



# THE GLOBAL LINE



## Spencer new top NCO

Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer became Army Sustainment Command's top enlisted Soldier during a Jan. 18 change of responsibility ceremony held at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.....**See page 3**

## DMC certified for new LMI action

Time is running out, but ASC is on track and prepared for the Lead Materiel Integrator initiative. ....**see page 4**



## Rehearsal sets stage for success

The Distribution Management Center, a key component of ASC, hosted an LMI mission rehearsal exercise here Dec. 5-8,.....**see page 7**



## 'Property detectives' on the case

Property accountability and good stewardship of taxpayer dollars are things the U.S. Army takes very seriously.....**see page 8**



## 402nd aiding State Dept.

As U.S. forces left Iraq, they moved most of their equipment with them, but some stayed behind, handed over to the State Department.....**see page 9**



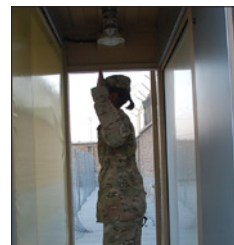
## Chaplain assistant switched services

Switching from being an officer to an enlisted man while changing service branches is uncommon. ....**see page 10**



## 401st helps boost security

It took the combined resources and effort of Army and Air Force contractors and civilian air assets .....**see page 16**



## From the Commanding General

# Welcome CSM Spencer – Farewell, CSM Blake

**Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston**  
**U.S. Army Sustainment Command**

Please join me in welcoming one of the newest members of the ASC team – our Command Sergeant Major, CSM James E. Spencer.

CSM Spencer officially came on board at a Change of Responsibility ceremony held on Jan. 18. There were a few tears shed at this ceremony as we both welcomed someone new and said good-bye to someone who has meant an awful lot to this Command and to the United States Army.

The ceremony marked the departure from ASC, and retirement from the Army, of CSM Stephen D. Blake. CSM Blake was described as a “Soldier’s Soldier” at the ceremony, and I certainly could not agree more with that description.

Though I did not serve alongside CSM Blake for very long, it was clear that the welfare of Soldiers was his top priority. He also did all that he could to support and assist the civilian employees and contractors on the ASC team.

CSM Blake dedicated more than 30 years of his life to the Army, and leaves this great institution better than he found it. He was, is, and always will be a “Soldier’s Soldier,” and he will be sorely missed. Godspeed and good luck, CSM Blake – may you and your family enjoy all the best that life has to offer.

We are indeed fortunate that CSM Spencer will serve as ASC’s command sergeant major.

He’s also devoted to the people and the mission of our Command, and he comes to us with the skills, knowledge, experience and leadership ability to make a positive difference. I’d ask that you give him the same warm welcome that you gave me.

Changes in leadership are a fact of life in the Army, and as you may know, I have been nominated for promotion to lieutenant general and assignment to Headquarters, U.S. Army Materiel Command as AMC’s deputy commanding general and chief of staff.

There are several remaining steps to the confirmation process, so I can’t say exactly when the move will take place, but I’m hoping to be on board for about

a year. Recently, the Army announced its plans for the next leadership here at ASC, including Brig. Gen. John F. Wharton, who currently serves as Army Materiel Command’s Chief of Staff, and COL(P) Duane Gamble who is currently serving in the Army G4 and who will follow BG Brian Layer as ASC Deputy Commander.

Truly, the strength of ASC lies in our outstanding people – people like CSM Blake, CSM Spencer and you. All of you have an important role to play in our mission, and all of you make critical contributions to our Command and our Army.

I truly appreciate all that you do, and I ask that you please keep up the good work. America’s Soldiers are counting on you.

**On the Line!**

**MG McQuiston**



## THE GLOBAL LINE



*The Global Line is an authorized publication under the provisions of AR 360-1 for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the Global Line are unofficial views of, and are not necessarily the views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Army or the Department of Defense. The editorial content of The Global Line is produced, published and distributed by ASC Public Affairs Office, Building 390, 1 Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Illinois, 61299-6000. Contributions to The Global Line are welcome. The PAO reserves the right to edit submissions for style, clarity or fit.*

Phone: (309) 782-5421, DSN 793-5421 Fax: (309) 782-5011.

Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston  
 Commanding General

Daniel M. Carlson  
 Public Affairs Officer

Charles W. Fick Jr.  
 Managing Editor

Susan Clark-Matos, Jackie Hoggins,  
 Megan McIntyre, Galen Putnam,  
 Sgt. 1st Class Sean Riley, Barbara Toner  
 Staff Members

Keith Claussen  
 Design & Layout

## Spencer takes charge of ASC's enlisted force

Story and photos by Megan McIntyre  
ASC Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer became Army Sustainment Command's top enlisted Soldier during a Jan. 18 change of responsibility ceremony held at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

Spencer assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen D. Blake, who had served ASC since June 2008. In a retirement ceremony following the handover, Blake was honored for his 30 years of military service.

Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, ASC commanding general, presided over both ceremonies.

The change of responsibility ceremony is steeped in military tradition and serves the dual

function of rendering honors to the departing command sergeant major and providing official recognition of the transfer of authority to the incoming command sergeant major.

To mark the change of responsibility, Sgt. Maj. Keith R. Jones, ASC G2 sergeant major, handed an NCO sword to Blake, who then passed it to McQuiston. McQuiston continued the rotation to Spencer. With his position as top enlisted Soldier established, Spencer then passed the sword back to Jones for safekeeping.

"This is a very special day for two exceptional families and a day of celebration, mixed with just a touch of sadness," said McQuiston. "We celebrate the careers of two American heroes - men who, 30 and 26 years ago,

each raised their right hand and swore an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

McQuiston remarked that Blake had accomplished much in his time here, and even though she has known him for a very short time, this made no difference. "Most of you here have known Command Sergeant Major Blake longer than I have, but I will tell you that it takes no time at all to understand that he embodies every Army value: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage," she said.

In his farewell remarks, Blake praised his family for all of their love and support throughout his military career. He presented a

**See Spencer, page 12**



*Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, Army Sustainment Command's commanding general, hands Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, incoming top enlisted Soldier, the Noncommissioned Officer sword during the Change of Responsibility ceremony held Jan. 18 in Building 299 at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.*

## ASC ready for LMI initiative

Story and photo by Megan McIntyre  
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. – Time is running out, but the U.S. Army Sustainment Command is on track and prepared to take on the Lead Materiel Integrator initiative.

The Distribution Management Center, a key element of ASC, hosted Decision Support Tool training Jan. 4-6. This new software will help support action in the DMC's new LMI division. The purpose of the training was to ensure ASC's team is fully capable of taking over LMI functions from the Department of the Army G-8 on Feb. 15.

The Logistics Support Activity (LOGSA) developed the Decision Support Tool Sourcing Module for Army Materiel and supplied the knowledge and training to members of the ASC team. Employing this new tool is part of a new approach in which a single manager will ensure Soldiers have the right equipment at the right time to accomplish their missions.

"We brought in 16 people to help train and we are hoping to show everyone how the Decision Support Tool works, how they can use it and the capabilities that are within it," said Brian Brown, chief of the Soldier Support Center at LOGSA. "This new tool will help benefit the entire LMI initiative."

The Department of the Army G-8 conducted a week-long mission rehearsal exercise last month, evaluating the skill set, as it is now, of the current LMI workforce. The outcome of this rehearsal certified ASC as fully trained on seven lines of operation by the Department of the Army G-8, the United States Army Forces Command



*Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, ASC commanding general, sits with Wayne Stoops, LOGSA lead functional developer, during a Jan. 4 briefing explaining the Decision Support Tool.*

and Army Materiel Command.

The seven lines of operation range from equipping Army Force Generation units to sourcing approved actions. This means LMI will be responsible for synchronizing, recommending, executing and tracking distribution and redistribution of materiel sourcing solutions. In other words, LMI is responsible for making sure Soldiers in the field have the equipment they need to get the job done.

"We don't do anything by ourselves; everybody knows that," said Col. Victor Harmon, DMC commander. "It's a team that puts all this together and now is our time to get in here and ask questions on things that don't make sense, now that we have [LOGSA] folks here who can assist us with our transition."

Col. Robert P. Sullivan, commander of LOGSA, briefed ASC senior leaders on the progress of the training and provided a

demonstration for Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, ASC commanding general.

"What we found we were doing is we were actually shooting behind the duck," said Sullivan. "In other words, we have a tendency in our Army to just work as hard as we can and use brute force to knock it out just at the right time, but what we should be doing is projecting out to make sure we are leading the process."

Sullivan said DST will enable prediction of what to expect into the future, so planning can take place a few years out. Sullivan added that, over time, DST could be used to predict behaviors and actually do proper modeling of how the equipping process is responding to the needs of the Army.

"This tool will help change the way we do equipping sourcing and really get equipment sourcing integrated across the Army," said Brown. "The way we do it now, I just think we can do it better."

## New tech center develops solutions

Story and photo by Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Maj. Gen. Larry D. Wyche, Army Materiel Command G-3/5, saw the first product devised and delivered by scientists on the battlefield during a visit here Dec. 5.

Hosted by the 401st Army Field Support Brigade, Research, Development and Engineering Command established a Field Assistance in Science and Technology Center Prototype Integration Facility here, bringing brainpower directly to the battlefield.

Months before the facility's planned January 2012 opening,

RFAST-C was getting word that troops were looking for help coming up with a specialized attachment to a commercial telescoping pole. In late September, several Soldier-designed attachments arrived for evaluation.

A couple weeks later, James S. Granitzki, an RFAST-C engineer, came up with a hybrid design incorporating elements of the Soldier-submitted designs.

Recommending a material that could be machined at the prototype facility, RFAST-C received a "go ahead" from the requiring unit. By Nov. 12, Granitzki was personally hand-delivering 10 prototype hybrid hooks to the troops.

"Designing and fabricating a

solution to help mitigate the most sensitive threat currently in theater was rewarding," said Granitzki. "The delivery of these hooks and knowing we were helping the Soldier has been the most rewarding action of my deployment thus far."

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

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

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

[More on this story here](#)



*Maj. Gen. Larry D. Wyche, right, Army Materiel Command G-3/5 (Operations), examines a hybrid hook, the first product developed at Research, Development and Engineering Command's forward-deployed Field Assistance in Science and Technology Center's Prototype Integration Facility at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Col. Michel M. Russell Sr., left, commands RFAST-C's partner and host, the 401st Army Field Support Brigade.*

## 401st aids in Humvee handover

Story and photo by Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The 401st Army Field Support Brigade continued its support of the Afghan National Army Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, when 90 M1114 vehicles were inspected by an Afghan Army officer before final turn-over to the ANA.

Lt. Col. Ibrahim Wardak, and Afghan liaison officer to NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, inspected the vehicles, sold to Afghan forces under a foreign military sales agreement. The ve-

hicles were made ready for sale by Army Field Support Battalion – Bagram mechanics at the 401st AFSB M1114 shop.

Wardak said he wanted to inspect every serial number and ensure each vehicle, commonly called a Humvee, is in the required status before his soldiers took possession of the vehicles.

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

“This is part of what we do,”

said Col. Michel M. Russell Sr., 401st AFSB commander. “My folks work hand-in-hand with ANA Soldiers.”

To sustain their “new” vehicles, Afghan Soldiers entered a maintenance mentorship program in March 2011 with AFSBn-Bagram, in partnership with 101st Sustainment Brigade. Russell has made partnering activities a priority for the 401st, teaming the brigade with indigenous forces to hasten the day when Afghans are capable of taking responsibility for their national security.

[More on this story here](#)



*Two Afghan Soldiers observe as Lt. Col. Ibrahim Wardak, liaison officer to NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, verifies the serial number on an M1114. Working through the 401st Army Field Support Brigade, 90 of the vehicles – commonly referred to as Humvees – were transferred in December to the Afghan National Army under a foreign military sales agreement.*

## Weeklong exercise shows ASC ready for new role

Story and photo by Megan McIntyre  
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. – The Distribution Management Center, a key component of Army Sustainment Command, hosted a mission rehearsal exercise here Dec. 5-8, focusing on its emerging Lead Materiel Integrator capability.

Organizers said the purpose of the exercise was to help ensure a smooth transfer of functions from the Department of the Army G-8 (Resource Management) to the DMC.

“The decision to shift responsibilities and to create LMI was made by Army leadership,” said Brig. Gen. Brian R. Layer, ASC deputy commanding general for sustainment and a mission rehearsal exercise director. “The intent was to move some of the day-to-day execution of equipping the Army outside of the Pentagon.”

LMI is a new method of operating the Army’s materiel distribution

and redistribution processes. Under this new approach, a single manager will ensure Soldiers have the right equipment at the right time to accomplish their missions.

Layer said that LMI authority rests with the Army Materiel Command, ASC’s higher headquarters, and that ASC is the executing agent.

“As the executing agent, our mission is to meet the equipping needs of Army units and Soldiers for their specified training and operational missions; by doing so, we ensure the Army makes the most out of its materiel investment,” said Layer. “While our primary focus at Rock Island is redistribution of fielded equipment, we coordinate with stakeholders across the Acquisition, Logistics and Technology community to ensure our Soldiers get the equipment they need whenever and wherever they need it and remain the best-equipped in the world.”

The Department of the Army G-8 conducted the mission rehearsal exercise, evaluating the skill set, as it is now, of the current workforce through a weeklong training exercise. The objective was to ensure planning is on track to certify ASC on seven lines of operation. These lines were identified to have roles transferring from the Department of the Army G-8 to ASC.

“Right now we are being evaluated by the Department of the Army G-8 and this exercise deals with the transfer of the equipping mission, specifically to my Distribution Management Team, which is actually going to do that mission,” said Col. Victor Harmon, DMC commander.

The seven lines of operation range from equipping Army Force Generation units to source-approved actions. This means LMI will be responsible for synchronizing, recommending, executing and tracking distribution and redistribution of materiel-sourcing solutions.

In short, LMI is responsible for making sure Soldiers in the field have the equipment they need to get the job done.

“The one thing the Department of the Army G-8 wants is for LMI to be successful,” said Maj. Gen. Anthony Cucolo, DA G-8 director of Force Development and a mission rehearsal exercise director, “and you [ASC] are perfectly positioned to equip the Army.”

Before training began, the lines of operation were on track for mission transfer; however, the staff was not fully trained on every aspect of those functional areas. The goal of the exercise was to train the staff in all areas and make sure everyone and everything is prepared for complete transfer in February.

“We see this as a long journey,

**See LMI, page 14**



**Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston, ASC commanding general, speaks to Lead Materiel Integrator staff during a walk-through of the Distribution Management Center. The tour was part of a training exercise taking place at ASC Dec. 5-8.**

## 'Property detectives' on the trail in Afghanistan

Story and photo by Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Property accountability and good stewardship of taxpayer dollars are things the U.S. Army takes very seriously.

To assist with good property accountability for the 401st Army Field Support Brigade, two teams from Army Sustainment Command, 401st's higher headquarters, deployed from Rock Island, Ill., to Afghanistan. The first team focused on adding property to the records and the second team came to work on a number of Financial Liability Investigations of Property Loss, more commonly known as FLIPLs.

The 401st AFSB manages a property book valued at more than \$17.4 billion consisting of thousands of pieces of rolling and more than 1 million pieces of non-rolling stock, said Chief Warrant

Officer 4 Barry G. Rice, theater property book officer. Rolling stock includes the largest mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles and non-rolling stock ranges from handheld items to huge generators and Force Provider containers.

"Our mission was to regain accountability resulting from the surge," said Allen Sims, ASC accountability division chief.

Accompanying Sims were Robert Michaels, who specialized in wholesale policies and procedures; Roslyn Hopkins, specializing in FLIPLs; David Lapaczonk, specializing in contract oversight; and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Almonte Smith, who worked with electronic systems to track and account for property. They were assisted by Jennifer Hollis-Cooper, Army Field Support Battalion-Bagram, 401st AFSB property book officer, and other personnel from the

brigade and battalions.

Sims said his team also engaged the asset visibility sections and brigade and battalion S-4 sections to assist them and provided training in several areas.

"This trip we were able to do more as far as property accountability," said Roslyn Hopkins, FLIPL specialist, who is on her second deployment to the 401st. She estimated the team reduced the amount of financial liability for lost property by about 50 percent.

"We're moving in the right direction with more cross-talk," she said. "It's a team effort to regain accountability."

Sims and his team were on the ground for about 45 days and were soon followed by a special FLIPL team, charged with resolving nine priority FLIPLs identified by the brigade commander.

*See FLIPL, page 13*



**With more than \$17 billion on its property book, the 401st Army Field Support Brigade keeps Task Force FLIPL busy tracking down property items reported missing on Financial Liability Investigations of Property Loss. Shown are, front row, Sue Cantu, Namon L. Howell, Charles E. Cahill and Robert L. Kotte; back row, Lt. Col. Ronnie M. Davis, Maj. Quincy D. Washington, Capt. Michael W. Baker and Chauncy D. Craig.**



## Troops gone, but 402nd aids State Dept. in Iraq

Story and photo by Pamela J. Proper  
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

BASRAH, Iraq – As U.S. forces left Iraq, they moved most of their equipment and materiel with them, but some stayed behind, handed over to the State Department to support its continuing diplomatic and security cooperation activities.

The 402nd Army Field Support Brigade is providing maintenance support for all Army equipment transferred to the department and the Office of Security Cooperation-Iraq.

The 402nd will have personnel at State Department sites in Iraq, including helping to establish maintenance hubs at Basrah, Kirkuk and Taji. About 180 contracted personnel and a handful of Army civilians will remain in the country after their uniformed comrades have gone.

Col. John S. Laskodi,  
*See State Dept., page 13*



*Col. John S. Laskodi, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade commander, discusses progress on the construction of a mine-resistant, ambush-protected vehicle maintenance facility at Basrah, Iraq, with Danna Buster, contracting officer's representative. The operation supports the State Department's continuing mission in Iraq.*



## USNS Red Cloud Upload

*Vehicles drive aboard the USNS Red Cloud at Wharf Alpha, Joint Base Charleston, S.C., Jan. 19 – day three of loading operations. The vessel, bound for the Pacific, contains part of Army Sustainment Command's global collection of pre-positioned equipment, kept at the ready ashore and afloat.*

[!\[\]\(95b425611cbd2b8716a140cf67c81822\_img.jpg\) More on this story here](#)

Photo by Jon Connor, ASC Public Affairs

## Air Force captain becomes Army specialist in career change

By Jon Connor  
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. – Going from green to gold is a familiar transformation in the Army. But switching from being an officer to an enlisted man while changing service branches is far less common.

Yet that's exactly what Joe Newsom did, choosing to continue serving the best way he knew how.

"I always understood I would retire as a captain," he said despite having to work his way up the enlisted ranks to master sergeant during 20 years of Army service.

His story is one of choices, with a military retirement as the ultimate goal. His choices also led him to a fulfilling career, culminating as an Army senior chaplain assistant noncommissioned officer, something which Newsom fit perfectly.

"I was happy to have anything steady in my life," Newsom explained. He said he views being a chaplain assistant as a "calling" and not a job. "I am a Christian; it just seems to fit."

Newsom, 57, is assigned to the Army Sustainment Command's Chaplain's Office. By this summer, he will be retired from the Army, receiving a captain's pension for 20-plus years of active-duty service.

"It was after he had served with us for a few weeks when I heard of his former career as an officer," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles Rizer, ASC chaplain. "He carries himself humbly, yet confidently. He has an adventuresome character and I supposed that once he came back into the military he wanted to experience it from a different perspective. It fits his personality."

Despite some arthritic knees,



**Master Sgt. Joe Newsom, Army senior chaplain assistant noncommissioned officer, Army Sustainment Command, Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., talks to a Soldier at a change of responsibility ceremony rehearsal Jan. 11 for ASC's command sergeant major. Newsom and nine other ASC Soldiers sung as part of the Jan. 18 ceremony.**

Newsom looks much younger than his years, with a full head of brown hair and a youthful appearance. He said he loves science fiction, history, and coin collecting. He even made two parachute jumps harnessed to one of the Army's Golden Knights parachute team.

A Montgomery, Ala., native, Newsom's transformation began when he received his commission in June 1976 from Auburn University's Air Force ROTC program.

"I was hoping to eventually do something in computers," the math major said. For nearly 12 years he did, leading the life of an Air Force missile launch officer of nuclear weapons.

After serving at air bases in South Dakota and Montana and one air station in Italy, Newsom's Air Force career came to an end after being passed over twice for promotion.

"The impression we had was that if you kept your nose clean you could stay in," he said,

adding he was disappointed in how things turned out.

For the next three years he was an Air Force Individual Ready Reservist. In the spring of 1992 Newsom joined the Army Reserve.

"It was such a wonderful feeling to be in uniform," he said.

With the end of one career, another eventually emerged as Newsom decided he would like "some sort of military retirement" via the Army Reserve.

"Would I come in as an officer or enlisted? It really didn't matter," Newsom said, recalling issues he pondered in his quest for a military retirement. What the Army offered was coming in as an enlisted man, serving as a chaplain assistant at the rank of specialist.

Newsom accepted and entered the Army at age 38.

Because of his religious upbringing and faith that has sustained him throughout his

**See Newsom, page 11**

## Newsom

*continued from page 10*

life, being a chaplain assistant seemed logical and something he could embrace for a military career.

"I've been religious all my life," Newsom said of his Methodist upbringing. At age 6, he was confirmed by his church – something usually done in the teenage years. "I recognized I was a Christian and took it seriously.

"Being a chaplain assistant, the Army allows me to do things I love [like] practice my beliefs," he said. "I'm not in other people's food chains. I enjoy what I do and God's blessed me to do it."

So for a decade, Newsom was a drilling reservist, working part time up to 35 hours weekly in the civilian world, and taking classes in microcomputers and information technology. His aspirations of attaining a second bachelor's degree didn't pan out, nor did his dreams of getting married. On top of that, he was experiencing financial woes in 2002.

"I'm not taking things seriously enough to challenge myself," he said of those times, describing himself then as "content" and "settled for" and at times "lazy." But his faith led him along to persevere.

In May 2004, things changed for Newsom as he was called to active duty at Fort Bragg, N.C. He served in a variety of units as a chaplain assistant until May 2011, when he joined the ASC staff.

Newsom said he was amazed he was able to rise in the enlisted ranks to master sergeant without having to change his military occupational specialty, as is common in the Army Reserve. He started out and will retire as a chaplain assistant being promoted four times in 18 years.

But, promotions kept coming

for Newsom after being mobilized in 2004. His 2010 promotion to master sergeant was "icing on the cake," Newsom said. Newsom explained that he didn't update his records for the promotion board because he thought he was more useful as a sergeant first class.

"Imagine my surprise ... when friends informed me that they saw my name on the promotion list," he said. "To me, it's unusual for the Reserve. God had a hand in it.

"I don't believe in coincidences. He [God] must want me to be an E-8," Newsom said.

Whether it's aiding burn victims or counseling suicidal people, Newsom said he's very satisfied with his vocation. "The fact that I can affect people's lives is amazing, which, in turn, can affect me," he said.

When working with burn victims, Newsom said his ability to maintain eye contact is very important. "I could afford them the dignity they deserved," he said.

Asked if he carries himself an officer or NCO, Newsom replied, "I'm both."

One of Newsom's subordinates had this to say: "Master Sergeant Newsom seems to me to be a combo of the two," said Staff Sgt. Richard Noel, ASC chaplain assistant operations noncommissioned officer-in-charge. "Even more importantly he seems to be down to earth ... what you see is what you get. Also, he has compassion and heart for helping people – something that never changes no matter your rank, military or civilian."


"He seems like a Senior NCO who is not intimidated by anyone, but who treats everyone with the same amount of respect," said Rizer, Newsom's boss. "He is courteous to all Soldiers and civilians regardless of rank or grade. He once was a door-to-door salesman and learned to

be considerate of others' feelings and opinions."

As Newsom ponders his retirement years, he's not sure what he will be doing, but said he favors living in the Fayetteville, N.C., area where he spent nearly seven years mobilized at Fort Bragg.

"I'm wide open to the place," he said of the GI-influenced city. "I have some friends there...job prospects are better."

As with other choices in his life, he said he will keep an open mind and be faith-driven in his decisions.

 [More on this story here](#)

## Leadership changes announced

The Department of Defense announced on Jan. 25 that Maj. Gen. Patricia E. McQuiston had been nominated for appointment to the grade of lieutenant general and assignment as deputy commanding general / chief of staff, of the U.S. Army Materiel Command at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

McQuiston currently serves as commanding general of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command, a post she has held since October 2011.

On Feb. 9, DoD announced that Brig. Gen. John F. Wharton would be assigned as ASC's commanding general. Wharton will come to ASC from AMC Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal, where he currently serves as deputy chief of staff.

A date for the change of command at ASC has not been set.

Another leadership change will take place at ASC later this year, when Col. Duane A. Gamble becomes ASC's new deputy commanding general. Gamble, who has been nominated for promotion to brigadier general, will replace Brig. Gen. Brian R. Layer.

## Spencer

*continued from page 3*

token of appreciation to his wife, Karen, and each of his children - Amber, Jacqueline, Joshua and Elijah.

"I know their knees are worn from praying for my safety," he said, "... their untiring support of my career, which they don't always understand ... but they love me all the same.

"No man could be more humble than I am at this very moment," Blake said. "As I was saluting during the National Anthem, my brain was trying to tell me that my Soldier days were over, but my heart told me, 'I will always be a Soldier.' It has truly been an honor to serve you."

Moving the spotlight from Blake to Spencer, McQuiston said, "I might well be in tears that this day has arrived, except for one thing, and that is I know the caliber of the Soldier who will step into Command Sergeant Major Blake's footprints and the team who will continue to lead in a similar fashion."

As ASC's Command Sergeant Major, Spencer will serve as the principal advisor to the commanding general on all matters pertaining to the

command's enlisted personnel. Particularly, he will oversee all areas related to training and development and to the quality of life and well-being of Soldiers and their families.

"Laura and I are committed to continue providing the outstanding level of support and service to this command and the Quad Cities," Spencer said.

Spencer continued by thanking retired Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine, former ASC commanding general, and McQuiston for the opportunity to serve ASC as its top enlisted Soldier.

"I appreciate you having the trust and confidence in me and for hiring me for this position," he said. "I am honored to be your command sergeant major."

Spencer comes to ASC from the 21st Theater Sustainment Command in Kaiserslautern, Germany. A native of Humboldt, Tenn., he began his Army career in 1986.

Previous assignments have taken him to Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, Texas and Germany. Among his professional training are the basic Airborne and Air Assault courses, Warrior Leader Course, Battle Staff Course and the Army Sergeants Major Academy.

His decorations include two Bronze Star Medals, two Southwest Asia Service Medals, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and three Iraq Campaign Medals. He is a Master Parachutist, who also holds parachute badges from Honduras, Germany and Australia. He holds the Combat Action Badge and is a member of the Honorable Order of Saint Martin.

His academic credentials include a bachelor's degree in management and human resources from Park University and a master's in project management from Columbia Southern University.

He's joined here by his wife Laura and their three children: Matthew, Andrew and Alivia.

In a retirement ceremony immediately following the change of responsibility, McQuiston decorated Blake with the Distinguished Service Medal. His other decorations include the Legion of Merit, three Bronze Star Medals, four Southwest Asia Service Medals and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He wears the Air Assault Badge and is a member of the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe.

Blake concludes his distinguished military career after three decades, during which he held a variety of enlisted leadership positions. He served much of his career with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), during which he was made a Distinguished Member of the 3rd Brigade, 187th Infantry Regiment (Rakkasans).

Karen Blake was honored for her steadfast service to the Army Family and unfailing support of her husband. McQuiston also presented his children with "Army Brat" awards for their unstinting love and support throughout their father's career.



**Command Sgt. Maj. James E. Spencer, incoming top enlisted Soldier, speaks to audience members at the Jan. 18 Change of Responsibility ceremony held in Building 299 at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.**

## FLIPL

*continued from page 8*

“One FLIPL amounting to \$142 million caught the commander’s attention and he sent a request to Major General [Yves J.] Fontaine [then-Army Sustainment Command commanding general] to request help,” said Sue Cantu, FLIPL investigating officer team lead.

Team FLIPL’s investigating officers had nine priority FLIPLs and a deadline to resolve them, Cantu said. She said the original nine were priorities because of the length of time they had been open, the value of the items involved and the sensitive nature of some of the items.

“Based on meeting the original deadline and the commander’s guidance, we’ve added more FLIPLs,” she said.

A FLIPL is generated when a person who signed a hand receipt for Army property, and thereby accepted responsibility to safeguard that item or items, is unable to find the property or produce documentation showing a transfer to another hand receipt holder.

An investigating officer is assigned to research the circumstances surrounding the loss of or damage to Army property. The investigating officer undertakes research to – first and foremost – find the missing

property. The investigating officer then determines if the hand receipt holder has any financial liability as a result of negligence. If a finding of financial liability is found, the hand receipt holder may owe the government money.

Comparing their job to NCIS agents, cold-case detectives or scavenger hunters, the team goes to great lengths to find missing equipment. While it may be obvious that it would be hard to lose a 25,000-pound vehicle, it can be difficult to find the right serial number in a fleet of vehicles that numbers in the thousands.

This is done by examining lists of battle-damaged vehicles and leveraging the institutional knowledge of the logistics assistance representatives and contractors who may have worked on the missing pieces of equipment. They also scrub lists of equipment “found on installation.”

Robert L. Kotte recalled looking for a five-ton truck that turned up missing when the AFSBn-Kandahar completed a 100 percent inventory of its rolling stock.

“We were thrown off by a dash,” he said. “The serial number on one document had a dash in it while other documents did not have the dash. I was able to establish accountability.”

He traced the vehicle back to

Red River Army Depot, Texas, where it had been sent for repair work. “Every time we close one [a FLIPL], it’s rewarding, especially if we find the equipment,” Kotte said.

“We came in thinking they [FLIPLs] would all be the same,” said Lt. Col. Ronnie M. Davis. “We found out that each one is unique.”

Maj. Quincy D. Washington examined two FLIPLs, valued at \$28 million. He said the hand receipt holder left without a proper turnover to the next hand receipt holder. The second hand receipt holder continued to sign paperwork indicating the property was inventoried, but eventually it was discovered that the property was missing.

Namon L. Howell had a similar situation involving generators. He said if the property can’t be found here, it’s likely been sent back to the United States somewhere and the team follows the paperwork trail wherever it leads.

“Talking to the investigating officer gives people a chance to tell their story,” said Charles E. Cahill, investigating officer.

“We make sure [the property] is re-established on the property book and entered into PBUSE [a web-based tracking system],” Davis said. “Once it’s there, it’s tracked.”

 [More on this story here](#)

## State Dept.

*continued from page 9*

commander of 402nd AFSB, said the brigade is taking on another huge challenge in supporting a mission like this.

“The State Department is establishing the largest mission in its history,” said Laskodi.

“The 402nd AFSB, as AMC’s [Army Materiel Command’s] forward presence in theater, will have personnel in Iraq to support

the State Department’s mission. We have great people who are committed to ensuring the mission is successful,” Laskodi said.

The brigade’s support falls primarily into two categories: services provided under the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, known as LOGCAP – which provides base life support and myriad of other logistics functions – and maintenance capability for equipment and vehicles such as mine-resistant,

ambush-protected vehicles, or MRAPs.

“Many people have the perception that the United States will have departed Iraq by the end of 2011,” said Laskodi.

“While the combat mission performed by a uniformed military presence has transitioned, the 402nd AFSB will continue to support our nation’s objective of maintaining a stable, strategic partner in the government of Iraq,” Laskodi said.

## DOL transfer on track

Plans calling for an Oct. 1 transfer of installation Directorates of Logistics from the Installation Management Command to Army Materiel Command are on track, according to Kathy Acree, co-director of Army Sustainment Command's DOL Transformation Team.

Department of the Army staff has reportedly completed their review of the documentation detailing manpower, funding and equipment being transferred, clearing the way to the Army's top official.

The next step envisions a decision memo signed by the Secretary of the Army by Feb. 17. On the heels of that decision, ASC – as AMC's operational arm – will issue an operation order setting the course to an integrated full operational capability. The

order will outline operating and management procedures and provide guidance for managing the DOL Enterprise.

A major addition to ASC's capability, the DOL Enterprise includes more than 5,400 civilian employees, 100 servicemembers and some 18,000 contractors providing installation-level supply, maintenance, transportation, food service and other support to Soldiers and their Families, worldwide.

## Families take to the ice



Photo by Megan McIntyre, ASC Public Affairs

**Toni Ann Ames and her daughter, Julia, skate around the rink at The River's Edge in Davenport, Iowa. The Army Sustainment Command's Family Readiness Group sponsored the Jan. 16 event.**

[More on this story here](#)

## LMI

*continued from page 7*

and just when the green flag dropped on Feb. 15, we weren't running by ourselves," said Harmon. "This is a team effort between Department of the Army G-8 and ASC, the entire way."

At the end of the evaluation, ASC and the Department of the Army G-8 identified the strengths and the weaknesses of the LMI process. Eric Turner, DA G-8 representative, stressed no big issues were identified during the exercise. "There are no show-stopping weaknesses," he said.

The Department of the Army G-8 recommended certifying ASC on transferring all lines of operation.

Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, ASC commanding general, reported the results of the training exercise to Gen. Ann Dunwoody, commanding general of Army Materiel Command.

"I'm extremely proud to announce that ASC was certified as fully trained in all seven lines of operation by the Department of the Army G-8, the United States Army Forces Command and AMC," said McQuiston. "The LMI team met or exceeded all requirements during the exercise and the results were truly a team effort among those involved."

## ASC Soldier mentors elementary students

Story and photo by Megan McIntyre  
ASC Public Affairs

DAVENPORT, Iowa – The U.S. Army Sustainment Command is partnering with a local school to provide mentorship to its students.

Capt. Justin Bergen, ASC's Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, offers his Thursday afternoons to the children of Lincoln Academy. "My hope is that this program will assist the students by giving them positive role models that they can look up to," he said.

This Davenport school participates in the Partners in Education, an Army-wide program focused on partnering military volunteers and schools. Soldier-mentors help students develop academic and life skills necessary to be successful.

Though the program had been dormant at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., Lorna McDaniel-Wilson, school liaison officer for Child, Youth and School Services, said, "Recently, we have revitalized the program, and we started with ASC."

As the HHC commander, Bergen has oversight of all special programs that ASC Soldiers are involved in. "I assigned Sergeant First Class Willie Jordan to serve as the program coordinator last year, due to his extensive volunteer work," he said, "and I am remaining involved as a volunteer because I believe this is a great opportunity for ASC to get involved in our local community."

Bergen said there has been a lot of interest in this program from other ASC Soldiers. "Once we have more volunteers than Lincoln Academy can effectively use, we can coordinate and find another school to support."

Volunteers offer assistance by reading to a class,



**Capt. Justin Bergen, ASC's Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, speaks to students Dec. 20 at Lincoln Academy, Davenport, Iowa. Bergen is just one of ASC's volunteers in Partners in Education, a program focused on mentoring students.**

helping with events, giving talks or demonstrations while mentoring either an entire class or individual students.

"The best reward from this program is the way the students are motivated to be at school and motivated to share their school accomplishments with the volunteer," said Gerri Johnson, family involvement liaison for Lincoln Academy.

"I hope the students will gain confidence in their ability when it comes to learning," said Johnson. "I hope they will gain a level of self-respect and knowing that there are outside resources interested in their educational achievements."

[More on this story here](#)

## Reserve Soldiers team up with Marines on Toys for Tots

Story and photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Riley  
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. – Army Reservists prepped to deploy as part of the Army Sustainment Command's Logistics Civil Augmentation Program took time from their pre-deployment schedule on Dec. 8 to assist the Quad Cities Toys for Tots program. Some of the Army Reserve Soldiers deployed to logistics support units in Afghanistan and Kuwait in January. Arsenal-based Marine Reservists from General Support Maintenance Company, 4th Maintenance Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, support and manage the Quad Cities Toys for Tots.

[More on this story here](#)



**Army Reserve Soldiers, Sgt. Donishara Ross, right, and Col. Darlette Stowers, separate donated toys during the Marine Corps Reserve's annual Toys for Tots campaign.**

## Combined effort improves security in Afghanistan

Story and photo by Summer Barkley  
401st AFSB Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – It took the combined resources of Army and Air Force contractors and civilian air assets to move a personnel scanner into place at an entry control point here Dec. 31.

The scanner is a Product Manager Force Protection Systems item, jointly managed in-theater by the Program Manager Guardian liaison officer.

Program managers and product managers supporting Operation Enduring Freedom bring materiel solutions to warfighter requirements validated by U.S. Forces - Afghanistan. They are in theater under the authority of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisitions, Logistics and Technology, known as ASA(ALT), and supported by 401st Army Field Support Brigade, which leverages the materiel enterprise to field, sustain and redistribute equipment.

Part of Army Sustainment Command, the 401st synchronizes all facets of the materiel enterprise, delivering the full range of logistics solutions to operational forces.

The scanner was emplaced at a coalition-run hospital entry control point used by several hundred persons every day, including Afghan civilians. Before the scanner was installed, each person was subjected to a physical pat-down as part of the entry process – a culturally awkward method. Now, visitors will step into a scanner similar to those used in airports.

“The scanner will reduce personnel pat-downs, provide a better security posture and move personnel through the [entry control] process faster,” said Maj. Nicole Willis, Program Manager Guardian liaison officer. “It provides an extra layer of security and will be safer for everyone.”

“The [coalition-run] hospital is a huge COIN (Counter-Insurgency) effort,” said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael J. Larsen, a security forces airman with the 175th Wing, Maryland Air National Guard assigned to 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron here. “The scanner will be a tenfold improvement that provides a less intrusive X-ray scan, a more thorough search and increases our stand-off distance. It’s a huge asset.”

Willis said it took about six weeks to complete the mission.

“The planning was pretty quick,” she said.

The installation required extensive coordination due to the number of organizations and interests involved, including provisions for a civilian helicopter to use a military sling system, Willis said.

Preparatory steps included a generator and fencing installed by contractors and Air Force security personnel. Once the scanner was emplaced, it was up and running in just a few hours.



*Maj. Nicole Willis, Program Manager Guardian liaison officer, demonstrates a newly installed scanner at a coalition-run hospital entry control point at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Dec. 31. Willis and other specialized program and product managers operate under the auspices of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade, enabling integrated materiel solutions to operational requirements.*

[More on this story here](#)