



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CAREER FIELD NEWSLETTER *Inspector General Functional Community Edition*

June 2023

Professional Services Career Field Colleague Deploys with Army Expeditionary Civilian Workforce to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

Last year, Ms. Lira Frye, Director of Public Affairs, U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, deployed to Guantanamo Bay as part of the Army Expeditionary Civilian Workforce (AECW). Our Public Affairs & Communications Media Functional Community Manager, Ms. Susan Hand, sat down with her for a quick Question and Answer session to learn more about her incredible experience. What follows are highlights from that Q&A.

Question: What made you consider a deployment with AECW?

Answer: I'd been at my command for about seven years and was at a point in my position and career where I wanted a break. I didn't want to leave, just a chance to have a different experience or adventure. The Joint Task Force – Guantanamo (GITMO) detention camp opportunity provided exactly that.

Question: What about this particular opportunity interested you most?

Answer: I found the mission at GITMO incredibly interesting and unique. I was also able to commit to just six months, which was key for where I'm at in life. I felt six months away was something I could manage without negatively impacting my current job or personal life.

Question: What was the highlight of the experience for you?

Answer: I immediately felt value-added, working directly with the commander, a Brig. Gen., and the director of the detention facility, a Col. The ability to expand my network outside of my permanent position was incredible. Those are just the professional highlights, though. I really enjoyed my time there personally as well. The opportunities for after-hours and weekend activities at GITMO are relatively robust due to the nature of the location; it's a closed post with

families, and the Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) office is well-established. I was able to hike and learned to scuba, and I walked away from the experience healthier and refreshed.

Question: What about it did you find most difficult?

Answer: Being away from family was the most challenging part of the deployment. You walk into a completely new environment where you don't know the people or what's going to be expected of you, but I found I acclimated quickly. While challenging at first, it's incredibly rewarding to have the opportunity to come in and really 'put your stamp on' the position and mission, to make a difference.

Question: Are you glad you went and, if yes, would you do it again?

Answer: It was an amazing experience and I'm glad I took the opportunity to go. It retooled me, allowing me to practice different skill sets, and I'm confident I came back an even better leader for my team. It also gave my team a chance to step into leadership positions and challenge themselves in new ways, too. I'm not considering another deployment right now, but it's something I may consider again at some point.



Pictured above L to R: Lt. Tevin Caddell, Frye, and Staff Sgt. Cory Krassinger made up the Public Affairs team for JTF-GITMO. Not only did the team manage public affairs actions, but also planned and executed multiple DV visits during their time supporting the JTF.

Question: Would you recommend AECW to other people and, if yes, to whom?

Answer: I would definitely recommend it and I already have, many times. While I think it's often easier for people earlier in their career to pull off, I think it's a great opportunity for those who are mid-career and looking for a chance to break away and do something different. I highly encourage supervisors to support their employees' participation; the return on investment is there and it's significant. If they're doing it right, anyone who deploys comes back and makes the team stronger. We're always talking about "People First," and supporting our employees who want to take advantage of these once-in-a-lifetime opportunities is just one way we can do that.

Interested in learning more about current and upcoming deployment opportunities with the Army Expeditionary Civilian Workforce? Contact the AECW team at: usarmy.in.hqda.mbx.aecw-deployments@army.mil

The Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey is Open Through June 30th!



What is the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey?

The FEVS is an annual government-wide survey that measures federal employees' perceptions of whether, and to what extent, conditions that characterize successful organizations are present in the Army. The survey results provide valuable insights to Army leaders on the strengths of the Civilian workforce, as well as gauging areas for improvement.

Who received an invitation to complete the FEVS?

Non-political, non-contractor, non-Title X Army Civilians on board with the Army as of November 30, 2022, are eligible to complete the survey. Because this year's survey is a census, all eligible Army Civilians received an invitation to complete the FEVS in May.

How is the FEVS administered?

OPM sent a FEVS invitation (including a survey link) via email last month to all eligible Army Civilians. The

survey is completed online and takes an average of 20 minutes to complete.

Who sent the survey invitation email?

Because the survey is coming from an OPM email, the subject line will say "[Non-DoD Source] The 2023 OPM Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey." The survey invitation will come from EVAR@opm.gov, and USACE Civilians received the survey invitation from EVAC@opm.gov.

Can I forward the survey invitation to my personal email?

Yes, you can forward the survey invitation to your personal email and take the survey on a personal laptop or smartphone. It is important to note that the survey link you receive is unique and can only be used once. After completion of the survey, the survey link will no longer be usable.

What if I do not receive an invitation, but believe I am eligible?

- Army Civilians should email armyfevshelp@army.mil with questions about eligibility. Below is a drafted message you can use when emailing the Army FEVS Help Desk.
- For Army Civilians: EVAR@OPM.GOV
- For USACE Civilians: EVAC@OPM.GOV



Get Ready for FY24 CES Opportunities

Prepare to accomplish your Civilian Education System (CES) training goals in FY24! CES courses are delivered through a variety of means—self paced, distributed learning (DL), virtual instruction, in-person mobile education teams at select locations (MET), and in residence at Fort Leavenworth, KS. The initial class in the series, the [Foundation Course](#), is mandatory for all Army Civilians employed after 30 September 2006.

Keep an eye on the [AMSC Website](#) for FY24 course schedules; and, prepare to become a multi-skilled, agile, 21st Century Army leader.

Learn more about the application process for requesting equivalency or constructive course credit in lieu of course attendance by clicking [here](#).

More Ways for Army Civilians to Sharpen Their Professional Skills

Udemy: Professional Development at Your Fingertips

Udemy provides Army Civilians virtual educational opportunities for learning new skills and refining old ones.

This enterprise tool is available to all Army Civilians; and, can be used to achieve your individual development goals.

If you have not claimed your Udemy license, contact your functional community manager for assistance!

Army e-Learning Program

Department of the Army civilians are authorized to access over 3,500 Information Technology, Business Skills, and Interpersonal Skills courses from any location, around the clock (24/7).

To use [Army e-Learning](#), get an [Army Knowledge Online](#) (AKO) account and complete your registration through ATRRS.

Be sure to browse the [Army e-Learning Course Catalog](#) to see the courses available to you.

Before using Udemy or Army e-Learning during work hours, please secure advance approval from your supervisor.

Professional Services Career Field Begins a Third Year of Raising the Bar

May 2023 marked the second anniversary of *Raising the Bar*, a Professional Services Career Field initiative in which Army Legal subject matter experts provide no-cost, virtual training sessions each month. Though the programming primarily focuses on the practice of law, presentations such as *Unconscious Bias* and *Public Service Loan Forgiveness* have broader appeal. Complete recordings of these and other past training sessions may be viewed [here](#). Professional Services Career Field members are invited to explore the extensive library of recordings.

Congratulations to our teammate, Ms. Sarilyn Leary, Legal Functional Community Manager, for successfully navigating this incredibly successful training program into its third year!

U.S. Army Europe and Africa IGs Conduct Battle of Berlin Staff Ride



Mr. Thomas E. Sirois
*Deputy Command
Inspector General
United States Army
Europe & Africa*

Twenty members of the USAREUR-AF OIG conducted a 3-day Battle Staff Ride

(BSR) from 16-18 May 2023 to gain an understanding

closing days of World War II in Europe. Also discussed were tactical vignettes throughout the depth of the operation that contributed to a broader understanding of Battle of Berlin and illustrated operational or strategic examples of cause-and-effect, and examples of personal courage and small unit leadership from both the German and Soviet perspectives. One can imagine how many Function Code 2As would have been generated during the closing days of World War II on the Eastern Front!

Awards & Recognitions

Inspector General of the Year Named

For three days, from March 28-30, Army inspectors general (military and civilian) gathered at the Pentagon to compete for the title of Inspector General of the Year. More than 42 IGs from all three components participated in the competition. The competition included a series of examinations on all aspects of the Army Inspector General System, including the four IG functions of Inspections, Assistance, Investigations, and Teaching and Training. They also completed a writing evaluation and a scenario-based IG exercise. The competitors were evaluated for their overall IG knowledge, bearing, professionalism, and experience. The winners for 2023 are:

Dept. of the Army Civilian (GS-9/11) IG of the Year:
Mr. William Foster, Combined Arms Center, Fort
 Leavenworth, Kansas

Dept. of the Army Civilian (GS-12/13) IG of the Year:
Ms. Linda Nogle, U.S. Army Combat Capabilities
 Development Command, Aberdeen Proving Ground,
 Maryland

Dept. of the Army Civilian (GS-14/15) IG of the Year:
Mr. Robert Faucher, 8th Army, Camp Humphreys,
 South Korea

IG NCO of the Year: **SFC Dariana Baric**, U.S. Army
 Training Center, Fort Jackson, South Carolina

IG Officer of the Year: **LTC Brett Jordan**, 316th
 Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Coraopolis,
 Pennsylvania

Honorees were formally recognized during the
 Worldwide IG Conference at The National Guard
 Professional Education Center, Camp Robinson,
 Arkansas on May 24.



*Pictured above L to R: LTG Martin, The Inspector
 General; Mr. Faucher; Ms. Nogle; Mr. Foster; LTC
 Jordan; SFC Baric; and, SGM Orvis, DAIG SGM.*

**Civilians Complete The Inspector General
 Advance Course**



Every five years, Army Inspectors General are required to complete the Advance Course to sustain their credentials. This one-week course, taught in residence at the Inspector General School at Ft. Belvoir, VA enhances the skills of experienced IGs in selected aspects of inspections, assistance, and investigations and to teach strategies to improve the quality of written IG products. Civilian IGs completing the 17-21 APR 23 course are:

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- John C. Buss, FORSCOM
- Henry J. Carroll, USAREC
- Shaffer L. Clark III, CYBER COE
- Martha J. Crisp, USAREC
- Leah S. Cusker, AMCOM
- Dallis A. Dillard, V CORPS
- William M. Foster, CAC
- Katheryn A. Gatewood, 1 AD
- Raymond J. Gilbert, 10 MTN DIV
- Jomo K. Gordon, MEDICAL COE
- Truman C. Johns, 7 SIG CMD
- Josephine M. Kempkens, TACOM
- Roselyn M. Lachica, USAREC
- George P. May Jr., USAREC
- Robert A. Patterson, USASOC
- Kevin P. Paul, USAREC
- Michael Rebner, MEDCOM RHC-C
- Leslie M. Runyon, 11 ABN DIV
- Michael J. Schultz, USAMC
- Michael A. Schwarz, 79 TSC
- Thomas E. Sirois, USAREUR-AF
- Willie A. Spann, IMCOM HQ
- Christopher A. Washington, HQDA OTIG
- Tracy L. Wayne, IMCOM HQ
- Robert D Wesselman Jr., FORSCOM
- Dana A. Williams, USAMRDC

Congratulations to all who completed the course.
Droit et Avant!

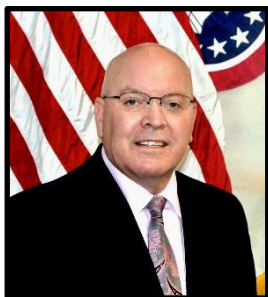
**Camp Henry Welcomes New
 Deputy Inspector General**



The 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Office of the Inspector General, Camp Henry, Korea, welcomes Mr. Albert Kim as the Deputy Inspector General for the command. Prior to this assignment, Mr. Kim served as the Chief of Inspections in the Defense Health Agency (DHA), Falls Church, VA. He managed the DHA IG Inspections of over 755 medical facilities including Army, Navy, and Air Force hospitals, dental clinics,

and public health organizations to provide a medically ready force and ready medical force to Combatant Commands in both peacetime and wartime. Because Mr. Kim has served over 20 of 41 years of federal service as an IG in six different Army and DoD organizations, he brings a wealth of experience to the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, Office of the Inspector General.

USAREC Welcomes New Inspector General



Mr. Duane Jackson joined the US Army Recruiting Command (USAREC), Office of the Inspector General, Assistance and Investigations Division, in March 2023 as an Inspector General. Mr. Jackson transferred to the USAREC IG Office from within USAREC. Mr. Jackson served with USAREC IG (Field Inspection Division) and retired in 2009 as an IG NCO. As a retired Recruiting Command Soldier, Mr. Jackson has an in depth understanding of the command; and, provides assistance to Soldiers, Family members, and Civilians, while providing teaching and training.

All the best to Mr. Kim and Mr. Jackson as they take on these new roles!

Welcome to the Newest Members of the Professional Services Career Field!

Mr. Stephen Barthmaier-JFHQ National Guard, Columbia, SC

Mr. Andrew Cooper-U.S. Army European Command, Wiesbaden, Germany

Mr. Barry Hadley-Forces Command, Ft. Liberty, NC

Ms. Mindy Pitts-U.S. Army Pacific Command, Ft. Shafter, HI

Mr. Curtis Pollitt-JFHQ National Guard, Wilmington, DE

Mr. Joseph Ritter-Medical Command, San Antonio, TX

Ms. Dorothee Smith-Forces Command, Ft. Liberty, NC

Mr. Darryl Stephens-Intelligence and Security Command, Ft. Belvoir, VA

Mr. Kenneth Thompson-JFHQ National Guard, Camp Joseph T. Robins, Pulaski, AR

Mr. Jose Vazquez-11 ABN DIV, Ft. Wainwright, AK

Mr. Wesley Wood-HQs 1st Army, Rock Island Arsenal, IL

Mr. Eric Wright-Military District of Washington, Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C.

The Professional Services Career Field Team appreciates the opportunity to improve the products we provide. Please follow the link to provide feedback on this edition of the newsletter:

<https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=146249>