



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

*Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War*

May 16, 2003

## Letterkenny Surges for Iraqi Freedom

*Chief Warrant Officer Andy Van Winkle*

As soldiers were preparing for war in early March, the Short Range Air Defense Project Office scrambled to ensure adequate stocks of repairable components were on-hand to sustain weapon system readiness. At the core of this effort was their request to the Letterkenny Army Depot to repair and overhaul specific weapon system components as rapidly as possible to support soldiers in the Iraqi Freedom area of operations. The Letterkenny Multiple Launch Rocket System/Avenger Branch team quickly went into overtime and by mid-April, had churned out over 113 individual critical Avenger Line Replaceable Units. The Depot's ability to prioritize and surge for repair and production in times of war has once again proven to be invaluable to the Army's equipment readiness.

The Letterkenny Army Depot is located in south central Pennsylvania and is the Center of Industrial and Technical Excellence for Missile Systems for the Department of Defense.

## Army Birthday Ball set for June 21

Registration is now open for this year's Army Birthday Ball celebrating the Army's 228-year history.

The event is open to all Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard, Department of the Army civilians, family members, retirees, and veterans. This year's Army Ball will include feature performances from the U.S. Army Soldiers Show, performing groups from the U.S. Army Field Band including "The Jazz Ambassadors," "The Soldier's Chorus," "The Volunteers" ... and a special guest artist! There is a no-host reception including a cash bar, followed by a three-course dinner with wine, entertainment, and dancing until 1 a.m.

Deadline for ticket purchase by check is June 7 and for purchase on the web site with credit card is June 17.

For information and registration, go to <http://www.army.mil/birthday/228/>

## AMC, NASA and industry team up for advances in flight navigational displays

Engineers from AMCOM's Aeroflightdynamics Directorate located at Moffett Field, Calif., the NASA Ames Research Center, also at Moffett and the Boeing Helicopter Division, Philadelphia, Pa., conducted flight tests of the Perspective Flight Guidance system in a modified UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter this week. The system displays a virtual pathway to guide pilots to their destinations. AMC and NASA are partners in creating developments in Advanced Rotor Research.

Unlike conventional navigational displays, the PFG system presents a perspective view of the next 60 seconds of the aircraft's ideal path. Based on flight plan inputs, four segmented lines create a three-dimensional pathway with bank and turn cues that the pilot can easily follow. The software also is able to anticipate where the aircraft will be in 4.5 seconds, based on the pilot's input, and it will alert the pilot if actions will result in an 'off pathway' trajectory. The display also has military applications, such as large-scale deployments that require the safe operation of a high-density mix of conventional aircraft and helicopters at night and in poor weather conditions. These flight tests will validate ground-based simulations, and may improve design cycle timelines and reduce development cost.

*Information from a NASA press release.*

## Future Army workforce visits Fort Belvoir

"Thank you for being our future. It's so great to see young people looking at the Army as a civilian career," said Gen. Paul J. Kern, Army Materiel Command's commanding general during an award ceremony at Fort Belvoir May 13 for 24 high school juniors and seniors from a cooperation education program at AMC's Anniston Army Depot in Anniston, Ala.

The students, who attend high school half of the day and work half of the day at Anniston, are the third group of students to go through the program since it began in December 2000. They represent 14 different high schools in the Anniston area.

After the ceremony, the students also visited Capitol Hill for a special VIP tour and met with members of the Alabama delegation, including Sens. Jeff Sessions and Richard Shelby.

"These kids are going to go back and 'tell the Army story' to everyone they meet. I know we've made a big impression," said AMC's Command Sgt. Maj. Tyler Walker II.

## RDECOM and JFCOM work on technology to identify friendly forces

The RDECOM Communications and Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center recently teamed with Joint Forces Command to evaluate the Battlefield Target Identification Device as part of the Coalition Combat ID Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration. Developed by Raytheon, the system will distinguish whether a vehicle is friend or foe using advanced millimeter-wave technology.

Recent testing indicates the system takes less than a second to identify a vehicle at a range of more than three miles with 98 percent accuracy. According to project organizers, the NATO-compliant BTID integrates with a vehicle's onboard weapons system allowing the operator to make engagement decisions instantly using real time identification data.