



# THE GLOBAL LINE

Best Newsletter in AMC



## Property accountability key to sustainment

Hand receipts, property books, inventories – at first glance, it’s pretty dry stuff. Unless you’re a company commander concerned about what happens to the property your deploying troops will leave behind, or whether you’ll be training on the same types of equipment you’ll be using on the battlefield, or ... page 3

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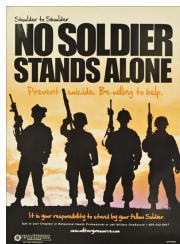
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# Honor those who sacrificed for us

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

On a gray and cool April day, hundreds of people lined Rodman Avenue, the main thoroughfare on Rock Island Arsenal, to pay tribute to a young man who few, if any, of them had ever met.

The Arsenal employees and family members had come from their workplaces and homes to honor Jason Graham Pautsch, a 20-year-old Army corporal who was among five Soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division killed by a suicide bomber in Iraq on April 10. They stood in silence, some saluting, some holding flags, some with their heads down, some brushing away tears – all consoling Jason's loved ones at an extraordinarily difficult time by their very presence.

I witnessed this solemn tribute as part of the procession carrying Jason Pautsch to his final resting place at Rock Island National Cemetery at Arsenal Island's eastern tip. It was my honor to serve as the general officer representing the Army at the Pautsch funeral, a solemn duty which I have performed before and, sadly, may well have to perform again.

If you were among those who took the time to stand on the sidewalk to view the Pautsch funeral procession, or who otherwise found a way to express your condolences to the Pautsch family, I thank you. What you did brought great comfort to Jason Pautsch's family members and friends, and reflected well on the spirit and compassion that lie at the heart of an installation in America's heartland.

The demonstration of compassion which I witnessed that day showed me that, though Jason Pautsch may be gone from our midst,



his spirit lives on. It is the spirit of service, of courage, of honor, of duty, of sacrifice – a spirit that gives us hope on the darkest of days and the strength to go on against the greatest of difficulties.

As one whose remains are buried in a National Cemetery, Jason lies among his fellow heroes. His headstone is one that stands in a row, in a straight line with dozens of other rows. Row upon row, you can find the names of those who gave their lives in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, in Vietnam and Korea, in Europe and the Pacific – in any distant place where their nation sent them into battle and where they paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

During the Memorial Day weekend, a ceremony honoring Jason Pautsch and other fallen heroes will be held at Rock Island National Cemetery. Hundreds of similar ceremonies will be held nationwide and overseas, at cemeteries and in other locations, all in memory of the thousands and thousands of Americans who laid down their lives while serving our nation.

I would encourage you to take some time from your three-day weekend to attend a Memorial Day ceremony or observance. If you are unable to do so, then please pause at some point to consider the true meaning of this holiday, and to remember Jason Pautsch and the many others who are commemorated on Memorial Day.

Our honored dead all took a stand for us and our nation, so now let us stand tall and proud for them on Memorial Day – just as we stood along Rodman Avenue for a brave young man whose life ended far too soon, but whose memory will endure as long as freedom endures.

## THE GLOBAL LINE

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# Property accountability key to sustainment

## *Expeditionary ops demand asset visibility*

By C.W. Fick Jr.  
ASC Public Affairs

Hand receipts, property books, inventories – at first glance, it's pretty dry stuff. Unless you're a company commander concerned about what happens to the property your deploying troops will leave behind, or whether you'll be training on the same types of equipment you'll be using on the battlefield, or the location and condition of equipment your Soldiers will be issued when you arrive in Afghanistan.

From Iraq to Afghanistan, from New York to Hawaii, Army Sustainment Command Soldiers, civilian employees and contract workers are keeping a sharp eye on millions of items, worth billions of dollars. It's a relatively new mission for a very young command.

"From our start, less than three years ago, ASC has been on point developing new methods of logistics support to our transforming Army," said Jim Orasky, chief of ASC's Systems Accountability and Enterprise Integration Division. "One of our evolving missions is applying property accountability methods on a global scale – then integrating that capability with our materiel management operations to give the Army a whole new way of ensuring combat readiness."

The enterprise is tied directly to sustaining our modular, expeditionary and transforming Army. The Army Force Generation process places units on a planned, predictable path with focused resources based on progressive readiness requirements. At every stage – training/reset, ready, available – unit effectiveness is tied to materiel readiness. And materiel readiness is dependent on knowing the amounts, locations and condition of accountable property.

Keeping track of property on the battlefield, in garrison, at training sites and undergoing maintenance is more than a paperwork drill.

"At every step of ARFORGEN, Forces Command planners and Department of the Army managers have to know how much of what equipment is available, where it's located and what condition it's in. Without that information, the whole machine grinds to a halt," said Dennis Wells, chief of ASC's Accountability Branch.



Photo by Summer Barkley

***Air Force Tech. Sgt. Christy J. Long, quality assurance noncommissioned officer at the 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, climbs onto a vehicle to place an Army Materiel Command decal. Property accountability is essential as materiel moves to the Retrograde Property Assistance Team holding yard at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, pending shipment to its final destination.***

While units and troops are on the move, so is the accountable property – and not always in the same direction. It's a new way of doing business, a small slice of what is being called the Materiel Enterprise. The essence of the Materiel Enterprise is matching materiel to missions – and the Soldiers who meet the mission.

Gone are the days when a unit would pack up all its equipment, move to a training site, then into battle, finally bringing what's left back to home station. Equipment is increasingly viewed as a strategic asset, moved around as requirements demand.

It makes sense to assign a portion of the accountable property mission to ASC. Besides freeing supported units to focus on warfighting skills, the Army gains increased asset visibility.

"Taking property onto our books enables planners to make well-informed choices," said Wells. "A whole range of possibilities opens: The property can remain with ASC, in which case we can schedule maintenance and repair, fill shortages and arrange storage. If a need exists elsewhere, higher echelons can direct internal transfer within the supported command or to another unit entirely. Some property might even be moved into Reset programs and returned to the national inventory."

***See Property, page 4***

## Property

*continued from page 3*

A simple example illustrates ASC's three main accountable property missions. A unit preparing to deploy moves its troops to a training center, but leaves most of its equipment at home, saving money and time. At the training site, ASC managers use hand receipts to transfer ready equipment, called pre-deployment training equipment, or PDTE. Training complete, the unit hands the equipment back, reducing unit maintenance requirements while saving time and transportation costs.

Back at home station, the unit makes final preparations to deploy, determining what gear they'll take along and what will be left behind. ASC professionals step in to take over accountability for the left-behind equipment, or LBE, freeing the deploying unit from a requirement to safeguard and maintain equipment they don't need to do the job at hand.

Stepping off the plane down range, the newly arrived unit falls in on theater-provided equipment, or TPE, managed by ASC. Later, its mission complete, the same unit will again turn to ASC, this time as the go-between to sign over property to its replacement.

It's a huge – and hugely important – mission, keeping track of and taking responsibility for the property Soldiers need to do their jobs. According to Wells, TPE amounts to 15 million items, serving some 2,300 Unit Identification Codes and valued at more than \$20 billion. The LBE team has more than 400,000 items on its books, valued at more than \$6.5 billion and covering nearly 2,000 UICs. Still in its infancy, the PDTE program includes about 10,000 items for 15 UICs, with a value of nearly \$400 million.

In addition to its three main accountable property missions, ASC has taken on other tasks – all with an eye to supporting warfighters. "In Iraq, our people provide installation property book services. Most of these items were acquired in theater and remain there as units come and go, so ASC has stepped up to maintain accountability," Wells said. "We also provide property accountability teams that ensure

a smooth handover of TPE between outgoing and incoming units."

As the number of units in Iraq decreases, the amount of property heading out is increasing.

"We have retrograde property accountability teams in the thick of a large and growing mission," Wells said. "This aspect of our mission is vital to ensuring accountability and asset visibility of a very big part of the Army's inventory."

The property accountability pros have also taken on special missions.

"When MRAPs were pouring out of factories and into Charleston, S.C., we worked out a process with TACOM Life Cycle Management Command project managers to take the vehicles onto our books, then follow through until they were issued to troops in the field," Wells said.

Sometimes, even trophies and unit memorabilia find their way into ASC care.

"A deploying unit knew it would not return to its familiar offices and workspaces. Leaders were concerned about preserving their heritage, so we stepped up and took their treasure into our care. It was certainly a non-traditional supply transaction, but it meant the world to the Soldiers we serve," Wells said.

It takes good people – and plenty of them – to keep property records straight. "ASC has two contract service providers on the job, with 1,600 contracted workers augmenting our government staff," Wells said. "So, in addition to being property book officers and responsible officers, we also serve as contracting officer representatives, administrative contracting officer representatives and contracting officer technical representatives."

It's safe to say ASC's property accountability mission is a vital part of the Materiel Enterprise, Army Materiel Command's far-reaching effort to harness and apply logistics capabilities to operational needs.

"We're like the synchro gear in a transmission," Wells said. "By taking responsibility for property on the move, we're enabling the warfighters we support to shift smoothly from garrison to training to combat and back again."



Photo by Summer Barkley

**Air Force Tech. Sgt. Tamekah S. Burrell, container management noncommissioned officer at the 2nd Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, attaches a radio frequency identification tag to a vehicle, enabling property accountability as materiel moves out of Iraq.**

# Mobile Parts Hospitals resuscitate broken gear

## More than 100,000 parts made to support warfighters in SW Asia

By Summer Barkley  
402nd AFSB Public Affairs

JOINT BASE BALAD, Iraq - Three skilled machinists, working in a purpose-built Mobile Parts Hospital, fabricated more than 11,000 critical replacement parts last year.

The MPH here is located in the shadow of huge relocatable maintenance structures, known as Sprungs, adjacent to the 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade headquarters area. The Balad MPH is one of only three serving the Army since 2003.

So far, the three contractor-operated MPHs, including ones located at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, and in Afghanistan, have manufactured more than 100,000 critical parts at points of need near the battle space.

The MPH team fabricates replacement parts for pieces of equipment ranging in size from M-16 rifles and M-249 squad automatic weapons to street sweepers, even AH-64D Apache helicopters. They can manufacture standard parts and develop new and improved parts or components from computer-aided design drawings, using broken parts, drawings and verbal descriptions as a guide.

The CAD drawings are then sent back to the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command for approval. Given a green light, the team begins fabricating the custom parts and gets them in the customer's hands in a matter of days.

"We look for ways to take care of Soldiers and improve the parts," said Timothy Gelios, MPH

site leader, who currently does most of the CAD drawings.

Gelios pointed out a door latch for a mine-resistant ambush-protected Caiman vehicle. He said the original latch was rated for a door weighing between 50 to 200 pounds, but failed when the vehicles were up-armored. By using 4140 hardened steel, the latch fabricated at the MPH is capable of handling the increased weight - meaning the vehicle

and the Soldiers depending on that piece of equipment stay mission-ready.

The critical nature of seemingly small parts was recently highlighted when a unit convoyed to the MPH and basically camped out there while the team fabricated new rear door latches from hardened steel to replace the broken ones. The particular Caiman model the unit had was a slightly different



Photo by Summer Barkley

**Timothy Gelios, Mobile Parts Hospital site lead, programs a job into the Mazak, Integrex 100 computer-controlled lathe. The Mobile Parts Hospital, located at 1st Battalion, 402nd Army Field Support Brigade at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, can fabricate a wide variety of replacement parts for varying sizes of equipment, 12-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week.**

design standard, so in addition to producing the replacement latches, the MPH team also had to remove the striker plates from the vehicles, drill and tap them, replace them on the vehicles, then install the new latches.

"They lined up the vehicles and we fixed them on the spot," Gelios said.

"These guys can manufacture parts in a matter of minutes that normally have more than a 60-day lead time if ordered from the States," said Maj. Andris Ikstrums, 1st Bn. support operations officer.

**See Parts, page 6**

## Parts

*continued from page 5*

In addition to producing parts quickly, the MPH fabricates replacement components and special tools, which precludes having to replace an entire assembly. Gelios pointed out a socket for a rotor brake seal on an Apache AH-64D rear rotor that was designed and manufactured by his team to eliminate shipping the rear rotor back to the States for a depot-level rebuild. Gelios estimates a cost avoidance of \$393,000 by fabricating and replacing the seal locally.

The stories of small parts failures causing huge machines to be sidelined is repeated in the case of a three-inch long emergency brake caliper for a Rough Terrain Container Handler which failed, causing the 118,000-pound piece of equipment to be down for two months. It took a couple of days for the MPH team to get the replacement part approved by TACOM, fabricated and returned to the unit.

After an aviation unit identified a need, the MPH team started manufacturing small replacement

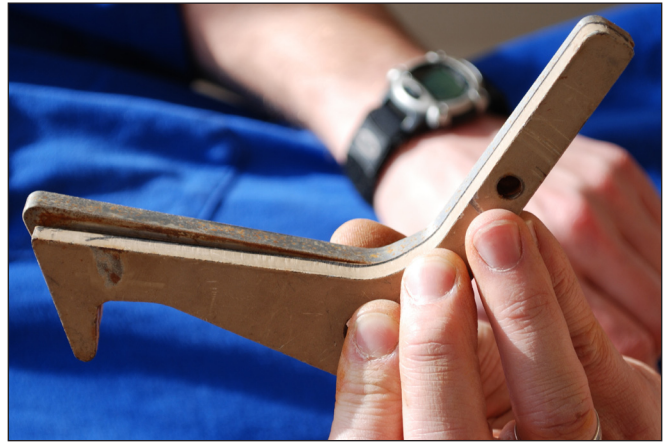


Photo by Summer Barkley

***These two parts show how the Mobile Parts Hospital can improve parts for use by Soldiers in the field. The part held at the front is the original part, while the part fabricated by MPH behind it has been enlarged and is made of a higher quality material for improved performance under adverse conditions.***

brackets for helicopter transmission stands, saving the unit the time and expense of ordering a new stand. Now, the MPH can even manufacture the whole transmission stand when needed.

“Usually, word spreads about everything we make,” said Gelios. The MPH team has learned that if one unit needs a part, the odds are pretty good that another unit will need the same part and they try to have a supply of high-demand parts on hand.

The manufacturing process is divided between parts that can be manufactured manually and those that are manufactured by a computer-controlled Mazatral 640MT PRO lathe that can accommodate stainless steel, brass, 1018 steel, 4140 hardened steel and aluminum round stock ranging from a one-half inch diameter up to a six-inch diameter.

With a waiting list of approximately 70 work orders for about 800 individual pieces, the MPH team prioritizes the work load according to how critical a part is, thus running the machines as many hours as possible. Albert Ebner, who currently programs and runs the Mazatral lathe said about the only time the machine is down is when they are performing preventive maintenance to clean the equipment and check oil; reloading round stock onto the lathe; or, reprogramming the lathe to fabricate a different part.

Kevin Lewis does most of the manual parts fabrication work, but said each man is cross-trained in all aspects of the MPH operation.

The MPH customer base is “every Soldier [Sailor, Marine, Airman, DOD Civilian] and every contractor on every [base and] FOB in Iraq,” Gelios said. “We help everybody.”



Photo by Summer Barkley

***The replacement MRAP rear door latches on the left were fabricated from hardened steel at the Mobile Parts Hospital. The replacement latches can handle the weight of the up-armored doors keeping the vehicles mission ready.***



## NCO Spotlight: Sgt. 1st Class Rene Nieves

**Name:** Sgt. 1st Class  
Rene Nieves

**Age:** 47

**Hometown:** Salinas,  
Calif.

**Unit:** 403rd Army Field  
Support Battalion -  
North East Asia

**Duty Position:**  
Battalion  
noncommissioned  
officer-in-charge

**How long have you  
been in this position?**  
One year

**How long have you  
been in the U.S. Army?** 19 years and 2 months

**Tell us about your job and what you do:** As the battalion training NCO, I ensure battalion personnel, composed of Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians, contractors, Korean Service Corps personnel, and Korean civilians, are trained to standard in accordance with 403rd Army Field Support Brigade, Army Sustainment Command and United States Forces Korea policy. I also serve as the battalion motor sergeant, supervising the



daily maintenance of wheeled vehicles and power generation equipment. I manage daily work schedules, the Army Maintenance Management System and Unit Level Logistics System-Ground operations. I am also responsible for the maintenance and operational readiness of unit equipment.

**What is the best part of your job?** Being a noncommissioned officer.

**What is the best part of being an NCO?** Leading the best Army in the world.

**Why is the NCO Corps important?** Without the NCO Corps, there is no Army.

**What are your most meaningful/memorable experiences as an NCO?** When I got promoted to sergeant; being in charge of my section.

**What are your future plans?** To retire healthy and live peacefully.

**Most people don't know about me:** That I'm easy to get along with.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?** Fishing and diving.

**What is your personal philosophy?** Don't wish defeat for your enemy ... plan for it.

**What is your favorite quote/slogan/saying?** Hooah!

## Army announces change of command at ASC



Maj. Gen. Robert Radin

The Department of the Army has announced that Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, commanding general of Army Sustainment Command, will move to the Pentagon to take up the post of Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (G-4).

He will be succeeded by Maj. Gen. Yves J. Fontaine, who is currently serving as commanding general of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Dates for their moves and an ASC change of command ceremony have not been decided.

"As I move into the Pentagon to serve as the Army's Assistant Deputy G-4, I will still have the op-



Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine

portunity to work at the policy level in support of ASC's vital missions of supporting our Soldiers," Radin said.

In other moves affecting ASC, Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates announced May 14 that the President has made the following nominations:

Army Reserve Brig. Gen. Harold G. Bunch has been nominated for appointment to the grade of major general and assignment to assistant deputy commanding general for Reserve Affairs (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), Army Material Command, Fort Belvoir, Va. Bunch is currently serving as deputy commander for mobilization and operations (Individual Mobilization Augmentee), U.S. Army Sustainment Command, Rock Island, Ill.

Army Reserve Col. Steven J. Feldmann has been nominated for appointment to the grade of brigadier general and assignment to deputy commander for Mobilization and Operations (individual mobilization augmentee), U.S. Army Sustainment Command, Rock Island, Ill. Feldmann is currently serving as LOGCAP deputy program director-Afghanistan (troop program unit), Afghanistan.

# Drive safely using 'TRiPS'

By Barbara Toner  
ASC Public Affairs

As of May 4, the Army reported 65 Class A accidents involving personal vehicles in fiscal year 2009; 64 took place during off-duty hours, resulting in 62 Soldier fatalities. During the same period in fiscal 2008, the Army reported 76 Class A accidents involving personal vehicles; 74 of them took place during off-duty hours, resulting in 74 fatalities.

That's a nearly 97 percent death rate per Class A accident in fiscal 2009, and 100 percent for fiscal 2008.

While Class A accidents are the most serious, generally resulting in extensive damage, injury or death, behind these statistics are Soldiers whose lives have been destroyed; their families shattered. Some of these lives could have been saved if the drivers had taken the time to follow some common sense guidelines on safe driving, say safety officials.

Composite Risk Management is a safety process that provides commanders with a method to identify hazards and reduce risk for all Army activities, including duty travel for Soldiers and civilians. The Army now has a CRM program anyone with a CAC can use to plan off-duty travel.

The Travel Risk Planning System, or TRiPS, is a CRM tool that identifies risks associated with privately owned vehicle travel. TRiPS analyzes common driving hazards and suggests remedies to reduce the likelihood of accidents.

TRiPS evaluates risk across the three main causes of accidents, said John Manfre, AMC safety director.

"The process discusses operator condition – sleep, drinking, seatbelts, etc. – vehicle condition, and operating environment condition – weather, type of roads, etc.," said Manfre.

In addition to risk assessment, TRiPS also provides a map, basic directions and links to weather and road conditions for every state. For international travelers, TRiPS provides links that lead to travel guides for more than 230 destinations throughout the world. Another link leads to the State Department Web site, which U.S. citizens may use to check on warnings issued by the United States government regarding travel to other countries.

To access TRiPS, go to the Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center Web site, (<https://safety.army.mil>). Look for the box in the middle of the page titled "Top USACRC/Safety Center Tools," and select the TRiPS icon.

The site directs you to a series of questions, which it uses to evaluate the level of risk – low, medium, high, and extremely high. If the risk level is greater than low, it provides ways to reduce risks and a modified risk assessment.

Soldiers must send TRiPS assessments to their supervisors before departing on off-duty travel, said Jerry Waibel, ASC safety manager.

Civilians are not required to report personal travel to their supervisors, but can still benefit from the program by printing out assessments, maps and directions before clicking on cancel instead of send. Cancelling the program assures that supervisors will not receive their employees' safety assessments.

The Ground Risk Assessment Tool, a CRM program also found on the Army Safety Web Site, is mandatory for duty-related private vehicle use for Soldiers and civilians, said Waibel.

"Ground Risk Assessment Tool was developed to augment the Composite Risk Management planning and decision-making process," said Waibel. "It assists in the identification, assessment and control of hazards associated with specified missions or tasks."





## Personality Spotlight

**Name:** Dan W. Holst

**Age:** 42

**Hometown:** Bettendorf, Iowa

**Duty Position:** Organizational Inspection Program Coordinator

**Unit:** Army Sustainment Command

**How long have you been in this position?**  
Two years

**How long have you been working for the U.S. Army?** Two years

**Tell us about your job and what you do:** I administer ASC's Organizational Inspection Program and coordinate the visits between ASC staffs and each of the Army Field Support Brigades. I also manage the data received and provide status and trending as required.

**What other jobs have you had with the military (active or civilian)?** I spent 21 years in the Air Force as an F-15C/D/E Avionics Technician.

**What is the best part of your job?** Building a program from scratch and seeing it all come together.

**Why do you like working here?** It's around my family. All my co-workers are the best. I love traveling. And most of all, I still get to serve our nation and support our Armed Forces

**If you could be the commander for a day, what would you do to improve ASC?** Convince all government employees, military members, and contractors to put the mission first. The biggest problem I've seen in the military is that all these disparate commands, units, and personal egos, at times, don't play well together. "Mission First; People Always"

**What do you like to do in your spare time?** Ballroom dancing, playing piano, cycling, writing, and watching the Cubs win.

**What people don't know about me:** I love Constitutional Law and would love to run for political office someday.

**What is your personal philosophy?** Regardless of philosophy, religion, or politics, the truth never lies in the extremes; it is always found in the middle by taking the best of the extremes and disregarding the bad. Like our Preamble states, "To form a more perfect union"

**What is your favorite quote/slogan/saying?**

Success flourishes only in perseverance— ceaseless, restless perseverance.  
(The Red) Baron Manfred von Richthofen, Leading Ace of World War I.



Photo by Galen Putnam

**Dan Holst stands in front of a scorpion sculpture at Joint Base Balad, Iraq.**

I enjoy writing poetry basically as an outlet for my feelings or to get across a specific message. Of the four poems I submitted to the (Mississippi Valley Regional Poetry) Contest, this one called American Dignity is a particular favorite. It was written during my Air Force deployment to Qatar in 2003 and was responsive to how people tend to let others and/or past events dictate their behavior. Today's global and national problems are based too often on ancestral grudges, past wrongs, "proper" ethnic behavior, etc. It is important that we all value and honor our ancestry, but to let it control our present day actions, I believe, is wrong.

*Do you believe in freedom and what does that mean?*

*For I believe in myself,  
(With my thoughts so free)*

*Not controlled by any group nor under their shroud  
All that I am (both now and when), I'll desire to be.  
Not the crowd, not the shroud, not for me.*

*Proud of my heritage and my past  
But dictating to me, to them I decree  
No more--for I am and my life is free.*

*Living in peace and not by circumstance,  
Created by God with a mind of my own.  
With choices free and freely sown  
Lawfully living while crafting my course  
Living together with responsibility  
To myself, to others, to friends and family  
I sometimes fail, but sometimes not  
I'm always learning, choosing to be  
In acceptance of myself, but ever striving to see  
That better person I know that I can truly be.  
To myself, to others, to this American dignity.*

*(Recognize an outstanding individual in your unit today! The Global Line periodically features ASC personnel on its "Personality Spotlight" page. If you would like to nominate an outstanding individual from your organization, provide a brief description and contact information to: ROCK-ASC-GLOBAL-LINE@conus.army.mil)*

## 405th AFSB bowlers place in European bowling championship

By Jennifer King  
405th AFSB Public Affairs

HEIDELBERG, Germany -- This isn't your average family bowling night. Bowling bags on wheels are filled with hand towels, ball cleaners, rosin pouches and wrist braces. Energy drinks are the beverage of choice and candy gives way to tablets for aching joints.

This is a game where a 7/10 split elicits clenched jaws, shaking heads and muttered curses.

That tough spare is a rarity here, though. Here, eight strikes in 10 frames is considered only slightly better than average: This is the 2009 U.S. Forces Europe Bowling Championship, and the 405th Army Field Support Brigade was well-represented. Sgt. First Class John Barbeau, John Hamm and Alex Winesette all competed in this year's tournament.

The championship is a grueling affair. During three days in mid-April, competitors were required to participate in team, doubles and singles events, rolling a total of 18 games.

Barbeau and Hamm, together with Sgt. First Class Ray Austin and Spc. Kevin Reasoner, took third place in the overall team event.

Barbeau, who recently returned to the sport after a 12-year hiatus, has been bowling since his parents introduced him to the sport as a child.

"I love the competition and just letting off some steam," Barbeau said. "I also love trying to accomplish the ultimate goal of shooting a 300 game and an 800 series, which I finally did in February."

Winesette played on Heidelberg Team 1 with Percy Morgan, Steve Hetu and Mike Lowery. A bowler for more than three decades, Winesette has made the rounds of many bowling leagues.

"I've been bowling in the championships for the past eight years for Heidelberg," Winesette explained. "I bowled All-Army for two years and for Team USA for one year, and I've been a pro [Professional Bowlers Association] bowler since 1990. I love the one-on-one competition of the sport, and I relish the sound of a strike."

Hamm has been a bowler since his military days.

"I started bowling in the mid-80s in Bamberg," Hamm said. "At the time, I was in the military, and to pass the time while not in the field, I got onto a team and enjoyed the competition and bowling with other Soldiers."

Whatever the motivation, bowling has given these guys a great opportunity to share a hobby and build friendships, and they're be looking to return to Heidelberg next year for the championships.



Photo by Chang Sung-yon

### AFSBn-NEA NBC Training

*In a flurry of activity, Soldiers, Department of the Army civilians, Korean employees, and contractors of the Army Field Support Battalion – North East Asia, don their protective gear during chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives training at Warehouse 15, Camp Carroll, South Korea. The training is conducted annually to ensure battalion personnel remain proficient with their protective equipment.*

# New training aims to reduce suicides

## 2009 trend heading in wrong direction

By Jon Connor  
ASC Public Affairs

**This is not business as usual.**

With these words, Army leaders up and down the chain of command are sending the message out to the rank and file that we're combating an insidious enemy – one as deadly as war.

In 2008, the Army experienced an all-time high in suicides – 143 – which quickly caught the attention of leadership and media. At the current rate, 2009 Army suicides will surpass last year's troubling figure.

The Army's second-in-command testified in a Senate hearing in mid-March that 48 Soldiers have taken their own lives this year. If that rate continues, more than 200 Soldiers will be dead as a result of suicide by the end of the year.

That's unacceptable, the Army's vice chief of staff, Gen. Peter Chiarelli, told the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Army leadership acknowledges increased stress from a high operations tempo resulting from two wars. Yet, as Chiarelli told the media earlier this year, 2008 statistics show 35 percent of those who committed suicide had no deployment experience at all.

Since the beginning of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army has lost more than 580 Soldiers to suicide. In 2008, the number of reported suicides jumped 21 percent from the previous year, Army officials said.

To combat this elusive enemy, the Army is in the midst of fielding a new type of training to educate Soldiers and civilians alike on suicide. While the content is drawn from existing sources, presentation is both more widespread and participatory.

Formerly, the Army conducted Suicide Prevention Week in September to highlight concerns.

Alarming trends prompted better methods of training and awareness. On April 16, Chiarelli

approved the Army Campaign Plan for Health Promotion, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention. The plan requires careful examination of the Army's doctrine, organization, training, materiel, leadership and education, personnel and facilities to improve the physical, mental and spiritual health of Soldiers. One element of the campaign is the new suicide prevention training.

This training comes in three phases. The first phase was a "stand-down" which began Feb. 15. This phase offered real-life scenario video vignettes that allowed audience members to interact with what they saw based on the decisions they made

throughout the example. The video is called "Beyond the Front."

At Rock Island Arsenal, Army Sustainment Command conducted its Phase 1 training with Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Joel Russell spearheading efforts, and assisted by his staff.

"What I think is great about this particular training is that it's a new mode," Russell said, noting the improvement from the traditional slide show, narrated from a lesson plan. "I like it a lot. It really engages the audience."

"With this, we're presenting the same information of a standard suicide prevention briefing, but we have an interactive video ... to have the opportunity to make decisions ... to do the right and proper prevention."

All attendees are also given the Suicide Prevention Training Top Card or SPTTC, which highlights the signs and symptoms of depression, causes of depression, suicide warning signs, and related risk factors. Likewise, everyone is given the wallet-sized "ACE" card which is an acronym for Ask, Care and Escort.

"The ACE card is basically a short way of saying the three key things in assisting someone who is suicidal," said Sgt. Gary McCracken, ASC chaplain assistant.

### **Suicide Risk Factors**

- **Relationship problems**
- **History of previous suicide attempts**
- **Substance abuse**
- **History of depression or other mental illness**
- **Family history of suicide or violence**
- **Work-related problems**
- **Transitions (retirement, PCS, discharge)**
- **Serious medical problem**
- **Significant loss**
- **Current/pending disciplinary or legal action**
- **Setbacks (academic, career or personal)**
- **Severe, prolonged and/or perceived unmanageable stress**
- **A sense of powerlessness, helplessness, and/or hopelessness**

Source: USACHPPM

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## Suicide

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McCracken said you must be blunt and ask, “Are you suicidal? Do you have a plan?”

Additionally, battle buddies, friends, and work colleagues must show a potential suicide victim that they care and will stay and listen to them. And finally, one must see that an at-risk person is escorted to a treatment facility.

“A lot of people don’t give themselves permission,” Russell said. “It’s an uncomfortable subject to ask someone ‘Are you suicidal today?’ But I think it [the ACE card] gives you empowerment to do that in case you see that in yourself or someone else.”

And what are the signs of a suicidal person?

“Withdrawal from normal activities, excessive drinking ... alcohol abuse, giving away personal items, depression, isolation, sadness, saying things like ‘I’d be better off if I was gone; nobody needs me.’ They almost have a sense of hopelessness, like they’re useless,” McCracken said.

Phase II, which started March 16, is an Army-wide, 120-day activity with designated personnel conducting training in a smaller, more intimate setting, again with interactive video.

This “chain-teaching” training is called “Shoulder-to-Shoulder: No Soldier Stands Alone.” It offers three vignettes called “Prior to Deployment,” “Deployment and Employment” and “Following Deployment,” all with different scenarios driven by trainees. Like Phase 1, it involves everyone to discuss the situation, make choices, and see the consequences.

Each scenario engenders discussion by asking tactical, operational and strategic questions like “As a unit commander, do you want to take this Soldier into combat? Why or why not?” (tactical), “This Soldier agrees to speak with you only if you promise not to tell anyone else. What should you do?” (operational), “How could you have prepared your troops in a manner that they do not experience excessive anxiety about deploying?” (strategic).

But as Russell points out, suicide prevention is a program for everyone – because it affects everyone.

While watching the vignettes, participants see a Soldier in the Army Combat Uniform, but as it progresses, one no longer sees the uniform, but rather a human being that needs help.

“You learn how to provide assistance, should you feel someone you know or love” wants to commit suicide, Russell said.

Phase 3 will be sustainment of previous training and is concurrent with phases I and II.

This phase establishes routine annual training requirements and institutionalizes Army Suicide Prevention measures in Army policy and procedures. Units and organizations will conduct annual mandatory suicide prevention training and ensure participation records are maintained by name and directorate, business group, or staff section, Army plans stated.

Additionally, organizations will make suicide

prevention training available to Family Readiness Groups and similar family support programs. Organizations will encourage family members to participate as they are an important behavioral health influ-

encer and could also be a potentially at-risk population, Army officials said.

How successful the suicide prevention training will be remains to be seen. But, in order for the training to be effective, it must be addressed at all levels throughout the Army.

“It can happen to anybody,” Russell said. “We need to watch the people we work with, the people that we love. If we see any change in their behavior that might create some anxiety in us, we first confront them about it. If we’re still uncomfortable, then we need to get them the help they need.”

Suicidal awareness and taking action cannot be ignored, Russell said.

“We need to make the intervention. We might be wrong; maybe they’re not suicidal at all, but we need to give them the opportunity,” the ASC chaplain said. “I would rather err on the side of caution and help someone, and maybe lose a friend at worst, then to have someone kill themselves on my watch and me not do anything about it.”

### Life Lines

- **National Suicide Hotline, 1-800-SUICIDE**
- **[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org), 1-800-273-TALK**
- **[www.armyfamiliesonline.org](http://www.armyfamiliesonline.org), 1-800-833-6622**
- **[www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com), 1-800-342-9647**
- **VA Readjustment Counseling Services, 1-800-827-1000, [www.va.gov/rcs](http://www.va.gov/rcs)**
- **Army G-1, Army Well-Being Liaison Office, 1-800-833-6622**
- **Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline, 1-800-984-8523, Overseas DSN: 312-328-0002, Stateside DSN: 328-0002, E-mail: [wfsupport@conus.army.mil](mailto:wfsupport@conus.army.mil) Emergency, dial 911**

*Source: U.S. Army*