



OUTPOST



402nd AFSB in media spotlight

By Galen Putnam
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 402nd Army Field Support Brigade came under the media spotlight during two major media engagements in August.

Lt. Col. Garry Bush, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, welcomed a contingent of international media to the Redistribution Property Assistance Team Yard on Contingency Operating Base Adder, Iraq, Aug. 18. Also on hand was Lt. Col. Andy Parker, commander of the U.S. Division – South Logistics Support Element.

Media members included Martin Chulov, correspondent for the Guardian (UK) newspaper, Chris Albert a videographer for “60 Minutes,” and Mike Shuster, diplomatic and roving foreign correspondent for National Public Radio.

The visitors received a briefing on the 402nd AFSB, Army Sustainment Command and Army Materiel Command’s missions, then took a tour of the RPAT yard while peppering Bush and Parker with questions.

“It is awesome that the media wants to know what we do here. Even though it isn’t glamorous, it is important, perhaps even the most important mission in regard to the Responsible Drawdown,” said Air Force Capt. Le Tran, RPAT Yard officer-in-charge. “It means a lot to



Galen Putnam

Col. Lawrence W. Fuller, commander, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, goes over figures with Takeshi Tsuchiya, a reporter from Kyodo News in Japan, during an interview at the 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade Redistribution Property Assistance Team Yard on Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Aug. 27.

the people who work in the yard knowing that the world wants to know what they are doing and that their efforts are valued.”

A second group of international media descended upon Joint Base Balad, Aug. 27, to meet with Col. Lawrence W. Fuller, commander, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, and other base logisticians.

Fuller briefed the media members and then conducted one-on-one interviews with Associated Press Television; Rania El Gamal, correspondent for Reuters News; Takeshia

Tsuchiya, staff correspondent from the Cairo Bureau of Kyodo News (Japan); and others.

“These media events provided a great opportunity to tell the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, Army Sustainment Command and Army Materiel Command story directly to the international media,” said Col. Lawrence W. Fuller, commander, 402nd AFSB. “One-on-one interaction is the best way to communicate and we were glad to be able to point out the many accomplishments the 402nd AFSB has made here in Iraq.”

Power 6 Perspective

Safety first — mission success always

How's everybody doing on this fine day?

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for their hard work over the past four months. The 402nd Army Field Support Brigade helped make history by playing an extensive role in making the largest logistics operation since the Vietnam War a success. That's right – we have made it over the waterfall! Congratulations on a stellar effort!

While that is a reason to celebrate (see additional coverage on our Waterfall success in the October *Outpost*), it is important that we remain vigilant when it comes to safety. I know you have heard it a thousand times, but danger constantly lurks. We must be on our toes at all times.

Unfortunately, we experienced a serious incident recently in which a contactor lost



Col. Lawrence W. Fuller

his life. I can't go into details because the incident is still under investigation, but I can say this – it happened during a routine procedure – ground guiding a vehicle.

It goes to show, that even seemingly routine procedures can be hazardous. We must maintain our situational awareness at all times. Don't be complacent. When you hear indirect fire warnings, respond accordingly – hit the ground or jump into a bunker if you are within a step or two. Don't let false alarms lull you into a false sense of security. All it takes is one moment of recklessness to take you out of the game. We don't want to send anybody home on a medical evacuation flight. We don't want any of you being injured or killed, particularly due to a moment of carelessness. Losing a team member not only negatively, and

perhaps even severely, impacts the individual involved, it takes a serious toll on family members and friends as well. In addition, it degrades our capabilities. You are here for a reason. We need each and every one of you to ensure our continued success.

Another accident of note involved a Soldier who was crushed by a Q36 radar antenna unit. Somewhere along the line, something went wrong and the Soldier paid for it with his life. It goes to show that even routine operations involve risk. Our daily lives involve risk – things as simple as crossing the street or walking in the dark. Evaluate risk – mitigate risk. BE AWARE.

Following the accident investigation, several additional safety reminders were developed and posted in the technical manuals as well as on the equipment. CECOM is currently developing a safety collar which will aid in preventing future accidents of this nature. We learn from our life experiences. We do not, however, want to learn our lessons the hard way.

Overall, our safety record has been excellent with trends signifying a lower percentage of accidents and near-misses overall. That's a good thing and I'm very happy to see that. It means we are doing a good job. Just keep in mind – it only takes one moment of carelessness, lack of situational awareness, or poor judgment to turn success into disaster.

Power 6 Out!

LAWRENCE W. FULLER
COL, LG
Commanding

402nd AFSB

OUTPOST

Commander:

Col. Lawrence W. Fuller

Public Affairs Officer/Editor:

Galen Putnam

Submissions and suggestions can be forwarded to the editor, 402nd AFSB Public Affairs Officer:
gayland.putnam@mmcs.army.mil.

This newsletter is an official publication authorized by Army Regulation 360-1 and does not reflect the views of the 402nd AFSB, Department of the Army, or Department of Defense.

402ND AFSB SAFETY
DSN: 312-987-5130
extension 6508

Chaplain's Corner: *Illness, hard knocks make us resilient*

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Paul E. Dirksmeyer
402nd Army Field Support Brigade

It's an interesting theory which some medical professionals propose regarding our cleanliness and our health. The argument is this: In our societal zeal to protect our children's health and maintain a status of "germ-free" sanitization in our ongoing battle against illness and possible epidemics, we may be ironically and unwittingly creating other issues for our kids. The issue being that kids raised in such a hyper-clean environment do not have an opportunity for their immune systems to develop sufficiently enough to fight diseases and infections when they get older.

"When we overly sanitize infants' environments to protect them from illness, we may instead be depriving them the opportunity to build a strong immune system. In addition to overzealous hygiene campaigns that may prevent kids from exposure to natural microorganisms that are good for them, there are other practices — like the overuse of antibiotics — that threaten to make us less healthy, not more." (Lisa Zamosky, WebMD, reviewed by Laura J. Martin, MD, "Is Dirt Good for Kids? Are parents keeping things too clean for their kids' good?")

I'm obviously not a doctor, nor do I play one on TV, but as a layman I think I get the general gist of this theory from the articles I've read. And what I gleaned is this:

We're human and we get sick. We get sick because of germs that are out there. Despite the best preventive efforts by parents to sanitize and insulate their kids from the world of pathogens, their kids still get sick. When they get sick, they feel miserable; we feel miserable for them. This is part of living in an imperfect world and has been for millennia. Yet a collateral benefit happens

as kids get sick: their immune systems get stronger and they are thereby better capable of fighting off various diseases and infections as

they get older, allowing kids to better cope with future illnesses.

Now, as a theologian, my interest in this is more existential than scientific, and with that in mind I have to ask: can much the same be said of hardships we occasionally face in our lives? Do the challenges and even tragedies we face have a way of strengthening us, allowing us to better cope with future situations? I firmly believe they do, and I firmly believe in a loving God who allows such hardships and occasional sufferings to happen to us in our lives as a way of strengthening our "spiritual immune" systems, and thereby making us better capable of dealing with difficult situations later in life.

I'm not so sure I can subscribe to the idea that all things "happen for a reason." Sometimes things happen in life quite arbitrarily, and this is just part of our experience as human beings living in a sinful and imperfect world. But I fervently believe that when we suffer, we do not suffer alone — God is very much there with us in the midst of our suffering. As it says in Psalms 23:4, "though I walk through the valley of shadow and death, I fear no evil, for you are with me." It doesn't say that God immediately pulls us out of such a difficult spot then and there. Rather it tells us that while we are enduring a difficult trial and hardship, God is very much there, sharing our hardship with us. Like a parent comforting a child who is



Dirksmeyer

suffering from mumps or chicken pox, while it might break the parent's heart to see their child suffering, in the parent's wisdom he/she knows there is a future benefit to such suffering — the immune system will thereby be strengthened from such an illness. In the same way God is there with us in our sufferings, assuring us, comforting us, and realizing in His wisdom that such suffering may very well be necessary to strengthen us for some future reason when we will need such strength.

The German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche is credited with once saying: "What does not destroy me, makes me stronger." His thought, while correct, is incomplete. We are indeed strengthened in our hardships, but it is not through the strength of our own effort. We are strengthened in our human frailty and pain by God's gracious presence and soothed by His healing balm. It is in this divine comfort that we as humans can find the strength to face the future. And how is this divine presence conveyed to us? In our friends and family and church communities who come to us during those difficult moments, to comfort us and share our hardships with us. Through phone calls, cards, a loved one reaching out to us to hold our hand, someone giving us a hug, a friend sitting with us in silence — in these ways the presence of God is made known to us, and it's in these gestures of love that our healing begins.

As one matures, both in age and spirituality, one invariably develops a personal reservoir of wisdom and experience from which one may draw during difficult times. The most significant lesson one learns is the constancy of God's presence in all stages of life. Because God has been there for them in the past, God is there for them now, and will be there for them in the future.

Soldiers receive CREW System training

By Sgt. Gaelen Lowers
3rd Sustainment Bde., 103rd ESC

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq—Eight Soldiers from Joint Base Balad and Camp Speicher, Iraq, trained to become Counter Radio-Controlled Electronic Warfare Crew System specialists for their respective organizations July 16-18, at the 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade Warlock/CREW Shop at JBB.

The purpose of CREW systems is to counter insurgent's ability to detonate radio-controlled improvised explosive devices, said Sgt. 1st Class Tami Jones, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Electronic Warfare Office, and native of Moultrie, Ga.

"When used properly," said Jones, "a CREW system will not allow the enemy's radio controlled IED transmitter to communicate with the radio controlled IED receiver and prevents it from being detonated."

Soldiers went through PowerPoint slides, lectures and hands-on training, including learning how to troubleshoot the various systems, learning how to put each component into operation and also verifying that the each system was working properly.

"Every Soldier should know how to operate and understand the importance of life-saving equipment," said Billy Townley Jr., 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, a native of Bridgeton, N.C., and the lead instructor for the CREW Systems training. "CREW System specialists are responsible for the lives of their fellow Soldiers.



Sgt. Gaelen Lowers

Eight Soldiers from Joint Base Balad and Camp Speicher in Iraq, receive counter radio-controlled electronic warfare systems training from Billy Townley Jr., 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, lead instructor for the CREW Systems training, at the Warlock Shop July 18 at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

Soldiers going on missions rely on others to ensure that their CREW Systems have been fully checked for standard operating procedures."

Jones said that the number one topic in her class was that "electronic warfare saves more lives than anything else we do on the battlefield."

Soldiers in the class walked away with considerably more knowledge of the CREW Systems and would recommend the class to every Soldier who could take it, said Pfc. William Jessup, a Soldier working in the central receiving and shipping point for the 403rd Transportation Company, 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), and native of Point, Texas.

"This is the most important thing we have in the Army," he said. "It saves lives. Flat out."

Spc. Jacob Bastian, also a

Soldier working with the 403rd Trans. Co. at the CRSP Yard, and native of Gadsden, Ala., agreed with Jessup and said that these CREW Systems were the best of the best the Army had to offer in saving Soldiers' lives.

"I think that the military as a whole is coming up with better and more ways to defeat the enemy," said Bastian. "Being knowledgeable of these systems is great. I feel confident in knowing how to operate and troubleshoot these systems now."

Jessup went on to say that the training will prepare him for his Army career.

"This is how we fight wars now," he said, "and I'd like to be that guy that makes sure everyone makes it home alive."

The Warlock shop at JBB offers CREW System training, installations, maintenance and repair day-or-night. They are dedicated to serving the Soldiers' CREW needs, said Townley.

BLST provides direct support to Soldiers

Teams serve side-by-side with troops from deployment to redeployment

By Pvt. Zach Zuber
3rd SBCT, 2nd Inf. Div.

DIYALA, Iraq — Among the many buildings on Forward Operating Base Warhorse, Iraq, there is one that Soldiers might never enter. The technicians in this office function as an all-encompassing service group for Soldiers of 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

The Brigade Logistics Support Team is the final support line for any issue Soldiers are unable to fix through normal command channels. They are a group of logistical experts from the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade in fields such as weapons, ammunition, vehicles, and communications equipment that can provide outside expertise and a higher level of support when a difficulty arises.

“We have 14 personnel here who provide a direct liaison between the brigade and Army Materiel Command to assist with any problems the Soldiers cannot fix through their own means,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Daniel Lal, from Hilo, Hawaii, the BLST chief. “For example if a Soldier had a problem with their weapon, we could step in and ensure they get the part needed to fix it, and coordinate with the manufacturer to make sure no one else experiences the same issue.”

This is just one example of the many areas affected by the BLST during their daily duties. Each day, their representatives visit specific areas around the FOB to speak with the Soldiers they are supporting.

“I make rounds almost every



Pvt. Zach Zuber

Frank Santos, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, an automotive specialist with the Brigade Logistics Support Team for 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, speaks with mechanics about service issues that he can assist them in fixing. The BLST technicians facilitate a direct line of communication with manufacturers that can provide parts and specialists to aid mechanics with problems they are unable to resolve through normal channels.

day to check the status of amnesty boxes and the Ammunition Transfer Holding Point,” said Clinton Crownover, the Quality Assurance Specialist for Ammunition Surveillance. “I have to work with the guys out there to make sure that rounds turned in are inspected and either decommissioned or cleared for reintegration to the general stock.”

The Soldiers that interact with this dedicated group greet them with warm smiles and hearty handshakes, thankful for the support they can provide. Each representative focuses on the most troubling needs in their area of expertise, such as parts needed to get equipment

off of the ‘dead line’ (a storage space for inoperable vehicles).

When the team here is unable to assist with the problem, they are able to quickly find someone who can.

“We fall under [the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade] that supports all of Iraq. When our Soldiers need technical assistance, we can request design engineers or technicians to come in and fix the problem,” said Lal. “Whenever there is an issue anywhere, we have the access to the people or parts that can fix it. We are not here to do their [Soldiers’] jobs for them, but to provide the help they need after all their options are exhausted.”

Personality Spotlight: W. Arnold Pindle, 402nd AFSB deputy

Rank: GS-15

Name: W. Arnold Pindle

Age: 58

Hometown: Fayetteville, N.C.

Duty Position: Deputy to the Commander

Duty Section: Command Group, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade

Duty Station: Joint Base Balad, Iraq

How long have you been in this position? 9 months in Iraq (3 years in Korea)

How long have you been working for the U.S. Army? 29 years

Tell us about your job and what you do (please elaborate):

I plan, execute, coordinate, direct and supervise all missions and functional activities required to manage Army Materiel Command (AMC) readiness support activities and the worldwide Logistics Assistance Program.

- Conduct daily oversight of sustainment operations in support of the Materiel Enterprise involving over 8,000 military, Department of the Army civilians, and contract personnel in Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar.
- Provide oversight and direction for efforts affecting the Responsible Retrograde and Redeployment of US Forces and materiel from the Iraq Theater of Operations (ITO).
- Engage and influence collaboration among command elements to successfully accomplish sustainment and Redistribution Property Assistance Team (RPAT) operations.
- Determine goals and objectives that need additional emphasis in order to develop the best approach for resolving budget shortages and planning for long range staffing needs.



W. Arnold Pindle

- Provide oversight and guidance for housing and life support of all AMC employees assigned to the 402nd AFSB.
 - Develop and direct management controls over staff augmentation and operations and maintenance contracts.
 - Provide advice and counsel to employees relative to work and administrative matters, career and professional development, and the implementation of special emphasis programs such as Consideration of Others, EO/EEO, Sexual Abuse and Harassment, and Safety in the Workplace.
- Have you had other jobs with the military (active or civilian)?**

12/01/2002 - 09/26/2009, 403rd Army Field Support Brigade: Supply LAR; LAO Chief; S3; Deputy to the Commander
03/12/2000 - 11/30/2002, U.S. Army Force Management Support Agency: Management Analyst

05/23/1999 - 03/11/2000, AMC Logistics Support Activity, LAO 3ID: Logistics Management Specialist

07/05/1998 - 05/22/1999,

U.S. Army Reserve Command: Logistics Management Specialist

02/06/1994 - 07/04/1998, U.S. Army Europe, ODCSOPS, Force Mgt Div: Logistics Management Specialist

What is the best part of your job?

The opportunity to help others achieve their career goals.

Why do you like working here?

It has given me the opportunity to travel around the world and meet new and different people.

What do you do to make a difference for the Warfighter?

I remind myself daily that the Warfighter will not be able to protect and serve me and my family if I don't do my best job every day to protect, serve and support them.

Most people don't know this about me:

I am a former member of the National Ski Patrol.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I can't remember. I don't seem to have much spare time anymore.

What is your personal philosophy?

Be true to your word.

What is your favorite quote/slogan/saying?

We cannot afford the luxury of a negative thought.



402nd AFSB Outcasts take JBB softball Championship

Story and photos by Galen Putnam
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq –

In yet another exciting, come-from-behind game, the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade Outcasts topped 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Dirt Boyz by a score of 13-8 to take the Joint Base Balad Softball Championship at Provider Field Aug. 29.

The Outcasts battled back from deficits in each of their three playoff games, as well as the championship game. In their first playoff game, they beat the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 724th Engineer Battalion Badgers 17-14 after trailing by five runs in the sixth inning. In their second playoff game against 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Eagles, the Outcasts came back from three runs down to come out on top 20-19. In typical fashion, the team battled back from three runs down to punch their ticket to the championship game by beating the 840th U.S. Army Transportation Battalion Rare Breed 21-17 in their final playoff game.

“We had a good season. We only lost five games all year. We’ve got a great group of players and when we needed to, we rallied together,” said coach Stephen Garner. “Every game in the playoffs we had to come from behind to win, but that shows what kind of a team we are. We never let it get us down and when we had to, we pulled together as a team and now we’re the champions.”

The Outcasts finished the regular season with a 22-5 record in the 28-team team league.



402nd Army Field Support Brigade Outcast softball team members pose with the “T-Wall Trophy” after winning the Joint Base Balad softball championship.



Joe Lowery heads for home as third base coach Shaun Silas waves him on during the Joint Base Balad Softball Championships.



Galen Putnam

Women's Equality Day

Sgt. 1st Class Barbara Bossier, first sergeant, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, mimes the poem "I Refuse," written and read by Sgt. Kenvee Parker, 540th Quartermaster Company, during the Joint Base Balad Women's Equality Day Celebration Aug. 26. This year's program, "Celebrating Women's Right to Vote" marks the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Bossier also took second place in the Women's Equality Day Poetry Contest for her entry "Women's Equality Struggle."

Hi Dad!

Tobias Barbir, a Vista reset supply technician assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, takes a photo of his father, Johann Barbir, during a live, two-way satellite link to an awards ceremony for recent graduates of Nova Southeastern University in Hollywood, Fla. Tobias surprised his dad by providing a video produced in Iraq for the event. The big surprise, however, was when he appeared live on the screen at the ballroom to say hi and congratulations to his father live via-satellite.



Galen Putnam



Galen Putnam

COR Training

Contracting Officer Representative Course students and instructors pose for a group photo at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, Aug. 26. The two and-a-half day course, hosted by the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade Business Management Office, numbered 40 participants.



Galen Putnam

Lt. Col. Garry B. Bush, commander, 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, explains Redistribution Property Assistance Team operations to Rear Adm. Thomas C. Traaen, director of the CENTCOM Deployment and Distribution Operations Center in Kuwait, during a visit to the RPAT Yard on Joint Base Balad Aug. 11.



402nd Army Field Support Brigade, Joint Base Balad, Iraq

Col. Lawrence W. Fuller
Commander

W. Arnold Pindle
Deputy to the
Commander

**Command Sgt. Maj.
Joel F. Webb**
Command Sergeant Major

Lt. Col. Iola J. Simpson
Executive Officer

Galen Putnam
Public Affairs Officer/
Editor

The 402nd AFSB **OUTPOST** is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Outpost are not necessarily the views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, or Department of the Army.

The **OUTPOST** is an official publication authorized by AR 360-1.

Contact the **OUTPOST** at:
AFSB-IZ_PUBLIC_AFFAIRS@MMCS.ARMY.MIL

Where can I find those photos?

Photos are posted to the Mini 5 shared drive. To locate the photos, open the shared drive and look for the folder named "402nd Photos." It is at the *bottom* of the folders list because it is a link!

If you do not have access to the Mini 5 shared drive, direct photo requests to Galen Putnam, **OUTPOST** editor.





FROM THE FIELD

402ND ARMY FIELD SUPPORT BRIGADE, IRAQ



Volume 1, Issue 4

Readiness Power, Forward

September 2010

ALT-D CONDUCTS ASSESSMENTS IN QATAR

By Chris Comes and MAJ Jay Eckhart
402nd AFSB, ALT-D

MAJ Jay Eckhart and Mr. Chris Comes, from the 402nd Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Directorate (ALT-D), recently accompanied Mr. Terry Eaton, a member of the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC), on a trip to Camp Al Sayliyah, Qatar. There were two reasons for the trip: assist Mr. Eaton with conducting battle damage assessments and tour and assess the capabilities of the Camp Al Sayliyah Stryker Battle Damage Repair (BDR) Facility. The Stryker BDR Facility is operated by General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS) and repairs damaged vehicles from both OIF and OEF.

Before battle damaged Strykers enter the repair facility, Mr. Eaton and his NGIC team conduct vehicle battle damage assessments on all hostile fire or Improvised Explosive Device (IED) related vehicle damage. In most cases, this analysis takes place in Iraq or Afghanistan at the Forward Operating Base nearest the source of vehicle damage. Due to the operational tempo, the NGIC team is not able to inspect every battle damaged vehicle in Iraq or Afghanistan. The Stryker BDR Facility provides NGIC a unique opportunity to investigate several battle damaged vehicles that were not previously analyzed, in one place and at one time. Using forensic tools and computer program simulations, the NGIC team attempts to recreate the story of how a vehicle was attacked. They also collect fragmentation samples from the battle damaged vehicles. These samples are mailed to metallurgy labs for review and analysis. Engineers



Chris Comes

MAJ Jay Eckhart, 402nd ALT-D Science Officer, and Mr. Terry Eaton, National Ground Intelligence Center, perform a battle damage assessment on a Stryker vehicle at Camp Al Sayliyah, Qatar.

then scrutinize all this data and make recommendations that ultimately result in more survivable and safer combat vehicles.

Mr. Rick Hunt, the site manager for the BDR Facility, then showed the ALT-D team what happens to a vehicle after the battle damage assessment is complete. An initial assessment is done on the Stryker and its candidacy for repair is determined. The facility can, and will, repair any vehicle if at least 25% of its hull can be salvaged. Since 2005, only two vehicles have been turned away at the Camp Al Sayliyah repair facility. If a vehicle is classified as repairable, it is stripped clean and through the efforts of skilled welders, the hull is repaired to new condition. The vehicle then receives its rolling chassis, Full Up Power Pack (FUPP), and all original components. The Stryker under goes quality inspections throughout the repair process and is road tested before being returned to the fight. Even more impressive than the capability to repair these complex vehicles to original status is the

fact that the standard turnaround time for a complete vehicle overhaul is only one month.

The Stryker BDR facility is located in a large climate controlled sprung and has just recently expanded into two adjacent warehouses. These warehouses are in the process of being configured for storage, Full up Power (FUP) (power pack) unit repair with a dynamometer, a Ready to Fight Fleet, and a tire retreading facility. The facility is also a designated reset facility for the theater Stryker fleet. With Stryker BDR facilities in Iraq closing and no facility in OEF, the Camp As Sayliyah location is the only capability in southwest Asia to conduct repairs on vehicles with extensive battle damage.

One characteristic that will undoubtedly impress any visitor of the Camp As Sayliyah Stryker BDR facility is the pride and dedication the workers have in their craft. The facility employs workers from at least ten different countries and has a greater than average rate of employee retention and contract extension. Everyone understands the importance of the mission at hand. Seventy-five percent of the American workers are veterans of the Armed Forces and many have children that are currently deployed in either OIF or OEF. Every employee at the facility can recite the following challenge from memory:

“We challenge anybody to find the slightest difference between a battle damage repaired Stryker and a brand new system coming off the GDLS assembly line.”

To date, no one has won that challenge.

FROM THE FIELD is a special supplement to the 402nd AFSB **OUTPOST**. It is written by the servicemembers, DoD civilians and contractors who comprise the Army's largest brigade.

JOINT OPERATIONS BOARD STREAMLINES OPERATIONS

By Ned Bryan
DCO, 2-401st AFSB

The Responsible Draw Down (RDD) in Iraq is proving to be one of the largest logistical operations in military history and as such is receiving a great deal of attention throughout leadership channels. The 2-401st AFSB at Camp Arifjan Kuwait bares the lion's share of the preparation and execution responsibilities for retrograde operations once the assets leave Iraq. The Battalion's efforts are focused on receiving the assets from Iraq and processing them in Kuwait so that they can be retrograded back to CONUS. Processing retrograde assets is a complex mission involving multiple synchronized operations that include: 1) receiving the convoys coming out of Iraq; 2) offloading the assets; 3) accounting for the assets; 4) harvesting assets for theater requirements; 5) de-installing C4I configuration enablers; 6) washing assets for Naval agricultural customs clearing; and 7) transporting the assets through all of these processes. This includes getting them to the port and eventually onto the ships that will return the assets to CONUS to facilitate the rebuilding of that particular equipment force structure.

The retrograde mission is one of several missions the 2-401st AFSB has on its plate. The Battalion is also responsible for maintaining the Army's Prepositioned Stock (APS 5) as part of the Army's War Reserves, maintaining the Theater Sustainment Stocks for battle loss and battle damage replacements for both OIF and OEF, supporting Foreign Military Sales and coalition equipment requirements, as well as harvesting and repairing equipment to support Operational Needs Statement sourcing solution requirements.

With the scarcity of resources available to perform all of these competing missions, it is imperative that the Battalion proactively seeks ways to lean existing process and eliminate friction points that have a negative impact on the productivity of the retrograde system. The Battalion has developed an integrated metric to track and measure capacity, volume, throughput, and velocity in order to synchronize operations and identify friction points in the overall health of the system. When friction points are identified, additional resources are dedicated to resolving those issues. The Joint Operations Board is the culmination of teambuilding and process improvement initiatives focused on mitigating the friction points identified in the wash rack/customs clearing process contained in the overall retrograde system.

Once the friction points are validated, courses of action are developed and analyzed. One of the characteristics of the Battalion that can complicate resolving friction points is that it is nearly 95% contractor operated. Additionally, many of the support facilities required to complete our mission are run by other contractors and government entities not under the control of the Battalion. The wash rack facility is



Mr. Chia Wei Lee, Systems Engineer for the 2-401st AFSB provides implementation training for the Joint Operations Board to both Navy and ITT contractors just outside the Wash Rack Facilities at Camp Arifjan Kuwait.

an ASG Kuwait managed Facility that apportions wash points to customers based on requirements. The other stake holder in this operation is the Agricultural Custom Inspectors who are U.S. Navy personnel. The first step taken to mitigate the friction points was teambuilding; simply putting all of the stakeholders into a room to discuss each organization's requirements and procedures, compare current metrics, identify overlaps and gaps, and develop an acceptable cooperative method for communicating and controlling all requirements for all stakeholders.

The Battalion's Systems Engineer serving as the Process Improvement Lead coordinated the team building initiative and ultimately assisted in the final design and implementation of the Joint Operations Board. The Joint Operations Board is a real-time means of communicating the status of all operational wash points and the assets currently occupying those points. It provides a clear picture of which stakeholder currently owns the process for each asset on the wash rack and allows each stakeholder to identify the hand-off points. This level of fidelity of information has been instrumental in drastically reducing non-value added idle time. It ultimately provides the framework to continue to reduce lost productivity time caused by inefficient communication processes.

This is just one small example of how process improvement initiatives are being used to reduce waste and fine tune the overall retrograde process while improving the Battalion's ability to effectively measure the overall health of the retrograde system.

ROUTE CLEARANCE RELOCATION AT JBB

By Support Operations Team
1st Bn., 402nd AFSB

There are other reasons aside from drawdown to start paring down some of that equipment that has maybe worn out its welcome or outlived its usefulness. One is that your program may be one that is so critical to the Warfighter that instead of closing, it will be reduced. This reduction may require you to jump from your current location to another so as to reduce your footprint or satisfy base draw-down plans. Currently, 1st Battalion, 402nd AFSB's Route Clearance program is undergoing just such a transition. Here are some lessons learned that may be useful to some in the future.

The Route Clearance program was able to move on the Battalion footprint at Joint Base Balad to space vacated by other programs that had closed at the fulfillment of the terms of their contracts. You may need to coordinate with the Mayor's cell or your higher headquarters to find a new home if you have to move (In the case of 1st Battalion, 402nd AFSB, any coordination for new space should be made by the SPO Plans office through Battalion S-3 / Facilities). You may not be able to enjoy the same amount of space at your new site that you had at your old one. This will require you to make decisions about what you will need to rid of yourself of and what you want to bring to your new site.

Route Clearance had literally hundreds of containers at their old site. These containers mainly consisted of the Husky VMMD, Mine Detection Vehicle Containers that are part of the System, but were also used for many different purposes, such as storage of tools and spare parts. The movement of a container requires a crane, container handler or the Rough Terrain Container Handler (RTCH) as well as a Transportation Movement Request (TMR) for the actual movement of a container requires a crane, container handler or the Rough Terrain Container Handler (RTCH) as



RTCH loading Route Clearance container on trailer.

well as a TMR for the actual move. As the pace of draw-down starts to pick up, equipment used to move containers will probably be in high demand. The ability to provide a schedule to the owners of the container handlers helps in reserving a container handler so that it will be available when you need to move.

Identifying the essential equipment and the sequence that it will need to depart during the move will also help you identify excess equipment. Once you identify excess, remember to get proper disposition instructions prior to getting rid of it. Serviceable equipment should be placed back in the supply system instead of DRMO, so that other units / organizations are able to use it. You want to make sure that the owner of the property knows what's happening with it so they can track the adjustments that will need to be made to their hand receipt and coordinate this with the Property Book Office.

There are other agencies that you'll need to coordinate with for your move and these have nothing to do with excess property. Route Clearance coordinated with the S-3 / Facilities team at Battalion to get work orders for things like signs and electrical connections done prior to the move so that new facility would be hospitable and a force multiplier upon arrival rather than a mission inhibitor. They also worked with S-6 to get new drops for phones and computers. Both of these take time to get approved and some work orders require letters of justification. It is important to make sure you identify any additional requirements early in the process or you might be doing tailgate logistics a little longer than you anticipated.

So when it comes to excess equipment, there are many reasons other than drawdown to dispose of it. This article discussed the change in operations for Route Clearance to try to illuminate these reasons. Start getting rid of your excess now! The time you save may be your own.



Route Clearance personnel packing up equipment.

2ND BN., 401ST AFSB – ‘HEAVY’ IS BACK IN TOWN

The 2-401st AFSB receives, repairs, maintains, stores, prepares for issue, and issues Army Pre-positioned Stock 5 (APS-5) in Southwest Asia, which includes the Heavy brigade Combat Team (HBCT) set in support of the defense of Kuwait. Over the past few months, the 2-401st AFSB has made significant strides in its efforts to reconstitute the APS-5 HBCT set. The Battalion is using equipment retrograded from Iraq - Theater Provided Equipment retrograde - as well as deliveries of new production to reach Initial Operational Capability by March 2011.

The HBCT set was last issued in March 2007 in support of the Operation Iraqi Freedom surge and the rebuild of the set began on 1 October 2008. The President's directive to increase troops in Afghanistan by 20,000 temporarily delayed the HBCT reconstitution; the majority of the medium and heavy vehicles that were en route to Kuwait in support of the APS-5 HBCT rebuild were diverted to support Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan. The Battalion's reconstitution efforts are continuous and are being worked simultaneously with many other Theater and OEF requirements. The Battalion is also in the



155mm Self-Propelled Howitzers

process of retrograding legacy equipment that can no longer support the modernized HBCT set. Additionally, Headquarters Department of the Army has provided information stating HBCT's will now incorporate the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles. The induction of the MRAP vehicles will require qualified technicians and operator training to meet this new requirement.

The Battalion's latest milestone in the reconstitution of the HBCT was the fielding of 403 pieces of new production tracked vehicles, to include 58 Abrams Tanks (M1A2SEPV2), 20 Howitzers, and over 120 Bradley Fighting Vehicles (BFVs). Tank Urban Survivability Kits (TUSK) and Bradley Urban Survivability Kits (BUSK) will also soon be installed. The New Equipment Training on the maintenance and operation of the new equipment will complete the new equipment fielding. This major fielding accomplishment was due to the combined efforts of the Program Manager, Heavy led by LTC Charles Bartos and Jeff Carroll; ITT's Program Manager, Scott Lang and Maintenance Supervisor, Phillip Shamberger; 2-401st AFSB's CW4 Jesse Fields, Battalion Maintenance Technician and Maintenance NCOIC, SFC George Bayer, and PAE Lockheed Martin's Steve Roman, the 2-401st APS-5 Readiness Officer. The Battalion is well on its way to providing a fully operational HBCT for unit requirements and the defense of Kuwait ... Heavy is back in town.



Abrams Tanks (M1A2SEPV2)

MOBILE RPAT MISSION AT COB BASRA

By David Kline
LSE USD-S

COB Basra, Iraq – The 17 Fires Brigade prepares to off ramp prior to redeploying to Joint Base Lewis McCord (JBLM). The brigade consisted of 10 organic UICs and 17 MiTT teams. Additionally, multiple other units on the COB prepare for their redeployment or are involved in the responsible drawdown of forces and equipment (RDoF) mission to include the 1ID DHHB, 1-68 Armor Battalion, 203rd MP Battalion, 206 MP Company, and the 354th MP Company have equipment that they needs to return to TPE or turned in to Reset. COB Basra does not have the luxury of a fixed Redistribution Property Assistance Team (RPAT) yard on site. In come the members of the Mobile Redistribution Property Assistance Team (M-RPAT) to assist these units by inventorying and receiving in order for them to clear their TPE hand receipts.

The M-RPAT team is a group of soldiers, DOD civilians and contractors from the 2/402 AFSBn consisting of 13 to 15 personnel with various logistical backgrounds, subject matter experts from the LCMCs, and coupled with the supported unit in ensuring the success of the MRPAT mission. In order for the M-RPAT team to sign for and transport the equipment to the proper location there are critical steps the unit must take. The first step is the unit posts the equipment in TPE Planner for TPE equipment or ARMT for organizational equipment that will be going into Reset so that they can receive disposition instructions. The unit will then build turn in packets with the required



Equipment being readied for the MRPAT Team by the unit.

paperwork depending on type of equipment and the disposition. The unit is required to have an RFID (radio frequency identification) tag and TMR for each piece of rolling stock and the same for each non-rolling stock container so the equipment can be tracked to its destination.

The M-RPAT arrived onto COB Basra in mid-May for a month-long mission to assist the units with their ARI and TPE turn in as part of RDoF. The team consisted of WRO (Wholesale Responsible Officer) and team lead, who is the responsible officer then signs for the equipment and returns it to the wholesale system. Other members of the team consisted of two inventory management specialists that conducted the inventories along with two data entry supply specialists that enter the equipment into AWRDS. Also four CECOM personnel that were subject matter experts, to inventory all CECOM items to insure that the right equipment is being turned in and that it is complete. The remainder of the MRPAT team consisted of five soldiers responsible for a wide range of jobs from insuring that the packets were complete and the

paperwork was filled out correctly. The NCOIC also had the capability to sign for all the PM equipment and return it to the PM so that it could be redistributed throughout theater. Soldiers also insured that all the non-rolling stock was packed in the right containers and were ready for shipment. One soldier was trained as a customs inspector to insure that all equipment returning to the states for Reset was cleaned and able to pass the customs inspection. The MRPAT team departed late June, headed for another location in order to support other units off ramping in theater.

The professionalism and support provided by the MRPAT ensured mission success. A total of 270 pieces of TPE rolling stock and 2,396 pieces of non-rolling stock were processed. Additionally, 36 pieces of ARI rolling stock and 148 pieces of ARI non-rolling stock was received and shipped to CONUS depots to support the sustainment level Reset of unit organic equipment. 12 units cleared their TPE hand receipt and 10 units are postured to meet their off ramp date in August.



Vehicles lined up to be checked by the MRPAT and WRO before acceptance.

3/3 HBCT BLST GOES 'REMOTE' AT COB KALSU

By Patrick Bland
3/3ID BLST

FOB KALSU, Iraq – While performing Gunnery operations in support of their AAB mission a 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team M1A1 traveling in the opposite direction struck an oncoming vehicle with its turret. The unit had to restrict firing of the M120mm Abrams Tank until an inspection could be performed to ensure no damage occurred that could damage the system further or injure the crew during firing.

The Armament Technician for the Direct Support Unit of the Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) coordinated with the owning unit and requested assistance of the Brigade Logistics Support Team's (BLST) TACOM Armament LAR, Jim Garner, for technical assistance with the conduct

inspection of the M1A1 to determine the serviceability of the turret.

A mandated inspection must be performed when an unintentional impact occurs in accordance with the appropriate Technical Manual.

The BLST Team Armament LAR provided the technical assistance while conducting an inspection of the M1A1 to determine the serviceability of the turret. As part of the inspection the BSB maintenance personnel and the Armament LAR prepared to remote fire the main gun to insure that it was capable of firing safely.

Prior to executing the remote firing, the Armament LAR assisted the BSB Armament Technician with the construction of a firing cable, since none were available. First, the blast mechanism was removed from inside the tank and wired to the

remote cable where the mechanism was located. The cable was extended to the outside of the Tank at a safe distance. Then the system was sighted onto a target followed with loading of a round in the chamber. Next, the arms control switch was placed in the firing position followed by having all personnel exit the tank. Once outside the Tank, the remote cable was connected to the blast mechanism with a final clearance conducted. The system was fired remotely.

Post firing of the M1A1 proved successful and the system was returned to the owning unit for use during Gunnery. Achieving the safe and effective firing of this system was attributed in part to the skills and expertise of the BLST's Armament LAR assistance to the BSB, Direct Support Unit's Armament Shop.



3/3 AAB conducts tank gunnery to maintain crew qualifications May-June 2010

4/2 SBCT BLST: 'TO THE OBJECTIVE'

The 4/2 Brigade Logistics Support Team (BLST), Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA, is composed of CW4 Bernard Milyo, Jr., BLST Chief, Ms. Depomler Brim, Logistics Management Specialist (LMS) and Mr. John Cruz, Tobyhanna Army Depot (TYAD), Field Service Representative (FSR). CW4 Milyo deployed in September 2009 in support of the 4/2 Infantry Division Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) with Ms. Brim and Mr. Cruz joining the team in January 2010. CW4 Milyo arrived on Victory Base Complex and established his AMC area support from the Camp Victory Logistics Support Element (LSE). CW4 Milyo provides a single-face to the Warfighter for logistical readiness reporting between the units, AMC and the Life Cycle Management Commands (LCMC) and provides logistics assistance as well as AMC coverage for unit operations to the entire 4/2 SBCT footprint. Their Area of Operation (AO) encompasses Victory Base Complex, Camp Taji, and the following Joint Security Stations (JSS): JSS Nasir Wa Salem (NWS), JSS Justice, JSS Mushada and JSS Tarimya. The 4/2 SBCT deployed with its full complement of Stryker vehicles and is maintaining an operational readiness rate of 99%. Its legacy fleet of Theater Provided Equipment (TPE) is maintaining an operational readiness rate of 98%. The BLST remains fully engaged in their day to day support of the Warfighter and his equipment. The BLST has coordinated with numerous LARs, FSRs and KTRs in order to resolve logistical



John Cruz, CW4 Milyo, Dee Brim

issues. The 4/2 SBCT has transitioned into stability operations and continues with Responsible Drawdown of Forces (RDOF), JSS closures and returns to the Iraqis. The BLST continues to support the BDE in stability operations efforts as well as preparation for Cascade Reunion, its redeployment operation. 4/2 SBCT conducted their 180 day reset brief, continuing to execute turn-in of both ARI and TPE equipment. The Memorandum of Agreement's (MOA) that the Special Repair Teams (SRT) require are completed, signed and those programs are in place for execution upon the Brigades return. The BLST continues to monitor weekly Reset Breezes, assisting and advising as necessary. The 4/2 SBCT's reset and TPE status is as follows. Currently, the 4/2 SBCT has 420 plans in ARMT, 392 claimed (93%), 373 executed (89%). TPE continues to be turned in. The 4/2 SBCT started with 11,824 pieces, current On Hand (OH) quantity is 4,710 pieces (39.8%). They have completed T/I's on 7,114 pieces (60.2%), disposition for T/I at MRPAT 4,625 pieces (98.2%), disposition for internal transfer 66 pieces (1.4%), awaiting disposition

awaiting disposition at USD-C 37 pieces (0.8%), awaiting disposition at ARCENT 2 pieces (0.0%) and requests for disposition from unit is 0 (0.0%). ARI/IMI turn in is 150/379 pieces (40.0%). The 4/2 SBCT continues to push its units to execute turn in and lateral transfer directives.

The BLST has coordinated ARI Rock Drills for six units and ten ARI/TPE MRPAT/RPAT missions, facilitating as needed. The BLST, along with LARs, continue to assist the units with parts and long ESD issues, as well as securing answers in reference to Reset.

The brigade is currently posturing itself for redeployment and reset. The BLST has coordinated for FSR and technical support to assist with the deinstallation of ARI/TPE subsystems on the Stryker's. The BLST has coordinated and facilitated the assets required to sign over the Stryker's to the PM in Kuwait.

Although the year was long and arduous, the BLST maintained a positive attitude and successfully supported the Brigade during its OIF 09-10 rotation and look forward to a well deserved reunion with family and friends.



2-12 FA M777 load out

TOBYHANNA – EXCELLENCE IN ELECTRONICS

By Peter Marsicano

Tobyhanna's network of electronics repair stretches around the globe to more than 50 Forward Repair Activity (FRA) locations. The FRA concept replaced an outdated repair process that was complex, time consuming and costly. Critical repairs can now be performed on site – eliminating the costly expense of shipment and more importantly downtime.

At JBB, as well as Tallil, Tikrit and Baghdad, the STAMIS (Standard Army Management Information Systems) mission supports the repair and exchange of computer systems, printers, digital senders, monitors and copiers. Programs supported by the mission include: MC4 (Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care), SAMMS-E (Standard Army Maintenance System – Enhanced), ULLSA (Unit Level Logistics System- Aviation), SARRS (Standard Army Retail Supply System), TCAIMS (Transportation Coordinator's Automated Information for Movements System), AJCS (Army Joint Composite Server), CAISI (Combat Service Support Automated Information Interface), Intermec printers and AN/PRC 112 radios. Repairs range from cleaning and evaluation to the complete overhaul or exchange of the systems.

The combination of harsh environmental conditions and heat in the field causes stress and damage to sensitive electronic components. Power fluctuations further complicate the integrity of assets. Technicians isolate problems, replace/repair defective components, and conduct operational tests of the hardware. Key components of computers and printers such as system boards, LCD's, power supplies and batteries are readily available and are replaced in minimal time. Many common parts such as batteries, a/c power supplies and keyboards can be directly exchanged (DX) by simply providing the service tag number information from the systems.



The Tobyhanna 'Crew'

With the drawdown in progress, the transition of units has become accelerated. As units redeploy, assets require functionality testing. Testing of this type is done on a daily basis at the Tobyhanna FRA. Hardware components are stress tested for results. These results provide a source of verification which insures reliability of the equipment for future distribution. By the same token, equipment which is deemed beyond economical repair is coded out for disposal. The required paperwork is issued in order to turn in the equipment to DRMO. This assessment allows removal of the item from property books and provides the opportunity for units to order replacement assets when repair is not possible.

Along with the repair of equipment, technicians provide valuable parts forecasts to purchasing, in order to maintain critical stock levels of commonly used parts. The combination of onsite repair and managed stock facilitates expeditious repair and reduces downtime for the war fighter.

Tobyhanna strives to maintain competence in the field. Technical training is ongoing and encompasses

Both formal and on the job venues. Dell factory certification is a key component of the preparation afforded to the laptop and desktop technicians.

The mission is staffed by DOD civilian volunteers who deploy for a minimum of 6 months to theatre. Despite a diversity of backgrounds and a wide range of experience, all arrive with one common goal – to provide prompt and reliable service in support of the war fighter. Workload has averaged approximately 1000 pieces per month with some recent variation due to relocation and drawdown efforts.

The Tobyhanna FRA is the proud recipient of numerous plaques and letters of commendation. The FRA staff agrees that their deployment experience, in having the opportunity to make even a small difference for the war fighter, has exceeded all personal expectations. All feel very privileged to be a part of the mission.

The Tobyhanna FRA has recently relocated on base from Bldg 6828 to Bldg 7053 on the 1st Battalion/ 402nd footprint.