



U.S. ARMY



ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND

U.S. ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND

NCO Quarterly Newsletter

1st QTR FY 2026

“Strong Sergeants WIN Every Day!”



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Published By:
CSM Rachel Y. Harris

Edited By:
SSG LeAnna Mitchell

Command Sergeant Major Corner

CSM Rachel Y. Harris



Message from the ACC Command Sergeant Major

Team,

As we continue to navigate a dynamic and challenging environment, I want to take a moment to share some thoughts and recognize the incredible work being done across the command.

Our People and Teamwork

First, I want to address the recent furlough. I am immensely proud of how our military teammates stepped up to ensure the mission continued without fail. To our civilian teammates, please know that your contributions are deeply valued, and we are a stronger force with you.

I want to highlight the fantastic initiative by CSM JennyAnne Bright and her global team. Not only did her step challenge bring military and civilians together worldwide to focus on health, but she also fostered a professional development with the 1st Quarter LPD.

Command Sergeant Major Corner

CSM Rachel Y. Harris

Message from the ACC Command Sergeant Major Continued...

Special thanks to her subordinate Sergeants Major, CSM Desmond Culler of the 419th CSB and SGM Kerry DuBose (interim 419th CSB and 901st CBN Sergeant Major), for leading talking points on the Board Evaluation Process as well as the 51C Professional Developmental Model and SGM Calvin Cunningham explained the ASBS 2.0 evolution as well coordinated the global event. With over 300 personnel in attendance, this event was a resounding success.

We've also seen several important leadership transitions across the command. Please join me in congratulating the following leaders:

Unit	Event	Outgoing CSM	Incoming
AMC	Retirement & CoR	CSM Jimmy J. Sellers	CSM Jacinto Garza
408th CSB	Change of Responsibility	CSM Keita N. Lyles	CSM Jesse A. Campos
409th CSB	Change of Responsibility	CSM Jalila A. Wahid*	CSM Nadejda E. Vorobyeva-Santiago
414th CSB	Change of Responsibility	CSM Nadejda E. Vorobyeva-Santiago	CSM Scott R. Wondrasek
418th CSB	Retirement & CoR	CSM Josjua T. Thompson	CSM Kendall J. Haynie



Command Sergeant Major Corner

CSM Rachel Y. Harris

A special congratulations to CSM Wahid on becoming the new Proponent SGM!

We are excited to have our new leaders on the team and fully support AMC CSM Garza's "Strong Sergeants Campaign" – ACC is all in!

Our Mission and Future

We have a powerful story to tell at ACC, and we can all do a better job of sharing it. Let's focus on the "Soldier Experience" and highlight the incredible impact we have every day.

Our Commanding General has provided clear guidance: we must **"Find, Fix, and Finish"** problems in our supported units.

Message from the ACC Command Sergeant Major Continued...

He has also laid out four key challenges for us to tackle: Resourcing, Technology, the ACC Operating Concept, and Growing Faster.

As we look to the future, **"Next Gen Capabilities"** must be at the forefront of our thinking. We all have a role to play in shaping the future of our Army.

Finally, I am excited for the upcoming ACC Best Warrior competition this March. This is a crucible event designed to identify the best of the best, who will then go on to compete at the AMC level to be part of the Best Squad, with the ultimate goal of competing at the Department of the Army level.

Thank you for all that you do.

"This We'll Defend-Be All You Can Be – WIN EVERY DAY!"

Mission and Installation Contracting Command

CSM JennyAnne C. Bright



Message from the MICC Command Sergeant Major

Team,

As we close out 1st Quarter, FY26, I want to reflect on the immense resilience and commitment you all showed during the recent government shutdown. This was an incredibly tough period, especially for our civilian workforce and their families who faced significant hardship while on furlough. Your fortitude did not go unnoticed, and you are a deeply valued part of the MICC Team. While our Soldiers stepped up to cover critical missions, it was a powerful reminder that our strength truly lies in the unity of our total Soldier and Civilian team.

People

Our people are our greatest asset. At the 418TH Contracting Support Brigade, we bid farewell to CSM Thompson and welcome CSM Haynie as he takes responsibility.

Congratulations are also in order for SSG Kleinschmidt (900TH CBn) and SFC Mathews (918TH CBn) on their selection to JSOC. MSG Robbins (418TH CSB) and MSG Cisneros (919TH CBn) on their selection to attend the Sergeants Major Academy, Class 77.

Mission and Installation Contracting Command

CSM JennyAnne C. Bright

Message from the MICC Command Sergeant Major Continued...

Our commitment to professional development remains unwavering. The 418TH CSB recently hosted a valuable NCOPD on the Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Report, ensuring our leaders are equipped to mentor and manage talent effectively. Additionally, the MICC Command Team hosted a Townhall to share information with our workforce and answer the questions and concerns they had during a difficult time.

Readiness

The recent government shutdown was a real-world test of our readiness, and you passed with flying colors. While a significant portion of our civilian workforce was furloughed, our Soldiers seamlessly shouldered the burden, managing critical contracts to maintain the readiness of warfighters across the force. This directly ties into our warfighting ethos. As leaders, it is imperative that we understand the doctrine outlined in FM 3-0, Chapter 2: Generating and Applying Combat Power.



Mission and Installation Contracting Command

CSM JennyAnne C. Bright

Understanding how commanders integrate fires, protection, intelligence, and sustainment allows us to anticipate requirements and deliver contracting solutions that generate and apply combat power at the right place and time. In Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO), our ability to procure services and supplies is not a background support function; it is a direct enabler of lethality and operational reach.

Execution

Your disciplined and precise execution during the first quarter was remarkable. As we faced the government shutdown, we leaned into our outreach efforts to continue to enable and prepare supported units. You conducted targeted engagements to ensure they fully understood the risks, processes, and limitations associated with executing contracts in that environment.

“Contracting for Soldiers!”

Message from the MICC Command Sergeant Major Continued...

These efforts were critical in fostering transparency and allowed us to collaboratively prioritize contracting actions that impacted life, health, and safety, thereby mitigating disruptions to mission-critical operations. This is the standard of excellence in execution that defines the MICC.

Transformation

Everything we do remains fundamentally nested with the Army's highest priorities. The hard work you accomplish daily directly supports the Army Transformation Initiative. Our efforts are aligned with the Chief of Staff of the Army's four primary focus areas: Warfighting, Continuous Transformation, Delivering Ready Combat Formations, and Strengthening the Army Profession.

Mission and Installation Contracting Command

CSM JennyAnne C. Bright

Likewise, the priorities outlined in the Secretary of War's 11 memos, which guide how we fight, how we build the force, and how we deliver capability, remain at the forefront of our contracting efforts. Your role in acquiring the goods and services that enable these strategic objectives is critical to the Army.



“Contracting for Soldiers!”

Message from the MICC Command Sergeant Major Continued...

The Way Ahead: 2nd Quarter, FY26

Looking ahead we will focus on the following to ensure we continue to focus on the MICC CG's vision to be the Army leader in contracting, driving innovation and readiness through cutting-edge solutions that empower our mission partners and positively impact the Army.

- Maintain an unwavering focus on warfighting.
- Strengthen partnerships with our supported commands.
- Develop a formalized leader development pathway and a 51C NCO Guide for talent management.

We must remain flexible and adaptable for the challenges ahead.

Thank you for your dedication.

Army Contracting Command

SGM Calvin Cunningham

Message from the G3/5/7 Sergeant Major



The Army Contracting Command (ACC) demands that its Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs) do more than manage contracts. They must operate as warrior-leaders, contribute as planners, and serve as operational enablers who influence mission outcomes. To meet these demands, ACC directs NCO development through targeted programs such as the Best Warrior Competition (BWC), the Contracting Master Gunner Course (KMG), and the S3 Contracting Support Plans and Operations Course (S3-CSPO), all supported by ACC University. These initiatives prepare NCOs to think critically, act decisively, and support commanders across full-spectrum operations

Best Warrior Competition: Building Tactical Competence and Warrior Ethos

From 23 to 27 March 2026, ACC will host its annual Best Warrior Competition at Fort McClellan Training Center in Anniston, Alabama. The event identifies, evaluates, and honors NCOs who embody tactical excellence, physical resilience, and the warrior ethos. Competitors will demonstrate their capabilities in land navigation, weapons qualification, military knowledge, leadership, and decision-making under pressure. The top two performers will advance to represent ACC at the Army Materiel Command (AMC) Best Warrior Competition in May 2026 (U.S. Army Contracting Command, 2025).

Army Contracting Command

SGM Calvin Cunningham

Message from the G3/5/7 Sergeant Major Continued...

Contracting NCOs who participate in this event strengthens their credibility and readiness. They demonstrate that technical contracting expertise complements, rather than replaces, Soldier skills. NCOs also reinforce Army values and build esprit de corps within the contracting enterprise.

ACC University: Enhancing Operational Readiness and Technical Mastery

In fiscal year 2026, ACC will conduct three cornerstone professional development courses at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, under the banner of ACC University. The Command will execute the Contracting Master Gunner Course from 8 to 24 April 2026, the S3-CSPO Course from 20 April to 1 May 2026, and the Contracting Leaders Course on a date to be determined (U.S. Army Contracting Command, 2025b).

The Master Gunner Course prepares NCOs to support training events and coordinate contracting support for brigade combat team operations. Graduates of the course return to their units ready to enhance training synchronization and operational effectiveness.

The S3-CSPO Course develops planning acumen, equipping NCOs with the knowledge to write contracting annexes, participate in operational planning teams, and align contracting support with the commander's intent. The course enables NCOs to integrate directly into mission command systems and support planning for exercises, deployments, and contingency operations.

“This We'll Defend-Be All You Can Be – WIN EVERY DAY!”

Army Contracting Command

SGM Calvin Cunningham

Message from the G3/5/7 Sergeant Major Continued...

Contracting NCOs must prepare themselves to lead in dynamic environments. By participating in the Best Warrior Competition, enrolling in ACC University courses, and contributing to operational planning, they refine their expertise and reinforce their value to the Army. The FY26 schedule offers clear opportunities to grow. NCOs must seize those opportunities now.

Commanders rely on contracting professionals who can think critically, act decisively, and adapt to evolving mission needs. ACC's investment in the professional development of its NCOs reflects the seriousness of that requirement. Every NCO must rise to meet it.



“This We’ll Defend-Be All You Can Be – WIN EVERY DAY!”

Human Resources Command

SFC Lamar Dunlap

Message from 51C Talent Manager



Greetings Acquisition NCOs,

As your Talent Manager, I remain committed to transparency, responsiveness, and providing timely support to every Noncommissioned Officer within the 51C Career Management Field. Whether through direct engagement, administrative support, or one-on-one discussions, my focus continues to be ensuring Soldiers are informed, supported, and positioned for success.

Please be reminded that EMC 27-01 is scheduled to close on 17 March 2026, with Soldiers set to receive assignment instructions no later than 1 May 2026. This will be our third market conducted, and we continue to refine and sharpen our processes to improve the overall experience for the field.

Human Resources Command

SFC Lamar Dunlap

Message from 51C Talent Manager Continued...

I appreciate everyone who reached out prior to the stabilization date of 21 December 2025 to address administrative updates and eligibility concerns. Early engagement makes a significant difference. If additional issues or questions arise, I strongly encourage you to reach out as soon as possible. Once the market opens, it becomes considerably more difficult to make adjustments or pull Soldiers out of the market.

As always, thank you for your professionalism, patience, and continued engagement. I look forward to supporting you throughout this market and beyond.”



Army Contracting Command

MSG Maurice Barbour

Message from G3/5 NCOIC



Drone Dominance or Disarray? Annual Conference Reveals a Fork in the Road for U.S. Strategy

The 2nd Annual US National Drone Association (USNDA) Conference has concluded, leaving the defense community with a picture of both immense opportunity and significant friction. While the Pentagon charts an aggressive course toward "Drone Dominance," the path forward is split by competing acquisition strategies, hampered by unresolved policy, and grounded by sobering manufacturing realities. The central message from the December 2-6 event was clear: without immediate and deep industry collaboration, progress will stall.

A New Hub for Innovation Takes Flight

A major highlight was the formalization of a partnership between USNDA and Full Sail University, establishing the university's Winter Park, Florida campus as the association's new headquarters. The collaboration was cemented with the ribbon-cutting of Full Sail's new 7,870-square-foot Drone Innovation Center. This state-of-the-art facility, featuring a netted indoor flight zone and labs for hardware engineering, AI simulation, and data analysis, represents a vital bridge between academic theory and the practical application required to solve real-world challenges.

Army Contracting Command

MSG Maurice Barbour

Message from G3/5 NCOIC Continued...

High-Level Headwinds: Policy and Strategy Gridlock

Throughout the conference, discussions circled back to a fundamental question that continues to plague industry: how should Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) be classified? The ambiguity of whether a one-way attack drone is disposable ammunition or a reusable aircraft creates a cascade of problems, impacting everything from procurement to logistics.

This policy vacuum has led industry leaders to a consensus: they must act first. As articulated by Mr. Bryant, the industry must proactively form partnerships to create modular systems. This approach, allowing for the flexible swapping of components for different mission sets (ISR, kinetic attack, etc.), is seen as a necessary stopgap until senior leadership provides a clearer, top-down vision.



NCOs “WIN Every Day”

MSG Maurice Barbour

Message from G3/5 NCOIC Continued...

Two Paths to Procurement: The "Gauntlet" vs. The "Marketplace"

The conference revealed two divergent strategies from within the government for scaling the drone industrial base:

1. SECWAR's "Acquisition Gauntlet": Mr. Travis Metz of the SECWAR DOGE team detailed an aggressive plan to "mass-market" low-cost drones, with a goal to obligate \$1 Billion in fixed-price orders over two years. The process will be a multi-phase "Gauntlet" where vendors compete in operational challenges, with the Pentagon progressively narrowing the field while increasing order volumes.
2. PM UAS & AMC's "Marketplace" Model: In contrast, the Program Manager for UAS and Army Materiel Command (AMC) are advocating to strengthen the entire U.S. vendor base. They aim to build a robust and resilient ecosystem through a "marketplace" with continuous onboarding and active sourcing of component part manufacturers.



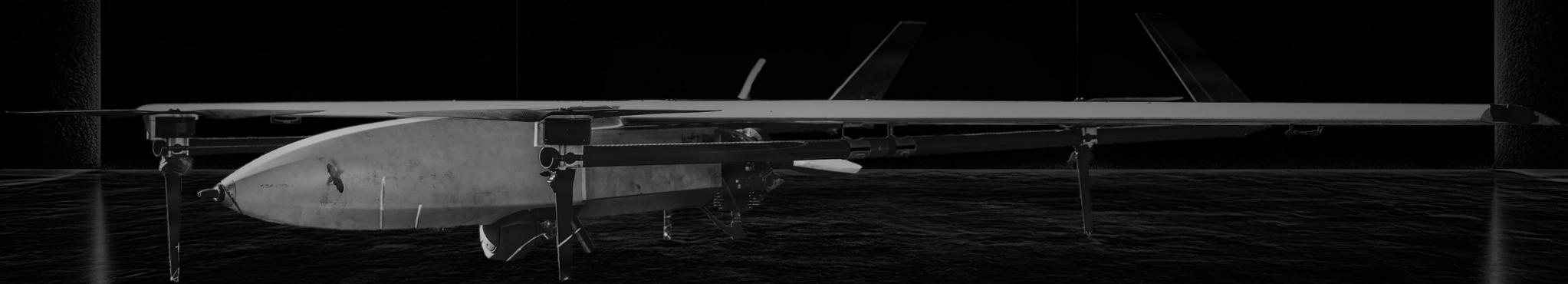
NCOs “WIN Every Day”

MSG Maurice Barbour

Message from G3/5 NCOIC Continued...

The Hard Realities of the Supply Chain

Beneath strategic debates lies a stark economic and logistical reality. The CEO of Neros Technology highlighted a vast manufacturing cost disparity, noting a simple circuit that costs under \$10 to produce in China can cost nearly \$100 domestically—a gap that must be addressed before U.S. industry can meet government price points. Compounding this, Dr. Alex Miller, Chief of the HQDA Chief Technology Office, detailed the top ten real-world performance challenges, including the over-reliance on specialized components, the underperformance of batteries, significantly shorter flight ranges in real-world terrain, brittle antennas, and the critical need to reduce drone fratricide by 50-70%. Ultimately, the conference underscored that achieving dominance in drone warfare first requires achieving dominance in development and update cycle capability that is currently lagging. The path forward is complex, but the dialogue has been opened.



NCOs “WIN Every Day”

SFC Aaron Thompson



Message from a Dedicated NCOIC

SFC Thompson recently received well-deserved recognition and an ARSOUTH coin from the JTF-GTMO Commander, who conveyed appreciation on behalf of the ARSOUTH Command Team.

SFC Thompson was spotlighted for his exceptional dedication and customer service during a critical end-of-year contracting effort. Specifically, he ensured the successful solicitation of the 525th Military Police Guard Shack requirement at Joint Task Force Guantanamo Bay (JTF-GTMO). Although the requirement was initially designated for FY26, SFC Thompson worked tirelessly to meet the customer’s needs after funding became available late in the process.

NCOs “WIN Every Day”

SFC Aaron Thompson

Message from a Dedicated NCOIC Continued...

In addition to this achievement, SFC Thompson was recognized for his outstanding work as the JTF’s supporting Contracting Officer (KO) and for his extensive customer service and support during the fiscal year closeout. His efforts ensured compliance with all policies and regulations while addressing the customer’s urgent operational requirements.

This recognition was presented in front of JTF-GTMO leaders and Soldiers, further underscoring the significance of his contributions to the mission. SFC Thompson’s actions exemplify the highest standards of professionalism and commitment to mission success, making him a standout performer within the 410th Contracting Support Brigade.

NCOs “WIN Every Day”

SFC Trisha Connors



Message from a Dedicated NCOIC

SFC Trisha Connors is the USACE Hero of the Week. She serves as a warranted contracting officer and has distinguished herself as an outstanding contracting professional and leader, seamlessly stepping into a hard-to-fill role as Environmental Section Chief, replacing a lieutenant colonel.

As a first-time supervisor of civilian employees, Connors has quickly adapted to the complexities of civilian personnel policies while holding her team accountable and ensuring mission success. She consistently embraces challenges with professionalism and dedication, reflecting her strong commitment to accomplishing the mission.

Her contributions include executing numerous Formerly Utilized Defense Site (FUDS) contract actions, such as the Kansas City District’s \$600,000 Boardman Project for a proposed plan, feasibility study and record of decision; the Omaha District’s \$3.7 million Francis E. Warren Site 4 project for a proposed plan, feasibility study, record of decision and long-term monitoring; as well as several time-critical FUDS closing appropriations.

Upcoming Events

AMC Events

AMC Events	Dates
BWC	MAY 6-9, 2026

ACC Events

ACC Events	Dates
BWC	MARCH 23-28, 2026
KMG	APR 08-24, 2026
S3-CSPO	APR 20- MAY 1, 2026
CLC	TBD