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TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT, TOBYHANNA, PA.

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APRIL 15, 2008

NEWS NOTES

Depot plans Adopt a Highway

The first depot Adopt a Highway litter pick-up session will start at 8 a.m. Saturday at Barney's Lake.

Employees and family members 10 years and older are invited to attend the two-to three-hour event. Participants are reminded to bring identification and to dress properly for the weather.

The session will be postponed in the event of bad weather. Call the Security Division, 895-7550, for up-to-date information.

For details, call Randy Didier, X57090.

Health screening available

The depot health clinic will sponsor a Carotid Artery/Thyroid Screen from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. May 28 and 29 in the Health Clinic. The cost is \$25. Sign-up sheets are in the Health Clinic. For more information, call Elizabeth Abraham, X58230.

Cancer prevention seminars

A Brown Bag Lunch seminar will address cancer prevention and treatment May 7. Representatives of the Pennsylvania Cancer Education Network of the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute will present the seminar in the Keystone Room, Building 11.

Two 20-minute seminars on skin cancer are scheduled for 11:30 a.m. and noon. Registration deadline is April 23.

Due to limited seating, pre-registration is required by calling X57069.

For more information, call the Public Affairs Office, X57308.

Travel fair set

There will be a travel fair May 6 from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Building 1A hallway.

The Community Recreation Division has invited representatives of amusement parks, hotels, and vacation and tourism bureaus to participate.

Participants in the free event can gather information on local attractions and register for door prizes.

For more information, call Jackie Vass, X57584.

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Virtual paint helps workers improve technique

by Jennifer Caprioli
Staff Writer

A new depot painter training program promises to save money and time, improve quality and reduce waste.

The Spray Technique Analysis and Research for Defense (STAR 4D) Program trains personnel in the military refinishing industry. It aids in practice strategies and techniques that enable them to use less material and improve finish quality. Through training, employees learn correct techniques and to reduce waste in the form of paint solids and air emissions.

The STAR 4D program originated from the STAR program, which was developed by the University of Northern Iowa for the automotive refinishing sector. The STAR 4D program is geared toward military coating operations and spray techniques.

The program has been set-up at Air National Guard bases in Iowa, Indiana and Mississippi, and now at the depot.

The Army Environmental Center introduced the STAR 4D program to the Environmental Management Division here. It appealed to division personnel because it seemed like with the training, personnel would use less paint and produce less air emissions, says Matt Ober. He is an environmental engineer in the Industrial Risk Management Directorate's Environmental Management Division.

The program also sparked interest with personnel from the Systems Integration and Support (SIS) Directorate because it would help our painters, adds Ober.

Depot employees from SIS and the Technical Development and Environmental Management divisions attended a "train the trainer" program at the Iowa Waste Reduction Center.

"We adapted the training to specific paints sprayed at the depot and added a hands-on section which is facilitated by paint experts," says Ober.

Since the initial training, the depot has purchased a Virtual Paint system. The system is a booth that is designed to teach painting techniques. While in the booth, the painter uses a spray gun with laser beams that protrude from the laser guided targeting tool to the target painting surface. The laser beams

are adjusted to form a single dot when the spray gun is at the correct distance from the surface. If the gun is too far or too close, the beams will separate. This helps the painter be more consistent.

This system allows painters to train in the new techniques and receive real-time feedback. Also, it doesn't require any paint, which cuts back on the amount of paint we use, says Carmelo Rivera. Rivera is a painter in the SIS's Mobile Equipment Refinishing Branch, and currently working as a trainer in the Business Management Directorate's Technical Development Division.

Part of the training includes learning the four steps of the Chemical Agent Resistant Coating process. These steps aid in the performance of the overall system and include cleaning, pretreating, priming and top coating. It focuses on how to apply paint, the amount of material used, and having control over finish quality.

The training program consists of a four-day class, with about five employees per class. The trainees are given a test on the first day to assess their knowledge prior to any teaching, says Rivera. The instructor uses the test results to decide what areas of the training to focus on.

Next, the trainees are introduced to the Virtual Paint system.

The second day begins with another test. "We were given the same test to evaluate what we learned the day before," says Joseph Limani, a third shift painter in the SIS Directorate's Component Painting Branch. Limani increased his score from 60 percent to 100 percent.

On the third day the students begin their hands-on experience. "We introduce students to the new equipment and refamiliarize them with the old equipment," says Rivera. Before the painters use the Virtual Paint system, they learn a variety of things, such as how to set up paint with the high volume/low pressure paint guns, the proper military specifications and the amount of money that is lost due to improper training.

The fourth day consists of more hands-on experience. The students also learn how to paint camouflage properly. "Hands-on evaluation is performed throughout the class," says Rivera. Students are tested this way so instructors can provide more help with students' painting techniques.

Since October, more than 80 employees

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Carmelo Rivera, left, teaches Joseph Limani how to use the Virtual Paint System. The system is designed to improve painters' technique and consistency. (Photo by Tracey Condi)

Money-saving idea nets big bucks

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President announces shorter deployment lengths

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Casual dress policy effective year-round

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Semper Gumby: Words to live by in ever-changing world

The Marine Corps has as their motto, “Semper Fidelis,” or the shortened version, “Semper Fi.” In Latin this means, “Always Faithful.” Marines are tremendously proud of these words. They live by them every day.

I think we all should have inspiring mottos to live by. The key is to make them more than just words. The words we live by need to come to life.

During my years in the Army, I’ve often heard another phrase used over and over again. “Semper Gumby.” It means, “Always Flexible.” How about that for a motto?

Gumby was a clay character in a children’s cartoon. He spent his time exploring the world with his clay sidekick, a pony named Pokey. Since he was made of clay he could stretch, bend and squeeze through impossible places. His many adventures fascinated the children. He was quite popular while I was growing up. He is a perfect example of what it means to be flexible.

I believe in my heart that “Semper Gumby” could be an unofficial motto for the United States Army. The gung ho young platoon leader receives a tough assignment from the company commander, and instead of grumbling, responds with, “Semper Gumby sir, I’ll get it done!” Or the tired,



CHAPLAIN’S CORNER
by
Chaplain (Maj.) Philip Smiley

a silver lining in every dark cloud. Flexibility is the name of the game.

Life can take many twists and turns, pleasant and unpleasant. And it seldom gives you a lot of time to plan your reactions ahead of time. How flexible are you? What do you do with unexpected surprises that force you to act, on the spot, without an opportunity to think and plan it all through? Can you handle it? Or do you go to pieces? “Semper Gumby,” or “Semper I can’t take it anymore!”

I’m proud to say that I do quite well at “Semper Gumby.” I roll with the punches, and keep on my feet most of the time. When I arrive to do an Invocation and find out I’m also scheduled for the Benediction, I smile, jot down a few notes, and no one knows it wasn’t prepared in advance.

On several occasions I’ve had to speak on a topic other than the one I prepared. Although I had to re-direct my thoughts, God was gracious, and it all came out well in the

weary, battle worn private who receives news that his return home has been delayed by six weeks, responds with, “Semper Gumby, what’s a few more weeks, I can take it.” That my friend, is what “Semper Gumby” means—rolling with the punches, making lemonade out of lemons, finding

end. Yes, I believe I’ve been squeezed, stretched and bent like good old Gumby and his faithful Pokey.

Do you know what I’ve learned from this experience? Once you survive the first few “Semper Gumby” incidents your self-confidence begins to build. And you start to look at life and all its unexpected twists and turns, with anticipation instead of dread.

Yes, you can take this too far and live only on the edge as an adrenalin junkie, but if you stay in balance, you get to live life with enthusiasm and a wonderful positive attitude.

There’s a verse in Scripture that I want to share with you. It’s found in I Corinthians 10:13. It shows us how to be “Semper Gumby.” In fact, growth and enlightenment come from the stretching and pulling of life. It’s how God draws us closer to Himself, and prepares us for Heaven. Here is what the verse says:

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (King James Version)

As you experience this wondrous thing we call life, remember that “Semper Gumby” is the way to get the most out of it. Don’t be afraid. Embrace the challenge and claim the promise God gave to you in I Corinthians 10:13. You can bear it, you can bend; you can grow!

NEWS NOTES from Page 1

Day of Caring set for May 15

Depot employees are invited to participate in the 16th annual community-wide Day of Caring volunteer event on May 15. The event is sponsored by the United Way of Wyoming Valley.

Volunteers will work on projects such as opening up area campsites, planting flowers, painting and helping staff with clerical tasks, landscaping, carpentry, outdoor maintenance and numerous indoor projects.

For details, call John Ross, event coordinator, X57256.

Post Office offers new box rates

The Post Office offers three Priority Mail Flat-Rate box sizes. There is a \$2 discount, if shipped to an Army Post Office or Fleet Post Office (APO/FPO) address. There is also a 5 percent online discount.

Anything mailable that fits into the Priority Mail Flat-Rate boxes, weighing up to 70 pounds, can be shipped to any destination in the United States (including military addresses). The items must fit without altering the shape of the box.

The new Priority Mail Large Flat-Rate Box is 50 percent larger than the current box and can be used for both domestic and international shipments.

Postage-paid Priority Mail Flat-Rate boxes can be given to your carrier, or go online, www.usps.com to request carrier pick-up the next day at no charge. Only stamped items that weigh less than 13 ounces can be deposited into collection boxes.

The boxes are available at the Post Office, online at www.usps.com/shippingsupplies, or by telephone, 1-800-STAMP-24. The boxes are shipped at no charge.

DoD will issue ID cards without full SSN

by **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—As a means of combating identity theft, the Defense Department will issue identification cards without full Social Security numbers printed onto them, a senior official said here April 3.

The Defense Department cares about protecting personal information as well as increasing database security, Mary Dixon, director of the Defense Manpower Data Center based in Arlington, Va., told Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service reporters.

Identity theft is a very real problem today, Dixon explained. Criminals who pilfer SSN-bearing identity cards can virtually assume someone’s identity through a few computer keystrokes and clicks of a mouse, she said.

TriCare, the military services’ health maintenance organization, already has removed Social Security numbers from its members’ identification cards, Dixon said.

Plans are to remove the Social Security numbers from identification cards issued to military family members by

the end of this year, Dixon said, noting that those cards still would display the sponsors’ SSN, for now. Between 2009 and 2010, all department-issued identification cards will feature only the last four digits of a holder’s Social Security number, she said.

About 3.4 million people now have department-issued common access cards, Dixon said. Around two-thirds of those card holders are military members, and some civilians who deploy overseas, who have full Social Security numbers printed onto the back of their CACs.

“You might lose that card,” Dixon pointed out, noting that family members, including children, could misplace their identification cards, too.

Modern information technology precludes the need to have full social security numbers printed onto employee and family member ID cards, Dixon said.

“Today, all of our (computer) systems can ‘talk’ to each other, so we don’t necessarily need to know all of that information printed on your card,” she said.

New identification cards will be issued as they reach their expiration dates, Dixon said.

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TEAM
TOBYHANNA
EXCELLENCE IN
ELECTRONICS

Employees create test aid to save time, money

by Jennifer Caprioli
Staff Writer

Two employees' suggestion will save the depot over \$78,000 per year.

Vincent Nguyen and William Bishop have developed a test aid that saves time and money. Nguyen is an electronics measurement equipment mechanic in the Command, Control and Computer Systems Division's Test Equipment Support Branch and Bishop is an electronics mechanic in the Avionics Division's Flight Control Systems

Branch. Both are part of the Command, Control and Computer Systems (C3)/Avionics Directorate.

The test aid is used to troubleshoot the A1A1 circuit card, which is part of a circuit card assembly (CCA). The CCA is a component of the AN/ARC-186, a small, lightweight radio used in the Black Hawk helicopter. "You can't purchase these boards, so we have to repair them if we can," Bishop says.

Prior to the test aid, the employees in the branch would perform a "guess and check"

method, says Bishop. "There was no way we could energize the CCA to tell if the parts were bad."

The mechanics would take the entire assembly apart and remove the circuit card. Next they would try to visually identify the damaged components. They would repair what they thought was damaged, put it back into the CCA and test it.

"Sometimes we would find out that the circuit board was too damaged to use," he adds. Nguyen realized that if they designed a test aid that was hooked-up to a spectrum analyzer (tracks the radio frequency within a circuit card), volt meter (tracks voltage) and a watt meter (to check power), it would make their jobs easier and save the depot money.

With the new test aid, the longest duration of a repair was four hours. "The other day I repaired a circuit card in 10 minutes," Bishop says.

This test aid helps return equipment to the field faster, says John Stochla, chief of the Flight Control Systems Branch.

Nguyen suggested the idea to Stochla, who encouraged him to see if he could fabricate something.

It took Nguyen two days to build the test aid. It was turned in for review this past September. In January, the branch began to implement the test aid to help troubleshoot the circuit cards.

"The test aid allows us to energize, analyze and test the components by using the schematics to trace and locate the problem," says Nguyen.

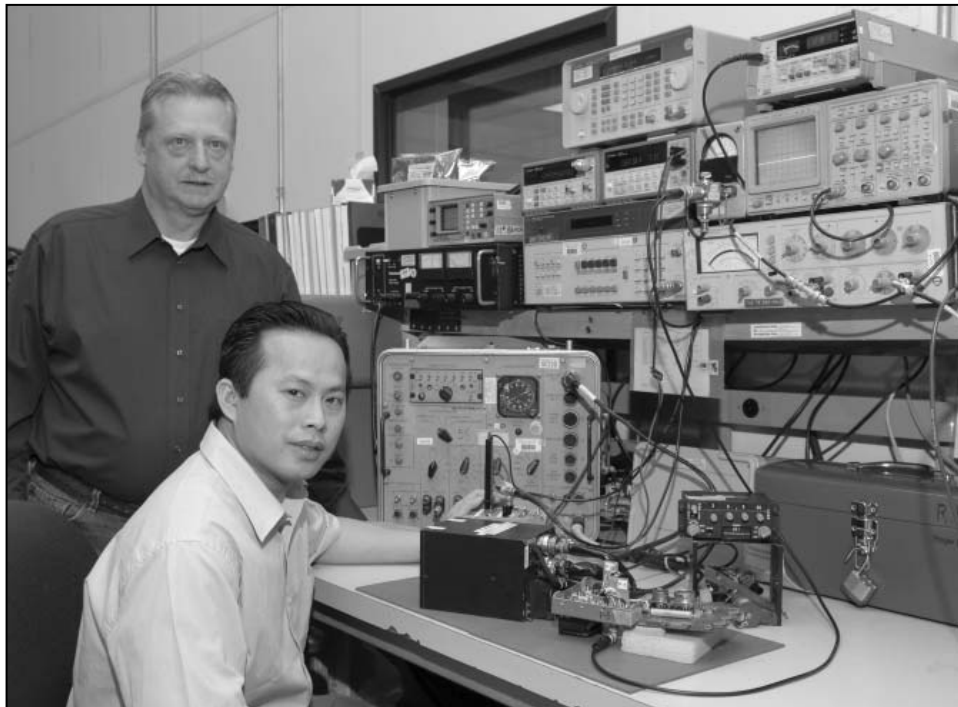
The branch used to end up with two or three unrepairable boards each month. With the test aid added to the process they have been able to repair every CCA, says Bishop.

By implementing the test aid into the process, the hours are projected to decrease from 5,700 to 3,400 per year. Because of this decrease, the branch will have a potential savings of more than \$78,000 per year.

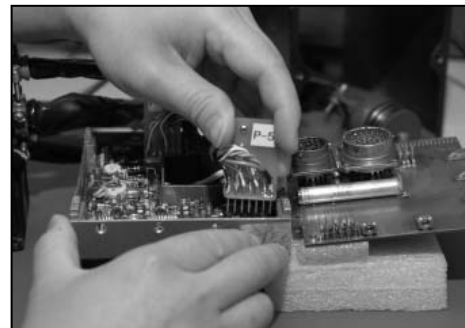
Nguyen began working at the depot in 2004. He earned a bachelor's degree from Lehigh University in Computer Engineering and has participated in various depot-related classes.

Bishop has been employed by the depot for 21 years. He has had bench training and completed various depot classes throughout his career.

"Bishop and Nguyen are always looking for better, more effective methods to troubleshoot the AN/ARC-186 components," says Stochla. "Suggestions like this one can be used by others working on the same components, which will help keep our costs down for our customers."



Roger Bishop (left) and Vincent Nguyen fabricated a test aid that will help return equipment to the field faster. (Photos by Tracey Condi)



Cables connected from the test aid to the circuit card assembly energize and allow technicians to troubleshoot the A1A1 circuit card.

Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman discusses vision for future

by John J. Kruzel
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff stressed the need for more troops in Afghanistan, reduced deployment lengths, improved care for the wounded and a transition from "peacetime" to "wartime" processes.

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen discussed his outlook on a variety of issues in a Pentagon Channel podcast interview April 7.

"The Afghan mission is really critical, and one that we are very dedicated to and that we know we need to get right, and we need to win in Afghanistan in the long run," he said. "[But] we have not been able to resource it with a significant number of additional troops in the last year or two because of the troops that we have committed to Iraq."

The continued commitment in Iraq, he said, has made Afghanistan an "economy-of-force" operation, and he added that Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan would be aided by additional military trainers and combat troops.

"We really need trainers more than anything else to help us continue to develop the Afghan national army and the Afghan national police," he said, noting that the U.S. military is trying to balance the requirements of the operation in Iraq with needs in Afghanistan, even as it works to balance the health of the force. The chairman noted that President Bush last week committed additional U.S. forces to Afghanistan for next year.

On deployment lengths, the admiral last week said that although the force is not in imminent danger of breaking, there is a need for greater balance. He told soldiers and airmen at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., that his goal is to scale

back 15-month Army deployments "as rapidly as we can."

"Probably the single biggest thing that is on [soldiers' minds] is the length of their deployments," Mullen told the Pentagon Channel. Mullen said he and other military officials meet with troops frequently to get a feel for the mood on the field and at home. He said his wife, Deborah, spoke with military spouses on his most recent trip.

"We really need to build longer times in between deployments," the chairman said, noting that families also sacrifice during deployments. "We recognize that families are a very important, literally, critical part of carrying out our mission, and so we want to be in touch with the pressures that they are under."

Speaking about military health, Mullen said that while medical care itself is top-notch for wounded warriors, access to that care is often hampered with long delays and confusing procedures. He said troops need assistance in navigating the complex system. And some troops, he acknowledged, have expressed displeasure at the quality of mental health care. "And we need to move out as rapidly as we can to fill those needs," he said.

"Our system has a way of focusing on the disability side," Mullen said. "I am very [eager] to put the emphasis on the ability side, to put them in a position to be all they can be for the rest of their lives. That is what they want to do, and we need to assist them in every way possible in doing just that."

Finally, the chairman said troop deployment cycles and administrative processes appear to be functioning at a level normally associated during times of peace. The system should be modified to better assist current wartime operations, he said.

"We haven't changed the processes to represent the fact that we are a nation at war, and certainly a military at war," he said. Mullen identified career progression and promotion opportunities as examples of processes that could use an overhaul.

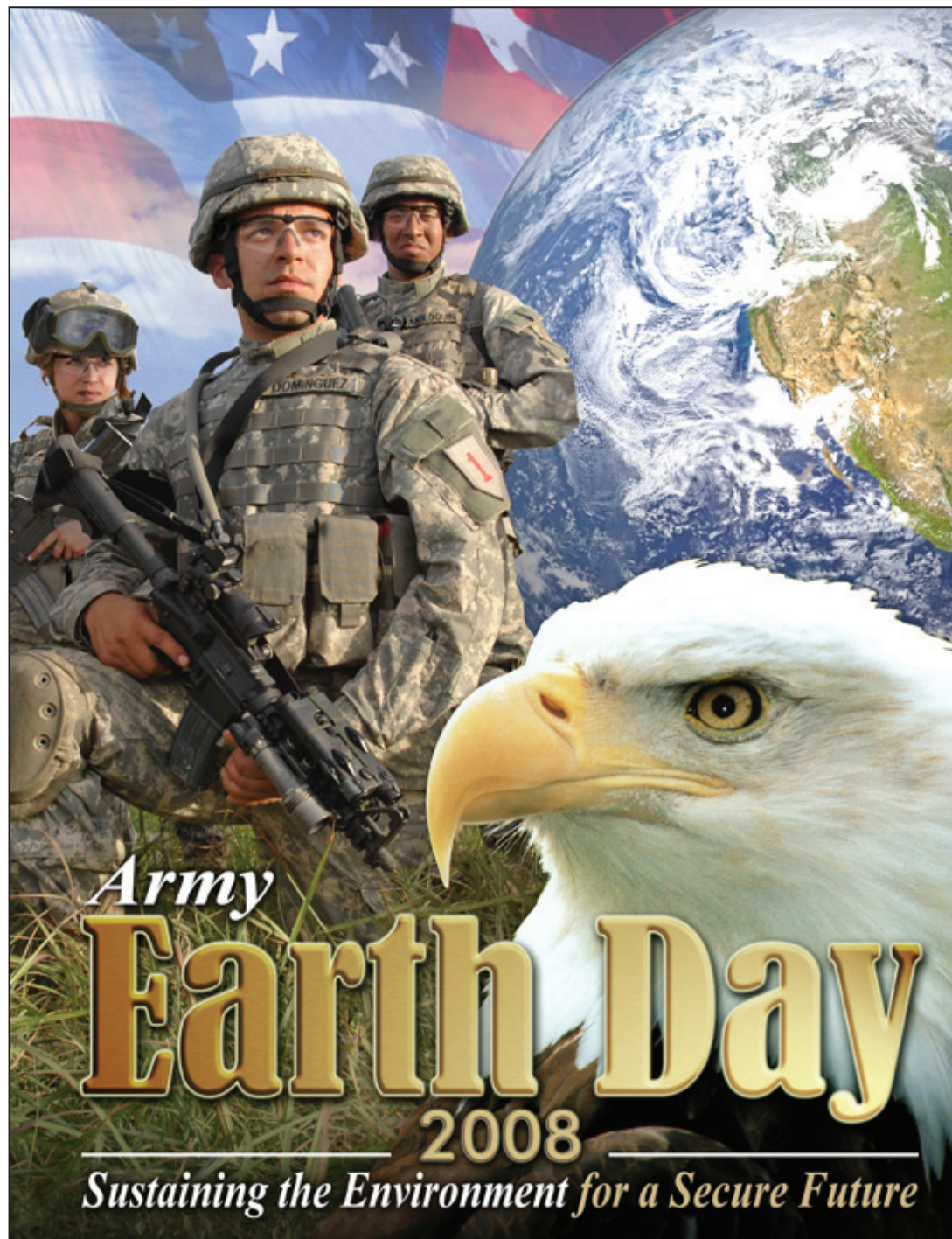
"We might be better off by starting in some cases with a clean sheet of paper, recognizing we are at war and, in fact, writing a process that is more responsive, more agile, [and] gets to the target more quickly," he said.

This entails innovation and creativity, he said, and "not just taking the process that existed in the past."

"That kind of emphasis is what I would like to see," he said, "... to create the kind of outcomes that we need for those who are serving so nobly in such a challenging time."



U.S. Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks during an interview at the Pentagon on CNN's "American Morning," Washington, D.C., April 11, 2008. (Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley)



Green roof fulfills promise

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor

The green roof on Wing A of the Headquarters Building has met expectations.

Installed in 2006, the roof was intended to improve energy efficiency, extend roof life, reduce storm water runoff and improve storm water quality.

“The roof has worked as advertised,” said Mike Parrent, chemist, Environmental Management Division. “The wing has been an average 10 degrees cooler in summer, an average 10 degrees warmer in winter, has reduced the need for air conditioning and provided a 10 percent reduction in storm water flow.”

Parrent coordinated the installation of the roof. He added that even the rock ballast that was replaced has been reutilized in landscaping on the depot.

The green roof is composed of a root barrier, a water-handling system, soil, and plants picked for their ability to thrive in the region’s climate and the green roof system.

“The plants are of the Sedum family, such as Angelina, Love Triangle and John Creech,” Parrent said.

The green roof technology offers a flexible and modular design that can be adjusted and rearranged after installation. In June 2006, workers covered the 14,141 square-foot roof space on Building 11 with about 1,500 pre-planted modules.

Randy Didier, chief of the Environmental Management Division, said there are plans to cover most, if not all, of the Building 11 this summer. “Approval was given earlier this year,” Didier said. “By the end of summer all four wings will have vegetative roofs.”

Persian Gulf benefit program application deadline is 2015

The Persian Gulf Conflict Veterans’ Benefit Act was established April 24, 2006, when Governor Edward Rendell signed House Bill 1820 into law.

On Nov. 7, 2006, Pennsylvania voters gave overwhelming approval to a ballot question to fund the program. The bond issue created a fund for the payment of compensation to, or on behalf of, eligible current and former members of the U.S. armed forces, including reserve components, or the Pennsylvania National Guard.

The deadline for submitting applications for the Persian Gulf Conflict Veteran’s Benefit Program is Aug. 31, 2015.

For more information, go to www.persiangulfbonus.state.pa.us.

Bush announces shorter deployment lengths for Soldiers

by Fred W. Baker III
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—President Bush directed Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates to shorten deployment lengths for U.S. Soldiers in Iraq from 15 to 12 months, starting in August.

Bush said he made the decision to reduce the strain on the force and because security improvements in Iraq have allowed for the withdrawal of all five surge combat brigades by the end of July.

He also said that officials would ensure troops have at least a year at home between deployments. The change goes into affect Aug. 1 and will not affect those already deployed there.

“Our nation owe a special thanks to all who served in the cause for freedom in Iraq,” Bush said.

He also directly addressed the troops, saying that the war in Iraq is not “endless,” and that as conditions there improve, more troops could return home.

“The day will come when Iraq is a capable partner of the United States. The day will come when Iraq is a stable democracy

that helps fight our common enemies and promote our common interests in the Middle East,” Bush said. “And when that day arrives, you’ll come home with pride in your success and the gratitude of your whole nation.”

Bush heard positive reports on conditions in Iraq from Army Gen. David H. Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan C. Crocker this week. He cited the success of the surge brigades as setting the conditions for the troop withdrawals.

“Fifteen months ago, Americans were worried about the prospect of failure in Iraq. Today, thanks to the surge, we’ve renewed and revived the prospect of success,” Bush said.

After the withdrawal of the remaining surge combat brigades this summer, Petraeus has asked for 45 days to assess conditions on the ground and reposition troops.

“I’ve told him he’ll have all the time he needs,” Bush said. But the president warned against calling it a “pause,” saying that description is misleading. “None of our operations in Iraq will be on hold,” he said.

Bush said all U.S. efforts in the country are aimed at a clear goal: a free Iraq that can protect its people, support itself economically,

and take charge of its own political affairs.

During the course of transitioning the country to Iraqi control, Bush said, coalition forces will step up their offense, becoming more targeted in their operations as Iraqi security forces take over more of the general security concerns. Also, more provinces will be transferred to Iraqi control as the United States moves into an “over-watch” role.

Economically, Iraq is moving forward, Bush said. Its economy is growing, oil revenue is on the rise, and capital investment is expanding. This is changing the U.S. role, Bush said. Americans now are spending little on large-scale construction costs, and Iraqis are paying for most of the country’s army and police, he said.

Politically, the country has seen “bottom-up” progress, as provincial and tribal leaders are turning to local political structures and taking charge of their own affairs.

On the diplomatic front, Bush is putting a full-court press on Iraq’s neighbors to play a more supportive role in its stabilization and growth. Each country will be encouraged to reopen their embassies in Baghdad and increase their support for Iraq, Bush said.

“A stable, successful, independent Iraq

is in the strategic interests of Arab nations, and all who want peace in the Middle East should support a stable, democratic Iraq,” Bush said.

Bush also issued a clear warning to Iran to stop funding and training militias fighting in Iraq.

Bush defended the cost of the war and called on Congress to pass an emergency funding request that will be presented to the session soon. The president called the war “a burden worth bearing” and said that national interests require success there.

“Iraq is the convergence point for two of the greatest threats to America in this new century: al-Qaida and Iran,” Bush said.

Success in Iraq would deal a historic blow to the global terrorist movement and a severe setback for Iran, he said.

“It would demonstrate to a watching world that mainstream Arabs reject the ideology of al-Qaida and mainstream Shiia reject the ideology of Iran’s radical regime,” Bush said. “It would give America a new partner with a growing economy. ... And in all these ways, it would bring us closer to our most important goal -- making the American people safer here at home.”

Policy authorizes year-round casual dress

by Anthony Ricchiazzi
Editor

Employees are reminded that the depot's year-round dress policy is now casual attire.

Employees may dress year round in a casual and comfortable manner in accordance with their own personal preferences, provided they comply with safety regulations and job-specific dress requirements, as published in Employee Bulletin #74, Nov. 30, 2005.

The applicable regulations governing dress are Tobyhanna Army Depot Regulation 1-11, 'Proper Dress,' on the intranet under Publications, and Tobyhanna Army Depot Regulation 385-1, 'TYAD Safety Manual,' on the intranet under Safety. Employees can also request a copy from their branch, division or directorate office. Supervisors must ensure that employees are aware of the dress code.

The regulations outline the dos and don'ts of appropriate dress and appearance in the workplace. Acceptable dress should serve to maintain and ensure a safe, healthful, productive, positive and professional work environment. It should also be consistent with assigned positions and tasks.

Generally, the minimum casual dress requirements under this revised policy will include shorts (although no cutoffs or excessively short pants, such as 'short shorts') and 'T'-shirts. Upper garments will reach the bottom piece of clothing to prevent midriff exposure and dresses and skirts will not be unreasonably short.

Supervisors and directors can make changes to the policy to conform to individual work area needs. In all cases, attire must be appropriate to the employee's work location, duties and customer expectations.

Management may still determine that customer service (both internal and external) or other situations demand more formal dress in certain areas and/or at certain times.

Employees who report for duty inappropriately dressed for their job or don't meet safety requirements may be placed on annual leave and be subject to counseling for the first offense. Further offenses may result in the employee receiving disciplinary action.

Employees are required to wear clothing that is neat and clean, and to practice positive hygienic habits. Personnel working in industrial and other applicable areas shall observe all safety or medical requirements.

The depot has a potential for injury in all work areas due to the nature and variety of tasks performed.

"Employees should be aware of that and dress to fit the situation," said Russel Dunkelberger, Safety Division chief. "If that means wearing protective clothing and equipment even if it's warm, then of course safety overrides minor discomfort."

Dunkelberger noted that open-toed shoes, sandals and flip-flops do not meet safety requirements for industrial areas, and offer little protection in non-industrial areas. "A secretary was injured by a keyboard falling on her foot while wearing open-toed shoes," he said.

The dress down policy doesn't provide an exemption

from wearing safety shoes for people assigned in shops where foot protection is required. Long pants provide the best protection for legs when performing work in heavy industrial shops, especially where the potential of flying objects or chemical exposure is present.

Long-sleeve shirts provide the best protection while loose-fitting clothing (and long hair) has the potential to become tangled or caught in machinery or equipment. Finally, cotton garments worn under protective clothing can provide perspiration absorption and help the individual feel cooler.



Afghanistan government, security forces improving

by John J. Kruzal
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Afghanistan's government and national security forces have improved consistently over the past year, the outgoing commander of Regional Command East, part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, said April 7.

In the 13 months since Army Maj. Gen. David M. Rodriguez assumed command, Afghanistan's national and local governments have flourished, institutions have gained strength, and the capacity of the country's security forces continues to grow.

"There's been tremendous progress since the fall of the Taliban, and additional major improvements in all areas in the past year," Rodriguez told Pentagon reporters via videoconference from Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

"And with the Afghan coalition, ISAF and international partners, I think we'll continue to make steady progress," said the general, who also commands the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division. Rodriguez stepped down April 10, and the 101st Airborne Division took charge of Regional Command East.

Fourteen provinces have established provincial development plans to more closely assess the needs of the Afghans in their districts, aided by the construction of 48 district centers.

"For the first time in Afghanistan's history, governors are giving state-of-the-province addresses that present government accomplishments in an open, transparent forum to their constituents," Rodriguez added.

Afghanistan's national education system represents another breakthrough. While under Taliban control, the country had 1,000 schools. Today, Rodriguez said, there are about 9,000, and that number is growing daily.

Girls were barred from attending Taliban-regulated schools; now, some 70 percent of girls in Regional Command East have access to state-run education. The number of teachers over the same time has grown from 20,000 to about 160,000. Rodriguez also stressed improvements in health care and agriculture.

IRS reminds taxpayers of deadline to file for this year's economic stimulus payment

WASHINGTON—It's tax filing deadline day. However, the Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers that they may file for an extension up to Oct. 15.

People filing only to receive the economic stimulus payment do not have to file by April 15 and they do not have to file a Form 4868 for an extension.

However, they do need to file Form 1040A by Oct. 15 to receive the payment in 2008.

Taxpayers normally required to file who cannot meet the April 15 deadline should file a Form 4868 to obtain an extension to file until Oct. 15.

Taxpayers can use Free File to submit the Form 4868 electronically.

Eligible Americans must file a tax return in order to receive economic stimulus payments of up to \$600 (\$1,200 married filing jointly). There is another \$300 payment for each qualifying child younger than 17.

The IRS will use the 2007 income tax return to determine eligibility for the economic

People filing only to receive the economic stimulus payment need to file Form 1040A by Oct. 15 to receive payment in 2008.

stimulus payment and to calculate the amount of the payment.

People who normally file a tax return don't need to take any additional steps to get their stimulus payment. Starting May 2, the IRS will transfer economic stimulus payments to taxpayers using direct deposit.

It will begin mailing paper checks on May 16.

People who do not have a tax filing requirement but who have at least \$3,000 in income from any combination of earned income, nontaxable combat pay and certain benefits from Social Security, Veterans Affairs and Railroad Retirement must file a 2007 income tax return in order to receive an economic stimulus payment.

They may be eligible for the minimum amount of \$300 (\$600 for married couples) plus the \$300

per qualifying child payment.

The IRS urges people who are filing only to receive the stimulus payment to use the Form 1040A.

People filing solely to receive the stimulus payment should provide proof that they have at least \$3,000 in qualifying income. This would include:

- * Form SSA-1099 from Social Security or Form RRB-1099 from Railroad Retirement Board, or if 1099 is not available, a monthly statement and/or the amount of monthly benefits.

- * Monthly statement from the Department of Veteran's Affairs showing payments you received in 2007 for veterans' disability compensation, disability pension and survivor benefits and/or the amount of monthly benefits.

- * Form W-2 showing your non-taxable Qualified Combat Pay.

- * Proof of any other income, taxable or nontaxable.

For more information, call the IRS, 800-829-1040, or go to the IRS Web site, www.irs.gov.

(Internal Revenue Service news release)

READ THE **TOBYHANNA REPORTER** ON THE DEPOT'S INTERNET SITE.
CURRENT AND ARCHIVED ISSUES OF THE BI-WEEKLY PUBLICATION CAN BE VIEWED AT
[HTTP://WWW.TOBYHANNA.ARMY.MIL/ABOUT/NEWS/REPORTER.HTML](http://www.tobyhanna.army.mil/about/news/reporter.html)

WELCOME TO THE DEPOT

Name	Title	Organization
Thomas Bieda	Electronics worker	D/C3/Avionics
Mark Brickler	Materials handler	D/CS
Donna Chenski	Materials handler	D/CS
Thomas Conserette	Equipment specialist	D/PE
George Hotaling	Equipment specialist, electronics	D/C3/Avionics
Edwin Howe	Electronics mechanic	D/SIS
Eric Kaplan	Equipment specialist, electronics	D/C3/Avionics
Joseph Lavvelle	Electronics worker	D/CS
Donna McCawley	Secretary	D/PII
Stephen Napersky	Electronics worker	D/CS
Donald Ouimet	Electronics worker	D/CS
Jason Pearce	Electronics worker	D/CS
Debra Robinson	Secretary	D/IRM
Whitney Uhler	Mgmt analyst, student trainee	D/PM
Amber Urban	Mgmt analyst, student trainee	D/PII
Cheryl Van Duzen	Electronics worker	D/C3/Avionics
Jose Vasquez	Equipment specialist	D/C3/Avionics
Jeffery Whitesell	Alcohol, drug control officer	Command Group
David Wittig	Materials handler	D/PW
Peter Anker	Electronics worker	D/CS
Bee Hang	Electronics mechanic	D/SIS
Joshua Herzog	Electronics worker	D/C3/Avionics
Frank Perry	Electronics worker	D/C3/Avionics
Joseph Price	Electronics mechanic	D/CS
Alexander Raykhel	Electronics mechanic	D/SIS
Brian Schultz	Electronics mechanic	D/SIS
Timothy Wormuth	Electronics worker	D/C3/Avionics
John Swetts	QA specialist, electronics	D/PII
Ricky Poperowitz	Electronics worker	D/C3/Avionics



Carmelo Rivera programs the STAR 4D system, which is managed by software loaded on a laptop.

PAINT from Page 1 —

out of the 120 painters who currently work in the Refinishing Services Division have received this training. “Our goal is to have 100 percent of the painters trained” says Rivera. He also says that they would like each new painter to go through the STAR 4D program within the first few months of being hired.

Although there are no hard numbers that project potential savings in waste reduction, quality data has been tracked as part of a Black Belt project in the Productivity Improvement and Innovation Directorate that shows a reduction of paint related rejects, says Mike Romanczuk, Refinishing Services Division chief.

“The program is helping.”

says Stephen Berryman. “I’ve noticed that people who went through the training have improved their skills.” Berryman is a third shift paint leader in the Component Paint Branch.

Berryman believes there are many advantages to participating in the STAR 4D program. “The Virtual Paint system allows us to practice our skills,” he says. “Because of the small class size, there was more opportunity for the instructor to provide individual help.” He believes that with this specialized training, painters will perform their job more efficiently.

Berryman, Limani and Rivera all agree that the most beneficial part of the program is that employees can ensure that the Soldier is going to receive a better quality piece of equipment. “The quality of work increases with this program because personnel know they are producing a product that meets current standards,” adds Rivera.

Changing world leads to NATO’S transformation

by Carol L. Bowers
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—NATO’s creation in 1949 provided a unique framework for Western military cooperation in an era of Soviet expansion, and subsequently throughout the Cold War.

The North Atlantic Treaty’s defining feature is the agreement of member nations to provide mutual defense. In a pledge known as “Article 5” for its place in the treaty, member nations agreed to treat an attack against one as an attack against all, and to respond with force as necessary.

But for most of its life, NATO had no cause to flex its military arm or test its warfighting capabilities. Although countries pledged troops, money and supplies to create a NATO fighting force, the organization’s broad approach to collective security involved dialogue, cooperation and self-defense -- a strategy that stood NATO in good stead through the Cold War and well into the 1990s.

The eruption of Bosnia’s civil war in the early 1990s prompted a shift in NATO’s strategic view of security and planted the seeds of NATO forces’ military transformation. Alarmed by the human rights violations and “ethnic

cleansing” in Bosnia, NATO members saw that in the interest of collective security, they would need to consider military engagements outside NATO nations’ borders. Under Article 4 of the North Atlantic Treaty, members often had consulted one another on matters of concern or potential threats to member nations, but until 1993 no Article 4 consultation had resulted in a military engagement.

Operation Deny Flight launched in April 1993 as a mission to prevent aerial intrusion over Bosnia and Herzegovina, and nearly a year later, on Feb. 28, 1994, NATO aircraft shot down four war planes violating the no-fly zone in the alliance’s first military engagement.

In August 1995, allied air strikes on Bosnian-Serb positions were used to help compel the warring parties into peace negotiations, which followed with the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement on Dec. 14, 1994.

After the signing of the Dayton agreement, NATO deployed its first peacekeeping mission, sending an implementation force into Bosnia that soon was replaced by a stabilization force to help facilitate the country’s reconstruction and train Bosnian military forces. The stabilization force’s mission ended in December 2004, with the European Union peacekeeping force taking over. In 2006, Bosnia and Herzegovina joined NATO’s Partnership for Peace Program.

NATO was driven to act again when violence erupted in Kosovo. NATO’s aim was to achieve a peaceful resolution of the crisis and promote stability and security in neighboring Albania and Macedonia. In pursuit of these objectives, Albania and Macedonia became members of the Partnership for Peace program.

The operations in Bosnia and Kosovo taught NATO that Cold-War style logistics were no longer viable. Modern military operations call for rapid deployments, and NATO began to consider strategic and military transformation that would create an expeditionary force.

That process sped up with the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, with the realization that attacks may come from many quarters and NATO needed a fast, technologically superior and sustainable force that also could

stand ready to meet the new challenges of the new century.

The NATO Response Force was in operation by Oct. 15, 2003, barely one year after members had approved its formation. By October 2004, the force had 17,000 troops and was declared ready to take on a full range of missions. By the NATO Riga Summit in November 2006, the force was declared fully operational with 25,000 troops.

Through the NATO Response Force, member countries commit land, air, naval or special operations units for six-month rotations. Participation in the NRF is preceded by a six-month training program that includes complex exercises of a military, peacekeeping or humanitarian aid nature.

The response force is configured to deploy as a stand-alone force for NATO nations’ collective defense under Article 5 of the treaty and for crisis support including evacuation, support of disaster consequence management in the event of chemical, biological or nuclear attacks, humanitarian crisis support and counterterrorism operations as well as a quick response team to support diplomacy and deter crises.

Elements of the force helped to protect the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece, and were deployed to support the Afghan presidential elections in September 2004.

The force also has been used in disaster relief, including in response to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in the United States and humanitarian aid to Pakistan.

The last few years have seen a dramatic evolution in NATO’s thinking and in its posture, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said recently. “With all the new capabilities we have forged in the heat of battle—and with new attitudes—we are seeing what it means to be expeditionary,” he said. “We must now commit ourselves to institutionalize what we have learned and to complete our transformation.”

Gates said the alliance must find the resolve to work together through a new set of challenges “so that, many years from now, our children and their children will look back on this period as a time when we recommitted ourselves to the common ideals that bind us together.

“That mission drew us together in 1948 and keeps us together today,” he said.



U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Robert D. Bishop Jr., the commander of 3rd Air Force, answers questions from the media while meeting with Bulgarian air force officials at Graf Ignatzevo Airfield, Bulgaria. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth)

NEW SUPERVISORS

Ted Bienkowski is chief of the Logistics Modernization Program (LMP)/Master Production Scheduling (MPS) Branch, Production Management Directorate.



Bienkowski

He supervises 23 people who develop and implement the Army's LMP at Tobyhanna. This includes the deployment of operational best business practices such as Material Requirements Planning, Capacity Requirements Planning and Master Scheduling. The branch consists of the LMP/MPS support staff, the MPS Proto Type Team and the Data Quality Team.

Prior to his current position, Bienkowski was a logistics management specialist. He began his career at Tobyhanna in 2004.

Bienkowski served four years on active duty and two years in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves as an aircraft structural mechanic. During his military career he was assigned to the Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 1, Okinawa, Japan, and the Fixed Wing

Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 311, El Toro Marine Corps Air Station, Calif. He completed one overseas tour and concluded his active-duty service as the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron-13 Airframes Division, also at El Toro.

He has 33 years of Aerospace and Operations Management experience from his work in the Marines and companies based in California and Pennsylvania.

Bienkowski is a 1975 graduate of Aviation High School, Long Island, N.Y.

He and his wife, Gretchen, reside in Summit Hill. They are the parents of Dawn, 30, Gina, 29, and Aaron, 24. They have seven grandchildren.

Bienkowski's hobbies include shooting and fishing.

He is a member of the Schuylkill Carbon Marine Corps League Detachment 626, Marine Heritage Foundation, Association of the United States Army and Saint Josephs and Stanislaus Parishes of Summit Hill. In addition, he is certified in Production and Inventory Management and is an active member of the Lehigh Valley Chapter of the Association of Operations Management.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The depot's Red Cross blood drive dates are the first and third Wednesday of each month. To schedule an appointment, employees must obtain supervisory approval and then call X57091.



VLTP

Thousands of Tobyhanna employees have donated more than 46,340 annual leave hours to help 446 people over the past 20 years.

The voluntary leave transfer program (VLTP) allows federal employees to donate annual leave to fellow employees who have exhausted their annual and sick leave because of either a personal or family medical emergency.

In addition, people in "use or lose" status can donate excess leave days to employees participating in the VLTP.

For more information about the VLTP, call Theresa Planchock, X57963; or Joseph Heitman, X57324, Management Employee Relations Division.

There are 19 active cases with eligible employees needing leave donations. They are:

Edward J. Baker, ASRS Division, Production Management Directorate.

Ronald L. Breyemeier, Range Threat Systems Division, C3/Avionics Directorate.

Robin Campbell, Electro-Optic/Night Vision Division, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate.

James P. Durkin, Industrial Services Division, Systems Integration and Support Directorate.

David C. Fauver, Transponder Branch,

Avionics Division, C3/Avionics.

Sally Franks, Materiel Management Division, PM.

Bonnie Hunsinger, Tactical Missile Division, C3/Avionics.

James J. King, Industrial Services Division, SIS.

Anne Kruienza, SATCOM Division, Communications Systems Directorate.

Francis Lo Dolce, Tactical Communications Division, CS.

John Macking, COMSEC Division, CS.

Paul T. Mahoney, Refinishing Division, SIS.

Alexander Raykhel, Electronic Services Division, SIS.

Robert J. Saffo, Engineering Division, Public Works Directorate.

Larry Shaffer, Tactical Communications Division, CS.

Diane E. Sosi, Electronic Services Division, SIS.

Sebastian M. Szerszen, Firefinder Division, ISR.

John B. Wettstein, Materiel Movement Division, PM.

Ronald P. Williams, Air Traffic Control Division, ISR.

OBITUARY

Russell Lewis died April 1 at home. He was 63. Lewis was a native of Dalton.

Lewis was an electronics mechanic in the Systems Integration and Support Directorate's Electronic Services Division. He began his depot career in 1984 and received several awards for outstanding duty performance.

A graduate of Lackawanna Trail High School, he served in the Navy from 1966 to 1968 aboard the USS Saratoga.

Lewis is survived by his mother Dorothy; daughter Melissa; sons Michael and Jonathan; sisters Cathy Frederici, Donna Oakley, and Julie and Diane Lewis; brothers Arthur, Robert and Harry; grandchildren; nieces and nephews.



Lewis

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

Editor's Note: The Community Bulletin provides an avenue for depot and tenant employees to advertise van or car pools, and for-sale items. Money making items such as rentals and personal business will not be accepted.

Information must be submitted via e-mail to Jacqueline Boucher@us.army.mil, or written items can be mailed to the Public Affairs Office, mail stop 5076.

Submissions must include a name and telephone extension. Only home phone numbers will be published in the Trading Post section.

Ads will be published in four consecutive newspapers. It is the customer's responsibility to update or renew items listed in the Community Bulletin.

For information, call Jacqueline Boucher, X58073.

- **Montdale, Eynon, Peckville, Jessup, Dunmore:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, both Fridays, "A" placard, meet on Rt. 247 from Montdale, Jessup Park and Ride and the Dunmore Holiday Inn, call Michele, X57565 or Rich, X55943.
- **Pittston:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, leaves the Pittston Commons plaza at 6:05 a.m., 7 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. shift, nonsmoking, "A" placard, call Frank Slempe, X58009 or X56515 or Joe Scheff, X58401.
- **Wilkes Barre, Pittston:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. shift, meet at Pittston Park and Ride on Route 315, will work out details, call X56944.
- **Moscow:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. shift, call Christina Williams, X59964 or X59926.
- **Archbald, Jessup, Dunmore:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, nonsmoking, "A" placard, shared driving, pick up points are St. Thomas Parking Lot, Cousins, Park and Ride in Jessup, and Holiday Inn in Dunmore, contact Mike, X56550 or mike.chapman@us.army.mil.
- **Mountain Top, White Haven:** 4 openings, 7 passengers, van, starts in April, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m., nonsmoking, call Janet Giarratano, X59268.
- **Mount Cobb:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, both Fridays, meet at the park and ride near Mt. Cobb Ambulance, call Lenn Walchinsky, X59360, or Mark Warner, X59317.
- **South Stroudsburg:** 1 opening, van, 5/4/9, call John Kulp, X58751.
- **New Jersey:** 2 openings, car, traveling I-80 from New Jersey, call Robin, X57345.

- **Mountaintop, White Haven:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. shift, "A" placard, nonsmoking, call Andy, X56962.
- **Taylor, Old Forge:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. shift, "A" placard, nonsmoking, possible door-to-door pickup, call Mike, X57784 or Dave, X57420.
- **Forest City, Simpson, Carbondale:** 3 opening, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, every Friday, call Laura, X57240.
- **Honesdale:** 1 opening, van, 15 passengers, 5/4/9, nonsmoking, 2nd Friday, call Jim LoPresti, X56630.
- **Wilkes Barre, Pittston:** 2 openings, van, 5/4/9, "A" placard, morning pick up points are Wilkes Barre Home Depot, Pittston park at 5:55 a.m., evening pick up point is the U area, drop off at 5:15 p.m., runs every Friday, call Jim, X58693.
- **Dunmore:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, both Fridays, call Pat Ciperian, X56227.



VAN/CAR POOLS

- **Mountaintop:** 2 openings, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, "A" placard, nonsmoking, contact Mike McGlynn, X56944 or michael.mcglynn@us.army.mil.
- **Kingston, Forty-Fort, Luzerne, Swoyersville:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, 5/4/9, nonsmoking, departs Thomas Market in Kingston at 6 a.m., both Fridays, call Pete, X58164.
- **Scranton, Minooka:** 2 openings, van, call Joe Pakutka, X56944.
- **Olyphant:** 1 opening, van, 7 passengers, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. shift, non-smoking, call Ed, X57328.



TRADING POST

- **Vehicle:** 1994 Mazda 626 DX, very reliable, loaded with options, new tires, excellent mechanical condition, asking \$2,200, call Justine, 894-9474.
- **Vehicle:** 1999 GMC Suburban, 1500 SLT, 4x4, 5.7L, 105k miles, excellent condition, many factory options, all service records, asking \$6,995, call Jeff, 894-9474.
- **Snow blower:** never used, new, 9.5 HP Ariens, \$850, call Jan at 848-2551.

Gates: Reduced Iraq violence enables exit of surge forces

by **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Sharply decreased violence in Iraq has set the stage for the departure of the remaining surge forces by the end of July, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee here April 10.

Violence in Iraq “has declined dramatically since this time last year,” Gates told committee members. “In addition to the drop in U.S. casualties, we have seen a dramatic and encouraging decline in the loss of Iraqi civilians.”

Gates and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, were on Capitol Hill to update legislators on Iraq and Afghanistan military operations.

Iraqi deaths caused by ethnocentric conflict are down by about 90 percent, Gates reported, while overall civilian deaths have decreased by 70 percent compared to a year ago.

In addition, Iraqis increasingly are stepping up to assist U.S. and coalition troops in battling insurgents in their country, Gates said. About 100,000 extra Iraqi security forces fought alongside around 30,000 additional U.S. troops as part of last year’s surge operations, he noted.

Gates also said recent Iraqi military operations against insurgents and criminals in Basra and other areas of Iraq are heartening. The Iraqis were not capable of launching a military mission of that scale a year ago, he noted.

Half of Iraq’s 18 provinces now are under Iraqi control, Gates said. Anbar is anticipated to be the 10th province to come under Iraqi jurisdiction, which Gates cited as “a remarkable development” given the grim security situation in that province just 18 months ago.

“The Iraqi forces will shoulder more of the burden as we reduce our forces over time,” Gates said.

Iraq also is experiencing a growing economy, Gates said, noting growth in its gross domestic product is expected to exceed 7 percent this year. Iraq’s oil exports are above prewar levels, and the country will earn almost \$40 billion in oil revenue in 2007, he said.

“These economic gains also mean that Iraqis should shoulder ever-greater responsibility for economic reconstruction and equipping their forces,” Gates said.

On the legislative front, Iraqi lawmakers recently passed measures related to pensions, de-Baathification reform and other matters that will help Iraq heal its ethnic and political divisions, Gates said.

“Clearly, these laws must be implemented in the spirit of reconciliation or at least accommodation,” Gates said, adding that such progressive legislative actions should not be ignored or dismissed.

Despite such progress, there are still reasons to be cautious regarding the situation in Iraq, Gates said. Al-Qaida in Iraq is a wounded but still-lethal force, he noted.

Al-Qaida in Iraq “is trying to regenerate

itself and will continue to launch gruesome terrorist attacks,” Gates predicted.

Gates said he and other senior military and civilian defense leaders support President Bush’s decision to withdraw the surge forces from Iraq. About 140,000 U.S. troops will remain in Iraq after all surge forces are withdrawn by the end of July.

“At this point, it is difficult to know what impact, if any, this reduction will have on the security situation” in Iraq, Gates observed.

Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of Multinational Force Iraq, has recommended a 45-day period of evaluation after the return of the surge troops to assess the situation.

“I do not anticipate this period of review to be an extended one,” Gates said, “and I would emphasize that the hope, depending on conditions on the ground, is to reduce our presence further this fall.”

Gates, however, cautioned Iraq observers to be realistic, noting that the security situation there remains fragile and that gains achieved can be reversed.

The secretary acknowledged ongoing public debate and division about the way forward in Iraq. “This is not a surprise. The truth is, perhaps excepting World War II, all of our country’s wars have been divisive and controversial here at home,” Gates observed. “That is the glory of our democracy and gives the lie to the notion we are a warlike people.”

Army to relax controls to keep pace with cyberspace

by **Kristen Noel**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON—Cumbersome controls over information flow in the Army soon may be a thing of the past, as the service works to deliver its messages proactively in the fast-paced cyber world.

Instead of worrying about controlling what Soldiers are saying, the Army needs to focus on rapidly getting their messages out into cyberspace, Army Col. Wayne Parks, director of computer network operations and electronic warfare at the Combined Arms Center in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., said in a teleconference with online journalists and “bloggers” April 8.

In today’s electronic-warfare environment, Parks said, the Army needs to be able “to get the message out either before the enemy gets the message out, or be able to respond to the enemy as they’re putting the message out.”

The Army has a tendency to be reactive, he said, but the service now is looking at how it engages people with information differently from in the past.

Parks explained that, rather than trying to control what soldiers say, the Army is focusing on keeping the force informed with the facts. “We’re just looking to inform our folks well enough that when they say something, ... they’re going to state the facts,” he said.

Gates said he became the senior defense civilian 18 months ago with the hope to craft a bipartisan path regarding U.S. Iraq policy that would sustain a steadily lower, but still adequate and necessary U.S. military commitment to that country.

“I continue to harbor this hope, ... and I will continue to work for it,” Gates said. “But, I do fear the understandable frustration over years of war and dismay over the sacrifices already made may result in decisions that are gratifying in the short term but very costly to our country and the American people in the long term.”

Mullen told committee members that he and the Joint Chiefs fully support Petraeus’ recommendations to withdraw the surge brigades from Iraq and to be provided time to evaluate and assess the situation before making any further force-structure decisions.

“That seemed prudent to me,” Mullen said. “It’s not a blank check; it’s not an open-ended commitment of troops.

“It’s merely recognition of the fact that war is unpredictable,” the four-star admiral emphasized.

There is no attached timetable to possible additional U.S. troop withdrawals from Iraq, because flexibility is necessary to ensure that the right decisions are made at the right time, Mullen explained.

“It is the speed and uncertainty of this war, not just the enemy itself, that we are battling,”

Mullen observed. This has always been the case in counterinsurgency operations, he said, which tend to be “tough, grueling, messy, and yes, even lengthy work.”

The surge of forces has helped improve security, but it never was intended to be the remedy for all challenges in Iraq, Mullen said.

Iraqi leaders were to use the breathing space provided by the surge to work toward political reconciliation and economic progress. “That such progress has been slower and of mixed success is, I believe, more a function of the difficulties of representative government in Iraq, than it is of the level of security enabled by military operations,” Mullen observed.

“Our troops can open many doors, but they cannot force Iraqi leaders through them,” he said.

As the last of the surge brigades return home, he said, the remaining U.S. troops will continue to help Iraq’s government achieve additional political and economic progress while assisting Iraqi security forces in defending their country.

“But, I see no reason why we cannot accomplish these goals, while also keeping open the option of an informed drawdown of forces throughout the remainder of the year,” Mullen told committee members. “Such options are critical, because while Iraq is rightly our most pressing priority right now, it is not the only one.”



He estimated that 80 percent of the time the information soldiers provide directly is correct. So, the 20 percent risk of inaccuracies is worthwhile to maintain a proactive approach to online messaging, he said.

“As long as you’re aware of what’s being said, you can always correct the record,” Parks said, “or you can always inform people adequately to ensure that we ... don’t stay on this reactive mode and don’t look at our soldiers and our leaders out there and mistrust them.”

Parks also said defending against cyber

attacks on computer networks and systems is another key element of electronic warfare.

“There are attacks being made on our networks and our computer systems -- whether it be hardware or software -- from across the globe,” he said.

The Combined Arms Center is studying lessons learned from past attacks and is building new capabilities to defend against future attacks, Parks said.

(Kristen Noel works for the New Media branch of the American Forces Information Service.)