

ACC TODAY

U.S. Army Contracting Command

Winter 2012



Joint Dawn 2012

*Deployment exercise increases
in size and scope*

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View from the top

Nichols named new ACC commander

Contracting support leads to medical breakthrough



Director's Note

ACC: Proud of our past – confident about the future

By Michael R. Hutchison
Executive Director, Army Contracting Command–Rock Island,
Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

The Army Contracting Command–Rock Island and the Army Sustainment Command serve as the focal point for coordinating logistics support requirements for the Iraq drawdown and sustainment of operations under the Department of State.

In the year preceding the Iraq drawdown, ACC-RI in close coordination with ASC, both located at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., participated in intensive planning activities with Office of the Secretary of Defense, Department of Army, and the Department of State to chart the course for maintaining seamless logistics support during and after the transfer of operations from a military to a civilian-run operation. This planning activity encompassed a broad spectrum of services, and was characterized by complex and unprecedented issues.

The contracting professionals in our Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, Reachback and Sustainment Divisions, worked diligently with the supported military units and DOS before, during, and after the drawdown to ensure continuous coverage despite very demanding conditions. Supporting the Iraq drawdown and building the follow-on support base, while continuing to support day-to-day contingency operations, involved heavy coordination and a significant surge in contracting activity.

Among the most significant contracting activities ACC-RI executed during the drawdown period were transportation, stevedoring, container handling and base life support. The Heavy Lift 7 contract provided 3,000 trucks per day hauling military equipment out of Iraq, with additional heavy transport capability coming from the LOGCAP contract during the peak of drawdown activity. Additionally, activity on our contracts for support services in Kuwait surged when forward operating bases in that region expanded to serve as the staging platform for the demobilization of personnel and equipment out of Iraq and on through the port of Kuwait. ACC-RI continues to support DOS in the post-drawdown phase with sustainment services including transportation, equipment maintenance, base life support and security services.

By any measure, the logistics support for the drawdown and the follow-on sustainment requirements provided by ACC-RI have been tremendously successful—a success made possible through the efforts of a workforce dedicated to supporting the Soldier on the battlefield. Waking up at 2 a.m. on any given workday to sit in on a teleconference or logging on to work on a Sunday are necessary elements of the job that field support contracting professionals not only understand, but embrace. The folks here at ACC-RI serve selflessly, in many instances leaving family and friends either for quick trips overseas, or, in some cases, deploying for extended periods into dangerous and austere combat environments. It is this dedication, displayed day in and day out, that gives me a deep sense of pride and satisfaction as we continue providing world-class logistics support to the Soldier and the U.S. Army. ♦

ACC TODAY



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Cover—Master Sgt. Emily Toomey, California National Guard, eyes the terrain during one of the many scenarios during Joint Dawn 2012. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristin Duus)

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Capt. Kelli Kulhanek, 905th Contingency Contracting Battalion, prepares to fire her weapon during a weapons training session. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus)

Joint Dawn 2012

By David San Miguel
Headquarters, U.S. Army Contracting Command

“Joint Dawn 2012 is the beginning, not the end of your preparation to deploy,” said Heidi Shyu, acting assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, via a video message to the exercise participants, Jan. 27.

Entering into the final phase of the two-week mission readiness exercise, Shyu also encouraged the participants to continue their efforts to support the war fighter and to anticipate those challenges that lay ahead: “to understand the environment in which they’ll be deployed—the culture, the low literacy rate, a developing banking system and the fractal infrastructure that will im-

pact their ability to produce quality contracts.”

According to Brig. Gen. Joe Bass, commanding general, Expeditionary Contracting Command, it’s a tall order but one in which the planners took into account when they formulated then conducted the first exercise in January 2010, only two years after the ECC was established.

Now into its third iteration, Joint Dawn 2012, held Jan. 19–Feb. 3 at Fort Bliss, Texas, has grown from an initial 34 participants in 2010 to more than 250. This year, in addition to a contingent of Army Contracting Command and ECC personnel, the exercise included a mix

of military and civilian contracting professionals from the Air Force, Navy, Marines, Army Reserve and Army National Guard to simulate joint regional contracting centers supporting U.S. Central Command missions abroad.

During the initial phase of the exercise, participants were given extensive warrior skills training to better equip them to survive and operate in a hostile environment. This entailed weapons familiarization and qualification, survival training, convoy operations and medical skills training.

“The better we train our folks, just like any function in the Army, the

“It’s the same environment they’re going to operate in when they go into theater.”

better they will be able to support the war fighter whether it be logistics or war fighting or contracting,” Bass explained. “We want to give them the best training possible—the most realistic training so that they’re better prepared to do their mission when they get forward deployed.”

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Mike Curran, office of the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy (acquisition and procurement), agreed. He said the exercise gave him “a good idea of what he might expect while deployed.”

Curran noted that the contracting scenarios presented were developed based on actual occurrences in Afghanistan.

These reality-based training scenarios coupled with a high operational tempo “gives us the confidence to face whatever comes our way,” he said. “In addition, it offered us an opportunity to train alongside our Army counterparts.”

A main tenant of the exercise is to have the services train in a joint environment much like they would operate in support of contingency missions abroad.

“It’s the same environment they’re going to operate in when they go into theater,” Bass said. “So, we wanted to expose them to working with the other services and civilians so that it’s not new to them when they get there.”

Rear Adm. Althea H. “Allie” Coetzee, executive director, DASN AP, added that though most of the Marines and sailors have experienced deployment, this exercise offered those that hadn’t an opportunity to

“see what the other services bring to the table.”

She recommended those few who hadn’t yet deployed to take full advantage of this unique opportunity.

“Take advantage of the resources available to you,” she said. “Take advantage of the other services, partner with them. Work with them and learn from them.”

“We all wear the uniform,” Curran said. “We all serve our country and support the war fighter. We need to work together to ensure they get the best we can provide.”

Kim D. Denver, deputy assistant secretary of the Army (procurement), agreed. He visited with the exercise participants and delivered some words of advice to those pending deployment.

“Contracting is a team sport and it takes a team to make sure you accomplish the mission,” he said. “And as we’re executing our contracts, let’s make sure we’re providing that Soldier what he needs for mission success.

“It is the Soldier that is executing the mission,” he said. “That’s where our focus should be.”

Denver also advised the participants to “remain diligent.” He cited the multitude of changes in how business is conducted... “what the



Joint Dawn participants practice convoy operations including training on exiting a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Kristen Duus)

press is saying... what those outside our environment are saying about us and what they’re saying about Afghanistan.”

“You’re on the front lines and it doesn’t matter whether it’s in contracting or outside,” he said. “We are the stewards of the taxpayer’s dollars and we have to make sure we protect those interests and protect the reputation of the U.S. government. Contracting is critical...set the standard in all that we do.” ♦



Navy Cmdr. Steven Glover, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition and Procurement, safely exits a mine resistant ambush protected training vehicle during roll-over training. (Photo by Lt. Col. Martha Brooks)

Joint Dawn 2012: Swimming in a Sea of Green

*By Ann Jensis-Dale,
Headquarters, U.S. Army Contracting Command*



Navy Cmdr. Michael Curran, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition and Procurement, takes aim at the target, honing in on his marksmanship skills during the Engagement Skills training during Joint Dawn 2012. (Photo by Sgt. Kristen Duss, Fort Bliss)

Several U.S. sailors were among more than 250 military and civilian contracting officers participating in the Army Contracting Command's Joint Dawn 2012 exercise, Jan. 19-Feb. 3 at Fort Bliss, Texas.

"This is the first time that the Navy was invited to participate in Joint Dawn and I am here with seven other Navy supply corps officers all going through this training," said Navy Cmdr. Michael Curran. All the naval participants are assigned to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition and Procurement.

The Navy digital blue camouflage work uniform stood out among the sea of green camouflaged Army service uniforms.

"The Army and Navy have very different cultures, but we all wear the uniform. We all serve our coun-

try,” said Curran. Navy personnel are trained to work alongside Army, Air Force, Marines and civilian employees in deployed environments.

“This is great for us because usually in the Navy Reserve we don’t get to experience training like this. Joint Dawn has given us the great opportunity to train and learn about how the Army conducts business because we’ll be working side-by-side with the Army when we go down range,” said Curran who attended the training in his capacity as a Naval Reserve officer.

The Joint Dawn 2012 exercise was designed to develop contracting expertise in an environment that simulates joint operations down range and serves as a precursor to deploying in support of the U.S. Central Command, according to Col. Jeff Morris, commander, 412th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

“We worked with our ACC counterparts in an Army environment and were presented with scenarios based upon actual occurrences in Afghanistan. These scenarios will help prepare and give us the confidence to face whatever issue we may face when we get in country,” Curran said. “This training identified some areas that we may need to improve, train more on and take back to our units.”

In its third year, Joint Dawn has grown from an Army-only exercise with less than 50 Soldiers and civil-



(Right) Navy Rear Adm. Allie Coetzee, executive director, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition and Procurement, discusses Joint Dawn 2012 training with participants in the 2012 class. (Photo by Navy Cmdr. Michael Curran)

“The Army and Navy have very different cultures, but we all wear the uniform. We all serve our country.”

ians trained in 2010 at Fort Riley, Kan., to 115 Soldiers, sailors, airmen and civilians trained at Fort Campbell, Ky. in 2011. This year, Joint Dawn 2012 attendance more than quadrupled and included members from each of the military services.

“This is actually a great opportunity for me, at the Pentagon level, to come out here and to see what is going on at the ground level with our joint forces,” said Rear Adm. Allie Coetzee, executive director, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition and Procurement. “The Army did a phenomenal job of organizing this exercise and when we first became aware of it at the Pentagon; we were all over it from the Department of the Navy perspective.”

“We are all here to support the war fighter and ensure they get the best we can provide,” Curran said. ♦



Navy Lt. Ephantus Cerere, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Acquisition and Procurement (center) sits between Sgt. 1st Class Amelia Bryant, 644th Contingency Contracting Team, Kleber Kaserne, Germany (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Andre Dooley, 722nd CCT, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland (right) during convoy training at Joint Dawn 2012. (Photo by Lt. Col Martha Brooks)

ICO-Fort Benning tackles demanding mission

Daniel P. Elkins
Mission and Installation Contracting Command
Public Affairs Office

Contracting experts at the Installation Contracting Office-Fort Benning, Ga., remain focused despite having one of the busiest missions in the Mission and Installation Contracting Command.

“We never lose sight of our mission to provide the Soldier with what he or she needs to do the job,” said Brenda Clark, deputy director.

That attention is also reflected in the ICO’s maxim: “Supporting Soldiers is what we do. We also write contracts.”

Made up of more than four dozen civilian and military professionals, Clark anticipates the ICO to keep pace with its emergent mission with the addition of a quality assurance specialist and additional contingency contracting officers from the 639th Senior Contingency Contracting Team, Fort Bragg, N.C.

The contracting office’s mission is as dynamic as its customer base. Contracting for the U.S. Army’s Training and Doctrine Command, Forces Command and Special Operations Command among many others, the number of people and customers supported is always a moving target. Fort Benning trains more than 108,000 Soldiers a year in 61 courses.

ICO-Fort Benning contract support extends to the garrison, installation directorates, two Army Ranger

battalions, a continental United States replacement center, three FORSCOM units, the Western Hemisphere

Institute for Security Cooperation responsible for training soldiers from Central and South America in infantry methods and tactics, as well as tenant units on the installation.

“In addition to training requirements, we also support combat forces for two operational units with different missions, both of which often require rapid response to requests,” Clark said. “Contract support must be flexible and ready to meet the different challenges of a wide variety of customers.”

In fiscal 2011, members of ICO-Fort Benning processed more than 2,110 contract actions for a total obligation of more than \$315 million, making it the top contracting office in obligated dollars for the MICC. That included contracts for logistics and base operations valued at \$71 million, dining facilities valued at \$38 million and more than \$22 million in government purchase card obligations.

“The Directorate of Logistics effort is the largest for Installation Management Command, and the dining facility contract is the largest food service budget in the Army,



Cardova Hall conducts a monthly internal training class Feb. 13 for members of the Installation Contracting Office-Fort Benning, Ga. Hall is a contract specialist for the ICO-Fort Benning.

serving more than 10 million meals a year,” she said.

Helping offset the increased workload are the nine CCOs, of which three are deployed away from Fort Benning, who are fully incorporated into ICO-Fort Benning.

“This arrangement yields a multitude of benefits,” Clark said. “First, it gives CCOs actual experience with real-time requirements from inception to close-out. Second, customers in uniform have responded better to dealing with other Soldiers, and the level of trust and cooperation has increased with some of our more challenging and high-maintenance customers.

“Soldiers trained in acquisition have contributed greatly to our customer education training by communicating and affirming with other Soldiers what is being taught since they have now seen ‘both sides of the fence.’”

Clark added the fresh viewpoint gained by developing a teaming relationship with the Soldiers benefits not only the ICO-Fort Benning, but reaffirms its motto of supporting Soldiers. ♦

409th Contracting Support Brigade supports continuing mission in Horn of Africa

By Rachel Clark
409th Contracting Support Brigade,
Kaiserslautern, Germany

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany—Deploying to locations that cover one third of the globe, members of the 409th Contracting Support Brigade regularly find themselves supporting the U.S. Africa Command in remote parts of the African continent.

In Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, as part of the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, the contracting teams play integral roles in acquisition support. AFRICOM's missions change as often as the climate on the second largest of the continents.

“The kind of support we provide is to deter war. We are out to build relationships with the locals and let them know we are a friendly force,” said Master Sgt. Andres Reta, 409th CSB. “We are key in the support of building, remodeling, reconstructing, and upgrading of a lot of schools, clinics, and wells.”

Upon arrival at Camp Lemonnier, 409th team members become part of a joint military contracting community and are individually assigned to support a diffident country in Africa. The team provides acquisition support that includes acquiring construction material, transportation, camp support, as well as humanitarian efforts.

“While working in the contracting office at Camp Lemonnier, our team got to write contracts for humanitarian efforts including veterinarian civic programs that helped vaccinate animals,” commented Sgt. 1st Class Portia Hall, 409th CSB. “I was humbled by some of the things I got to see, and to be able to support the mission in



Contracting officers from the Combined Joint Task Force –Horn of Africa contingency contracting office brief prospective applicants for security guard positions at the future site of the Ali Oune Health Clinic in Djibouti. (Photo courtesy of 409th Contracting Support Brigade)

“We are out to build relationships with the locals and let them know we are a friendly force.”

Africa was amazing, professionally and personally.”

The joint environment provides the contracting professionals the opportunity to learn new techniques and see how their peers are getting the job done.

“Navy Supply Corps officers don’t get to do contracting full time so this

is a very unique opportunity,” said Navy Capt. Scott Hawkins, the CJTF-HOA chief of contracts. “This is great experience, and it’s so interesting to be able to see how other service members are doing contracting.”

The team also works on humanitarian projects that support the efforts toward building a nation. ♦

Providing contracting services for presidential event



President Barack Obama during his speech to the troops at Fort Bragg, N.C.



Jamey Quinn, Atlas Production Group and Maj. David Weese, 717th CCT, along with their respective teams, worked hand in hand through the event.

By Maj. David M. Weese
717th Contingency Contracting Team,
Fort Bragg, N.C.

FORT BRAGG, N.C.—For the military, contingency contracting tends to reference combat operations or natural disasters, but in reality, they can occur anytime, anywhere and sometimes for positive reasons such as preparing for a visit from the president of the United States.

A Dec. 14 short-notice visit to Fort Bragg by President Barack Obama to announce the end of the war in Iraq set the wheels in motion for the 905th Contingency Contracting Battalion, Fort Bragg, and Mission Contracting Office-Fort Bragg to jump into action.

The 905th CCBn is a U.S. Army Expeditionary Contracting Command unit and the MCO-Fort Bragg is part of the U.S. Army Mission and Installation and Contracting Command. The contracting office received notification of the event on a Friday at 5 p.m. with execution being the following Wednesday. Because of the historical significance of the

event and the nationwide attention from both the media and the public, there was no room for failure.

In order to execute such a task and ensure complete follow through, the 905th and MCO-Fort Bragg offices called on Uche Washington, chief, contracting branch, Mission Installation Division, MCO-Fort Bragg, along with Maj. David Weese, and Sgt. 1st Class Kelvin France, of the local 717th Contingency Contracting Team to ensure mission success.

All three contracting professionals worked closely with members of the White House, Secret Service, and the 18th Airborne Corps command and staff to ensure planners and coordinators had everything required to ensure the commander in chief's historic visit went off without a hitch. The 905th CCBn personnel embedded themselves with the planners from the start, attended coordination meetings as

members of planning cells, met with White House staffers and key corps personnel throughout the mission.

“During the execution of the short-notice mission to enable the president’s visit, Ms. Washington, Maj. Weese and Sgt. 1st Class France demonstrated all of the MCO’s values: agility, commitment, competence, diligence, initiative, timeliness, teamwork and even fun at work. They were and continue to be a great team,” said Lt. Col. Dennis McGowan, 905th commander.

In order for the speech to be successful, all had to be perfect. That meant confirming the location had all the necessary equipment available and ensuring transportation efforts were synchronized.

“Although the majority of the event was supported by the Fort Bragg Public Affairs Office and the 18th Airborne Corps command and staff, Fort Bragg has a limited inventory of staging, lighting, and audiovisual systems, and therefore had to contract certain items through nationwide vendors to make this magnitude of an event possible,” said Jon Woolfolk, plans and operations specialist for the Directorate of Plans, Training, and Mobilization Office. “The 905th and the Mission Contracting Office – Fort Bragg answered the call, and with minimal notice, went to work conducting market research and competitive negotiations.”

The contracting professionals held fast to fair and reasonable pricing and competitive source selection. Through effective market research and determination of fair and reasonable pricing, two separate contracts were awarded to two separate vendors who provided staging, lighting, sound, electrical, and sign language interpretation for the event. The end result: competition, fair and reasonable pricing, mission success for the command and improved government-contractor relations for future contingencies operations if and when they occur. ♦

Nichols named new ACC commander

Headquarters, U.S. Army Contracting Command



Brig. Gen. (P) Camille M. Nichols

The Chief of Staff, U.S. Army announced on Jan. 24 that Brig. Gen. 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, NY, 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 2008 until 2009. Prior to her current assignment, Nichols served as the commander, Joint Contracting Command, United States Forces-Iraq.

The ACC change of command will be held May 17 at Redstone Arsenal.

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. ♦

CAB recipient fits in nicely with contracting Soldiers

By Giselle Lyons
Headquarters, U.S. Army Contracting Command

Sgt. 1st Class Lascelles Cuff may not have the contracting background of many of his fellow Expeditionary Contracting Command's Soldiers, but he does possess a Combat Action Badge, something that most of his peers do not.

Cuff, a native of Hartford, Conn., who enlisted in the Army in 1996, is the ECC's chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear/training non-commissioned officer.

Cuff received the CAB during Operation Iraqi Freedom as part of the initial offensive surge to move across the Iraqi border. The CAB is the non-infantry equivalent to the Combat Infantry Badge which is awarded to infantry Soldiers for engaging or being engaged by the enemy.

Cuff received the award as part of the 3rd Infantry Division. He deployed to Kuwait in 2003 as part of the initial offensive to cross the Iraqi border. At the time, he was the company CBRN NCO/operations center noncommissioned officer in charge and was responsible for collecting and disseminating critical information from the infantry platoons to ensure the commander had a complete situational awareness.

When his unit crossed the border, they came into contact with enemy combatants that were moving through Al Najaf and the Karbala Gap toward Saddam International Airport. At one point, his company lost five Soldiers in less than 24 hours. Also trained as an alternate gunner on the Bradley Fighting

Vehicle, Cuff and another Soldier engaged an enemy that was trying to infiltrate their company assembly area.

"Being awarded the CAB meant a lot to me," said Cuff. "It validated the sacrifice that my unit and I made during Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Though he is not a 51 Charlie contracting NCO, Cuff's experience allows him to work within ECC seamlessly.

At ECC, he is the command's CBRN/training NCO. He coordinates and tracks the mandatory military and civilian training for both the Army Contracting Command and the ECC headquarters. He also advises the command on CBRN issues such as training and equipment. ♦



Sgt. 1st Class Lascelles Cuff



ACC-RI provides contracting training to airmen

By Travis Gerritsen
Wright Patterson Air Force Base

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio—Purchasing the billions of dollars worth of items needed by war fighters is a big job often reserved for seasoned contracting professionals in theatre.

Recently, first term airmen in the contracting career field have proven their business skills through an innovative joint United States-based venture between the Air Force Enterprise Sourcing Group, U.S. Central Command – Joint Theater Support Contracting Command and Army Contracting Command–Rock Island, Ill.

This venture was formally kicked-off when airmen arrived at Rock Island Arsenal in July from the ESG.

The ACC-RI Contracting Reachback Division is responsible for providing contracting support to war efforts from its CONUS-based location.

“Since the ESG is responsible for the Air Force’s overall strategic sourcing initiative, there is little to no tactical workload to provide junior airmen with the on-the-job training necessary for the contracting Air Force specialty code,” said

Air Force Maj. Fred Lacey, deputy, ACC-RI’s Non-Complex Reachback Branch. “We saw the work of the ACC-RI Contracting Reachback Mission as a perfect opportunity to give our airmen the necessary training and experience while directly aiding the war fighter mission.”

The ESG’s first team of six airmen, consisting of one contracting officer/trainer and five first-term contracting airmen/trainees, have completed their four-month “deployment” receiving on-the-job training and utilizing requirements support-

(Left to right) Airman 1st Class Jacob C. Henningsgaard, Airman 1st Class Keisha N. Robinson, Staff Sgt. Justin P. Keene and Airman 1st Class Christopher J. Rudolf recently completed the first training class at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., of an innovative joint United States -based project between the Air Force Enterprise Sourcing Group, U.S. Central Command, Joint Theater Support Contracting Command and Army Contracting Command-Rock Island.

“There is no better way to be trained than to have a direct impact of assisting our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.”

ing the war fighters in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The ESG airmen, who represent about one-third of the Non-Complex Reachback Mission manpower and about one-third of the total buying actions, support the Non-Complex Reachback Branch at ACC-RI. This branch is designated to purchase commodities from U.S.-based vendors and existing General Services Administration contractors. For fiscal year 2011, the Non-Complex Reachback Branch supported more than \$80 million worth of purchases making it the fourth-largest buying office when compared to its counterpart office in theater.

“It’s important to note that every airman and Soldier assigned to ACC-RI directly correlates to one less mission support asset—in this case contracting professional—required in theater,” Lacey said.

Lacey believes the ACC-RI Reachback Mission is very similar to an overseas deployed environment with long working hours, including weekends and holidays. Additionally, the airmen gain firsthand experience of the workload they could be supporting once they deploy.

“These extremely intelligent airmen have been given the firehose treatment, loading them up with an incredible amount of workload,” said Lacey.” It amazes me how quickly they have picked up these requirements throughout all of Afghanistan and Iraq, supported the war fighter, almost as if they were seasoned professionals. They have been a true force multiplier and it is through their efforts we have supported so much.”

The airmen on the first team have certainly valued the experience. “There is no better way to be trained than to have a direct impact of assisting our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq,” said Airman 1st Class Mikinee Moses. “There is a direct correlation with the work I do daily and the support provided to the troops and their mission. For this I have come to respect and understand the position I hold as a contracting specialist and I see the significance of building well-constructed contracts and being an effective administrator. The work I do today affects tomorrow as well as the work done by those who will fill my position when I leave.”

The experience has also made an impact on Airman 1st Class Keisha Robinson.

“Knowing that my hard work and long days provide the war fighter the drink of water, the hospital, or the vital machinery needed to provide care, reiterates how important our jobs are as contracting specialists,” said Robinson, “it gives me great pleasure to be able to support our country in such a way.

According to Robert Shofner, director, Enterprise Sourcing Group, the Air Force ESG intends to continue providing support to the reachback cell as long as there are war fighters in Operation Enduring Freedom and other operations requiring reachback support. ♦

Changes in the NCO senior leadership

By Larry D. McCaskill
Headquarters, U.S. Army Contracting Command



(Left) Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement) Kim Denver discussed recent initiatives in the Noncommissioned Officer Corps with Command Sgt. Maj. Angel Clark-Davis, Expeditionary Contracting Command, and Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray, Army Contracting Command during a recent training exercise.



Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney J. Rhoades speaks to members of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command during his Jan. 9 change of responsibility ceremony at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

to working with the entire command and Fort Sam Houston community.”

Clark-Davis assumed the duties as the ECC command sergeant major Jan. 12 at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., after serving as the Redstone garrison command sergeant major.

“During my 29 years in the military, I’ve seen the NCO corps flourish and continue to develop true professionals within its corps,” said Clark-Davis. “Today’s NCOs have assumed greater responsibilities and are counted on to set the example, now more than ever.”

In addition to the arrival of Clark-Davis and Rhoades, there’s been an addition of seven new brigade command sergeant major positions within the Expeditionary Contracting Command.

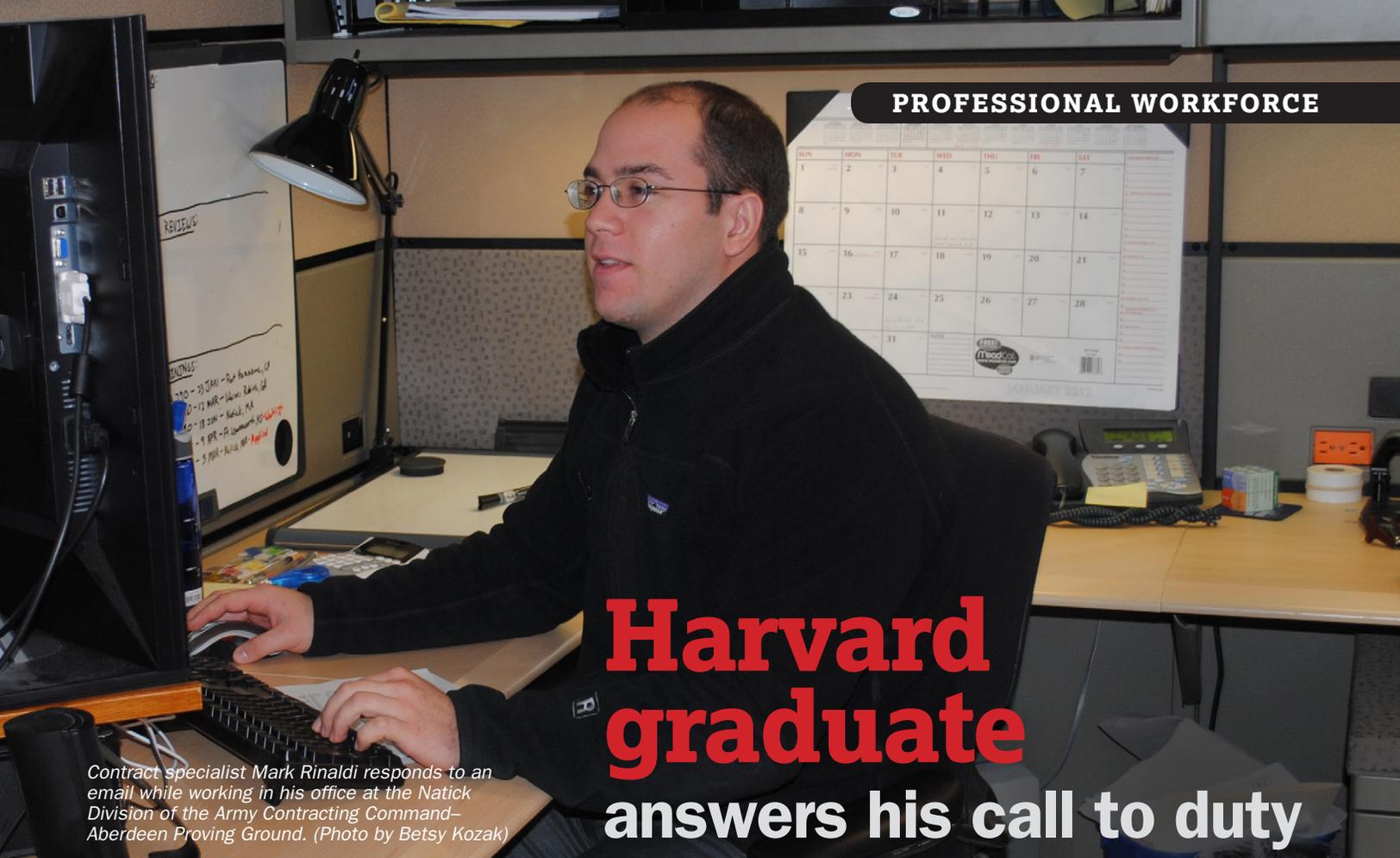
“There’s a need to change the duty title for the sergeants major at the battalion level,” said Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray, ACC command sergeant major. “Currently their duty title states, senior enlisted advisor. They are expected to do a lot more than this. They assist the commander in the operation, training and organization of the unit. More than that, they ensure the implementation of policies and procedures and help to prioritize resources.” ♦

The Army Contracting Command welcomed Command Sgt. Maj. Angel C. Clark-Davis and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney J. Rhoades to the Expeditionary Contracting Command and the Military and Installation Contracting Command, respectively, during change of responsibility ceremonies in January.

Rhoades assumed the duties as the MICC command sergeant

major during a Jan. 9, change of responsibility ceremony at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, after serving as the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., garrison command sergeant major.

“My focus will be on providing sound leadership for the command, to enforce standards and to instill discipline throughout the MICC,” said Rhoades. “My wife, Lori, and I are happy to be here and look forward



Contract specialist Mark Rinaldi responds to an email while working in his office at the Natick Division of the Army Contracting Command—Aberdeen Proving Ground. (Photo by Betsy Kozak)

Harvard graduate answers his call to duty

By Betsy Kozak
Army Contracting Command—Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

After rubbing elbows with elitist educators at the world-famous Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., and graduating cum laude, Mark Rinaldi did what only the brightest, highly sought-after college student would do. He started working for the Army Contracting Command—Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., in its Massachusetts office.

A contract specialist, Rinaldi graduated from Harvard with an honors degree in economics and mathematical sciences in 2010, with a 3.52 GPA. Rinaldi turned down offers from Wall Street to follow his call to duty, accepting a position with the Natick Division of ACC-APG. “I like the job,” explained the contracting intern.

Rinaldi’s interest in working with the federal government started when he was young. His grandfather was in the U.S. Air Force and would take him to the cemetery to place American flags on the graves of veterans.

“That left a big impression,” recalled Rinaldi. “My decision was rooted in a sense of duty learned through my experiences with my grandfather.”

While Rinaldi was in high school, a teacher arranged a technology demonstration on various Soldier protective gear items that also peaked his interest.

“Working with the front line of innovation is interesting to the inner geek in me,” commented Rinaldi.

He left high school with a 3.95 GPA and entered a four-year program at Harvard. There, Rinaldi was active in ice hockey and sailing, with sailing being a large part of his college experience. His team finished as national runners-up during his senior year.

“My degree has been beneficial to my contracting work in analyz-

ing cost proposals and negotiating,” Rinaldi said. “My science and mathematics background helps me understand the technology associated with many contracting actions. While I may one day pursue opportunities in the financial industry, I’m happy applying everything I learned at school to helping our troops return home safely.” ♦



Prior to graduating in 2010, Mark Rinaldi was a member of the varsity sailing team at Harvard University. (Photo by Mike O’Connor)



Kathie Potter is a member of the Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., currently serving in Iraq as part of the team transitioning contracting responsibilities to the Department of State.

Deployed civilian enjoys working next to Soldiers

*By Betsy Kozak
Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.*

“It’s the most wonderful job in the world,” Kathie Potter said, about her duties with the Army Contracting Command’s Deployable Cadre Program. Potter is currently serving as a procuring contracting officer supporting contingency operations in Iraq as part of the team transitioning contracting responsibilities to the Department of State.

Potter is one of 11 members of the Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., currently deployed in Iraq, Kuwait or Afghanistan, according to Barbara Williams, deployment coordinator with the Enterprise Resources Division. “The Deployable Cadre Program is a centralized database of qualified contracting personnel who are ready to deploy to meet the needs of the Army. The program supports critical contingency contracting requirements beyond the scope of our day-to-day mission.”

Potter began her tour in Iraq in November 2010 assigned as the PCO for the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program. The LOGCAP base contract operates as an indefinite quantity/indefinite delivery umbrella contract and provides support services to augment the force structure. It’s Potter’s responsibility to award

task orders under the LOGCAP contract to leverage contractor resources for in-theater logistical support.

“On a daily basis I feel as if I make a difference supporting contingency operations,” Potter said with pride. “I continually see the results of my efforts and there’s a true appreciation for the support that I provide. My input is encouraged and my opinion is valued. This experience has definitely been the pinnacle of my career.”

Armed with 16 years of contracting experience, Potter applied for the Deployable Cadre Program with the understanding that she may not be called to deploy. After a few weeks, Potter was asked to provide her resume. Two hours after submitting her resume, Potter received a phone call and the voice on the phone asked, how soon can you deploy?

“I had three weeks to prepare for deployment,” recalled Potter. “I had to pack my apartment, hire a moving service and put my belongings in storage. This was in addition to the job requirements for deployment. I was stressed!”

Once Potter completed her transition to Iraq, she settled into her work with the LOGCAP contract providing support to both the Department of Defense and Department of State. The LOGCAP contract was first awarded as a DOD asset to provide combat support services. This support expanded to include embassy operations with DOS. A

major component of Potter’s work has been supporting the drawdown of forces from Iraq with Operation New Dawn and the transition between the closing of LOGCAP III and the transition to LOGCAP IV. In fact, Potter extended until March 2012 to ensure the drawdown and the transition was completed without the disruption of a PCO change.

As a PCO, Potter is on call 24 hours a day, works seven days a week and is relied on to make many contractual commitments on the spot. “The greatest challenge is the fast pace of operations,” Potter said. “It’s a very rapid environment and I have to make instant decisions without a great deal of prior information.”

The experiences in Iraq changed her as a person, according to Potter.

“I realized that my love of contracting is hands-on and not reviewing policy,” added Potter. “I understand that reviewing policy is necessary but I enjoy the problem-solving aspect of contracting. I like assisting customers with making cost-effective decisions and discovering the best solution.”

As Potter looks back over the past several months she also experienced some stressful times. She had to contend with the dangers of contingency operations and the sadness of people within theater being hurt or killed. Despite this, Potter still believes that “there’s no better job than contingency contracting!” ♦

Model offers MICC leaders capability, capacity, insight

By Dan Elkins
Mission and Installation Contracting
Command, Public Affairs

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas—Senior decision makers with the Mission and Installation Contracting Command will begin beta testing a new planning tool in April that allows them to better gauge their effectiveness in executing the contracting mission.

The Capacity and Capability Model, or CAP2, provides a methodology to measure the capacity and capability of MICC mission contracting centers, mission contracting offices and installation contracting offices throughout the nation to perform their missions for customers.

“Developed by a cross-functional team of contracting, financial and personnel experts, the CAP2 was designed to support the MICC’s transformation and delegated authority to regional mission contracting centers,” said Pat Hogston, director, MICC Contract Support, Plans and Operations.

MICC members are analyzing results from a data verification screening that wrapped up in January, said Derek Dansby, procurement analyst, MICC headquarters, who is helping lead the data’s transition to a computer dashboard format offering a more visual appearance of metrics.

“Through interaction with the user-friendly dashboard, leadership



Joe Cragget, procurement analyst, Installation Contracting Office-Fort Bliss, Texas, reviews a database for tracking government purchase card applications. Mission and Installation Contracting Command leaders will soon have greater information at their disposal to match professional skills possessed by Cragget and other experts in the command with the use of the Capacity and Capability Model. (U.S. Army photo/Daniel P. Elkins)

will be able to drill down through various levels of information to aid in answering questions and making decisions,” Dansby said.

The capacity and capability components of the CAP2 model take a deliberate approach matching necessary manpower and skills.

Capacity takes into consideration whether MICC contracting offices have the resources available to sustain the contracting activity level required to meet customer demands for acquisition services.

“Ratios are assigned a statistical risk rating, on a scale of zero to six, relative to the installation’s mission, other installations with similar work sets, and in comparison to other offices within the mission contracting center ‘family of work,’” said Alix Gayton, the chief of the workload assessment and management branch.

Workload and manpower measurements are supported by a MICC internal manpower model, which is fashioned after the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command manpower model.

CAP2’s capability component assesses the MICC contracting activities’ ability to perform the mission relative to personnel qualifications, certifications, skill attributes and experience.

“One aspect that distinguishes the CAP2 is the side-by-side view of resources needed and qualitative measures reflecting the ability of existing resources to perform the mission,” Gayton said.

The capacity and capability components will both roll up into the dashboard presentation offering MICC leaders at all levels an opportunity and risk assessment snapshot by area of responsibility. ♦



Unique relationship forges a bond between contracting organizations

By Larry D. McCaskill
Headquarters, U.S. Army Contracting Command

The relationship between the U.S. Army Contracting Command and the Military Surface, Deployment and Distribution Command's Acquisition directorate may be unique, but senior officials from both agencies agree they share a common goal, supporting the joint war fighter.

According to Karen Osborn, SDDC acquisition director, the directorate is part of the headquarters SDDC at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

SDDC is the Army service component command of U.S. Transporta-

tion Command—also headquartered at the Air Force base—and a major subordinate command of U.S. Army Materiel Command, headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

"This relationship allows SDDC to bridge U.S. TRANSCOM's Joint Deployment and Distribution Enterprise and AMC's Materiel Enterprise, giving the command greater capabilities to meet the war fighter's requirements," said Osborn.

Osborn explained that the ACC provides the directorate's Head of

Contracting Activity for the SDDC.

Michael Patterson, chief, ACC's Contracting Operations Field Support division, further explained the relationship between the two commands.

"When ACC was stood up and all of the 1102's (contracting specialists) at the Army Materiel Command's subordinate commands were moved into ACC, the personnel at SDDC remained on SDDC's rolls," said Patterson. "It was agreed that since the positions were paid for out

Elizabeth Cardenas and Dominic Curcuro, contracting officers with the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command Acquisition Directorates, Scott Air Force Base, Ill., review an invoice against a global information technology contract.

ACC realigns Miami contracting office

Headquarters, U.S. Army Contracting Command

of USTRANSCOM's working capital funds, they should stay under the control of USTRANSCOM."

SDDC Acquisition provides contracting and government purchase card support for its command at five locations within the continental United States. Its primary office is at Scott with support offices in Jacksonville, Fla.; Charleston, S.C.; Sunny Point, N.C.; and Concord, Calif.

Osborn added that the largest portion of SDDC AQ's mission is the procurement and administration of stevedore and related terminal services contracts at major CONUS ports to facilitate the loading and off-loading of government cargo in support of the global mission.

"We also acquire information technology services and equipment, and contract studies and analyses services to support many SDDC programs, including the Transportation Engineering Agency mission," Osborn explained. "Additionally, we spearheaded the concept, implementation and operational support of an electronic service contract review board supporting an estimated \$2.8 billion in services for all of SDDC."

"It's important for ACC and SDDC AQ to maintain a close working relationship," said Carol Lowman, ACC executive director. "While they are not an element of the Army Contracting Command, they are part of the Army contracting family and as such, we assist [them] in obtaining training and in the development of their 1102s." ♦

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.—Expeditionary Contracting Command's Regional Contracting Office – Miami is being realigned under the Mission and Installation Contracting Command, the U.S. Army Contracting Command announced in February.

The action will provide more efficient contracting support to the U.S. Southern Command, according to Col. Jeff Gabbert, ACC chief of staff. The ECC and the MICC are ACC subordinate commands.

The Regional Contracting Office-Miami, currently part of ECC's 410th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, will become the ACC Planning Cell-Miami, under the MICC's Mission Contracting Office, Fort Sam Houston.

RCO-Miami, led by Veronica Wilson, office chief, is comprised of five civil service employees and five Soldiers.

According to Gabbert, the action is a realignment of positions, moving personnel authorizations from one organization's roles to the other, and does not result in the loss of any civil service positions. The five military positions will be realigned with other ECC organizations through the normal military assignment process, he said.

Gabbert said the desired end state is that the MICC will be a "one-stop shop" for contracting support to Southern Command and its related organizations, receiving contract support requests and directing those requests to the appropriate ACC element. The 410th CSB will continue to provide overseas traditional commander activity and exercise and contingency support planning. He said all ACC contracting centers will provide reach-back capability for the overseas operations.

ACC leadership, driven by the fiscal reality of decreased defense spending, is continually looking for efficiencies to make ACC the most effective and efficient organization possible, he explained.

"We have to be good stewards of the limited budget authority we receive," Gabbert said. "Our goal is to make the command as effective and efficient as possible."

This will be ACC's fourth organizational realignment this fiscal year; all focused on gaining organization efficiencies. In October, ACC and ECC headquarters, both located here, consolidated six headquarters functions. That same month the command announced the consolidation of its various contracting offices in New Jersey to form ACC-New Jersey. In January, ACC announced the management-directed reassignment of 12 positions from its Washington Field Office, Alexandria, Va., to ACC headquarters, leaving three positions in the Washington office.

Gabbert said ACC leadership, motivated by the Army's Drive to Fiscal Reality, continues to look for organizational efficiencies, indicating more changes may be on the horizon.

"The fiscal reality is we have to look for ways to be efficient without becoming ineffective," he said. ♦

Contracting support leads to medical breakthrough

By Betsy Kozak
Army Contracting Command—Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Two medical research contracts established through the Army Contracting Command—Aberdeen Proving Ground, Natick Contracting Division, Natick, Mass. has led to the nation's first full face transplant and a fat grafting technique to restore facial form.

The contracts were established as part of a biomedical translational initiative directed by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs under the direction of Thomas J. Bouchard, Natick Contracting Division, deputy chief, to advance the treatment of military members injured in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The request for proposal was issued with a goal to fund the demonstration and validation of innovative technologies to improve the clinical outcome of wounded warriors," Bouchard said. "The plan was to discover technologies that would restore wounded warriors to active duty, improve the form or function of service members, or assist in reclaiming their independence in daily living tasks. I never dreamed that a biomedical translational initiative would result in a medical outcome at the magnitude of face transplantation."

The solicitation was released in May 2009 with the instructions that winning proposals would be funded under negotiated contracts. According to Bouchard, there were 24 offers and of these, four were in the



Face transplant recipient Jim Maki and Cheryl DeLuca, chief of the Natick Contracting Division, speak after a presentation at Natick Soldier Systems Center (Mass.). (Photo by David Kamm)

competitive range. The source selection team selected the University of Pittsburgh, PA., and Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Mass. The Brigham and Women's Hospital was awarded a \$3.4 million contract for face transplantation to treat severe facial deformity. The University of Pittsburgh was awarded a \$1.6 million contract to treat devastating facial injuries using innovative fat tissue grafting techniques.

According to Col. Janet R. Harris, Clinical and Rehabilitative Medicine Research Program, Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Fort Detrick, Md., improvised explosive devices injuries account for 26 percent of some degree of facial injury.

Under the contract with BWH, three face transplants have been completed to date. Prior to the actual transplant, an individual must be deemed an acceptable candidate.

"To be deemed eligible for a face transplant, the patient must have suffered extreme disfigurement," said Dr. Bohdan Pomahac, director, Plastic Surgery Transplantation, BWH. "An eligible patient has in-

juries that typically include extensive loss of soft tissues, underlying muscles, cartilage or bone, that render conventional surgical methods ineffective. The candidate must have lost at least 25 percent of the face and at least one major structural unit such as nose or lips."

According to Pomahac, the appearance of the donor is not likely to be replicated in the recipient. The underlying facial bones and muscle of the recipient will change the shape of the facial tissue graft from the donor and will largely determine its shape and final appearance. During the 10 to 15 hour surgery, one team of medical professionals removes the facial graft from the donor as another team prepares the recipient for the new face. The team works to connect the blood vessels between the donor face and the patient to restore circulation before the nerves, bone, cartilage and muscles are connected.

"Once the vessel flow is reestablished and circulating, the face comes alive," said Dr. Pomahac. "To integrate the face, each nerve of the donor face must be dissected and then reconnected to the responding

nerves of the recipient. Connecting the nerves is not easy work and must be performed under a microscope. To put it in perspective, one nerve is the size of 10 to 15 pieces of hair.”

Following the surgery, the transplant recipient will gradually regain functionality in the face as well as inside the mouth to enable smile and facial animation. “After approximately three months of healing, the facial sensation will be restored,” according to Pomahac. “In six to nine months regeneration of the motor functions will occur and over time we expect many more improvements.”

The second contract with the University of Pittsburgh was established to treat individuals with visible facial disfigurement by restoring the volume of an injured war fighter’s face using fat cells. The procedure involves taking fat from part of the body and grafting it into the head and face to precisely shape facial form, said Dr. J. Peter Rubin, chief, Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and co-director of Adipose Stem Cell Research. “Although fat grafting has been used for several decades for cosmetic purposes, this study will be the first time that this technology is used to accurately restore form.”

Rubin said surgeons can rebuild the facial bone structure, but there is still an unmet need in the precise restoration of facial features. “Although we can reconstruct bony structures very well, it is the surrounding soft tissue that gives a person recognizable features.”

Specially designed equipment and surgical instruments were created for the procedures. Patients that benefit from this procedure include those with visible facial deformities that can be corrected by filling in defects or cavities. “I envision a very strong partnership with the military medical community and this partnership will leverage the strengths of both parties to benefit the wounded warrior,” Rubin concluded. ♦

Combined contracting operations creates ACC-New Jersey

By Headquarters, U.S. Army Contracting Command

The operations of the Army Contracting Command-Picatinny have expanded to include an ACC contracting activity at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, creating a new organization officially established in October 2011 called the Army Contracting Command–New Jersey.

The mission of ACC-NJ is to plan, direct, manage and execute the full spectrum of contracting, acquisition support and business advisory services in support of major weapons, armaments, ammunition, information technology and enterprise systems for the Army and other Department of Defense customers.

“The objective of the new organization is to further enhance the contracting capability at JB-MDL, improve effective and efficient customer support, enhance workload distribution, and more effectively retain experienced acquisition workforce personnel across ACC,” said Bruce Berinato, ACC-NJ executive director.

Contracting activities at Picatinny have gone by different names over the years, including the Joint Munitions and Lethality Contracting Center and ACC-Picatinny.

As a result of the realignment, the organization’s name was changed to ACC-NJ to reflect the regional nature of the contracting mission.

This is a logical step in maturing and strengthening Army contracting,” said Carol E. Lowman, ACC executive director. “Although our command has been in business for a little over three years, we’ve made fantastic progress in the way the Army buys its goods and services. With the merger of our two contracting centers in New Jersey, I’m confident we can do an even better job of providing our Soldiers and civilians with the tools and support they need to ensure the defense of our great nation.”

Major customers for ACC-NJ at the Picatinny location include the Program Executive Office for Ammunition; the Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center; the Program Executive Office for Ground Combat Systems; the Program Executive Office for Soldier, and the Program Executive Office for Special Operations Forces Warrior.

The expansion of ACC-NJ into a regional contracting center has resulted in the growth of its customer base to include the Program Executive Office for Enterprise Information Systems; the Program Executive Office for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical; the Army Cyber Command and the United States Army Logistics Innovation Agency.

“Our portfolio of customers has greatly expanded from a \$3 billion business base to potentially a \$5 billion business base,” said Paul Milenkovic, ACC-NJ deputy director. ♦



Landry volunteers his services to Tennessee in 2013

By Ed Worley
Headquarters, U.S. Army Contracting Command

MADISON, Ala.—Travon Landry doesn't consider himself to be a bluegrass music fan. He's into rap and hip-hop. But he's got a lot of the bluegrass standard, "Rocky Top," in his future.

He officially committed to play basketball for the University of Tennessee Volunteers and will get plenty of chances to hear the song

played by the university band at sporting events.

Travon, a 6 foot 1 inch junior point guard for the Bob Jones High School basketball team, made a verbal commitment to the Vols in December. The 16-year-old is the son of John and Tracy Landry. John Landry is a logistics management specialist in the Army Contracting Command Deputy Chief of Staff,

Logistics, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

He chose Tennessee over several other universities—including fellow Southeastern Conference schools Alabama, Auburn, Florida, Georgia and Vanderbilt—because Tennessee's program "fits my style of play," he said.

"I'm a leader on the court," he explained. "I push the ball up the court and get it into the hands of the shooters. Coach (Cuonzo)



The starting point guard for the Bob Jones High School Patriots, Travon Landry (left) has made a verbal commitment to attend and play college basketball for the University of Tennessee. (Photo by Edward G. Worley)

Martin (Tennessee's head basketball coach) expects his point guard to be a leader on the floor. I lead by example. I don't care about the stats; only that we win."

According to Danny Petty, Bob Jones High School head basketball coach, Travon's two biggest assets are his speed and his basketball IQ.

"Travon is really quick and he can "D up" with anyone." Petty said.

He often assigns Travon to defend the opposing team's best player.

College basketball scouts agree. The Web site, Insider.ESPN.Go.Com, says, "Landry is a pass-first point guard that knows how to run a team and is an extension of the head coach on the floor. He is more concerned about winning than stats, but has shown the ability to take over a game when his team needs him."

Alabama.247.sports.com says, "The best one-word description of Landry is quick. Quick decisions, quick feet, quick hands. Lock-down defender who loves to play defense and to play the game, truthfully. He's a pesky defender, and what he lacks in range, he makes up for with his feet."

Travon's journey to Rocky Top began when he was about 10 years old. He played on an Amateur Athletic Union team that won a national championship for his age group. He said that was his first taste of a big-time victory. That's when he decided basketball was something he could play well.

"Anytime I do something, I want to do it to the best of my ability."

He applies the same principal to his academics, carrying a 3.6 GPA. He plans on majoring in sports management at UT "so I can always stay involved in the game."

The journey has had some obstacles. When he was living in Texas he said he would "shoot baskets in the driveway all night." But the lighting was poor—no streetlights—so his dad installed a light over the backboard so Travon could see well.

Then, in the summer of 2011, the family moved to Madison after John Landry joined the ACC headquarters staff.

Petty said Travon couldn't practice with the team over the sum-

mer because he had not transferred schools. Once Travon got on the court, Petty said he knew after the first practice who his point guard would be for the 2011-2012 season.

"We're a fast-break team," explained Petty, who notched his 600th career win in January. "We push it up the floor every chance we get. This is the best fast-break team I've ever had."

Petty said Travon pushes the ball up the floor, sees the defense and knows where to pass the ball. Travon leads the team in assists. He can also shoot when it's needed, scoring a season-high 21 points against Huntsville High School.

Travon has had one huge supporter along the road to Rocky Top. He credits his dad with having the biggest influence on his basketball career.

"He's supported me all the way, driving me to tournaments and working out with me. We still work out together."

Travon's hopes his journey takes him to an SEC championship, a trip to basketball's final four, and after college, to the National Basketball Association. But at 6 feet 1 inch, he knows he's at a height disadvantage.

"I hope I grow a lot in the next few years," he said with a chuckle.

For now, Travon is focused on academics and basketball. Bob Jones finished its season at 27-2 after being upset 56-50 by Decatur Feb. 10 in the opening round of the Alabama Class 6A Area 15 tournament. Landry and the Patriots will have to wait until next year to add another state championship to its 2010 title. And somewhere along the way, the hip-hop fan headed to the University of Tennessee will learn "Rocky Top." ♦

Early delivery creates a happy ending for the Scotts

By Larry D. McCaskill
Headquarters, U.S. Army Contracting Command

Little miracles happen every day. Just ask Charles and Shellie Scott about Jordan Grace Scott.

Born 16-weeks premature, Jordan entered the world much sooner than expected.

“Shellie called. I knew it was serious because I could hear the tears in her voice,” said Scott, a contract specialist with the Army Contracting Command-Warren, Mich.

“Did we lose her?” I asked. Shellie said no but that the baby would have to be delivered early.”

“Hurry!” she said.”

“I just made it. When I arrived at the hospital they were wheeling her into the emergency room. A doctor handed me a gown and shoe covers then escorted me to the delivery room.”



Born 16 weeks prematurely, Jordan Grace spent the first three months of her life in the hospital with as many as three IVs in her at any given time.

Jordan entered this world at 5:24 p.m. and her battle to survive began.

After only 24 weeks gestation, Jordan was not fully developed and needed the assistance of a ventilator and around-the-clock medical attention.

During the next 14 days, Jordan received blood transfusions and intravenous medication because her body could not yet produce red blood cells. After several days, she was gradually weaned from the ventilator.

“There were times when she had up to three IVs in her, along with a breathing tube. At three weeks, she reached the 2-pound weight goal,” Scott said.

With her weight gain, things started to look up. Then she suffered a setback.

“She developed some internal bleeding,” Scott said “She was too tiny for the medical staff to use any device to try and locate the origin of the bleed and she was put back on



Shellie and Charles Scott along with their daughter, Jordan Grace. (Photo courtesy of the Scott family)

the ventilator for six days until God resolved the bleeding.”

As Charles and Shellie celebrated Jordan’s 5-pound weight goal, they were told that she would need laser eye surgery.

Through the ups and downs, Scott’s life was anything but routine.

“I was part of a special project. It was a busy time that required having to work the weekend, just two days after Jordan was born,” he said. “My (procurement contracting officer) wasn’t aware of Jordan’s birth.”

Scott struggled with his commitment to the family and to those Soldiers and Marines serving the nation.

“I thought about the sacrifices that our Soldiers and Marines make,”

410th provides a helping hand



Members of the 410th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, help stock the shelves at the Haven of Hope Shelter in San Antonio. The unit is heavily involved in community outreach programs (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class April Johnson)

By Lt. Col. Martha Brooks
Expeditionary Contracting Command
Public Affairs

Scott said. “My thoughts were on being there for my wife, being there for the special project team and being there for our war fighters. With my wife’s blessing, I didn’t miss one day from work during the busy peak of the project.”

Scott’s daily routine, if one can call it that, consisted of waking up at the hospital and leaving early to shower at the gym before going to work and leaving work to go back to the hospital.

“I kept a week’s worth of clothes in my work closet,” he explained. “While at work I drew strength from God, my wife as she healed from the C-section, from my daughter who fought every day, and from the Soldiers and Marines that I saw each and every day.”

After three long and tiring months, Jordan was finally released from the hospital, three weeks before her due date. Jordan was able to breathe, feed and swallow on her own.

“Our reception happened at church and here at work. My pastor and church family never stopped praying for us,” said the proud papa. “Upon learning of my situation, my ACC family and Program Manager - Light Armored Vehicle family showered us with prayers and gifts.”

“Shellie’s mom and dad stopped by the house to see their first grandbaby outside the hospital walls,” Scott added. “My parents live in California and they’ll be flying out here soon.”

Now four months old and a whopping 8 pounds, 4 ounces, Jordan has passed her hearing tests as well as the battery of tests given to newborn babies. According to the doctors, Jordan has a bright future and should be a healthy baby girl. ♦

SAN ANTONIO, Texas—Volunteers from the 410th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, demonstrated their commitment to service by serving meals to almost 250 homeless men, women and children at the Haven for Hope transformation center here Feb. 11.

This service is part of the brigade’s community outreach program where several volunteer opportunities to help within the local community are offered throughout the year, according to Sgt. 1st Class April Johnson, contracting specialist, 916th Contingency Contracting Battalion, Fort Sam Houston. The 410th CSB has also partnered with Meals on Wheels and Habitat for Humanity to help members of the San Antonio community.

Johnson has been the driving force behind each of these events since her arrival and has made it her initiative to bring volunteerism to the forefront of 410th’s consciousness.

“The reason I volunteer is because it brings me great joy to help others in need,” said Johnson. “I am not by any means the richest person, but I do know that I am truly blessed for the things I do have and I realize that they can be taken at any time.”

“Our service members are a big asset to the shelters here,” said Col. William Sanders, 410th CSB commander. “I appreciate how so many of them volunteer and give up their early morning weekends to give to the needy in San Antonio.”

Johnson said several members of the brigade regularly return to the transformation center to lend a hand wherever needed. To them, volunteering at a homeless shelter, a food bank or a soup kitchen doesn’t only help the needy, but it can also remind them how fortunate they are to have each other.

“Performing community service helps foster a relationship with the San Antonio community and build esprit de corps within the unit. I was grateful for the opportunity to spend time with the volunteers and assist others during this event,” Sanders said. “It was a humbling experience for all of us, and I’m thankful to be part of such a generous group of volunteers.”

Johnson added, “In today’s economy, the face of homelessness has changed and now it can be our family, friends and neighbors who become homeless. If I can make a difference in someone else’s life by giving a little bit of me then I definitely have made a difference.” ♦



ACC-RI employees (L-R) Amy Knutson, Jen Paul and Stephanie Migawa regularly use their lunch hour to run in order to maintain their healthy lifestyle. (Photo by Liz Adrian)

One for all, all for fun

By Liz Adrian
Army Contracting Command—
Rock Island, Ill. Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND, Ill.—For three Army Contracting Command—Rock Island employees, the pursuit of competition is the equivalent to the pursuit of happiness.

Contract specialists Jennifer Paul and Stephanie Migawa, along with procurement analyst Amy Knutson, are active runners, regularly participating in road races and training between races.

On any given workday the women can be seen running, chatting, smiling, and pushing each other to go farther, providing invaluable motivation. “There are days that I’m tired and don’t feel like going, but then I feel guilty if I miss a workout with them,” said Knutson. “You actually do feel better and more awake in the afternoon after you go work out.”

The hard work and training pays off for each of the women in different ways. All of them consistently run the smaller races around town and in the Illinois-Iowa area, but they have larger accomplishments under their belts.

Migawa ran the Arizona Half Marathon, her fourth half marathon, Feb. 25 -. Paul says finishing the 2011 Quad City Times Bix seven-

miler in 41:52, 14th in the women’s female division, has been her biggest running accomplishment. Knutson has completed the Quad Cities Marathon in less than four hours.

“It was really hard, but it was such a great accomplishment, so I was glad I did it,” said Knutson. “I finished in just under four hours, which was my goal. Toward the end of the race, I saw my time approaching four hours, and somehow I got the speed to finish better than I wanted.”

They don’t typically run alongside each other on race day. Migawa and Knutson can hold their own and finish very well, but Paul consistently places at the head of the pack. “After we finish the race we’re watching for each other,” said Migawa. “Jen finishes so far ahead that she’s usually doing her cool down, or sometimes she’ll see me and then runs the last 100 meters again with me trying to motivate me to finish.”

In addition to work, racing and constant training, all three have an even more important reason for keeping healthy. All three are mothers to young children and feel it is crucial to set a good example for their kids.

“I do it for myself, for sure, but I want to make sure that my kids grow up knowing that there isn’t an alternative,” said Migawa. “You need to be healthy and active. I don’t expect my kids to be runners by any means, but there’s no reason we can’t go out for family walks or out for bike rides.”

An overarching spirit of challenging oneself is common to all three women.

“Through the years I have continued to run because I enjoy setting goals and working hard to achieve them,” said Paul. ♦

Curiosity leads to a historic letter

By Larry D. McCaskill
Headquarters, U.S. Army Contracting Command

At 12 years old, Deborah J. Hunter’s curiosity would lead her down a path resulting in a brush with a significant historical figure.

A military family member, Hunter lived most of her youth in Germany in the culturally and ethnically diverse world of the U.S. military.

“My father was in the Army and all I knew was that I was always around different people and we all got along,” said Hunter, special assistant to the executive director, Army Contracting Command. “I have to say, looking back I was pretty naive about a lot of things.”

Having never experienced racism, Hunter couldn’t make any sense of it.

“My father was reassigned to Korea so my mother and I went to live in Farmville, Va., where I was born. I couldn’t believe how things were.”

Farmville was the home of R.R. Moten High School, one of the five plaintiffs that challenged segregation in public schools and would become part of the landmark 1954 Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*. This decision declared segregation in public education unconstitutional.

Living in a world filled with segregation and injustice, Hunter asked her mother for answers. Her mother told her to write a letter to someone who might be able to answer her questions better than she could. The response she got lit a fire from within.

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Deborah J. Hunter proudly displays her letter from Martin Luther King, Jr. in her cubicle. (Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

(continued from page 26)

“I have received and greatly appreciate your very kind letter. I am gratified in your interest in our work,” the reply read. “It is an inspiration to me and all who are committed in the struggle for human rights and dignity.” The letter was signed by Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Back then, I didn’t understand the relevance of it, but it did make me feel better about some things,” she said. Not much later, Hunter attended a civil rights march with her mother that included Stokely Carmichael and other civil rights leaders.

In 2002, Hunter lost her mother. Going through her mother’s important

papers she made a startling discovery. Her mother had saved the letter.

“I was pretty shocked. It had been decades since I had seen it,” she said. “Not only had she saved the letter, she saved the envelope with some notes she had scribbled down. Decades later, Hunter’s involvement with civic organizations continues and she sees no reason to stop.

“As a nation we’ve come a long way. Many people my age never thought they’d see a black president. My mother would be so proud and happy if she could have seen that,” Hunter said. “We still have some room to grow and I am certain we will.” ♦

AROUND ACC



Soldiers from the 903rd Contingency Contracting Battalion, Kaiserslautern, Germany, participate in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear refresher training to maintain proficiency in garrison and combat environments in the event of a CBRN attack. (Photo courtesy of 409th Contracting Support Brigade)



Mary Moore (left), Army Materiel Command Small Business office, and Linda Loy, Army Contracting Command Human Capital, review notes as they prepare to greet visitors during the Association of the U.S. Army Winter Symposium Feb. 22-24 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. ACC participated in the conference as a representative in the AMC exhibit. (Photo by Giselle Lyons)



George M. Cabaniss Jr. (center) and his wife, Patricia, unfurl his senior executive service flag during his appointment ceremony at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Assisting with the ceremony are (left) Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades, Mission and Installation Contracting Command command sergeant major, their son, Kyle Peterson, and Brig. Gen. Stephen Leisenring, MICC commanding general. (U.S. Army photo by Daniel P. Elkins)



Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Raymond T. Odierno spends a moment with 413th Contracting Support Brigade Commander Col. Michael D. Hoskin during the chief’s visit to Hawaii. (U.S. Army photo)



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