

LTG Mixon  
Guest Speaker  
413th Contracting Support Brigade Activation Ceremony  
2 September 2009

Good Afternoon (VIPs),

I would like to thank Brigadier General Nichols for making the trip from Fort Belvoir, Virginia to join us today. Congratulations to COL Mike Hoskin and his wife Debbie for assuming command. It is an opportunity to provide oversight and leadership of a unique organization.

Contracting support has become a critical element of current operations. Today's battlefield commander in Iraq has more contracted personnel in his or her area of responsibility than combat Soldiers. The Department of Defense currently spends more on contract support to installations and deployed forces than it does on weapons systems. Implementation and oversight of these contracts requires the experience and expertise of a combined military and civilian workforce. The establishment of the 413th CSB and the increase in the number of available contracting professionals in the Pacific will help to correct a significant imbalance in this critical skill.

For contingency contracting missions, PACOM and USARPAC lead the way in joint planning and operations by utilizing Pacific Contingency Contracting Officer Working Groups (PCCOWG). All services in the area

regularly coordinate available resources in support of contingent and planned operations and installation support.

Expeditionary Contracting Command, a formerly all civilian organization, is transitioning into a military command with the responsibility to oversee contract operations in the Pacific Theater. Today, Colonel Mike Hoskin will assume command and activate the 413th Contracting Support Brigade. He will lead this organization as it effectively and efficiently supports our warfighters.

Mike, Rhonda and I would like to welcome you to the One Team family as you spearhead this groundbreaking territory. We wish you and Debbie the very best.

One Team!