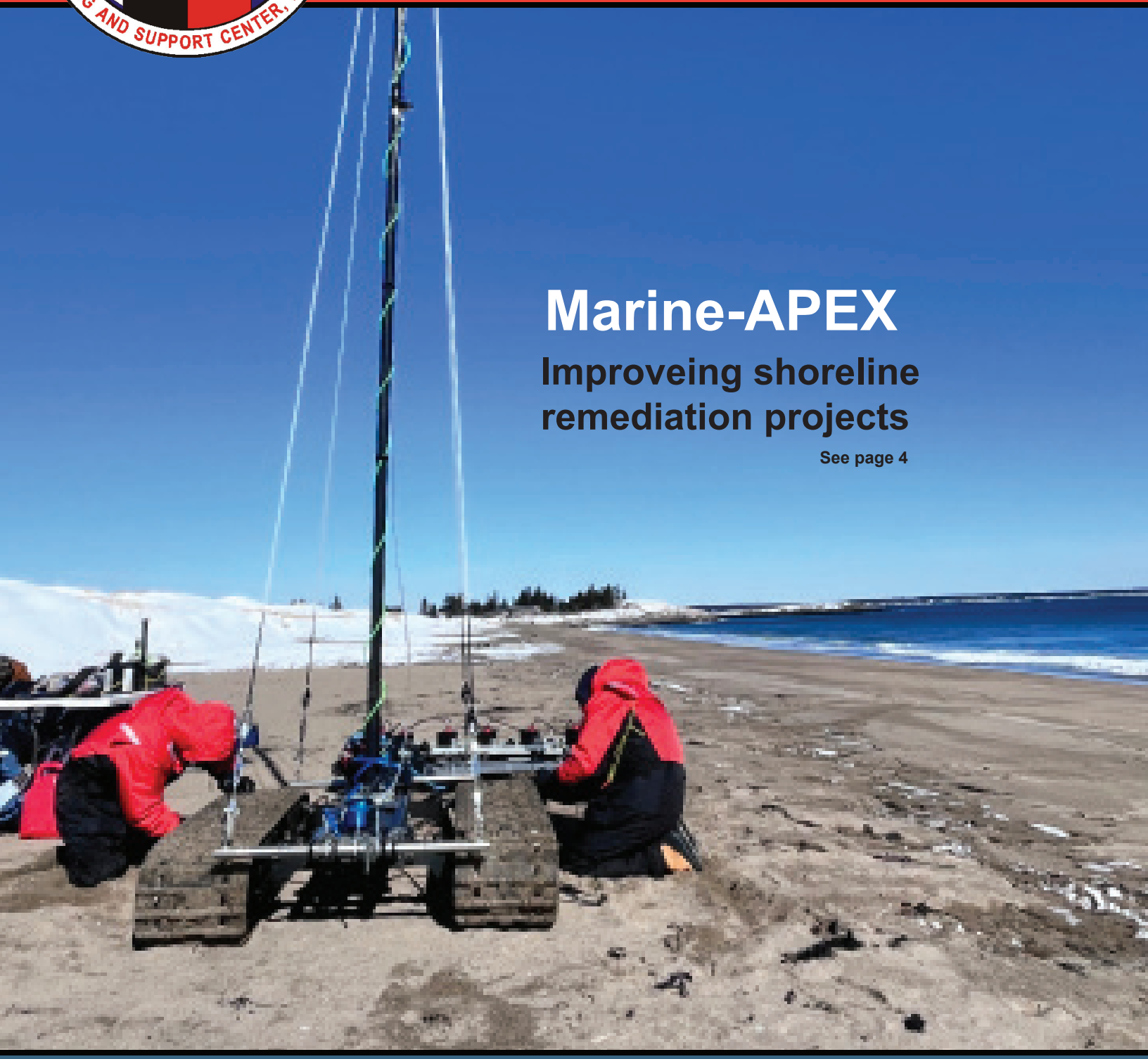
June 2026

U.S. ARMY ENGINEERING AND SUPPORT CENTER, HUNTSVILLE

The Bulletin



Marine-APEX

Improveing shoreline remediation projects

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

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Official Publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville

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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

"*YOU* are part of that enduring legacy that keeps this Nation strong!"

Col. Robert Hilliard

Happy Birthday Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers!

On June 16, 1775, as the British occupied Boston and the Continental Congress was organizing a unified Continental Army out of the colonial militias fighting the British. Congress authorized a Chief Engineer and two assistants for the new army.

This move fundamentally enhanced the capability of the American military. Colonel Richard Gridley assumed the chief's role, which is now recognized as the official birth of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The appointment of Colonel Richard Gridley was the moment the United States decided that engineering excellence was a prerequisite for national survival.

Every time a modern USACE district dredges a vital shipping channel to keep our economy moving, designs or maintains a resilient facility for our warfighters, or restores a critical ecosystem, they are executing the mandate established on June 16, 1775. The tools have evolved from pickaxes and shovels to autonomous systems and advanced geospatial modeling, but the core mission remains the same: to deliver vital engineering solutions that secure our Nation, energize our economy, and reduce disaster risks.

YOU are part of that enduring legacy that keeps this Nation strong!

Memorial Day's passing marks an annual symbolic transition to Summer. And June marks the start of the Atlantic Hurricane season.

USACE is a part of the federal government's unified national response to emergencies as the lead agency for Emergency Support Function 3 (ESF3) which includes public works, engineering, and coordination of long-term infrastructure recovery. When disasters occur, USACE teams and other resources are mobilized from across the country to assist our divisions, districts and offices to deliver response missions.

USACE has more than 50 specially trained response teams supported by emergency contracts to perform a wide range of public works and engineering-related support missions. If you are interested in responding to disasters, contact Charles Carson, Operations and Security Emergency Manager, for information regarding the process to volunteer for disaster support missions.

With Summer officially beginning June 21, many of us will spend the coming months with friends and family, attend community events, travel, or enjoy time outdoors. I encourage everyone to engage in those things that bring you joy and do so safely and responsibly.

Talking about travel…I want to emphasize to people travelling overseas that it is critical we maintain accountability of all personnel traveling abroad. This includes both official and leisure travel. If you are traveling overseas, you are required to provide a detailed itinerary and emergency contact information prior to departure. For official travel, or if traveling to certain high-threat area under local command directives, you may also be required to maintain daily contact with your supervisor.

Congratulations go out to Tiffany Turner, Energy Division project manager, and Kristen Crisp, EM CX technical writer and editor.Tiffany was recognized for her management of the $245 million Utility Energy Service Contract (UESC) project at Anniston Army Depot. Leadership at Anniston Army Depot credited her oversight and partnership throughout construction execution, helping establish a benchmark for future third-party financed initiatives across the organic industrial base. Kristen partnered with HQUSACE Public Affairs to modernize The Corps Environment publication, transitioning the product from a static PDF into an interactive website and HTML newsletter. The modernization effort improves audience engagement, enables real-time updates and analytics, and expands visibility of environmental program accomplishments across the enterprise.

Huntsville Engineering and Support Center is known for its incredible workforce, technical competence, and global reach. Thank you for your dedication to our organizational family, our mission, and our Nation!

Courtesy image

The demonstration team collects data during an autonomous unexploded ordnance detection and classification demonstration at Maine Bombing Area, a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) located in Reid State Park, Maine in February. The demonstration may enhance Military Munition Response Program projects on shorelines.

Collaborative testing demonstration seeks improvement for shorelines remediation projects

By William Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Traditional methods to detect Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) on shorelines can be a struggle. As a result, many impacted areas remain unaddressed due to the difficulty, cost, and risk associated with large-scale detection and classification.

In February, a team of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers geophysicists and ordnance explosive safety experts supported a demonstration at the former Maine Bombing Area, a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) located in Reid State Park, Maine, and the site of a World War II bombing range.

The demonstration was a test of a system that could make ordnance-laden beaches safe again.

The Environmental Security Technology Certification Program, a Department of War program that develops and demonstrates innovative, scalable technologies for military infrastructure, funded the demonstration.

Andy Schwartz, Huntsville Center geophysicist supporting the demonstration said the site was chosen because it meets the needs of what the ESTCP calls a live-site demonstration site.

"It has the potential to have UXOs (in this case, it being a FUDS), and it presents the complexities associated with using UXO classification technologies on real sites where collaboration with landowners and state or federal regulators is part of the overall equation," Scwartz said.

In this instance, Schwartz said USACE is currently planning to start the remedial investigation around 2030, but agreed to support ESTCP's use of the site to demonstrate several innovative technologies,

He said USACE will use ESTCP's data when performing the remedial investigation.

The first step in the demonstration called for seeding the beach and shoreline with anomalies prior to testing an above-ground electromagnetic induction (EMI) technology used for detecting anomalies in surf zones.

Benton Williams, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville (Huntsville Center) and David King and David Carlin, Baltimore District Ordnance and Explosives Safety, provided the seeding services.

Schwartz provided subject matter expert supporting the autonomous UXO detection and classification demonstration

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Photo by Lillian Putnam

Devine recognition

Chaplain (Col.) Jason Lorenzen, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chaplain, recognized Emily White, Alicia Hodge, Beth Norris, and Ramona Chestang with the USACE Chaplain Coin for their outstanding work and commitment to the well-being of the workforce when he visited Huntsville Center April 27-28. Chaplain Lorenzen also invited employees to brown bag lunch sessions focused on creating healthier teams and relationships by understanding expectations. Command chaplains are generally required to visit units to conduct "unit engagement" and "ministry of presence" by regularly interact with employees to assess morale and build rapport in the field.

REMEDIATION

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which included the use of a 300-pound Greensea IQ-produced Bayonet 350 crawler—a robotic chassis with tracked mobility— used to tow a White River Technologies—produced marine-APEX (m-APEX) metal detector.

The demonstration would determine if the system can accurately locate and differentiate the anomalies.

If the m-APEX successfully located the items, the system could potentially be used to conduct clearance activities in similar location around the United States in support of ongoing MMRP remediation work.

Although the project was conducted during New England's notoriously cold February, Schwarz said the winter environment wasn't all that inhospitable.

"There's no such thing as bad weather, just different kinds of good weather," Schwartz said.

"Everyone on the project knew we'd be working in cold, winter conditions, and we all had the necessary winter gear to stay warm and safe," he said.

"We even had a portable winter shelter for when it was snowing while we were collecting data, but that was more to keep the snow off the computers."

Schwartz said morning air temperatures were usually between 10 - 15 degrees Fahrenheit and there was a near-constant shore breeze between 15 - 20 miles per hour the whole three weeks they were working.

Morning windchill, Schwartz recalled, were down to zero or below and mid-day temps usually got into double digits, with some days above freezing.

"We normally try to schedule this kind of work for warmer seasons, but, for various reasons, we had to do this project in February," Schwartz said.

According to Schwartz, the White Reiver Technologies team, the developer and manufacturer of the APEX system, is still analyzing the data.

Identifying and classifying (UXO) in seabed and shoreline environments is a complex and resource-intensive process as tidal areas have historically been a challenge to address due to the constantly shifting environment.

With collaborative efforts between USACE, the DOW and private industry, the challenge of locating and subsequently removing UXOs on U.S. shorelines will enhance MMRP future remediation projects.

Facility Division furnishings program provides quality furnishings for junior enlisted

By William Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

In October U.S. military branches began accelerated efforts to improve living conditions, modernize aging facilities and strengthen quality-of-life investments across installations.

Efforts are underway to modernize how barracks are planned, funded, maintained and delivered while addressing long-standing infrastructure deficiencies.

Recent efforts have included targeted renovations, new construction projects, digital modernization initiatives and accelerated investment strategies to improve day-to-day living conditions.

A key feature of these modernizations is procurement and deployment of new furniture for use by unaccompanied servicemembers.

The Army alone has set aside more than $80 million in Fiscal 2026 for new furnishings at 40 installations, impacting over 106,000 Soldiers.

At the forefront of furnishing barracks around the world is Huntsville Center Facility Division's Furnishings Program — a full-service organization capable of providing project management, interior design, procurement, installation and quality assurance.

The Center's Furnishings program isn't solely specific to furnishing barracks. The program provides services for all federal agencies' furniture requirements.

However, outfitting military barracks is extremely gratifying for the team of more than a dozen project managers and specialists who ensure quality and comfortable furnishings are available to warfighters assigned to live barracks.

Since Fiscal 2020, the Center's Furnishings program has closed more than 400 contracts for the Army valued at more than $288 million with full furnishings replacements at more than 200 barracks worldwide. In the same timeframe, the program closed more than 330 Navy contracts valued at more than $200 million with 130 full facility replacements.

Photo by Chris Putman

A typical barracks common area where soldiers can relax at Fort Carson, Colorado. Since Fiscal 2020, Huntsville Center's Furnishings program has closed more than 400 contracts for the Army valued at more than $288 million with full furnishings replacements at more than 200 barracks worldwide.

With consistently positive feedback from the Army and Navy regarding higher quality consistency of furnishings purchased, the Marine Corps became a customer in Fiscal 2024 with the program awarding 78 contracts valued at $40 million. Fiscal 2026 obligation estimates for the Marine Corps currently stands at $100 million with the Navy at $69 million and the Army at $132 million.

Stephanie Hardin, Furnishings Program branch chief, said the turn-key services and solutions provided through the Furnishings Program can be packaged to provide design, procurement and install services for customers worldwide.

"The program's success is based on providing a full-service project-delivery process that includes technical support and acquisition support while adhering to scope, schedule and budget," Hardin said.

"Our in-house interior designers allow us to provide technical support for our customers to ensure a furniture solution that maximizes space utilization and efficiencies, standardization solutions and quality assurance programs."

Over the last 50 years, military barracks have evolved from temporary, austere, open-bay housing into permanent, amenity-rich, dormitory-style facilities focusing on habitant's comfort and privacy.

Key features of these modernized facilities often include two-to-four-bedroom suites with shared kitchens, durable furnishings and high-tech amenities.

Upgrades to the individual bedroom furnishings are meeting today's era as updated lamps include USB charging ports, allowing occupants to keep their devices powered up.

Common living areas, shared by two-to-four residents, often include a comfortable sofa and chair with a coffee table. The kitchenette areas may include a small dining table and chairs, a full-size refrigerator and a microwave oven.

It's not simply the suites the program is furnishing, but also the larger common areas. Each floor or wing of newly built or renovated multi-story barracks often include laundry rooms and full-size kitchens with all the amenities of home. Day rooms (common living areas) are filled with comfortable sofas, large screen TVs and foosball or billiard tables.

Sergeant Major of the Army Michael R. Weimer has emphasized that barracks conditions directly impact morale, discipline, readiness and retention.

"Our Soldiers live the Army profession every day, and they deserve facilities that support their health, well-being and readiness," Weimer said.

Flexible energy program ensures stability

By Lillian Putnam
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Huntsville Center plays a central role in advancing the Army's energy resilience efforts through the Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program, ERCIP, a Department of Defense initiative designed to ensure reliable power and water for mission-critical operations.

The program funds projects that strengthen installation energy resilience, improve mission assurance and reduce long-term utility costs through reduced energy and water consumption. The objective of this program is to guarantee uninterrupted energy and water delivery, a capability essential to the Army's ability to deploy, fight and win.

In Fiscal 2026, ERCIP has 18 projects in various stages of planning and development. While most U. S. Army Corps of Engineers projects are located within the United States, several ERCIP projects extend overseas to installations in Europe and South Korea, reflecting the global scope of the Army's energy resilience priorities.

One of the most prominent solutions emerging from ERCIP projects is the implementation of microgrids. These localized energy systems can operate independently from the main power grid, significantly increasing reliability during outages or disruptions.

"Microgrids provide installations with the ability to operate independently when needed, which is critical for mission continuity," said Richard Moore, Huntsville Center ERCIP project manager. "They also create opportunities for cost savings by supporting grid services like demand response and frequency regulation."

Collaboration remains a key component of ERCIP's continued success. In November 2025, Huntsville Center hosted a two-day working group that brought together representatives from USACE Louisville District and Engineer Research and Development Center Construction Engineering Research Laboratory.

The event focused on improving the ERCIP project lifecycle and strengthening coordination across organizations. The working group was followed by discussions with senior Army leaders, who reviewed program progress and emphasized its ability to deliver mission-focused outcomes.

A cornerstone of the program is the validation process using the DD Form 1391 planning charrette. The process includes a comprehensive workshop used to define and validate each project before submission for approval. The DD Form 1391 serves as the official document used to justify military construction projects to Congress, outlining project scope, location and cost. Durining the charrettes,

Courtesy image

Molten metal fills molds on the foundry floor at Rock Island Arsenal–Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center in April. Huntsville Center's Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program recently tailored a major initiative aimed at modernizing energy infrastructure and improving installation resilience at Rock Island Arsenal, a major Army installation that is the home to more than 80 tenant organizations that provide critical products and services to all of our Armed Services.

Huntsville Center leads the Army-wide effort to refine project requirements. The process includes identifying mission-critical facilities, verifying electrical critical load requirements, ensuring documentation is current and confirming resiliency timelines based on installation leadership decisions.

"The charrette process is where we bring everything together, mission needs, risks, scope and cost, to make sure projects are fully validated before moving forward," said Brandy Wilkerson, Huntsville Center ERCIP program manager. "HNC leads the planning and validation effort for the entire Army, submitting the validated projects to the Department of the Army Headquarters."

Wilkerson emphasized that establishing resiliency requirements is a deliberate process rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

"We work closely with each installation's leadership," she explained. "It's important that decisions are intentional and tailored to each installation's mission rather than defaulting to standard assumptions."

The ERCIP tailors solutions to individual installations and the Rock Island Arsenal Powerhouse Extension project is no exception. The project is a major initiative aimed at modernizing energy infrastructure and improving installation resilience. The effort includes collaboration with the USACE

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Medical O&T modernizes Nellis AFB hospital

By Lillian Putnam
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Huntsville Center Medical Outfitting and Transition program completed renovations to patient waiting areas at Mike O'Callaghan Military Medical Center, replacing decades-old furniture and improving conditions for beneficiaries on Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada and in the Las Vegas region.

The modernization effort replaced furniture that had been in use since the facility opened in 1994. The original seating had exceeded its useful life and had been identified as an infection control concern.

"This project was about more than replacing furniture," said Lauren Petersen, Huntsville Center Medical Outfitting and Transition project manager.

"It was about improving the environment of care for every patient, family member and staff member who enters the facility each day. We wanted spaces that are safe, durable and welcoming."

Mike O'Callaghan Military Medical Center, operated by the 99th Medical Group at Nellis Air Force Base, serves about 48,000 beneficiaries, including active-duty service members, dependents and retirees. The hospital is an 80-bed treatment facility that provides preventive, emergency and acute care services.

Petersen explained how one of the primary challenges of the project was completing work in a fully operational hospital environment.

Many departments at the medical center operate around the clock, requiring careful coordination to remove old furniture and install new seating without disrupting patient care.

"Executing a project of this size inside a 24/7 medical facility required constant coordination," Petersen said.

"Our team worked closely with hospital staff to phase installations, maintain access and ensure daily operations continued safely."

The updated furniture is designed to withstand the demands of a high-traffic, 24/7 military medical facility.

Petersen said she expects the new seating to last 15 to 20 years with proper maintenance, providing a long-term solution that reduces future replacement needs.

Maj. Joshua Dean, 99th Medical Support Squadron director of operations, said the improvements support both patient care and military readiness.

"The previous furniture had become old and worn and was not compliant with the Joint Commission requirements," Dean explained.

The Joint Commission is the largest U.S. healthcare accreditor.

Photo by Chris Putman

"Modern hospital grade furniture not only will meet our accreditation requirements, but the new furniture has brought an increased sense of morale to our staff."

The effort took approximately one year from initial design development through final installation. The Med-O&T team worked closely with Air Force leadership and logistics personnel at the medical center to establish updated design standards, select new seating, while managing procurement and installation.

"This was a collaborative effort from start to finish," Petersen concluded. "By working together, we delivered a long-term solution that will serve this community for years to come."

ERCIP

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Hydroelectric Design Center in Portland, Oregon and personnel at Rock Island Arsenal.

The project focuses on upgrading the installation's primary connection to the local utility provider, while incorporating renewable and backup energy sources.

"This project is designed to significantly strengthen energy independence at Rock Island Arsenal," Moore said.

"By integrating solar and natural gas generation, we're creating a more resilient and flexible energy system."

A key feature of the upgrade is its ability to operate in "island mode," allowing the installation to function independently from the main power grid for extended periods. The expansion of hydroelectric capabilities enhances sustainability by reducing reliance on external electricity and lowering fuel consumption during operations.

"The ability to operate in island mode ensures that critical missions can continue even during major grid disruptions," Moore explained. "At the same time, expanding hydroelectric capacity helps reduce both energy costs and environmental impact."

Huntsville Center's comprehensive validation process ensures that each project is technically sound, cost-effective and aligned with mission requirements.

From ruin to readiness: $18 million renovation breathes new life into dormitory at high-profile D.C. base

By William Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

What began as an emergency repair transformed into a $18 million comprehensive renovation project with oversite provided by the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center's Facility Repair and Renewal (FRR) program.

The FRR project should enhance the quality of life for junior enlisted personnel assigned to Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (JBAB), a high-profile joint military installation in Southwest Washington, D.C.

Many of the military members permanently station at JBAB are heavily focused on ceremonial and executive support operations as the base is home to the United States Air Force Honor Guard, USAF Band, and the Navy Ceremonial Guard.

In February 2022, a severe freeze caused a water pipe to rupture in the attic of Building 3620, sending water cascading from the third floor down to the first. The extensive damage impacted walls and infrastructure throughout the 33,000-square-foot facility hundreds called "home."

Built in 2001 as a temporary lodging facility, Building 3620 is currently undergoing a massive overhaul. The Air Force's 11th Wing serves as the installation host designating the revitalized three-story building to provide premium quarters for incoming Air Force and mission partner junior enlisted personnel (E-4 and below).

Once complete, the facility will feature 30 modernized suites—10 on each floor— for approximately 60 Airmen with each suite offering two bedrooms, a full bathroom, and a comfortable living space.

Kristal Huinker, FRR project manager for the facility renovation , said bringing the building back to life requires practically starting from scratch.

"The demolition scope is immense, involving the complete removal of all plumbing fixtures, electrical wiring and panels, and fire protection lines," she said.

Huinker said the rebuild is a top-to-bottom modernization that includes a new roof, new doors and windows throughout, a full replacement of the elevator, and an entirely new HVAC system supported by brand-new chilled and hot water lines.

She said construction and renovation efforts of this magnitude frequently encounter unexpected hurdles.

During the initial site investigation phase, the team uncovered unforeseen structural and site conditions.

However, rather than allowing these discoveries to cause significant delays, the project team tackled them head-on.

U.S. Air Force photo

The U.S. Air Force Honor Guard is a tenent unit at Joint Base Annacostia-Bolling with many of it's junior enlisted members residing in dormitories. Huntsville Center's renovation of Building 3620 will provide living quarters for more than 60 junior enlisted members.

"By quickly developing solutions within the existing project scope, they ensured the structural integrity and long-term viability of the facility, while keeping all stakeholders informed of necessary schedule adjustments," Huinker said.

One of the most notable achievements of the project has been the rigorous coordination of multiple trades working concurrently within tight, confined spaces to replace the building's core infrastructure.

Despite the logistical challenges of installing entirely new utility lines and mechanical systems, the team has maintained exceptional safety and housekeeping standards.

The construction team has consistently listened to government and customer needs, offering expert, actionable recommendations that directly benefit the project.

As the renovation of Building 3620 progresses, Huntsville Center and the USAF 11th Civil Engineer Squadron (11th CES) remain focused on its ultimate goal: delivering top-tier, modernized living quarters that our junior enlisted personnel deserve.

Lozie Goolsby, 11th CES Design Engineering Team program manager, said Huinker's experience and expertise have been the driving force behind the project's progress.

"This project would not have been the same without Huinker Huntsville Center FRR program," she said.

Photo by Lillian Putnam

Jason Bolling, Hale Koa Hotel director of engineering, and Xavier Thigpen, Huntsville Center project manager, discuss maintenance projects required for the hotel . Huntsville Center continues its partnership with the Hale Koa in Honolulu, helping ensure the military recreation destination remains safe, reliable and operational for service members, veterans and their families visiting Hawaii.

Supporting those who serve in the heart of paradise

By Lillian Putnam
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Located in the heart of Waikiki, Hawaii, the Hale Koa Hotel serves eligible military personnel, retirees, Department of Defense civilians and their families by providing affordable lodging and resort amenities in one of the nation's most visited travel destinations.

Huntsville Center continues its partnership with the Hale Koa in Honolulu, helping ensure the military recreation destination remains safe, reliable and operational for service members, veterans and their families visiting Hawaii.

Since Fiscal 2019, Huntsville Center has provided engineering and technical expertise to support the hotel's critical infrastructure systems. Most recently, the organization awarded a $4.65 million task order for comprehensive preventive and corrective maintenance services across the hotel's essential building systems.

The project includes maintenance for utility monitoring and control systems, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration systems, fire and life safety systems, power generation and electrical distribution systems, water treatment systems and communication infrastructure.

"This contract helps ensure the Hale Koa's critical systems continue operating safely and efficiently for the thousands of guests who visit each year," said Xavier Thigpen, Huntsville Center project manager.

"Our role is to provide reliable infrastructure support behind the scenes so service members and their families can focus on relaxing and spending time together while visiting Hawaii."

In addition to routine maintenance, Huntsville Center has completed several major infrastructure improvements at the hotel. Among the most recent projects was the replacement of the fire alarm network communication boards, a critical component of the hotel's life-safety systems.

Huntsville Center assists the hotel with facility standards accreditation, helping ensure mechanical and other building systems meet current requirements necessary for annual

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A Safety First

Photo by William Farrow

Huntsville Center's deputy commander, Lt. Col. John Franklin, presents Dennis Bacon, Huntsville Center's Fuels Branch chief, with a Huntsville Center safety challenge coin May 20 as Jeremy McCranie, left, Huntsville Safety Office chief, and Arthur Martin III, Huntsville Center programs director, acknowledging the bestowal. Bacon is the first Huntsville Center employee to receive the coin awarded by Center leadership to whose work ensures world-class safety culture endures across the enterprise.

PARADISE

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approval and certification. Jason Bolling, Hale Koa Hotel director of engineering, said maintaining the facility is critical to supporting the hotel's mission.

"Maintaining the Hale Koa Hotel's facilities is essential because the hotel serves as a premier recreation and lodging destination for military personnel, veterans and their families," Bolling said.

"Reliable, well-maintained facilities help ensure guests have a safe, comfortable and enjoyable experience while supporting the Army's commitment to quality of life, readiness and morale."

Bolling explained how the hotel relies on a wide range of interconnected systems to support daily operations. "These systems provide guest comfort through climate control, lighting and water services while also protecting guests and staff through fire alarms, emergency systems and other safety infrastructure," he elaborated.

"Being in a remote island location, it is critical for Hale Koa systems to be maintained with limited available resources for repairs and replacements compared to facilities on the mainland." Preventive maintenance plays a key role in ensuring those systems remain dependable while being designed to identify and address potential issues before they become major issues.

"By regularly inspecting, servicing and repairing equipment, the maintenance effort helps improve system reliability, extend equipment life and reduce the likelihood of unexpected failures," he added.

"This proactive approach minimizes outages and operational disruptions, helping the hotel continue providing uninterrupted service to its guests." Huntsville Center routinely manages specialized engineering and technical support programs for the Department of Defense and other federal agencies worldwide.

The Hale Koa maintenance contract highlights organization's continued role in supporting quality-of-life facilities that directly benefit service members and their families.

Engineering Directorate branch supports Space Force modernization

By William Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

A collaborative effort between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and U.S. Space Force will result in the replacement of a facility essential to airfield operations at a premier rocket launch military installation in California.

Vandenberg Space Force Base, located on the central coast of California, is headquarters to host unit Space Launch Delta 30, which manages Department of War space and missile testing, launching satellites into polar orbit from the West Coast and supporting the Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Force Development Evaluation program.

The base is essentially the West Coast's premier "spaceport" operating much like a massive, highly secure, high-tech airport where the "planes" are massive rockets carrying satellites, scientific payloads, and defense systems into orbit.

Although there are no fixed or rotary wing aircraft assigned to Vandenberg, various transient aircraft often use their 15,000 ft. runway to deliver high-value assets such as expendable boosters, and other rocket and missile materiel.

For a space force base serving as critical hub for national defense and U.S. space operations, the base's air traffic is controlled from a tower built in 1953—five years prior to the establishment of NASA. However, a project to replace the antiquated airfield operations infrastructure with a state-of-the art replacement, moving forward to align the facility operations with U.S. Space Force and NASA 'Spaceport of the Future' initiative aimed at modernizing and expanding infrastructure at Vandenberg and Cape Canaveral Space Force Bases

Courtesy image

Artist rendition of the air traffic control tower set to replace the original tower at Vandenberg Space Force Base, California. The original control tower was built in 1953. The design for the new facility also includes airfield fire response and operations offices.

Jamie Measmer, Huntsville Center AE Contracts & Criteria Branch technical manager, said the project to replace the antiquated tower is moving forward rapidly.

"We have received authorization to exercise the contract option to advance the design from 35% to 100% Certified Final with the AE contractor," Measmer said.

"We anticipate having this action completed by the end of July and start design completion in August."

The project to replace the tower consolidates the airfield fire station and air operations facility into one structure centrally located on the existing airfield.

The AE contract task order was awarded in August 2025.

Following the award, a design charette was conducted at the base in September 2025 involving stakeholders from Vandenberg SFB's 30th Civil Engineer Squadron, 30th Operations Support Squadron and representatives from Air Force Civil Engineer Center, Los Angeles District, and Huntsville Center.

Los Angeles District requested Huntsville Center AE Contracts & Criteria Branch to administer the AE design task order to support a design-bid-build delivery method for a full design of the project known as 'Fiscal 2028 Consolidated Air Traffic Control Tower / Fire Station.'

Following the charrette, the AE contractor submitted a 35% design package that was reviewed by the stakeholders. A design review meeting was held at Vandenberg in March 2026 to resolve reviewer comments and receive stakeholder input to advance the design.

A Los Angeles District-led cost and schedule risk analysis meeting followed as did a Huntsville Center AE Contracts & Criteria Branch-led value engineering review. Measmer said the timing will provide a completed design to be ready to advertise for construction beginning in 2028.

Photo by William Farrow

Army and Naval officers representing Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) and the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) recieve a briefing from Huntsville Center Medical Division program managers April 21.

Health Facilities Planning Agency interns deep-dive Huntsville Center's Medical Division capabilities

By William Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

Huntsville Center's Medical Division welcomed Health Facilities Planning Agency (HFPA) interns and Health Facility Planning and Project Officer (HFPPO) community members April 21-23 for an overview of Huntsville Center's mission and capabilities in delivering support to medical facilities across the Department of Defense.

The Army and Naval officers in attendance represented Army Medical Command (MEDCOM) and the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED).

During their visit, the interns received briefings from Medical Division program managers.

Josh Yost, Huntsville Medical Division Medical Outfitting and Transition (MO&T) program manager provided information regarding medical facility planning, design integration, contracting, and MO&T execution.

"This engagement strengthens joint integration between Army and Navy medical planning communities and builds early awareness, alignment, and professional development for future leaders responsible for medical facility planning and execution," Yost said.

The attendees relished their time spent reviewing what service Huntsville Center provides to the Defense Health Agency's facility field.

Huntsville Center's Medical Division under its installation support directorate includes Medical Outfitting and Support, Medical Repair and Renewal and Operation and Maintenance Engineering Enhancement programs, all vital programs ensuring the DHA's 130,000 civilian and military workforce performs services for its 9.5 million beneficiaries via 700 quality medical, dental and veterinary clinics worldwide.

Although considered interns, the attendees, like Maj. Ben Bonner, are seasoned officers who are moving into the medical facilities field.

Bonner received his commission out of Reserve Officer Training Corps with an architecture degree from Alabama A&M University. After his commission, he was selected to work in the Army logistics field.

He said a recent opportunity became available for him to move into DHA and he took it.
He said he feels his degree will be put to better use by working in the medical facility field.

"I was a logistics officer and never really had a chance to use my degree in my Army career," Bonner said.

"Medical facility planning, funding, contracting and initial outfitting are attributable to my architectural expertise."

Bonner said the visit to Huntsville Center was a learning experience and is beneficial for the work he will do planning health facilities.

"It's good to know what the Corps of Engineers and Huntsville Center does, and how we can connect to ensure that we are serving the patient and the medical staff."

Workshop provides mission critical value to Resource Energy Managers

By William Farrow
Huntsville Center Public Affairs

More than 150 Resource Energy Managers converged at Redstone Arsenal for Huntsville Center Resource Efficiency Manager (REM) program's annual REM Workshop April 21-23.

This year's workshop them was "Mission Critical Value: Providing Payback."

Working from military installations or at other federal agencies, REMs provide vital expertise to develop site energy and water plans that achieve energy efficiency, reduction, security and resiliency through sustainable and renewable resources.

The workshop provides training for currently contracted REMs, their company representatives, and REM program customers.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.

Melissa Johnson, REM Program Manager, said REMs help energy managers increase energy awareness, collect data for reporting site energy use and management and support energy programs in the achievement of energy goals and mandates.

She said the REM service adds value to energy programs because each REM is an energy management subject matter expert who provides expertise to identify infrastructure and energy improvements.

"Our REMs significantly reduce energy and water utilization to meet energy and water security, resiliency and reduction goals while providing support for energy construction activity, documentation review, energy awareness and other energy related activities," she said.

Mike Lazaro, Huntsville Center's REM branch chief, began day one of the workshop emphasizing how important REMs work in the field is to the nation.

"You are the tip of the spear when it comes to identifying requirements and then executing those requirements," Lazaro said. "You are problem-solvers, and you can provide solutions. We need problem-solvers with solutions to modernize, sustain, and maintain our energy infrastructure. The REM program provides capability."

Lazaro emphasized the importance of reaching back the Huntsville Center for assistance.

"We (Huntsville Center) are your reach back support--your partner in clearing hurdles," Lazaro said.

"At the end of the day, the Army's energy transformation isn't just about saving dollars or upgrading chillers, it's about mission assurance. Without resilient, reliable power, our installations cannot deploy, sustain, or support the warfighter."

Photo by William Farrow

Mike Lazaro, Huntsville Center Resource Efficiency Manager branch chief, gives opening remarks to attendees at the REM workshop in April.

The three day workshop focused on the energy technical and project support Huntsville Center's Energy Division provides, information meant to broaden the REMs understanding of the nation's energy laws, policies and statutes and information from presentations on other technical portions of the REMs jobs.

Scott Pogue, REM at Fort Polk, La., has attended Huntsville Center's REM Workshops since 2023 and said there is great value for the participants, especially REMs who are new to working within the Department of Defense.

"They may be great engineers and energy managers, but their exposure to the military's way of doing things is different, and the workshop provides a good framework to them to understand exactly where they are in the organizations and who they can rely on from a resource standpoint to get the job done," Pogue said.

For more than two decades, Huntsville Center's REM program has held a Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) with a stable of contractors issued for government locations world-wide. Each BPA call order is competed among all contractors and awarded using the best value process to evaluate contractors' technical proficiency, management approach, past performance and price.

The contract is structured with pre-defined tasks and deliverables and tailored to meet the site-specific energy goals and objectives.In 2020, the Army Audit Agency identified a positive return of about $43 for every $1 spent on REMs.

Ethics Corner

Prediction markets and use of nonpublic information

By Melanie Braddock
Huntsville Center Office of Counsel

For those that may not be aware, prediction markets such as *Polymarket* and *Kalshi* under federal law are considered as "events contracts" and operate under the jurisdiction of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CTFC).

A prediction market is an online exchange where people buy and sell contracts based on the outcome of future events such as election results, economic trends, or corporate performance, or even pop culture events such as the date of Taylor Swift's wedding. The current price of a contract reflects the collective probability of that event happening.

Contracts are usually priced between $0 and $1. If an event is highly likely to happen, the contract price will be closer to $1. If it is unlikely, it will be closer to $0. So if you buy a "Yes" contract (that something will happen) for $0.60 and the event actually happens, your contract becomes worth $1.00, netting you a profit of $0.40. If the event does not happen, the contract becomes worthless, and you lose the $0.60 you placed on the contract.

The concern for Government employees specifically is the inappropriate use of nonpublic information that reports indicate are causing market manipulation and insider trading.

For example, the U.S. Department of Justice announced on April 23, 2026 that Gannon Ken Van Dyke was indicted for the unlawful use of confidential government information for personal gain, theft of nonpublic government information, commodities fraud and making an unlawful monetary transaction.

The indictment alleges that Van Dyke participated in the planning and execution of the U.S. military operation "Operation Absolute Resolve" to capture former Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and used his access to classified information about that operation to personally profit. Reporting indicates that Van Dyke is a 38-year-old Army master sergeant stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C..

The indictment alleges that Van Dyke used his knowledge of the classified operation to place bets on *Polymarket* in the days and hours leading up to the operation. Van Dyke allegedly placed $32,000 in bets on U.S. involvement in Venezuela, including that Maduro would be "out" of Venezuela by the end of January.

After the successful raid, it is alleged that Van Dyke's bet paid off and he made over $400,000 in profits. It is further alleged that Van Dyke then transferred the windfall to a foreign cryptocurrency vault before moving them into a newly created online brokerage account.

After news reports flagged the wildly successful bet, the indictment alleges, Van Dyke asked *Polymarket* to delete his account. Additionally, Van Dyke was photographed just after the operation on "what appears to be the deck of a ship at sea, at sunrise wearing U.S. military fatigues, and carrying a rifle, standing alongside three other individuals wearing U.S. military fatigues," according to the indictment.

Government employees are reminded that 5 C.F.R 2635.703 states that "employees may not engage in a financial transaction using nonpublic information, nor allow the improper use of nonpublic information to further their own private interest or that of another, whether through advice or recommendation, or by knowing unauthorized disclosure."

Nonpublic information is defined as "information that the employee gains by reason of federal employment and that the employee knows or reasonably should know has not been made available to the general public."

Therefore, if there is information that you know from your federal employment and you know (or reasonably should know) that it is not available to the public, you may not use that information to further your own interest or those of another such as through contracts or "bets" under the prediction markets.

Additionally, employees are reminded that any gambling activity, including operating a gambling device, conducting a lottery or pool, participating in a game for money or property, or selling or purchasing a numbers slip or ticket while on Government-owned or leased property or on duty for the Government is prohibited.

While federal regulators state that prediction markets are not "gambling," many states do define it as gambling.

If you are considering investing in the prediction markets, please be sure you familiarize yourself with the allowed and unallowed activities and make wise ethical decisions.

If you have any questions, please reach out to one of the Ethics Counselors in the Office of Counsel.

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 **40+ 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