

Acquisition Center steps up to bat

New work puts ASC over \$10 billion mark

By Rhys Fullerlove
ASC Public Affairs

Calling on experience and expertise, the Army has tapped Army Sustainment Command to bring its contingency contracting strength to bear for Warfighters in Southwest Asia

Nearly a billion dollars worth of contract work has been shifted to the Army Sustainment Command's Acquisition Center from a Kuwait contracting office.

With the additional contracts, ASC now manages over \$10 billion worth of logistics work. The majority of the workload will be handled by the ASC Acquisition Center; Contracting Reach-Back Cell.

"We didn't go out and solicit it," said

Michael Hutchison, deputy director for acquisition at ASC. "The Army looked at us and said this is where the work needs to go based on the skill set that the people have here. Based on the experience that our folks have here, they knew this was the right place for the workload."

The Kuwait contracting office, which is located at Camp Arifjan, experienced a huge influx of work since the start of OIF. The office buys gear, food and supplies for Soldiers moving in and out of Iraq.

Handing off some of its workload to ASC should enable the Kuwait Contracting Office to provide better service to

Warfighters while improving administration and oversight. Taking the concept a step further, ASC intends to show that Reach-Back contracting also has value for the Europe, Korea, and South America theaters, said a contracting official.

"We have a team in Kuwait, six folks negotiating right now," Hutchison said. "It's complex stuff. This isn't going to Wal-Mart and buying batteries."

Eight volunteers have been moved from other areas of the Acquisition Center to work this mission.

So far 10 contracts have been brought back to ASC and contracting officials are working on 16 more.

Aide serves up touch of class

By Mary Beth Montgomery
ASC Public Affairs

It's pretty rare to hear an Army sergeant liken her job assignment to "winning Miss America." But that's exactly how Sgt. Alisha D. Hight felt when she was selected last September to serve as enlisted aide for Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, commanding general of Army Sustainment Command.

As an enlisted aide, Hight is responsible for preparing meals at the general's quarters, ensuring his uniforms are sharp, maintaining official areas of the residence, and generally maximizing the general's time. Hight speaks with pride and admiration for Radin and his work.

"Most people don't realize how busy a general officer is," said Hight. "You don't want their mind occupied with mundane things when they're in charge of people's lives, and that's what I'm here for."

An aide's responsibilities are diverse, but Hight has spent the most time training for her duties as the Radins' chef. Daily meals are nothing fancy, but for official functions, Hight prepares inventive menus for the general's high-profile guests. According to General Radin's wife, Sara Radin, these meals are a perfect opportunity to "set an example and to demonstrate the art of American hospitality." The Radins appreciate the variety and creativity Hight brings to their table.

"We give her zero input," said Mrs. Radin, "She is incredibly creative."

Hight is well-prepared for the challenge of entertaining the Radins' important guests. Along with formal instruction by civilian and British Royal Chefs at Fort Lee, Va., the Army sends aides for national certification training. Hight is a certified Pastry Chef by

See AIDE on page 3



US ARMY PHOTO BY: MARY BETH MONTGOMERY

Sgt. Alisha D. Hight, enlisted aide to Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, commanding general of Army Sustainment Command.

No turning back on road to equality

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin
U.S. Army Sustainment Command

The America we all live in today is, in many ways, not the same nation I was born in – and that’s a good thing.

The 1950s were a time when laws enforcing racial segregation were still in force in many areas, when educational and economic opportunities were routinely denied to black Americans solely because of the color of their skin, and when neighborhoods and communities across America were strictly divided by race. As a white American growing up in the North, I did not encounter many “Whites Only” signs. Still, I met many people who expressed racist sentiments and who casually accepted racial stereotypes.

But I also heard of a young minister down South who was leading a movement that would change America for the better by breaking down the racial barriers that, in fact, held all of us back. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. proclaimed that America had to change, if it was to ever fully realize its promise as a land of hope, freedom and opportunity for all people.

Dr. King told us that he had a dream, and he made it clear that it was firmly rooted in the American dream. He told us that, so long as racism was still institutionalized as law and accepted as custom, the American dream would be, in his words, “as yet unfulfilled. A dream of equality of opportunity, of privilege and property widely distributed; a dream of a land where men no longer argue that the color of a man’s skin determines the content of his character; the dream of a land where every man will respect



the dignity and worth of human personality – this is the dream. When it is realized, the jangling discords of our nation will be transformed into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood, and men everywhere will know that America is truly the land of the free and home of the brave.”

Dr. King’s message was met by indifference in some quarters, and by stiff resistance in others. He and his followers were imprisoned, insulted and beaten, and their peaceful protests were often met with cruelty and injustice. Yet Dr. King

and millions he inspired did not flinch, and refused to abandon hope that his dream would someday be fulfilled.

Dr. King’s life ended when he was assassinated in Memphis, a senseless act that deprived us of a man who gave so much to our nation and had so much more to give. But while he died, his dream lives on, and his words and deeds continue to serve as an inspiration to those dedicated to the cause of equality and human dignity.

Clearly, Dr. King’s dream has not been fully achieved.

Yet it’s also clear that the nation I was born in – the nation that found racial separation and stereotyping acceptable – is gone for good. There is no turning back, and we continue to move forward on a

So long as racism was still institutionalized as law and accepted as custom, the American dream would be unfulfilled.

path laid for us by Dr. King.

That is why we celebrate a holiday in tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and why we continue to honor his memory today. On this holiday honoring a great American, I ask all of you to spend some time contemplating his words, and thinking about what you can do to turn his dream into reality.

THE GLOBAL LINE

The Global Line is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The Global Line are unofficial and are not necessarily the views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Army Sustainment Command, the Department of the Army or the Department of Defense.

The editorial content of The Global Line is the responsibility of the ASC Public Affairs Office at 1 Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Illinois, 61299-5000.

Contributions to The Global Line are welcome.

E-mail address: ROCK-ASC-GLOBAL-LINE@conus.army.mil

Phone: (309) 782-5421, DSN 793-5421.

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin
Commanding General

Daniel M. Carlson
Public Affairs Officer

Charles W. Fick Jr.
Managing Editor

Rhys E. Fullerlove
Editor



100th Stryker repair completed at Qatar site

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar—A ceremony marking the 100th Stryker Combat Vehicle to roll out of the Stryker Battle Damage Repair Facility was held Jan. 12, during which the Stryker Program Manager praised workers for Soldier support.

Col. Robert W. Schumitz, program manager for the Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Warren, Mich., spoke to the 90-member workforce, part of the 1st Battalion-401st Army Field Support Brigade, Army Sustainment Command and other invited guests.

Schumitz summarized the historical accomplishments and hard work of dedicated, skilled workers under contract with General Dynamics Land Systems, Sterling Heights, Mich., represented by Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle 513. He said ICV 513 represents damaged vehicles that were initially identified as being total losses and were the first vehicles repaired at the site in the spring of 2005.

“It [ICV 513] represents battle damage repair capability and the five vehicles that have been through here twice. What a significant accomplishment . . . it represents a proven capability that is now being replicated in the United States, two years after this capability was established. Normally, it’s the



US ARMY PHOTO BY: DUSTIN SENGER

The entire workforce at the 1-401st Army Field Support Brigade Stryker Battle Damage Repair Facility, Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar, celebrate the milestone Jan. 12 as ICV 513 prepares for transit.

dier, as well as your hard work . . . you truly epitomize our battalion motto of ‘Strength Through Readiness’,” she said.

The Battle Damage Repair Facility reduced the repair process from 200 days per vehicle in 2005 to 60 days per vehicle by the end of 2007 by moving the structural and repair assessment process forward to Iraq. Other improved supply parts processes were implemented. Every battle damage repair is unique and new procedures had to be implemented to expedite virtually all parts.

Currently, 12 battle damaged Stryker Combat Vehicles are repaired and returned to combat in Iraq every month from the Qatar and Anniston Army Depot facilities.

other way around. I applaud your efforts and congratulate each of you for your hard work, your work ethic, ‘can do’ attitude and pride in workmanship. Every vehicle is delivered to the Army looking like a newly manufactured vehicle,” said Schumitz.

The commander of the 1-401st AFSB, Lt. Col. (P) Maxine Girard, also praised the workers and support personnel, “ICV 513 represents lives saved. It represents the indomitable spirit of the American Sol-

Aide *Continued from page 1*

the American Pastry Association.

Competition is also a part of enlisted aides’ training. Hight has been recognized for her truffles, and her black pepper ice cream which won Best in Show at Fort Lee and was featured in Bon Appetit magazine. She is scheduled to compete in the U.S. Army Culinary Arts Competition for the title of Armed Forces Chef of the Year in February and will travel to compete in the 2008 Culinary Olympics in Germany this autumn.

Hight’s early cooking experience in the Army was far from gourmet. Not so long ago, Hight worked as a cook at a 1,500 Soldier-per-meal dining facility where Soldiers flocked to the pizza and sandwich buffet, and all cooked meals originated from a rotating list of Army recipes. In 2003 and early 2004, Hight served in field kitchens in Iraq, where, “It was so hot, we burned our hands on pans before we even started cooking.”

Although she has had job offers from other desirable employers, Hight says she would rather stay in the Army. She recently re-enlisted for another six years. “I love everything about the Army,” Hight said, “It’s fabulous.”

Chances are dinner guests at the Radins’ quarters on an evening Sgt. Hight is cooking will think so, too.

Black Pepper Ice Cream

- 3 cups whole milk
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon crushed or cracked black peppercorns
- Pinch of salt
- 7 large egg yolks
- 1/2 cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar

Combine milk, cream, peppercorns and salt in heavy large saucepan. Bring just to simmer. Whisk yolks and sugar in medium bowl. Gradually whisk hot milk mixture into yolk mixture. Return to saucepan and stir constantly over medium heat until mixture is thick enough to coat back of spoon, about 3 minutes (do not boil). Strain custard into medium bowl; cover and refrigerate until cold, about 4 hours.

Transfer custard to ice cream maker and process according to manufacturer’s instructions. Transfer ice cream to container; cover and freeze.

New PT jackets make light shine

NATICK, Mass. – Often when you hear about Soldiers and visibility, the stories are about trying to camouflage them in the field. However, when it comes to conducting their physical training, our service members need to be seen. Soldiers often perform PT in the early morning or early evening hours when it is dusk or dark.

“The more visible the Soldiers are when doing PT in low light conditions, the safer they will be,” said Beverly Kimball, product engineer.

This is where the U.S. Army Product Manager Clothing and Individual Equipment comes in. PM-CIE is working with the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center’s Operational Forces Interface Group to conduct a user evaluation of new reflective technologies which enhance the current Improved Physical Fitness Uniform jacket. Two prototype fabrics have been developed with the new technology and sample jackets have been fabricated.

OFIG located and coordinated with 600 participants at Fort Hood and Fort Bliss, Texas, and Fort Lewis, Wash., to conduct the user evaluations, beginning in November. The Soldiers participating will be surveyed on their acceptance of the sample jackets.

“The prototype jackets are very similar in appearance to the current jacket during daylight,” said Dave Geringer, assistant product manager, PM-CIE, Fort Belvoir, Va., “however, despite their subtle daylight appearance, both patterns are highly reflective and provide a significant improvement in visibility.”

One of the jackets has a subtle digital reflective pattern, while the other has a slight texturized reflective pattern.

“All participants will have an opportunity to wear all the test items. But we want to ensure that all the jackets are tested in the same climate and conditions, so we will be conducting a ‘within groups’ type evaluation so styles are worn simultaneously,” said Kimball.

The jackets will be evaluated for comfort, durability, launderability, wind resistance, water resistance, warmth, and reflective capabilities.

The evaluations are expected to continue through March 2008, and once complete, the data will be compiled into a final report.

Geringer said, “If the candidates perform well, they will be presented to the Army Uniform Board for approval to replace the current IPFU jacket.”
(From U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center-Natick)



Prototype jackets for the Improved Physical Fitness Uniform with new reflective technologies will be evaluated at Fort Hood and Fort Bliss, Texas and Fort Lewis, Wash., between November 2007 and March 2008.

These photos show the jackets in daylight and lowlight conditions. (Courtesy photos)



New travel credit card to be issued

The Department of Defense has selected Citibank to provide travel charge cards for its employees.

The new official travel cards will activate on Nov. 30, 2008. DoD currently has 1.2 million card holders who accounted for 61 percent of total government-wide travel spending in 2006. The estimated value of the DoD travel card task order over a 10-year period is \$40 billion, based on projected travel

card spending. The mandatory travel charge card provides travelers with many benefits such as no interest charges, delayed late fees and insurance benefits.

The Defense Travel Management Office (DTMO) was established in 2006 to serve as the focal point of contact for commercial travel within the DoD. The DTMO establishes strategic direction and centrally manages commercial travel

programs, including the travel card program.

The DTMO will work closely with the current vendor, Bank of America, and Citibank to minimize any unforeseen interruption in travel card services leading up to the new card activation. Prior to the cross over, card holders will receive frequent communications about what to expect and individual requirements.