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ANSWER CONTRACT FACTOIDS!

1937 Task Orders
 3.1 Bids/ New Task Order
 \$2.06 B Funded Sales
 \$5.52 B Estimated Value

General Services Administration
 GWACC, Pacific Rim Region
 9988 Hibert Street, Suite 102
 San Diego, CA 92131
 858.530.3175
 1.877.534.2208
<http://www.gsa.gov/answer>

ANSWER Contract Used to Hone Flying Skills of Army Aviators Monti Jagers

The U.S. Army Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEOSTRI) recently announced the addition of the Virtual Aviation Training Program to DynCorp's Virtual Training Life Cycle Contractor Support (VT LCCS) program. This addition increased the value of the VT LCCS task order by \$86M dollars and expanded the workforce by an additional 200 people. This award also increased the number of simulators, training aids and devices covered under the VT LCCS task order to over 8,000 located around the world. The VT LCCS is the largest task order awarded under the GSA ANSWER contract with a total value of \$752M dollars.



The Virtual Aviation Training (AT) program is designed to hone the flying skills of Army Aviators utilizing full motion rotary wing (helicopter) simulators. In addition, other devices are used to improve navigation, weapons use and tactical procedures. The simulators replicate the AH-64 Attack helicopter, the UH-60 Utility helicopter, the CH-47 helicopter, and several modified helicopters for the Special Operations Force. The picture above is the AH-64 Attack helicopter also known as the Apache.

Transition of Millennia and Other GWACs from IT Acquisition Center (ITAC) Paul Kennedy

The transition of the Millennia, Virtual Data Center Support Services (VDCS), Disaster Recovery Services Program (DRSP), and Access Certificates for Electronic Services (ACES) contract vehicles to the ANSWER GWAC is under way. Paul Kennedy, Senior Contracting Officer, met with representatives of the IT Acquisition Center (ITAC) in Arlington, Virginia from July 29 through 31, 2003 to begin the transition of the vehicles from ITAC to the ANSWER GWAC Center.

A program meeting is scheduled for August 21st in San Diego, with the Industry Partners, FSS and FTS FEDSIM that will detail program management and contract administrative functions, roles and responsibilities. All Millennia contractors have been invited and encouraged to attend. Topics for the one-day session include GWAC Realignment, the status of the GSA Contract Vehicle Review Board Report, the ANSWER GWAC Concept of Operations, the Millennia transition plan and ANSWER GWAC Initiatives. There will also be a workshop entitled "Creating Dynamic Partnerships" and several ANSWER GWAC Industry Partner Program Managers will speak about their experiences working with the ANSWER

Contracting Officer's Corner Paul Martin

Paul Martin, the Acting ANSWER PCO, announced plans to modify the ANSWER contracts to adjust the Contract Access Fee (CAF). The CAF is anticipated to change from 1.0 percent to 0.75 percent, effective January 1, 2004. On July 8, 2003, Paul conducted a telephonic conference with the ten ANSWER Industry Partners to discuss the reduction. The ANSWER PCO requested suggestions on how the CAF reduction could be implemented. At issue is whether the CAF reduction should be issued across the board or only on new Task Orders. The change is consistent with GSA's plan to lower the Industrial Funding Fee (IFF) that is built into the prices of items on its schedule contracts. The Federal Supply Service (FSS) published a final rule allowing it to unilaterally change the fee's percentage rate and promised to lower it from 1 percent to 0.75 percent effective Jan. 1, 2004.

Government Wide Acquisition Contract Database Established*Monti Jagers*

The Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council has agreed on a final rule amending the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) to require contracting activities to input information in an online contract directory for Government wide acquisition contracts (GWACs), multi-agency contracts, Federal Supply Schedule contracts, and other procurement instruments intended for multiple agency use, including blanket purchase agreements (BPAs) under Federal Supply Schedule contracts. The directory is located at <http://www.contractdirectory.gov>. The amendment encourages consideration of the online contract directory during acquisition planning and market research.

The database is designed to let agency officials quickly research contracts and identify the vendors involved. Contracting officers can use the data to find the best source for purchases based on prices, administrative fees and other factors. Agencies have until October 31 to enter data about existing contracts, except those that expire before June 1, 2004. When awarding new contracts, agencies have 10 days from the date of award to file the information

Proposed SBA Provision Would Affect FSS Schedules System

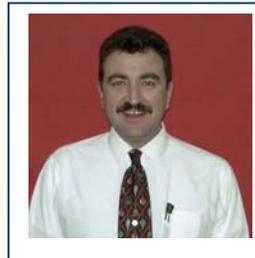
Section 403 of the Small Business Administration 50th Anniversary Reauthorization Act of 2003 (S. 1375), would require that agencies make all purchases ranging from \$2,500 to \$100,000 from small businesses. The bill passed the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee in July. The requirement would include purchases from the General Services Administration's Federal Supply Service schedules contracts. Section 403 could have a severe impact on the GSA schedules system, changing the nature and utility of the federal supply schedules system. Although friendly to small businesses, the provision would be problematic for large companies. The current requirement is that 23 percent of all federal contracting dollars go to small businesses. Measures such as the ones proposed in the SBA bill, or efforts to limit contract bundling and other recent initiatives, are intended to help agencies meet that goal.

ANSWER Conducts Acquisition Workshop in Hawaii*Mimi Bruce and Paul Martin*

During the week of July 14-18, Mimi Bruce and Paul Martin traveled to Hawaii to conduct a 2-day customized IT acquisition-training workshop. In addition to the workshop, several meetings were conducted to inform, educate, and discuss the Government Wide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs). To promote a Government-Industry partnership, a meeting was held that included the Hawaii ANSWER Industry Partners, the GSA Information Technology Managers (ITMs) and the ANSWER GWAC staff. The meeting provided an opportunity for all attendees to talk about the best features of the ANSWER contract and discuss any improvements that could enhance the Government/Industry partnership. The week's agenda also included a meeting with the FSS Hawaii Customer Service Directors (CSDs) to discuss GWACs and future joint marketing efforts including ways that "One FSS" can help the client in meeting their total solution. It was noted that the GWAC is another contractual tool within the FSS Contract Toolkit. To close out the week, Kit Lee, Hawaii Area Manager, arranged site visits with several of the ANSWER end user clients.

Bill Archambeault Rejoins ANSWER Team*Monti Jagers*

On July 28th, Bill Archambeault rejoined the ANSWER Team. Bill started with GSA in October 2001, working on various IT projects for ANSWER. As a result of the FSS/FTS "realignment in January 2003, Bill remained with FTS Pacific Rim Region as the Programs Executive. During the last seven months, Bill worked on a variety of programs, including the Acquisition Risk Mitigation Initiative (ARMI) and conducted various survey's work for the Contract Vehicle Review Board. A graduate of the Navy Acquisition Intern Program, Bill has also earned his MBA and holds an MS in Software Engineering. Welcome back, Bill!

**August Events**

Date: August 11, 2003
Location: Oakland, CA
Event: Solutions Edu - Section 508 Training Course

Date: August 11-15, 2003
Location: Honolulu, HI
Event: Solutions Edu - Introduction to Contracting Training Course

Date: August 19, 2003
Location: San Diego, CA
Event: ANSWER GWAC Training for R9 FSS CSD's

Date: August 20, 2003
Location: Tyson's Corner
Event: Army Training, ANSWER Contract

Date: August 21, 2003
Location: San Diego, CA
Event: Millennia Board Meeting

Date: August 25-29, 2003
Location: San Diego, CA
Event: All Hands ANSWER GWAC Meeting

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