



# NEWSBLAST

U.S. Army Contracting Command

Vol. 4, No. 28  
July 25, 2013

*“Providing global contracting support to war fighters.”*

## ACC-National Capital Region cases its colors, inactivates

By Ed Worley

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs  
[Edward.g.worley.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Edward.g.worley.civ@mail.mil)

ALEXANDRIA, Va. - The Army Contracting Command-National Capital Region contracting center here cased its colors July 11, signifying its inactivation.

The Army announced the center's closure in November and estimates the move will save about \$13 million annually, once the transition is complete. The savings will be achieved through increased efficiencies, reduced facilities and information technology costs, reduced turnover and reduced locality pay as the positions are moved outside the National Capital Region.

“The professionalism of our ACC-NCR teammates was instrumental in the successful closure of this activity and the transition of workload to gaining units,” said Camille M. Nichols, commanding general, Army Contracting Command. “I am extremely proud of their commitment and look forward to their continued success.”

According to Jack Cunnane, ACC-NCR deputy director, the staff has been focused on transferring the center's workload to other ACC contracting centers and offices. This includes about 750 active contract actions and contract closeout work. The bulk of the center's non-Army workload was transferred to the Washington Headquarters Services' acquisition directorate.

Prior to 2008, the Contracting Center of Excellence, located in the Pentagon, and the Information Technology, E-Commerce and Commercial contracting centers, located in Alexandria and Fort Huachuca, Ariz., were organizations subordinate



**Undra Robinson, chief of staff, Army Contracting Command-National Capital Region, Michael Hutchison, ACC deputy to the commanding general, Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols, ACC commanding general and Command Sgt. Maj. John Murray, ACC command sergeant major, case the ACC-NCR colors during a July 11 closure ceremony. (U.S. Army Photo by Todd Waltemyer)**

to the Army Contracting Agency. ACA was disbanded in 2008 when ACC was activated. The contracting centers became part of ACC.

In April 2010, the Contracting Center of Excellence and the Information Technology, E-Commerce and Commercial contracting centers merged into one organization-the National Capital Region Contracting Center, located here. It was one of six ACC contracting centers.

ACC rebranded its contracting centers in January 2011, giving the contracting center its current name.

ACC-NCR provided contracting and acquisition support for the Army headquarters staff, including the Army Chief Information Office, and most Department of Defense-level Pentagon tenants. It also provided global contracting support to war fighters.

At the time of the November announcement, approximately 200 civilian and five military personnel were assigned to ACC-NCR. All civilians were offered a guaranteed job through management-directed reassignments. Soldiers received other military assignments. Those civilians who declined their reassignments were then eligible for other government employment programs such as the Department of Defense Preferred Placement Program and ACC's Command Assistance for Placing Employees program. All but three of the center's civilians found new employment or retired. More than half of the center's civilians moved to other ACC positions.

“It is a sad day as we case the ACC-NCR colors but as with any change, it brings possibilities for a new and brighter future,” said Michael Hutchison, ACC deputy to the commanding general.

**AGILE**

**PROFICIENT**

**TRUSTED**



# Spotlight on...

For Spotlight submissions, click on the icon.

## Sgt. 1st Class Shannon K. Booker

MICC- Fort Belvoir, Va..

*Sgt. 1st Class Shannon K. Booker is a 51C acquisition, logistics and technology contracting noncommissioned officer assigned to the 864th Contingency Contracting Team with the Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Fort Belvoir, Va.*

### Describe your current position

As a contracting NCO stationed at Fort Belvoir, I assist customers on contracting issues such as their purchase requests. Regarding money issues, I assist them with their independent government estimates. I also give guidance to vendors on those matters concerning current contracts and new solicitations they may want to place a bid on.

### Describe your passion for the job

My passion for the job has grown. I am starting to understand what I actually do on a daily basis. I am the connection between the customer and the vendor and I assist both of them on issues they have regarding their contract. I enjoy being able to help individuals when they do not know the next step forward.

### Where do you call home? Tell us about your family and what you enjoy doing during your spare time.

I call home Charlottesville, Va. My family is a group of people that love to laugh and have fun. We are very loving and caring people who will always be there in a time of need or to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.



**Sgt. 1st Class Shannon K. Booker**

In my spare time I enjoy time with my family watching my son play soccer and run races. We also enjoy our walks in the neighborhood.

### How does your job support the Soldier?

By providing a variety of services to each unit such as maintenance, trash removal and IT (information technology)

support, this allows Soldiers to focus on their duties, training and unit mission.

### What would you like others to know about you?

I would like others to know that I am a team player who likes to get the job done and have fun at the same time.

## 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**

Acting Editor  
**Larry D. McCaskill**

**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.



# How did you prepare for the furlough?



**Rosalyn Riley** - budget analyst  
Deputy Chief of Staff Resource  
Management G-8 ACC Headquarters,  
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

"I had to cut back, including cable and other things. I do not feel like I was fully prepared."



**Brandi van Gils** - administrative officer  
MICC-White Sands Missile Range, N.M.,

"I refinanced my house from a 15- to 25-year mortgage even though I'm going to pay one percent more in interest and had to take out a TSP loan to cover the shortfalls in income. I cut back on luxuries like cable TV and my child's competitive sports because we couldn't afford the travel and uniforms."



**Deb Behan** - Civilian Policy Division  
ACC DCS Human Capital G-1  
Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

"My employees and I had plenty of time to prepare. However, I did notice traffic picked-up. It has been brutal to get into work. So far I've only had one day off. It wasn't too fun, since I knew it was a day I wasn't getting paid."



**Jaime Briseno** - contract specialist  
MICC-Fort Bliss, Texas

"I started cutting off some unnecessary services such as home delivery of newspaper, cut premium channels from satellite TV and still working on possibly having our monthly house bill lowered. Also contacted our cell phone provider on lowering our monthly bill."



**Melannie D. Barbour** - budget analyst  
ACC-Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

"I prepared for the furlough by making sure that I paid off all charge card bills aka my fun card bills and like most people I stopped my TSP automatic deduction until the furlough is over. So far I feel comfortable with the actions that I have taken."



**Tom Finan** - Family Readiness Group  
409th Contracting Support Brigade,  
Kaiserslautern, Germany

"We live on the economy and it's not more difficult but it is different in that you need to remember the value of the Euro is better than the dollar. We'll be doing more reading, better planning of meals and reducing travel time to save some money on fuel."

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.



# Hagel: Future Requires Hard Decisions, Disciplined Priorities

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 22, 2013 –

Disciplined priorities and tough choices will be needed to guide the Defense Department's historical transition aimed at maintaining strong, capable and ready forces in the stark post-conflict fiscal environment, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said today.

Speaking at the Veterans of Foreign Wars national convention in Louisville, Ky., Hagel said the changes underway, like those that followed every other major conflict in U.S. history, will have a major impact on the future force.

"They always have enormous ramifications and consequences for our entire defense enterprise in terms of national security priorities, available resources and the needs of our men and women in uniform and their families," he told the forum.

Ensuring the United States has the force it needs now and will continue to need in the future requires a reshaping of defense institutions "designed for different strategic and budgetary realities," he said.

Hagel shared the principles that he said are guiding decision-making following the end of the Iraq War, the drawdown underway in Afghanistan and the complications of budget cuts mandated by sequestration:

- Prioritizing DOD missions and capabilities around the core responsibility of defending the country;
- Maximizing military combat power;
- Preserving and strengthening military readiness; and
- Honoring the service and sacrifices of DOD personnel.

The secretary emphasized the importance of setting clear strategic priorities to implement the president's defense strategic guidance at a time of huge financial challenges.

These challenges include \$37 billion in mandated cuts under sequestration, which Hagel called an "irresponsible" and "terribly damaging" process.

Unless the law changes, DOD will have to absorb \$52 billion in cuts next year and a total of \$500 billion in cuts over the next decade, he said. That's on top of \$487



**Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel delivers remarks to attendees at the Veterans of Foreign War national convention held at the Louisville International Convention Center in Louisville, Ky., July 22, 2013. (DOD Photo By Glenn Fawcett )**

million in reductions over 10 years that already are being made.

"These cuts are forcing us to make tough but necessary decisions to prioritize missions and capabilities around our core responsibility, which is the security of our country," Hagel said. That requires DOD to identify what is not absolutely essential to defending the nation and its interests, and to prioritize how it matches missions to resources, he told the veterans.

"The president must be assured that the options we present to him ... to protect our country and defend our national interests are ready and real," he said.

Protecting the country in an era of reduced resources will require maximizing the military's fighting strength, the secretary said. "Preserving combat power means the department is going to have to deal with deep structural imbalances in our budget -- particularly supporting infrastructure that has grown in size and expense," he said.

Hagel emphasized the need to continue improving efficiency and drawing down costs and overhead. He noted 20 percent budget reductions already announced in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Staff.

"Every dollar we spend on large staffs, large headquarters and overhead, or facilities that we don't need, is a dollar

that we don't have available to spend on readiness training and equipment for our troops - or on sustaining other vital programs that help support our people and their families," he said.

Meanwhile, DOD leaders are being forced to make "very difficult decisions to reduce, stop and defer many activities and programs that keep our military prepared to fight," Hagel told the veterans. These range from training and maintenance to modernization investments, he said, adding the cuts "are having and will continue to have very damaging effects."

"Going forward, preserving and strengthening our readiness must be a key priority," Hagel insisted, recognizing the human cost of sending a hollow force into past conflicts, particularly the Korean War. "We cannot repeat the mistakes of the past," he said.

Hagel said he has directed the services not to retain more people, equipment and infrastructure than they can afford to keep trained and ready. "This will require careful balancing," he said. "Professional, quality individuals are the foundation of a ready force."

Achieving that balance will require Congress to join DOD "in a partnership of difficult choices, priorities and decisions" that Hagel acknowledged will **See HAGEL page 5.**



The Wynn Drive facility in Huntsville, Ala., will serve as the temporary Army Contracting Command and Expeditionary Contracting Command headquarters building. (U.S. Army Photo)

## ACC, ECC headquarters moving to new temporary facilities

By **Larry D. McCaskill**

ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs  
*[larry.d.mccaskill.civ@mail.mil](mailto:larry.d.mccaskill.civ@mail.mil)*

Soldiers and civilians at the Army Contracting Command and Expeditionary Contracting Command headquarters are moving from their relocatable buildings on Redstone Arsenal, Ala., to temporary facilities at 106 Wynn Drive in Huntsville, Ala., as they await the completion of their permanent facilities.

According to Lt. Col. Monica Robinson, ACC interim deputy chief of staff logistics G-4, the move was approved by the Installation Management

Command and funded by the Army Materiel Command.

“This move will consolidate the workforce making the two commands more efficient in operations and is an interim solution until our permanent facility, Building 4505 on Redstone Arsenal across from AMC headquarters, is complete in 2016,” Robinson said.

ACC and ECC personnel will move in phases to the Wynn Drive facility with the first group arriving in September and the last group moving in November.

“This property was the best value to the government and meets the requirements of ACC and ECC,” said

Kevin Burleson, engineer, ACC DSC Logistics G-4. “The cost for the building changes was lower for this facility compared to other offerors and was one of the key reasons for the selection.”

Burleson said the Wynn Drive facility will need some renovation but not much.

The facility has an existing command suite but will require the construction of another one as well as a small amount of wall and door relocations.

Two breakrooms will be constructed, and there will be painting and carpet replacement throughout the facility.

## HAGEL: HARD DECISIONS

demand cooperation and courage. Among the big issues he said they will have to address is the unsustainable growth in personnel costs that consumes half of the department’s budget.

As DOD identifies areas for cost savings, Hagel emphasized that it must honor the service and sacrifice of its people as it reshapes for the future.

“As we work to achieve the right balance, our men and women must always be assured that they will be fairly compensated, including earned benefits; given the best training and equipment; and treated as the professionals they are,” he said.

Hagel noted that 12 years of sustained conflict have stressed the force and military families, emphasizing that the department “must continue to pay close attention to their needs and our commitments to them.”

“Our military leaders do everything possible to protect our men and women on the battlefield,” he said. “We must make this same commitment to our people here at home,” as they redeploy to their home stations, and when they transition out of the military.

Hagel noted close cooperation between DOD and the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure a smooth, seamless and

---

continued from page 4

efficient transition from military service.

The United States stands at a defining time in its relationship with its newest generation of veterans, Hagel said, sharing an observation by Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

“Despite the many challenges facing our defense enterprise, we will get through this together and be stronger in the end - but only if we are prepared and willing to make wise and difficult decisions, and be much more disciplined about setting priorities,” the secretary said.

# Joint contracting exercise planning continues

By Daniel P. Elkins  
MICC Public Affairs Office  
daniel.p.elkins.civ@mail.mil

**JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas** - Members representing the Defense Department, Army and Air Force gathered here to develop scenarios in preparation for the 2014 Operational Contracting Support Joint Exercise.

The Master Scenario Event List II workshop got under way July 15 and concluded July 19. Scenarios developed during the workshop will be incorporated into the exercise taking place Jan. 7-31, 2014, at Fort Bliss, Texas, and will test and build Soldier and civilian operational contract support skills.

“The purpose of this workshop is to develop scenarios to inject into the exercise that contracting officers and

other members of the operational contract support community must react to and conduct operations within,” said Maj. Evan Chung, 412th Contracting Support Brigade, Fort Sam Houston.

OCSJX-14 is the premier contingency contracting exercise designed to prepare uniformed and civilian operational contract support professionals to deploy and support any contingency, humanitarian or operational mission. It also provides DOD contracting and support professionals training on joint skills and warrior tasks that include control of contracting operations and contract planning, execution and administration.

More than 25 members participating in the workshop represent various services and agencies throughout DOD. They include the Defense Contract Management Agency, Joint Chiefs of Staff Logistics and Directorate for Joint

Force Development, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement, Army Sustainment Command, Army Contracting Command, Mission and Installation Contracting Command, Expeditionary Contracting Command, and the Contingency Acquisition Support Model Program Office. Air Force participants include representatives responsible for contingency and functional area management, contracting instruction and business systems.

More than 380 trainees and cadre participated in the 2013 exercise. Among them were Soldiers and civilians from contracting offices worldwide who supported the joint event as teachers, mentors or coaches.

Chung said it is the second of three workshops in addition to three planning conferences that are required to develop and plan the exercise.

## Valuable information provided at small business meeting

By Aryn Brooks  
ACC Office of Public & Congressional Affairs  
Volunteer

The ACC Office of Small Business Programs conducted its quarterly workshop July 16 where small businesses gain knowledge about government programs.

The workshop concentrated on the specific needs of Service Disabled Veterans and Veteran Owned businesses, according to Dawn Robinson, ACC Small Business Office SDV/VO program manager.

Robinson said participants have an opportunity to network with other small business owners and discuss proper strategies about contracting with larger companies.

“The purpose of the workshops is for the participants to get out of the usual settings and interact and network with other small business owners,” Robinson said. “The intention is for the participants to be better able to support their ideas.”

Mary Jane Fleming, a procurement counselor with the University of Alabama-Huntsville Small Business Development Center and Procurement



**More than 30 small business owners attended the Army Contracting Command's Service Disabled/Veteran Owned workshop at the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce July 16 to obtain details and advice for doing business with the Army. (U.S. Army Photo by Beth Clemons)**

Technical Assistance Center, conducted a presentation on how PTAC helps small businesses find answers to contracting questions by helping navigate the Federal Acquisition Regulations.

The next workshop will be conducted in August. For more information, contact Constance Jones-Hambrick, email: [constance.a.jones12.civ@mail.mil](mailto:constance.a.jones12.civ@mail.mil), phone: 256-955-5402.

# Army to link online training to NCO advancement

By Lisa Ferdinando  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - The Army will soon require noncommissioned officers to complete online training prior to promotion eligibility. Additionally, NCO schools will no longer be waived.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2014, the Army will formally link completion of Structured Self Development, or SSD training, with professional military education courses for promotion eligibility.

The changes are outlined in Army Directive 2013-15, dated July 1.

Gerald Purcell, Army personnel policy integrator for NCO Professional Development, G-1, said the goal is to shape a new career timeline for NCOs that includes all the tenets of leader development, including education, training and experiences.

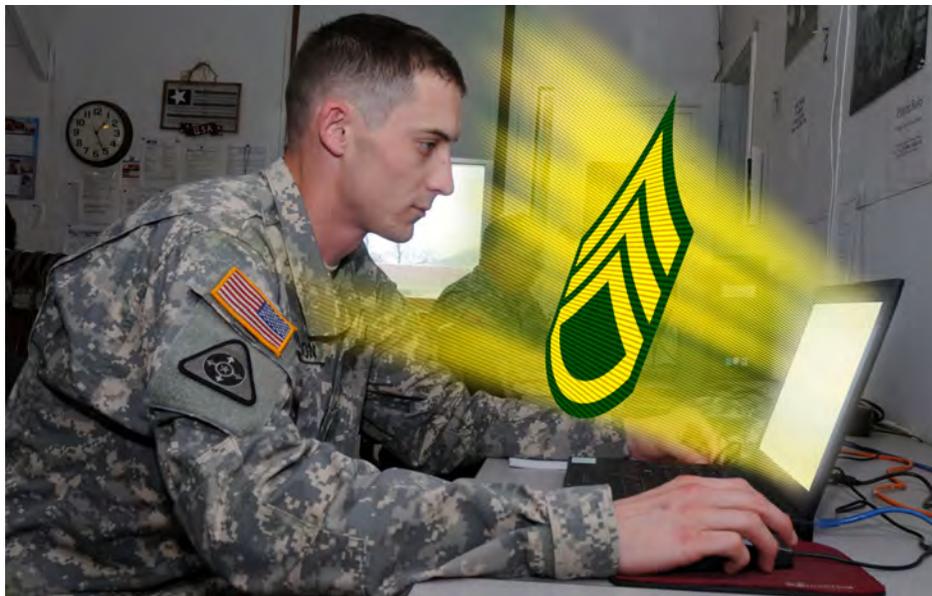
“Over the last 10 years, we were really an Army out of balance in terms of those three tenets of developing leaders,” Purcell said. “The accumulation of experiences alone does not equate to a fully-developed leader.”

The change is part of an initiative to select, train and promote Soldiers who are best qualified in their current grade, and who show the greatest potential to serve in positions of increased responsibility, Purcell said.

“Our NCOs are charged with the training and care of our Soldiers while enforcing standards, so it is imperative we equip them with the best tools we can to help them do their job,” said Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III. “Connecting the NCO Education System and promotions in a deliberate, continuous, sequential and progressive manner produces the best NCO Corps possible. It gives us the competent and committed leaders of character our Army needs and deserves.”

The effort, according to Purcell, will foster a balance of training, education and experience, while encouraging life-long learning and development of broadly-skilled NCOs. Another important aspect is to sustain an all-volunteer force by providing viable career paths.

He said that while the Army is an



(Graphic by Russell Stewart)

efficient organization that is effective operationally, the other aspects of leader development must not be overlooked.

“We’ve really paid the price because while operational experience is great, it in and of itself doesn’t make great leaders because you still need the education and the training to round it all out,” said Purcell.

NCOs had been allowed to serve 30 years, and then would have to retire. Purcell said the NCO timeline was extended to 32 years to allow for the completion of those three tenets and to foster the development of the world’s most professional NCO Corps. This timeline facilitates an environment where Army Professionals can meet the Army’s certification criteria of competence, character and commitment.

The Army is an “up-or-out” organization, Purcell said. The policies support a fundamental baseline by which professionals remain technically and tactically proficient with continued opportunities for development and advancement.

The directive says Soldiers should be considered for promotion when they achieve competency in their current rank and exhibit the potential to serve successfully at the next higher rank, which entails an increased level of responsibility.

The areas Soldiers must excel in to advance include professional competence,

team building, adaptability, lifelong learning and comprehensive fitness.

Some of the requirements for advancement include:

- Specialists and corporals must complete SSD-1 before they can be recommended (boarded) to sergeant.
- Sergeants must complete the Warrior Leader Course before they can be recommended (boarded) to staff sergeant.
- Staff sergeants must complete SSD-3 before they are eligible for consideration for sergeant first class.
- Sergeants first class must complete SSD-4 before they are eligible for consideration for master sergeant.

The directive states waivers for the Warrior Leader Course, known as WLC, will no longer allow sergeants to be considered for promotion.

Soldiers who had been previously granted WLC waivers must graduate from the course no later than Sept. 30, 2014. Soldiers who are deployed when the changes go into effect, Jan. 1, will have up to 270 days after redeployment to complete the course. Reserve-component Soldiers will have up to 270 days after release from active duty to complete the WLC.

The directive says Soldiers who do not complete the required WLC training will be removed from the promotion list for staff sergeant or reduced to sergeant.



# ACC in the News

These articles mention Army Contracting Command.

## Combined Contracting Management Cell keeps Talisman Saber moving

Posted on *DVIDS*, July 23, 2013

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/110628/combined-contracting-management-cell-keeps-talisman-saber-moving#Ue6MeHfhchg#ixzz2ZtK1dKdz>

## With a \$34 million empty building and \$80,000 TVs for Gitmo, Pentagon's questionable spending under fire

Posted on *AL.com*, July 19, 2013

[http://blog.al.com/wire/2013/07/with\\_a\\_34\\_million\\_empty\\_buildi.html](http://blog.al.com/wire/2013/07/with_a_34_million_empty_buildi.html)

## DOD renews contracts with four schools, drops University of Phoenix

Posted on *Stripes.com*, July 17, 2013

<http://www.stripes.com/news/dod-renews-contracts-with-four-schools-drops-university-of-phoenix-1.230806>

## Army Contracting Command's National Capital Region center cases its colors

Posted on *AL.com*, July 18, 2013

[http://www.al.com/business/index.ssf/2013/07/army\\_contracting\\_commands\\_nati.html](http://www.al.com/business/index.ssf/2013/07/army_contracting_commands_nati.html)

## New brigade stands up at Fort Hood, assumes contracting support mission

Posted on *forthoodsentinel.com*, July 11, 2013

<http://www.forthoodsentinel.com/story.php?id=11672>

## The Story Behind the Army's \$494M Network Hardware Contract Extension

Posted on *nextgov.com*, July 24, 2013

<http://www.nextgov.com/defense/whats-brewin/2013/07/story-behind-armys-494m-network-hardware-contract-extension/67283/?oref=ng-channelriver>

## Sequester may undo gains in building contracting workforce

Posted on *federaltimes.com*, July 24, 2013

<http://www.federaltimes.com/article/20130724/ACQUISITION02/307240008/Sequester-may-undo-gains-building-contracting-workforce?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p>



Click on the image for ACC safety messages.



July 25, 2013