

The Voice of Sustainment in CONUS

Provider Base

13th Sustainment Command
(Expeditionary)

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LSOC Material Management



Commander's Corner

COLONEL Knowles Y. Atchison

Greetings Teammates,

First, I want to welcome BG Clark W. LeMasters, Jr. to the 13th ESC family and to the LSOC team! He briefly stopped by Fort Hood on his way to Afghanistan and we have his full support for the LSOC mission.

Secondly, I want to thank all the Sustainment Brigade Commanders for their hard work and insightful comments as we continue to shape our sustainment battlefield within U.S. Army Forces Command. We have made great progress in tying together all logistical support on FORSCOM installations with the implementation of sustainment operations centers (SOCs). The FORSCOM G4, Brig. Gen. Jack O'Connor has given the sustainment commanders in the field outstanding guidance and is leading the effort to formalize many of the tremendous relationships that currently exist between sustainment brigade commanders and the Army Field Support Brigade battalion commanders on installations.

We are moving forward in this area with good speed and a unified front. I ask for your continued support in this area as we not only improve readiness, but we will also correct our doctrine so we will always train as we fight.

Third, I want to applaud all commanders that have seized the training opportunities that have presented themselves with the changes in funding on many installations. Across FORSCOM we have saved or avoided the costs for well over 40 million dollars and have provided our Soldiers with a better way to sustain their core competencies, while we train as we fight. In many cases the installations are receiving as good if not better support than they got with contract support. We must continue this full court press in this area, we cannot afford to do otherwise and as professionals we should want to do no less.

Finally, this issue will focus on Material Management. Have we lost our ability to do this critical function? Some say yes and some say no. I would offer this thought as we dissect this subject.

We have streamlined many of our Standard Army Management Information Systems; we really have not lost capability it just is not in the same place that it used to be. Modularity did not reduce capability, it just moved it around. Where is it and how we tap into the databases is what many of us must relearn and we will as part of this process of resetting ourselves and resetting our Army back to a contingency based force within FORSCOM. I look forward to the debates and working with all of you.

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR Guitaud Leandre

CSM's Corner



New and old Teammates,

Thank you for your interest and contributions to the LSOC mission and thank you very much for the articles you submitted to this professional journal! I have seen several great articles in this particular issue and I would like to further encourage all of you to contribute and share your experiences and lessons learned.

Why re-invent something in Colorado, if another unit has already gone through the learning curve and have developed systems for the same issue in Texas? The key is to know what systems already exist, and who to contact to get the existing information. By collaborating, sharing information and getting together in our regular meetings, we are sharing invaluable experiences with one another and I urge you to continue this trend.

I have seen several great developments since our last issue of the Provider Base came out: the 43rd Sustainment Brigade is taking over the ammunition supply point at Fort Carson, based on Fort Hood examples. Fort Carson now does aviation fuel testing in their lab instead of shipping the fuel via commercial mail services

for testing. Our own 4th Sustainment Brigade is continuously exchanging ideas with the 82nd Sustainment Brigade. 4th Sust. Bde. is also actively seeking solutions to recycle unclaimed fuel, following the Joint Base Lewis McCord example. The 593rd Sustainment Brigade sends teams to the National Training Center to assist the 916th Sustainment Brigade with quartermaster and transportation services, saving tens of thousands of dollars for the government and at the same time providing invaluable training to their own Soldiers! I could go on and on, citing more examples where reaching out to a fellow sustainment brigade is already paying dividends.

Many of you logisticians are in love with your trends and trends analysis and I salute you for that. From my own foxhole, the trends I am seeing here is that our collaboration has reached new levels; we all enjoy the benefits of LSOC and there are no limits as to what we can accomplish as we leverage sustainment capabilities while maximizing capacity.

The next key piece is banking on the training opportunities these new missions bring and many of you are already all over that as well. I was delighted to hear that with the 43rd Sustainment Brigade, many of the missions have turned into training exercises they refer to as "bison runs." Upon receiving a mission, units implement the eight-step training model before execution. The "train as we fight" concept also shines through in every single SOC that uses BSC3s and CPOF Systems in their daily operations.

I applaud all of you for your accomplishments and am curious to see what the future brings for all of us as we continue to leverage sustainment operations in the continental United States.



13th ESC Commanding Officer (Provisional)
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Cover: Soldiers hook up hoses to the Laundry Advanced System at Fort Hood, Texas on April 2. The 157th Quartermaster Company, 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade has taken over operations and are now the post laundry facility, with several regular customers weekly.

Back Cover: Command team participants of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade logistics conference pose for a group shot in front of the 43rd ASG headquarters on Feb. 7. One of the main goals for the conference was to bring sustainment commanders together from across the continental United States, so they can share their common practices and lessons learned with each other. (U.S. Army Photo by Capt. Monika Comeaux)

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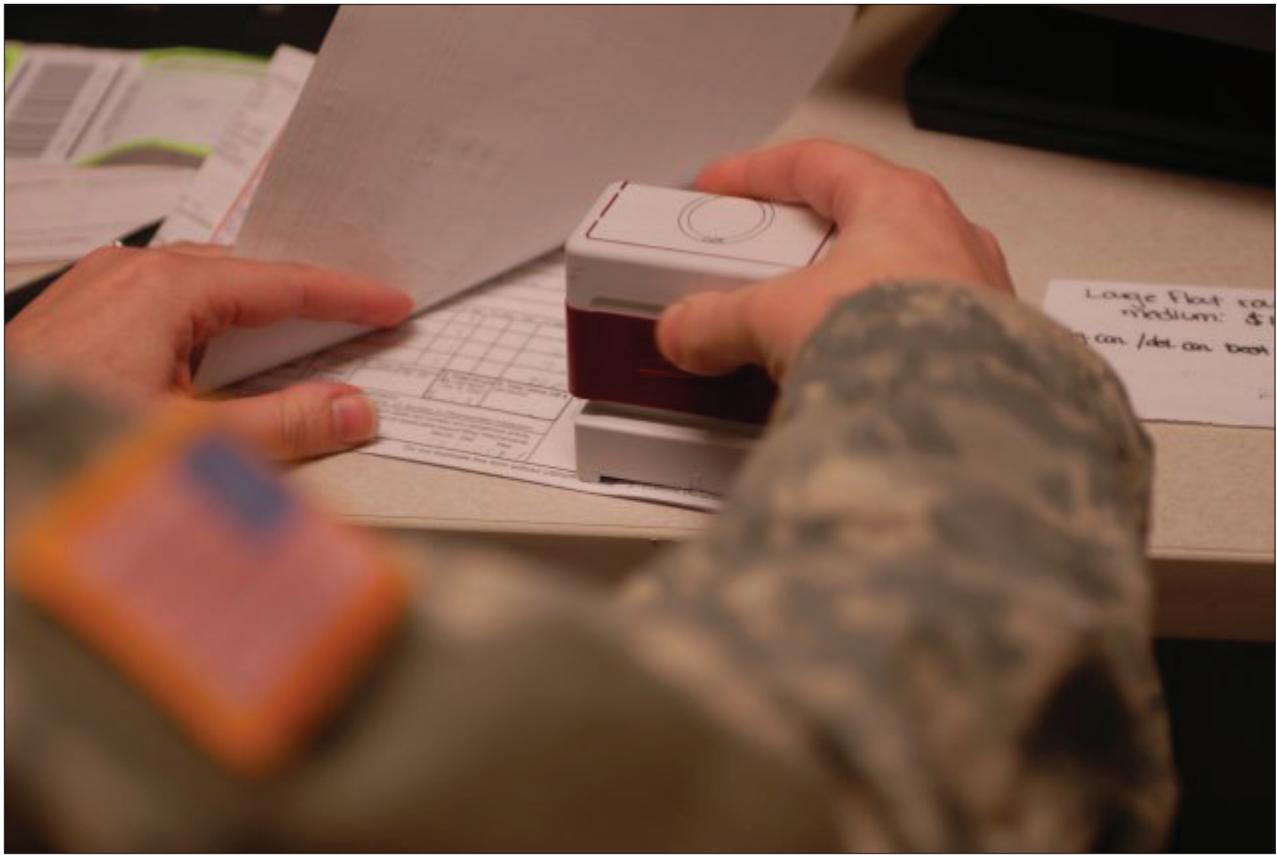
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Photos by Sgt. Kendra McCurdy

Troops from the 593rd Sustainment Brigade are running only the second post office in the continental United States that is run entirely by Soldiers.

Soldiers take over post office



Amanda L. Larson and son, Max, 5, giggle together as Spc. Annelise M. Brooks, a native of Fairfield, Conn., now a finance clerk assigned to the 22nd Human Resources Company, 593rd Special Troops Battalion, 593rd Sustainment Brigade, processes Larson's transaction following the grand opening of the brigade's post office on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Dec. 1, 2011.

**By Sgt. Kendra McCurdy
593rd Support Brigade PAO**

JOINT BASE LEWIS MCCHORD, Wash. -- Lt. Col. Doug LeVien and Maj. Kenneth A. Willeford, commanders of the 593rd Special Troops Battalion and the 22nd Human Resources Company respectively, cut the ribbon, ceremoniously opening the 593rd Sustainment Brigade's post office Dec. 1, 2011 on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

The post office is run entirely by Soldiers--one of only two of its kind currently operating in the continental United States.

“The driving factor behind the opening of the North Fort post office is the growing population on JBLM,” said 1st Lt. Todd M. Akroyd, the officer-in-charge for the post office. The post office will “lighten the work load from the already busy main post office,” said LeVien. This came just in time for the Christmas season, he pointed out.

The grand opening was the capstone of eight months of hard work and planning. The other Army post office, located at Fort Bragg, N.C., took more than two years to open, said Akroyd. The facilities had to meet certain requirements. For example, since the post office handles cash and valuable items like money orders, the building had to be locked and secured to higher standards.

Members of the postal team have completed training on the Integrated Retail Terminal (IRT), which weighs



Spc. Dion R. Boykin, a native of Little Rock, Ark., now a finance clerk assigned to the 22nd Human Resources Company, 593rd Special Troops Battalion, 593rd Sustainment Brigade, processes Chaplain (Capt.) Somya Malasri's transaction Dec. 1, 2011.



Spc. Annelise M. Brooks, a native of Fairfield, Conn., now a finance clerk assigned to the 22nd Human Resources Company, 593rd Special Troops Battalion, 593rd Sustainment Brigade, counts stamps during a transaction following the grand opening of the brigade's post office Dec. 1, 2011.

mail, calculates postage due, prints postage and calculates monetary transactions. Additionally, the Soldiers who work in the post office were trained in how to properly track accountable mail such as certified mail, said Akroyd.

A small group of Soldiers traveled to Fort Bragg, N.C., and to Marine Corps Camp Pendleton, Calif., to observe postal operations at both locations. The Marine Corps currently trains Marines as postal clerks and runs its own post offices.

The Army is a little different, said Akroyd. Instead of training Soldiers specifically for mail handling, it offers the position and training opportunities as specific skill associated with the military occupational specialty Human Resources Clerk.

Human resources specialists learn a variety of skills at their advanced individual training including a brief introduction to postal operations. Some of them may not undergo any additional training prior to deploying

to a post office overseas. The North Fort post office affords these Soldiers the added benefit of hands-on training and familiarization in the garrison environment before deploying, or before going to school to earn the postal operations skill identifier. Soldiers will be able to practice customer service skills, various methods of mailing letters and packages, and balancing a cash drawer.

JBLM is the largest Army installation in the Western U.S. Its population has nearly doubled in the last few years said LeVien. However, the main post office has not expanded until now. The 593rd Sust. Bde.'s post office will operate as a satellite branch of the main office. It is located in building 12324 on 18th Street near the intersection of 19th Street and 32nd Division Drive on JBLM-North.

The post office is open to anyone on JBLM. Services offered include: sale of stamps and money orders, priority, express and accountable mail.

Campaign planning

How 1st Sust. Bde. prepared for their last deployment...



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Veasley

Soldiers from the 1st Sustainment Brigade practice combat drills, including changing tires on vehicles that have been disabled by improvised explosive devices.

By Lt. Col. Tyrone C. Bentinck
1st Sustainment Brigade

The 1st Sustainment Brigade developed a campaign plan to help the brigade focus on how to achieve its strategic and operational objectives.

The 1st SB deployed from Fort Riley, Kansas, to Kuwait in early spring 2010 and embarked on its mission as the Kuwait-based theater sustainment brigade. There it assumed responsibility for the largest retrograde mission since World War II.

To inspire the brigade, known as the “Durable Brigade,” and prepare it for this monumental task, the brigade commander assembled some of his key leaders and staff, including the deputy commander, support operations officer (SPO), and operations officer, to develop a plan to focus and synchronize actions and emphasize unity of effort.

Planning Efforts

When we think of campaign plans or planning efforts,

we conjure up images of service members in World War II, the Vietnam War, and Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm being stuck in rooms draped with maps on the floors and walls. However, Field Manual (FM) 3–0, Operations, defines a campaign as a “series of related major operations aimed at achieving strategic and operational objectives within a given time and space.” Therefore, a campaign plan is a document that depicts how a unit will achieve its strategic and operational objectives.

Campaign plans are normally found at the operational level—expeditionary sustainment commands (ESCs), theater sustainment commands (TSCs), or division headquarters—and the strategic level. Rarely do we find campaign plans at the tactical level (brigade or below). The 1st Sustainment Brigade, in its role as the Kuwait-based theater sustainment brigade, broke new ground among the Army’s 14 active-duty sustainment brigades with its sustainment brigade campaign plan initiative.

Developing the Durable Campaign Plan

To facilitate the synchronization of efforts, the brigade support operations officer (SPO) sat down with me, the SPO chief of plans, and crafted what would later become known as the “Durable campaign plan.” FM 3–0 describes a line of operation (LOO) as “a line that defines the directional orientation of a force in time and space in relation to the enemy and links the force with its base of operations and objectives.” The Durable campaign plan had three LOOs:

- Operations (supporting effort).
- Sustainment (main effort).
- Resiliency (supporting effort).

Each LOO had an assigned officer primarily responsible for it. The operations officer was responsible for the operations LOO, the SPO was responsible for the sustainment LOO, and the deputy commander was responsible for the resiliency LOO.

Resiliency was a key component in our quest to maintain our Soldiers’ well-being. The resiliency LOO reminded us of one of Napoleon’s maxims, “Moral is to physical, as three is to one.” It was imperative that we never discount the importance of this to combat operations.

The three LOOs defined the path to achieve the end state, which included having theater sustainment capabilities in place to support full-spectrum operations, having continued support for retrograde operations, supporting Operation Enduring Freedom expansion, and increasing the 1st Sustainment Brigade’s capacity to support 1st TSC operations.

FM 3–0 defines a line of effort (LOE) as a line that “links multiple tasks and missions using the logic of purpose—cause and effect—to focus efforts toward establishing operational and strategic conditions.” Officers primarily responsible for LOOs developed LOEs within their specific LOOs to create synergy for the Durable campaign plan and provide linkage between current and future operations. Each LOE was color coded as strategic, operational, or tactical to focus the brigade efforts based on the level of operations.

Sustainment as the Main Effort

How often do you hear that sustainment is the main effort during offensive, defensive, or stability operations? Your answer is probably “never.” However, to support retrograde operations of this magnitude, priorities had to change. FM 3–0 defines sustainment as the “provision of the logistics, personnel services and health service support necessary to maintain operations until mission accomplishment.” This definition provided the cornerstone and purpose for the development of the campaign plan. The 1st Sustainment Brigade ensured that the sustainment LOO, with its 4 LOEs supported by 15 sub-LOEs, became the

main effort and was nested 2 levels up and down.

Weekly Key Focus Briefing

In order to highlight the operational focus for each week on the sustainment LOO, I highlighted and briefed at least one of the 15 sub-LOEs and actions or steps taken to address a specific LOE. This method, through the use of the cognitive hierarchy (which, according to FM 6–0, Mission Command, is “a model used to explain the progressive transformation of data into understanding”), provided the synergy needed for the 1st Sustainment Brigade commander to understand, visualize, describe, and direct operations.

The key to success was the unity of effort among the 1st Sustainment Brigade leaders, brigade staff, and all subordinate battalion leaders and staffs.

Information Operations as an Enabler

FM 3–13, Information Operations: Doctrine, Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures, defines information operations as the “the employment of the core capabilities of electronic warfare, computer network operations, psychological operations, military deception, and operations security, in concert with specified supporting and related capabilities, to affect or defend information and information systems.” The 1st Sustainment Brigade SPO effects officer was responsible for the integration of information operations into the campaign plan and sustainment operations.

The Durable campaign plan was nested with both the 1st TSC and U.S. Army Central (ARCENT) campaign plans. It directly supported 12 of the 17 Title 10 responsibilities of ARCENT. While campaign planning efforts in a sustainment brigade may be an arduous task, with the right leadership, command emphasis, and focus, it can pay big dividends in the synchronization of the unit.

Editors note: At the time of writing this article, Lt. Col. Tyrone C. Bentinck was the support operations chief of plans for the 1st Sustainment Brigade at Fort Riley, Kansas. He previously served as the brigade S–4 and support operations officer for the Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, during Operation Iraqi Freedom 07–09 and support operations distribution division chief for the 1st Sustainment Brigade during Operation Iraqi Freedom 07–09. He is a graduate of Baruch College, City University of New York, and holds a master of science degree in human relations with a concentration in organization leadership from the University of Oklahoma.

Sustainment brigades meet to talk about trends, challenges on the way for LSOC

By Capt. Monika Comeaux
13th ESC Public Affairs

Over three-dozen senior logisticians met at Fort Carson, Colo. from 7 to 10 Feb. to discuss current trends in logistics, how changes in the Army and at the Department of Defense level impact the sustainment world, the way ahead for sustainment brigades and for the Leveraging Support Operations in the continental United States initiative.

Participants came from several CONUS sustainment brigades, the U.S. Army Forces Command G4, the Army Sustainment Command and the Joint Munitions and Lethality Life Cycle Management Command and Joint Munitions Command.

Attendees touched on the following topics during the conference: Review and Analysis and Materiel Management Review, the Sustainment Brigade Way Ahead, Support Operations Synchronization and Movement Integration, Sustainment Brigade Support to Combat Training Center rotations, the Sustainment Brigade's Relationship with the Sustainment Enterprise, Soldiers Sustaining Soldiers and Sustainment is Training.

Sustainment Brigade commanders also participated in a round table with Brig. Gen. Gustavo F. Perna, JM&L LCMC and JMC and Brig. Gen. Brian R. Layer, deputy commanding



Photos by Capt. Monika Comeaux

Brig. Gen. Brian R. Layer, deputy command general for U.S. Army Sustainment Command (right) provides feedback to Col. Knowles Atchison, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) provisional commander (left) and other conference participants on a presentation during a logistics conference hosted by the 43rd Sustainment Brigade at Fort Carson, Colo. Feb. 9.

general for sustainment, ASC. The two generals both offered an officer professional development session, which was opened up to all logistics officers in the 43rd SB and the Fort Carson logistics community.

Col. Todd A. Heussner, the commander of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade and conference host said that bringing logisticians together in a forum like this is important on a number of levels. "One, we share ideas with our team mates and we learn from each other. We don't all have to invent things ourselves; we can gain a lot by sharing with one another learning the best practices. The second piece is that you develop relationships."

The conference is part of an ongoing series of quarterly scheduled meetings, synchronized and

coordinated by the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and hosted by the different sustainment brigades, Heussner said. By moving the conferences around participants get to see how other people do things and how they are set up at their individual posts. "Each post is different, so we all have different requirements, so we can't take the Fort Carson solution and give that to Fort Hood, because their circumstances are different... [However] there are some common fundamentals that are easily exportable and some good ideas that they can take and use on their post."

Col. Knowles Atchison, 13th ESC provisional commander and the head of the LSOC initiative hopes that the conference has some important outcomes. "We have to go back to a reset and contingency based Army..."

“Having taken command within the last month, for me it has been very enlightening and it has been encouraging to see other commanders being presented with the same problems, coming up with some of the same solutions, but also the chance of learning new solutions they have come up with.”

- Col. Mark Simerly

we need a common view and vision statement,” Atchison said during his opening remarks. He is also hoping to build a bridge between ASC and FORSCOM and find a way ahead of tying in all the important players in the logistics arena. “We don’t have a choice because of resources,” Atchison explained. “We have to integrate, work, train and fight together.”

Heussner invited the ASC and FORSCOM representatives to facilitate this cooperation and to feed ideas and suggestions from the bottom up. He said participants are discussing force structure, and the ways in which they do business.

“There is a little bit of a difference in terms of what we have stated in doctrine and what is really happening on the ground... How do we change what we are doing based on the current circumstances?” Heussner also added that because of the force reduction, changes in the economy and budgets, logistics units have got to get smarter, and more efficient to maintain their effectiveness.

Having ASC and FORSCOM leaders at the conference is invaluable, said Col. Mark Simerly, the 4th Sustainment Brigade Commander from Fort Hood, Texas, who only recently took command of his organization. “If we did not have those essential players, in the sustainment community across CONUS, we would really have an incomplete picture of

requirements and also the solutions. Leaders from these organizations help us complete the picture by helping us see ourselves and also the Army’s capabilities,” said Simerly.

“We bring the Army Sustainment Command and Army Materiel Command perspective of above field level logistics. It gives us a different view, different perspective, but it also shows the synergy that we can accomplish,” said Lt. Col. Andrew D. Centineo, the commander of the Fort Carson Army Field Support Battalion. “We work extremely close with the 43rd Sustainment brigade and all the units at Fort Carson and Fort Sill, but I believe it enables us, to ask ourselves and our senior leaders the tough question: Is this the way the Army [sustainment] should be structured, or is there a better way that we can approach it?” Centineo added.

Some of the ideas that fired up participating logisticians during the discussions included possibly recommending a change for the deployment train up of a sustainment brigade headquarters and actually pushing them through a field exercise and forcing them to jump their Tactical Operations Center; completely aligning sustainment brigade headquarters with divisions headquarters and possibly getting them in the same deployment rotation cycle; and coming up with a robust and augmented sustainment brigade rear detachment headquarters, that is still capable of supporting garrison operations when the sustainment brigade headquarters is deployed.

Participants also discussed how in the absence of what used to be the Division Support Command material managers, that oftentimes several different entities at the brigade support battalion, in the brigade logistics support team, and at the sustainment brigade support operations level are duplicating efforts, for example by tracking parts, calling the same item manager in the United States for the same information. The subject

of reducing customer wait times by pushing orders from the Department of Logistics straight to the supply support activity instead of processing it through the central receiving and shipping point also attracted a lot of comments and interest.

There is a slightly different takeaway for all participants, depending on their background and the agencies they represent. “It has been a tremendous opportunity to partner with other sustainment brigade commanders, look at their best practices on how they are sustaining their formations, their installations, and some good ideas that we can share in the way we are supporting the footprint at Fort Hood,” said Simerly.

“Having taken command within the last month, for me it has been very enlightening and it has been encouraging to see other commanders being presented with the same problems, coming up with some of the same solutions, but also the chance of learning new solutions they have come up with,” said Simerly.

“I think that there are a lot of sustainment solutions we have not determined in the Army. So our conversations here today might help influence those in the future so we can develop our sustainment theory and sustainment doctrine for what we need to do for the way ahead, for the future of the Army.” During future conferences Simerly hopes to further explore installation support, cost savings for the Army and the way that we can match capabilities when we have shortfalls between installations.

“We owe it to ourselves and our senior leaders to ask ourselves the tough questions ... have open and honest dialogue about what the solution sets might be, and not ignore or eliminate any of our possible solutions. We can’t tread water and the status quo cannot be the norm. We have to think of creative ways of [supporting] the Army as we reduce in force size and structure,” said Centineo in conclusion.

Soldiers Resume Ops at Ammunition Supply Point

By 1st Lt. Michael R. Earle
664th Ordnance Company

For the first time since 2003, Soldiers from the 4th Sustainment Brigade are conducting daily operations at a Continental United States-based Ammunition Supply Point (ASP). It has become a focus across the Department of Defense to put Soldiers back in charge of garrison-support missions and the 664th Ordnance Company is at the forefront of this effort.

Daily operations at the ASP are challenging indeed. One platoon, consisting of 45 Soldiers, provides ammunition to more than 1,000 customer units across Fort Hood. In accomplishing this task, the Soldiers and noncommissioned officers must inspect all of the packaging for each round for safety and serviceability. They must ensure the munitions that they issue are safe, counted accurately, and fully functional. They also must inspect every customer vehicle which will be used to transport the ammunition to the training area.

The challenge comes from the sheer

volume of customers, munitions, and types of munitions with which this platoon works.

“With many units at Fort Hood redeploying, we have started to see an influx of ammunition requests. Despite the arduous workload, we all take pride and put our heart and soul to ensure the units receive their ammunition on time and in a safe manner,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Armando Lopez, the ASP accountable officer from 664th Ordnance Co., 180th Transportation Battalion. “It is a great opportunity to finally be back in our own environment and managing an ASP.”

The 664th Ordnance Co. deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and could not sustain the ASP mission at Fort Hood. Civilian contractors were brought in to continue operations at the ASP in their absence. In preparation for this mission resumption, the Soldiers conducted training at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, at McAlester, Oklahoma. “Once our Soldiers received training from McAlester, they

were excited and eager to do their job and apply what they had learned to day-to-day operations at the Fort Hood ASP,” said Sergeant First Class Shaun L. Harris, 1st Platoon platoon sergeant from 664th Ordnance Co., 180th Trans. Bn.

By the end of August, 2011 1st platoon began a thirty day transition with the civilian contractors and General Schedule employees of the ASP. During this transition, the Soldiers received an in-depth overview of the mission and day-to-day operations.

“I think our transition with the civilian contractors went really well due to the fact (that) most of the contractors were retired military, and they knew what this meant not only for the 664th Ordnance Co., but the Army as a whole,” said Staff Sergeant Christopher J. Miserlian, an ammunition specialist with 664th Ordnance Co., 180th Trans. Bn.

The platoon assumed full responsibility of the ASP on Sept. 23, 2011. Since then, the Soldiers have successfully processed over \$15 million of ammunition and supported 342 ammunition requests. The ASP attained the highest customer service rating at the installation in October of 2011, the company’s first full month of operations. From Dec. 5 to 9, 2011, the ASP was inspected by civilians from the Defense Ammunition Center and received commendable ratings. The Soldiers also recently conducted a 100 percent inventory of all ammunition stored at the ASP with no discrepancies.

“Accountability is of the utmost importance when it comes to ammunition. Not only does this ensure good supply discipline but it is also a matter of national security. This is why we perform weekly inventories and have several procedures in place to ensure the verification of our counts is accurate,” said Lopez in conclusion.



Photo by Pfc. Brian LaBombard

Pfc. Jordan Stivers, an ammunition specialist from 664th Ordnance Company, works with Ralph Hall a quality assurance specialist (ammunition surveillance) at the Ammunition Supply Point on Fort Hood. Stivers and Hall must insure that all rounds issued to customers are safe, counted accurately and fully functional. 664th Ordnance Company Soldiers are conducting daily operations at the ASP and saving the Army a significant amount of money.

Human resource managers collaborate under LSOC umbrella

Story by Capt. Monika Comeaux
13th ESC PAO

The 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) G1 strength manager visited the 593rd Sustainment Brigade's human resources section Feb. 29 to March 2, as the first of his several trips to assist fellow logistics units under the Leveraging Sustainment Organizations in the Continental United States initiative.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Daniel E. Williams discussed and shared methods of merging and analyzing the data from the various U.S. Army and Department of Defense human resources systems with his counterparts.

"I learned ways of doing things where I am now able to gain information that I previously was unable to obtain and I am doing it much more efficiently," said 1st Lt. Michael S. Listopad, the 593rd SB strength manager.

Listopad learned tricks like pulling a query on the Total Officer Personnel Management Information System saves much more time and energy compared to the "strength" tab on the Web-based Enlisted Distribution and Assignment System.

The idea of the 13th ESC strength manager visiting the 593rd SB came from previous discussions within LSOC and after already sharing some knowledge and experiences through e-mail. "The unit was happy to put a face to a name," said Williams about his reception.

"I did learn that the trip was needed," Williams said. "Any time I can get a chance to share something I know I jump all over it. In this case, I was able to share previous deployment lessons as well as HR systems knowledge."

The 593rd SB strength manager sounded equally upbeat about the visit:



Courtesy Photo

The human resources section of the 593rd Sustainment Brigade pose for a photo with Chief Warrant Officer 2 Daniel E. Williams, the G1 strength manager of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. March 1.

"We, as HR professionals, need to take advantage of the vast amount of knowledge that is out there in our sister sustainment brigades. We all speak the same language, I just don't think we are sharing as much right now as we should..."

-Chief Warrant Officer 2 Daniel E. Williams

"I was very eager to discuss the Unit Status Reporting with Chief, and it was great to bounce off my thoughts and ideas with someone with [his] experience, position and level of knowledge," said Listopad.

Other takeaways from the visit included learning how to use Web EDAS to view non-availability status of inbound Soldiers and even some tricks on Excel, said Listopad. He said Williams came extremely prepared, reaching out to the unit way ahead of time, collecting source documents in order to ensure thoroughness with their particular unit.

Williams created a collaboration site under Army Knowledge Online to facilitate smooth information

sharing, which he hopes to share and use with not only the 593rd SB, but other sustainment organizations as well. He has several trips lined up to visit other units in LSOC. "We, as HR professionals, need to take advantage of the vast amount of knowledge that is out there in our sister sustainment brigades. We all speak the same language, I just don't think we are sharing as much right now as we should...which I am fixing," said Williams in conclusion.

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Williams, the 13th ESC strength manager can be contacted via e-mail at daniel.williams44.milmail.mil, should any LSOC units be interested in seeking his assistance on HR matters.



We will drive on but we will never forget your service...

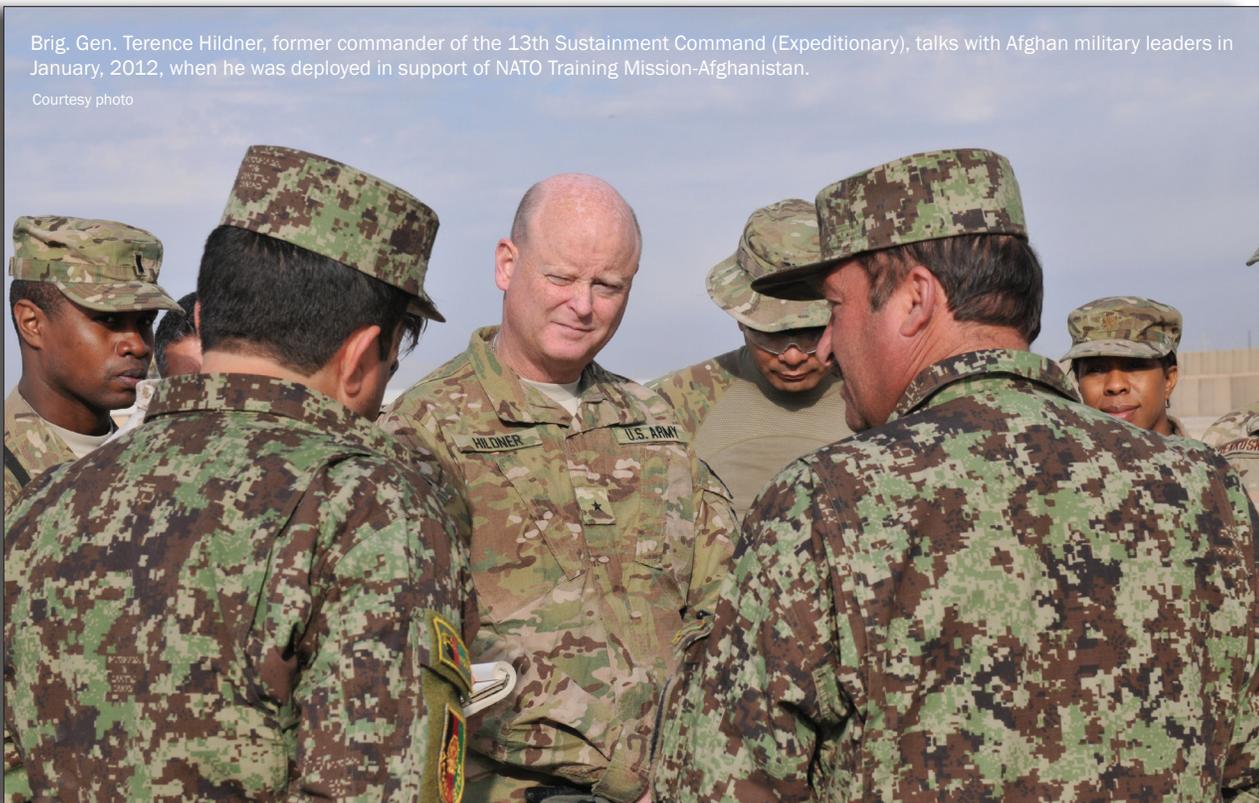


Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Joel Gibson

Brig. Gen. Terence Hildner, former 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), kisses his wife at his promotion ceremony Feb. 8, 2011.



From left, retiring 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commander, Feb. 18, 2011 in re



Brig. Gen. Terence Hildner, former commander of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), talks with Afghan military leaders in January, 2012, when he was deployed in support of NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan.

Courtesy photo



Brig. Gen. Terence Hildner in a golf tournament in August, 2011.

Photo by Sgt. Steven Schme

phantom Support, Sir!



Photo by Sgt. Steven Schneider

retired Command Sgt. Maj. Louis Robison, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Elder, 13th COSCOM Association president, Command Sgt. Maj. Mark D. Joseph, 13th Sustainment (Expeditionary) command sergeant major and Brig. Gen. Terence Hildner, former 13th ESC commanding general, lay a pair of wreaths at the 13th ESC Memorial Aug. 2011 in remembrance of the ESC Soldiers who lost their lives during the Global War on Terrorism.



Courtesy photo

Brig. Gen. Terence Hildner, former 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commander, speaks at a Leveraging Sustainment Organizations in continental U.S. – West conference at the Radisson Hotel in Austin, Texas, Jan. 19, 2011.

Fort Hood Battery Maintenance Management Initiative

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ben Guerra and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Sheryl Egans

As part of the Army's back to basics campaign and to reduce unnecessary spending, U.S. Army Forces Command has identified the high cost of Valve Regulated Lead Acid battery requisitions, at an annual cost of \$6.4 million. Fort Hood alone, in fiscal year 2010, had requisitions for Absorbed Glass Mat batteries that totaled \$977,457 with a recoverable loss of \$259,742 on perceived unserviceable turn ins. As a result, many VRLA batteries were being disposed prematurely. To facilitate decreasing battery rate consumption costs, the Department of the Army G-4 issued All Army Activities 131/2010, a supplement to AR 750-1 to ensure proper testing and maintenance procedures are met.

13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) led the FORSCOM battery maintenance management initiative by conducting analysis on the AGM recoverability statistics. The data showed that historically 75 percent or more of the AGM batteries can be recovered by recharging and



Photos by Pfc. Brian LaBombard

Pfc. Kevin Izell, an integrated family of test equipment operator and maintainer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 180th Transportation Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, measures the voltage of a battery to ensure proper charge at the 180th Trans. motor pool Feb. 25 at Fort Hood, Texas.

performing proper servicing and management procedures. In order to combat this systemic problem; a carefully executed implementation plan would definitely decrease battery consumption costs. With the proper training, policy and command support, this initiative has proven that an enforcement of a filtration process or proper battery disposal can ensure that recoverable batteries are put back into the units' hands.

In November 2010, the battery maintenance management pilot program began as the 13th ESC issued the first portable battery recharging station to the 180th Transportation Battalion motor pool. With the recharging station in place, the 13th ESC conducted training for their subordinate units' wheeled vehicle mechanics on the proper charging, testing, and retesting procedures of AGM batteries.

Current Recharge Procedures	Historical and Costly Systemic Problem	Revaluated/Proposed Procedures	Adopted Benefit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 - Charger/Analyzer per SAT Trailer • On-System Re-conditioning, w/ slave (Not all batteries get reconditioned) • Insufficient re-charging capabilities for fleet Management • Mechanic requires additional unsafe task to re-charge battery individually (On depleted batteries w/low voltage) • Batteries are disposed prematurely • Lack of Battery Maintenance Management Program/Knowledge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Army has spent millions of dollars on AGM batteries • Educate the force on proper battery management • Emplace a filtration process to properly dispose batteries • Command emphasis through policy • Re-evaluate a common practice to a solution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portable Battery Shop (BAT-DSP (NSN 8145-01-591-7441)) • Implementation of a Battery Maintenance Management Program • FORSCOM pilot program proven on a 75% or higher recoverability rate • Allows the CDR the flexibility to operate a battery shop IAW AR 750-1, ch 8-20 • Capable of recharging batteries as low as 1.5 volts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced cost savings on prevention of batteries being disposed pre-maturely • Definitely improves readiness by eliminating customer wait time • Reduces transportation costs • A Battery Maintenance Management Program enforces proper testing, analyzing and recharging of AGM batteries



Spc. Arthur Smith, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 180th Transportation Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, measures the voltage of a battery to ensure proper charge at the 180th Trans. motor pool Feb. 25 at Fort Hood, Texas.

The Battery Maintenance System – CL-IX BAT-DSP (NSN 8145-01-591-7441), is a mobile battery storage, maintenance, recharging and security system that is deployable on the Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles/ Light Medium Tactical Vehicle family of vehicles and commercial flat-beds. The station is capable of charging 16 VRLA batteries at a time; AGM, gel, or lead acid cell type and is in compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards.

In a six month period, the 180th Trans. Bn. battery shop recharged and issued AGM batteries with a cost savings of over \$111,475. This was the result of a III Corps directive to route AGM batteries to the 13th ESC for recharging. In addition, the battery shop recovered the majority of AGM batteries from the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office and the Directorate of Logistics.

With a recharge rate over 75 percent, the 13th ESC officially

implemented a Battery Maintenance Management Policy in April 2011 in their subordinate units. This is becoming a best business practice to improve equipment readiness and reduce battery consumption in the Leveraging Sustainment Operations in the Continental United States community.

III Corps formally implemented a Battery Maintenance Management policy with the fielding of 14 Battery Maintenance Recharging Stations in December 2011. Brigade level maintenance units across Fort Hood were fielded a battery recharging station to establish a battery maintenance management program in their supported units. Command emphasis is the key ingredient, especially at a time when all units are required to go back to the basic fundamentals of maintenance management. This initiative has proven that a systemic issue can be attained with positive results.

Contributing writer: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ben Guerra was assigned as the 13 ESC senior logistics advisor and was the action officer during the Battery Maintenance Management program initiative. He is currently assigned as the senior ground maintenance advisor, DCS G-4 Material Readiness Branch, Army South at Joint Base San Antonio.





Quartermasters provide support to National Training Center

By Staff Sgt. Dan Balda
593rd Sustainment Brigade
PAO NCOIC

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Deploying to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., can be tough. Besides the fact that Soldiers spend two weeks in the “box” (the central area where the training occurs) immersed in a scenario similar to what one would experience in Iraq or Afghanistan, there are many other difficulties. The California High Desert is notoriously extremely hot or cold. Soldiers turn in their cell phones and have limited internet access, cutting them off from the outside world. During a training exercise like this, it can be hard to find the sun behind the clouds.

Soldiers assigned to the 295th Quartermaster Company, 13th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 593rd Sustainment Brigade spent Feb. 4 – March 5 bringing the Soldiers some sunshine while saving the Army a huge chunk of change.

295th QM Co. provided laundry and shower services for approximately 7,000 Soldiers assigned to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division and other supporting units during their training in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan.

“Usually (Soldiers training at NTC) don’t even have laundry out here, so the Soldier would have to buy a whole bunch of T-shirts, underwear and socks prior to coming out here to make sure they can complete the mission,” said Capt. Michael Watkins, the

commander of the 295th QM Co.

Previously, the Army would contract shower services; but with the addition of the 295th, the Army was able to save approximately \$150,000 per rotation to NTC.

“If we can provide (shower services) for free then we are spending too much money on outside agencies,” Watkins said.

Lt. Col. Katherine Graef, the 13 CSSB battalion commander, gave several reasons for bringing the quartermasters along. “One of our purposes out here is to free up the rotational unit so that they can maximize their training and resources,” Graef said. “I also want my Soldiers to be able to train up on their (military occupational skills) and... it saves the Army money because for the last seven or eight years they have contracted the showers and they didn’t do laundry at all.”

Watkins seconded his commander’s intent while adding some of his own.

“It’s providing them great training,” he said. “They wouldn’t receive a lot of this training at JBLM (Joint Base Lewis-McChord) because of the number of Soldiers involved. We have Soldiers all across the (area of operations) and we are simulating a combat operation and they aren’t used to doing stuff like this in this kind of environment. It’s been a great training opportunity for my Soldiers.”

Graef received numerous compliments from various commanders regarding the outstanding service of

her Soldiers, including a personal anecdote she overheard during her frequent visits to the various forward operating bases spread throughout NTC.

“I was out at one of the FOBs and I had a chaplain and his assistant come up to me at a laundry point, kind of sneaking around asking, ‘Hey, is this where we get laundry done?’ I said yes. The chaplain then asked, ‘Can we get it for free?’ I told him that it was indeed free for Soldiers and that he should go grab his bundle of laundry. He was incredulous that this service was offered and immediately made a beeline for his living area.

“It’s huge for the folks out here,” she explained.

Watkins was pleased to see his Soldiers get to do their job. So much so, in fact, that he hopes more units request their type of service in the future.

“I wish they advertised these kinds of capabilities more and resourced it more so that the Soldiers can request their type of service,” Watkins said. “It’s a huge boost to morale when you are coming off a convoy or a patrol, you’ve been sweating for hours on end, your uniform is dirty and you just want to lay in your cot and get clean. Now we can provide that for the Soldiers. It raises everybody’s spirit, not just for the Soldiers using the service but for our guys providing the service. To top it all off we are saving the Army a whole bunch of money which is never a bad thing.”



4th Sust. Bde. troops assist port operations

By Sgt. Sean McGuire
4th Sust. Bde. PAO

FORT HOOD, Texas -- U.S. military operations in Iraq officially ended before the new year was reigned in and troops have returned home or moved on elsewhere for further missions. But there is still work being done in ensuring the tools to success troops used make it home as well.

Soldiers of the 259th Movement Control Team, 49th Movement Control Battalion, 4th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, have been assisting in port operations at the Port of Beaumont in southern Texas.

The Soldiers spent the last half of January alongside civilian port operators and members of the 1st Cavalry Division and other units working to receive, stage, and segregate an estimated 600 containers and vehicles. The equipment is coming back from operations in Iraq as well as Afghanistan and is making its way to the home stations of redeployed units.

“The Soldiers there have the skills in rail and ship operations as (transportation management coordinators),” said Staff Sgt. Richard Pierce, the mobility noncommissioned officer in charge for the 4th Sust. Bde. at Fort Hood.

It’s not just their skills that bring them there. It’s to assist civilian operators and focus on military-specific shipments. Pierce said his team at Fort Hood gets information related to shipments under their attention faster from their team being on the ground than they would from civilians.

“We get information faster from our MCTs there then we would from the civilians whose scope is everything rather than what our troops are focusing on – the military equipment and vehicles,” said Pierce.

Pierce said the MCT is there to ensure containers are separated between its contents, where it’s going, and how it’s getting there. They then relay the information to help the

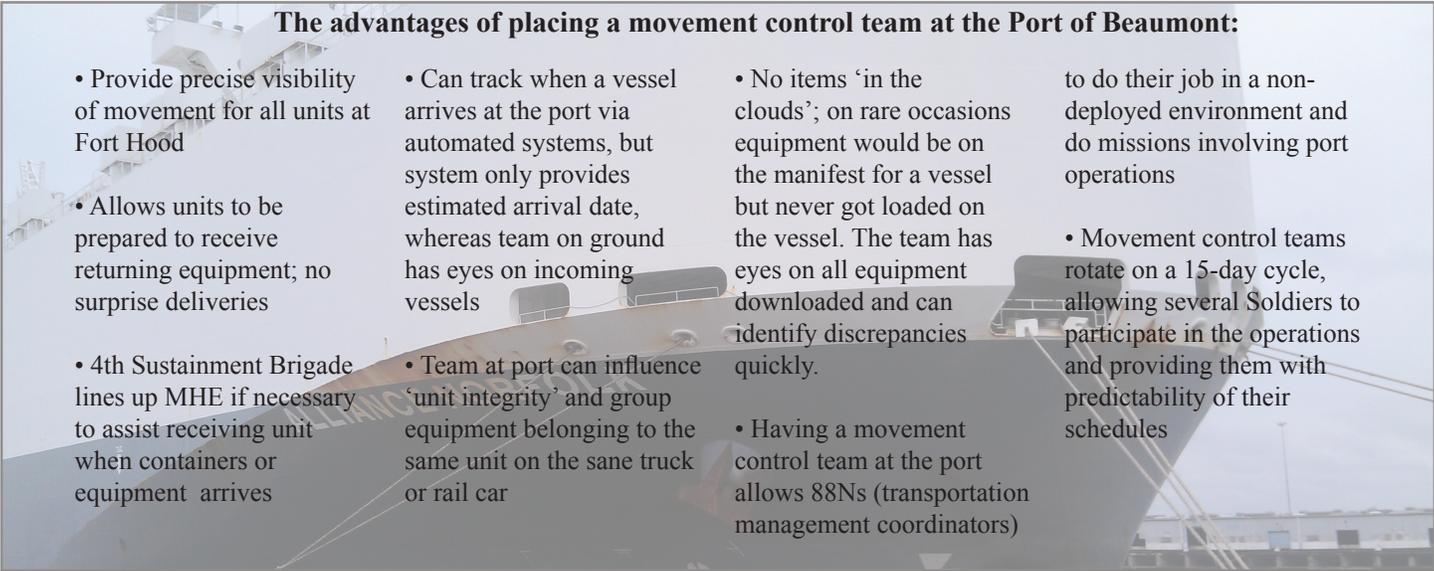
brigade track what is coming to the post. The two options for means of travel once leaving the port are rail and commercial trucking.

The brigade not only assists in the receiving aspect conducted at ports but also helps units at Fort Hood to download and move their incoming containers of equipment and vehicles. Pierce said the brigade has assets that man wenches and other load-bearing vehicles to orchestrate that process.

“Our transporters can track every moving element and inform us when it’s on the way and what we’ll need to download or move it once it reaches post,” said Cpt. Felicia Foster, the company commander of the 259th. Foster, who made a trip to the ports to view where her Soldiers had been working, also said her troops help ensure the sustainment brigade at Fort Hood is totally prepared for incoming shipments as to not create a back-log.

“It’s great training for them to be at the ports. A win all around for the Army,” she said.

The advantages of placing a movement control team at the Port of Beaumont:

- 
- Provide precise visibility of movement for all units at Fort Hood
 - Can track when a vessel arrives at the port via automated systems, but system only provides estimated arrival date, whereas team on ground has eyes on incoming vessels
 - No items ‘in the clouds’; on rare occasions equipment would be on the manifest for a vessel but never got loaded on the vessel. The team has eyes on all equipment downloaded and can identify discrepancies quickly.
 - Movement control teams do their job in a non-deployed environment and do missions involving port operations
 - Allows units to be prepared to receive returning equipment; no surprise deliveries
 - Team at port can influence ‘unit integrity’ and group equipment belonging to the same unit on the same truck or rail car
 - Having a movement control team at the port allows 88Ns (transportation management coordinators) to do their job in a non-deployed environment and do missions involving port operations
 - 4th Sustainment Brigade lines up MHE if necessary to assist receiving unit when containers or equipment arrives
 - Movement control teams rotate on a 15-day cycle, allowing several Soldiers to participate in the operations and providing them with predictability of their schedules

13th FMC, 15th FMSU Soldiers maintain skills, support customers at DMPO

By Pfc. Brian LaBombard
13th ESC UPAR

FORT HOOD, TEXAS - As the drawdown from Iraq comes to completion, Soldiers at the 13th Financial Management Center are taking a bigger role at the Defense Military Pay Office (DMPO) on Fort Hood.

“By mission, a financial management Soldier is responsible for providing military pay support,” Lt. Col. Paul Bristol, deputy director of the 13th FMC, explained. “As we draw down Iraq and Afghanistan, we’re going to need those finance Soldiers to work in the DMPO... so they can provide the quality customer service and garrison financial pay support to Soldiers and their families,” said Bristol.

Customer service is a major priority at the 13th FMC and having skilled financial management Soldiers working with the government civilians in the office is a major step forward in completing the mission. Gary Penn, retired Command Sgt. Maj. of the 13th

Finance Group, now the current director, explained that with approximately 80 civilians and 15 Soldiers, the DMPO will be able to provide outstanding support to Soldiers and families on Fort Hood. “We provide customer service and pay inquiry support, also Basic Allowance for Housing and Basic Allowance for Subsistence inquiries,” said Penn. However, responsibility starts with the individual: “The most important thing a Soldier can do for themselves is to read their Leave and Earnings Statement every month,” Penn added.

With over 400 pay inquiries a week, the 13th FMC relies heavily on cross training said Spc. Veronica Faltine, a financial management technician from the 15th Financial Management Support Unit, 4th Sustainment



Photo by Pfc. Brian LaBombard

Pfc. Frances Cozad, a power generator equipment repairer with Headquarters and Headquarters Company 62nd Engineer Support Battalion and Pfc. Trent Millmine, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, receive pay inquiry support from Spc. Rivas Evelio a financial management technician with the 15th Financial Management Support Unit, 4th Sustainment Brigade at the Defense Military Pay Office.

Brigade. Faltine has been working in the DMPO for three weeks and after receiving hands-on training she’s been able to help Soldiers by correcting errors and answering pay inquiries.

“Military pay [issues] in a deployed environment are sometimes minimal because usually everything is completed at the Soldier Readiness Processing (SRP) site,” said Maj. Jason Shick, the chief of internal control of 13th FMC and former commander of the 15th Financial Management Company (now FMSU).

“Having Soldiers work here daily, in a fully operational office, providing customer service and military pay processing helps them maintain their skill set. The FMC deploys individually and individuals deploy themselves; that’s why it’s important to have them in the office here completing the mission and doing their job,” said Shick.

“On April 1, 2012, we’ll get another detachment,” Penn noted. The civilians embrace the young Soldiers

because they want to learn and the civilians want to teach them, added Penn.

But the 13th FMC’s mission does not stop at the gates of Fort Hood. Soldiers and civilians travel across the Continental United States to provide hands-on training at numerous military pay offices.

“We’re giving them (Soldiers) the opportunity to be in the office and use the systems that are being used down range,” said Bristol.

“They also get to network with their Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) counterparts so they can get support from the rear when they are deployed. The Soldiers have appreciation for what the GS employees bring to the table as well. They go in knowing that, ‘These are the folks that have the knowledge and experience and this is where I need to go to gain that knowledge and experience so I can go do my job.’ The bottom line is, train as you fight,” Bristol said in conclusion.

Wranglers welcome new commander

By Staff Sgt. Jason Thompson
4th Sustainment Brigade PAO

FORT HOOD, TEXAS -- Marking the conclusion of a successful deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn, the 4th Sustainment Brigade uncased its colors and welcomed a new leader into the Wrangler family Jan. 24.

The uncasing of a unit's colors is a ceremonial tradition marking the official return from a deployment. The 4th Sust. Bde. was the last sustainment brigade in Iraq and was instrumental in the drawdown of U.S. Forces at the conclusion of Operation New Dawn.

"The soldiers in this brigade are true professionals," said Col. Ronald Kirklin, the outgoing commander for the Wrangler Brigade, as he reflected on his time leading the brigade. "What they were able to accomplish in Iraq is historical and



Photo by Spc. Amy Lane

Col. Ron Kirklin and Command Sgt. Maj. Erik R.R. Frey uncasing the unit's colors during the 4th Sustainment Brigade change of command and colors uncasing ceremony.



Photo by Sgt. Sean McGuire

Soldiers with the 4th Sustainment Brigade attend a change of command ceremony at Abrams Gym Jan. 24 at Fort Hood, Texas. The Headquarter recently returned from a deployment to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn.

something that will always be special."

Kirklin served as the commander since July 2009 and is now moving on to serve with U.S. Central Command.

Col. Mark Simerly assumed command of the brigade and said he's very impressed by what the brigade had achieved under the leadership of Kirklin.

"I'm just so inspired by what this team accomplished, and sitting back here from the vantage point of Fort Hood, I'm just amazed by the magnitude of the mission," said Simerly.



Photo by Spc. Amy Lane

Col. Mark Simerly, commander of the 4th Sustainment Brigade, addresses the soldiers and guests during the 4th Sustainment Brigade change of command and colors uncasing ceremony at Abrams Gym Jan. 24.

Wranglers help Wagonmasters fix vehicles

By Sgt. Erik Thurman 15th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

FORT BLISS, TEXAS - Mechanics assigned to the 4th Sustainment Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas, volunteered to work alongside 15th Sustainment Brigade, 'Wagonmaster' mechanics for a period of three weeks while the unit tackles a heavy workload; aimed at restoring vehicles inherited from other units to a higher state of military-readiness.

During their time with the Wagonmasters, the 4th SB mechanics will be conducting maintenance on a wide variety of vehicles and help bring the unit to the forefront of battle-readiness and even tackle more complex jobs most other units don't.

An example of such tasks is the scheduled maintenance of the 'Heavy Equipment Transport System' also known as the M-1000 HET Trailer, which is only done once every five years, explained Staff Sgt. William Linnabary, a mechanic from Cadillac, Mich.; assigned to the 'Heavy Trucks' 377th Transportation Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th SB.

As a veteran mechanic and a staff

sergeant, Linnabary will take charge of Soldiers on loan from the 4th SB.

The garage filled with the sounds of pounding wrenches and air tools as Linnabary's Soldiers climbed about the HET Trailer and shuffled around the shop, making it obvious to passersby the shop was a heavily worked, full-functioning garage.

One soldier handed a larger wrench down to Linnabary as he crouched below the HET trailer. After a few sudden grunts, Linnabary used the large wrench to brake a bolt lose.

"Go ahead and pull it back through to you," Linnabary told the Soldier above him, pointing at the wrench.

Towelng his hands with a rag, Linnabary continued working. He said the Soldiers were working out extremely well.

"Normally you don't do this kind of stuff in garrison," Linnabary said, cringing as he fought to loosen another bolt. "It's done when you are deployed." Linnabary spoke highly of the motivation of the 4th SB Soldiers who are now operating as part of his crew and highlighted the uniqueness of the task they were undertaking.

He said the task is so expensive it is

typically outsourced and requires a great deal of forward planning. "So, this is actually the first time this has ever been done in garrison." And he added it was all being done with the help of the 4th SB Soldiers.

Staff Sgt. Philippe Contreras, a mechanic with 12 years of experience, assigned to the 'Heavy Trucks' also praised the performance of the 4th SB Soldiers and expressed the value of their assistance, because the HETS can be considered such high-maintenance vehicles.

"They are always on the vehicle; they are always hard working and getting dirty," said Contreras. "Their motivation is pretty high."

Sgt. Chee Xiong, a mechanic from Appleton, Wis. assigned to the 263rd Maintenance Company, 4th SB, said he volunteered to leave his home station of Fort Hood after he heard 15th SB was asking for volunteers. He said prior to the Wagonmasters move from Fort Hood, 263rd MC used to fall under the unit. "It's a nice change of pace," he said as he continued the same task as Linnabary but on another part of the HET trailer.

Spc. Trapper Chantz Wagner, from Little Rock, Ark., also assigned to the 263rd, has been a mechanic for six years and chose the field to follow his grandfathers footsteps, he said. Wagner views his job as crucial part of what the Army does.

"It's 100 percent important," he said. "The truck has to be reliable and not fail on a soldier when he's driving down the road. It has to be completely mission capable, or I'm putting my battle buddies in danger."

"It can break down on the road in a bad part of town, you know," Wagner added. "Securing their safety in a vehicle is the best part of my job."

The 4th SB warrior mechanics will continue to work with the 15th SB until the unit has reached the goal of making each of their vehicles combat-ready.



Photo by Sgt. Erik Thurman

Spc. Trapper Chantz Wagner, from Little Rock, Ark., assigned to the 263rd Maintenance Company, 4th Sustainment Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas, checks the tire of a Light Medium Tactical Vehicle (LMTV), during routine maintenance at a 15th Sustainment Brigade motor pool on East Fort Bliss, Texas, March 14.

Unit aims to save Army \$383,000 by employing Soldiers at CRSP yard

By Sgt. 1st Class Jason Kucera
13th ESC Public Affairs

FORT HOOD, Texas -- When the 297th Inland Cargo Transfer Company was conducting operations in Afghanistan, part of the unit's mission was running a shipping and distribution point in theater. They are taking on a similar mission at Fort Hood; a mission that also presents new challenges and training opportunities.

Soldiers of the 297th ICTC are in the process of taking over the Fort Hood Central Receiving Shipping Point. By having Soldiers perform

the majority of the tasks at the yard, the unit projects to save the post approximately \$383,000 annually.

While this is a familiar mission for the "Kings of the Road", it takes a precise and complex system to insure units on Fort Hood and across the Army receive the correct cargo.

"By March 31, we'll have completely assumed the mission of the CRSP, and I'll feel comfortable our Soldiers will be 100 percent responsible by that time," said Capt. Brett Dunning, 297th ICTC company commander.

He said the unit will be primarily focused on internal shipping to Fort Hood customers.

A very important factor about receiving and distributing cargo throughout Fort Hood is quality control, said Juan Rivera, crane operator supervisor. By having good business practices in place similar to a corporate environment, the customers receive their cargo in a strict timely manner.

Over the past several years at the Fort Hood CRSP yard, Department of Defense employees have been running an efficient program. The 297th ICTC went through a 3 week train-up phase, shadowing civilian employee counterparts.

Rivera said the Soldiers will use the same Automatic Manifest System the civilian employees have been using.

As cargo comes into the receiving point of the warehouse, the receiving team first scans it into the system. The team then reads through bills of lading using the AMS to populate the exact destination of that particular cargo. As the shipment is sorted out, depending if it has come in grouped in a multipack box or individually, it is scanned once again before being moved over to the shipping side of the warehouse.

Soldiers then figure out customer destinations, grouping the cargo again to head out the door no more than 72 hours later. Along the way, they produce identification and shipping labels, categorize cargo and make phone calls to units to either arrange for shipment or delivery to their location, said Rivera.

Soldiers of 297th ICTC will deliver these goods to Supply Support

See CRSP on page 22

Photo by Sgt. Steven
Schneider

Sgt. Christopher Lynch, Dispatch NCO with the 297th Inland Cargo Transfer Company, inspects a shipping label upon receiving cargo at the Central Receiving and Shipping Point at Fort Hood, Texas on Jan. 31. Soldiers have shadowed civilian employees and familiarized themselves with all systems and equipment used at the yard to ensure a smooth transition and seamless customer support. The "Kings of the Road" had a similar mission when they were deployed to Afghanistan.



Division West hosts sustainment training symposium

Lessons learned from conflicts enables deploying Soldiers to better prepare for mission

**By Michael M. Novogradac,
1st Army Division West Public
Affairs**

FORT HOOD, Texas – Key senior logisticians from throughout the Army met here March 7 for the third annual First Army Sustainment Unit Logistics Training Symposium hosted by Division West.

Representatives of units from various levels, including Army and Forces Command Logistics, attended the event so Division West, which trains Army National Guard and Army Reserve sustainment units, can refine future logistics training.

The 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, whose business is providing beans and bullets in theater, participated via video teleconference from Afghanistan. They shared their experiences about what works, what does not, and what needs improvement in the current logistics effort.

“They are all briefing us on their ongoing missions, how they are task-organized and how follow-on forces

can be better prepared to assume their missions,” said Maj. Jose Martinez, Division West Logistics training and mobilization officer.

Symposium participants agreed that applying lessons learned during persistent conflict has enabled the Army to better train logistics Soldiers before they deploy to Afghanistan.

“We need to understand the lessons learned, the observations and the insights that have been developed over the past couple rotations and then we can embed these lessons learned inside the training centers,” said Brig. Gen. Jack O’Connor, head of Forces Command Logistics from Fort Bragg, N.C.

The Logistics Symposium underscored First Army’s obligation to train Soldiers for the environments of Afghanistan and Kuwait so they can effectively and efficiently execute the mission the Army directs them to do.

“The great thing about this meeting is that the sustainment community is a small community, so we all

know each other,” said Maj. Gen. Mark MacCarley, First Army deputy commanding general for support.

“Those commanders and their senior enlisted leaders (in theater) are telling us what’s happening and how we can best help them as we train new units.”

Tapping into a sense of responsible tax dollar stewardship, MacCarley said Division West kept the conference at only one day, compared to previous years’ two-day events.

“We had people sitting over a working lunch,” he added. “We didn’t have substantial breaks, if we had any breaks at all,” he added.

The symposium provided critical material for Division West’s sustainment unit training mission, MacCarley said.

“We are going to take all that valued information, both the critical and the praiseworthy,” MacCarley said, “put it all together, distill out a summary and use that summary to improve the manner in how we train those Guard and Reserve Soldiers.”

CRSP

Activity (SSA) or throughout the installation using flat-bed trucks.

Besides the physical aspect of moving and shipping cargo, a lot of the mission is dependent on administrative procedures being mistake free, said Spc. Edward Daniels, a Cargo Specialist from El Paso, Texas. He has spent the vast majority of his time making sure Department of Defense Activity Address Codes (DODAAC) are correct for the varying units receiving the shipments.

The officer in charge of the yard, 2nd Lt. John Watson, 297th ICTC, feels his Soldiers are very receptive to the job. He said part of mission success is being sure to have the right personnel selected to work at the yard.

“It’s... rewarding to do something

different, working out here in a sort of corporate atmosphere,” said Watson. He adds, “We’re having Soldiers go back to basic soldiering, letting all of these Soldiers go back to doing what they were doing before wartime.”

Troops will be on 90-day rotations so most of the company can get trained. This also gives the Soldier a chance to take leave or attend military schools.

“The operation here is (7:30 a.m.) to (4 p.m.) every day of the week with only weekends off,” Dunning said. “We need a full crew at all times so the guys won’t get a lot of time for much else outside of here.”

With an average workload of 1,300 pieces of cargo per month coming through the CRSP, a full working staff is vital. The troops may also handle the cargo that units redeploying from



Photo by Sgt. Steven Schneider

A Soldier uses the Automatic Manifest System (AMS) to scan and populate shipping labels prior to pushing cargo out of the CRSP yard at Fort Hood, Texas on Jan. 31. Soldiers worked side by side with their civilian counterparts to train up.

operations overseas bring back with them. Some of these units are National Guard or Army Reserve units, who frequently demobilize through Fort Hood.

Brig. Gen. LeMasters assumes command of 13th ESC



Left: Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters Jr., addresses participants during his flag ceremony March 26, at Fort Hood, Texas.

Right: Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell, Jr., commanding general of III Corps and Fort Hood, Texas, addresses guests and participants during the flag ceremony held for Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters, Jr., the new commander of the 13th ESC March 26 at Fort Hood's Guidon Field. Campbell said it was an honor to serve as the reviewing officer for the flag ceremony and stated he has "tremendous confidence in Brig. Gen. LeMasters.... His leadership and the great provider team will ensure the continued success of the command as it completes its mission in Afghanistan."



Photos by Capt. Monika Comeaux



Above: Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters, Jr., (center left), the new commander of the 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) passes the unit colors to Command Sgt. Maj. Guitaud Leandre (center right), the Provisional 13th ESC command sergeant major in a ceremony held on Guidon Field at Fort Hood, Texas March 26, as Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell, Jr. (left), commanding general of III Corps and Fort Hood and Col. Knowles Y. Atchison, (right) the commander of the Provisional 13th ESC stand with them in the diamond formation. LeMasters comes to the 13th ESC from the U.S. Army Ordnance School where he served as the Chief of Ordnance, the Commandant of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools, and the deputy Commander of Combined Arms Support Command Capabilities, Development and Integration.

Above: Brig. Gen. Clark W. LeMasters, Jr., (left), the new commander of the 13th ESC accepts the unit colors Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell, Jr. (center left), commanding general of III Corps and Fort Hood as Command Sgt. Maj. Guitaud Leandre (center right), the Provisional 13th ESC command sergeant major and Col. Knowles Y. Atchison, (right) the commander of the Provisional 13th ESC stand with them in the diamond formation in a flag ceremony held on Guidon Field at Fort Hood, Texas March 26. LeMasters comes to the 13th ESC from the U.S. Army Ordnance School where he served as the Chief of Ordnance, the Commandant of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools, and the deputy Commander of Combined Arms Support Command Capabilities, Development and Integration. LeMasters will deploy in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Training Mission-Afghanistan to catch up with already deployed elements of his headquarters.



Left: Sgt. Claudia A. Diaz, a financial management technician with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 13th ESC presents a bouquet of roses to Mrs. Mary (Crickett) LeMasters March 26 at Guidon Field, at Fort Hood, Texas.

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