



G-5's "Eye on AMC"

U.S. Army Materiel Command

Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War

August 8, 2003

Some of you have probably either seen or heard reports that Gen. Kern has been asked to retire. While the command position is historically a two-year tour, Gen. Kern has not been asked to retire. Gen. Kern continues to be extraordinarily engaged in ensuring that AMC provides our warfighters what they need in Afghanistan and Iraq -- around the world, while simultaneously focusing on being ready for the next contingency, and transforming the command to meet future requirements.

Tansill R. Johnson
Public Communications Office, G-5

Schoomaker sworn in as Army Chief

Gen. Pete Schoomaker was sworn in as the Army's 35th Chief of Staff by The Honorable Les Brownlee, acting Secretary of the Army, at a Pentagon ceremony Aug. 1. President George W. Bush nominated Schoomaker in June to replace retired Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, the former Army Chief.

As the Army Chief of Staff, Schoomaker will be responsible for the training, equipping, readiness, and welfare of the Army. He will also serve in a dual role as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"Service as the Army's Chief of Staff is both a tremendous responsibility and a matter of duty," Schoomaker said. "Today our nation is at war and we are a critical member of the joint team fighting that war. It is a war waged for the very survival of our way of life and it reaches to the furthest corners of the world. I have never left your ranks, but it is a great privilege to wear our uniform once again."

Schoomaker, who retired from the active Army in December 2000, came back on active duty to assume the position after being confirmed by the Senate Thursday. He most recently served as Commander-in-Chief, United States Special Operations Command, based at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., from November 1997 to November 2000. Prior to that he commanded the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C., from August 1996 to October 1997.

AMC team builds "Alabama Slammer"

A team of volunteers from Anniston Army Depot and Red River Army Depot, working out of the Tank-automotive and Armaments Command's Forward Repair Activity at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, is building a prototype vehicle designed to better protect convoys.

The goal is to build an armored truck that would be able to "lay down a base of suppressive fire" to thwart attempts to attack convoys heading north with much needed supplies, said Johnny Downs, electronic operations supervisor at Red River.

The team of welders, mechanics and engineers and science advisors Dr. Ray Bateman and Steve Burnett, both from the Army Research Laboratory at Fort Hood, Texas, took the front hull of an unserviceable M113 armored personnel carrier and fit it on a M818 five-ton truck and added two .50 caliber machine guns. They call it the "Alabama Slammer."

If this works, Dave Daniels, who works production planning and control at Anniston, would like to see this configuration "put on a newer model truck where you can have a little more excess electrical power" for weapons like mini-guns. He would also like to see a vehicle with a little better suspension.

Click here to see the article in the Birmingham News newspaper (Alabama) about this vehicle:
<http://www.al.com/search/index.ssf?/base/news/1059988521252230.xml?birminghamnews?nmet>

Did you know?

AMC moved 1.2 million tons of equipment about 8,000 miles to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. That's like running one lap around the E-Ring of the Pentagon every day for 35 years.