

The

Bulletin



Energy Division awards contract for Anniston Army Depot efficiency upgrades

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The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, engineers adaptive, specialized solutions across a broad spectrum of global enterprise covering five main lines of effort:
Energy, Operational Technology, Environmental, Medical, and Base Operations and Facilities



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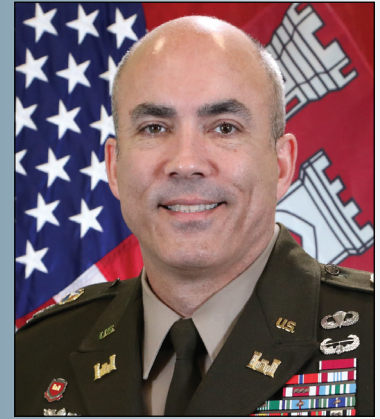
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Commander's Thoughts

“ Change can be challenging, but it is also an opportunity for growth.”



Col. Sebastien Joly

Team,
I hope you all had a great Memorial Day long weekend and enjoyed spending time with family, friends and neighbors.

I also hope you took a moment to honor all those who have perished in service to the U.S. during peacetime and war. Americans must never forget the meaning of Memorial Day.

As Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Guardians continue to risk their lives around the world, generations to come will remember the heroes who gave their all—not for glory or personal gain, but to guard liberty and the American way of life. We vow to remember their lives, courage and sacrifice and to support those they left behind.

As Summer officially begins June 20, I'm sure you're getting ready for outdoor adventures such as cookouts, traveling, water activities, relaxing in the sun.

However, all too often accidents and injuries tend to peak during this time too. This year when you venture out into the sunny days of summer, be aware and prepared for hazards of summer activities.

From water-skiing Lake Guntersville to kayaking the Flint River, the North Alabama region offers tremendous opportunity for water enthusiasts. Our folks in Omaha also have plenty to do on the water as Lake Wanahoo and

Elkhorn River are popular spots there. No matter where you are, there are a few rules everyone should remember when kayaking, paddle boarding, swimming or boating. First, never swim alone. We aren't invincible, and you never know what may happen.

Nobody plans to drown, and it only takes seconds.

Second, know your limits. It only takes enough water to cover a person's nose and mouth for them to drown.

Many times, we try to be cool and exceed our capabilities. Pushing limits and taking unnecessary risks around water often leads to very bad results. The most important thing any of us can remember is to wear a personal flotation device (PFD). There are many types of PFDs available for water-based activities. Choosing not to wear one should never be an option.

The difference between choosing to use a PFD and going without could be your life.

Summer heat is also a concern as the nation is expected again to see record breaking temperatures over the next several months. It's good to be mindful of the impact our extreme temperatures and high humidity can have on our health if we're not careful. The spectrum of heat illnesses includes dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat injury and exertional heat stroke (EHS). To avoid heat-related injuries during our hot summers,

prioritize staying cool indoors, wearing lightweight clothing and staying hydrated. Schedule outdoor activities for cooler times of the day, pace yourself, and please use sunscreen.

June 14 marks the 250th Army birthday and "This We'll Defend," is the central theme for all birthday-related events while highlighting the Army's purpose of fighting and winning our nation's wars.

To commemorate the birthday celebration, Redstone Arsenal's annual Army birthday celebration returns this year with music, food, a car show, vendor shopping, fireworks and a performance by the U.S. Army Parachute Team, called the Golden Knights. If you've never seen the Golden Knights in action, I encourage you to attend this celebration to see the demonstration team performing entertaining and somewhat unusual parachuting maneuvers.

The event is June 7, from 3-9 p.m. at Redstone Gateway, next to Gate 9. I hope to see you there.

There is also an Army birthday event June 15 as our friends at AUSA are hosting the Army Birthday Ball from 6-10 p.m. at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center Davidson Center for Space Exploration.

The event features a cocktail hour,

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Photo by Lillian Putnam

Difference makers

Huntsville Center administrative professionals pose for a photo on Administrative Professionals' Day April 23 in the Huntsville Center lobby. Leadership celebrated the “admins” with a breakfast and a gift card raffle. The Center’s “admins” were recognized for their contributions to the Huntsville Center mission as they provide travel arrangement services, time keeping functions, supply purchases and calendar maintenance, just to name a few of the vital tasks they do daily in support of the overall function of the divisions and offices. Thank you, “admins” for all that you do.

Commander From Page 3

dinner, special remarks, a ceremonial program with a band, Army presentations, cake cutting, a DJ for dancing, and more. Keep an eye out for email regarding ticket purchase for the event.

The Army birthday is a special day, it's also a special day for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

George Washington appointed the first engineer officers of the Army on June 16, 1775, during the American Revolution. This date marks when the Continental Congress authorized the first Chief Engineer, Col. Richard Gridley, to oversee the construction

of fortifications and other military infrastructure during the American Revolution. The Army established the Corps of Engineers as a separate, permanent branch on March 16, 1802.

As you all know, there is a lot of change ahead for us at Huntsville Center as we prepare to bid farewell to many esteemed colleagues who have chosen to retire.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge the profound impact they've all had on shaping Huntsville Center.

Their wisdom, dedication, and leadership have built the very foundation we stand on today. While it is never easy to see such talent move

on, this moment also brings with it a profound opportunity. For those who remain, this is a time to step forward, to carry the torch, and to build upon the legacy that has been entrusted to us.

Change can be challenging, but it is also an opportunity for growth. Let us honor those who worked so hard for so many years and rise to the occasion—with courage, innovation, and a renewed sense of purpose.

As many people have retired or left the Center for other opportunities, the exodus is causing Huntsville Center leadership to refocus our priorities.

Rest assured, Huntsville Center will still deliver.

Essayons!



Energy Division awards contract for Anniston Army Depot efficiency upgrades

From Staff Reports

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Huntsville Center's Utility Energy Service Contracting (UESC) program is modernizing operations at Anniston Army Depot (ANAD) to improve efficiency and reliability across the facility.

This effort is being executed through a Utility Energy Service Contract (UESC), which allows the Army to implement critical upgrades at no upfront cost to the Army or taxpayers.

Instead, the \$233 million project is funded through future energy savings, ensuring improved performance without any additional cost to the American taxpayer.

The project optimizes labor and material resource efficiency, enhances capacity for rapid response, elevates safety standards, and bolsters process redundancies.

By leveraging third-party investments, ANAD can address critical infrastructure updates within existing budget constraints.

"Leveraging our utility partners to reinvigorate our industrial base infrastructure is a revolutionary step to ensure our Soldiers have the firepower needed to dominate our enemies.

The Army is excited about this creative solution and look forward to similar agreements in the future," said David Fitzgerald, Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of the Army.

"This UESC represents a win-win scenario for the Army and the American taxpayer," said Dr. Jeff Waksman, Acting, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy and Environment.

"We are revolutionizing our procurement processes to equip our force with modernized critical infrastructure at Anniston Army Depot and support the local economy – all at no upfront cost to the government."

The ANAD is a Army maintenance center and munitions storage site occupying more than 25 square miles of land in northeast Alabama.

With 3.5 million square feet of maintenance and production buildings; 419,029 square feet of administrative buildings; and 6.8 million square feet of storage buildings, ANAD is a major economic engine for the region with a more than \$1 billion impact.

As one of only 23 critical Organic Industrial Base (OIB) facilities, ANAD plays a vital role in equipping and sustaining America's warfighters. ANAD is the designated Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence (CITE) for tracked and



Courtesy photo

A General Dynamics Land Systems technician performs preventative maintenance checks and services inspection on a 'rolling chassis' Stryker vehicle repaired at Anniston Army Depot. A Huntsville Center contract will upgrade the Depot's facilities and critical infrastructure.

wheeled ground combat vehicles (minus Bradley), towed and self-propelled artillery, assault bridging systems, individual and crew served small caliber weapons and locomotives, rail equipment and non-tactical generators.

ANAD employees repair and maintain vehicle systems such as the M1 Abrams tank, M88 Recovery Vehicle, Stryker, M113, M9 Ace Combat Earthmover and the Assault Breacher Vehicle, where major components of each vehicle are also overhauled and returned to stock.

Tiffany Turner, UESC project manager for the ANAD award, said Huntsville Center is committed to supporting the warfighter through innovative programs such as UESC.

"This project will streamline production, increase efficiency, reduce bottlenecks, and enhance overall productivity, while also improving workplace safety and protecting the health of the employees, ultimately driving project success," Turner said.



U.S. Marine Corps photo

Tim Keenan, right, a contracted senior field engineer, briefs Marine Corps Capt. Donovan White, left, a communications officer, and Gunnersy Sgt. Joshua Parrish, center, a data-systems chief, both with Headquarters Company, Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, about new call manager equipment during an equipment migration at Camp H.M. Smith, MCBH.

Rapid telecom contract deployment fills Marine Corps gap at Hawaii base

By William Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

With a very short timeline, Huntsville Center's Facility Technology Integration (FTI) program awarded a \$35 million contract for telecommunications support at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract enhances secure infrastructure across key sites at the base located on the Mokapu Peninsula near Honolulu.

The base provides forward-based, sustainable and secure training and operational support, facilities, and services enabling its operational forces to project power into the Indo-Asia Pacific Region.

The IDIQ contract encompasses the comprehensive engineering, procurement, installation, operation, maintenance, and sustainment of all telecommunications systems and networks at Marine Corps Base Hawaii (MCBH) and its designated ancillary sites.

Telecommunications and IT infrastructure aboard MCBH

and its ancillary sites has been a concern across the Hawaii region due to outdated legacy infrastructure alongside discontinued unsupportable equipment and systems.

Over the last 37 years, MCBH had been supported by Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) under various contract vehicles, the latest being the Pacific Enterprise Services – Hawaii (PES-HI) contract.

Recently, DISA announced it wasn't renewing the PES-HI contract and therefore the supported military departments and Department of Defense activities assumed responsibility for all capabilities provided by DISA under the PES-HI contract.

However, the MCBH Communications and Information Systems Directorate (CISD) didn't have the organic staff, equipment, or capabilities to provide reliable voice and data network services to its MCBH customers.

Recognizing they needed quick resolution, MCBH CISD

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NASA knowledge

Photo by Lillian Putnam

More than a dozen Huntsville Center Leadership Development Program Level 1 classmates have a look at the International Space Station Payload Operations Center during an April 14 tour of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center facilities. The class learned about the MSFC mission and received a leadership brief from William Marks, MSFC Center Operations deputy director.

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reached out to Huntsville Center's FTI-General program for support.

According to Patrick Parten, Huntsville Center FTI-Gen project manager, the Project Development Team designed the IDIQ contract to ensure the deployment of advanced infrastructure and the continuous management and technical support necessary for maintaining robust, secure, and scalable communication capabilities.

"This contract encompasses all activities associated with the full lifecycle management of all MCBH telecommunications resources, maintaining adherence to the highest standards and regulatory compliance throughout the contract duration," Parten said.

"To get this contract awarded, we had to move quickly as we needed to have at least 60 days transition to allow the new contractor to get to full performance."

Upon award of the contract, contracted technicians quickly began working with MCBH Communications and Information Systems (S-6) migrating legacy telecommunications equipment to modern voice-over

internet protocol equipment to support U.S. Marine Corps' Force Design 2030 modernization requirements, improve quality of life, and enhance operational capabilities across all property assets of MCBH

Parten said the efforts of Huntsville Center's contracting staff was instrumental in moving the contract through its processes for a quick award.

"Robert Marsh (Huntsville Center contracting officer) and Jasmine Fortenberry (Huntsville Center contracting specialist) worked tirelessly to ensure we got this awarded within the timeframe agreed upon between Col. (Sebastien) Joly (Huntsville Center commander) and Mr. (James) Balocki (Executive Director of Marine Corps Installations Command)" Parten said.

Joly said effective communication efforts with the stakeholder was crucial for the contract's quick turnaround.

"Working closely with senior leadership from the Marine Corps Installation Command, we are proud to be able to commit to and deliver a vital break-fix capability for MCBH within their required timeline preventing any disruption to their mission," Joly said.

Fort Johnson reclaims utility rebate, unlocks millions more in future energy savings

By William Farrow

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

In an era of tight budgets and rising costs, the U.S. Army is finding smart ways to stretch every dollar.

Thanks to the collaboration between two programs at the Huntsville Center and Fort Johnson, Louisiana, the garrison just scored a massive win—recouping nearly \$974,000 in utility over-payments and unlocking projected savings of more than \$2.3 million annually.

Home to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC)—where warfighters prepare for global missions—Fort Johnson had for years been billed under a utility rate plan meant for small businesses. This unfortunate situation resulted in significantly higher electricity costs. But now, that's all changing.

Huntsville Center's Commercial Utility Program (CUP) teamed up with Fort Johnson to perform a utility bill audit to identify electric cost savings.

Years earlier, a prior audit identified the problematic electric rate, but a better rate was not available, and the Army could not pursue the issue until the power provider filed a rate case requesting an increase in rates — something not done since 2013.

However, days after the utility bill audit contract was awarded, Christina Spang, CUP project manager, discovered local power provider Entergy Louisiana had filed a rate case before the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) requesting permission to increase electric rates for the first time in 10 years.

This was the moment the Army had been waiting for.

CUP immediately notified Army Legal Services Agency's Environmental Law Division (USALSA-ELD) and an



Over the next 35 years, Fort Johnson is estimated to save an additional \$420,000 annually through reductions in the Additional Facilities Charges tied to its utility privatization contract – a total of \$9.2 million in net present value savings.

Army Regulatory attorney immediately filed a rate intervention before the LPSC on behalf of Fort Johnson, just in time to meet the tight filing deadline.

What was subsequently found by the Army Legal team was eye-opening: Fort Johnson had been overcharged millions of dollars over the course of 10 years due to being misclassified under a “Small General Service Rate Schedule” by Entergy Louisiana.

To navigate the complex world of utility regulations and Time-of-Use rate modeling, CUP brought in Ph.D.-level expert witnesses to support Army Legal during the rate intervention. But even the most qualified experts needed help gathering key data.

That's where Jeffrey Rodgers, Fort Johnson's Energy Manager, and Scott Pogue, a Resource Efficiency Manager (REM) contracted through Huntsville Center's REM program, came in.

Pogue served as a vital link between the Fort Johnson team and CUP, supplying the detailed technical data needed to justify the rate change. His

on-site expertise in energy planning and efficiency made him a driving force in the success of the initiative.

“REM's like Pogue are our boots-on-the-ground experts,” said John Trudell, Huntsville Center REM program manager.

“They bring immediate, practical insight to energy infrastructure and help installations unlock real savings.”

Thanks to this collaboration, Fort Johnson not only received a \$973,948.72 rebate for three months of overbilling—but is also expected to save an estimated \$1.9 million per year going forward, primarily due to switching to a Large General Service Rate Schedule. That's not all. Over the next 35 years, Fort Johnson is estimated to save an additional \$420,000 annually through reductions in the Additional Facilities Charges tied to its utility privatization contract – a total of \$9.2 million in net present value savings.

In total, Fort Johnson will save an estimated \$11.5 million from the success of this rate case.

“These savings are permanent,” Spang said. “By switching from a rate schedule designed for small businesses to one suitable for a large Army installation, Fort Johnson is now being billed equitably—and that means millions of dollars back into the Army's budget.”

This case marks one of CUP's most successful utility rate interventions to date. It also highlights the power of cross-functional teamwork—bringing together legal experts, utility rate expert witnesses, energy managers, and on-site REMs to drive results.

“This wasn't just a win for Fort Johnson,” Spang said.

“It's a win for the American taxpayer, and a demonstration of how cross-functional Army teams can work together seamlessly.”



Fuels' Safety Symposium focuses on collaboration

By Lillian Putnam

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Leading into National Safety Month, Huntsville Center hosted its 2025 Fuels Safety Symposium, bringing together leaders, safety professionals and safety managers to share lessons learned and promote accountability.

The two-day symposium followed the theme “Listen, Learn, Participate, Share, Grow and Go,” and opened with remarks from key Huntsville Center program leaders, including Dennis Bacon, Fuels Branch chief; Jeremy McCranie, Safety and Occupational Health chief; and Jesus Ramirez-Rodriguez, Fuels Program manager.

Huntsville Center provides maintenance, inspections, repairs and emergency response actions for the Department of Defense, the Defense Logistics Agency and other federal petroleum facilities on military installations worldwide, in compliance with federal, state and local code, criteria and regulations.

“Safety is a very perishable skill,” Bacon said in his address to the more than 35 attendees from businesses contracted to support the Fuels program. “These meetings—whether it’s with two people or a dozen—play a critical role in helping keep our folks safe.”

Throughout his remarks, Bacon emphasized the importance of continuous attentiveness and peer accountability.

“Please help me continually build the safety culture, because we cannot keep our people safe without all of you and your dedication,” he said. “We can’t function without you, and you can’t function without your people.”

The symposium included discussion on topics such as updates to Engineering Manual 385-1-1 safety standards, confined space procedures, fatigue management, mishap reporting and lessons learned from the field. Ben Bailey, Huntsville Center safety manager, and Charlie Harris, Huntsville Center safety specialist, coordinated the event and were main speakers throughout the symposium.

Bailey, who led several break-out sessions for participants, urged attendees to focus on engagement and information sharing.

“Please share what you learn here with your teammates downstream and let’s improve what we can do better as one team.”

The agenda allowed for group discussion and feedback opportunities, with many of the speakers encouraging open dialogue among the participants. Bailey elaborated on the importance of collaboration at events such as this one.

“Having an event like this allows us to share program



Photo by Lillian Putnam

Dennis Bacon, Huntsville Center Fuels Branch chief, speaking at the 2025 Fuels Safety Symposium where he emphasized continuous attentiveness and accountability.

expectations and lessons learned across the field of fuels safety professionals,” Bailey explained. “Meeting in-person gives us the opportunity to further develop professional working relationships.”

Many participants provided the Huntsville Center Fuels team with feedback over the course of the two-day symposium with what they thought was helpful. James Davis, Pond and Company’s Environmental, Health and Safety vice president, expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to collaborate and network with professionals in the field.

“Thank you for taking the time to host and facilitate a world-class safety training and networking event focused on the Huntsville Center safety requirements and expectations,” Davis said.

“Pond is grateful for the opportunity to support our country’s war fighters’ mission partnering with Huntsville Center’s Fuels team.”

As the event concluded, leadership stressed that safety must remain at the center of daily operations whether in planning, job hazard analyses or meetings.

“Don’t assume we have shared safety knowledge; we must continuously build it every day,” Bacon said. “The second we start resting, someone could get hurt.”



Photo by William Farrow

Col. Sebastien Joly, Huntsville Center commander, opens the Huntsville Center 2025 Resource Efficiency Manager Workshop addressing the more than 80 attending privately-contracted REMs representing the Army, Navy and Marine Corps as John Trudell, Huntsville Center REM program manager, administrates the workshop from the lectern.

Workshop ensures installations meet statutory requirements, energy resilience

By William Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

As the U.S. military continues to modernize its operations, ensuring its installations are energy-efficient and compliant with federal laws and regulations has become a critical priority.

Huntsville Center's annual Resource Efficiency Managers (REM) workshop April 1-3 is at the forefront of these efforts ensuring REMS have the skills, knowledge and reach back they need to assist installation commanders with meeting statutory requirements while enhancing energy resilience.

Col. Sebastien Joly, Huntsville Center commander, opened the workshop addressing the more than 80 privately contracted REMs representing the services.

He said with a new administration in place, there is always a change in priorities.

"There is a clear focus on the resources available and we need to really deep dive into where every dollar goes," he said.

Joly said as the U.S. pays billions of dollars in interest alone on the national debt every year, there is clearly a priority to how money is spent within the Department of Defense (DOD).

"We have to be efficient with the dollars we (DOD) do get, but some things are non-negotiable — we (DOD) are very energy dependent — we have to turn the lights on, we

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have to have power,” he said.

“For all of you who help manage our energy requirements, your expertise makes a difference, and you know best what package, construct and design is most cost effective for maintaining resilient energy systems to meet our warfighters’ requirement.”

Military installations are major consumers of energy. From powering operational equipment to maintaining base infrastructure, the energy demands are vast and varied.

With energy resilience now seen as a key element of national security, John Trudell, Huntsville Center REM program manager, said REMs play an essential role in improving the sustainability of the critical infrastructure, which in turn supports military readiness and operational effectiveness.

“The DOD has established strict regulations aimed at reducing energy consumption and enhancing the sustainability of military installations,” Trudell said. However, military installations are still required to follow regulations and laws, Trudell said.

“From the Energy and Water Management Requirements for Federal Agencies to Energy Resilience and Energy Security Measures on Military Installations statutes to Army Regulation 420-1 (Army Facilities Management, Section VIII Energy and Water Conservation Programs and Awards), these laws and regulations require achievement of specific energy-saving targets and adopt sustainable practices,” Trudell said.

Huntsville’s Resource Efficiency Manager, REM, program improves installation energy programs by identifying projects and practices to reduce energy and water costs through a contracted subject matter expert.

REMs provide vital expertise to develop site energy and water plans that achieve energy efficiency, reduction, security and resiliency through sustainable and renewable resources. REMs help energy managers increase energy awareness, collect data for reporting site energy use and management and support energy programs in the achievement of energy goals and mandates.

The REM service adds value to energy programs because each REM is an energy management subject matter expert who provides expertise to identify infrastructure energy improvements to significantly reduce energy and water utilization to meet energy and water security, resiliency and reduction goals while providing support for energy construction activity, documentation review, energy awareness and other energy related activities.

Trudell said REMs are responsible for ensuring compliance with these statutory mandates, conducting regular

audits, and developing strategies that reduce energy consumption.

“Their expertise is critical in navigating complex regulations, ensuring that the military is not only meeting required energy targets but also working to exceed them wherever possible,” he said.

Energy resilience is an increasingly important aspect of military preparedness. Installations must be able to function effectively even in the event of energy disruptions, whether caused by natural disasters, cyberattacks, or other crises. REMs are integral to the implementation of energy resilience strategies, which include the integration of renewable energy sources, the use of backup power systems, and the optimization of energy systems.

According to Trudell, a resilient energy infrastructure ensures that military operations continue uninterrupted in times of crisis, which is essential for maintaining national security.

“Our REMs’ ability to integrate these systems efficiently can make the difference in a timely response during an emergency or disaster scenario,” Trudell said.

To enhance the overall effectiveness of REMs, workshops and training programs are being increasingly adopted across the services and the Huntsville Center workshop provides REMs with the latest knowledge, tools, and strategies to optimize resource use.

“By learning new techniques for energy management, energy audits, and compliance tracking, REMs can identify cost-saving opportunities while also improving installation performance,” Trudell said.

“Training is key to improving our efficiency,” Trudell said. “It allows us to stay ahead of regulations and technological advancements, which ultimately benefits our energy resilience and reduces operational costs.”

One of the major benefits of an effective REM program is the potential for significant cost recovery. As REMs implement energy-efficient measures, they help reduce overall energy expenditures and operational costs.

Shaun Tudor, REM at U.S. Army Garrison Italy-Livorno, attended the workshop and presented data showing the 20 comprehensive energy and water evaluation audits conducted there since September resulted in \$1.2 million in Garrison energy savings.

He said the creation of an empowered and agile “bootstraps” resiliency team that includes himself, a contracted Utility Metering Control System specialist, an HVAC technician, an electrician and a plumber, utilizes extensive institutional knowledge helping the Garrison meet its primary objective of saving three percent in energy and two percent in water annually.

‘Every Contract Supports a Soldier’: Reserve officer brings mission focus to Huntsville Center

By Lillian Putnam
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

As the U.S. Army Reserve, USAR, celebrated its 117th birthday in April, Lt. Col. William South celebrated a milestone of his own: taking command of the 926th Engineer Battalion in Birmingham, Alabama.

South’s civilian position is as a contracting officer at Huntsville Center. He said he was looking forward to the full-circle moment as he first enlisted in the 926th Battalion’s Alpha Company in 1997.

“It’s a great opportunity to return to my roots to lead the battalion I started off in. I am proud to be able to help Soldiers, in and out of uniform,” South said.

Balancing a civilian career with Army Reserve service is about more than a job, it’s about purpose. South serves as a contracting officer supporting Huntsville Center’s Utility Monitoring and Control Systems, UMCS, program and reflects on how both of his careers are deeply intertwined.

“Every Huntsville Center contract I touch is about supporting the Soldier,” he said. “Whether it’s HVAC upgrades in Reserve centers or fire alarm systems in Soldier’s barracks on an active duty installation, these are projects that directly impact the quality of life and safety of Soldiers.” Working for the UMCS program, his work reaches across the globe, from Army Depots in Japan to USAR facilities in the Northeast U.S. to dining facilities in Alaska and barracks in North Carolina.

“UMCS has had several HVAC projects for Army Reserve Centers of the USAR’s 99th Readiness Division,” he explained. “I’ve been that Soldier stuck in a hot, humid building all day, so knowing we’re helping to improve facilities that USAR Soldiers work in is extremely satisfying.”

His personal connection is what motivates his attention to detail on every contract and his dedication to ensuring the contracts are completed quickly.

“I want to get the contracts awarded correct the first time and with a sense of urgency and carry that urgency all the way through to project completion, because it makes a difference in the day-to-day lives of the Soldiers and their families,” he said.

His supervisor, William Seelman, Huntsville Center UMCS branch chief, witnesses that passion firsthand.

“His experience in the Army translates directly to his role



Photo by Chris Putman

as a Contracting Officer and Team Lead for the UMCS program, giving him a unique perspective on the importance of our mission where he directly supports his fellow warfighters.”

South’s military career transitioned in 2002 from enlistment to commissioning through ROTC from the University of North Alabama. As an officer, some of the positions he has held include the 11th-108th Battalion instructor and area coordinator, 917th Contracting Battalion contracting team leader then battalion executive officer; 844th Engineer Battalion executive officer; 375th Engineer company commander; Space and Missile Defense Command watch officer; 75th Training Division observer-controller-trainer; and 926th Engineer Brigade construction management officer.

His civilian career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began in 2006 with the USACE Finance Center on the USACE Financial Management System, CEFMS, Development Team.

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Photo by William Farrow

Lifesaving effort

Jelani Ingram, Huntsville Center Engineering Directorate Architectural Branch chief, and more than 60 other Huntsville Center employees donated blood April 10 in a LifeSouth Community Blood Center BloodMobile. Two LifeSouth BloodMobiles were on hand taking volunteers willing to donate “The Gift of Life.” LifeSouth Community Blood Centers is a non-profit community blood bank serving more than 150 hospitals in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee.

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Over the last 19 years, he has filled roles ranging from accountant to data systems analyst. In 2018, South was able to transition into contracting, because of his Army Reserve-funded training and experience.

“The Army Reserve paid for my Level 1 Defense Acquisition University contracting certification which qualified me as an acquisition officer,” he said.

“While on Reserve orders, I wore my uniform every day at Huntsville Center working on the project delivery teams supporting the Range and Training Land Program as well as the Planning and Programming Support Program. That time and experience counted toward my certification and helped build the career I have now.”

He credits Huntsville Center with being a supportive environment for Reservists and points to leaders creating pathways for Soldiers to transition into civilian roles.

“Huntsville Center really welcomed those of us from the Reserve Acquisition Corps,” he commended.

“Several of us were able to gain full-time contracting

positions. That pipeline from military training to civilian employment is something I hope continues.”

South explained the commitment balancing both careers takes dedication and perseverance.

“I’ve had great supervisors who have encouraged and supported me along the way along with many coworkers who selflessly covered down while I was out of the office on military leave over the years. Without that, none of this would be possible,” he said.

Now, as he steps into command, he draws on nearly 30 years of military experience, from deployments in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait to leadership roles in Huntsville, Knoxville and San Antonio.

With the Army Reserve’s birthday last month, South encourages others to consider the opportunities service can provide.

“If you’re looking for purpose, adventure, or a way to serve while building your career — the Army Reserve is a great place to start.”

Learn more about serving in the Army Reserve by visiting www.goarmy.com/reserve.

For Facility Explosives Safety experts, silence means success

By William Farrow

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

While their workplace isn't a battlefield, the consequences of error are just as severe. "If we don't do our jobs effectively, people die," said Susan Hamilton, without sugarcoating a word.

Hamilton is the program manager for the Facility Explosives Safety Mandatory Center of Expertise—better known as FES MCX—at Huntsville Center. She leads a team of engineers and technical experts whose work, though mostly done behind computer screens and via spreadsheets and technical documents, plays a critical role in munition facility safety.

The field of explosives safety is a relatively young science. It was born in 1926 from disaster—when lightning struck the Lake Denmark Powder Depot in New Jersey, setting off a chain of explosions that leveled buildings, killed dozens, and injured hundreds. The chaos lasted three days.

Congress responded by establishing what would become the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB), tasked with ensuring that kind of devastation never happened again.

Today, the FES MCX in Huntsville is on the front lines of that prevention effort. Officially designated an MCX in 2018, the center reviews the design and construction of any USACE project involving ammunition or explosives—from munition plants to storage depots and missile maintenance facilities.

Despite its importance, explosives safety isn't something engineers learn in college. There are no degree programs. Instead, the knowledge is passed down through experience and mentorship. Most FES MCX team members are trained in engineering, chemistry, or



U.S. Army photo

Huntsville Center's Facility Explosives Safety Mandatory Center of Expertise recently reviewed the design of isostatic presses used at Iowa Army Ammunition Plant to pack explosives into shell casings like these M795 projectile casings.

physics—and then shaped by field work and technical review.

They pore over blueprints, check protective construction specs, calculate explosive quantity distances, and ensure that safety features like lightning protection, fire suppression, and blast-resistant structures are up to code.

"On any given day, we're tracking about 200 projects," Hamilton said. "We have to review and sign off on every single one."

One recent example is the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant, near Burlington, Iowa.

Members of the FES MCX team reviewed the design of isostatic presses used there to pack explosives into shell casings. The goal was to ensure that, if the worst happened—a detonation

inside the plant—the damage would be contained and lives saved.

"We're making sure that munition lethality is limited to enemies of the U.S.," Hamilton said.

They also worked on a groundbreaking design with the Air National Guard to streamline missile maintenance operations on space-constrained installations—many ANG units operate adjacent to small commercial airports.

"That review process usually takes a year or more," Hamilton said. "We got it done in three months."

Not all their work is digital. Some of it is hands-on—and partially buried.

The FES MCX teams are also

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Appreciation

Photo by Lillian Putnam

Col. Sebastian Joly, Huntsville Center commander, presented Lt. Col. Mainwaring with the Bronze Order of the de Fleury Medal and an Army Commendation Medal for his dedication and support to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over the past 16 years. The de Fleury Medal is the highest award for professional excellence in the Engineer Regiment and recognizes individuals who have provided significant contributions to Army engineering. Mainwaring filled in as the Center's interim deputy commander in September. His next assignment is commanding Charleston District, South Carolina.

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responsible for inspecting aging earth-covered magazines (ECMs)—buried bunkers built to store munitions.

Many of these structures date back to World War II and are now more than 80 years old.

Joshua Umphrey, a structural engineer with FES MCX, spends over 60 days a year inspecting these bunkers.

Armed with concrete core drills and structural checklists, his team searches for cracks, spalling, and other concrete degradation that could compromise safety.

“It’s like performing a physical exam on a bunker,” Umphrey said. “We’re looking at the health of the structure—what needs fixing, and what it would cost.”

Umphrey’s work connects directly with researchers at the Engineering Research and Development Center who use cutting-edge simulations and material testing to evaluate blast impact and structural integrity.

They partner with FES MCX personnel on the inspections and provide assistance as required.

“This job requires trust and coordination,” Umphrey said.

“And when you’re dealing with

explosives, you don’t get a second chance.”

From design reviews to field inspections, from legacy bunkers to future-forward facilities, the FES MCX team is bound by one mission: protect lives by preventing catastrophe.

“We know what’s at stake,” Hamilton said.

“Behind every munition storage site, every secure ammunition plant, every missile bay—there’s a team making sure nothing goes wrong.”

In their world, success isn’t measured in awards or accolades. It’s measured in silence.



Photo by Lillian Putnam

Alicia Hodge, Huntsville Center safety and occupational health specialist, performs an Automated External Defibrillator operational check on a training mannequin. More than 160 Center employees have completed AED training since 2021.

AED training boosts life-saving readiness

By Lillian Putnam
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 356,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the U.S. each year.

That is why a fast response with Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation, CPR, and Automated External Defibrillators, AED, can be crucial and vital to recovery.

In fact, American Heart Association research shows that survival rates can double when AEDs are available in public spaces, including work buildings and offices.

At Huntsville Center, the importance of AEDs are stressed during quarterly CPR/First Aid/AED training sessions ensuring team members are prepared to act in life-threatening emergencies.

Since training program launched in 2021, 163 Huntsville Center employees have completed CPR/First Aid/AED training through the Safety Office.

The sessions, led by five American Heart Association-certified instructors, provide hands-on practice using AEDs and end with participants receiving a certification valid for two years.

“Our training is designed to build confidence,” said Alicia Hodge, Huntsville Center Safety and

Occupational Health specialist.

“AEDs can seem intimidating at first, which discourages people from taking action.”

The message about the importance of awareness and preparedness is one that resonates strongly with Stacey Williams, Huntsville Center Internal Review Office chief.

Last year, Williams lost her 13-year-old son after a rare, unknown heart disease caused him to experience a cardiac emergency during physical education class at his school. Though three AEDs were present on campus, Williams said staff did not know where they were located.

“The incident has changed our life forever,” Williams said. “It really heightened my awareness of AEDs and the need for device training. AEDs can save lives, but only if people know where they are and how to use them.”

To honor her son’s memory, Williams and her family partnered with the American Heart Association, Huntsville Hospital and the Huntsville Hospital

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Equal Employment Opportunity Corner

EEO common misconceptions explained

Tammy Lowery, Huntsville Center EEO program manager, said there are five common misconceptions employees have regarding EEO's role in providing managers, supervisors and subordinate employees with the tools they need to create and sustain a culture of fairness and equality.

Lowery provided responses to the common five questions to clarify EEO's role in ensuring Huntsville Center is free of harassment and discrimination while also enabling and encouraging employees to reach their employment potential.

1. EEO will represent me in a meeting with my supervisor or subordinate.

■ *As a neutral office, EEO cannot represent anyone in such meetings.*

2. EEO processes disability retirement packages.

■ *EEO completes the Disability Program Manager section of disability retirement packages, but it does not process the package.*

3. EEO processes Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) requests.

■ *Servicing Labor Management Employee Relations specialist can assist with FMLA.*

4. Sexual Harassment Assault Response Prevention is an EEO program?

■ *SHARP is an advocacy-based program; EEO is neutrality-based. They are separate programs. Huntsville Center's SHARP program manager is Victor Roberts, and he can be reached at 404-803-7041.*

5. Supervisor with an employee who has an active complaint or accommodation should discuss employee's conduct/performance issues with EEO before taking administrative action.

■ *Supervisors are welcome to contact EEO for our perspective; however, your LMER specialist is the point of contact for such advice. Having an active EEO complaint or a reasonable accommodation does not excuse an employee's conduct or performance problems.*

(Information provided by Tammy Lowery, EEO chief)

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Foundation to raise funds for more AEDs in the community. The campaign exceeded its \$14,000 goal, raising \$19,420 to place AEDs in schools, parks and recreation facilities.

"Awareness and training help to make AEDs a life-saving tool," Williams emphasized.

Hodge explains how the Philips HeartStart model, the current model provided in Huntsville Center facilities, gives verbal and written instructions for a step-by-step approach to handling emergencies.

"It has a user-friendly design ensuring that even someone with no prior experience can confidently use it in an emergency," she said.

"It gives clear feedback and instructions as soon as it's turned on, from pad placement to analyzing the individual and determining if a shock is necessary."

The training is interactive and practical, focusing on real-world scenarios. While AEDs are built for ease of

use, Hodge emphasized that non-emergency training could make a critical difference in readiness.

"Taking the training significantly boosts confidence for those who may be nervous to use an AED," she said.

"You never know when you might be near-by in an emergency—at work, at home, or in public—and be called upon to save someone's life."

Huntsville Center maintains nine AEDs throughout building RG-300, to include five on the first floor, and two each on the second and third.

To ensure the equipment is always operational, Safety Office staff conducts monthly inspections, checking for battery life, pad expiration, accessory availability and overall device condition.

Hodge concluded with a call to action for more Huntsville Center staff to sign up for the training.

"More trained individuals increases the likelihood of a responder being available, so make sure you know where AEDs are located in your buildings and speak with someone from the organization's Safety Office for training opportunities."



Safety Corner

Activities set for safety month

From Staff Reports

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

National Safety Month is a time dedicated to raising awareness about preventable injuries and promoting safety in all aspects of life. The Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) observe National Safety Month in June, highlighting the importance of safety.

The Army's observance aligns with the broader National Safety Month initiative led by the National Safety Council, which aims to raise awareness about preventable injuries.

The Army's focus during National Safety Month is on preventing mishaps and promoting a safety culture, impacting both on-duty and off-duty activities.

Redstone Arsenal Garrison Safety Office will host Redstone Arsenal's first Installation Safety Day. The event is from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Redstone Community Activity Field, 3732 Aerobee Road. There will be safety demonstrations, games, safety training opportunities, and food trucks. The event is closed to the public.

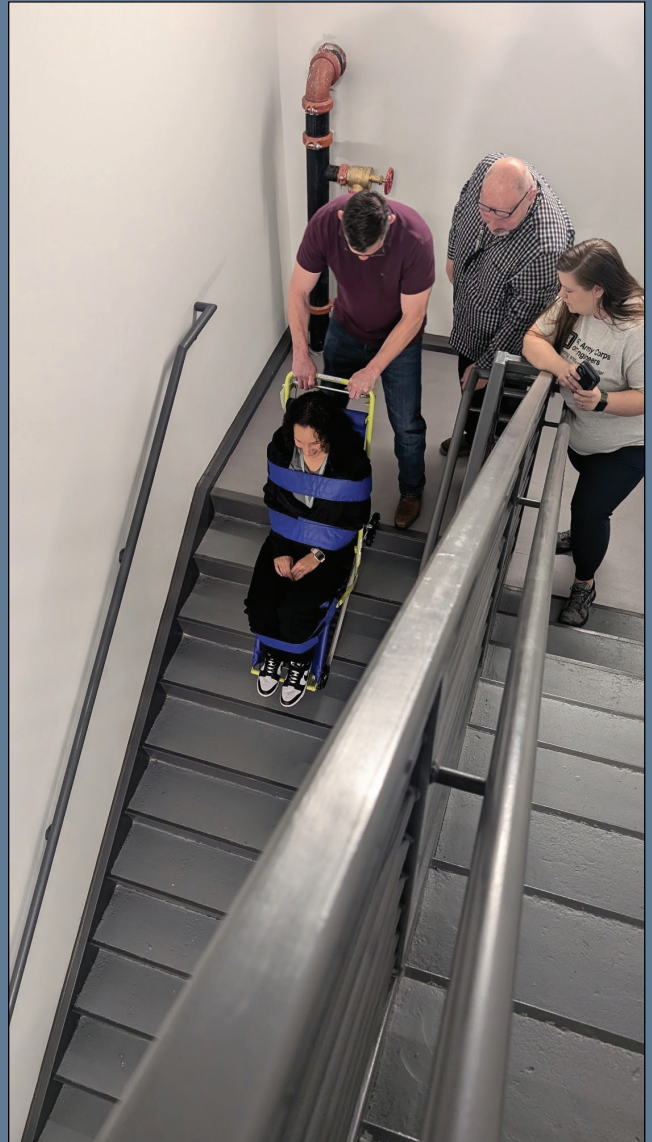
Huntsville Center's Safety Office has scheduled weekly activities in June to engage the Center's workforce while promoting safety as a core responsibility for all employees. The activities scheduled are:

Week 1 - Continuous Improvement: Corps of Engineers Safety and Occupational Health Management System Spinner Quiz allows participants spin and land on one of the six CESOHMS capability objectives. Answer a question about that category correctly and receive a donut.

Week 2 - Employee Engagement: A safety-focused coloring poster will be delivered to each directorate (including small offices as a single directorate.) Submitted posters are judged by Safety Office staff and the top three receive prizes.

Week 3 - Roadway Safety: A roadway safety-focused crossword puzzle will be distributed to participants and completed submissions are entered into a drawing for a prize.

Week 4 - Wellbeing: A gratitude wall and a step challenge allow participants to write something they are thankful for on the gratitude wall (located in the Safety Office) and their name is entered into a prize drawing. Participants with most counted steps (via mobile device apps) at the end of the week will receive a prize. Steps must be recorded daily.



Courtesy photo

Special delivery

Following a recent fire drill, several Huntsville Center floor monitors took the initiative and reached out to the Safety Office for training on the emergency evacuation chair, a tool designed to aid in safely evacuating individuals with permanent or temporary mobility limitations. Their proactive approach stemmed from the presence of employees with limited mobility in their areas of responsibility, ensuring they would be well-prepared for emergency evacuations.



Ethics Corner

Four things to know about post-government employment

Clay Weisenberger
Huntsville Center Office of Counsel

Are you considering retiring or leaving federal service to work for a federal contractor? Think you know the rules when it comes to transitioning from public service to the private sector?

Even if you have a good handle on ethics rules, post-Government employment can be tricky. Here are answers to four commonly asked questions.

“I may retire and want to keep my options open. Can I ask to be exempted from working on certain projects or programs to avoid conflicts of interest with contractors that may want to hire me when I retire?”

■ No. You are required to perform your duties as assigned and cannot opt out simply because you might be interested in working for a particular contractor or in a particular field at some indeterminate point in the future.

You must have an actual conflict of interest in order to be recused from working on projects involving that specific contractor.

“At what point during my employment search does a conflict of interest arise?”

■ The following activities constitute “seeking employment” for purposes of the conflict rules: 1) calling a contractor to inquire about a position, 2) interviewing, 3) receiving an offer, 4) negotiating hiring terms and conditions.

Simply posting your resume on a job website or asking a contractor for a job application does not.

What if a conflict arises after I begin seeking outside employment? What about after I accept outside employment?

■ Take no official action with regard to the contractor in question. If a conflict exists, you must recuse yourself from official participation in any matter that has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of the conflicted outside employer.

Notify your supervisor and the Office of Counsel immediately. You may be required to complete a written recusal statement.

My last day is next week, and then I am taking a month off before looking for new work. When do I fill out a Post-Government Employment Advice Opinion Request?

■ If you are an OGE 450 filer, you must complete a Post-Government Employment Advice Opinion Request (DD2945) when you receive a firm offer of employment from a current or prospective federal contractor that you are ready to accept.

Because the legal opinion addresses conflicts of interest and work restrictions based on the specific contractor, there is no “blanket” post-government employment letters that would apply to all contractors. If you decline an offer and receive offers from other contractors you may need post-government employment restriction letters for those employees as well.

However, there is no blanket post-government employment restrictions will specifically address.

As always, if you have questions or concerns related to ethics, contact me at 256-895-1140, or Margaret Simmons, Office of Counsel chief, at 256-895-1101.

About Huntsville Center

HNC

Unique to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

Huntsville Center provides innovative engineering solutions to complex, global missions. Our team of professionals engineer adaptive, specialized solutions across a broad spectrum of global enterprise covering five main lines of effort: Energy, Operational Technology, Environmental, Medical, and Base Operations and Facilities. Our portfolios comprise 43 program areas, as well as nine mandatory and six technical centers of expertise, and 17 centers of standardization. Through partnership with Department of Defense agencies, private industry and global stakeholders, we deliver leading edge engineering solutions in support of national interests around the globe.

FY2024 40+ Programs
8 Mandatory Centers of Expertise,
6 Technical Centers of Expertise
and 17 Centers of Standardization

\$2.6B “HNC Delivers Innovation”

In fiscal 2024, Huntsville Center awarded contract actions totaling more than \$2.6 billion in obligations for its stakeholders.



The U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, engineers adaptive, specialized solutions across a broad spectrum of global enterprise covering five main lines of effort: Energy, Operational Technology, Environmental, Medical, and Base Operations and Facilities