

Marine mechanics visit depot

Six Marines, including two instructors, from the M1A1 Tank Technician Course taught at Fort Benning, Ga., toured Anniston Army Depot March 13.

During the visit, they saw how the installation is able to completely disassemble a M1 Abrams tank to its smallest components and rebuild it to better than new condition.

“All we typically see is the end result,” said Sgt. Cory Holdorf, a mechanic in the course.

Holdorf and the others particularly enjoyed a cut out showing the inner workings of an AGT1500 engine, which powers the M1.

The cut out brought theory the Marines learned in the classroom to reality.

“It brought the engine to life,” said Sgt. John Macoy.

The men were also impressed by the number of work areas used to remanufacture components as well as the dedication of the depot workforce.

“We want to thank the employees for their hard work and dedication to equipment we work on, train on and, most importantly, take to war,” said Macoy.



Photo by Jennifer Bacchus

Marines from Fort Benning's M1A1 Tank Technician Course tour the depot's Combat Vehicle Repair Facility March 13.

Employee repairs same vehicles he used as a Soldier

by Jennifer Bacchus

ANAD PAO

Charles Travis grew up on a farm in Southeast Missouri. There, he learned how important it can be to know how to repair the equipment you depend upon.

It's a lesson he carried through his career in the Army and into his current job as a mechanic for Anniston Army Depot's Directorate of Production.

“Basically, I'm doing the same job now as I have been since I was 17 years old,” said Travis.

He joined the Army in 1983, choosing to go into field artillery for the bonus. Throughout his training in Fort Sill, Okla., his first post in Germany and his first state-side assignment in Fort Benning, Ga., Travis worked with howitzers, even learning to operate the M109 Paladin.

Later, when he joined the rolls at ANAD in 1999, he saw the same Paladin he took his driver's test in being upgraded here.

In 1987, Travis changed his military occupational specialty to a Bradley system mechanic, but quickly notes he worked on far more than Bradley vehicles.

“There is no such thing as just a Bradley mechanic,” he said. “You fix everything you can, especially when you are deployed.”

He was serving as a mechanic in Germany when the Berlin Wall fell in November of 1989. During that time, he and others from his unit were sitting on the border, in case a military presence was needed.

While in Germany, Travis also had his first interaction with Anniston Army Depot. He was tasked to assist depot employees with cleaning air modules on Armored Vehicle

Launched Bridges.

“That was my first experience with an AVLB. I had never launched one, so I had to read the manual,” he said.

He left Germany for Fort Riley, Kan., but was on American soil less than a year before being ordered overseas again – this time in support of Desert Storm.



Photo by Jennifer Bacchus

Charles Travis has seen numerous vehicles he worked on while serving as a mechanic in the Army come through Anniston Army Depot.

“One hundred and seventy days after I left Germany, I was sitting in Saudi Arabia receiving M1s from Anniston,” said Travis.

Desert Storm taught him to trust the quality of products he received from ANAD.

“Out of all the equipment I got from Anniston while I was in Saudi, I only had one engine fail,” said Travis, adding the engine failed not because of parts ANAD employees had worked on, but because of a cracked rubber seal.

During his time in the military, he worked on every tracked combat vehicle. The experience and training prepared him for his civilian career at ANAD.

In July of 1998, Travis left the active Army. Approximately six months later, he hired in as a term employee.

The job offered him the work he loved – turning wrenches and fixing equipment – combined with a little of the travel he had become accustomed to in the Army.

“I hired in here Jan. 2, 1999. On Jan. 20, I was in Fort Knox on temporary duty assignment,” said Travis. “Being in the field is no big deal to me, though. I'm a mechanic. That is where we work.”

Throughout his 15 years on the installation, he not only has seen the Paladin from his driver's test on the disassembly line, he has also seen several M1s he cared for during Desert Storm be converted to Assault Breacher Vehicles.

His move to the civilian side of the Army wasn't the end of his military service. In 2000, Travis enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves, serving with the 490th Chemical Battalion during their deployments for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He retired from military service in 2007 and was recently awarded his 30 year pin for time in federal service.