



THE GLOBAL LINE

U.S. ARMY SUSTAINMENT COMMAND



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Blake takes top enlisted post at ASC

By Rhys Fullerlove
ASC Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen D. Blake became the second command sergeant major of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command in a change of responsibility ceremony held June 19 at ASC headquarters at Rock Island, Ill.

Command Sgt. Maj. Norberto D. Osbourne, who held the position since ASC was established in September 2006, retired during the same ceremony.

Command Sgt. Maj. Osbourne's relinquishment of responsibility also marked the end of his 30 years of service in the United States Army.

"The Army will always be part of the Osbourne family," Osbourne said in his remarks. "While I am leaving the Army, and no longer wearing the uniform, the Army will never leave my heart. Support for the warfighter will always be a part of me."



US ARMY PHOTO BY RHONDA BRUNNING

Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen D. Blake, Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, and Command Sgt. Maj. Norberto D. Osbourne salute the colors during the change of responsibility.

Command Sgt. Maj. Blake comes to ASC from the 101st Sustainment Brigade out of Fort Campbell. Blake has 26 years of service in the United States Army.

As command sergeant major, Blake is the senior enlisted soldier in ASC and serves as the primary advisor to the commanding general on all matters pertaining to enlisted personnel assigned to the command, particularly in areas related to their training and development and to the quality of life and well-being of soldiers and their families. Command Sgt. Maj. Blake also responds to the concerns of civilian and contractor employees of the command, and performs community outreach activities.

In remarks delivered at the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin, commanding general of ASC, commented on the experience that Blake would bring to the com-

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Taking care of business a continuous process



US ARMY PHOTO BY KELLY PATE

Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin speaks about Continuous Process Improvement to servicemembers at the Department of Defense CPI Symposium and why it is important in today's Army.

By Kelly Pate

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) - When a CEO told the Army, 'I'd do business with you if you were more efficient,' the Army listened.

That's what happened shortly after Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general of Army Materiel Command, took command, Griffin told a near-capacity ballroom of joint servicemembers at the Department of Defense Continuous Process Improvement Symposium at the National Convention Center in Leesburg.

The DoD's CPI program provides methods, tools, and philosophies that can be used to improve the way the Army works through training and certifying its workforce.

In short, the Army is taking care of business-more efficiently, Griffin said.

The Army does this by using joint-service strategy sharing, and adopting models from the corporate world. The yield is overall gains in quality, quantity and safety, Griffin said.

As part of the four-day event, Griffin's speech for the afternoon session opened with a definition and overview of Army materiel: "If a Soldier shoots it, drives it, flies it, wears it, or eats it, Army Materiel Command probably has something to do with providing it," Griffin told the audience. He also discussed Lean Six Sigma and the role of leadership-management in shaping the military's business practices.

Lean Six Sigma is a method of improving quality while removing the causes of defects and errors. Based on

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Take your own stand for freedom

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

On July 4, the United States of America celebrates 223 years of independence, marking that day in 1776 when a small group of colonists declared that this land was free of foreign rule, and would do whatever was necessary to remain free.

Our founders proclaimed a free nation in order to protect the “inalienable rights” enjoyed by all people, and to form a government that would base its authority on the “consent of the governed.” They envisioned a land of liberty and equality, and pledged their “lives, fortunes and sacred honor” to the cause of making that vision a reality.

Today, the principles outlined in the Declaration of Independence still guide our nation, and still stand as a beacon of hope to all the world. We must never waver from these principles, nor should we ever shrink from defending them.

The struggle between freedom and tyranny – the struggle in which the writers of the Declaration of Independence were engaged – has not ended, so we are called today to fight for the cause of freedom, just as we were in 1776. This cause has brought us to distant battlefields, where we are now engaged in combat with the forces of fear and terror, forces that would deny freedom to others and destroy it forever if they could.



But they cannot, because our cause is just, and because we derive strength from our freedom.

By serving in defense of our nation as a member of the U.S. Army Sustainment Command, you are taking a stand on behalf of freedom. This makes Independence Day an especially meaningful holiday for you, and for all those who serve in or support our nation’s military, particularly those deployed overseas to combat theaters.

All of you have pledged your lives, fortunes and sacred honor in order to fight for freedom. You are among many who have engaged in the long and difficult battle against terror and tyranny, a battle

which I am sure we will win.

I thank all of you for your outstanding service, and for all the sacrifices you have made on behalf of freedom. I wish all of you and your loved ones a happy, and safe, Independence Day.

Please be sure that safety is part of the plan as you celebrate the 4th of July, and during all of your summer celebrations. Summertime accidents spoil summertime fun, so take proper precautions and always be mindful of your own safety and the safety of those around you.

May you enjoy this special holiday, and may our nation be forever strong and free!

Patriot Fun Facts

- Independence Day commemorates the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. However, it was not declared a legal holiday until 1941.
- Uncle Sam was first popularized during the War of 1812, when the term appeared on supply containers. Believe it or not, the U. S. Congress didn’t adopt him as a national symbol until 1961.
- The first two versions of the Liberty Bell were defective and had to be melted down and recast. The third version rang every Fourth of July from 1778 to 1835, when, according to tradition, it cracked as it was being tolled for the death of Chief Justice John Marshall.
- The iron framework of the Statue of Liberty was devised by French engineer Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, who also built the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

THE GLOBAL LINE

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Contributions to The Global Line are welcome.

E-mail address: ROCK-ASC-GLOBAL-LINE@conus.army.mil

Phone: (309) 782-5421, DSN 793-5421.

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin
Commanding General

Daniel M. Carlson
Public Affairs Officer

Charles W. Fick Jr.
Managing Editor

Rhys E. Fullerlove
Editor



402nd AFSB commander's conference builds competence, camaraderie

By Galen Putnam
ASC Public Affairs

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA, Balad Iraq – Communication is the key when it comes to running a highly efficient unit, especially when that unit is spread out over thousands of square miles.

Despite the challenges faced on the battlefield, more than 40 key leaders from locations throughout the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade area of operations gathered June 5 – 6 for a face-to-face commander's conference hosted by Brigade Commander Col. Robert P. Sullivan.

The conference featured a variety of briefings, seminars and breakout sessions to inform and educate participants. Sessions included a LOGCAP brief, an MRAP update, battle rhythm training, an AFSB structure briefing and more.

"The commander wants to ensure that everybody on the AMC team here on the battlefield is focused on the right missions, know what the

priorities are, and that we are all pulling on the same rope, in the same direction at the same time to achieve efficiency and teamwork in support of the combatant commanders and the Soldiers over here fulfilling their missions," said Jimmy Shull, deputy to the commander, 402nd AFSB.

"This synchronizes everyone and



US ARMY PHOTO BY GALEN PUTNAM

Col. Robert P. Sullivan makes a point during the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade's Commander's Conference June 6 at LSA Anaconda.

baselines the commander's priorities. It also provides an opportunity for participants to learn new things and work with their counterparts. We have commanders who have been here for less than a month, those who are getting ready to leave after 15 months, and everything in between, so this is a great opportunity to share experiences. It is important to meet face-to-face on occasion to assess how we are doing, clarify what we are focused on, and ensure we are headed in the right direction."

Although training was the focus of the conference, teambuilding was a key element as well. Informal events included a pig roast and morning P.T.

Putting names to faces is just one way to bond and better communicate. Getting to know one's contemporaries on a personal level can add to unit cohesiveness as well.

"This was a great opportunity to meet with our counterparts to learn,

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2-405th AFSB receives Quartermaster regiment honors

By Jennifer King
405th AFSB Public Affairs

SECKENHEIM, Germany—The 2nd Battalion, 405th Army Field Support Brigade, located in Vilseck, Germany, has been recognized by the U.S. Army Quartermaster General as a Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment.

"Congratulations and best wishes for your unit's continued success!" wrote Brig. Gen. Jesse Cross, the Quartermaster General, in a letter to outgoing battalion commander Lt. Col. Jordan Chroman. "Your Soldiers are truly a tribute to our Corps as they perpetuate the *esprit de corps*, camaraderie, tradition and history of our regiment."

The recognition is particularly significant as this is the first time that an AFSB unit has ever been selected for

the award.

"Being named a Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment is another milestone in validating what this tremendous team has accomplished during the past two years since we activated the battalion," Chroman commented. "As one of the handful of units selected each year, and as the first Army Field Support Battalion to be chosen, we feel very fortunate and consider this a true honor."

In a message sent throughout the brigade, Col. Bobby Ray Pinkston, commander of the 405th AFSB, praised the organization on its accomplishment.

"The selection of the 2nd Battalion as the recipient of this award is a credit to the dedication, commitment and professionalism of the unit," he said. "I commend them for their work and join

Brig. Gen. Cross in recognizing their success."

Chroman emphasized that as a battalion commander he was particularly honored by the recognition.

"This team has accomplished the unimaginable, has set the standard for Army sustainment support in U.S. Army Europe, and has provided tremendous operational and logistical assistance," he said. "I couldn't be more proud of the unit's personnel and am thankful to the Quartermaster Regiment for selecting us."

According to the Quartermaster Foundation website, the Distinguished Unit of the Quartermaster Regiment Program has recognized units annually since 1993. Units are measured based on their history, longevity, campaign and battle streamers, and unit citations.

The winds of change blow through the command



US ARMY PHOTO BY RHONDA BRUNNING

The Rock Island Arsenal Installation flag is lowered during the change of responsibility ceremony on June 19 at which Command Sgt. Maj. Norberto D. Osbourne relinquished responsibility to Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen D. Blake.



US ARMY PHOTO BY JENNIFER KING

Maj. Gen. Yves Fontaine (left), commander of the 21st Theater Sustainment Command, Lt. Col. Morris Hatcher, commander of the 2-405th AFSB, and Col. Bobby Ray Pinkston, commander of the 405th AFSB, cut the cake at Lt. Col. Hatcher's reception, celebrating his taking command of the 2nd Battalion from Lt. Col. Jordan Chroman (not pictured).



US ARMY PHOTO BY WAYNE SCANLON

Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, Lt. Gen. (P) Ann E. Dunwoody and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey J. Mellinger salute as the national anthem is played by the AMC band during Dunwoody's welcome ceremony June 17 at AMC headquarters.

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WINDS OF CHANGE cont.



US ARMY PHOTO BY PFC BENJAMIN WATSON

Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin passes the 406th AFSB's colors to Col. Kenneth Dyer during a change of command ceremony, June 23. Col. Dyer succeeds Col. Kristen French whose next assignment is Executive Officer for the Director of the Defense Logistics Agency.



US ARMY PHOTO BY JAMES HINNANT

Lt. Col. Maxine C. Girard, outgoing commander, 1st Battalion, 401st Army Field Support Brigade gives Maj. Inh E. Lo, battalion executive officer, a "thumbs up" following the just-completed change of command ceremony at which she relinquished command to Lt. Col. Jerry Jones, at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar, June 30. Lo was the commander of troops for the ceremony, which saw the battalion's colors and responsibilities passed to Jones.

Brigade Changes of Command

| Unit | Outgoing Commander | Change of Command Date | Incoming Commander |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 401st AFSB-SWA | Col. Dennis Thompson | June 11 | Col. Jon Buonerba |
| 404th AFSB-Pacific | Col. Steven Risley | July 2 | Col. Brian Haebig |
| 405th AFSB-Europe | Col. Bobby Pinkston | August 9 | Col. John Haley |
| 406th AFSB-CONUS East | Col. Kristen French | June 23 | Col. Kenneth Dyer |
| 407th AFSB-CONUS West | Col. Mario Coronel | August 4 | Col. Rebecca Jones |
| 411th CSB-Korea | Col. Daniel Cottrell | July 23 | Col. Daniel Rosso |



US ARMY PHOTO BY JIM HINNANT

Brig. Gen. James L. Hodge poses for a group photo, with the approximately 90 members of the Jacobs/EMA, Inc./SAIC-Joint Logistics Integrator/SPAWAR/U.S. Army Central team who prepared and shipped more than 300 RG-31 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles to warfighters in Operation Enduring Freedom.

'Fly-away' team completes MRAP work

**By James Hinnant
401st AFSB Public Affairs**

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - The first mission here of receiving, preparing and shipping Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles built in South Africa for Operation Enduring Freedom is nearly complete.

Built by BAE Systems, more than 300 of the vehicles arrived here by sea over a four-month period and, in a mammoth warehouse near here, were successfully prepared for combat deployment during a complex process of “deprocessing” and “integration” performed by a military-contractor “fly-away” team.

The deprocessing meant physically getting the MRAPs road-ready after extended periods of non-use while in transit, according to Lt. Col. Mark Kelley, operations officer for 401st Army Field Support Brigade, the in-theater U.S. Army Sustainment Command unit responsible for overseeing the project.

Integration, led by a team from Charleston, S.C., included installing and bringing to fully operational status all the theater-specific equipment required by the various warfighting organizations in the operational area, said Kelley.

The team from Charleston was first-rate, said Kelley. “The work by Lt. Cmdr. James Hadley and the team of integration specialists exceeded all expectations,” Kelley said. “The vehicles were rapidly prepared for operations in Afghanistan and delivered to Soldiers in need of the protection they offer.”

According to Hadley, MRAP operations officer from Naval Space and Warfare Systems Center, Charleston, S.C., this operation was a first.

“This is the first time we have put together a team in CONUS, flown them to another country and performed a task like this,” said Hadley.

He said the biggest challenge was going into an uncertain situation without assurance of how it would end up. “I think our greatest satisfaction has been coming here, working against a compressed schedule dictated by our warfighters’ need in Afghanistan, and it all coming together,” he said.

According to Hadley, total schedule synchronization was required from start to finish in order to meet warfighter expectations.

“The issue plan in Afghanistan called for the MRAPs to be issued to units at a specific time,” he said. “Soldiers from the receiving units were brought in to the various delivery points in country to accept the vehicles; we had to be sure we had them there at the place and time required.”

At a brief ceremony at the MRAP Facility, Brig. Gen. James L. Hodge, commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command (Forward) and C4, U.S. Army Central Coalition Land Forces Component Command, presented approximately 90 members of the Jacobs/EMA, Inc./SAIC-Joint Logistics Integrator/SPAWAR/U.S. Army Central team with certificates of appreciation.



US ARMY PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. KEVIN YOUNG

MRAPs are driven onto the USNS Piliilau in Charleston, SC headed for the Middle East.



ASC co-hosts retention training to ensure our Army stays Strong

By Rhys Fullerlove
ASC Public Affairs

Working to keep the Army Strong, AMC's retention personnel met June 23-27 at the Army Sustainment Command headquarters to polish their skills.

"AMC hosts this training twice a year for Career Counselors and Retention NCOs throughout the command," said Sgt. Maj. Elisabeth A. Jones, AMC command career counselor. "It gives all of us a chance to come together to sharpen our skills and talk about various issues within our mission"

According to Jones, many factors have made retention even more important.

"With Army and AMC transformation and growth still on-going, the importance and interest in retention has really risen," said Jones. "If we fail to retain our highly skilled and qualified Soldiers, we cannot be an effective Army."

AMC's retention program has an inherently unique challenge with the command around the globe. In typical Army command and units, most Soldiers are concentrated at one post or station.

"We want to try to reach every Soldier face to face," said ASC Career Counselor Sgt. 1st Class Karen Zeltner. "I try to travel to as many ASC locations as possible."

Every Army Field Support Brigade has an additional-duty retention NCO assigned to them to help reach those Soldiers at the tip of the spear. Even some battalions, such as the 3-405th in Livorno, Italy, have a retention NCO assigned to help with the mission.

Maintaining skill sets is critical for the Army to succeed. However, the Army isn't focused only on preserving combat skills, but keeping its best Soldiers in uniform. Sgt. Alicia Hight, an enlisted



US ARMY PHOTO

RDECOM Career Counselor Master Sgt. Thomas Bogetti (right) confers with retention NCOs Sgt. Lakeithia Thomas (left) and Sgt. DaShawna Wingate (middle) during an AMC retention training event hosted by Army Sustainment Command.

aide to Maj. Gen. Robert Radin, commanding general, U.S. Army Sustainment Command is just one example.

Hight has worked her way up to be one of the Army's top 12 chefs. She is part of the U.S. Army Culinary team that has competed world-wide and has won many gold medals. Hight has a resume that would allow her into almost any kitchen in the world. She has been offered jobs at Godiva Chocolates and the

retention. With the fourth quarter here already, ASC is on track to meet its yearly retention.

"We are doing fairly well," said Zeltner. "Hopefully we will be able to complete our mission by the end of July."

AMC also has been very successful. In each of the past three years, AMC has received the Department of the Army Retention Award.

"We have been very successful in the past, and to continue with that trend, all leaders and members of the retention team must work hard and be engaged" said Jones. "ASC has been very successful

and I directly attribute that to the supportive leadership at ASC."

The Army is also cognizant of the link between Soldier retention and family satisfaction. A 2007 study said a significant relationship and a positive, direct link between active-duty Soldiers' use of recreation and family programs and their desire to stay in the Army, their career intentions, and their satisfaction with Army life. These links also held true for programs used by the spouses of active-duty Soldiers.

"It is important for leaders and retention team members not to just look at what the needs of the Soldier are," Jones explained.

"We also have to ensure that the Soldier's family needs are being met."

After a week of intensive study, AMC career counselors and retention NCOs are back on the job, helping Soldiers make good choices and keeping the Army Strong.

"I can see so much more of the world and gain more experience by being in the Army than I can in any world-class kitchen."

***-Sgt. Alicia Hight
Enlisted aide to Maj. Gen. Robert M. Radin***

Paris Hotel in Las Vegas, but has turned them all down.

"I love being an Army chef," Hight said. "I can see so much more of the world and gain more experience by being in the Army than I can in any world-class kitchen."

Hight is just one example of Strong

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the practices of Toyota and Motorola, the process centers on improving production time, eliminating waste while reducing cost and creating an infrastructure of employees (e.g. green belts, black belts) who lead these efforts.

“We’re very proud of the number of green belts, black belts and master black belts we’ve got. We’re also very proud of the fact that we’re doing more and more training in-house,” Griffin said.

The goal is to help the warfighters, Griffin said. Applying continuous process improvement, Lean Six Sigma and other aspects of efficiency improves support to the servicemembers in the field, he said.

Griffin urged leadership-management to explain the benefits of Lean Six Sigma; otherwise, “it will go nowhere,” he said.

Griffin said idea sharing benefits more than just the Army.

“What we’ve attempted to do is learn from how the other services do business, and also in the private sector—we’ve gone out and spent time with different companies and watched their process. They’ve shared ideas with us, and they’ve helped us improve our process, which all benefits the taxpayer at the end of the day,” Griffin said.

The other services and the private sector are able to learn from the Army as well, Griffin said.

With events like the symposium, the Office of the Secretary of Defense is making strides in facilitating partnerships, Griffin said.

“I think the effort on the part of the OSD is a positive step to bring the services together because clearly it was a joint audience out there today,” Griffin said. “There’s room for sharing ideas and working closer together in the joint arena. I applaud OSD’s efforts to do that. There’s ongoing dialogue and education. It is truly a joint endeavor down at the production site,” Griffin said.

Fireworks safety tips



FORT RUCKER, Ala. (June 27, 2008) – In the past decade, fireworks injuries have declined almost 70 percent reports the National Council on Fireworks Safety; however, each year individuals still receive injuries while improperly handling fireworks, specially children.

Safety measures and the regulating of fireworks have contributed to the decrease of firework-related injuries.

“The Consumer Product Safety Commission and fireworks industry have done a tremendous job of regulating fireworks,” said Ralph Apel, president of the National Council on Fireworks Safety. “Before fireworks are imported, they are tested in their country of origin, deemed safe and then imported to the U.S.”

“All fireworks are dangerous and pose risk, yet if bought from a licensed store or stand and handled correctly, they can be enjoyable,” said Col. Glenn Harp, deputy commander, U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center.

“Know your fireworks,” said Harp. “When you purchase legal fireworks, read the warning label and know what they’re designed to do.”

The CPSC and NCFS offer safety tips for individuals planning to use fireworks:

- Only use fireworks outdoors.
- Read and follow all warnings and instructions before igniting the fireworks.
- Obey all local laws regarding the use of fireworks.
- Ensure that spectators are out of the range of the fireworks.
- Only light fireworks outside on a smooth, flat surface away from the house and flammable materials. If drought conditions are present, avoid using fireworks altogether.
- Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.
- Always have a bucket of water, or water hose, nearby.
- Alcohol and fireworks never mix!
- Parents should pay special attention to children using sparklers. Sparklers reach temperatures up to 1800 degrees Fahrenheit and could cause serious injury if not handled correctly.

“Many times consumers don’t prepare for the evening’s fireworks display” said Apel. “The designated shooter should prepare a shooting area, assess how many people will be watching the display and lay out a spectator area that is far enough away from the shooting site. The shooter should carefully read the label of each firework and understand exactly what it will do. Preplanning makes for a safe and fun backyard fireworks display.”

According to the Center for Disease Control, between June 18 and July 18, 2005, 31 percent of fireworks-related injuries involved hands and fingers, 25 percent eyes and 20 percent the head and face. Blindness, third-degree burns and permanent scarring are some of the serious injuries that can result from mishandling fireworks.

For more information on firework safety visit the National Council on Fireworks Safety Web site at <http://www.fireworksafety.com> and for more information on the 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign visit <https://crc.army.mil>.

'Standards pilot' steers success

By Rhys Fullerlove
ASC Public Affairs

Continuous process improvement doesn't end when a Lean Six Sigma project is complete.

Who are the people who keep improvements on track? That is where the ASC Logistics Support and Evaluation Team steps in.

The ALSET conducts evaluations and performs the duties of the Maintenance Assistance and Instruction Team to enhance the ASC Commander's overall situational awareness of ongoing operations within ASC.

After a process improvement has been identified, it is implemented at a site. At that point, the ALSET evaluates how well the implementation is being carried out and ensuring the standards and controls are in place to sustain the improvement.

"The ALSET team serves as the 'standards pilot' for all ASC operations," said Joe Reinholz, equipment

specialist on the ALSET team. "We disseminate policies and procedures established by ASC as well as provide guidance for administrative record requirements, equipment readiness, maintenance and supply management."

The team provides the ASC commander a resource to conduct research and provide recommendations to solve logistics problems. Most importantly, they are helping identify "best practices" to facilitate enterprise-wide information sharing.

Formed in three- to seven-person evaluation teams, the group is highly proficient in the evaluation process and has a deep understanding of Army policies, procedures and regulatory requirements. In addition, they possess the technical skills to evaluate equipment readiness.

The teams evaluate Army Field Support Brigades as well as Army Prepositioned Stock sites, and are venturing into the Left Behind Equipment

arena. Members of the team often travel two weeks out of the month, with team members rotating travel assignments.

The already small office is shrinking, making each team member even more critical to performing the mission. "Right now we are only seven deep," said Reinholz, "And we are losing our two enlisted Soldiers this month."

The ALSET team is just one part of an omnibus team working hard to ensure that best practices are communicated across the command.

"As the 'standards pilot' for the command, the ALSET team ensures that our operations are performing to the Army standards," said the Director of the Command Assessment and Continuous Improvement Office, Jerry DeLaCruz. "The team provides technical assessments, trains our units to apply the right standards, and assists with replication of best practices. Combining these capabilities enables us to learn and share successes across our ASC Enterprise."

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mand.

"We are very fortunate to have a soldier of Command Sgt. Maj. Blake's background join the command," Radin commented. "He is a Soldier's Soldier with 26 years of distinguished service. He knows firsthand the quality of the force that he will lead as the Army Sustainment Command's top Soldier. ASC welcomes his leadership, experience and knowledge as we face the challenges of the future together."

During Blake's comments at the ceremony, he said that he was excited to be the new command sergeant major and reminded the workforce how important their job is.

"You make a difference every day to the Soldier in the field," Blake said. "So when you get up in the morning and come to work, remember you are doing it for them. They do for you; you do for them."

Command Sgt. Maj. Blake entered the Army in February 1982. During his career, Blake has served in a number of key enlisted leadership positions. He has completed overseas tours in Germany and Korea, as well as a combat tours in Southwest Asia during both Operations Desert Shield / Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and a tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2003, Blake graduated from Class 53 of the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas. His military training and education also include the Air Assault

School, Primary Leadership Development Course, and First Sergeants Course. He was named as the distinguished graduate from his class in both the Basic Non-Commissioned Officers Course and Advanced Non-Commissioned Officers Course. Command Sgt. Maj. Blake holds an Associates Degree in Business Management from Excelsior College.

Blake's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star (three awards); the Legion of Merit; the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal (five awards); the Army Commendation Medal (nine awards); the Army Achievement Medal (nine awards); the Good Conduct Medal (eight awards); the National Defense Service Medal with Star; the Southwest Asia Service Medal with three stars; the Iraq, Afghanistan, Global War on Terrorism, and Korean Defense service medals; the NCO Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral Four; the Army Service Ribbon; the Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral Three; the NATO Medal; Kuwait Liberation Medals from the governments of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait; the Air Assault Badge; and three Meritorious Unit Commendations. He is also a recipient of the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe.

Blake is a native of the unincorporated community of Tyler Mountain, W. Va. Blake and his wife, the former Karen Marie Riley of Ohio, are the parents of two children, Amber and Joshua.

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share ideas, gain perspective, forge friendships and build relationships,” said Lt. Col. Monica E. Robinson, Brigade Logistics Support Team chief, 4th Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, is stationed at Forward Operating Base Kalsu, Iraq, and who was making her first trip to brigade headquarters. “This is a good forum to look at the future and plan where we should be down the road since things are constantly changing.”

The conference was beneficial to brigade staff as well.

“This type of activity is extremely important because we are very spread out and theater operations add an extra level of difficulty. It isn’t like you can just go on TDY to run down to see somebody,” said Michael Morton, chief of the Brigade Plans Section. “Venues like this commander’s conference are imperative or we will lose things in translation.”

Conference participants included members of the seven-person Organizational Inspection Team from Headquarters, Army Sustainment Command, Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., who were in the Brigade’s area of operations conducting an assessment. Sullivan invited the team to participate in the conference to further broaden ties throughout the command.

“I’m glad we were invited to participate. Col. Sullivan wanted to expose us to things from the Brigade’s perspective and I think we got a much better understanding of their concerns and needs,” said Chief Warrant Officer John Walsh, assistant chief of staff for logistics, Headquarters, ASC. “There is no better way to learn what is happening in the field other than to experience it yourself or learn from those who have experienced things first-hand.”

Chief of Staff of the Army meets with ASC leadership

ASC Public Affairs

The Army’s top-ranking officer paid a visit to Rock Island Arsenal today, touring the Army Sustainment Command, the Joint Munitions Command, the Joint Manufacturing & Technology Center, the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command-Rock Island, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Rock Island District, and the U.S. Army Garrison-Rock Island.

During his visit, Gen. George W. Casey Jr. learned about the history of Arsenal Island and its many tenants’ contributions to surrounding communities and the nation’s defense. Gen. Casey serves as the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, making him a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Army’s ranking general officer.



US ARMY PHOTO BY RHONDA BRUNNING

General George W. Casey, Jr., the U.S. Army Chief of Staff, arrives outside the Army Sustainment Command's Global Logistics Information Center, where he was greeted by Mr. Scott Welker, ASC's Deputy to the Commander and Mr. Joel Himsl, Garrison Manager.

rifle that is being upgraded by the TACOM-LCMC (RI) team.

He also saw a variety of armored kits that go onto Humvees, Stryker vehicles, trucks, the M119 105mm howitzer, mobile maintenance forward repair systems, and small arms parts, all produced by the JMTC.

Gen. Casey visited the Army Sustainment Command’s Global Logistics Information Center, which houses state-of-the-art communication equipment. There, he saw how ASC and the Joint Munitions Command support the Army Force Generation cycle that is changing the way Army combat units train, fight, and organize. Gen. Casey learned that providing logistics support, field support and contracting services to soldiers and civilians anywhere on the globe, when and where they need them, is ASC’s main focus.

“It was a great opportunity to show Gen. Casey the important missions that are performed here in support of our soldiers,” said D. Scott Welker, Deputy to the Commander of the Army Sustainment Command.

The Joint Munitions Command, as part of the Army Joint Munitions & Lethality Command, provides bullets and other conventional munitions to soldiers and other servicemembers worldwide, and Gen. Casey learned how JMC carries out that mission.

Finally, Gen. Casey saw the Clock Tower Building and Lock and Dam 15 and received a briefing on the Corps of Engineers’ mission from Col. Robert Sinkler, the District’s Chief Engineer.

“Rock Island is a national treasure and an important part of our industrial base,” Casey remarked. “It was a great opportunity to meet some of the hardworking people here who are dedicated to keeping our Army strong.”

“Your efforts help to ensure our Army continues to be the best in the world at what we do,” Casey said to island employees.

Stopping at the Keith L. Ware Test Facility, Casey had an opportunity to fire the M14 enhanced battle