



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

Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War

April 30, 2004

AMC's RDECOM to demo new force protection tool

Note from Gen Paul J. Kern, commanding general

On May 13, the Army Materiel Command's newest major subordinate command, the Research, Development, and Engineering Command, will conduct a demonstration of a force protection tool that I believe will have great utility in our ongoing efforts to defend the nation. The Cerberus is an innovative and inexpensive combination of off-the-shelf technology that could potentially dramatically reduce our requirements for guards at installations and sensitive facilities. Cerberus combines a wide angle television camera, a thermal night vision sight, and a slew-to-cue radar with a telescoping mast and a personal computer. In combination, these tools provide a guard force the tools needed to remotely monitor fence lines and remote sites, day or night, under all weather conditions. The original driver for this device was to reduce our requirements for Soldiers to guard miles of fences and acres of bunkers at our ammo depots and chemical storage facilities. I believe that this device will perform this mission and others as well.

I invite you to join the Army Chief of Staff and me on May 13 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on the Pentagon parade field, and judge for yourself. If this time isn't convenient for you, the Cerberus will be operational starting at 10 a.m.— feel free to stop by and check it out.

Regards,
Paul Kern

AMC personnel honored in Besson Awards ceremony

Personnel from the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command and the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command received the 2004 Besson Award during a ceremony held Tuesday at Headquarters Army Materiel Command. Lt. Gen. Richard Hack, AMC deputy commanding general, presented the awards.

Lt. Col. Teresa Ortiz and Ms. Dorothy Anderson, of AMCOM, were recognized for their outstanding achievements of procurement excellence as a military officer in functional area 51 and civilian careerist respectively. Ms. Suzanne Tilton, of CECOM, was recognized for her achievements as a civilian intern.

The Besson Award Program was established in honor of Gen. Frank S. Besson, Jr., AMC's first commander, and his life-long achievements in acquisition. The award is presented exclusively to the AMC contracting work force.

Six Sigma 'leans' T700 engine production line

Thanks to its use of Six Sigma and Lean Thinking process improvements and partnerships with industry, AMC's Corpus Christi Army Depot has dramatically increased its T700 engine production turnaround time and efficiency, according to CCAD officials.

The T700 engine turnaround has increased its efficiency by 83 percent – workers are now producing 1.6 units, instead of 1.2 units – and in less time. In fact, it now takes workers about 100 days to produce engines, a decrease of 161 days since the year 2000.

CCAD signed a partnership with General Electric in September 2000 to reduce engine turnaround time, increase engine time on wing, implement commercial best practices, and improve processes and shop flow. This partnership has led to the creation of material kits for engines and modules; a depot overhaul process that has reduced the amount of parts on the "critical list," while advancing the material release of parts during a surge; has decreased engine turnaround times; and has increased the number of engines, cold section modules and power turbine modules shipped to customers.