



# NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

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*"Providing global contracting support to war fighters."*

## Army announces ACC senior leadership changes

By Ed Worley

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs

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**REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.** – Two of Army Contracting Command's senior leaders have been selected for reassignment, the Army announced June 28.

Maj. Gen. Camille M. Nichols, ACC commanding general, has been selected for assignment as deputy commanding general for support/chief of staff, Installation Management Command, San Antonio, Texas.

Brig. Gen. Theodore "Ted" C. Harrison, commanding general, Expeditionary Contracting Command, has been selected to succeed Nichols as the ACC commanding general. The change of command is scheduled Oct. 3. ACC and ECC are headquartered here.

"It has been an honor to serve in the ACC," Nichols said. "The Soldiers and civilians are inspirational in their total commitment in support of our Army. I thank them all for their unconditional support and know they will give Brig. Gen. Harrison the same. There is no better choice to replace me than Ted!

"I have been blessed in my career to be able to serve our Soldiers and their families and look forward to joining the great IMCOM team so I can continue to serve our Army and this great nation," she said.

Nichols became ACC's first commanding general on May 17, 2012. She previously served as program executive officer, PEO Soldier, at Fort Belvoir, Va. She enlisted in the Army in 1975 in her hometown of Niagara Falls, N.Y. She was

commissioned as an engineer officer upon graduation from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1981.

Harrison assumed command of ECC in April, 2012.

"I am deeply honored to have been considered for this critical position," Harrison said. "I'm very humbled and excited by the opportunity and look forward to helping the command continue its growth and



Maj. Gen.  
Camille M. Nichols

development. Contracting is a key enabler and extremely important to every single war fighting mission.

"At the same time, it is with a heavy heart that I depart ECC," he added. "The ECC team is in a great place with very talented and dedicated people. I know it will continue to succeed. I will not be far away and will continue to assist in ECC's success."

**See LEADERS, page 2.**



Brig. Gen.  
Theodore C. Harrison

## July 4th Safety message

By Tina Hill & Bob McGaffin

ACC Safety Office

As we approach this extended weekend, the Army Contracting Command Safety team asks each of you to do your part to ensure that we celebrate... safely. Whether you plan to take a trip to the lake, enjoy the parks, take a road trip, or just have a backyard barbeque, we ask that you use the one process that has been proven to prevent mishaps and save lives - the composite risk management process.

Four holiday activities pose very serious risks, if you don't plan for them properly: holiday driving, fireworks, water-related

activities, and activities in the excessive heat. We will address two of these hazards, driving and fireworks.

Preventable accidents leave far too many voids in families and formations across our Army every year. Adverse weather, fatigue and distracted driving are all deadly on the road, so it's imperative that you plan ahead, get plenty of rest, buckle up, and be alert and sober when you're behind the wheel. Also keep in mind that complacency can be especially dangerous, don't let your guard down just because your drive is short or close to home.

**See SAFETY, page 2.**

**AGILE**

**PROFICIENT**

**TRUSTED**

# LEADERS

continued from page 1

Before assuming command of ECC, he was the deputy director, National Contracting Organization, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He entered the Army in 1980 as a distinguished military graduate through the ROTC program at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., and was commissioned in the Air Defense Artillery. Harrison's successor has not been announced.

# SAFETY

continued from page 1

Soldiers should use the online risk assessment tool TRiPS at <https://safety.army.mil/> for trip planning outside of the local commuting area.

Be vigilant with respect to the use of fireworks. If not handled properly, fireworks can cause burns and serious injuries, not only to our children but to adults. The best way to protect you and your family is not to use any fireworks at home - period. Attend public fireworks displays and leave the lighting to the professionals. But, if you still want to use them around your home, keep safety in the forefront. Make sure children never play with the fireworks. If you give your children sparklers, make sure they keep them outside and away from their faces, clothing, and hair. Always keep a bucket of water handy in case you need it and soak all fireworks in that bucket before throwing them in the trash can.

We all must do everything we can to have a safe and enjoyable summer. Each of us must do our part to enforce a safety culture at work and at home. Fundamental Army lessons of working together, exercising leadership, focusing on the mission, and having the courage to say no to a risky situation are all essential to enjoying the summer and safely returning to duty.



# Spotlight on...

For Spotlight submissions, click on the icon.

## Warrant officer attributes successful career, strong values to military influence

By Morgan Saintjones

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs  
Volunteer

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala. – “The military has been awesome for me,” says Chief Warrant Officer 3 Anna Marie Gray of her 17-year career.

Gray is a human resource technician in the Army Contracting Command Human Capital G-1.

Happy with the direction of her career, she plans to attend the Warrant Officer Staff Course so she can be prepared for the promotion board next year.

Gray recollects her first assignment working with a warrant officer she referred to as the go-to-guy and how much she admired him.

“I wanted to be like him. He had all of the answers. So I said to myself that’s who I want to be like,” said Gray who holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and sociology and a master’s in liberal studies.

She credits the Army for helping shape her maturity, instilling key values in her that she always tries to live by: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage.

“They’re all important, but duty is the most important for me. I have a sense of duty not only to my unit and my country, but also to my family,” Gray said about her devotion to her sons Jacob, 14, and Jadon, 7. “This is how I provide for them. I always say I do it so my sons won’t have to.”

Gray believes everyone should abide by



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Anna Marie Gray

the Army’s values and even encourages her children to practice these principles.

“The values are a guiding force. I tell my sons to take the hard right over the easy wrong. I stress integrity,” said Gray. “Even if it is something they do not want me to know. I want them to always tell me the truth instead of violating their integrity.”

Growing up in West Virginia, Gray said her father, a coal miner, worked hard and lived by what she now knows were the same as the Army’s values.

“Growing up I already had those values in me at an early age,” Gray said. The Army titled and detailed in more depth what these principles should represent for her.

## 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.

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# Organization Day brings ACC-APG family together

By Betsy Kozak

ACC-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

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*(Photos by Betsy Kozak-Howard)*

As part of the organization day, Staff Sgt. Gloria Velasquez (standing at center), contract specialist, teaches arts and craft techniques to ACC-APG family members (from left) Alexis, 7, daughter of Nina M. and James A. Bushnell; and Jordan, 6, and Angel, 10, children of Antwonne L. Scott.

Soldiers, civilian employees and family members participated in the Army Contracting Command-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., Organization Day June 25. More than 425 participants gathered at the APG North Shore Picnic Area for camaraderie, sports, eating and fun.

"It was a great day," said Toni Foster, purchasing agent and organization day committee chairperson.

The event kicked off at 11:30 a.m. with a picnic lunch consisting of burgers, hot dogs, baked beans and salad. Activities included basketball, water balloon toss, volleyball, dunk tank, a bouncy house for the children, and arts and crafts.



Contract specialists, Sgt. 1st Class Andre Dooley (left) and Vincent D'Errico get competitive in a game of basketball during the Army Contracting Command - Aberdeen Proving Ground's Organization Day June 25.

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.





(Courtesy photo)

## Mayor signs proclamation

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle signed a proclamation for Contract Management Week, July 21-27. The week will recognize the contracting and procurement professionals within the government and industry workforce. Pictured are members of the Huntsville chapter of the National Contract Management Association. They include, from left, Karen Stradford-Wright, publicity committee; Sherry Trowbridge, NCMA president; Battle; and Severin Pichon, NCMA president-elect.

## Former ACC chief of staff nominated for brigadier general

Col. Jeffrey A. Gabbert, Army Contracting Command's former chief of staff has been nominated for appointment to brigadier general.

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel nominated Gabbert and 34 other Army colonels for promotion, according to a July 2 Department of Defense news release.



Col. Jeffrey A. Gabbert

Gabbert is currently serving as chief of staff, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), Washington, D.C. He was the ACC chief of staff from June 2011 until September 2012.

## Leaders mark anniversary of all-volunteer force

*American Forces Press Service*

WASHINGTON – In a letter issued July 2 to members of the armed forces, the nation's top two military officers and senior enlisted member marked the 40th anniversary of the all-volunteer force.

The letter – signed by Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Navy Adm. James A. Winnefeld Jr., vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs; and Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. Bryan B. Battaglia, senior enlisted advisor to the chairman – reads as follows:

“Since the Nation's founding, our sons and daughters have volunteered to leave the everyday comforts of their homes, their neighborhoods, and their families to join and serve a cause greater than themselves. They have joined a profession bound by honor, sacrifice, bravery, and – in many cases – danger. They serve a greater purpose – protecting and defending the Constitution of the United States.

“On 1 July 1973, the United States instituted the All-Volunteer Force. Those who choose to wear the cloth of our Nation do so with a great sense of pride and allegiance.

“As we commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the All-Volunteer Force, we would like to pass our heartfelt appreciation to all those who have served and are serving in the United States Armed Forces. You are America's strength – you honor our past, and you preserve our future.

“Well done, Warriors – thank you for your service!”



(Courtesy photo)

## ACC-RSA employees recognized

Col. Ian Klinkhammer, Army Contracting Command-Redstone Arsenal, Ala., executive director, on behalf of Maj. Gen. Lynn Collyar, commanding general, Aviation and Missile Command, recognized several employees during the Aviation Maintenance Directorate all-hands, June 18, for their exceptionally meritorious service in support of the source selection for the five-year 21st CAV Aviation Logistics Support contract valued at \$100 million. Individuals awarded were Sarah Thomsen, Larry Davis, Jody Criss, Matthew Horst, Dee Isom and Gina Daniel. Pictured (back row from left to right) are: Lisa Stangle, deputy director, Aviation; Klinkhammer; Horst; Isom; and Davis. Front row from left are: Criss, Daniel, Thomsen and Rodger Pearson, director, Aviation Maintenance Directorate.



# ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

## THIS JUST IN: Local Army official leaving to take post at Pentagon

By Chad Halcom

(Published in Crain's Detroit Business June 30, 2013)

Harry Hallock, executive director of the Army Contracting Command at the U.S. Army Tacom Life Cycle Management Command in Warren, is leaving to become deputy assistant secretary of the Army for procurement.

<http://www.craigslist.com/article/20130630/NEWS/306309975/this-just-in-local-army-official-leaving-to-take-post-at-pentagon#>

## Brig. Gen. Theodore Harrison replacing Major Gen. Camille Nichols as Army Contracting Command commander

By Leada Gore

(Posted on AL.com July 1, 2013)

Army Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal will soon have a new leader. Army Brigadier Gen. Theodore Harrison, who currently serves as commanding general for Expeditionary Contracting Command at Redstone Arsenal, has been named ACC commander. Major Gen. Camille Nichols, ACC's current commander, has been named deputy commanding general for support/chief of staff, Installation Management Command at San Antonio, Texas.

[http://blog.al.com/breaking/2013/07/brig\\_gen\\_theodore\\_harrison\\_rep.html#incart\\_river](http://blog.al.com/breaking/2013/07/brig_gen_theodore_harrison_rep.html#incart_river)

## ECC turns to video to replace on-site reviews

By Meredith Lawrence

(Posted on Polycom, The Public Sector View July 2, 2013)

The Expeditionary Contracting Command (ECC) is a subordinate of the U.S. Army Contracting Command (ACC), which is based out of Redstone Arsenal and provides contracting support to the U.S. Army's major acquisition programs. Essentially, if American soldiers, officers or other Army personnel need anything, the ACC provides it for them, and the ECC is the group that serves this purpose for members of the Army outside of the United States.

<http://publicsectorview.com/ecc-turns-to-video-to-replace-on-site-reviews/>

## DOD contractors to get new whistleblower protections

By Nick Simeone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Whistleblowers working for Defense Department subcontractors will now receive protection against reprisals through a new law intended to better protect those who expose possible wrongdoing.

The new law will apply to all DOD contracts beginning on or after July 1, as well as to new amendments to existing contracts.

In addition, as part of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, contractors who report suspected waste, fraud and abuse within their company rather than directly to the DOD inspector general also will be protected, a modification of previous laws aimed at better protecting whistleblowers working on DOD contracts.

Nilgun Tolek, who directs investigations against whistleblower reprisals for the Defense Department inspector general's office, explained the new law.

"Since internal complaints weren't covered under the statute, those people who did make an internal hotline complaint and believed they were retaliated against had nowhere to get protection," Tolek said, adding that the measure "brings the statute up to par with existing whistleblower protections."

Marguerite C. Garrison, deputy inspector general for administrative investigations, said complaints about abuse from DOD subcontractors revealed the need for the new law.

"Congress has recognized that there have been some loopholes in the provisions, and that the protections didn't expand to everyone," she explained.

The law will provide added protection to whistleblowers from retaliation by requiring "clear and convincing evidence" that a contractor would have taken the same disciplinary action against an employee even if he or she had not come forward with an allegation of abuse, Tolek said.

## Deployable Cadre Program seeks volunteers

The Army Contracting Command's Deployable Cadre Program is seeking volunteers for a variety of 1102 and 1910 positions in Qatar and Kuwait. The six-month assignments come with many incentives and some overtime. Interested individuals should visit the Army Hire website at [www.armyhire.com/volunteer](http://www.armyhire.com/volunteer).



Click on the image for ACC safety messages.

