



THE GLOBAL LINE



Activities mark 9/11 Anniversary

When the time comes to publicly remember Sept. 11, 2001, recalling and retelling personal memories becomes a collective, almost therapeutic, way of dealing with the loss the United States has experienced in the last 10 years**See page 10 & 11**

402nd packs up, moves to Kuwait

The 402nd Army Field Support Brigade is packing up after an eight-year presence in Iraq. With the move comes reflection.....**see page 3**



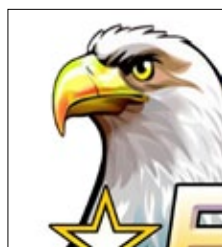
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Fontaine Sends...

ASC key to logistics transformation

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

Team – As the summer comes to an end, all our missions continue to move at a fast pace and ASC keeps providing tremendous support to the tip of the spear – the Soldiers.

We maintain the momentum and exceed expectations in support of our contingency operations through the establishment of Redistribution Property Assistance Team (RPAT) yards while sustaining operations in Afghanistan and transitioning to Department of State in Iraq.

We are making great strides in assuming the mission of Executing Agent for the Lead Materiel Integrator. The Decision Support Tool (DST) contract was awarded this month with release of Version 1 projected for Dec. 15, providing a key capability for ASC to execute the LMI mission. The highlight this month is the “Last Tactical Mile” ROC Drill that includes all Brigade Support Operations Officers (SPOs) tying execution of LMI tasks at the AFSB-level with materiel management and DOL oversight tasks. The objective is to analyze troop-to-task requirements. As always, the Command subject matter experts continue to resolve the hard issues and are postured for success.

We are moving the Enhanced Army Global Logistics Enterprise (EAGLE) acquisition program forward as planned to meet a summer 2012 contract award. This acquisition effort is a critical component in how we are tackling the DOL transition and will form the basis for our approach in contracting across all supply,



maintenance and transportation requirements of the Command. We are now in the midst of the acquisition strategy approval process as it makes its way into the Army staff for their review.

This month, CG Army Materiel Command hosted a Commander’s Conference focused on positioning AMC for success in 2020. As the Army continues to transform and operate within projected resource constraints, I expect ASC to remain effective and efficient; however, it will require all of us to operate fundamentally different. I expect ASC to play a vital role in assisting AMC in its transformational efforts to remain the vital global logistics provider for our Army.

The entire Army Family - Soldiers, Civilians, and Contractors - continues to feel the stresses of almost a decade of continuous operations abroad and at home. As September is Suicide Prevention Month, I would like all to focus on knowing the tools available for preventing suicides. Every member of our organization plays a vital role in the success of our missions and we cannot afford to lose even one person to something as preventable as suicide. Take care of your Airborne buddy...we owe it to each other to help each other with the same intensity we execute our missions.

Thank you for all you do every day in support of this great Nation and our Command!

Airborne!
MG Fontaine

THE GLOBAL LINE



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402nd packs up after eight years on the battlefield

Story and photos by Pamela J Proper
402nd AFSB Public Affairs Officer

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – The 402nd Army Field Support Brigade is packing up after an eight-year presence in Iraq. With the move comes reflection on the mission that brought so many from so far.

James Branham has made the trip to the desert five times including Desert Shield/ Desert Storm. He helped establish the Army Materiel Command's logistics support element here in 2003 when U.S. forces took over the Iraqi air base at Balad. Back then the base was called Logistics Support Activity - Anaconda and over the years it has grown into a large and important logistics hub.

When Branham arrived, under the command of Col. Robert Spidel, with a small team of logistics assistance representatives they began to set up tents, make toilets and shower facilities and design plans to improve their living and work area. At that time, Iraq was an immature theater - there were no amenities such as running water, toilets or electrical power, so they relied on their ingenuity to make things happen.

In addition, Branham's team staked their claim on a badly damaged structure that would become, over the years, the headquarters of the 402nd AFSB. The team slept in tents pitched in the desert sand and ate MREs next to their building project.

According to Spidel's historical report, they shoveled sand, stacked sand bags, cleaned and cabled the building with the help of hired labor from the local population. The report stated the Iraqis were very hard working people who came in the morning, stayed all day, did not take a lot of breaks and were very proactive and wanted to make things work.

Branham remembers feeling a sense of accomplishment.

"The first time I left I felt extremely good about what our team established and accomplished on our own," Branham said. "We worked as a cohesive unit doing what was necessary and best for the organization to accomplish the mission. We were all stakeholders in the decision making process to improve the quality of life, as well as establishing workflow and reporting processes. We knew the seed we planted then is what AMC Iraq has become today."

Over the years that single building would evolve into a compound of structures. Today the 402nd is moving out and their buildings, along with the rest of the base, will be given back to the Iraqi Air Force, which is slowly making a presence here.



Col. John S. Laskodi, commander of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, and James Branham, chief of the Logistics Support Element- Expeditionary Support Command, with the unit crest before it is packed at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, for shipment to its new home at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Col. John S. Laskodi is the current 402nd AFSB commander, charged with reorienting the organization.

"I am extremely proud to be part of the Power Forward Team during this historic time as we support the drawdown of forces in Iraq. The incredible power of Army Materiel Command, focused through Army Sustainment Command and synchronized by the 402nd AFSB, ensured the success of Operation Iraqi Freedom and now Operation New Dawn. There is no doubt that operations in Iraq and Kuwait could have been as successful without the 402nd AFSB," Laskodi said.

And now after his fifth deployment Branham has come full circle with the AMC mission in Iraq.

"After so many deployments to Balad, Iraq, it

See 402nd, page 19

Congress approves \$\$ aimed at Lead Materiel Integrator mission

By C.W. Fick, Jr.
ASC Public Affairs

Progress toward Army Sustainment Command's successful implementation of its new lead materiel integrator mission took a leap ahead recently when a request to shift funds received congressional approval.

As reported by the Army Materiel Command, the approval frees up \$6.4 million for continued development of the Decision Support Tool, a crucial element of ASC's rapidly evolving role in the materiel enterprise.

Continued development of DST is linked to ASC's newest and fast-developing mission as the Army's lead materiel integrator. In its role as AMC's operational arm, ASC is pioneering a new method of materiel management while

gearing up to provide Army-wide materiel distribution.

A new mission requires new methods, in this case a tool enabling ASC's Distribution Management Center to access data from diverse sources, while also empowering operating forces to report materiel readiness requirements directly to the generating force.

An AMC presentation summarizes DST's utility: Provide a web-based, collaborative capability linked to demand sources to optimize the equipping process based on Army force generation requirements.

Among its features, DST is expected to establish a common operating picture, portraying inventory, requirements and sourcing transactions over time to a distributed population of users.

In an early test, DST showed great promise. "It has phenomenal potential as it progresses through development," said Greg Alderete, representing the 404th Army Field Support Brigade at an evaluation held in May.

"We're still improving DST," said Brig. Gen. Brian Layer, ASC's deputy commanding general for sustainment. "The transparency it brings, the computational power it will bring to bear, is going to change the way we do business."

According to Richard Roa, ASC's lead congressional affairs specialist, last week's approval included action by the Senate and House Armed Services Committees, and the Defense Sub-Committees of the Senate and House Appropriations Committees.

With renewed funding in hand, plans call for ASC to continue working with AMC's Logistics Support Activity toward release of Decision Support Tool - Version 1 late this year.



Photo by Tony Lopez, ASC Public Affairs

Evaluators tested an early version of the Decision Support Tool during a May meeting at Army Sustainment Command, Rock Island, Ill. The DST is seen as a crucial capability in ASC's new role as the Army's lead materiel integrator.

Focus on the Future . . .

EAGLE program moving forward

**Story by Liz Adrian
ASC Public Affairs**

The Enhanced Army Global Logistics Enterprise (EAGLE) program recently took a significant step forward in the approval process. According to Melanie Johnson, chief of the EAGLE contracting office, on July 26 the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Cost and Economics validated the costs in the EAGLE Cost Benefit Analysis for Installation Logistics Services at CONUS Directorates of Logistics (DOL).

The Installation Management Command, which still has administrative control of the DOLs, concurred with the CBA before the DASA-CE validation.

The proposed strategy has been presented to Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, U.S. Army Materiel Command's commanding general, and she has provided the necessary approval for the team to

proceed. The EAGLE team has briefed members of the Army staff and is that much closer to getting the final acquisition strategy approved.

Given the necessary approvals, Johnson says it is possible that information on the acquisition strategy could be released to industry later this year.

The EAGLE program seeks to combine installations' separate contracts for maintenance, supply and transportation services under one contract in order to centralize all functional responsibilities, eliminate redundancy and maximize efficiency. A single contractor at each installation DOL would be responsible

for providing all three services.

The program also intends to enhance opportunities for small businesses through potential set-asides and possible joint ventures or teaming opportunities between prime contractors and small businesses.



Relaxing by Reading

Maj. Jennifer L. Mahoney, 401st Army Field Support Brigade battle captain, visits the United Through Reading room. The quilt behind her was made and donated by Mahoney's mother and her quilt group. The room is an oasis, enabling 401st Soldiers and civilians to relax through reading amid touches of home.

[More on this story here](#)

Photo by Summer Barkley, 401st AFSB Public Affairs

ASC on track to absorb installation logistics activities

Story and photo by Megan McIntyre
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. – “Each function has a separate means for success,” said Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, Army Sustainment Command’s commanding general, in his opening remarks at the June 30 Directorate of Logistics Day here.

“The first thing is to identify what needs to be done today,” he said.

Declared “DOL Day,” the event included discussion on the timeline of the DOL transfer from Installation Management Command to Army Materiel Command, ASC’s parent. Each ASC Headquarters DOL functional area involved in the transfer presented current regulations and solutions for a smooth transfer.

DOL Transformation Team members, Army Field Support Brigade representatives and ASC senior staff members were all in attendance and offered feedback throughout the briefing.

“If you hear something that you have questions on, let us know,” said Fontaine. “Issues may pop up

as the briefers present, and this is an opportunity to work through those.”

In recent months, ASC’s Directorate of Logistics Transformation Team hosted numerous rehearsal of concept drills, enabling each specific area to work through any issues or concerns in small working groups with subject matter experts. The ROC drills included: ammunition, retail supply, laundry and dry cleaning, fuel test laboratories, bulk petroleum, oils and lubricants and the Hazardous Material Management Program, food service, maintenance, transportation.

An AMC spokesperson said a big decision came June 22, as Gen. Ann Dunwoody, AMC commanding general, announced the transfer from IMCOM to ASC would be complete Oct. 1, 2012. Operational control of the DOLs in CONUS, Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico became the responsibility of the Army Field Support Brigades and Battalions Oct. 1, 2010. Transfer of operational control of Korea and Japan DOLs was complete Jan. 1 and in Europe, April 1.



Scott Welker (center), deputy to the commander, and Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine (right), ASC commanding general, lead discussions during “Directorate of Logistics Day,” June 30. DOL Transformation Team members, Army Field Support Brigade representatives and ASC senior staff discussed progress in the transfer of DOL capabilities to ASC.

New dawn for ammunition as Iraq drawdown hits full steam

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

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – On time, every time. That is the promise of the Joint Munitions Command and from all accounts it is living up to its word supplying the warfighter with ammunition during combat. Now, with combat operations officially over, units are drawing down in Iraq. It's



Jim Wettlaufer, Quality Assurance Specialist Ammunition Surveillance, teaches 8th Ordnance Company Soldiers how to sort, inventory and repackage ammunition turned in during the drawdown in Iraq. Here he trains ammunition specialist Sgt. Anthony Goosey how to repackage C4 plastic explosive in a field environment at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.

a new day, a new dawn here, but the pace is just as hectic when it comes to moving ammunition.

As forwarding operating bases close, ammunition is shipped to a supply point where it is sorted, inspected, classified and repackaged for reissue or designated to be demilitarized. JMC deploys technical advisers to assist units with ammunition turn-in and they are responsible for turning it around.

Jim Wettlaufer's title is quality assurance specialist ammunition surveillance, or QASAS. He deployed from Hawthorne Army Depot in Hawthorne, Nev., to work with the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade in Iraq. He is the lead civilian in a team of Soldiers who sort through boxloads of turn-in.

"The job here is a faster pace and more variety of ammo. It does make me appreciate air conditioning, stencil machines and factory packaging. Right now we are sending items to Kuwait in as close to factory pack as we can "being in a field environment," Wettlaufer said.

Back home he works with a civilian workforce where he is one of many ammunition experts. In Iraq, his team consists of young Soldiers eager to learn.

"I have many Soldiers who start out afraid of ammo or just the opposite, they are reckless with it. I try to teach them to respect ammo and not fear it and understand its capabilities and to not be complacent with it. It is important that we, as QASAS, get it right, because ammunition is safe and reliable only when it is handled properly," Wettlaufer said.

When they receive it, the ammunition is a hodgepodge of items in varying condition. Imagine tree lights at Christmas time. Who wants to de-tangle that lot, especially when it's a box of 40-millimeter high explosive dual purpose rounds? Yet, that is what Wettlaufer and his team do every day.

Whether it is bricks of C4 plastic explosive or M-67 fragmentation hand grenades, it is all inspected, prettied up and repackaged for another round.



Soldiers at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, inventory ammunition that has been turned in as part of the drawdown. This lot will be demilitarized under the watchful eye of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade.

Trainers and students weather Afghan elements

Story and photo by Summer Barkley
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – At the approximate mid-point in their six-month deployment, Soldiers from the U.S. Army Ordnance School, Track, Metalworking, and Recovery Department have weathered cold, rain, mud, heat and blowing dust to train dozens of Soldiers on operating the M1249 MRAP Recovery Vehicle and qualify many for the H8 Recovery Operations Additional Skill Identifier.



Staff Sgt. LeJaun D. Taylor, a U.S. Army Ordnance School instructor, (center) and Soldiers completing the H8 Additional Skill Identifier course watch Sgt. Thomas J. Smith, E Company 3/10 General Support Aviation Battalion, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, as he uses hand signals to guide a M1089 five-ton MTV wrecker into position to tow a disabled vehicle.

The H8 ASI is a specialized course to train Soldiers to operate and maintain recovery vehicles and how to use standard procedures to rig and recover wheeled vehicles. The sub-tasks include oxygen and acetylene gas welding, recovery methods, boom and hoist operations, winch operations and recovery of mired, overturned and disabled vehicles. The Soldiers train on M984 HEMTT wreckers and M1089 five-ton MTV wreckers. The H8 course is being offered to Soldiers deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom whose units will be issued M1249s.

“It’s challenging here with the weather and the elements,” said Staff Sgt. Michael L. Lampley, U.S. Army Ordnance School, Track, Metalworking,

and Recovery Department instructor. “It’s both a positive and a negative. It shows the hardships and trains them to endure the elements and accomplish the mission in this environment.”

Sgt. Maj. Gene M. Sousa, U.S. Army Ordnance School, Track, Metalworking, and Recovery Department, said the H8 ASI is a low-density qualification and is currently taught at the school house at Fort Lee as part of Advanced Individual Training for Soldiers just out of basic training. Teaching the course in theater is different

because the Soldiers have more experience on vehicles than Soldiers in AIT he said.

“People are capitalizing on H8 training here,” said Sgt. 1st Class Alvin V. Beehler, Recovery Division chief instructor. “We want to fill our classes and maximize training.”

“I’ve wanted this course for ten years,” said Sgt. Thomas J. Smith, E Company 3/10 General Support Aviation Battalion, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Beehler added that many units close to the Bagram training site can send Soldiers

on short notice to fill empty seats. Sousa said they increased the student load from eight to 12 Soldiers per class to accommodate the demand for training.

“This is a great career boost,” said Spc. Dominique J. Clark, 655th Transportation Company, 1225th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion. “We’re learning the right way to recover vehicles the safest and fastest way.

“They already know the basics,” said Sousa. “We follow the plan of instruction but integrate their experiences.”

“We give them a scenario and they plan it out on the ground,” said Beehler as the Soldiers were beginning an overturned vehicle recovery. “We’ll

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Soldiers compete in ASC Best Warrior competition

Story by Liz Adrian
ASC Public Affairs

On July 7, Staff Sgt. Robert Wilkins was named NCO and Spc. Calvin Williams was named Soldier of the Year in ASC's competition, held June 27-30, 2011.

The competition tested Soldiers on a variety of mental and physical tasks. Some of these included a 6.2-mile road march, board interviews, a written exam and essay, urban orienteering, M4 weapon qualification and a situational training exercise.

Wilkins, a G4 Logistics NCO, is assigned duties that help maintain accountability of the Army's equipment. He said the support he received from personnel at ASC during the competition was invaluable.

"My supervisor was very supportive throughout," said Wilkins. "His guidance and the support from my section gave me the drive to not give up and keep going. A lot of times I was questioning myself, but I was able to keep going, in part, because of them."

Both men felt that, though the physical portions of the competition took a toll on their bodies, the mental portions posed the biggest challenges.

Prior to the competition, Williams, an ASC Headquarters and Headquarters Company supply assistant specialist, said he had only heard stories about the board - a panel of senior NCOs that test knowledge on Army Regulations, programs, weapons, etc.

"It was mentally challenging," said Williams. "Either you know it or you don't, or you know it and you stumble during the board and kick yourself for messing up afterward."

Even within an inherently physical event such as the STX lanes, Soldiers also needed to excel mentally. The STX lanes are a series of tests that gauge a Soldier's skill in tasks required in the field. In between test stations, Soldiers - carrying equipment and weapon - must maneuver the

terrain, as well as low-crawl under sections of barbed wire.

"My favorite part of the competition was the STX lanes because it was so challenging," said Wilkins. "It was physical, but we also had to think and be able to answer all of these questions while being so tired from not having any sleep."

Both Wilkins and Williams said they would do the competition again.

"I would be much more prepared next time,



Photo by Ted Cavanaugh, US Army

At this year's ASC Best Warrior Competition, Staff Sgt. Robert Wilkins (left) won the NCO category and Spc. Calvin Williams (right) won Soldier category. The competition was held at Rock Island Arsenal June 27-30.

from already have gone through it," said Wilkins. "I would definitely need to physically train up for another competition and would encourage others to train as well."

Williams said he would also encourage other Soldiers to participate in future Best Warrior competitions.

"Try it out," said Williams. "It's not as bad as people think. You meet some interesting people, you get to know yourself much better, mentally and physically and that's basically what it's about."

The Best Warrior Competition is open to all Soldiers, in two categories. The NCO category includes Corporals through Sergeant First

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ASC marks 9/11 anniversary

Story by Liz Adrian, ASC Public Affairs
 Photos by Megan McIntyre

Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. – Everyone has their own memory of what happened. Some choose to refer to it as “9/11”. Others seem to distance themselves referring to it as “the event,” “that day” or even just “it”.

When the time comes to publicly remember Sept. 11, 2001, recalling and retelling personal memories becomes a collective, almost therapeutic, way of dealing with the loss the United States has experienced in the last 10 years.

Stories of 9/11 floated through the air at dawn’s early light the morning of Sept. 8, 2011, as Soldiers and civilians gathered at Rock Island Arsenal’s Memorial Park. All were there for Army Sustainment Command’s 9/11 Tenth Anniversary Memorial Walk. The walk gave participants the opportunity to become a part of the memorial, instead of mere observers.

Tony Middleton, who works at First Army, said that just being a part of memorial events is significant in itself. His memory of 9/11

hits close to home every year – his birthday is on September 10, and every year for the past 10 years, it has been bittersweet.

Even though his birthday poses an inherent calendar connection, he said the vacation his family took to New York City the week prior to Sept. 11, 2001 is what really brings it home for him.

“It is profound for me and my kids because we were on a ferry on the way back from the Statue of Liberty and they were pointing at and taking pictures of the World Trade Centers,” said Middleton. “So, the next week when it happened,



Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Castillo speaks during the Sept. 8 dedication ceremony of the 9/11 Memorial monument, located across from Memorial Field on Rock Island Arsenal.

it definitely brought it home for me and the kids.”

Prior to the start of the walk, Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, ASC’s commanding general asked the crowd to remember those who died on Sept. 11, 2001 and during the War on Terror.

“What’s important as you walk today is for you to remember that 10 years ago, 3,000 of our fellow Americans died in a couple of buildings,” said Fontaine. “In the past 10 years 6,000 more have died to protect our freedoms and fight the War on Terror. Remember that as you walk.”

At 6:30 a.m. the group of walkers paid respect to the flag as it rose near ASC headquarters to the sounds of reveille. Each walker picked up a bundle of 25 American flags to carry with them along the 2.25 mile walk. In all, 9,198 flags were carried along the route – each flag memorializing one person killed in the attacks of September 11, or in the subsequent War on Terror.

Annie Cox, whose husband, Staff Sgt. Nathan Cox, died Sept. 20, 2008, in Afghanistan, said events such as the memorial walk mean a lot to her.

“Unfortunately, I’m here today because Nathan lost his life in the War on Terror ... but to come here and support all the Soldiers and civilians means a lot,” said Cox. “Of course the Soldiers will be here, but to see this many civilians participating is very heartwarming.”

Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Castillo of ASC helped coordinate the morning walk and said that the crowd of walkers was a lot larger than anticipated, given a large civilian turnout.

“We were expecting maybe 150 to 200 civilians, and I’m guessing we probably have about 400 civilians here this morning,” said Castillo. “We had about 225 Soldiers from ASC, so there’s probably between 625 and 650 people walking. A very big turnout that we’re very pleased with.”

Vicki Ahlgrim with Army Contracting Command said she decided to take part in the walk because it is important to her that people remember.

“It’s a reverent thing and I think everybody needs to pause,” said Ahlgrim. “Sometimes it seems like people have forgotten.”

As the walkers returned to Memorial Park, they were directed across the street, and into the Field of Honor behind the recently completed 9/11 memorial monument – a set of towers and a small marble pentagon representing the buildings destroyed or damaged on 9/11.

In the Field of Honor, walkers stuck the flags they carried with them into the ground.

As more and more flags were planted, they began to take on the shape of red white and blue “shadows,” extending outward into the field behind the two towers of the 9/11 memorial.

The walkers appreciated having a part in constructing the temporary monument.

“I think it’s a great idea,” said Cox. “We have lost a lot of people in 10 years, both military and civilians. It’s a beautiful morning for such a great dedication to honor all the men and women who have sacrificed.”

Middleton said the memorial flags helped make for a meaningful event. “It

was a great symbolic way to commemorate and to honor the victims of 9/11, and show patriotism for the country,” said Middleton.

The commotion of the crowd subsided as Soldiers and civilians headed to their workplaces. As they filtered out, the quiet, serene field of red, white and blue remained, ready for the crowds to return for the memorial ceremony at 1 p.m.

Approximately 450 people gathered for the 9/11 Monument Dedication and Remembrance ceremony, narrated by Castillo.

“This memorial will forever be illuminated in memory of the sacrifice of those who perished since 9/11 and those who will continue to lay down their lives on the mantle of freedom,” said Castillo.

Calling attention to the thousands of flags planted behind the brick memorial, Castillo said, “As you entered the ceremony area this afternoon,

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Photo by Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Blake

Russell takes command of 401st AFSB

Story and Photo by Summer Barkley
401st AFSB Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr. assumed command of 401st Army Field Support Brigade from outgoing commander, Col. Richard B. O’Connor, II in a ceremony held at brigade headquarters July 17.

The time-honored change of command ceremony is somewhat of a rarity for a unit deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Today’s Army Force Generation model has units rotating in and out of the battle space for a set period of

Thank you for a job well done.”

In his remarks, O’Connor thanked the “officers, NCO, Army civilians and contractors of the 401st who maintain and sustain the maneuver brigades” and who fielded and sustained hundreds of systems.

“We are the AMC’s face to the field,” he added. “When Gen. Dunwoody [AMC commanding general and Dr. O’Neill [then Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology] visited the 401st, they said ‘401st has gotten the vision of the Materiel Enterprise right.’”

In welcoming Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr. to the command, Fisher told him the 401st mission reminded him of performers who could keep plates spinning on sticks. He said Russell’s job is to “keep all these plates spinning.”

“It is a distinct honor and privilege to lead this brigade,” said Russell. “Team Sabre, all policies and procedures remain in place.”

O’Connor is scheduled to be the Defense Coordination Office, U.S. Army North, director.

The 401st AFSB’s mission is



Col. Michel M. Russell, Sr., 401st Army Field Support Brigade commander accepts the brigade colors from Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan commander, during a July 17 change of command ceremony held at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

time with the commander usually remaining in command throughout the deployment. The 401st AFSB is unique in that it is headquartered in Afghanistan with commanders and personnel joining and leaving the unit as their individual assignments dictate.

“You fielded over 6500 MRAPs and put plans in place for 10 RPAT yards; you streamlined battle loss/battle damage replacement; and you were a trusted advisor” said Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan commander, in remarks addressed to O’Connor. “I could always rely on you during my command.

to serve as the single entry point for integration and synchronization for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology between the tactical level and the Materiel Enterprise while enhancing unit readiness and improving combat capability; and provide field and sustainment level logistics for both U.S. and Coalition forces in Afghanistan in accordance with Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan and U.S. Forces – Afghanistan priorities and is accomplished by more than 41,000 Soldiers, Department of Army civilians and contractors at locations across the Afghanistan area of operations.

New DMC leader ‘humbled’ to take command

By Megan McIntyre
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND, Ill.—The Distribution Management Center welcomed Col. Victor M. Harmon as its new commander during a change of command ceremony July 14, held at Rock Island Arsenal’s Constitution Square. During the ceremony, the command also bid farewell to outgoing commander Col. Matthew T. Higginbotham, who retired after 26 years of service.

Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine, commander of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command, hosted the ceremony and praised Higginbotham for his accomplishments.

“Your commitment to the needs of the Soldier will live on in the work you’ve done here,” said Fontaine. “You’ve created a flexible organization that will continue to evolve in response to every new mission that comes its way.”

The ceremony included a 13-cannon volley, presentation of flowers to spouses and transfer of command.

“Welcome to ‘The Rock,’” Fontaine said to Harmon. “I know you will enjoy your command here, and are ready to take on this superb group and lead it to success.”

Harmon said it is a true blessing to take command. “I am deeply humbled and honored to stand here as the commander of this outstanding organization. I look forward to serving with you and sharing in all the future holds.”

“What a very special day this is for me and my family,” said Higginbotham. “It’s not every day

that you change command and retire, all in the same day.”

Fontaine concluded the ceremony by thanking both men for their contribution, past and future.



Photo by Tony Lopez, ASC Public Affairs.

Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, commanding general of Army Sustainment Command, passes the Distribution Management Center colors to Col. Victor M. Harmon during a change of command ceremony, July 14, on Constitution Square at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.



New commander at 402nd

Col. John S. Laskodi (center, right), the new commander of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, receives the unit colors from Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, commanding general of Army Sustainment Command. Col. Lawrence W. Fuller (left) relinquished command during the July 27 ceremony at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. (US Army Photo)

403rd AFSB flag passed to new commander

Story and photo by Barbara Toner
ASC Public Affairs

DAEGU, Korea – Col. Michael Lopez assumed command of the 403rd Army Field Support Brigade from Col. Barry Diehl July 8 during an indoor ceremony on Camp Walker.

Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine, Army Sustainment Command commanding general, presided over the ceremony. The 403rd AFSB is a subordinate unit to ASC, located at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

In a ceremony that dates back to the 18th century, Diehl passed the unit colors to Fontaine, who then passed them to Lopez. The passing of the colors, witnessed by the members of the unit, signifies the transition of command to a new leader.

The event took on an international flair through participation by the 36th Korean Service Corps Company, assembled in formation, and the Korean 50th HRD Band, which provided the music.

“This ceremony would not be the same without you,” Diehl said of his host-nation comrades.

“This is an emotional day – but a good day in that I am surrounded by magnificent people in a great nation, the Republic of Korea,” he said.

Diehl thanked the leaders, civilian employees, and military members he served with for two years and acknowledged the importance of the Koreans who helped the brigade succeed in its mission. He cited the Korean civilians, Korean Service Corps personnel, and Japanese master labor contractors.

Addressing the brigade for the first time, Lopez thanked Fontaine, Diehl and Diehl’s wife, Preeya, for a warm welcome to the unit.

“To the 403rd, your reputation precedes you – your commitment to the Warfighter is unmatched – your quality of support is outstanding,” he said.

Before the ceremony, Diehl and his wife received several awards. He received the Legion of Merit and a Korean Ministry of National Defense letter of commendation. She received the Commander’s Award for Public Service as well as the Dr. Mary Walker Award and the Helping Hand Award from Eighth U.S. Army.

Diehl is returning to the United States to attend the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa.

Lopez comes to the 403rd from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, where he earned a master’s degree in National Resource and Security Strategy.



Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine, Army Sustainment Command's commanding general, passes the unit colors to Col. Michael Lopez during the 403rd Army Field Support Brigade's change of command, which took place July 8 on Camp Walker, Daegu, Korea. Lopez assumed command from Col. Barry Diehl, who is returning to the United States to attend the Army War College.

404th AFSB welcomes a new commander

Story and photo by Barbara Toner
ASC Public Affairs

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. – Soldiers and civilians of the 404th Army Field Support Brigade took part in a change of command June 15 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., during which Col. George Akin relinquished control of the brigade to Col. Leafaina Yahn.

Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine, Army Sustainment Command's commanding general, presided over the ceremony, which also featured the 555th ("Triple Nickel") Engineer Brigade Color Guard and the I Corps Band.

Before the ceremony, Akin received the Legion of Merit for his accomplishments as the brigade's commander. He thanked the 404th AFSB personnel for their hard work during the last two years. The outgoing commander told them the 404th could not have accomplished what it did without the dedication of the Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians and contractors who are a part of the brigade's team.

"You were always out there, carrying the Materiel Enterprise and ASC messages to the school houses, at the pre-command courses, sustainment commander's forums, to I Corps and units in the Pacific. You were a great advocate for ASC, telling others about the importance of our missions, capabilities and our people," Fontaine said of Akin.

Akin retired from the Army, participating in a retirement ceremony June 30 at ASC headquarters at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., to join his wife, Brig. Gen. Robin Akin. Brig. Gen. Akin has been assigned to Korea to take the position of deputy assistant chief of staff, C-4/J-4, and the deputy commanding general for support, Eighth U.S. Army.

Yahn, a native of American Samoa, took the cool, cloudy

northwestern weather in stride as she, Akin, and Fontaine waited patiently to march onto the Watkins Parade Field at JBLM. Her husband, Rocky Yahn, a retired Chief Warrant Officer 4, received a 404th AFSB shirt and her mother, Lauolive Toomalatai Tavai, was presented with a rose as gifts from the brigade. Other members of Yahn's family traveled from Samoa to show their support.

"Ina, today we pass the flag to you. As commander, you'll be taking over a mission that has seen, and will continue to see, many changes. The 404th is a moving train taking on new initiatives as the single face of the materiel enterprise in this region, so hang on tight and enjoy this exciting command," said Fontaine to Yahn.

As a way of congratulating Yahn on her new command, her family placed flower leis over her head after the ceremony.

The 404th AFSB is one of ASC's subordinate commands, providing the single face of the Army Materiel Command to the field by integrating and synchronizing acquisition, logistics and technology. The brigade provides command and control of AMC programs within a large and diverse area of responsibility, including Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, California, and Arizona.



Col. George Akin, outgoing commander of the 404th Army Field Support Brigade; Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine, commanding general of Army Sustainment Command; and Col. Leafaina Yahn, incoming 404th AFSB commander; salute the American flag during the brigade's change of command ceremony June 15 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

AFSBn-Italy earns ISO recertification

Story by Jennifer L. King
405th AFSB Public Affairs Officer

LEGHORN ARMY DEPOT, Italy – The Army Field Support Battalion-Italy recently earned recertification from the International Organization for Standardization as 9001:2008 compliant for its quality management system.

“The inspectors were very impressed with the operation and reporting details that the battalion had available for command and control,” said Lt. Col. Richard Pierce, commander of the AFSBn-Italy. “They noted our continued improvement on process maps linked to standard operating procedures, maintenance and storage operations, and personnel management practices.”

Pierce believes that the recertification is directly related to the talented and dedicated battalion workforce.

“Our Soldiers, U.S. civilians and Italian employees are remarkable,” said Pierce. “Their skill sets are extremely well-developed, and their commitment to our mission, and to making our battalion the best that it can be, never falters.”

The AFSBn-Italy is headquartered at Leghorn Army Depot on Camp Darby, Italy, and has the lead for all U.S. Army Materiel Command activities south of the Alps. It originally received its ISO certification in 2008.

The International Organization for Standardization is a multi-national, non-governmental organization founded in 1947 that develops and publishes standards. According to ISO’s Web site, ISO 9001:2008 specifies requirements for a quality management system.



Photo by Chiara Mattiolo, USAG Livorno Public Affairs.

Alessandro Donati, Army Field Support Battalion- Italy, uses some of the skills that helped the battalion earn recertification from the International Organization for Standardization as 9001:2008 compliant for its quality management system.

9/11

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you may have noticed the massive field of small red, white and blue flags directly behind the 9/11 monument. This field is of utmost significance to today's 10th anniversary remembrance ceremony."

He explained how each flag in the Field of Honor represents each of the 9,198 civilians, firefighters, policemen, Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Dept. of Defense civilians who have made the ultimate sacrifice since that September day in 2001.

"Unfortunately, this field continues to grow," said Castillo. "Since Aug. 23, an additional 11 American heroes have perished while serving."

Following Castillo's remarks, Brig. Gen. Brian Layer, Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Blake, Rock Island Arsenal Police Sgt. Christopher Walters and RIA assistant fire chief Brett VanScoy officially unveiled the 9/11 memorial. After the unveiling, Gold Star Families in attendance assisted Layer in placing a wreath of remembrance between the two towers and marble Pentagon.

For those in uniform and those who have lost loved ones serving their country, the past 10 years have been just plain hard. "But it's been harder by far and hardest of all for those Gold Star Families who have lost forever one that they loved so much and so well," said Layer.

Layer then introduced the ceremony's keynote speaker, David Pautsch, a Gold Star father, whose son, Cpl. Jason Pautsch, was killed on Good Friday 2009.

The elder Pautsch, a former Soldier, began by thanking the Soldiers and civilians for the

appreciation they give to those who serve.

"I will never forget the scene on Rodman Avenue when hundreds and hundreds of you lined the street [along the route to the Rock Island National Cemetery]," said Pautsch. "It just flabbergasted me and I knew it wasn't just about my son, but I knew it was about what my son stood for. It revealed more about you, about your love for this country. I feel like I am among family."

Pautsch pointed out that while the Army comprises 48.8 percent of the total Department of Defense force in Iraq and Afghanistan, Soldiers sustained over 73 percent of the combat deaths.

"It's no wonder that the Army has such a sense of compassion, love and honor that they give to Gold Star families," said Pautsch. "It is embedded in them because the Army has paid a heavy price in the War on Terror."

Pautsch recalled the evening of the day he was informed of his son's death.

"One of the first thoughts that hit me was I know someone else who lost their son on Good Friday," he said.

Pautsch credits his faith for enabling him to get through the experience. "When my son was killed, I didn't lose him," said Pautsch. "I didn't go to the lost and found. I know exactly where he is. He's in heaven."

After the formal events of the day came to an end, Soldiers and civilians lingered a bit, sharing stories, snapping photographs, visiting the new memorial and crowding around the posters containing the names of those that died since 9/11 ... proving, once again, that those who are gone will never be forgotten.



Photo by Megan McIntyre, ASC Public Affairs.

The 9/11 Memorial monument, located across from Memorial Field on Rock Island Arsenal, was dedicated during a ceremony Sept. 8. The monument includes replicas of the twin towers and Pentagon. Behind the monument, more than 9,000 flags were placed to represent every person killed in the attacks of Sept. 11, and the subsequent War on Terror.

ASC supports exhibit for fallen Service members

Story and photo by Jackie Hoggins
ASC Public Affairs

DAVENPORT, Iowa – Army Sustainment Command helped kick-off the local opening of a traveling photography exhibit honoring Iowa's fallen Service members at the Davenport Main Street Library Aug. 15.

Brig. Gen. Brian Layer, Army Sustainment Command deputy commanding general for sustainment, was the keynote speaker at the "Remembering Our Fallen" photo display opening ceremony. Also on hand were ASC Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen D. Blake, Quad Cities-area Gold Star families, Davenport Mayor Bill Gluba, Central High School's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps color guard and members of the Patriot Guard.

"I hope that you see this exhibit as a visual, tangible promise that their incredible sacrifice will never be forgotten," Layer said. "It is our duty to keep their spirits alive."

LaWanda Roudesh, Davenport Public Library director, said the photo display was created to honor those who

made the ultimate sacrifice in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

"The touring display is a legacy for the men and women to be remembered and have their names spoken," she said. "The exhibit includes favorite photos selected by the Families."

Layer invited the audience to think about those whose service and sacrifice didn't end with the loss of a loved one.

"Live each day like it's our last and demonstrate our gratitude for our national blessings," he said.

The exhibit remained on display at the Davenport Main Street Library through Aug. 23 and is slated to crisscross Iowa through November.



Brig. Gen. Brian Layer, deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command, speaks with Gold Star family members following the Fallen Soldier Memorial opening ceremony in Davenport, Iowa, Aug. 15.

ELEMENTS

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let them rig and correct as necessary."

A correction was necessary when Staff Sgt. LeJaun D. Taylor, spotted something and called out, "Hey what are you doing?" The class stopped to listen to Taylor's advice and adjust how they were rigging an overturned vehicle.

"Every recovery is different," Sousa said. "They [the students] need to think creatively and understand the tools they have on each vehicle to complete a recovery that doesn't damage people or further damage the equipment."

Twelve students completed the seventh H8 course and graduated July 10. The instructors are scheduled to continue training for approximately three more months before redeploying to Fort Lee.

Taylor said he feels a sense of accomplishment being part of the first TRADOC Ordnance School unit to deploy.

"They [the instructors] stay motivated every day, out here in the heat and wind and blowing dust," Sousa observed while standing in the open field used for training and enduring winds of up to 50 mph and blowing dust and sand that left a crust of dirt on every face. "To be in this environment and stay motivated the way they do, it's incredible."

ASC Chief of Staff visits military children's summer camp

Story and photo by Megan McIntyre
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. – About 150 children from military families enjoyed a week of camping and activities at the YMCA's Camp Abe Lincoln in Blue Grass, Iowa, Aug. 1-5.

Col. Richard Dix, Army Sustainment Command chief of staff, spoke with the campers, emphasizing their importance to their parents and value to the military. Dix also stressed that everyone needs a "battle buddy" to get them through the challenges of military life; he challenged the campers to help each other through difficult times.

Members of the Iowa Army National Guard stopped by during the camp, arriving in an OH-58 Kiowa. Campers were able to get a close look and learn about the chopper from its crew.

Among the activities available to campers are: swimming, canoeing, horseback riding, tower climbing, hiking, singing and dancing. Organizers sponsored two week-long sessions this summer.



Col. Richard Dix, Army Sustainment Command chief of staff, watches Military Kids Camp participants explore an Iowa Army National Guard OH-58 Kiowa, Aug. 3. Campers got a close look and learned about the chopper from its crew at the YMCA's Camp Abe Lincoln in Blue Grass, Iowa.

402nd

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makes me feel proud that as a logistics assistance representative (popularly known as a LAR), I was a part of AMC history. From the establishment of LSE-Iraq to AMC Forward Southwest Asia, to AFSB Iraq, and later the 402nd AFSB, and now our transition out of Iraq. It makes me reflect on the number of LARs, and leadership throughout AMC that came to Iraq and left their footprints in the sand. I can tip my hat and say "job well done - mission accomplished," Branham said.

The baton has been passed and the legacy continues for the 402nd.

"Whatever the future holds, the brigade's presence in Southwest Asia, from its inception as LSE-Iraq in 2003 to its formation under Army Sustainment Command as Army Materiel Command's forward-deployed brigade supporting coalition operations in Iraq, the incredible accomplishments of the Soldiers and civilians comprising the brigade will forever be an enduring part of history," said Laskodi.

Warrior

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Class and the Soldier category includes Private through Specialist. Competing alongside Wilkins and Williams at this year's competition were Staff Sgts. Cirildo Guerrero, John Booker and William Gerding.

After the ASC competition, both Wilkins and Williams competed in the Army Materiel Command's Best Warrior event, held one week after the ASC competition. Williams took third in the AMC Soldier portion, and Wilkins took third place in AMC's NCO competition.

Shoulder to Shoulder

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ASC Team Participates in RAGBRAI 2011

Story and photo by Bonnie Seals
ASC Public Affairs

Twenty-three Army Sustainment Command personnel rode the final leg of the 2011 Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa, better known as RAGBRAI. According to organizers, about 20,000 riders participated in this year's event.

"We are proud to represent the Army in this great community event," said Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, ASC commanding general, as he dipped his bicycle tire in the Mississippi River at the finish line in Davenport, Iowa.

The ASC team met other riders in Coralville, Iowa, then braved the extreme heat to complete the final 65.6 miles of the event.

"It was a great team-building event," said Col. Regina Draper, ASC deputy chief of staff for G2 (Intelligence).

Other riders from the ASC included: Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen D. Blake, Lt. Cols. Ronnie Davis, Yolanda Nieto, Peter Lane, and John Wyrwas; Maj. Steven Marchant; Cpts. Ayanna



Four Army Sustainment Command bicyclists celebrate after completing the last leg of a ride across Iowa. From left: Master Sgt. Sharon Gilmore, Col. Regina Draper, Sgt. Michelle Pedro and Sgt. Maj. Duane Strong.

Morales, Cassandra Dailey, Justin Bergen, Joshua Johnson, Sgt. Maj. Duane Strong, Master Sgts. Sharon Gilmore and Kecia Harris; Sgts. 1st Class Leyla Lesmes and Jay Denton; Sgts. Michelle Pedro and William Gerding; Clint Mecham, Leonard Jefferson, Mike Jones and Leslie Nepper.

ASC trains Reserve Soldiers for deployment



Army Sustainment Command Soldier Staff Sgt. Ronald Pierce, Jr., provides feedback to Army Reserve Soldiers during their pre-deployment training Aug. 19 at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. Pierce and other ASC Soldiers train and prepare Soldiers and Army civilians for deployments overseas throughout the year.

[More on this story here](#)

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Sean Riley, ASC Public Affairs