

- The first centrally managed and funded Student Loan Repayment Program with the pilot program attracting more than 1,200 applicants.
- New hires that include 91 Student Career Experience Program students, 345 interns, 24 system-of-systems journeyman engineers, and 3 highly qualified experts.
- Successful launching of the Civilian Incentive Program, bringing recruitment and retention incentives throughout the AL&T community.

The Army's Catalog of Opportunities, as well as instructions for submitting new requirement considerations, can be found at <http://asc.army.mil/career/programs/852/default.cfm>. For more information, contact Kelly L. Terry at (732) 414-1431 or [kelly.terry@us.army.mil](mailto:kelly.terry@us.army.mil).

### AAC Annual Awards Ceremony

There are some workforce members whose performance and contributions to the warfighter set them apart from their peers. These extraordinary people will be recognized for their achievements at the AAC Annual Awards Ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009, at the Marriott Crystal Gateway Hotel in Arlington, VA. I invite all AL&T Workforce members to join us in "Celebrating Our Acquisition Stars" and recognizing the significant accomplishments and achievements of our research and development laboratories, life-cycle logistics and contracting communities, project/product managers and acquisition directors, acquisition NCOs, and other acquisition excellence contributors. For more information, contact Marti Giella at (703) 805-1095/DSN 655-1095 or [usaasc.events@conus.army.mil](mailto:usaasc.events@conus.army.mil).

### AAC Celebrates 20th Anniversary

This year marks the AAC's 20th anniversary. On Oct. 13, 1989, then-U.S. Army Chief of Staff GEN Carl E. Vuono approved AAC's creation as "an organization of dedicated military and civilian acquisition specialists and leaders." Spanning four presidential administrations, two wars, and numerous contingency operations, the AAC has made a tremendous impact on the Army's ability to protect our country. To all AAC members past and present, as well as the entire Army acquisition community, I offer my congratulations and a sincere thank you for a job well done. My hope is that for future generations, the AAC will continue its dedicated service to our Soldiers by improving the Army's combat capability and developing critical systems and services that enable our Army to meet its non-negotiable contract to fight and win our Nation's wars.



**Craig A. Spisak**  
Director, U.S. Army  
Acquisition Support Center

## Contracting Community Highlights



Every day the Army's contracting workforce performs a critical mission under extraordinary conditions. Faced with incredible challenges of a 600-percent increase in workload in the last decade concurrent with a decreasing workforce, our community has succeeded largely as a result of a strong "can-do" spirit. As the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement (DASA(P)), one of my roles is to provide you with the tools that will improve your day-to-day performance mission.

Some of you may be aware of the current Materiel Enterprise (ME) effort between Dean G. Poppo, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology, and GEN Ann E. Dunwoody, Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command. They are personally championing this process to bring together senior leaders from both organizations and identify the current challenges that affect the enterprise organizations' processes and boundaries. Over the past several months, the ME has identified opportunities for transformation, both at the enterprise level and within the operating domains. From this transformation analysis, I have identified two enterprise projects that will increase the efficiency and operating effectiveness between the DASA(P) and the contracting community.

The first project is to create a standardized communication process and procedure flow between my office and the contracting community. Creating and implementing this initiative will be a joint enterprise effort between DASA(P) and the U.S. Army Contracting Command (ACC), but the results will be felt across all contracting activities. This project will facilitate timely, consistent, and accurate information distribution; assign suspenses; and receive and process data. Once implemented, this initiative will provide a standardized way of doing business by reducing the burden at all levels, increasing data quality and accuracy, and reducing cycle time.

The second joint ME project is to establish an Army Procurement Policy Council for regulatory and policy issues. This team of representatives from DASA(P), ACC, and other major commands will meet regularly to address Army contracting-related processes, procedures, and new statutory and regulatory initiatives, as well as to incorporate revisions to the *Army Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement*. The council will provide the Army contracting workforce with a standard process for creating, distributing, and incorporating Army contract policies.

To further my commitment to improving Army contracting and enhanced collaboration within our community, I am directing an Army contracting stand-down day on July 20, 2009. This training day will be broadcast live from the Pentagon and will cover various contracting issues. Complete details of this event will be forthcoming.

I appreciate your continued support and shared experiences and accomplishments with the contracting community through *Army AL&T Magazine*.

**Edward M. Harrington**

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Procurement)

**Tight U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Border Fence Construction Timetable Spurs Innovation**

*Ginger Gruber and Jim Frisinger*

The first large-scale border fence construction project in U.S. history began Oct. 26, 2006, when then-President George W. Bush signed the *Secure Fence Act*. It required the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to construct hundreds of miles of pedestrian and vehicle fence, including roads, across the Southwest border by Dec. 31, 2008. This aggressive timetable meant finding ways to accelerate procurement and logistics. Scheduling would be key.

The project goal would expand the fence to 670 miles over a 2,000-mile construction zone from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) tapped USACE and its industry partners to leverage resources and complete this multibillion-dollar, politically charged task.

“We had to reinvent every aspect of the way we deliver projects,” said Todd Smith, Pedestrian Fence Program Manager (PM), Fort Worth, TX, USACE Engineering and Construction Support Office (ECSCO). “There really is no ‘business as usual’ anywhere within the fence program.” That meant putting to the test a “virtual teaming” concept. The ECSCO office, originally with 20 employees, would ramp up to 60, then reach out to build a nationwide virtual team of 500-plus USACE employees and hundreds of contractor personnel.

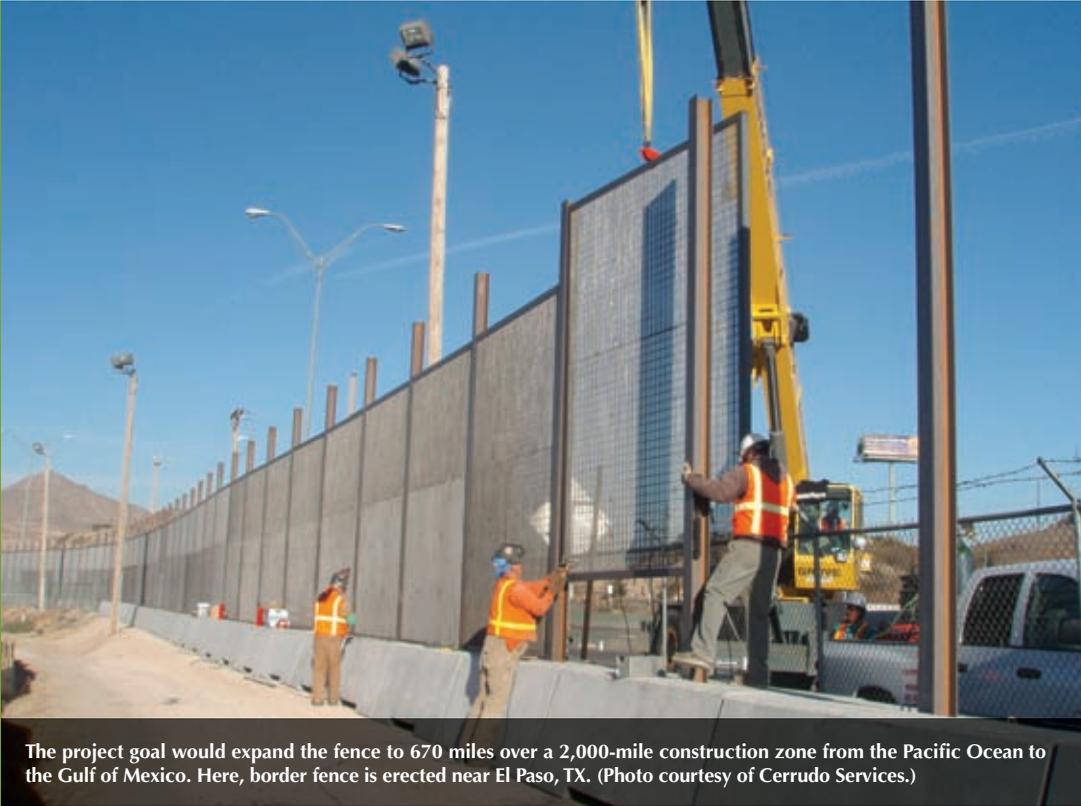
The team knew that planning would take up most of the execution time, leaving a very small construction window at the end. The chosen acquisition method was to establish \$3.4 billion of contract capacity in Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) pools to maximize competition and prevent any single point of failure. This strategy pre-qualified contractors. When the fence laydown was determined and environmental regulations and real estate acquisition issues were resolved, execution could move quickly.

ECSCO established 15 regional MATOCs consisting of 52 contractors of various business sizes (8(a), HUBZone, and Unrestricted). The effort was led by a tiger team in the Tulsa, OK, district and was completed in an astonishing 7 months. With 12 months remaining, more than 55 task orders, ranging from \$1 million to more than \$100 million each to build hundreds of miles of fencing, remained to be executed. To meet the schedule, a number of innovations had to be implemented.

Instead of USACE districts working independently, ECSCO formed a virtual team from four USACE districts: Los Angeles, CA; Albuquerque, NM; Fort Worth; and Galveston, TX. This programmatic approach leveraged the best contracting talent and formed the heart of the procurement effort. To eliminate the differences in procurement procedures across districts, the team drafted a template Request for Proposal (RFP) that helped contractors more easily respond to multiple RFPs.



The *Secure Fence Act* required the DHS to construct hundreds of miles of pedestrian and vehicle fence, including roads, across the Southwest border by Dec. 31, 2008. Here, BG Kendall Cox, USACE Southwestern Division Command, leads the site visit at Imperial Sand Dunes fencing in Southeastern California. (USACE photo by Todd Smith.)



The project goal would expand the fence to 670 miles over a 2,000-mile construction zone from the Pacific Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico. Here, border fence is erected near El Paso, TX. (Photo courtesy of Cerrudo Services.)

ECSO worked with the USACE Engineering Resource and Development Center in Champaign, IL, to supplement the DOD Standard Procurement System by creating an RFP “wizard.” The electronic program streamlined the mass development of RFPs for separate fence segments. Because 90 percent of each RFP shared common language, it ensured consistency and accuracy. Because program requirements evolved on a daily basis, the wizard could rapidly update changes to all draft RFPs simultaneously. It saved approximately 40 work hours per RFP on the contracting sections. It also enabled a multifunctional team to simultaneously mesh RFP language formulated by separate parties working in different offices, including both procurement (by USACE personnel) and technical passages (by engineering partners at Baker and Prime Engineering).

It was critical to keep the contractor workforce fully informed of rapid changes in the program. First, regularly scheduled industry days allowed face-to-face interaction among USACE, CBP, and MATOC personnel. Second, a twice monthly electronic newsletter, *TI(ma)TALK*, was launched to keep MATOC contractors informed on issues and provide early warnings for upcoming projects. Both actions made contractors more responsive to USACE needs and cut their inquiries during the Request for Information stage that follows the issuing of RFPs.

Through early refinement of the final fence requirements, it became evident that steel supplier capacity constraints would be compounded by separate purchases by multiple builders. Fence construction would consume more than 120,000 tons of

steel—enough to build two aircraft carriers. Mesh, panels, and hollow tube were needed. The program was timed to crescendo during the second half of 2008. Any supply bottlenecks would cripple successful project completion.

A CBP, USACE, and Boeing team decided to bulk purchase all long lead items up front. The steel pre-purchase saved the government approximately \$76 million in market price escalation from January through August 2008. Under this complex procurement arrangement, Boeing purchased the materials, set up border distribution centers, and handed off the materials to USACE construction contractors who were responsible

for trucking them to the work site. The vast amount of material required a robust scheduling system. With 6,000 truckloads needed, material pick-ups were scheduled every single hour at peak times. USACE monitored the life cycle of the government-furnished material supply chain, tracking quantities picked up, monitoring the quantity installed, and ensuring that any excess was returned to the government.

Communication was critical with dozens of separate construction crews operating simultaneously. Weekly coordination teleconferences ensured that everyone was moving down the same path with the same goals. This was new and different work. The team was moving much faster than everyone was accustomed to.

By year’s end, border fence mileage reached the 578-mile mark. It is now at 630 miles, with construction of most remaining segments well underway. “Frankly, almost no one believed we could do this well,” said Mark S. Borkowski, Executive Director of the Secure Border Initiative, in a 2008 year-end assessment. “Between our Tactical Infrastructure [program], USACE, and our contractors, we exceeded almost everybody’s expectations.”

*Ginger Gruber is the USACE ECSO Acquisition PM. She holds a B.S. in business economics and an M.B.A. from the University of Nebraska at Omaha.*

*Jim Frisinger is an ECSO contract public affairs specialist. He holds a B.A. in liberal arts from the University of Michigan.*

## RCC Sharana—Overcoming Contracting Challenges

MAJ Andrew Carter

The Regional Contracting Center (RCC) Sharana, one of seven Afghanistan RCCs, is located in Central Paktika Province in Eastern Afghanistan. In our general support role, we provide contracting for all U.S. and coalition forces in both Paktika and Ghazni provinces. The office consists of a U.S. Army major and a U.S. Air Force captain, master sergeant, and two staff sergeants. In FY09, RCC Sharana has performed more than 500 contract actions and obligated in excess of \$45 million with almost \$40 million going to Afghan businesses.

Paktika and Ghazni provinces span 17,000 square miles, about twice the size of New Jersey in area. In the east along the Pakistan border, the terrain is extremely mountainous with many locations only accessible via air. The road network, although robust in places, is still mostly gravel or dirt and subject to significant traffic issues. Travel time to visit the sites via helicopter can range from 20 to 80 minutes. Communications are challenging at best.

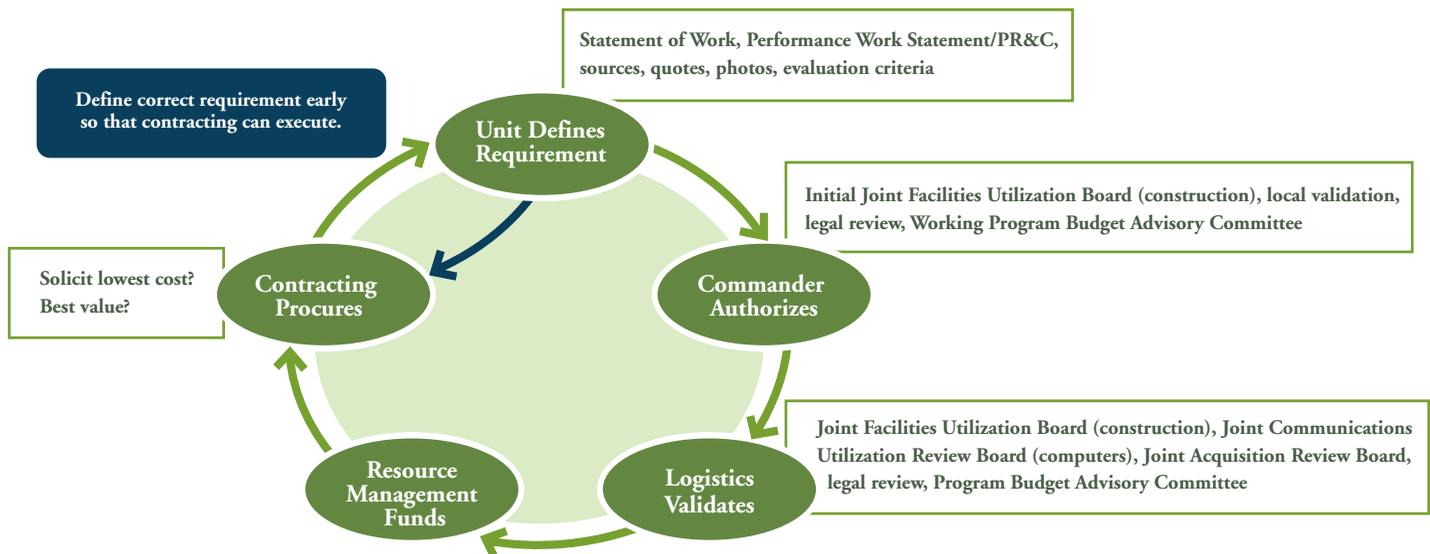
Our primary customers are two infantry battalions, the majority of a brigade support battalion, a large portion of two battalions

of an engineering brigade, and a Polish brigade (with U.S. liaison officers). We also support provincial reconstruction and agricultural development teams, U.S. and coalition Special Operations Forces, U.S. Army Materiel Command elements, and various other small activities. In all, we support 8,000 U.S. and coalition forces personnel at more than 20 forward operating bases, combat outposts, and fire bases.

During recent unit changeovers, we engaged the arriving units with an aggressive customer education program geared toward the battalion staffs, company commanders, and company executive officers. We conducted numerous classes as the units arrived. One particular piece that piqued the units' interest was the process overview chart, which explains the steps involved in the requirement process.

*Field Manual Interim, 4-93.42, Contracting Support Brigade (CSB), Chapter-2*, states, "It is the responsibility of the requiring activities, not the CSB, to develop acquisition-ready requirements." The contracting community looks at this from a contracting perspective, emphasizing to the requiring activities that a good Statement of Work and funding (*Department of the Army 3953 Purchase Request and Commitment (PR&C)*) are needed for us to do our job. So we trained them, they thanked us for the training and the electronic tool kit we gave them, and we sent them on their way. A few weeks later the phone calls started, at first one or two, then enough to identify a systemic problem.

## Procurement Players



Executing units do not understand how to validate, get approval, and fund requirements on time. Because we gave an overview of the process, they mistakenly thought we were the process owners. The unsigned PR&Cs started to flow in with the comment, “what else do you need from us?” or worse, “how long before the contract is in place?”

During our presentations, we assumed they had a basic understanding of the requirements process through their commands and staffs. We were just explaining our role and where contracting fits in the process. Instead, we found ourselves being asked to explain someone else’s process.

We do not advocate contracting’s involvement in the requirement approval process. The decision that Soldiers should sleep four instead of six in a B-Hut (barracks) or the number of non-tactical vehicles allowed per unit, is, and should remain, within the command. However, for us to turn a requirement into a contract, that decision has to be made and funding applied. Getting the right approvals and the funding takes 75 percent of the time from an identified need to contractor performing.

We have had success with our collocated infantry battalion S4 (logistics) officer, but it was because of three factors:

- He is an outstanding junior officer who takes initiative and cares about Soldiers.
- His battalion’s locations/missions makes them more reliant on contracted support.
- Our collocation allowed for daily meetings over several weeks.

These factors, although unique to this battalion, demonstrate the effectiveness of empowering junior leaders through knowledge. Their requirements get validated and funded faster than the other units, and the requirements are acquisition-ready.

Before deploying, battalion S4s and junior leaders need requirements processing training from their commands. They need to understand the process just like they do normal supply requests. This will help them plan accordingly and, when necessary, influence the process. Requirements management should not be considered only as a function of the brigade/division staffs. This training could be executed in their basic branch schools or as part of their predeployment training.

*MAJ Andrew Carter is the RCC Sharana Chief. He holds a B.S. in management from the U.S. Military Academy and an M.B.A. from the University of California, Los Angeles. Carter is certified Level II in program management and Level I in contracting.*

## Executive Director Receives Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service (DECS) Award

*Danielle Oglevee*

Edward G. Elgart, Executive Director of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) Contracting Center, received the DECS Award during a ceremony at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, VA, on March 18, 2009.

Secretary of the Army (SecArmy) Pete Geren, assisted by LTG David H. Huntoon Jr., Director of the Army Staff (DAS), and Dr. Lynn Heirakuji, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (DASA) for Personnel Oversight, presented Elgart and 16 other recipients with SecArmy Awards.

DECS is the highest award granted by the SecArmy to Army civilians. It is bestowed on recipients who have accomplished duties of major program significance to the Army that are exceptional among all others performing similar duties.

Elgart has dramatically enhanced the Army’s ability to acquire research, development, production, and sustainment services of highly complex, state-of-the-art command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems for the Army, joint services, and coalition forces. As Executive Director and Principal Assistant Responsible for Contracting, Elgart manages more than 12,000 contracts valued at \$260 billion and obligates more than \$10 billion annually, much of it in support of ongoing operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, overseas contingency operations, and hurricane relief

**SecArmy Pete Geren presents the DECS Award to Edward G. Elgart, Executive Director of the CECOM Contracting Center, as DAS LTG David H. Huntoon Jr. looks on, during the 2008 SecArmy Awards ceremony at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, March 18, 2009. (U.S. Army photo by C. Todd Lopez.)**



efforts. He provides outstanding technical capability to the warfighter through prudent trade-offs between price, capability, quality, delivery, and past performance, saving more than \$1 billion in the last 3 years through this best-value contracting method. Recognized for setting the standard across all levels of the Army, DOD, and the federal government, Elgart is consistently called on by these agencies to execute the most complex and crucial acquisitions.

Recognized as an Army subject matter expert for source selections, Elgart was appointed by the DASA for Procurement (DASA(P)) to chair the rewrite of the Army Source Selection Guide and to develop a comprehensive acquisition plan preparation guide, adopting best practices and acquisition business processes that he pioneered. His leadership brought a 56-percent reduced acquisition cycle time from requirement identification to contract award and an increase in business base from \$6.15 billion in FY03 to more than \$14.5 billion in FY07. Elgart's innovations, reduced cycle times, and cost savings contribute to rapidly providing Army warfighters with state-of-the-art equipment that increases their combat power and force protection and decreases mortality rates.

Elgart's ability to build coalitions and foster communication resulted in the CECOM Contracting Center attracting many customers from outside CECOM who rely on his leadership and visionary qualities for creative solutions. In that regard, the DASA(P) requested Elgart's acquisition expertise to lead the \$1.35 billion procurement of the Army Recruiting and Advertising Program that supports recruitment and retention of a relevant and ready campaign-quality force for combatant commanders in support of the National Security and Defense Strategies.

*Danielle Oglevee is a CECOM Contracting Center Procurement Analyst. She holds a B.A. in corporate communications from the College of Charleston and is Level III certified in contracting.*

### **Army Procurement Desktop-Defense (PD2) Server Consolidation**

*Thomas Evans and Berry Dunbar*

Since the mid-1990s, DOD has pursued a common system for contract writing automation. After a significant acquisition and development effort, all U.S. military branches began deploying the Standard Procurement System software PD2.

PD2 is a product of its time. Initially developed before the widespread use of the Internet for distributed applications, it

is a classic example of a traditional, 2-tier client/server application. It was designed to operate in a local area network (LAN) with almost all application logic resident in the client computer. The very architecture of the client-server transaction requires the robust connectivity of a high-speed LAN and significant resources on the client's computer. Connectivity requirements, among other factors, dictated that each operational site install a PD2 server, along with support systems.

As a result, dedicated PD2 servers and the required support staff have reached high levels. The Army has more than 300 PD2 servers with an equal number of personnel maintaining and administering the program. PD2 and future versions under contract do not lend themselves, from an architectural point of view, to effective use in a wide area network.

The current Army implementation of the PD2 requires 321 individual servers and 319 support personnel at 80 installations. Labor costs total more than \$12.7 million per year to support the contract writing system (CWS). The Army allocated more than \$928,000 in FY03 to provide sites with upgraded versions of the application. Although the exact amount is unknown, installations spent significant additional dollars to upgrade physical servers. Previous experience indicates that major upgrades (and costs) occur approximately every 18 months. The cost of supporting the current CWS exceeds \$16.2 million a year.

A consolidated CWS offers material and logical benefits to the Army. By moving to a modern, distributed system for contract writing, the Army takes advantage of a reduction in administrative, maintenance, and training costs. Server consolidation reduces the number of servers, sites, and server administrators. Initial estimates place these savings at approximately 50 percent per year.

Centralized sites will be protected by high levels of network and data security and will not be subject to the variances in local installations' security and backup policies. Moving to the consolidated server architecture to support CWS provides benefits of speed and productivity. System upgrades need occur at only two sites with no desktop upgrades needed. Redundancy of site data reduces user downtime during server upgrade requirements or system failures.

The consolidated PD2 environment will consist of data centers in Radford, VA, and Huntsville, AL. These centers will support approximately 8,300 users connecting from remote sites. Each Army site will have a unique database running on the new servers. The Radford data center will provide the primary support, while Huntsville will be the continuity of operations plan data center.

The hardware and software to support server consolidation has been purchased and is being installed. Migration of existing databases will start as soon as the new hardware has been accredited and will be phased in over 2 years.

Whatever the challenges, whether technical, budgetary, or environmental, it is clear that the move to a centrally housed CWS makes both economic and business sense. This plan offers cost savings and agility as well as the possibility of increased productivity and cost enhancements.

*Thomas Evans is an Information Technology Specialist in the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement (DASA(P)) Army Contracting and Transformation Enterprise Systems Directorate. He is Level II certified in contracting.*

*Berry Dunbar is a CACI employee providing service to the DASA(P) Army Contracting and Transformation Enterprise Systems Directorate. He holds a B.S. in industrial administration (management) from the University of Illinois, an M.S. in contract management from the Naval Postgraduate School, and an M.S. in management sciences from the University of Southern California. Dunbar is Level III certified in contracting.*

### Army Business Center for Acquisition Systems Improves Verification and Validation (V&V) Reporting

*Stephanie Mullen*

The *Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006* required the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to create a free, publicly accessible Web portal, **USASpending.gov**, which made all FY07 public fund expenditures available on Jan. 1, 2008. OMB's administrator requested that all federal agencies and services describe their plans for ensuring the veracity of their data inputted to the Federal Procurement Data System-Next Generation (FPDS-NG) on the Web portal. The submissions were so diverse that OMB created an FPDS Data Quality Improvement Plan (DQIP) with FPDS elements to confirm data integrity and directed that all federal agencies and services submit their individual plan by July 2008.

The Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy (DPAP) submitted its plan to OMB and directed all DOD services and agencies to submit a DQIP input on the certification, verification, and validation award data for 2008. At a minimum, the plan must reflect the quality goals and objectives, including FPDS-NG data V&V as compared to the contract file. OMB established 46 elements from FPDS-NG and DPAP included two elements for review.

Not to exacerbate the Army contracting community's workload, the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement (DASA(P)) tasked the Army Business Center for Acquisition Systems (ABCAS) Software Engineering Center to use the

Army Contracting Business Intelligence System (ACBIS) to create, in conjunction with FPDS, V&V reports and a reporting tool as part of the FPDS-NG elements in the DQIP. ABCAS successfully created the V&V reporting tool; however, the tool had its problems, especially when downloading and uploading numerous spreadsheets. The tool was time-consuming for V&V of FPDS-NG entries and troublesome for the contracting offices/commands to follow the detailed uploading process after completing V&V.

To improve the condition, ABCAS created the Acquisition Data Validation Tool (ADVT). Managed through the ACBIS Web portal operated by ABCAS, ADVT includes the 48 elements required to complete V&V consistent with the DQIP. Systems administrators and contract writing system super users have tested ADVT and their feedback was outstanding. The ABCAS team loads the V&V data and it becomes available 3 working days after the end of a quarter. The ABCAS team has also developed ADVT information and instruction bulletins and user guides.

ADVT is a tremendous step toward creating an automated reporting tool that meets DPAP and OMB requirements, expands the V&V reporting window, and is easy to use by the Army contracting offices. V&V requirements are making a difference on the award data accuracy that the Army is posting through FPDS-NG. The V&V reports are available and continue to be used by our contracting offices to gauge data integrity.

*Stephanie Mullen is the former Director of the DASA(P) Army Contracting and Transformation Enterprise Systems Directorate. She holds a B.S. in accounting from Monmouth University and an M.B.A. from Fairleigh Dickinson University and is Level III certified in contracting. Mullen retired from federal service in May 2009.*

### Boomerang Warrior Helps Soldiers Detect Snipers

*Valerie DeAngelis and Nathan Jordan*

It was a clear and brisk day, perfect for a field demonstration of the Army's innovative Soldier-wearable shooter detection system—the Boomerang Warrior. Invited representatives from the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and various law enforcement agencies attended the event at the Fort Devens Shooting Range, Ayer, MA.

Contractor Bolt, Beranek, and Newman (BBN) Technologies developed the initial acoustic array technology under a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency program. The innovative



The Boomerang III and Boomerang Warrior alert Soldiers of incoming sniper fire, providing accurate information on the shooter's location and giving Soldiers the opportunity to retreat to safety. Here, a Soldier returns to his vehicle, which is equipped with the mounted Boomerang III. (Photo courtesy of BBN.)

technology, called the Boomerang, has now been enhanced into the Boomerang III. The success of Boomerang III led the Army to seek a miniaturized version of the shooter detection system for the dismounted Soldier.

In response to a U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development, and Engineering Center (NSRDEC) broad agency announcement, BBN submitted a concept paper and follow-on proposal to miniaturize Boomerang III into a device that could be worn by the individual foot Soldier. As a result, Bruce Buckland, NSRDEC project engineer, initiated procurement for the Natick Contracting Division (NCD) to broker a contract with BBN for further research and development into Boomerang III. Boomerang III estimates a shooter's range and elevation by comparing the timing of sound waves using miniature computer chips similar to those found in cell phones.

The Boomerang Warrior provides the same reliable performance and features as the vehicle-mounted Boomerang III system, but it's smaller, lighter, and integrated into tactical vests worn by the Soldier. Boomerang Warrior gives foot Soldiers an immediate warning of hostile fire locations and, when networked, can also provide unit leaders with the situational awareness needed to coordinate team responses to hostile fire. Incoming fire announcements are transmitted to an earpiece while a lightweight wrist display provides range, azimuth, and elevation coordinates of the shooter's position. As the Soldier moves, the system compensates for the Soldier's motion and continually updates the threat's location on the wrist display. A digital interface is also included to transmit shot coordinates to other situational displays.

As part of the event, a manikin dressed as a Soldier, complete with an armored vest, assault pack, and the Boomerang Warrior, was placed downrange. A BBN employee, acting as the shooter, took shots from various positions on the range to determine if the Boomerang Warrior sensors could accurately identify his location. Guests, who were in the test site tent far removed from the shooting, could observe on a computer what a Soldier would hear in his earpiece and see on his wristband while under sniper fire. This information was similar to what a network-connected command center would observe during an actual attack. To demonstrate its accuracy, the manikin was turned sideways and only the shoulder sensor closest to the shooter recorded the gunfire. The beauty of the dual-shoulder system approach is that it reports only the two best solutions for optimum performance.

The contributions of this technology will help to ensure the safety of our Soldiers, in both a mounted and dismounted capacity.

*Valerie DeAngelis is a U.S. Army Research, Development, and Engineering Command (RDECOM) NCD contract specialist. She holds a B.A. in political science from Rhode Island College and is Level II certified in contracting.*

*Nathan Jordan is a second-year U.S. Army Civilian Training, Education, and Development System intern working as an RDECOM NCD contracting specialist. He holds a B.S. in science from Framingham State College and is Level I certified in contracting.*

*Editor's Note: BNN Technologies personnel contributed to this article.*

## Federal Employees Incorporate *Recovery Act* Into the FAR

*Ann Budd*

On Feb. 17, 2009, President Barack Obama signed the \$787 billion *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* (*Recovery Act*) into law. Its intent was outlined by Congress on Feb. 2, 2009: "This legislation will create and save jobs; help state and local governments with their budget shortfalls to prevent deep cuts in basic services such as health, education,

and law enforcement; cut taxes for working families; and invest in the long-term health of our economy.” To lessen the fears of the American public concerning oversight of taxpayer dollars, the summary also stated that the *Recovery Act* would provide “unprecedented oversight, accountability, and transparency to ensure that taxpayer dollars are invested effectively, efficiently, and as quickly as possible.”

Federal employees have been working feverishly to incorporate the provisions of the *Recovery Act*, also known as the stimulus package, into the *Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR)*. This was accomplished through the opening of five new *FAR* cases whose interim rules were published in the *Federal Register* on March 31, 2009, as part of *Federal Acquisition Circular (FAC) 2005-32*. This was an unprecedented effort that was completed in 42 days.

The following five *Recovery Act* interim rules were issued in *FAC 2005-32*:

- **Buy American Requirements For Construction Material (FAR Case 2009-008).** This rule implements *Section 1605*, prohibiting the use of funds appropriated for any project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public building or public work unless all of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in the project are produced in the United States. However, there are certain caveats. It specifies that this requirement be consistent with U.S. obligations under international agreements that the least developed countries be the exceptions and treated as designated countries. Waivers are permitted under one of three specific circumstances.
- **Whistleblower Protections (FAR Case 2009-012).** This rule implements *Section 1553*, revising *FAR Subpart 3.9* by adding *Section 3.907*, which provides procedures for whistleblower protection when using funds appropriated or otherwise provided by the *Recovery Act*. *Section 3.907* specifies that nonfederal employers are prohibited from discharging, demoting, or discriminating against employees as a reprisal for disclosing certain covered information to certain categories of government officials.
- **Publicizing Contract Actions (FAR Case 2009-010).** This rule implements the Office of Management and Budget’s guidance *M-09-10, Initial Implementing Guidance for the Recovery Act, Section 6.2*. *FAR Part 4* requires the contracting officer (KO) to enter data in the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) on any action funded in whole or in part by the *Recovery Act*, in accordance with the instructions included on the FPDS Web page. *FAR Subpart 5.7* directs the KO to use the governmentwide point of entry to download specific information. *FAR Parts 8, 13, and 16* have been amended to reflect the new posting requirements for orders at *Subpart 5.7*.
- **Reporting Requirements (FAR Case 2009-009).** This rule implements *Recovery Act, Section 1512, Division A*, requiring contractors to report on funding received. A new *FAR Subpart 4.15* and *Clause 52.204-11, Recovery Act Reporting Requirements*, have been added. All nonclassified solicitations and contracts, commercial and commercial-off-the-shelf contracts, and Simplified Acquisition Threshold actions, funded in whole or in part by *Recovery Act* funds, must include the new clause.
- **Government Accountability Office/Inspector General (GAO/IG) Access (FAR Case 2009-011).** This rule implements *Sections 902, 1514, and 1515*, providing for the audit and review of both contracts and subcontracts and to interview contractor and subcontractor personnel under contracts containing *Recovery Act* funding. Three new alternate clauses have been added: *52.212-5, Contract Terms and Conditions Required to Implement Statutes or Executive Orders-Commercial Items*; *52.214-26, Audit and Records-Sealed Bidding*; and *52.215-2, Audit and Records-Negotiation*. They provide specific authority for the Comptroller General to audit contracts and subcontracts and to interview contractor and subcontractor employees under contracts using *Recovery Act* funds. The same authorities also apply to federal IGs, with the exception of interviewing subcontracting employees.

Although not part of the *Recovery Act*, an additional item was also included in *FAC 2005-32: GAO Access to Contractor Employees (FAR Case 2008-026)*. It implements *Section 871* of the *Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for FY09 (Public Law 110-417)* by amending *FAR Parts 12* and *52*. Modifications to *Clauses 52.215-2, Audit and Records-Negotiation*, and *52.214-26, Audit and Records-Sealed Bidding*, allow GAO to interview contractor employees when conducting audits. The rule will not apply to the acquisition of commercial items and is reflected in *FAR Subpart 12.503*.

The implementation of these interim rules should provide the “unprecedented oversight, accountability, and transparency” that President Obama and Congress intended and “ensure that taxpayer dollars are invested effectively, efficiently, and as quickly as possible.”

*Ann Budd works for the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Procurement and is a Defense Acquisition Regulation council member. She holds a B.S. in business administration from Mary Washington College, an M.B.A. from Strayer University, and an M.S. in national resource strategy from the National Defense University. Budd is certified Level III in contracting and Level II in program management, and is a U.S. Army Acquisition Corps member.*