

# THE ARMY'S NEWEST MOS

By Sergeant Major Ethan A. Jones

**F**or the first time in fifteen years, the Army has a new career management field (CMF) and military occupational specialty (MOS). The United States Army Acquisition Support Center (USAASC) has introduced CMF 51, Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology (AL&T) and MOS 51C, AL&T Contracting Noncommissioned Officer (NCO), into the full-spectrum Army. These NCOs will have the potential to become warranted Contingency Contracting Officers (CCOs) who are authorized by law to procure supplies and services and contract minor construction in support of deployed forces, which is vital to mission success.

AL&T Contracting NCOs will be assigned to the Army Sustainment Command (ASC), formerly the Army Field Support Command (AFSC), at Rock Island, Illinois. These NCOs will perform their contingency contracting mission and roles while assigned to units such as contracting support brigades, contingency contracting battalions, senior contingency contracting teams, and contingency contracting teams. All contracting commands, units, and teams are a part of the modular contracting force structure and the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle, providing contingency contracting support anywhere, anytime. These units and teams

will be evaluated and assessed during National Training Center, Joint Readiness Training Center, and Joint Multinational Readiness Center rotations and joint exercises.

USAASC, as the proponent for CMF 51 and MOS 51C, will be responsible for the life cycle management process—consisting of recruitment, retention, individual training and education, distribution, sustainment, professional development, and separation—for the new CMF and Contracting NCOs. Effective 1 October 2007, Soldiers from any MOS, in the rank of staff sergeant through sergeant first class, with less than 10 years of active duty service in the Active Army, United States Army Reserve, and Army National Guard—and who meet the prerequisites for MOS 51C—will be allowed to request reclassification.

As the Army continues to restructure to deter, deny, and defeat U.S. adversaries anywhere in the world, the contingency contracting military workforce is redefining itself to meet the requirements of supporting both conventional and unconventional forces. A brigade combat team must have the capability to sustain itself for the first 30 days of an operation. To achieve this goal, innovative and creative support is required, and contracting is one of the many force multipliers to make that happen.

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Artwork courtesy AMC Office of Command Contracting website



**Evolutionary acquisition is the preferred strategy for rapid acquisition of mature technology; spiral development is the preferred process.**