

July 2018

Vol. 39 Issue 3



Huntsville Center  
**Bulletin**



U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville

2018 ENGINEER  
DAY 



See  
PAGE 8



# Table of Contents

Employee Spotlight: Cordelle-Meikle inspires STEM students.....4

Commentary: Too much information, too many documents.....5

ERCIP partners meet, revamp validation process.....6

Resource managers network, learn at workshop.....7

2018 Engineer Day team award winners.....8

2018 Engineer Day individual award winners.....9

Huntsville Center helps move multi-ton targets onto West Point indirect-fire range.....10

Task order awarded for ESPC project.....12

Emergency exercises important for employees.....14

First stage of new safety program complete.....15

Ethics Corner: Government provides virtual currency guidance.....16

# Hail and farewell

## Hail:

**Angelina Offei-Dua**, Resource Management; **Burlin Emery**, **Braxton Hardin**, **Cheyenne Christian**, **Colin Adendorff**, **Dan McFarland**, **Kelsey Seiter**, **Robert Starkey**, **Tirso McCoy**, Installation Support and Programs Management Directorate; **Ketrich Kennedy**, **Michael Wilson**, **Sharla Andrew**, **Sabrina Booker**, **Channel Pederson**, **Oscar Dothard**, **Samuel Cornelius**, Center Contracting; **Amanda Baxter**, **Christin Moss**, Business Management Office; **Ashley Greenwood**, **Ellen Haapoja**, **Donna Davis**, Engineering Directorate; **Michelle Nguyen**, Public Affairs Office; **Stephanie Ancira**, Office of Counsel.

## Farewell:

**Donnie Butler**, Safety Office; **Debra Valine**, PAO; **Sonja Rice**, Equal Employment Opportunity, **Carl King**, ISPM.

*\*Editor's note: Cover illustration by Michael May.*

# Commander's thoughts



**T**eam,

The Engineer Day awards ceremony and organization day at Point Mallard June 29 was a wonderful event. Congratulations to the award winners and a big thank you to the Activities Association and employee volunteers who helped make the day a great success.

We are still encountering many challenges with the building renovation for our facility at 4820 University Square. Senior leadership at Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is aware of the situation and USACE Real Estate is helping us move forward with remediation and renovation.

I know there is concern from the workforce, and rest assured we are doing all we can to make this project move forward.

In my last column, I asked you to be flexible. Today, I'm asking you to be patient. I am confident as our situation is elevated, and as all parties sort out the issues, we will soon have this project underway.

The 2018 Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey ran through June 19 and more than 65 percent of you responded.

The FEVS measures your satisfaction with respect to the organization's leadership, our work processes and policies and other areas.

Your survey responses let me and the other leaders in the Center know what is going well and what isn't.

By understanding what is most important to you, and finding areas

where we have opportunities to improve, we can focus our efforts and resources.

Speaking of leadership, we have a new interim deputy commander taking over for the current deputy commander, Gina Elliott, in August.

Lt. Col. Juan Pace will fill that position. Many of you already know Juan and recognize his professionalism and dedication as a Soldier. He has command experience and I'm confident in his ability to lead.

I also want to thank Gina for serving as the deputy commander. She is yet another dedicated member of the Center "family" and has been outstanding in her support of the organization.

She has been hard at work taking care of our people, our facilities and our mission. She will be missed.

In April, our safety office completed the Stage 1 Corps of Engineers Safety and Occupational Health Management System.

This was the first milestone for implementing the new Armywide system that enables the Corps of Engineers to meet the Army's goal of modernizing safety and occupational health programs.

Safety is a top priority for the Army and the Corps of Engineers and we will strive to meet these requirements. Remember that the safety office can write procedures and regulations, but it cannot effectively implement the Center's safety program without employee involvement. I urge you to get involved in the Center's safety program.

Speaking of safety, we are one



**Col. John S. Hurley**

month into the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

The summer months are statistically the time of year accidents involving automobiles, motorcycles and personal watercraft pose the greatest risk; and we must all remain vigilant for ourselves and each other.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage each of you to be safety conscious in all your activities. Always maintain situational awareness and manage your risks.

The end of the fiscal year is quickly approaching and I know many of you are already deep in preparation.

However, before the busiest time of year arrives, take some time to recharge the batteries and relax with friends and families.

Taking time for yourself is important for your body and mind, and it can make a difference in how healthy you are in general.

Taking good care of yourself may require a little extra time and effort, but it's worth it.



**US Army Corps of Engineers**

*The Huntsville Center Bulletin is printed by digital copier as an official publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the U.S. Army. Inquiries can be addressed to Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, Attn: CEHNC-PA, 5021 Bradford Dr., Huntsville, AL 35805. Phone: DSN 760-1692 or commercial 256-895-1692. The Bulletin is also available online at [www.hnc.usace.army.mil](http://www.hnc.usace.army.mil). The Huntsville Center Facebook page is located at [www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleCenter](https://www.facebook.com/HuntsvilleCenter). Follow Huntsville Center news and announcements on Twitter using hashtag #CEHNC. Circulation: 350.*

## BULLETIN

Commander..... Col. John S. Hurley  
Chief, Public Affairs..... Vacant  
Editor..... William S. Farrow



**Printed on recycled paper  
30 percent post-consumer**



## Employee Spotlight :

# Cordell-Meikle inspires STEM students

**By Stephen Baack  
Public Affairs Office**

Lori Cordell-Meikle, chief of Internal Review, spent the morning of May 11 at the University of Alabama in Huntsville with visiting high school students as part of the university's Innovative System Project for the Increased Recruitment of Emerging STEM Students, or InSPIRESS.

InSPIRESS, which the university hosts twice a year, connects its engineering undergraduates with high school students who have interest in and an aptitude for the subjects of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM. Each semester, student teams collaborate on a project to design a scientific payload for a space mission to a different body in the solar system. This semester's target was the moon.

Though the program is designed for all students to benefit academically, the winning team – from Sparkman High School – is slated to visit NASA Headquarters in Washington this July to present their project to NASA executives and compete against a nationwide pool of teams.

This semester, more than 270 students from 15 high schools in Alabama, Texas, North Dakota and South Carolina participated and have been working on their projects since January.

The students presented their projects in two settings: a 25-minute formal oral presentation to a board of judges and a less formal "open house" setting where judges could see the students' pictorial displays.



Photo by Stephen Baack

**Students from Sparkman High School explain their scientific payload project May 11, to Lori Cordell-Meikle, chief of Internal Review for Huntsville Center, as part of the Innovative System Project for the Increased Recruitment of Emerging STEM Students at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.**

Cordell-Meikle served as an open-house judge for Division B, which included students from Sparkman and Scottsboro high schools in Alabama, as well as two schools from El Paso, Texas: Clint High School and Da Vinci School for Science and The Arts.

"We are looking at their ability to communicate and to show collaboration with their team," Cordell-Meikle said about the open house portion.

"They should be able to pictorially have their demonstration or their display explained to the judges just by looking at it – what their science objective was – but then they have to come back and explain that very clearly verbally."

Each student has a distinct role on the team, such as design engineer, project manager and community engagement activity leader, which Cordell-Meikle likened to Huntsville Center's product delivery teams,

or PDTs.

"I think that if the individuals would come into the Corps to do internships, they would be very comfortable with that model because they've practiced it here," she said.

Cordell-Meikle, who has a background in engineering and experience working for NASA, said she learns something every time she participates in the program and hopes more of her colleagues participate in InSPIRESS events.

"I would like to see more of our Corps of Engineers personnel get involved, because the focus of this is engineering and physics," Cordell-Meikle said.

"So, I think a lot of folks at our command would have quite a lot of valuable input and feedback to give to the children, and I think it would also serve for opportunities for the students to do summer internships."

The **Employee Spotlight** is intended to highlight Center employees who shine by positively impacting the organization through mission achievements. Employees are featured quarterly in the Huntsville Center Bulletin. If you'd like to nominate someone for this recognition, please contact William S. Farrow, Public Affairs Office, at 256-895-1694, or email: [william.farrow@usace.army.mil](mailto:william.farrow@usace.army.mil).



## Too much information, too much data

**By Russ Dunford**  
**Business Management Office**

Individuals dropping files into drive folders usually adopts their own unique file naming convention that only they may understand.

This can certainly cause confusion and oversight.

The problem grows exponentially with the ease in which every level of an organization and every person can create documents and data files, and subsequently store them.

Although we're talking in terms of today's technology, this is a centuries old problem and there are solutions.

The advent of the printing press in the 1400's, and the ability to publish the written word faster than ever before compounded the problem of data management.

In 1876, Melvil Dewey, an American librarian working at the Amherst College library in Amherst, Massachusetts, developed the idea of organizing the volumes of books in what became known as the Dewey Decimal System, a system based on an alpha-numeric system that allows humans, and computers, to best organize data.

In recent history, a little startup company named Google recognized the value in being able to retrieve data and now dominates the Internet "search" market. However, Google cannot search internal Department of Defense or other federal government systems.

This in turn illustrates even a higher need to adopt a standardized file naming convention.

My recommended course of action is that organizations

adopt the following digital file naming convention of "YYYY-MM-DD (Free Text File Name) for all digital data files. Where YYYY = year; MM = month; DD = Day and "Free text" is your unique data file name.

With this system, there is a return on investment and value added. Savings are guaranteed if you adopt this file naming convention of your data files. We save money in the lost labor hours expended trying to search and locate historical data files and the time spent recreating files.

Digital files should be named with the following file naming convention: YYYY-MM-DD (Free Text File Name) for all digital data files. An example would be a file named: *2018-04-30 Command Policy Memo.*

Version control is always a concern with any data file, considering the collaborative nature in which we work. The recommended solution parallels the Dewey Decimal system in that a sequential number is added.

Therefore the next version, on the same date: *2018-04-29.1 Command Policy Memo.* Then edits are made on the same day and it now becomes *2018-04-29.2 Command Policy Memo.* The next version, but on a new date would be: *2018-04-30 Command Policy Memo.*

Adopting this digital file naming convention will also allow for data files to be instantly "organized" in numerical order as each data file is named in the year-month-day in which the file was created.

If you would like a copy of a draft policy memo establishing your digital file naming convention, send me an email at [Russell.L.Dunford.Civ@Mail.Mil](mailto:Russell.L.Dunford.Civ@Mail.Mil).

# ERCIP partners meet, revamp project validation process

By Stephen Baack  
Public Affairs Office

Huntsville Center's Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program validation team members met with their ERCIP partners from throughout the Army for a workshop at Idaho National Laboratory June 12-14 to update the program's guidance and requirements.

The purpose of ERCIP is to enable stakeholders to secure funding for military construction designed to increase energy efficiency, make use of renewable energy sources, reduce energy costs, and increase energy resilience and security.

Workshop participants represented the Army's landholding commands: Installation Management Command, Army Materiel Command, the Army National Guard, the Army Reserve and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Also present was a representative from the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, or OACSIM.

Before a stakeholder submits a project to the Office of the Secretary of Defense to compete for funding, it is the job of Huntsville Center's ERCIP validation team to lend technical support and planning guidance by validating the project.

Dominic Ragucci, who serves as the ERCIP program manager and workshop lead, said he wanted to use the opportunity to revise and finalize the Army's supplemental guidance for ERCIP and to revamp the process.

He said reconstructing the ERCIP process has become especially important in light of the Army's new push for installations to become more energy-resilient and energysecure.

Army Directive 2017-07 requires that every installation's critical mission capabilities are protected from disruption or degradation. This includes each installation developing the capability of providing its own energy and water needs for at least 14 days.

"We were trying to make the ERCIP within the Army a whole lot better, and to meet those changes that have occurred," Ragucci said.

"We are also trying to make sure we're better planners – from the installation level and upward – planning and programming the ERCIP projects, validating the ERCIP projects and executing ERCIP projects."

Because Army Directive 2017-07 necessitates backup power systems that may not save an installation money in the same way as an always-connected, continuously running power system, Ragucci said another major change in the ERCIP process was revising lifecycle-cost analysis.

"Before, we had to meet a certain minimum savings-to-



Photo by Stephen Baack

**Dominic Ragucci, Program Manager, Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program's, leads a group during the ERCIP workshop at Idaho National Laboratory June 12-14.**

investment ratio, but because of the focus of energy resilience and security, it is difficult trying to achieve that type of savings," Ragucci said.

Essentially, he added, energy resiliency and security means installations are backing up back-up systems, and trying to justify the savings in that context can be challenging.

Ragucci said Idaho National Laboratory was this year's choice as the site of the workshop because INL is a key component of the ERCIP team and has on-site examples of emerging energy technologies.

Three Department of Energy representatives at INL hosted and participated in the workshop.

Sarah Mandes, the Army program manager for ERCIP with OACSIM, provided guidance to energy managers in attendance and to gather information to improve the program with these changes in mind.

"They all support the ERCIP program as a lead for the Army, trying to improve the program and improve the process for how we plan, program and validate the projects so that we're developing good projects for the Army and, on the execution side, that we're reducing changes during execution," said Mandes.

"I'm trying to impart to them the emphasis on energy resilience and the need to have better defined costs and

Continued on page 7

# Resource managers network, learn at workshop

By William S. Farrow  
Public Affairs Office

**M**ore than 40 resource efficiency managers converged at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, to talk shop during Huntsville Center's fourth Resource Efficiency Manager Workshop June 19-20.

Workshop facilitators provided program updates, and encouraged attendees to engage in intensive discussion on how to save their customers' resources and subsequently save taxpayers' dollars.

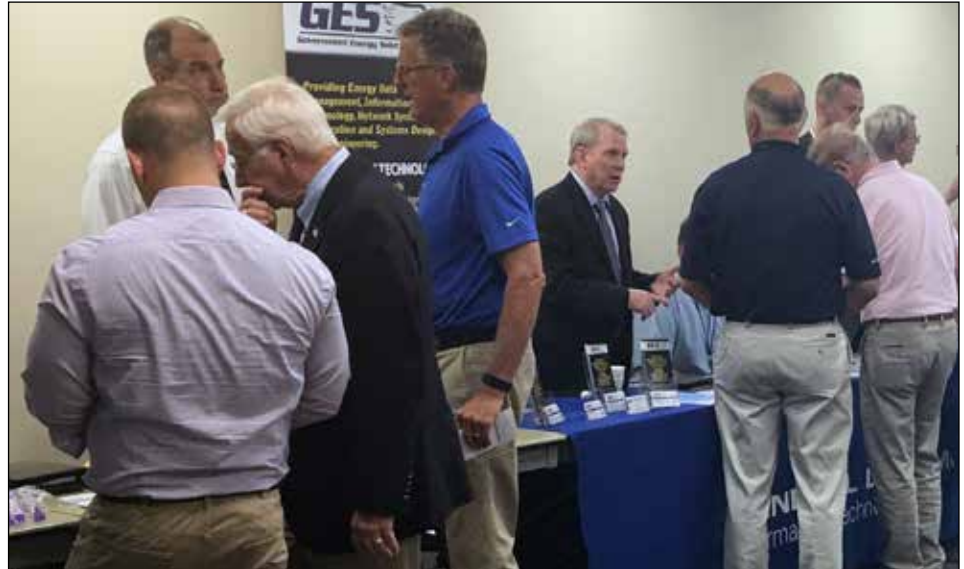
Workshop topics focused on third-party financing, utility cost reduction and energy audit programs, cost engineering, energy security, sustainability and measurement and verification.

"We want the REMs to gain a better understanding of the wide variety of tools available to assist them in achieving their goals," said John Trudell, Huntsville Center REM program manager and host of the event.

"There was a lot accomplished in a very short period of time."

Huntsville Center's REM program increases military installation's energy efficiency by identifying projects and practices to reduce energy and water costs through a contracted subject matter expert. The REMs develop site energy projects to secure resources for sustainability and renewable energy assets.

One of the event coordinators, Teresa Whalen, Huntsville Center



Courtesy photo

**Attendees at Huntsville Center's Resource Efficiency Manager workshop connect with industry representatives at the technology exposition June 20. Industry representatives provided information applicable to REM-specific projects such as micro-grids, smart building innovations and new HVAC technologies.**

REM project manager, said she felt the REMs in attendance gained something from the workshop to take back and implement.

"We provided them with briefings on specific Huntsville Center's Energy Division programs that can help them conserve resources. Attendees also shared their own experiences, tapping other sources available within the Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense and the Department of Energy that can help their installations achieve federal energy reduction mandates," she said.

Representatives from each of the Energy Division's seven programs briefed on how they could assist REMs.

Personnel from Huntsville Center's Safety Office, Engineering Directorate, and Electronic Technology Division briefed REMs on ways they can assist and reach-back capabilities that they offer too.

Dave Hampton, a REM employed by Redhorse Corp., serving U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District said the event was a great opportunity to network and learn from other attendees.

He said the workshop allowed the REMs to make new contacts and share information and lessons learned.

"Just knowing you have a support system of other REMs to call is extremely beneficial," Hampton said.

## ERCIP

Continued from page 6

scopes so that we have less volatility in the program, and better collaboration among the Corps of Engineers stakeholders on the execution side, on the programming side, and with command-level engagement," Mandes added.

She said the next step is implementing the changes "over the course of weeks, months and years."

"It went very well," Mandes said of the workshop. "It was very constructive. We got a lot of good input and a lot of

good collaboration."

"Everyone is now more accountable for their particular project, and we've developed a good, solid process and good starting point to meet the new focus of ERCIP," Ragucci said.

"That, to me, is a success. The next steps are to finalize everything we did during the workshop.

"And then we'll continue this dialogue and these workshops and bring everyone together," Ragucci added.

"There's still going to be lots to learn and new ways of doing business."

# 2018 Engineer Day team winners



## Innovator of the Year Award: Virtual Industry Days Project Development Team

The virtual industry day concept began as a means to improve contract competition, streamline processes and reach as many potential firms as possible. Since the VID is live-streamed, there are no associated travel costs allowing small firms to participate and network. Col. John Hurley, Huntsville Center commander, presented the award to (from left) Nicole Boone, Sharla Andrews, Veronica Hannahs, Latosha McCoy, Lutreva Byrd, Lashonda Smith and Barbara Rich. Not pictured are: Tonju Butler, Kijafa Johnson-Cooper, Marvinia Adams, Dennis Lowery, Kevin Powell, Jean-Paul Bretz, Gosia Thompson, Robin Boateng, Rachel Sanders, Tonia Thomas, Brooklyn Wherry, Jennifer Adams, Rebecca Goodsell, Karen Baker and William Farrow.



## Teamwork Award: Aqueous Film Forming Foam Project Development Team

This project delivery team provided environmental support to facilitate the transition of Air Force fire suppression systems to a more environmentally friendly fire suppression product at Air Force bases and stations across the world. Col. John Hurley, Huntsville Center commander, presented the award to (from left) Margaret Simmons (accepting for Melanie Braddock), Su-Chen Chen, Brian Ballard, Ken Bryant and Robert Fox. Not pictured are: Jeffrey Henderson, Charles Pregeant and James Steele.



# 2018 Engineer Day individual award winners



**Carol Athnos**  
Employee of the Year



**Brian Hamilton**  
Engineer of the Year



**Xavier Thigpen**  
Program Manager  
of the Year



**Leigh Ann Toth**  
Project Manager  
of the Year



**Kimberly Kilpatrick**  
Contracting  
Professional of the Year



**Jason Walsh**  
Safety Professional  
of the Year



**Sharron Brooks**  
Resource Manager  
of the Year



**Cynthia Brandt**  
Administrative Assistant  
of the Year



**Michelle Clark**  
Commander's  
Leadership Award



**Dennis Bacon**  
Safety Champion  
of the Year



**Amanda Sticker**  
Volunteer of the Year



**Lydia Tadesse**  
Commander's Diversity  
Leadership Award



**Lorronica Martinez**  
Commander's  
Diversity Award

Photos on pages 8,9 by Machael May.



Courtesy photo

A bulldozer pushes a 13-ton M106 mortar carrier into position on Cranberry Mountain near West Point, New York, as part of an ongoing project to emplace heavy targets on the post's indirect-fire range.

## Huntsville Center helps move multi-ton targets onto West Point indirect-fire range

By Stephen Baack  
Public Affairs Office

U.S. Army Garrison West Point's Training Support Division is giving kudos to Huntsville Center for their work placing heavy targets on the post's indirect-fire range on Cranberry Mountain.

USAG West Point manages the services, operations and infrastructure not only for the historic U.S. Military Academy, but for the entire installation footprint that includes a 14,000-acre range complex.

West Point's ranges accommodate an assortment of training functions for the corps of cadets and the FBI, such as marksmanship and field training exercises. For the first time this summer, cadets are slated to undergo a combined arms live-fire exercise that incorporates 155 mm artillery and aerial gunnery with Army AH-64 Apache helicopters and Air Force A-10 Thunderbolt fixed-wing jets.

Alec Lazore, USAG West Point range officer, said this would be the first time the cadets have participated in such an event.

To set them up for success, Lazore and other members of USAG West Point's Training Support Division wanted to replace the demilitarized M48 Patton tanks that 50 years of mortar and artillery strikes have turned into battered,

fragmented hulks.

The plan was to replace these old targets with retired, demilitarized equipment consisting of four 13-ton self-propelled M106 mortar carriers and four 54-ton M60A3 main battle tanks.

Before any work could be done, Huntsville Center needed to develop a plan to transport the vehicles over mountainous terrain in New York's winter weather.

"Normally you have a flat range – a zero to 10 percent grade – and there is a mountain or some type of backstop or berm to fire against," said Spencer O'Neal, lead project manager for the Ordnance and Explosives Design Center's Sustainable Range Program. "But this was an artillery range, and it was a big valley. So, trying to install the new targets at 35 percent grade was a challenge."

The presence of snow, rain, ice and mud only compounded the difficulty of safely dragging the multi-ton vehicles up the mountain and into the target box. The winter conditions inspired the Training Support Division to dub the project, Operation Frozen Armor.

Before moving any equipment, however, the first step was identifying and clearing any ordnance that might pose an explosive-hazard risk to personnel on site during equipment-

Continued on page 11



## Nap time

**Hazel Jones, 2-year-old daughter of James and Malynda Jones, Civil Structures Division administrative assistant, rests on her father's shoulder during the 2018 Engineer Day at Point Mallard Park, Decatur, Alabama, June 29. Malynda is president of the Huntsville Center Activities Association. The association put in hours of behind-the-scenes work to ensure the event was a success.**

Photo by David San Miguel

## Range

Continued from page 10

towing and associated construction with target emplacement.

Ken Hewitt, project manager and environmental engineer with OE Design Center, led the project delivery team for this project. The matrix support from the Huntsville Center Engineering Directorate used a “risk map” that showed the explosive-hazard risk as related to the likely locations of old ordnance. The team overlaid that map onto a second map that showed where the work was planned to avoid a high-risk ordnance area and a multimillion-dollar clearance.

Hewitt said completing this review early saves the taxpayer money and helps preserve USMA's limited training maintenance budget while ensuring safety. The approved plan was to clear the road leading to and from the West Point impact area and provide a safe method of towing the targets, while clearing enough ground for safe target

emplacement.

“In this case we cleared the ordnance out of the way of the vehicle tow ahead of time,” Hewitt said. “We cleared for safety issues.”

Movement of all four M106 mortar carriers up the mountain and into the target area is now complete, but moving the heavier M60A3s proved to be more challenging.

Initially, the two on-site bulldozers were not able to safely overcome the steep bedrock outcrop to transport them to their intended locations, and if they couldn't get the tanks pulled up the mountain, there was a possibility these demilitarized vehicles would need to be scrapped.

“We said, ‘Well, what if we tried something different?’” Hewitt said.

Hewitt suggested new positions in the target box at a lower area on the mountain, and the project delivery team was able to find a way to do this within the scope of the contract.

“They were happy that we were able

to secure the funds for them, and to have that relationship with G3 to do that,” Hewitt said. “It was a win-win.”

The four tank targets are not yet emplaced, but Lazore has already expressed his satisfaction in a message to Huntsville Center and their contractor, USA Environmental.

“This will certainly improve West Point's ability to execute indirect fire training for the corps of cadets and other training units for years to come,” Lazore wrote, and added that the contractor, as part of their scope for placement of the targets, cleared unexploded ordnance dating from as far back as 100 years and in “extremely difficult terrain and weather” that included below-freezing temperatures and heavy winds.

“We couldn't do this exercise without this target placement,” Lazore said, referring to the upcoming combined-arms live-fire exercise.

“Anything we can do for the cadets

# Task order awarded for ESPC project

By Stephen Baack  
Public Affairs Office

Thanks to Huntsville Center's latest Energy Savings Performance Contracting task order award, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, is on track to receive a series of multimillion-dollar energy-savings upgrades to existing infrastructure – all without the burden of upfront capital costs.

The Center's Energy Division has awarded a task order to Schneider Electric for \$23.8 million worth of infrastructure upgrades through the next 23 years.

The task order and associated capital investment will not only help modernize and replace aging infrastructure, but they are projected to reduce energy costs for the Fort Huachuca garrison by 23 percent, according to Jack Porter, chief of the Business Operations and Integration Division for the Fort Huachuca Directorate of Public Works.

Planned upgrades include programmable thermostats, lighting retrofits and controls, variable speed conversions for fans and pumps, demand-control ventilation, and an overhaul for the installation's 4-megawatt combined heat and power system.

ESPC task orders are distinct in that they leverage third-party financing to fund energy-conservation measures. Because Army installations typically do not have funds budgeted for improvements on existing infrastructure, third-party financing is often the best fit – and Fort Huachuca was no exception, said Jason Bray, ESPC program manager with Huntsville Center's Energy Division.

As part of the ESPC process, Huntsville Center maintains a list of energy-service companies, or ESCOs.

The ESCO that secures the contract – in this case, Schneider Electric – is responsible for producing the upfront



Courtesy photo

**Jack Porter, chief of the Business Operations and Integration Division for the Fort Huachuca, Arizona, Directorate of Public Works, speaks during a public unveiling of an energy-savings infrastructure project.**

capital costs through a financier. The ESCO and financier are then paid from the savings generated by the energy-conservation measures the ESCO produces for the installation.

In the project development stage, Schneider Electric – with the help of Fort Huachuca and Huntsville Center – conducted a detailed feasibility study during which they established a baseline of the installation's utility spending and determined the post spends about \$12 million annually on energy. Based on the planned improvements, Schneider calculated a projected savings of about \$2 million.

“The contracting vehicle is set up so that the energy savings attained by the energy conservation measures are turned around and used to pay for the agreed-upon contract value for each year,” Porter said. “This leads to a self-funded task order. This is certified by annual measurement and verification to ensure the savings are realized.”

Furthermore, because it is a performance-based contract, the task

order stipulates that ESCOs guarantee those savings. If an ESCO is unable to generate the guaranteed savings, and it is determined to be within their responsibility, then they do not get paid the shortfall, Bray said.

“If your typical utility bill was going to be about \$1 million before implementation of this equipment, the ESCO may come back and say, ‘Based on everything we’re going to implement, we believe we’re going to reduce your utility bill by 20 percent – and we’ll guarantee that we’re going to save at least 18 percent,’” said Bray, using a hypothetical example. “Of that million dollars – \$180,000 – that’s what they have to guarantee for every year of that contract term.”

For Fort Huachuca, this all translates to generating energy-conservation measures that help them meet the Army's and Department of Defense's energy directives.

High on Huachuca's list of priorities is fulfilling Army Directive 2017-07,

**Continued on page 13**



**Earth Day**

Photo by Stephen Baack

**Karl Gullatte, a project manager and community planner with the Center’s Engineering Directorate, shows fifth-graders a set of working solar panels during Redstone Arsenal’s Earth Day outdoor educational event April 19. Chandler Word, a Department of the Army intern with the Interior Design Branch, also volunteered for the event.**

**ESPC**

Continued from page 12

which focuses on energy and water security.

The directive outlines the requirements for energy and water security at Army installations, with a focus on ensuring critical mission capabilities are protected from disruption or degradation. This includes directing each installation to develop the capability of providing its own energy and water needs for at least 14 days.

For Fort Huachuca, this means setting up a microgrid to safeguard the installation’s mission-critical infrastructure. Normally part of the installation’s centralized grid, the microgrid could operate independently in a contingency.

Porter said before developing the microgrid, Fort Huachuca needed to secure access to a reliable generating asset that could restore power without help from the main power network.

This process, known as a “black start,” typically relies on diesel generators, but Fort Huachuca opted for a secure natural gas pipeline nearby.

Modernizing the post’s combined heat and power system

is the next step. The system uses the same natural gas pipeline to supplement the heating and cooling of their main central plants.

Porter said this is the most important and expensive item on the task order and will be the primary component in developing the microgrid and ensuring energy security for Fort Huachuca.

But maybe most important to the overall project, Porter said, is simple teamwork.

“Energy security is not an easy fix that can be done with one simple initiative,” said Porter.

“To gain full energy security for mission-critical assets there needs to be a diversification of contract vehicles and relationships. This involves our privatization system owner, through Schneider Electric, through the electric utility and through the natural gas utility.

“In essence,” Porter added, “being collaborative brings Fort Huachuca to its goal in securing the critical missions on the installation. There’s not one single piece that’s going to give us energy security; it all has to work together.”

# ARE YOU PREPARED?

## HURRICANE SEASON

### JUNE 1 - NOV 30

## Emergency exercises important for employees

**By Michelle Nguyen**  
**Public Affairs Office**

**H**urricane season is here and in May, Huntsville Center's emergency management team conducted a tornado warning exercise to reinforce the familiarization and use of the Occupant Emergency Plan.

The OEP provides specific instruction on various drills for severe weather and emergencies.

Tornadoes are one of several weather-related dangers hurricanes, tropical storms and their remnants can unleash as they move inland, and residents of north Alabama have been affected by these weather patterns before.

Jeffery Davis, Huntsville Center emergency management specialist, spearheaded the recent tornado exercise utilizing the AtHoc Notification System, a Department of Defense-authorized networked crisis communication system designed for sending mass emergency messages to alert and protect personnel in a short period of time.

The main emergency notifications are received on work computers and phones. After receiving the notification, employees must respond to the messages, helping verify accountability and status.

However, Davis said employees are highly encouraged to also register their mobile devices and home phones to receive notifications so that when they are not at work or are away from their work areas, leadership can still account for personnel and acknowledge their status.

"This system is beneficial to employees to not only quickly receive emergency messages, but also for the accountability process," Davis said. "We want to know if our people and their families are safe."

Davis said after a series of more than 90 tornadoes ripped

a path across Alabama in 2011, one of the greatest issues was accountability of Huntsville Center personnel.

A week after the May's tornado exercise, an after action review was conducted by Davis' emergency management team.

Davis said the team discovered many issues involving people's confusion regarding whether it was an AtHoc notification system exercise or a tornado warning exercise. He said unclear instructions may have culminated into a lack of employee participation.

"Operations is taking measures to improve on these issues and we are aware of the clarity issue and we're working on revising the language for what type of exercise will be implemented in the AtHoc notification," Davis said.

He said warnings will also be announced over the public address system and radios have been purchased to facilitate better communication during emergencies, with particular focus on communication from the main building to the outlying suites.

Davis said there are plans for implementing different types of drills to keep the Center proactive, including planning an active shooter drill sometime in the near future.

Col. John Hurley, Huntsville Center commander, encourages all Center employees to take these drills seriously.

Knowing where to go and what to do during an emergency is critical to safety.

"People need to understand these drills are done for the purpose of potentially saving lives," Hurley said.

"As the commander, it's my job is to ensure employees are prepared for worst-case scenarios."

The OEP can be accessed on the Center's intranet site (<https://intranet.usace.army.mil/centers/hnc/>) under the "Employee Quick Links" tab.

# First stage of new safety program complete

By William S. Farrow  
Public Affairs Office

A team of safety professionals recently assessed the U.S. Army Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville Safety Offices' safety program.

The Stage 1 assessment was the first milestone in the implementation of a new management system for safety.

The Armywide system enables the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to meet the Army's goal of modernizing safety and occupational health programs.

There are four stages of CE-SOHMS implementation with several metrics to meet along the way to CE-SOHMS maturation, said Kellie Williams, Huntsville Center chief of safety and occupational health.

"We are at the foundation where the effort put forth will allow us to be effective and sustainable in our Center's future," she said.

The first CE-SOHMS assessment identifies gaps in Huntsville Center's safety programs and processes. The assessment team evaluates over 50 elements assessing them as red – gap identified; amber – in process; or green – procedures in place. According to Williams, the Stage 1 assessment showed the Center's safety program to be in reasonably good shape with 79 percent of the plans in place and 21 percent plans in progress. No gaps were identified.

Williams said during the outbrief, the assessment team identified two areas for improvement: contractor oversight and the tracking of safety training.

While the assessors recognized Huntsville Center integrates safety into many aspects of contractor oversight to include safety briefings, reviews and audits, the assessment team felt the process for documenting contractor's oversight was not being performed consistently across the Center's

programs. In addition, employee's safety training is not being effectively tracked across the Center.

To address the contractor oversight and provide a consistent approach across Huntsville Center, Williams' office has established a diverse project delivery team with representation from all programs and disciplines to develop a plan to correct shortcomings.

Williams said the next step in the CE-SOHMS process, Stage II, requires the participation of all Huntsville Center employees. Basically, it's where the rubber meets the road," she said. The safety office can be 100 percent green in Stage 1 but fail Stage II without employee participation.

"The next metric for us to meet is that 100 percent of Center employees receive CE-SOHMS training," Williams said.

To achieve this, the safety office has developed a short presentation which we have begun to present at branch and division meetings. The entire training only takes about 15 minutes and is designed to provide awareness to employees and supervisors.

Col. John Hurley, Huntsville Center commander, said employee participation is vital to the success of safety and health program across the Center and is essential for the program's effectiveness.

"While the safety office can write procedures and regulations, the safety office cannot implement the Center's program effectively without the involvement of every employee. Safety is a top priority for the Army and the

Corps of Engineers and we will strive to meet our requirements," Hurley said.

For employees, receiving the brief does meet a metric, but employee participation is also required, and

Williams said employees can help the safety office's efforts by staying engaged.

"Be involved and participate," Williams said.

"The safety office doesn't know what it doesn't know, so if you see a

**“ While the safety office can write procedures and regulations, the safety office cannot implement the Center’s program effectively without the involvement of every employee. Safety is a top priority for the Army and the Corps of Engineers and we will strive to meet our requirements, ”**

**Col. John Hurley**  
Huntsville Center commander

hazard, report the hazard.”

Williams explained that the safety office has pushed to simplify the hazard reporting system, placing a hazard icon on the homepage of the Huntsville Center intranet site.

"Click on it to report a hazard," Williams said. "If it's a building-related hazard it will send a message to the logistics management work request system. If it is not related to the building, it sends a message to the safety office organizational email inbox."

Williams also said volunteerism helps the safety program and urged people to consider being a first aid attendant, a floor monitor, road guard or a member of the safety committee.

## Safety Tips

- Report all mishaps, even near misses.
- Actively participate in the preparation and review of your Position Hazard Analysis.
- Present a safety moment at the beginning of a meeting.

## Government provides virtual currency guidance

By **Melanie Braddock**  
Office of Counsel

**V**irtual currency has no physical form and exists only on a network. It comes in many forms and types such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, Dash, Ripple, Litecoin and relies on a decentralized peer-to-peer network and distributed ledger or blockchain technology to facilitate transactions.

Virtual currency has been a booming software and investment market, particularly in recent years. On June 18, the Office of Government Ethics issued new guidance on the reporting of virtual currency on financial disclosure reports.

For those of you that file the OGE 450 form each February, please take note of the changes below as this will affect what you have to file.

In 2014, the IRS described virtual currency as “a digital representation of value that functions as a medium of exchange, a unit of account, and/or a store of value.”

As a result of this definition, the IRS treats virtual currency as property for tax purposes. The new guidance from OGE clarifies that virtual currency is “property held . . . for investment or the production of income” for purposes of public and confidential financial disclosure, pursuant to the Ethics in Government Act” and must be disclosed.

Accordingly, executive branch employees are required to report their holdings of virtual currency on their financial disclosure reports, subject to applicable reporting thresholds for property held for investment or the production of income. Specifically, filers report their holdings in a virtual currency if the value of the virtual currency exceeded \$1,000 at the end of the reporting period, or if the income produced by the virtual currency holding exceeded \$200 during the reporting period. Filers are required to identify the name of the virtual currency and, if held through an exchange or platform, the exchange or platform on which it is held.

This guidance also applies to other digital assets, such as “coins” or “tokens” received in connection with initial coin offerings or issued or distributed using distributed ledger or blockchain technology.

While OGE has made it clear that virtual currencies are interests in property held for investment or the production of income, it is not clear whether particular virtual currencies may or may not also qualify as one of the investment terms specified in the law for transaction reporting.

The term “securities” appears in the EIGA, but it is not specifically defined so the determination of whether a particular virtual currency or digital asset is a “security” depends on the facts and circumstances. For example, the U.S. Supreme Court has interpreted that assets are “investment contracts,” and therefore they would meet the definition of a “security” if they involve an investment of money in a common enterprise with a reasonable expectation of profits derived from the entrepreneurial or managerial efforts of others. Additionally, digital tokens or coin in connection with an initial coin offering have been determined to be a security and would require reporting.

In circumstances where an employee is uncertain whether a particular virtual currency holding is a security, OGE recommends employees report transactions of that asset on periodic transaction reports if the value of the transaction exceeds the reporting threshold.

Interestingly, in the case of Bitcoin, the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission has determined it to be a commodity, and as such it is not subject to the transactional reporting requirements but would still be reported above as an investment.

This is a new and evolving area. As you consider what you may need to report, feel free to reach out to the Office of Counsel for assistance.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ENGINEERING AND SUPPORT CENTER, HUNTSVILLE  
P.O. BOX 1600  
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35807-4301

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED