

Contracting Community Highlights



This issue's feature article highlights the Army's effort to keep our wheeled vehicles rolling for our Soldiers while they support *Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)*. As Humvees and other wheeled vehicles carried heavy loads over Iraq's rough terrain, tire conditions on these vehicles began to deteriorate.

In the midst of combat operations, it became increasingly important to replace the wheeled assemblies and tires very quickly. In an effort to accomplish this task and to mitigate the cumbersome effort of changing tires, the U.S. Army's Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM's) Tire Group established a Mobile Tire Service Center (MTSC) in Iraq and other areas to support deployed Soldiers in the field. As the concept materialized, the issue of funding posed potential problems. However, TACOM's Tire Group forged ahead with their plans. The MTSC concept was approved and the effort fully funded. Today, U.S. Soldiers in Iraq and other overseas locations benefit greatly from the TACOM Tire Group's efforts.

Ms. Tina Ballard
Deputy Assistant Secretary
of the Army
(Policy and Procurement)

MTSC Keeps the Army Rolling

Scott F. Rybicki

The TACOM MTSC is a blessing for any Soldier or Department of the Army civilian who dealt with defunct tires in Southwest Asia. Until now, replacing wheel assemblies and tires on Humvees and other wheeled vehicles was a hazardous job, sometimes taking more than 2 hours per vehicle. The self-contained MTSC can replace 6 tire assemblies in 1 hour, in a safe, air-conditioned workshop that expands from a 20-foot International Organization for Standards container.



Clifford Walker, a mechanic from Anniston Army Depot, AL, replaces a Humvee tire at an MTSC at Camp Anaconda, Iraq.

The Army needed a fast, safe and expedient method of changing tires when tire consumption skyrocketed during peak *OIF* operations. Humvees, the Army's workhorses, were often operating round-the-clock and, combined with heavy loads and treacherous roads, increased tire wear and tear exponentially. Recent historic data shows \$60 to \$70 million was spent annually for field tires. Because of high operations tempo, 2003 cost the Army more than \$250 million in tire acquisitions.

The TACOM Deployment Support Tire Group logistics team was asked by several Army officials to see what could be done to ease the logistics and maintenance burden. The team was aware that the Canadians were using some sort of portable service center. Market research revealed portable tire centers were common in European armies.

TACOM developed a concept, but securing necessary funding was the next step. TACOM Tire Group's Brian McCutcheon, Logistics Team Leader, and Jody Finnell, Logistics Project Officer, orchestrated a plan to sell Army leaders on the MTSC idea. Army Strategic Planning Board members were briefed on the MTSC concept and the board, impressed by the concept, approved the project requirements and the Army Materiel Command funded the contract.

A TACOM team of engineering, logistics, maintenance and contract specialists and price analysts inspected, tested, bought and then sent a first production unit on an emergency basis within 10 weeks to Iraq. The MTSC requirement also includes 6 months of spare/replacement parts and tools. McCutcheon and Finnell arranged the training for Anniston Army Depot maintenance specialists and TACOM Logistics Assistance Representatives. They also coordinated the initial

MTSC shipments to Southwest Asia and coordinated “user-in-the-field” changes and overall MTSC management.

Currently, one MTSC is operational in Balad, Iraq, collocated with a Humvee Service Center. Five more MTSC’s are in production — one going to Kuwait, one to Afghanistan and three to Iraq. As long as Army vehicles are subject to rough terrain, MTSC will provide fresh tires to field units while saving the Army time, money and manpower.

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Contracting Successes

Army Field Support Command (AFSC). The AFSC Contracting Team and Joint Munitions Command Large Caliber Ammunition Team are recognized for working together to award two separate 4-year multiyear firm fixed price contracts for 120mm tank training ammunition (M831A1 TP-T and M865 TPCSDS-T 120mm cartridges). These contracts were awarded to Alliant Techsystems Inc. and General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems. Proposals were submitted on Dec. 22, 2003, and awards were made Feb. 17, 2004. The two contracts’ total price for the multi-year period is approximately \$470 million.

U.S. Army Contracting Command, Europe (USACCE). The USACCE Emergency Essential Civilian program has



SFC Albert Armstrong helps Roy Marr fit his gas mask.

been in place since 1996. The 30 contingency contracting personnel (CCP) who constitute the program are medically screened DA civilians, hand-picked to deploy with Soldiers to foreign locations to provide on-the-ground contracting support. Employees are on an on-call roster and can be deployed with as little as 24-hours notice. So far in FY04, 22 percent of the deployments have been fulfilled by

CCPs — for 10- to 90-day time periods — to locations such as Greece, Hungary and Chad. USACCE has a robust training plan in place that is continually evolving to meet mission needs.

Aviation and Missile Command’s Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Systems Contracting Team. The UAV Systems contracting team performed in an exceptional manner to prepare, negotiate and award several urgent wartime requirements in support of *Operations Enduring Freedom* and *Iraqi Freedom*. These accomplishments included the award of the Hunter UAV System’s multiple-year logistical support contract, the Raven Small UAV System production contract and several awards supporting the Shadow 200 UAV System. The UAV Systems team members are Gregory Wilson, Shirley Hill, Stephanie Smith, Michael Dwyer, Lloyd Smith and Randy Allen. The team worked through many unique challenges to successfully award these extremely urgent and complex contracts.



Shown left to right are: Lloyd Smith, Randy Allen, Shirley Hill, Michael Dwyer, Stephanie Smith and Gregory Wilson.

Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) Supports Ongoing Counterinsurgency Operations. Anita Fischer, CECOM Contracting Officer, is recognized for awarding a contract modification valued at more than \$10 million for 23 urgently needed Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR) systems for the Army Combined Joint Task Force “7” to support its ongoing counterinsurgency operations in Iraq. The LCMR system enables troops to determine the point of enemy fire, thereby significantly increasing their ability to destroy an attacking force before it becomes an imminent threat.

Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (formerly) Military Traffic Management Command. Contracting Officer Ruby L. Mixon is recognized for awarding the command’s first award-term contract in June 2003 for the Container Management Streamlining procurement

valued at \$186 million. Her efforts resulted in DOD's first worldwide performance-based Container Management contract to meet peacetime, contingency and sustainment operations in support of the warfighter. She co-led an integrated process team consisting of government and industry representatives to develop end-state objectives and a performance-based work statement. The contract has a base term, four 1-year options and potential for five 1-year award terms. Mixon prevailed over numerous difficulties to successfully award this contract.

Army Contracting Agency (ACA) Southern Region (Fort Campbell). The 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) Contingency Contracting Team, Fort Campbell, KY, deployed in support of the division during *Operation Iraqi Freedom*. Team members accompanied the division on the first flight into Kuwait in February 2003 and returned in March 2004. The team satisfied the division's operational contracting requirements prior to, and during, major combat operations and during the ensuing stability and support operations in Northern Iraq. The team spent more than \$55 million on essential supplies, services and construction, with the vast majority of requirements being satisfied from the local economies of Mosul, Erbil and Dohuk in Northern Iraq.

ACA Director Visits NTC. Sandy Sieber, Director of the Army Contracting Agency, and COL Chuck Guta, Director ACA Southern Region, recently visited the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, CA.



Guta (left) and Sieber (right) receive a tour of the civilian-on-the-battlefield facility known as Tiefert City from LTC Anthony Nicolella (middle), NTC Acquisition Commander.

Looking for Career Broadening Opportunities? Then Look No More!

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology (OASAALT) is offering 1-year developmental assignments for all DA employees at the GS-12 level (or Acquisition Demonstration broadband equivalent) in the Contracting and Acquisition Career Program (CP-14). The Contracting Career Program Office funds travel and temporary duty costs.

For details, see the Oct. 31, 2003, memorandum titled *FY2004/2005 Competitive Professional Development (CPD) Announcement for the Contracting and Acquisition Career Program (CP-14) (Updated)*. The memorandum is located online at <http://asc.army.mil/docs/programs/cp/fy04cpdannouncement.doc>. For additional information, contact Sally Garcia at (703) 805-1247.

The OASAALT has a developmental employee who will be happy to share her experience with you. For additional information, contact Linda Fowlkes at linda.fowlkes@saalt.army.mil.

Class for CP-14 Careerists. The Contracting Career Program Office is sponsoring a class for CP-14 careerists titled *The Commercial Business Environment — A Primer for Department of Defense Managers*. The class is scheduled July 11-23, 2004, at the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

Congratulations to Michael R. Hutchison for being selected to attend the Industrial College of the Armed Forces!

CPA Employee Retires

Perry Hicks, the first leader of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) Rear Support Office, retired in February 2004 after more than 27 years of federal service. Hicks joined the staff of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Policy and Procurement (DASA (P&P)) in July 2000 as one of the Army's premier installation and operational contracting experts.

Hicks, a U.S. Navy veteran when he joined federal civilian service in January 1981, served in progressively more responsible contracting positions at several CONUS locations until his assignment to Korea in 1983. From 1983 to 2000, Hicks served in various contracting assignments with the Eighth U.S. Army, including Director of Contracting and Acting Deputy Commander for the U.S. Army Contracting Command Korea. He held an unlimited warrant and supervised more than 150 employees responsible for contracts worth an estimated \$400 million per year. Additionally, Hicks chaired several task forces for the Eighth U.S. Army, U.S. Forces Korea and as the co-chairman of the Status of Forces Agreement for Commerce with the Korean Minister of Commerce.

In 2001, the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology personally selected Hicks as the Acting Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting and Acting Commander of the U.S. Army Contracting Command, Korea. In this capacity, Hicks established credibility for Army contracting with the Eighth U.S. Army and all subordinate units on the Korean peninsula.

When the Deputy Secretary of Defense delegated the Army as the executive agency for contracting support to the CPA, the DASA (P&P) selected Hicks to form and lead the Army's contracting office supporting Ambassador Paul Bremer and his efforts to rebuild Iraq. Since July 2003, Hicks orchestrated billions of dollars worth of high-priority, immediate-need commercial support for this vital and historic U.S. foreign policy and security mission.

During his tenure on the DASA (P&P) staff, Hicks performed myriad additional tasks including service as the Army's focal point for Javits Warner O'Day Program support and as the Army's liaison to the President's Committee for the Blind and Severely Handicapped.

Hicks was known at DASA (P&P) for his great stature, laugh and memorable quotes. The acquisition community bids him a fond farewell and best wishes for the future!

The DAR Council Corner

Ed Cornett

There has been a change to the Defense Acquisition Regulatory (DAR) Council Web site. The new Web site is now <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/>.

Defense Federal Acquisition System (DFARS) Case 2003-D097 – Contract Period for Task and Delivery Order Contracts. An interim rule to implement *Section 843, Public Law 108-136 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2004* was published in March 2004. The rule limits task order and delivery order contracts, *DFARS Part 217*, to a total period of not more than 5 years. The 5-year period includes all options, modifications or other mechanisms that would extend the contract's duration period beyond 5 years. The rule is effective on all solicitations issued on and after the *DFARS* interim rule was published in the *Federal Register*.

Both the Senate and House versions of what was ultimately enacted as *Section 843* demonstrate an unequivocal intent on limiting the duration of task and delivery order contracts. The *Authorization Act*, as passed by the Senate, limited the total contract period to 8 years (5 years with up to 3-year extensions per agency procedures). The *Authorization Act*, as passed by the House, limited the total contract period to 10 years (5 years with up to 5-year extensions per agency procedures). The *Conference Report* language limited the total contract period to 5 years. DOD submitted a request to change the legislation because both the Senate and the House intended a period of up to 5 years with possible extension, if required. To review *Federal Acquisition Regulation/DFARS* cases or make/review comments of current cases, go to <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/>, then go to the *DAR Council* link at the top of the Web page.

Ed Cornett is an Army DAR Council Representative.

"Are You Wearing Your Dog Tags?"

Does that question surprise you? It might if you view peace as our default condition and war the exception. Our new reality is very different:

- A conflict of irreconcilable ideas with a disparate pool of potential combatants.
- Adaptive adversaries seeking our destruction by any means possible.

- Evolving asymmetric threats will relentlessly seek shelter in those environments for which we are least prepared.
- A foreseeable future of extended conflict in which we can expect to fight every day — real peace will be the anomaly.

This new reality drives the transformation under way in the Army and is the lens that shapes our perception and interpretation of the future and governs our responses to its challenges. It is the logic for a campaign-quality Army with Joint and Expeditionary capabilities. *Are you wearing your dog tags?*