the world. ECC is confident that the MICC civilian contracting experts will equip our contracting Soldiers with technical knowledge and provide hands-on experience through coaching, teaching and mentoring.”

Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke, MICC commanding general, said the integration improves both the civilian and military contracting workforce.

“The synchronization and integration of uniformed members across the Mission and Installation Contracting Command provides indispensable technical, hands-on contracting training and experience for Army contingency contracting Soldiers,” Vollmecke said. “Soldiers and contracting civilians working alongside one another drives positive change and bring balance, skill and depth to the acquisition workforce. This unified teamwork and collaboration with ACC and our Army customers is a key to continued success.”

Nash said the operation will occur in four phases. It began in December with the realignment of MICC contracting offices under four field directorate offices. MICC FDOs are aligned at sites with their major customers, and the 34 MICC subordinate contracting offices are grouped by customer to bring consistency to operations and improve contract

administration and oversight.

Phase 2 begins in February, Nash said, attaching MICC-associated contingency contracting battalions, senior contingency contracting teams and contingency contracting teams to the MICC. ACC contracting center-associated contingency contracting teams will also be attached to their corresponding contracting centers during Phase 2.

“Attaching a unit to another unit means that, while the attached unit still ‘belongs’ to its higher headquarters, it takes its daily taskings from the unit to which it is attached,” Nash explained. “The units we’re attaching still ‘belong’ to ECC, but they are working directly for the organizations they are attached to.”

Phase 3 begins in April, he said. ECC will add two contracting support brigades that will be attached to the MICC headquarters. The 418th CSB will be headquartered at Fort Hood, Texas, and

the 419th CSB will be headquartered at Fort Bragg, N.C.

The final phase calls for the 412th CSB, Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas, to be attached to the MICC headquarters on Oct. 1.

Nash said ECC will retain assignment of the CONUS-based CSBs and continue to be the ACC lead for operational contract support activities.

In the event of a mission requiring CONUS-based ACC units attached to the MICC or centers, Nash said ACC will publish an operation order that detaches those selected units back to the ECC for execution of the required mission. Upon completion of the mission, units would redeploy and be re-attached to the MICC or centers as required, he explained.

ECC will continue to be the ACC lead for all contingency contracting Soldier individual and unit training functions, he said.



ACC in the News

This article mentions Army Contracting Command.

Shooting victim Lt. Col. Alonzo McGhee to be honored at Redstone Arsenal memorial service

By Paul Gattis
(Posted on Al.com, Jan. 7, 2013)

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama – As police continue to investigate the shooting death of Lt. Col. Alonzo McGhee, plans are underway for a memorial service at Redstone Arsenal specifically for military personnel.

Counseling is also being provided for McGhee’s co-workers, according to Lt. Col. Martha K. Brooks, director of public affairs for the Expeditionary Contracting Command where McGhee worked. The ECC is a part of the Army Contracting Command at the arsenal.

http://blog.al.com/breaking/2013/01/post_1009.html



Click on the image for ACC safety messages.

