



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

Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War

July 30, 2004

CSA unveils Professional Reading List

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker released the Professional Reading List July 23. The list, which can be found online at the Center of Military History Web page, www.army.mil/cmh, is broken down into four sub groups based on a leader's responsibilities, whether enlisted or commissioned.

"The topics and time periods included in the books on this list are expansive, and are intended to broaden each leader's knowledge and confidence. I challenge all leaders to make a focused, personal commitment to read, reflect, and learn about our profession, and our world," Schoomaker said.

Among the books included are John Keegan's "The Face of Battle," "The Personal Memoirs of U. S. Grant," Stephen E. Ambrose's "Band of Brothers," Lt. Gen. Hal Moore's "We Were Soldiers Once ... and Young," "Inside al Qaeda: Global Network of Terror," and Sun Tzu's "The Art of War."

Leaner: Maturing program produces growing savings

Nine months after its birth, the Directorate of Productivity Improvement and Innovation Tobyhanna Army Depot can already point to a significant record of growth and accomplishments.

As the focal point of the depot's process improvement and quality programs, the directorate's staff is coordinating new approaches that are projected to save more than \$7 million this fiscal year. Since the introduction of Lean initiatives in June 2002, total savings exceed \$14 million.

Those savings are generated by the efforts of depot personnel who are developing more effective ways to organize work areas, handle material and eliminate unnecessary procedures.

The concept of Lean processes is to identify all steps in a work process, eliminate the non-value added steps and refine the remaining steps to improve workflow.

XM-32 mortar ballistic computer rushed to U.S. forces in Iraq

A lighter, more advanced and more accurate mortar ballistic computer will be rushed to Iraq to support Army combat operations.

The XM-32, which weighs less than two pounds, will replace the 1980's vintage M-23, which weighs about eight pounds and looks like a city telephone book.

The XM-32 is a rugged Personal Digital Assistant device, commonly called a PDA, and uses Windows software. Mark Zhelesnik, product development team manager, compared the two products' software. "It's like comparing Atari Pong to Sony's Play Station 2," he said.

"This system uses a Windows Graphical User Interface. And most Soldiers are familiar with using Windows, which tends to be very intuitive," said Timothy Rybarski, lead software developer for the XM-32.

At a cost of less than \$3,000 apiece, the XM-32 comes with a complete accessory kit. The older M-23 cost \$15,000 when it was fielded. It is expected that XM-32s will replace all 1,400 M-23s for Army and Marine Corps combat forces by the end of 2005.

Army business council seeks initiatives

The Army Business Initiative Council is seeking initiatives that will result in meaningful monetary benefits. As always, the monetary benefits stay within the organization where the savings or cost avoidances are realized. Cycle 9 initiatives must be submitted by Aug 12 for BIC Cycle 9. Information on the Army BIC process can be found at <http://www.asafm.army.mil/rabp/bic/abic/asp>