



## Nichols visits, shares path for contracting

by **Ben Gonzales**  
MICC Public Affairs Office

The commanding general of the Army Contracting Command visited members of the Fort Sam Houston community Sept. 6 and 7, and gave insight to the future of Army contracting.

Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols spoke to officials from the Mission and Installation Contracting Command, 410th Contracting Support Brigade and 412th CSB.



**Nichols**

She also visited leaders of Army North and Installation Management Command as well as took time to talk to wounded warriors at the San Antonio Military Medical Center. While at the MICC, she visited with Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke, the MICC commanding general, and talked to the staff about the transfer of field offices from the MICC to the Expeditionary Contracting Command.

**See PATH, Page 9**



Photo by Annette Arkeketa-Rendon

Lisa Slagle earned Department of the Army honors as a Contracting Professional of the Year Award in August.

## Contracting officer one of Army's best

by **Daniel P. Elkins**  
MICC Public Affairs Office

A Mission and Installation Contracting Command contracting officer from Fort Sill, Okla., received the Department of the Army's Contracting Professional of the Year Award during an August ceremony in Washington, D.C.

"I really was surprised, I didn't know that my name was submitted prior to the submission," said Lisa Slagle, who also won at the U.S. Army Materiel Command level.

"I was more surprised to see it went forward to the Army Small Business Program level."

Criteria for her award included significant contributions to encourage and increase participation in acquisition programs or specific procurement actions; initiatives leading to increased opportunities or participation; and program management illustrating significant contracting contributions toward small business target and goal

**See AWARD, Page 12**

# Contracting for Soldiers

## CONTENTS

Contracting Community Sprints to Year End	6
New Tool Helps Guide Contracting Officers, Analysts	8
Team Eases Transition of EAGLE Contracts	10
Contracting Officers Save Thousands	13
Small Business Team Tackles Training, Workload	22



### COMMAND STAFF

Brig. Gen. Kirk F. Vollmecke  
Commanding General

George M. Cabaniss Jr.  
Deputy to the Commander

Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney J. Rhoades  
Command Sergeant Major

### EDITORIAL STAFF

Ben Gonzales  
Director, Office of Public and Congressional Affairs

Dan Elkins  
Deputy Director, Office of Public and Congressional Affairs

Ryan Mattox  
Congressional Affairs Liaison

The MICC Communicator is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of The MICC Communicator and hyperlinks to external content are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or Mission and Installation Contracting Command. The MICC Communicator is a quarterly publication produced by the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Office of Public and Congressional Affairs. All editorial content is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the MICC Office of Public and Congressional Affairs.

Submissions to The MICC Communicator may be sent to the MICC Office of Public and Congressional Affairs at 2219 Infantry Post Road, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234 or you may reach the staff at (210) 466-2292 or [usarmy.jbsa.acc-micc.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.jbsa.acc-micc.list.pao@mail.mil).



[www.facebook.com/army.micc](http://www.facebook.com/army.micc)



### MISSION

Provide Army Commands, installations and activities with responsive contracting solutions and oversight.

# Training, mentorship key to mission success

By Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke  
MICC commanding general

The Army continues to address numerous challenges in an environment characterized by diminishing resources. This also holds true for Army contracting. Army contracting continues to maintain a large standing mission without a comparable enhanced workforce. In order to mitigate these challenges, Army contracting must continue to retain and leverage its experienced military and civilian workforce while enabling the development of the journeymen workforce through training and mentorship. Implementing contract training and mentorship programs ensures contracting professionals remain the best trained, the best led, and capable of executing complex contracting requirements.

“Leader development is the best means to ensure the Army can adapt to whatever an uncertain future may bring,” said Gen. Raymond Odierno, the Army chief of staff, in the Army 2012 Strategic Planning Guidance. “Leadership development and training must inculcate the ideals of the Professions of Arms, while preparing Soldiers and civilians to operate independently in more dynamic environments. We must continue to recognize that people are the centerpiece of the Army and that responsible, agile and adaptable human capital management is essential to building and sustaining the all-volunteer Army.”

*Contracting for Soldiers*

Becoming the best contracting professionals requires more than just obtaining the proper certification in our respective craft. Certification alone may not give us the skills and proficiency needed to accomplish our mission. Each of us has a role in making the Army Contracting Command the Department of Defense’s pre-eminent provider of decisive edge contracting solutions and practices. Junior contracting professionals should continue to learn from seasoned contracting officers, whether the contracting officer is military or civilian. Whatever our role – supervisor or employee, mentor or protégé – we all play a

to be well versed in advanced planning, requirements generation, strategy development, contract award, and contract management and oversight. Sometimes the best OJT can be accomplished while sharing a brown bag lunch, where leaders can have in-depth discussions with junior staff members to share insights as well as educate our team.

OJT and mentorship go hand in hand. Whether you are in ACC headquarters or one of its centers, in the MICC or even if you are deployed forward with the Expeditionary Contracting Command, everyone should be leveraging a mentor. We

Becoming the best contracting professionals requires more than just obtaining the proper certification in our respective craft. Certification alone may not give us the skills and proficiency needed to accomplish our mission.



part in improving our processes and keeping the Army the most respected land force in the world.

Training is about gaining knowledge, understanding, skill, proficiency and depth, which is nested with mentorship. Old fashioned on-the-job training continues to be a great way to develop our workforce. Starting OJT can be as easy as returning to the fundamentals. Revisit specific technical guidance, DOD instructions and Army regulations. Contracting professionals need

have enough leaders who are seasoned, knowledgeable, skilled and proficient across all areas of contracting. We are all a part of ACC; therefore, I encourage each of you to contact someone in our command who can help fill in the gaps in areas we may be lacking proficiency. None of us should hesitate to make a call for assistance because we all have the same goal: providing the best possible contracting solutions for Soldiers and their families.

See **SUCCESS**, Page 7

# Paying tribute to fallen Delta Raiders

by Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke  
MICC commanding general

**T**hey gathered. After all the years, they still get together to remember their friends and brothers. They prayed for those who were not there. Tears were shed. And to honor their ultimate

sacrifices, they placed dog tags of each hero who died during the Vietnam War on a memorial board. Their fallen brothers are not forgotten.

With more than 50 fellow brothers in arms and family members, I paid tribute to the fallen Soldiers of D Company, 2nd Battalion, 501st Infantry of the 101st Airborne Division in a twilight memorial service Oct. 5

in St. Michael's Church at Agarita, in Lockhart. Known as the Delta Raiders, the service honored their 54 fallen Soldiers; all American heroes from a forgotten war.

I was accompanied by my command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades, and five Fort Sam Houston Soldiers including Staff Sgt. Luke Jefferson from the 323rd Army Band who played "Taps"

during the ceremony, Staff Sgt. Brandon Carroll and Sgt. 1st Class Oswald Pascal of the 412th Contracting Support Brigade, and Sgts. 1st Class Lamine Fall and Marcos Madrazo of the 410th Contracting Support Brigade who presented the colors.

**T**he seven of us stood among the ranks of the Delta Raiders still living with many of their spouses, and we walked away with a renewed spirit and newly discovered friends; generations of Soldiers connected from love of soldiering and common pain of war. We listened to their individual stories and discovered the connection that so few would understand. From these stories comes a calling and commitment to never forget.

The incredible spirit of the Delta Raiders comes from how this unit was formed. It was a combat unit organized in an unorthodox manner, from many different specialties

to include cooks. Members of the unit were trained in just eight weeks and then sent to war. The Delta Raiders found themselves in the darkest hours of life and in the fiercest of fighting during the 1968 Tet Offensive. It is their story and their common bond and love for one another that must never be forgotten. Their story and the pain still held in their hearts reflect the intangible spirit of the American fighting Soldier that should capture the hearts and minds of all. It was against all odds this unit prevailed. Their valorous conduct was a direct result of sheer will, perseverance, training, trust, friendship, love of country, and incredible individual and raw unit leadership combined.

The Delta Raiders had two Medal of Honor Award recipients; Sgt. Joe Hooper and Sgt. Clifford Sims, as well as many valorous awards by all unit members. Their courageous conduct was emblematic, but silenced by time. The living members of the Delta Raiders come together every other year to remember those who fought and died because, after all, how could

they ever forget the 54 men who ensured they would live to tell the story of the Delta Raiders.

My fellow Soldiers and I drove back to Fort Sam Houston later that night humbled and awe-struck by the deeds of this unit and the enduring character of the Delta Raiders.

This year marks the 50th anniversary since the beginning of the Vietnam War. It is now our call to action to honor these men and all those who fought, served and died during the Vietnam War. We must embrace each of them and welcome them home in a way to heal their pain and quiet their suffering over the many decades.

**I** ask all Americans to pause and reflect, honor units like this, and never forget those who have fallen or served. Please send notes and emails to [amount@deltaraiders.com](mailto:amount@deltaraiders.com) thanking this forgotten unit and others, for their deeds and kindled spirit. It is through this gesture that we renew our nation's strength and love as Americans.

For us, this memorial service is etched in our hearts and minds. We are deeply honored to have met the men and spouses of the Delta Raiders. We few gained so much in one night of kinship, admiration and respect that will endure the test of time. Their stories must be told now as this nation and our military struggle with the challenges of more than a decade of war. With common purpose and understanding, we learn and stand together with the Delta Raiders, fallen and still alive, with the sacred pledge to never forget.



Photos by Ben Gonzales

**(Above)** Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke talks to members of the 101st Airborne Division's Delta Raiders at an Oct. 5 memorial service in Lockhart, Texas. **(Left)** Army Staff Sgt. Luke Jefferson from Fort Sam Houston's 323rd Army Band plays taps in honor of the 54 members of the Delta Raiders who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War.

## Recognize risks, then take action

**Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades**  
MICC command sergeant major

Army leaders conducted a stand down worldwide at the end of September to focus on an alarming trend of suicide that is unacceptable and bring greater awareness to prevention tools and resources available.

The Mission and Installation Contracting Command conducted its stand down day Oct. 4. Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke, the commanding general, and I led this effort with activities aimed at promoting good health, team involvement and risk reduction.

Having reached the end of another successful fiscal year and witnessing the incredible teamwork and often long hours by members across the command, I don't have to explain the demands of our mission to you.

Balancing the demands of work and life is often challenging for many people. Stress from the long days of end-of-year operations combined with the personal demands from home, your church or the children's extracurricular activities can all add up at the end of the day, leaving little time to decompress.

We like to think we can do it all and some of us have gotten good at pulling it off, but we also must recognize when it's time to take a step back and examine when our schedules may be placing too much strain on our personal lives. Too much stress becomes a risk and can take a physical, emotional and mental toll on the body.

It's OK to seek help when you're feeling overwhelmed. There are several resources specifically designed to help cope with stress and its impact. Perhaps the easiest and most immediate is the buddy approach. Whether it's a co-worker, friend or someone in the chain of command, a sincere interest and simple "how are you doing" can be just what's needed to begin a dialogue. Even if you're just a sounding board, being there to listen can make enough of a difference for improved mental health.

The Employee Assistance Program is a free, confidential program that helps civilian employees cope with issues that may occur at home or in their workplace. EAP counselors can help link you to professional resources in hope of resolving issues

before they escalate and impact you at work.

Our mental health is just as important as our physical health. Starting the day off with organized physical training is essential to building a team and understanding the strengths and weaknesses of your team. NCOs are responsible for all Soldiers, seniors, peers and subordinates.

Remember that our NCO Creed clearly states, "No one is more professional than I." You have to trust our processes, support them and use them if you are having challenges in your life. You cannot properly take care of your Soldiers if you're not taking care of yourself. The two things that should always remain uppermost in your mind are the accomplishment of mission and welfare of Soldiers.

If you or someone you know needs the help of a professional, don't be afraid to reach out. You can choose from a variety of resources at the local installation level, contact your personal health care provider or call a national hotline at 800-273-8255. Military Once Source is a toll-free employee assistance service contracted by the Department of Defense that provides assistance around the clock. This service gives Soldiers and families confidential access to a live person for consultation and referral by calling 800-342-9647. You also can find a wide array of online information at [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com).

Let me transition back to the teamwork I mentioned earlier since that is such an integral part of the headquarters function. The role of the headquarters staff is to support the field, plain and simple. If anyone at the headquarters is contacted by a member of our MICC team, we have a duty to listen and lend support.

While there are some task responsibilities associated with its function, I want to be clear that the primary role of the headquarters is to support the field. As many of you in the field were closing your books on another fiscal year, the MICC headquarters staff was here to support you. Don't hesitate to pick up the phone and contact the headquarters when you've got questions or need assistance in seeking solutions.

We're doing great things at the MICC to support our Soldiers and their families. But just as important is the personal wellbeing and support of each and every member of this command. If we fail to recognize and then take the appropriate steps necessary to ensure anything less, our team and our mission suffer. Do your part and look out for your buddy.



*Contracting for Soldiers*

## Preparations begin for ACC MRX

**Larry D. McCaskill**  
ACC Public Affairs Office

For the fourth consecutive year, the Army Contracting Command will conduct the premier Department of Defense contracting readiness exercise for military and civilian personnel.

Formerly called Joint Dawn, the military readiness exercise is called ACC Mission Readiness Exercise 2013 and will be conducted at Fort Bliss, Texas, Jan. 15-31.

"We're expanding the scope of this year's training," said Col. Timothy Strange, MRX-13 officer-in-charge and commander of the 412th Contracting Support Brigade at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. "Participants can look forward to working on more than 100 contracting actions each, not to mention some hard-to-handle situational scenarios."

The number of exercise participants has increased each year. In 2010, 34 contingency contracting officers attended the training held at Fort Riley, Kansas. In 2011 at Fort Campbell, Ky., the training attracted

115 participants, and in 2012 at Fort Bliss, Texas, it had 159 military and civilian trainees.

Forty-five members from throughout the Mission and Installation Contracting Command were among the 2012 participants supporting the two-week pre-deployment readiness exercise.

Exercise coordinators expect more than 200 participants at the coming exercise.

The last exercise had a real joint flavor as Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen and civilians worked and trained beside one another.

"We're coordinating with the Air Force and all the other services to see if they want to participate in either a cadre or trainee status. When deployed we tend to work in

a joint environment, and we want to make this training as close to what a person would experience in theater," Strange said.

Currently in the planning stages, Lt. Col. Joshua Burris, commander, 905th Contingency Contracting

Battalion and the exercise coordinator said they have three goals at this stage.

"We're forming and preparing the cadre organization to support the training of 204 participants.

Second, we're making sure our list of scenarios reflect the current Afghanistan mission and contracting

priorities, and we want to ensure our plan reflects the proper warrior training tasks to prepare our trainees to survive on the battlefield," Burris said.



## Training, mentorship key to mission success

**SUCCESS, from Page 3**

For our mid- and senior-level staff members, developmental, informed rotational assignments help the command merge us with our customers. This is a win-win situation where our staff gains invaluable experience while the supported command or requiring activity understands how crucial the contracting role is to the mission.

Leaders, I challenge you to look at our published quarterly training plans and our gap assessments to sync the areas that need the most attention. There are many more resources we can turn to for training such as the FAR Institute, Defense Acquisition University resources, and our own policies and instructions.

Time should not be a limiting factor in training and mentorship. When performed correctly, both training and mentorship provide a sense of personal satisfaction, knowing that you're helping someone on the team learn

and grow on a professional and personal level. These programs greatly benefit our workforce, our command, and our Army.

Through training and mentorship, we can mature our command into seasoned contracting officers and professionals. With cultivating guidance from senior leaders, our team will flourish into talented staff members with boundless potential to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Contracting for Soldiers! MICC Strong! Army Strong!



# CRUNCH TIME

## Contracting community sprints to year end

Daniel P. Elkins  
MICC Public Affairs Office

A team of contracting experts here helped ensure the smooth execution of billions of dollars in acquisitions as the frenzied pace at which most contracting offices operate hastened to an all out sprint toward the end of the government's fiscal year Sept. 30.

Mission and Installation Contracting Command officials established a working group at the end of June to assist its field offices in the final two months of fiscal 2012 with procuring contracted services and equipment to meet their customers' mission needs.

"With the end of fiscal year rapidly approaching, (we) stood up a war room to ensure a seamless end-of-year execution," said Pat Hogston, the director of MICC Strategic Operations.

Staff members in the war room worked with customers closely to ensure all obligations were executed and no funds were lost.

The year-end war room brought together representatives from the MICC and Installation Management Command as well as Army Contracting Command, Training and Doctrine Command, Forces Command and Army Reserve Command by teleconference on a weekly basis, explained Scott Kukes, the chief of contract support at the MICC who led the working group.

Emphasis was placed on year-end contract awards, but the team also ensured "all obligations are properly matched and recorded against an appropriation in the General Fund Enterprise Business System," Kukes said.

Derek Dansby is a procurement analyst for the MICC. He said the command executed more than 44,000 contract actions valued at more than \$4.7 billion as of Sept. 1.

"It is common for our offices to accomplish 25 percent of all actions and dollars in the last two months of the fiscal year," Dansby said.

Following this trend, MICC contracting officials issue another 15,000 contract actions worth just approximately \$1.6 billion in the

final 30 days of the fiscal year.

Although the MICC's primary mission is in support of the Army – approximately 14 percent of all Army contract actions – it also supports a variety of other customers through a range of acquisitions from everyday items such as office supplies to complex services and construction projects, Dansby said.

"Approximately 84 percent of all MICC contract actions have been in the services and construction arena, which contrasts 60 percent by the Army overall," he said.

Customers include 43 major commands across the Department of Defense to include the Air Force, Navy, Defense Logistics Agency, Defense Commissary Agency and Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

Reflecting such a customer

**"It is common for our offices to accomplish 25 percent of all actions and dollars in the last two months of the fiscal year."**

**Derek Dansby**

base is the MICC-Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington. In addition to its installation office, it is responsible for overseeing contracting offices at Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Irwin, Calif.; Fort Wainwright, Alaska; and Fort Riley, Kansas. Its customers include many of the Army's major commands as

well as DOD, Air Force and other federal agencies that equate to approximately 126,000 uniformed servicemembers, 40,000 DOD civilians and 180,000 family members. In addition, the MICC-Fort Irwin staff supports the Army's National Training Center that sees an average of 75,000 rotational Soldiers each year.

"We serve a diverse customer base but all are tied together by their common support of Army and Air Force warfighting units," said Pam Munoz, the senior field director at MICC-JBLM. "Contracting professionals, both military and civilian, that support this large and varied population work hard every day to ensure the customer's requirements are met."

Contracting support by the MICC-JBLM extends to one corps headquarters, four division headquarters, 12 heavy brigade combat teams, four Stryker brigade combat teams, two special forces groups, and one airlift wing among other combat, combat support and combat service support units.

In addition to the end-of-fiscal-year workload, Hogston said MICC

contracting officers continue to execute 150 open solicitations, each valued at \$10 million or more to ensure timely awards, while managing 12,000 active contracts.

"Additionally, the MICC staff is working extremely close with customers on reconciling expiring fiscal 2007 funds," Hogston added.

In fiscal 2011, the command executed more than 63,000 contract actions worth almost \$7 billion across the Army. In light of smaller budgets in fiscal 2012, MICC contracting officials executed 58,000 contract actions valued at more than \$6.3 billion, including approximately \$2.6 billion to small businesses.

# New tool helps guide contracting

by Ryan Mattox  
MICC Public Affairs Office

Contracting officers, specialists and procurement analysts throughout the Mission and Installation Contracting Command have a new resource at their disposal when making decisions during the contracting process.

After months of collaboration and preparation between the command's strategic operations and contracting operations directorates, the MICC Desk Book is available on the command's secure SharePoint site for personnel to use.

The desk book has been available since Aug. 27; however, on Oct. 1, all procurement actions both pending and initiated after that date are subject to the policies and procedures outlined in the desk book.

The desk book is designed to be a single document that provides a road map for reviewing and approving contracting documents to assist with the acquisition process. This one-stop shop for the acquisition process consolidates guidance previously issued by acquisition instructions.

"My intent is for MICC contracting personnel to use this desk book in conjunction with prevailing regulation and sound business judgment to ensure a consistent, efficient and effective contracting process," said George Cabaniss, the deputy to the commander for the MICC. "Adherence will promote reduction of extended lead times, reduce successful challenges to procurements, and promote quality awards and effective contract administration in support of our customers."

The desk book also provides an avenue for command leadership to establish acquisition and contracting procedures for the MICC. It provides procedures that

implement federal, Department of Defense, and Department of the Army acquisition regulations as well as Army Contracting Command policies necessary to ensure certain practices are consistent throughout the Command. It clarifies internal and workflow procedures while augmenting associated regulations and references for contracting personnel.

The new document is not only a reference tool for contracting professionals, but also provides a new approach that fully incorporates MICC field directors into the acquisition cycle management process. Effective Oct. 1, the new approach brings a change in procurement action authority for field directors. They will have their decision authority shift from \$250 million to \$50 million. The principal assistant responsible for contracting will generally be the decision authority for amounts greater than \$50 million but less than \$250 million. The shift in decision authority is a result of a change in Army policy to eventually move to a consolidated single head of contracting activity.

The desk book rescinds and replaces MICC acquisition instructions, contracting information letters, and regional information memorandums.

The desk book implements the Federal Acquisition Regulation, the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement, and the Army Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement to establish uniform policies and procedures for all MICC contracting offices.

A MICC policy team will maintain the desk book to keep it current by providing quarterly updates.

# Nichols shares thoughts on contracting

**PATH, from Page 1**

To be successful, she said the organizational transfer of offices and human capital planning require buy-in at the point of our contracting spear from both the headquarters and contracting centers.

"Full integration should be seamless because it is a workforce that wears all kinds of suits," Nichols said. "You need to know where your pockets of brilliance are and ... leverage that to fill the gaps throughout the MICC. A talent management strategy will help you become a more integrated command."

She also discussed ACC's efforts to develop a knowledge acceleration program.

"You cannot buy time. Time is set," the general said. "Nothing I can do can help people migrate through a time defying process of experiential learning except to bring them tools that give the ability to accelerate their learning. This can help us deal with (a) potentially inexperienced workforce."

The ACC commanding general said her deputy's top two priorities



Photo by Ryan Mattox

Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols meets Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke during a visit to the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Sept. 7.

will be process improvement and knowledge acceleration.

Also discussed at the MICC was the realignment of field directorates, workload analysis and end-of-fiscal-year contracting operations.

"The realignment looks all about the customer, but it really is a restructure for process improvement, transparency and consistency," she said. "Honing our craft and making us the premier contracting focus of all (the Department of Defense) is about process and talent management. Our output isn't a contract. It is a

capability. That is the struggle we have in trying to measure what we deliver."

Nichols also addressed personnel issues during her visit as she reassured MICC members that everyone currently working for the ACC has a job.

"We need to get our manpower folks to adjust the (table of distribution and allowances) so we actually capture all our folks and not leave them in over-hire status. Before we cover any new positions, we need to cover what we already have."

# ACC officials name Hutchison as deputy

U.S. Army Contracting Command officials named the executive director of its Rock Island, Ill., center as the deputy to the ACC commanding general.

Mike Hutchison is expected to assume his new position in early November.

"I've known Mike a long time and am delighted to have him join our headquarters team. I look forward to working with him to provide our customers with world class contracting support and to highlight the accomplishments of our exceptional family of professionals," said Maj. Gen. Camille Nichols, ACC commanding general.

Rock Island is one of six major ACC contracting centers where Hutchison is responsible for almost 500 personnel and more than \$80 billion worth of contracts. His center supports six major Army commands

"It is truly a privilege to be selected for this position and an even greater privilege to serve the entire ACC team," Hutchison said. "I welcome the opportunity of working with General Nichols to achieve her vision of making ACC the preeminent Department of Defense provider of decisive edge contracting solutions and practices."

# MICC teams with partners to ensure transition to EAGLE

by Daniel P. Elkins  
MICC Public Affairs Office

Mission and Installation Contracting Command officials have taken on responsibility for most directorate of logistic post-award contract management following the Oct. 1 transfer of administrative control for DOL from the Army Installation Management Command to the Army Sustainment Command.

Centralization of contract administration is part of the service's Enhanced Army Global Logistics Enterprise, or EAGLE, program aimed at standardizing installation maintenance, supply and transportation services across the Army materiel enterprise while reducing costs.

"EAGLE represents a significant effort by the Army and the acquisitions community to rein in spending at a time when our leaders are faced with historic budgetary constraints," said Pat Hogston, the director of strategic operations at the MICC. "As vigilant stewards, we must explore every measure for reducing costs so that we can deliver the highest quality services and equipment to Soldiers at a fair price."

In preparation for the transfer of contract management, members of a MICC integrated process team have been working closely with leaders from the ASC, Army Contracting Command, Expeditionary Contracting Command and DOL officials at Fort Benning and Fort

Gordon, Ga.; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Irwin, Calif.; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Lee, Va.; Fort Polk, La.; and the Presidio of Monterey, Calif. Dubbed a war room, the working group has conducted numerous individual teleconferences and planning sessions over the last several weeks to ensure a smooth transition.

"As there are numerous moving parts and organizations involved, the war room concept was considered to provide a single forum for all parties to raise and discuss the many moving parts to accomplishing this mission," said Cyp LaPorte, the plans and programs division chief at the MICC. "It was also needed based upon the importance of DOL mission functions to the sustainment of the Army and criticality of not allowing any breaks in service to Army customers during this transition period."

LaPorte explained that while under IMCOM, directorates of logistics at installations developed and submitted their contract requirements to their servicing contracting offices. This resulted in either a single, installation-wide DOL contract or multiple smaller contracts divided over various individual DOL functions.

"Under the Army Sustainment Command model, requirements will all be centrally managed at the command headquarters through an EAGLE program office," he said. "Both ASC and ACC-Rock Island (Ill.) have spent a great deal of time and effort setting up integrated process teams to review and



Photo by Daniel P. Elkins

Charles Trumpfheller, a supervisory contracting officer, reviews a contract Oct. 1 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

standardize the performance work statements of each of the various DOL functions to be assumed by ASC."

LaPorte added that the transfer created a need for leaders at the ACC headquarters to review its contracting support mission for installation DOL services. That led to a decision to allow ACC-Rock Island to accomplish the pre-award mission for DOL support services because that center provides the primary contracting support to ASC.

MICC contracting officials will support the ACC's contracting center at Rock Island Arsenal, by performing post-award contracting functions at the local installation

level. The MICC also becomes responsible for existing EAGLE contracts.

"The contract administration portion of DOL requirements will remain with the MICC as we are the ACC presence on installations and as such are in the best position to provide local contract oversight and management," LaPorte said.

The transfer of DOL requirements from IMCOM to ASC at the start of the new fiscal year represents only a minimal increase in workload for members of the MICC as many local offices were already administering those contracts.

"There are numerous challenges in this process as the transfer of DOL functions is a significant

effort for the Army to undertake," LaPorte said, "but our people have the needed skills and expertise to administer the orders that will eventually be awarded by the ACC-Rock Island Contracting Center and transferred to our offices."

The working group is finalizing a memorandum of understanding that includes the transition of management for EAGLE basic ordering agreement task order awards to MICC local contracting offices. A basic ordering agreement is a written instrument between the government and a contractor that outlines terms and clauses as well as describes contracted items or services along with pricing and delivery instructions.

## ASC selects EAGLE contractors

The U.S. Army Sustainment Command executed the first round of basic ordering agreements in mid-September with companies to provide logistics support services through its Enhanced Army Global Logistics Enterprise program, or EAGLE.

The BOAs were executed through the Army Contracting Command-Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

Qualified BOA holders can compete for the initial annual performance task orders under EAGLE. They will have the opportunity to serve as performance contractors under the EAGLE task orders to provide supply, maintenance and transportation services as well as other logistics services at Army logistics centers located at 73 Army installations.

EAGLE provides increased opportunities for small business to perform as government prime contractors. All installation logistics task orders greater than \$1 million and less than \$35.5 million will be set aside for award to qualified small businesses. In addition, both small businesses and large businesses will be eligible to compete for task orders greater than \$35.5 million. If two or more small business are capable of performing these larger contracts, then the awards will be set aside for small businesses.

# Contracting commander arrives at MICC-Fort Dix

The former senior acquisitions adviser for the Army Cyberspace Command has assumed duties as commander for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command-Fort Dix, N.J.

Lt. Col. Johnnie Edmonds assumed command in an August ceremony officiated by Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke, the MICC commanding general.

“I want to express to my new team that I am honored to have been selected to lead such a fine group of acquisition professionals through these fiscally challenging times that we, as an Army and country, find ourselves in,” Edmonds said. “To our customers, the warfighters, contractors and the installations that

support their efforts, I would pledge ... contracting support will not waiver, quality will not suffer and we, as a team, will not fail.”

He has served as executive officer for the Principal Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology, and chief for the ASA(ALT) Headquarters Plans, Programs and Resources Program Objective Memorandum and Budget at the Pentagon.

Edmonds is certified as Level III in both program management and in contracting. He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and program management course at Fort Belvoir, Va.



**Edmonds**

He was commissioned a second lieutenant in July 1988 through Kansas State University ROTC, where he earned a bachelor of business administration degree. He earned a master of military arts and sciences in 2004 at Fort Leavenworth.

# Contracting officer named one of Army's best

## AWARD, from Page 1

attainment or improvement.

Even before completing a Defense Acquisition University course on small business contracting a few years ago, Slagle said she has always had an interest in small business.

“There are a lot of small businesses in my hometown community of Lawton (Okla.), and I’ve seen a lot of them go out of business,” said Slagle, who has worked at Fort Sill for 23 years. “I’ve always watched out for small businesses where I live and work, and it’s satisfying to know the Federal Acquisition Regulation requires me to set aside select contracts for small business.”

In fiscal 2011, Slagle worked hand-in-hand with the small business specialist at MICC-Fort Sill to be the first contracting officer to establish a woman-owned small business category set aside at Fort Sill after significant market research. Small business set-asides allow contracting officers to award or reserve certain acquisitions exclusively for small business.

That set-aside resulted in an award to a woman-owned small business for \$937,000 for a requirement that was previously awarded to large business for \$1.186 million – a savings of approximately \$249,000.

In addition to saving taxpayer dollars, it also assisted the MICC in meeting its woman-owned small business category goal. A second set-aside award by Slagle to a woman-owned small business allowed MICC-Fort Sill to achieve 17.2 percent toward its 10-percent goal in fiscal 2011.

“She has always advocated for set-asides for small businesses throughout her career, both as a contract specialist and as a contracting officer,” said Annette Arkeketa-Rendon, the small business specialist at MICC-Fort Sill. “She readily volunteered to attend small business conferences and outreach venues prior to a full-time small business specialist being assigned.”

Arkeketa-Rendon added that Slagle’s representation at these events strongly encouraged small business involvement in Fort Sill requirements and increased outreach that translated into improved market research, which maximized opportunities for all small business socioeconomic categories.

“Her commitment to the Army Materiel Command Small Business Program is demonstrated by her significant number of small business awards and the thorough market research she conducts to champion small business opportunities to the maximum extent,” Arkeketa-Rendon said.

# Member saves Army nearly \$22 million

by Daniel P. Elkins  
MICC Public Affairs Office

A Mission and Installation Contracting Command contracting office at Fort Knox, Ky., saved almost \$22 million with the award of a contract for wireless devices and services supporting the Army’s more than 8,500-member recruiting force around the world.

MICC-Fort Knox officials awarded the contract at the end of June for communications services valued at \$31,240,200.

It provides a full range of wireless devices and associated services to include both voice and data for the Army Human Resource Command and other elements it supports. The HRC provides information technology support to the Army Recruiting Command, which is primarily responsible for recruiting men and women to serve in the Army’s all-volunteer force.

“Cell phones and BlackBerrys have been provided to recruiters for several years to better enable them to attract and communicate with prospective recruits throughout the United States as well as overseas,” said Dale Williams, the chief of the MICC-Fort Knox Human Resource Center of Excellence Division.

“We started discussing the requirement with the customer in January when we learned the package would be coming our

way,” said Lucy Vessels, the MICC-Fort Knox procuring contracting officer.

The acquisition package arrived at MICC-Fort Knox in March and contracting officials quickly discovered that a potential for significant savings was possible. The requirement was identical in technical terms, and its government estimate was based on present and historical pricing, Vessels said.

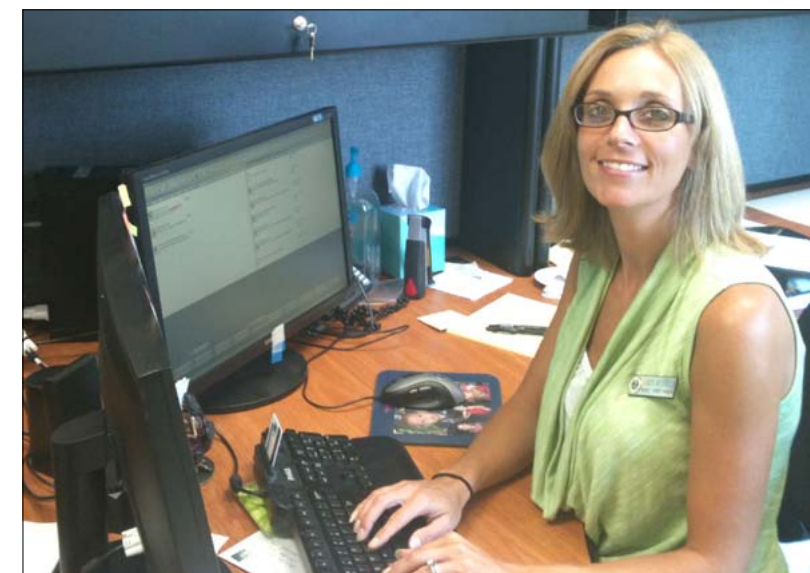


Photo by Melody Price

Lucy Vessels and her fellow staff members helped save the Army almost \$22 million as part of the procurement of wireless communications services in support of recruiting.

Vessels explained that much of the savings were realized as a result of a competitive contract process that led to substantially lower monthly fees.

“Additionally, the contract was previously managed through the Government Services Agency, which had charged a 1.5 percent fee for the cost of the contract it administered,” said Vessels. “As a result of using the MICC-Fort Knox to process the contract action, non-DoD contract fees were avoided.”

The firm-fixed-priced contract includes a 10-month base period

and four one-year option periods. An estimated contract savings of \$21,957,210 is anticipated over the base and option periods.

“We knew we’d save money on the contract, but had no idea we’d save that kind of money,” Williams said.

Devices included in the contract include commercial, off-the-shelf cellular phones and BlackBerrys and related accessories on the

Army’s approved products list. Services include voice, data, international roaming and dialing, SMS instant message, multimedia messaging, secure voice and directory assistance.

Contracting staff took a proactive role in this acquisition as part of the Acquisition Milestone Agreement planning process implemented across the MICC in January 2012

as a strategic approach to improve communication, standardize the development of milestones and increase accountability between contracting offices and their customers. The teaming process between contracting staff, requiring activities and Army leaders affords a more active role earlier in the acquisition process to ensure efficient and effective acquisition strategies are executed to meet the mission.



# MICC members, teams stand out at year end

Accomplishing more than 58,000 contracting actions valued at more than \$6.3 billion took the entire Mission and Installation Contracting Command team. Both individual and team efforts have been recognized by leaders across the Army who have offered their gratitude to MICC leaders here and in the field for the work performed by contracting professionals throughout the nation.

Among those contacting Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke, the MICC commanding general, were Col. Robert Choppa, the chief of staff for the U.S. Army Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, Ga. Choppa expressed his thanks “for the awesome support” by Steve Sullivan and the MICC-Fort Benning team. “They completed every contract we needed,” he wrote in a message.

“His teams are great supporters of all we do in both mission and garrison activities,” Choppa continued. “The bottom line is our entire Maneuver Center of Excellence team appreciates your efforts and leadership.”

Those sentiments were echoed in a message from Maj. Gen. H.R. McMaster, commanding general of the MCOE. “Thank you for the great work and tremendous support for our team and our mission.”

While numerous individual efforts are highlighted below, it would be impossible to completely capture all of the incredible work that was accomplished throughout the command at the end of the fiscal year.

## MICC-Fort Jackson, S.C.

Keith Friot, the chief of the contracting division, “displayed remarkable dedication during fiscal year end operations ensuring all Fort Jackson requirements were executed when required,” said Marc Lopez, the MICC-Fort Jackson acting director. “Keith was amazing. He never asked his staff to do anything that he wasn’t willing to do also, truly leading by example.”

Friot logged an extra 140 hours in August and September while overseeing the award of six major requirements in addition to other requirements for support services valued at \$2.8 million; instructor services worth \$2.8 million; food services for \$2.2 million; General Fund Enterprise Business System instructors valued at \$2.5 million; training services for \$5.7 million; and a full food services bridge contract worth \$10.6 million.

This was accomplished with a predominantly new staff that included three Army interns each with an average of 18 months of experience; four contingency contracting officers, two of which had only two years of experience; one contracting specialist who deployed in August and one contracting specialist who retired in September.

Additionally, although his division was saturated with requirements, he supported the MICC field director’s office at Fort Eustis, Va., with more than 10 additional requirements from customers who received late

funding. This was accomplished all while maintaining fiscal 2013 milestones for high-visibility requirements for full food services and the master fitness trainer course.

## MICC-Fort Eustis

During the fourth quarter, the MICC-Fort Eustis team provided its customers’ resource managers with weekly spreadsheets that identified requirements it was working for each along with status information. In the last few weeks of fiscal 2012, the frequency with which the contracting office staff provided reports increased until it was a daily event. During the final week of the fiscal year, contracting officers also sent resource managers a detailed report that included award numbers, purchase request numbers



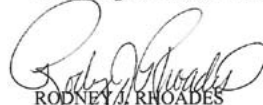
MICC Team,


We would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each Soldier and Civilian of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command for your incredible and selfless efforts in the successful completion of the end-of-year process.

We know that during the last few weeks many of you have been coming into work very early, working late into the night and even sacrificing your weekends to accomplish our mission. Your dedicated endeavors have not gone unnoticed, and we could not be prouder of all of the Team’s drive to end Fiscal Year 2012 on such a positive note. Your unwavering support ensured that we were able to obligate more than \$6.3 billion through more than 58,000 contract actions. These are incredible numbers considering that the bulk of those actions were done in just the last few weeks.

It is an honor to serve with the finest contracting professionals in the Army, and your tenacity and amazing skills were on full display as you came together as one team during the end-of-year operations. We would like to encourage you to take some time in the next few weeks to catch your breath and re-energize. Fiscal Year 2013 looks to be another challenging year for the Army when it comes to the budget and continuing resolutions, but together, as a unified team, we can continue to provide responsive contracting solutions and oversight. Our Soldiers around the world rely on your efforts every day to accomplish the Army mission, so the MICC Team must consistently strive to be known for premier and timely contracting support, practices and oversight. Thank you all for your superior efforts.

Contracting for Soldiers! MICC Strong! Army Strong!

  
RODNEY J. RHOADES  
CSM, USA  
Command Sergeant Major

  
KIRK F. VOLLMECKE  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

the customer, providing invaluable assistance to meet their needs. Shannon took on the task of reading every requirement and suggesting improvements for an improved performance work statement. He single-handedly solicited each requirement, conducted question-and-answer sessions for requirement clarification, set up technical evaluation boards for proposal reviews, and made recommendations of successful offers to the contracting officer. With a working budget of \$24.4 million, his hard work resulted in 25 award actions valued at more than \$13.3 million and a realized savings of more than \$11.1 million. His efforts were recognized by the budget office and the ATSC director, Helen Remily.

MICC-Fort Eustis Contracting Officer Janice Addison and Contracting Specialist Renee Elam served as the contingency team executing the last of the Training and Doctrine Command dollars against the Classroom Technology Enterprise contract on Sept. 30. The contract, valued at more than \$25 million, enables new technology into TRADOC classrooms across the continental United States. Elam, a recent graduate and veteran from the intern program, awarded her first contract for the ATSC.

John Foster Jr., a MICC-Fort Eustis contract specialist, administered the Defense Language Institute-Washington contracts to provide foreign language training and training support services for the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Arlington, Va. The contracts provide for culturally based foreign language education, training, evaluation and sustainment for Department of Defense personnel. Particularly noteworthy was Foster’s research into authorizing the inclusion of the Islamic holiday Eid al-Fitr, which consisted of sharing a meal,

conversing in the Afghan language and learning traditional dances and games. The organization of the holiday celebration and pseudo-immersion, which took place at Fort Campbell, Ky., will remain impactful in preventing cultural clashes and providing a better understanding of Afghan language and culture.

## MICC-Carlisle Barracks, Penn.

Supervisory Contract Specialist Kevin Kauffman and Contract Specialists Larry Brown and Dawn Whitmore comprised a three-person acquisition support team at MICC-Carlisle Barracks that was the “tip of the spear” for the past several months in providing direct customer support to the U.S. Army War College and its commandant, Maj. Gen. Anthony Cucolo.

Cucolo and the AWC staff are transforming the war college into the U.S. military’s Strategic Studies Center of Excellence.

Cucolo is no stranger to the Army Contracting Command or MICC and “understands the necessity and criticality of our contracting efforts,” according to Lt. Col. L.B. Green, the MICC-Carlisle Barracks deputy director.

“As the former division commander of the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), he relied heavily on MICC contract support at Fort Stewart, Ga., and contingency contracting support in Iraq when he deployed his division to Iraq,” Green said.

Kauffman and Brown received end-of-year requirements for fiscal 2012 that called for the immediate hiring of six AWC instructors in support of the Strategic Studies Institute with only 24 days remaining in the fiscal year.

During the same time period,

they were called upon to award 35 contracts in support of the war college's External Research Associates Program. Unlike an academic grant, ERAP is a contractual program for scholarly research and analysis on issues of concern to those institutions responsible for U.S. national security and strategy, but especially to the U.S. Army and DOD. To ensure ERAP program success, Kauffman, Whitmore and Brown pioneered enterprise teaming efforts with the AWC customer in order to reach out to international scholars and other leading experts in the field of strategic studies. The end-product will be a series of well-written, well-researched monographs that focus on a specific AWC Key Strategic Issues List topic and contain substantive recommendations for U.S. policy.

**W**hitmore and Sgt. 1st Class Rebecca Hamrick were also recognized for their efforts and stellar contributions. Both took on the complete spectrum of service requirements as the fiscal year's end approached by handling multiple complex and critical information technology requirements, Army Heritage Education Center exhibit restoration projects, ERAP delivery orders and the re-compete for the college's Facilitating Leadership and Group Skills family support program.

"Undoubtedly, their efforts ensured success for our Carlisle Barracks customers and stakeholders," Green said.

### **MICC-Fort Leavenworth, Kansas**

From July 15 through Sept. 30, Contracting Officer Nickey Brown in the MICC-Fort Leavenworth Pre-award Branch was ultimately responsible for awarding 30 competitive contract awards valued at almost \$16 million for services in support of the Combined Arms Center mission. In addition, she awarded an indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity contract with a ceiling level of \$19 million and a three-year period of performance.

She worked very closely with the customer, contract specialist and legal adviser to ensure the performance work statement was contractually sound; legally sufficient; all proper approvals were provided to include approved request for contract service; quality assurance surveillance plan was submitted and cross referenced to the performance work statement; and funding was provided.

All awards were accomplished using the source selection process to include technical evaluations, past performance and pricing. Brown provided debriefings to all contractors that did not receive the contract award.

In recognition of her efforts, Brown received commander's coins from Bradley Pippin, the interim director for the Training and Doctrine Command Analysis Center, and Brig. Gen. Michael Lundy, the deputy commander for the Combined Arms Center-Training, for outstanding support to their missions.

### **MICC-Fort Gordon, Ga.**

When a new customer who had never been previously supported by the MICC-Fort Gordon contracting office walked in the door Sept. 7 with a \$3.25 million service contract that needed to be awarded by Sept. 30, Contract Specialist Tara McAdoo took action.



Photo by Lori Egan

Among the many customers for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command-Fort Benning, Ga., is the Maneuver Center of Excellence.

"The customer had intended the requirement to be offloaded to GSA and was requesting permission to do so," said Steve Boshears, the MICC-Fort Gordon director. "Our office essentially snatched the requirement out of GSA's hands, saving the fee for the customer."

McAdoo worked with the customer to rewrite a deficient

performance work statement and revise a cost estimate to a more realistic \$1.9 million. In her attention to detail, she discovered that overlapping contracts were already in place and that by awarding the contract as originally intended, the government could have ended up paying twice for the same services.

"She worked many hours to swiftly and precisely develop the solicitation, get it through the review process and issue it by Sept. 21," Boshears said. "She held the hand of the (small business contractor) selected for this contract and was successful in awarding the contract before the Sept. 30 deadline."

He added that she was instrumental in price negotiations, resulting in a savings of an additional \$366,000 below the independent government cost estimate.

"Her efforts clearly reflect the going-beyond spirit that is so demonstrative of our commitment to the mission," he added.

### **MICC-Fort Benning, Ga.**

Louise Bethay, a contract specialist at MICC-Fort Benning, credits the success during year-end operations to the assistance by Procurement Analyst Kenny Coaxum, who shared his time between his work with the Government Purchase Card program and other contracting staff.

"His attitude, flexibility and selfless disposition were displayed throughout the entire year end. Kenny demonstrated that he could multi-task while he transitioned from GPC to contracting, and at times worked in dual roles. He enthusiastically offered and assisted the senior specialist with their workload to ensure their goals were met on a weekly basis.

"Kenny displayed the ability to assist others while always remaining on task in addition to having compassion for his fellow co-workers, while completing his own objectives during this year-end time period," Bethay added. "We need more employees with this level of commitment and dedication serving our federal government."

Also at MICC-Fort Benning, procurement analyst Candace

Johnson processed the largest number and dollar value of GPC audits in fiscal 2012 for the contracting office's accounts. This allowed the GPC team to be available to assist other divisions with contract specialist actions if needed as well as facilitate the smooth transition of a third team member to another division to execute year-end requirements.

"This was accomplished without the degradation of the GPC program," said Sullivan, center director. "In addition to this effort, she worked last minute GPC issues and problems to allow cardholders to execute actions to obligate additional funds received in late September. She also volunteered to be on call the last day of September in case other funds were received that could be obligated via the GPC."

**D**emonstrating exceptional contracting skills in processing high dollar and high visibility construction contracts using the Fort Benning construction multiple award task order contract was Wendy Johnson, a contracting specialist. Johnson awarded five projects in excess of \$800,000 in August and 19 projects in excess of \$3.7 million in September.

"Since March 2012, she has been quite productive, issuing a total of 57 awards in excess of \$18.2 million," Sullivan said. "She consistently provides rapid turnaround time of one to two weeks from receipt of requirement to award of the construction task order."

Johnson also volunteered to help the supplies and services branch by working a requirement valued at \$376,000 in August.

“Her initiative, can-do attitude and desire to meet the deadlines of all her requirements have earned her high praise of management, colleagues, and our customers,” he added.

**W**hen presented with an extensive unliquidated obligations list in the last week of the fiscal year, Contract Specialist Darshundra Blake accepted full responsibility for clearing the remaining items off the list and was successful in executing the necessary de-obligation contract modifications.

“Even though assistance was available, she handled the load with her contracting officer and completed the project,” Sullivan said. “Additionally, she was given a very short lead time to complete an 8(a) requirement and tackled it with the same fervor. She completed her workload and was always willing to assist with anything else that needed to be done.”

#### **MICC-Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.**

Despite learning the Network Enterprise Technology Command closeout outlined by the Army Budget Office staggered Army closing guidance was moved up by two days, members of the MICC-Joint Base Lewis-McChord office leaped into action to finalize outstanding issues and modifications during the evening of Sept. 26. They worked closely with the local network enterprise center budget analyst. Although the JBLM NEC was not the first office to close, it was the first office to execute all of its contracting actions



Photo courtesy U.S. Army Special Operations Command

by Sept. 27. The NEC director personally thanked the MICC-JBLM team the following day for their great customer support.

#### **MICC-Fort Lee, Va.**

Dean Angell, who serves as MICC-Fort Lee’s only cost and price analyst, performed his duties in an exceptional manner, according to Terry Hyatt-Amabile, the director.

He was responsible for conducting cost-price analysis against several multi-million dollar requirements and training staff on proper cost and price analysis techniques. He volunteered to

assist a contracting officer at MICC-Fort Gordon by performing cost-price analysis against their full food service requirement. In addition, he served as the directorate’s lead to coordinate, track and, in many cases, process several base operations critical requirements for the Acquisition, Logistics and Technology Enterprise Support and Service at Radford, Va., for which he was recognized by Richard Eva, the ALTESS project director.

“His outstanding customer service and support epitomizes the contributions that are made each day to support the warfighter,” Hyatt-Amabile said.

Ensuring Soldiers such as this military freefall student opening his parachute high above Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz., are the best trained and equipped in the world is the MICC-Yuma Proving Ground contracting office staff.

Once the contract specialists received quotes and the award decision was made, Bingham volunteered and learned how to construct award documents in the Procurement Desktop Defense. She also assisted contract specialists in numerous last-minute market research efforts.

“Amanda performed end user and contracting officer duties at a quality level that is expected of fully trained contract specialists,” Sanchez said. “She has truly demonstrated her team spirit and has gone above and beyond her job responsibilities to ensure successful year-end closeout”

#### **MICC-White Sands Missile Range, N.M.**

“My whole organization was absolutely amazing this year,” said Beverly Stotz, the MICC-White Sands Missile Range director.

“We had serious family emergencies involving a contracting officer and a division chief that required them to be gone, potentially impacting our major service contracts. Every time you turned around someone was offering to help or take on additional work,” she said.

“The last week of September was incredible. Everyone was in great spirits and maintained a super positive environment. The energy and initiative of the MICC-WSMR staff was unparalleled,” Stotz said.

#### **MICC-Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.**

Amanda Bingham, the administrative officer, provided year-end support to the entire MICC-Yuma Proving Ground team that went above and beyond her normal duties and expectations. The contracting office converted to GFEBs earlier in the fiscal year.

“Challenges with the conversion resulted in the late receipt of approximately 200 acquisition packages,” said Ann Sanchez, the director for MICC-Yuma Proving Ground. That resulted in the contracting office having more than 250 acquisitions totaling more than

\$11.5 million to execute as of Sept. 16.

Bingham is a user of GFEBs for the sole purpose of submitting requisitions for MICC-Yuma Proving Ground requirements.

“Amanda quickly grasped the nuances of using GFEBs,” Sanchez said. “In addition to her significant administrative responsibilities associated with managing our office, Amanda volunteered to serve as (end user role) to correct numerous GFEBs purchase requests that required various changes before they could be executed and track the flow of documents.”

# Small business team tackles training, workload

by Daniel P. Elkins  
MICC Public Affairs Office

**T**wenty small business specialists from throughout the Mission and Installation Contracting Command gathered for an internal business meeting Sept. 17-20 in San Antonio to build greater awareness of policies and strengthen core skills.

Conducted by the MICC Small Business Programs staff, the training offered small business specialists valuable guidance in performing their role and fills a void in training following the formal instruction they receive after appointment to their positions.

“This training provides local contracting office small business specialists the latest in MICC initiatives and recent legislation as well as an overview of recurring small business contract management review findings and solutions,” said Sandy Spiess, the MICC Small Business Programs associate director. “It also provides small business specialists a great opportunity to interact and network with each other since working one-deep in has its challenges.”

Training included small business specialist responsibilities to include accountability, integration, outreach events, contractor meetings and monthly reporting. Small business specialists also examined relevant sections of the Federal Acquisitions Regulation to include the Government Purchase Card Program, competition, market research, acquisition strategies and plans, participation

proposals and ordering. Members of the headquarters staff also provided additional instruction on congressional affairs, professional development and the Acquisition Milestone Agreement program.

Rosa Elmore is the MICC small business specialist at Fort Campbell, Ky. She said what she most gained from the meeting was greater insight on the importance of the small business specialist’s role within the MICC organization as well as an ability to cross-feed issues with other MICC small business specialists.

“Meeting everyone for the first time at the training brings it all together – office of small business programs and MICC small business specialists,” Elmore said. “We are a team, although not in the same location, we all have the same mission.”

**T**his was the first opportunity to meet face to face for many of the small business specialists, who primarily exchange information by phone or through computer chat sessions on a daily basis.

“It is very valuable. We discuss similar problems we might have within our different organizations and help each other with finding solutions to any issues we might have,” Elmore said. “When we met at the training for the first time, we felt like we have known each other forever. We all seem to love what we do, helping others.”

That approach of helping others proved beneficial as the work was not done at the end of the business day. Because the meeting fell in the



final two weeks of the government’s fiscal year and the busiest time of year in federal acquisitions, small business specialists took only a brief break at the end of the day and then as a team went to the tedious task of catching up on reviews of justification and approvals, market research reports, acquisitions strategies, small business coordination records and other contracting documents.

“I was very impressed. After a long day of training, they delved right into their workload helping each other out. This was the first time in my experience that I’ve seen small business specialists working together as a group and sharing the workload to ensure all reviews were completed,” Spiess said. “All of them were putting in 12-plus-hour days to ensure mission accomplishment, and I did not hear a single complaint.”

Assembled together in one room, the MICC staff and small business specialists teamed to tackle the combined workload.

“Everyone stayed until there were zero reviews left at the end of the night,” Spiess said. “It was also great to hear them offer suggestions and advice to each other when a small business issue came up during the review. This was the utmost in networking.”

She hopes the opportunity to network reassures those in attendance that there is always a team of people willing to help.

“Although they are one-deep in the contracting offices serving as the advocate for small business, they are not alone,” Spiess said.

The MICC small business specialists returned to their respective duty stations Sept. 21 and to what is becoming a more visible program given today’s

economic challenges, according to the associate director.

“Small business specialists play an important and integral role in providing that maximum practicable opportunity for small businesses to compete for MICC awards,” Spiess said. “By integrating themselves into office procedures for acquisition planning, they can advocate early in the game and help to identify capable small business vendors.”

She explained that historically, small business has helped strengthen economic growth and job creation. During a 15-year period, small businesses created more than 60 percent of all new jobs in the nation.

In fiscal 2012, the MICC executed more than 58,000 contract actions worth almost \$6.3 billion across the Army, including \$2.6 billion to small businesses.



Photos by Daniel P. Elkins

(Top) Barbara Brown keeps track of the end-of-year contracting document reviews by small business specialists in order to evenly distribute workload. Brown is an assistant director for the small business programs office. (Above) Small business specialists accomplish end-of-year contracting document reviews in a team effort.

# Gazebo concert

## Event brings together MICC, civic partners

The commanding general for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command served as host for a summer social and gazebo concert Aug. 26 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke and his wife, Nancy, hosted the reception attended by more than 80 San Antonio civic and Fort Sam Houston leaders as well as Wounded Warriors and Gold Star families.

The evening served as an opportunity to build relations with those in the community through engagement and education. Those in attendance included members of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee, San Antonio hospitality industry and the Society for the Preservation of Historic Fort Sam Houston.

The gazebo concert included a performance by the 323rd U.S. Army Band, Fort Sam's Own, which paid tribute to heroes as its theme with a variety of patriotic and popular musical selections. The concert was the second of four free shows conducted during the summer series at Fort Sam Houston that is open to the public.

The 323rd U.S. Army Band, Fort Sam's Own, performs before more than 80 San Antonio civic and Fort Sam Houston leaders as well as Wounded Warriors and Gold Star families during a gazebo concert Aug. 26 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.



Photo by Daniel Elkins

More than 80 San Antonio civic and Fort Sam Houston leaders as well as Wounded Warriors and Gold Star families gathered Aug. 26 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, for a summer social and gazebo concert hosted by Brig. Gen. Kirk and Nancy Vollmecke.



Photo by Daniel Elkins

From left, Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke, retired Air Force Master Sgt. Givens Forsythe and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades review an image of when Forsythe served at Fort Sam Houston's Long Barracks in the 1930s. The Long Barracks is now home to the Mission and Installation Contracting Command.



Photo by Ryan Mattox