



THE GLOBAL LINE

Best Newsletter in AMC - Again!

9-11 Ceremony honors victims, affirms resolve

Soldiers, Sailors and Family Members from Rock Island Arsenal carried half a ton of bricks for five miles during a Sept. 9 pre-dawn march around the island honoring the victims of 9-11 and servicemembers and civilians who have died since in the Global**See pages 12 & 13**



ROC drill tackles DOL issues

The Army Materiel Command will take operational control of DOL functions in the United States on Oct. 1. **see page 3**



402nd paves way to future

United States Forces – Iraq executes the USETTI Program within the Iraq Theater of Operations by transferring equipment **see page 5**



405th aids Pakistan relief

The 3rd Battalion, 405th Army Field Support Brigade sent a shipment of humanitarian aid supplies to Pakistan**see page 6**



ASC NCO tops in AMC

Competitors endured a week-long challenge of events including M4 weapons qualification and reflexive firing, a warrior **see page 7**



BOOTS ON THE GROUND:

Regional Command North in northern Afghanistan is commanded by a German officer (as part of NATO's International **see page 9**



ASC team runs in Marathon

While stretching at 6:45 a.m., Soldiers agreed it was a perfect day to go for a run: 48 degrees and calm, amid slightly**see page 24**



Soldier shares experiences with military camp kids

Story and photos by Danielle Toste
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. — A decorated veteran of deployed service visited and spoke with 54 military children July 7 at the Military Kids Camp in Blue Grass, Iowa.

Capt. Scott Leifker, a Purple Heart and Bronze Star recipient, shared personal stories of his family coping with deployments and about the injuries he sustained in Iraq. Leifker, who commands Army Sustainment Command's Headquarters Company, discussed the concept of what a hero is and had a question & answer session at the end of a 30-minute presentation.

Camp Abe Lincoln hosted the camp for military children throughout Illinois and Iowa from July 4-9. Participants, ages 8-17, have family members in Army, Army National Guard, Air Force, Air Force Reserve and Navy. One-third of the kids have a family member currently deployed and all but one have been through a deployment.

This is the second year the camp has been offered free to Quad Cities children. The week's activities focused on the importance of communicating with deployed family members, how to cope with the absence of a parent and how to readjust once the parent returns.



Capt. Scott Leifker spoke with participants of the Military Kids Camp, July 7 at Camp Abe Lincoln, Blue Grass, Iowa, about how to successfully deal with a parent's deployment or relocation. Leifker discussed how to prepare a family for a departure, how to cope with the absence of a parent and how to re-establish relationships after the parent's return. The discussion included the idea of "what makes a hero" and concluded with participants' questions.



Camp participants pose with Iowa National Guard Soldiers and a CH-47 Chinook, July 7 at Camp Abe Lincoln, Blue Grass, Iowa.

THE GLOBAL LINE



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

E-mail address: ROCK-ASC-GLOBAL-LINE@conus.army.mil
Phone: (309) 782-5421, DSN 793-5421 Fax: (309) 782-5011.

Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine
Commanding General

Daniel M. Carlson
Public Affairs Officer

Charles W. Fick Jr.
Managing Editor

Jon Connor, Galen Putnam (deployed),
Sgt. 1st Class Sean Riley, Barbara Toner
Staff Members

Megan McIntyre and Danielle Toste
Interns

Teresa Johnston and Greg Wilson
Design & Layout

ROC drill works out difficult DOL issues

Story by Barbara Toner
ASC Public Affairs

To illustrate the complexity of the Directorate of Logistics transformation from the Installation Management Command to the Army Sustainment Command, Col. Danny Tilzey, commander of the “Mighty” 407th Army Field Support Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas, took a deck of cards out of his pocket.

As he ruffled the cards in front of two people, Tilzey asked each of them to tell him which card they saw. They chose different cards.

“You say the four of spades and she says the nine of hearts — and it’s the same deck of cards,” he said. “This is my DOL.”

“You see the problem,” he said, as he began briefing his DOL command and control concept.

The command structure and many other issues became clearer during a rehearsal of concept drill that took place Aug. 24-26 at the Radisson Quad City Plaza Hotel in Davenport, Iowa. During the conference, lively discussions took place on a variety of topics, including Commanders Critical Information Requirements (CCIRs), contracting, transportation, food service, and personal property moves.

The Army Materiel Command will take operational control of DOL functions in the United States on Oct. 1. ASC, through its AFSBs, will take responsibility for the new logistics mission. Target date for completing the transfer of all DOLs, worldwide, including resources and personnel, is Oct. 1, 2011.

More than 160 people from major commands and organizations throughout the Army attended the ROC drill.

The ambitious agenda concentrated on regional AFSB and IMCOM logistics issues, said Kathy Acree, ASC lead for the DOL Enterprise Transformation.

“The main focus is to gain agreement from all of the stakeholders on how we’re going to operate 1 October,” Acree said.

Greg Kuhr, IMCOM G4, executive for logistics, had certain expectations for the conference.

“Number One, to assess where we are in the process of realigning our DOLs, and then to identify

where we could potentially have some issues, and then finally to map out a way ahead,” he said. “What do we need to do to prepare for the OPCON relationship, which will be in FY11, and then what do we need to do to prepare for the formal reassignment in FY12 of our DOLs?”

The first day of the three-day workshop featured overview briefings by IMCOM and ASC representatives, command and control concepts by the AFSB commanders and a discussion of transportation issues.

Tilzey was not the only AFSB commander to brief the group on his command and control concept. Col. Johnny Johnston, 406th AFSB commander, Fort Bragg, N.C., and Col. George Akin, 404th AFSB, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., also briefed their concepts. Tilzey and Johnston took command of their brigades in July.

“I think the most important thing that we got out of it is the way we’re going to C2, what kind of structure we’re going to have to do the C2 of it,” Johnston said, referring to the AFSB command and control

role in the DOL transformation.

During the rest of the conference, attendees worked through a series of vignettes to determine organizational responsibilities in different situations. With the help of the participating directors of logistics and other subject-matter experts, the group identified a list of issues that needed to be resolved before ASC takes operational control of the DOLs. Several breakout sessions also took place to discuss some of the more difficult issues, such as resource management and personnel.

The ROC drill is one more step in an ongoing series of meetings to make sure OPCON goes as smoothly as possible.

“This is an iterative process,” Kuhr said. “This is one of several meetings that we’ll have. The ASC senior staff traveled to San Antonio and talked over several issues — the resourcing issues, the personnel issues. So it’s just another set of meetings in this process, and I think we’re on track. I think things are going very well, and we’ll make it happen.”



Photo by Ted Cavanaugh, Rock Island Arsenal

Col. Danny Tilzey, 407th AFSB commander, illustrates the complexity of the DOLs by using a deck of cards.

ASC hosts DOL transformation workshop

Story by Megan McIntyre
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. — Army Sustainment Command headquarters hosted the Directorate of Logistics training workshop at the Radisson Quad City Plaza, Davenport, Iowa, July 13-15.

Representatives from ASC and Installation Management Command attended to collaborate on ASC guidelines, standards and requirements for the upcoming DOL transformation.

“The DOL workshop is designed to be an educational process for staff on the ASC side and IMCOM, and a way to understand their different roles within this transformation,” said Clint Mecham, logistics management specialist for IMCOM G4 plans and operations.

Mecham said IMCOM’s role in this workshop is to support ASC in the effort to socialize, transfer information, transfer management and give situational awareness to IMCOM.

“It’s important for everyone to understand this relationship. IMCOM is the [current] owner and manager of the DOL resources, so it’s important that AMC [Army Materiel Command] knows how resources are managed and delivered for this to be a smooth process,” he said.

The Directorates of Logistics will be transferred to AMC and managed by ASC’s Army Field Support Brigades and Battalions, with project management provided by ASC headquarters on Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. ASC obtained operational control of the maintenance, select supply and ammunition functions on U.S. installations June 1. The command will then obtain operational control of the remaining U.S. DOL functions Oct. 1. Target date for full transfer of the DOLS worldwide is Oct. 1, 2011.

Kathy Acree, deputy director, ASC Distribution Management Center, said the DOL workshop is a great way for relationships to be established before the transformation takes place.

“The focus of these workshops is building relations, and these relations have improved with one-on-one time with the DOLs,” Acree said. “We

need to have a common understanding of a way ahead, so we can increase communication and identify any friction points.”

Director of Logistics Bob Franks, Fort Bragg, N.C., used the workshop as a way to connect with future employees.

“We have the opportunity to network with our future AMC partners. We are going to be transferring over to AMC, so it gives us the opportunity to do our coordination and learn new people, new faces and cement our relationship,” he said.

The workshop provided an understanding of AMC and the AFSBs’ organization and responsibilities, said Franks. Both ASC and IMCOM were able to view how things will fit together in the AFSB structure when the transfer takes place.

Col. Ken Dyer, commander, 406th Army Field Support Brigade, said there are a lot of issues but nothing that can’t be solved.

“We have heard a lot of concerns, but nothing that is not solvable, especially from the great team here at ASC and AMC,” he said.

“This whole transformation is a journey; it’s not something that is going to be solved overnight.”

The DOL workshop also served the purpose of finding a common understanding of the process ahead.

Julia Lyons, deputy commander, 404th AFSB, attended the workshop to present her command’s way ahead. Lyons said in the long run this will be a fantastic transition; however, right now, change can be a scary process.

“We are trying to articulate the positive, peel back the onion and look at what is really going to happen,” she said.

Workshop participants discussed the level of command responsible for DOL actions when they transfer to ASC. Specifically, they talked about internal logistics issues following the transfer, and how ASC will exercise command and control over the DOLs.

“Those who are running the DOLs will continue to do so. However, we are going to add more subject-matter expertise to the process, and I think in the long run we are going to provide better processes and support to our warfighters,” said Lyons.



Photo by Danielle Toste

Col. Ken Dyer, commander, 406th Army Field Support Brigade, discusses problems and potential resolutions of the Directorate of Logistics transfer. Army Sustainment Command hosted the DOL workshop at the Radisson Quad City Plaza, Davenport, Iowa, July 13-15.

USETTI ROC drill paves way to future

Story and photo by Galen Putnam
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

TAJI NATIONAL MAINTAINENCE DEPOT, Iraq – More than 50 personnel from 10 organizations gathered here for a United States Equipment Transfer to Iraq Rehearsal of Concept Drill hosted by the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade July 8.

The ROC Drill, also beamed to remote locations via video-conferencing, was conducted to discuss equipment transfer processes and streamline coordination among the many key players involved in the USETTI mission.

United States Forces – Iraq executes the USETTI program within the Iraq Theater of Operations by transferring equipment deemed excess defense articles to the government of Iraq in order to facilitate the Responsible Drawdown of Forces, while enabling the Iraqi security forces to reach their minimum essential capability.

The USETTI Program concept of operations was briefed by Josh Mater, deputy plans officer, 402nd AFSB. Other topics included the transfer of non-expendable “white” and “green” equipment as well as expendable/durable items, and sister-service coordination.

Also discussed were equipment transfer authorities such as Foreign Excess Personal Property; Section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961; and Section 1234 of the National Defense Acquisition Act.

“The USETTI mission is truly unique because it involves so many entities like the Department of State, the DoD, USF-I, and others. That’s why coordination is so important,” Mater said. “The purpose and emphasis of today’s meeting was to go over the equipment transfer and accountability processes for each type of equipment that is going to be transferred to the Government of Iraq. We also wanted to ensure that everyone involved understands the salient details that go into each one of these processes.”

Mater went on to explain the 402nd AFSB’s role in the USETTI mission.

“The 402nd is really the nexus for this entire mission,” he said. “Regardless of where the equipment is originating from, virtually all of it touches our operations here at some point.”

Building 500, operated by 2nd Bn., 402nd AFSB at Taji National Maintenance Depot, is the focal point of the USETTI operation. It is here that vehicles and other equipment such as computers and military gear are processed

for turnover to the government of Iraq. More than 52,000 pieces rolling and non-rolling stock items will be handled by the facility in support of the USETTI mission.

A huge undertaking with international implications, USETTI reaches from the highest-levels of government, right down into the weeds.

“I am responsible for the external operations of the battalion,” said Maj. Darcy Schnack, support operations officer, 2nd Battalion, 402nd AFSB. “There is an aspect of USETTI that concentrates on internal operations, and involves our S3 (Plans and Operations), and the 2nd Battalion Theater Property Book handles the accountability aspect. As the support operations officer, I kind of roll it all up. There is a lot of involvement from many players from 2nd Battalion.”

According to Schnack, the ROC Drill was a valuable forum.

“We’ve had many meetings, and the mission has really grown,” she said. “We’re now getting to execution phase, so it was useful bringing all of the players together today to lay out the common operation picture of how we’ll do business. Of course there are still areas we need to resolve, but this provided the opportunity to bring them to light and discuss the way ahead. It is important for us to help the Iraqis improve their operating capabilities, and that is why we this ROC Drill was held.”

Mater summed-up the event on a positive note.

“We’re making good progress. These organizations are really coming together. Overall it was a very productive session.”



Maj. Darcy Schnack, support operations officer, 2nd Battalion, 402nd AFSB, briefs the battalion's mission during the United States Equipment Transfer to Iraq rehearsal of concept drill hosted by the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade July 8. at Taji National Maintenance Depot, Iraq.

3rd Bn., 405th AFSB aids Pakistan relief

By Jennifer L. King

405th Army Field Support Brigade Public Affairs

LEGORN ARMY DEPOT, Italy – The 3rd Battalion, 405th Army Field Support Brigade sent a shipment of humanitarian aid supplies to Pakistan Aug. 13 as requested by the U.S. Agency for International Development. Northwest Pakistan has experienced significant flooding caused by extremely heavy monsoon rains, and millions of Pakistanis have been impacted by the natural disaster.

“We received a request to send 1,310 rolls of heavy-duty, waterproof plastic sheeting to Pakistan immediately in order to assist USAID in its disaster relief efforts,” said Alberto Chidini, who manages the USAID program for the battalion. “The plastic sheeting will be used by USAID to construct temporary shelters for families whose homes have been damaged or swept away by the flood waters.”

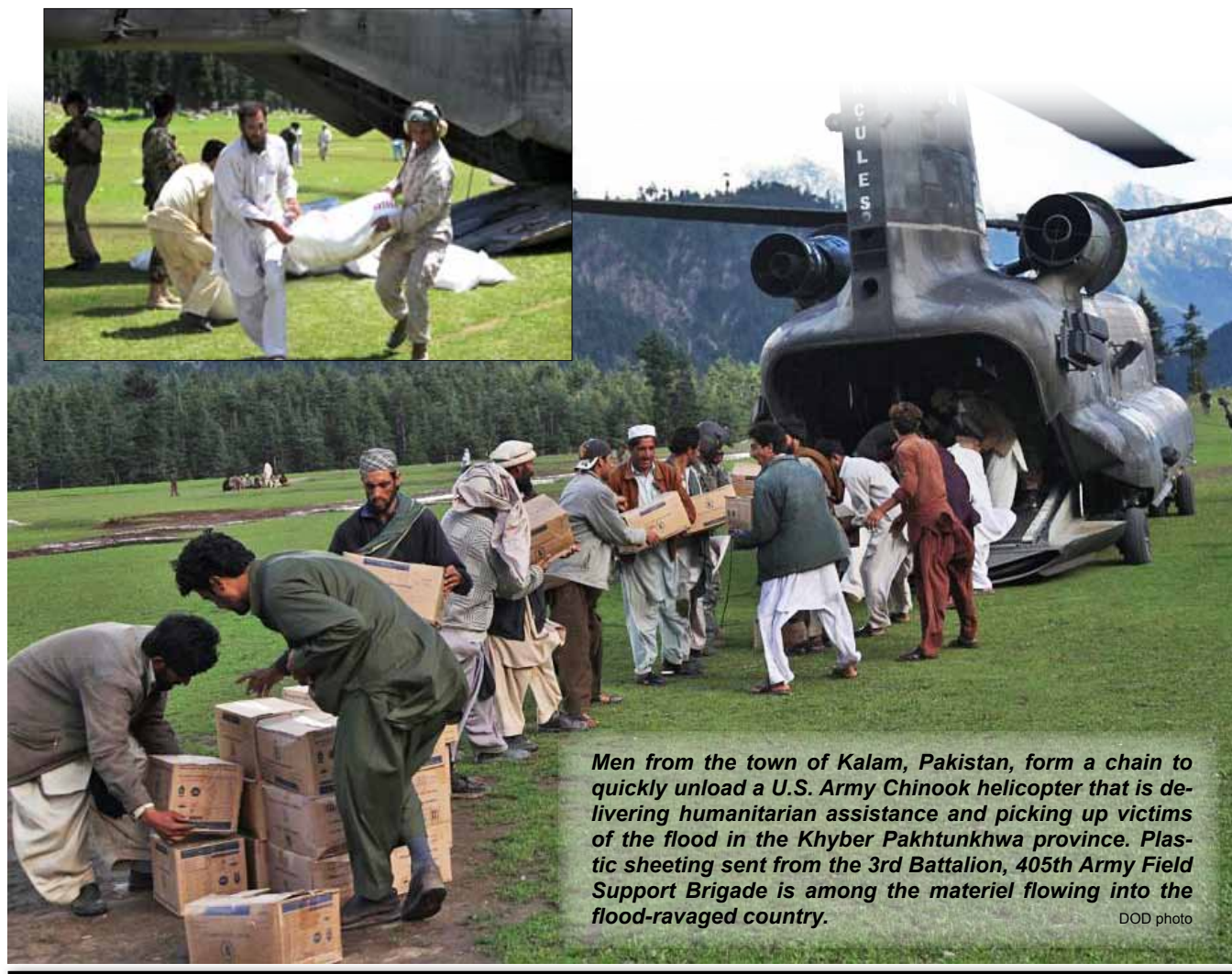
Lt. Col. Richard Pierce, commander of the 3rd Bn., 405th AFSB, is proud that his organization

plays such an integral part in international relief efforts such as these.

“I have only been in command a short time and am already awed by the international scope and reach of our mission,” Pierce said. “I am pleased that we have the ability to assist in relieving human suffering throughout the world, and I truly believe that support to these humanitarian missions is one of the most important functions that our battalion has.”

The plastic sheeting was removed from the warehouse, packed for shipping and then trucked to the Pisa International Airport. The shipment left Pisa for Islamabad Aug. 14.

The 3rd Bn., 405th AFSB is responsible for the storage and maintenance of USAID emergency humanitarian assistance commodities under an interagency agreement between the Army and the U.S. State Department.



Men from the town of Kalam, Pakistan, form a chain to quickly unload a U.S. Army Chinook helicopter that is delivering humanitarian assistance and picking up victims of the flood in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Plastic sheeting sent from the 3rd Battalion, 405th Army Field Support Brigade is among the materiel flowing into the flood-ravaged country.

DOD photo

Army Materiel Command names NCO and Soldier of the Year

Story by Danielle Toste
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. — Seven Soldiers competed for the Army Materiel Command's Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year "Best Warrior" competition July 19-23 at Rock Island Arsenal.

Sgt. John Ferguson, a security specialist with the Army Sustainment Command Headquarters and Headquarters Company at Rock Island Arsenal, earned the honor of NCO "Best Warrior" in the week-long competition of physical and mental challenges with little sleep.

"I am shocked, excited and speechless," Ferguson said after being announced the winner. "This competition made me a better Soldier and more aware of my strengths and weaknesses."

Competitors endured a week-long challenge of events including M4 weapons qualification and reflexive firing, a warrior tasks and battle drills situational training exercise, land navigating, and an appearance before a panel of Command Sergeants Major from throughout AMC. The competition ended with 12-mile road march.

"The road march was the most challenging event because my feet had not completely healed from the ASC competition a few weeks ago," Ferguson said.

Ferguson said the competition was a great overall experience because of good competitors, sponsors and a good cadre to learn from.

Spc. Alex Perenishko, Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, took the honor of AMC Soldier of the Year "Best Warrior."

"This was a great experience," Perenishko said. "I gained a lot of knowledge that I can take back to my unit."

Perenishko also said that the 12-mile road march



Photo by Ted Cavanaugh

Sgt. John Ferguson, a security specialist with the Army Sustainment Command Headquarters and Headquarters Company at Rock Island Arsenal, earned the honor of Army Materiel Command's "Best NCO Warrior" and was presented with an MP3 player along with a plaque, sword and gift certificates by Brig. Gen. Steven Feldmann, ASC deputy commanding general for operations. Ferguson competed with seven other Soldiers in a week-long competition. He will represent AMC at the Army-wide competition in October.

was the most challenging event because he had never done that long of a march before.

Ferguson and Perenishko were presented trophies, gift certificates, an MP3 player, and a coin from retired Sgt. Maj. of the Army Richard Kidd, at a ceremony on July 23. Both will compete for top honors at the Department of the Army level in October.

Other AMC Soldiers who competed were: Sgt. Julio Castellanos, Army Research, Development and Engineering Command; Sgt. 1st Class Marco Andrade, TACOM Life Cycle Management Command; Staff Sgt. Randy Rodriguez, Surface Deployment and Distribution Command; Staff Sgt. Justin Maxwell, Aviation and Missile Command; and Spc. Natanael Afanador, Army Materiel Command Band.

ASC hosts equipping strategy ROC drill

Story and photos by Megan McIntyre
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND, Ill. — Army Sustainment Command headquarters hosted a rehearsal of concept drill July 26-30, testing a new equipping strategy.

Senior leaders from Army Materiel Command and the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology joined their ASC hosts for an Army Force Generation “Equipping” conference.

AMC is leading the Equipping Task Force, at the request of the Chief of Staff of the Army, to gain a clearer understanding of how the Army equips forces today, uncover flaws in how it’s currently done and propose solutions.

As part of its study, AMC is producing a cost-benefit analysis, comparing the Army’s current equipping process to a new “to-be” approach. Analyzing the proposed changes will provide key decision makers with an estimate for the cost and benefits associated with a new way of doing business.

The Army’s current equipping strategy lacks a set of fundamental processes and decision support tools, according to drill organizers. The new to-be approach will be supported by one integrating data repository, unlike the current system, which is supported by multiple equipment databases spanning the Army’s organizational structure - with no integrated source of accurate materiel data. The Logistics Information Warehouse, operated by AMC’s Logistics Support Activity, is the proposed solution for a common database.

“The Army has to transform and change the way it equips in support of ARFORGEN because under the old processes of equipping and readiness, only 84 percent of equipment is on hand for Army requirements. This means the Army’s materiel requirements exceed the on-hand supply. With ARFORGEN we are going to a cyclic readiness approach and we will have to have a different and progressive approach to materiel readiness,” said Col. Ed Agee, director of materiel management, AMC Headquarters.

The drill compared alternative actions for distribution integration, data integration, process automation and business rules. Each area was examined to provide decision with an estimate of costs and benefits.

Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, ASC commanding general, said the entire process must leverage automation.



Participants of the ROC drill work and discuss the possible changes and to-be approach that will result with the new equipping strategy. Army Sustainment Command hosted the rehearsal of concept drill, July 26-30.

“The goal is to gain visibility of all of the equipment within the Army and place that information within one computer [system]. This computer will then receive demand signals from requesting agencies. Once it receives the demand signal, it can compare it to available equipment and provide a solution. The end result is providing an equipping order and moving equipment to fit the requirement,” Fontaine said.

Lt. Gen. Jim Pillsbury, AMC deputy commander, said the centerpiece for this equipping to-be is going to be here at the Rock Island Arsenal.

“ASC is going to be the key, as we are now talking about ASC being the materiel manager for the Army,” he said.

Agee said ASC would be responsible for developing synchronized materiel sourcing solutions to meet materiel demand signals as units in the Army transition through the three phases of ARFORGEN.

Integrating automation is the biggest change with the new equipping approach, said Fontaine. A centralized system will now be possible under one materiel manager, which will have complete visibility of all Army equipment. With this switch, more effective direction of changes and equipment retrieval, based on operations and requirements in the field, will be possible.

“We are trying to transform the Materiel Enterprise to be more efficient and effective, timelier, and more proactive,” Agee said.

“The roles, functions, missions and authorities will transform somewhat, but the core functions that this command will remain the same. It will transform itself to be more efficient, more effective and more proactive,” said Fontaine.

BOOTS ON THE GROUND:

Life in the North Country –

The Story of the Brigade Logistics Support Team serving the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division in RC-North (Afghanistan)



Members of the 1/10 MTN BLST await transportation from Camp Marmal in Mazar-e-Sharif to Camp Mike Spann upon arrival into theater. Clockwise from left to right: CECOM P&E LAR Gary Dygert, TACOM Armament LAR Larry Church, TYAD TOC FSR Jaime Martinez, CECOM IT/Switch LAR Louis Durran, BLST Chief CW4 Rodney Crow, CECOM IT/Radio LAR Chris Efflandt and ManTech Digital Systems Engineer Tracy Stagers.

**By Chief Warrant Officer Four Rodney Crow
1/10 MTN BLST Chief**

(With help from Chris Efflandt (CECOM IT/Radio LAR), Tony Jackson (CECOM STAMIS LAR) and Greg Janeczek (CECOM Sensor LAR))

Regional Command North in northern Afghanistan is commanded by a German officer (as part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force) and, until early this year, there was no real United States Army presence in the region.

That changed when the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) rolled into RC-North in March 2010, occupying three primary forward operating bases: Camp Spann on the edge of Mazar-e-Sharif in Balkh province, FOB Griffin on the western edge of RC-North in Faryab province, and FOB Kunduz in the east-central region of RC-North in Kunduz Province.

Supporting the BCT is the 1/10 Mountain Brigade Logistics Support Team which is comprised of 21 personnel consisting of the BLST chief, a logistics management specialist from Army Sustainment Command, plus logistics assistance representatives from CECOM, TACOM and Joint Munitions Command. Specialized contractors

supporting Blue Force Tracker systems, Digital Combat Ground Systems, Biometric Identification Collection systems and intelligence tracking systems help tie the systems together to provide a common operating picture for the BCT. The BLST also provides area coverage for all U.S. facilities in RC-North, currently 13 units and growing.

The primary FOB in RC-North is Camp Mike Spann, which is the BLST's home base. Camp Spann is located approximately 18 miles from Mazar-e-Sharif, the fourth largest city in Afghanistan. The camp is named for Johnny Micheal "Mike" Spann, a paramilitary operations officer for the Central Intelligence Agency, and the first American casualty of war in Afghanistan. He died during the "riot of Qala-i-Jangi" prison, two hours after interrogating John Walker Lindh, the "American Taliban".

Although the FOB had been established for quite some time prior to the 1BCT's arrival, its primary purpose was to house Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams from Germany, Switzerland and Croatia. FOB Kunduz and Camp Griffin were established only one year ago, and were initially

See Boots, page 20

ASC IG awarded French defense medal

Story by Jon Connor
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND, Ill.— An officer now assigned to the Army Sustainment Command headquarters has received the French National Defense Medal (Gold) as part of a ceremony June 18 at the French embassy in Washington, D.C.

Col. John Romero, who now serves as the inspector general for ASC, was awarded this prestigious medal. Family members present were his wife, Maria, and their son, John Jr.

The medal is awarded on three different levels — bronze, silver and gold. Normally, silver and gold awards are presented to French individuals who have served in the French military for several years, while bronze recipients must serve France for several months. It can be awarded to both military and civilian personnel who have served honorably for their participation in French operations.

It is considered a rare event for U.S. servicemembers to be acknowledged by a foreign nation with an award. Normally these honors are reserved for the highest ranking generals.

Romero, who has served more than 21 years in the Army, said that this award was different from previous medals because, instead of receiving it in the presence of his peers in his unit, he was recognized by an international audience.

French Defense attaché, Maj. Gen. Gratién Maire, hosted the ceremony that coincided with the 70th anniversary of Gen. Charles De Gaulle's address to his countrymen June 18, 1940 which acknowledged the Nazi German occupation of France while inspiring the will to continue the fight for freedom.

Recognition was due to coalition work in Afghanistan while assigned to Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan as the Deputy CJ4 (Combined/Joint 4 Transformation).



Photo by Maria Romero

Col. John Romero, assigned as inspector general of Army Sustainment Command, receives the French National Defense Medal (Gold) from Maj. Gen. Gratién Maire, French Defense attaché, at a ceremony June 18 at the French embassy in Washington, D.C.

His duties there included projects in which French, German and American advisors developed and established the first Ministry of Defense (Afghanistan Army) Logistics School (Supply, Maintenance, Transportation, Class 1- Food) and the development of initial logistics military occupational skill codes and logistics personnel structure from the national level (National Depots), through the operational level (Regional Logistics Centers), to the tactical level (Logistic Support Battalions) for the Afghanistan Army.

CSM Blake visits rural American Legion

Story and photo by Dan Carlson
ASC Public Affairs

DONAHUE, Iowa — Speaking as a comrade in arms, the command sergeant major of Army Sustainment Command addressed American Legion Post 532 members and auxiliary members at their hall on Sept. 13.

During his presentation, Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen D. Blake highlighted how today's servicemembers are carrying on the mission to preserve our country's freedom.

"You are well known as the 'greatest generation,'" said Blake, "and I can assure you that today's servicemembers are dedicated to defend the freedom that you have won for us in previous wars."

He went on to say, "We must never forget those who willingly gave their lives so that we can live in peace."

Blake's presentation highlighted examples of the current technology used in today's dangerous conflicts as well as examples of the dedicated



Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen D. Blake, Army Sustainment Command, at American Legion Post 532, Donahue, Iowa.

service provided by uniformed servicemembers, civilians and contractors stationed around the world.

Seeking to foster a culture of engagement, Army Sustainment Command looks for community outreach opportunities, with members participating in some 50 events this year.

Kaiserslautern delegation tours Rock Island Arsenal

Story and photo by Barbara Toner
ASC Public Affairs



Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, Army Sustainment Command's commanding general, Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., talks to the Kaiserslautern, Germany, delegation about the Department of Defense organizations on the island and how they support the Warfighter. Kaiserslautern Lord Mayor Dr. Klaus Weichel, Davenport Mayor Bill Gluba, Kaiserslautern city officials and representatives of Deere and Company European Technical and Innovation Center, visited the island Sept. 6 for a tour and dinner at the commander's quarters. The delegation stopped at the island during its visit to neighboring Davenport, Iowa, to commemorate Davenport and Kaiserslautern's 50th anniversary as sister cities.

A delegation of city officials from Kaiserslautern, Germany, spent the afternoon of Sept. 6 touring Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., during its four-day visit to neighboring Davenport, Iowa. The group was in the United States to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Davenport and Kaiserslautern's relationship as sister cities.

Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, Army Sustainment Command commanding general, hosted the group, and ASC historian George Eaton led the historical tour of the island. Following the tour, the group rode to the commander's quarters for dinner.

The German delegation consisted of Lord Mayor of Kaiserslautern Dr. Klaus Weichel, Kaiserslautern city officials and representatives of Deere and Company European Technical and Innovation Center. Davenport Mayor Bill Gluba accompanied the group.

The two cities began their special relationship in 1960 as part of President Eisenhower's "People to People" initiative. The concept was to forge partnerships between cities and provide citizens a way to explore other cultures and create an atmosphere where communities can share ideas on economic, educational, and municipal development.

ASC 9-11 remembrance

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

Soldiers, Sailors and Family Members from Rock Island Arsenal carried half a ton of bricks for 5 miles during a Sept. 9 pre-dawn march around the island honoring the victims of 9-11 and servicemembers and civilians who have died since in the Global War on Terror.

Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen D. Blake, the senior enlisted member of the Army Sustainment Command, called the extra weight carried in Soldiers' and sailors' ruck sacks "a shared load."

"That little bit of weight symbolizes the burden of the servicemembers that are not here to carry their load any longer," Blake said. "It symbolizes how it's all of our responsibility to remember that it's our duty to pick up their load and carry it with us."

More than 60 marchers trod a circuitous route that took them past the historic sites of the Arsenal. They marched past the Rock Island Confederate Cemetery in which 1,950 Americans are buried. They continued the march through the 66 acres of the Rock Island National Cemetery, the resting place of more than 24,000 veterans and family members – among them, two Medal of Honor recipients.

"I want you to think about all those who served with [the] dignity, honor, character, and courage that all these monuments honor. [I want you to] think about the families who have served when you go to Rock Island National Cemetery; who lived their lives for others first," Blake said. "That's what that little brick symbolizes."

Once they reached the Arsenal's Constitution Square, marchers stacked 192 bricks into a ceremonial model of the World Trade Center. The two brick towers flanked a ceremonial monument dedicated to those who perished in the 9-11 attack on the Pentagon. The model's inner and outer pentagon-shaped rings were painted white while a miniature American flag hung in the same fashion as the famous photographs depicted during the days following the attacks. Large posters overlaid with the names of those who died at the Twin Towers, the Pentagon, and during Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom provided a backdrop to the monument.

"When they lay that wreath in front of those two



Top: (from left) Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, Police Capt. Chris Oliva, Firefighter Ron Richardson, and Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen D. Blake. (Photo by Ted Cavanaugh, Rock Island Arsenal)

Bottom: Sgt. 1st Class Howard Armstrong (left) and Staff Sgt. Steven Hester.

event began at dawn

towers that you will build with those tiny little bricks on your back,” Blake said at the outset of the march, “you remember why we fight, why we do what we do, and why we continue to soldier on; that’s what today is all about. It’s not how much it weighs, but it’s how much of the burden that we all carry on for everybody else.”

Representing their comrades who persevered in the attacks, Arsenal firefighter Ron Richardson and Police Capt. Chris Oliva, along with Blake and Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, the ASC commanding general, placed a wreath at the newly built memorial.

During his remarks, Fontaine asked those in attendance to remember the heroism shown by the first responders at the World Trade Center.

“They courageously entered a place of extreme danger as others fled from it – and, as a result, more than 400 of them gave their own lives,” said Fontaine.

He reflected on the heroes aboard United Flight 93 and those at the Pentagon. Fontaine passionately asked that everyone remember that, though tragic, these events inspired Americans.

“Let us remember this – we may have been shocked, we may have been saddened, we may even have been frightened – but we were not terrorized,” he said. “We were, instead, inspired to act – just as we had seen so many of our fellow Americans immediately respond to the attacks with acts of unbelievable heroism. We, as a nation, responded to the attacks with renewed resolve, and unity, and pride. We responded with determination that the perpetrators of the attacks would pay for their awful deeds, and that we would bring the fight to the terrorists and continue the fight until their capability to attack was brought to an end once and for all.”

As the fight continues, nine years later, Fontaine reminded all in attendance that we remain at war and why we must continue to fight.

“We must carry out the difficult and dangerous work of defending freedom – we must remove the scourge of terrorism from the world – we must devote ourselves to doing all we can to ensure that the awful events of September 11, 2001, are never repeated – and never forgotten.”



Top: Sgt. 1st Class Howard Armstrong (left) and Sgt. Maj. Nicholas Castillo.

Bottom: ASC Soldiers on the march.

Welker accepts Presidential Rank Award

Scott Welker, deputy to the commander, Army Sustainment Command, Rock Island, Ill., displays his Presidential Rank Award. Flanked by Secretary of the Army John McHugh and Gen. Ann E. Dunwoody, commanding general of the Army Materiel Command, Welker received the award during a function June 28 in Washington, D.C., as part of the Women in Military Service for America Memorial ceremony. Welker received the Meritorious Executive Rank award for his sustained efforts at ASC. Besides the framed certificated signed by the president, recipients received a monetary award between 20 to 35 percent of their basic pay.



Photo by Alexandra Hemmerly-Brown



Photo by Jon Connor, ASC Public Affairs

Preparing for the future

Taylor Zorn, a Directorate of Logistics contracted maintenance employee at Fort Hood, Texas, works to reset a piece of equipment. By fiscal 2012, all DOL personnel and resources are scheduled to be transferred to the Army Materiel Command from the Installation Management Command with the Army Sustainment Command managing them through its field support brigades. The 407th Army Field Support Brigade, headquartered at Fort Hood, is one of the ASC's brigades that will facilitate field-level maintenance and supply functions. This will result in centralized workloading, more efficient sources of repair, and a centralized focus on standard acquisition strategies for all DOL activities across the Army.

It's how you play the game...

ASC knocks itself out of championship tourney with homer

Story and photo by Jon Connor
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill. – The ball soared over the fence, but it was one homer too many.

The slam into left-centerfield kept the Army Sustainment Command from progressing during the first game against Granite City in the two-day post softball league championship double-elimination tournament Sept. 13. The final score was 12-10.

League softball rules state that only three fence-clearing home runs are allowed by a team in one game. After that, an over-the-fence homer is an out.

Later that night, the Triple B's pounded Brac Attack 22-6 to take the championship in only four innings. Granite City (a regional restaurant sponsored team) finished third overall.

Just back from the All-Army men's softball tryouts to help his ASC teammates was Andre James, a sergeant first class who serves as an automated logistics specialist. While he didn't make the Army team this year, he did bring renewed inspiration to his team.



ASC's Andre James prepares to catch a fly ball in the post softball championship tournament Sept. 13 against Granite City.

James, who started playing softball 19 years ago when he joined the Army, also was selected for All-Army team try-outs in 2007, but didn't make it.

"I was hitting, but not consistently," he said of the tryouts prior to the game. I needed "more consistent hitting. That's my Achilles (heel)."

But this night he had a different goal.

"I thought I would come out and win a championship," the sure-handed right-center fielder said.

Overall, ASC fought well most of the game, taking an early 4-2 lead in the top of the second inning. By the third, the lead increased 6-2, but Granite City took advantage of some ASC fielding errors to narrow the difference.

The tide turned in the fourth as ASC fell behind 7-6. The score changed again but remained close, with the sixth inning ending 12-8 with Granite City on top.

Then in the seventh, ASC scored two runs and had a runner on first when a batter hit the ball over the fence ending the game.

Player-coach Ken Fairley, a master sergeant with the same military job as James, said ASC lost due to "simple errors."

He said there were too many "mental errors" and bobbled balls. Those errors "gave them [Granite City] at least three or four runs," Fairley said.

"I think we fielded a real strong team" [tonight], the "strongest team all year," Fairley said.

Those words weren't just hype. Fairley's credentials include being selected for the All-Army men's softball team nine times starting in 1991 and ending in 2001. He also served as the All-Army men's team assistant coach in 2006, All-Army women's team assistant coach in 2007 and head coach in 2008.

About James, Fairley said this: "Great ball player. He didn't play arrogant. He came back from All-Army try-outs ... great team player."

Ending their season 9-7, Fairley said, ASC had to forfeit some games because it couldn't field enough players.

"We beat all these teams," he said of the season that began in May.

The tournament began Aug. 30 and finished up Sept. 13. A total of eight teams comprised the league. There were three teams made up of all military personnel and five other teams that consisted of mainly Department the Army civilians, contractors and military retirees with a small percentage of community civilians, a RIA Fitness Center employee said.

Soldier Show performs with social media theme

Story and photo by Jon Connor
ASC Public Affairs

DAVENPORT, Iowa – The Soldier Show just keeps getting better and better. One can only imagine how next year’s show will top this.

Focusing this year on a theme of social media to accurately reflect the lifestyle of today’s youth, the 2010 Soldier Show left a packed house at Adler Theater Sept. 14 ecstatic – if audience reaction is any indicator.

The title theme this year is “Soldier Show v.27.0” which marked the 27th year since the re-establishment of the modern show as one of the Army’s marketing crown jewels and marks the dawn of the computer revolution.

“This year we recognize the impact of technology on the Army, its personnel and the ‘connected’ nature of the country we protect,” explained Maj. Gen. Reuben D. Jones, commanding general of the Family and MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) Command, headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Va., in the Soldier Show program handout.

“Today’s Soldiers incorporate technological innovations into almost every aspect of their daily lives. Our Army is in a state of transformation as we use these technologies here at home and on the battlefield,” Jones said. “We’re adapting new technology, like social media, to help keep Soldiers connected with their families and friends no matter where the mission takes them.”

Following the performance, Joel Himsl, garrison manager, Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., accepted a framed gift on behalf of RIA and presented one to Soldier Show personnel.

This year’s set design employs a semi-transparent screen lowered onto the stage between songs, displaying Internet images. A click of a virtual mouse introduced the next genre of music.

As usual in a variety show, there was a mix of gospel, country, rock’n’roll, and heavy metal during the 75-minute production.

The screen rose as Soldier Show performers came out to dance, sing, and play instruments.

Speaking of instruments, this year’s use of them was slightly different than in past years. A “group” consisting of drums, bass, keyboards and guitar were positioned not as a close-proximity combo, but rather spread across the stage to blend in with their dancing and singing comrades.

For many, the show’s highlight was Sgt. Kevin Cherry, assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division Band, Fort Stewart, Ga. He hit the stage in a wig and glittery black and silver clothes -- and wearing that famous glove -- in a tribute to Michael Jackson.



Spc. David Palmer of Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., jams in the Soldier Show Sept. 14 at Adler Theater in Davenport, Iowa.

Cherry moon-walked and sang his way through Jackson’s “Billie Jean,” mesmerizing some attendees with his spot-on dance routine.

“Being on stage brings me much joy and peace. Participating in the Soldier Show provides that peace and allows me to share it with my fellow Soldiers,” Cherry stated in the program handout. “I truly love and respect the stage.”

The cast includes 22 Soldier-performers and four Soldier-crew members. Backing them are 13 military cadre and dedicated Army Entertainment civilians, all working hard to support the Soldier Show from initial tryouts to the last bow.

Not only do cast members perform, but they are also responsible for the show’s production and logistics, moving 40,000 pounds of technical equipment to more than 50 locations in the United States and Europe.

According the FMWRC Web site, the kick-off show was April 23 at Fort Belvoir, Va. The tour is scheduled to end Nov. 25, Thanksgiving Day, at Camp Casey, South Korea.

402nd AFSB civilian helps bring sustainability to Iraq



Dr. Abud Theyab Alajeely, Iraqi minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, presents Josh Mater, co-founder and CEO of the Michael Scott Mater Foundation, with a Ministry Seal of Appreciation as Catherine Mater, director of Sustainability for the Oregon State University College of Engineering looks on. Josh Mater is the deputy plans officer for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq. Catherine Mater is Josh's mother.

Courtesy photo

Story by Galen Putnam 402nd AFSB Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq – In 2007, a Soldier in Talil came up with a simple idea to foster relations between the United States military and Iraq – provide desperately needed engineering textbooks to a local Iraqi university.

Working through connections with his alma mater, Oregon State University, then-Capt. Joshua Mater, who was a Civil Affairs officer with the 98th Civil Affairs Battalion, coordinated a book donation that netted the Thi Qar University School of Engineering \$30,000 in new engineering textbooks from OSU.

Not surprising for a guy who, as an undergraduate, organized an alumni fundraiser to benefit the Military Science Scholarship Endowment Fund for future cadets at OSU and Western Oregon University, raising more than \$2,000.

What is surprising, however, is that Mater, now the deputy plans officer for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade, at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, is the co-founder and CEO of an influential international non-profit organization.

In 2008, Mater and fellow Soldier Jesus Quispe,

who coincidentally is the Redistribution Property Assistance Team logistics management specialist for 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade at JBB, co-founded the Michael Scott Mater Foundation in honor of Josh's father who passed away in 2002 after battling cancer. The MSMF seeks to create opportunities for individuals and communities by providing financial resources, workforce training, cross-cultural exchanges and sustainable solutions to real world challenges. Quispe serves as the foundation's chief operating officer.

"The decision to start MSMF wasn't an easy one," said Mater who hails from Corvallis, Ore., and now resides in Charlotte, N.C. "Building an organization from scratch takes hard work and dedication; doing it from Iraq was nearly impossible. However being a part of nation building and helping individuals in need is the most rewarding aspect of my life."

The MSMF, which operates in several countries including Iraq and Peru, in addition to the United States, conducts programs to bolster international relations and economic growth.

The MSMF Green Micro-Loan Initiative provides

See Civilian, page 18

Civilian

continued from page 17

business training, networking opportunities and loans, from \$1,000 to \$20,000, to entrepreneurs in order to help start or grow new or existing business with an emphasis on sustainability. The foundation's World Empowerment Initiative develops job skills through vocational training in vulnerable communities.

MSMF partners with businesses, schools, and governments to provide individuals with the necessary skills to enter or re-enter the workforce.

The MSMF Sustainable Solutions Initiative is built on the concept of coalition development between members of academia, industry, government and communities in order to promote the development and implementation of green technologies and sustainable practices throughout the world. The foundation's School4School Initiative focuses on international education strategies to help meet the twin challenges of preparing Americans for a global environment, while continuing to attract and educate future leaders from abroad.

"The Sustainable Solutions Initiative has allowed MSMF to meet and work with some of the most dedicated professionals in Iraq by building a sustainable higher education system from the

ground up," Mater said. "I am constantly amazed at their willingness to promote change in the face of such immediate danger."

Since Mater returned to Iraq in September 2008, he has focused much of his scant personal time to coordinating foundation initiatives. His current "big push" is the Coalition for Sustainable Engineering Education in Iraq.

The idea came up in August 2009, when MSMF and OSU hosted a delegation of 19 Iraqi engineering professors and Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research officials in Oregon. Invited by Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski and financed by the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, the delegation took part in a two-week conference focusing on sustainable engineering and construction management protocol in order to develop communication between the various institutions, develop an outline for student/faculty exchanges and brainstorm other initiatives.

"The four women of the Iraqi delegation were the architects of the CSEE," Mater said. "They went out into the hotel lobby and an hour and-a-half later they had come up with the concept for this plan."

The primary thrust of the CSEE is to build the capacity of the Iraqi university system by bringing

See Civilian, page 19



Representatives of the Kiewit Construction Company brief the Iraqi delegation on the Big Pipe Project in Portland, Ore., during their visit to the United States in August 2009.

Courtesy photo

Civilian

continued from page 18

state of the art testing laboratories to selected institutions to help the MoHESR develop and implement a national sustainability strategy which includes engineering, agriculture, and forestry among other areas. The testing laboratories will enable collaborative research between Iraqi and U.S. academic institutions, serve as workforce training and implementation platforms for Iraq's developing economy, and allow for an internal learning loop between CSEE member institutions that has never existed in Iraq.

Once the idea was conceptualized and presented at the conference, things started to move fast. Spearheaded by the MSMF, OSU and dedicated Iraqi professors, CSEE quickly gained the interest of the MoHESR.

After a flurry of activity to further develop the CSEE, another conference was held, this time in Baghdad. The May 12-19 event was conducted to codify requirements among CSEE participating universities and the MoHESR in order to prepare for the official signing of the agreement. The event culminated with the MoHESR announcing the National Education Program for Sustainable Engineering Education led by Dr. Angham Alsaffar, who was selected by the MoHESR to spearhead this national effort. As guests of the Minister of Higher Education, MSMF and Catherine Mater, Director of Sustainability for the OSU College of Engineering, spent seven days meeting with the 20 potential member institutions, the Ministers of Higher Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, and officials from the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Forces – Iraq.

During the conference, several key areas were identified as priorities: Water quality and conservation, including wastewater treatment and recycling; indoor and outdoor air quality; renewable energy including wind, solar and biomass technology; green built materials and construction; as well as ecosystem services and investment.

How are such lofty goals attained? One step at a time.

"The next step is to get the CSEE agreement signed by all parties; the universities, Iraqi ministries, OSU and MSMF," Mater said. "This will take place in Baghdad in October 2010 during a week-long sustainability conference hosted by the Iraqi Minister of Higher Education, at which experts from OSU will discuss the integration of sustainability into the Iraqi higher education curriculum and how this will lead to economic

development and job creation in Iraq."

Oregon State University representatives will include President Ed Ray; College of Engineering Dean Dr. Ron Adams; College of Agriculture Dean Dr. Sony Ramaswamy, College of Forestry Dean Dr. Hal Salwasser, and College of Engineering Director of Sustainability Catherine Mater. Iraq will be represented by the ministers of higher education and agriculture, and presidents of the 20 CSEE member universities. Also on hand will be Mr. Aziz Alnassiri, chief executive officer of Ramin International Technology Solutions (RiTS), who is the primary partner in developing the Information Technology capabilities within CSEE member universities – a critical component toward supporting CSEE objectives. Mater will represent the MSMF.

"OSU has an absolute commitment towards making this partnership work," said Catherine Mater, who happens to be Josh's mother. "Unlike normal university outreach programs which focus on student/faculty exchanges and online training, OSU's partnership in the CSEE initiative is based on immediate capacity building within the country that will lead to economic development on the ground with an emphasis on sustainability."

CSEE has become a component of the OSU Sustainable Energy and Infrastructure (SENERGI) initiative which focuses on developing clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency for the State of Oregon and beyond. Unifying the research and expertise of OSU's Colleges of Engineering, Agriculture, and Forestry, CSEE will utilize Oregon green build technologies and systems to promote economic development in Iraq.

"We are proud to have a guy like Josh on board here at the 402nd AFSB," said Col. Lawrence W. Fuller, brigade commander. "Not only is he a valued employee, he is an inspiration to others. His efforts to build relations with our Iraqi partners are commendable. Our reason for being in Iraq is to help them rebuild their country and achieve stability and Josh does that both on and off duty."

As USF-I and the Materiel Enterprise continue responsible drawdown operations and the development of Iraq's minimum essential capability, the capacity produced by initiatives such as CSEE are critical to ensuring the government of Iraq's ability to become self-sustaining.

"As Iraq grows as a nation, the CSEE program can expand to meet emerging requirements. The Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research is to be commended for integrating sustainability into the Iraqi higher education system in order to meet the future needs of the nation," Mater said.

Boots

continued from page 9

established as Combat Outposts (COPs), which have since grown into FOBs.

With the influx of 3,000 personnel with and in support of the 1st BCT, the majority of what now sits on these three FOBs had to be built from scratch. The BLST played a significant role in establishing the life support and communications architecture that supports all of these locations, as well as the ever-increasing number of COPs which have developed over the past five months.

In order to provide first-class logistical support to the region, the BLST had to establish its own operational footprint. Within 48 hours of arrival on the ground, construction of the BLST facility began with a general-purpose modular tent from the Early Entry Logistics Support Element System (EELS) – complete with a plywood platform floor.

From the very beginning, all of the members of the BLST have worked together as a team to accomplish a common goal. Once the facility was erected, it had to be powered, which is where Power and Environmental LAR Gary Dygert's handiwork came into play. Within a matter of hours, with assistance from other members of the team, Dygert had power and air flowing to the new BLST facility, as well as to the facilities utilized by the 401st Logistics Task Force. His work was critical not only in establishing power, but also with regard to getting communications established for the BSLT and the LTF as the servers for the Multi-Media Communications System - which allow the BLST and other members in the Army Materiel Command community to communicate - were housed in the LTF shelter.

As the FOBs matured, the BCT headquarters outgrew the tactical operations center that it had fallen in on, and moved into a new two-story TOC facility in the middle of Camp Mike Spann. Without the dedication of CECOM Information Technology/Radio LAR Chris Efflandt and Tobyhanna TOC Field Service Representative Jaime Martinez, this task would have taken several days to complete. Because of their technical expertise and initiative, the TOC move was completed in 48 hours with all communications packages working in unison.

Although most of the members of this team did not know each other prior to this deployment, the bond that they share is as strong as that of brothers, complete with the occasional sibling rivalry. Harmless practical jokes are commonplace



Members of the 1/10 MTN BLST admire their handiwork as they complete construction of the platform for the EELS tent.

when there is a little downtime, but when it is time to get down to business, they are true professionals.

While many of the members of the BLST are veterans at deploying, for some, this is their first deployment.

CECOM Standard Army Management Information System LAR Tony Jackson had this to say about his experience, "Camp Mike Spann (2010) is my first deployment assignment as a CECOM STAMIS LAR. I did not know what to expect prior to arriving in Spann. Being a part of the 1/10 BLST has been a great experience for me. Regardless of sleeping in an Alaskan tent, or working out of an EELS tent, I believe it is what you make out of your deployment which determines your experience.

"Before arriving at Camp Mike Spann I was a bit hesitant on the concept of convoying," Jackson said. "However, after 'FOB-hopping' a couple of times you understand that it's not only you going on convoys, but a group of Soldiers as well.

"This deployment has been terribly fun for me, and I hope that I get to do this again with the same caliber BLST team I am with today," Jackson said. "Working in conjunction with the unit Sustainment Automation Support Management Office, we were able to set up communications and maintain all the STAMIS systems in FOBs Kunduz, Griffin, Spann, Dehdadi I, and Dehdadi II."

The expertise on this team is world class. Although not organic to Army units, 307th Signal Battalion at Camp Marmal has employed a USC-60 terminal and data package to provide communications throughout RC-North. CECOM IT/Switch LAR Louis Durran has been the subject-matter expert in emplacing this system from start

See Boots, page 21

Boots

continued from page 20

to finish, a project that has taken four months to complete. His talents resulted in the successful implementation of the system and enabled several Soldiers to learn from his experiences.

This is just one example of the quality of the LARs on the team. Collectively, the team has provided more than 1,300 work-hours of training to more than 520 Soldiers, and has saved the government more than \$645,000 through various cost avoidance measures.

Although the conditions on Camp Spann are austere, they are nothing compared to life in

FOB Kunduz. C E C O M Sensor LAR Greg Janeczek understands this well as the AN / T P Q - 3 6 Firefinder Radar for RC-North is operating there. He spent the better part of four months at FOB Kunduz as the only LAR there. He was truly the "AMC's Face to the Field" at FOB Kunduz.

In addition to establishing the radar site and resolving critical force-protection issues, Greg was routinely called upon to assist in matters that were outside of his lane, including technical issues with power generation equipment and tactical wheeled vehicles. For quite some time, he had CECOM's Dygert and TACOM Automotive LAR Tracy Worrell on speed dial.

According to Janeczek, it is the little things that make the difference. "Being the only LAR on the FOB, I was asked to assist in areas that I would not normally engage, as they were more TACOM-related issues than CECOM issues. However, at such a remote and austere FOB, I could not in good conscience tell a Soldier 'No.'"

Janeczek recalled one event far out of his usual range. "I successfully assisted the unit in obtaining a replacement tail light equipped with the Driver Viewer Enhancement camera," he said. "These

[stock] numbers are not in the Oshkosh repair manuals issued to the Soldiers, as the DVE system is an aftermarket system that is added after the vehicle leaves the Oshkosh manufacturing facility."

He recently returned to the hustle and bustle of Camp Spann for some well-deserved R&R.

As small arms maintenance is one of the top priorities for the BCT, TACOM Armament LAR Larry Church did his share of traveling as well. Over one two-day period, the BCT experienced two serious weapons malfunctions, damaging both weapons and causing minor injuries to a Soldier. With no time to waste, Church was launched to FOB Kunduz with the 10th Brigade Support Battalion Armament

Technician, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Nick Walker. While the cause of the malfunction to one of the weapons could not be definitively determined, the malfunction on the second weapon was apparently the result of improper adjustment. Over the course of the next several days, Church and Walker gave a series of classes

on how to properly adjust the weapon. To further increase the gunners' confidence, firing drills were performed in a controlled environment, enabling the gunners to get a better feel for their weapon's capabilities. The training package was also taken to Camp Griffin and provided to the Soldiers there to reinforce the same standards. Since the training was concluded, the BLST has not experienced any malfunctions resulting from improper adjustments to that weapon.

In addition to providing on-the-spot expertise and training, Church was also instrumental in deprocessing and servicing 116 M2 .50-caliber machine guns and 72 MK19 grenade launchers. In an example of the Materiel Enterprise at work for troops in the field, the weapons are on temporary

See Boots, page 22



CECOM IT/Radio LAR Chris Efflandt and SSG Ellis from the 1/10 MTN S6 re-establish communications for the new BCT TOC.

Boots

continued from page 21

loan to the BCT from Anniston Army Depot for the duration of the deployment.

The conditions in RC-North are very different from what most LARs are accustomed to. Although many LARs convoy on occasion to provide emergency support, the members of the 1/10 MTN BLST convoy routinely in support of daily mission requirements. Since there is no air support on Camp Spann, the team members must convoy one hour to the nearest air terminal at Camp Marmal in order to fly to their next destination.

The members of the BLST work together, eat together, and bunk together. While living accommodations in other areas of Afghanistan may consist of containerized housing units, complete with bathroom and shower, in the North Country, the team members live 10 men to a tent. Although the living quarters are tight, they have provided

an opportunity that many other LARs do not get. Living so closely with one another, friendships have been forged that will survive well beyond this deployment.

As the team approaches the six-month mark in its deployment, many members are looking forward to one last convoy to Camp Marmal as they make their journey back to their loved ones in the States.

Wherever their journey takes them, 1-10 Mountain BLST members will always remember good ol' Camp Mike Spann.

(Editor's Note: Brigade Logistics Support Teams are an element of Army Sustainment Command. Comprised of experienced, expert technicians and logisticians from across Army Materiel Command, the BLST brings to bear the might of the Materiel Enterprise and places it "On the Line" with expeditionary forces.)

407th AFSB PDTE inventory



Donald Ford, a 407th Army Field Support Brigade supply technician at Fort Hood, Texas, guides Soldiers through an inventory of Pre-Deployment Training Equipment. The 407th AFSB manages the vehicles and weapons included in PDTE through its 4th Battalion. At garrisons and training centers across the country, Army Sustainment Command units account for and maintain PDTE, enabling Soldiers to train with the same equipment they will use when deployed.

Photo by Jon Connor, ASC Public Affairs

Marathon

continued from page 24

“This was my first time” at running a half-marathon, said Anthony. “It’s physically challenging.”

Asked if he ever felt like quitting during the run, Anthony, who turns 41 Oct. 24 – the day of the Army Ten-Miler – was frank.

“Did I feel like I wanted to quit ... Yeah,” he said. “But, Master Sergeant Aguilar said ‘Don’t quit.’”

Since May, the ASC team has been training regularly with runs up to 12 to 14 miles, Anthony said.

For Leifker, ASC’s Headquarters company commander, the run brought a cramp to his right hamstring. Never the quitter, he pulled over to the side to stretch it out.

Asked what he thought about during the 13.1-mile run, Leifker quickly said: “Everything and anything. I do a lot of calculating in my head.”

The half-marathon team showcased the new uniform it will be wearing for the Army Ten-Miler – a blend of black shorts complemented by a white shirt with black and gold trim.

Taking first place in the marathon was Leonard Mania Michuru of Kenya, with a time of

2:16. Taking top honors in the half-marathon was defending champion Bryan Glass of Bettendorf, Iowa, in 1:09:25.

Singing the national anthem was Michelle Berndt of Davenport. She holds the titles of Mrs. U.S. Beauties and Mrs. Iowa.

Joe Moreno, race director, reported that 4,481 runners – the most ever – participated in the event. The course, which runs through Rock Island Arsenal and portions of Illinois and Iowa, is certified by the USA Track & Field organization.



Members of ASC’s 5-kilometer team – from left, Staff Sgt. Joseph Lowe, Sgts. 1st Class Allen Bennett, Ronald Wilmont, and Larry Smith – converse after running the race.



Healing Fields

Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, Army Sustainment Command commanding general, applauds organizers of the All-Era Veterans Healing Field of the Quad Cities event during his opening ceremony remarks Aug. 27. Speaking to some 200 guests at the Davenport, Iowa, event, Fontaine said, “I can assure all visitors that your hearts will be touched, and that you will go away inspired and filled with a new-found appreciation for all of our veterans – past and present, living and dead – as well as for those who serve today.”

Photo by Dan Carlson, ASC Public Affairs

Tough training by ASC pays off in QC Marathon

Story and photos by Jon Connor
ASC Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill.—While stretching at 6:45 a.m., Soldiers agreed it was a perfect day to go for a run: 48 degrees and calm, amid slightly foggy skies showing signs of clearing.

Forty-five minutes later, Soldiers from the Army Sustainment Command took off at a gallop after their commanding general signaled the start of the 13th annual Quad Cities Marathon. ASC fielded a team for the 5-kilometer run and another in the half-marathon race held Sept. 26 in downtown Moline, Ill.

One ASC Soldier even ran well enough in the marathon competition to qualify for the Boston Marathon scheduled next April.

Maj. Stephen Marchant, 38, made the cut by three seconds with a time of 3 hours, 14 minutes, 57 seconds in the men's 35-39 category. In the QC Marathon, Marchant placed 50th out of 696 marathon runners. Among men, he was 42nd of 440, and in his age category, he placed fifth out of 64.

Marchant said he plans to compete in the Boston Marathon.

Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, commanding general of ASC, joined by Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Blake, led the 5-K (3.1 miles) team across the starting line. Seventeen ASC Soldiers ran on that team.

The ASC half-marathon team consisted of six runners who have been training since May for the upcoming Army Ten-Miler Oct. 24 in Washington, D.C. The race is held in conjunction with the annual Association of the United States Army gathering that week.

"I just volunteered to run," said Staff Sgt. Maurice Carter, a member of the 5-K team. We wanted to "show these guys how we do it on the Arsenal."

The 31-year-old, 13-year veteran called the morning's 5-K a "piece of cake," explaining ASC does physical training five times weekly with runs up to 5 miles.

"I think it's good that ASC came out here to support this event in the community," Carter said.

Likewise, Fontaine said it's always "fantastic" when ASC and the Army participate in community events.

"Number one, it's always a privilege to run with Soldiers," he said, adding that it's always great to represent the U.S. Army with the local community in time of conflict.

"Number two, we want to do this to show the community that we support them and that we're part of the community," Fontaine said.

Upon crossing the finish line, runners were offered bottled water, fruit, pastries, beer and even massages by event-support vendors.

In the half-marathon (13.1 miles) event, Staff Sgt. Amar Aria, 29, finished 46th out of 754 in the men's category with a time of 1:31:04 and 51st overall with a pace of 6 minutes, 58 seconds per mile.

ASC's next best finisher was Master Sgt. Anders Anthony, 40, who took 85th in the men's category and 98th overall with a time of 1:35:54 and a pace of

7:20 per mile.

Coming in third for ASC was Master Sgt. Louis Aguilar, 40, with a time of 1:38:52, good enough to place 134th overall with and a pace of 7:33.

Aguilar was followed by Staff Sgt. Donald Engling, 33, who finished 247th with a time of 1:45:28; Capt. Scott Leifker, 31, coming in 310th with a time of 1:48:34; and Sgt. 1st Class Warren Benson, 39, finishing 829th overall in 2:04:36.

See Marathon, page 23



Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, commanding general of the Army Sustainment Command, leads the ASC 5-kilometer team to the finish line in the 13th annual Quad Cities Marathon held Sept. 26 in Moline, Ill. ASC also fielded a team in the half-marathon competition.