



G-5's "Eye on AMC" U.S. Army Materiel Command

Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War

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Lean means savings, faster missile jammer repair

Technicians at the Tobyhanna Army Depot have generated \$2.3 million in savings while meeting a significant workload increase on a critical Aircraft Survivability Equipment system, the AN/ALQ-144.

The AN/ALQ-144 is an infrared jamming system designed to defeat enemy heat-seeking missiles. It is used on most Army helicopters, including those operating in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The systems have sustained damage in the field, subsequently increasing the workload to repair and overhaul the items for redeployment. However, despite the damage, repairs are being made faster.

"We reorganized into production cells to eliminate being spread out all over the shop," said Tony Gentle, ASE division chief. "This reduced the time it takes to repair and test each ALQ-144 from 42 days to 20 days. We have another Lean Rapid Improvement Event in the near future to further reduce the repair cycle time to seven days."

ASE division personnel achieved the savings through a combination of reduced unit-funded costs, lower material costs and slashing in half the time it takes to overhaul each unit.

Picatinny employees successfully design mortar system for HMMWV

An innovative team of armaments engineers at Picatinny Arsenal has successfully designed and tested a mortar that fires from a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle. Until recently, the vehicle's light weight and compact size have limited it to medium-caliber guns, soft-launch missiles and small-arm weapons.

Nicknamed the Scorpion, the mortar could provide U.S. military personnel serving in hostile areas added protection, according to Anthony Franchino who headed the five-person team.

"The vehicle's mass acts as a significant constraint," Franchino said. "We believed that mounting anything larger than a medium-caliber, direct-fire gun would exceed the structural limits of the HMMWV."

Utilizing a foreign-made 82 mm auto-fire weapon that Franchino came across while working on another program, the team began the project.

During its initial test, the Scorpion successfully fired a single shot followed by several four-round automatic bursts at a remote location on the installation. Additional test firings were equally successful.

The Scorpion is a direct and indirect fire weapon. It has a maximum range of 1,000 meters for direct fire and more than 4,000 meters for indirect fire.

End-use monitoring in full swing

The U.S. Army Security Assistance Command is supporting the Defense Security Cooperation Agency's effort to track and conduct physical inventories of night vision devices, which require a Defense Trade and Security Administration waiver for transfer or sale to foreign countries and international organizations.

This effort is the first of several phases that will track by serial number all night vision devices, Stinger Missiles, Tube-launched Optically-tracked Wire-guided Missiles and Javelin Missiles transferred to other countries via the Security Cooperation Program.

In June, the DSCA and the Defense Threat Reduction Agency began a joint effort to enhance the Department of Defense's worldwide monitoring and inventory control of arms transfers to foreign governments.