

Army's Order to SAIC a Boon for the Company, but also for Huntsville Subcontractors

The Huntsville Times, Kenneth Kesner  
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The Army issued an order to SAIC recently that's good for the huge defense contractor but also benefits a team of 238 subcontractors in Huntsville, said John Gully, SAIC senior vice president and Systems and Technology Solutions business unit general manager.

The *Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command* at Redstone Arsenal awarded a follow-on task order to *Science Applications International Corp.* for engineering and support services to the **Army Research Development and Engineering Center's Software Engineering Directorate.**

The order covers a five-year period and has a ceiling value of \$848 million.

"It is an extremely important contract for SAIC," Gully said, adding that it is also the largest in his business unit. "The SED is a most-valued customer."

"We consider it a privilege to be able to do it," said Craig Naudain, SAIC senior vice president and program manager for the project. "It's continuing work that we've been doing for them. They re-compete the task order."

The SED at Redstone is a premiere software engineering development organization for the Army and Department of Defense, Gully said. They provide life cycle support - from development to post-deployment sustainment - for the software systems that are vital to soldiers.

"All major weapons systems and operating systems depend on software - everything," Gully said.

For example, there is the Aviation Mission Planning System. Among other things, it coordinates all aspects of an aircraft and crew's pre-mission planning, including navigation, communications and weapons systems.

"It's about seven million lines of code," Naudain said.

**"We've just completed the software upgrades for the mission planning system for the presidential helicopter,"** he said, as well as training for the Marines based at Quantico, Va., who fly it.

A more fun example of the software development is the wildly popular "America's Army" computer game.

"Ten million users online," Naudain said.

"It's really fun," Gully said, adding that SAIC is adapting some of the game concepts for use by high school students in science, technology, engineering and math studies.

Each of the 238 subcontractors SAIC enlists to support the SED efforts has its headquarters or other presence in Huntsville, Naudain said. "And 175 of them are small businesses."

These are skilled organizations that SAIC can pull together to meet its customer's needs, Gully said.

"What this does, it allows the Software Engineering Directorate to reach out and get the best and brightest across the community in support of these tasks as they come forward," he said. "When one doesn't necessarily know what is facing us, and you're trying to be rapidly responsive to the warfighters' needs, then being able to reach out like that is very important."

SAIC has been in Huntsville since 1972 and has about 2,300 employees here, making it the company's third-largest site.