The U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) provides everything a Soldier requires, from home station to the Combatant Command areas of responsibility, but what lies between the two is often unfamiliar or unknown. A closer look at the variety of unique, one-of-a-kind missions AMC executes every day begins to tell the full story of the overwhelming depth and breadth of the command’s worldwide operations.

This issue of AMC Today showcases the command’s out-of-the-box responsibilities that, while often unseen, are fundamental to delivering readiness to the joint force. The patch trusted around the world represents more than just AMC’s proven logistics track record; it represents a diverse portfolio of capabilities from recruiting and outreach to the disposal of chemical and radioactive materials. AMC professionals work in centers and facilities across the United States and around the world to accomplish amazing, critical feats and tasks with little fanfare.

Headquartered in Virginia, AMC’s 21-person team comprising the Army Petroleum Center fuels the force, pumping nearly 350 million gallons of petroleum to receipt and storage locations around the world. In Philadelphia, an AMC team fills more than 30,000 requests each year from veterans and their families who never received or are missing military awards. The Veteran Medals Program restores honor to its rightful owner, including the nation’s most prestigious recognition: the Medal of Honor. Located in Huntsville, Alabama, AMC’s Army Contracting Command contracts every dollar the Army spends from procuring weapons, to recruiting and marketing, to transportation and receipt of supplies.

Meanwhile, through its subordinate Chemical Materials Activity, AMC effectively and safely destroyed nearly 90 percent of the entire U.S. chemical weapons stockpile. At the Morris Consolidation Facility on Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois, AMC oversees the end-of-life cycle for the Army’s and much of the military’s equipment containing radioactive material.

These examples are but a few of the behind-the-scenes missions that our dedicated workforce at AMC accomplishes every day. While AMC is widely recognized as a logistics powerhouse that provides everything a Soldier drives, flies, shoots, wears, communicates with or eats, the command’s expansive range of capabilities will continue to enable the success of the joint force in more ways than known. A review of the pages that follow will reveal many of AMC’s special missions.

AMC – Sustaining the Strength of the Nation!

AMC BEST WARRIOR COMPETITORS DISPLAY STRENGTH, DETERMINATION

The U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) announced Sgt. 1st Class Alexander Garcia as its NCO of the Year, and Sgt. Mitchell Keeton as its Soldier of the Year, Aug. 3 at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

Garcia and Keeton competed alongside 10 others during AMC’s Best Warrior Competition, July 7-9 at Camp Atterbury, Indiana.

Garcia is an infantryman assigned to the U.S. Army Security Assistance Training Management Organization at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, a subordinate of U.S. Army Security Assistance Command. Keeton, who was promoted to the NCO ranks during the course of the competition, is assigned to the 688th Rapid Port Opening Element at Fort Eustis, Virginia, a subordinate of Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command.

Over the course of the three-day event at Camp Atterbury, competitors from throughout the command covered 32 miles of dismounted movements in full combat gear and tackled 39 scenario-based warrior tasks without knowing what challenge was coming next.

The winners will compete in the Army Best Warrior Competition at Fort AP Hill, Virginia, Sept. 26-Oct. 3.
G-3/4 Initiates Changes to Better Support Global Logistics

The U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) is a global logistics powerhouse, operating 24-hours-a-day, 365-days-a-year to ensure warfighters have the combat-ready equipment needed to execute their mission. The G-3/4, Operations and Logistics, monitors, manages and oversees every mission, task, function and operation required to equip units and sustain forces. The G-3/4 is at the heart of every facet of the command’s mission.

To be effective, the AMC G-3/4 must remain relevant, constantly adapting to operate in an ever-changing environment. Recently, the G-3/4 restructured three divisions to synchronize acquisition life cycle sustainment, integrate war plans and strategy, and oversee our cyber efforts. These new capabilities posture the command to meet current challenges and prepare for the future.

The Acquisition Life Cycle Cell (ALCC) stood up in spring 2016 to synchronize commandwide materiel requirements and acquisition efforts, and tie into Department of the Army acquisition initiatives. The ALCC provides AMC and Army leadership with materiel systems trade space and informs acquisition life cycle sustainment decisions, both critical functions given today’s environment of reduced budgets and increased expeditionary requirements.

The War Plans and Strategy Division (WP&SD) also stood up in spring 2016 to expand strategic and operational planning efforts to meet the operational needs – from the strategic to the tactical – for sustainment in support of Combatant Commanders. WP&SD provides logistical expertise to Joint and Army planning to analyze strategic guidance, identify requirements and coordinate AMC support, ensuring campaign plans are supportable and sustainable.

The Cyber Cell provides a single entry point for centralized and integrated investigation, analysis, monitoring and informing of cyber operations across the AMC enterprise. In an increasingly contested and congested cyber environment, the Cyber Cell strengthens the command’s cyber capabilities by synchronizing cyber efforts across the enterprise.

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AMC G-3/4 serves as the principal operations and logistics advisor to the Commanding General to enable mission command over AMC units and operations and sustain Unified Land Operations anytime, anywhere. Readiness has, and will continue to be, our top priority. AMC’s reputation – the “power of the patch” – stands on the shoulders of an efficient and effective Operations and Logistics section; these professionals work across every mission to assure that AMC continues to sustain the strength of the nation.
LOGISTICS SUPPORT ACTIVITY: THE BRAIN BEHIND THE POWER

By Elizabeth Behring, AMC Public Affairs

LOGSA is the Army’s primary information collection and organization point for all units, depots and entities that deal in military material, equipment and life cycle management.

“Logistics is about our ability to move and store, and we’re the brains that create the method to do it,” said John D. Kuenzli.

LOGSA’s efforts support the Army’s readiness reporting, and that duty lies with us,” said LOGSA Commander Col. John D. Kuenzli.

Headquartered at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, LOGSA was formed by the merger of six logistics support activities and components in the 1993 Defense Base Closure and Realignement Commission legislation.

The information LOGSA collects is fed into the everyday operations of LCMCs, which are responsible for their own cradle-to-grave operations.

“LCMCs are in the business to produce hardware for every mission, and that’s what LOGSA does. We do business intelligence,” said David Martin, LOGSA deputy to the commander.

“We don’t make those products, but we make those products better. All those tools help the Army make the right readiness decisions.”

LOGSA improves on what LCMCs produce by working directly with them to compile, store and analyze all Army make the right readiness decisions.

“We make those products better. All these tools help the Army run its supply chain management program. As more and more data becomes available at the swipe of a finger or click of the mouse, LOGSA will continue to grow exponentially to match the needs of the warfighter.

Those operations extend out to the battlefield and beyond. As the Army’s air clearance authority, LOGSA is charged with validating every piece of Army cargo that travels through the airspace. The unit conducts hazardous material verification and provides specific documents that permit items like missiles to be flown overseas. This is all done in accordance with individual country customs, Federal Aviation Administration guidelines and International Traffic in Arms Regulations.

“LOGSA is there for every Army shipment that goes via air. But sometimes we find equipment that shouldn’t go by air, and we re-route it to go by ground, sea or surface movements,” Kuenzli said.

Even if the freight meets stringent requirements technically, more-cost-effective means to get it to its destination may exist. Choosing alternate shipping saves the Army about $100 million in second destination transportation costs every year, said Martin. In those cases, LOGSA works with the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), which is responsible for the physical movement of cargo on the ground.

LOGSA also helps notify SDDC in situations involving frustrated cargo, or shipments that are delayed en route because further disposition instructions must be obtained. POD considers frustrated cargo a serious issue and is actively working with LOGSA to mitigate the issue.

LOGSA is responsible for the Army Oil Analysis Program, which operates 11 laboratories worldwide that analyze more than 300,000 oil samples annually. The program helps prevent failures to aviation and ground weapons systems before they occur by detecting potential issues before they become problems.

The Packaging, Storage and Containment Center (PSCC) at Tobyhanna Army Depot in Pennsylvania is the only LOGSA facility outside Redstone Arsenal. As one of the largest in the country, PSCC is the Army’s test facility for anything that’s packaged and destined for other locations.

“WE test the packaging to make sure it’s suitable for high and low temperatures, and determine its longevity. On a larger scale, we test the containers of large objects like engines to be sure they can tolerate pressurization during shipment and storage, and handle environmentally ready,” Kuenzli said.

This testing has proven direct effects for the Soldiers on the ground. By crunching results from a Rutgers University test, water and Meals, Ready-to-Eat can be dropped with no parachute from helicopters hovering over 800 feet without facing damage or contamination, said Martin.

The packaging, which oftentimes resembles a honeycomb, is key for use in dropping supplies during covert operations or those conducted away from a Forwarding Operating Base.

But Soldiers don’t have to be deployed to benefit from the information LOGSA can provide. It’s at their fingertips, in the form of tangible, easy-to-use formats, like PS Magazine, the Army’s Preventative Maintenance monthly. Available as a compact magazine and digital file, the 65-year-old graphic format shows Soldiers how to repair and maintain equipment in a congenial manner. A new mobile app was rolled out in June.

“LOGSA has digitized some 14,500 technical manuals, some of which were traditionally printed ‘hit pockets,’ or put up in irrelevant ways,” Kuenzli said.

These manuals are accessible at the Logistics Information Warehouse portal online to more than 65,000 individual users and 150 worldwide direct trading partners, he said.

As more and more data becomes available at the swipe of a finger or click of the mouse, LOGSA will continue to grow exponentially to match the needs of the warfighter.
AMSAA: AMC’S HONEST BROKER

By Cherish Gilmore, AMC Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity, known as AMSAA, is a unique organization within the Army Materiel Command (AMC) organization that serves as an independent source of state-of-the-art analytical solutions for AMC, the Army and DOD. AMSAA, known as the analytic arm of AMC, conducts a variety of critical analyses in support of acquisition and life cycle issues. Their strategic and platform-level analyses provide senior officials the data they need to make informed decisions.

Headquartered at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, AMSAA’s workforce of about 300 includes analysts, engineers, mathematicians and scientists, all dedicated to providing quality analysis.

“We provide a host of different types of analysis to support AMC,” said James Amato, AMSAA director. With a simple phone call or email, a senior leader can understand the viability of a concept, current and future platforms, or even a materiel solution before investing taxpayer dollars. For this reason, AMSAA is also considered AMC’s honest broker.

“We have no vested interest if the Army buys a particular weapon system, chooses a particular method of sustainment, or even organizes a certain way. We have the ability to lay out all the facts, take all the emotion out of a particular decision, and turn data into information,” Amato said.

AMSAA aims to provide accurate, informed and thorough analysis to enable and influence acquisition policy, processes, decisions and materiel solutions to ensure current and future force readiness. Their analysis often assists AMC, the Army and DOD in making critical hard choices.

“We are seeing a greater appetite for our analysis. As resources draw down and budgets become tighter, Army senior leaders want to ensure they are making the best decisions,” Amato said. “We are being called on more than ever to do cost benefit analyses and business case analyses to make sure the decisions we are making, and investments we are committing to, are the best they can possibly be for our Soldiers.”

AMSAA provides critical information to decision makers through several capacities, including: Analysis of Alternatives (AoA), modeling and simulation, logistics and worldwide data collection, analysis of lessons learned, joint munitions effectiveness, and strategic level analysis.

ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

An AoA analyzes the ability of various alternatives to meet required warfighter capabilities in terms of effectiveness, suitability and life cycle costs. Working in conjunction with Research, Development and Engineering Centers, life cycle management commands, program executive offices and program managers, AMSAA is able to use performance and effectiveness data and analysis to ensure a new platform or system can do what it is designed to do. AMSAA’s AoAs can address system questions, like the ability of helicopters to fly as high as they should, or as fast as they should, and how systems and services will interact.

“Every Analysis of Alternatives that the Army does, AMSAA is involved in,” said Amato. “It’s all about identifying the most cost-effective way to fill a capability gap and make sure our Soldiers are a part of the best-equipped Army in the world.”

MODELING AND SIMULATION

Exercises and testing are expensive for the Army, but necessary to predict outcomes for the use of a platform and how systems and services will interact.

“We use modeling and simulation to support the Army Test and Evaluation Command, and it reduces the amount of testing that is required for a weapon system,” Amato said. “We can show through modeling and simulation that a vehicle meets a certain requirement; then the Army Test and Evaluation Command does not have to go through months of testing and millions of dollars.”

AMSAA also feeds into the Army’s modeling and simulation studies and analyses for theater-level wargames.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND WORLDWIDE DATA COLLECTION

AMSAA provides independent logistics analysis to support Army and AMC equipment and sustainment decisions with one goal in mind – readiness.

Using worldwide data collection, wherever AMC deploys and maintains equipment around the world, AMSAA is able to better predict maintenance, sustainability of systems, and inform better decisions in the future.

“Through human data collectors that we have embedded with Army units around the world, we are able to get data that does not make its way into the logistics enterprise systems,” Amato said. “Using those data elements, we can tell motor sergeants which vehicles need their attention and for what reason. This proactive maintenance avoids costly repairs down the road.”

AMSAA’s efforts in maintenance have assisted units at 12 installations in avoiding more than $1 million in repair parts for 258 misdiagnosed maintenance issues on Tactical Wheeled Vehicles from June 2014 to June 2016. AMSAA recently completed an analysis to aid AMC’s reduction of excess inventory. The analysis resulted in a decrease of 22 percent since April 2016, along with identifying another $3.3 billion in excess for disposal.

LESSONS LEARNED

On behalf of the Army, AMSAA hosts the Acquisition and Materiel Lessons Learned Portals and databases.

“The Honorable Heidi Shyu (former Assistant Secretary of the Army [Acquisition, Logistics and Technology]) asked AMSAA for an online repository of lessons learned that her program executive offices and program managers could use as they went about developing acquisition strategies and following their programs through acquisition processes to make sure they were using best business practices and not repeating pitfalls,” Amato said.

Today, AMSAA analyzes collected feedback and identifies common themes and trends, and then shares those throughout various communities.

MEETING A JOINT SERVICE NEED

AMSAA is also in charge of the Joint Technical Coordinating Group for Munitions Effectiveness Program, chartered more than 45 years ago. AMSAA is the sole source for all joint service authenticated non-nuclear weapons effectiveness data for DOD. Through the use of data, AMSAA analysts give commanders the power to determine the best weapon to neutralize an enemy target to include collateral damage considerations.

STRATEGIC LEVEL ANALYSIS

At the strategic level, AMSAA remains the honest broker when a commander needs to posture for the future. The AMC Analysis Group is strategically placed at AMC headquarters on Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, to provide direct support to AMC’s leaders.

“When faced with difficult decisions – whether missions, dollars or functions – our team does a great job at looking at how AMC can continue to perform its mission in a resource constrained environment with as little risk as possible,” Amato said.

“IT’S ALL ABOUT IDENTIFYING THE MOST COST EFFECTIVE WAY TO FILL A CAPABILITY GAP AND MAKE SURE OUR SOLDIERS ARE A PART OF THE BEST-EQUIPPED ARMY IN THE WORLD.”

ABOVE: Soldiers with Headquarters Support Company, 834th Aviation Support Battalion, check the seals on their protective masks and prepare for an exercise at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. The U.S. Army Materiel Systems Analysis Activity projects include test and evaluation of facilities and processes for the demilitarization of chemical weapons. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Sebastian Nenec)

A digital rendering shows Army aviation assets surveying terrain with a visible representation of Human Resources Intelligence, Imagery Intelligence, Measurements and Signature Intelligence, Signals Intelligence, and Geospatial Intelligence. This analysis provides Army and joint acquisition programs with decisions concerning target acquisition, surveillance and reconnaissance. (Image courtesy of AMSAA)
Reserve Component augments global logistics mission

Since the 9/11 terrorist attack, the Army Reserve Component has augmented U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) by providing operational and logistical support. The Army Total Force Policy, implemented in 2012, granted added credence toward active and reserve integration by establishing a strategy aimed at providing predictable, recurring and sustainable capabilities.

From individual augmentees to large-scale operations, AMC’s ability to tap the sustainment capabilities housed in the Reserve Component increases readiness across the force.

“Eighty percent of the Army’s sustainment capabilities are found in the Reserve Component,” said Maj. Gen. Elizabeth Austin, AMC’s assistant deputy commanding general-Reserve National Guard. “AMC’s ability to maximize the potential of the Reserve’s ability to recognize and leverage those leadership skills and strengths is a win on all fronts. It provides excellent training opportunities for individuals, strengthens the Army’s ability to balance between the two, while providing a holistic approach across components, so school requests, training and promotion rules are consistently applied. “Our opportunities for support run the gamut, from administrative positions at the headquarters to those that directly support contingency operations,” Boone said.

While individual missions range from mechanics and welders to logistics positions, operational opportunities are equally broad. Whether supporting Logistics Readiness Centers, repairing weapons or hauling cargo, Reserve Component units that support AMC provide valuable services in exchange for real-world training missions.

Operation Patriot Bandoleer, for example, tested planning, coordination and the execution efforts of National Guard units that organized long-haul missions for the past two years. Covering millions of miles and delivering thousands of containers, transportation units distributed ammunition and other items returning from Army Prepositioned Stocks from a North Carolina port to locations across the country.

As a global organization, support from the Reserve Component strengthens AMC’s ability to sustain missions worldwide. National Guard units from Oregon and Montana recently provided maintenance at three new Eastern European equipment sites.

Besides accomplishing important AMC missions, these opportunities provide real-world training that enriches the skills of citizen-Soldiers and strengthens unit cohesion. For Soldiers who must perform training annually, the missions provide a level of instruction and satisfaction that goes beyond traditional military exercises.

“We’re paying Soldiers two weeks a year to drive trucks. Why not put something on the back of them?” said Lt. Col. Christopher Weskamp, commander of the Nebraska National Guard’s 734th Transportation Battalion Company. The unit participated in Operation Patriot Bandoleer in April 2016. In an effort to capitalize on these types of opportunities, AMC recently established a Reserve Component Mission Support Office aimed at integrating the total force.

“We’re working to prioritize and coordinate with the National Guard and Army Reserve to facilitate mutually beneficial operations,” Austin said.

A Memorandum of Agreement between the command and the National Guard headquarters facilitates the engagement, identifying sourcing and funding of units to support missions across the AMC enterprise. A similar memo between AMC and the Army Reserve is in its final stages. Additionally, Reserve Component leaders have been incorporated into the command’s semiannual Army Senior Logisticians Summit, which provides leaders an opportunity to network and address items focused on enhancing total force readiness.

“One sustains many.”

EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE ARMY’S SUSTAINMENT CAPABILITIES ARE FOUND IN THE RESERVE COMPONENT.

Army Reserve Soldiers load a truck with cargo during Operation Patriot Bandoleer at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, North Carolina. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Eben Boothby)

BELOW LEFT: Army Reserve Soldiers move cargo during Operation Patriot Bandoleer at Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, North Carolina. (U.S. Army photo by Kevin Fleming)

BELOW RIGHT: Spc. Jose Pineda prepares cargo for offload after a 2,700-mile convoy operation from Kansas to California as part of Nationwide Move ‘15, an annual exercise designed to provide Reserve Component trans- portation units with real-world operational experience. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Victor Ayala)
serving as the service control point for the Department of Defense’s bulk petroleum, the Army Petroleum Center (APC) is the Army’s Center of Excellence for petroleum infrastructure, bulk fuel planning requirements and quality assurance.

Operating under the U.S. Army Materiel Command’s (AMC) G-3/4, Operations and Logistics, APC is the Army’s most important liquid logistics unit, supporting strategic, tactical and base operation capabilities to sustain weapon systems along with Soldier and unit readiness.

“The Army Petroleum Center is a very unique organization within the Army that touches every part of the petroleum supply chain from the tactical, operational, strategic, industrial base, to training and acquisition,” said APC Director Col. John “Chris” Brookie. “APC is a one-of-a-kind unit that provides support and makes a difference every day across a broad spectrum of the petroleum community.”

APC provides technical expertise for installation and tactical bulk petroleum, handling automated fuel management systems. In Fiscal Year 2015, the center managed the purchase of 349 million gallons of petroleum delivered to 620 Army petroleum receipt and storage locations. In Fiscal Year 2015, the center managed the purchase of 349 million gallons of petroleum delivered to 620 Army petroleum receipt and storage locations.

Over the years, the center’s mission grew to encompass more than petroleum quality assurance. Today it validates bulk petroleum requirements and provides technical support, quality surveillance and fixed-fuel facility engineering support.

Headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, the 21-person command, made up of military and civilians, is small, but has a big impact on the force.

They work with counterparts in Army G-4, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, U.S. Army Forces Command (FORSCOM), Installation Management Command, Combatant Commands, as well as the AMC Army Sustainment Command logistics enterprise, to ensure petroleum operational requirements are met. APC also works closely with strategic partners at Defense Logistics Agency Energy, Naval Supply Systems Command Energy, and Air Force Petroleum Agency to ensure compatibility and interoperability across the DOD bulk petroleum supply chain.

“It’s about requirements and distribution,” said Charles Shipp, APC chief of operations. “We collaborate so that the entire Army has the fuel they need, when and where they need it.”

A primary task is to work closely with aviation brigades to understand their critical functions and needs. APC is the lead evaluator for the FORSCOM Aviation Resource Management Survey team, which executes reviews of aviation fueling operations while providing over-the-shoulder mentorship and counseling to petroleum specialists across the Army.

“We work closely to see where there are potential deficiencies in petroleum training, knowledge or skills,” said Brookie. “We want to get out to the Soldiers so they know what we do at APC and how we can help them. One such way they are communicating with Soldiers is through their new website, http://uspac.army.mil.

“APC is a one-of-a-kind unit that provides support and makes a difference every day!”
Logistics Modernization Program Increment 2 goes live

Automation has reached the Army’s manufacturing shop floor as part of the final planned implementation of the Logistics Modernization Program (LMP), LMP Increment 2 capabilities were delivered to 17 U.S. Army Material Command (AMC) managed Organic Industrial Base (OIB) sites from January 2014 through May 2016. LMP is one of the world’s largest enterprise resource planning systems that tracks and manages equipment, including spare and repair parts, for the Army. LMP Increment 2 provides new and expanded capabilities to the already deployed system that addresses several critical Army and DOD initiatives, including and especially shop floor automation. “Since its initial deployment in 2003, LMP has saved time, money, and effort by providing the mechanism to accurately track work done in our OIB facilities,” said AMC Commander Gen. Dennis L. Via. “This enhanced fielding initiative gives us the ability to create electronic work instructions and improve capacity planning and scheduling. LMP allows our depots, arsenals and plants to continue to provide world-class logistics support and readiness to warfighters, while building and gaining efficiencies to remain competitive with commercial industry.” When full fielding is complete, about 30,000 users will employ the LMP system – one of the world’s largest, fully integrated supply chain, maintenance, repair and overhaul, planning, execution and financial management systems.

AMC welcomes new subordinate command leadership


AMC voices caution regarding Zika virus

With more than 64,000 employees spread across 153 countries, AMC leadership is continuing to monitor the potential threat presented by mosquitoes and the Zika virus. “We need to recognize the threat, but not overreact,” said Col. Andrew Kim, AMC’s command surgeon. While sounding simple, the best prevention is to make all attempts to avoid being bitten. Kim also recommended that employees consider postponing travel to countries with active Zika transmission. Mosquitoes that spread the virus bite mostly during the day, and live indoors and outdoors near humans. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend minimizing standing water in items like buckets, bowls, animal dishes, flower pots and vases. The command continues to monitor the impact of the virus, and will tailor communication to its worldwide workforce depending on risk factors.

Sleeves up, camo out

Lt. Gen. James McConville, deputy chief of staff, G-1, recently announced that commanders may authorize Soldiers to roll up the sleeves on Army combat uniforms. The new policy pertains to the universal camouflage pattern, the operational camouflage pattern and the Operation Enduring Freedom camouflage pattern combat uniforms. The new policy will allow sleeves to be rolled above the elbow, right-side out with the camouflage pattern shown, as well as cuffed inward above the wrist on the forearm, during field training exercises or operations. Sgt. Maj. of the Army Daniel Dailey said that while the ultimate decision to roll sleeves rests with unit commanders, the Armywide policy was changed due to input from Soldiers.

Fort Rucker Aviation Maintenance Complex rededicated

The Aviation Maintenance Complex at Fort Rucker, Alabama, was rededicated May 26 in honor of Lt. Col. Dave Condon, a Soldier who was instrumental in setting up the Army’s liaison mission for the Normandy invasion during World War II. Condon piloted the first L-4 Grasshopper reconnaissance plane from England to Normandy and registered the first artillery fire on Utah Beach. Condon was killed in a civilian helicopter crash in 1961 while on leave from the Army’s Transportation Training Command. A plaque honoring Condon’s service, which was originally hung in 1972, was displayed at the $31 million facility. Completed in 2013, the 132,000-square-foot aviation complex is designed to promote efficiency and environmental friendliness, while featuring state-of-the-art equipment and 22 shops, including welding, painting, fabric, engine, avionics, hydraulics and sheet metal.

Army Research Laboratory hosts summer interns

In an effort to promote future careers in Army research and development, the U.S. Army Research Laboratory (ARL) at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, hosted its annual two-day summer intern tour in June. The program provides a unique experience for interns, who have an opportunity to interact with scientists and engineers and their projects, gaining a better overall picture of the work ARLs conducts in support of the Soldier. Interns were given an overview of a variety of research areas, such as 3-D flexible hybrid electronics, network science, atmospheric science, spoken dialogue research for human-robot teams, cognitive assessment, simulation and engineering, and auditory research. “As I look across the room today, you are the future Army scientists and engineers,” said Col. Kevin Elliott, ARL military deputy, during the event. “We as warfighters cannot execute missions without the help of our civilian teammates.”
By Karen Jolley Nikol, CMA Public Affairs

A world leader in the development and implementation of innovative programs to safely and effectively eradicate chemical weapons, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity (CMA) provides management and direction for the storage, assessment and treatment of chemical warfare materiel, while ensuring the public is prepared in an emergency.

Despite the organization’s successes over the past several decades, many people outside the chemical weapons community are likely unaware of what the U.S. Army Materiel Command subordinate organization provides to the nation and its allies, said Col. Nathaniel Farmer, CMA director.

“With CMA’s history of successfully eliminating chemical weapons, I’m proud not only of our exceptional safety record, but of the many methods we have employed for more than two decades to implement effective, efficient procedures. We are always seeking improvement,” Farmer said.

CMA effectively destroyed the portion of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile for which it was responsible – nearly 90 percent – in addition to extensive non-stockpile items.

“I suppose our anonymity is part of our success, because we operate so safely,” he said. “Today, our footprint has decreased, but we still are here, with the same focus on our mission.”

That mission is headquartered at the Edgewood area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, where staff ensures the two remaining storage sites – Blue Grass Chemical Activity at Blue Grass Army Depot, Kentucky, and Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colorado – can accomplish their missions to deliver chemical weapons to the destruction facilities when destruction operations begin.

The staff takes safe-handling and storage of chemical weapons seriously, said Steven Penrod, CMA Mission Operations director.

“At the two remaining stockpile sites, CMA ensures the items remain safely protected and monitored pending treatment,” Penrod said.

Both remaining stockpile sites partner with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to implement the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program to ensure protection for the surrounding communities. The program establishes key partnerships between state and local emergency management officials to enhance emergency management plans and provide response equipment and warning systems.

Even with a proven record of safety, our top priority remains collaboration with key partners in the communities to ensure preparedness for any situation,” said Farmer, who has led CMA since 2014. “Building relationships and knowing our partners allows all of us to navigate any situation.”

Meanwhile, CMA’s Recovered Chemical Material Directorate (RCMD) continues to respond to installations and burial sites around the country, managing the assessment and destruction of recovered chemical warfare materiel. RCMD uses mobile technology to assess recovered items to determine the chemical fill, and can destroy the items on location.

“Our team provides the direction and support from the moment the item is recovered to waste disposal at the end of the mission,” said RCMD Director Laurence Gottschalk, who has more than 32 years of experience in the chemical demilitarization field. “This is a capability that the United States will always require.”

RCMD deploys the Mobile Munitions Assessment System to the location of the recovered item, where nonintrusive assessment technologies determine whether an item is explosively configured or contains chemical agent. If chemical agent is confirmed, RCMD works with the site to develop destruction plans and coordinate permits with state and federal regulators, and ultimately deploy the Explosive Destruction System, a stainless steel vessel that contains the blast, vapor and fragments from the destruction process.

“At explosively opening the munition, which destroys any energetics and exposes the agent, a chemical reaction within the vessel neutralizes the chemical contents,” Gottschalk said.

In compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), a treaty ratified by the U.S. in 1997, all chemical weapons and former chemical weapons production facilities must be destroyed. CMA met all treaty-mandated milestones, which for RCMD included destruction of binary chemical weapons and components, and destruction of facilities that produced chemical weapons. CWC treaty inspectors work closely with RCMD project management staff during mission operations to ensure all activities comply with treaty requirements.

With decades of combined chemical weapons remediation experience, CMA continues to seek opportunities and collaboration to enhance technologies and build on past successes to keep the U.S. safe.

More information on CMA’s mission and activities can be found online at https://www.cma.army.mil.
When most people think of the Tank-automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM), the organization’s support of ground combat vehicles such as the Abrams Tank, Bradley and Humvee comes to mind. What many do not realize is that TACOM also supports Soldiers – past and present – through the Veteran Medals Program.

The Veteran Medals Program, under TACOM’s Integrated Logistics Support Center’s (ILSC) Clothing and Heraldry Product Support Integration Directorate, is responsible for issuing medals, decorations and awards to Army veterans and their next of kin, including widows or widowers, parents, eldest children, eldest siblings and eldest grandchildren.

“TACOM is extremely proud of the dedication and professionalism of the men and women who provide this service to our veterans and their families,” said Brian Butler, TACOM deputy to the commander. “It is a distinct and humbling honor to be able to recognize their service and sacrifice to our Army and nation in defense of our freedom.”

The Veteran Medals Program team is located in Philadelphia and consists of eight people – two engravers, who engrave the veterans’ names on their medals; four assemblers, who make sure that veterans receive all of their authorized awards; a warehouseman, who manages the stock; and a customer service representative, who fields incoming calls and emails from veterans or their next of kin about their specific awards case or how a veteran can get his or her authorized awards.

While their mission may not appear to be directly related to success on the battlefield, its importance has been recognized since the early days of the Army’s existence when George Washington served as commander in chief.

“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation,” said Washington.

The first set of authorized awards are provided at no charge to the veteran or their next of kin, and the Army is the only service that offers one free set of authorized awards. Additional sets can be purchased for a nominal fee. In addition, any veteran who received their awards while in service can send their medals in for engraving at the government’s cost.

“We have a very dedicated group,” said Keith Thompson, who oversees the heraldry mission and its parent organization that manages organizational clothing and equipment for the Army at TACOM. “It’s our honor at TACOM to provide veterans their Medals of Honor and valor, and we like to say we provide for Soldiers from the time they enter the service until they become a veteran.”

The team strives to maintain a timeframe for completion of an awards case within 60 to 75 days after it has been entered in the Veteran Medals Program team system. The actual time for a given awards case will vary, depending on the number of awards to which that veteran is entitled.

When a veteran or their next of kin requests medals, an awards case is not automatically entered into the team’s system until one of two agencies – the National Personnel Records Center for veterans who separated, retired or discharged prior to October 2002; and the U.S. Army Human Resources Command for veterans who separated, retired or discharged after October 2002 – completes their review of a veteran’s records and authorizes specific awards.

Once the authorization is completed, a memo is sent to the requester advising him or her of the awards case number, and three days later, the awards case can be seen in the team’s system.

“The work that the Integrated Logistics Support Center’s medals team does is awesome. As an old Soldier, I know how important a Soldier’s service and sacrifice are,” said Col. Jeffrey Vieira, deputy executive director at TACOM ILSC. “These medals bring back those memories and friendships from the past.”

FROM TOP: Retired Sgt. 1st Class Melvin Morris, a Vietnam War veteran, receives the Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama at the White House during a ceremony in 2014. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Justin Wagner)

David Sellers, an assembler with the Veteran Medals Program, uses hand tools to complete the assembly of a medal. (U.S. Army photo)

Award cases hold medals assembled and provided by the Army’s Veteran Medals Program. (U.S. Army photo)

NORTHCOM activates the Joint Task Force (JTF-NCR) in the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, which issues a call for contract support from MICC-Fort Belvoir. Executing multiple tasks at a frenzied pace quietly behind the scenes, but upon whom the success of such a significant event hinges, is a team of about a dozen acquisition professionals led by Mikel Lambert, chief of the contracting division at Fort Belvoir. The anticipated needs to support as many as 4,000 military and federal civilians conducting a presidential funeral are precisely defined in a blanket purchase agreement (BPA) awaiting that call order. Arriving at the office three years ago, Lambert said she promptly familiarized herself with the contract support office provided to the Military District of Washington. However, the subject of state funeral support took on a more immediate concern after the cancer diagnosis announced by former President Jimmy Carter last year. It was then that Lambert discovered documents critical to support a state funeral were nowhere to be found. “We have 48 hours – even if we’re notified in the middle of the night – to come in and do whatever we have to do,” she said. “I got nervous because our presidents are getting older, and I wanted to be prepared.” The 25-year acquisition professional learned that the hard-copy documents from the last funeral were likely misplaced during the migration of records from Fort Myer, Virginia, to the Fort Belvoir contracting office about four years ago. She and a contract specialist assigned to support a state funeral immediately began putting in place a BPA and conducting market research to identify contractors capable of supporting such national honors. The BPA in place with defined requirements is a firm-fixed-price instrument against which sole-source contracts may be awarded for five years. Among the requirements under the BPA are funeral and cathe-dral services, medical tents and towing services. Market research seeking further competition is conducted annually through federal acquisition websites with any updates captured virtually in the paperless contract file. “A BPA is put in place as a placeholder just in case it is needed,” Lambert said. “A contractor that is awarded this agreement must be able to meet this challenge.” The market research conducted to identify contractors capable of performing the required services on such an accelerated timeline consisted of sources provided by its supported customer, the Military District of Washington, as well as those found through additional research by a contract specialist with the issue of a sources-sought notice to small businesses. “Even though I am elated to contribute my efforts to this event,” said Denese Henson, contract specialist who supported the research, “my commitment to my customer is ensuring I provide professional support and our contracts meet their needs.” If MICC-Fort Belvoir receives two or more responses to sources-sought notices, then the requirement is set aside for small business, said Henson. If only one response is received, a solicitation to large companies is sought. She also said that an educational element is sometimes necessary as some potential vendors may not be familiar with federal contracting. The MICC-Fort Belvoir also provides contracting support to the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, also known as The Old Guard, assigned to Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia. Old Guard elements supporting presidential funerals include marching units, the presidential salute battery and caisson. Additional regimental elements including the commander in chief’s guard and continental color guard also support state funerals upon request. As members of MICC-Fort Belvoir finalize the few remaining requirements under the BPA, they do so in thoughtful retrospect that when a call notice to support a presidential funeral was made, their role, although small, will endure beyond an acquisition effort and remain preserved in the nation’s history. Presidential funerals are of national significance and are steeped in tradition and rich in history,” said Lt. Col. Jonathan Patrick, commander of the MICC-Fort Belvoir contracting office. “MICC-Fort Belvoir supports the Military District of Washington with several contract actions to ensure these meticulously planned honors are executed flawlessly.”

**Executive Multiple Tasks at a Frenzied Pace Quietly Behind the Scenes... Is a Team of About a Dozen Acquisition Professionals...**
U.S. ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND (AMC)

**U.S. Air Force Capt. James Melton** is a meteorologist assigned to AMC Headquarters at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. Melton’s weather forecasts span the globe, stretching to the 143 countries where AMC has a footprint. His predictions give commanders the guidance they need when it comes to moving troops and equipment by air, ground or sea. “I provide global support for missions and exercises anywhere in the world.” Melton said. “Commanders on the ground need to understand the issues they may face.” As AMC’s only assigned Airman, Melton has helped align the installation’s weather command post to encompass some 70 organizations, including NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the FBI. Melton has forecast the weather for more than eight years as a commissioned officer, since transitioning from the Air Force enlisted ranks, where he worked as a crew chief on the B-52 bomber aircraft and later as an enlisted weatherman.

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 5 Harold L. DeBerry took command of the Honorary Warrant Officer of the Regiment (HWOR) Charter at Fort Lee, Virginia, May 11. As the Ordnance Corps HWOR, DeBerry serves to promote the pride, prestige and tradition of the Ordnance Corps through the professional development of Ordnance warrant officers. He serves as a worldwide mentor for Ordnance officers, warrant officers, NCOs and Soldiers in pursuit of further development for service as ordnance professionals. DeBerry currently works in the AMC Strategic Analysis and Integration Cell, G-1.

Jonathan W. Pierce, the supervisory editor of PS Magazine at AMC’s Logistics Support Activity for the past five years, has more than 40 years of combined military and civilian service. As a Soldier, he worked as the chief of Army newspapers from the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs in 1992 after 20 years as a military journalist. Following a two-year hiatus, Pierce began his civil service as a book editor at the National Defense University Press at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. Pierce, who holds a master’s degree in creative writing, is currently presiding over the modernization of PS Magazine as the 65-year-old publication adds an interactive mobile application to its Soldier-supporting endeavors. “I feel fortunate to have served two careers in providing articles and publications that enable Soldiers to be better informed and more competent in maintaining the combat readiness of the Army,” said Pierce.

U.S. ARMY CONTRACTING COMMAND (ACC)

**Marie Cramblett** with the Global Reachback Division at ACC-Rock Island in Illinois has spent the past eight years working as the contract specialist for the Contract Working Dogs requirement in Afghanistan, turning a personal passion for dogs into a professional one. The program requires trained and certified Patrol Narcotics Detector Dogs, Patrol Explosives Detector Dogs and trained certified Handlers/Kennel Masters/Trainers to execute force protection in support of military operations. “Marie’s Dogs,” as they have come to be known among her colleagues, have provided exceptional support to Soldiers and the Army.

**Sara Peeters** is the executive officer for ACC-WRN in Michigan. In this position, she works closely with the ACC-WRN executive director, preparing correspondence and presentations, and accompanying the executive director to senior meetings to capture critical elements and tasks. She is also responsible for tasks from external sources – coordinating and submitting timely, thorough responses. Peeters is the primary point of contact for communication between ACC-WRN and its industry partners, and organizes a variety of industry engagement events. She also coordinates VIP visits and organizes ceremonies for senior leaders within the organization.

“**THESE PROFESSIONALS – MILITARY AND CIVILIANS – ARE TREMENDOUS PATRIOTS, AND OUR MILITARY CANNOT ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION WITHOUT THEM.”** – GEN. DENNIS L. VIA
Paul Quintel, who has worked as the AMC Operations Security (OPSEC) officer in the Force Protection Office since 2007, placed first in the Army wide National OPSEC Awards Program competition for Individual Achievement. Besides his Level III instructor credentials, he is also a credentialed physical security inspector, a certified Antiterrorism Level II officer and an Army-certified master instructor. He often provides training for other DOD organizations, as well as in local schools. “OPSEC plays a vital role in ensuring mission success, and Mr. Quintel is the driving force behind a very proactive AMCOPSEC program,” said Maj. Gen. Doug Gabram, AMCOM commander. “His knowledge, attention to detail and ability to demonstrate to the workforce the importance of OPSEC, not only at work but in the home, has enabled AMCOM to protect not only the warfighters, but also those supporting them.”

Timothy Blanton, a heavy mobile equipment mechanic with the Logistics Readiness Center-Stewart in Georgia, works on heavy mobile combat equipment, which includes diagnosing and repairing major components like engines, transmissions and final drives. He has served as a DOD civilian for 16 years. “I work on some of the most advanced tanks in the world,” said Blanton. “So I take a lot of pride in my work. I do the best job that I can do because I know there is a Soldier out there fighting in the equipment that I have worked on.”

Shirley Carey serves as the chief of the Personnel Services Branch, Transportation Division, Logistics Readiness Center-Hood, at Fort Hood, Texas. She oversees the operation of Fort Hood’s Personal Property Shipping Office and Passenger Movement Office, ensuring resources and training are available to accomplish the mission. Carey has been in government service for 33 years, mostly at Fort Hood, but also spent five years in Germany in the European Travel Service Office. She is the recipient of two Commander’s Awards for Civilian Service and one Superior Civilian Service Award for performance.

William J. Soto, G-3 Outside Continental U.S. unid integration lead at CECOM, has spent his career in service to the government – both in and out of uniform. A 24-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Soto served as a teletype/crypto maintenance specialist, and as a professional military education instructor for the Airman Leadership School. Today, as a logistics management specialist, Soto said the decision to go into his current career field did not require a lot of contemplation. “Based on my previous military experience, I was a natural fit for the specialty that I am in now,” he said. “I wanted to be involved in something I believed in. Even though I am no longer in uniform, I still wanted to serve.”

Larry M. Cruz is a retired Army Reserve colonel who continues to serve his country as the deputy to the commander at Hawthorne Army Depot in Nevada. Arriving in Hawthorne in December 2014, Cruz’s primary role consists of supervisory/managerial duties over the government staff while simultaneously ensuring the depot’s operating contractor meets its ongoing contractual obligations to the government. Hawthorne stores conventional munitions, demilitarizes and disposes of unserviceable, obsolete and surplus munitions, and maintains serviceability through inspection and renovation to ensure ammunition readiness.

Steven K. Penrod serves as the director of mission operations for CMA, where he oversees the planning, movement and development of chemical destruction operations. Penrod began his federal government career in 1977 as a quality assurance specialist, ammunition surveillance (QASAS). The QASAS field requires frequent moves, and he has since held a variety of positions worldwide, including two deployments to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. A direct testament to his success, he has been recognized with several awards, including two Superior Service Awards, four Commander’s Awards for Civilian Service and the Ordinance Order of Samuel Sharpe Award for excellence in the field of ordnance.

Larry G. Gottschalk, director of CMA Activity Recovered Chemical Materiel Directorate (RCMD), has dedicated more than 30 years to the organization, serving as project manager for a variety of high-level projects. In 2004, he was selected as project manager of the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project. RCMD’s predecessor, seeing the organization through completion of its treaty-obligated missions before transition into his current role in 2013. Gottschalk continues to oversee the safe, effective assessment and destruction of recovered chemical warfare materiel. During his tenure, CMA RCMD completed destruction of the U.S. remaining former chemical weapons production facilities, binary chemical weapons and Category 3 chemical materiel.

U.S. ARMY A V I A T I O N AND M I S S I L E C O M M A N D (AMCOM)
Tamara Lusardi, a U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center cyber security specialist, participated in the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission 2016 LGBT Pride Month program at its Washington, D.C., headquarters, sitting on a panel to discuss LGBT rights. Lusardi transitioned from male to female in 2010, and is an advocate for LGBT rights with the American Federation of Government Employees chapter in North Alabama and in the local community. She is currently working on transgender initiatives for the Army. While in Washington, D.C., she attended the Capital Pride Alliance’s Heroes Gala, where she met Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning.

Jennifer Hunt, a textile technologist/materials engineer on the Aerial Delivery Engineering Support Team (ADEST) at the Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center in Massachusetts, recently graduated from the Army Basic Airborne Course, known as Jump School. With only 10 percent of the class being women, Hunt was truly unique in that she was the oldest and among the smallest, standing less than 5 feet tall and weighing the minimum to qualify. "I wanted to go and have the experience of using and jumping the parachute equipment I work with and inspect every day," said Hunt. "The opportunity has given me a different and fuller perspective of the work I do for ADEST and has made me better qualified to do my job."

Dr. Anne Petrock is acting commander of the Materials and Lethal Mechanism Technologies at the Munitions Engineering Center (METC), a part of the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center at Picatinny Arsenal, New Jersey. She leads a team of scientists and engineers that is responsible for the planning and directing of technical programs related to the design, development and application of high-explosive materials, warheads, lethal effects and systems integration. "Working at Picatinny provides new opportunities for technical and professional growth on a daily basis," she said. "There is an incredibly diverse and talented workforce here that is very dedicated to serving those who serve our country."

Capt. Kevin Holloway, aide-de-camp to the SDDC commanding general, was recently inducted into the Order of St. Christopher Society. Induction into the Order of St. Christopher symbolizes the recipient’s strength, loyalty and safety for transporters charged with moving the force—much like the legend of St. Christopher. Holloway has been assigned to the command for more than two years and previously served as the SDDC headquarters and headquarters detachment commander.

Joe Repp, the current G-3 Operations deputy, expertly served as SDDC’s acting deputy to the commander, a Senior Executive Service position, for about one year. During that time, he was instrumental in the success of the command through his definitive leadership and mentorship of the civilian and military workforce. Repp has served more than 34 years as a member of the transportation community.

William “Bill” Pass, who has served the nation more than 35 years as both a Soldier and Army civilian, is the deputy director of the Red River Army Depot (RRAD) Directorate for Engineering Services in Texarkana, Texas. He is the catalyst behind RRAD winning the Department of the Army Best Antiterrorism Program Award for eight consecutive years (2007-2014), being placed on the Antiterrorism Honor Roll in 2007, winning the Best Antiterrorism Program Manager Award in 2009, and being recognized by the National Weather Service as a “Storm Ready” site in 2013. Prior to his service as a civilian with RRAD, Pass was the command sergeant major for the 84th Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

Matthew Cooke is the branch chief responsible for sustainment of the Force Provider Expeditionary Base Camp System at TACOM Integrated Logistics Support Center’s Soldier Product Support Integration Directorate located in Natick, Massachusetts. He and his team were deeply involved with deploying the Force Provider system in support of Operation United Assistance. He worked closely with the United Nations to deliver Force Provider systems in support of the Central African Republic. Cooke has received numerous awards for his work throughout the years, including recognition as the Greater Boston Federal Executive Board Federal Manager of the Year for 2013.

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U.S. ARMY RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND ENGINEERING COMMAND (RDECOM)

U.S. ARMY TANK/AUTOMOTIVE AND ARMAMENTS COMMAND (TACOM)

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U.S. ARMY SECURITY ASSISTANCE COMMAND (USASC)

Master Sgt. Elbyon Spearman, a mobilization senior human resources noncommissioned officer for Ministry of Interior – Military Advisory Group, provides human resources support and technical advice and guidance to U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard Soldiers deployed to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. As a Reservist, she was activated from the 1-100th Engineering Battalion out of Knoxville, Tennessee, and joined USASC in April, Spearman, who is a Department of the Army Civilian with the Isham C. Hewgley U.S. Army Reserve Center, said she likes being able help Soldiers and push them to be better.

Patrick Macri is the Ukraine security assistance team manager for the U.S. Army Security Training Management Organization, a subordinate of USASC. Macri is in charge of all the U.S. training teams in support of the Ukrainian General Staff and Ministry of Defense. A retired Army major with 26 years of active duty service, Macri says he thoroughly enjoys working for USASC. “I love my job,” he said. “Every day is different from the next; I never get bored.” One initiative that he developed and managed was the Armenian medical curricula program, which was later mirrored for Ukrainian personnel. “The thing that’s unique about a program like this is that you’re creating a new capability where it did not exist before, and I’m hopeful that other countries throughout Europe will adopt it also.”
A long-standing relationship between Army aviation and its contractor team at Fort Rucker, Alabama, has reaped dividends for the Department of the Army in providing the maintenance, logistics and sustainment readiness required to provide the best-trained aviators to combat brigades.

Since 1955, the government has relied on what is known today as the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command’s Aviation Center Logistics Command (ACLC) at Fort Rucker. This government and contractor team ensures the Arm\'s fleet of helicopters is always ready to support the Army Aviation Center for Excellence training mission. That’s a major 24/7 accomplishment, when more than 600 helicopters in 12 different aircraft configurations can be in flight at any given time to meet Army requirements. On a typical day, more than 150 Department of the Army Civilian and military quality assurance specialists oversee the work of about 3,300 contractor employees at ACLC to support more than 500 training missions from six airfields five at Fort Rucker and one at Fort Benning, Georgia, 72 remote training sites, 27 stage fields, three remote refueling stations and one firing range. They also order upwards of $2 million in inventory to ensure 54,000 aircraft inspections annually in support of more than 200,000 flight hours a year. “This is a team of teams approach,” said Col. Michael Best, ACLC commander. “Every pilot trained here has an impact on the Army’s 10 combat aviation brigades. We are generating aviation readiness for the Army.”

About 2,500 aviators go through the aviation training program at Fort Rucker each year, either as an initial entry rotary wing pilot or as a graduate pilot gaining additional training or transitioning to another aircraft. Twenty-five percent of all Army aviation flight time occurs at Fort Rucker.

ACLC currently oversees maintenance on a $1.98 billion, five-year aviation maintenance services contract for two helicopter fleets meeting different training missions. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) fleet consists of non-deployable aircraft – TH-67 Creeks and UH-72 Lakotas – used for training pilots in basic warfighting skills, while the green fleet consists of the Army’s modern aircraft – AH-64 Apaches, CH-47 Chinooks and UH-60 Black Hawks – used to train pilots on advanced skills specific to each helicopter employed in today’s Combatant Commands.

“We have five airfields at Fort Rucker that correspond to different airframes,” said Roy Templin, the ACLC Fleet Sustainment Division chief. “ACLC has employees at all airfields, all sites and in 91 facilities to provide oversight of those airframes and to serve as the liaison between the customer – the instructor and student pilots – and the contractor maintenance crew.”

Many of those ACLC employees bring with them an Army aviation background that includes quality control experience, which is essential when overseeing the complex quality requirements of aviation systems.

“Many worked for us when they were in the military,” said Templin, who, while on active duty, served as the first executive officer for ACLC. “By coming back as civilians, we benefit from their military experience and the experience they gained when they were assigned to ACLC. They already understand Army maintenance procedures for aviation, safety, quality control and aircraft specific issues.”

That experience comes in handy when maintenance issues arise.

“There are always challenges, always issues you find during phased

The U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM), a subordinate of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, develops, acquires, fields and sustains aviation, missile and unmanned vehicle systems. As a life cycle management command, AMCOM assures aviation and missile readiness with seamless transition to combat operations.
Everyone has seen the movies: the president boards Air Force One or enters the Situation Room in the White House or other location, and begins directing the actions of the armed forces and other agencies to combat the problem du jour.

While that may be mostly Hollywood, in point of fact, some dedicated and razor-sharp military and civilian technicians do have the job of ensuring that National Command Authority can be transmitted, in the literal and figurative sense, to action-takers around the globe.

A key part of the Tiger Team group comes from the Information Systems Engineering Command (ISEC), and other subordinate units of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM). “ISEC is providing telecommunications, wireless and systems engineering support,” said Maj. Eric Stangle, project team lead for ISEC and Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems. “Internally we are subdivided into four joint engineering teams with an ISEC engineer leading each team. Working with them are engineers as well as installation technicians from the U.S. Air Force and [CECOM’s] Tobyhanna Army Depot. It is truly a joint effort, and each agency is vital to the success of the project.” Illustrating the numerous agencies that contribute to the project’s success, just within the District of Columbia, the 18A Tiger Team mission is to provide the Presidential Information Technology Community (PITC) with a modernized IT infrastructure that will support information services to the president, vice president, national security staff, United States Secret Service and others, ensuring the ability of each to communicate anywhere, anytime, and by any means to anyone in the world.

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By Sgt. 1st Class Shannon Wright, ASC Public Affairs

The Army Strategic Logistics Activity-Charleston (ASLAC) at Joint Base Charleston – Naval Weapon Station, South Carolina, is responsible for the maintenance and movement of Army Prepositioned Stock-3 (APS), the Army’s prepositioned stock afloat program.

"What is unique about us is our warehouses float," said Robert O’Brien, ASLAC general manager. "We put equipment in the hands of Soldiers around the world." A majority of the time, the equipment set is stored in vessels prepositioned to support missions anywhere in the world, as opposed to land-based assets that are theater-specific, according to Tim Fore, director, sustainment operations and APS directorate, U.S. Army Sustainment Command (ASC).

At 950 feet in length, the Large Medium Speed Roll On/Off Arm (LMSROA) vessels have a cargo stowage area of about 394,000 square feet and can store and transport an entire Infantry Brigade Combat Team or Sustainment Brigade equipment set. Once deployed, the ships typically stay at sea for about 40 months. ASLAC sends a six-man team with the vessels to perform Care of Supplies in Storage, or COSS, while afloat.

The ships dock in three locations – two areas in the Pacific Ocean and one in the Indian Ocean. When a unit is in need of equipment, the vessel travels to its location to make the hand-off, which includes a 100 percent inspection and inventory, a unit-level equipment transfer is accomplished in six hours.

"The equipment would be downloaded from the ships at some port close to the ‘hot spot’ where the hand-off team would fly into and hand off the equipment to the gaining tactical unit," said O’Brien.

ASLAC is a subordinate organization of ASC under the U.S. Army Materiel Command, which is also work-loading the organization to support the program manager for mine-resistant, ambush-protected (MRAP) equipment fielding to worldwide locations.

"The program manager was shipping direct to overseas APS sites, but there were some problems," said O’Brien. "So now we do the [technical inspection] and any necessary maintenance or repairs prior to shipment to the other APS sites."

Some of these vehicles are being reset after spending time in theater and will be sent back into the force. ASLAC currently has more than 400 MRAPs, but could accommodate as many as 600.

Just eight miles from the wharf, ASLAC’s industrial area covers 330 acres, with capabilities like a paint facility that turned out hundreds of combat and combat support equipment for the European Activity Set build in 2015.

"We are able to execute services and repairs on approximately 1,200 pieces of rolling stock in a very short 109-day maintenance cycle," said O’Brien. In addition to routine maintenance, ASLAC’s facilities allow them to apply additional armor to vehicles and configure, organize and sort repair parts. With 10 military service members, 36 Department of the Army Civilians and about 400 contractors, the government-owned, contractor-operated facility provides the Army with the ability to quickly generate combat power at any location designated by the National Command Authority.

"Floating warehouses provide equipment anywhere in the world, as opposed to land-based assets that are theater-specific, according to Tim Fore, director, sustainment operations and APS directorate, U.S. Army Sustainment Command (ASC)."
The USNS Corpus Christi Bay — AMC’s Floating Depot

Stationed in the South China Sea for more than six years during the Vietnam War, the United States Naval Ship (USNS) Corpus Christi Bay was the U.S. Army Materiel Command’s (AMC) first and only attempt at providing logistical support through a floating repair facility.

Originally known as the United States Ship (USS) Albemarle before its conversion into a Floating Aircraft Maintenance Facility (FAMF), the Corpus Christi Bay was a mobile depot that provided maintenance support for the Army’s fleet of aircraft during the Vietnam War from 1966 through 1972. During that time, the shops aboard the FAMF provided a wide range of aviation-related support, including repairs and overhaul of various aircraft engines, fuel controls, rotor heads, transmissions and propellers.

The FAMF concept can be traced back to World War II, when the U.S. military faced aviation repair issues in the Pacific. The Army Aircraft Repair Ship Project, as it was then known, was a byproduct of the Allies’ “island-hopping” counteroffensive against the Japanese, and led to the creation and designation of the First through Sixth Aircraft Repair Units (Floating) to be used in the Pacific. Despite the enormous production from the repair ships, following the end of World War II, the ships were stripped and the concept dissipated for the next decade.

Early in the 1960s, as conflict continued in Vietnam, it became apparent that a similar project could present incredible value to the Army’s aviation fleet in Southeast Asia. Hundreds of aircraft of every type were being used for a variety of missions, and leaders at AMC began to reexamine the use of FAMFs to provide more timely aircraft maintenance.

Lt. Col. John F. Sullivan saw the value in developing and maintaining a movable maintenance facility and spearheaded efforts to move the project forward starting in the early 1960s. His efforts eventually landed him in a position at AMC headquarters, where he became the planner and executor of Operation Flat-Top, and eventually the first project manager for the Flat-Top Project Manager Office (PMO).

While Operation Flat-Top originally called for the conversion of an aircraft carrier to fit the FAMF concept, early evaluation results showed that converting a carrier...
would be too expensive, and attention was redirected to a smaller vehicle – a seaplane tender. The USS Albemarle became the target of the operation's interest, where intensive evaluation led AMC experts to determine that the ship would meet the requirements of creating a FAMF. AMC received approval to move forward with the project, along with more than $11 million in funding for capital equipment and ship conversion of the USS Albemarle. The FAMF was to be fully operational by Jan. 1, 1966, with the capability of supporting 335 aircraft in Vietnam.

Following the conversion, the newly minted Corpus Christi Bay departed from the Charleston Naval Shipyard in South Carolina, Jan. 12, 1966, and after a Circuit City trip, arrived in Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, April 2, 1966. Despite ongoing issues with the ship's air conditioning, which left interior portions of the ship up to 137 degrees Fahrenheit, the Corpus Christi Bay also took responsibility as the prime facility for theater-crash damage analysis.

Over the next two years, the FAMF completed work on $467.7 million and $42.4 million worth of items, respectively. Though the value of the items had not gone up, by 1970 the facility had doubled the amount of items processed and produced.

During this timeframe, while the Corpus Christi Bay had been converted to a FAMF and subsequently deployed to Southeast Asia, Flat-Top PMO was working to secure the ability to convert another ship to deploy additional FAMFs to support efforts in Vietnam. These ships, had they been approved, would have provided a variety of additional specialized support services to the U.S. Army, including electronics repair, airframe repair, and mechanical materiel maintenance.

However, despite early optimism at AMC and several additional FAMF proposals, future ship conversions were not approved. Evaluations showed that it would cost more than initially projected to create a second FAMF, and the timeline would be considerably longer than expected. As the Flat-Top PMO tried other avenues to move the FAMF program forward, in 1969 the Department of the Army decided that a second FAMF was not essential, proving fatal for the concept.

The FAMF only left Texas once more on a special assignment in the summer of 1973, when it was called to monitor French nuclear testing in the Defense Nuclear Agency's Operation Hula Hoop. Following that mission, the Corpus Christi Bay returned to port, where it provided continued production support until it was decided that the FAMF program would be brought to an end, and the Corpus Christi Bay would be returned to the Navy by Dec. 31, 1974.

Prior to the handoff, the ship was inactivated and supplies, tools, and equipment were removed and placed in storage. The Corpus Christi Bay was turned over to the Military Sealift Command the morning of Dec. 31, 1974, with a brief on-board ceremony, and departed Jan. 8, 1975, to Orange, Texas, for further stripping. The ship was eventually sold for scrapping later that summer.

Today, mementos from the ship can be found at the U.S. Army Transportation Museum at Fort Eustis, Virginia, including the battle's colors, a model of the Corpus Christi Bay, plaques, two motion picture films and various charts.

HIGHLIGHTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS

Bill Brankowitz played a vital role in advancing the United States’ mission to demilitarize chemical weapons. Brankowitz began working for the U.S. Army as a junior engineer in 1972 at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Colorado, supporting chemical demilitarization efforts around the globe. Perhaps his biggest contribution to the effort was as the deputy project manager for the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project at what is now the Chemical Materials Activity, where he and his team devised and tested two of the most game-changing technologies in chemical weapon demilitarization – the Explosive Destruction System (EDS) and the Portable Isotopic Neutron Spectroscopy (PINS).

Brankowitz, who retired in 2006 and then spent several years supporting the Army as a consultant and contractor, said he looks back on those projects, and the many great Americans he worked with, with a strong sense of pride.

“While we felt we were doing something worthwhile for our country, as well as supporting a worthwhile international goal to get rid of chemical weapons, he said, “it makes it a lot easier to accomplish a major goal when you work with good people, and I was surrounded by good people. They were all top of the line.”

Q: What was the impact of the EDS on chemical demilitarization?

A: The EDS is a piece of equipment that has been used extensively over the last decade by treating chemical weapons in an explosive-proof vessel – blowing them up and neutralizing the chemical material. The system is robust and continues to be used today.

Q: How did the PINS system impact the Army’s ability to handle non-stockpile chemical weapons?

A: The PINS is an emitter that burrows neutrons into a questionable piece of material and would provide a reading on what was inside the package. Before that, we really had to guess; items that were 30 to 70 years old, we had no clue what was inside them.

Q: What about the chemical demilitarization effort kept you interested for three decades?

A: The logistics aspects of the job were just so fascinating. Working on the Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System, it was a tremendous challenge setting up a modern chemical weapons disposal facility in a very remote location. Making that happen was incredible. Opposite of that, working in non-stockpile, there were so many changes and so many challenges. You had to wake up to go to work on a series of things, and then there would be this crisis and you would be doing something completely different.
Late at night on an icy road in a remote area west of Charlotte, North Carolina, a commercial truck carrying a load of DOD ammunition slid off the road and into a deep ditch unseen by other vehicles traveling in the area.

Less than two minutes later, nearly 700 miles away, a member of the Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, made a phone call to police in the Charlotte area and directed them to the location of the truck and trailer. Within moments, the police arrived at the site of the accident and requested an ambulance to transport the injured drivers to the hospital.

Thanks to SDDC’s Defense Transportation Tracking System (DTTS), the driver team in this true scenario received prompt medical support, the ammunition shipment was secured, and the commercial trucking company moving the shipment, along with the shipper and receiver of the ammunition, were all informed of the situation.

SDDC also quickly made arrangements to get a qualified tractor-trailer and driver team to take the shipment to its final destination in time to meet its required delivery date the next day.

DTTS is a vital system that enables SDDC to track and monitor DOD’s sensitive and hazardous materials in transit, while also providing instant communication to help the command – as well as drivers and emergency responders – deal with unexpected situations.

“DTTS is just one of the many ways the trusted professionals of SDDC deliver readiness,” said Maj. Gen. Kurt J. Ryan, SDDC commanding general. “It’s a critical function in SDDC’s support to DOD and the warfighter.”

DTTS provides a closed-loop tracking system for much of its high security risk cargo. When an installation transportation officer requests satellite tracking, the system tracks the shipment from departure at origin until it arrives at the intended destination. If a shipment is delayed due to an emergency, such as an accident or even a mechanical breakdown, DTTS is involved and takes action to help keep the shipment moving.

“We stay connected to the shipment until it arrives at destination,” said Jessica Snyder, DTTS Policy and Technology Branch chief.

Using satellite communications, DTTS tracks DOD Ammunition and Explosives (AA&E) and other sensitive material traveling across North America via commercial carriers. The system supports SDDC’s objective to provide in-transit visibility and total asset visibility on AA&E shipments and other sensitive or classified cargo.

As part of SDDC’s support of the total force, DTTS-approved carriers operate trucks for every U.S. military service. DTTS receives periodic updates around the clock from satellite-equipped trucks in transit. These updates provide DTTS with information on the truck’s position and status, and the satellite data is matched with information from a DTTS database that provides data linkage to the truck’s cargo, origin and destination.

Additionally, each truck is equipped with a “panic” button that allows drivers to inform DTTS within seconds of any emergency that may occur during transport. If DTTS analysts receive a message about a potential issue, they engage with all appropriate agencies to immediately mitigate the situation.

“The ability to provide DOD leadership or civilian first responders with up-to-the-minute information about any incident is central to the DTTS mission,” said Travis Jungewaelter, DTTS Operations and Data Quality Branch chief.

In the event of a major emergency, DTTS personnel contact civilian first responders – typically the police who contact fire, emergency medical technicians, and others as needed – and make them aware of the type of cargo on the truck. This information can be critical on-site, as it may dictate how emergency personnel respond to the accident scene.

In 2010, DTTS implemented trailer tracking as an added measure to increase the security of DOD’s high risk shipments. In addition to the ability to independently track trailers, the system informs DTTS analysts when a trailer is unhitched from its truck or if the trailer door is opened. With trailer tracking, DTTS can track a shipment even if the trailer is separated from the truck, allowing even greater in-transit visibility.

This capability is how DTTS personnel were alerted to the Charlotte incident. During the accident, the tractor and trailer became unhitched, and SDDC’s DTTS analysts received a satellite message indicating an unplanned untether event, prompting the analyst to call local police to investigate.

“There are many systems that provide in-transit visibility for DOD cargo, but our DTTS team can do more with that information than just tell you when the shipment departed origin or arrived at destination,” said Navy Capt. Aaron Stanley, SDDC’s Operations director.

“DTTS ensures these shipments have the proper safety and security oversight. And with our unique standard operating procedures, if an emergency does happen, we can respond like a precision drill team.”

Most shipments are delivered without incident, but with tens of thousands of sensitive and hazardous materials shipments conducted every year, issues are bound to arise. When they do, SDDC is ready to respond and keep the shipments moving.

The Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC), a subordinate organization of the U.S. Army Material Command and Army Service Component Command of the U.S. Transportation Command, delivers worldwide, origin-to-destination distribution solutions. Whenever and wherever Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen are deployed, SDDC is involved in planning and executing the surface delivery of their equipment and supplies.
When the Department of Defense needs scientific proficiency, they look to the professionals at the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM); RDECOM program managers across seven research centers and laboratories provide the technical expertise for several DOD technology initiatives, including environmental, safety, occupational health and energy. Two such initiatives are being led by the National Defense Center for Energy and Environment (NDCEE) and the Army Environment Quality Technology Pollution Prevention Program (EQT P2) with the support of the RDECOM team.

**NATIONAL DEFENSE CENTER FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

NDCEE serves as a national resource for developing, advancing and transitioning technologies and processes that address high-priority environmental, safety, occupational health and energy challenges for military installations, ranges, weapons system and warfighters. These projects are designed to enhance performance and efficiency, decrease costs and comply with regulations. The center, established in 1991, works with organizations across DOD.

The center reviews proposals submitted by DOD organizations for funding, said Jennifer Nicholson, an NDCEE technology transition manager. Among NDCEE’s selections for funding, said Nicholson, an NDCEE technology transition manager. Among NDCEE’s selections for Fiscal Year 2016 is a paratrooper “black box.” The device would capture information such as body position and altitude during an aircraft exit. This data, in turn, would allow the Army to better understand what occurred during the fatality. It would also help determine which paratroopers require additional training and be used in life cycle management.

“Paratroopers assigned to the U.S. Army’s 173rd Airborne Brigade, Italy’s Folgore Brigade and the British army’s 16 Air Assault Brigade, conduct airborne operations during Exercise Saber Junction 26 on the Maneuver Rights Area near Hohenfels, Germany.

(U.S. Army photo by Gertrud Zach)

The Army’s Combat Readiness Center (USARC) at Fort Rucker, Alabama, is working with the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, on a proof of concept Paratrooper Suite of Sensors under the newly established Army Airborne Board, which held its first meeting in January 2016. USARC provides the Army with safety and risk management expertise to preserve readiness. When a paratrooper suffers a fatality, the data available for investigators is limited to witness accounts and forensic analysis of the available evidence. To gain a better understanding of the accident and prevent future deaths, Army researchers and the airborne community began discussions on developing the “black box” device, which would be placed on a paratrooper, said Lt. Col. Phillip G. Jenison, ground director at USARC who served previously as a battalion commander in the 82nd Airborne Division under XVIII Airborne Corps.

“How can we get to the root cause of what happened? You can sometimes get disparate information when you start doing accident investigations,” Jenison said. “How can we make sure we’re getting the facts?”

The device would capture information such as body position and altitude during an aircraft exit. This data, in turn, would allow the Army to better understand what occurred during the fatality. It would also help determine which paratroopers require additional training and can be used in life cycle management.

“We’re looking at how to help from a materiel perspective to clarify what happened and why it happened for accident investigation,” Jenison said. “It would capture that data and use that to produce a re-creation on the sequence of events, such as an animation or a video. It has to be transparent and seamless. We don’t want to add more weight to the paratrooper because he has enough already. It should be about the size of a flash drive.”

The team is approaching academia and federally funded research centers to develop a proof of concept. Jenison said the technology exists; it’s a matter of how to engineer the pieces to satisfy the Army’s technological requirements.

Once prototypes are ready for demonstration, the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Command (NSRDEC) will begin testing. Subject-matter experts at NSRDEC, an RDECOM organization, work closely with the airborne community to develop and test materiel capabilities through its Aerial Delivery Design and Fabrication Facility.

**ARMY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TECHNOLOGY POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAM**

The EQT P2 integrates installation environmental sustainability support, particularly those affecting the Army’s Organic Industrial Base. The program provides technical support to integrate environmental, safety and occupational health considerations into systems engineering activities. No single Army program manager has the role to fund or fix the similar environmental issues that weapon system shares, said Erik Hangeland, EQT P2 director. RDECOM’s seven research and engineering centers execute the program.

The National Research Council published a 2013 study noting that workers at firing ranges and shoot houses are routinely exposed to unsafe levels of airborne lead. Meanwhile, the Environmental Protection Agency also stated that no levels of exposure to lead are safe, generating the need for EQT P2’s Airborne Lead Reduction Program.

RDECOM’s U.S. Army Armaments Research, Development and Engineering Center is qualifying a lead-free primary explosive that can be used in some percussion primers, electric detonators and blasting caps, per Army Energetic Material Qualification Board guidance. The center will transition a safe process for producing this material to a manufacturing partner.

The initiative offers several benefits to warfighters, Hangeland said. The project will prevent future range closures, restrictions, personnel removal and the need to install costly pollution control systems. The project will prevent future range closures, restrictions, personnel removal and the need to install costly pollution control systems. The project will prevent future range closures, restrictions, personnel removal and the need to install costly pollution control systems. The project will prevent future range closures, restrictions, personnel removal and the need to install costly pollution control systems. The project will prevent future range closures, restrictions, personnel removal and the need to install costly pollution control systems. The project will prevent future range closures, restrictions, personnel removal and the need to install costly pollution control systems.

The Army Game Studio continues to use its expertise in video games and virtual reality technologies to train soldiers in the Vietnam War. The Army Game Studio plays a critical role in training, education, outreach.

Video games and virtual reality have played a crucial role in Soldier readiness and U.S. Army outreach for the past two decades.

The Army Game Studio, housed at the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center’s Software Engineering Directorate, has brought together more than 150 developers and support staff to create critical video game-based training, education, outreach and simulation capabilities. Currently, the studio has also taken over development of America’s Army, an online game that serves as a strategic communications tool, designed to teach players about the Army.

“America’s Army has been in the marketplace for 34 years, which is a long time when you are talking about video games,” Blackwell said. Since it became available, the game had over 14,000,000 registered users.

The Army began developing video game and virtual reality training and simulation tools for Soldiers during the 1990s. “We saw the impact this technology was having on training and knew we had to take advantage of the power technology afforded,” said Frank Blackwell, the Army Game Studio program manager.

By the mid-2000s, the studio had also taken over development of America’s Army, an online game that serves as a strategic communications tool, designed to teach players about the service. “America’s Army has been in the marketplace for 34 years, which is a long time when you are talking about video games,” Blackwell said. Since it became available, the game had over 14,000,000 registered users.

The Army Game Studio continues to use its expertise in video games and virtual reality technologies to train and improve Soldier training, and develop useful outreach applications for the public.

“It’s exciting to be able to provide these types of capabilities to the Army,” said Blackwell. “We are poised, not just our group, but the entire DOD, to take advantage of the continued evolution of virtual reality, augmented reality and mixed reality technologies. We want to use these technologies to continue to support the warfighter, as well as educate our nation about the U.S. Army.”

For more information on America’s Army and other ongoing Army Game Studio projects, visit www.americasarmy.com or www.goarmyedge.com.
FACILITY SAFETY PROCESSES RADIOACTIVE COMPONENTS

By Rikesha Davidson, JMC Public Affairs

Nestled on Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois, the unsung staffing Morris Consolidation Facility (MCF) hosts a team of Joint Munitions Command (JMC) health physicists who safely execute processing and packaging of radioactive components coded for disposal. The disposal process is exact, methodical, and reflects the high standards set by JMC.

The MCF consolidates excess military commodities containing low-level radioactive materials from around the world. Many of those commodities are various instruments containing tritium, which provides illumination of dials for low-light conditions.

“Not many people know what we do, or how we do it. We manage the end of the life cycle of military items that contain radioactive material for the Army, and most of the Department of Defense,” said Calvin Brownlow, health physicist and radiation safety officer at the MCF.

Mission-driven, the MCF works to safely and compliantly manage, consolidate, volume reduce, and dispose of or recycle radioactive materials for Department of Defense (DOD) items processed. MCF has various roles, including testing, processing, and disposal of radioactive materials for DOD. The MCF also recognizes when it is best to remove those components to make the item safe for transport and disposal.

Further satisfying NRC standards, all items stored at the MCF must be easily identified at all times and listed in the RADMAT database. NRC inspectors randomly examine the facility to confirm license regulations are followed.

The NRC also sets limits for the amount of low-level radioactive materials the MCF stores and processes. Once the facility reaches, or nears its licensed storage capacity, an environmental assessment is performed to determine if expansion is feasible.

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Mission-driven, the MCF works to safely and compliantly manage, consolidate, volume reduce, and dispose of or recycle radioactive materials for DOD. The MCF has an array of handheld and laboratory instrumentation to detect all types of radiation. These tools allow the team to assess the contamination threats during in-processing. "RADMAT (Radioactive Material) is the database we use to track radioactive items into and out of the MCF, monitor activities of stored commodities, and track in real time a list of what’s in storage at the facility,” said Brownlow.

The database also helps satisfy NRC recording requirements. With no room for error, the MCF must pass strict regulatory inspections. Currently the facility has a NRC-specific license, valid for a 10-year span, allowing the MCF to accept just about any radioactive item they would need to process.

For him, this two- to three-week process is the most labor-intensive aspect of the work done at MCF. Once items are consolidated for shipment, they leave the MCF bound for one of six other approved facilities for final disposal.

Extracting radioactive components is the most unique part of the job, according to MCF Health Physicist Thomas Gizicki.

Demilitarization is a challenge," he said. “This can take 10 to 20 minutes per item, which also includes inventory and National Stock Number documentation. We are required to notify the NRC of these items, and there is a lot of data manipulation involved.”

While tedious, demilitarization work is a cost-effective way to volume reduce disposed items the MCF receives, and saves the government money. Although work is time-intensive, challenging and technical, JMC has successfully executed the MCF’s mission since 1992 and plans to continue providing this important service into the future.
AMC experts have developed game-changing technology to provide the decisive edge to today’s forces and ensure the Army’s advantage well into the future. BattleTech provides a look at some of the amazing technology being used in the command today.

NEW BLACK HAWK TRAINER UNVEILED
A team from the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineer- ing Center, Program Executive Office-Aviation and local industry unveiled the first prototype of the Black Hawk Aircrew Trainer (BAT) May 24 at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama. The BAT provides Army UH-60M aviators with a high-fidelity, fully immersive flight training experience. The higher-quality, lower-cost UH-60M training platform integrates existing Army models and simulations developed within Redstone Arsenal’s enterprise. It was fielded to the 1st Cavalry Division Combat Air Brigade at Fort Hood, Texas, in June for training operations. The Utility Helicopter Project Office estimates the new Black Hawk aircrew flight training simulator will save the Army more than $4 million per simulator, with a potential total life cycle sustainment savings of about $219 million.

CHEMICAL WEAPONS DESTRUCTION
The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Activity Recovered Chemical Materiel Directorate (CMA RCMD) developed and operates a unique system to provide safe, environmentally responsible, on-site treatment of recovered chemical warfare materiel. The Explosive Destruction System (EDS), trailer-mounted for transportation to the site of the recovery, uses cutting charges to explosively access chemical munitions, eliminating their explosive capacity and exposing the agent so it can be neutralized. This process takes place in the system’s main component, a stainless steel vessel which contains all the blast, vapor and fragments. Operators confirm treatment by sampling residual liquid and air from the vessel prior to reopening the EDS. As safety is a top priority, the EDS is set up in an environmental enclosure with continuous air monitoring conducted to ensure protection. More than 2,400 items have been destroyed in the EDS since it entered service more than 15 years ago. For more information, visit https://www.cma.army.mil.

The Explosive Destruction System can treat up to six chemical warfare material items simultaneously on-site. The transportable system contains all blast, vapor and metal fragments - protecting the surrounding environment and the system operators. (U.S. Army photo)

Developed during the Korean War to help solve recurring maintenance problems, PS Magazine presents a variety of technical solutions in a way that is funny, colorful and entertaining to Soldiers. The magazine, while still providing maintenance techniques, tactics and tips through tried-and-true hard copy publication, is now reaching out to Soldiers using 21st century methods.

The mobile application, released in June, provides the same content found in the magazine, but with added layers of interactivity, such as videos, photos, explicaded diagrams, a backlog of previous issues, links to current hot topics and more. The mobile app is available free for both Apple and Android devices.

“In today’s Army, young people coming in as Soldiers are living in a digital world,” said Bruce Cotton, PS Magazine’s managing editor. “Everyone is attached to their phone or tablet — that’s where they gather information; that’s how they communicate. To make sure we maintain our relevance to the Soldier, we wanted to produce a product that they would feel comfortable using.”

As the magazine celebrates its 65th anniversary this year, Cotton said that the publication and its knowledgeable staff continue to provide vital support to Soldiers around the globe. “We get thousands of letters and emails a year from Soldiers who have a problem, and they can’t seem to find a solution,” said Cotton. “We maintain a data base of every question that has been asked of us over the years and the answers we provided, so we can get those solutions to them quickly.”

Not only does PS Magazine continue to get regular questions, they also get emails of thanks for the service they have provided for more than six decades. “We’re proud of the work we’ve done on behalf of the Soldier,” Cotton said. “We may not be able to quantify how much money we’ve helped save, or how many Soldiers we’ve helped, but we know that we’ve made a difference.”

FROM TOP: PS MAGAZINE, A PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE RESOURCE FOR 65 YEARS, USES A VARIETY OF CHARACTERS, SUCH AS MASTER SERGEANT HUMOR AND CONNIE ROOD, TO IMPART CRUCIAL MAINTENANCE KNOWLEDGE TO SOLDIERS AROUND THE GLOBE. (IMAGES COURTESY OF PS MAGAZINE)

A Soldier from the 1st Armored Division’s Combat Aviation Brigade trains on the Black Hawk Aircrew Trainer at Biggs Army Airfield, Fort Bliss, Texas. (U.S. Army photo)
ManTech seeks manufacturing solutions for Army innovation

By Matt December, AMC Today Contributor

U.S. Army researchers charged with turning cutting-edge technologies into fielded capabilities often face the challenge of finding the manufacturing capability to produce the new item affordably and at scale.

That is where the U.S. Army Manufacturing Technology (ManTech) Program, managed by the U.S. Army Materiel Command’s U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command (RDECOM), comes to their aid, helping to provide affordable and timely manufacturing solutions.

“The Army uses products that are unique to them and to the military, so ManTech exists to address the development of manufacturing processes for items that are beyond the risk of industry and even beyond the risk of our Army program offices,” said Andy Davis, the U.S. Army ManTech program manager. “When we have technology where there isn’t a commercial need, or it is Army-unique, that is when ManTech really shines.”

ManTech has an investment strategy that is broken down into eight focus areas:

• MUNITIONS AND WARHEAD MANUFACTURING – Addresses manufacturing costs and risks associated with energetic materials and component subsystems of missiles and munitions

• RADAR, SENSORS AND ELECTRONICS – Addresses the manufacturing improvements for radar systems, wafer-level packaging, situational awareness organic light-emitting diode/conformal display maturation, focal plane arrays, high definition infrared cameras and imagers

• NOVEL MATERIALS FOR SOLDIER SYSTEMS – Addresses affordable manufacturing of lighter weight multi-functional materials, coatings, and packaging of system components that directly address Soldier protection

• POWER AND ENERGY – Addresses improvements in manufacturing of high-efficiency alternative materials, power management and automation of production lines and testing for power generation and storage devices

• GROUND VEHICLE STRUCTURES AND PROTECTION – Addresses manufacturing technologies to reduce cost and weight; improve survivability and protection capabilities; and rapidly certify structures, materials and processes for ground vehicles

• AIR VEHICLE SYSTEM AND SUBSYSTEM MANUFACTURING – Addresses manufacturing technologies to reduce cost and weight; improve survivability and protection capabilities; and rapidly certify structures, materials and processes for air vehicles

• MEDICAL SYSTEMS – Addresses affordable manufacturing of medical systems, vaccines and components that directly address Soldier health and rehabilitation

• INNOVATION ENABLERS – Addresses crosscutting manufacturing technologies such as additive and digital manufacturing

ManTech also assists in situations where a manufacturing process works, despite the fact that it might not be the most modern, efficient or cost-effective, but industry has no incentive to spend research and development resources to further develop that process, Davis said.

ManTech works with its partners in the Army science and technology and acquisition communities to identify high-priority efforts within their programs and look at the manufacturing processes associated with transitioning those products to the field.

“As you improve the manufacturing process, you get better tolerances, drive a smaller form factor and combine components into a single component that is more manufacturable,” said Davis. “As a side benefit, at times, you are able to drive the performance of that technology forward.”

“ManTech is invested in all eight focus areas, but we also work across all of those areas to make sure that they are able to work in concert,” Davis said. “We are building solutions that work for everything we do.”

ManTech’s recent successes:

Improvements to the manufacturing technology in the Conformable Wearable Battery System helped dramatically increase throughput, while at the same time reduced material and processing costs.

Improvements to the Low Light Level Sensor production process led to increased yield, more optimized individual component manufacturing processes for better performance, and automated production steps and data tracking to reduce costs.
SPECIAL MISSIONS