



# In the FLOW

November 2022



## ASUS Celebrates Its Veterans

Annually, ASUS recognizes its Veteran employees, and this year, we are honored to highlight our 50+ Veteran team members in our newsletter. Our Veterans span all branches of the service. They have seen sunrises on the horizon from magnificent carriers, have kept our ports safe, have stood by their brother in arms in battle, have flown our majestic skies and while working side by side with you each day, many serve their country still as they dedicate days and weeks in our countries reserves. We proudly recognize each for their sacrifice, their dedication, and love of their country.

ASUS celebrated in a multitude of ways; honoring Veteran's Day, Fort Riley Utility Services (FRUS) raised its flag on 11/11/2022. Our Senior Vice President, Chris Connor, shared a message with a slideshow via e-mail, and each subsidiary recognized its Veterans with personalized cards and gratitude. Read below about the special flag FRUS used at Ft. Riley and the reflections shared in our Veteran's slide show.

The flag pole was originally constructed and dedicated to the Fort Riley Elementary school in 1952. The school was constructed due to what is termed a "bumper crop of war babies," which created an enrollment explosion for Unified School District 475. The school remained in service for nearly 70 years until 2021. As FRUS partnered in the demolition of the school, it was asked what was to become of the historic flag pole. With approval from the Director of Public Works, Jeff Williamson, FRUS obtained ownership of the pole and repurposed the flag pole to the Water Treatment Plant (shown in the photo above). FRUS Operators constructed a base and provided lighting for a 24-hour display, where the pole will continue to fly Old Glory for years to come. FRUS looks to obtain a plaque in commemoration in 2023.



Travis Adams  
 Clint Alexander  
 Desirae Bagby  
 Clayton Bautista  
 Michael Bellis  
 Paul Bennett  
 Michael Bickerstaff  
 Gregory Booker  
 Bryan Broussard  
 Jeffrey Cain  
 Wayne Cepeda  
 Yasmin Chraibi  
 Susan Cleveland  
 George Coltharp  
 Kaydawn Cyrus  
 Gilbert Dillard  
 Paul Duke  
 Achabe Durante  
 Brian Ethridge  
 George Freyberger  
 Jordan Gallegos

Raul Garcia  
 Jirayu Hart  
 Craig Hawkins  
 James Hendrix  
 Richard Henry  
 Rebecca Hooper  
 Matthew Hudson  
 Roger Ivison  
 Matthew Kincaid  
 Daniel Mayton  
 Jason McDade  
 Duane McGowen  
 Kevin McLaughlin  
 James Meyer  
 Jeremy Miles  
 William Mueller  
 Luis Mulero  
 Michael Mullen  
 Danay Murrell  
 Alexei Nikitin  
 Brian Pope

Beth Pressman  
 Scott Pryor  
 Ryan Reeve  
 Michael Reid  
 Zbigniew Resiak  
 Jesus Severino  
 Gary Smith, Jr.  
 Michael Soha  
 Eric South  
 Mackenzie Talbot  
 Gerald Trammel  
 Terry Turner  
 David Wedlock  
 Kiley Wetmore  
 Jonathan Wilkins  
 Britanica Williams  
 Walter Willoughby



***Thank you to all of our veterans at  
 ASUS for your duty and service.***



*Veterans at Fort Riley Utility Services accepting their cards.  
 Pictured left to right: Duane McGowen, Jordan Gallegos,  
 George Freyberger, Jesus Severino, Paul Bennet, and  
 Clint Alexander.*





## Serving Those Who Serve Award

Jacob Kelly was the recipient of the 2022 “Serving Those Who Serve” Award, and his journey continues. Jacob finished 1st place at the Luray Sprint Triathlon, with the scenic view of Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. He also ran the Fort Ritchie Triathlon and Duathlon, where he placed 1st place for his age group of 50+. The races help contribute support to the local community, as well as the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County and Cedar Ridge Children’s Home.



## ECUS Safety Rodeo

Emerald Coast Utility Services (ECUS) employees from O&M, Capital, and Organic Construction Crew (OCC) teams attended the annual Safety Rodeo and Safety Training Day. This event is a hands-on approach to safety training and culture. The Safety Rodeo fulfills an estimated 75% of annual training requirements, where our employees focus on specific hands-on tasks.



## Small Business Update

Defense Logistics Agency-Energy (DLA Energy) performed a small business program compliance review for ASUS, Inc. on October 3, 2022 at Old North Utility Services, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Rebecca Hooper, Manager of Contracts; Susi Cleveland, Small Business Liaison Officer; and Delina Aberle, Sr. Contract Compliance and Customer Liaison Administrator, met with Janel Thompson, Management Analyst DLA Energy and Andrew Urben, Contracting Officer, DLA Energy to review ASUS’ small business program. DLA-E is legislatively mandated to perform small business program compliance reviews on all prime contractors with federal contracts containing subcontracting plans. The review found that ASUS, Inc. exceeded all socioeconomic goals, and all Summary Subcontracting Reports (SSRs) were submitted on time. As a result of this review, ASUS received a “well deserved rating of OUTSTANDING.”

Achievement of ASUS socioeconomic goals and small business program compliance is a team effort – a big “thank you” to everyone who participates in the contracting process, vendor and subcontractor recruitment, qualification process, and award of contracts!

## Situational Awareness & SLAM Method

Situational awareness is an important skill to keep you safe. Situational awareness means paying attention and being aware of what is going on around you. No matter what your role is at work, situational awareness is an important key to keeping everyone safe. When you practice situational awareness at work, you remain alert and aware of things like:

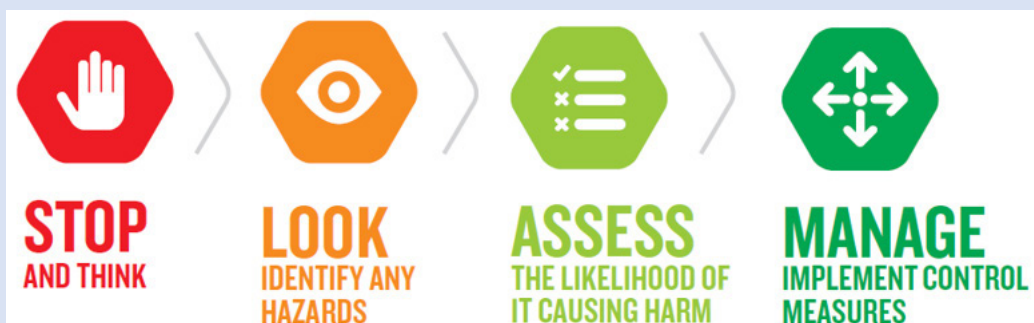
- Where your co-workers are while they are working and what they are doing
- Where operational heavy equipment is and how it is moving
- Where you are supposed to be
- What sounds you hear
- What potential hazards are nearby
- What you are supposed to be doing
- What are the safe procedures for the tasks you are completing

- What changes are happening that might affect your actions
- What is going on above and behind you
- What unusual smells are in the air
- What you see that is out of the ordinary
- What is the weather

Situational awareness involves three (3) key elements:

- **Observation:** You observe what is happening around you and take in all the elements of your environment.
- **Comprehension:** You comprehend the situation you are experiencing.
- **Anticipation:** You anticipate what is likely to occur next based on what you understand to be happening now.

When things are running smoothly, there may be a relaxed awareness as everyone completes their work tasks safely and efficiently. As situations change throughout the day, try using the SLAM Method (shown below).



## SCADA Updates

The SCADA team continues to look for innovative ways to better support each subsidiary. This past quarter, the team has worked diligently to bring historically outsourced SCADA support in-house. For the last several years, SCADA information has been transferred through the SCADA provider's cellular network, limiting ASUS' ability to provide access to other outside vendors for quick-turn support when issues arise. To increase agility in responding to SCADA needs across subsidiaries, the SCADA team has established a separate, private cellular network for SCADA network information. The team is currently coordinating with the SCADA provider to transition system, controls, and account information to this new, private network, as well as working to compile all SCADA information into a functional, navigable location. The benefits of this transition to a private cellular network include the following:



1. ASUS will no longer be required to coordinate SCADA issues with the single provider, allowing issues to be resolved quickly in house, or with an expanded list of outside service providers.
2. By moving SCADA information to a private cellular network, security controls can be added for each subsidiary to limit access to sensitive information. Information can also be better organized to enable faster response times, ultimately reducing system downtimes for our customers.

Stay tuned for future updates on this exciting project!

## Record Year for Project Awards

ASUS had a record year of project awards across our subsidiaries, more than doubling the number of awards in September 2022 compared to the last 3 years. These projects range in size and complexity, and it can often take many years of coordination with our customers to receive funding and approval. *“Achieving this level of success in the current economic environment is a true testament to the diligent and disciplined focus of our Project Supervisors, project teams, and Utility Managers,”* notes Chris Connor, Senior Vice President. *“Our teams are looking beyond the bottom line for ASUS and are considering the needs of their customers. It is this focus – that we capture the hearts of our customers – that has shaped the relationships we have built and the successful outcome we are seeing.”*



## ASUS Deploys Its New Enterprise GIS Platform – AEGIS

GIS continues to grow with new apps, ideas, and solutions being put into place every day. To better position ASUS to continue leveraging its GIS program and its Esri-based software implementation effectively, the GIS team recently deployed a brand new GIS platform – AEGIS.

The ASUS Enterprise Geospatial Information Solutions (AEGIS) platform replaced an aging, single-machine portal environment that was struggling to keep up with an increasingly more tech-savvy and geospatially conscious workforce. The new AEGIS platform is a multi-server deployment that significantly improves security, performance, and our overall geospatial capabilities. By reorganizing the system architecture, the team has created something that is more streamlined and scalable. By upgrading each component in the enterprise stack with the latest versions, ASUS continues to shore up the security of its protected GIS data while gearing up for a new generation of applications and solutions. The system redesign will drive the way that ASUS provides GIS services with a true web GIS concept that puts real-time data and geo-processing in the hands of every user, on every device, both in and out of the office.

**Looking Ahead – Utility Isolation Trace Tool:** The new AEGIS platform allows ASUS to deploy a whole new suite of applications. The Utility Isolation Trace tool is one of the many new apps that ASUS is planning to implement at the start of the new year. This particular tool will allow a field user to access our GIS system securely in the field, drop a pin on the system where a suspected leak or main break is occurring, and determine which valves to close in order to isolate the line. The app will also identify which hydrants and service lines will be out of service until the repair is complete.

This new app adds to our field technician’s tool belt in an effort to better serve our customers. Through this tool, we can better respond in emergency situations by identifying the most effective way to shut down a line with minimal impact to customers. This will also reduce the amount of water lost and damages caused from larger main breaks by shutting the system down faster while keeping the remaining system safe and adequately pressurized. ASUS plans to leverage this tool during construction activities by assisting with planned outages and mock shut downs.

This deployment marks a significant milestone for the AEGIS platform in that it will be the first time that ASUS has been able to conduct full server-side based geo-processing in the field. This is significant because it provides a stepping stone for more complex tools to be created in the future while still giving ASUS users access without the need of a clunky PC or hardwired internet connection. The GIS team is excited to see what other creative and innovative ways we can leverage this new “on-the-fly real-time analytics” capability as we continue to look to serve and support those who serve.



The ASUS GIS Team (shown above) is a small but passionate group of certified professionals with various backgrounds and more than 65 years of experience collectively. We are proud recipients of Esri’s “Special Achievement in GIS” award and are dedicated to providing accurate inventory and system mapping for each of the utility systems ASUS owns and operates. By leveraging the power of geospatial technology, we believe that we can see data in different ways, analyze information, and make more informed and strategic decisions in our everyday work to help make us more effective, efficient, and better suited to serve our customers. For more information, you can reach the team at [GIS-Team@asusinc.com](mailto:GIS-Team@asusinc.com).



## Successful PCRs Completed at ECUS and ODUS

**ECUS:** ECUS had several visitors during the recent Post Conveyance Review (PCR), including Andrew Urban (KO) and Catherine Lynn from DLA; John Dixon, UP Project Manager overseeing Eglin and Tyndall for AFCEC/AFMC; Eric Potter, AFCEC UP Program Manager San Antonio; along with Nicole DuPriest, PCR Facilitator AFCEC. Mr. Dixon (AFCEC/AFMC) commented at the end of the day that he was so impressed with the ECUS



Team and the systems they use that he would like to bring the Tyndall Team over for a second presentation. AFCEC, DLA, and the PCR Facilitator paused several times during the presentation to express their admiration for how well the ECUS Team knows their system, manages to excellence, and communicates with their CORs and Eglin partners.

Mr. Urban (DLA) commented at the Debrief/Out Brief how impressed he was at how calmly the ECUS Team manages to keep so many plates spinning on such a large installation. AFCEC went on to say that the Command could benefit in lessons learned from Eglin in how to more fully embrace the System Owners as partners and extensions of CE to execute additional work and funding opportunities, similar to the CDC Looping project funded by AFCEC. Lastly, Ms. Dana McIntyre-Deputy BCE complemented ASUS, stating she is very pleased with the level of service that is provided.

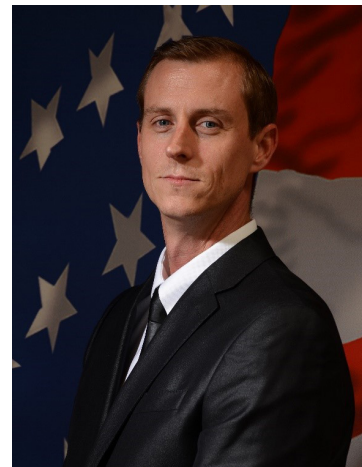
**ODUS:** ODUS recently participated in a PCR at Joint Base Langley-Eustis. During the three-day event, ODUS senior leadership staff presented to AFCEC senior leadership as well as DLA-E and Fort Eustis Civil Engineering Squadron staff. A wide array of topics was covered, including system resiliency, GIS mapping capabilities, Cityworks usage and benefits, as well as Operational and Capital successes. The PCR had originally been scheduled to take place during the 2020 calendar year, but the COVID pandemic hindered travel and participation from AFCEC staff that are headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio, Texas. After the formal discussions, an afternoon was spent performing a “windshield tour” around the installation that included visiting capital project sites, operational highlights, as well as a thorough demonstration of the 3rd Port Oily Water Treatment Plant, which is the only one of its kind owned and operated by ASUS. Concluding the event, Col. Chesley Thigpen, 733rd Mission Support Group Commander and CSM Tresia Huell, 733rd Mission Support Group Command Sergeant Major, were out-briefed and expressed their appreciation to the ODUS Team for continued customer satisfaction and for maintaining the systems as well as they do.



## New Director of Operations

On October 7, 2022, Frankie Jones was promoted to the role of Director of Operations. Since becoming an ASUS employee in 2014, Frankie has served in a variety of capacities, providing expertise, hard work, and leadership to our people and our customers. Frankie has served as PSUS Utility Manager/Assistant Utility Manager for more than five years, and in doing such, has gained clear insight and the required leadership experience to perform the role of Director of Operations.

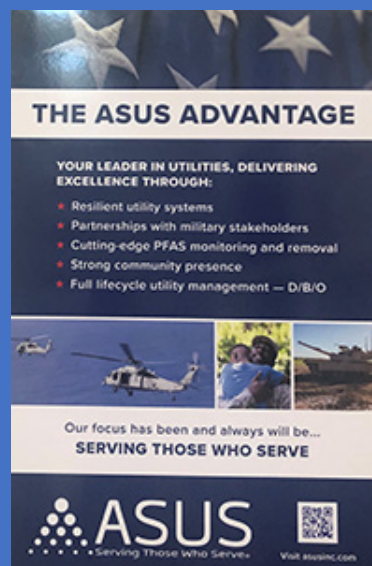
Frankie understands the challenges and demands of Operations. These include sustaining the mission, serving the customer, maintaining the reliability of the water and wastewater systems, growing the business, meeting company goals, and developing our employees as they are the company's future leaders. Reflecting upon Frankie's proven experience, his successful contributions, and the roles in which he has served – as an employee, a supervisor, and a Utility Manager – we are grateful to have such a strong and capable individual to lead Operations for ASUS. When asked what he is most looking forward to in his new role, Frankie said he is most excited about extending and developing relationships with ASUS family members that he has not had the opportunity to up until this point.



## ADC Installation Innovation Forum (IIF)

ASUS Business Development and Operations personnel recently attended the ADC Installation Innovation Forum (IIF) in Phoenix, Arizona. The conference included representation from more than 150 military commands, offered 50+ breakout sessions and facilitated meetings, and provided opportunities for ASUS to meet with key stakeholders across the DoD. This is a key networking event for ASUS every year, as we have the opportunity to meet with many of our valued customers to share success stories, best practices, and new ideas.

The IIF provided an opportunity for ASUS to highlight our company's mission and customer support in a unique way. Shown in the pictures, ASUS sponsored the water stations at the conference, which were centrally located to the majority of the breakout sessions and offered conference attendees a tangible understanding of our company's services and offerings.



## Rusty Hodges Retires After 44 Years

Mr. Granville "Rusty" Hodges, Vice President of Operations, retired after 44 years with AWR and its subsidiary ASUS in 2022. Rusty started as a Field Technician (performing pipeline maintenance with a shovel and using a jackhammer). From working as a Serviceman in Placentia, California in 1978, he remains one of the only two Officers of the Company who worked his way up from the field to a leadership position. Rusty leaves behind a legacy of exceptional service, a deep and abiding care for ASUS, and the many lives he touched through his encouragement and development over the years.



*Rusty Hodges and Susan Miller,  
Vice President of Operations*




## ASUS Receives New Awards


In 2022, ASUS remained committed to recruiting, employing, and retaining Veterans, Reservists, and Military Spouses across our subsidiaries. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, we were again honored to be awarded the **Platinum HIRE Vets Medallion Award**, due to our continuing demonstration of our unparalleled commitment to hiring, retaining, and supporting Veterans. In addition, on November 11<sup>th</sup>, ASUS was again honored with the **2023 Military Friendly Employer and Military Friendly Spouse Employer Awards**; ranking in the top 10 companies in the \$500M-\$999M award category. Thank you to all who have or are serving in our military, and for choosing ASUS as the next step in your career!



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