



Photo by Ryan Mattox

Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke addresses members of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command during a town hall meeting in November in which he discussed the realignment of field directorate offices.

MICC officials realign field directorate offices

by Daniel P. Elkins
MICC Public Affairs Office

Mission and Installation Contracting Command officials realigned six field directorate offices into four Dec. 4 in a strategic effort to bring consistency to its operations and improve contract administration and oversight.

The four field directorate offices are located at Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Eustis, Va., Fort Hood, Texas, and Fort Knox, Ky.

Of the two other field directorates, MICC-Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington

was realigned under Fort Bragg, and MICC-Fort Sam Houston is serving as the headquarters' activity responsible for acquisitions not normally provided by other MICC elements as well as specialized contracting assignments for the MICC leadership. The command's remaining 34 subordinate contracting offices located throughout the country and Puerto Rico have been administratively and operationally realigned under the four directorates.

"The MICC continues to mature its oversight and responsive capabilities to meet the growing

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Fort Knox employee earns award

by Daniel P. Elkins
MICC Public Affairs Office

The chief of the contracts division for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command at Fort Knox, Ky., is a winner of the 2012 Secretary of the Army Award for Excellence in Contracting for her efforts to increase contract opportunities for people with significant disabilities.

Deborah Ault was recognized for her support of the AbilityOne Program, which offers several products and a wide range of services to the



Ault

federal government. She worked closely with National Industries for the Severely Handicapped, or NISH, managers to identify contract requirements to be added to the procurement list increasing employment opportunities not only for the blind and severely handicapped, but also for wounded veterans.

"I feel honored and am very pleased to have been selected for this award," Ault said. "Support of the AbilityOne Program is the easiest part of my job and, in my

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Contracting for Soldiers

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

Measuring up: Safety requires participation

Brig. Gen. Timothy J. Edens
Army Safety director

One of the perennial questions in safety is, "How do we measure what we're doing?"

Too often, the only metric we have available is how many Soldiers died in accidents during any particular period. We've gotten into the habit of looking at those numbers and attributing our safety programs' success or failure to them. This isn't necessarily a bad thing; we obviously want the arrow pointing downward on accidental deaths. But, I don't believe it's enough to quantify what we do every day with only a single figure — safety is much bigger and more complex than that.

In my mind, metrics should be about accountability, not simply numbers. Getting your unit to 100 percent on training requirements or mandated inspections is a noble goal, but it never falls to a single person or event to do it. We must hold our leaders to task in meeting stated metrics, not just the safety officer and not merely against the number of fatalities to accidents.

The same is true for developing metrics; every leader should be involved in the process, and honestly, Soldiers should be too. Talking to your troops will give you a good idea of reasonable goals, and then, based on your experience and judgment, you can dial up the

"hard" in the process.

Simply making a command decision to reduce accidents by whatever percentage won't make a workable goal or create an environment where your Soldiers buy in to safety through their own participation in risk management. Properly developed, safety metrics can be part of your unit's safety culture, provide incentive and inspire achievement.



Our Army has been in flux for nearly 12 years, but now is the time to buckle down and make safety a lifestyle so we're prepared for the next war. These long years of combat have taught us just how important safety is for our Soldiers and mission success, and we don't need to go back to the days of inaction followed by reaction.

We're much better as a force at pragmatic, proactive approaches to safety, and while metrics have been part of that success, it's the people behind them who have really made the difference. Leaders looking out for Soldiers and Soldiers looking out for each other have turned the

tide against accidental fatalities, and they should be the authority on grading your safety performance. Talk, ask questions, listen and put their ideas into action — the best metric you can meet is having a fully engaged unit.

Spring is on our doorstep, so make sure your Soldiers are ready for the risk. Motorcycle and driver's training, water safety and responsible drinking are all hot topics for the upcoming season. Schedule a safety stand-down or other dedicated time to discuss hazards and risk management with your Soldiers before the fun begins, and get their ideas on metrics for a successful seasonal safety campaign.

Whether it's starting a Motorcycle Mentorship Program to train new riders or reviving a unit designated driver program, there are many positive ways to influence and measure your formation's safety culture. Soldier participation in these initiatives is a great indicator of success. I welcome your ideas on safety metrics and how we can better help you and your Soldiers meet your goals. Also, remember to look for the Army Safe Spring Campaign, to be released in late February.

The first step in helping your Soldiers operationalize safety, both on and off duty, is arming them with the information they need to make smart decisions.

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Reforging

Commander sets path for year ahead

By Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke
MICC commanding general

Happy New Year to the finest acquisition professionals in the Army. This past year was a remarkable one for the MICC, and the year ahead will prove equally if not more challenging as the Army takes prudent steps in the coming months while facing significant budgetary uncertainty.

This year, our Year of Reforging, it is critical that we focus on our challenges ahead. Reforging is about meeting and working through a regulatory world of procurement statutes that are ever changing as well as satisfying the demands for contracting support across our Army commands and installations in the continental United States. We have an inexperienced and overmatched workforce, which is true across Army contracting, and our window is closing to address holistic contracting life cycle and management process changes as budget constraints and cuts set in.

Becoming the best Soldier or employee is our goal. For our contracting professionals, certification alone does not give us the skills and proficiency needed to accomplish our complex mission. All training must instill the ideals of the Professions of Arms. Our team must be able to operate in an ever changing and complex world of procurement.

In the last seven years we have seen more than 175 changes to the Federal Acquisition Regulations and more than 220 changes to the Defense FAR Supplement. That, with the constant churn in our business environment, has made buying much more complex than ever before. We must recognize our people are the centerpiece of the Army and are key for responsive, agile and adaptive contracting support.

Intensive human capital management and superior technical hands-on training are essential to building and sustaining our workforce. Both contracting and non-contracting team members within the MICC must be versed in Army regulations that underpin the technical world of our contracting support and performance.

Informal mentorship is the glue that joins four generations of contracting professionals and non-contracting professionals within the MICC. Mentorship and training will help to overcome the geographical distances of the MICC's distributed operations. The best way to do this is with dialogue and discussions. We are conducting a series of brown-bag luncheons at the headquarters to encourage this dialogue. If you cannot be in attendance, it would be worth your time to call in to hear the latest information to further develop your knowledge of our profession.



Photo by Ben Gonzales

Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke speaks to more than 300 veterans and citizens attending the U.S. Military Veterans Ceremony and Parade on Nov. 10. Vollmecke was a keynote speaker and grand marshal for the event.

The MICC team also has a fundamental responsibility to ensure the Army's contracting Soldiers have the best technical hands-on training and experience to ensure the service has an enduring expeditionary, trained and ready deployable contingency contracting capability.

It has now been a few months since we realigned our field directorate offices, and slightly longer since we reorganized the headquarters staff to make sure we are properly balanced to accomplish our mission. We are now best postured to perform our valuable mission to the utmost ability for our Soldiers and their families.

As a command, we now must look at standardizing our contract

support processes. Bringing this together is a dedicated team of experts at the headquarters that is drawing on the experience of more senior professionals from across the command while also seeking innovative ideas from some of our newer people and Soldiers. Fielding critical tools such as the MICC Desk Book and maximizing capabilities through the Virtual Contracting Enterprise to capture what we do each day helps yield predictable, consistent solutions for our customers.

Data collected through virtual tools also offers powerful insight for helping manage our workload. It also lends a visibility critical in making informed contracting decisions, which ties into bringing

the two worlds together. Big data also allows us to defend the value of what we do.

Another aspect we need to address is being the bridge between the requiring activity and the actual desired outcome necessary. This is bringing the two worlds together so that we can best serve our customers. FAR Part 37.102 states that program officials are responsible for accurately defining their needs, and to consult with their contracting professionals.

We have to help those program officials, requiring activities and customers understand it is not about copying and pasting from previous contracts but identifying and building upon successful performance work statements.

I have challenged our strategic operations folks to find the best of our scopes of work and performance work statements with clear and measurable details the entire command can use as hybrid examples for their contracts. We need to help our customers by steering them to accurately define their needs and then do our best to provide them with world-class contracts. No one else can bring the two worlds together. It is up to us, as contracting professionals, to make this happen because the needs of our customers are so critical in supporting Soldiers, families and civilians.

One part of reforging our professional competence is to be able to show others the value of what we bring to the table. In the MICC we have several initiatives, but one Gen. Dennis Via, the commanding general of Army Materiel Command, supported and has garnered significant attention is the MICC Savings Meter. The savings meter recognizes the difference between the amount committed by the resource management and the contract price obligated by the contracting officer as a savings to the Army. It also captures the savings realized through negotiation, reverse auctioning and Government Purchase Card Program rebates. You can see the savings meter and our progress on the MICC SharePoint landing page.

Our successes and achievements are rooted in the power and synergy of our people. With professional development, we can continue to support the warfighter with premiere and responsive contracting support, practices and oversight. Thank you for your service to our Army, and together as a team we can make a significant difference for Soldiers across the globe.

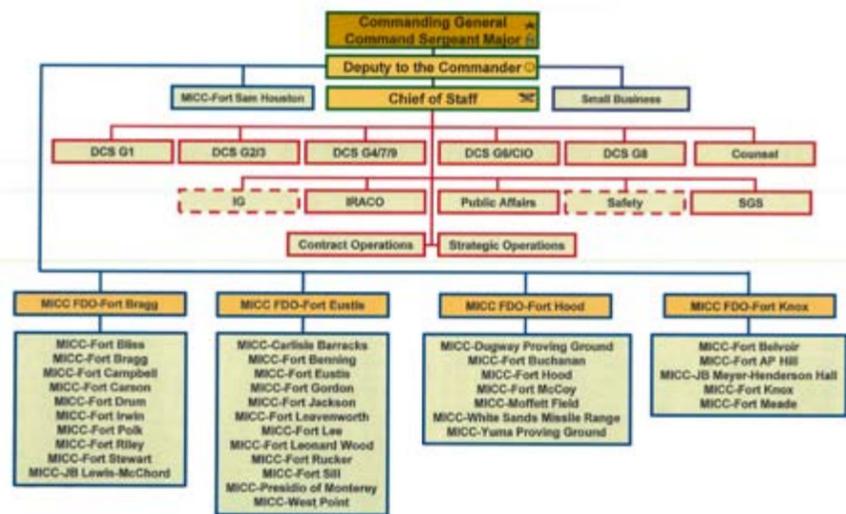
Contracting for Soldiers! MICC Strong! Army Strong!

Support of customers drives new realignment

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demands of our Soldiers and the acquisition community,” said Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke, the MICC commanding general. “The realignment of contracting offices under field directorate offices restores a command-wide focus that supports our core mission of providing responsive contracting solutions and oversight for our customers.”

Analysis for the organizational realignment began in mid-2012 and included an assessment of the command’s operational efficiency to determine a structure that would improve contract compliance and oversight of operations, provide



through mission analysis and was based on their link with the command’s major customer groups.

“The realignment provides a more strategic alignment with the customer base, in order to provide optimum opportunity for standardization of processes and products,” Corley said. “The realignment strikes a core balance between horizontal and vertical spans of control, leverages

contracting officer and customer levels, according to Albert Jacob, the chief of MICC Contract Operations.

MICC officials met with field directors and their deputies here in October to conduct roundtable discussions on the realignment that included procurement authorities and roles and responsibilities for the four field directorate offices to support their customers.

The MICC’s major customers include the U.S. Army Forces Command and U.S. Army Reserve Command supported by MICC FDO-Fort Bragg; U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command supported by MICC FDO-Fort Eustis; U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command supported by MICC FDO-Fort Hood; and Department of the Army-level customers in the Military District of Washington supported by MICC FDO-Fort Knox.

As part of the realignment, the MICC transferred responsibility for Fort Wainwright, Alaska; Fort Dix, N.J.; and Miami to other organizations of the U.S. Army Contracting Command. California’s MICC-Moffett Field will assume oversight of contracting support actions at Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif.

“The realignment of contracting offices under field directorate offices restores a command-wide focus that supports our core mission of providing responsive contracting solutions and oversight for our customers.”

General Vollmecke



strategic support to customers, and effectively utilize existing resources.

Sarah Corley, a senior contracting professional in the MICC who helped lead the realignment integrated process team, said the selection of locations for field directorate offices came after

the strengths of pre-existing organizational components, enhances the ability to streamline and standardize MICC’s processes, achieves consistency of operations, enhances support to core customers, and provides a mechanism to measure results.”

For the most part, the realignment is transparent at the installation

Efforts with AbilityOne earns award

AWARD, from Page 1

opinion, one of the most important.”

Ault, who has more than 30 years of acquisition and leadership experience, is responsible for reviewing incoming contract requirements to identify those that may be suitable for the federal procurement list. The federal procurement list identifies supplies and services that are required to be purchased from AbilityOne and its participating nonprofit agencies.

“This is a win win,” she said. “The AbilityOne mission is to provide employment opportunities for people who want to work, are very capable of working, but have difficulty finding or competing for jobs on their own.”

She was instrumental in the award of two contracts – one to the NISH and one to a NISH nonprofit agency – following a market research and education process between both the requiring activity and NISH managers to add contracted services to the procurement list.

“The misperception is that work can’t be accomplished, or accomplished well, by people with disabilities. I believe many people assume that individuals with disabilities have limited skills,” Ault said. “Additionally, many people seem to be uncomfortable around individuals with disabilities. Disabilities can be physical or cognitive, and there are not many jobs that these folks can’t do as well as people without disabilities. It is part of my job to help educate our customers and to make them feel more comfortable with this program.”

A contract for facilities maintenance services was awarded to the NISH that was combined with the Fort Knox custodial



Photo by Stephen Moore

Deborah Ault is a winner of the 2012 Secretary of the Army Award for Excellence in Contracting for her efforts to increase contract opportunities for people with significant disabilities.

services requirement valued at approximately \$121 million for the base and four one-year option periods. Award of this contract led the NISH to identify the installation as its center of excellence for total facilities management and begin the standup of a training program at Fort Knox for its nonprofit partners at no cost to the government.

Additionally, she played a critical role in the award of a contract for Human Resources Command call center services to a NISH non-profit agency valued at \$17 million for the base and four one-year option periods.

Ault said both of the contracts provide great potential for employment of people with significant disabilities. The facilities maintenance services contract employs about 200 people, and the call center services contract employs another 65-70 people.

The work by Ault also indirectly benefits this nation’s wounded warriors. The NISH works closely

with Fort Knox veterans support groups, including the Warrior Transition Unit, to identify potential employees for these and other AbilityOne contracts at Fort Knox. More than 15 service-disabled veterans have been hired, said Ault.

“A very small percentage of government contracts are in the AbilityOne program. I consider it part of my mission to increase that number,” she said.

As contracts division chief for MICC-Fort Knox, Ault is responsible for managing the work of her team, which includes 23 civilian employees and 10 contingency contracting Soldiers.

In support of the MICC’s integration efforts, she helps ensure military members assigned to Fort Knox receive the technical, hands-on training needed to prepare them for their contracting roles during deployment. She is also responsible for providing guidance and advice to co-workers, team members, customers and contractors.

Fort Polk member scratches \$100,000

by Daniel P. Elkins
MICC Public Affairs Office

When something flashy catches the attention of most people, it is typically a piece of jewelry or a sports car. For the deputy director at the Mission and Installation Contracting Command-Fort Polk, La., it was a \$5 scratch-off lottery ticket.

After Simone Curtis finished visiting with her sister in October, she made a quick stop at a nearby Circle K convenience store to buy tickets for a multi-state lottery. At the register, a flashy \$5 “Cash Frenzy” scratch-off lottery ticket caught her eye, and she asked to cashier to add one of them to her purchase.

“I always say if you want to win big, you’ve got to play big,” Curtis said.

She returned home and began making a late breakfast before giving the scratch-off ticket another thought. Using a spoon, she paused from her cooking to scratch the ticket and reveal its numbers.

“By the time I got to the last number, I was just hoping to win my \$5 back,” she said.



Photo by Lt. Col. James Conaster

A chance stop at a convenience store led to Simone Curtis claiming a \$100,000 prize in the Louisiana Lottery.

Upon finding a match with that last number, she went to a nearby convenience store to verify whether or not the ticket was a winner. The clerk verified it was a winning ticket, but could only refer her to the nearest lottery claims office to learn the amount.

Curtis requested a day of leave to travel to Alexandria, La., where she was overwhelmed to discover the ticket was a \$100,000 top prize winner. Lottery officials presented her with a check and a W-2.

“I was a nervous wreck driving home to the bank with that amount of money in my car,” she said.

Although the amount of money pales in comparison to the multimillion dollar contracts for which she manages, she said it is the odds that strike her as more amazing.

“The odds and probability that I was in that town and picked that location to buy a ticket, it definitely happens once in a lifetime,” Curtis said.

ACC realigns two contracting offices

REDSTONE ARSENAL, Ala.-- Army Contracting Command officials realigned two contracting offices that serve overseas customers effective Dec. 2.

ACC realigned the ACC Planning Cell-Miami, Fla., and the Mission and Installation Contracting Command-Fort Wainwright, Alaska, from the MICC to the Expeditionary Contracting Command, according to Scott Romero, the chief of current operations for the ACC Operations Group.

Romero said the realignments provide more efficient contracting support to the warfighter.

“Aligning the regional contracting offices to ECC establishes a direct support relationship that will provide unity of command efforts for U.S. Army operations in support of combatant commanders with

overseas responsibilities,” he said.

Romero said the ACC Planning Cell is now the Regional Contracting Office-Miami. It is a subordinate unit of ECC’s 410th Contracting Support Brigade at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The 410th CSB provides exercise and contingency planning support to U.S. Southern Command, including direct contracting support for the commander’s office.

MICC-Fort Wainwright became the Regional Contracting Office-Alaska, part of ECC’s 413th CSB at Fort Shafter, Hawaii. The 413th CSB supports mission operations, provides operational contract support planning and day-to-day installation contracting support to U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Army Pacific and Army installations in Alaska.

Ops directorate implements new CMR approach, schedule

Officials from the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Operations Directorate have updated the fiscal contract management review schedule.

Due to funding restrictions for travel, the new CMR process is being implemented in February with Fort Riley, Kansas, as the first office to be reviewed under a four-phase process.

The first phase entails initial assessment of contract execution, which lasts four weeks and replaces the contracting office annual self assessment.

The CMR team will consist of one contracting officer from the office being assessed; two contracting officers from other offices within the field directorate office; and one contracting officer and one quality assurance specialist from the FDO responsible for the office undergoing assessment. The team will review respective contract

files in the Paperless Contract File Program from their home installations.

“Contract files being loaded in the PCF Program and accessible to reviewers are paramount to the success of the new CMR process,” said Lorelei Jackson, a procurement analyst with oversight and assessment at the MICC.

Results from the first phase are validated during the second phase, which lasts four weeks. The oversight and assessment lead will use the PCF Program to validate initial assessment by reviewing contract actions greater than \$150,000, all cost reimbursement contracts and spot checks for actions less than \$150,000.

Once validation is complete, team members will develop briefing charts documenting commendations, observations, findings and recommendations for their respective areas and forward

to the oversight and assessment lead for incorporation into an out brief.

As part of third phase, a team will conduct an on-site assessment over three days for the purpose of training, mentoring and developing a corrective action plan. This phase includes an out brief, which will include data to be incorporated into the CMR final report. The on-site team will consist of a headquarters division chief or higher, one headquarters procurement analyst and the quality assurance specialist who participated in the initial assessment.

During the fourth phase health assessment, the principal assistant responsible for contracting approves the corrective action plan. This phase captures trends, insights and best practices to be distributed to designated headquarters staff and field directors.

The schedule of remaining CMRs includes the following:

MICC Contract Management Review			
Contracting Office	Phase I Initial Assessment	Phase II Intermediate Validation	Phase III On-site Assessment
Fort Riley, Kansas	Feb. 18 - March 15	March 25 - April 19	April 24 - 26
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas	Feb. 25 - March 22	April 1 - 26	May 1-3
Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash.	March 11 - April 5	April 15 - May 10	May 15 - 17
West Point, N.Y.	March 18 - April 12	April 22 - May 17	May 23 - 24
Fort Stewart, Ga.	April 8 - May 3	May 13 - June 7	June 12-14
Carlisle Barracks, Penn.	April 15 - May 10	May 20 - June 14	June 19-21
Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico	May 13 - June 7	June 17 - July 12	July 17-19
Fort Benning, Ga.	May 20 - June 14	June 24 - July 19	July 24-26
Fort Bragg, N.C.	June 10 - July 5	July 15 - Aug. 9	Aug. 14 - 16



Photo by Daniel P. Elkins



Photo by Ben Gonzales

Command Highlights

(Above) From left, Staff Sgt. Antonio McMillian, Staff Sgt. Laniece Bowman, Yamileth Moneymaker and Sgt. 1st Class Koreem Rhodes speak with students at the Lamar Elementary Career Day Nov. 8 in San Antonio. Members of the 410th and 412th Contracting Support Brigades teamed with the Mission and Installation Contracting Command to support the command's adopted school. **(Center)** More than 150 members of the MICC at Fort Sam Houston gathered Dec. 6 in San Antonio for a holiday party that included a competitive scavenger hunt. **(Bottom)** Gen. Dennis Via, commanding general of Army Materiel Command, meets Victor Gallegos, a human resources specialist, during a visit to the MICC Nov. 6 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.



Photo by Daniel P. Elkins



Photo by Ryan Mattox



Photo by Ryan Mattox



Photo by Ben Gonzales

(Above) Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades wave to spectators during San Antonio's Veterans Day Parade Nov. 10. Vollmecke, the commanding general of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command, was a grand marshal for the ceremony and parade. **(Center)** More than 25 members of the MICC participated in November's brown bag lunch at Fort Sam Houston as an acquisition professional development tool. The brown bag lunches cover a variety of contracting topics and are available to all members of the command. **(Bottom)** Vollmecke stands with a member of the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association during the Buffalo Soldiers Veterans Day Commemorative Ceremony Nov. 11 at the San Antonio National Cemetery.

Officials offer tips to avoid scams commonly associated with season

As members of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command and their families continue to celebrate the New Year, the command's protection team reminds all that world events and the evolving use of cyber threats call for a continued, vigilant awareness.

Terrorism is an enduring, persistent, worldwide threat to the Army and nation, said Frankie Hail, who is responsible for force protection, physical security and operations security. He added that all members of the command must be capable of deterring, preventing and defending against the full range of terrorist tactics, including attacks through cyberspace.

Army antiterrorism awareness themes seek to focus efforts and instill Army-wide heightened awareness and vigilance to prevent and protect the Army community and critical resources from acts of terrorism, according to Hail.

The antiterrorism theme for the second quarter of fiscal 2013 is cyber threat awareness. Cyber threats are any Internet-borne activity that may harm or have the potential to harm a computer or network and compromise the confidentiality, integrity or availability of network data or systems.

With the popularity of smartphones and tablets on holiday shopping lists, cyber crooks are trying just about everything to take advantage of vulnerabilities in operating systems. Forty percent of identity theft victims were targeted while making online purchases in 2011, Hail said, adding that identity fraud increased by 13 percent,

with more than 11.6 percent of Americans falling prey to the scams.

To help keep you protected, an online security expert for a software company, McAfee, provided the following list of the season's hottest scams and how to avoid them.

Phony e-tailers

If it looks too good to be true, then it probably is. Scammers set up phony shops and grab HTML code from a well-known site, then "sell" similar merchandise at a larger discount. If you're concerned you've come across a Best Buy or Target imposter, check for misspellings, weird URLs, dead links and links that do not lead to the intended location.

Once you pay, they have your financial information and you'll never receive the product.

Mobile malware

Thirty-three percent of apps ask for more info than they might ever need, so be very careful. If you purchase an app from iTunes or Google, chances are it's been vetted for any suspicious activity. If bought from a third party site, there's a good chance you could download Malware. These apps haven't been properly vetted for a malicious component and could be used to spy on your device to see text messages you send, apps you click and most importantly your usernames and passwords. They are definitely after your Social Security and credit card numbers.

Social media traps

Criminals set up fake profiles on Facebook and Twitter. These pages

often have a number of dangerous things, one being that they're infected and once you start clicking those links, they'll infect your device. Even worse, these links are often designed to get you to spill your personal info.

Phishing

Like the social media trap, these text or email messages offering discounts are nothing more than a hoax. They'll lure you to click a link and before you know it you'll wind up on a shady site or have downloaded spyware onto your device.

Bogus gift cards

These pieces of plastic are a very popular gift. With so many people snapping them up, scammers are rigging third-party sites to sell fakes or manipulating the cards at stores and voiding them. The best ways to dodge the scam is to only buy the cards kept behind the counter in stores or buy them at a mall kiosk. This way, you know you're getting the real thing.

E-cards

These hilarious e-cards are sometimes prone to criminal mischief. Some are being used to infect your device and often have links to get you to download something or disclose personal info. You really want to delete these and tell everyone that you prefer to receive paper cards.

Hot holiday gift

Every season has its trendy gift. Last year it was the iPhone, and this year the iPad Mini was highly desired. Con artists love to set up fake websites around these products

offering discounts that are really just a scam in disguise.

Fake charities

There are almost 1,000 domain names, and fake charities are a dime a dozen. It's impossible to determine whether the site is real or fake, but usually you'll get an email asking you to send a donation. Do not click on nor send anything.

iTunes gift card

Even Apple isn't immune from a con. If your iTunes account has been compromised, criminals might try to use that information to load up new gift cards and sell them to unsuspecting consumers. Before the charges appear, it's important to act fast and notify Apple and your card issuer of the fraud. This scam has been going for years now, but pops up more often immediately following the holiday season.

Your email spam folder

Most of the time these type of emails spell nothing but trouble. It's important that you don't visit your spam folder, just because that's where you might think legit emails are going. You must delete these emails and don't ever click the links in the body of an email from an unsolicited sender.

Online coupons

Like a third-party retail store, these scams look legit on the surface but ask for way too much information from shoppers. Definitely avoid these offers.

Fake classified ads

Many people choose to buy and sell items via classified ads. Second-hand items are often sold to get more money for gifts. Be aware of phone classifieds that ask you to wire money. Most of these sites are free and attract criminals because they are free. Never send any money.

For more information on protecting yourself from cyber and other threats, contact the MICC protection team at (210) 466-2413/2478. Additional information is also available on the MICC SharePoint site.



Children spend day at MICC

by Ben Gonzales
MICC Public Affairs Office

Smiles, laughter and happiness could be seen and heard at the Mission and Installation Contracting Command Headquarters during the unit's Bring Your Child to Work Day Nov. 20 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Children of MICC employees spent the day learning about what their parents do for a living as well as having fun with their parents and hosts for the event – MICC Commanding General Brig. Gen. Kirk Vollmecke and Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades.

The general welcomed the children and guests to start the day, then invited them all to walk around the historic Long Barracks building, a structure dating back to 1885 and home to the MICC since March 2012 following its renovation. Rhoades addressed the children too, and taught them how to give an enthusiastic Army "Hooah."

Following the welcome, children learned about the mission of the command and also participated in arts and crafts with their parents. Ranging in age from 3 to 16, children learned how to make slime, made bracelets and necklaces, built a Thanksgiving memento, and had a personalized caricature created.

"We wanted to show our next generation that

contracting can be fun, and what their parents do is important to the Army and our nation," said Pete Hunter of the small business programs, who taught the children about contracting.

After a pizza lunch and ice cream social, children played in the playground area adjacent to the MICC headquarters. Waiting for them outside were members of the 323rd Army Band, "Fort Sam's Own," who entertained the children with lively and current songs and took time to talk to the children about musicianship. Also outside were military vehicles on display for the children to crawl in and explore.

The City of San Antonio also participated in the MICC's Bring Your Child to Work Day. Officials brought a police department vehicle and McGruff the crime dog for the children to meet, and the fire department's Sparky the dog helped bring awareness to fire safety.

While Rhoades applied war paint to the children's faces to make them look like young warriors, MICC officials set up a variety of competitive games for the children to accomplish with their parents.

The day concluded with Vollmecke wishing them well and presenting mementos.

"I didn't know work could be so much fun," said teenager Cynthia Gentry, who participated in the event with her father, Simba Gentry, from the MICC Human Resources Division.



Photos by Daniel P. Elkins



Photo by Mike O'Rear





Photo by Kristy Spurgeon

Members of the contracting office at Fort Eustis, Va., help carry gifts donated to their adopted family as part of Operation Homefront.



Photo by John Dunivan

Contracting members at Fort Stewart, Ga., collected gifts for their adopted single-parent family with four young children.



Photo by Daniel P. Elkins

Command Sgt. Maj. Rodney Rhoades and members of the MICC Resource Management team at Fort Sam Houston celebrated the holiday Dec. 19 with the family of a wounded warrior - one of the command's three adopted families.

Command members share spirit of holidays

by Ryan Mattox
MICC Public Affairs Office

The spirit of generosity could readily be found throughout the Mission and Installation Contracting Command this year as members across the organization reached out to families in search of building stronger bonds with the Army and those in need.

The MICC's Human Resource Division, Resource Management team and leadership celebrated the holiday with the family of a wounded warrior — one of the command's three adopted families.

Since 2009, the human resources staff has brought the holiday spirit to those who could use a little holiday cheer by adopting families from the San Antonio and Fort Sam Houston communities during the season. The section had been hosting two families each year. However, this year they shared the opportunity with others in the command and turned to the Army Wounded Warrior Program to volunteer their support.

The program provided the names of three wounded warrior families. After receiving those names, each section spent a few moments to get to know the families before going out to purchase much needed items and gifts for the families.

"This is great, to be able to bring a little joy to those who gave to our country through their service in the military," said Maria Allen, acting human resources director for the MICC. "It makes us feel warm inside knowing we helped someone. It's such a great feeling."

The Army Wounded Warrior Program is an official Army program that assists

and advocates for severely wounded, ill and injured Soldiers, veterans, and their families, wherever they are located, regardless of military status.

Elsewhere in the command, members of the MICC-West Point contracting office shared their goodwill with the delivery of a Thanksgiving bounty as part of its annual adoption of a family for the holidays. They stocked the family's pantry and provided Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners as well as wrapped Christmas gifts to the family.

"I can honestly say that our office gets more out of this annual tradition than any of the families that have been helped," said Annemarie Kopko, MICC-West Point director. "I am very proud of the MICC West Point team's enthusiasm and generous hearts."

Members of the MICC-Fort Stewart continued their tradition of adopting a family for the holidays through the chaplain's office at the installation. This year they adopted a family of a Soldier who was a single parent with four children age 6 and younger.

"We started this mission after the events of 9/11 when so many families had one or both parents deployed," said Dale Williams, the MICC-Fort Stewart director. "So each year we usually get a family that is in need and either has at least one parent deployed or is a single parent family."

At Fort Eustis, the MICC contracting office adopted a family with seven children through Operation Homefront. Through their generosity, each child received more than 10 packages to include clothes. Members of the contracting office also collected donations to present the parents a \$250 Visa gift card.