



# 401st Army Field Support Brigade

## Forward Deployed

### "Trust and Loyalty"



December 2011 Volume 1, Issue 5

## Commander's Conference charts course for upcoming missions

By Summer Barkley  
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Members of the 401st Army Field Support, AFSBn-Bagram, AFSBn-Kandahar, many of them in their jobs for only about three weeks, liaison officers to other commands and external stakeholders gathered October 13 and 14 at Bagram's Jirga Center to hear guidance from the commander and briefs and updates from internal and external customers and stakeholders.

Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., commander 401st AFSB had three goals for the conference: understand the commanding general's priorities; understand the brigade commander's priorities; and understand where we (the 40st) fit into the battle space.

Following Russell's remarks, Brig. Gen. Les J. Carroll, commanding general Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, said the number one mission is to sustain the fight.

"My job is to enable you inside and outside the CJOA (Combined Joint Operations Area)," Carroll said. "You (the 401st) have to execute the 'art of leadership' and I'm here to support and enable you."

"As loggies (logisticians), you know how things are supposed to work, but they don't always work that way in Afghanistan," Carroll said. "Logistics in Afghanistan is hard enough, you've got to laugh, lock arms and get after it together."

Carroll told the group, "your processes from home will not work here - they will not create the velocity we need."

The conference came about two weeks after the majority of brigade and battalion military personnel arrived as part of Det 12 on September 18 and was the first time they were briefed by brigade and battalion staff.



**Above :** Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., commander 401st Army Field Support Brigade and Brig. Gen. Les J. Carroll, commanding general Joint Sustainment Command Afghanistan (seated) chat with Col. Terri Duenas, support operations officer JSC-A.

**Left:** Master Sgt. Angenette D. Giles, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, support operations, 401st AFSB enjoys rose blooms in October during a break in the 401st AFSB Commander's Conference October 13-14 at Bagram Airfield.



**Above:** Photos from the 401st Commander's Conference October 13 -14 at Bagram Airfield.



**Koch assumes command of AFSBn-Bagram**

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# Task Force Sabre Command Group

*"Trust and Loyalty"*



## *Seasons Greetings from the 401<sup>st</sup> Command Team*

Dear 401<sup>st</sup> Family,

CSM Caisido and I want to wish you a safe and happy holiday season. It has been our honor to serve with you and to be part of this great brigade. I want to thank you for your selfless service and commitment to our mission.

While most of us will be spending the holiday season away from our families, we will be surrounded by our 401<sup>st</sup> family. We are not the only ones separated from family this season and offer our thanks and prayers for the safety of those in harms way. Their sacrifices are great and their missions are not easy.

As your mission and workload permit, take a few minutes to enjoy the company of our Sabre family and reflect on what we have to be thankful for during this holiday season.

I would like to leave you with some food for thought – a quotation from Sun Tzu's [The Art of War](#), "Opportunities multiply as they are seized." Remember you belong to an elite unit and what we do provides value to all. This is how we will seize future opportunities for success.

CSM and I are looking forward to the new year and the new opportunities that will come with it. I'm confident that together we will remain value added and continue to make a difference to the maneuver units we serve.

. . . Remember to eat seconds!

**TRUST AND LOYALTY!**

MICHEL M. RUSSELL, Sr.  
COLONEL, US Army  
Commanding

Ramon C. Caisido  
CSM, US Army  
Command Sergeant Major



## Koch assumes command of AFSBn-Bagram

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Command of the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade passed to Lt. Col. Peter J. Koch from Lt. Col. Grant L. Morris in a change of command ceremony December 7 at the battalion.

Morris commanded the battalion for the last year and saw the unit through the end of the troop surge and the beginning of the surge recovery. He oversaw development of Redistribution Property Assistance Yards, implemented a maintenance mentorship program to improve skills of Afghan Soldiers in vehicle maintenance and welding, and supported critical upgrades to several vehicle platforms.

In his remarks, Col. Michel M. Russell, commander, 401st AFSB, complimented Morris on his leadership in commanding what he said is the largest battalion in the Army. He thanked Morris for his dedication and also thanked Morris' wife and daughter for the sacrifices they made during his deployment.

Welcoming Lt. Col. Koch, Russell told him to be "adaptive, assertive and aggressive in anticipating change." He said Morris positioned the battalion for success and he was confident Koch would take it to the next level.

Morris thanked the battalion members and said he selected the date for the change of command for two reasons - it was the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor and it is his wife's birthday. He ended his remarks by thanking his wife for her support and saying, "I'll be home soon."

Morris will return to Army Sustainment Command at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

Koch pledged to "make history every day and strive to live up to the high standards already in place.

"No mountain is too high for this battalion," he concluded.



**Left:** Lt. Col. Grant L. Morris outgoing commander, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, holds a "mini T-wall" from Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr. (far right), commander, 401st AFSB. Command Sgt. Maj. Ramon C. Caisido (far left), command sergeant major, 401st AFSB and Brig. Gen. Les J. Carroll, commander (second from left), Joint Sustainment Command Afghanistan look on.



**Above:** Lt. Col. Peter J. Koch (front row second from left), commander, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, and Lt. Col. Grant L. Morris (front row second from right), outgoing commander AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB with battalion members following a change of command ceremony December 7 in which Koch assumed command of the battalion from Morris.

## 401st Turkey Bowl—BDE vs BN

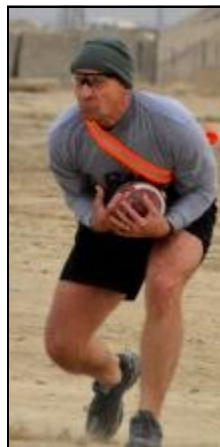


**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—The 401st AFSB Brigade staff continued their winning streak Nov. 24 when they beat the AFSBn-Bagram in a game of touch foot-

ball. Led by quarterback Capt. Eric M. Hart, the brigade emerged victorious but the goal of the game was for all to have a good time and work up an appetite for the Thanksgiving spread provided by the Grady and Yelner dining facilities.

Thanks to all who came out to play and cheer in the 401st Turkey Bowl.

Check out more photos at [www.flickr.com/401stAFSB](http://www.flickr.com/401stAFSB) and [www.facebook.com/401stAFSB](http://www.facebook.com/401stAFSB).



## Services senior logisticians visit 401st Army Field Support Brigade

By Summer Barkley  
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**— The Director for Logistics Joint Staff and Service 4s visited the 401st Army Field Support Brigade November 15 to see how the brigade will move thousands of pieces of equipment in response to the presidential directed surge recovery already underway.

Led by Air Force Lt. Gen. Brooks L. Bash, Director for Logistics, Joint Staff, the Pentagon, the group of senior logisticians from each service and the U.S. Central Command was briefed by Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st AFSB commander prior to seeing first hand, many of the types of vehicles that will be sent out of Afghanistan over the next 10 months.

Calling the Afghanistan surge recovery and eventual drawdown “Iraq writ large,” Bash acknowledged the challenges the brigade faces.



**Above:** (Clockwise from center foreground) Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Charles Hudson, commanding general, Marine Corps Logistics Command; Air Force Maj. Gen. Judith Fedder, director of logistics, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Installations and Mission Support, Headquarters U.S. Air Force; Lt. Gen. Raymond Mason, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army, G-4 (Logistics); Air Force Lt. Gen. Brooks L. Bash, Director for Logistics, Joint Staff, the Pentagon; Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., commander, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Robert Ruark, director, Central Command J4; and, Rear Adm. Jonathan A. Yuen, commander, U.S. Naval Supply Systems Command, Global Logistics Support; during a briefing held at 401st AFSB headquarters. Col. Russell briefed them on the 401st missions and role in the surge recovery currently underway.

**Right:** Air Force Lt. Gen. Brooks L. Bash, Director for Logistics, Joint Staff, the Pentagon fastens his seat belt in a M-ATV vehicle at 401st Army Field Support Brigade. Bash and the senior logisticians from each service and the U. S. Central Command visited the brigade to learn more about its role in the surge recovery and fielding and sustainment of vehicles and equipment.



**Left:** Kevin Stewart, Oshkosh Defense site manager for UIK install at Bagram Airfield, explains how Lean Six Sigma was used to ‘lean’ an underbody installation that is being completed on thousands of vehicles across the 401st AFSB footprint. Looking on are Rear Adm. Jonathan A. Yuen, commander, U.S. Naval Supply Systems Command,

Global Logistics Support, Air Force Maj. Gen. Judith Fedder, director of logistics, Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Installations and Mission Support, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, and Air Force Lt. Gen. Brooks L. Bash, Director for Logistics, Joint Staff, the Pentagon.

They saw the Bagram Redistribution Property Assistance Team yard and had the equipment turn-in process explained by Lt. Col. Grant L. Morris, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB commander. He discussed challenges and courses of action developed to address them as his unit prepares to begin receiving retrograde and reset equipment from off-ramping military units.

“They have Title 10 authority over reset,” Russell said. “A large part of what we do is process their equipment through our RPAT yards.”

“They listened,” said Russell. He said they were not familiar with the RPAP process, but left asking, “Where and how can we help?”

They ended their trip to Bagram and the 401st by visiting Joint Program Office MRAP to see underbody improvement kits being installed on some vehicles and a static display of several other MRAP vehicles.

## Thanksgiving Prayer Luncheon

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—The 401st AFSB hosted a Thanksgiving prayer luncheon at Yelner DFAC Nov. 23. The guest speaker was Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Eric L. Albertson, CJTF-1 command chaplain. 401st Brigade Chaplain, CH (Maj.) Edward Baccich distributed gifts of hand made blankets and read-along books to several lucky attendees.





## New mobile parts hospital opens at Camp Leatherneck

By J. Elise Van Pool  
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**— A new mobile parts hospital has opened at Camp Leatherneck on the AMC compound.

The parts hospital is a rapid manufacturing system that can make needed replacement parts for most anything including trucks and aviation assets. They can also make custom parts and tools.

The parts hospital has a five axis lathe, band saw, manual mill, drill press, portable hardness tester and manual lathe that manufactures metal parts up six inches in diameter and under 25 inches in length.

“We make parts that take a long time to get or that are not in the supply system anymore,” said Blake Brodeur, a machinist at the hospital, who is from Anniston, Ala.

The parts hospital provides a critical capability to manufacture parts that would ordinarily take months to receive through traditional supply routes. This capability allows Soldiers to get their equipment back up and running in a matter of days, rather than months.

“When a truck is down and they can’t get the parts they usually come to us,” said Grant Broome, the site coordinator, from Gadsden, Ala., “and they can get the trucks and things back on the field.”

“Right now we are doing some hydraulic fittings for a truck that is down because of these fittings they don’t have,” said Brodeur.

“It’s a convenience for the Soldiers too, because they don’t have



**Left:** Dallas Cooper, Grant Broome and Blake Brodeur are the machinists of Mobile Parts Hospital-Leatherneck. They recently opened facilities there to serve the Soldiers and Marines of Southern Afghanistan. The parts hospital is a rapid manufacturing system that can make needed replacement parts for most anything including trucks and aviation assets. They can also make custom parts and tools.

to wait so long on the supply chain,” said Cooper. “They can get the parts they need and still have the other parts on order.”

The parts hospital on Camp Leatherneck is the newest parts hospital in the theater. It is located on the AMC compound at Camp Leatherneck. There are two other mobile parts hospitals located at Kandahar and Bagram Airfields.



**Left:** Blake Brodeur, a machinist at the mobile parts hospital on Camp Leatherneck, from Anniston Ala., removes material from the five axis lathe at the parts hospital. The parts hospital is a rapid manufacturing system that can make needed replacement parts for most anything including trucks and aviation assets. They can also make custom parts and tools.

## First-line leaders receive suicide intervention training

By Elise Van Pool  
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Members of the Joint Sustainment Command- Afghanistan came together Oct. 31 through Nov. 1, to participate in suicide intervention training.

Representing units from all over Afghanistan, Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians came to learn techniques for helping their fellow service members who are contemplating suicide. Using the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training model, participants learned how to recognize and speak with a person who may be thinking about hurting themselves.

“This two day training prepares caregivers and first-line leaders to provide suicide first aid to persons at risk of suicide,” said Lt. Col. Rose Bean, one of the trainers for the two day class.

Students in the class learned how to first connect and understand the person at risk, learning how talk with that person and address their concerns.

**Right:** Members of the Joint Sustainment Command- Afghanistan came together Oct. 31 through Nov. 1, to participate in suicide intervention training in Kandahar. The trainees will take the skills they learned and be their unit’s suicide intervention representatives.



Next, the students learned how to help that person seek assistance by helping them create a plan of action. The training emphasized tools and tactics for talking with a person at risk.

“Applied Suicide Intervention skills Training is a model that is used to assist caregivers with being able to recognize the signs of suicide.” Bean said.

“It helped me to not be afraid when assisting or talking to someone who wants to commit suicide,” said Kiaira Davis, deputy S-4 and housing manager for Army Field Support Battalion-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade. “It taught me how to maybe help someone to get through it and seek help.”

The Army and Army Reserve have been struggling with suicide among its members in recent years, with the number of suicides in the Army Reserve still increasing. The Army reported 145 members of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve committed suicide in the 2010. That is an increase of 80 from 2009.

“We think this training is important because suicide is still a hidden, taboo topic in the military. Even in this day and age, denial, secrecy, and avoidance remain common within our formations,” said Sgt. Maj. Jose M. Picon, one class’s trainers. “We hope to influence the attendees to connect with people’s attitudes towards suicide. We also hope this will help them to overcome bias notions or feelings that might hinder their willingness and ability to help individuals at risk.”

The class concluded with students role playing both the person at risk and the person trying to assist them. Many of the scenarios were specific to the military community and helped the participant learn to deal with realistic situations. Some of the scenarios included a Soldier having family problems back home, while a second involved a married female warrant officer who had become pregnant by an enlisted coworker.

“Our intent is to provide information and help in meeting some of the challenges of reducing suicidal behavior. The class provides information that can help with the goal of creating life-assisting communities,” said Picon.

## RFAST-C develops and delivers hybrid hook to customer

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRBASE, Afghanistan**— Maj. Gen. Larry D. Wyche, G-3/5, Army Materiel Command, saw the first product from Research, Development and Engineering Command's forward-deployed RDECOM Field Assistance in Science and Technology Center's Prototype Integration Facility (PIF) to be delivered to customers in the field during a visit to the facility Dec.5.

A unit, working through their task force, approached RFAST-C in late September to fabricate several Soldier-designed attachments for a commercial telescoping pole they use in their mission. Approximately two weeks later James S. Granitzki, RFAST-C engineer, submitted the initial Soldier designs and a fourth hybrid design incorporating elements of all three Soldier-submitted designs using a material that could be machined at the PIF. RFAST-C received the 'go ahead' from the unit and after procuring the materials, Granitzki personally hand-delivered 10 prototype hybrid hooks to the unit on Nov. 12.

"Designing and fabricating a solution to help mitigate the most sensitive threat currently in theater was rewarding," said Granitzki.



**Above :** Maj. Gen. Larry D. Wyche, G-3/5, Army Materiel Command, and Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., commander, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, watch as James S. Granitzki, RFAST-C engineer, operates a laser scanner and Jill Logsdon, RFAST-C Mechanical Engineer explains how it works.

"The delivery of these hooks and knowing we were helping the Soldier has been the most rewarding action of my deployment thus far."

"The reason why you're here is to get things back to the Soldiers and into their hands quickly," Wyche said. "Stay connected to the Soldier."

Echoing Wyche's statements, Granitzki said developing products to keep our forces safer was "the entire reason I wanted to deploy."

Wyche was so impressed with the hybrid hood that he took one with him.

Units who need to leverage the RFAST-C PIF capabilities of engineering, design and fabrication; equipment upgrade; failure analysis and reintegration; and equipment modification are encouraged to email the team at [bgrm401stafsbbrfastc@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:bgrm401stafsbbrfastc@afghan.swa.army.mil).

**Right:** Maj. Gen. Larry D. Wyche, G-3/5, Army Materiel Command, holds a 'hybrid hook', which is the first product developed by Research, Development and Engineering Command's forward deployed RDECOM Field Assistance in Science and Technology Center's Prototype Integration Facility while Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., commander, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, makes a note.



## Farewell Lt. Col. Grant L. Morris

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—A Bronze Star Medal was awarded to Lt. Col. Grant L. Morris during an awards ceremony held at AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade Dec. 3.

The award was presented in recognition of Morris' accomplishments during his year-long command of the battalion. Significant accomplishments included clearing more than \$2.4 million in excess equipment from the RPAT yards; fielding more than 200 vehicles to 11 coalition partners and refurbishing more than 670 vehicles that will be sold to the Afghan National Army under Foreign Military Sales and mentoring ANA Soldiers in vehicle maintenance.



**Above left:** Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., commander, 401st Army Field Support Brigade pins a Bronze Star Medal on Lt. Col. Grant L. Morris, commander, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB, during an awards ceremony Dec. 3. **Above right:** Lt. Col. Grant L. Morris, commander, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB, received a NATO medal from Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., commander, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, during an awards ceremony Dec. 3. Morris also received an Afghanistan Campaign Medal during the ceremony.



# 401st AFSB continues to support Afghan National Army

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRBASE, Afghanistan**—401st Army Field Support Brigade continued its support of the Afghan National Army November 30 and December 1 when 90 M1114 vehicles were inspected by Afghan Army Lt. Col. Ibrahim Wardak, liaison officer to NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, in preparation for final turn over to the ANA.

Wardak inspected the vehicles that are being sold to Afghanistan National Security Forces under a Foreign Military Sales agreement. The vehicles were brought to a fully mission capable plus safety status by mechanics in the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB M1114 shop. They were signed for by Maj. Robert L. Hill, NTM-A/CSTC-A Security Assistance Officer who then authorized release of the vehicles to Wardak.

Wardak said he wanted to inspect every serial number and ensure each vehicle is in the required FMC + safety status before his Soldiers took possession of the vehicles.

“We are so happy to have these vehicles,” Wardak said. “This program helps our operations. Our main job is to fight against terrorists and these vehicles will help our operations.”

This is part of what we do,” said Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st AFSB commander. “My folks work hand in hand with ANA Soldiers.”

AFSBn-Bagram, in partnership with 101st Sustainment Brigade, began a maintenance mentorship program in March 2011 to bring Afghan Soldiers to the battalion to work on the M1114 vehicles in order to increase their vehicle maintenance skills. This program is in direct support of the Counter Insurgency (COIN) program as outlined by Gen. David Petraeus and is one of Russell’s priorities for the brigade.



**Above:** An Afghan Soldier adjusts the mirror on a vehicle that was just acquired by the Afghan National Army under a Foreign Military Sales agreement Dec. 1 .

**Below left and center:** LT. Col. Ibrahim Wardek, liaison officer to NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, and his Soldiers inspect vehicles Nov. 30. **Below right:** An Afghan Soldier prepares to drive a M1114 vehicle that has just been sold under a Foreign Military Sales agreement with the Afghan National Army Dec. 1.



## Happy Halloween—amazing race and costume contest

photos by Clayton Harrington





## 401st Serves up Thanksgiving dinner

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — 401st AFSB personnel from the Brigade and Battalion took shifts at both Grady and Yelner DFACS to serve up a traditional Thanksgiving meal to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, civilians and contractors Nov. 24. The dining facilities were decorated to the hilt but still did not outshine the great food enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who made the day memorable day for everyone.





## FSR works with Soldiers and Marines to improve mobility of UAV system

By J. Elise Van Pool

401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—“The best tool in the world won’t work if you don’t have the room to take it,” said Todd Patterson, an unmanned aerial vehicle field service representative who helps field the T-Hawk UAV at Camp Leatherneck.

Units going out on patrol often face severe space limitation inside their vehicles. After communications equipment and the Soldiers themselves there is not much room for the additional tools that give them the edge of the battlefield.

“You look at an MRAP [mine resistant, ambush protected vehicle] and think, ‘I could play football in there,’” said Patterson. The reality is often the opposite, which left units wanting to bring the T-Hawk on patrol in a bit of a bind.



**Above:** The T-Hawk system out of the box is comprised of many components. In order to ease space constraints Soldiers and Marines worked with T-Hawk field service representatives to develop a compact carrying system. The new carrying cases make it easier of operators to carry and operate the system.



**Left:** Todd Patterson, unmanned aerial vehicle field service representative at Camp Leatherneck, field tests a new more compact T-Hawk system. The new compact carrying case was created for a unit to ease space constraints inside their tactical vehicle. The new case was constructed out of a pelican case and wire grates found in the Kandahar DLA Disposition Services Yard.

**Right:** Marines field test a new more compact T-Hawk system. The new compact carrying case was created for the unit to ease space constraints inside their tactical vehicle. The new case was constructed out of a pelican case and wire grates found in the Kandahar DLA Disposition Services Yard.



Specialist William Morgan of the 571<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company wrote to Patterson asking, “I was wondering if there was a smaller box for the t-hawks. We would love to take them out more, but we have a huge problem with space available. Is there a way we could get together and maybe make a smaller

The T-Hawk UAV system is a small aerial surveillance system that allows units to get to get eyes on an area, giving much needed, real-time intelligence on the battlefield. Unfortunately, the tough box that came with the system was often too big to fit into a unit’s vehicle.

Seeking a solution to the problem Patterson and Morgan designed a carrying system that allowed the UAV to be operated out a smaller box, with one outlet and without additional assembly.

Starting with a pelican case and some metal racks taken from broken air conditioning units found in the DLA Disposition Services yard, the two fashioned a new carrying case for the unit. The end product was small enough to easily fit in an MRAP, allowed the operator to run the systems without reassembling it and from one outlet.

“It allows the units to use this organic UAV,” said Patterson. “It’s really changing things for the guys.”

The new cases are also helping to prevent ware and tear on the systems since they reduce the need for constant reassembly.

“Now they have a small portable [option],” said Patterson.

Since that first box, Patterson has helped other units construct their own carrying cases for their T-Hawk systems, even designing one that could be carried as a backpack. He and the other T-Hawk FSRs have also begun incorporating building a new carrying case into the week long operator’s course they facilitate.

For Patterson, it’s all about helping the Soldiers and Marines get the most of their equipment. “You just have to think outside the box, or think inside the box for this one.”



**Above right:** Specialist William Morgan, with the 571<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company, displays his new backpack edition, carrying case for the T-Hawk UAV system. The new case was developed by Soldiers and the T-Hawk field service representatives to help ease space constraints inside the Soldiers’ tactical vehicles.

## FSRs work with mobile parts hospital to improve robots for Soldiers, Marines

By J. Elise Van Pool

401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Robotics field service representatives and machinists at the Camp Leatherneck Mobile Parts Hospital are working together to make improvements to the robots Soldiers and Marines use to investigate improvised explosive devices.

The FSRs at the Camp Leatherneck Robotics Repair Detachment wanted to incorporate a hook and probing attachments to the Talon robot used by combat engineers and explosive ordnance detachments. The new attachments are intended to replace hand tools that require a Soldier or Marine to approach an IED.

Their first attempt involved modifying the hook tool already in use and attaching it to the robot, but this was too heavy and caused the robot to malfunction. They next tried rebar, but that was too weak and would bend.

Enter the mobile parts hospital.



**Above:** Leroy Cook (far left) and Todd Patterson (far right) both robotics field service representatives worked with machinists Blake Brodeur, Dallas Cooper, Grant Broome (from left to right) to manufacture modifications to the Talon robot that will help Soldiers and Marines more easily investigate improvised explosive devices. Pictured is one of the hook attachment prototypes they made and tested.

"We got with the mobile parts hospital to fashion an extra arm with a spring to attach different hooks to," said Todd Patterson an unmanned aerial vehicle FSR from Bellwood, Pa.

"We went off of his design," said Grant Broome, the site coordinator for the parts hospital, from Gadsden, Ala.

"We came up with some ideas and put them into CAD [computer aided design], took it out and tested it," said Blake Brodeur, a machinist at the hospital, who is from Anniston, Ala.

Working with a Marine EOD at Camp Leatherneck the new attachments have undergone several tests, including one with live explosives.

"Based on feedback from EOD, we are making more changes," said Patterson.

The team plans to make a few more modifications to the attachments before fielding them.

"A system like this is going to keep a lot of warfighters...from using that pole," said Leroy Cook ground robot FSR from Murrieta, Calif.

**Left:** Leroy Cook ground robot field service representative show one of the prototype hook attachments made by the mobile parts hospital at Camp Leatherneck. The attachments are designed to help Soldiers and Marines more easily investigate improvised explosive devices.

**Right:** Todd Patterson unmanned aerial vehicle field service representative shows some of the early prototypes he and Leroy Cook, a ground robot field service representative, made in an attempt to replace a hand-held hook tool. The new attachments will allow Soldiers and Marines to investigate improvised explosive devices without having to approach them on foot.



**Below:** Leroy Cook ground robot field service representative shows the hook tool he hopes to replace with new attachments for the Talon robot. The new attachments will allow Soldiers and Marines to investigate improvised explosive devices without having to approach them on foot.





## Ammo-62 course taught in theater

By Summer Barkley  
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—A mobile training team consisting of two Department of the Army civilian hazardous materials trainers recently deployed to Afghanistan to teach several 80-hour Ammo-62 Technical Transportation of Hazardous Materials courses to military and civilian personnel.

The team was sent by the Defense Ammunition Center at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant to provide detailed technical information pertaining to all phases of transportation for hazardous materials. Students completing the course receive a two-year certification entitling them to certify hazardous materials for safe shipment.

“The Department of Transportation requires training in shipping hazardous materials,” said James R. Dupree, instructor from Fort Polk, La. “The Department of Defense established this course so units can have certifiers for hazardous materials transportation.”

Some of the hazardous materials are obvious such as fuel cans, explosives, ammunition, batteries, helium, and fire extinguishers, but hand sanitizer is also a hazardous material said Dupree.

“We teach safety, packaging, segregating items and documentation,” said Joe D. Torres, instructor from Fort Hood, Texas.

The class is very important for units preparing to redeploy and take their equipment with them.

“Units have to have somebody certified to move their hazmat out of here,” Dupree said.

“It’s a compacted course with a lot of information,” said Sgt. Peter D. Webb, ammunition specialist with A Company, 400th Brigade Support Battalion, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. “The in-

structors are very knowledgeable and the class is enjoyable.”

Webb said he can receive college credit and promotion points for completing the course, but he hopes it will make a difference when he submits his Warrant Officer package.

The class is also important for those who routinely ship hazardous materials as part of their jobs.

“This is a job requirement,” said William Pickens, hazmat specialist and transportation coordinator supporting AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade. “It’s very comprehensive and the instructors take time to be sure everyone understands the material.”

Suzanne McKenzie, transportation coordinator supporting AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB, said taking the course is a job requirement for her too.

“I know I need it,” she said. “I’m very confident in what I’m learning.”



**Above:** Suzanne McKenzie, transportation coordinator supporting AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB, is completing an 80-hour Ammo-62 Technical Transportation of Hazardous Materials course offered by a mobile training team from Defense Ammunition Center at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant.



**Above left:** James R. Dupree (left), hazardous materials trainer from Fort Polk, La. and Joe D. Torres, hazardous materials trainer from Fort Hood, Texas, deployed to teach several 80-hour Ammo-62 Technical Transportation of Hazardous Materials courses to Soldiers and civilians in Afghanistan recently. The training is sponsored by the Defense Ammunition Center at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant. **Above right:** Sgt. Peter D. Webb, ammunition specialist with A Company, 400th Brigade Support Battalion, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (far left) listens as a student asks Joe D. Torres, Ammo-62 Technical Transportation of Hazardous Materials instructor a question during an 80-hour certification course held at Bagram Airfield.

## Contacting the Chaplain

**BAGRAM:** The 401st AFSB Brigade Chaplain is Chaplain (MAJ) Edward Baccich. He can be reached at 318 481-8313 or 079-956-9316 (Roshan cell).

In the event of an emergency when the unit chaplain cannot be reached, contact the Brigade Battle Captain at 318 481-6629.

The Post Chaplain’s office may be reached at 318 481-7312, 7313, 7314, 7315 or 7316 or call the NCOIC at 079-642-4490 (cell).

**Kandahar:** JSC-A Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Tom Roltsch can be reached at 381-421-6045.

The JSC-A Chaplain Assistant is Staff Sgt. Daniel Clark who may be reached at 079-344-5567.

The Chapel Ministry Center can be reached at 421-6110/6113.

# Lean Six Sigma greenbelt candidates tackle projects

By Summer Barkley  
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Fourteen 401st Army Field Support Brigade Lean Six Sigma greenbelt candidates who completed coursework and received their diplomas Dec. 4 are already tackling projects that focus on 401st command priorities.

The more than 60 hours of course work was facilitated by Lee Winters, master black belt for the 401st, and green belt instructors Lee Olson and Stephen Colohan, and came at the end of a 12-hour workday. Candidates decided on their projects and began working on them during the seven-week course, but completion will require continued work.

“Each project is aligned with a 401st command objective,” said Winters. “Eleven of the projects are on RPAT operations and the others are on property accountability and command climate.”

“Most of the projects focus on improving RPAT processes and operations,” said Staff Sgt. Jay M. Sachetti, 401st AFSB S3 operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

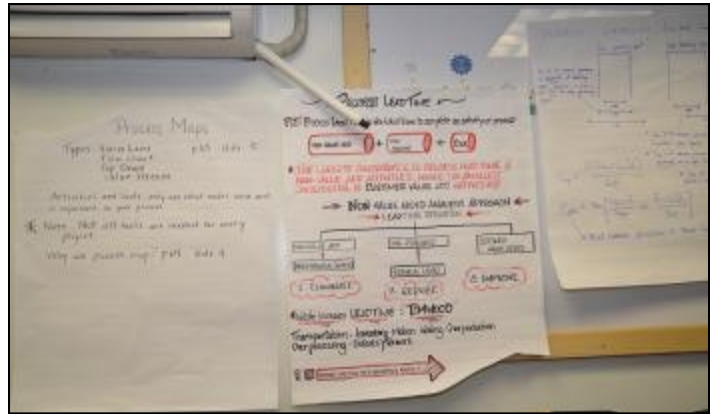
“Bill [William E.] Johnson and I are doing a Master Black Belt project on RPAT yards and we used this class to identify processes and develop models for RPAT yards in theater,” said Winters.

Darryl Hurst, 401st deputy S3, has already briefed his RPAT project to Maj. Gen. William E. Rapp, deputy commanding general-support, U.S. Forces Afghanistan and Maj. Gen. Larry D. Wyche, G 3/5, Army Materiel Command.

In brief remarks before he presented diplomas to the candidates, 401st AFSB Commander, Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., said he was very interested in discussing their projects and reading their conclusions.

Lean Six Sigma is a business improvement methodology that maximizes value by achieving the fastest rate of improvement in customer satisfaction, cost, quality, process speed, and invested capital. LSS combines the principles of Lean (reducing and eliminating non-value activities) with Six Sigma (reducing variation, increasing quality) to improve process effectiveness and alignment with the voice of the customer. LSS practitioners use the DMAIC method to define, measure and analyze problems and then improve and emplace controls to maintain improvement.

Winters said if the green belt candidates “go through the process with every challenge, their decisions are made on hard data instead of a gut feeling.”



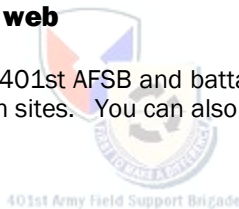
**Above:** Col. Michel M. Russell, commander, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, chats with Lean Six Sigma green belt candidates just before presenting diplomas to them.



**Above top:** Process maps and charts are hallmarks of Lean Six Sigma.  
**Above bottom:** The Lean Six Sigma green belt candidates, instructors, brigade commander and well-wishers celebrate the end of the class with some holiday goodie bags sent to the brigade by the generous folks at Support Our Troops.

## 401st Army Field Support Brigade on the web

Stay up-to-date on the latest happenings in the 401st AFSB and battalions by checking our Facebook and Flickr pages frequently. We're branded as /401stAFSB on both sites. You can also check Army.mil where we also post news articles. And, if all else fails, just Google us.





## Army-Air Force joint operation gets equipment out of theater

By Summer Barkley  
401st ASFB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade personnel leveraged an Air Force C-5 surge proof of principle mission to fly the first Army Prepositioned Stock vehicles from Afghanistan to Livorno, Italy October 17.



**Above:** Airmen from 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron, guide a vehicle onto a C-5 aircraft. The vehicle is being flown to Livorno, Italy where it will be part of an Army Prepositioned Stock fleet. The mission was part of a C-5 surge of 24 flights leveraged by AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, to help move approximately 250 pieces of equipment out of theater.

The battalion had maintained an APS-5 Infantry Brigade set for several years until decisions were made to reposition much of the APS fleet to other locations. The set consisted of both rolling and non-rolling stock and all items needed to equip a unit based on location, terrain, weather and mission. They began flying the equipment out of Afghanistan in mid-October and expected to complete the mission by the end of November.

The C-5 surge was a result of collaboration among U.S. Transportation Command, Air Force Air Mobility Command, Air Force 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron and the AFSBn-Bagram 401st AFSB.

“It was an opportunity to practice global reach for strategic airlift,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Daniel W. Lemon, commander, 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron. “It was real time practice to see what we can surge and what requirements we can meet.”

**Right:** Use of highly visible window placards helps keep track of vehicles being moved in and out of theater by the AFSBn-Bagram,



**Above:** Airmen from 455th Expeditionary Aerial Port Squadron, secure a vehicle in a C-5 aircraft for a flight to Livorno, Italy. The vehicle is being flown to Livorno, Italy where it will be part of an Army Prepositioned Stock fleet. The mission was part of a C-5 surge of 24 flights leveraged by AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, to help move approximately 250 pieces of equipment out of theater.

“We were able to use a previously planned proof of principle C-5 surge to move the equipment to Livorno,” said Thomas E. Gloss, deputy support operations officer, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB. “It was a good news story for all concerned.”

Gloss said there were 24 C-5 flights originating from Bagram and Kandahar Airfields that helped moved approximately 250 pieces of rolling and non-rolling stock that comprised part of the APS equipment in Afghanistan. He said equipment not shipped as part of the C-5 surge will be absorbed into battalion inventory for other requirements.

Lemon said using C-5 surges may be one of many courses of action and that the end-state for moving equipment out of Afghanistan might be a hybrid of various courses of action.

“This gave us a chance to refine the processes, sequence of events and roles and responsibilities,” Lemon added. “This Army-Air Force joint operation helped us increase synergy.”



**Above:** Vehicles from the Army Prepositioned Stock fleet at Bagram Airfield wait on a C-5 aircraft to be flown to Livorno, Italy. Parts of the APS 5 fleet were repositioned recently and the AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade leveraged a C-5 surge of 24 flights to help move the equipment.



# RPAT operations kick into high gear

By Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Redistribution Property Assistance Team operations in both battalions of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade kicked into high gear during November with the first RPAT missions being completed by AFSBn-Kandahar's Logistics Task Force Shindand and the first mobile RPAT mission being completed by AFSBn-KAF at Forward Operating Base Farrah. The AFSBn-Bagram was busy moving their RPAT yard to a larger footprint while starting a short-fused mission at FOB Ghazni.

Redistribution of property through either reset of organization equipment or redistribution and retrograde of theater provided equipment is a primary mission of the brigade and battalions and will be critical to the successful execution of the presidential directed surge recovery.



*Left:* Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., commander, 401st AFSB talks to Soldiers from 3-16 Field Artillery Regiment regarding their RPAT turn-in at FOB Shindand.  
*Above and right:* 401st AFSB personnel find creative ways to clean equipment.  
*Below right:* Soldiers from 167 Armor, Task Force Lonestar use any means available to clean a vehicle at FOB Farrah.



*Counterclockwise from above:* Darryl Hurst, 401st AFSB deputy S-3 briefs Maj. Gen. William E. Rapp, deputy commanding general – support USFOR-A, and Maj. Gen. Larry D. Wyche, J3/5, Army Materiel Command on a RPAT Lean Six Sigma greenbelt project he is conducting. Soldiers and 401st personnel at the FOB Farrah mobile RPAT mission. The Shindand mission required working well after dark for both 401st personnel and the Soldiers turning in equipment. Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., is briefed on procedures in place at the AFSBn-Kandahar RPAT yard.



## Maintenance mentorship program graduates seven Afghan Soldiers



**Above:** Joseph S. Ruffino, (back row center left) deputy to the commanding officer, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, and Lt. Col. Grant L. Morris, commander, AFSBn-Bagram, 401st AFSB (back row center left) stand with seven Afghan Soldiers following a graduation ceremony for a maintenance mentorship program Nov. 10. The mentorship program is sponsored by the battalion and helps Afghan Soldiers improve their skills in vehicle maintenance and Allied Trades. This is the third group of Afghan Soldiers to complete the program.

## AFSBn-Kandahar civilian awarded Defense of Freedom Medal

By J. Elise Van Pool  
401st Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** – Aaron Ardon, a Department of the Army civilian from Red River Army Depot was awarded the Defense of Freedom medal, here, Dec. 17.

Ardon was presented the award by Brig. Gen. Les J. Carroll, commanding general of Joint Sustainment Command Afghanistan, for wounds received in a rocket attack on his compound at Kandahar Airfield.

The medal is the civilian equivalent of the Purple Heart and is awarded to honor civilian employees of the Department of Defense injured or killed in the line of duty. The award was created in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2011 terrorist attacks.

In a short ceremony held in the very building struck by the insurgents' rocket, Carroll thanked Ardon and all of his colleagues for their sacrifice, reminding them that civilians are an important part of the Army team.

"You never know what you will do when the situation comes," Ardon said.



**Above:** Aaron Ardon, a Department of the Army civilian from Red River Army Depot, was awarded the Defense of Freedom Medal at Kandahar Airfield, Dec. 17. Ardon was presented the award by Brig. Gen. Les J. Carroll, commanding general of Joint Sustainment Command, in a ceremony in the very building struck by the insurgents' rockets.

## Thoughts from the Chaplain

Many years ago a great warrior attempted to answer a simple question: What is it that Soldiers, in their heart of hearts, really fight for? What possesses a Soldier to join the military in the first place, and at the end of the day, why do Soldiers do what they do? After all, Soldiers must sacrifice some, and occasionally all, of their freedoms in order that others might gain their freedoms. A real combat Soldier – by the very nature of his job/ calling – must suffer through all kinds of misery, austerity and privation. And just occasionally, a Soldier will encounter things that are completely outside the band of normal human experience such as torture, imprisonment, starvation, maiming, and humiliation.

So why would anyone in their right mind do such a thing? After much reflecting on these things and even teaching on them, the best answer the warrior could come up with (to why a Soldier fights) is for a simple reason-Freedom. Soldiers do it for the precious, priceless, matchless commodity of freedom. They do it for themselves and their posterity. They do it so they can raise their children and love their families without intrusion and according to the dictates of conscience. They do it so that their children will not have to suffer in a society that is full of violence, terror, and brutality. They give it their utmost and at the end of the day, they hope and pray that their contributions, no matter how small, might make some difference in the grand scheme of things. They do it for the people they love, for the country they love, and so that they may preserve the God-given freedom to express that love as they see fit.

The warrior pondered these things and then he was reminded, as if by Providence, of a poem that admirably captured these concepts. It is written by a man named Edgar Guest. He had misplaced the poem only to be reminded of its origin and location by the leading of the Holy Spirit. He read the poem and said to himself, "This is why we do it."

Yours in Service to God and Country, Chaplain Ted Baccich

### The Things that Make a Soldier Great

Edgar A. Guest

*The things that make a Soldier great and send him out to die,  
To face the flaming cannon's mouth nor ever question why,  
Are lilacs by a little porch, the row of tulips red,  
The peonies and pansies, too, the old petunia bed,  
The grass plot where his children play, the roses on the wall: 'Tis these that make a Soldier great. He's fighting for them all.*

*'Tis not the pomp and pride of kings that make a Soldier brave;  
'Tis not allegiance to the flag that over him may wave;  
For Soldiers never fight so well on land or on the foam  
As when behind the cause they see the little place called home.  
Endanger but that humble street whereon his children run,  
You make a Soldier of the man who never bore a gun.*

*What is it through the battle smoke the valiant soldier sees?  
The little garden far away, the budding apple trees,  
The little patch of ground back there, the children at their play,  
Perhaps a tiny mound behind the simple church of gray.  
The golden thread of courage isn't linked to castle dome  
But to the spot, where'er it be -- the humblest spot called home.*

*And now the lilacs bud again and all is lovely there  
And homesick Soldiers far away know spring is in the air;  
The tulips come to bloom again, the grass once more is green,  
And every man can see the spot where all his joys have been.  
He sees his children smile at him, he hears the bugle call,  
And only death can stop him now -- he's fighting for them all.*



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**AMC CHAPEL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE:**  
24 December 2011, SATURDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE, 2100 HOURS  
25 December 2011, SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY FELLOWSHIP ONLY, 1330 HOURS  
31 December 2011, NEW YEARS EVE, 2100 HOURS  
1 January 2012, NEW YEARS DAY FELLOWSHIP ONLY, 1330 HOURS  
\*All Services and Fellowships will be conducted at AMC Chapel. POC Chaplain (MAJ) Baccich

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**KAF Christmas Events**  
Saturday 24 December 1900 Boardwalk Candlelight Celebration  
Saturday 24 December 2000 Mass Fraise Chapel  
Saturday 24 December 2300 Midnight Mass Fest Tent  
Saturday 24 December 2400 Slovakian Mass Fraise Chapel  
Sunday 25 December Regular Sunday Schedule



