



THE GLOBAL LINE



ASC takes on leading role

Feb. 15 marked the beginning of Army Sustainment Command's Lead Materiel Integrator role, as Army Materiel Command assumed the LMI mission for the Army. The LMI mission is to synchronize the distribution and redistribution of Army materiel, in relation to priorities and directives.....**See page 3**

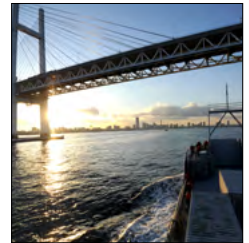
Red Cloud sets sail

No one knows when the next crisis involving the U.S. military will occur, or where.**see page 4**



ASC's navy passes test

With last year's earthquake and tsunami in their minds, Japanese and American authorities practiced evacuation and relief operations.....**see page 5**



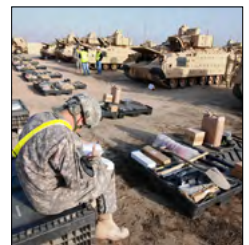
Alaska battalion keeps heat on

The battalion, part of the 404th Army Field Support Brigade, is one of ASC's global network of logistics units.**see page 7**



'Back to the Future' in Kuwait

Army Prepositioned Stocks in Kuwait are once again in the hands of troops engaged in a training mission.**see page 8**



Caring needs no translator

A terrible accident involving Indian contractors working for the 402nd recently led to a simple act of compassion.**see page 10**



402nd preps for retrograde

It took the combined resources and effort of Army and Air Force contractors and civilian air assets**see page 11**



Not just an arsenal, but a POW camp too

ASC History Office

With the 150th Anniversary of the creation of the Rock Island Arsenal, it is important to remember not only the island's use as a national arsenal, but also its early function as a prisoner of war camp during the Civil War.

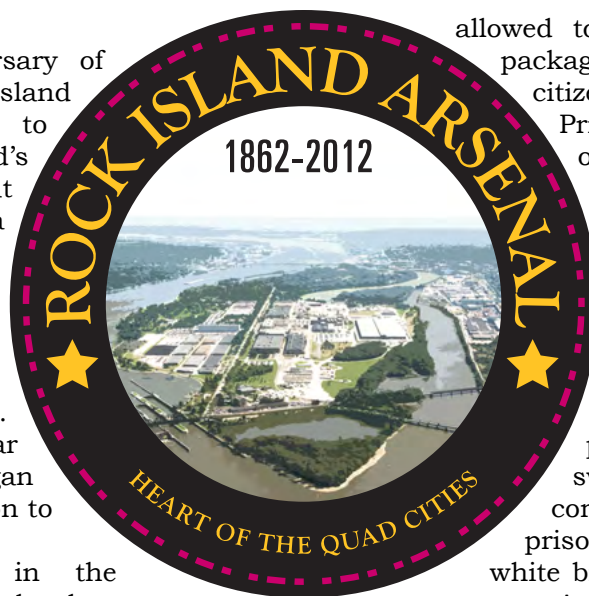
By the summer of 1863, all expectations that the Civil War would be a short campaign had faded. Recognizing the long war ahead, Union leaders began looking for a suitable location to house prisoners of war.

Rock Island, isolated in the Mississippi River far from the battle areas of the Civil War, and under federal control since July 1862, proved an ideal location. In August 1863, a team from the Quartermaster Department began construction on the north central shore of the island, where the golf course stands today.

The prison barracks consisted of 84 22 feet by 100 feet buildings arranged in six north to south rows of 14 buildings each. Construction of the camp quickly fell behind schedule due to equipment, material, and labor shortages. When the first 488 Confederate prisoners arrived in December 1863 they were housed in cheap shanties.

Life as a prisoner was extremely difficult in the early days of the prison camp. In addition to surviving the bitter winter cold of the Midwest, Confederate prisoners had to endure exposure to a variety of contagious diseases. During the operation of the prison, more than 1,964 Confederate prisoners died with smallpox, pneumonia, and diarrhea accounting for the majority of these deaths.

In the early days of the prison, prisoners were



allowed to receive clothing and food packages from sympathetic local citizens, friends, and relatives. Prisoner rations included 14 ounces of bread and 12 ounces of "fresh" beef. In addition, the prisoners received a quart of hominy per man each day.

Southerners made hominy soup and also boiled other food, serving it in sauce pans produced from canteens and burned-out stove pipes. The prisoners had a difficult time swallowing the course yellow corn bread provided by the prison and asked for flour to bake white bread, with varying degrees of success. At times slab bacon was added to the prisoners' diet.

Books provided a temporary escape from the monotonous routine of a prisoner's life. Other diversions undertaken by prisoners included attending church services, organizing skits, forming singing groups, gambling, and debating the war.

Tobacco, blankets, clothing, books, and personal items, acquired in several different manners by the prisoners, made their incarceration bearable. Some of the prisoners volunteered their labor on prison construction projects, such as the building of the prison sewer system; and each prisoner that worked, depending upon his skill, received a credit of 5 to 10 cents a day on his account at the prison sutler store.

A total of 12,192 prisoners were confined to the prison barracks during its existence with the last two prisoners released from the barracks hospital in July 1865, three months after the end of a long and deadly conflict.

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Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, ASC commanding general, and ASC Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer cut the cake during the Feb. 29 Lead Materiel Integrator mission transfer ceremony held at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

ASC implements Lead Materiel Integrator

Story and photo by Megan McIntyre
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. – Feb. 15 marked the beginning for the Lead Materiel Integrator, as Army Materiel Command assumed the LMI mission for the Army.

The LMI mission is to synchronize the distribution and redistribution of Army materiel, in relation to priorities and directives.

The LMI approach is the new way of optimizing supply against demand by designating a single integrator – the Decision Support Tool - to ensure Soldiers have the right equipment, at the right time, to accomplish their missions. LMI represents a powerful new

approach of implementing the Army's equipping priorities, policies and programs to meet new demands within the Army.

Army Sustainment Command, serving as LMI's executing agent, is now the Army's single synchronization point. This will mean working with all stakeholders to source Army materiel requirements. Through the Distribution Management Center, Army Field Support Brigades and Directorates of Logistics, ASC will ensure the right materiel is provided in the right quantity and condition and delivered to the right place, at the right time.

The LMI mission is not a one-time event, but rather an ongoing

process that will continuously improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Army materiel management. The end state of the LMI approach is a fully integrated and synchronized materiel distribution and redistribution process providing the best value for the Army.

For the first time, LMI will integrate equipment that is on hand with maintenance availability. This will also leverage state-of-the-art automation to establish one authority, one source of repair and one information system, all working together to provide visibility of every piece of equipment across the Army.

▶ [Video for this story here](#)



Containerized cargo will soon be driven onto the USNS Red Cloud at Wharf Alpha, Joint Base Charleston. At least 20 acres of land must be available to provide a staging area for loading and unloading a ship like the USNS Red Cloud.

USNS Red Cloud sets sail, ready for action

Story and photos by Jon Connor
ASC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE CHARLESTON, S.C. – No one knows when the next crisis involving the U.S. military will occur, or where.

But thanks to the personnel at the Army Strategic Logistics Activity Charleston, or ASLAC, supplies and equipment now aboard the U.S. Naval Ship Red Cloud are ready for action.

Army Prepositioned Stocks - 3 is a program that places combat-ready equipment aboard naval ships, which spend up to 36 months at sea.

The equipment loaded aboard the 950-foot long floating warehouse comprises a port opening package, enabling the landing of combat equipment for infantry brigade combat teams and materiel to sustain forces ashore.

“That’s extremely important in this [geopolitical] climate we’re currently going through. Hostilities could mount anywhere in the world,” said Paul

Turner, director of Operations at ASLAC. “And the Army, as well as the other services, has got to react extremely quickly. The way to do it is have equipment on ships that are able to deploy in a moment’s notice to marry up with Army forces.”

Red Cloud is a ship that is just over three football fields in length, and contains six interior decks along with the weather deck. The ship has a cargo capacity of 350,000 square feet or six football fields. A typical ship load will contain more than 1,200 pieces of cargo.

It is classified as a large, medium-speed roll-on/roll-off ship, or LMSR, managed by Military Sealift Command. As it turned out, this was the first time in 10 years that the Red Cloud was anchored at Charleston, ASLAC officials said. The Red Cloud was involved in the movement of cargo for Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

The fully loaded ship departed

port on Jan. 29, sailing down the Cooper River into the Atlantic Ocean. In about 30 days it will arrive in its area of responsibility.

A lot of preparation, coordination and maintenance are conducted prior to an LMSR’s arrival. Once anchored at “Wharf Alpha,” at Joint Base Charleston, ASLAC has 109 days to get the ship back out to sea loaded with equipment in TM (Technical Manual) 10-20 standard. This means it’s fully mission capable and ready to hand off to a unit when needed, ASLAC officials explained.

While meeting the deadline is very important, so is safety.

“There’s a lot of moving parts and this puts safety on the front burner. Moving this equipment is inherently dangerous, not just moving to the wharf, but moving it around the port and moving it on the ship,” said Bob O’Brien, general manager of ASLAC. “It’s a very condensed area ... it’s a lot of equipment that needs

See Red Cloud, page 14

APS watercraft pass the test in Japan

By C.W. Fick Jr.
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill – With the memory of last year’s devastating earthquake and tsunami fresh in their minds, Japanese and American authorities joined forces in early February to practice evacuation and relief operations.

Army watercraft, part of Army Sustainment Command’s fleet of prepositioned vessels, played a key role in the exercise.

“We have 36 watercraft kept in readiness at Yokohama North Dock,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Doug Workman, program manager for Army Prepositioned Stocks - Watercraft at ASC headquarters.

For this exercise, Army Field Support Battalion – Northeast Asia delivered the U.S. Army Vessel Fort McHenry (Landing

Craft Utility 2020). The 174-foot-long vessel is one of 10 LCU 2000-series in APS-4 stocks at Yokohama, Workman said.

A shallow-draft vessel, the USAV Fort McHenry is ideally suited to evacuating people from locations lacking deep-water port capability.

At the outset of the recently concluded exercise, AFSBn – NEA tested its skills, ensuring a smooth handoff to transportation Soldiers.

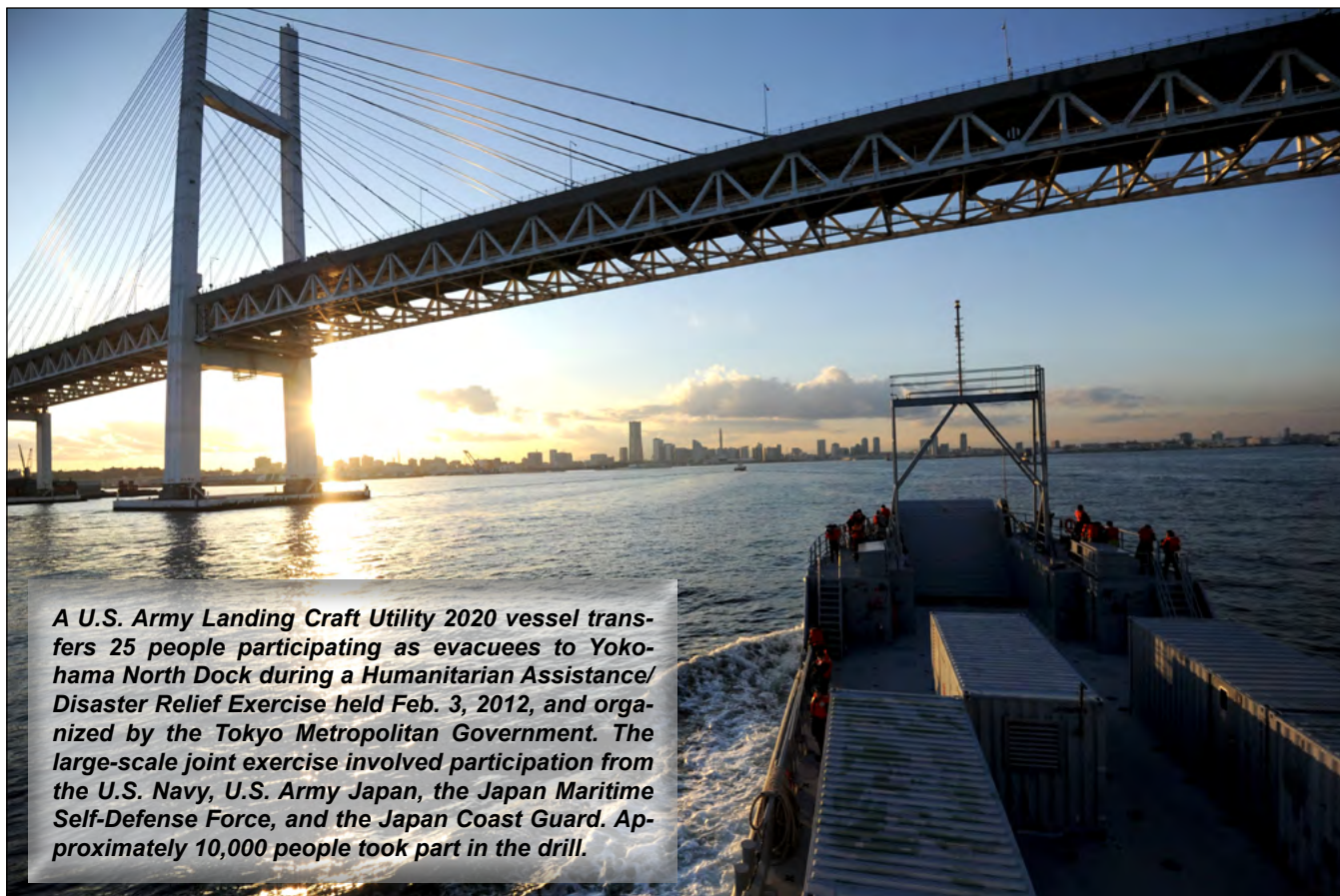
“We take care to make sure everything is in top condition, which the people who work at Yokohama North Dock helped by keeping this equipment in perfect shape,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Anthony Moschella, vessel master assigned to 481st Transportation Company, based in Mare Island, Calif.

In the course of the exercise,

Soldiers assigned to the 836th Transportation Battalion and the 481st performed sealift operations, sailing on the Fort McHenry with 53 passengers aboard, including Japanese reporters and exercise “evacuees.”

Evacuation shelters were set up on the open deck of the vessel to protect people from harsh weather. Soldiers gave a briefing and tour of the vessel to passengers to demonstrate to them the capabilities of the LCU, which include carrying up to 150 tons of supplies, personnel or equipment.

Army watercraft in Japan are just part of a vast collection of Army Prepositioned Stocks, managed by Army Sustainment Command through its global network of Army Field Support Brigades and Battalions.



A U.S. Army Landing Craft Utility 2020 vessel transfers 25 people participating as evacuees to Yokohama North Dock during a Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief Exercise held Feb. 3, 2012, and organized by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. The large-scale joint exercise involved participation from the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army Japan, the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, and the Japan Coast Guard. Approximately 10,000 people took part in the drill.

Photo by Tetsuo Nakahara, U.S. Army Garrison Japan Public Affairs



Lead Materiel Integrator staff briefs Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, ASC commanding general, on Pilot 3 progress, Jan. 26.

ASC validates Decision Support Tool

Story and photo by Megan McIntyre
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. – The U.S. Army Sustainment Command hosted a third, and final, Lead Materiel Integrator pilot here during the week of Jan. 26, validating the LMI Decision Support Tool (1.0), while testing capabilities and internal processes.

The Distribution Management Center, the ASC element managing LMI, hosted two previous pilots and a number of training events in preparation for the launch of the LMI mission.

“This pilot differs from the rest because we used the tool on the web,” said the DMC’s Lindsey Jones. “It is now interactive and we have the capability to vet sourcing decisions with materiel stakeholders, allowing us to use the tool at our workstations and them from their home station.”

LMI is a new method of operating the Army’s materiel distribution and redistribution processes. Under this new approach, a single manager – using the Decision Support Tool – will ensure

Soldiers have the right equipment at the right time to accomplish their missions.

As the executing agent for Army Materiel Command, ASC’s mission is to meet the equipping needs of Army units and Soldiers for their specified training and operational missions.

Jones said this tool can be accessed from secure government computers and this version, released Dec. 15, enables additional capabilities that weren’t available prior to its release. Specifically, this version focuses on basic sourcing and execution of ASC’s mission.

“This pilot was an aid to assist LMI [managers] in identifying enhancements that can be made to the tool and it helped us refine our processes,” she said.

Later versions of the DST will become available as the LMI process matures. These versions will allow for enhanced workflow, execution tracking, expanded excursion capabilities and, eventually, robust reporting in the final version, expected to launch June 2013. [More on this story here](#)

Alaska battalion beats extreme winter to support Soldiers

Story and photo by Jon Connor
ASC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska – Army Field Support Battalion-Alaska (Provisional) is the “Arctic Face to the Field.”

The battalion, part of the 404th Army Field Support Brigade, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., is one of Army Sustainment Command’s global network of logistics units. ASC, in turn, serves as the operational arm of Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

The mission of AFSBn-Alaska (Prov) is supporting Soldiers while ensuring materiel readiness during transformation and modularization, and Army Force Generation. This support includes field-level and sustainment equipment

reset, left-behind equipment, new equipment fielding, pre-deployment training equipment, the Army Support Activity, and installation Directorate of Logistics – maintenance, sustainment, and supply operations.

Currently, all Army Directorates of Logistics are under operational control of ASC, with plans for the DOLs to come under full control Oct. 1. This enables ASC to take complete responsibility for certain DOL activities while achieving centralized management of logistics functions at garrison and field units.

All this is taking place while enduring long Alaskan winters with heavy snowfall, strong winds, and temperatures falling to minus 50 at times. Among the

challenges is sustaining electrical power: as the temperature drops, the electrical current decreases. At minus 40, the available power is nearly gone.

The AFSBn-Alaska (P) experienced a change in leadership Feb. 10 as newly promoted Lt. Col. Andrew DeKever took over as battalion commander from Lt. Col. Nathaniel Rivers, who retired after nearly 31 years of Army service. DeKever was promoted in a separate ceremony hosted by Col. Leafaina Yahn, 404th Army Field Support Brigade commander.

Yahn lauded Rivers by saying he “personified excellence in your command.”

She praised DeKever for being selected as the new commander,

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Kent Hubert, automotive equipment specialist, Army Support Activity, Tactical Maintenance, demonstrates the ease of driving a Small Unit Support Vehicle (SUSV) during the morning hours at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. The vehicle, which can be used to transport troops, can drive in any depth of snow, making it extremely valuable for emergencies.

'Back to the Future' for Kuwait-based equipment

Story and photos by David Ruderman
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – After eight years of active support to forces heading into Iraq and Afghanistan, Army Prepositioned Stocks in Kuwait are once again in the hands of troops engaged in a training mission.

Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait, an element of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, began the issue here of brigade combat team equipment to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division's Iron Horse Brigade, Jan. 3.

When the equipment draw wrapped up in mid-February, the unit was properly equipped to conduct security cooperation, training and joint exercises with Kuwaiti forces, said officials.

The operation is a 402nd AFSB legacy mission that dates back to the U.S.-Kuwaiti Defense Cooperation Agreement signed in 1991, said Lt. Col. Kenneth Gill, AFSBn-Kuwait's commander.

"That was the original core mission of the battalion, which at that time was called a Combat Equipment Battalion," said Gill.

The operation is a "deliberate draw" conducted during a period of weeks, rather than a "hasty draw," which would have called for the completion of the issue within 10 days, said Ned Bryan, AFSBn-Kuwait's deputy to the commander.

As a result of the deliberate pace of the draw, the 402nd AFSB team was able to conduct regular feedback sessions with all participating elements. The aim of the self-evaluation process was to capture and deliver lessons learned to the 402nd's parent command, Army Sustainment Command, and to the Army at large, said officials.

"We are grateful to the ARCENT commander and the



An Iron Horse Brigade Soldier works through basic issue item hand receipts during January's equipment draw operations at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait, an element of Army Sustainment Command's global logistics network, issued Army Prepositioned Stocks equipment to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division.

ARCENT team for supporting us in conducting this 'deliberate draw,'" said Col. John S. Laskodi, 402nd AFSB commander.

Codifying lessons learned from the operation will benefit the Army's Materiel Enterprise at large and contribute to improving like operations across the Army, he said.

"This is going to be a show for the Army," said Laskodi. "I have every confidence in the team; we're going to set the standard. Let's do this deliberately and safely."

The draw took place in four phases, repeated for each unit of the brigade. In Phase One, the units conducting the day's draw arrive at Camp Arifjan and are briefed on the operation and safety parameters. Safety procedures and heightened awareness have been stressed repeatedly during the equipment issue, and the effect has been positive, officials said. There were no accidents, incidents or injuries through the early stages of the draw.

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Equipment

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Once briefed and oriented, Soldiers proceed to various equipment lines to receive and check their prepared inventories and conduct preventive maintenance checks and services. This second phase is the essence of the draw, and can be the most time-consuming. Soldiers work closely with contractor-provided line bosses and technicians under the supervision of AFSBn-Kuwait personnel to ensure that equipment is in good working order, resolving discrepancies and technical issues on the spot to minimize delays.

During each day's draw, AFSBn-Kuwait Soldiers and contractor representatives man the operation's on-site command and control center, monitoring individual unit progress and issuing status reports every four hours to ensure delays are identified and dealt with quickly and effectively.

"The 402nd has been very proactive, flexible and accommodating to the Iron Horse Brigade throughout the whole process, from the planning stages through the issue of each unit passing through," said Col. Scott Efflandt, Iron Horse Brigade commander.

Once company commanders are sure that all items are accounted for, they release their Soldiers to begin Phase Three, working with the AFSBn-Kuwait and 402nd AFSB Accountability Cell to ensure the complete and accurate transfer of responsibility for the equipment from the Army War Reserve Deployment System accounting database, which tracks equipment at the Army level, to the Property Book Unit Supply - Enhanced system, which tracks assets assigned to the individual unit's

property book.

Reconciling discrepancies between the two accounting systems has been one of the challenges of the draw, and one where the 402nd team has relied on support from Army Sustainment Command experts to identify solutions. As a result, changes to the software coding that run the two systems are being developed for future implementation.

To keep things rolling, the 402nd and the cavalry units used a variety of work-around solutions to keep the operation going and minimize delays, and meeting with success. By the third week of the issue process, the team began hitting the 12-hour timeline for a complete company-level issue.

"We should be able to do it digitally," said Laskodi. "This is just a reverse RPAT



An Iron Horse Brigade Soldier checks his paperwork with a line-support contractor during equipment draw operations at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Jan. 17. Army Field Support Battalion-Kuwait issued Army Prepositioned Stocks to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division for a joint training exercise with Kuwaiti forces.

[Redistribution Property Assistance Team] process; that's all it is. We're learning along the way."

Once property book issues are reconciled and hand receipts are signed, equipment is loaded for transport and convoyed to the brigade's base of operations, Camp Buehring, where the units trained.

Despite the usual hiccups and occasional delays inherent in such a large-scale and complex operation, reaction among the receiving units has been very positive, said Lt. Col. Jason Kidder, 1st Brigade executive officer.

"They [1st BCT Soldiers] are not used to having the equipment laid out in this organized a way, and most of the equipment we are receiving is new. It's in very good condition compared to other draws I have been through," he said.

The issue continued into early February. A cumulative after-action report enabled all parties to walk away with lessons learned and updated versions of their standard operating procedures for future APS equipment issues.

At Camp Buehring, the 402nd AFSB's on-site Logistics Support Element-Kuwait provides follow-on maintenance and additional support, said 402nd officials.

"Now that our combat forces are out of Iraq, we still have a mission here in Southwest Asia," said Laskodi.

AFSBn-Kuwait issued more than 1,000 pieces of rolling stock and 2,000 pieces of non-rolling stock to the Iron Horse Brigade, said Gill.

"The 402nd has done an outstanding job," said Lt. Gen. Dennis Via, U.S. Army Materiel Command deputy commanding general, who visited the Arifjan site Jan. 11 for a briefing and tour of the main equipment issue lines.

[More on this story here](#)

A simple act of caring crosses cultural barriers

Story by Pvt. 2 Jirad Williams
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – A terrible accident involving Indian contractors working for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade recently led to a simple act of compassion that revealed the cultural barriers that both separate and bind people together.

A traffic collision took place Jan. 7 along Highway 30 involving a bus carrying contractors who work for the 402nd AFSB. The bus, filled with more than 30 passengers, was hit from behind by an SUV. The collision was so forceful that the driver of the SUV was killed upon impact, and many of the passengers on the bus suffered injuries, some very serious.

As news of the accident spread that Saturday afternoon, Spc. Samuel Garcia, 402nd AFSB chaplain's assistant, received a phone call from Stephen W. Lockridge, 402nd AFSB deputy to the commanding officer. Lockridge wanted to organize a party to visit the four third-country national (TCN) contractors still receiving treatment in two local hospitals.

The brigade's chaplain had recently redeployed and his replacement was still inbound, so Spc. Garcia reached out to Chaplain (Maj.) Kenneth Alford, 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), to join the small 402nd AFSB group, comprised of the DCO, chaplain's assistant and contractor representative, Iona Brewer. The 364th SC(E), like the 402nd, is assigned to the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) here in the ARCENT Area of Operations.

"Mr. Lockridge wanted to show and communicate that we cared for our 402nd Brigade team members," said Alford. The party



U.S. Army Photo

Spc. Samuel Garcia, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade chaplain's assistant, comforts one of four third-country nationals hospitalized in January following a severe traffic accident in Kuwait. A group from the 402nd AFSB visited to share their support and express their wishes for swift and complete recovery to the men who work for the brigade at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

visited the two hospitals where the four patients were being treated. Some were recovering from their injuries and others were awaiting surgery, said Garcia.

"There was a patient that had deep cuts on his forearm and legs, and another patient had spinal problems caused by the impact. Another patient was going to return back to his native country of India to proceed with surgery there because his brother is a doctor there," said Garcia.

The last patient's hand was in a cast, his fingers having being badly cut during the collision, he said.

The 402nd Group brought food trays for the patients and

their other visitors. "Most of them were also workers. They'd have a cousin or a brother-in-law working here as well," said Alford.

The four patients, all in their 30s or 40s, were clearly the breadwinners for their families back home, he said. He found that one of the injured workers was Muslim, two were Hindu and one was Catholic.

"It was a surprise to me that a Christian was there, so we prayed with him in a way that was meaningful and familiar to him," said Alford. Then one of the Hindu workers asked to be included. "He said, 'I pray to the Almighty, and I will accept prayers from everyone,'"

See Caring, page 14

Training preps Soldiers for Afghan equipment retrograde

By 1st Lt. Joshua James
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

CAMP VIRGINIA, Kuwait – In the history of the U.S. military, there has never been a requirement to retrograde as much equipment in as short a period of time as there was during Operation New Dawn, when American forces withdrew from Iraq.

To accomplish the mission, amid all the new systems being used to transport and track equipment, it was necessary to learn new skill sets and combine them in a logical, effective combination as part of Redistribution Property Assistance Teams, or RPATs, which are teams formed to relieve units of equipment.

In the course of last year's massive retrograde operations, the 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, operating RPATs at Camp Virginia, Kuwait, and throughout Iraq, found innovative solutions to work out issues with operations in order to make mission.

So, with a drawdown of Operation Enduring Freedom looming, and the potential for future missions requiring massive re-posturing, 541st CSSB created an RPAT Academy, a learning experience for Soldiers deploying to Afghanistan for that logistics retrograde mission.

The concept of the academy, initially a 10-day training course, was to pass on best practices and processes that those Soldiers would need to successfully conduct logistical operations on a massive scale similar to the Operation New Dawn retrograde.

Subjects of instruction included the fundamental principles and practices required to conduct effective RPAT operations, among them learning property accountability functions, the



Photo by Pvt. Jirad Williams, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

Marcus Johnson (right), 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion support operations, works with Soldiers from 233rd Transportation Company, 113th Sustainment Brigade, to set up communications during Redistribution Property Assistance Team Academy training Jan. 24 at Camp Virginia, Kuwait.

roles and responsibilities of primary hand receipt holders, Wholesale Responsible Officer, or WRO, training, customer service responsibilities and other related tasks.

"It's 10 days of instruction in best practices gained in Iraq and Kuwait as a baseline," said Maj. Damiko K. Moore, 541st CSSB support operations officer. "It's a question of knowing the process and the procedures. The 1348 (Issue/Release Receipt form) was a big step in that, the accountability piece."

The academy began its first class cycle Jan. 16 with 24 students and a second class of 36 Soldiers from 233rd Transportation Company, 113th Sustainment Brigade, began a couple days later, with graduations Jan. 25 and 27.

"There are multiple TTPs (tactics, techniques and procedures) out there," said Lt. Col. William Cain, 541st CSSB commander, as he addressed the graduates. "But the property accountability piece is the

cornerstone of RPAT operations. You will find yourself in a variety of different situations when you get on the ground in OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom). However, property accountability procedures will remain constant, and you will be able to adapt to your situation in order to develop an efficient process at your respective location."

"Right now you may be feeling like a jack of all trades and master of none, but we have provided you the tools and the reach-back capabilities you will need when you run into problems you can't solve. You can reach the experts back here to get the help you need to figure it out," Cain said.

"It is very enlightening," said Staff Sgt. Fay Dantzler, of the company's 4th Platoon, stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., as she waited for the graduation ceremony to begin in the Camp Virginia Chapel. Like many of her fellow Soldiers, Dantzler's military occupational specialty is an 88-M, truck driver.

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RFAST-C

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“The practical exercises, seeing what comprises an RPAT and what makes it work, was the best part for me as an NCO,” Dantzler said. “To me it brings a lot of opportunity, being a multi-tasker. As an 88-Mike, all we do is drive trucks. Now I’ll be accounting for funds and finding missing Army equipment.”

Dantzler said the flurry of new acronyms didn’t slow the truckers down too much.

“We didn’t really know them, so as the class rolled along we picked them up, pretty much by the second day,” she said.

“Any time you first learn a set of acronyms, it takes a minute to learn what they are,” said Spc. James Veen of 3rd Platoon, who is stationed at Fort Knox, Ky. “There was a lot of information. It’s just a good idea to get trained on what we’re going to do instead of just getting thrown into it. As 88-Mikes we would just go to the yard, pick up equipment and drive it away. Now we’re going to be preparing the equipment for that pick up.”

“I’m a convoy commander, so I’m familiar with the yard itself, but not the working aspect. As a convoy commander I actually drove some of those vehicles,” said Staff Sgt. Kimberlee Clark of the 2nd Platoon Outlaws, who was recognized as the honor graduate of the class.

“It was great, not knowing anything at all about RPATs and Mobile-RPATs. Now I’m not going to be blindsided,” she said.

Asked what surprised her most in learning the operation and seeing it from the logistician’s point of view, Clark said, “The amount of equipment I’d be accountable for, the dollar amount. It can run into the millions. The range of property

and amount of detail involved in accounting for it was a lot to take in at first.”

“Also knowing that the platoons would split up once they reached their destinations, so there was a kind of bittersweet quality to the whole experience,” Clark said. “Because when we get there, we’re all going to go to different FOBs (Forward Operating Bases), so it’s the last time we’re going to be together,” she said.

The 233rd graduates were scheduled to fly to Afghanistan within days and will start conducting RPAT operations within a matter of weeks, said 541st CSSB officials.

“It’s a team of two, a team of four, a team of eight. It just varies depending on what you’re going to be doing. The idea is for us to set up an RPAT, but we’ll probably fall in under another unit,” said Clark.

“This is a tough business,” Col. John S. Laskodi, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade commander, told the graduating class. “Thank you very much for your service to the country, and thank you very much for what you are about to do.”

Laskodi urged the 233rd Soldiers to be adaptive when they get to Afghanistan. He recounted the extensive planning that went into preparations for the Iraq retrograde, and how much of that went out the window when the timeline for Operation New Dawn was drastically shortened by events that no one could foresee.

“Speak up. The best ideas are going to come from you. You are going to set the stage for those who come in after you,” Laskodi said.

He reiterated the two guiding principles to which the newly minted RPAT specialists should adhere, come what may.

“Accountability: what we have;

and visibility: where it is. Don’t sacrifice them for the sake of velocity,” he said.

There will be a lot of people back in Kuwait, and leadership up the Materiel Enterprise chain of command, who will be tracking the progress of the RPAT Academy, its graduates and the lessons learned they send back from the field, Laskodi said. The impact of the whole learning process will only come to the fore in a year or two when Operation Enduring Freedom retrograde operations hit full stride.

“There are a lot of people who get to read about history, but the people in this room are going to make history,” Laskodi said.

“The RPAT Academy has the potential to have a major impact on the drawdown of equipment and Soldiers from OEF, and it’s a great opportunity for the 541st to be able to affect Afghan operations from Kuwait,” said Maj. Jason Christenson, 541st CSSB executive officer.

Its influence, and the adaptability and perseverance of its graduates, will have a direct, immediate and long-term impact on the retrograde of equipment back to the United States, he said.

The RPAT Academy curriculum is being considered for possible addition to U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command curriculum in Logistics and Transportation schools so that the knowledge gained isn’t lost as new Soldiers come up through the ranks, said Christenson.

Soldiers of 98th Maintenance Company, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Brigade, home stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, and newly arrived in Kuwait, participated in RPAT Academy training in the first half of February, said 402nd AFSB officials.



Rock Island Arsenal staff join in with the Teranga House of African Drum Circle during the Black History Month Observance, Feb. 16, at Heritage Hall in Rock Island, Ill.

ASC hosts Black History Month observance

Story and photo by Megan McIntyre
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. – The Army Sustainment Command Equal Opportunity Office hosted the African American/Black History Month Observance, Feb. 16, in Heritage Hall.

The guest speaker was Rev. Beverly A. Smith of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church. In her speech, she emphasized the importance of such observances and celebrations of achievements.

“This year’s theme, Black Women in American Culture and History, allows us to recognize the significant role black women have played in the history and social, economic, political and scientific well-being of this American society,” Smith said.

After her speech, the Teranga House of African Drum Circle performed a traditional African-American dance and also invited audience members to join in.

To conclude the event, Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuistion, ASC commanding general, along with Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer, First Army’s Brig. Gen. Kendall Penn and Joel Himsl, garrison manager, recognized the guest speaker and the performers.

“Every time we do celebrations like this I’m reminded of how people through our history do inspire generations to come,” McQuistion said. “I think that is so important and what we are here for, so that we do understand the people that came before us.”



Caring

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Alford reported. "I prayed with everyone that wanted me to pray with them."

The shared experience moved everyone to tears, said Garcia. "Both Mr. Lockridge and I wished them a quick recovery. Each and every visit counted; they were moved by the visit itself," he said.

"They make you all pretty tough down in India," Lockridge said, which brought laughter from all. He reminded them they are an important part of the 402nd team and urged them to get well soon.

Since then, all the injured workers have been released

from hospital, but the memory of their exchanges still lingers, said Alford.

"The thing that impressed me the most, walking in, walking out of the hospital, were the expressions on people's faces, the same expressions that I've seen everywhere, in every hospital I have been, of people caring for their children, caring for their loved ones. You see those expressions across the world. It was a definite point of commonality," he said.

Often times, Soldiers serving in Kuwait may find themselves separated from the local residents and civilians who work here on Camp Arifjan. But a simple act

of caring for their fellow human beings brought home the shared lesson of human vulnerability.

"I was glad that I got to go out to the hospital, it was similar to what I would do back home," said Alford.

"I certainly think we bridged the cultural gaps with that trip. I really felt like a pastor that evening and I thank God for that," the chaplain said.

"My job requires me to nurture the living, care for the wounded and honor the dead," said Garcia. "Whether it's fellow military members or civilians from around the world who are part of our team, the mission remains the same."

Red Cloud

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to go on the ship. So safety is paramount."

ASLAC facilities are located about nine miles from the wharf. The equipment is convoyed and staged adjacent to the ship.

Currently the APS-3 program has a total of six LMSR ships and two ammunition ships. All LMSRs also carry ammunition, O'Brien said.

ASLAC's primary mission is to

repair, maintain, and configure Army equipment into unit sets. It then places the sets aboard ships strategically placed around the globe, O'Brien emphasized.

ASLAC's higher headquarters is the 406th Army Field Support Brigade at Fort Bragg, N.C. That brigade's higher headquarters is the Army Sustainment Command at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., which is part of the Army Materiel Command, located at Huntsville, Ala.

Alaska

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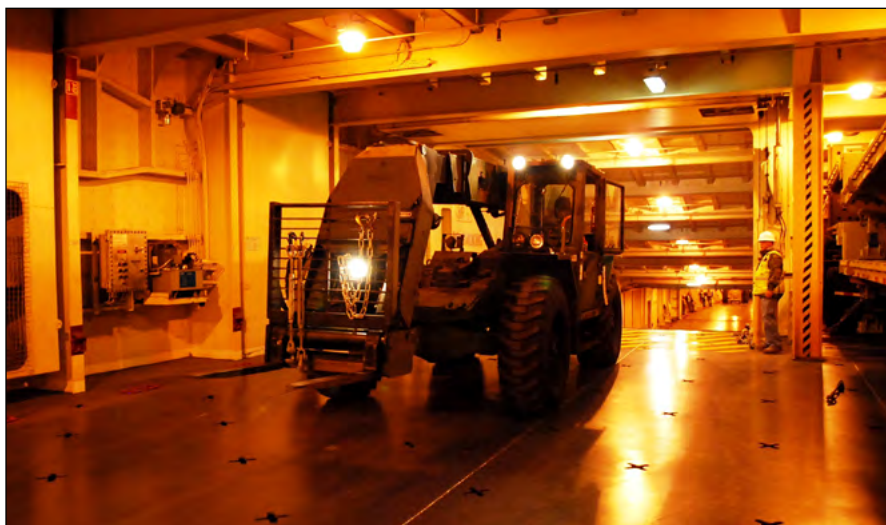
not by seniority, "but by a proven record of excellence."

"I am honored to be a part of this brigade," said DeKeever, a recent graduate of the Command and General Staff College's Intermediate-Level Education at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. "I wish you (Rivers) a long and happy retirement."

During Rivers' farewell remarks, he said the change of authority/retirement ceremony was a "double-edge sword" depending on one's perspective.

Interestingly, prior to enlisting in the Army in 1982, Rivers played three years with the NFL's New York Giants. While being part of an NFL team was rewarding, Rivers said his Army career allowed him to perform on the "first team" every day.

Yahn presented Rivers the Legion of Merit, a certificate of retirement signed by the Army chief of staff, a letter of appreciation signed by the commander in chief, the national colors, and a retirement lapel pin.



By Jan. 19, nearly half the intended cargo had been taken aboard the USNS Red Cloud during loading operations at Wharf Alpha, Joint Base Charleston, S.C. Once parked aboard the 950-foot-long vessel, vehicles are chained down, their batteries disconnected and air bled from their braking systems.



Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, ASC commanding general, signs the Army Family Covenant Feb. 15, while ASC Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer and Joel Himsl, Rock Island Arsenal garrison manager, look on.

ASC commanding general signs Army Family Covenant

**Story and photo by Megan McIntyre
ASC Public Affairs**

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. – Maj. Gen. Patricia McQuiston, Army Sustainment Command commanding general, signed the Army Family Covenant on Feb. 15, just before the kickoff of the Rock Island Arsenal Health Fair, held at the RIA fitness center.

“Since the last time, we all ask ourselves, ‘Didn’t we already do this at one point in time: sign the Army Family Covenant?’ McQuiston said. “But I think it is a really important message because we have had change in leadership in the Army.”

Also serving as keynote speaker for the event, McQuiston took the time to explain the importance of the document being signed.

“What this signals is the

continued commitment to the covenant,” she said. “This is a shared promise to our families, meaning all the folks that have worn this uniform, regardless of active component, reserve component, Army National Guard or a retiree, previous service or whether you are a contractor or civilian and their families.”

The covenant signed here at Rock Island Arsenal applies to the entire Arsenal community. That includes civilian and contractor employees and their family members.

The covenant is a standard Army document that has already been signed by the Army’s top leaders. This includes the Sergeant Major of the Army, the Army Chief of Staff and

the Secretary of the Army. The covenant is to serve as an agreement between Army leadership and Soldiers.

By signing their names, McQuiston, ASC Command Sgt. Maj. James Spencer and Joel Himsl, garrison manager, publicly proclaimed they will take care of Soldiers, the members of the other services, civilians, contractors and their family members.

After signing the front of the document, McQuiston invited the audience to come up and sign the back of it. She emphasized that this applies to all Arsenal community members, “We are going to ask all of you to sign the back,” she said, “Because you are in this, you are in this covenant.”

Iowa school prepares packages for Soldiers

Story and photo by Megan McIntyre
ASC Public Affairs

DAVENPORT, Iowa – On Feb. 14, a day traditionally filled with happiness, a local classroom at John F. Kennedy Catholic School paired with Jason’s Box, a non-profit organization, to bring care packages to Soldiers serving overseas.

“It is especially meaningful to me that your teacher [Julie Bauer] would have me here today, because it is Valentine’s Day,” said Teri Johnson, Gold Star mother and founder of Jason’s Box, a charity honoring her son Cpl. Jason Pautsch, who was killed in action in Iraq in 2009.

“One of the things we are really doing today is showing love and action, and supplying care packages to our troops which lets them know we care about them and that we care

about supporting them and their families,” Johnson said.

Last year, Bauer’s seventh-grade class provided boxes with the help of Galen Putnam, Army Sustainment Command public affairs specialist. As a civilian deployed overseas, Putnam ensured delivery of the prepackaged goods and also video recorded the Soldiers receiving and opening the packages. Once stateside, he visited the classroom to share the footage with the students.

“Last time, I saw the end of the process by being able to share the Soldier’s reactions with the students,” Putnam said. “I was glad they invited me back this year so I could see the front end of the project of the students preparing the packages.”

Putnam said that, as an added bonus, he was able to visit with the students who took part

last year. This year, a new set of seventh-grade students will continue this same partnership.

Gathering to fold and tape boxes together, the students filled them with donations given to Jason’s Box. Donations included personal hygiene, food and entertainment items. These packages were sent to troops located in Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

On hand to offer assistance were Lindsey Miller, an Air Force veteran, and Spc. Frank Beatham, Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 211th General Support Aviation Battalion, out of Mount Joy, Iowa, who recently returned from Iraq.

Beatham was a recipient of one of the packages prepared by Jason’s Box while in Iraq.

“It’s a blessing now more than it was when I received my package,” Beatham said, “because now I see what went into it.”



At a Feb. 14 event, Spc. Frank Beatham helps students of J.F.K. Catholic School in Davenport prepare packages to be sent to Soldiers serving overseas.