# 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

Today, we remember the nearly 3,000 men, women and children who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 attacks at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and aboard United Airlines Flight 93. We invite you to leave a comment showing your patriotism and support of USArmy Soldiers who protect our freedoms.



by Todd Lyman USACE TRANSATLANTIC AFGHANISTAN DISTRICT

KABUL—Afghan safety professionals are taking what they learn with the Corps into their homes and communities. In addition to capacity building here, USACE may also be responsible for a safety renaissance.

The mission of the USACE Transatlantic Afghanistan District safety office is to provide policy, programs, technical services, oversight and outreach related to safety and occupational health matters in support of Corps of Engineers missions throughout Afghanistan. To ensure mission accomplishment, training is a major tool in the quest. Safety Manager Ed McNamara explained "We observed work practices that we found unacceptable. We made this training mandatory for all workers at Engineer Village; office workers, warehouse workers and janitorial workers. For example we had industrial safety classes for our warehouse workers and in the afternoon we had fire prevention safety for all."

One valuable TAA employee took the training to heart. Hamid, a 36-year-old housekeeping worker who spent time as a security guard with coalition forces, observed

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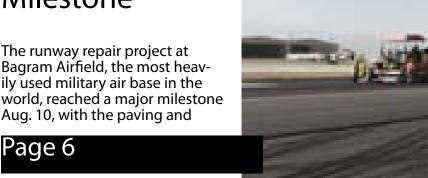


#### **USACE Volunteer Professionals** Provide TAA Surge

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The runway repair project at Bagram Airfield, the most heavily used military air base in the







#### **CFC Adds Online Option for Donors** at 'MyPay'

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6, 2013 -The annual Combined Federal Campaign adds a new feature for donors this year: an online pledge

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#### U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TRANSATLANTIC DIVISION **PUBLICATION**

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## **USACE Volunteer Professionals** Provide TAA Surge



Megan Cullen, from USACE New England District stands with USACE St. Louis District volunteers Rachel Lopez and Bryan Dirks, and USACE Vicksburg volunteer District Brad Brady. These are four of the sixteen construction surge team volunteers.

USACE TRANSATLANTIC AFGHANISTAN DISTRICT

KABUL— There are few organizations with the means and resources to supply highly trained, skilled and enthusiastic professionals to a remote location on a short notice districts to one, and we've reduced our when a need is identified. Fortunately for manpower both on the staff and at our Transatlantic Afghanistan District, USACE area and resident offices. All because we is an organization with a deep pool of talent from which to draw while working to stan is drawing to a close. But conversely deliver critical infrastructure for the Afghan our project missions are as big as ever. So

Construction Division Chief, explained the

need at TAA and the solution.

"With the standup of the Transatlantic Afghanistan District, a short-term need for tion period we have to be able to reply in a additional construction quality assurance timely manner to questions, submittals, and personnel was identified due to the numigust the regular process of administering a ber of newly awarded projects in the Kabul large construction contract. So what these area. The surge team, made of sixteen congreat Americans have done is to come over struction and engineering personnel from here and jump on board. Not typically around the country, has responded for 90- anything exotic, it is just the day-to-day reday taskers. During this period, the surge guirements of administering a construction personnel will augment the existing staff contract," he said. with project submittals, RMS data and completing necessary modifications required to While responding to requests from contrackeep pace with the dynamic environment in Afghanistan."

Jones, with command concurrence, contacted Transatlantic District to find suitable manpower for a 90-day surge in support of the mission.

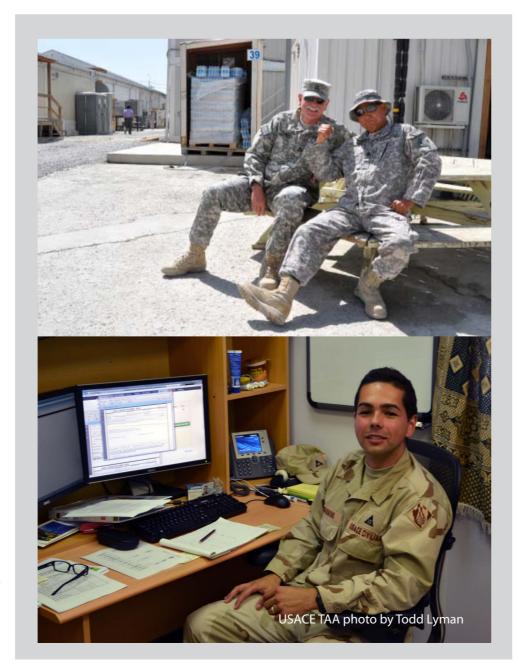
The result: fifteen USACE personnel provides experience. That is our recruiting phrase, ed by Corps districts across the U.S. arrived right?" Heitkamp asked. at Camp Phoenix July 21 eager and ready to

get to work. Another arrived later. All were assigned to support TAA's Kabul Area Office.

Col. Richard Heitkamp is the officer-incharge for KAO. "And looking at how we resized the district, we've gone from two understand that our mission in Afghanipeople. Mark Jones, TAA Engineering and we're trying to take advantage of our last two construction seasons before we are going to withdraw from Afghanistan. And in order to help the contractors make as much progress as possible during that construc-

> tors and working submittals are part of an ordinary day for those who've been with the Corps in Afghanistan over time, such activity is anything but routine for the surgers.

> "They get what we say is like three times the amount of experience for time they spend here. So every day is worth three days of



The surge team agreed in unison with a

Heitkamp praised the team's qualifications, willingness to get to work and their contributions.

"So it's been a great blend of experience. Most of them are out of school and have an Vicksburg District, added, "I'd say the vertiees have learned. initial experience with the Corps, an initial amount of construction experience and that works great because it is a win-win for them and for us. They get some great experience, and work with some experienced engineers on some interesting problems contractually in administering these contracts. These aren't the typical things you find back in the States. But it really makes you understand administration, what the Corps' role is. So they win with the experience and we win because we have some great engineers who are able to surge on the projects who can help us with things without a lot of spin-up time required. So it's been very successful so far. All of the people who've come over have integrated very quickly and gotten up to speed on their projects and have been a big help."

Joe Kellett is the chief of the TAA construction branch. He aided in surge team recruit-

"We put a lot of time and effort into selecting the folks on our ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) surge team. The surge has worked beyond my expectations. These folks have given us a tremendous boost with their spirited work and ready camaraderie and they have already had a significant, positive impact on our program in just their first 30 days. The depth of talent in USACE is remarkable and it is always elating when those talented folks come forward to tougher for me to go." meet a challenge," he said.

Evan Taylor, a geotechnical engineer from St. Louis District at TAA as a surge team member, worked with contractors.

"Working with contractors has been very easy, positive. Even if the experience wasn't there, there was still the will to do well. Their willingness is definitely there. They try. They want to do well," he said.

Taylor hopes to gain experience working to deploy with the Corps. with construction here.

"Four or five, more like," corrected Bryan "I did a lot of design at home, so I was on Dirks, a civil engineer from St. Louis District. the other side of it but I dealt with construction. That was one of the reasons I wanted district so this is experience with milcon (military construction). So that's a big part of why I came here.

> Brad Brady, a project engineer here from Cullen revealed what most multiple deploycal construction is something most of us don't get to deal with at home."

Dirks added, "Experience is a big part of why I came. I wanted to do this for a while, I put school on hold, I was told that they're wrapping stuff up and there isn't much time left, so I put other things on hold. We may not get the chance again in our careers to come over to a war zone and build stuff for the people in that area and do good things."

There is one former military member in the surge group; Mario Guerrero, a St. Louis District geotechnical engineer. Guerrero spent four years in the Army in the telecommunications field. Surge team members' Corps experiences range from three to seven years. Family members and stateside districts encouraged them to volunteer.

"My wife supported my deployment," Guerrero said. "I learned about the opportunity when James Dalton from Headquarters, USACE spoke to our Leadership Development Program III group. He recommended deploying for career development."

Megan Cullen is a civil engineer from New Ultimately, as Heitkamp said, the construc-England District. She said, "I got a lot of support once I said I wanted to go. When I told my supervisor I was interested he said, 'Great. You should make it happen.' But we didn't have as many contacts. So it was in America as we move closer to mission

While districts supported the volunteers, some family members' responses were

Rachel Lopez, another St. Louis engineer, relayed, "My husband also works for the Corps as an engineer. He was like the biggest cheerleader for me to do this until it came down for the time to leave, and then he was, 'What have I done?" Nevertheless, Lopez precedes her husband, who has yet

One surger has now experienced what is a way of life for so many service members.

to come here: a) I wanted to get some con- Brady said, "I have four kids, they're young. struction experience, b) we're a civil works My wife was very understanding. She knows I didn't have the opportunity to come in uniform. But the kids took it a little harder. My oldest actually took it hardest."

"I think it also depends on where you're deploying to. When I talked to people who had deployed, just to get some information before I signed up, I had asked their experience and it's very different than what I am experiencing here at Camp Phoenix. People I talked to were in forward operating bases and so I was expecting to be in the middle of nowhere being rocketed every day. I think it is awesome. Who gets to see this? We're so lucky that we get to see this part of the world. And experience, well we're not really experiencing the culture, but to see a little snapshot of the day-to-day life, I think

Preparing friends and family members is also part of the deployment experience.

Cullen continued, "When I was telling people that I was coming here they asked, 'Is your family going to visit?' I said, "It doesn't work like that."

Taylor clarified, "It's not a vacation destina-

tion surge team's three months in Afghanistan is a win-win situation. More like a win-win. TAA is able to make good use of some of the brightest young engineers completion. The volunteers will leave behind finished projects vital to Afghanistan infrastructure and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will have sixteen professionals who know what it's like to serve in a foreign land for the greater good. No doubt they will someday be the grizzled veterans at home districts who can regale future members who are trying to decide whether volunteering is right for them. TAA wins. The surge team members win. The Corps wins.

**USACE** gives Afghan Uniform Police a base of operations in Panjwai



KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed an Afghan Uniform Police headquarters facility in the Panjwai district of Kandahar City March 31. The facility will provide the AUP with a base from which to carry out their mission of providing security for the people of Panjwai.

At a cost of about \$4 million, the AUP district headquarters facility was built by an Afghan construction company and took a little more than one year to build.

"The facility can accommodate about 60 police officers," said Michael Winkler, the USACE project manager. It includes offices, jail cells, a perimeter wall, guard towers, dining, restroom and dormitory facilities (for men and women), parking and utilities.

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Construction of **Afghan National** Security Forces facilities at Camp Shorabak

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan -Progress continues on construction of Afghan National Security Forces facilities at Camp Shorabak. The projects consists of the construction of buildings, training areas, water and electric distribution systems, wastewater treatment systems, armories, dining facilities, fitness centers and other facilities soldiers need to live, work and train so they can protect and serve

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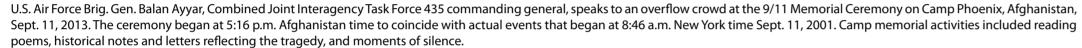




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# 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

















#### HQ USACE Message from Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick



Less than one year after the devastating terror attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, Congress officially recognized September 11th as Patriot Day in our Nation. While we can never forget the events of that day, we can honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost by participating in a National Day of Service and Remembrance. I encourage each of you to find a way to mark the significance of this day and, as the attached trisigned letter from our Army leaders reminds us, remember the more than 6,600 Service Members who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Tomorrow in Winchester, Virginia, USACE will end a chapter in our post-9/11 history when the USACE Deployment Center (UDC) officially closes its doors. Since 2005, more than 7,000 of our Soldiers and Civilians, as well as thousands from other commands, have processed through the UDC for Overseas Contingency Operations missions. The

outstanding employees of Transatlantic Division and the UDC have ensured that those individuals who raised their hands and volunteered for deployment were trained, equipped and ready to serve in Iraq and Afghanistan. To the many folks who have made that possible, thank you.

In the days after 9/11, retired General Colin Powell said: "You can be sure that the American spirit will prevail over this tragedy."

We have seen that American spirit prevail in the dedication of our tireless All Volunteer Army and their families... in the Civilians and Contractors who have willingly deployed in harm's way...in our firefighters, police officers and public safety officials who risk their lives to save ours...and in every citizen of our Nation who faced the dark days and weeks after 9/11 with greater resolve to live in freedom. It is that American spirit which we remember and give thanks for today.

Essayons...Building Strong...Army Strong!

Commanding









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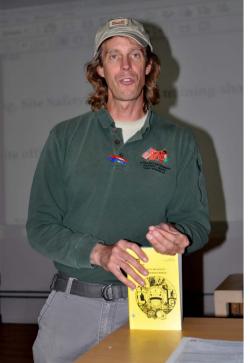
























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## Afghan Safety Professionals Apply New Knowledge **Beyond Work**



Hamid explains to Omid what he found when he inspected his home fire extinguisher following safety training.

BY TODD LYMAN TRANSATLANTIC AFGHANISTAN DISTRICT

KABUL—Afghan safety professionals are taking what they learn with the Corps into their homes and communities. In addition to capacity building here, USACE may also be responsible for a safety renaissance.

The mission of the USACE Transatlantic Afghanistan District safety office is to provide policy, programs, technical services, overoccupational health matters in support of Corps of Engineers missions throughout Afghanistan. To ensure mission accomplishment, training is a major tool in the quest.

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One valuable TAA employee took the training to heart. Hamid, a 36-year-old housekeeping worker who spent time as a secusight and outreach related to safety and rity guard with coalition forces, observed areas at his home that needed attention.

"The electrical safety and fire extinguisher use and maintenance training was very Safety Manager Ed McNamara explained helpful and I was able to apply it in my

home. I got home after the training and checked to see if our extinguisher was accessible and in working condition. I saw immediately that our extinguisher needed serviced, and I got it fixed.

"Next I looked at the extension cords in our house to see if they had the UL or CE labels." For more than a century Underwriters Laboratories (UL), an independent, non-profit organization has tested and certified products for safety. The European Commission (CE) certifies that products have met EU health, safety and environmental requirements that ensure consumer and work-

"I also checked to see if they were overloaded or if I had any daisy chains. When I saw the pictures in training of what happened when infractions occur and saw what we had at home, I removed the television, refrigerator and others from the same cord," Hamid continued. "I explained to my fam-"We observed work practices that we found ily the dangers of putting so many items on one cord and they understood. I did not only tell my family, but my relatives, too. I explained to my brothers, sisters and told them what could happen."

> Omid, 24 years old from Kabul, learned English through classes he took on his own and assists with administration and interpretation here. He recalls the safety training, "Actually I learned a lot. I was new at that time and felt the same way. It was good training that I could also apply outside of work."

> The newfound safety awareness brought memories into perspective for some of

## Bagram Airfield Runway Repairs Reach Major Milestone

FRANSATLANTIC MIDDLE EAST DISTRICT

temporary runway.

lowed the primary runway to be shut down for much needed repairs. Use of the primato and from the airfield. ry runway will resume in January 2014.

The Army Corps of Engineers awarded a for repair of the runways at Bagram Airfield on Feb. 11. Under the oversight of the Middle East District's Office at Bagram, the construction team developed a plan to repair the runways in two phases, beginning with the primary runway.

On April 6, the contractor began demolishing the old Russian runway while the pri-

and close coordination with airfield man-team Completion of the temporary runway al- agement ensured efficient throughput of earth-moving equipment hauling materials

After rebuilding the earth and gravel base, the concrete runway was replaced with contract to Anham-ICS Serka Joint Venture nearly 10,000 cubic meters of asphalt, transforming a non-functional and crumbling runway into nearly two miles of smooth asphalt surface. Working to the very last minute, the contractor diligently worked to put down the last of the pavement markthe old Russian runway that runs parallel to ings the evening before the scheduled turnover. On Aug. 9, this major milestone was achieved as the old Russian runway was reborn and prepared to relieve the primary runway for repairs.

mary runway remained fully operational. The on-going success of this project is due The aged concrete runway which had not to the hard work of a large team of experts The runway repair project at Bagram Airbeen used for years was reduced to rubble representing. Air Force and Army military field, the most heavily used military air base while approximately 24,000 cubic meters and civilian personnel, the contractor, the in the world, reached a major milestone of concrete debris was removed, crushed Air Force's 455th ECES, Force Projection Aug. 10, with the paving and opening of a and recycled. Assistance from the 455th Flight, Security Forces, Airfield Manage-Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron ment, and the Army Corps of Engineers

> "The complexities of this project with respect to the number of organizations involved, the number of moving parts, and the high level of coordination, compromise, partnering required cannot be stressed enough," said Robert Schaible, chief Project Management Military Construction Branch. "Failure to deliver on time is not an option given the high strategic importance of the

> During the next few months, the primary asphalt runway at Bagram Air Field will be resurfaced and should return to full operation in January 2014.

#### Building in Afghanistan:

## From Open Field to Functional Facility

TRANSATLANTIC AFGHANISTAN DISTRICT

KABUL— Building in Afghanistan is not like building in suburban America. It is not simply a matter of choosing counter tops and carpet over coffee with the general contractor. Transatlantic Afghanistan District is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers primary agent to accomplish the building mission here.

One veteran Transatlantic Division mem ber explained, "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mission in Afghanistan has some of the most challenging dynamics and obstacles of any construction environment across the globe. First finding contractors who can demonstrate the ability to perform work in a contingency conflict zone is difficult. In addition, there is not a skilled workforce readily available in Afghanistan, and the pipeline for materials and supplies is long and difficult to navigate.

Contractors come from across the globe to accept work in Afghanistan and some find the environment more challenging than they imagined and some leave before completing the work they were contracted to perform. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does everything within its authority to to assure the highest quality of product. In Afghanistan USACE designs and conhold contractors accountable for the quality and completion of work for which they were contracted. The bottom line is that constructing in Afghanistan is not like constructing anywhere in the USA and the ability to hold contractors fully accountable in a



Tim Kerr (right) and Kabul Area Office resident engineer Randy Braley, serving here from USACE Rock Island District, brief TAA commander Col. Michael J. Price, Kabul Area Office officer-in-charge Col. Richard Heitkamp at the site of a project that began as an open field near a village.

combat zone, in a foreign country, is rather limited. Despite these challenges the program managers, engineers, construction oversight teams, legal advisors and contracting personnel all work together to try

As the largest public engineering agency in the world, USACE had developed proven processes and principles that enable projects to be completed which will meet the

customers' needs. Before exploring the 'how' of mission accomplishment it is important to define the overall mission and why it must succeed.

structs projects for Afghan National Security Forces—specifically for the national army and national police. ANSF projects...

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## **CFC Adds Online Option** for Donors at 'MyPay'



AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

Combined Federal Campaign adds a new

feature for donors this year: an online pledge

option available through the Defense Finance

and Accounting Service's MyPay website,

which most service members and civilians

already use to view their leave and earnings

Anthony DeCristofaro is assistant director of

the DoD Voluntary Campaign Management

Office, which is within the Washington Head-

rate. He told American Forces Press Service

during a telephone interview that the online

pledge option offers several advantages over

paper pledge forms:

- -- It's more confidential and secure, as no paper forms pass from hand to hand; and
- -- It's less prone to error.

He explained that donors directly enter their input online only once, while the information on paper

into the system -- offering more chances for mistakes to creep in and also consuming The new option is "an example of a collabora-

He said ease of use is potentially much great-

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6, 2013 – The annual er, since donors using the online pledge option can search local, national or international charities. "Here in Washington, we have 4,500 about 20,000 different charities in this cam-

> DeCristofaro added that donors also are encouraged to use local CFC websites and other resources to research charities before giving

quarters Services' human resources directo- "I made my gift on Tuesday, ... [and] I was easily matched to my local campaign," he said. DeCristofaro said the process took him 10 minutes, and the next morning he had an said. email confirming his donation and start date.

The system has been in active development for two years, he said. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service led the effort, with support from the Office of Management and Budget, which has a similar system in its executive agencies.

In its first year, the service is open to employees in 90 of the 160 local CFC areas. Officials said more areas may be added in the future, and ask donors to use paper pledge forms in areas where the MyPay option is not available

DeCristofaro said use of the system, like participation in CFC, is strictly voluntary. Many employees have asked for and will likely prefer electronic options, he said, although anyone who wants to make a one-time gift or use pledge forms is typed and retyped a paper CFC pledge form still can do so.

thousands of total work hours in processing. tive effort that went into increasing our effi ciency," he added. DFAS hired computer programmers and worked with payroll offices to build and test the system, he said.

"You really had to have a lot of collaboration charities," he noted. "But nationwide, there are to get to this end product," he said. "So many legacy systems come together here."

> The new option will be available to eligible donors outside of the Defense Department, he noted, as the departments of Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs and Energy, along with the Environmental Protection Agency, also are DFAS clients.

> "It is easy, it eliminates paper, and inside the government, it's really going to save time," he











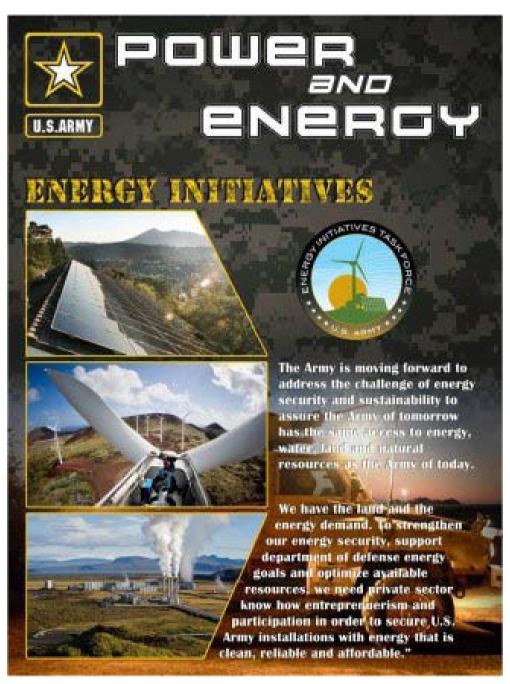




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# Army MATOC - First awards under \$7 billion renewable energy contract



BY DEBRA VALINE USACE ENGINEERING AND SUPPORT CENTER

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (May 3, 2013) -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Engineering and Support Center, Huntsville, working with the Army Energy Initiatives Task Force (EITF), today awarded the first of its kind Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Multiple Award Task Order Contracts (MATOC) for the first technology under this contract to support renewable energy on Defense Department installations.

Individual MATOC awards are being staggered by technology starting with today's announcement for geothermal. Announcement of awards for the remaining technologies, solar, wind and biomass, are anticipated for staggered release through the end of calendar year 2013.

The total amount for all awards under the Renewable and Alternative Energy Power Production for DoD Installations MATOC will not exceed \$7 billion. The MATOC will be used to procure reliable, locally generated, renewable and alternative energy through power purchase agreements (PPA).

The \$7 billion capacity would be expended for PPAs to procure energy over a period of 30 years or less from renewable energy plants that are designed, financed, constructed, operated and maintained by contractors using private sector financing.

The five companies awarded contracts for use in competing and awarding PPA task orders using geothermal technology are Constellation NewEnergy, Inc., Baltimore, Md.; ECC Renewables, LLC, -- Burlingame, Calif.; Enel Green Power North America, Inc. -- Andover, Mass.; LTC Federal, LLC, Detroit, Mich.; and Siemens Government Technologies, Inc., Arlington, Va.

The contracts provide a three-year base with seven one-year options, for a total ordering period of 10 years. Having these contracts in place will expedite the acquisition process for future projects.

Huntsville Center, working on behalf of USACE with the Army's EITF, issued the Request for Proposal for the \$7 billion Renewable and Alternative Energy Power Production for DoD Installations MATOC on Aug. 7, 2012.

These contracts will place the Army one step closer to meeting the Congressionally mandated energy goal of 25 percent production and consumption of energy from renewable sources by 2025 and improving installation energy security and sustainability while remaining cost conscious.

"In our current fiscal environment, attracting third-party money to build renewable energy production facilities that will allow military installations to purchase energy at a pre-determined rate without building, owning and maintaining the facility is the right thing to do," said Col. Robert Ruch, Huntsville Center commander. "Increasing energy security is a top priority for DoD and Army leadership, and this effort will lead to enhanced energy security and sustainability for our installations."

In April 2012, the White House announced the Defense Department was making one of the largest commitments to clean energy in history, by setting a goal to deploy 3 gigawatts of renewable energy -- including solar, wind, biomass or geothermal -- on Army, Navy and Air Force installations by 2025. That is enough energy to power 750,000 homes.

The Army's goal is 1 gigawatt of that total. These goals support the broader DoD goal to enhance installation energy security and reduce installation energy costs.

By awarding these contracts, the Army will increase its agility by streamlining acquisition processes to develop large-scale renewable energy projects that use private sector financing. This approach will help speed overall project development timelines to ensure the best value to the Army and private sector.

Mr. John Lushetsky, the EITF's executive director, spoke about the role of the EITF in helping the Army meet its renewable energy goals.

"To reach the Army's goal of deploying 1 gigawatt of renewable energy by 2025 will require a different way of doing business with the private sector. The issuance of the MATOC is a clear milestone for us, and the significant interest we've seen from industry indicates that we are on the right path.

The EITF has worked closely with the Huntsville Center to make the MATOC a streamlined and agile tool for the government to procure power from large scale renewable energy projects."

