

1. Do two or more Small Businesses that are capable mean that they must be capable on their own or can it be a team of companies?

A: Capability is defined as the ability to perform a contract. For sealed bid actions, capability is assessed by the Contracting Officer making a “responsibility” determination. Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 9.104-1 lists the general standards a contractor must meet to be considered responsible. Examples include adequate financial resources, ability to comply with the delivery or performance schedule, satisfactory performance record, and to have or be able to obtain the necessary equipment and facilities to perform. In competitive acquisitions, capability is assessed using the evaluation factors cited in the solicitation. Each offeror (whether an individual company or a contractor team arrangement, such as a joint venture) must be able to demonstrate capability to perform on the specific requirement. In a joint venture (or “team of companies”), the joint venture itself is the offeror, and therefore, the combined capability of the team, as described in their proposal, will be evaluated.

2. When requirements are “bundled” or combined, ceilings increase at times by the hundreds of millions at the same time these are set aside for total Small Business. How can a Small Business demonstrate capacity to perform on these huge acquisitions?

A: The definition of bundling is that two or more requirements for supplies or services, previously provided or performed under separate smaller contracts (previously suitable for small business), are combined into a solicitation for a single contract that is unlikely to be suitable for award to a small business. Therefore, by definition, a bundled requirement would not also be set-aside for small business. However, to address the issue of demonstrating “capacity” or what is actually referred to as capability, small businesses should indicate in their technical proposal how they plan to address the performance requirements as stated in the Performance Work Statement. Specific proposal submission data (evaluation factors) are provided in the solicitation’s Section L. Offerors either indicate how they themselves will perform or how a team member or subcontractor will perform. Past performance of previous work performed as a subcontractor for same/similar requirements may also be considered in demonstrating capability. Forming contractor team arrangements generally provides the government with the best combination of performance, cost and delivery and allows small businesses to find complementary capabilities in partners that will expand their resources and make them more competitive on these larger contracts.

3. If a contract is currently awarded 8(a) how can it be moved to Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB)? We understand that they all have same parity.

A: Per FAR 19.203(a), there is no order of precedence and therefore parity does not exist among the 8(a), HUBZone, SDVOSB and Women Owned Small Business (WOSB)/Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Business (EDWOSB) set-aside programs. However, FAR 19.203(c) further states that unless the Small Business Administration (SBA) agrees to release a requirement from the 8(a) program, it will remain in the 8(a) program. Market research and installation Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB) goal achievement analysis assists in providing justification for a request to release a requirement from the 8(a) program. Generally, though, if the market research indicates available, capable 8(a) firms, the SBA will not agree to release the requirement outside the 8(a) program.

4. Are there set-asides for employers that have a majority work force that are veterans?

A: No.

5. Your statics on Small Business goals I assume only includes prime Small Business contracts. Does the Army or MICC track total Small Business dollars to include second tier Small Business dollars? If all these dollars were tracked it would appear that significant dollars are already going to Small Business.

A: The Army and MICC follow DoD procedures that track prime small business awards and do not currently include subcontracting awards to small business in terms of meeting the assigned small business goals.

6. What is MICC's plan to ensure that Large Businesses meet their Small Business Plans after award?

A: MICC FY12 focus is on subcontracting compliance and enhanced emphasis is being placed on contracting officers to review Electronic Subcontracting Reporting System (eSRS) reports and prime contractors' subcontracting plan performance. Additionally, installation small business specialists are providing assistance to contracting officers in oversight of their reviews and to make recommendations for corrective action when prime contractors are having difficulty meeting their goals.

7. With regard to Small Business set-aside awards – With the significant increase of small business contract awards \$100 to- \$300 million and the emphasis to support Small Businesses, while the FAR does not require a Small Business Plan, it does not prohibit it. Why not require Small Business subcontracting plans on the larger Small Business set-asides say over \$100 million? This helps the smaller and new Small Business develop and get subcontracting work.

A: FAR 19.702(b) requirements for subcontracting plans do not apply to small business owners. Requiring one would be contrary to the FAR.

8. Why are there so many contracts set-aside for Small Businesses below "\$X" (say \$7 million) when the contracts themselves are way over that threshold (sometimes 10X or more)?

A: Assuming what is meant by this question is why so many task orders (not "contracts") are set aside for Small Business below a certain dollar threshold when the basic contract itself is significantly larger - this increases opportunities for small business to perform specific portions of a larger requirement or smaller versions of the entire scope of the requirement. Many of our large multiple award contracts have a small business (or "restricted") suite that allows for specific dollar values and/or specific performance elements to be competed amongst the small business awardees only – that is, they don't have to compete with any of the large business awardees for these specific task orders. This is a good thing as it allows small business to gain experience and become more competitive in the future.

9. How does affiliation play into the determination of Small Business qualification? i.e. affiliation with a parent company. Is an affiliation with a large business parent an absolute disqualification for Small Business certification?

A: An affiliation determination can affect whether an entity is considered small for a specific requirement. The SBA makes affiliation determinations and in so doing, considers factors such as ownership, management, previous relationships with or ties to another concern, and contractual relationships, in determining whether affiliation exists. There are some exceptions to affiliation, and each determination is made on a case-by-case basis. For more information on affiliation, recommend you review the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 13, Chapter 121.103, or contact your nearest SBA office.

10. What do you think the largest impacts of HR4310 will be to the MICC Small Business program? What can Small Businesses do to help you with those challenges?

A: HR 4310 is the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, which authorizes appropriations for military activities of the Department of Defense. The largest anticipated impact may be reductions in MICC procurement budgets, which may reduce the opportunities for current and prospective contractors, including small businesses. The best thing small businesses can do to assist MICC is to ensure they respond to market research tools such as sources sought, to assist small business specialists in making appropriate set-aside recommendations. Additionally, once a small business receives an award, performance is the key to subsequent awards.

11. Once a BOS Officer sends in a letter on behalf of an 8(a) company to make a posted opportunity set-aside – what happens next? What should the 8(a) company do to be proactive?

A: The BOS, or Business Opportunity Specialist, is an employee of the Small Business Administration who advocates for 8(a) participant firms assigned to them. FAR 19.803(b) describes how a specific requirement may be identified by the SBA for a particular 8(a) firm or firms, and requests the agency contracting activity offer the acquisition to the 8(a) Program. In so doing, the SBA also provides the reasons why the firm is considered suitable for this particular acquisition. Per Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) 219.804-1, the 8(a) firm or firms should be offered the opportunity to give a technical presentation. To be proactive, the 8(a) contractor should review their capability and capacity to perform, as well as any relevant and recent past performance for the same or similar supply or service, to thoroughly address the specific requirement in their presentation, and/or to respond promptly and completely to the solicitation.

12. What is the state of the small business size standards? Are they increasing? When? What will be the new size standards?

A: To determine eligibility for Federal small business contracting set-aside programs, the SBA establishes size standards on an industry by industry basis based on NAICS codes. The SBA conducted a recent review and revision to about 34 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes, predominantly in the Sector 54, Professional, Technical and Scientific services. Those changes were effective March 12, 2012. For more information on NAICS, contact the Size Specialist at your nearest SBA Government Contracting Area Office, or sizestandards@sba.gov.

13. What are the qualifications of a Small Business Specialist?

A: Per DoD Directive 4205.01, DoD Small Business Programs, dated March 10, 2009, Enclosure 2, paragraph 4(f)(1), Small Business Specialists must “possess the business acumen, knowledge of acquisition policies and procedures, training, and background to accomplish the Small Business Program policy...” All Small Business Specialists are in the Contracting Series, 1102 and must meet the qualifications per the Office of Personnel Management requirements. Prior to their appointment, all Army Small Business Specialist nominations are submitted to the Director, Department of Army Office of Small Business Programs (DA/OSBP) for approval.

14. What percentage of a contract must a Small Business perform on a teaming contract? Do you have to set yourself up for teaming in Central Contractor Registration (CCR)?

A: The percentage will depend on many factors, to include prime status, contract type, availability and ability of subcontractors, subcontracting goals and requirements, and inclusion or exclusion of certain clauses from the contract. No special designation is required in CCR to identify your company to potential teaming partners or the government that you are open to this arrangement.

15. Is 8(a) and Small Business/Service Disabled on the same playing field?

A: See answer to question #3 above.

16. Is credit for SDVOSB based on percent (%) of work within a teaming arrangement; or, must the SDVOSB be a prime?

A: Prime goals are calculated based on prime achievements. Subcontracting goals are calculated based on subcontracting achievements.

17. How has the October 2011 HubZone re-mapping affected government contracting and prime contractors ability to meet Small Business HubZone goals? (Many HubZone companies lost their HubZone status).

A: The map revisions resulting from the 2010 census have had a larger impact on affected HUBZone small business concerns. At the MICC, the changes afforded an opportunity for increased command emphasis on the HUBZone program, to include bi-weekly updates to the commander on how contracting activities were dealing with the changes to ensure the goals are met. It would be wrong to overlook the success of the HUBZone program in advancing the economic interests and increasing economic activity in these areas. In many instances, these areas do not qualify to be HUBZones because of the program's success at revitalizing those areas.

18. Do Small Businesses have to have a physical presence at a location when seeking direct award 8(a) contracts?

A: No. Small businesses do not qualify for direct award 8(a) contracts unless they are enrollees in the 8(a) business development program. Qualification to be an enrollee in the 8(a) Business Development (BD) program is not unique to a company's headquarters location.

19. Since GSA recently changed rules allowing Small Business set-asides under GSA schedules (i.e. 70), do Small Business Offices anticipate more utilization of GSA schedules to meet Small Business requirements?

A: Yes.

20. In fbo.gov, how can you get through all the solicitation amendments and get right to the bid due date, format, drawings, etc?

A: The bid due date will appear on the front page of the SF33, the SF1449 or the SF1442. It should also appear as the "response date" in the general information section on the right hand side of the screen when reviewing Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) notices. Knowledge of the Uniform Contract Format and the Commercial Item format will help. Uniformity is an important procurement value that helps small businesses. Small businesses should know the format of solicitations and be able to count on the contracting office and contracting officer to post that information in the format and arrangement required by the FAR.

21. What is the penalty if a Large Business does not fulfill its Small Business Subcontracting plan objectives?

A: FAR 19.702(c): "As stated in 15 U.S.C. 637(d)(8), any contractor or subcontractor failing to comply in good faith with the requirements of the subcontracting plan is in material breach of its contract. Further, 15 U.S.C. 637(d)(4)(F) directs that a contractor's failure to make a good faith effort to comply with the requirements of the subcontracting plan shall result in the imposition of liquidated damages." When competing for new MICC contract awards, prime achievement of subcontractor goals is evaluated as part of the past performance. In addition, the Small Business Administration is working on a proposed rule that would require contracting officers to be notified in writing when a prime fails to use a proposed subcontractor and when it reduces payments to or is late paying a subcontractor.

22. How do small business size standards apply to Small Businesses with multiple NAICS? What if some are based on revenue and others based on number of employees?

A: FAR 2.101 defines "Small business concern as "a concern, including its affiliates, that is independently owned and operated, not dominant in the field of operation in which it is bidding on Government contracts, and qualified as a small business under the criteria and the size standards in 13 CFR part 121". A company may find it is a small business concern in reference to one solicitation, but "other than small" in reference to another solicitation. The application of size standards is unique to each industry. A small business concern must meet the size standard for the NAICS industry assigned to each individual contract. If a procurement calls for two or more items with different size standards and the offeror must bid on all end items, it may qualify as a small business if it meets the common size standard for those items accounting for the greatest percentage of total contract value. If the offeror is not required to bid on all items, it may bid only on items for which it meets the size standard.

23. Is there any registration or certification process for NAICS codes or does the Small Business just list all potential NAICS codes for their business on CCR?

A: The CCR has a numeric limit on the number of NAICS codes that can be listed by each concern. As outlined in FAR 19.301-1, all offerors make representations in connection with a specific solicitation (in

the Online Representations and Certifications Application (ORCA)) that affect their entitlement to an award and ultimately their liability for any false statements related to such representation, whether a representation is of business size, compliance with socioeconomic or labor requirements, or of compliance with domestic preference regulations.

24. What are the basic tenets of the new affirmative action directive, and how is it applied to various Small Business categories?

A: This question relates to the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) 2011 policy directive 296. It outlines the application and approval procedures for Functional Affirmative Action Program (FAAP) Agreements provided for in 41 CFR 60-2.1(d)(4). It is a labor issue and a complicated one, not a small business issue. Recommend the small business seek legal counsel for response.

25. What can be done to have the SBSs return phone calls and emails? It is difficult to get appointments without communications?

A: If you have difficulty contacting a MICC small business specialist, please use the following contact form: <http://www.acc.army.mil/micc/contact-sbo.asp>. If you continue to have problems contact Ms. Sandra Spiess at 210-466-2290 or email sandra.k.spiess.civ@mail.mil.

26. In the "Real" world "It's all about relationships". So, when one is the new kid on the block, how much help can one get from Business Opportunity Specialists or Contracting Officers? I.E. Can they recommend companies to team up with? Large Corporations with Small Businesses?

A: The Small Business Specialist located in each MICC contracting office can provide some assistance. Your local SBA should also be contacted.

27. What does the MICC provide as services for Fort Sam vs JBSA contracting?

A: MICC Fort Sam Houston contracting office procures such services as computer systems design, remediation, environmental consulting, wired telecommunications, food service, electronic computer manufacturing (list not all inclusive). Joint Base San Antonio procures installation support services. To obtain more information, you can contact the MICC Fort Sam Houston small business specialist at 210-466-2257 or the Joint Base San Antonio contracting office small business specialist at 210-808-6145.

28. The Veterans Affairs (VAs) website for verifying/certifying a business as a Service Disabled Vet Owned has been down over 21 days with no anticipated return to service date. Is there an alternative? They do not accept telephone or fax apps.

A: There is no requirement for MICC contracting offices to use the VA website to verify SDVOSBs. The VA is responsible for the website. Suggest the small business contact the VA to obtain information at 202-303-3260.

29. What can you tell us about the Field and Installation Readiness Support Team (FIRST) contract? How long will it remain in place? How much "Ceiling" is left?

A: FIRST remains viable until February 2014; however, once the Enhanced Army Global Logistics Enterprise (EAGLE) contract is awarded, the types of services that are allowed under the EAGLE program will be competed under EAGLE. The remaining FIRST "ceiling" is fully allocated and will be used for modifications on existing orders and requirements still in the pre-award phase. However, there is limited availability for FIRST Restricted Suite requirements with total lifecycle value of approximately \$5-10M. See EAGLE website for types of services allowed under EAGLE

<http://www.aschq.army.mil/ac/aaisdus/EAGLE.aspx>

30. EAGLE RULE: If on more than one team as a subcontractor, can that subcontractor pursue a task order with more than one prime?

A: Reference Q&As 57 and 60 in EAGLE Questions & Answers 27 Mar 12 found on the EAGLE website:

<http://www.aschq.army.mil/ac/aaisdus/EAGLE.aspx>

31. The EAGLE Contracting Office has already listed United States Army Reserve Command (USARC) logistics contracts will be released under the first year of EAGLE. What types of USARC work will come under EAGLE and what will come under MICC? What large business contracts will be released?

A: Reference W52P1J-12-R-0076 Amendment 0002 paragraph A.1.ix. A complete copy of the EAGLE Step Two solicitation and attachments can be found on the EAGLE website under the 18 Jun 2012 update. Other USARC requirements will continue to be supported by MICC and coordinated with other contracting offices that support USARC (i.e., MEDCOM and TACOM).

32. In regards to Ft Irwin and Ft Polk logistics support services contracts (held by Northrup Grumman) – will they be "FIRST", "EAGLE" or "Full and Open"? Large or small business?

A: EAGLE synopsized Ft. Irwin and Ft. Polk requirements on FedBizOpps 29 March 2012

<https://www.fbo.gov/?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=9c1f9ce038fc15abc82b3cdd760f9e9c&cvview=0>

33. Ft Hood Aviation has been bridged to July – will it be let on EAGLE, Aviation Field Maintenance (AFM) or individual?

A: All aviation maintenance is migrating to Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) at installation level. The Ft Hood Aviation contract will be utilized until AMCOM awards the follow-on contract. AMCOM will decide which contract vehicle, i.e., (AFM) Aviation Field Maintenance, individual, etc., to use for the Ft Hood requirement. The Government identified requirements that will not be included in any EAGLE Task Order. Reference Step One Letter Enclosure March 12, 2012 found on the EAGLE website.

<http://www.aschq.army.mil/ac/aaisdus/EAGLE.aspx>

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34. After the transition of Directorate of Logistics (DOLs) to AMC, what other acquisition contracts are remaining at Installation Management Command (IMCOM), Directorate of Public Works (DPW) etc.? Will Garrison Commanders be part of DOL contracts Source Selection Boards (SSB) or the Source Selection Authority (SSA)?

A: Currently the Base Operations Support (BASOPs) contracts will remain with IMCOM. IMCOM also has other functions (DPW, Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization (DES), etc.), which will continue to be procured by the Local Contracting Offices (ECC, MICC, and Life Cycle Management Commands). The DOLs will transition to Army Materiel Command (AMC) via Army Sustainment Command (ASC). Source Selection Evaluation Boards (SSEBs) and SSAs are coordinated with the customer i.e., IMCOM and ASC, and as always, selection of SSEB members or SSA is Source Selection Sensitive and will not be released.

35. Why is Fort Bragg being released under FIRST? Is it a bridge contract? Assuming eventually it will role under EAGLE, will it be EAGLE “compliant”, and why has Fort Bragg been suspended indefinitely – will there be an amendment or new information?

A: The Ft Bragg DOL is being competed under FIRST as a Base and 2 years. It will be brought under EAGLE after that. It was only suspended to answer a few questions. An amendment has been issued. Reference APBI Q&A 8 located on the EAGLE APBI Brief 23 May 2012 found under Miscellaneous on the EAGLE website for planned first year actions. <http://www.aschq.army.mil/ac/aaisdus/EAGLE.aspx>

36. Do you predict in the near term some DOLs might have a Request For Proposal (RFP) released not under EAGLE?

A: Reference Q&A 203 in Step Two Q&As_12Jun2012 found on the EAGLE website: <http://www.aschq.army.mil/ac/aaisdus/EAGLE.aspx>

37. EAGLE – Which agency makes the final task order award ASC, RI ACC, MICC?

A: Under EAGLE, ACC Rock Island issues awards \geq \$1M per year and will transfer contract administration to the Local Contracting Offices (LCOs) who are Expeditionary Command (ECC), MICC, and Life Cycle Management Commands. Local Contracting Offices (LCOs) will issue AbilityOne and awards \leq \$1M per year that are EAGLE compliant (Standardized Performance Work Statement (PWS), Quality Assurance Surveillance Plan (QASP), and Performance Requirements Summary (PRS) approved by ASC). ASC is the customer and does not have contract authority.

38. Will local CORs report to local MICC Offices or do they report to ASC/Rock Island Contracting Center (RICC)?

A: CORs will report to the administrating contracting office.

39. With all of the DOL requirements rolling under EAGLE, what role will the MICC have in the future? Will the MICC mostly focus on DPW and BOSS related-type contracts? Will the “bridge contracts” prior to EAGLE BOAs being issued, be bid under MICC or FIRST or some other contract vehicle?

A: MICC still awards mission and installation support for our customers on 42 CONUS installations. IMCOM is among one of our many customers, i.e., ASC, Forces Command (FORSCOM), Human Resources Command (HRC), Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), United States Army Command (USARC), etc.

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Under the EAGLE program, MICC is a partner with the ASC EAGLE Program Office and ACC-RI Contracting Office. MICC is responsible for issuing DOL awards for AbilityOne and ≤\$1M per year that are EAGLE compliant (standardized PWS, QASP, and PRS approved by ASC) and for contract administration for EAGLE BOA task orders awarded by ACC-RI EAGLE Contracting Office with contract administration transferred to MICC. MICC will continue to award full food service and laundry/dry cleaning contracts for the DOLS. “Bridge contracts” or contract extensions issued by MICC prior to award of EAGLE BOA task orders will be IAW acquisition policies and utilize best business practices, i.e., possibly extended under FIRST; or the current contract vehicles.

40. The Small Business dollar threshold of EAGLE is \$35.5M – the majority of the Army’s DOLs fall under this threshold; therefore, these will be set-aside for Small Business as Prime Contractors. Just one critical area timely payments from DFAS – if that problem continues are we heading for a train wreck for Small Business?

A: At this time, other than the year 1 requirements that have been synopsised, ACC-RI cannot confirm which of the Army’s DOL requirements will fall under the Small Business threshold. However, Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and the Army are committed to ensuring payments are made timely IAW the contracts. The DOL CORs; in addition to the contracting officers; and DFAS liaison all work with the contractors to ensure payments are executed timely.

41. On a contract like EAGLE who will let the contract – MICC or the sub-MICC or will the Command i.e. ASC? Which Command will administer the contract?

A: MICC is responsible for issuing DOL awards for Ability One and ≤\$1 million per year that are EAGLE compliant (standardized PWS, QASP, and PRS approved by ASC) and for contract administration for EAGLE BOA task orders awarded by ACC-RI EAGLE Contracting Office with contract administration transferred to MICC. MICC will continue to award full food service and laundry/dry cleaning contracts for the DOLS.

42. Will there be an on-ramp provision for EAGLE to bring on the new primes/teams?

A: Reference W52P1J-12-R-0076 Amendment 0003 paragraphs H.1.e and H.1.f. A complete copy of the EAGLE Step Two solicitation and attachments can be found on the EAGLE website under the June 18, 2012 update.

43. How do the responsibilities of the EAGLE Program Management Office differ from the MICC contract administering responsibilities?

A: The EAGLE Program Management Office validates the requirement and the MICC administers the contract.

44. EAGLE – Is this an acronym? What does it stand for?

A: Yes. Enhanced Army Global Logistics Enterprise.

45. Will there be a fee for ACOMs to use the EAGLE contract?

A: At this time there is no plan for a fee to use the EAGLE contract.

46. EAGLE – Will the on/off ramp be a set calendar date or based on annual date of each task order?

**A: Reference Q&A 1 in EAGLE Questions & Answers_27Mar12 found on the EAGLE website:
<http://www.aschq.army.mil/ac/aaisdus/EAGLE.aspx>**

47. Does the implementation of JBSA and the 502nd have any effect on EAGLE with respect to Fort Sam?

A: The 502nd Contracting Squadron has the responsibility for Joint Base San Antonio and utilizes their contracting resources for DOL support for the Joint Base portion of Fort Sam Houston.

48. There has been an increase in protests and the result has been delays and in some cases cancellations of requirements. Question for the Panel: What do you see as the solution to reducing protests? What can the Government do or change? What do you think Industry can do?

A: MICC is partnering with the Requiring Activities to form a multi-functional integrated process team (MFIPT) earlier in the acquisition process to create unambiguous contract requirements. The MFIPT contains subject matter experts from both the technical and contracting specialties to “get it right” prior to releasing the solicitation. This change will increase acquisition planning, but should reduce the overall pre-award acquisition phase due to fewer questions from industry and fewer solicitation amendments being issued.

Industry can respond to requests for information and submit comments in response to draft documents. By incorporating industry comments earlier in the process, the solicitation and contract award phases will run smoother.

49. Could each Panelist comment on the current view on sole-source awards? Is there a general feel that sole-source awards are effective tools?

A: While the preference is for competitive awards, there are instances where sole source awards are appropriate and warranted in accordance with the conditions cited in FAR 6.302-1. Each acquisition is separately planned based on government needs and current market conditions.

50. As the Commander of MICC, what actions are you taking to reduce the time required to award a contract from approximately 280 days to something less?

A: The process to award a contract has many steps to be accomplished to assure the contract is awarded in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation and other applicable laws and regulations. These steps take time to ensure the contract award process is fair. MICC is partnering with the Requiring Activities, such as FORSCOM, TRADOC, IMCOM and USARC, to start the acquisition process earlier to ensure requirements are clearly defined. Clearly defined requirements will prompt fewer questions from industry during the solicitation process; thus, reducing the acquisition lead time.

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51. It was mentioned in this brief, as well as previous briefs, that Industry should ask Contracting Officers questions and maintain dialogue throughout the pre-RFP phases (timeline, discussions, etc). It has been my experience that Contracting Officers shut off communication with Industry and are NOT open to this type of engagement. What is being done to improve this exchange at TRADOC?

A: TRADOC does not award contracts for its requirements; contracts are awarded by contracting offices, such as MICC. MICC is writing a "MICC Government-Industry Communication Plan" to be released to all MICC offices this summer.

52. What is the best way to find the pertinent technical requirements personnel for a specific opportunity?

A: All vendors should contact the appropriate contracting office or small business representative to schedule a meeting with requiring activity personnel.

53. Many MICC Contracting Officers and Specialists will not meet with Private Industry. MICC Fort Eustis is particularly bad about this. Is there a reason MICC personnel will not meet with Private Industry? If not, can you "open the doors" for us so we can "partner" to support your customers?

A: MICC is writing a "MICC Government-Industry Communication Plan" to be released to all MICC offices this summer. If you have difficulty contacting a MICC small business specialist, please use the following contact form: <http://www.acc.army.mil/micc/contact-sbo.asp>. If you continue to have problems contact Ms. Sandra Spiess at 210-466-2290 or email sandra.k.spiess.civ@mail.mil.

54. There is a disconnect between Contracting/Customer/Contractor on the definition of Firm Fixed Price (FFP). Contractors consider this as a firm price that is billed at 1/12 of annual cost on a monthly basis. Many Customers and KO/COs still treat them as T&M. Comments?

A: For FFP service contracts, if the payment schedule is not identified in the PWS or elsewhere in the solicitation/contract then the schedule of when payment will be made is at the discretion of the KO/CO after discussion with the customer. In order to avoid a disconnect, if not identified in the solicitation, contractors should submit the issue to the Contracting Officer prior to the date for proposal submission.

55. "Protest" or "Concern" Process/Procedures: Yesterday Albert Jacob (the MICC Ombudsman) talked about his role, but he never mentioned going directly to the Contracting Officer ... is that route still open or not?

A: The Contracting Officer should always be the first line of inquiry related to any contracting matter. If the Contracting Officer is unable to satisfy the contractor's concerns and if the question/concern falls within the Ombudsman's duties/area of responsibility, then the contractor should contact the Ombudsman.

56. Please discuss DoD EMALL opportunities vs. FSSI BPA GSA Schedule 75 200.

A: DoD EMALL is a Department of Defense (DoD) Electronic Mall that provides the DoD, Federal, State, and Local Agency Customer's an E-Commerce, Enterprise Wide, Web-Based Solution for One Stop Shopping, Searching and Ordering. There are over 1,400 Commercial Vendor Catalogs hosted on DoD EMALL - over 985 of those are Small Business (SBA Designated). There are 5M+ DLA/GSA National Stock Number (NSN) Items; 34M+ Commercial Items and 441K Green Items.

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EMALL is a World Wide Web site managed by Defense Logistics Agency to shop and buy using a Government Purchase Card. To become a supplier on EMALL: Visit <https://dod-emall.dla.mil> and click Supplier Information on the left side of the Home Page.

OMB mandated that all Federal Agencies cut their procurement expenditures by 3.5 percent for both Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011, for a total reduction of 7 percent. In June/July 2010, GSA awarded 15 BPAs under the Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative (FSSI). The BPAs are for all Federal agency use, bound by GSA Federal Supply Schedule 75, for the full range of office supply products. Orders placed under the BPAs utilize the GSA Smartpay Government Purchase Card (GPC), and all other methods of payment under the Multiple Award Schedule (MAS) 75 contract for orders through GSA Advantage, DoD EMALL, or directly with the vendor. The BPAs were awarded to both small and large businesses and are broken down into three (3) distinct pools. GSA established nine vendors in Pool One providing a Full Office Supply Catalog with an emphasis on socioeconomic concerns and price. Three vendors were established in Pool Two providing a Full Office Supply Catalog with an emphasis on price and next date delivery, desktop delivery, secure desktop delivery, fill/kill and international shipping options. Three vendors were established in Pool Three providing only ink and toner products.

The BPAs will expire on the expiration of the vendor's Federal Strategic Sourcing Initiative (FSSI) contract against which the BPA is written for four years after award, or whichever occurs first. The BPA period of performance is provided below:

Base Year: June 1, 2010 – May 31, 2011
Option Year 1: June 1, 2011 – May 31, 2012
Option Year 2: June 1, 2012 – May 31, 2013
Option Year 3: June 1, 2013 – May 31, 2014

57. Is the Fort Hood Aviation Maintenance Contract going to be the AVJAMSS 2 Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Master Contract?

A: All aviation maintenance is migrating to AMCOM at the installation level. AMCOM will decide which contract vehicle, i.e., (AFM) Aviation Field Maintenance, individual, etc., to utilize for the Ft Hood requirement.

58. What contracts must go through your office? Do all T.O.s under OPTARSS, T.O.s under EAGLE or TSS or Warfighter FOCUS, etc.?

A: MICC provides contracts for mission and installation support for MICC's customers at 42 CONUS installations. We have many customers, i.e., ASC, FORSCOM, HRC, INCOM, TRADOC, USARC, etc., that we support. Task Orders for OPTARSS and Training Support System (TSS) are issued by the MICC office. The MICC is responsible for issuing DOL awards for AbilityOne and <\$1M per year that are EAGLE compliant (standardized PWS, QASP, and PRS approved by ASC) and full food service and laundry/dry cleaning for DOLs and for EAGLE BOA task orders awarded by ACC-RI Contracting Office with contract administration transferred to MICC. Warfighter Field Operations Customer Support (FOCUS) contracts belong to PEO STRI, and MICC does not issues/administer awards against these contracts.

59. Sir, would you consider putting your comments in a memo format to distribute across your Command as it relates to Contract Specialists engaging Industry?

A: MICC is writing a policy regarding the parameters of the interaction between MICC contracting professionals and industry.

60. Please address the status of ACA training with Industry initiative.

A: The ACA Training with Industry Initiative allows Government employees to spend time working with Industry. The initiative was briefed in June 2012 at the ACC Industry Executive Council meeting. There are follow-on actions from this brief that are currently being worked in order to stand up a pilot program.

61. There appear to be two conflicting goals briefed today: 1) look for efficiencies through enterprise contracts and 2) encourage competition. Enterprise contracts limit competition to companies who are on the enterprise contract. How will you resolve this challenge?

A: Enterprise contracts are competed both prior to award of the Master Contracts and at the Task Order level as such there is no perception of limiting competition or conflicting goals. The impact to all business entities is reviewed when a determination of the viability of an enterprise contracting effort is reviewed.

62. Which MICC or otherwise unit has oversight on United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Contracting Activities? Clearly they are doing their own acquisitions on installations cradle to grave with no oversight.

A: MICC and the Corps of Engineers are two separate commands with different missions and chains of command. MICC has no oversight authority over the USACE.

63. With regard to Multiple Award IDIQ contracts: To best engage the vender community, why, as a matter of policy, is it not a good idea to publish – annually – to each prime every current task to be re-competed and provide pertinent info for each task: contract #, contract name, incumbent, estimated value, brief (15 word scope), contracting officer and/or Government Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR).

A: MICC does traditionally post our known requirements on our website under the business opportunities webpage (<http://www.acc.army.mil/micc/business-opportunities.asp>). Called the MICC Advanced Acquisition Plan it is a forecasting tool targeted to both industry and government. This spreadsheet provides a snapshot of existing and planned contracting actions for numerous installations and Army Commands for next fiscal year and beyond. The listing may be especially helpful to small businesses seeking prime and subcontracting opportunities. The spreadsheet is current as of 7 May 2012 and is updated annually.

64. With the reduction of "Service" contracts dictated by Congress and DOD – How will the MICC execute these reductions and how will the AAP be impacted?

A: The Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Procurement) developed the Army's policy on implementing Section 801(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY2012. This policy will result in a strategic, enterprise-wide approach to the acquisition of services within the Army – from obtaining a clearer understanding of range and scope of Army service acquisitions, to avoiding wasteful duplication in the procurement of services, to promoting fiscal stewardship, to developing new ways of doing business.

Oversight of services acquisitions is the shared responsibility of requiring activities, contracting activities, and the Army Acquisition Executive (AAE). The Army is establishing various service portfolio managers who will review the Army's needs for services within their portfolio and how we are meeting those needs with existing contract solutions. The MICC will share in the data collection, review and implementation of the chosen contracting solutions. The impact to the requirements currently listed under our Advanced Acquisition Plan (AAP) are not known at this time; however, it can be anticipated that some of the requirements solicited as stand-alone requirements could potentially be consolidated under a larger enterprise-wide approach should such an effort meet the needs of the Army's mission and Congressionally mandated goals.

65. Many end-users indicate that they cannot meet with vendors once a Request For Information (RFI) or Market Research is posted. Is this accurate or does the RFP/RFQ start the black-out period?

A: End-users typically do not meet with vendors once an RFI or Market Research is posted.

66. Where can we locate the Advanced Acquisition Document on-line?

A: <http://www.acc.army.mil/micc/business-opportunities.asp>

67. Is there a website that lists all installations Department of Defense Activity Address Codes (DODAACs) or DoD Unit Identification Codes?

A: DoDAAC and DoD Unit Identification Codes can be found at the Air Force DODAAC Web Management System's searchable website at: <https://dodaac.wpafb.af.mil>.

DoDAAC inquiries may also be performed at the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Transaction Services website at: <https://www.daas.dla.mil/daasing/dodaac.asp?cu=d>

DoD has mandated that all personnel who access DoD systems must use PKI for all private web-enabled applications. DLA website users are required to have a DoD-approved Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) or External Certificate Authority (ECA) certificate in order to access this site.

If you do not have a Government issued Common Access Card (CAC) and would like to access a DLA Transaction Services Public Key Infrastructure PKI-enabled web application, you will need to purchase an external certificate through an External Certificate Authority (ECA).

Listed below are the links for the ECAs; unfortunately these external certificates are the only alternative to the DoD-issued CAC-Cards. You can choose either one of the following three DoD-approved ECAs:

VeriSign: <http://www.verisign.com/dod-interoperability/index.html>

ORC: <http://eca.orc.com/tokenEncryptionCert.html>

IdenTrust: http://identrust.com/certificates/eca/buy_eca.html <<< Please choose "Medium Assurance" (first option)

68. Is there an Air Force equivalent to MICC? At Joint Bases does MICC manage Air Force contracts?

A: To the best of our understanding the Air Force does not have a MICC equivalent organization. At the Joint Bases where the Army has the lead, the Army will take on the responsibility for all installation contracting (including installation support contracts previously completed by the Air Force and vice versa).

69. Task Order Awards --- Where is the decision made as to which MICC issues the order and then which agency makes the decision?

A: The Standard Operating Procedure is for the local MICC office to support any requirements on their installation. Decisions on MICC resources reside with the MICC Commanding General.

70. You mentioned IDIQ Master Contracts -- Historically, the ACA and MICC have awarded numerous IDIQs -- Logistics Joint Administrative Management Support (LOGJAMSS); Operations, Planning, Training and Resource Support Services (OPTARSS) I & II; Aviation Joint Administration Management Support Services (AVJAMSS); CONUS Support Base Services (CSBS) now Support Base Services (SBS); Maneuver Center of Excellence (MCOE), etc. --- Is there a move to only use BOAs in the future or will IDIQ still be used?

A: The use of BOAs within the MICC is currently under review; however, as of this response no decisions have been made.

71. Do you anticipate other commands, i.e. IMCOM, FORSCOM, TRADOC -- developing/utilizing more "enterprise" type contracts to obtain more efficiencies? Can you discuss pros and cons?

A: The opportunities for strategic sourcing are constantly reviewed by both the MICC and our customers. A pro for use of "enterprise" type contracts is a more streamlined process for the award of the actual task orders and more competitive pricing to our customers. A con to the use of enterprise contracts can be the "perception" that you are limiting the competition by only allowing those master award holders to compete. While there could be numerous other pro's and con's those are perhaps the most dramatic viewpoints.

72. Where/when will the slides from these two days be available?

A: The slides are posted to Federal Business Opportunities.

https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=19d7e02b8a75011790ec2cabb42a0598&tab=core&_cvview=1

Then click on Additional Documentation to view all the presentations.

The slides are also posted to the MICC website at the link below.

<http://www.acc.army.mil/micc/industry.asp>. Then look for the link for June 4-5, 2012.

73. Where can I get a copy of the information slides?

A: The slides are posted to Federal Business Opportunities.

https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=19d7e02b8a75011790ec2cabb42a0598&tab=core&_cvview=1

Then click on Additional Documentation to view all the presentations.

The slides are also posted to the MICC website at the link below.

<http://www.acc.army.mil/micc/industry.asp>. Then look for the link for June 4-5, 2012

74. Can you email the power point by Sue Jones to me?

A: The slides are posted to Federal Business Opportunities.

https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=19d7e02b8a75011790ec2cabb42a0598&tab=core&_cvview=1

Then click on Additional Documentation to view all the presentations.

The slides are also posted to the MICC website at the link below.

<http://www.acc.army.mil/micc/industry.asp>. Then look for the link for June 4-5, 2012.

75. Could you identify which prime contractors are onsite that can be met with for sub-contracting opportunities?

A: Contact the small business specialist in your area for assistance in identifying prime contractors.

However, while small business specialists may be aware of some onsite projects being worked, they do not have a consolidated list of all prime contractors working on an installation. 8(a) contractors should contact their local SBA office for information. Most of the contractors that have been successful in the subcontracting arena have networked by attending Outreach Events where they meet and provide their capabilities information to prime contractors.

76. Will a list of SB attendees be made? If so, is it possible for the businesses to be listed with their NAICS codes?

A: Due to Privacy Act considerations, MICC cannot publish the list of attendees from the June 4-5, 2012 Industry Day. During registration for the next event, attendees will have an opportunity to “opt out” from having their contact information published. This approach will allow MICC to publish the attendee list for the next event.

77. Please expand on your comment “We are transitioning tasks back to soldiers like before the war.” What do you mean?

A: Soldiers will be expected to perform field level maintenance missions, operate supply support activities and prepare meals in dining facilities. These tasks serve as training opportunities. Soldiers in most specialties can expect to spend more time at home station between deployments so they will be able to conduct logistics support missions in garrison. This is different than so called borrowed military manpower. The tasks that are transitioning back to soldiers are the tasks that they are expected to perform in war, and performing them in peace provides training opportunities.

78. How does the Asymmetrical Warfare Home Station opportunity relate to the Asymmetric Warfare Group opportunity as briefed by TRADOC?

A: TRADOC provides formal programs of instruction to units and individuals by professional instructors normally at a TRADOC post or school. Home station training is training that is planned and conducted by the units. Units can be expected to spend more time at home station and therefore, will have more training time available to conduct home station training.

79. Where can we find specifics for the 6-24 month FORSCOM forecast?

A: Information is available at the FORSCOM public web site and associated links:
<http://www.forscom.army.mil/g4/default.html>

80. FORSCOM currently has a number of requirements on the PEO STRI Warfighter Focus contract. Is it FORSCOM's intent to continue using the vehicle or will industry see requirements move to MICC IDIQs? An example would be the XVIII AB MCTC.

A: The way ahead for these requirements is TBD.

81. With overseas contingency operations ending in Iraq, do you see a drawdown of civilian contractors or contracts and see more of commander's being responsible for their training?

A: Commanders will be responsible for training and maintaining their own equipment, however training must remain realistic. There will be a need for training services that replicate what units receive at the national training centers at home station. Not every unit will be able to cycle through the training centers so units must be able to replicate the realism while conducting home station training. Additionally, training will be regionally aligned and focused on conducting combined arms training (maneuver, fire support, engineer, intel, logistics) which will provide opportunities for training contracts.

82. Do you think we will see a decrease in FORSCOM contracts, about the same, or an increase in contracts requiring contractors?

A: FORSCOM has been tasked to reduce contracts but that can be accomplished through efficiencies i.e. we should not be contracting for items that are in the supply system. We also need to take advantage of existing contracting vehicles to contract for goods and services to take advantage of economies of scales and reduce contract overhead cost. We have been very directive to our organizations requiring them to comply with these procedures. This alone will also help this command with meeting its targeted reductions. We will then be able to fund contracts that contribute directly to readiness and training. We are an OPTEMPO funded command so we can spend our funds on services that contribute to readiness.

83. The Battle Command Training Support Services Contract was on OPTARSS II and then removed. Could you tell us where it will be released and why that particular contract vehicle?

A: MICC believes the question is regarding the "Mission Command Training Program" (MCTP) and not BCTP. Fort Eustis is still administering the MCTP contract.

84. It would help industry if you would provide the contracting POC for each opportunity so we can follow-up on opportunities of interest.

A: MICC Contracting Offices Supporting TRADOC:

- MICC – Benning, (706) 545-2408; supporting TRADOC Maneuver Center of Excellence (COE), Airborne School, Armor Center/School and Infantry Center/School and Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC)
- MICC – Bliss, (915) 568-7354; supporting TRADOC Sergeants Major Academy and ARCIC Brigade Modernization/Network Integration
- MICC – Belvoir, (703) 806-8901; supporting TRADOC Army Management Staff College
- MICC – Carlisle Barracks, (717) 245-4609; supporting TRADOC Army War College
- MICC – Eustis, (757) 878-2800 x2254; supporting TRADOC HQs, ARCIC, Aviation Logistics School, and Initial Military Training COE
- MICC – Gordon, (706)791-1800; supporting TRADOC Signal COE
- MICC – Jackson, (803) 751-4140; supporting TRADOC IMT and Sustaining CoE Schools and Activities to include Adjutant General School, Chaplain School, Drill Sergeant School, Finance School, Physical Fitness School, Recruiting and Retention School, and Soldier Support Institute
- MICC – Knox, (502) 624-8044; supporting TRADOC Recruiting Command, and Cadet Command
- MICC – Leavenworth, (913) 684-1618; supporting TRADOC Combined Army Command (CAC), TRADOC Analysis Center, Mission Command CoE, Command & General Staff College, and University of Foreign Military and Cultural Studies
- MICC – Lee, (804) 734-4608; supporting TRADOC Combined Arms Support Command (CASCOM)/Sustainment CoE, Army Logistics University, Ordinance School, Quarter Master School, Transportation School, and TRADOC Analysis Center - Lee
- MICC - Leonard Wood, (573) 596-0244; supporting TRADOC Maneuver Support CoE, Chemical School, Engineering School, and Military Police School
- MICC-POM, (831) 242-6605; supporting TRADOC Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center
- MICC – Rucker, (334) 255-3404; supporting TRADOC Aviation CoE and Warrant Officer Career School
- MICC – Sill, (580) 442-6162; supporting TRADOC Fires CoE, Field Artillery School and Air Defense Artillery School
- MICC - White Sands, (575) 678-7307; TRADOC Analysis Center - WSMR

NOTE: Other ACC offices provide support to TRADOC Activities, such as ACC-APG who supports TRADOC's Asymmetrical Warfare Group and ACC-Fort Huachuca who supports TRADOC Intel CoE.

85. Could you please provide additional details on the ACES contract-anticipated timeline, etc. Is this going to be a new procurement or a re-compete?

A: The current education support services contract expires 29 Sep 12. ACC-NCR is preparing a solicitation for new task orders under the current contract. Additionally, MICC Fort Sam Houston (FSH) is working on a new procurement with anticipated award in FY13. The point of contact is IMCOM Continuing Education System Division at Fort Sam Houston, TX.

86. Do you have a point of contact at IMCOM who would talk to contractors about their proposals for new energy savings or efficiencies?

A: The point of contact is the IMCOM Energy Team at Fort Sam Houston, TX. The individuals listed below may be contacted at the telephone numbers listed.

-Ralph Totorica, IMCOM Energy & Utilities Branch, (210) 264-8297

-Steve Tallman, IMCOM Energy & Utilities Branch, (210) 264-0594

87. How do contractors make you aware of our new cost/energy savings initiatives?

A: Through communications with the IMCOM Energy Team, MICC Energy Team and Department of the Army Energy Initiative Task Force (EITF), and responding to request for information and request for proposals advertised on FedBizOps.

88. Has IMCOM given any thought to “leasing” equipment rather than “buying” (for example, training equipment) and having the contractor maintain it?

A: The decision to buy or lease equipment is based on results of cost benefit analyses and risk analyses data. Leaders are presented the pro’s & con’s for various courses of actions to base decisions beneficial to IMCOM and the soldiers, families and civilians being served.

89. Will the IMCOM First Sergeants Barracks Program (FSBP) continue Army-wide as currently funded and scoped or will the program be cancelled? If so, when? If cancelled, what is the Army-wide plan to transition the First Sergeants Barracks Program Tasks to Army units?

A: The program is not cancelled or going away. It is being modified, as the current program creates a year of execution bill which Installation Management Command (IMCOM) can no longer afford. It will also provide a holistic unaccompanied housing services strategy that will rely on a partnership between units and garrisons uniformly across all garrisons in the Army. It will maintain the existing services provided to unaccompanied Soldiers but it returns property management to units while it retains centralized management at BDE level, in compliance with the law.

The FSBP 2020 implementation is occurring during summer 2012; FOC by 2012. The success of FSBP 2020 requires a strong partnership between Military leadership and garrison staff in which the Military leadership has the primary role. The initial change will occur through an EXORD issued by Office of Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (OACSIM) and applicable to all Army Commands. Once the EXORD is published HQ IMCOM will publish an OPORD for the IMCOM Garrisons. The OPORD will have multiple tools to assist the Units and Garrisons in implementing FSBP 2020. The changes are Army-wide and have been continually coordinated with the OACSIM. There have been numerous round table discussions and briefings conducted with IMCOM Command Sergeants Major at the regions, along with FORSCOM, TRADOC and MEDCOM.

90. For environmental requirements at the installations, where does AEC fit in the decision process to use an AEC contract vehicle or a USACE contract vehicle? Where does IMCOM fit in that picture?

A: We work with the installations and Corps/MICC as we develop the FY Contract Plan to determine the best vehicles for cleanup contracts. Most of the cleanup workload is executed competitively on Multiple

Award Task Order Contracts (MATOCS) which normally have both Small Business and Unrestricted Portfolios. USAEC is awarding an Environmental Restoration Multiple Award contract to be administered by the FSH MICC that will include both a Small Business and Unrestricted portfolio (around 7 contractors each). The decision as to which portfolio to use is usually based on cleanup site complexity and is a joint decision among the installation, AEC, and contract agency (FSH MICC or Corps). IMCOM is involved through the garrison environmental staff participation.

91. How is IMCOM implementing energy efficiencies throughout the command?

A: IMCOM strategy for implementing energy efficiencies is to focus funding on projects with the greatest return on investment. Highest priority for funding has been given to No-cost/Low-cost (NC/LC) energy and water conservation measures and energy and water efficiency projects with paybacks of 10 years or less. Projects are executed i.e. awarded at the local installation/garrison level thru various contracting mechanisms.

92. What type of energy efficiencies can contractors help with? Any requirements coming out?

A: The Director of Public Work (DPW) through his/her Energy Manager executes the energy management program mission for the Garrison Commander. Requirements for projects come from each individual Garrison. Recommend contacting the Energy Managers at the Garrisons of interest for any assistance required.

93. Which of the opportunities are performed by small businesses and likely to stay that way for the re-compete?

**A: (a) USARC PMO Integrated Data Retrieval Toll
(b) ARFORGEN & BRAC Support**

94. Can we find the Army Reserve acquisitions forecast in the MICC Advanced Acquisition Plan?

A: Army Reserve acquisitions that have been procured by MICC are on the MICC Advanced Acquisition Plan.

95. Can we get the remainder of the acquisitions you mentioned from you after this session?

**A: (a) Simulation Program
(b) ENBOSS
(c) Multiple IT Requirements
(d) Maintenance Requirements
(e) Security Fencing
(f) Life Cycle Furnishing Replacements
(g) Energy upgrades (HVAC)**

96. On acquisition forecast for USARC Depot Maintenance it show the required date of January 2012, is this correct or should it be January 2013?

A: It should it be January 2013.

97. Of the six top 10-15 acquisitions from USARC, apparently three of the six fall under the scope of EAGLE. Based upon the dollar thresholds, will these three opportunities be set-aside for small businesses under EAGLE?

A: The Government synopsised the USARC requirements on FedBizOpps on May 18, 2012 for EAGLE https://www.fbo.gov/?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=a0728d17176235a7554ff64c4742b6fa&tab=core&_cview=1 Based on our research, of the six USARC requirements presented at MICC Industry Day only the PAAVEMSTS requirement falls under EAGLE.

98. Where/what vehicles does USARC procure the majority of its Information Technology services related requirements (e.g. ITS, ITS-SB)?

A: Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHESS)

99. Does pre-mobilization training still remain a USARC function or a First Army responsibility? If USARC, what types of training and service solicitations can we expect to see?

A: Currently, training remains a USARC responsibility/function. The standard requirements for training remain intact, however, minimized as a result of decreasing mobilizations. Those requirements include, but are not limited to, life support, IT, standard base operations, lane's training (mock ups and role play).

100. Can you elaborate on the credentialing procurement? Is there a pilot currently in progress? If so, when does the pilot expire?

A: In general, the credentialing requirement has more to do with ensuring Reserve Component medical soldiers have the appropriate license and certifications. The medical command has a pilot program and USARC is currently piggy backing off of an existing contract done by the medical command. The Army Reserve is receiving contract support from the Womack Facility (Medical Facility) Contracting Office.

101. What changes do you see coming in the realm of "Home Station Training"?

A: It is believed that the Army Reserve will not return to what was termed a "strategic" reserve. It will continue to function as an "operational" reserve, which entails a continuation of training with up to date equipment in preparation for missions abroad. As a result, one should expect "Home Station Training" to continue to ensure the Army Reserve is prepared to serve wherever mission dictates.

102. Currently MICC is administering Utility Privatization (UP) contracts at Fort Bliss – what organization will manage the UPs in the future in the state of Texas?

A: MICC Fort Bliss will continue to provide contract administration for UP contracts at Fort Bliss. Support to other installation such as Fort Hood will be determined by the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACSIM) as the new UP contracts are awarded. We anticipate it will be a shared responsibility between the MICC and DLA energy.

103. Regarding the reduction of duplicative contracting efforts -- When an IDIQ vehicle has been set for a group of requirements how does the MICC address when individual organizations decide to contract for a like requirement outside the IDIQ?

A: Beyond the quantities covered by the minimum guarantee it is the Government's collective prerogative to utilize the IDIQ to satisfy requirements. The MICC's role is to collectively assess, in conjunction with the requiring activity/customer, the viability and applicability of each contract vehicle. The criteria used in that assessment is often multivariate and always situational.

104. Why does MICC award FFP Low Price Technically acceptable contracts and then modify contracts a few months later because price was too low? Companies should perform as they bid or be terminated. Instead companies are bidding low fully expecting to get a modification to raise the price.

A: The assumption that the Government is increasing contract values after award so that the contractor can "get well" is an incorrect assumption. The Government's requirements are dynamic, and within scope changes to those requirements after award may be required. These changes may require negotiated consideration that results in an increase or decreased price.

105. Who is responsible for energy conservation and renewable for the MICC installations?

A: The Garrison Commander is responsible for energy conservation and renewable energy at the various installations. The Director of Public Work (DPW) through his/her Energy Manager executes the mission for the Garrison Commander. The DPW based on the requirement may use the installation contracting office, Corps of Engineer, Energy Initiative Task Force, Department of Energy, or other supportable contracting organization to procure the utility service.

106. How will the MICC discipline Installation/Command use of the appropriate contracting organization? Very often your clients will look to administrative contracting sources, such as CORP of Engineers, to obtain services that more appropriately fall under the purview of MICC to obtain.

A: MICC is not in the requiring activity's chain-of-command and generally does not direct our customers. This is an Army-wide issue that needs to be solved at the Army level. MICC is working diligently to establish Memoranda of Agreement with its primary customers that specifically outline the terms of service in an effort to insure that the customer's requirements are consistently directed to MICC. MICC regularly apprises its customers of the duplication of overhead cost and "add on" fees typically associated with offloading requirements to third party agencies. As budgets become more constrained, this practice is anticipated to diminish.

107. Can you please further discuss Order of Precedence (Preference) for using CHES, GSA etc for IT services? What about Army ITs – SB?

A: AFARS 5139.101 states that when procuring IT services, consideration must be given to setting aside requirements for small businesses and other small business categories, in accordance with FAR Part 19. In order to assist, the U.S. Army in achieving the statutory goal of Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses (SDVOSB) in all prime and subcontract awards, use of non-DoD contract vehicles such as the General Services Administration's SDVOSB Government-Wide Acquisition Contract should be considered.

If no small business capability exists, Computer Hardware, Enterprise Software and Solutions (CHES) contract vehicles are the preferred source for acquisition of IT services.

108. Why Low Price Technically Acceptable (LPTA) contract types?

A: Contract type and acquisition strategy decisions are always made on a case-by-case basis. The primary considerations for use of LPTA contract types are increasing budget constraints and increasing evidence that the Government has not always derived commensurate value from price/performance tradeoffs.

109. How will the MICC implement the portfolio management of service contracts? Please address the scope overlap of MICC contracts, i.e. OPTARSS and TSS with PEO STRI Warfighter FOCUS, TEACH and STOC II?

A: The requirements community is responsible for implementing the portfolio management concept. Commands will establish an internal process within their organization for managing service requirements and assign a Command Services Executive (CSE) to do this within each Command. Portfolio managers have been identified throughout the Army for specific service commodities such as: Equipment Related Services; Facility Related Services; Electronics and Communication Services; Medical Services; Transportation Services; Architect/Engineering Services; Logistics Services; Education and Training Services; Engineering Services; Program Management Support, Management Support, and Professional/Administrative/Other Services. Once these portfolio managers begin to identify efficiencies within their portfolios, the MICC will work with those portfolio managers where we have core expertise to develop contracting solutions that support their efficiency efforts.

Regarding the overlap of MICC contracts - Each HCA of a Command has the authority to approve contracts that support the mission of their Command. Because of this, there may be instances where different Commands have contracts that perform some of the same functions as other Command's contracts. Because both Commands may share a particular need, you may find some overlap in the scope of contracts, especially those that cover a wide range of items within a service commodity.

110. What three stars are the approval authorities? From which Commands?

A: IMCOM, TRADOC, and FORSCOM each have their own internal process for approving requirements. Once the acquisition estimate for TRADOC or FORSCOM exceeds a pre-determined dollar threshold, acquisition approval authority is the Deputy Commanding General (LTG) for TRADOC or FORSCOM. For IMCOM, the Regional Directors (SES) have unlimited authority to approve requirements. For Direct Reporting Garrisons to IMCOM HQ, the IMCOM DCG (a MG) is the approval authority. All internal requirements originating from each of these headquarters requires these same individuals to approve them.

111. Is it common for bridge contracts of 6 to 12 months to be issued extending the contract without competition?

A: No.

What is the basis for a decision to use lengthening bridge contracts?

A: Each case is situational but must also have a regulatory basis and justification, and these justification and approvals (J&As) must be posted to FEDBIZOPPS. See exceptions to competition enumerated in FAR 6.3 and related exceptions in FAR 8 and 16.

112. A lot of the IDIQ contracts have very short turn around for T.O. proposal. If corrective action is recommended but T.O. is already being performed, how would this be handled?

A: See Competition Advocate briefing slides for a non-exhaustive list of potential courses of action associated with corrective action.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Have your Field Directors and/or Installation Contracting Centers conduct regular Industry Days to provide more accurate and/or next level acquisition forecasts.
2. Please consider including NAICS code and a specific POC to each acquisition opportunity when presenting at the next session in October.