

# CECOM TODAY

SPRING 2011

## CECOM CUSTOMER SERVICE: A VALUE AMONG COMRADES

ISEC PLAYS KEY  
ROLE IN BRAC MOVE  
to Fort Bragg

ROLL CALL, CECOM'S  
'Faces to the Field'

SAMS-E FOR  
SOFTWARE  
Readiness

NEW UNIT UNIVERSITY  
CONTRIBUTES TO  
Warfighter Readiness

ONE VISION, ONE MISSION. THE WARFIGHTER



# CUSTOMER SERVICE

“What the CTSF (Central Technical Support Facility) provides more than anything is the confidence that systems are going to work, and that, if shortcomings exist, you will know what they are. Their ability to test systems together in a deployed-like architecture provides them with the unique ability to identify problems so we don’t have to in the units. The CTSF is Texas at its very best. It is where we send software and systems for someone to tell them how they really stand up in the big dance.”

~Army Col. Stephen M. Birch, III Corps G-6

“The [ISEC] quality assurance team has been instrumental in the successful implementation of the BRAC information technology transition. I think the partnership has been seamless and think they’ve done a fabulous job.”

~Jerry R. Stidham, Director, Network Enterprise Center, Fort Bragg, N.C.

“(I’m) Very impressed with Tobyhanna Army Depot skills; Tobyhanna’s points of contact are excellent, responsive and keep me informed. [It was] great to visit the depot and see firsthand what’s done to test capabilities and organic repair of the Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR).”

~Maj. Gordon Wilson, Assistant Product Manager, LCMR



U.S. Army

One Mission, One Vision – The Warfighter



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## **CECOM Commanding General**

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**DISCLAIMER:** CECOM Today is an authorized CECOM publication for members of the Department of Defense and interested entities. Contents of CECOM Today are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of the Army, or CECOM. This publication aims to raise awareness about CECOM's services available to the Warfighter by informing readers about the CECOM mission; why our services are relevant and essential in today's transforming Army; communicate CECOM's impact made on the Warfighter; and update readers on the command's priorities and foci. The editorial, content of this publication is the responsibility of the U.S. Army CECOM Chief of Public Affairs, Robert DiMichele. The magazine is published three times a year and distributed electronically and in print. Electronic versions of the publication are posted to the CECOM homepage at :

<http://cecom.army.mil>

<b>2</b>	>>>>> Commander's Message
<b>4</b>	>>>>> CECOM: One-Stop-Shop
<b>5</b>	>>>>> Chaplain's Corner
<b>6</b>	>>>>> NCO Review
<b>8</b>	>>>>> Roll Call: CECOM Faces to the Field
<b>10</b>	>>> Highlights
<b>13</b>	>>> Accomplishments
<b>23</b>	>>> Profile of Excellence
<b>24</b>	>>> CECOM, Aligned for the Warfighter
<b>26</b>	>>> Services

## Support to contingency operations, reset and reconstitution are top priorities

By Maj. Gen. Randolph P. Strong

**G**reetings! With sharp focus on our deployed Warfighters, CECOM continues to carry out its major C4ISR sustainment efforts around the world. Simultaneously, our new state of the art C4ISR Center of Excellence at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, grows monthly with people, equipment and activity. Absolutely, we are committed to ensuring the world-class sustainment capabilities CECOM provides to our Warfighters are unaffected by the headquarters' move from Fort Monmouth to Aberdeen Proving Ground. Our innovation and creativity continues to find efficiencies amidst the Department of Defense mandate to do more with less.

Earlier this year, and given our changing Warfighter environment, I updated CECOM's top priorities. First and foremost among them is our support to the Warfighter—no matter what service or location in the world. Servicemembers deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa rely on CECOM each day. In fact, our role increases in importance as new missions continue to evolve. CECOM's combat edge sustains the best possible C4ISR equipment in the world. This technological edge combats a creative enemy and provides an edge unmatched on today's battlefield.

Since our last issue, Operation Iraqi Freedom transitioned to Operation New Dawn. CECOM leads the drawdown effort with eight Redistribution Property Accountability Teams throughout Iraq. These teams have retrograded more than 30,000 pieces of equipment from theater to various sources of repair while our Depot Level Recoverable Teams have reclaimed more than \$1 billion worth of assets. CECOM continues to support the drawdown on one battlefield and the buildup on another—Afghanistan.

Efforts supporting the Afghanistan buildup secured more than \$1.5 billion in foreign military sales to coalition partners



and expansion of our regional support centers. CECOM technicians supported the first-ever Afghan Mission Network resolving real-time battlefield communication and interoperability issues between Warfighters and their coalition partners.

These frontline CECOM accomplishments are the product of our Commands and Centers whose linkages deliver innovative C4ISR capabilities worldwide. Tobyhanna Army Depot's record setting \$979 million in total Fiscal

Year 2010 orders and \$135 million in joint orders earned them their fifth International Bronze Shingo Award and the Lean Excellence Award. Our Information Systems Engineering Command's installation, implementation and evaluation enabled the BRAC moves of Army Materiel Command, Training and Doctrine Command, Forces Command, Defense Information Systems Agency, United States Strategic Command and Southern Command.

The breadth and depth of CECOM's competence opened new fronts. We recently stepped into the wheelhouse and took the reins from Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach by shouldering its depot maintenance workload at Tobyhanna. In fact, we responded to urgent requests for technical assistance beneath the waves on board the USS San Francisco, a nuclear class submarine with a faulty depth detector. In both cases, we've exceeded every expectation. So, if you ever see a map of CECOM's global reach and see a point out in the ocean, you will know why. It's our support to the submariners.

Accomplishing our growing mission and working toward common goals resulted in a reevaluation of our 2011 CECOM priorities: supporting the Warfighter; building human capital; and optimizing the Army's C4ISR Materiel Enterprise.

As I mentioned earlier, C4ISR excellence to our Warfighter

is our core mission. Servicemembers deployed in support of contingency operations around the world—whether advising and training the people of Iraq or freeing the grip of terrorism in Afghanistan—our professionals in the field continue to lead. Col. Colleen Martin and her team at Victory Base Complex north of Baghdad manage the Redistribution Property Accountability Teams who cycle thousands of pieces of equipment into the Army Force Generation process or send to Kuwait for onward integration in Afghanistan. Joe Medarac, a senior telecommunications specialist, is leading a team design effort for a new technical control facility at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Once completed, this hub will supply greater bandwidth and higher reliability directly to the Warfighter. Or, it could be as simple as the clip and chin strap that Zigmund “Ziggy” Pieszalla and his Tobyhanna Army Depot team devised. This simple clip holds the advanced combat helmet firmly in place protecting Warfighters during a fire fight in the Shok Valley, Afghanistan.

Refurbishing and repairing tactical equipment after deployments ensures units are ready for the next deployment with mission capable gear. CECOM's Communications-Electronics Evaluation Repair Teams spearhead this effort around the world. Technical professionals from our Logistics and Readiness Center, Tobyhanna Army Depot and ITT (a government contractor) work together resetting more than 63,000 night vision goggle systems and nearly 52,000 Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems, or SINCGARS, tactical radio systems annually.

My next priority, building human capital, is all about our people—the dedicated team behind the success of CECOM. Without our professionals, we cease to be effective in the fight. It is CECOM's people who are the command's most important asset. If you are new to CECOM and the Army, our goal is to provide you as much information about our command and those you support. We will continue to provide the tools necessary to keep our servicemembers supplied, informed and always ahead of our enemies. Through our creative developmental opportunities and training courses, sharpening the skills of our workforce will result in CECOM delivering our proud tradition of excellence in

support of our Army and Joint Warfighter.

My third priority is optimizing the C4ISR Materiel Enterprise. Our C4ISR Center of Excellence allows us to collocate and synchronize many of the of the materiel life-cycle functions. The collaborative environment and state of the art facilities provide superior technology, acquisition, logistics and industrial-based operations, building and sustaining total C4ISR readiness. Providing next generation software field support, enhances readiness through a new service delivery model thus reducing our footprint and costs. Converting existing work areas into a leaner, more flexible, paperless workplaces, highlights the use of new technology on our campus. CECOM pioneers new approaches and exploits efficient methodologies moving from traditional paradigms and becoming the enterprise of the future.

These priorities do not come without challenges. Budget constraints, policy changes, and the ever-growing competition for talent in the workforce will transform our organization in the coming months. I am however, reassured that we can successfully traverse whatever challenges lay ahead through the efforts of our most valued asset—our workforce. There is no task so overwhelming that we, through a mission-focused vision working toward a common goal, cannot overcome.

The changing nature of the fight has clearly impacted that mission-focused vision. Warfare has changed from a traditional kinetic battle to a technology-dependant information war fought in cyberspace or through satellite transmissions across continents and oceans. A rifle in the hands of a well-trained infantryman was once the most effective weapon. Now, finger-strikes on a computer keyboard or the whirl of an unmanned aerial vehicle rule our modern battlefield. One thing is certain, CECOM's people lead the way into tomorrow's battle with technology support that's unparalleled. No other organization provides the C4ISR edge to the Warfighter like we do. We are the key enabler for the Army's success in the future. It is a great challenge, but one that we will meet because of our greatest strength. . . our people.

One Vision, One Mission—**the Warfighter.**



# 1 STOP SHOP

## **U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command:**

As a vital component of the Army's C4ISR Materiel Enterprise and Center of Excellence, CECOM provides the development, sustainment, maintenance, training and acquisition support services for the life-cycle of C4ISR equipment and capabilities for the joint Warfighter. CECOM is the Warfighter's 'one-stop-shop' source for support for life-cycle support of the communications-electronics systems and equipment they carry.

### **CECOM Top Priorities:**

- › Supporting the Warfighter
  - Iraq Drawdown
  - Afghanistan Build-up
  - Foreign Military Sales
  - Reset and Modernization in support of ARFORGEN
- › Human Capital
- › Optimizing the C4ISR Center of Excellence

### **CECOM Core Competencies:**

- › Communications Security
- › Configuration Management
- › Depot-level Manufacture, Repair & Overhaul
- › Enterprise Software Solutions
- › Expeditionary Logistics
- › Field-Level Sustainment & Maintenance

- › Forward Maintenance Supply & Sustainment
- › Information Assurance
- › Inventory & Spares Acquisition
- › Life-Cycle Software Solutions & Testing
- › Manage Logistics Infrastructure
- › Net-Centric Data Strategy
- › Network Interoperability, Integration & Certification
- › Rapid Response Capability
- › Satellite Communications
- › System of Systems Integration & Engineering
- › Total Package Fielding & New Equipment Training
- › Worldwide Software Field Support

### **CECOM Organizations:**

- › Central Technical Support Facility (CTSF), Fort Hood, Texas
- › Logistics and Readiness Center (LRC), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland
- › Software Engineering Center (SEC), Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland
- › Tobyhanna Army Depot (TYAD), Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania
- › U.S. Army Information Systems Engineering Command (ISEC), Fort Huachuca, Arizona



## What's in your ruck sack?

We've all seen the images of servicemembers walking heel to toe in single-file lines departing for, or returning from missions around the world. In almost every case, each one of those Warfighters is carrying a back pack, kit bag or ruck sack. Have you ever wondered what they pack in those bags?

If you ask anyone of them what they are shouldering for their trip you will likely hear many different answers. Some carry their favorite electronic game, a magazine or a computer. Others bring pillows or stuffed animals or pictures of loved ones. And still others pack shaving kits, a change of clothes or baby wipes (the universal cleaner). The bottom line is each person chooses what he or she thinks is a necessity for their trip and packs it carefully into a bag ensuring it stays close so that when the time comes, they can get to it quickly.

The truth is, regardless of whether or not you wear a uniform, you belong to a community in which everyone has some sort of "ruck sack," albeit physical or virtual. Military communities are, by nature, communities who prepare for what may happen. We all think of things we'll need in any given set of circumstances. It could be a phone number to a neighbor or coworker who you can call for help or perhaps a plan for being snowed in as Old Man Winter lays down another frosty, white blanket. It might be something as simple as making sure everyone in your home knows where to find candles when the electricity goes out.

In today's ever changing world we never know when we may have to pull something out of our ruck to help a fellow human being during a time of crisis or tragedy. Military communities are filled with valuable resources such as military assistance organizations, support groups, professional helpers, printed resources, websites and military programs. The CECOM Chaplain's office is here to help navigate the potential minefield of information.

Daily life doesn't have to be a combat zone. Allow us to help you fill your ruck sack. There is an invaluable resource here at



CECOM to help guide you in your time of need, the Unit Ministry Team. While CECOM is a large organization going through many changes, we want to ensure you that you are all valued by this organization and are more than just a number or body filling a cubicle. We encourage you to get to know your coworkers. Say hello as you pass by desks on your way to your office. You can make a difference by touching the life of one person around you. The Chaplain's Office encourages you to be an agent of change as you go through your daily life and to look around and see if someone needs some encouragement.

Keep in mind that ruck sacks, while filled with helpful items to get us through times of need, can sometimes become heavy and burdensome. Even with careful planning we still need to learn to get rid of or add stuff as we go—to fine tune or make adjustments. What was good yesterday may not be what's right for tomorrow. We must take time clean out our ruck and reconsider what is necessary.

The CECOM Unit Ministry Team is located on the first floor of building 6001 at the new C4ISR Center of Excellence on Aberdeen Proving Ground. My chaplain assistant and I are planning visits across the command. Please don't hesitate to call on us. We are here not only for spiritual guidance, but can assist in many other ways including training seminars or pointing you in the right direction for help in your time of need.

**Nobody can do everything, but everyone can do something.** ~*Author Unknown*

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## NCO Review

### Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Maryland

*Command Sgt. Maj. Tyrone Johnson, CECOM CSM*

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‘Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.’ Sound familiar?

At CECOM, that’s the ‘Golden Rule’ our noncommissioned officers abide by each day as they make decisions that will have a direct impact to the Warfighter.

Since its inception nearly 50 years ago, CECOM has been no stranger to change. From witnessing the Army’s transformation from kinetic warfare to information warfare, to CECOM’s lead role in establishing the Army’s C4ISR Center of Excellence in Maryland, our personnel have tirelessly provided uninterrupted support to the Warfighter. And with change, comes continuous improvement.

As we begin 2011, it brings me great pride to see the unmatched synergy and collaborative efforts that our diverse workforce embodies and continually develops.

CECOM’s NCOs, although small in numbers, bring first-hand, field-level experience that other components of the CECOM workforce may not be privy to. Our enlisted Soldiers collaborate with CECOM’s predominately civilian and contractor workforce, to lend an ‘end-user perspective’ on communications and ISR systems, equipment, and training activities to meet our customers’ needs.

It’s those efforts that empower our command to carry on the CECOM legacy of quality service and maintain a consistent flow of expert field-level support to our customers.

CECOM’s NCOs preserve the NCO Corps’ long-standing tradition of dedication, honor and service, and are among the most accomplished group of military professionals. In keeping with that tradition of NCO excellence, CECOM NCOs act on behalf of the Warfighter, by providing the same level of support they would want to receive if they were deployed with the customer unit themselves. In many cases, our Soldiers provide services they may have received as a CECOM customer, prior to being assigned to CECOM.

I thank all of our NCOs for upholding the NCO tradition of professionalism and mission effectiveness, while providing top-notch CECOM support services. Your experience, dedication, commitment, leadership and pride are indispensable as CECOM continues its mission of providing world-class C4ISR support to the Warfighter.

One Vision, One Mission—**the Warfighter.**

“CECOM’s NCOs exemplify our Soldiers’ dedication, commitment, leadership, and pride taken in accomplishing the mission.”

~Command Sgt. Maj. Tyrone Johnson, CECOM Command Sergeant Major







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## Soldier Profile: Sgt. Maj. Kelvin L. Spencer Tobyhanna Army Depot

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Since his arrival in May 2009, Sgt. Maj. Kelvin L. Spencer has embraced Tobyhanna's commitment to "Excellence in Electronics." With his extensive background in communications-electronics dating to his enlistment in the Army in 1977, he brings a Soldier's perspective to Tobyhanna's worldwide joint C4ISR missions.

Spencer has immersed himself in the complexities of the depot missions, leading a team that has reduced the delinquency rate of Test, Measurement and Diagnostic Equipment, or TMDE, ensuring workplace safety, and inviting senior enlisted personnel, including Sergeant Major of the Army Kenneth O. Preston and senior noncommissioned officers from the Research, Development and Engineering Command, to learn more about Tobyhanna's extensive capabilities in support of the Warfighter.

"From improved helmet brackets fabricated here to the night vision goggles they hold, and the hundreds of other systems we maintain, Tobyhanna provides equipment that is essential to our Warfighters and gives them the ability to detect, defeat and deny the enemy. I'm proud to share my experience with our Tobyhanna team to support those efforts," Spencer says.

"One of my priorities upon assuming command was having our Senior Enlisted Advisor, Sgt. Maj. Spencer, actively engaged in the mission; which he certainly has been in the areas of Lean Six Sigma, safety and TMDE," said depot commander Col. Charles Gibson. "Furthermore, he has engaged the Army NCO community to learn more about Tobyhanna, and he has been a tremendous ambassador to our neighbors in Northeastern Pennsylvania, as a speaker at military and veterans' events, through our Operation Santa Claus program and our Warfighter of the Quarter initiative, which recognizes outstanding active-duty and Reserve Component military personnel."

"Sgt. Maj. Spencer knows that the timely calibration of TMDE is ultimately important to the Warfighter, therefore, it needs to be important to everyone here," said Brad Jones, director of productivity improvement and innovation. "As a result of his personal involvement, we have seen a 95 percent improvement in our delinquency rate over a recent 12-month period. He's now working to achieve zero percent delinquencies as part of his quest for continuous process improvement across TYAD."

{Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Spencer (right) speaks to Soldiers at an event.}



## Sgt. 1st Class Patricia J. Price

Sgt. 1st Class Patricia J. Price, Logistics and Readiness Center Communications Security Logistics Agency, is currently deployed, serving as the noncommissioned officer in charge for the U.S. Forces Afghanistan J6 Information Assurance office. Price is responsible for ensuring all secure and non-secure networks are accredited and in compliance with all policies and procedures concerning networks in Afghanistan. She conducts information assurance inspections and is a member of the Force Protection's Team Bravo, responsible for the perimeter security of her assigned installation in Afghanistan. In addition, Price also ensures all foreign nationals with access to U.S. networks meet all security and training requirements.



## Roll Call, CECOM's *Faces to the Field*



## Lenin Vera

Lenin Vera, CECOM Logistics and Readiness Center, serves as the Counter Radio-Controlled Improvised Explosive Device Electronic Warfare (CREW) Fielding & Sustainment Manager for Afghanistan. Operating in five Regional Support Centers and 26 Forward Operating Bases, he is responsible for the fielding, sustainment, and logistics support for all dismounted and vehicle-mounted CREW systems for the Warfighter. CREW operations under the oversight of Vera are responsible for supply-support stock and support equipment across Afghanistan. He's currently working with Task Force Paladin and the 401st Army Field Support Brigade to support the fielding of CVRJ Fixed Sites, Electronic Warfare Officer Toolkits, Universal Test Set, Thor III, and "pure-fleet" of Army vehicles to Duke V3 systems. Vera oversees more than 130 deployed personnel throughout his area of responsibility and he's a member of the PdM CREW Team. CREW in Afghanistan also provides fielding and sustainment support to other programs such as PM FLIR Gunshot Detection systems and PM Prophet Wolfhound systems.



*One thing is certain, CECOM's people lead the way into tomorrow's battle with technology support that's unparalleled.*

## ARMY SOLDIER'S CREED

### **I am an American Soldier.**

I am a Warrior and **a member of a team**. I **serve** the people of the United States and **live the Army Values**.

I will **always place the mission first**.

I will never accept defeat.

I will never quit.

I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

### **I am an American Soldier.**

## ARMY CIVILIAN CORPS CREED

### **I am an Army Civilian—a member of the Army team.**

I am dedicated to our Army, our Soldiers and civilians.

I will **always support the mission**.

I provide stability and continuity during war and peace.

I support and defend the Constitution of the United States and consider it an honor to **serve** our nation and our Army.

I **live the Army values** of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.

### **I am an Army Civilian.**



# Highlights



## Central Technical Support Facility Doing its part in digital warfare and interoperability...

Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Peter Chiarelli, enlisted the facility's participation in a Future Force Integration Directorate/PEO-Integration demonstration event at Fort Bliss/White Sands Missile Range.

Chiarelli tapped eight members of the CTSF staff—a test officer, a test floor pit boss, three test operators, and two system of systems engineers—to set up and sustain demonstrations of new and, in some cases, experimental software systems at the Brigade Combat Team level. The group established a BCT tactical operations center executed system initialization and analysis, helped develop a demonstration architecture, conducted pilot tests, and supervised operation of the Tactical Operation Center during the event.

Simultaneously, CTSF personnel prepared a section of the 12-East test floor as a hub for the international testing and improvement of the Afghan Mission Network. The lab proved its worth when local technicians, working over a secure network with counterparts in

Great Britain, solved a real-time battlefield command and control problem. The CTSF lab is the Army component for the network that now includes similar facilities elsewhere in the United States, Canada, England, Norway, Italy, France, and New Zealand.

In addition to its primary mission as the Army's software base-line configuration manager, the CTSF Configuration Management branch prepared and shipped 3,978 software packages for field support to the Warfighter. That figure marks an increase of 1,239 over field support software packages shipped in 2009, and is more than twice the number shipped in 2007.

Utilizing its network distributive testing capabilities, the CTSF became the hub for three Air Ground Integration Layer Exploration, or AGILE, Fires tests that were run from CTSF's Joint Lab. Participants included Air Force, Navy, and Marine facilities from California to Virginia.

The CTSF Test Branch generated test report representing interoperability findings on 179 Army software systems and processed 179 data products, it became intricately involved in several major projects spanning a broad spectrum in the digital warfare universe.

## Logistics and Readiness Center

### Designated as Product Support Integrator (PSI) for WIN-T Increment 1

Product Manager Warfighter Information Network-Tactical Increment 1, known as PdM WIN-T Inc 1, designated the Logistics and Readiness Center as the Product Support Integrator, or PSI, for sustainment support of the WIN-T Increment 1 System, pending final approval of the Formal-Type II Business Case Analysis, or BCA, which was completed by PdM WIN-T Inc 1 with significant support

from the Communications Directorate's WIN-T Branch.

However, in this groundbreaking achievement, this is the first designation of the LRC as a PSI. As the PSI for Sustainment, the LRC will be responsible for supporting the Increment 1 system via a performance-based contract, designed to meet performance metrics as identified in a Warfighter Performance-Based Agreement. The LRC, as the PSI, will implement the BCA recommended Product Support Strategy and integrate and oversee the various sources of support.

## Information Systems Engineering Command

### ISEC provides communications support in Southwest Asia

ISEC's expertise and experience in providing advanced information technology solutions extends from the tactical edge all the way back to home base at the post, camp or station.

In support of the Product Manager, Defense Wide Transmission Systems, PM DWTS, and Project Director, Defense Communications Systems - Southwest Asia, or PD DCS-SWA, ISEC provides this type of long haul communications support in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations. During FY 2010, ISEC completed upgrades at five Main Control Facilities, MCF, and is currently providing criti-

cal engineering support for the ongoing construction of the Camp Arifjan, Kuwait MCF.

The function of an MCF is to convert wide area satellite communication links into specific data and voice circuits which fuse strategic and tactical level communications. These facilities are very important because they provide an essential platform for in-theater communications and the necessary reach-back capability needed for world-wide communications.

ISEC's ability to engineer and implement state-of-the-art MCF solutions goes a long way toward providing information dominance for the Warfighter and their engineers take great pride in making this happen.

## Software Engineering Center

### Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System

SEC's Field Software Engineers, or FSEs, provide support throughout the entire cycle of Army Force Generation phases I - V for the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System.

AFATDS is a joint and multi-service fire support battle command system for the 21st century providing the commander on the ground with the complete flexibility to manage attacks on preplanned and time-sensitive targets. AFATDS provides fully automated support for planning, coordinating, controlling, and executing fires and effects. It supports various weapon systems such as mortar, field artillery cannon, rocket, close air support, attack helicopter and naval surface fire support systems.

SEC's Regional Field Support Branches support units worldwide with AFATDS preparation for deployment. Starting with reset activities as units return from deployment, SEC supports return logistics, equipment repair and hardware upgrades. Once reset is complete, SEC continues to support the Warfighter through individual and collective

training events culminating with the unit's Mission Rehearsal Exercise at one of the Combat Training Centers.

SEC continues to provide field support as units move into the reception, staging, onward-movement and integration stage of their ARFORGEN process, conducting movement back into the theater of operations. Once in theater, SEC provides on-site field software engineering support for AFATDS to ensure all systems remain in an operational state with the latest software loads needed for theater as well as providing technical field support to the Warfighter as needed.

Recently SEC supported the 41st Fires Brigade during a Gunnery Exercise at Fort Hood, Texas, maximizing their use of AFATDS for field artillery and airspace deconfliction and coordination efforts. As an integral part of the brigade's effects cell, the AFATDS system is a critical resource to ensuring the unit's firepower is concentrated on the commander's primary targets while minimizing the potential for damage to friendly forces. This exercise was part of the ramp up for the unit's next deployment.



## Tobyhanna Army Depot

### Worldwide support improves counter fire readiness

Tobyhanna Army Depot repairs and tests the AN/TPQ-36 and 37 Firefinder Radar systems and the AN/TPQ-48 Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar. Firefinder radars determine the point-of-origin of enemy mortar, rocket and artillery rounds to the source; the LCMR does the same for mortar rounds.

“We have three Forward Repair Activities (FRA) in Southwest Asia that offer repair, test and fielding support,” said Jeff Miller, electronic integrated systems mechanic.

Systems repaired at the depot are sent to an FRA for final testing before being shipped to the unit.

“We also provide assistance on new LCMR systems, like the AN/TPQ-49 being fielded,” added Mark Dolph, electronics mechanic. “We impart any hardware and software upgrades changes in the system to Soldiers, here and overseas.”

Firefinder and LCMR systems are on a continuous rotation for reset, which is supported by the three FRAs.

“Our FRAs have significant repair capability for the 36 and 37,” said John Oross, electronics mechanic leader. “That means

“The AN/TPQ-36 and AN/TPQ-37 Firefinder facilities at Tobyhanna Army Depot provide a level of support for the warfighter that is second to none – dedicated employees who stand behind their product and react quickly to resolve issues.”

~Kevin Brooks, *Fielding Manager, Program Manager Radars*

faster turnaround time for units to get them back in action.”

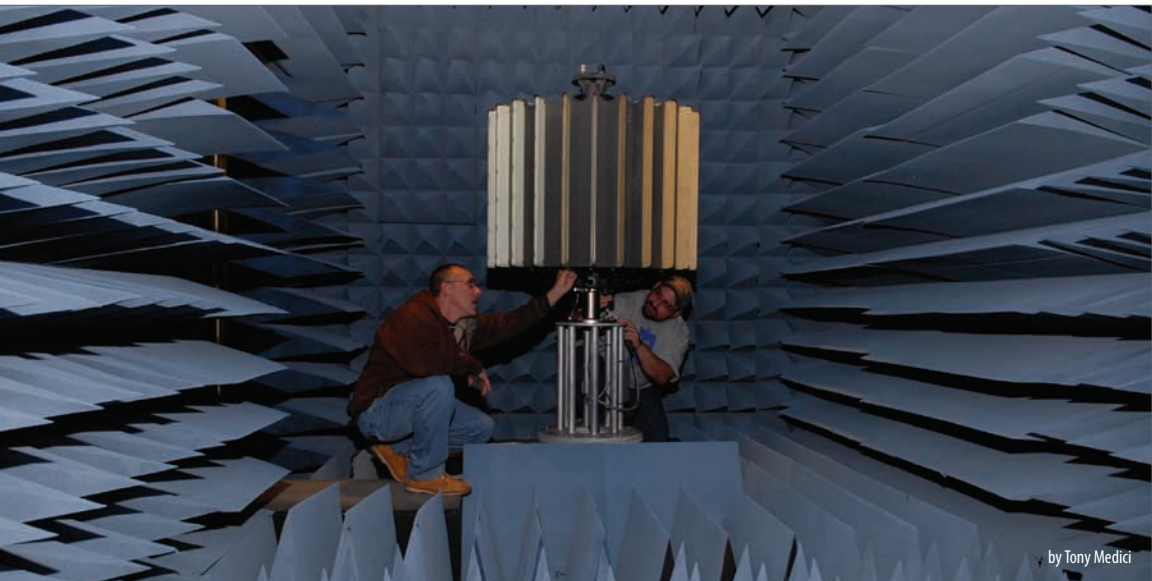
Miller, Dolph and Oross are assigned to the Counter Fire Division.

Like the LCMR, a completed Firefinder is sent to an FRA to test and prove the system before it goes to units in the field.

“We follow these systems, supporting them from here to the field so Warfighters have the best support possible,” said John Parada, chief of the Expeditionary Division, Field Logistics Support Directorate.

For more information about Tobyhanna’s FRA support in Southwest Asia, call DSN 314-795-9831.

{Luis Velez, left, electronics mechanic, and John Radzikowski, electronics worker, set up an AN/TPQ-48 Lightweight Counter Mortar Radar (LCMR) system for system rotation testing in the anechoic test chamber. Tobyhanna Army Depot technicians repair and reset damaged assets using state-of-the-art test equipment and anechoic chambers. Final acceptance testing is conducted using the Mechanical Live Fire Test Simulator, which replicates Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., live fire acceptance testing, to test the radar’s 360-degree tracking capability. Velez and Radzikowski work in the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Directorate’s Lightweight Counter Fire Radar Systems Branch.}



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## Accomplishments

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### Configuration Management's web tool helps CTSF, PMs keep track of...well...everything

By David G. Landmann, CTSF

The Central Technical Support Facility's Configuration Management Branch manages the deployed force software baseline for the Army Chief Information Officer/G-6 to support interoperability certification testing by receiving and verifying the software that needs testing.

The configuration management web tool allows both CTSF personnel and customers alike to access almost anything they need to know about the Army software systems processed through the facility.

After interoperability testing is successfully completed, and reports are filed with the Army CIO/G-6 for certification, configuration management performs its software management function and adds it to the deployed force software baseline.

"We send huge (software) packages to the field each quarter," said Langston Carter, Configuration Process Manager. "That includes approved updated software and data products, the most recent quarterly IAVAs (Information Assurance Vulnerability Alerts) per software systems, and PM- (Project Manager) supported software and firmware that has been updated and update geospatial products. We send those out directly to the Warfighter."

Similar packages are also shipped to training centers to integration labs, he said.

CM prepares each package by replicating the necessary software, burning system discs, and compiling geospatial products on discs.



In the meantime, CM is keeping track of every piece of software and every version of every piece of software that comes in to the CTSF from PMs representing the ten Program Executive Offices and dozens of systems that are, or will be, tested.

What helps CM staffers keep up with all of this is a web tool dubbed the Army Net-Centric Assets Repository.

Virtually everything the CTSF CM branch does, or touches, is accessible from an ever-growing database using the tool.

Asked how long it took to build the tool, Carter said at first it has been “in the making” for the past six or seven years.

“Actually, we’ve been working on this tool for the last thirteen years. It actually grew with our processors, and it really matured last year.”

The home-grown web tool allows CM workers, test officers, and now PMs and PM representatives to pull up almost any information there is surrounding every software system tested at the CTSF.

“It gives the PMs an automated process so they can validate what we’ve done here,” Carter said.

Authorized users can, with a couple of clicks, determine for instance, the length of time it took a software version to get from configuration control to delivery to the CTSF, what day the software’s test report was signed, when it became part of the LandWarNet/Battle Command baseline, and how long it took to get from delivery, through the test process, and to final certification.

In addition to its test-through-certification tracking functions, the tool can also be used to access test plans, test reports, Authority To Operate documentation, self-determinations letters, and a host of other system documents.

“Anything that has an expiration date we can track,” Carter said.

Internally, the tool allows CM personnel to follow every piece of software that has been replicated, each hard drive that has had to be imaged, each configuration item delivered to the field, and every geospatial map product requested by the Warfighter and produced and shipped by and from the CTSF.

There is still more Carter would like to accomplish with the tool, and so its further development remains a work in progress.

“The more we play with it, the more robust it becomes,” he said.

“The more information it can provide for the CTSF, the PMs, and ultimately, the Warfighter.”

## Did you know?

When the Central Technical Support Facility set up a lab in May 2010 to begin streamlining the Afghan Mission Network, solving a real-time in-theater problem wasn’t on the to-do list. But, when a coalition partner noted it took too long to receive digital messages from forward positions, the CTSF, along with network counterparts in the U.S., Canada, England, and NATO-member nations used the lab’s capabilities to conceive a new, faster data flow for Warfighters.



# New unit university contributes to Warfighter readiness

By Bryan Ayer, LRC

Brigade Combat Teams, as well as Divisional G6/S6 and G3/S3 shops, are often forced to make difficult decisions when it comes to scheduling and funding Program Manager or U.S. Army Forces Command mobile training to ensure enough of the right Soldiers get trained.

To assist Warfighters, CECOM Logistics Readiness Center Directorate of Readiness Training Support Division developed the "Faces to the Field" Unit University Program to provide a sustained, flexible, on-demand training program. Through the Unit University system, units can effectively schedule additional C4ISR training around the unit's ARFORGEN Cycle thus meeting both long and short term training requirements. In addition to providing a flexible training schedule, the University Program guarantees the highest quality of training by ensuring each course is developed and trained by a true subject matter expert with standardized lesson plans that integrate Program Manager, Training and Doctrine Command and FORSCOM curriculum.

The Unit University Program falls under DRE's newly formed Training Support Division and has grown exponentially since its introduction two years ago. The Training Support Division, previously the Information Technology-Field Service Branch, was established in 2010 after five years of commitment to developing training based on Soldier and systems fielding feed-back. The Unit University Program prides itself on the same philosophy. The design and intent of the University Program is to provide a direct response to the unique training requirements of supported units while still facilitating the high standard of quality CECOM training and logistical support.

"This has resulted in our ability to quickly deploy and have the training necessary to extend and conduct Network Operations of the LandWarNet in support of combatant commanders and forward deployed headquarters at all echelons within the full spectrum of military operations," said Lt. Col. Eulys Shell, military liaison, 11th Signal Brigade Thunderbird University located at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

The University structure is dictated by the supported unit but usually consists of a training coordinator and three instruc-

tors, each representing the three vital areas of Army Networks: Software, Networking and Signal. The training coordinator works directly with local units to establish training requirements and a schedule as well as CECOM, PM and FORSCOM mobile training teams to manage outside support, develop sustained training capabilities, and ensure training is tracked in the Army Training Requirements and Resource System.

The on-site instructors conduct training and develop lesson plans that are specific to each unit's requirements to include emerging technologies that are not yet implemented in TRADOC courses. For instance, if a unit needs a highly specialized SharePoint 2010 or a Tactical Radio course on a newly deployed radio, such as the AN/PRC-117G, then the on-site instructor will create the course and present the training on-demand, while also sharing the knowledge with CECOM instructors located at other Universities.

"The CECOM staff is highly professional and highly flexible in meeting our short-notice requirements to support operational missions and Brigade priorities," said Shell. "Truly outstanding performance in delivering the right training at the right time to empower our Soldiers with the technical skillsets required in today's operational environments."

Capt. Carol Smith, military liaison, 162nd Infantry Brigade Tactical Training Team said, "The biggest benefit to us is having experienced and knowledgeable instructors available. Many of the instructors are retired signal Soldiers with combat experience that can relate to our students and are often able to use examples from their lives to help show the importance of everyone learning the equipment."

Since the universities are a part of the larger Materiel Enterprise C4ISR Team, the training coordinator at each University has the ability to use outside resources to conduct training on the newest deployed technology that may be outside the scope of the local staff's current knowledge base. They also have the ability to increase the training staff to accommodate a heavy training schedule. By virtually creating a limitless training schedule for each supported unit, the university program ensures more Warfighters are properly trained for deployment.

"Truly outstanding performance in delivering the right training at the right time to empower our Soldiers with the technical skill sets required in today's operational environments."

~Lt. Col. Eulys Shell, the military liaison of 11th Signal Brigade's Thunderbird University



“The CECOM staff is highly professional and highly flexible in meeting our short-notice requirements to support operational missions and Brigade priorities.”

~Lt. Col. Eulys Shell, military liaison,  
11th Signal Brigade Thunderbird University



Maj. Craig Benke, the military liaison for CECOM's C4I Training Facility in support of 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kan., said, "C4I Skills Training Team was crucial in preparing multiple Battalions in our Brigade for their deployments. Not only were they able to put together top-notch training in a rapidly decreasing window of time, but also supplied equipment and training for communication requirements that were outside our unit's normal mission set."

So far this type of customized training has proven to be successful at the five current TSD unit universities located at Fort Campbell, Ky., (101st Airborne Division's Screaming Eagle Network University); Fort Riley, Kan., (1st Infantry Division's C4 Training Facility); Fort Carson, Colo., (4th Infantry Division's Ironhorse University); Fort Huachuca, Ariz., (11th Signal Brigade's Thunderbird University); and Fort Polk, La., (162nd Infantry Brigade's Tactical Training Team). The success of the program has prompted discussions to open additional unit universities at Fort Drum, N.Y., Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Lewis, Wash., and Fort Polk, La.

The key to TSD's success with the University Program is working side-by-side with each unit to develop operating procedures and training focus that is specific to its requirements. This partnership between the unit and CECOM DRE began with a one year trial period. And now—every supported unit has extended its operating agreement with CECOM DRE for three years. The main reason... Soldiers access to quality training.

To date, the program has put up some impressive numbers including the Screaming Eagle Network University that conducted 102 courses, trained 1094 Soldiers and awarded 104 various certifications while the C4I Training Facility conducted 50 courses and trained 481 Soldiers in their first year under CECOM DRE. Fourth Infantry Division's Ironhorse University conducted 25 weeks of training in its first quarter of operations. The benefits and capabilities of the unit university programs are limitless.

Initially, the universities have focused most of its training on the most common and widely used systems including tactical radio systems, Blue Force Tracker and will soon have full capabilities on the AN/PRC-117G. Systems training included WIN-T/JNN/CPN, Promina, or Global Broadcast Systems, and the newest Microsoft Software such as Office, SharePoint, Server and Active Directory. Certification training included CompTIA, Cisco, CISSP and TFOCA Fiber 3M/ETA, to name a few. However, new courses will be developed depending on the needs of the participating units.

Each university has the capability to train Soldiers and Department of the Army civilians on CompTIA & Cisco Certifications. The university program has assisted each supported unit with their goal of 100 percent compliance of Department of Defense Directive 8570.01, which requires IMO's to receive a certain certification level.

The university's certification capabilities also allow units to reward their Soldiers by scheduling them for a civilian certification courses such as Cisco Certified Network Associate. The universities have had great success with these programs reaching an average 85 percent pass rates on all certification courses. This success is due to on-site instructors being able to spend more time working with Soldiers on their certifications. Each university is also equipped with a commercial testing center so Soldiers can test immediately after the training and not worry about scheduling a test off-post.

"(Training) included multiple Security+ classes in an effort to ensure not only our brigade, but 1st Infantry Division as a whole, was trained and properly compliant with FORSCOM guidance regarding Information Assurance requirements," said Benke. "It would have been impossible for our brigade to resource this dynamically different training internally."

As the nature of warfare moves from kinetic to information and technological, so too do the innovative methods by which CECOM and its various agencies continue to adjust with the same goal in mind—taking care of the Warfighter.



## SEC's Standard Army Maintenance System-Enhanced ensures operational readiness worldwide

By William Gay, SEC

The idea of sustaining mature software systems may seem mundane and less important than the acquisition and development of new systems. However the Standard Army Maintenance System-Enhanced is proof that a sustainment management mission is critical to the Army's operational readiness as well as an active, challenging and evolving process essential to ongoing modernization initiatives.

SAMS-E is the key maintenance component of the Army's Logistics Information Technology systems. It provides Warfighters around the world with automated management of equipment maintenance on everything from M-16 rifles to aircraft. Soldiers use SAMS-E to track asset and equipment life, order parts, interface with related logistics systems and much more. SAMS-E users can compile equipment readiness reports to provide operational command and control support to Army and Joint leadership. The system also enables effective Force and Fleet sustainment operations at the national level through consolidated equipment maintenance data.

As the designated sustainment manager for SAMS-E, the men and women of the Army's Communications-Electronics Command's Software Engineering Center, Tactical Logistics Directorate, based at Fort Lee, Va., are not just writing abstract lines of code—they are helping ensure U.S. Soldiers have the best equipment possible where and when they need it.

### *Effective solutions for the end of a system's life-cycle*

SEC-Lee TLD assumed responsibility for the SAMS-E system in 2009 from the Program Manager-Logistics Information Systems. At that time, SAMS-E was already slated to be replaced in phases by the Global Combat Support System-Army enterprise solution from 2012 through 2014. With SAMS-E serving as a bridging system to GCSS-Army, SEC-Lee TLD faces the challenge of avoiding a capability gap between the two systems and ensuring they can co-exist during the two-year transition timeline.

"Combat, peacekeeping and humanitarian operations around the world mean Warfighters continue to request new and improved SAMS-E capabilities to support their missions," said Ricky Daniels, director of SEC-Lee TLD. "In addition, SAMS-E must keep pace with the latest doctrinal, technical and information assurance requirements. The SAMS-E team cannot just maintain the status quo."

The SAMS-E system manager works closely with Combined Army Support Command representatives to review and validate new requirements and continue to upgrade SAMS-E accordingly. A new interim change package is about to begin testing and verification and is planned for release in the second quarter of 2011. This update is comprised of 25 items, including migration to the Windows Server 2008 Enterprise edition. This improvement will significantly increase efficiency and provide improved support for handheld peripherals. Two more updates are also planned for later this year on a very compressed development timeline in order to fulfill customer requests.

Even the distribution of the SAMS-E updates has been streamlined. For example, instead of receiving the updates on a standalone disk, they will be incorporated into a release image disk along with other required security and operating system updates. This will reduce the installation time for each machine from around 12 hours to two hours.

SEC-Lee TLD is also coordinating ongoing life cycle replacement of SAMS-E hardware for tactical and installation users, with approximately 1,900 new computers scheduled to replace outdated models by the end of 2011.



by Michael Dunbar

{William Gay briefs Sgt. 1st Class Michael Blackwell on SAMS-E.}

### *Customized assistance and support*

In addition to software upgrades, SEC-Lee TLD offers a wide range of customer support services to SAMS-E users. While SAMS-E was already fully fielded to tactical units when SEC-Lee TLD assumed responsibility in 2009, the directorate is fielding an installation version called SAMS-IE. This replaces a variety of legacy maintenance systems at Army installations around the world and requires a degree of customization for each location.

SEC-Lee TLD conducts site surveys, testing and assessment in close collaboration with the installation personnel to plan each transition. When needed, they send customer assistance teams to provide on-site training and support. Whether an installation requires SAMS-E database analysts on-site to ensure data integrity or several weeks of “over-the-shoulder” training for end users, SEC-Lee TLD will pull together experts from their fielding team, field service representatives and the software developer to deliver the necessary support, resolve problems or ensure a smooth transition.

### *Meeting the challenges of software sustainment*

Taking on the role of sustainment manager for a transitioning software development acquisition program or one nearing the end of its life cycle can be a highly complex process. Software systems will continue to evolve, and they must be maintained functionally and technically until they are completely displaced by the new system.

“SEC-Lee TLD’s ongoing success with the SAMS-E system exemplifies our technical excellence and commitment to our customers,” said Ned Keeler, SEC director. “The Army’s warfighting superiority depends on operational readiness, which SEC-Lee TLD enables with SAMS-E.”

As the Army’s premier software organization, SEC has the necessary resources, expert personnel and knowledge base needed to meet these challenges.

## Did you know?

The Software Engineering Center recently added a new tool to the Army Contracting Business Intelligence System, known as ACBIS. The new tool, called Congressional Notification, was fielded Army-wide to satisfy a high priority, regulatory requirement to provide advance notification to Congress of certain contract awards and actions. The Congressional Notification tool provides an automated and traceable notification which greatly enhances the process.

## Tobyhanna milestone contributes directly to Warfighter safety

By Jacqueline Boucher, TYAD

Innovative ideas designed and developed by Tobyhanna Army Depot have improved the Soldier's ability to deliver and operate critical communications and electronic equipment in the field.

The first Army Fifth Wheel Tactical Trailer, or FTT, and first-of-its-kind Universal Power Pack, UPP, boosts the maneuverability of up-armored vehicles and capabilities of military systems. The trailer is the depot's solution to transporting heavy shelters, while the UPP platform is the key to increasing generator runtime from 16 to 40 continuous hours using different configurations.

As part of the Service Life Extension Program, or SLEP, for the AN/TSC-93 Tactical Satellite known as TACSAT Terminal, both items are being tested at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and are in the process of transportability certification. Each piece of equipment is Humvee towable and features a universal design that can support other systems.

"It feels good to see everything come together," said Gene Curran, lead mechanical engineer. "These are good solutions to the [weight] problems and they're exciting products for us because we can fit several different configurations on the trailers increasing their capability." Curran works in the Production Engineering Directorate's Engineering Design Development and Manufacturing Division.

Employees in the Production Engineering, Systems Integration and Support and Production Management directorates played a vital role in ensuring the new designs met mission requirements.

Tobyhanna's contributions to the AN/TSC-93E have become the signature components of this program, according to James Coltery, program analyst, MILSATCOM Tactical Multi-Band, Fort Monmouth, N.J.

"They have been so well received it will only be a matter of time before other systems start taking advantage of their force multiplier effect," he said.

The TSC-93E(V)1 system is a secure and interoperable Satellite Communications Spoke Terminal providing worldwide circuit extension of critical Department of Defense communications.

The SLEP Team is fielding the "D" model upgrade to the Army, which extends the service life of the terminals to 2012. The "E" model upgrade will extend the AN/TSC-93E until 2025, using technology insertion, to keep with current satellite communication requirements.

Part of the SLEP also involved improving the trailer that carries the generators to compensate for heavier Humvees. Solving the weight problem meant going to a single trailer to carry one or two generators.

"We had a previous design, the UPP, which is a modified M1102 trailer, so we adapted that," said John Morelli, electronics technician, Engineering Design, Development and Manufacturing Division, Production Engineering Directorate. "The UPP is an M-1102 trailer with a heavy chassis and a depot-designed and built platform that has a built-in fuel tank."

The UPP platform can handle multiple generator configurations such as two 18 kilowatt commercial generators with 10 gallons of fuel, two 10 kilowatt generators Tactical Quiet Generators, TQG's, and 20 gallons of fuel, a single 10 kilowatt TQG generator and 40 gallons of fuel and a 15 kilowatt commercial generator with 40 gallons of on-board fuel. Plus, it can be used with any system that needs 10 kilowatt dual generator power.

The FTT is the depot's solution to mounting heavy shelters on up-armored Humvees. Tobyhanna partnered with Silver Eagle

{SATCOM TSC-93E DSC00034 -- John Morelli adjusts a generator mounted on the depot--designed universal power pack (UPP). The UPP can provide the AN/TSC-93E with up to 40 hours of continuous operation. }



Manufacturing Company in Portland, Ore., and Product Managers at Fort Monmouth to design and develop the FTI.

New technologies and up-arming were taxing the Humvee's payload which was already approaching its weight capability before the armor was added. The new tactical trailer distributes the weight of the shelter over the axle allowing the vehicle to tow up to 7,000 pounds.

The Humvee and new tactical trailer system can haul larger payloads, which enables Warfighters to mobilize equipment where it is needed, without the need of repackaging or weight variances. Another advantage to the trailer is the ability to easily disconnect it, freeing the Humvee for additional duty.

"The equipment works flawlessly with up armored and standard Humvees, allowing the vehicle to tow up 67 percent more weight than the standard trailer configuration," said Jay Wilson, Silver Eagle chief executive officer. "This means we can do a better job of protecting the Warfighter and at the same time we can mobilize equipment that otherwise would compromise the integrity and life of the Humvee."

"Curran and his team were instrumental and invaluable in helping get this improved shelter transport system through the test phase and into a program that could profit from the benefits of the trailer," Wilson said. "Team Tobyhanna is a true partner in this program. They understood the concept and worked side-by-side with us to make the system a reality."



{AN/TRC-190 – Tobyhanna Army Depot's Mark Dillenbeck, electronics worker, performs final equipment inventory, operational checks and testing of an AN/TRC-190 radio system shelter before it's remounted to a Humvee and returned to the customer. Six different types of the AN/TRC-190 are being Reset here.}

by Steve Grzedzinski

## Did you know?

Tobyhanna Army Depot resets a variety of equipment for several Army programs. Since the Reset program began in 2003, Tobyhanna has completed 521,218, of which 252,969 items were reset in the field. In 2010 alone, employees reset more than 51,524 pieces with 6,189 completed in the field.

## ISEC plays key role in 'mega' move to Fort Bragg

By Todd Pruden, ISEC

A relocation of any size requires extensive planning and effort. Imagine moving two major command headquarters from one military installation to another. Along with that effort is the transfer of all the personnel and equipment to new facilities.

"It's a mega project. We have small, medium, large and mega. This one falls under mega," said Jerry R. Stidham, director, Network Enterprise Center, Fort Bragg, N.C.

The Information Systems Engineering Command is playing a key role in this 'mega' effort at Fort Bragg. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure legislation calls for the relocation of the U.S. Army Forces Command and the U.S. Army Reserve Command from Fort McPherson, Ga. to Fort Bragg, N.C., in an effort to streamline Department of Defense military installations.

The two commands are moving into a joint FORSCOM/USARC Combined Headquarters Facility, which is still under construction. And since the commands have to be out of Fort McPherson by Sept. 15, 2011, many employees from both commands have already made the move. This has forced them to work out of temporary structures until their new facility is complete. This only adds to the complexity because these

{T.J. Herndon, a telecommunications technician for Wayne J. Griffin Electric Inc., lays CAT-5 cable under the subfloor at the new FORSCOM/USARC Combined Headquarters Facility at Fort Bragg, N.C., as Robert Terry, an integrator for ISEC and Mike Hyacinthe, a telecommunications technician for Wayne J. Griffin Electric Inc., observe. }





# Did you know?

Twenty Buena High School students toured the facilities of the Technology Integration Center on Fort Huachuca, Ariz., to gain a better understanding of the electronic components the U.S. Army Information Systems Engineering Command tests and fields for the Army and other government agencies. The students are second-and third-year members of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program.

individuals require interim communications until they move into their new accommodations.

"It's a pretty dynamic project," said Robert Terry, an integrator for ISEC. "There are a lot of moving pieces."

Terry said that ISEC has been involved in all phases of the project including the planning, installation of radio, video, networks, telephone, and their associated cabling at both the new facility and the temporary structures.

"We touch on all of the different disciplines," Terry said.

In addition to those areas, Terry said that ISEC also installed electronic components for over 100 video teleconference rooms and five data centers in support of FORSCOM, USARC and the Fort Bragg NEC.

But the overall project has been a team effort from the start. It takes numerous agencies and contract support working together to pull off a job of this magnitude. And those involved agree that the partnership with ISEC and other agencies has been positive and is the main reason the project has succeeded thus far.

"They (ISEC) are a piece of the puzzle, and I'm responsible for making sure all of the puzzle pieces get put together," said Daniel Davis, resident engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District. "They've been a good partner."

Lee Politi, officer in charge for G-6 infrastructure activities at Fort Bragg, said that when it comes to engineering the communications for the new facilities, ISEC is always there, providing guidance, advice and the tools needed to build complex and state-of-the-art systems.

"They help manage the insanity. It's just so huge," said Politi. "For all intensive purposes, the (communications) infrastructure is in place much to their credit."

But in the end, everyone agrees that it is the people rather than the partnerships that have made the relocation a success so far.

"We're a good team, we synch well together and we share information well because people put an effort into the relationship for the greater-good," Stidham said.

“Without them, I don't think we would be where we are. [ISEC] has been a solution provider as well as a quality assurance partner. There are so many players in the process, but the people at the end of the day that are executing and getting dirty are usually the [ISEC] guys.”

*~Lee Politi, Officer in Charge for G-6 infrastructure activities, FORSCOM, Fort Bragg, N.C*

## Profile of Excellence: Order of Saint Michael

By John Sensing, SEC

Mike Crapanzano, deputy director of the CECOM Software Engineering Center's Intelligence Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Directorate and chief of the SEC Army Reprogramming Analysis Team-Program Office located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, recently received the Order of Saint Michael Bronze Award from the Army Aviation Association of America at its Annual Aircraft Survivability Equipment Conference held in Huntsville, Ala.

The Order of Saint Michael was established in 1990 as a joint venture between the AAAA and the U.S. Army Aviation Center. Saint Michael is referred to in biblical writings as an archangel who wages war, charging forward to guard and defend others. "Induction into the Order of Saint Michael is intended to recognize individuals who too have charged forward to make significant contributions to the promotion of Army aviation in ways that stand out in the eyes of the recipient's seniors, subordinates and peers," said retired Army Lt. Col. Edward Carnes, president of the AAAA Mid-Atlantic Chapter.

"This award recognizes Mr. Crapanzano for his innovative and aggressive concepts to multiple aspects of technology insertion and program support to enhance the Aviation Warfighters battlefield survivability," said Carnes.

As a leader in the aircraft survivability equipment community, Crapanzano's primary mission at SEC has been to provide rapid reprogramming software for Force Protection Systems and Target Sensing Systems. His program office is responsible for enemy emitter threat analysis, emitter modeling and simulation, Army Force Protection Systems, FPS, and Targeting Sensing Systems, TSS, development and testing, secure global distribution of mission software and constant monitoring of enemy emitters by way of national collection assets. His office supports at least 4,000 aviation platforms and more than 30,000 ground platforms.

Crapanzano's program office has been designated as the executive agent for all Army FPS and TSS software reprogramming by the Army Material Command.

"Because of Mr. Crapanzano's efforts with Common Missile Warning System we have now made SEC ARAT an integral part of



{ From left to right John Sensing, Mike Crapanzano and retired Maj. Gen. Rodney Wolfe. }

our two most important initiatives; Hostile Fire Detection and the integration of all Aircraft Survivability Equipment on U.S. Army Aviation platforms. Mike's dedication to the Warfighter was the reason we asked him to bring SEC ARAT personnel and expertise into the development phase of both of those efforts. We cannot do this without Mike Crapanzano and his team," said Col. Kennedy Jenkins, former program director, Aircraft Survivability Equipment.

"Mr. Crapanzano is a passionate, determined, innovative senior government civilian and technically skilled leader who has demonstrated for many years the dedication to the mission of protecting Warfighters in the defense of this nation and its coalition partners," said Ned Keeler, director of SEC. "He is directly responsible for saving Warfighters' lives and enhancing this nation's combat mission capabilities. This command values Mike Crapanzano as a national asset in the field of ASE support."

Keeler added that Crapanzano's dedication and devotion to the Warfighter is displayed daily in his untiring efforts to improve and optimize Force Protection Systems and Aircraft Survivability Equipment. He has made the SEC ARAT into a brand name signifying excellence and commitment to the tactical operations and ASE community. Because of his efforts, scores of Army Aviators will fly home safe and sound.

# Aligned for the Warfighter

## 'Big' Army & CTSF

The Central Technical Support Facility's Configuration Management Office manages the deployed force software baseline on behalf of the Army Chief Information Officer/G6. Configuration Management supports Army Interoperability Certification testing by providing all the software for systems undergoing testing. The CTSF Test branch is the execution agent for the Army Chief Information Officer/G6 Army Interoperability Certification process. Army Interoperability Certification Testing verifies that a system, platform, or group of systems, can successfully exchange critical information while interfacing on a network. The Test branch also provides interoperability system assessments directly to program managers.



U.S. Army

## LRC & SEC

The Software Engineering Center works with Logistics Readiness Center to establish data management plans and data solutions for the CECOM condition-based maintenance plus efforts. The SEC assists the LRC with various software-related technical manuals, tests radar warning receivers for the LRC and performs software sustainment for the LRC-managed satellite receiving system.

## SEC & TYAD

The Software Engineering Center supports the Army Multiplex Avionics Tester program which provides semi-automated test capability for Tobyhanna Army Depot to conduct aviation intermediate maintenance for avionics line-replaceable-units. Avionics maintainers rely on the AMAT to determine the operational status of MIL-STD-1553 avionics including navigation, communication, weapons, flight control, and aircraft survivability equipment.



U.S. Army

## CECOM Values Customer Service

Stan Bonner and his 1st Infantry Division C4I (command, control, communications, computers, intelligence) Skills Training Team were crucial in preparing multiple Battalions in our Brigade for their deployments. Not only was he able to put together top-notch training in a rapidly decreasing window of time, but was also able to supply equipment and training for communications requirements that were outside of our unit's normal mission set. This included training on PRC-117 Single Channel TACSAT equipment that our Soldiers had zero experience with, and putting together multiple Security+ classes in an effort to ensure our Brigade and the 1st Infantry Division was trained and properly compliant with Forces Command guidance regarding Information Assurance requirements. Again, it would have been impossible for our brigade to resource this dynamically different training from within, and we are sincerely grateful for Stan and his C4I Skills Training Team's support.



## TYAD & CSLA

Tobyhanna Army Depot supports the Logistics and Readiness Center's Communication Security Logistics Agency CSLA operations by receiving, storing, maintaining accountability, and issuing communications security, Controlled Cryptographic Items, and information security equipment and materiel. Technicians perform depot-level maintenance of COMSEC/INFOSEC equipment and sub-assemblies. Depot technicians provide security demilitarization and disposal capabilities for Army and other services. Personnel train National Guard/Reserve units in COMSEC maintenance sustainment and provide forward repair support for the COMSEC commodity.

## ISEC & SEC

The "hotline" between the U.S. and Russia was established on June 20, 1963, as a result of the Cuban Missile Crisis. The "hotline," or Direct Communications Link, as it would later be called, has become an imperative mission between the two nuclear powers. ISEC, in collaboration with the SEC, is currently developing a program for monitoring information assurance vulnerability alerts for end user equipment with a plan to implement patches when required.

“As we in the Army try to transform efficiencies in IT, including Army Data Center consolidation and Army Application Virtualization, we are partnering with SEC to achieve the efficiencies and network effectiveness necessary to provide one network for our Army and our Warfighters.”

~ Gary Blohm, Army Acting Director, Architecture, Operations, Networks & Space, Army Chief Information Office/G6



photos by Kelly Kuster

# SERVICE: A value among comrades

By Andricka Thomas, CECOM HQ

After five deployments in the last 14 years, Sgt. 1st Class Grant Ray, Logistics and Readiness Center Directorate for Readiness senior instructor, possesses a wealth of field experience. . . experience he used in his recent work with Program Manager Counter Radio controlled improvised explosive device Electronic Warfare system, or PM CREW, a system enabling our forces counteract and defeat enemy IED threats to ultimately save lives.

Ray represents the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command's 'face to the field' by acting as the interface between CECOM and its customers. CECOM Soldiers provide the field expertise necessary to provide real-world, relevant experience to maximize the systems support and training we provide to our ultimate customer, the Warfighter, said Command Sgt. Maj. Tyrone Johnson, CECOM command sergeant major.

The PM CREW office leverages the LRC to provide trainers that physically sit with the PM as CECOM's LRC Soldiers and civilians provide support.

"CECOM was our first stop," said Maj. Corey Hemingway, Pdm CREW assistant product manager, as he explained their selection process for fielding officers. His office interviewed multiple Soldiers in search of the most qualified person for the team.

And Ray met that requirement.

"Over in theater, you never know. . . an IED could go off at any time, that's why we have to do our best out there," said Ray. "If my experience can be used to protect other Soldiers, or even save their lives, then I am compelled to meet that mission," he continued.

During his last deployment, Ray embedded with the Combined Joint Task Force Paladin Afghanistan as a fielding officer on behalf Pdm CREW, a subset of the Program Executive Office for Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Systems. Ray planned the fielding activities and coordinated with headquarters elements down range; such as the Army Materiel Command, JTF Paladin; 401st Air Force Support Brigade and U.S. Forces Afghanistan, according to Hemingway.

Warfighters look for seamless support in the battlefield, according to Lenin Vera, Operation Enduring Freedom CREW fielding and sustainment manager, who worked with Ray. "Sgt. 1st Class Ray provided that seamless support by coordinating the fielding plan with the Force Protection leadership and assisted CREW logisticians. He was instrumental with the internal execution of the plan," said Vera.

"He (Ray) was very well respected, for his professionalism, knowledge and his warrior ethos to complete the mission and get things done," said Hemingway. And indeed, things 'got done.'

The partnership between LRC, PM CREW, and JTF Paladin





# CECOM Soldier embeds with PM CREW

demonstrates the embedded structure and collaborative work environment that CECOM and many of its C4ISR Materiel Enterprise partners are implementing at the new C4ISR Center of Excellence, according to Hemingway. At the JTF Paladin, CECOM personnel often work and support other U.S. military forces as well as some coalition forces.

“It’s a team effort,” Hemingway said. “We recognize that we can’t perform this mission by ourselves. Leveraging the organizations within CECOM enhances our capability to meet our mission requirements downrange.”

One Air Force lieutenant colonel echoed Hemingway’s sentiment, stating Ray’s support was instrumental in his understanding of many technical and logistical aspects involved in the acquisition, fielding, installation and maintenance for the systems on which he worked.

“Ray was motivated and had the right contacts to ‘dig in’ and learn answers to questions that in some cases, no one knew the answers to. He was willing to educate himself and others when faced with new issues to troubleshoot. The expertise and continuity provided by these individuals (Soldiers like Ray) is invaluable,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Jeff D. Webber, command electronic warfare officer for JTF Paladin. Webber further explained that in a joint environment, the logistical, fielding, installation and

maintenance expertise Soldiers have proved invaluable in a joint Army-centric environment.

Hemingway and Ray acknowledge the benefits gained in deploying and collaborating with their civilian counterparts in the field environment.

“It broadens their (Army civilians) scope of understanding,” said Hemingway. “If there is any opportunity for a civilian to deploy, with or without their military counterparts, (I think) it would be a great enhancement in meeting their mission.”

Ray mirrored his opinion, articulating the value of a hybrid civilian-military team being aligned together.

“In my experience, we (Soldiers and Army civilians) work together and know each other’s capabilities. We have a healthy respect for each other,” said Ray. “The way I see it, civilians usually bring a specialized or technical area of educational expertise, and Soldiers bring real-world scenarios and experience that only Soldiers can bring. It works.”

Mission Milestone: As of Oct. 1, 2010, the sustainment and fielding mission lead for the CREW Fixed Site system was transferred from the Navy to the Army. The Navy was responsible for the initial development and procurement of the CREW Fixed Site system. Now, the Army has the lead for the system.

“The expertise and continuity provided by these individuals (Soldiers like Ray) is invaluable.”

~ Air Force Lt. Col. Jeff D. Webber, command electronic warfare officer for JTF Paladin

## A day in the life of the CTSF: Much more happening than meets the eye

By David G. Landmann, CTSF

It's 5:45 a.m., and the parking lot at Fort Hood's 53rd Street and Murphy Road is starting to collect the cars and trucks of the people who work inside the chain link and barbed wire fence that surrounds the Central Technical Support Facility.

By 6 a.m., the dozens of coffee makers in the 20 some odd trailers and the one site-built structure that make up the CTSF compound, begin emitting the aroma of the start of another day – just another typical day.

At 7 a.m. the air is filled with the growling of 34 Humvees that have spent the night in the parking lot of the install yard just south of the CTSF proper. The motors of the military vehicles are being warmed up by a carefully chosen portion of the 120 civilian contractors who were hired on to work the CTSF test personnel to evaluate the most recent version of the Joint Capabilities Release-Vehicle, or JCR-V, of the Force XXI Battle Command – Brigade and Below, FBCB2, system.

As the Humvees roar out of the install yard and out to two Fort Hood tactical training areas, 60 Soldiers began to track them and to retrieve data from their FBCB2s in the Configurable Tactical Operations Center, or CTOC, on one of the CTSF's expansive test floors. The Soldiers are working with CTSF test officers and test operators who have come in early for the JCR event.

By 7:30, the normal "clock-in" hour for most CTSF workers and test officers, the floor is teeming with groups of test operators who have begun another day of interoperability certification testing on the 20 or so Software Block II Baseline systems that have been scheduled for regularly scheduled evaluations. The systems are being scrutinized on the CTSF's 12-West test floor at the same time the JCR-V systems are being tested in the CTOC.



U.S. Army

As the minute hands of the clocks of the 12-West and CTOC test floors clicks one tick to the left, work has begun on the 12-East test floor in the Software Block Capability Set 11-12 test incident report adjudication event. Test officers, operators, system engineers, and representatives of individual system program managers are working together to evaluate and solve problems discovered in earlier testing, as the whirl of dozens of computers begins to drown out their conversation.

Simultaneously, also on the 12-East test floor, half a dozen technicians and test officers are cranking up their computers for the day's work as part of the Combined Federated Battle Lab, or CFBL, network on the Afghan Mission Network. They are entering Phase II of a Coalition Interoperability Assurance and Validation event that is focusing on the exchange of situational awareness, graphics and object management, and significant activities. This lab is working, thru network connections with similar labs in England, France, Italy, and other NATO nations.

By 9 a.m. on this particular day, senior leadership representing

“ We see our facility as the litmus test of software before it is sent into the field and into the hands of the Warfighter; and we take that role—that responsibility—very seriously. ”

~ David McClung, technical director, CTSF



U.S. Army

the Coalition Warrior Interoperability Demonstration, or CWID, will be observing work being done in the CFBL. The CTSF facility, they have announced, will represent the Army in an international CWID event scheduled for late May through mid-June.

Also participating in that event is the CTSF Joint Lab, but today, while the JCR-V test is being run outside the wire and in the CTOC, and while the Software Block II and CS 11-12 tests are being conducted, the Joint Lab is engaged in setting up communications for an Air Ground Integration Layer Exploration, AGILE, Fire Main Exercise test involving Navy, Air Force, and Marine facilities across the nation.

In the meantime, some CTSF test personnel, along with the colleagues in the facility's System of Systems Integration Branch, are participating in a pilot "kick-off" meeting on the new Host-based Security System. The system is to be an intrinsic part of interoperability testing this spring. CTSF representatives are prepared to support HBSS with systems integration, a system of systems evaluation event, and a full pilot test.

Test personnel, when not on the test floors proper, are engaged in meetings. Today, some test officers are participating in a briefing on a system that exports TRADOC mission threads (mission threads are the building blocks of interoperability testing) into a C3 Driver format. The briefing, they believe, will help

assure the success of testing in the 13-14 capability set.

As the day progresses; as the JCR-V data is being sent and retrieved; as interoperability testing continues on two test floors; as work on the AMN progresses; as CTSF personnel work with several branches on the military in a join environment; and while meetings and briefings are under way, the CTSF's Configuration Management Branch is busy receiving new software systems for test, maintaining the Army's software baseline, preparing and sending certified software packages to the Warfighter in the field, and tracking everything it does with a web tool it designed.

System of systems integration engineers help PMs get their systems ready for testing, and follow software systems into the field to ensure the Warfighter knows how to set them up and use them.

And all of this is while the JCR-V test is on-going; dozens of systems are being probed on two test floors; the AMN lab is "talking" with techs in Great Britain; the Joint Lab is working through a command and control issue with the Air Force in Florida; the Army is relying on the CTSF for configuration management.

And it's all done for the Warfighter... and all of it is in a day's work.

# SINGARS Forward Support Activity: “Inside the Wire” - Kandahar Airfield Kandahar, Afghanistan

By Anne Sigel, LRC

As a vital component of the Army's C4ISR Materiel Enterprise, the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command provides, among other things, sustainment and maintenance support services for C4ISR equipment and capabilities for the joint Warfighter. With one of CECOM's top priorities being Support to the Warfighter, CECOM's Logistics and Readiness Center Communications Directorate has been addressing forward Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System support in Southwest Asia since 2005.

SINGARS is a family of Very High Frequency-Frequency Modulation, VHF-FM, combat net radios designed to provide the primary means of Command and Control, or C2, for combat/combat support/combat service support units. It provides joint commanders with a highly reliable, secure, easily maintained Combat Net Radio, which has both voice and data handling capability in support of C2 operations.

Configurations include Manpack, Vehicular and Airborne models. The latest version—E/F models SINGARS, Advanced System Improvement Program—which offers users a major leap forward in terms of data routing and processing across the battlefield, is the primary radio of choice for VHF communications in Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Communication Directorate established the SINGARS Forward Support Activity, known as FSA, Camp Victory, Baghdad, Iraq, in November 2007, to provide forward support for SINGARS. FSA Baghdad stood down in March 2010 as part of the Iraq Drawdown.

As part of the Afghanistan Build-up, the OEF plus-up

strategy for forward SINGARS support was to also stand up an FSA at Kandahar Airfield, under the existing infrastructure of the Electronic Sustainment Support Center/Regional Support Center. The CECOM LRC/Directorate for Readiness directs operations by the ESSCs and RSCs, which are the primary means for delivering C4ISR systems' sustainment support to Warfighters worldwide.

SINGARS FSA KAF stood up in June 2010. It is currently resourced with one Contractor Field Service Representative from ITT Corporation and one Depot Defense Support Services CFSR provided by Tobyhanna Army Depot.

Kandahar Airfield is busy with activity 24 hours a day with the loud engine noise of aircraft taking off and landing, movement of armored vehicles in and about the airfield, constant sounds of large generators, as well as the hurried voices of our troops as they prepare for, and return from, missions both inside and outside of the wire. Kandahar Airfield is a place that never sleeps.

According to Allison Downs, Depot Defense Support Services CFSR, who deployed to the SINGARS FSA KAF mission in August 2010, the SINGARS FSA at KAF, places it in close proximity to troops in the Kandahar Region. She said these Soldiers come in directly from the field and have limited time before going back out and need assistance quickly.

The SINGARS CFSRs perform SINGARS screenings, testings, minor repairs and functional troubleshooting seven days a week, 12 hours a day. When requested, assistance is also provided to direct

support locations inside the wire at KAF, as well as local or walk-in customers from outside the wire. Additionally, the SINCGARS CFSRs provide informal “over-the-shoulder” training to both maintenance shop technicians and Soldiers.

Michael Walters, ITT Corp., CFSR, who was deployed to the SINCGARS FSA KAF mission from June through November 2010, also brought with him a Soldier’s perspective. Michael, a former Soldier with several tours under his belt as a Senior Communications Chief, was keenly aware of the many stressors that combat operations have on our troops. According to Michael, when he was a young Soldier “back in the day,” he did not have an FSR to assist. This service is truly placing the priority on taking care of the Warfighter.

While it has only been in operation for a short time, SINCGARS FSA Kandahar, has already significantly improved the Warfighter’s readiness in numerous ways including increasing the spare supply at the point-of-use, reducing field return cycle time, improving the quality of on-site diagnostics and repair [by providing early elimination of ‘No Evidence of Failure’ assets from the retrograde pipeline]. And finally, by helping to keep the supply chain full by increasing sustainment spare supply levels available at in-theater SSAs.



“One unit was having problems with an ASIP for almost four days. They asked us to check it out. We had the Receiver-Transmitter (RT) diagnosed the same day, and determined that the cause of confusion for the unit’s maintenance technician was that there were several failed circuit card assemblies (CCA) that had been producing multiple faults.”

- Harry Wolfe, ITT Corp, SINCGARS CFSR





# SEC provides critical field support to Korean operations

By James A. Hayes, SEC

Knowing your enemy is as critical in today's operational environment as it was when Sun Tzu wrote "The Art of War" in the sixth century B.C. However, a major difference is the amount of information available to current commanders. With vast amounts of real and near real-time data streaming in at all levels of command, avoiding information overload and establishing priorities are critical needs within the intelligence community.

One vital tool available to assist in the management of critical information is the Distributed Common Ground System—Army, or DCGS-A, an advanced battlefield intelligence management system. DCGS-A provides the U.S. Army with fully integrated and timely intelligence and interfaces across multiple security levels, consolidating the functions of multiple systems into a unified, integrated single source providing our Soldiers with critical intelligence in a timely manner.

Supported by Field Software Engineers from the CECOM Software Engineering Center, U.S. Army units in the Korean Theater of Operations began the migration to DCGS-A last April and completed the process in July. "This was a major fielding event" stated Sok Kim, SEC C4ISR Support Manager for Far East Region. "We needed to use a phased approach and have our support personnel ready to deal with the inevitable difficulties inherent in an operation of this magnitude."

The process started with training for the in-theater FSEs, many of whom had never supported DCGS-A. This was followed by a massive effort by the FSEs to set up training sites across the Korean peninsula, configure the new systems for training, import new equipment training instructors from Fort Huachuca and conduct training for multiple personnel with nine classes running simultaneously.

Once the training and fielding efforts were completed, the next challenge began. Far East FSEs remained heavily engaged, preparing DCGS-A for integration into the August 2010 peninsula-wide exercise, Ulchi Freedom Guardian. To ensure success, SEC deployed a team of software engineers who provided multi-faceted on-site support including over-the-shoulder monitoring and training.



{Republic of Korea Army participants use Software Engineering Center supported Distributed Common Ground Station – Army during recent Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise.}

“ This was a wonderful opportunity for our organization to learn more about a highly successful software center. I intend to take back all we have learned and apply it to the Republic of Korea to firm up our organization and grow it into one the caliber of SEC. ”

~Korean Army Brig. Gen. Jong Jyuk Kim, Army of the Republic of Korea/G6

Initial attempts to integrate DCGS-A into existing intelligence architecture were problematic, requiring a large amount of manual intervention by users to maintain synchronization between critical intelligence systems during the transitional period.

“We observed that many issues seemed to be centered on the handling of master keys by DCGS-A,” said Doug Thompson, SEC lead FSE. “We were able to coordinate with SEC depot engineers, who developed a rapid solution.”

The software engineering support team with its reachback capability allowed SEC to rapidly create and provide solutions in response to problems encountered during the exercise, ensuring a successful and valuable training event. Fielding and operation of DCGS-A was truly a team C4ISR in action with PM Representatives, SEC Intelligence Fusion Systems Division, and SEC FSEs all working toward a common goal of achieving success.

A major concern on the Korean peninsula is the need to satisfy not only U.S. Forces information requirements, but also those of the Coalition mission. There are four major network enclaves present in the Republic of Korea, with DCGS-A required on all of them. SEC’s software engineers developed and fielded software providing cross-domain solutions, to ensure our coalition partners (Korean

and others) were able to pass both friendly and enemy situational information across networks, ensuring that all participants were seeing the same operational picture. UFG was the first use of DCGS-A with software specifically designed to support the Korean theater and allowing information exchange between U.S. and ROK systems.

What’s next? CECOM SEC Far East FSEs will continue their dedicated support to our Soldiers and their operational needs, for DCGS-A and all of team C4ISR’s deployed equipment. The latest DCGS-A software has been delivered and will be used to support the peninsula wide exercise Key Resolve. As PM DCGS-A and the support personnel of the Software Engineering Center continue their efforts to provide seamless, near real-time information flow, the lessons learned are used to develop cross-domain solutions for all theaters of operation, ensuring maximum information sharing and effective combined coalition operations across the globe.

Participants at the UFG Exercise “UFG 2010 was fruitful as we continue to prepare for transition of operational control to guarantee a perfect and smooth transition” – General Jung, Seung-Jo, Deputy Commander, Combined Forces Command.

## Increased longevity, maneuverability enhances capabilities of multiple systems

By Jacqueline Boucher, TYAD

Each day the Army and its various down trace units and support organizations reach new milestones. However, the workforce at Tobyhanna Army Depot has surpassed not only a critical landmark in production, but one that affects every Warfighter in harm's way.

Since 2006 hundreds of employees have all but perfected the large scale manufacturing of military issue helmet brackets and clips exceeding one million early this January.

"This is an incredible accomplishment for Team Tobyhanna, but more so for Soldiers in the field," said Sgt. Maj. Kelvin Spencer. "This small piece of equipment that Warfighters use during their day-to-day operations is crucial to the continuing need to detect, defeat and deny the enemy. It's just another tool that we provide our Warfighters to give them that advantage and ultimately to keep them safe."

Workers in several locations across the depot played vital roles in the manufacturing of the helmet brackets.

Those in the Production Engineering Directorate oversaw the design, testing and programming of the items. Branch employees in Machining and Sheet Metal Fabrication manufactured the blocks and clips, while others in Component Paint, and Finish and Etching sandblasted, plated or painted each piece. Dozens of people in Building 3 assembled the block and clip, and packaged it with a ballistic screw and lock nut before shipping. Members of the Production Management Directorate managed all the material requisitions and drops, and provided controller and logistics management specialist support.

"This is quite an accomplishment," said Robert Mikolajko, project manager, Soldier Maneuver Sensors, Fort Belvoir, Va. He commended Tobyhanna for its hard work and continuous delivery of a quality piece of equipment needed to support the Soldier. Mikolajko also acknowledged the myriad directorates whose support is critical to seeing the helmet bracket come to

{William Legg loads a work bar with racks of machined aluminum helmet brackets ready for the hour-long anodizing process, which coats the brackets using a tan dye. Legg is an electroplater in the Refinishing Division's plating shop.}



by Steve Grzedzinski

“The magnitude of Tobyhanna’s C4ISR capabilities, facilities and work force are not replicated in the Defense Department or in the private sector. Tobyhanna offers comprehensive logistics support across the joint C4ISR spectrum, enabling us to rapidly and efficiently respond to our customers’ requirements and for the operational readiness of our Warfighters.” ~Frank W. Zardecki, Deputy Depot Commander, Tobyhanna Army Depot

fruition from raw stock to delivered hardware.

“The support and effort by Tobyhanna really does provide a critical part that is used by nearly every U.S. Soldier, regardless of their environment in theater,” said Mikolajko. “The depot has made great improvements to the front bracket that directly translates to increased robustness and protection the Warfighter experiences when using their night vision devices.

“We are all very proud of this accomplishment,” said John DeYoung, sheet metal assembly leader in the Systems Integration and Support Directorate. “The process has evolved quite a bit since we started building [the helmet brackets]. Over the years we’ve made small improvements and conducted a couple Lean events that have helped streamline the process.”

On average, the depot manufactures 5,000 helmet brackets per week, sometimes ramping to three shifts depending on the workload. According to Joseph Lynn, production controller in Production Management’s Manufacturing Support Division, it takes 452 pounds of material to create 5,000 clips and 1,252 feet of aircraft aluminum bar to create the same number of brackets.

One of the biggest impacts on the work area was the introduction of more modern machinery to accomplish the job.

“(The helmet bracket job) was probably one of the first real mass productions at Tobyhanna,” said Zigmund ‘Ziggy’ Pieszalla, Chief, machining branch. “It created a lot of machine changes for us as well as new acquisitions. It opened the door for modern tooling, which allowed for quicker production.”

“Early on, raw stock for the clips were tooled using existing methods until the depot purchased a dedicated

machine that not only cuts the blanks, it forms the pieces,” said Bob Aten, Chief, sheet metal fabrication branch.

While reaching more than one million units in a given product is an astonishing feat, there have been modest changes over the years enabling Tobyhanna to move ahead of the competition in the manufacturing of certain components.

Tobyhanna switched from using aluminum cast to aircraft aluminum to make the item stronger and more resilient. Additionally, there were some challenges to overcome when the depot changed the bracket’s color from black to tan. Most recently, the helmet bracket design was modified to accept the ballistic screw

Ultimately, every change made in the production of any component leads to the better equipment for the Warfighter. Lou Bocci, Chief, finish and etching branch, remembered a visiting Soldier who praised the changes to the helmet bracket assembly.

“He said his aluminum cast helmet bracket used to break if he hit it on the turret. Now, using our bracket, it stays intact,” said Bocci. “That Soldier took the time to shake hands with the employees and thanked them for their hard work.”

The helmet bracket was an enormous project that took a team effort to complete. Depot officials agree there are a lot of dedicated people working on the helmet bracket project.

“As a team, they’ve proven they are capable of great things,” said Tom Sweeney, logistics management specialist, noting how supportive everyone has been since the program began years ago. Sweeney anticipates future requirements to include more work with the current design as well as the possibility for work on the enhanced combat helmet design for the Marine Corps.

# ISEC provides engineering support to southwest Asia

By Ron Turnidge, ISEC

Trekking through the hot, dusty desert, a small group of Soldiers encounter enemy forces and discover they have no communications. The situation quickly becomes desperate because they are unable to identify and relay their exact location to their tactical command post.

Because this is only a training exercise, there is no need for the Soldiers to worry. But on the battlefield, if they were unable to communicate, this would be a very dangerous situation—perhaps fatal. Communication is vital to the success of Warfighters, and it must be available when needed.

The U.S. Army Information Systems Engineering Commander provides the Warfighter this important asset by designing a technical control facility for the new main communications facility at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

“The technical control facility will support the new communications facility by providing a better interface for local and remote users,” said Brock Tucker, ISEC project team leader. “It will also provide for improved management and maintenance of communication systems.”

ISEC’s design includes data and voice networks, floor plans, equipment layout, and a vast amount of cable management systems. In addition, ISEC is providing engineering oversight (technical authority on the ground) for on-site quality control inspections.

The state-of-the-art facility the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is constructing will replace an existing administrative building that is temporarily serving as the communications hub. The rooms inside the building contain information technology systems, but provide inadequate operational requirements.

“The existing building hinders the communications mission because the equipment inside have limited capability,” said Tucker. “It was not designed specifically for telecommunications or other computer networks. We’re moving to a new facility designed expressly for that purpose.”

Joe Medarac, senior telecommunications specialist, said the new facility will significantly improve communications in Southwest Asia. It will provide for more bandwidth and higher reliability—something the administrative building does not have or cannot provide.

It will also have more cabinet space, making it easier to upgrade information technology systems and equipment when necessary. “The new communications facility will give the Warfighter more capability,” said Medarac. “It will move data faster.”

Scheduled for completion April 2011, Tucker’s team has been involved in the project since it began June 2010. They have found it challenging and personally enjoyable.

“Solving complex problems and applying yourself to accomplish a difficult mission is very rewarding,” said Tucker.

According to Tucker, the project has momentum and is a massive exercise in teamwork.

“There has to be a great deal of synergy and cooperation to accomplish this large project,” said Tucker. “Everyone involved wants to make this a landmark project—a milestone for the Mideastern Theater.”

This project is extremely important because Camp Arifjan is a communications hub for the entire Southwest Asia Theater – not just Kuwait – and that a lot of network traffic passes through it.

“It further solidifies the strategic communications infrastructure,” said Tucker. “It’s going to help accelerate the change in communications to the Warfighter. The importance of it cannot be overestimated.”

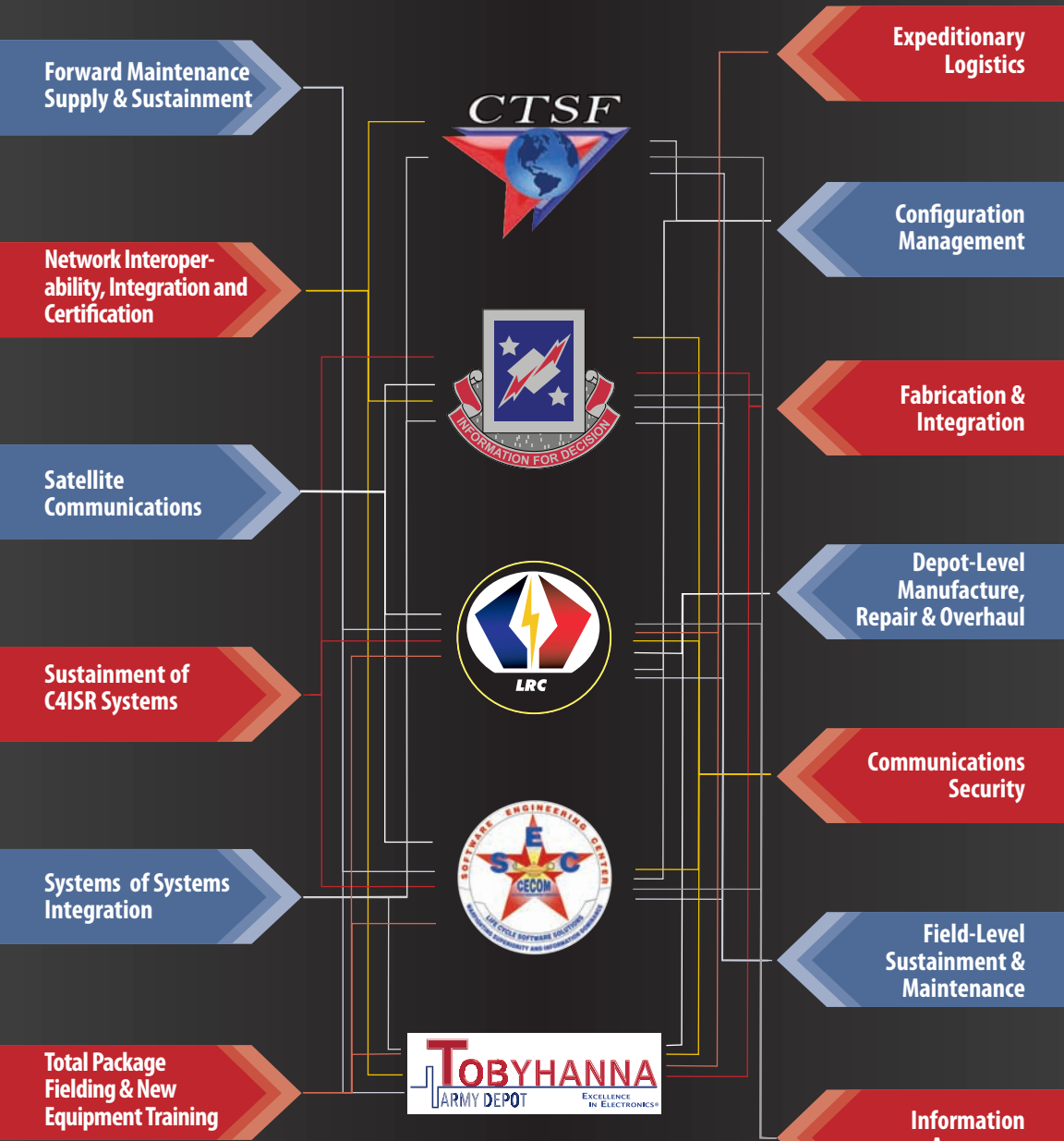
ISEC’s Transmission System Directorate Director, Robert Lorentsen, agrees and said that once again ISEC provides a worldwide communications structure to more efficiently and effectively support its customers, increase operational readiness, and facilitate new ways of doing business.



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kuwait Area Office

{Construction is well underway on a new \$25.7 million main communications facility at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.}





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