



# THE GLOBAL LINE

*Best Newsletter in AMC - Again!*

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# Fontaine Sends...

## Transformation tops our 2011 agenda

**Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine**  
U.S. Army Sustainment Command

Welcome back from the holiday season! Trust the time you spent with your families brings you back reenergized to continue providing the tremendous support that ASC provides everyday to our Soldiers. The New Year is starting up to be very exciting and challenging with many of our transformations I discussed at our town hall coming to fruition. Ask your Leaders to keep you updated on these important undertakings.

This month has been a very busy month. We had the opportunity to tell the RIA and ASC story to our local Congressmen. I can tell you that we have tremendous bi-state support from ALL our elected representatives and they are committed to being active partners of the Arsenal and its workforce.

We have just concluded a very successful Commanders Conference, with 180 attendees - including our Brigade Commanders, Brigade DCOs, CSMs, CONUS ESC Commanders, and Senior DACs from HQ ASC. We also had a great visit from Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commander of Army Materiel Command, during the conference, where she thanked ASC for the outstanding support we provide as AMC's operational arm and termed ASC as the "heartbeat of AMC". Key themes from the conference included implementing a Cost Culture that will drive us in fundamentally changing the way of doing business, setting up a strong strategic communication program by establishing our brand and telling our story internally and externally, executing the Lead Materiel Integrator for AMC which means in simpler terms that ASC will be the



engine to equip the Army, leveraging other Sustainment Organizations in CONUS to provide materiel management, and taking care of people through programs that provide increased training opportunities and resiliency. Great conference and I encourage all of you to talk to your Leaders about it.

I also had the opportunity to attend the AMC-led commander update to the Chief of Staff of the Army. The Chief is leaving soon and the AMC CG brought him in to discuss the numerous AMC-

led initiatives, all focused toward providing first-class support to our Soldiers while transforming the generating force to an enterprise structure. I can tell you that the Chief thanked us all as he left impressed by the numerous accomplishments we have been involved in ... from sustaining OIF and OEF to Haiti and Pakistan, to implementing retrograde of all equipment in Iraq, to establishing a system to equip our Army of the future, to transferring all DOLs without a hitch, to maintaining APS to standards ... just to name a few... all directly tied to your efforts whether forward deployed, in a CONUS AFSB, or in the HQ. The Chief's message has not changed and is focused on getting back to basics, implementing the enterprise concept - which in his mind is a means to collaborate across stovepipe systems to achieve the best results at the best costs, investing in operations and systems that bring us value, and implementing a cost culture. All items of interest we are aware of.

I can't say this enough; well done and thank you for your dedication and hard work.

*Airborne!*

## THE GLOBAL LINE



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# *Focus on the Future . . .*

## *Army Sustainment Command receives operational control of Directorates of Logistics in Korea and Japan*

### **What is it?**

The Army Materiel Command, through its operational arm, The Army Sustainment Command, received operational control of the Directorates of Logistics in Korea and Japan Jan. 1, 2011, from the Installation Management Command. ASC's 403rd Army Field Support Brigade will manage the DOLs in its Area of Support, which includes all US Army Camps and Garrisons in Korea throughout Areas I (CPs Casey/Stanley/Hovey/Red Cloud), II (Yongsan Army Garrison), III (Camp Humphreys) and IV (CPs Walker/Henry/Carroll/Busan Storage Facility (BSF)), and in Japan (Torii Station (Okinawa), Shiraki Communication Site, Kure/Akizuki Ammunition Storage Area, Sagami General Depot (SGD) and US Army Garrison CP Zama).

During the OPCON period, ASC gains management of all DOL functions, which include supply, maintenance, selected ammunition supply, support services and transportation. IMCOM retains control of DOL resources and personnel.

The transfer of the installation-level DOLs from IMCOM to AMC will align materiel and services support functions into the Army's Materiel Enterprise.

### **What has ASC done?**

ASC has spent two years planning for the transfer of the DOLs from IMCOM. In phase one, ASC received OPCON of DOL supply, maintenance, and selected ammunition supply functions within the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico, on Oct. 1, 2010. During phase two, ASC has been acquiring OPCON of all DOL functions worldwide. So far, 59 out of 77 installations are under the operational control of ASC.

The DOL transformation enterprise team met with the 403rd AFSB, IMCOM, and involved stakeholders in November to discuss issues and prepare for the OPCON.

### **What continued efforts does ASC have planned for the future?**

The OPCON period allows ASC and its brigades

and battalions time to develop policies, procedures and standards for assuming complete control of the DOLs planned for FY 13.

As the 403rd AFSB continues to move this initiative forward, it is doing so very cautiously but steadily by conducting bi-weekly in-process reviews, town halls and strategic communications with theater agencies. The AFSB has completed strategic communication visits to all Senior Commanders (SC) in the AFSB's Area of Support to ensure the SCs understand what is occurring and how we are collaborating with IMCOM-Korea and IMCOM-Pacific to ensure that no degradation of support occurs as a result of this transition.

The 403rd plans to have a mini rehearsal of concept (ROC) drill with its DOLs during upcoming theater exercises to begin incorporating DOL support to the warfighter into the AMC-managed Materiel Enterprise; the AFSB's major event will occur in late June as a ROC drill just prior to the commander's change of command. During all of these efforts, the major focus will be doing this without any interruption of support to the SC and doing it right.

In addition to its unique planning for DOL transfer, the 403rd will continue to participate in meetings, seminars and ROC drills associated with the general transfer mission.

### **Why is it important to the Army?**

Everything the 403rd AFSB does is in anticipation of successfully meeting the goal of having the transformation completed and resources realigned by Oct. 1, 2012.

Transfer of the DOLs worldwide will take place with no degradation of service to the supported units. Extensive planning and preparation will ensure that this occurs.

When fully implemented, the DOL transformation will enable AMC to focus on materiel and services support at all Army installations worldwide. This transformation will help optimize the DOLs' capability and capacity, improve contract management, and enhance quality and visibility of services.

# *Focus on the Future . . .*

## *EAGLE offers global solution*

By ASC Public Affairs

### **What is it?**

EAGLE is an integrated acquisition approach to contract for Directorate of Logistics operations and other logistic requirements, worldwide. With a potential contract value of \$25 billion over a five-year period, EAGLE will provide supply services, maintenance, transportation support, and tactical plans and operations services.

Once in full operation, the EAGLE multiple-award task order contract (MATOC) can be used by Army Materiel Command subordinate commands and other federal agencies that have a requirement that falls under the EAGLE performance work statement.

### **What is happening now?**

An integrated acquisition approach is being jointly developed by Army Sustainment Command, as the requiring activity, and Army Contracting Command-Rock Island's EAGLE contracting office.

To support this acquisition approach, cost-benefit analyses are being conducted and an acquisition strategy developed. Once the Acquisition Strategy is approved, a formal Request for Proposal will be issued.

### **What's inefficient with the way things are done today?**

Presently, there are multiple contracts with multiple task orders and more than 270 stand-alone contracts being executed within the Army's 77 Directorates of Logistics. There is no common approach to satisfy requirements, which can create confusion and there are overlapping mission support solutions, which increase government oversight costs and reduce efficiency. The logistics environment requires the Army to transition seamlessly from mobilization or

demobilization to mission support, which current contracts provide in an unbalanced manner.

### **Why is EAGLE the answer?**

EAGLE is a strategic sourcing solution with the intent to standardize performance work statements, quality assurance standards, processes and metrics, thus optimizing supply and source capacities and capabilities, while integrating and controlling field-level maintenance and supply capabilities at installations around the world. Built-in augmentation capability is another important feature of the contract.

### **How will EAGLE operate?**

The EAGLE acquisition will be managed in the ASC Field Support Executive Directorate.

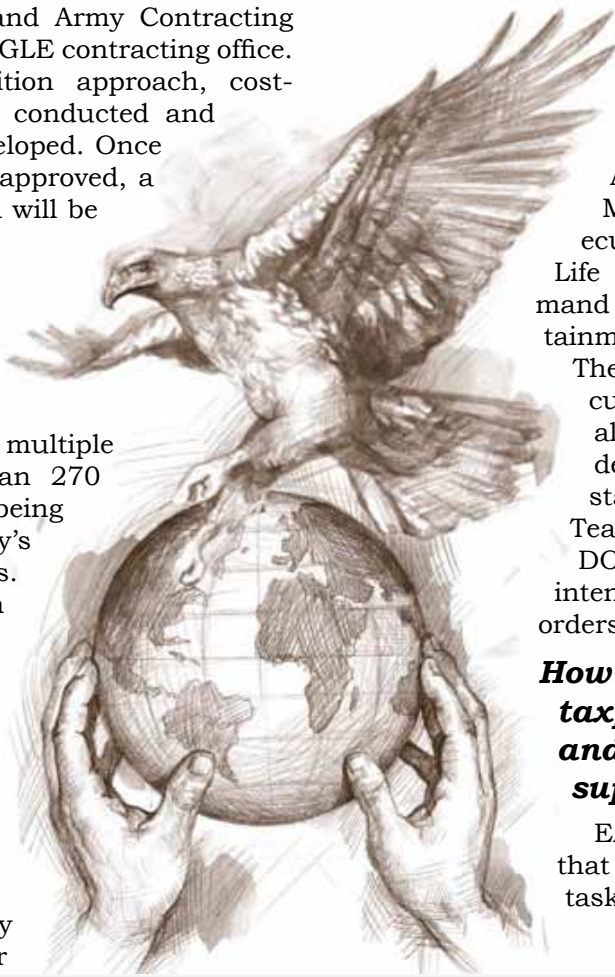
EAGLE can be used to contract for services and supply DOLs. Candidates for this tool include, but

are not limited to, Army Prepositioned Stocks (APS), Left Behind Equipment (LBE), Property Accountability, Theater Provided Equipment (TPE) Accountability, Program Manager (PM)/Program Executive Office (PEO) Support, Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC) Support, and Sustainment and Supply Operations. These requirements are all currently executed as stand-alone contracts or as task orders under the Field and Installation Readiness Support Team (FIRST) contract.

DOL and APS requirements are intended to be awarded as task orders under the EAGLE MATOC.

### **How is EAGLE better for taxpayers, the Army, and the Soldiers we support?**

EAGLE is a contract initiative that utilizes a multiple-award task order contract, or MATOC.



**See EAGLE, page 5**

## Two join Senior Executive Service

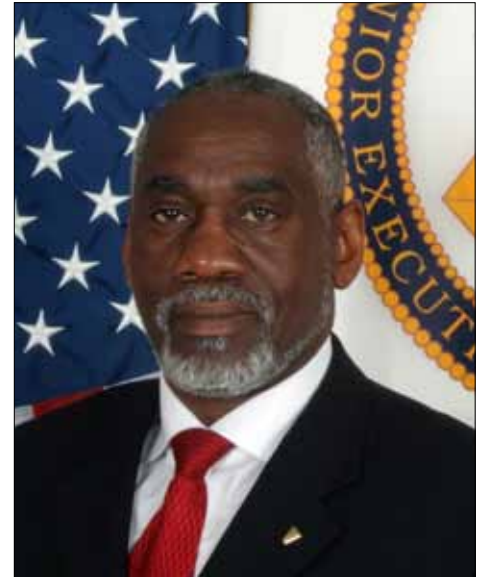


**Carl J. Cartwright**

The Secretary of the Army has approved the permanent selection of two Army Sustainment Command leaders as members of the Senior Executive Service.

Carl J. Cartwright and Tommy L. Marks were appointed Jan. 16. Cartwright is ASC's Executive Director for Field Support and Marks is Executive Director for the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, better known as LOGCAP.

Cartwright is an ASC veteran, having served as Deputy Commander and Executive Officer before heading up the Field Support Direc-



**Tommy L. Marks**

torate. His directorate executes management oversight of subordinate commands and organizations to provide Combat Service Support capability to Soldiers serving in CONUS and in Combatant Commands to ensure expeditionary war-fighting readiness and leverage national logistics to sustain a transforming Army. He is a member of the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe and the Quartermaster Order of St. Martin.

Marks has 32 years' experience in contract operations and logistics management, including recent service as Chief Contracting Officer for Contingency Operations-ARCENT in Operations Desert Storm/Desert Shield and as a Program Manager-Forward and Senior Military Operational Analyst in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom responsible for the LOGCAP Program. He now has overall executive responsibility for LOGCAP, under which contractors from the private sector are used to provide a broad range of logistical and life support services to U.S. and allied forces during combat and training operations.

## EAGLE

*continued from page 4*

Possible benefits include:

- Users will be able to obtain up-front planning and approvals to reduce acquisition lead time at the task order level;
- An established pool of contractors should reduce the acquisition lead time when conducting task order competitions;
- The proposed acquisition strategy establishes full and open and small business set-aside contractor pools which promotes small business participation;
- The proposed acquisition strategy introduces competition within the established pools and should result in better contract pricing;
- The proposed acquisition strategy eliminates contracts that have overlapping mission support

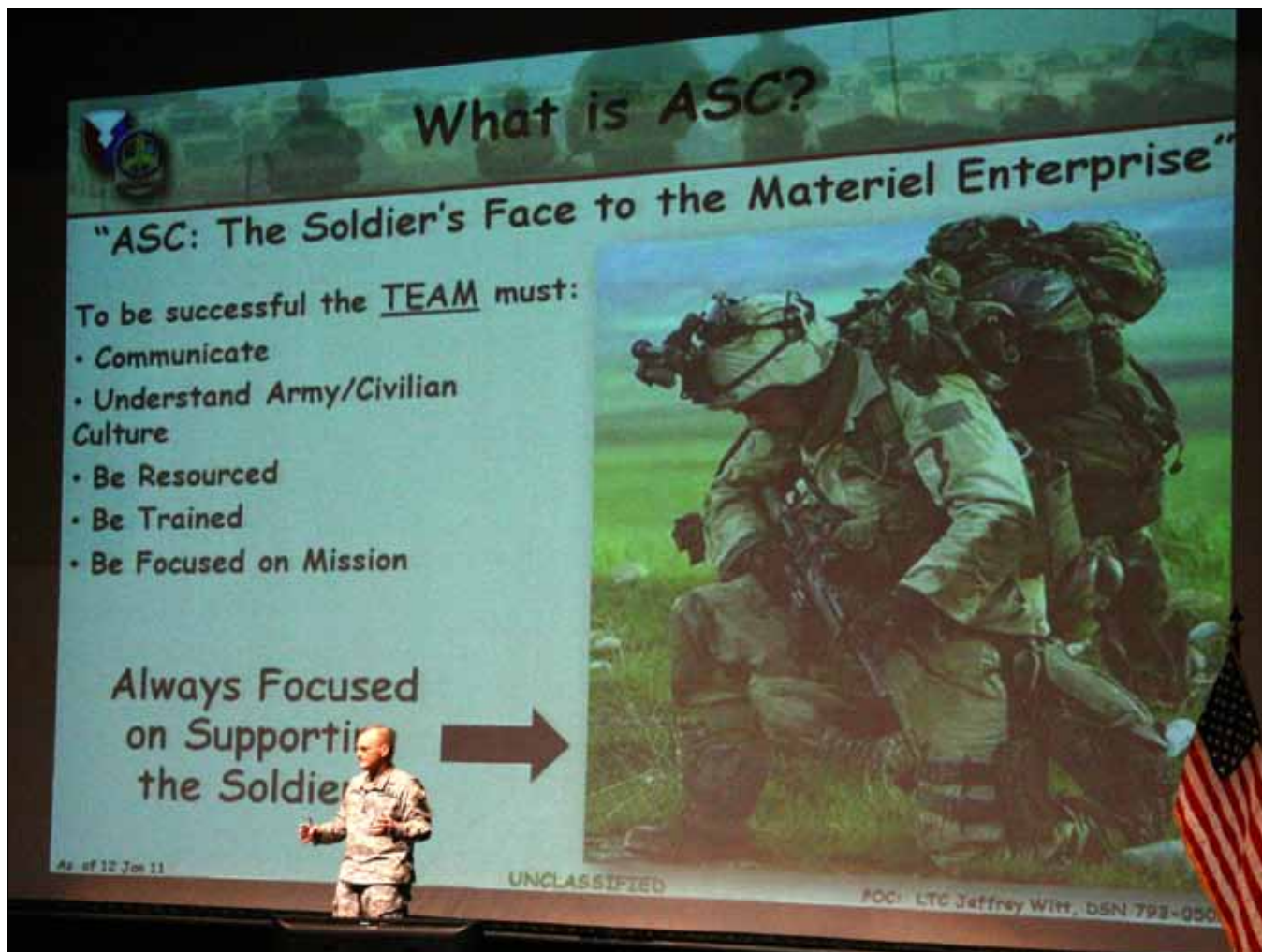
and will yield efficiencies and potential cost reductions;

- EAGLE also consolidates requirements, which will reduce the number of contracts being managed, leading to reduced oversight requirements and freeing contracting officers, contracting officer representatives, and contracting officer technical representatives, to focus on awarded contract performance.

Soldiers will see one high standard of materiel support around the world, ASC's Army Field Support Brigades and Battalions will be able to offer their supported forces a single source of logistics solutions to tactical and operational requirements.

(Editor's note: Information on the EAGLE initiative was provided by the Army Contracting Command – Rock Island, in coordination with the Army Sustainment Command Field Support Directorate)

## New vision highlights ASC town hall meeting



Story by Mark Weiman  
Photos by Tony Lopez  
ASC Public Affairs

DAVENPORT, Iowa – Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, commanding general of U.S. Army Sustainment Command, hosted a town hall meeting with the ASC workforce at the downtown Adler Theatre on Jan. 13.

Demonstrating that communication is a top command priority, Fontaine briefed employees about a number of topics important to the future success of the command, while also fielding questions from the audience.

Emphasizing the importance of the mission, Fontaine urged the audience to keep their ultimate customers in mind.

“These guys are your customers,” said Fontaine, pointing to a Soldier depicted on a theater screen behind him. “You are deeply involved at the tip of the spear to make Soldiers successful.”

Fontaine started his presentation by highlighting

some ASC success stories from the past year. One of these successes was assembling a group of ASC Soldiers in a matter of days to deploy and provide assistance to earthquake victims in Haiti. Another success story was taking operational control of 77 Directorates of Logistics from Installation Management Command.

He then shared the Army’s way ahead, which guides ASC’s way ahead. The most important objective is becoming the lead materiel integrator executive agent for Army Materiel Command. The LMI mission has three main components: visibility, supply, and maintenance - all necessary to successfully execute the mission of equipping the Army. Some organizational changes will be made to support this new mission, he said.

To better convey the command goals, Fontaine unveiled new mission and vision statements for ASC.

“ASC organizes, trains, and sustains a quality deployable force and integrates materiel and

**See Town Hall, page 7**

## Town Hall

*continued from page 6*

services to the Soldier,” said Fontaine. The new vision statement was stated as “ASC: The Soldier’s Face to the Materiel Enterprise”.

“Our focus should not be up [the chain], but down to the Soldier,” said Fontaine. “If you have done something for the good of the Soldier, it has been a successful day.”

Fontaine highlighted some of the top priorities for the upcoming year. These included the execution of the EAGLE contract strategy by releasing the request for proposal by July 2011, taking full command and control of the DOLs by October 2011, completing the Materiel Management Center transformation by July 2011, and continuing resiliency training for both Soldiers and civilians.

“I’m pushing resiliency training because it helps people; it helps you cope with emergencies,” said Fontaine. “It works.”

He concluded his remarks by speaking of ASC as a team.

In order for the team to be successful, he said, it needs to communicate, understand Army and civilian cultures, be resourced, be trained, and be focused on the mission.

“We are the Soldiers’ face to the Materiel Enterprise,” said Fontaine, meaning ASC will stand “On the Line” with Soldiers.

Following his briefing, Fontaine addressed four questions submitted ahead of time via the ASC website.

The first area of interest dealt with ASC’s proposed personnel end-strength of 1,593 employees and the matter of a hiring freeze. He said the 1,593 number was derived as the necessary number needed to adequately support the mission. When addressing the hiring freeze, Fontaine replied that “there is no hiring freeze.”

A second topic of interest was ASC’s role as the LMI for the Army. Fontaine stated that the function is not new; what’s new is that ASC will be the focal point for providing equipment to Soldiers rather than numerous agencies acting independently.

A third topic that interested employees was



construction. Fontaine said the command has taken a three-pronged initiative to this process. The efforts concentrated on improving headquarters work areas, improving deployed forces’ work areas, and improving the aesthetics and safety of the headquarters buildings.

A final area of interest was having “turf time” with management. Fontaine stated that “turf time is for everybody” and workers should have the ability to have a dialogue with him and their supervisors and participate in this process.

Fontaine also took some spontaneous questions from audience members. One employee asked about North Korea, to which Fontaine stated by having a presence in South Korea, ASC ensures materiel readiness while such exercises as the recent download of the USNS Watson sends a message to any would-be adversaries.

Fontaine concluded the town hall meeting by praising his employees.

“Thank you for what you do every day,” he said. “Your work is appreciated in the field by the Soldier. Keep doing what you are doing.”

## ASC officer promotes camaraderie at Civil Air Patrol event

Story and photo by Tony Lopez  
ASC Public Affairs

DAVENPORT, Iowa — Lt. Col. Steven T. Wall of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command was the keynote speaker at the local Composite Civil Air Patrol Squadron dining out Jan. 15.

The main goal of this year's event was to promote "camaraderie and [the] celebration of all the hard work these young people and their parents do for our squadron," said Randy Mester of ASC's Requisitions Management Division, who invited Wall to speak.

Approximately 75 attendees listened as Wall spoke on the subject of what the military has meant to him. He thanked the cadets and parents for their selfless service to the CAP.

"It represents your commitment to your nation, to your unit and your fellow airmen and cadets," Wall said. "It can introduce you into a completely new world, expose you to things you never thought you would do, see, or experience. The leadership experiences, learning to be a good follower, the values of loyalty, duty – to yourselves and others, respect for yourself and others will make you a better person and better citizen.

"It may not seem like it now, but the skills and knowledge you are gaining will pay off in the future," said Wall.

In closing his speech, Wall encouraged the cadets to "take every chance you have to learn and experience something new in the Civil Air Patrol." Something that Roy Schindler, CAP cadet, reiterated, "I really enjoy the whole experience."

The Davenport CAP squadron, commanded by Maj. Jon Sawyer, is the largest in the state of Iowa. The squadron was founded in 1953 and is located at the Davenport Municipal Airport.

The CAP is the Air Force's official auxiliary



*Lt. Col. Steven T. Wall of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command addresses cadets, family members and guests at the Davenport, Iowa, Composite Civil Air Patrol Squadron dining out Jan. 15.*

and has a long history of success. Its three main missions are aerospace education, teaching the community and its members about aircraft and the aerospace industry, and a cadet program.

The cadet program gives members training in Air Force-style leadership, aerospace topics and emergency services. It provides many opportunities for youth to experience military customs and courtesies while participating in drills and ceremonies. Search and rescue missions are among the CAP's most valuable activities.



### Top Gun

*Shawn Newton (right), a TACOM automotive logistics assistance representative at FOB Sharana, Afghanistan, works with a Company B, 801st Brigade Support Battalion Armament Section Soldier while conducting serviceability assessments and functions checks on M2 .50-cal machine guns. Newton and his fellow LARs are members of Army Sustainment Command's Logistics Assistance Program, which matches experienced experts to forces in the field. By mentoring, teaching and assisting troops in the field, LARs ensure materiel readiness and provide warfighters with a link to the Materiel Enterprise.*

(Photo by Graydon Field)



## LMP up and running in ASC

Story and photo by Megan McIntyre  
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. — What started as a room full of trained expert advisors is now nearly empty, with only a few employees waiting like Maytag repairmen.

Implementation of the Logistics Modernization Program, which began Oct. 21, 2010, has gone smoothly and no longer requires as many people to answer incoming phone calls on how to operate in LMP.

“We are currently in the stabilization phase working through various issues that commonly arise in a system deployment,” said Mary Holburn, communications lead for the LMP core team. “Such as ensuring the proper functional security roles are assigned to our end-users and that data migration efforts are complete and accurate.”

Last October, the LMP team developed a 24/7 site command center managed (SCC) by the Army Sustainment Command (ASC) Headquarters Enterprise Integration Office. The SCC was meant to provide immediate and effective support to customers.

“We managed the SCC 24/7 because we have customers all over the world, to include the United States, Italy, Republic of South Korea, Japan, and five locations in Southwest Asia,” said Holburn.

The SCC team was made up of 11 employees from ASC headquarters and other commands.

The LMP implementation process began last year by working with the LMP Project Office and a contract service provider to teach a cadre about the system and develop training capabilities. Once the cadre was up to speed, they traveled to the ASC LMP sites and began training users.

“For the first two weeks or so [after the Oct. launch], everyone worked on average 8-10 hour days to ensure an overlap of shifts, and after a few weeks, we cut back to 8-hour days,” said Holburn.

Georgia Dugan, LMP deployment lead, said 2nd shift support transitioned to virtual support on Dec. 10, because requests and calls from ASC LMP customers had dwindled.

“We anticipate third shift to remain in place through February,” said Holburn. “The decision to



*The few remaining expert advisors continue to provide service for LMP users.*

shut down third shift will be contingent upon our stabilization status and exit criteria.”

LMP is the Army’s core initiative to completely replace the two largest, most important warfighting support national-level logistics systems: the inventory management Commodity Command Standard System (CCSS), and the depot and arsenal operations Standard Depot System (SDS).

Integrating more than 70 Department of Defense systems, LMP promises near-real time action, completing 98.5 percent of user transactions in less than two seconds. The LMP modernizes both the systems and the processes by which the Army manages its supply chain at the national and installation levels, making it a cornerstone of the Material Enterprise.

“The outcome is a testament to our preparation,” said Dugan. “We worked hard to ensure a smooth implementation- and it paid off.”

For additional information visit the Logistics Modernization Program web page – [https://www.po.lmp.army.mil/\\_site/index.html](https://www.po.lmp.army.mil/_site/index.html) and ASC LMP Homepage on AKO – <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/page/570235>.

## 3-401st moves materiel in Afghanistan

By Sharon L. Strickland  
3-401st AFSB Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Standing in the middle of a dust bowl, bright sun reflecting off their orange safety vests, Sgt. John L. Kammer and Spc. Taylor Bonin directed the massive push of Force Package 3 equipment to fighting forces.

Hendricks and Kammer are members of the 382nd Transportation Theater Opening Element, Fort Eustis, Va., augmenting the 3rd Battalion of the 401st Army Field Support Brigade.

“Kammer was in charge,” said Sgt. 1st Class Samuel Hendricks, the transportation NCOIC of the 3-401st AFSB.

Hendricks oversaw and supervised the transportation operation of the shipments of Force Package 1, 2 and 3, while Kammer tracked the equipment by serial numbers and registration numbers, then matched them to transportation movement request numbers exiting Bagram.

“Basically, we assisted the warfighter in getting equipment in a fast, safe and efficient way,” said Hendricks. “We had a lot of issues with the host-nation trucks. The people working out here, including the contractors with the AECOM-CACI Field Installation Readiness Support Team, had to decide which trucks were worth loading and the capacity of the host-nation trucks we were putting

the equipment on.”

Host-nation trucks, also known as “jingle trucks” for their ornate paintings and colorful designs, were loaded and unloaded on Army Materiel Command prime real estate called “Area 307”.

Hendricks, Kammer, and Bonin were the transportation team for the 3-401 AFSB and had a vital role in supporting U.S. and coalition forces. Along with AC FIRST personnel who loaded and unloaded vehicles, Kammer and Bonin assisted with getting the host-nation trucks ready for convoys headed to forward operating bases.

From May through September 2010, Force Packages 1, 2 and 3 were pushed out to fighting units by 3-401st AFSB Soldiers, Dept. of the Army civilians and AC FIRST contractors.

“Without the Force Packages being pushed out to the units, the Soldiers would not be able to do their mission down range,” said Kammer. “They needed us in order to accomplish their mission.”

With the final push of Force Package 3 equipment completed at the end of September, the mission of the 382nd Transportation Theater Opening Element shifted to sustainment. Soldiers like Kammer and Bonin trained and prepared their transportation counterparts to continue serving Soldiers and coalition forces located at FOBs across Afghanistan’s Regional Commands East and North.

*Two host-nation “jingle trucks” loaded with MRAP vehicles prepare to depart Bagram Airfield for forward bases.*



## Soldiers, 3-401st, contractors team to improve M-ATVs



Story and photos by Sharon L. Strickland  
3-401st AFSB Public Affairs

FOB FENTY, Afghanistan – Looking to improve their vehicles’ performance, two Soldiers came up with an idea for a new bumper on the mine-resistant, ambushed-protected all-terrain vehicle. Members of the 426th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, named it the Bastogne bumper for their 101st forebears who stood fast in the Belgian city during the World War II Battle of the Bulge.

When the commander of the 3rd Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade met Sgt. Shawn Brunney and Staff Sgt. Jason Lawson, they explained the bumper they were trying to create for the M-ATV and why.

“The 3rd Battalion commander told us to come down to Bagram to meet his Allied Trades guys,” said Lawson. “He started pushing the project for us.”

Brunney agreed with Lawson. “He was definitely the main driving force to get us down there and working with the Allied Trades section,” said Brunney.

Brunney and Lawson developed the first push bumper for use on missions along Main Supply Route (MSR) California, in particular on Route Stetson - infamous for its steep ravines, hairpin turns and increasing number of insurgents.

“On our routes, we take local-national trucks

with us,” said Brunney. “They tend to break down and during engagements we need to be able to move them quickly so everybody can get out of the kill area. And that was the beginning of everything, as to why we started building these bumpers.”

Before the bumper was created and perfected, using the M-ATV to push other vehicles was damaging its hood, radiator and other parts.

“It was taking forever to get hoods in and our vehicles would be deadlined because of the hoods,” said Lawson.

This was the beginning of what they called the “Jinga Project”.

“So we spent quite a few hours fabricating, figuring out where we could put it, how to attach it, and we found the best possible spot with what we had to work with,” explained Brunney.

Brunney and Lawson had the support of their staff non-commissioned officer, Staff Sgt. Glenn Alexander, who allowed them the time to work on this project.

“Their main concern was the Soldiers,” said Alexander. “I am never going to stop someone from protecting our Soldiers; these are my guys on the road.”

Company B’s service and recovery team’s mission is to convoy fuel, food, water, parts, and metal to outlying bases on a route known as MSR California that runs between Forward Operating Bases Fenty

**See M-ATVs, page 12**

## M-ATVs

*continued from page 11*

located in Jalalabad and FOB Bostik.

“We ship, we push all of it,” said Brunney. “We are a BSB. Logistics is what we do.”

AECOM-CACI Field Installation Readiness Support Team’s Allied Trades supervisor Brandon Cochran was asked to help the 426th BSB Soldiers take their original push bumper prototype to the perfected bumper now being used by units at FOBs throughout Afghanistan.

There were quite a few obstacles to overcome in developing the bumpers from the original design to the current prototype. Visibility over the bumper was vital to the driver for safety and maneuverability. The attachment of anti-rocket-propelled grenade netting around the bumper had to be resolved. Soldiers needed access to the hood for engine maintenance and repairs. The biggest obstacle was where to attach the bumper without affecting the structure of the vehicle or damaging any other parts.

“We came up with a better design that mounts to stronger points so that it would be lifted from the bumper and not damage anything on the vehicle,” said Brunney.

The AC FIRST Allied Trades specialists responsible for the improvement from the original design include Christopher Jones, Christopher Parr, Arthur Domschke, Daniel Ashor, Robert Ramirez, Stephen Richard, Blake Dunn and Nagaraju Komara.

“Their hard work, dedication, and drive to create a functional and safe piece of equipment are admirable,” said Cochran. “They have placed the warfighters’ safety needs in the forefront of all their objectives in getting this task completed.”

Dunn, Parr, Komara and Jones were responsible for building the first prototype based on the Soldiers’ bumper. Domschke came up with the pipe design and Ashor, Ramirez and Richard, the machinists, created the pins that attach the bumper to the strongest points on the vehicle.

Applying their inventiveness and years of experience working with metal, they completed the final prototype. AC FIRST’s Allied Trades personnel plan to complete more than 100 bumpers for FOBs across Afghanistan.

Sgt. 1st Class Shad McCrary, truck master of Company A, 426th BSB, and on his ninth deployment during 18 years of Army service, spoke from experience about the effectiveness of the new bumper.

“I was actually in about a three-hour firefight before the new bumpers were made,” said McCrary.



**An AECOM-CACI FIRST Allied Trades contractor welds the deck plate onto the Bastogne bumper before installing on an M-ATV.**

“We had the old grill nets and pushed it without the new bumpers. You could see the nets crumble and break.”

“We’ve had to use those bumpers quite often,” said Spc. Adam Tracy, a combat logistics patrol gunner. “I do think they work very well. You know it adds something to the truck. We are able to use it without actually destroying the truck.”

“The bumpers are definitely an awesome thing,” said Spc. Jeremy Lawson. “I was in a situation where we weren’t being engaged but it was a known hot spot. The jingle truck in front of me was up the hill. It stalled and it couldn’t get up the hill. So I came right up there and pushed him up the hill. When he came down the hill, he kick-started himself and we continued.”

“Staff Sgt. Lawson and Sgt. Brunney have had a bunch of generals and command sergeants major looking at their shop, what they are doing and future projects they are thinking of,” stated Alexander. “The nice thing about these guys (Lawson and Brunney) is they don’t do it for the recognition; they don’t think of themselves. They think of what it can do for everyone. So it is more for the whole Army than it is for the recognition they get.”

Due to the strong alliance between 426th BSB and Army Sustainment Command’s 401st AFSSB, the Bastogne bumpers became a reality for the Soldiers, not just in their own unit, but for other Army units throughout Afghanistan. Creativity, knowledge, tenacity and dedication has saved lives. Proof positive that the Materiel Enterprise is making a difference on the battlefield.