



The

# Bulletin

## A new chapter...

Col. Robert Hilliard takes command



See Page 5

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



|                                                                           |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Commander's thoughts.....                                                 | 3  |
| New commander leads the way forward.....                                  | 4  |
| Get to know Col. Robert Hilliard.....                                     | 5  |
| Fiscal 2025 closes record-setting \$2.9 billion contract obligations..... | 6  |
| Center optimization changes organizational structure.....                 | 7  |
| FRP closing chapter on Fort Benning legacy.....                           | 8  |
| Schedulers, PMs converge at Center for software exploration.....          | 10 |
| UMCS contract set to improve federal facility functions.....              | 11 |
| Project helps NORA see success, upgrade to military eye wear lab....      | 12 |
| Center furnishes new Mobile District headquarters facility.....           | 13 |
| Fiscal 2026 kicks off with Industry Day.....                              | 14 |

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
U.S. ARMY CORPS  
OF ENGINEERS,  
U.S. ARMY ENGINEERING  
AND SUPPORT CENTER,  
HUNTSVILLE



Commander: Col. Robert Hilliard  
Chief, Public Affairs: Chris Putman  
Editor: William S. Farrow  
Public Affairs Specialist: Lillian Putnam  
Administrative Assistant: Celina Matthews

**The Bulletin** is an authorized official publication, published quarterly under provision of AR 360-1, the Huntsville Center Public Affairs Office publishes The Bulletin to provide useful command information to our internal civilian and military employees. Contents are not necessarily the views of or endorsed by the U.S. government, Department of War, Department of the Army, USACE or Huntsville Center.



# Commander's Thoughts

“ Command in the military is truly a privilege, made even more incredible when it’s an organization as unique and amazing as ours. ”



Col. Robert Hilliard

**O**n Oct. 2, I had the immense honor of assuming command of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville—a command unlike any other in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and one whose impact reaches across the globe.

Command in the military is truly a privilege, made even more incredible when it’s an organization as unique and amazing as ours. And so, I will begin this first Commander’s Thoughts column by saying how excited and truly humbled I am to join this extraordinary team of professionals.

Over the past few weeks, I’ve been getting to know the people, projects, and purpose that make Huntsville Center what it is: a high-performing, mission-driven organization delivering critical solutions to our Army, our nation, and our allies.

From environmental remediation and medical facilities oversight to energy savings and support to overseas contingency operations, the scope and scale of what you do here is staggering—and essential.

You are not just managing projects. You are solving the Army’s toughest engineering and technical challenges. And you are doing it with a level of professionalism, innovation, and precision that sets a high standard across the Corps of Engineers. Coming to you from my most recent assignment as the Command Engineer for the Southern European Task Force, Africa, and prior to that, from the Mississippi Valley Division and

the Vicksburg District, I’ve seen the Corps’ impact in some of the most dynamic and challenging environments where we operate. Even with that recent background, I can assure you—Huntsville Center’s mission portfolio, its national reach, and its strategic significance are unmatched.

None of this happens without PEOPLE—people like you—dedicated professionals who bring not only technical expertise, but also a deep sense of duty to the mission. Whether you’re in program management, contracting, engineering, logistics, or any of the many vital support roles that make this center run, your work matters. And it matters at a level that often goes beyond the immediate visibility of a single project.

You help ensure that our military have the medical care they need, our installations are modern and efficient, our environment is protected and restored, and the U.S. remains capable of executing global operations safely and effectively. That’s not just mission execution—that’s mission assurance.

My leadership philosophy is based around four principles (my Big 4):

**#1 MAKE YOUR TEAM**

**SUCCESSFUL** – The Army is a team sport, and effective teams “share, show, and act” while taking care of each other.

**#2 BE PROFESSIONAL** – The Army is a Profession built on trust, respect, and communication. Take care of the People and you take care of the Profession.

**#3 BE READY AND RESPONSIVE**

– The Army must be ready to respond. For us, that means maintaining the

skills, education, experience, and moral alignment required for both personal and mission success

**#4 THE THREE C’s** – Character, Competence, Commitment...in that order. It all starts with personal character.

Huntsville Center is proud to be a part of the Redstone Arsenal community, and I see tremendous opportunity in strengthening our engagement with arsenal leadership and tenant organizations. Redstone is a canter of federal expertise, home to an incredible concentration of Army, Department of War and federal partners and I intend to be a visible and active member of that community.

By deepening our ties across Team Redstone, we not only increase visibility for Huntsville Center, but also open the door to new opportunities, greater collaboration, and stronger support for our workforce and mission.

I firmly believe that an engaged and well-connected Center is a stronger Center, and I will work diligently to represent your interests at every level—from the arsenal to the Pentagon and beyond.

To the workforce here at Huntsville Center—thank you. Thank you for the warm welcome, and more importantly, thank you for the extraordinary work you do every single day in support of our Army and our nation.

I look forward to getting to know more of you in the coming weeks, hearing your ideas, understanding your challenges, and celebrating your successes.



# New commander leads the way forward

By Lillian Putnam

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

**H**untsville Center welcomed incoming commander, Col. Robert Hilliard, while bidding farewell to Col. Sebastien Joly during the Oct. 2 change of command ceremony at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center's Davidson Center for Space Exploration.

The Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations, Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Maj. Gen. Mark Quander, led the ceremony that marked the passing of the command colors from Joly to Hilliard.

"I had the opportunity to pass the guidon to them when they were both departing battalion commands... Today this ceremony marks a change in leadership, but it also reminds us of continuity – the mission endures, the trust placed in the Corps endures, the responsibility to soldiers, civilians and our nation endures," Quander said.

In his opening address, Quander spoke about the mission of Huntsville Center and the dedication to providing specialized technical expertise, global engineering solutions and cutting-edge innovations through centrally managed programs in support of national interests.

"HNC is our technical center of expertise...if we need something hard done in the Corps and we can't figure it out, we go to the men and women at Huntsville Center," Quander explained.

"The people of HNC are the heartbeat of the mission. You do the quiet, complicated and consequential work that others simply assume will be there when it matters."

Hilliard's previous command assignments include Vicksburg District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 4th Engineer Battalion at Fort Carson, Colorado, and C Company, 70th Engineer Battalion at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Hilliard also served as the Mississippi Valley Division Deputy Commander in Vicksburg, Mississippi and Senior Engineer Observer/Controller at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California.

Hilliard provided his first remarks as Huntsville Center's commander to more than 300 people who attended the ceremony, including officers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, leaders across Redstone Arsenal, community partners, as well as current and former Center employees.

"Command is truly a privilege, and I am both honored and humbled to lead such a unique and incredible organization," he began.

In his first address to his new organization, he spoke to the critical mission and those who make the mission possible.

"What you do each and every day for our Soldiers, Sailors,



Photo by Lillian Putnam

**Col. Robert Hilliard, Huntsville Center commander, speaks with Col. Erin Eike, Redstone Arsenal commander, after he took command of the Center during a Change of Command ceremony Oct. 2 at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center's Davidson Center for Space Exploration. Hilliard is serving as the Center's 24th commander.**

Airmen and Marines as well as our federal partners and nation is absolutely inspiring. You do the hard things that no one else can do," he said.

"Together, we will continue the great legacy that this organization has built through the years – a legacy that makes our military and our nation stronger," he emphasized.

Joly served as Huntsville Center commander since 2021. During his farewell remarks, he thanked those who have had an impact on his Army career including his parents, spouse, extended family and those who he has worked alongside for more than two decades.

"The legacy I leave isn't about positions held or projects completed. It's about people: teammates, mentors, friends and especially family."



# Get to know Col. Robert Hilliard

**WHEN YOU WERE A CHILD, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?** An Army Combat Engineer officer, of course!

**WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING ASPECT OF YOUR JOB?** Interacting with people, learning about each employee's story and then seeing the satisfaction and pride our employees find in completing hard missions. People are so amazing; you find out that there are so many specialties and talents all around us.

**WHAT HAS BEEN THE BEST ASSIGNMENT IN YOUR CAREER SO FAR?** To be fair, I haven't had a bad assignment in my career. Command assignments are always the best- company command, battalion command and brigade command; serving as the company commander for C Company (Rock), 70<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion in Iraq in 2003-2004 is hard to top. It's still hard to for me grasp, even all these years later, the weight of responsibility that position held at that specific time; the responsibility of leading over 100 Soldiers into conflict was truly immense. Both then and now looking back, I'm so grateful for the incredible non-commissioned officers and young, energetic lieutenants we were blessed with. And the family network at Fort Riley, Kansas, during that incredibly tough year was wonderful and resilient...it had to be.

**WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS FOR THE NEXT YEAR?** My professional goal is to get to know our employees and our stakeholders so I can best provide direction, gather resources, and clear obstacles for Huntsville Center. On the personal side, my wife and I are reaching our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary early next year, so we intend to take a proper trip since we couldn't for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**IF YOU COULD DO ANYTHING FOR A DAY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?** Spend it with my family. Head back out west and sit on the rim of the Grand Canyon and just stare out at the incredible beauty of nature (or along the Madison River as it flows west out of Yellowstone, or along the shore of Lake McDonald in Glacier, or hike a trail in Slovenia, or pick your favorite National Park viewing spot). The power and beauty of nature is simply amazing.

**WHAT IS THE BEST PIECE OF ADVICE SOMEONE HAS GIVEN YOU?** Wow, this is a tough one to narrow down. I have pages and pages of quotes and advice I've received or gathered through the years. On the professional side, the piece of advice I use the most is "Rule #1: Take Care of People. It doesn't cost you anything to be kind..."



File photo

**Col. Robert Hilliard, then commander at Vicksburg District, speaks to stakeholders during the Mississippi Valley Division Command Strategic Review in 2022. Hilliard took command of Huntsville Center Oct. 23.** even while holding people accountable."

On the personal side, the piece of advice that sticks with me the most through years is, "At the end of the day, what you've got is your family, so take care of them. On your retirement day, after the ceremony is over and everyone else goes back to work, it's your family that leaves with you. Treat them like they are most important thing to you every day".

**WHO IS YOUR HERO AND WHY?** That's easy - my wife for taking care of our family by herself for literally years at a time. And my mom and dad for always providing the best example.

**HOW DO YOU LIKE TO SPEND YOUR FREE TIME?** Mostly spend it with family traveling, hiking, snow skiing, camping, and similar activities. Now that we are empty-nesters, we'll see how that changes.

**ANY PETS?** Haley, a 12-year-old cattle dog mix from Colorado, and Kodi, a 7-year-old rough collie (Lassie) from Mississippi. Our first dog, Jordan, was a Newfoundland mix from Germany (1997-2013).

**HOBBIES?** Biking, wood working, Jeeps, reading, and music.





Photo by Lillian Putnam

**Maj. John Franklin, Huntsville Center deputy commander, chats with Corey Washington, UMCS program manager, at the Center's Small Business Industry Day Oct. 28 at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville. After closing out Fiscal 2025, Huntsville Center is moving into Fiscal 2026 with its industry day providing potential stakeholders with the Center's upcoming year's scope of work, planned acquisition strategy approach and small business tips and best practices.**

## Center closes record-setting \$2.9 billion Fiscal 2025 contract obligations

**Lillian Putnam**  
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

**H**untsville Center closed out Fiscal Year 2025 with more than 3,500 contract actions totaling \$2.9 billion, supporting America's warfighters and other federal agencies.

According to Ellen Horton, Huntsville Center procurement systems analyst, the breakdown shows that of the funds obligated, the Installation Support and Program Management Directorate, ISPM, accounted for more than \$2.4 billion, the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate obligated around \$97.6 million, and the Engineering Directorate contributed over \$41.9 million. Additionally, Cooperative Agreements saw 412 contract actions valued at more than \$149.6 million.

The top five programs for funds obligated for Fiscal Year 2025 were all ISPM initiatives including Utility

Monitoring and Control Systems with more than \$383 million; Medical Repair and Renewal with more than \$334 million; Medical Operation and Maintenance Engineering Enhancement with more than \$235 million; Energy Savings Performance Contracting with more than \$222 million; and Furnishing with more than \$179 million.

Ronnel Booker, Huntsville Center contracting director, said Fiscal 2025 was second highest in both contract actions and dollars obligated in Huntsville Center history.

He explained that this year was second only to the Fiscal 2018, when the Center was pivotal in Hurricane Maria power restoration efforts in Puerto Rico.

"This was only possible by the relentless dedication and professionalism of our contracting professionals working hand-in-hand with the project managers, technical

engineers, and of course our office of counsel staff," Booker said.

"Each team's efforts have ensured that projects are executed efficiently and effectively, supporting critical missions around the world."

Arthur Martin III, Huntsville Center Programs Director, added that Huntsville Center's efforts extend far beyond numbers.

"We seek to understand the true needs of the stakeholders and view winning from their perspective. That is what makes our organization unique," Martin said.

"Our reputation for supporting programmatic requirements and providing niche support has created a legendary reputation for Huntsville Center. Our efforts to support readiness, resilience and lethality are positively impacting soldiers, sailors, marines and guardsmen globally."



# Center optimization changes organizational structure

By William S. Farrow

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

**H**untsville Center is undergoing a restructuring of personnel and programs in support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) enterprise.

The move reflects Headquarters USACE's deliberate analysis to streamline program execution, reduce redundancy, and preserve cost-effective structures that enable enterprise readiness.

The changes will affect 10 programs at Huntsville Center and one program operated external to Huntsville Center, all of which provides technical, specialized, and non-geographic support to military and federal agencies around the world.

According to a recent memo from Brig. Gen. Kirk Gibbs, USACE Deputy Commanding General for Military and International Operations, the changes are designed to improve mission execution and better align responsibilities between Huntsville Center and other Corps districts.

Some programs are expected to grow, others will shift coordination responsibilities, and several will be divested from Huntsville Center altogether.

Huntsville Center leadership emphasized that all employees would retain positions as part of the transition, although some staff will shift programs or supervisors.

"All Huntsville Center employees have a position and a mission to continue to support," said Arthur Martin III, the Center's Programs Director.

"While we plan for the future, I appreciate all of your continued focus and support to execute the FY25 work and ensure we meet our commitments."

Supervisors will coordinate closely with affected staff across the next fiscal year to ensure a smooth transition. Part-time program support employees will not experience position changes.

In addition to the changes supporting optimization, Huntsville Center leadership conducted an internal review of supervisory ratios, realignment opportunities, and positions lost due to Deferred Resignation Program (DRP) departures. As a result, effective Oct. 5, several programs and branches will be consolidated or realigned.

The Ordnance and Explosives (OE) Directorate Demolition Program will absorb the Installation Support and Programs Management (ISPM) Facilities Reduction Program (FRP). Additionally, the Range and Training Land Programs (RTLTP) of OE and ISPM will be aligned under the OE Global Operations Program.

The ISPM Program Support Division will divest the personnel from Center of Standardization (COS), Standards and Criteria (SCP), and Special Projects (SPP)



programs and they will report to OE Global Operations Program leadership as well.

Within ISPM, the rest of the Program Support Division personnel will merge with the Energy Division, consolidating two supervisors and approximately 14 employees.

The ISPM Fuels Program is moving to the ISPM Energy Division to better align our energy-centric programs. One position supporting IT Asset Management will transfer from the ACE-IT to the Logistics Office and another ACE-IT asset, a visual information position, will transfer to the Public Affairs Office.

Huntsville Center is absorbing the USACE Power Reliability Enhancement Program (PREP), a small team of technical experts focused on ensuring the reliability of utility systems and critical facilities under the National Command Capability (NLCC) Program and the Department of War (DOW). The PREP team operates from an office located on Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Hank Thomsen, Engineering Directorate chief, said the PREP re-alignment makes sense as the PREP matches some of the type of technical missions prominent at Huntsville Center.

"Their actions help advance energy resilience and security at military installations worldwide," Thomsen said. "They align well with Huntsville Center because they are very specialized and support critical infrastructure that crosses boundaries."

PREP will become the Center's third satellite office. It joins the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise (EMCX) in Omaha, Nebraska, with more than 70 positions

See **STRUCTURE**  
Page 9

# FRP closing chapter on Fort Benning legacy

By William Farrow

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

The demolition crews have essentially finished the job they had begun. Piece by piece, the once-towering frame of Fort Benning, Georgia's old Martin Army Community Hospital, which opened in 1958, is finally down. However, there is still work to be done and the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center Huntsville (Huntsville Center) Facility Reduction Program (FRP) is continuing site restoration.

Huntsville Center's FRP mission focus is on the elimination of excess facilities and structures to reduce fixed installation costs and achieve energy savings.

Kevin Healy, FRP project engineer, said about 95 percent of the MACH demolition project is complete.

"The building itself is gone, as well as most of the foundations, but there is 'prettying up' left to do." Healy said Fort Benning's DPW previously brought attention to additional issues at the site that require attention.

Underground Storage Tanks need to be removed and the contractor's efforts in the field revealed some asbestos present on portions of the underground foundation that will require further abatement.

Healy said the project is an example of how FRP works with its stakeholders to ensure the job is completed even when unexpected or extended issues arise.

"We try to be a one-stop-shop for facility reduction," Healy said. "We manage project development/scoping, perform pre-proposal site visits, develop performance work statements, prepare estimates, solicit and evaluate contractor proposals and make contractor selections."

The old hospital's last tower came down in late February and after the remaining details are fully resolved, this site will be returned to Fort Benning's control and future use.

"We stay with the project until the grass develops, and final permits are closed out," Healy said.

Derick Wolf, Fort Benning Directorate of Public Works (DPW) engineering division chief, said the demolition of the old hospital removed a significant safety hazard and made a prime central location on the Installation available for future development.

"The unoccupied deteriorating hospital was fast becoming a magnet for unwanted and unsafe activities," Wolf said.

"The installation can now use this site for a planned transportation hub connecting Fort Benning to a regional transportation network."

In its prime, the hospital housed everything from surgical suites and psychiatric wards to a busy emergency room and ambulatory-care wings. Additions in the 1970s, upgrades in



Courtesy photo

**The old Martin Army Community Hospital, built in 1958 at Fort Benning, Georgia, was razed in late February. However, there is still work to be done and the Huntsville Center's Facility Reduction Program (FRP) is continuing site restoration.**

the 1980s, and renovations in the 1990s kept the building useful, but by the dawn of the 21st century, the structure was showing its age. Its narrow corridors and outdated systems could not keep pace with the Army's modern medical standards.

By the time the Army cut the ribbon on the new 745,000-square-foot Martin Army Community Hospital in 2014—a sprawling, LEED-certified facility doubling the size and capacity of its predecessor—the 1958 tower had already become a costly relic with upkeep on the unused, excess facility costing the installation tens of thousands of dollars annually.

Kirk Ticknor, Fort Benning public works director, said

**See FRP**

**Page 11**





## STRUCTURE From Page 8

on the rolls of Huntsville Center and the Medical Facilities Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) with more than 25 positions in Alexandria, Virginia. The PREP office has 23 positions on staff.

Martin said these realignments ensure mission readiness while maintaining a strong focus on employee support.

“My commitment to taking care of people and executing the mission remain unchanged,” he said. “You are making a difference.”

Huntsville Center is unique within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Unlike USACE divisions and districts that manage civil works and military construction in defined geographic regions, Huntsville Center is not bound by geographic boundaries.

Instead, it delivers centralized, specialized engineering and technical services to USACE, Defense Department, and other federal agencies worldwide. Programs span energy resilience, environmental restoration, facility repair and renewal, operational technology, cyber infrastructure, medical facility design and explosive ordnance disposal.

With more than 1,000 employees, Huntsville Center manages over \$2 billion in annual obligations, making it one of the Corps’ most complex and dynamic organizations.

“The old saying at the Center is, ‘as the needs of the Nation change, so

does the mission of Huntsville Center,’” Martin said.

“Historically speaking, the one consistency within the Center is change.”

Huntsville Center’s role as a national engineering organization was cemented through changes during decades of high-impact program oversight.

One of its earliest major missions was managing the SAFEGUARD Anti-Ballistic Missile complex in North Dakota during the 1970s. This advanced Cold War missile defense system established the then-appointed Huntsville Division’s expertise in large-scale, high-priority projects.

In the early 1980s, Huntsville Division pioneered environmental compliance and restoration programs following the passage of federal environmental laws. It piloted hazardous waste and contamination mitigation projects that would later transfer to other USACE districts, demonstrating its value as an incubator for USACE-wide innovation.

Another landmark mission was the Chemical Demilitarization Program, which began in the late 1980s.

Huntsville Division played a critical role in designing and managing facilities across the U.S. that safely destroyed the U.S. stockpile of chemical weapons. Over time, the Huntsville Division’s mission expanded to encompass a broader range of specialized technical support for USACE.

In 1994, Huntsville Division became Huntsville Center under a broad

USACE reorganization.

This shift was more than just a name change; it reflected a change in focus from a geographically-defined Division to a Center with specialized projects and programs requiring unique technical expertise, centralized management, and standardization across different geographic locations.

After the 2003 invasion of Iraq, Huntsville Center oversaw the Captured Enemy Ammunition (CEA) Program, which destroyed more than 346,000 tons of ordnance. Its expeditionary work force operated alongside coalition forces and contractors in hazardous conditions. The mission was one of the largest munitions clearance efforts in U.S. military history.

In the last two decades the Center grew in its focus on by managing the design, construction, and outfitting of military medical treatment facilities worldwide, and energy programs helping installations maintain energy resilience to maintain readiness.

Officials say the current restructuring positions Huntsville Center for long-term mission success while remaining agile in a rapidly changing defense and federal support environment.

“Huntsville Center has always led the way with innovative approaches and world-class technical solutions,” said Col. Sebastien Joly, then Huntsville Center’s commander.

“These changes ensure we continue to provide unmatched value to our partners and to the Nation.”





Photo by William S. Farrow

**Dusty Carroll, Headquarters U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (HQ USACE) program analysis officer, briefs attendees from more than a dozen USACE Districts on the first day of the USACE Programs Projects Services Management Program and Project Management Information Suite (PROMIS) Pilot rollout clinic at Huntsville Center Aug.12.**

## Schedulers, project managers converge at Huntsville Center for software exploration

**By William Farrow**  
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

**A**fter more than five years in the making, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is set to release its updated schedule and project management software.

Project schedulers and project managers from more than a dozen USACE Districts attended the USACE Program and Project Management Information Suite (PROMIS) Pilot rollout clinic at the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville (Huntsville Center) Aug.12-14.

The clinic gave attendees a deep look and feel for the latest, updated version of PROMIS – the USACE enterprise database used to create, store, and manage project data.

Jon Soderberg, HQ USACE national programs chief, along with a contingent of other HQ USACE staff and contractors, guided attendees through hands-on exercises using live project data in the production environment during the three-day-long clinic.

PROMIS has been undergoing modernization efforts since 2022. The modernized, cloud-based version of PROMIS expands USACE mission efficiency through a faster, reliable suite of secure systems far more effective and efficient for USACE project management.

With its history intertwined with the broader evolution of project management practices within USACE localized systems, the legacy PROMIS system is sunsetting in 2026.

Ryan Caudill, Headquarters USACE analyst and PROMIS instructor, said he thinks the training was well received.

“I think the practitioners, the schedulers, project

managers, and others that we had attending the training, really appreciated the opportunity to get in and get their hands dirty,” he said.

Caudill said although there have been some previous commercial training environments about what the tool can do, this was the first time schedulers and project managers were given the opportunity to use PROMIS with their projects in their environment.

“They could really get a better feel for how all this works together,” he said.

“As opposed to watching someone else figure out which buttons to click and what the capabilities are, they could get in for themselves and really try things out.”

Kate Leese, St. Louis District project manager, said the PROMIS Pilot was a great opportunity for her and the other attendees.

“I think that this is making our data a lot more stable,” Leese said.

“We currently house our data on servers and this is going to bring it into the cloud environment. I’m excited to hear that if there are any upgrades needed (to PROMIS), they’re not going to be taking us down and offline to do those upgrades.”

Leese said there is excitement in the USACE project management community with the functionality of PROMIS.

“As far as things that we’re excited about, there’s a lot of opportunity for how this system integrates with some of our other systems that I haven’t seen before, and I’m excited to see our system like CEFMS and RMS working within PROMIS,” she said.



# UMCS contract set to improve federal facility functions, reduce costs

**By William Farrow**  
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

**H**untsville Center unleashed a powerful tool for federal facility managers to optimize building performance, reduce costs, and create a more comfortable and sustainable environment.

Huntsville Center's Utility Monitoring and Control Systems program awarded a \$630 million single-award task order contract (SATOC) to Johnson Control Building Automation Systems (JBAS) in July.

The contract supports the procurement, installation, and maintenance of JCABS' Metasys systems.

Huntsville Center is the Mandatory Center of Expertise for UMCS.

A Mandatory Center of Expertise (MCX) is a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers organization approved by Headquarters USACE (HQUSACE) as

having a unique or exceptional technical capability in a specialized subject area that is critical to other USACE commands.

Metasys is a network-based building automation system (BAS) that manages and controls various building systems, including HVAC, lighting, security. Metasys helps optimize building performance, enhances energy efficiency, improve occupant comfort, and increase operational efficiency.

Metasys acts as the "central nervous system" of a smart building, giving facility managers the tools they need to optimize performance, reduce downtime, and ensure occupant comfort.

Examples of Metasys functionality includes HVAC control allowing for temperature adjustment, airflow, and ventilation based on occupancy and weather conditions; optimizing lighting levels based on occupancy, daylight availability, and time of day;

security integration allowing facility managers to monitor access control systems, surveillance cameras, and alarm systems; monitoring energy consumption, identifying areas of waste, and implementing energy-saving strategies, and tracking maintenance schedules, identifying potential issues, and optimizing equipment performance.

Nicole Warren, UMCS project manager, said Metasys is a popular choice for use in federal facilities due to its capabilities in managing and integrating various building systems.

"Metasys provides a comprehensive and secure solution for managing building automation in federal facilities, addressing critical needs in efficiency, compliance, and cybersecurity," Warren said.

"Its ability to integrate diverse systems, provide valuable insights, and ensure compliance makes it a suitable choice for various government applications."

---

## FRP From Page 8

he's very pleased that the DPW and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) team successfully executed this project at a cost that was lower than expected.

"This project removed a large unusable building complex, and it clears the way for future development of prime real estate on Fort Benning."

Healy said just because a facility isn't used doesn't mean a facility doesn't impact an installation's budget. Utilities must be maintained to prevent damage. For example, minimal heat may be necessary to keep pipes from freezing and bursting in the winter.

The grounds around the facility must also be maintained in the summer and security and lighting is no longer required. Although the costs associated with maintaining excess facilities is minimal, it adds up over time.

"Empty buildings still cost money to maintain and that's the second facet of savings to the taxpayer," Healy said.

"As the Army modernizes and replaces outdated facilities with new facilities, the FRP can safely remove that excess and save the installation money."

Healy said he's been working the project since day one and is looking forward to seeing the project close out.

"I was the first FRP person to see it. We then scoped it and negotiated it and were involved in resolving any project technical issues that have arisen in the roughly three years since award" he said.

Healy said although Huntsville Center's FRP continued project management and technical oversight, the partnership with Savannah District's Area/Resident Office was fundamental to the success of the project.

"Great thanks are due to Eddie Culpepper, Savannah District area engineer, who maintained a set of eyes on the on-going effort to assure continuous, day-to-day, success and on this project," Healy said.

"It's been a challenging project, but we are dedicated to ensuring the stakeholder gets what we promised them."





Courtesy photo

Navy Medical Readiness Logistics Command Detachment Naval Ophthalmic Readiness Activity Yorktown, Va. during facility upgrades in May. The project was complex due to the unique scope of work, requiring careful coordination.

## Huntsville Center project helps NORA see success for upgrades to military eye wear lab

**Lillian Putnam**  
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

One often overlooked, but essential requirement to serve in the military is the capability to see. Huntsville Center recently completed a critical infrastructure project in support of the Naval Medical Readiness Logistics Command's Naval Ophthalmic Readiness Activity, NORA, a facility responsible for producing prescription eye wear issued across the U.S. military.

Many service members may recall basic training glasses as "buddy holly's" or "birth control glasses." Iconic glasses like these and many more styles were produced at NORA, where they currently make roughly 37 percent of the 1.3 million pairs of glasses fabricated annually for Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines, according to NORA facility manager, Ezekial Coffman.

Huntsville Center's Facility Repair and Renewal branch upgraded electrical and plumbing infrastructure to support the installation of new high-capacity eyeglass surfacing

equipment.

The project scope included installation of new electrical systems, epoxy flooring cleaning and repairs, plumbing, ceiling tile replacement and connections for a new exterior dust collection system. Joseph Abrego, Huntsville Center FRR project manager, explained how the infrastructure project replacements and upgrades were critical for NORA's mission.

"The outdated equipment was failing, and that created a negative mission impact," Abrego said.

"Our contract provided the foundation for installing and operating the new systems needed to keep this mission-critical lab running effectively."

The upgrades are expected to more than triple the facility's daily output of eyeglasses, increasing capacity from about 400 pairs per day using obsolete equipment to more than 1,500 pairs per day using state-of-the-art surfacing technology.

**See NORA**  
**Page 14**



# Huntsville Center furnishes new state-of-the-art Mobile District headquarters facility

**Lillian Putnam**

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

**H**untsville Center furnished the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District's new six-story headquarters in downtown Mobile.

The \$92 million, 190,000-square-foot building now houses 650 employees with capacity for up to 800.

The project officially culminated June 30 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony that drew community leaders, district staff and USACE representatives.

"This new headquarters is more than a building; it's a symbol of the continued commitment USACE has made to this region and the communities we serve," Col. Jeremy Chapman, Mobile District commander, said during the ceremony.

Huntsville Center began the furniture procurement process in early 2024. Typically, a project of this size would require nearly 57 weeks to award, but Huntsville awarded in just 25 weeks, which is less than half the standard time. Installation started January, and was completed June, in time for the district's grand opening.

"Communication and coordination, coupled with the ability to adapt to shifting circumstances, were the cornerstones that allowed us to successfully navigate the complexities of this installation," said Jennifer McDowell, Huntsville Center Furniture Program project manager.

"It wasn't just about getting the job done; it was about how we came together to ensure the success of the project, even in the most unusual circumstances."

Adding to the uniqueness of this project, Mardi Gras season fell directly in the middle of installation. As the birthplace of Mardi Gras, Mobile hosts multiple parades daily for nearly three



Courtesy photo

**Huntsville Center furnished the new Mobile District headquarters facility. The Center's Furnishings Program procures administrative, barracks, lodging and educational furnishings for various federal agencies worldwide.**

weeks, closing streets which created logistic difficulties.

"This installation occurred during Mobile's Mardi Gras season, which presented a unique set of challenges," McDowell elaborated.

"We had to navigate parade schedules and rearrange deliveries in ways we'd never encountered before. Through innovative problem-solving, clear communication, and collaboration, we managed to keep everything on track."

Coordination with multiple partners was essential. Huntsville Center worked alongside Mobile District leadership, FD Stonewater, Mobile Real Estate Division, among others. The finished interior incorporates colors inspired by water, a reflection of the Mobile District's mission and the communities it serves across the Southeast.

"The overall building design is aimed at creating a workspace that resonates with the district's identity, the furniture provided a perfect complement," McDowell said.

"The result is a state-of-the-art office building that represents who Mobile District is and the customers that they serve."

The Mobile District has supported the Southeast for more than 200 years, leading projects in navigation, flood risk management, regulatory programs and military construction.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, Chapman highlighted the district's future. "Bringing our teams together in a state-of-the-art facility will help us work smarter, respond faster, and deliver stronger results across our area of responsibility," he said.

Despite compressed schedules and unique challenges, the result was a facility designed to meet modern workforce needs while honoring the district's long history of service.

"The new headquarters represents not only the future of the Mobile District but also the dedication of everyone who worked tirelessly to make it a reality," McDowell said.



Photo by William S. Farrow

## September employee of the month

Maj. John Franklin, Huntsville Center deputy commander, presents Mason Shockley, Operation and Maintenance Engineering Enhancement Program contract specialist, with a command coin and certificate recognizing him as the September Employee of the Month. Shockley was selected for his dedication and team management, ensuring contract modifications were completed with no gap in service.

## NORA From Page 12

"The surfacing equipment refresh completed at NORA will increase capacity and quality while reducing turnaround time for every optical device produced for U.S. warfighters, which is a critical part of readiness," Coffman said.

Coffman emphasized that reliability is paramount to their mission of providing the 'Sight to Fight' since 1945.

"Any delay in production due to facility or equipment issues results in downstream delays in providing vision readiness to warfighters," he said.

"Ensuring our equipment and the facility they are housed in are current and up to standards is vital to ensuring there are no delays."

The project was complex due to the unique scope of work, requiring careful coordination with NORA's facility manager. Adding to the challenge was an aggressive schedule designed to minimize downtime in the 24/7 mission-critical facility.

"This project had a very aggressive schedule due to the minimal downtime that the Ophthalmic Activity could suffer," said Brian Roden, Huntsville Center contracting officer's representative.

"It was a delicate balance to ensure quality was delivered while maintaining the completion date. Nonetheless, we were able to deliver a quality upgrade on time and within budget."

Those involved with the project say the laboratory upgrades will have long-term benefits, both for the facility's workforce and the service members they support.

"The laboratory was long overdue for an upgrade," Abrego explained.

"The new laboratory will function more efficiently and reliably for decades to come."

The new facility directly impacts the warfighters relying on timely delivery of prescription eyewear.

"The products that leave this facility will be delivered right into the hands of military members around the globe, providing essential optics that allow them to do what they were trained for," Abrego said.





# Fiscal 2026 kicks off with Industry Day

## From staff reports

Huntsville Center Public Affairs

**H**untsville Center's Small Business Industry Day event at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center's Davidson Center for Space Exploration in October allowed Center personnel to provide an overview of Huntsville Center's scope of work, its planned acquisition strategy approach and small business tips and best practices for stakeholders interested in partnering with the Center for future projects.

Opening remarks were provided by Col. Robert Hilliard, Huntsville Center commander, followed by presentations from Arthur Martin III, Huntsville Center programs manager, and Ronnell Booker, Huntsville Center contracting chief.

After the presentation, Huntsville Center representatives were available in the auditorium and museum area to provide focused information with stakeholder representatives.

The event also provided networking opportunities as Huntsville Center program and project managers and contracting specialists delivered updates on Huntsville Center programs.



Photos by Lillian Putnam



Above, more than 300 people attended the Huntsville Center Industry Day at the Davidson Center for Space Exploration. Left, Project managers and contracting specialists provide stakeholders updates on Center programs.



Above left, Arthur Martin III, Huntsville Center programs director, addresses Industry Day attendees from the lectern at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. Above, Industry Day attendees were keen on networking with Center employees.

## 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.

**FY2025 35+ Programs**

**\$2.9B**

**“HNC Delivers Innovation”**

**In fiscal 2025, Huntsville Center awarded contract actions totaling more than \$2.9 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