

Local company receives award

BY RICK HAYES

rick.hayes@register-news.com

MT. VERNON — A Mt. Vernon business has been recognized by a national publication for being one of the top environmental contractors for the federal government.

The Federal Times listed ARDL, Inc., located on Aviation Drive near the Mt. Vernon Airport, as one of the country's top contractors in 2011. Co-owners Rob and Bonnie Dismang, Randy and Valerie Jones and Dean and Judy Dickerson received a plaque from the magazine.

"They track all federal contracting nationwide for various industries," explained Business Manager Randy Jenkins. "We just happened to get an e-mail from them that we ended up in the top 100 of federal contractors for environmental assessments."

ARDL, Inc. actually ranked 41st in the magazine, receiving \$1.7 million in federal contracts in 2011.



Rick Hayes/Register-News

The management team of ARDL, Inc., based in Mt. Vernon, pose with the plaque they received from Federal Times, a watchdog magazine for environmental assessments that ranked the local company 41st in its top 100 list of top contractors for 2011. In front are Valerie Jenkins and Bonnie Dismang. In back, from left, are: Randy Jenkins, Rob Dismang and Dean Dickerson.

"Most of those ranked were very large companies; we happen to be a very small company," Jenkins added, noting ARDL employs about 30 people. "When we took a closer look at the list, we were in the top 10 of the small businesses on the list."

Jenkins said all of the work done by ARDL for this particular ranking was contracted through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers out of the Jacksonville (Fla.) district.

Specifically, the work involved a program the Department of Defense has called FUDS, an acronym for Formerly Utilized Defense Sites.

"We did investigations in the state of Florida on air bases used in World War II," Jenkins said. "We did preliminary (environmental) assessments of the entire amount of property the federal property acquired during World War II

for air bases. There were hundreds of those during the war. Most of these were acquired right after Pearl Harbor and a lot of them the government only had control over until the war ended."

He added, "We did one that happened to be a Marine Corps and Navy base the government had control over through the Korean Conflict. What we were tasked with, based on records, what the Army or Navy did at the base and how what they did could've impacted the environment and what liability they might have caused or what the government would not have liability for that may have been caused by someone who came in later."

The findings were used to determine if the government was at risk for federal

lawsuits and/or to determine if the site needed to be cleaned up.

Jenkins said most of the work was done in 2011, although the company is still preparing reports to be uploaded to the government which represent a 12,000-page document.

ARDL, Inc. was established in 1971 by Dr. L.V. Gibbons. It has grown to include a staff of highly trained scientists, engineers, and technical specialists, providing a wide variety of services in the fields of chemistry, engineering, the environmental sciences, industrial hygiene, safety training and petroleum technology.

The company began at a location on Forest Avenue until a fire. The company moved to its present location in January 1993.

6-6-13