



NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

Vol. 4, No. 24
June 19, 2013

"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."



(Photo by Benito Gonzales)

Col. Rick Harger, left, accepts the 410th Contracting Support Brigade guidon from Brig. Gen. Ted Harrison, commanding general, Expeditionary Contracting Command, during the unit's change of command June 14.

410th CSB leadership changes hands June 14

By Daniel P. Elkins

MICC Public Affairs

Daniel.p.elkins.civ@mail.mil

JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Command of the 410th Contracting Support Brigade here changed hands in a ceremony June 14 at the Army Medical Department Center and School Museum Medal of Honor Walk.

Col. Rick Harger assumed command from Col. William Sanders in a ceremony officiated by Brig. Gen. Ted Harrison, commanding general, Expeditionary Contracting Command.

See 410th CSB, page 5.

Hallock new deputy assistant secretary of the Army, procurement

By Larry D. McCaskill

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

Larry.d.mccaskill.civ@mail.mil

In a letter to the Army acquisition community, Heidi Shyu, assistant secretary of the Army (acquisition, logistics and technology), announced June 14 the selection of Harry P. Hallock as the deputy assistant secretary of the Army (procurement).

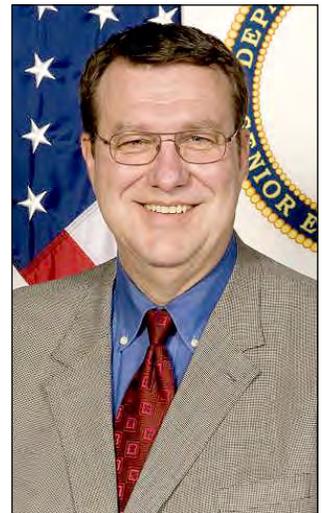
"Mr. Harry Hallock has more than 20 years of acquisition, logistics and contracting experience, most of which has been in direct support of our war fighters. His leadership and contracting expertise will make him an invaluable asset to our team," said Shyu.

Hallock leaves his position as the executive director of the Army Contracting Command-Warren, Mich., after six years at the helm.

"I am deeply honored to have been considered for this critical position in our Army. At the same time, it is with a heavy heart that I depart ACC - Warren and the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command."

"I'm very proud that Harry has been selected for this very important position," said Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, Army Contracting Command. "Harry is an innovative leader who cares deeply about his people and has done much to advance the Army acquisition career field. As one of the founding leaders of ACC, he has helped shape and establish our command as the DOD's preeminent provider of decisive edge contracting solutions and practices. Although I will miss Harry's wise counsel and leadership, we look forward to working with him in his new position to provide America's Army the tools they need to fight and win."

See HALLOCK, page 5.



Harry P. Hallock

AGILE

PROFICIENT

TRUSTED



Spotlight on...

For Spotlight submissions, click on the icon.

Connie Fox-Samson ACC Equal Employment Opportunity Director

Connie Fox-Samson serves as the director, Army Contracting Command's Equal Employment Opportunity, where she will serve as the commanding general's special advisor on all EEO matters and to ensure that the command maintains a workplace environment where individuals are valued and supportive of each other's unique talents and abilities.

Describe your current position

As the new Equal Employment Opportunity director, I am honored to be a special advisor to the commander. My staff and I actively manage the EEO program for all civilians assigned to ACC, the Expeditionary Contracting Command and the Mission and Installation Contracting Command. We coordinate with the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army and the Army Materiel Command to ensure we sustain a model EEO program.

EEO is one of several important programs to ACC. It is based on statute, includes merit system principles, and ensures that people are valued for their knowledge and skills. We need to all work to make sure that the workplace is supportive of each other's unique talents and abilities.

Describe your professional/educational background

I was born and raised in East Tennessee. I attended East Tennessee State University where I majored in English education. After graduating, I left the area for my first federal job as a teacher on a Navajo-Hopi Native American



Connie Fox-Samson

reservation, located about ten miles east of the Grand Canyon. It was an enriching cultural experience and still has a profound impact on how I view diversity.

Fast forward ten years... after graduating with a master's degree in business and from law school with honors, I practiced law for the federal government in Virginia, at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and in Germany. The breadth of practicing employment law during those years was tremendous and included defending the agency before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in several employment law cases.

When my second daughter was born,

I took a little (10-year) break and taught employment law to undergraduate and graduate students in Germany and New York.

As a military spouse, I found it extremely important to balance my career with the needs of my family. After my husband's military retirement and three years in his hometown in upstate New York, I was hired by the Army Medical Command in Aberdeen, Md., to educate the occupational health and preventive medicine physicians on the employment laws that impacted their federal medical practices. I was a frequent lecturer at the Uniformed Service University of the Health Sciences, recognized as a subject matter expert on employment law (Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Rehabilitation Act and reasonable accommodation, and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act). I have been assigned to ACC for more than five years, leading workforce development programs at ACC-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and at headquarters ACC G-1.

Where do you call home? Tell us about your family.

My family is my lifeline and my daughters are my joy. Our oldest daughter is a third-year medical student at Vanderbilt University Medical School. She attended Vanderbilt as a biomedical engineering undergraduate on a full merit scholarship and was admitted to Vanderbilt Medical School early decision. She is interested in

U.S. Army Contracting Command

Commanding General
Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols

ACC Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. John L. Murray

The NewsBlast is a weekly newsletter authorized and produced by the U.S. Army Contracting Command's Office of Public and Congressional Affairs editorial staff in accordance with AR 360-1 (The Army Public Affairs Program) to inform, educate and entertain the ACC community on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army and this command.

Director, Office of Public & Congressional Affairs
Art Forster

Public Affairs Team Chief
Ed Worley

Editor
David San Miguel

Public Affairs Team
Larry D. McCaskill, Giselle Lyons, Beth E. Clemons

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the U.S. Army or this command.

Send submissions and correspondence to the U.S. Army Contracting Command, Office of Public and Congressional Affairs, ATTN: Editor, NewsBlast, 3334A Wells Road, Redstone Arsenal, AL 35898-5000. Telephone: 256-955-7634, DSN 645-7634 or email at acc.pao@us.army.mil.



Weirick to lead Army Contracting Command-Redstone

By Larry D. McCaskill

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

Larry.d.mccaskill.civ@mail.mil

Rebecca “Becky” Weirick has been named executive director of the Army Contracting Command-Redstone Arsenal, Ala., contracting center.

Weirick comes to ACC after having served as chief of contracting for the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office, National Capital Region in Washington, DC.

“I’m very humbled and excited by the opportunity,” said Weirick, who has more than 26 years of government service including 24 years as an Air Force contracting officer. “I look forward to helping the command continue its growth and development. Contracting is a key enabler and extremely important to every single war fighting mission. What we do, whether it’s buying beans or missiles, makes a tremendous difference. I am proud to be a contracting professional.”

“I’m delighted to welcome Becky to our ACC family,” said Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, Army Contracting Command. “She is recognized by both her seniors and subordinates as a take-charge leader who cares for and nurtures her people. Her vast experience



Rebecca “Becky” Weirick

and demonstrated contracting expertise mark her as an exceptional contracting professional. I’m proud and pleased she is joining our ACC senior leadership team.”

Weirick said people should know she considers herself a servant leader.

“I’m a people person. I’m all about the team,” said Weirick, who added that her greatest mentor is her husband of 22 years. “I love what I do and I’m committed

to making a difference. I am fair, I value others’ opinions and I love helping people succeed.”

Weirick said her draw to public service was more of a family calling.

“My father was a fighter pilot right after World War II so public service was a natural calling. After graduating from college I decided to join the Air Force and made a career of it,” said Weirick, a retired colonel.

An outdoors person, Weirick said she is looking forward to living in Huntsville.

“I ride horses, fish and hunt. I love all things outdoors and can’t wait to do them all there. I’ve heard only positive things about Huntsville and Redstone Arsenal’s contracting professionals and I can’t wait to get there.”

Weirick’s diverse Air Force career included a wide range of experience in all aspects of systems, logistics, research and development and operational contracting. Her military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star and Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

She is Defense Acquisition Workforce Improvement Act Level III certified in contracting and program management and holds multiple professional certifications.

SPOTLIGHT

continued from page 2

specializing in surgery. Our youngest was admitted early decision to the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Business, the number one undergraduate business school in the world. She begins in the fall and is interested in majoring in finance. Both are not only highly intelligent, but very thoughtful and caring individuals. I am, needless to say, extremely proud of them.

What do you hope to contribute to the command?

I hope to contribute my legal education and employment law experience to maintain a workplace where we can all focus on the reason we are here – to meet our mission of providing responsive, innovative and efficient procurement solutions to enable the Army’s global war fighting dominance. Our civilian workforce is critical to supporting the war fighter. The acquisition/nonacquisition

split is about 80/20 but their joint efforts are undeniable. The civilians in this command foster a culture of performance excellence and accountability to enhance efficiencies and effectiveness. They are about to sacrifice salaries and benefits during furlough; yet, they hang in there because of their dedication to our Soldiers. They are an amazing group of diverse, yet cohesive individuals.

Is there anything you would like to share with the command?

We in the ACC are a highly educated, well-informed workforce compared to many other Army agencies. The complaint data supports the fact that we simply do not have the negative workplace issues that you see elsewhere. I think it is due, in part, to our open command climate and the message of treating others the same, with dignity and respect, reiterated during the recent SHARP (Sexual Harassment/

Assault Response and Prevention) training. We do that very well in the ACC.

One of the issues I would like to tackle is an ACC-wide issue that is of interest to the EEOC and the Army: increasing Hispanic participation rates and participation of individuals with targeted disabilities in our workforce to mirror the National Civilian Labor Force participation rates. (There are nine disabilities that are designated as targeted disabilities.) The Defense Acquisition Workforce Development Fund, also known as Section 852, funds recruitment efforts to close the capability gap in shortage acquisition career fields at every level – intern, journeymen and highly qualified experts. This funding also provides salary dollars for the command, a tremendous plus for our employees during this time when our budget outlook is bleak.

Virtual reviews save command travel dollars

By **Larry D. McCaskill**

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

Larry.d.mccaskill.civ@mail.mil

There will be fewer paper cuts as the Expeditionary Contracting Command conducts its procurement management reviews virtually versus the standard face-to-face inspections during the rest of fiscal year 2013.

ECC officials said fiscal year 2013 travel funding was removed from the PMR budget and a plan was devised to conduct their contracting support brigade reviews through other than normal procedures.

“The Army recognized that for expeditionary contracting, the ability to conduct oversight of our contracting organizations has been a material weakness,” said Daniel Gallagher, director, Contracting Operations, Expeditionary Contracting Command, on why ECC chose to conduct the reviews using the Virtual Contracting Enterprise suite of tools.

Having established its program in fiscal year 2012, Gallagher said conducting a virtual PMR was the logical choice to meet the Army Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement requirement and establish a

baseline analysis of the six ECC principal assistants responsible for contracting. With the ECC contracting support brigades and PARCs establishing procedures to use the Paperless Contracting Files, he said the command was able to conduct contract file reviews virtually.

“With the implementation of the VCE suite of tools, specifically the PCF, and the contracting officer representative tools, we are able to view the contract files from a distance without having the subordinate organization box up the files and mail them to us,” Gallagher said. “The virtual PMR is proof that the PCF tool is practical for conducting contract file reviews without having to travel onsite.”

Gallagher said the ECC units scheduled for review this fiscal year are: 411th CSB in South Korea; the 413th CSB offices in Hawaii and Alaska; and the 410th CSB offices in San Antonio, Texas; Miami, Fla.; Columbia and Honduras.

The first virtual review, the 411th CSB, was conducted in May with the next two scheduled for June and July.

“The PMRs are vital to inspect and report the overall health, efficiency, and effectiveness of contracting throughout Army agencies,” said Donna Ragucci, ECC

senior procurement analyst and the ECC PMR program manager. “Where others throughout the Army requested relief from conducting PMRs this fiscal year, we pushed forward with this virtual concept.”

According to Ragucci, the contract files review team consists of up to 10 participants from ECC headquarters, Army Contracting Command headquarters, ECC CSBs and representatives from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement. During the review period, participants are connected daily using teleconferencing for eight hours to discuss any irregularities or to ask questions. That requires a lot of information technology coordination between all the organizations.

“Video teleconferencing was established for the teams to ensure synergy and access to each other if needed,” Ragucci said. “In addition, the teams had dedicated onsite contract lawyers to assist with any legal questions and issues.”

Ragucci said once the automatic budget cuts took effect, ECC determined that overtime or compensation time were not allowable. That created a shift in the normal work paradigm.

See VIRTUAL, page 5.

AMC commanding general visits ACC-RI

By **Liz Adrian**

ACC-Rock Island, Ill.

Elizabeth.a.adrian.civ@mail.mil

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, III. - Gen. Dennis L. Via, commanding general, Army Materiel Command, visited Army Contracting Command-Rock Island on June 13 during a trip to the Quad Cities.

During his stop at ACC-RI, he received an overview of the contracting center from Col. John P. Hannon, ACC-RI acting director and other ACC-RI senior leaders. He also hosted a town hall for approximately 500 employees, in which he focused on employee concerns related to the sequester and upcoming furlough, budgets and the future of AMC and ACC.

Via said that in the past 10 months serving as AMC commanding general, he has made approximately 200 trips around the world, including two trips to Rock Island in 2012. He was unable to visit

ACC-RI during those trips, so he said he made it a point to visit during this trip.

“The joy that I get out of this job is going out to see the folks that do the work,” said Via. “You represent why we have such a great command. The work that you do here allows our service men and women who are in harm’s way to receive the equipment and materiel that they require to accomplish their mission and return home safely to their families.”

Via thanked the ACC-RI employees for what he said is oftentimes a thankless job.

“No one comes and tells you thank you,” said Via. “They care what you did yesterday, but they are more concerned about what you’re going to do tomorrow. They pat you on the back and then give you another action. I want to thank you for what you do because I know it’s heavy lifting that you do every day and we need you to do that for us.”



Gen. Dennis L. Via
Army Materiel Command
commanding general

HALLOCK

continued from page 1

Hallock began his career in Army contracting as a 22-year-old intern at the Detroit Arsenal and has been a Michigan resident for the past 33 years.

"This is my home and it will be difficult to say goodbye to the many colleagues, friends and family I have met and gotten to know, appreciate and love over the years. I am honored to have served here in so many different capacities and although I worked hard

to learn the craft of Army contracting, it was those around me, who mentored, supervised, supported, taught, and worked side-by-side with me and who allowed me to learn from them, that are responsible for my reaching this point in my career and I am eternally grateful," Hallock said.

Hallock hopes to continue to make a difference in his new position and has wished his ACC-Warren family well in

their future endeavors.

"I came to love this crazy contracting business right here in this organization, an organization that enjoys the reputation as one of the best contracting enterprises in the Army. I have been, and will always be, proud to have been a part of the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command and the Army Contracting Command," Hallock said.

410th CSB

continued from page 1

Harger comes to the 410th CSB following a senior service college fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin. Prior to that, he served with the Heavy Brigade Combat Team under Program Executive Office Ground Combat Systems in Warren, Mich., where he was responsible for fleet management and foreign military sales for Iraq.

"I am honored, humbled and excited to take command of the 410th CSB and return to contracting after working in program management for the last several years. During my transition, the Soldiers and civilians of the 410th have impressed me with their dedication and professionalism," said Harger, who also credits Sanders for his assistance and advice in the changeover.

The Del Rio, Texas, native arrives at the brigade as the contracting community prepares to enter its historically busy season in the final quarter of the fiscal year. In a year beset with fiscal uncertainty and a pending furlough beginning in July, Harger remains committed to ensuring the acquisition needs of Soldiers are met.

"Customer support has always been critical in the contracting career field. With the fiscal constraints brought on by sequestration, it is more important than ever that we work closely with our customers to understand their requirements and ensure they know what is required of them," Harger said. "It takes a combined effort between the contracting office and the customer to ensure the customer's needs are fulfilled. This coordination and collaboration becomes especially essential as we approach the last quarter of the fiscal year."

Still in the process of accomplishing

his initial assessment of the 410th, the new commander said focus will remain on those elements critical to executing the contracting mission and strengthening the Army profession.

"We will focus on training and certification of the Soldiers and civilians, ensuring our work environment continues to be free from prejudice and harassment of any kind, and collaborating with our customers to ensure they receive the best contracting support available," Harger said.

The 410th CSB is responsible for planning and executing contingency contracting support for the U.S. Army South in support of Army and joint operations throughout the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility. It is a subordinate command to the ECC at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

Harger enlisted in the Army in 1983 as a field artillery surveyor. He earned his commission in 1989 through the ROTC program at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, where he earned a bachelor's degree in management. He entered commissioned service as a Transportation Corps officer in 1991 and served in a variety of positions from platoon leader to commander before joining the Army Acquisition Corps in 1999. His acquisition experience spans assignments in professional military education, procurement stateside, overseas and in forward deployed areas, as well as product management of the total life cycle system support for all field feeding, field services, cargo aerial delivery and shelter systems acquired by the Army.

Having completed all necessary levels of professional military education, Harger

also holds master's degrees in public administration from Central Michigan University, and in contract and acquisition management from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Sanders departs for an assignment as the director of operational test and evaluation at U.S. Army Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., after serving as the commander of the 410th CSB since July 2010.

VIRTUAL

continued from page 4

"To be able to work the units in the Pacific and Alaska regions, the PMR team shifted to each CSB's working hours, sometimes coming in at 3 p.m. and working until midnight," Ragucci said. "For the 411th, the team worked Sunday evening because it was Monday morning in Korea. The contract file review teams at the various sites worked their normal work hours."

According to Gallagher, ECC will continue conducting virtual PMRs.

"As we complete our two-year baseline review of all our CSBs we will see if there are any critical areas that might require an onsite visit. If we do identify any critical areas, we will send a small team to conduct a focused onsite review while still doing the majority of the PMR virtually," he said. "Without conducting the reviews, we would not be able to ensure that ECC is keeping up with the ever-evolving Army contracting execution and oversight."

AMC SHARP Task Force assesses command climate

By Lira Frye
AMC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

Reaffirming his commitment to eradicate sexual assault in the command's ranks, Gen. Dennis Via, commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command, appointed a senior executive as his special assistant to lead a Sexual Harassment and Assault Response Program Assurance Task Force.

The task force's charter includes reviewing AMC SHARP policy and procedures and conducting sensing sessions and site visits across the command to assess the command climate necessary to rid AMC of sexual harassment and sexual assaults.

"Sexual harassment and assault are contrary to Army values," Via said. "I am committed to fostering a culture that eliminates both from our ranks."

From now through July, task force representatives from Equal Employment Opportunity, Equal Opportunity, Chaplain and Inspector General's offices will meet with commanders and employees in all of AMC's major subordinate commands.

"Our goal is to ensure that everyone understands the difference between sexual assault and sexual harassment, understands the options available to them and that no one is left behind," said Task Force Director Myra Gray. "Ultimately, we want to ensure an environment of dignity, respect and trust where no harassment or assault exists."

The sensing sessions will include a cross section of military and civilian volunteers from each organization. Sessions will last about an hour with the opportunity for attendees to talk one-on-one with facilitators. Results will help leaders better understand the command's climate, identify issues that may need to be addressed, and shape training to achieve the desired results.

As part of the Army's SHARP stand down, AMC's largely civilian workforce - 96 percent of its 73,000 employees - will also participate in SHARP training.

"Conducting training in small groups where supervisors are engaged with their subordinates produces the most effective results," Via said. "I intend for leaders to initiate interactive discussions on our responsibilities for maintaining a climate of dignity and respect and our Army values. It's imperative we make sure everyone understands the difference between sexual harassment and sexual assault, and how they adversely impact AMC and Army readiness."

See TASK FORCE, page 7.

ACC workforce celebrates Army's 238th Birthday



(Photo by Betsy Kozak-Howard)

Members of ACC-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., participated in an APG-wide run June 12 to celebrate the Army's 238th Birthday. Soldiers with the 926th Contingency Contracting Battalion led the organization with its civilian employees rounding out the ACC-APG formation. Following the run and the singing of the Army song, participants were treated with cake and refreshments.



(Photo by Larry D. McCaskill)

Amassed in formation, Soldiers and civilians with the Army Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., render honors to the colors prior to joining their counterparts from the Army Materiel Command in a fun run/walk to help celebrate the Army's 238th Birthday.

Readers are encouraged to submit comments or suggestions to the editorial staff via the mailbox icon to the right. Responses will assist the NewBlast staff in producing a publication to better meet readers' expectations and information needs.





ACC in the News

This article mentions Army Contracting Command.

Home from Afghanistan

(Published in The Redstone Rocket June 12, 2013)

Contracting officer Victoria Tripiano receives the Exceptional Civilian Service Award in recognition of her 2012 deployment to Afghanistan. Making the presentation is Col. Ian Klinkhammer, executive director of Army Contracting Command-Redstone.

<http://theredstonerocket.p2ionline.com/Flip/Sitebase/index.aspx?adgroupid=136006&view=single&pageno=43&webstoryid=15645723&webstoryid2=15645723&FH=535>

'First in Support' command celebrates 238th Army Birthday

By Staff Sgt. Alexander Burnett
21st Theater Sustainment Command
(Posted on DIVIDS June 13, 2013)

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany – Soldiers of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command celebrated the Army birthday, which was founded June 14, 1775, with several events throughout the Kaiserslautern Military Community, June 13.

The festivities began with an early morning 'esprit de corps' run at Rhine Ordnance Barracks. Soldiers from the 21st TSC headquarters, 7th Civil Support Command, 18th Military Police Brigade and the 409th Contracting Support Brigade ran and sang cadence on the six-kilometer route. The run ended with a refreshing spray of water provided by two local fire trucks.

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/108590/first-support-command-celebrates-238th-army-birthday#.UbnP3nf4J30>

Military Channel features two ACC employees for special Army Birthday celebration

- Monica Harriger, business management analyst, Army Contracting Command, G-6, can be seen at the 1:20 mark.
 - Anthony Jones, contract specialist, ACC-Redstone, is at the 1:54 mark.
- <http://military.discovery.com/tv-shows/happy-birthday-us-army>

TASK FORCE

continued from page 6

Centered on the cornerstone of the Army's prevention strategy - the I. A.M. Strong campaign, training will encourage participants to Intervene-Act-Motivate. The I. A.M. Strong campaign features Soldiers and employees as influential role models and provides peer-to-peer messages outlining the Army's intent for all its members to personally take action in the effort against sexual harassment and sexual assault.

According to Via, one incident is too many.

"It's the responsibility of all employees, Soldiers and civilians, to eliminate sexual harassment and assault so that the Army and AMC remain a ready and resilient force," he said. "There are no bystanders."

409th CSB posting rated 'most viral'

The Army Contracting Command Office of Public and Congressional Affairs staff announces its monthly "Most Viral Post" award.

The first "Most Viral Post" goes to Rachel Clark, 409th Contracting Support Brigade. Her photo of Gen. Dennis Via's visit was seen by 1,275 visitors to ACC's Facebook page.



How do you enter? It's simple: share a news item with the public affairs staff. Send your tips, photos and ideas to acc.pao@us.army.mil.

Clark's winning post can be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151609311530937&set=pb.170762565936.-207520000.1370272253.&type=3&theater>.



Click on the image for ACC safety messages.

