



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

Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War

April 4, 2003



M55 VX Rockets Are Being Loaded Into An Onsite Container For Transport To The TOCDF

Workers at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility at Deseret Chemical Depot in Utah have begun operations to eliminate the VX nerve agent weapons stockpiled at the depot. Operations began with a deliberate, phased restart of activities and processing, following a changeover from nerve agent GB (Sarin) destruction which was completed in March 2002. A phased restart ensured the plant was adequately prepared to return to full-scale operations. The VX agent destruction campaign began with M55 rockets which is expected to take about a year to complete. DCD stores the nation's largest stockpile of VX agent by weight, more than 1,300 tons contained in seven different munitions types. DCD's VX stockpile represents 30 percent of the original national VX stockpile. Following completion of the VX campaign, the TOCDF plant will be reconfigured for mustard agent munitions destruction. TOCDF began chemical weapons destruction operations in August 1996. On March 15, 2002, workers completed safe destruction of the DCD's stockpile of over 6,000 tons of GB nerve agent weapons. GB was selected for destruction first because it posed a greater risk to the public than the remaining VX and mustard agents in storage. So far, the Army has safely destroyed 8,082 tons of chemical agent, which is equivalent to more than 25 percent of the stockpile in the United States.

Letterkenny Likes the Looks of Lean

With the war in Iraq progressing, American forces are relying heavily on Letterkenny Army Depot (LEAD) to supply Special Forces vehicles, and to repair unique missile systems. In the past few months LEAD has been working diligently to implement a new way of doing business: Lean Manufacturing distributing parts using a streamlined process. With this new process combined with its 24/7-work schedule, LEAD reduced its vehicle processing time from 12.5 weeks to 8.5 days, and provides soldiers with the products they want, when, and how they want them. "Recently, LEAD was actually able to produce specially modified vehicles while the customer was on site explaining to engineers how they wanted these vehicles designed," said Col. William A. Guinn, depot commander. Some unique modifications have included adding global positioning systems, machine gun mounts with ammunition storage boxes, multifunctional radio mounts, and smoke grenade launcher systems.

Have Wrench Will Travel: Juan Ortega, LAR on the Go

"Most of the soldiers look to us as grandfathers or the father of the M1, the Bradley or the Apache. They look to us in every single way, we help in every way we can. The satisfaction for us is to provide them good equipment to go to combat. We know we have done a good job when they smile at us."



Juan Ortega, a TACOM senior system technical representative Logistics Assistance Representative, is assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division. Ortega has been deployed 14 times and has seen duty in 23 countries in his 23-year career with TACOM. He's a stunning example of AMC's commitment to supporting our soldiers.

MG McManus Receives EEO Award

Maj. Gen. Wade H. McManus Jr., commanding general of the Joint Munitions Command, has won the Secretary of the Army's Equal Opportunity Award (Manager) for 2002.

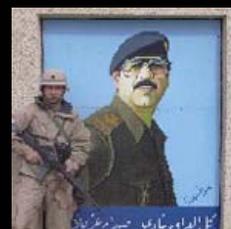
Maj. Gen. McManus earned the award for his leadership of JMC's Minority College Relations Team. The team was formed to help the command form mutually beneficial partnerships with institutions classified as Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Minority-Serving Institutions, and Tribal Colleges and Universities.



The entire article about this award is available on AMC's web site under "News and Publications."

F.A.S.T. To Give Fast Support

RDECOM's Office of Field Assistance in Science and Technology is sending a cell to Southwest Asia to work with senior commanders and soldiers to identify and solve operational problems in science and technology areas that surface during Operation Iraqi Freedom and offer quick solutions. AMC-FAST is chartered to provide expert scientific and technical advice to commanders and their staffs. The first two FAST members to deploy will be William Andrews, FAST advisor to Special Operations Command, and SFC Samuel Newland of Natick Soldier Systems Center's Operational Forces Interface Group.



Normally they don't deploy and if they do deploy, they normally sit at a desk and write statements of work and coordinate contracts. But in Operation Enduring Freedom some things aren't normal. Cpt. Gregor Pearly, a LOGCAP Liaison Officer/Planner assigned to the LOGCAP Support Unit, Alexandria, Va., at AMC's current headquarters, is doing something not normal. He is with a handful of AMC soldiers at the AMC-LSE-SWA forward-forward unit near Baghdad. His job is to capture LOGCAP combat service support issues, verify needs and help soldiers develop statements of work to provide logistical support to the warfighter.