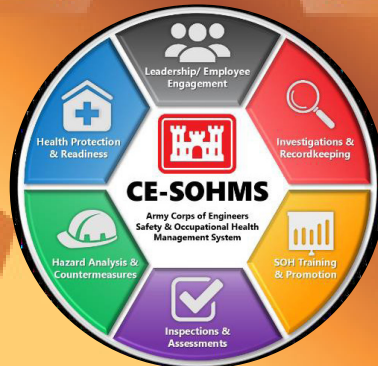


The Bulletin



Huntsville Center first in USACE to receive Safety and Occupational Health STAR recertification

See Page 4

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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 OF ENGINEERS,
 U.S. ARMY ENGINEERING
 AND SUPPORT CENTER,
 HUNTSVILLE



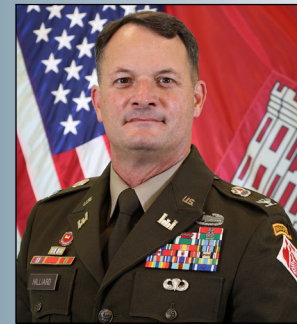
Commander: Col. Robert Hilliard
Chief, Public Affairs: Chris Putman
Editor: William S. Farrow
Public Affairs Specialist: Lillian Putnam
Administrative assistant: Celina Matthews

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Commander's Thoughts

“ In an ever changing world, our vigilance is not just a component of our mission; it’s the very fabric that ensures our ability to deliver critical engineering solutions for our nation. ”



Col. Robert Hilliard

Team,
I want to address a topic of utmost importance: Force Protection. As you all should know, we have a heightened force protection condition, or FPCON. We have been in FPCON BRAVO for several weeks now. FPCON BRAVO applies when hostile acts, including coercive activities, are escalating or an attack targeting Department of War-affiliated personnel is likely, but the specific timing, nature, and targets of these threats cannot be identified.

With FPCON BRAVO comes increased screenings of vehicles to include persons and their hand carried items entering military installations and facilities. Expect stricter and more frequent inspections of vehicles and deliveries causing minor delays.

In an ever-changing world, our vigilance is not just a component of our mission; it is the very fabric that ensures our ability to deliver critical engineering solutions for our nation. Huntsville Center’s mission is unique and vital. We provide specialized technical expertise and global engineering solutions that support national interests. Our work is complex and spans the globe, which is why the principles of force protection and unwavering vigilance are paramount.

Force protection is more than just a set of procedures; it is a mindset that must be embedded in everything we do. It is a shared responsibility that extends to every member of our team, whether you are a civilian, contractor, or service member. It requires us to be proactive, to be aware of our surroundings, and to have the courage to act when something seems amiss.

Vigilance begins with each of us. It means practicing situational awareness, whether you are on-site, traveling for a mission, or in your own community. It involves being alert to your surroundings and reporting any unusual activity. If you “see something, say something” is not just a slogan; it is a critical call to action that can prevent harm and protect our workforce.

Here at Huntsville Center, we have a proud history of excellence, and that includes our commitment to safety and security. Our organization has been recognized for its

comprehensive safety programs, a testament to the dedication of our entire team. Let us continue to build upon this culture of vigilance and mutual support.

The threats we face are diverse and can emerge from unexpected places. However, by working together and remaining vigilant, we can create a secure environment where we can all continue to excel in our vital missions.

Internally here at Huntsville Center, we’re also ensuring we are streamlined and have a workforce built for the future. In March, we kicked off a Mission Resourcing Analysis (MRA) under executive leadership, led by Resource Management. Huntsville Center has not conducted an analysis of this type for over a decade, so it just makes sense for us to take a close look at ourselves at a time when the entire Enterprise is building towards the future.

To be very clear, the point of this effort is not to find “areas to cut” as we are still maximizing our current Exceptions to Policy (ETPs) to hire and will continue to do so. We just need to make sure we’re hiring for the right missions in the future.

The goal of the MRA is to better align mission requirements with workforce capabilities and technical competencies and validate whether our current manning structure supports the work we are doing now....or likely to be doing in the future.

The MRA will also improve leadership insight for balancing workload across the organization, strengthen our ability to plan deliberately for future mission delivery and support a culture of continuous improvement across the Center.

This effort began in March and is expected to continue through approximately late September. During this time, each support office, division, and branch chief will conduct an internal review of workload within their organizations, followed by interviews with the MRA project delivery team. Directorates will receive more detailed schedule information

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Huntsville Center first in USACE to receive Safety, Occupational Health Star Recertification

By Lillian Putnam
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Huntsville Center has become the first organization within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to successfully complete the Army Safety and Occupational Health, SOH, STAR recertification evaluation, and will be recommended for continued STAR status.

Following a multi-day assessment conducted March 10–13, evaluators recommended Huntsville Center for continued SOH STAR status, citing a mature safety culture, strong leadership engagement and a safety management system fully integrated into mission execution.

The SOH STAR Program recognizes organizations that successfully implement and sustain the Army Safety and Occupational Health Management System, or ASOHMS.

Organizations must demonstrate strong leadership commitment,

workforce participation, risk management and continuous improvement, along with successful Department of the Army assessments.

Col. Robert Hilliard, Huntsville Center commander, said the significance of this milestone is intrinsic to the organization.

“Huntsville Center is the first organization within USACE to achieve this level of SOH STAR recertification distinction, which reinforces the Center’s position as a leader in safety excellence and sets the benchmark for others across the enterprise,” he said.

During the evaluation, evaluators conducted document reviews, site visits and workforce interviews to determine whether Huntsville Center continues to meet the standards required to maintain SOH STAR designation.

“When we do Army STAR evaluations, there’s a particular method,” said Marty Werdebaugh, Headquarters USACE Safety and Occupational Health chief and SOH STAR evaluator.

“We do document reviews, site visits, and we always ensure that we interview employees for validation.”

Assessors met with leaders, supervisors and employees throughout the organization to gain a full understanding of how safety practices are applied in daily operations.

“We met with leadership the first day, employees and supervisors the second,” said Werdebaugh. “We received a good representation of how all three levels of participation are working together.”

Under the SOH STAR program, organizations undergo reevaluations approximately every four years to ensure their safety management systems remain effective and continue to improve.

Officials said the evaluation confirmed Huntsville Center’s safety culture has continued growing since the Center first earned SOH STAR status

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THOUGHTS

From page 3

through monthly updates.

Huntsville Center continues to deliver across 40 program areas around the globe, from munitions clearance in Guam to operational technology support in Alaska to medical facility repairs at Walter Reed, none of that happens without our people and our partners, so our focus on safety is an integral aspect of program delivery.

Specifically, last month the focus was on Huntsville Center Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Star recertification, the first recertification in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The SOH Star recertification embodies the Center’s commitment to a culture built on the foundation of taking care of each other. Thanks to Headquarters USACE safety for spending time with our Huntsville Center team to assess where we’ve been and where we’re going.

Weather awareness, especially in the Spring, is a critical necessity for Alabama and Nebraska. Alabama is especially unique as one of the most tornado-prone regions in the nation. Tornadoes are most common in Nebraska during

spring and early summer. Unlike other regions, Alabama experiences two distinct severe weather seasons: a primary season from March through May and a secondary season from November to mid-December. Because tornadoes in the Huntsville area are frequently rain-wrapped or obscured by hilly terrain and can strike at any hour of the day or night, staying informed through multiple alert systems is often the only way to ensure enough time to reach a safe shelter.

Ultimately, weather awareness in Alabama and Nebraska is not just a safety precaution—it is a necessary way of life. Given the states’ unique geography and the increasing frequency of violent storms, staying informed is the most effective tool for survival. By maintaining multiple ways to receive emergency alerts and having a practiced plan in place, you can significantly reduce the risks posed by these unpredictable and powerful forces of nature.

I am proud to lead such a dedicated and professional workforce. Your commitment to our mission and to each other is what makes the Huntsville Center a cornerstone of our national security.

Let us continue to look out for one another and uphold the highest standards of safety and vigilance.



Photo by Lillian Putnam

Huntsville Center Safety Office's Josh LeCroy, Safety and Occupational Health (SOH) Specialist; Emily White, Industrial Hygienist; Alicia Hodge, SOH Specialist; Ben Bailey, SOH Manager; Jeremy McCranie, Chief, Safety and Occupational Health Office; Todd Lewis, SOH Manager; Tara Payne, SOH Manager and Rod Amacher, Industrial Hygienist pose for a photograph after the visiting U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Safety and Occupational Health team recommended Huntsville Center receive its second STAR making it the first USACE organization to be awarded the STAR and the first to receive recertification based on mature safety culture, strong leadership engagement and a safety management system fully integrated into mission execution.

STAR

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in 2022.

“The first thing that was very transparent is the sustained safety culture that you all have maintained,” said Troy Larson, Headquarters USACE Safety and Occupational Health manager and SOH STAR evaluator.

“The safety culture has not only continued, but it has grown beyond the safety office.”

The evaluation highlighted communication practices as a major factor in sustaining the safety culture.

According to evaluators, Huntsville Center consistently reinforces safety messages through multiple communication channels, including town halls, program review boards, TV monitors, SharePoint sites and routine meetings.

“Emails are not always the answer,” Larson stated. “It’s the other communication methods that you have focused on that all adds up.”

Those efforts help ensure safety remains visible across the workforce and encourage employees to actively participate in hazard identification and risk mitigation.

The evaluation also recognized workforce engagement initiatives that support safety and wellness across the organization.

Programs such as employee wellness activities, recognition efforts and daily safety discussions were cited as examples of how Huntsville Center encourages participation beyond traditional compliance requirements.

Jeremy McCranie, Huntsville Center Safety Office chief, explained how safety is embedded in the daily operations rather than treated as a separate compliance function.

“Safety is integrated in all that we do. It’s the foundation of how we do business,” he said. “Our leaders, supervisors and employees all play a role in identifying hazards, managing risk and ensuring everyone goes home safe.”

Based on the assessment results, Huntsville Center exceeds the criteria required for SOH STAR recertification. The recommendation now moves forward for final approval by the Department of the Army.

“Safety is all about taking care of the people,” McCranie said. “The recertification would not have been possible without all of Huntsville Center making safety a core value.”

TF-SAFE transferred to Middle East District

By William S. Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

A mission of the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville's Ordnance and Explosives (OE) Directorate's Global Operations Division has transferred to a U.S.-based U.S. Army Corps of Engineers organization supporting operations in the Middle East.

Originally activated in August 2008 to address a spike in fatal incidents in Iraq, Task Force SAFE (Safety Actions for Fire and Electricity) remains active through ongoing contract cycles to protect U.S. service members in the region's contingency environments.

Designed to identify and mitigate urgent electrical and fire hazards in facilities occupied by U.S. and coalition forces, Task Force SAFE has identified and mitigated thousands of fire and electrical hazards since its inception, specifically targeting issues that led to a spike in fatalities on military bases in the region.

The program was very effective throughout the CENTCOM AOR since inception, reducing electrical fire incidents by 94% and electrical shock incidents by 92%, reducing the number of fatalities to zero.

Key functions and objectives of Task Force SAFE will continue with electrical safety inspections and hazard mitigation as top priorities.

Eduardo Granados, OE Directorate's Global Operations program manager, said the move coincides with streamlining efforts to enhance operations in the region.

In August the Headquarters USACE officially realigned mission oversight of USACE operations in support of U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) and U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOC) from the Transatlantic Division to the Southwestern Division.

Following the transition, the Middle East District and the Expeditionary District are continuing operations under the leadership of the Southwestern Division.

"We've had this service contract supporting U.S. Army Central in a contingency for the last 12 years," Granados said.

"Now the mission will belong to the Southwest Division's Middle East District."

The Middle East District has had a longstanding presence in countries such as The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Lebanon, and Israel providing engineering and construction services for a wide range of U.S. and foreign customers. Ralph Campbell, Ordnance and Explosives Directorate chief, said the TF-SAFE mission has made a direct, life-saving impact.

"From resolving generator faults that energize a forward-



File photo

A Task Force SAFE electrician unlocks a panel to conduct an inspection at Tower 22 (Rukban), a small logistics base in northeastern Jordan near the Syria-Iraq border. Huntsville Center developed TF-SAFE in 2008 as a response a spike in fatal incidents in Iraq. TF-SAFE is now under direction from the Middle East District.

operating base's main gate to its original mission preventing electrocutions in the CENTCOM AOR, Task Force SAFE has been instrumental in protecting our warfighters—all while operating in warzones," Campbell said.

Huntsville Center's Global Operations Division, within the Ordnance and Explosives Directorate provides global support for ordnance, munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) in support of military construction (MILCON), active ranges and training lands and environmental support services for Combatant Commands, Component Commands and any other U.S. agencies in support of contingency operations and steady state operations.

Teams of program and technical specialists are often forward deployed to establish an in-country presence and to provide project oversight and are supported in the rear by technical experts, engineers and contracting personnel.



Photos by Lillian Putnam

Corey Washington, Huntsville Center Utility Monitoring and Control Systems program manager, speaks with UMCS Industry Day attendees March 3 at the Center about the current state of the program and outlines priorities moving forward.

UMCS Industry Day strengthens partnerships

By Lillian Putnam
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Leaders from the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville gathered with industry partners for the Utility Monitoring and Control Systems, UMCS, Program Industry Day March 3.

The event focused on strengthening partnerships, sharing program updates and discussing the future of installation utility management across the Army.

The meeting brought together contractors and program leaders to discuss the current state of the UMCS program and outline priorities moving forward. Speakers emphasized the importance of collaboration between the government and industry to maintain the infrastructure that

supports military installations.

“None of this happens on its own,” Col. Robert Hilliard, Huntsville Center commander, shared in his opening remarks. “We can plan it and envision it, but we need partners to help make it happen.”

The UMCS program provides centralized monitoring and control of installation utilities such as heating, cooling, electricity and water systems.

These systems help installations operate more efficiently while improving reliability and energy management. Throughout Hilliard’s remarks, he explained how the program plays a critical role in supporting military readiness by ensuring the infrastructure behind daily operations remains functional and modernized.

“We have places where people can train, learn, test new ideas and plan operations. Those capabilities don’t exist without the infrastructure behind them,” he said.

“We are willing to come together to build and maintain the infrastructure and I appreciate you all being here to do that.”

Nathan Durham, UMCS branch chief, thanked more than 75 participants for attending and emphasized the value of face-to-face collaboration.

“It’s great to build relationships, see the people we work with and make sure contractors understand who we are and see the people they work with every day,” Durham said. Throughout the day,

**See *UMCS*
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Photo by Lillian Putnam

Stakeholder attending the UMCS Industry Day March 3 had an opportunity to strengthening partnerships, share program updates and discuss the future of installation utility management across the Army.

UMCS _____ **From Page 7**

speakers provided briefings on program history, organizational structure, safety, engineering efforts and contracting processes. The agenda also included time for open discussion and questions between government officials and contractors.

According to one participant, the event was incredibly valuable to the team.

“The breadth of topics covered, from safety and security protocols to the submittals process and the upcoming opportunity pipeline, gave us a comprehensive understanding of Huntsville Center’s UMCS Program priorities and direction,” said Danny Spencer, Spectrum Solutions, Inc., UMCS program manager.

Spencer continued by explaining how his team was able to strengthen collaboration with Huntsville Center.

“Equally important was the extensive question and answer time built into the agenda, which allowed us to

engage directly with the team, get clear answers to our most pressing questions, and walk away with the confidence and clarity needed to compete effectively on future opportunities.”

Program managers highlighted growth in the program’s workload and obligations in recent years, recognizing the performance of contractors and project teams.

“You are where the rubber meets the road,” Corey Washington, UMCS program manager, told attendees.

“You’re the ones performing the work. You’re the face of the program out there in the field.”

Leaders also discussed broader initiatives aimed at streamlining project delivery and reducing administrative delays.

“There are new initiatives focused on building infrastructure and not paperwork,” Hilliard said. “The goal is cutting red tape so we can move faster.”

As the Army looks ahead to future infrastructure investments, leaders encouraged industry partners to

think strategically about upcoming opportunities.

“As we look to the future, we have to be ready,” he said. “We should think big about what we can accomplish as a collaborative effort. We appreciate your feedback on that process and how we build balance as new projects come.”

Ultimately, organizers said the purpose of the event was to strengthen communication and reinforce the shared mission between government and industry.

“This effort is about relationships,” he told the audience. “We need you, and the nation needs you.”

Huntsville Center leadership expressed desires for the results of discussions and connections made during the industry day would help position the UMCS program for continued growth and improved support to Army installations.

“I hope we leave today with stronger relationships and a better understanding of what we can accomplish together,” Hilliard said.



Energy program sunsets

By William S. Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

For more than a dozen years, a Huntsville Center program provided life cycle project management for renewable energy projects leveraging private sector financing.

When officials from Fort Carson's Department of Civil works finalized and accepted the 47-acre solar-voltaic facility designed, built, operated and maintained by Energy Matters Corporation, the Center's Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) program subsequently ended.

Rodney Ries, a project manager for the Center's Utility Energy Services Contracting Program, said the PPA program has run its course.

"This was the last PPA project awarded through the renewable and alternative energy Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) awarded by Huntsville Center in 2013," Ries said.

The PPA Program's MATOC vehicle provided for the long-term purchases of energy from renewable alternative energy production facilities that are on or near dozens of Department of War installations.

In 2023, Huntsville Center worked with the U.S. Army Garrison – Fort Carson to award the contract for a solar facility on Fort Carson designed, financed, constructed, operated and maintained by Energy Matters Corporation, a private sector energy company, Ries said.

The facility will generate approximately 19,700 megawatt hours (MWh) of on-site renewable energy annually. The installation then purchases power from these facilities without acquiring any power generation assets, facilities or services costs.

Energy Matters Corporation, a certified small business, partnered with Total Energies to ensure compliance with federal procurement regulations for the Fort Carson project's solar PV system.

The system was designed as micro-grid ready so it may be connected to a future micro-grid and thereby contribute to the overall energy security of the installation.

Under the PPA, the Army will only purchase the energy that is produced at the 47 -acres and provides on-site generation of enough energy to power about 1,650 homes a year.

All electricity from the solar photovoltaic (PV) facility will be purchased at a cost equal to or less than current power costs and consumed entirely by Fort Carson and includes a 29-year Renewable Energy Services Agreement and lease.

As part of the Huntsville Center program optimization



Courtesy graphic

Huntsville Center's Power Purchase Agreement program led to the installation of photovoltaic systems installed at Fort Carson, Colo. When officials from Fort Carson's Department of Civil works finalized and accepted solar-voltaic facility, The Center's PPA program subsequently ended.

review, Brig. Gen. Kirk Gibbs, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deputy commanding general, signed a memo in July divesting the program upon completion of the existing projects.

However, Rick Tellstrom, Installation Support and Programs Management deputy director, said divesting the program didn't require any personnel movement as the program was supported by personnel under the Utility Energy Services Contracting Program.

"For new energy projects that could be candidates for a PPA and for USACE to do the work, the appropriate point of contact would be the specific USACE District or Regional office responsible for the geographic area," Tellstrom said.

He said other agencies within the federal government can perform PPAs, such as Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Government Services Agency.

Resource Efficiency Manager workshop set

By William S. Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Huntsville Center's Resource Efficiency Manager (REM) program has set its annual REM Workshop for April 21-23 at the Center's headquarters, Bldg. 300, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

The workshop provides training for currently contracted REMs, their company representatives, and REM program customers. However, the April 22-23 dates of the workshop are open to all interested parties with focus on the support and energy savings REMs provide their customers as well as the energy technical and project support the Center's Energy Division provides.

The REM program enhances installation energy program effectiveness by identifying projects and practices to reduce energy and water costs through a contracted subject matter expert.

The REM provides services intended to increase the effectiveness of Army garrison energy programs by identifying and reducing energy and water costs. The REM program provides the service through an on-site certified energy manager contractor, referred to as a REM.

The REMs aid garrison energy programs through their



File graphic

review and analysis of data, identifying energy conservation measures for new project implementation, preparing project implementation documents, tracking energy savings project performance, and documenting these activities in a monthly report for validation of savings.



Courtesy photo

Congratulations

Lindsey Freitas, senior counsel with the Environmental and Munitions Center of Expertise, recently received the E. Manning Seltzer Award for outstanding work in support of the Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Program. Named after the chief legal advisor to the chief of engineers and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers general counsel from 1956 to 1977, the Seltzer Award recognizes an attorney who has made one or more special contributions to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers legal service mission through the development of a legal theory, a legal management innovation or practice, or outstanding performance in solving a legal or management problem. Lindsey is recognized for the Herculean effort she made in reviewing and documenting numerous Findings and Determinations of Eligibility for the FUDS Program in a limited amount of time. This effort required the evaluation of historical documentation related to Department of War's prior use of land -- mostly during the 1940's -- to validate the property had been owned, leased and/or used by DOW, and that there was potential contamination at the site, making that land eligible for evaluation under the FUDS Program.



Photo by Lillian Putnam

Army leaders and environmental experts met at Redstone Arsenal for the Feb. 25 inaugural meeting of a working group focused on strengthening coordination and advancing environmental restoration across the installation.

Redstone Arsenal leadership convenes for inaugural restoration working group

By Lillian Putnam
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Army leaders and environmental experts met Feb. 25 at Redstone Arsenal for the inaugural meeting of a working group focused on strengthening coordination and advancing environmental restoration across the installation.

The meeting brought together representatives from U.S. Army Environmental Command, U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Chemical Biological Center, Redstone Chemical Activity, Huntsville Center and other Army organizations to discuss ongoing operations and identify ways to improve coordination and efficiency across the mission.

“The primary purpose of the Environmental Restoration Leaders Working Group is to bring together key leaders from across the Redstone Arsenal enterprise and its partner organizations,” Ashley Roeske, Huntsville Center Ordnance and Explosives Supervisory Program Manager, said.

“The goal is to create a dedicated forum for open dialogue and collaborative problem-solving to address the complex, long-term environmental restoration challenges at the installation.”

The installation has been a focal point for Army cleanup operations for more than a decade. Environmental restoration efforts at the installation involve addressing a wide range of legacy contaminants while also managing the recovery and safe destruction of chemical munitions discovered during

remediation work. Roeske emphasized the broader impact of the mission and the importance of the ongoing restoration project efforts.

“These efforts are fundamentally about enabling Redstone Arsenal’s future. The primary importance is to clean up and restore land that is critical for the installation’s growth and its ability to support future Army missions,” Roeske said.

The Director of Operational Environmental Management from the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment, Brian Fry, emphasized that close collaboration between organizations will be essential to maintaining momentum and ensuring operations move forward smoothly.

“We need solution-oriented folks supporting this effort, people who are concerned with solving the Army’s problems, not just their individual organization’s problems,” he stated.

Roeske said innovation and flexibility will also play an important role in the group’s efforts moving forward.

“Innovation and flexibility are identified as absolutely critical for success. The leadership team acknowledges that the challenges they face are unique,” she said.

“They emphasize the need to be open to new ideas, adapt to unforeseen challenges and empower their teams to think creatively.” Participants concluded the meeting by outlining next steps to strengthen coordination among the variety of organizations involved with the mission. The working group plans to map out cleanup efforts, helping organizations better understand the steps involved and improve coordination across the process.

Fuels Program executes repairs for re-commissioning of Ebbing Field

By Lillian Putnam
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

After sitting dormant for more than a decade, the fuel storage and distribution system at an Air National Guard base at Fort Smith, Arkansas, has been restored to full operational status by repairs completed by Huntsville Center Fuels Program.

The restoration ensured the installation would have the ability to become a key training site under the U.S. Foreign Military Sales program.

The Arkansas Air National Guard's 188th Wing at Ebbing Air National Guard Base had not used the fuel system for more than 10 years. When the base was selected to train foreign pilots whose home countries purchased fighter aircraft through Foreign Military Sales agreements, the 188th Wing was required to return the site's four 30,000-gallon storage tanks, pump house, filter separators and all associated underground and above-ground piping to operational standards.

A fuels management specialist with the 188th Logistics Readiness Squadron, said for the unit to progress and successfully execute its mission, bulk fuel storage is essential. "It is the cornerstone of operational readiness," Airman 1st Class Drakeston Haddick, said.

"Without reliable fuel availability, our pilots, and those from partner nations, are unable to conduct training and operational missions, undermining our core objective to Fly, Fight, and Win."

The interior and exterior of the storage tanks were refurbished. On the interior of the storage tanks, personnel welded and sanded small pinholes before testing the tanks to ensure compliance with standards. Once repairs were verified, the team sandblasted, cleaned and coated the interiors with an epoxy designed to prevent rust and corrosion.

This work required certified confined space entry personnel and specialized equipment to monitor air quality during the operations. On the exterior, tanks and associated pipelines were sandblasted, pressure washed and coated with an epoxy system consisting of a corrosion-resistant primer and first coat, followed by a polyurethane topcoat for durability and ultraviolet protection. In response to a challenge that emerged after a portion of the piping failed a pressure test, experienced personnel developed a workaround plan.

The solution required fabricating 70 feet of above-ground piping, conducting a mockup and test fit, shipping the



Courtesy photo

Tiger Jones, Huntsville Center Fuels Program team member, and contractors work on fuel piping repairs for field re-commissioning at Ebbing Air National Guard Base, Arkansas.

assembly 570 miles to the off-site shop for pressure testing and coating, and returning it for final installation. The entire process was completed within four days, a critical factor in meeting the schedule prior to the commissioning date.

"If it were not for the technical experts on the Huntsville Center Fuels team, the issue would have rendered the whole site useless for its intended mission," said Jason Jones, Huntsville Center Fuels Branch project manager.

Once the system was ready, the contracting team coordinated with Ebbing Field fuels personnel to receive more than 50,000 gallons of fuel delivered by over-the-road haulers. The successful offload marked the first fuel receipt at the site in more than a decade.

After completion of all required operational checks, the system was formally commissioned. Jones emphasized the broader impact of the effort and the collaborative efforts of the teams involved with the project. He said the successful completion of this project positions Ebbing Field as the training site for allied foreign national pilots.

"The completion of the project would have not been successful if not for the dedication of all contracting personnel, Ebbing Field personnel, and the support of the Huntsville Center Team," he said.



New contractor CAC request system streamlines security processes

From staff reports

Huntsville Center Security Office and Business Integration Operations

Huntsville Center’s Business Integration Operation (BIO) team has launched an innovative new product, the Common Access Card (CAC) Contractor Request system, designed to significantly improve the efficiency and transparency of the CAC request process for contractors.

The primary goal of this new system is to reduce the administrative workload for all parties involved by providing a clear, live status of every contractor CAC request.

Developed in collaboration with key customer C.J. Hutton of the Security Office, this solution tackles process delays and communication gaps head-on.

“We developed a new solution to address the time-intensive nature of our previous CAC tracking method. This system streamlines the process by providing all personnel and Project Managers with immediate, transparent visibility into the status of their requests, significantly speeding up the entire workflow,” Hutton said.

How the Process Works:

This clear workflow allows Security personnel to see a rollup of all current actions and the total duration of each step, while comments provide valuable insights for identifying and resolving common problem areas.

A Modern Solution to a Long-Standing Challenge

Previously, the multi-step CAC request process involved significant manual tracking and communication, with the external background check representing the most time-consuming phase. This often led to repetitive inquiries about the status of a contractor’s packet.

The new CAC Contractor Request system elegantly solves this by integrating a suite of modern tools, including SharePoint, Power Automate, a Power App, and Power BI.

This integration provides a centralized platform that documents process times, captures comments at each step, and highlights any anomalies.

The system provides complete transparency into the CAC review process, which is broken down into the following steps noted in the following graphic:

Step #	Process Owner	Process
0	MPAS (Mission Partner Affiliation Sponsor)	MPAS Requests Contractor CAC
1 - 3	Security	Security Review Submission; Packet Incomplete; Packet Complete
4	External	Awaiting Background Check
5	Complete	Approved; Rejected

Key Benefits and Future Improvements

This new tool will immediately improve communication and reduce the workload for everyone involved in this critical component of Project Management.

In the long term, the data captured on processing times and documentation will be analyzed to identify internal opportunities for improvement. This will help ensure that packets are processed more efficiently and correctly the first time by flagging common data entry mistakes or missing information.

How to Access the System

All Huntsville Center Customers can view the current status of Contractor CAC Packets on the Security Office SharePoint Homepage.

MPAS can use a dedicated app to request new CACs. Security Personnel can use the same app to update the status of CAC requests, ensuring all stakeholders have the most current information.

This forward-thinking solution from the BIO team marks a significant step in modernizing and securing our project management capabilities.

For more information or clarification, contact the Huntsville Center Security Office or Business Integration Operations.



Courtesy photo

Professional Development

Huntsville Center's Internal Review team and members from the Center's Resource Management Office attended the Society of Defense Financial Management's Defense Financial Management Institute in February at the Von Braun Center. Huntsville Center attendees (from left) Hwaok Audrey Crabtree, Stacy Rozell, Andrea Smith, Jennifer Peete, Kerri Banks Sandifer, Quintessia Fuller, Stacey Williams, Janelle Peterson, and Shane Henry dived into sessions on audit readiness, Planning Programming Budgeting and Execution reform, Artificial Intelligence use, and digital transformation. The Center's attendees also engaged with Department of War leaders, corporate partners, and peers across the defense financial community while exploring leadership development and mentorship opportunities for emerging professionals.



Photo by Lillian Putnam

Talking shop

Maj. John Franklin, Huntsville Center deputy commander, speaks with representatives from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineering Research and Development Center March 25 at the Association of the U.S. Army Global Force Symposium at the Von Braun Center in downtown Huntsville. The annual event brings together military leaders, industry partners, and academia to focus on modernizing the Army through new technology and collaboration.



Ethics Corner

Freshen up with ethics review before annual training begins

By Melanie Braddock
Huntsville Center Office of Counsel

It is everyone's favorite time of year... time for annual ethics training. The first of the scheduled training events start on April 10.

The training is part of the mandatory training for many of the Huntsville Center personnel such as those that file OGE 450s. It meets requirements stated in 5 CFR 2638.308 that it be at least one hour each calendar year and cover, at a minimum, the topics of financial conflicts of interest; impartiality; misuse of position; and gifts.

The training must also interactive and "involve the employee's use of knowledge gained through training." This is why the ethics instructor asks questions and engages the group throughout the presentation to help ensure that the content is both communicated and understood.

As a quick refresher, here's a summary of the main topics:

Gifts: The baseline rule is that an employee can't accept a gift from a prohibited source or given because of the employee's position. In order to be able to accept a gift, an employee must be able to prove that there is an applicable exception or exemption.

Conflicts of Interest and Impartiality: A government employee is prohibited from participating personally & substantially in an official capacity in



a particular matter in which, to his knowledge, he/she or any person whose interests may be "imputed" to him/her has a financial interest, if the particular matter will have a "direct and predictable effect" on that interest. There are criminal conflict of interest provisions that carry criminal penalties. There are also civil impartiality provisions that apply a "reasonable person" standard for determining impartiality. Additionally, if you are seeking employment outside of the federal government, that can also trigger conflict of interest and impartiality questions.

Misuse of Position: An employee shall not use his public office for his own private gain, for the endorsement of any product, service or enterprise, or for the private gain of friends, relatives, or persons with whom the employee is affiliated in a

nongovernmental capacity, including nonprofit organizations of which the employee is an officer or member, and persons with whom the employee has or seeks employment or business relations. Additionally, endorsement rules prohibit use of official position, title or authority, including certificates of achievement, official stationery, and "star notes," to commend the contract-related performance of a contractor or of a contractor employee.

All of this information and more will be presented during this ethics training season. We look forward to seeing you all starting April 10 and engaging you in the wonderfully complex world of ethics.

As always, if you have any ethics related questions, feel free to reach out to your Office of Counsel Ethics Counselors.

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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 40+ Programs

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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