



U.S. ARMY CONTRACTING AGENCY (ACA) NEWSLETTER
"OUR TEAM IS GROWING"

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Supporting The Global War On Terrorism

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ACA NR ARCC

Supporting the Global War on Terrorism, what does that mean? Well, at Fort Dix that means providing mobilization/de-mobilization mission support. Yes, that's right: Fort Dix!! We are still open as a Reserve Installation and fully viable as a provider of Power Projection support to worldwide Army missions and, "oh-by-the-way", we are one of the top installations in mobilizing reserve soldiers! However, this is not a new mission for Fort Dix.

Since the Second World War, Fort Dix has trained soldiers for the Korean War and the Vietnam War. In both instances, Fort Dix was a mobilization and demobilization center. As well, Fort Dix has participated as a mobilization/de-mobilization site in the following operations, missions, and task forces:

- Bay of Pigs Operation, 1961
- Berlin Airlift, 1961
- Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962
- Vietnam War
- Operation Island Breeze, 1984
- Desert Shield/ Desert Storm, 1990-1991
- Bosnia, 1995-present (Operation Joint Endeavor)
- Operation Provide Refuge, 1999

This proud tradition of supporting the war effort continues today. In this second year in the War on Terrorism, more than 221,721 Reserve and National Guard soldiers are on active duty in defense of the nation. More soldiers maintain missions in such places as Bosnia, Kosovo, and other such remote spots around the world, and many of those soldiers have something in common: They mobilized, deployed, or returned through Fort Dix since Sept. 11, 2001. More than 25,300 soldiers have swept through Fort Dix, with new units arriving weekly, for mobilization or demobilization with much of the follow-on aerial support being provided by McGuire AFB in support of Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom.

Consider how Fort Dix has supported the following missions:

<u>Mission:</u>	<u>Soldiers Supported</u>
?? SFOR 10/11/12	6,064
?? Op Noble Eagle & Op Enduring Freedom	14,314
?? Task Force Keystone	4,200
?? Desert Spring	200
?? Task Force Borinquen	522

For clarification, Stabilization Forces 10, 11, and 12 sent soldiers to Bosnia, while Operation Keystone supports a Europe-wide Force Protection mission. Desert Spring, Force Protection mission in Saudi Arabia and Task Force Borinquen, Force Protection mission of US European Air Force bases. In addition to deploying soldiers, Fort Dix assisted with the deployment and redeployment of 2,081 unit personnel of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) within 24 hours of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S.

While mobilizing and processing soldier themselves is a major undertaking, it is only one part of the process. Behind the scenes, Installation directorates have been diligently providing direct support to our soldiers and unit movement. Facts & Figures -

- ?? 14,100 passengers scheduled and deployed by the Directorate of Logistics (DOL).
- ?? More than 125,000 pieces of equipment and military clothing were distributed through DOL's Central Issue Facility.
- ?? More than 59,055 immunizations were administered to deploying soldiers; 7,500 dental exams were provided; issued more than 10,400 new identification cards; greater than 13,370 weapons inspected since arriving on post.
- ?? From the onset of Operation Iraqi Freedom through March, the Army Reserve Contracting Center processed \$15.9M in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. This was accomplished through our center at Fort Dix, our Regional Contracting Cells throughout the nation, and Fort McCoy.

In regard to contract support, the ARCC has provided significant support for the mobilization mission. As with most installations, the surge of mobilizing soldiers created a substantial spike in contracting requirements. To respond to this need, the ARCC dedicated personnel to support mobilization requirements. Thanks to their swift action, the ARCC was able to acquire needed supplies and services aggressively and expeditiously, depending on the complexity or availability of the commodity. From hotel rooms to lodge mobilizing soldiers, to containers to ship equipment, to acquiring portable lights or EOD equipment to deploy with units, ARCC has provided the full spectrum of support. This extends to our Contracting Cells that are co-located with the United States Army Reserve Command's eleven Regional Support Commands (RSC's). They have been providing support to our units in their initial home station mobilization

requirements and have done, and continue to do, an outstanding job of supporting our soldiers. This extends beyond timely acquisition in coming up with acquisition innovations in procuring goods and services at the best value to the government. One "success story" in particular spotlights our 88th RSC Team Leader, Jim McDavitt. Jim had an immediate requirement for approximately 7,100 man-nights of hotel rooms in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. In most cases, the Army had been paying the per diem rate. Jim found that unacceptable! He decided to negotiate to obtain a reduced rate. By contacting the Bloomington Visitors and Convention Bureau and partnering with Bureau members, Jim was able to secure rooms for a fraction of the per diem rate, resulting in a savings of \$1,250,000!!! This freed funds to be used in support of other mobilization requirements. What a shining example of stewardship for the taxpayers!!!

In conclusion, sometimes it we Acquisition professionals may feel that our jobs are not as important as the Warfighter. Personally speaking, I have felt a great deal of regret in not being deployed to the Gulf and directly involved in our on-going operations. However, a recent submission to ICE completely changed my view. One of our supported units who deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom put it all in perspective for me. They singled out the ARCC's as being able to acquire "... the right equipment to do their jobs, remain safe, and set the standard for follow on units to strive for." Further, the acquisition support they received "...proved invaluable to our (Unit's) overwhelming success in the theater of operations..." Quite a sobering experience!! So the next time you think your aren't making a difference, think again!! A little bit of work on our end prepares our Warfighter to do their work, and, isn't that what it is all about?

VIRTUAL THEATERS, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AND THE "REAL" THING. Fort Gordon DOC's Supply & SAP Services Division was recently invited by the National Science Center - Army Task Force to go to our customer's place of work to see, and in some cases put our hands on, some of the acquisitions we supported. The National Science Center (NSC) is the result of a unique, statutorily authorized, partnership between a non-profit organization and the Army. The headquarters of the NSC is Fort Discovery, located in Augusta, Georgia, about eight miles from Fort Gordon. Fort Discovery is a family-oriented math and science center and the home base for an array of national educational outreach programs. The primary mission of the NSC is to improve technical literacy and to encourage an interest in math and science careers. This mission is met through over 270 interactive exhibits at Fort Discovery and through the educational opportunities offered nationwide through the Army's two, state of the art, mobile vans. The Task Force sometimes receives special project funding from the Army's CIO, and frequently has a short time to execute, due to advance scheduling requirements for some exhibits.

The following are summaries of a few of our recent acquisitions.

- Rental of Traveling Dinosaur Exhibit from 23 May through 23 Sep. It's almost like the "real thing." Since its arrival, there has been a 75% increase in attendance &

membership. (Exhibit is usually booked 2 years in advance, but had a cancellation. Timely contracting support was essential to securing the schedule opening.) (\$98.6K)

- Upgrade of Paul S. Simon Discovery Theater Media System with high definition TV and projector. Successful small business set aside, incorporating consideration of past performance information in selection process. (Our visit to the Theatre included viewing a short film furnished under a subscription that we purchased. (\$37.5K)

- Interactive Artificial Intelligence (AI) Systems. These are multi-screen, interactive systems that use AI and digital 3D graphical characters to greet, educate, entertain, and inform visitors. (\$121K) Two similar systems we purchased are already in use in the mobile vans. (\$96.8K)

- Virtual Theater System. Army Task Force received \$200K from the Center for Disease Control to develop and implement, through its existing educational outreach network, a program to encourage physical activity among young people. Exhibit focuses on "Science Behind Sports." Interactive programs use the whole body as an input device. (\$141K)

- Space Gym. Supports a nationwide educational campaign aimed at middle school students.



U.S. Army Contracting Command, Europe (USAREUR) Award Winners

The 2002 U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) Head of Contracting Activity (HCA) Awards for Contracting Excellence were presented at a gala award banquet held near Heidelberg, Germany on June 4, 2003. LTG Michael Dodson, USAREUR Deputy

Commanding General and the USAREUR HCA presented the awards. COL John Merkwan, Commander U.S. Army Contracting Command Europe and USAREUR Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting was the sponsor for each of the winners.

There were 13 awards presented in ten categories. The first awards were presented to the Outstanding Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) and for Customer Recognition.

Mr. Rod Thompson 22nd Area Support Group (ASG)(Vicenza, Italy), Department of Public Works (DPW) was the winning COR. He was recognized for his work on a comprehensive Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan and a Construction Representatives Handbook. The use of these tools within the ASG led to an overall savings approaching 5% of contract amounts.

The 2002 HCA Customer Recognition Award was presented to Mr. Piero Schizzerto and Mr. Loris Marcato, the Support Team from Engineering Services Branch (22nd ASG DPW). These gentlemen had a distinguished and significant impact on the contracting mission by diligent work in advance acquisition planning, project development, partnering with the contracting team, and problem resolution.

The awards to the acquisition workforce included Outstanding Achievement in Competition, Special Recognition, Contingency Support, Professionals of the Year, the Outstanding Team or Division, and Best Office.

Mr. Philip Coyne, Wiesbaden (Germany) Contracting Center (WCC) was cited for Outstanding Achievement in Competition. He was recognized for successfully challenging a previously "sole source" requirement and, through successful market research, realized an actual savings of nearly \$417,000.

Three employees were singled out for Special Recognition. Mr. Leo Hargreaves, an engineer-in-residence at the Regional Contracting Office (RCO) Vicenza (Italy) was named based upon his aggressive and intense customer interface that measurably increased the contracting office's market share of construction requirements.

Mr. Randall Kemplin, an Attorney-Advisor at RCO Wuerzburg (Germany) was recognized for winning the denial of seven separate protests while serving as an advisor

to the contracting officers of the Regional Contracting Offices in Wuerzburg, Grafenwoehr (Germany) and Stuttgart (Germany).

Mr. Joseph Roberts from the Wiesbaden Contracting Center accomplishments included superior management of the Government Purchase Card (GPC) program.

In the Outstanding Support to Contingency Contracting category there was one civilian and one military winner. Both award winners distinguished themselves by providing terrific contracting support before and during Victory Strike III in Poland in the summer of 2002. They were responsible for significant cost savings while processing and administering more than 200 individual contract actions valued at over \$5.6M. Ms Pamela Runyon from RCO Grafenwoehr and SFC Tyrone Coleman from RCO Wuerzburg were the winners.

Likewise, the Contracting Professional of the Year awards recognized both one military and one civilian.

MAJ Jeffrey Harrington from RCO Seckenheim (Germany) is the Military Contracting Professional of the Year on the strength of his exceptional leadership and dedication to duty. During fiscal year 2002 he managed a workload that resulted in over 900 contract actions valued at more than \$45 million.

The Civilian Contracting Professional of the Year is Ms Inga Stellrecht-Friedel also from RCO Seckenheim. She was commended for exceptional performance as a contract specialist. Her superior technical skills and her abilities as an organizer, administrator and manager far exceeded those of contemporaries and won her nominee the respect and admiration of peers and supervisors at every level.

The "Prime Vendor" Team from RCO Wuerzburg (Ms. Morton, Mr. Ohlenschlager and Mr. Williams from the 417th BSB (Kitzingen, Germany) and Randall Kemplin and Randy Hamilton from RCO Wuerzburg formed this team.) The team was chosen based upon its innovation, inventiveness, and enterprising approach to acquisition challenges. The Prime Vendor contract that resulted from their efforts provides a reliable partnership with a single source of supply and reliable on-site delivery. It has already significantly reduced government warehouse inventory.

For the second year in a row, Regional Contracting Office, Vicenza was named the Best Contracting Office in USAREUR. They were recognized for outstanding mission accomplishment and customer support. This office has emerged as a champion of partnering and cooperation. They consistently contribute valuable contingency support and are effective practitioners of effective acquisition planning and contract streamlining. The contracting services they provided were outstanding and their attention to detail, effective use of teams and partnerships, and the ability to exceed customer expectations set this office apart from the rest.

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Fort Campbell

The Fort Campbell DOC in cooperation with the Small Business Administration, Hopkinsville Community College, Murray State University Small Business Development Center, Kentucky Procurement Assistance Program (KPAC), and the KY Cabinet for Economic Development hosted a symposium for Small Businesses on May 21, 2003. There were three general sessions in the morning, which addressed selling to Kentucky, selling to the Federal Government, and the services provided by KPAC. There were three panels in the afternoon to provide overviews of the organizations, types of products/services purchased and answer specific questions posed by attendees. Panel I included representative from the DOC, Louisville COE, GSA and Blanchfield Community Hospital. Panel II included representatives from AAFES, DeCA, NAF Contracting Office, School System and Eagle Mart (Self Service Supply Center awarded under JWOD). Panel III included representatives from prime contractors.

The day also included a catered lunch and networking time between sessions. Of the 105 attendees, customer satisfaction surveys indicated 99% were highly satisfied with the information received.

Fort Irwin

Most Probable Cost Estimate (MPCE) Process Improvement Team Approach. The MPCE is a product that the National Training Center's (NTC) Acquisition Command provides to the installation. The Directorate of Resource Management (DRM) uses this product in its quarterly budget updates to FORSCOM and in its annual POM submission to DA.

Led by the Acquisition Command, Ft. Irwin's MPCE Process Improvement Team consisted of functional experts from the National Training Center's (NTC) directorates and special staffs (including Internal Review and DRM). This team has developed and implemented a new and improved MPCE process. This process is a teaming approach dependent upon customer participation and open lines of communication between the Acquisition Command, its customers, and contractors in order to be successful and of

benefit to all parties involved. The process begins when the estimates to complete (ETCs) are received from our BASOPS contractors (Johnson Controls Inc. and Vinnell Corp.). Upon receiving the ETCs, the Acquisition Command meets with the contractors' Financial Managers and validates the accuracy of the ETCs ensuring that the proper G&A rates, escalation factors, wage determinations, and Contract Change Proposals (CCPs) have been incorporated into the ETCs. Once Acquisition Command has completed its review of the contractors ETCs functional reviews are held with each directorate's Contracting Officer Representative (COR) and their respective Budget Analyst to review the directorate's Independent Government Estimate (IGE). IGEs are reviewed jointly by Acquisition Command and the directorates to ensure, like the ETCs, that all relevant information (CCPs, wage determinations, etc.) has been incorporated into the IGE. Once these functional reviews have been completed a management level review takes place with all directors, CORs, budget analysts, and special staff. During this management level review each Account Processing Code (APC) on contract is reviewed. If there is an increase or decrease in an APC, that change is analyzed, trends established, and root cause identified. All increases in costs must be explained in detail. Once the management review has been completed, a senior level management review with the NTC Chief of Staff takes place in order to understand where the cost increases or decreases are occurring and the reasons for the increases and decreases. This culminating point in the process is critical. It allows the senior leadership of the NTC to put command emphasis on those problem areas and gives the command group information relative to funding expenditures, which is vital for support of mission critical decisions.

Since implementing this new MPCE process the command has received positive feedback from its customers. The ETCs and the MPCEs have improved significantly in both accuracy and adequacy and thus far the majority of the directorates, through this process, have been able to better manage their costs. Since instituting this new process most directorates have a clearer understanding of the contractor's operation and resultant expenditure of funds. They have a better understanding of how much their functions cost and visibility on how the contractor is managing its contract cost. Since this is a process improvement approach, after each management review the Acquisition Command asks our customers for their feedback via the Acquisition Command's Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) comment cards. Customer feedback is then analyzed, validated, and incorporated into the MPCE process which enhances the process even more and allows Ft. Irwin to better manage its limited resources and accomplish its mission.

Fort Irwin Acquisition Command Employees Earn College Degrees. In late May and early June 2003 three NTC/Ft. Irwin Acquisition Command employees earned Bachelor Degrees while working full-time jobs. On 20 May 2003, Ms. Kathy Neece and Ms. Victoria Barfield graduated with honors from Park University with degrees in Management. On 7 June 2003, Ms. Linda Edwards graduated from Bellevue University with a degree in Management. Congratulations to all of you and best wishes for continued success!

Southern Region Contracting Center (SRCC)

Silver Star Ceremony for Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) George D. Jackson
Procurement Analyst can also procure medals and analyze history!

After Fifty years a hero of the Korean War finally received an award he earned on the battlefield. A formal military ceremony was held at Fort McPherson (Atlanta) Georgia to award the Silver Star to Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) George D. Jackson on 6 December 2002. Fifty years ago, Lieutenant Colonel Jackson was a Captain commanding G Company, 2nd Battalion, 65th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division. The 65th Infantry Regiment was a unit consisting mainly of soldiers from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. During a desperate and bloody battle for an Outpost on Hill 391, the hill was renamed "Jackson Heights" in honor of George Jackson.

After extensive research Baltazar Soto, a Procurement Analyst working in the ACA, Southern Region Contracting Center, and a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army Reserve, discovered that Jackson had never been decorated for his heroism and leadership during the battle of Jackson Heights, which occurred in October 1952. Bart performed extensive research and obtained assistance from the Honorable Zell Miller, Senator of Georgia.

A formal award ceremony was hosted by General Larry R. Ellis, the Commander of Forces Command, located in Fort McPherson, GA. Four retired Puerto Rican soldiers and veterans of the 65th Infantry, were present in addition to Jackson. Sergeants Gabriel Soto-Rivera, (Father of LTC Soto), Vidal Cordero, Isidoro Leon, and German Silva-Torres, attended the ceremony.

During the ceremony, General Ellis personally read the story of Company G's heroic fight for three days and four nights of hell on earth on the isolated outpost 2 ½ kilometers from the main line. The Puerto Rican soldiers endured constant shelling and fanatical Chinese infantry attacks at night, but refused to give up, thanks to the courageous leadership of George Jackson. Jackson gave a speech after being awarded the medal and stated he accepted the medal on behalf of the heroic Puerto Rican soldiers of G Company, who fought with him on the hill, many of whom died or were wounded there.

The 65th Veterans present received the Republic of Korea, Korean War Service Medal from, Mr. Dong Yern Kim, Vice Consul of the Republic of Korea.

The Silver Star award citation read:

Captain GEORGE D. JACKSON, Infantry, Company "G", 65th Infantry Regiment, 3d Infantry Division, United States Army. Captain JACKSON distinguished himself by heroism in action against the enemy in the vicinity of Manyon-ni, Korea. On the afternoon and evening of 27 October 1952, Captain JACKSON was in command of Company "G" approximately two kilometers forward of the MLR (Main Line of

Resistance). At about 1800, after intense artillery and mortar fire the enemy attacked the outpost. Constantly exposed to enemy fire, Captain JACKSON moved among his men, coordinating the defense of the outpost and encouraging them until the enemy assault was stemmed. One of his troops had his foot blown off by incoming artillery, Captain JACKSON, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, went to him under heavy shelling and evacuated him to a defilade position. At 2100 a tremendous artillery barrage pounded the outpost for 30 minutes with an estimated battalion of enemy attacking through their own artillery fire to storm the outpost. Captain JACKSON'S courageous actions and coolness under fire inspired and rallied his men. Captain JACKSON'S outstanding gallantry in combat and his devotion to duty reflect great credit upon himself and the military service.

Patricia D. Wallace, Director of Contracting (DOC) is retiring after 33 years of service. "Patsy" joined the Fort Gordon community in 1970, straight out of Augusta College (now Augusta State University). She was hired as a junior level Department of the Army Career Intern and began her career in the Acquisition arena, where she flourished. Over the years she rose through the ranks from contract specialist to contracting officer to Chief of the Contracting Division, and untimely, in 1991, to Director of Contracting.

Ms. Wallace has seen numerous changes in the Acquisition world during her career, from the various stages of "contracting out" installation services providing full acquisition services to Eisenhower Army Medical Center, to being a pioneer in the establishment of government "VISA" Purchase Card Program and the computerized standard purchase system (SPS) for the Army's Training and Doctrine Command. The once cumbersome paper filled world of procurement from which Patsy began, has become paperless, automated world, which includes the ability for computerized bids and reverse auctioning.

In addition to her professionalism and dedicated patriotic service, Ms. Wallace also rose to the call of duty by actively participating in all installation events and programs. She led the Doctorate's participation in post programs such as the Fort Gordon Gospel Choir, Post Organization Days, and Safety Days. Under her direction the DOC was frequently recognized for leadership in various Fort Gordon campaigns, such as United Way (CFC) and Christmas House. Over the years, Patsy has received numerous personal awards, Commander's Coins of Excellence, and Letters of Appreciation for her outstanding service. Ms. Wallace was formally recognized for her achievements during a retirement luncheon held at the Gordon Club on June 25th. Fort Gordon's Command group, and co-workers and friends honored Patsy with awards and mementoes commemorating her standard of excellence and years of outstanding service.

“HAIL AND FAREWELL”

Melissa Rider arrived in May, 2003 from the Office Under Secretary Defense, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics OUSD (AT&L) to serve as the Director Contract Policy & Support for ACA

Col George Blackwell arrived in May, 2003 from Office from the Chief of Army Reserve (OCAR) to serve as the Chief of Staff for the ACA

Col Jesse Stone departed in June, 2003 as the Director, Business Systems to his new assignment as the Commander, Defense Contract Management Agency in Atlanta, Georgia



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A Word from the Editor

We would like to involve our readers in playing a more active role in guiding the publication. As always, we continue to invite our readers to provide their ideas, views, and opinions. If you have comments and/or suggestions for the newsletter on how we can continue to improve the publication, please don't hesitate to let me know. Email your comments to Edward.Thomas@saalt.army.mil or call me at DSN 761-9158. DISTRIBUTION D: Distribution authorized to DoD and US DoD Contractors only. Other requests for this document shall be referred to: U.S. Army Contracting Agency, ATTN: SFCA), 5109 Leesburg Pike, Skyline 6, Suite 302, Falls Church, VA 22041-3201, or request by Email to Edward.Thomas@saalt.army.mil.

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