



THE GLOBAL LINE

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ARMY NEWS

NEWS

YEAR OF THE NCO

FEATURE

AFSB NEWS

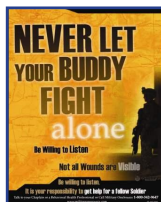
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CFC has record year

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Save a life – help prevent suicide

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin
U.S. Army Sustainment Command

The Army set a new record in 2008 – a sad, tragic record that we hope and pray will never be repeated.

Soldier suicides were at an all-time high last year, continuing a trend that has seen the Army's rate of suicide grow during each of the past four years. Unfortunately, that trend showed no signs of slowing in January 2009, a month in which more Soldiers took their own lives than died in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

While the Army has had a suicide prevention program in place for many years, our top leadership recognizes that there is a serious problem and that our efforts in this area must be redoubled. Everyone who serves as a leader – including myself, and anyone in the Army Sustainment Command who is in a supervisory or management position – needs to personally commit themselves to suicide prevention and do whatever they can to keep this tragedy from ever visiting the people under their care.

The easy way out is to avoid the topic of suicide, deny the problem, or conclude that the high rate of suicide is simply the inevitable outcome of the Army's recent high rate of deployment and challenging operational tempo. Yet all the research into suicide shows that it can be prevented, even in high-stress environments such as combat, and that no suicide is ever inevitable, regardless of the circumstances.

Many individuals who take their own lives do so after several unsuccessful suicide attempts. Many suicide victims announce their intentions in advance, and may come right out and tell their family members, friends or co-workers that they are thinking about killing themselves. There are other warning signs, and other indicators of deep despair that should not be – but too often are – ignored or overlooked.



There are effective intervention techniques that can prevent suicide, even in what seem to be the most desperate cases. But far too few of us know when and how to intervene, nor how to identify someone in need of help.

By the end of this year, all of us in the Army family should be equipped with the tools needed to prevent suicide. Suicide stand-downs will be conducted Army-wide between now and March 15, and

a chain-teaching program will follow during which all leaders will learn suicide prevention techniques, and learn how to implement these techniques within their units and organizations.

Please do not approach this suicide prevention effort as just another “mandatory training” event that needs to be completed before going back to your real mission. Pay attention, listen and learn, ask questions, get involved, and find out how you can help connect those in need of assistance with the resources available to assist them. By doing so, you could someday become a lifesaver for a colleague in need of a helping hand.

Also, please remember that part of the Army's core mission is summarized by this core value: “Never leave a fallen comrade behind.” This value applies to all of us – Soldiers, civilians and contractors alike – and it refers not just to those who have fallen physically, but also to those who have fallen emotionally and spiritually into a downward spiral that could lead to suicide. We are a team and we rely on those around us, so caring for one another is and always will be part of our mission.

So let's set a new record in 2009 – a record of heightened awareness, a record of caring and compassion, a record of lifting all who have fallen. Let's all join the fight against the scourge of suicide, and keep on fighting until it is defeated.

THE GLOBAL LINE

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Army works to combat rising suicide rates

By Army Staff Sgt. Michael J. Carden
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, - The Army is committed to finding out why more Soldiers committed suicide in 2008 than ever recorded, Army officials told reporters during a media roundtable recently at the Pentagon.

"[Suicide] is not just an Army problem," Army Secretary Pete Geren said. "It's a national problem ... we're committed to doing everything we can to address [the issues] better [and] put programs in place."

In past years, the Army, which consists of 1.1 million active and reserve troops, has been just below or on par with the national suicide rate, Geren said.

But this year, with 128 confirmed and 15 pending, an estimated 20.2 suicides occurred per 100,000 Soldiers, the highest since the Army began recording the figure in 1980. The figure is higher than the national suicide rate, which is less than 20 victims per 100,000 people.

Also, the number of Army suicides increased for the fourth consecutive year, according to the Army's 2008 Suicide Data report.

Army researchers admitted that at least 90 percent of pending suicide cases turns out to be actual suicides. But they explained that there's no one cause or consistent formula for suicide prevention.

Multiple factors make up the risks and no two reasons are the same, Geren said.

A high mission tempo clearly can place strain on a military, and with wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, 12 months or longer deployment rotations and 12 months or less downtime at home, the Army certainly has been busy, Army Vice Chief of

Staff Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli said.

"We all come to the table believing stress is a factor," Chiarelli told reporters. But he added that 2008 statistics show 30 percent of suicide victims this year were deployed, 35 percent had recently redeployed and 35 percent had no deployment experience at all.

"I think those statistics have to be looked at, and more questions have to be asked," he said. "But there's no doubt in my mind that stress is a factor in this trend we're seeing."

Company training is set for March 13. Subordinate units and activities are also setting aside time.

The stand-down day will offer an opportunity for individual units and Soldiers to address problems head on, and will include the latest training videos, materials and methods to identify symptoms and prevent suicide, Languirand explained.

The stand-down will be followed by another 120 days of a "chain-teaching" program, which is intended to be leader-led suicide prevention training,

Suicide Prevention Resources:

Army G-1 Suicide Prevention:

<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/hR/suicide>

U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine

<http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/dhpw/Readiness/suicide.aspx>

Army Well Being:

<http://www.armyfamiliesonline.org>

National Suicide Hotline - 1-800-SUICIDE

Chiarelli said it's important to take a step backward to evaluate what the Army and research facilities already know about suicide and prevention and review them.

Army leaders and researchers agree that reducing the number of suicide victims is a long-term goal, but in the near term, they've initiated an Army-wide "stand-down" to take place on a day between Feb. 15 and March 15, Col. Thomas Languirand, Army deputy chief of staff for personnel, said.

At ASC headquarters, plans call for stand-down activities in the Blackhawk Conference Room March 2, 6 and 12. Headquarters

cascaded across the entire Army, he said. The stand-down period and chain-teaching program are mandated training in addition to quarterly and other suicide awareness and prevention training that may occur at the unit level already.

"The Army is concerned regarding where we are with our numbers," he said. "Any loss of life, especially by suicide, is a tragedy. That tragedy impacts the unit, it impacts morale on that unit ... and it impacts the families. It's extremely important that we get out in front of this ... nobody in the Army is satisfied as to where we are with our [past] programs."

Chairman urges troops to seek needed care

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

FORT DRUM, N.Y. - The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff emphasized the importance of de-stigmatizing mental-health care for returning war veterans during a recent visit to a newly renovated facility designed to improve that care.

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, paying his first visit to the home of the 10th Mountain Division, presided at the official opening a new, state-of-the-art, mental health facility.

Speaking earlier in the day at town hall sessions with junior soldiers and family readiness group leaders, Mullen said the military needs to do a better job of encouraging people who need it to seek mental-health care services.

"We've got to work hard to meet the need, and actually get ahead of, the challenges we have," he said. "I think we're all in denial if we don't recognize the huge, huge stress [multiple deployments have] put our force and our families under.

"Leaders have to address that, and address it up front," he said.

Mullen cited disturbing suicide rates in the Army, and urged

soldiers to "take care of each other" and recognize symptoms of post-traumatic stress and other difficulties. He also urged spouses to be on the lookout for problems. "We have to have every sensor out," he said.

Families, too, can experience secondary signs of post-traumatic stress, he said, with the accompanying depression, sleeplessness and fear.

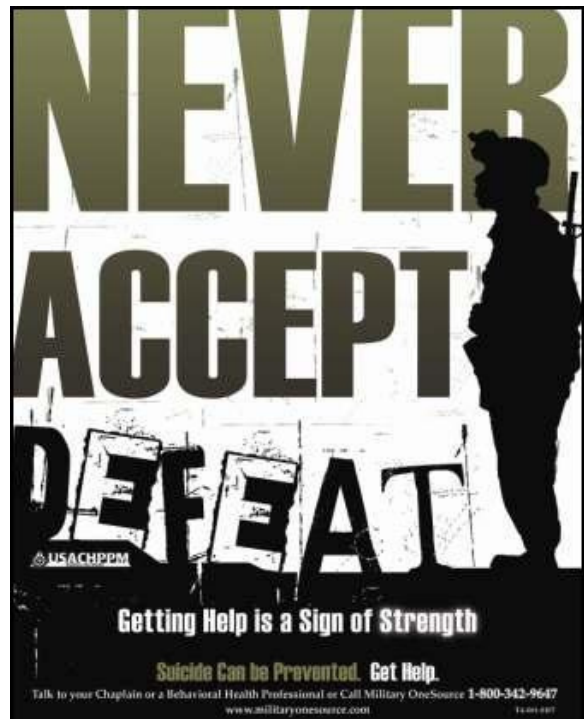
"This is human stuff," Mullen told the group. "It's not unexpected."

The big hurdle, Mullen said, is getting people who need it to seek care without fear that it will damage their reputation or military career.

Fort Drum's new Wilcox Center was renovated to provide that much-needed care in a modern, state-of-the-art facility. A two-year renovation added 2,000 square feet to the World War II-era facilities it replaced, increasing its overall size to more than 28,000 square feet.

Mullen toured the center, which includes more space for the post's behavioral health department, offering more than 70 new office spaces, three reception areas and multiple group meeting rooms and video tele-psychiatry offices.

The main reception area features a large, domed skylight and children's waiting area that creates a welcoming atmosphere for soldiers and their families and providers. An expanded records storage area and up-to-



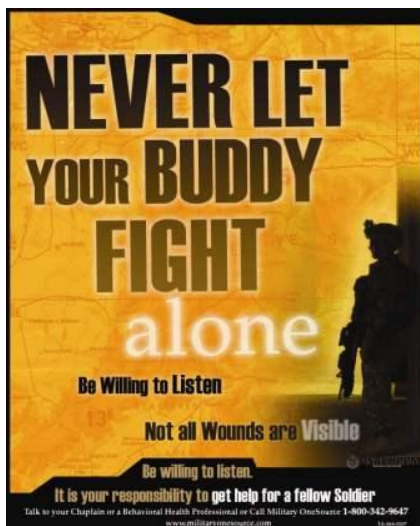
date automation systems help to increase the staff's ability to provide care for soldiers and their families.

Dr. Todd L. Benham, chief of Fort Drum's behavioral health department, had rave reviews about the building.

"The Wilcox Clinic is truly an amazing facility," he said. "Once you step inside, you will see that the Army, the North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and Fort Drum have worked diligently to make a facility that shows the importance of caring for soldiers and their families."

Army Maj. Ross A. Davidson, the Army Medical Department Activity's logistics chief, said the new clinic demonstrates the Army's commitment to troops and their families.

"This beautiful facility is the direct result of a committed team's effort to plan, develop, and build a facility dedicated to improving the health of our soldiers and the Fort Drum community," he said.



Ammo ship upload raises readiness

By C.W. Fick Jr.
ASC Public Affairs

Longer than three football fields, the *MV SSG Edward A. Carter, Jr.* is a seagoing insurance policy.

Loaded aboard the massive vessel are more than 2,000 containers of munitions, part of the Army Prepositioned Stocks – Afloat mission to sustain expeditionary Army forces, wherever and whenever they may engage.

“Ammunition is what makes our Army a fighting force,” said Rick Hale, Ammunition Team lead in Army Sustainment Command’s Army Prepositioned Stocks Directorate at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

The Carter is due in to port at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, N.C., this month to download, refit, then upload more than 20,000 tons of munitions ranging from rifle bullets to air defense missiles.

“When we send the Carter back out to its maritime station, it will be carrying an even more lethal load than before,” Hale said.

Efforts to maximize the ship’s load have been ongoing and successful. “Prepositioned munitions stocks come from a variety of sources and commands, all facing pressure to keep up the flow to combat forces,” Hale said. Putting some away for a rainy day is a challenge, he noted, but essential to preserve the Army’s ability to meet contingencies.

“We’ve worked with the Army G4, Army Materiel Command, Joint Munitions Command, Aviation and Missile Life Cycle Management Command and a host of supporting organizations and agencies to substantially increase our fill rate aboard the Carter,” Hale said.

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin,



Courtesy Photo

commanding general of ASC, called the improved fill rate a major improvement in readiness.

The Carter’s increased effectiveness ripples beyond the obvious support to Soldiers on the ground. “Keeping munitions aboard ship, ready to sail to trouble spots, is by far the cheapest, most effective way to sustain expeditionary forces,” Hale noted. “Improvements to the Carter’s load reduce airlift requirements by up to 35 C-17 aircraft, saving millions of dollars – not to mention easing the strain on air assets.”

The Carter’s turnaround will take about three months, during which time a complex, coordinated effort will move mountains of high-explosive cargo. “Safety is always uppermost in our planning and operations,” Hale said. “From the stevedores laboring on the docks to the port operations managers and ammunition quality assurance and surveillance specialists (QASAS), we’re all alert to the dangers of handling munitions.”

Once the entire ship is downloaded, the cargo will undergo serviceability inspections, containers will be inspected and recertified, inventories will be made and a new load plan configured.

“It’s like a puzzle coming together,” Hale said. “Months, even years, of planning all take form as the operation unfolds.”

When the download is complete, the workforce changes gears to carry out the massive, but delicate task of putting thousands of con-

tainers filled with live rounds back aboard.

Army reservists play a major role in operations, providing specialized manpower, while certifying their training requirements. It’s a win-win situation.

Spring will be in the air when the Carter sets sail, carrying its lethal cargo. “Even knowing it’s out there may deter an enemy,” Hale said. “And if the day comes we have to download the cargo into combat, our Soldiers can count on us when they pull the trigger, yank the lanyard or push the launch button.”

Read about:



Staff Sergeant
Edward A. Carter, Jr.
United States Army
Medal of Honor

On Page 6

Black NCO earns belated Medal of Honor

By Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ernest McPherson
California Center for Military History
State Military Reserve

When the Civil War ended, 21 African-American Soldiers wore the Medal of Honor. Blacks have earned our nation's highest honor in every war since then, except, strangely, during World War II. More than a million blacks served in that conflict and many bravely died in it, yet not one received any of its 433 Medals of Honor.

Finally, on Jan. 13, 1997, a wrong was addressed as seven black heroes joined those ranks. Our state proudly associates with one of them, a California

native, the late Army Staff Sgt. Edward Allen Carter Jr. His is a story of a true military man with more than his share of tribulations. Today, the California State Military Museum celebrates his victory over all challenges except that of being physically here to receive our thanks.

A career Army noncommissioned officer, Carter was born May 26, 1916 in Los Angeles, Calif. He was the son of missionary parents who went to the Far East and finally settled in Shanghai, China. Edward ran away from this home when he was a young teen to begin a military exodus. However, it was not to be an ordinary journey as his material and spiritual paths intertwined.

His first tour was short-lived, yet not too short to prevent the 15-year-old Carter from rising to the rank of lieutenant in the Chinese Army. When he was discovered to still be a child, Edward was promptly discharged and returned to his parents. It was also long enough for Carter to believe he was visited by a spirit in the Chinese Army and

informed him would be a great warrior but would not die in war. Now having a spiritual military destiny, as soon as he was old enough, Carter enrolled in a Shanghai military school. There he received extensive combat training and learned at least four languages, including Mandarin Chinese, Hindi and German.

Next he fought in the Spanish Civil War as a corporal in the socialist Abraham Lincoln Brigade. It was an American volunteer unit opposing Gen. Franco's fascist troops. In 1938, they were forced to flee into France. This led to his return to the United States.

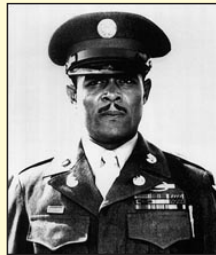
Here he met and married his wife Mildred in Los Angeles in 1940. It wasn't long though before destiny called again. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Sept. 6, 1941, shortly before World War II, and quickly rose to staff sergeant. In 1942, just months after he enlisted, however, the Army opened a counterintelligence file with his name on it. On May 18, 1943, an unidentified intelligence officer at Fort Benning, Ga. "deemed it advisable" to put Sergeant Carter under surveillance and start an investigation. The officer did so because Carter had

been a member of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Allegedly, "while not necessarily communist," he had been "exposed to communism."

The report further alleged, "Subject... capable of having connections with subversive activities due to... early years [until 1938] in the Orient" and had a speaking knowledge of Chinese. Every commander Carter had thereafter secretly reported what he read, where he went and what clubs he joined.

Honor continued on p. 7

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR to



**STAFF SERGEANT
EDWARD A. CARTER, JR.
UNITED STATES ARMY**

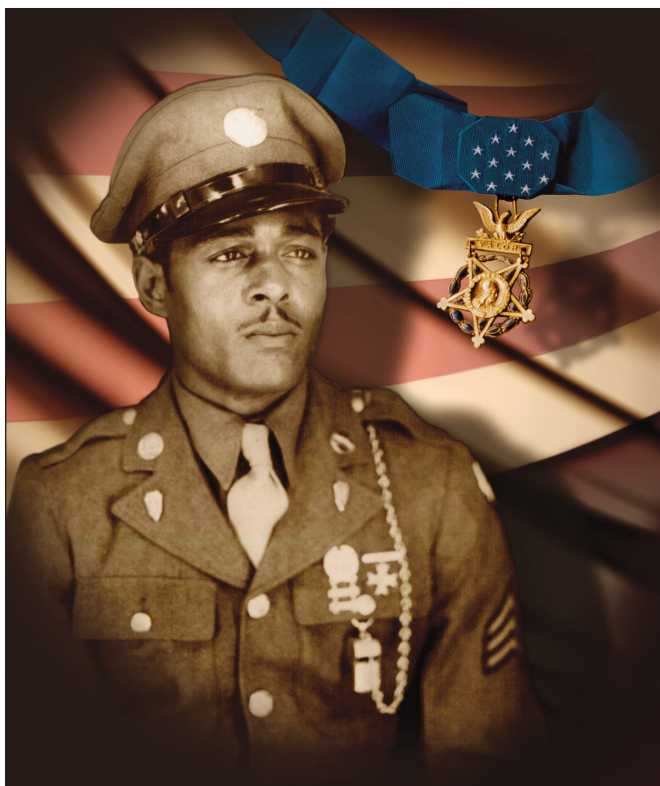
For service as set forth in the following
CITATION:

For extraordinary heroism in action on 23 March 1945, near Speyer, Germany. When the tank on which he was riding received heavy bazooka and small arms fire, Sergeant Carter voluntarily attempted to lead a three-man group across an open field. Within a short time, two of his men were killed and the third seriously wounded. Continuing on alone, he was wounded five times and finally forced to take cover. As eight enemy riflemen attempted to capture him, Sergeant Carter killed six of them and captured the remaining two. He then crossed the field using as a shield his two prisoners from which he obtained valuable information concerning the disposition of enemy troops. Staff Sergeant Carter's extraordinary heroism was an inspiration to the officers and men of the Seventh Army Infantry Company Number 1 (Provisional) and exemplify the highest traditions of the Armed Forces.

Honor

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In 1944 he was shipped to Europe and ended up assigned to supply duties. When Gen. Dwight Eisenhower ran short of combat-arms replacements in December 1944, he instituted the volunteer Ground Force Replacement Command for rear-echelon Soldiers of all races. By February 1945, a total of 4,562 black Soldiers were serving in units up to company size attached to previously all-white infantry and armored divisions.



Courtesy photo

At the height of his career he was even close to Gen. George S. Patton, serving as one of the general's guards. Patton had no room for prejudice in the ranks. They had a strong bond with the fact they both believed they had been visited by a spirit who foretold accomplishments on the battlefield.

After months of volunteering, Carter's platoon made it into combat, yet he had to accept demotion to private. This was because his superiors would not allow a black to command white troops. He eventually served in the "Mystery Division" of blacks in Patton's Third Army. (The Mystery Division performed missions requiring uniforms without identifying unit insignia.)

On March 23, 1945, Private Carter earned his Medal of Honor, was recommended, but received the

nation's second highest award, the Distinguished Service Cross because of his race.

After recovering from his wounds in less than a month, he was restored to his staff sergeant rank and finished the war training troops.

At this point, October 1945, he had been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, American Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantry Badge and numerous other citations and honors. Shortly thereafter in 1946, Secretary of War Robert Patterson noted an irregularity in the lack of black recognition and promised to investigate.

At the conclusion of the war, Carter found himself stationed at Fort Lewis, Wash., and politely known as a Negro or colored. A lot of the battlefield camaraderie had faded, however, black soldiers were becoming increasing common and were blending more into the ranks.

When Carter attempted to re-enlist, his "suspect" background apparently became an issue and the Army barred his enlistment and discharged him without explanation on Sept. 30, 1949. He received an honorable discharge dated October 1949, probably the darkest "honor" of his life.

He moved into a life as a family man and steadily worked in the vehicle tire business the rest of his life. In 1962, although he smoked, he and his doctors attributed the discovery of lung cancer to shrapnel still in his neck. He died peacefully of lung cancer in the UCLA Medical Center, a Los Angeles hospital, on Jan. 30, 1963, at 47 years of age.

Carter was laid to rest at the National Cemetery within the Veterans Hospital grounds in West Los Angeles near where he died. His remains have since been moved to Arlington National Cemetery.

In 1992, Secretary of the Army John Shannon commissioned an independent study to identify unrecognized African American heroes from World War II. In May 1996, the study was completed under the title, *The Exclusion of Black Soldiers from the Medal of Honor in World War II*. Staff Sergeant Edward Allen Carter Jr. of Los Angeles, Calif., was identified and recommended for honors. Jan. 10, 1997, Carter was exhumed from the national cemetery and honored the next day in Los Angeles. On Jan. 13, President Clinton presented Carter's posthumous Medal of Honor to his son, Edward Allen Carter III, in Washington, D.C.

President salutes non-commissioned officers

By Lance D. Davis
Army News Service

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama met with Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston and the senior enlisted advisers of other services to hear concerns from a boots-on-the-ground perspective in the Oval Office Jan. 30.

The initial White House meeting was an opportunity for Obama to establish relationships with the most senior enlisted noncommissioned officers of the military, Preston said.

This was reportedly the first time a commander in chief held an official meeting with senior enlisted leaders. Previous presidents normally met with the military's Joint Chiefs of Staff. After already holding his meeting with the Joint Chiefs, Obama reached further to enlisted leaders.

"I don't know of any other president sitting down with the senior enlisted advisers," Preston said. "It sends a big message of his support of the military and really shows that he wants to connect with all our service members out there."

Preston told Obama his biggest concern in the Army was stress on the force.

"For the fourth consecutive year, we have seen suicides increase," Preston said. "PTSD, domestic violence, sexual assault and acts of misconduct increased this past year are all indicators of increased pressures in the daily lives of our Soldiers and families."

Preston also said Soldiers ask him all the time "when will we see something more than 12 months of dwell time between deployments?"

According to the sergeant major of the Army, the year of dwell time does not provide a whole lot of time at home, and he emphasized this to Obama.

"He was very positive and attentive and understood what the 12 months of dwell time really means to Soldiers and their families," Preston said.

There was a candid, open discussion with Obama about the impact of the current economy on Army families.

According to Preston, due to the state of the economy, frequent mobility of Army families who have mortgages has resulted in them being stuck with high mortgages that exceed the value of their homes, increasing their debt. Preston said the president understands how the economy has affected the military and its families.

"He's able to reach out and really understand the economic impact on Soldiers and their families."

The conversation with the president highlighted the success of retention in the Army.

Fourth Infantry Division is at 96 percent of its annual retention mission four months in the 2009 fiscal year for example, he said.

Preston also acknowledged the selfless service and sacrifice Soldiers and their families make through re-enlistment.

"Soldiers are re-enlisting and staying with the team," he said. "We can all be very proud of Soldiers and their supporting families as they continue to volunteer and serve our country."

The president will continue to periodically meet with Preston and other military senior enlisted leaders, and this is an opportunity to tell the Soldier story, Preston said.



Photo by: C. Todd Lopez

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston stands behind President Barack Obama at the Commander-in-Chief's Inaugural Ball as Obama addresses the audience of active-duty and reserve military and invited guests at the National Building Museum.

Preston said it was coincidental but good his initial meeting with Obama happened during this "Year of the NCO" in the Army.

"It speaks to what we're trying to do in the Army to recognize the value and the contributions of our noncommissioned officers," he said. "It's not just me or the person that's in this position as the sergeant major of the Army; it's the value and contributions of our noncommissioned officers and what they provide to our officer leadership across the Army."

Tuskegee Airman reflects on history of African-Americans in the Army



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sean Riley

Students from Moline (Illinois) High School crowd around Tuskegee Airman Donald Elder for autographs.

**Staff Sgt. Sean Riley
ASC Public Affairs Office**

With his easy tone and quiet humor, a Tuskegee Airman and recipient of the U.S. Congressional Gold Medal, spoke of the hardship and sacrifice he and fellow African-Americans endured while in service to their nation during World War II.

The U.S. Army Sustainment Command hosted its annual Black History Month observance Feb. 4, at the Blackhawk Conference Room on the Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. Special guest Donald Elder spoke at the public event aimed at enhancing cross-cultural awareness among all Soldiers, civilian employees, and their families.

Elder, one of the original Tuskegee Airmen, was a corporal

and a crew chief for the P-47 Thunderbolt, in the nation's first black U.S. Air Corps unit, the 99th Fighter Squadron "Red Tails."

Named after the air base they trained at in Alabama, the Tuskegee Airmen faced the daunting task of proving themselves capable pilots and Soldiers at a time when the nation and Congress still accented discrimination. Segregation and unfair treatment were commonplace in the military at the time.

"Separate, but equal, as they say," said Elder. "It was separate, but unequal. We were just treated with such indignity."

Elder recounted his first encounter with discrimination in the military when he reported to basic training at a military

installation used to house German prisoners of war in Indiana.

"At that time, they had some 5,000 prisoners of war there," he said. "The prisoners of war were treated much better than us. They slept in barracks and we slept in tents across the road."

Events like this didn't harden the man or evoke bitterness. Elder merely shrugged it off as a life experience.

"You have to be able to talk about where you've been to talk about where you're going," said Elder. "(We were) just a bunch of good ol', red-blooded American boys who were in the military to fight for our country."

Tuskegee continued on p. 10

Tuskegee

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Following his Army service, Elder began a 33-year career with Rockwell International Inc., then served as chief of labor relations for the State of Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections.

After retiring as deputy director of administration in 1994, Elder was the manager of diversity for Bell Helicopter Textron in Texas until retiring in 2004. Now he serves as president of the North Texas Industry Liaison Group and is self-employed as a human resources consultant.

Among those attending were Moline High School students, invited by Sgt. 1st Class Nicole Morris, the ASC Equal Opportunity adviser.

“When I bring a speaker like Mr. Elder here, I try to get some of the local schools to bring some of the kids so that they can experience what’s happening at the arsenal,” said Morris.

Morris said she was amazed after hearing some of Elder’s stories about the difficulties the Tuskegee Airmen endured.



Tuskegee photo montage

“What [also] really amazes me is the programs that are out there for the children and for the future,” said Morris.

During Elder’s presentation, he shared several success stories highlighting a pilot instruction program, the Claude R. Platte Future Pilots Flight School, based in Dallas, Texas, available for troubled teens.

The program is designed to inspire discipline and bring focus to their lives and to increase minority contributions to the aviation industry. Elder is the honorary chairman for the youth aviation program.

For Elder and the Tuskegee Airmen of the 99th Fighter

Squadron, the sacrifices they made and the discrimination they endured, paved the way for desegregation of the U.S. armed services in 1948 by Executive Order 9981, signed by President Harry S. Truman, and ultimately, as the nation witnessed Jan. 20, the inauguration of Barack Obama as this country’s first African-American president.

“On January 20, 1949, I walked down Pennsylvania Avenue for Truman’s inauguration,” said Elder. “Some 60 years later, I had the privilege of going back to another inauguration that I never dreamed in my age would happen. This time, I was invited and sat in the reserved section.”



[For video click here](#)



Tuskegee photo montage

ASC addressing electrical concerns in Iraq, Kuwait

ASC Public Affairs

The Army Sustainment Command is vigorously addressing electrical safety hazards to ensure the Army facilities it supports in operational theaters are in compliance with established electrical codes.

In concert with Task Force SAFE (Safety Action for Fire and Electricity), this focus on electrical safety includes places where Soldiers, Army civilians and contracted employees work and live.

The 401st Army Field Support Brigade in Kuwait and 402nd AFSB in Iraq are aggressively directing facilities inspections for electrical hazards. Common deficiencies identified include improper grounding and bonding.

The following are some of the major initiatives either underway or that have been completed to ensure electrical safety:

- o The 402nd AFSB has embraced the Task Force SAFE initiatives to increase the health and well-being of Soldiers, Army civilians, and contracted employees

by comprehensive analysis and tracking of facility hazards through reconciliation. Constant communication with the TF SAFE team(s) has enhanced the AFSB's ability to mitigate issues across the Iraq Theater of Operations.

- o Attendance by a 402nd AFSB representative at the majority of inspections has increased command awareness.

- o Added a master electrician to its facilities team to facilitate proactive steps for our TFS mission. He will work with contracted teams to ensure mitigation of any issues.

- o Other important initiatives include: establishing a TF SAFE central coordinator; creating positions for lead engineer and fire inspector; implementing a fire warden program; conducting weekly safety,

health and welfare inspections; installing shielded-type breakers in 100 percent of Army Materiel Command joint base housing; increasing electrical maintenance staff augmentation; and establishing two dedicated electrical repair teams for TFS flashes or electrical danger zone areas.

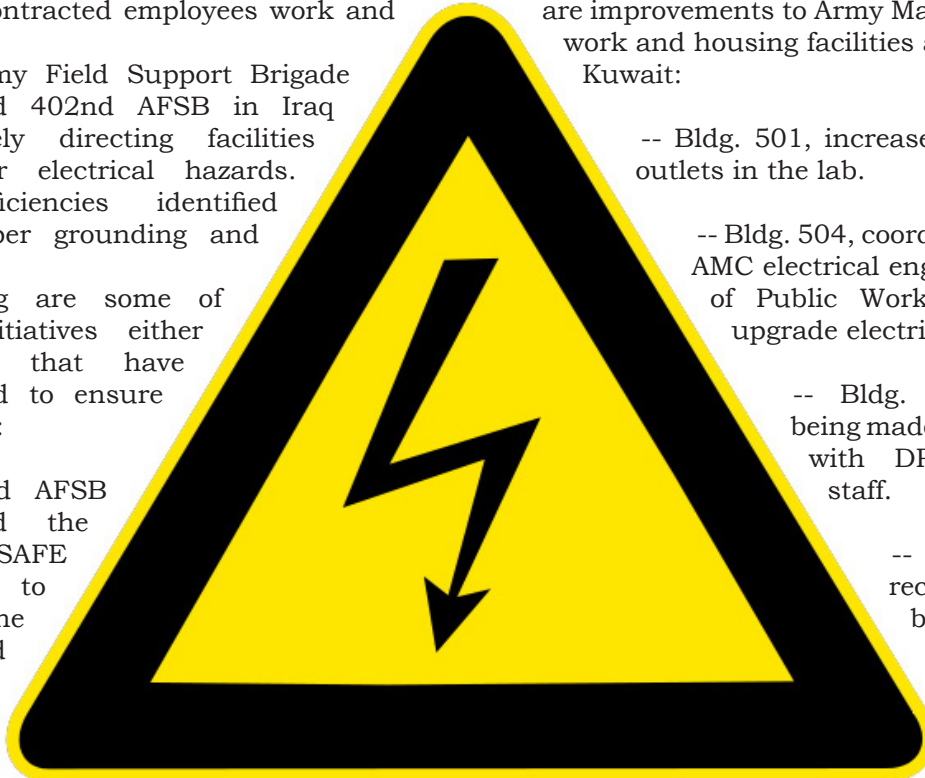
- o Among actions identified by the 401st AFSB are improvements to Army Materiel Command work and housing facilities at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait:

- Bldg. 501, increase the number of outlets in the lab.

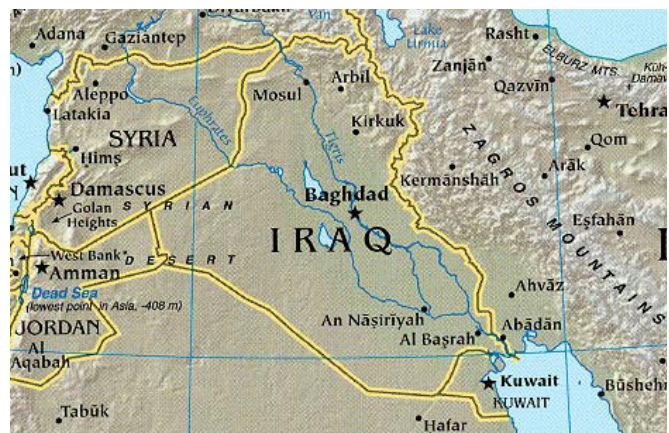
- Bldg. 504, coordination between AMC electrical engineer and Dept. of Public Works engineers to upgrade electrical capacity.

- Bldg. 511, upgrades being made in coordination with DPW engineering staff.

- Bldg. 512, reconstruct the building interior. This effort is coordinated with ASG Kuwait and DPW.



(Information for this article was made available by the ASC Safety Office at Rock Island Arsenal; Tom Grossmann, facilities engineer of the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade; and Joel Baylor, Safety, Health and Environmental manager, 401st AFSB.)



Minority education program helps dreams come true

By Jon Connor
ASC Public Affairs

With his brown hair and green eyes derived from French-Irish ethnicity, his enrollment in the Army's Minority College Relations Program could be seen as peculiar.

Turns out, program participants don't have to be members of a minority group, said Jason Casey, who is enrolled in the MCRP for a second time. You just have to be attending a minority college, Casey said, a veteran with two tours in Iraq and two internships with the Army Sustainment Command at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

The program is facilitated by the Equal Employment Opportunity Office at RIA.

"I think it's ironic," Casey said. "It's really a wonderful program.

"I will be the first of my immediate family to graduate college other than my stepmom," Casey said.

The MCRP's mission is to foster relationships between historically black colleges and universities, including tribal, Hispanic, and other minority institutions of higher learning. The idea is to promote their participation in and benefit from Army programs and opportunities.

According to the MCRP mission statement, partnering

with these institutions enhances the Army's future readiness by drawing minorities into its workforce other than those in uniform.

The program's motto is "A Pathway to Federal Opportunities."

Casey said the program helped him understand what working for the federal government is like and highly recommends it to his peers.

of his first stint with MCRP. During that time, he worked in ASC's History Office. That also brought him three credits while working here from June through August 2008 during the 10-week summer program.

While there is no guaranteed path to success, Casey has taken a road with interesting turns and forks which, of course, has led him to where he is today.

Casey, 25, attends the University of Texas-El Paso in a city that borders Mexico and is now known for its drug-related crimes.

He is majoring in political science with an emphasis in public administration at a university which is predominately Hispanic. The "Sun City" school is known for its excellent engineering program, Casey said.

After the terrorist attacks on

the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, and then seeing the Army's Rangers in subsequent action, Casey said furthering his education, while noble, was something he realized he could temporarily put on the shelf in order to serve his country.

He was just starting his post-high school education

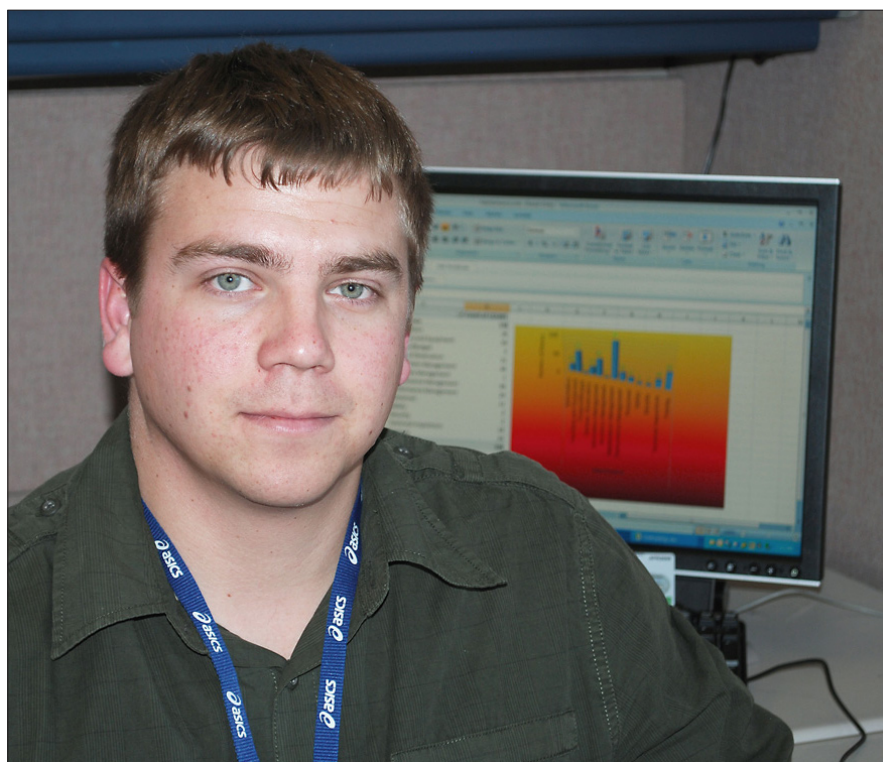


Photo by: Jon Connor

Iraq war veteran Jason Casey is going through the Army's Minority College Relations Program for a second time with the Army Sustainment Command at Rock Island Arsenal. A student with the University of Texas-El Paso, he is interning with the Command Assessment and Continuous Improvement Office.

"I definitely tell them it's a good opportunity. It's a steady job."

He hopes the education he seeks now will land him a "good job" one day. That being defined as achieving success at a relatively young age, ambitiously climbing the career ladder.

"It opened my eyes to other opportunities," Casey said

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at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

"I guess, yeah, envious," he said describing his feelings toward the Rangers. "I wanted to be a part of it."

And so the Eagle Scout did, enlisting in the Army as a medical healthcare specialist.

before enrolling full time at UTEP.

Now with 76 credits, Casey is enrolled in the 15-week winter-spring program – January through April – and works for ASC's Command Assessment and Continuous Improvement Office or CACIO.

"As an intern I am learning a lot," he said, but "there's obviously a big vocabulary

It would be part of an overall master's degree program in business administration through the Texas A&M University-Texarkana.

Aside from this, Casey said he's "here to work and learn."

In April, Casey and the other students will brief Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, commanding general of the Army Sustainment Command, on their completed projects.

"It's pretty hard not to be nervous," Casey said. "This is like talking to a CEO (chief executive officer) of a global company."

Additionally, Casey and seven other students in the program at RIA were given a Logistics Intern Program briefing to learn more about the career potentials of that profession. And, a few weeks ago a pizza luncheon was held in their honor which allowed them to meet some graduates of the program now working at Rock Island Arsenal.

Other interns this semester include:

Lequita Barfield, Mississippi Valley State; Adeola Adutola, Alabama A&M; Roxanne Riva, University of Texas-El Paso; Autumn Martin, Alabama A&M; Perla Gomez, New Mexico State University; Veronica Espinoza, UTEP; and Marcus Lanier, North Carolina A&T.



Photo by Jon Connor

Minority College Relations Program interns enjoy some pizza and camaraderie during a luncheon held in their honor Jan. 23 in building 390. The winter-spring semester runs January through April and allows the interns to gain valuable experience working in the federal government.

After basic and advanced individual training for his specialty, fate took him to Fort Bragg, N.C., after becoming airborne-qualified and earned the Expert Field Medical Badge, a highly coveted recognition among Army medics.

His unit was 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. During his four years of service, Casey deployed twice to Iraq – once during the initial campaign to Baghdad and then returning there eight months later. During this period, he earned the Combat Medical Badge.

After fulfilling his military obligation, Casey enrolled in Austin Community College in Texas and went two semesters

gap" learning CACIO's internal buzzwords.

This time around, Casey is applying networking skills for his plans to be eventually chosen for a Fellows Program with the Joint Munitions Command at RIA.

2009: Year of the NCO



Recognize an outstanding NCO in your unit today!

Each month, The Global Line intends to feature a noncommissioned officer. To nominate an NCO from your organization, send a photo, brief description and supervisor endorsement to ROCK-ASC-GLOBAL-LINE@conus.army.mil

Heavy metal moves to Livorno for repairs

By Joyce Costello
USAG Livorno Public Affairs

LIVORNO, Italy – Heavy metal took to Italian roads recently as dozens of U.S. Army tanks and armored vehicles roared and clanked their way from the Port of Livorno, Italy, to Leghorn Army Depot repair shops.

Army Sustainment Command's 3rd Battalion, 405th Army Field Support Brigade and Camp Darby's 839th Transportation Battalion teamed up to ensure the successful delivery and transportation of 144 vehicles belonging to the 172nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team. The equipment transited the port en route to 3rd Bn., 405th AFSB's maintenance and storage facilities.

839th Trans. Bn. coordinated downloading the ship and staging the equipment for onward movement with the port authority, ship's master, and contracted stevedores, said Lt. Col. Robert King, 839th Trans. Bn. commander. Lt. Col. Roger L. McCreery, 3rd Bn., 405th AFSB commander, directed his personnel as they helped download the vessel, then served as operators during the convoy to Camp Darby.

"A mission like this absolutely requires teamwork from all the key organizations in order to accomplish the mission," said King. "Detailed communications with our host-nation partners was critical to ensure that all the requirements have been met prior to operation."

McCreery added that a focus on safety, communication and the technical competency of all involved were the central characteristics to successful accomplishment of the mission.

"The operation involved large groups of people from various

organizations such as 3rd of the 405th, 839th Trans. Bn. 497th Movement Control Team, U.S. Army Garrison - Livorno, Italian Base Commander, local law enforcement officials, port authorities and contractors - all operating over a multi-day, multi-shift period of time," said McCreery. "Success required a diligent, focused effort by all because armor equipment, due to the sizes and weights involved, is inherently dangerous to operate and mistakes can result in catastrophic consequences."

In addition to making sure coordination was complete across the board, organizers faced the daunting task of moving a large number of tracked vehicles in a short time over public roads.

"It was important to get the initial 28 vehicles off the vessel quickly, so that the vessel could be moved, allowing another ship to exit the Port of Livorno. Franco Infante, 839th Trans. Bn. terminal manager, provided the motivation and expertise to get the vessel downloaded in time to let other traffic pass in the port," said King.

Once off the ship, the vehicles then had to make the journey from the port to the base.

"In order to minimize disruption to the local population and avoid maneuver damage, we conducted route reconnaissance and identified high-risk areas. Interchange loops and differences in height between paved surfaces at critical areas



Photo by: Joyce Costello

Leonard Baird-Boyd and Sabrina Ciampi, 839th Trans. Bn. employees, double-check the packing order on a tracked vehicle during joint operations at the Port of Livorno, Italy.

like points where turns would be negotiated all require extra care," McCreery said. Safely arrived at Leghorn Army Depot, the equipment is now part of Army Sustainment Command's Left-Behind Equipment Program. While the 172nd HBCT is deployed, McCreery noted, 3rd Bn., 405th AFSB mechanics, painters and other highly skilled specialists will bring the vehicles to Technical Manual 10/20 standard, maintain them in storage, then issue the vehicles back to the unit upon its return from deployment.



[For more photos click here](#)

Army helicopters take to high seas

Jennifer L. King
405th AFSB PAO

ROTA, Spain - The ship looms in the pre-dawn grayness like a hulking monster, its ramp leading up to a yawning mouth. As the first aircraft rolls up, the steel ramp creaks and groans as if waking from a deep slumber.

One mission is complete as members of the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade (Air Assault) depart Afghanistan and return to Fort Campbell, Ky. Another mission is just beginning as the Theater Aviation Sustainment Manager-Europe (TASM-E) begins the long process of moving the unit's aircraft back to the States. Dozens of UH-60 Blackhawks, AH-64 Apaches and CH-47 Chinooks have to be moved halfway around the world.

It's a difficult journey. The aircraft are loaded onto C-17s in Afghanistan and flown to the airfield at the U.S. Naval Station in Rota, Spain. From there, the aircraft are trucked to port facilities where they are loaded onto a ship before crossing the Atlantic Ocean and being unloaded in Jacksonville, Fla. From there, the aircraft are flown to U.S. Army Materiel Command depots in the U.S. for reset and maintenance before being returned to the unit at Fort Campbell.

The task isn't easy, but as the organization responsible for the transportation of aircraft in and out of the European theater of operations, it's all in a day's work for TASM-E.

"We have been executing boat loads and transportation missions in Spain for four years," explained Dave Stortheide, DynCorp crew lead for the mission. "The mission has become more well-defined over the years, and we've pretty



Photo by Jennifer L. King

The TASM-E begins loading aircraft aboard ship well before dawn.

much got the entire process down to a science."

In addition to aircraft transportation, the TASM-E also handles some maintenance on the aircraft prior to loading them onto the ship.

"We have to do some maintenance in order to prepare the aircraft for shipment," Stortheide said. "Particularly with the UH-60 Blackhawks, we have to make sure that the tires are at the proper pressure and the struts are at the correct height. We only do light maintenance here in Spain - just enough to ensure they can be loaded and transported without suffering damage. The heavy maintenance is done back at the home station."

Loading the aircraft onto the ship is akin to piecing together a giant jigsaw puzzle. The ship's hold is sprawling and spacious, but it's filled with ramps, stairwells and steel support columns and beams. The aircraft have to be pushed up the ship's ramp by a tractor, while the driver is backing up the ramp

looking over his shoulder. Once inside, the aircraft have to be maneuvered around the columns and into position, again while being maneuvered by a tractor.

Once the tractor has gone as far as it can go into the ship's hold, the rest of the placement is accomplished with sheer muscle power. Stevedores and specialists literally push the aircraft into place by hand, leaving only inches between aircraft as they are moved into their final positions and strapped down for the transatlantic journey.

Caution is key - any bump to the aircraft could result in thousands of dollars in damage. The fact that the TASM-E crew loaded all of the aircraft onto the ship without a single incident of damage to any of the aircraft is a testament to their professionalism and skill.

While the U.S. Army has the lead for aviation transportation missions in Spain, the operation is truly a joint and international endeavor. The boat is a U.S.-

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flagged carrier under contract with the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), which is allowed into the port in cooperation with the U.S. Navy.

cooperation between military branches and governments. In addition to supporting our operations in Rota, the Spanish also assist us with the actual aircraft movement by towing

“Fortunately, one of the Spanish drivers noticed the issue immediately, and the Navy fire crew was right there with us on the ground, so we were able to address the problem quickly and continue with the operations.”

While the process may sound cumbersome - moving aircraft by plane from Afghanistan to Europe, then by ship to the United States, it's actually an incredibly cost-effective plan, saving the U.S. Army millions of dollars.

“Because of the distance, strategic air movement of the aircraft from Afghanistan back to the U.S. is simply too expensive,” explained Strotheide. “By using a combination of strategic air transport out of theater into Europe and then using a ship from Europe to the U.S., we saved the military thousands of dollars last year alone in transportation costs.”

Even more than saving the military money, the TASM-E prides itself on taking care of its customers - the Army unit and its Soldiers.

“This is the second time that I've worked with the TASM-E team in Europe,” said Lt. Col. Chris Wolfe, commander of Task Force Troubleshooter. “I'm incredibly impressed by their efficiency, their work ethic and their skill at maneuvering aircraft onto a ship. It's a difficult job, but they do it very, very well, and I am never concerned when my aircraft are being handled by a TASM-E crew.”



Photo by Jennifer L. King

Army aircraft bound from Afghanistan to the U.S. are repositioned on the dock at Rota, Spain.

Additionally, the Navy provides support for purchase requests for the Army team on the ground through its fleet support program and assists the Army by providing fire crew support, an important element considering the aircraft can become overheated during ground movement. The U.S. Air Force is involved as well, providing C-17s for strategic air missions in support of aviation transportation as required by the Army. Rota is a Spanish military base on which the Navy is a tenant, and Spanish personnel assist the Army with the movement of the aircraft.

“We simply could not accomplish this mission without the support of our fellow services and our Spanish allies,” said Lt. Col. Kye Allen, chief of the TASM-E. “The operations in Spain are a true example of

the aircraft between the airfield and the port. They are very, very good at towing operations, and they are essential to our mission success.”

SDDC is also an integral player in accomplishing the mission.

“SDDC plays a huge role in our operations,” emphasized Dave Storts, a Department of the Army civilian responsible for overseeing TASM-E operations in Spain. “They provide us with boats, trucks and ramps - anything we need to load aircraft safely onto the ship. Their presence is an integral part of our operations, and, frankly, we couldn't do this without them.”

Every mission has its challenges, and this operation was no exception.

“Two of the aircraft got warm during the tow from the airfield to the port,” said Strotheide.



[For more photos click here](#)

Science serves Soldiers in Korea

By Maj. Jong H. Chung
Science and Technology Officer
403rd Army Field Support Brigade

The U. S. Forces Korea Knowledge Operations and Initiatives Office and the 403rd Army Field Support Brigade hosted the inaugural USFK Science & Technology Exchange at Yongsan Garrison, Republic of Korea, Jan. 21-23.

The event's purpose was to provide USFK staff members and service component representatives information on the Joint Concepts & Technology Demonstration process and to afford the exchange of information between USFK and service component staffs, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, JCTD organizations and U.S.-based support agencies.

The event presented combatant command representatives an opportunity to provide input to the latest science and technology developments. It also identified warfighter needs that can be addressed through JCTDs or other science and technology efforts.

This year's notable participants included scientists from Sandia National Laboratories, Office of the Secretary of Defense Advanced Systems & Concepts, International Technology Center, Pacific; Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and program representatives for Theater Operations & Planning Assessment Service, Machine Language Translation Systems, Program Manager Movement Tracking System, and Program Manager Force Protection.

Warfighters want to know what new defense technologies are on the horizon and what additional capabilities can be brought to the battlefield, said George Lecaroz,



Courtesy Photo

Spc. Robert Juarez of United Nations Command Security Battalion briefs U.S. Forces - Korea Science & Technology Exchange participants on the Joint Security Area.

USFK Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence Office technical adviser. Lecaroz also pointed out that military technology and scientific developments are advancing fast because of the need for such developments driven by Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"This forum was intended to bring scientists, developers and warfighters together to exchange new ideas, needs, and [discuss] the latest information on the defense science and technology for capabilities needed on the peninsula," said Lt. Col. Mike Kim, USFK science and technology officer. "Events like this can bridge the gap between the research and development community and the warfighter."

"We hosted more participants than expected. Our initial intent was to have a small, focused discussion groups. It turned out that more scientists and

developers were willing to come ... and present their latest efforts and findings on warfighter technologies," said Phillips D. Martin, USFK JCTD manager, one of the key event organizers. "We are planning to have to have more scientists, developers, and warfighters next year."

Scientists and engineers presented the latest developments affecting current technologies and offered a glimpse what warfighters might use on the future battlefield.

As part of the event, the U. N. Command Security Battalion provided a guided tour of the Joint Security Area (JSA) to Exchange participants. The scientists and developers learned the operational posture and technology needs of USFK, and warfighters gained knowledge on the development of latest defense technologies and possible application of them in the Korean Theater.

CFC has record year, holds awards ceremony

By Rebecca Montgomery
TACOM LCMC-Rock Island Public Affairs

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL, Ill., - Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, Army Sustainment Command commanding general and Illowa Bi-State CFC honorary chair, praised the people and organizations behind this year's record-breaking Combined Federal Campaign at a ceremony held Feb. 10 at the Navy Operational Support Center here.

"What continues to impress me is the involvement of the people in this campaign. I define success not only by dollars, but in our ability to reach out to our employees and afford them the opportunity to give," said Radin.

Federal and postal employees donated \$696,575 to local, national and international charities, exceeding the goal by almost 5 percent.

"We reached farther than I thought we could go in very tough economic times, and this is a tribute to every federal employee in the 24-county area," said Debra Gudlewski, Illowa Bi-State CFC chairwoman.

Thirty-two percent of federal and postal workers in the 24-county area donated to 2,000 of the approximately 2,500 registered charities, with 48 percent of donations staying in the Quad City area. The top three receiving agencies were United Way of the Quad Cities, Humane Society of Rock Island County and the Humane Society of Scott County.

New to this year's campaign was an essay contest, enabling employees to share accounts of how a CFC charity helped them and their families. First-place winner Lori McFate read her essay, in which she described her fight with cancer and how a CFC agency supported her.

"A CFC-supported charity is the reason I am alive and able to submit this entry," McFate said.

Award-winning people and organizations recognized were:

Most Innovative Campaign - Civilian Personnel Advisory Center

Postal Excellence Award - Rockford, Ill. USPS

Organizational Participation Awards (greatest participation per group size):

- Transportation Security Administration - 73 percent (small organization)



- U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal - 65 percent (medium organization)

- Joint Munitions Command - 49 percent (large organization)

Key Person of the Year:

- Patty Badtram, Army Sustainment Command

Essay Contest Winners:

- First Place - Lori McFate, U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command

- Second Place - Dawn Stanley, U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command

- Third Place - Rene Robinson, U.S. Army Sustainment Command

Essay Contest Certificate of Participation:

- Donna Evans - U.S. Army Civilian Human Resources Agency

- James McFarlen - U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command

- Marcia Jay - U.S. Army Garrison Rock Island Arsenal

More information on the Illowa Bi-State Combined Federal Campaign and winning essays are available at <http://illowacfc.org/>. General information on the national campaign is available on the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's Web site, at www.opm.gov/cfc

Defending cell phones and PDAs against attack

By Mindi McDowell
U.S. Computer Emergency Response
Team

As cell phones and PDAs become more technologically advanced, attackers are finding new ways to target victims. By using text messaging or e-mail, an attacker could lure you to a malicious site or convince you to install malicious code on your portable device.

What unique risks do cell phones and PDAs present?

Most current cell phones have the ability to send and receive text messages. Some cell phones and PDAs also offer the ability to connect to the Internet. Although these are features that you might find useful and convenient, attackers may try to take advantage of them. As a result, an attacker may be able to accomplish the following:

- Abuse your service - Most cell phone plans limit the number of text messages you can send and receive. If an attacker spams you with text messages, you may be charged additional fees. An attacker may also be able to infect your phone or PDA with malicious code that will allow them to use your service. Because the contract is in your name, you will be responsible for the charges.

- Lure you to a malicious Web site - While PDAs and cell phones that give you access to e-mail are targets for standard phishing attacks, attackers are now sending text messages to cell phones. These messages, supposedly from a legitimate company, may try to convince you to visit a malicious site by claiming that there is a problem with your account or stating that you have been subscribed to a service. Once you visit the site, you may be lured into

providing personal information or downloading a malicious file.

- Use your cell phone or PDA in an attack - Attackers who can gain control of your service may use your cell phone or PDA to attack others. Not only does this hide the real attacker's identity, it allows the attacker to increase the number of targets.

- Gain access to account information - In some areas, cell phones are becoming capable of performing certain transactions (from paying for parking or groceries to conducting larger financial transactions). An attacker who can gain access to a phone that is used for these types of transactions may be able to discover your account information and use or sell it.

What can you do to protect yourself?

- Follow general guidelines for protecting portable devices - Take precautions to secure your cell phone and PDA the same way you should secure your computer.

- Be careful about posting your cell phone number and e-mail address - Attackers often use software that browses web sites for email addresses. These addresses then become targets for attacks and spam. Cell phone numbers can be collected automatically, too. By limiting the number of people who have access to your information, you limit your risk of becoming a victim.

- Do not follow links sent in email or text messages - Be suspicious of URLs sent in unsolicited e-mail or text messages. While the links may appear to be legitimate, they may actually

direct you to a malicious Web site.

- Be wary of downloadable software - There are many sites that offer games and other software you can download onto your cell phone or PDA. This software could include malicious code. Avoid downloading files from sites that you do not trust. If you are getting the files from a supposedly secure site, look for a Web site certificate. If you do download a file from a web site, consider saving it to your computer and manually scanning it for viruses before opening it.

- Evaluate your security settings - Make sure that you take advantage of the security features offered on your device. Attackers may take advantage of Bluetooth connections to access or download information on your device. Disable Bluetooth when you are not using it to avoid unauthorized access.

